City approves program to aid renters

OPPONENTS WARN PACKAGE VERGES ON RENT CONTROL

By Mark Noack

For months now, the idea of imposing price caps on the rental market — better known as rent control — has been rejected by most of Mountain View’s City Council as a clumsy way to solve the area’s housing crisis. It would be the equivalent, as one councilman put it, of amputating a limb to stop a bleeding cut.

In council chambers filled with protesters holding signs seeking rent stabilization and just-cause evictions on Tuesday, city leaders discussed their preferred alternative: a package of mediation and rent-relief programs meant to help keep tenants in their homes. But over the course of a five-hour meeting, as council members deliberated and fine-tuned the plans, some opponents warned that it verges on rent control.

El Niño deluge could cause flooding throughout city

By Kevin Forestieri

The city of Mountain View is bracing for heavy rain this winter, following predictions of a powerful El Nino season that could leave several areas of the city flooded.

The city’s public works department beefed up its storm preparedness efforts this year, planning months in advance to make sure storm drains remain clear of debris and giant pools of water don’t develop on busy city streets. The added efforts are in response to weather forecasts that California could be slammed by a series of powerful storms throughout the winter.

El Niño conditions have stayed strong in the Pacific ocean, where temperatures remain abnormally high. These anomalous conditions are similar to the high ocean temperatures in 1997, which was a harbinger of a powerful storm system that flooded many areas of the Bay Area.

In other words, residents can expect a wet winter that will push the limits of local creeks and storm drains to keep water from pooling in residential areas.

A moderate El Niño weather pattern was predicted last year and it turned out to be a dud for Bay Area rainfall, according to Gregg Hosfeldt, assistant public works director for the city of Mountain View. But that hasn’t stopped the city from preparing for torrential downpours this year.

Hosfeldt said city staff is “extremely” aware of the El Niño weather patterns, and has been in preparation mode for months. Staff members have been setting up sandbag stations, collecting leaves and making sure they have the supplies they need in the case of heavy rainfall.

“We think we’re pretty far ahead on the effort,” Hosfeldt said.

Rene Munoz, the storm coordinator for the city, said the public works department will be active throughout the city before and during storms to clear out clogged drains, sweep the streets and make sure there are enough sandbags available for residents to protect their homes. The priority, Munoz said, is to keep busy streets and main thoroughfares clear of floodwater, and then focus on secondary streets.

Audit finds big problems in Mountain View schools

By Kevin Forestieri

Closing the achievement gap in Mountain View schools may require big changes from the top down.

A recent educational audit of the Mountain View Whisman School District found that loose guidelines and weak accountability from the district office is short-changing English language learners and students with disabilities, who lack the robust programs they need to succeed.

In August, the district’s new superintendent, Ayindé Rudolph, requested authorization to spend $275,000 from Google to hire the firm Cambridge Education to root out any deep-seated issues in the district that could be preventing students from performing well.

The need for the audit was sealed in September, when state standardized test results showed that the vast majority of the district’s low-income and minority students, as well as students with disabilities, did not meet state standards.

While there were some positive findings, like great parent and community support and positive school climates at most campuses, the audit found that the district fell short of providing a strong program for lower-achieving students who need extra help.

Rudolph was out of town and could not be reached for comment by the Voice’s Wednesday press deadline. In a statement he released about the audit, he said teachers are ready and willing to take on more professional development to improve instruction in the classroom, and that the district will work on communication between the district, the schools and parents.

Rudolph has referred to the audit as a key component in addressing the achievement gap, referring to the number of low-achieving students as a “symptom” caused by a myriad of problems in the district.

Special ed problems ‘systemic’

The audit found that students in the special education program in the district are performing well below their peers, which the report said was caused by systemic problems at the district office. The issue became abundantly clear in September when state standardized test results found that 85 percent of students
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I came from Vietnam, right after the war, and church community gave my family a turkey. That was Thanksgiving in 1975.”

**Tuyet Giles**, Sunnyvale

“The best gift was my family showing up for my 40th birthday. They traveled all the way out from the Portland area.”

**Nick Haberlach**, Mountain View

“Once, we got some gold pieces of paper and kept cutting and folding them to make stars. We gave the stars to all our relatives.”

**Willow Tock**, Mountain View

“There was a girl I thought was cute. She looked up and smiled at me, and I remember that fondly.”

**Nathan Wailes**, Palo Alto

“My students teach me things all the time. They give me the gift of their thoughtfulness and creativity.”

**Wes Swing**, San Francisco

Have a question for Voices Around Town? Email it to editor@mv-voice.com
**HOUSE FIRE INJURES TWO**

A Mountain View man was hospitalized Sunday following a house fire that burned through the garage, causing damage to the home and a gas line.

The fire was reported around noon on Nov. 29, in the 3300 block of Villa Robleda Drive. When fire crews arrived, the blaze had extended from the garage to the first and second floor of the nearby home, according to Mountain View Fire Department spokesman Lynn Brown.

The heat of the fire melted the gas meter, allowing gas to flow and burn out of the home’s gas line, Brown said. Because the flames prevented fire crews from reaching the electrical panel, PG&E crews had to be called to shut off gas to the home, he said.

One man, a resident of the house, was hospitalized and later released for minor injuries, and one firefighter was injured and treated at the scene.

Firefighters were able to save most of the interior of the home, though the house was deemed temporary uninhabitable, Brown said. The garage, on the other hand, was severely damaged.

“People tend to have things in their garages (like fuel) that burn pretty well, unfortunately,” Brown said.

**CONTAMINATED WATER IN LOS ALTOS**

Water providers in Los Altos have advised 40 residents not to drink their water without boiling it because of contamination caused by a contractor hitting a water main and adjacent waste-water line, state water officials said Tuesday.

The advisory is for residents of Fallen Leaf Lane between Holt and Morton avenues, Penny Way, Lantis Lane and at 1691 and 1701 Holt Ave., California Water Service officials said.

Drinking water for those residents may have been exposed to E. coli bacteria. For drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes and preparing food, residents are advised to either boil their water before using it or to use bottled water.

The water is still safe to use for showering and bathing.

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

The item about Ernie’s model train display in last week’s “Holiday Highlights” story neglected to say that the trains will be running six nights a week, between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, at 2387 Adele Ave. in Mountain View. The trains do not run on Mondays.

**CORRECTION**

The Mountain View Voice (USPS 2560) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306 (650) 964-6300. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto CA and additional mailing offices. The Mountain View Voice is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Mountain View. Subscription rate of $60 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mountain View Voice, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.
Santa Clara County officials launched a campaign Tuesday calling on the public to be on the lookout for human trafficking victims.

"Human trafficking is a real scourge on our community, on our state and on our country. And it's the kind of crime that tends to hide in plain sight," District Attorney Jeff Rosen said during a news conference Tuesday outside the county sheriff's headquarters.

The campaign will feature ads on Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency buses, bus shelters and light-rail vehicles with images provided through the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

The campaign will also feature a photo by Andrew "AJ" Wassell, a student at Valley Christian High School in San Jose, of a friend blindfolded by the American flag, Rosen said. Wassell's piece, titled "Blind-ed," won first place out of more than 50 entries submitted in the district attorney's office "Justice For All" artwork contest against human trafficking, Rosen said.

Human trafficking is an issue that needs to be tackled in the United States first before it can be dealt with overseas, Wassell said.

"The campaign comes ahead of Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara on Feb. 7 when large crowds are expected to attend the big game. "These large events have a tragic potential to bring human trafficking issues to our attention," Wassell said.

Rudolph also said she believes the impact of the complaints was to "encourage the board to move forward with construction.

"However, some of the teachers' testimony seemed to dispute that. The complaints that occurred just a few days prior to the Nov. 5 meeting. However, when contacted by the Voice, Scott declined to respond to the comments by district administrators, and other teachers working in Bubb portables did not respond to the Voice's request for a reaction to Rudolph's assertions. The board's PTA leadership also did not respond to the Voice's request for comment.

The recommendation fell short of requiring 24 permanent or "site built" classrooms at all the schools, which would alleviate the need for portables, citing budget constraints. Some of the portables on the campus were built prior to 1995, and are "prone to substantial deterioration," according to the district's School Facilities Improvement Plan. Construction at Bubb is expected to begin in the summer of 2017 and continue through the winter break. The plan would remove most, if not all, of the portable classrooms. The board agreed to the District Facilities Committee recommendations earlier this year, which called for classroom modernization at all the schools. But the recommendations fell short of requiring 24 permanent or "site built" classrooms at all the schools, which would alleviate the need for portables, citing budget constraints.

Several letters sent to the board by Bubb teachers say that the portable classrooms are a source of chronic issues that have caused
FLOODING

During a significant storm in December last year, clogged storm drains caused several areas to flood throughout the city. In some locations, like the intersection of San Bernardo and Evelyn avenues, drivers were trapped in several feet of water and required emergency assistance by the Mountain View Fire Department.

Trouble spots that are sure to give the city problems include areas with lots of trees, as well as significant portions of the North Bayshore area, Hosfeldt said. “We get a lot of water runoff out there, so we keep a close eye on that,” he said.

Creek flooding, on the other hand, is more or less out of the control of city staff, and there’s not a whole lot they can do about it, Hosfeldt said. Permanente Creek, Hale Creek and Stevens Creek are all prone to overflowing.

Flood maps from the Santa Clara Valley Water District show creeks could flood large residential areas west and east of Shoreline Boulevard between Central Expressway and El Camino Real, as well as Cuesta Park, El Camino Hospital and the areas around Bubb Elementary School and Graham Middle School.

The district’s flood map includes larger swaths of the city when compared to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps because it accounts for any level of flooding in a so-called 100-year storm, according to district spokesman Marty Grimes. He said residents would want to know about any flooding that could affect their homes, regardless of depth.

“One or two inches of water in someone’s living room will still cause flood damage,” Grimes said.

The water district has poured millions of dollars into long-term flood protection projects in Mountain View, including flood detention basins at both McKelvey Park and Rancho San Antonio to divert floodwater from Permanente Creek away from residential areas. But a sluggish design process and changes to the original plans have caused delays, meaning the basins will not be finished for years. Construction has yet to begin at McKelvey park.

But the water district has done some short-term improvements to make sure the El Nino season goes as smoothly as possible, Grimes said. District staff have been working on sediment removal, managing creek vegetation and repairing levees all over the county, including the removal of calcium deposits and algae growths along Permanente Creek. Maintenance crews will be available to make quick fixes along creeks during heavy rainfall as well.

“During storm events, our staff monitors dozens of ‘hot spots’ where debris can accumulate and cause localized flooding,” Grimes said.

Sandbags will be available all over the county, including at 231 N. Whisman Avenue, where supplies will be available all day in the parking lot. In light of the potentially powerful storms this winter, Grimes said the water district opened up its own sandbag sites a month earlier than normal, and plans to double up the number of supplies to meet the heightened demand.

Though flooding is a serious concern, Hosfeldt said El Nino could provide much-needed rain to the Bay Area and help offset the drought, Hosfeldt said El Nino could provide much-needed rain to the Bay Area and help offset the drought, Hosfeldt said.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

Floods from overflowing creeks could affect large areas of Mountain View, primarily in the Cuesta Park area and west of downtown.

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he county’s Human Trafficking Resource Center’s anonymous human trafficking hotline by calling (888) 373-7888 or texting HELP to 23733.

Bay City News Service

CRIME BRIEFS  ▶ Continued from page 4

TENNIS COURT FEUD

Police are searching for a man who allegedly punched someone over an argument on a tennis court at Cuesta Park over the weekend.

The victim, a 50-year-old man, told police he was playing tennis with his family on Saturday, Nov. 28, around 10:30 p.m., when the suspect had entered the tennis court. The suspect allegedly demanded that the victim leave the court. The suspect refused, the suspect punched him on the left side of the face, and when the victim demanded that the victim leave the court. The suspect allegedly refused, the suspect punched him on the left side of the face, and when the victim demanded that the victim leave the court.

Six people were displaced in a two-alarm residential fire in Mountain View on Monday afternoon, a fire spokesman said today.

Firefighters responded to a report of smoke showing in the 200 block of Lassen Avenue around 2:40 p.m. Nov. 30, fire spokesman Lynn Brown said.

Crews found two single-family homes in flames and brought the fire under control shortly before 3:15 p.m., Brown said.

A damage estimate was not immediately available. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Bay City News Service

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Stanford Health Care, in conjunction with Pet Partners is holding a free information session (about one hour) on Saturday, January 9th, 2015 at 3:00 pm in Palo Alto. No pets please – humans only.

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enforcement of these programs, some pointed out that what they were proposing actually resembled rent control, a softer version of what they had long considered unworkable in Mountain View.

“You're getting into telling the landlord what you think the rent should be,” remarked Councilman Mike Kasperzak to his colleagues. “You all said you don't want soft rent control, and now you're talking about soft rent control.”

The discussion has huge stakes for Mountain View, where more than half of the city's residents live in rental units, and on average, rents have risen by 53 percent in the last four years, according to the city's data. Hundreds of citizens have rallied at recent council meetings to complain that the city would soon have scores of families displaced unless something was done quickly to curb the accelerating rental market.

The issue was brought to a head on Tuesday night in a bout of policy-making at its daintest. The meeting involved lengthy deliberation by the council on how to structure complex programs like dispute mediation, rental assistance and data collection. Council members peppered city staff with questions on the various programs and the verbiage of ordinances. In turn, city staff would need elected leaders to provide nuanced direction on about a dozen facets for five separate initiatives on housing on the agenda.

Mediation

At the center of these talks was the council's desire to create a beefed-up mediation program, where tenants could air their complaints to landlords about steep rent increases, unfair evictions or other concerns. Council members made it clear that they wanted this program to consist of three separate stages and be mandatory for landlords to participate.

At the simplest level, this program would start with a step called conciliation, an informal phone chat brokered by the nonprofit housing group Project Sentinel that could resolve tenants' complaints and see whether a resolution was possible.

If that step failed, tenants could bring the dispute to stage two, mediated by a lawyer who could dictate a binding resolution to the conflict. In a dispute over a rent increase, for example, an arbitrator could rule on whether the rent increase was “reasonable.” An unreasonable rent hike could be revoked by the arbitrator. Project Sentinel Director Martin Eichner urged city leaders to establish criteria to define this term, a step taken by other cities such as Los Gatos.

As council members debated what they felt was a fair amount for a rent increase, some realized they were venturing into rent control territory.

“This is completely sidestepping the economic situation of people, not on facts, he said. “This scares Mountain View,” said Councilman John Inks from the start. “I don't support this — I think it's the beginning of rent control.”

But Councilman Lenny Siegel, a longtime supporter of rent control, asked his colleagues whether that policy would really be so bad. He heard many arguments about how setting price caps on rents would be disastrous for Mountain View, but those points seemed to be based on political ideology, not on facts, he said. In the end, Siegel gave support to the binding arbitration plan, but he warned that the city could be unintentionally signaling to landlords how much they could increase rents going forward.

“My concern is that the rent threshold would set the floor, not the ceiling,” he said.

With support from four out of its seven members, the City Council gave direction to staff to bring back a formal guidelines for the three-stage mediation program with binding arbitration. The council laid out a variety of criteria for when mediation should be mandatory, including tenant evictions, poor unit main-tenance, lease violations and rent increases that surpass a specified amount in a given year. The council majority avoided defining what that amount should be, but indicated it should be somewhere between two times the regional Consumer Price Index (about 3 percent for the last year) and up to 7.5 percent.

Siegel said what he would like to see in the mediation program could be fined or possibly face a criminal infraction.

Staff council members said they would return with a formal proposal for the council at a future date.

Both sides unhappy

For many in attendance at the meeting, the council's action at the tail-end of the agenda came too late. A crowd surpassing 60 people arrived for the meeting with placards and lapel stickers calling for new protections for tenants. But that crowd winnowed down to handful as the hours stretched on.

“I know that whatever you do, you're thinking about the landlord community, but you have moral obligation to help the most in-need, socially and financially-speaking,” Mountain View resident John Lopez told the council.

For their part, landlords' advocates warned that the city's actions amounted to new bureaucracy and expenses that would be hard-cost for small property owners in Mountain View. Steve Welker, a Belmont-based property owner, said the city's new rules would bring loopholes and technicalities that could be exploited by tenants. He said they were concerned about his tenants who had “a lot of things there put the burden on landlords,” he said. “Don't let your blenders get so tight that you lose common sense.”

More rent measures

In other rental policies discussed on Tuesday, the City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance to provide tenants with longer-term lease options rather than keeping them perpetually on a month-to-month basis. Under the rules, landlords would be required to offer tenants either a one-year or half-year lease option. If approved in a second reading next week, it would go into effect for existing tenants by March.

The lease ordinance was approved by the council in a 6-1 vote with Councilman Inks opposed.

Another 6-1 vote with Inks opposed, the council approved a rental relief program meant to provide subsidies to prevent tenant households in financial trouble from losing their homes.

Under the plan, the city would provide $150,000 to the Community Services Agency to help cover any future increases in rents.

For example, a tenant facing a 10 percent increase on a $2,000-per-month apartment could apply for up to $200 a month in rental aid.

Tenants would be eligible for this assistance for up to four months, and city officials asked the Community Services Agency to provide financial counseling and case-management services.

As the city moves ahead putting this program forward would be drawn from the city's fund for below-market rate housing, reported city neighborhood services manager Dan Rich, who estimated up to 75 households could be helped through the program, she estimated.

Households would be eligible depending on size and if they earn less than 80 percent of the area's median income. For a four-person family, that income threshold would be $75,500.

More to come

After hours of discussion, the council decided to call off or postpone other measures proposed to address the rental crisis. Among those, the council declined to go forward with plans for a data collection program. The idea originated from an Oct. 19 study session when City Council members admitted they lacked the information needed to design citywide policies on rising rents. At the time, a large number of tenants were testifying publicly about landlords subjecting them to repeated rent increases, which in some cases doubled as eviction notices. The stories shocked Mountain View's elected leaders, and they said they needed to find out if there were landlords behaving that badly in the community.

City staff laid out a series of possibilities for gathering better information, such as commissioning a full-blown study at a cost of about $50,000. City staff suggested that if council members wanted to go forward with this idea, they needed to highlight goals and priorities.

But support for collecting more data was exhausted on Tuesday as council members questioned whether the effort would be worthwhile. Originally the council wanted to learn whether displacement was a real problem and who was being impacted, said Councilwoman Pat Showalter. But that now seemed beside the point.

“Changes are we're not going to get (those answers),” she said. “I think really this is moot at this point. Let's not do this at all.”

In addition, the council opted to hold off on plans to design “safe-parking” policies for the growing number of people living on city streets in their cars, trailer homes or motor homes. City Manager Dan Rich said staff could make a report in January.
Schools

The audit found that the district office is poorly staffed, and employees tend to carry out huge workloads “in silos,” not communicating effectively from one department to another. The audit also found that there simply isn’t enough staff to carry out all the tasks that need to be done to run an effective special education program or English-language development program.

School leaders optimistic

The audit did highlight a series of positive findings at each of the schools as well. At Castro Elementary, parent support was referred to as “extremely” strong, with parents willing to volunteer in the classroom and help with after-school programs. At Huff Elementary, teachers at the same grade level were meeting weekly to collaborate on lesson plans, which proved to be effective, according to the report.

The principal at Crittenden Middle School, Geoff Chang, was lauded in the report for putting a high priority on helping new teachers get acclimatized to the school, and monitoring the quality of learning and teaching of the new staff. This is particularly important at Crittenden, which hired 13 new teachers this year — seven of whom are first-time teachers. The school employs a total of 33 teachers.

Though the school audit shows there’s a lot of work to be done, board president Ellen Wheeler said she’s “heartened” that most school principals have already tried to adopt the audit recommendations into their school site plans, which guides how the school will spend supplemental funds and raise student achievement throughout the year.

“This means, to me, that they are taking these unbiased comments seriously and will be putting extra work into them,” Wheeler said in an email.

Austin George Spencer

November 8, 1918 – November 19, 2015

Austin George Spencer died peacefully at his home in Mountain View, CA on November 19, 2015. He was 97.

Born in Mountain View in 1918 to Herbert Joseph Spencer and Maud Louise Spencer, he was the youngest of 5 children, all of whom are deceased. He is survived by his spouse, Eleanor and his two daughters Paulette and Suzette.

Austin was a proud member of the Palo Alto Elks Lodge for 73 years, as well as a member of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce from 1968 to 1969. He joined the Mountain View Rotary in 1951, serving as an active member in the banking and savings group and continuing into his retirement. He retired from the Mountain View Branch of Wells Fargo Bank where he was an officer for 30 years.

In the early 1900s his family were merchants on Castro Street, owning McDonald and Burk Blacksmith and Mountain View Ice, where he worked as a boy.

Per his wishes, a cremation was arranged through Spangler Mortuary and a private interment will be held at the family plot at the Santa Clara Mission Hi.

There will be an Elks Memorial Service, held on Sunday Dec 6th at 11:00 AM in the Palo Alto Room upstairs, honoring all of the 2015 departed members. The Palo Alto Elks Lodge is at: 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306 650-493-4249. Refreshments will be served.

In celebration of his life an Irish Style Wake with refreshments and appetizers will be held at his favorite Castro Street spot Don Giovanni on Sunday Dec 13th 2015 starting at 5 pm. An invitation is extended to all who wish to raise a glass to his life. Restaurant Don Giovanni is at 235 Castro Street, Mountain View CA. 650-961-9749.

Austin was a graduate of the University of Santa Clara in Santa Clara, California. Donations in his memory may be made directly through the University. If you have questions, please contact the Development Office at 408-554-4400. Santa Clara University Development Office, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053-1400. http://scu.edu/give/how-to-give/make-your-gift/
problems as recently as last month. Bubb teacher Emily Campion wrote that in the past, she’s managed to cope with the lack of storage space and emergency exits that comes with teaching in a portable. But lately, things have been challenging.

Over the last four months, she went without a functioning projector and document camera to teach students, and was relegated to using a whiteboard and marker for her lessons. In an email, she explained that maintenance staff were “flummoxed” as to why the wiring in the classroom didn’t work.

The roof on the portable has multiple leaks “in even the slightest rainstorm,” Campion said, and she recalled that on Nov. 2, an entire panel of the ceiling had leaked all over the electronics in the classroom, forcing her to relocate students and unplug everything.

“I understand resources need to be allocated by where the need is greatest, but what exactly needs to happen in my classroom for it be deemed of great need? Do I need the roof to actually fall on a student’s head?” Campion wrote.

In another email, teacher Laurel Shephard explained that teachers are working at a huge disadvantage when they have to teach in a portable. They consistently have to worry about leaks when it rains, and have to cross their fingers that the air conditioning continues to work when it gets hot outside. When maintenance staff does come in to make repairs, it’s often a disruptive experience as they walk on the roof and stick ladders in the middle of the room during class time.

Teacher Shana Siegel said in an email that when it rains outside, it rains inside her classroom as well, and that water had dripped onto her students on Monday, Nov. 2. She said there’s a “distinct smell of mold” in the classroom, and that many of her special education students — several of whom have Down’s syndrome and are more susceptible to catching colds — are affected.

When the weather heats up, other problems crop up. Siegel recalled her classroom’s air conditioning breaking, forcing her and her students to go without it for over a week. As a Band-Aid fix, maintenance staff brought in a small, portable air conditioning unit, she said, “which brought the temperature in my classroom down to the low 80s during the heat wave we were experiencing at the time.”

According to a 2004 report by the state Air Resources Board and Department of Health Services, portable classrooms tend to have an array of environmental problems. Noisy heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems tend to ratchet up the noise level in excess of 55 decibels. And the alternative — turning off the noise-making equipment — can prompt serious ventilation problems in the classroom by cutting off outdoor air circulation into the room.

Musty odors, water stains and excess wall moisture are a persistent problem in many portable classrooms, according to the report, and are “often attributable to inadequate maintenance.”

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**CLASSROOMS**  
Continued from page 5

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Palo Alto, CA 94303
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Tuesdays: 1pm–3pm
Thursdays: 10am–12pm

**Stanford Primary Care, Los Altos**
960 N. San Antonio Rd, Ste 101
Los Altos, CA 94022
Tuesdays: 2pm–4pm
Thursdays: 10am–12pm

**Los Altos Senior Center**
97 Hillview Ave
Los Altos, CA 94022
Mondays: 10am–12pm

**SOUTH BAY**

**Stanford Primary Care, Santa Clara**
2518 Mission College Blvd
Santa Clara, CA 95054
Mondays: 2pm–4pm
Wednesdays: 10am–12pm

**Black Bear Diner, Milpitas**
174 W Calaveras Blvd
Milpitas, CA 95035
Fridays: 10am–12pm

**Samaritan Internal Medicine**
2410 Samaritan Dr, Ste 201
San Jose, CA 95124
Mondays: 10am–12pm
Tuesdays: 2pm–4pm

**Marie Callender’s**
620 Blossom Hill Rd
San Jose, CA 95123
Mondays: 2pm–4pm†
Wednesdays: 10am–12pm†
†Excluding November 23

*From October 15–December 7, excluding November 25–27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.
More locations and dates may be available. Call us or go online for more information.

Call now to RSVP. Walk-ins are welcome.
Or, you can schedule a personal appointment.

1-844-778-2636 (TTY 711)
8am–8pm, seven days a week

StanfordHealthCareAdvantage.org
List with DeLeon Realty before December 15, 2015 for the Spring 2016 market and you will receive:

- a $1,000 gift card to The Home Depot.

- 25 hours of handyman time.

- a special pre-marketing plan* for your home, including:
  - exposure on DeLeon Realty’s Spring Showcase website.
  - inclusion in DeLeon Realty’s newsletter (65,000 copies).
  - inclusion in newspaper inserts (64,500 copies).

- our industry-leading marketing plan, including:
  - full-page newspaper ads.
  - Google & Facebook ads.
  - Chinese newspaper & radio ads.
  - 12 or 28-page custom brochures.
  - a professional-quality video.
  - a 3-D tour.

This is in addition to the complimentary services we provide to all our sellers, including:

- free property inspection
- free pest inspection
- free staging**

*Pre-marketing for Spring Showcase will roll out the first week of January 2016.
*Includes all fees associated with design, delivery, set-up, de-staging, and the first month of furniture rental.

Disclaimer: This offer applies to listings with a signed listing agreement between Nov. 1, 2015 through Dec. 15, 2015. This is a limited-time offer for homes which will be listed to the MLS by May 1, 2016. Past listings and transactions are excluded from this offer.
Generous Property in Fantastic Location

This central corner lot of 7,467 sq. ft. (per county) enjoys a cul-de-sac setting and offers a variety of fruit trees. The flat, buildable property includes a 2 bedroom, 2 bath home of 1,381 sq. ft. (per county) with a lower level, plus a detached garage with a half bath and a spacious workshop. Ideal for remodeling and expansion or new construction, this property is an easy stroll from Midtown Shopping Center and Hoover Park, and moments from Caltrain, bus services, and terrific Palo Alto schools.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.2494Tasso.com

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 pm
Complimentary Lattes
Harold J. Ecker
May 13, 1943 – October 31, 2015

Harold J. Ecker passed away at El Camino Hospital on October 31, 2015, following a short illness. Harold was born May 13, 1943 in Sutherland, Nebraska, to Fritz and Rose (Sedlack) Ecker. He grew up in Paxton, Nebraska, and moved to Mountain View, California in 1969. He loved 4-wheeling and was a good mechanic. He was an avid reader and a lifelong learner. He especially loved researching new information on the Internet. He worked as a truck driver for 45 years and logged over four million miles. He worked for Foothill Bulk Transport for more than twenty years. Harold had a love for BIG trucks and SPEED!

He is survived by his wife Patricia, a son Dale and his wife, Audry (Leal) Ecker, sons grandsons Donny and Daryl and granddaughter Haley of Mountain View, and a daughter, Stace (Campbell) Drewing of Mtn.View and Albert Drewing, and a niece and nephews, Shelly Ecker, Jeff Ecker and Ken von Rentzell.

Memorial services were held on Fri. Nov. 6th at Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, Mtn.View. Please view/sign guestbook at http://www.cusimanocolonial.com/

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PAMF NAMES NEW CEO

Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) has named Elizabeth Vilardo, M.D., as its new chief executive officer, according to a Nov. 25 press release.

Vilardo will assume the position from Richard Slavin, M.D., who announced his retirement in September after serving 30 years with the organization, as CEO Emeritus until his retirement in January 2016, according to the announcement.

Vilardo is an internal medicine physician who has held a number of leadership positions within the Sutter Health network. She served on the boards of PAMF, Sutter Health and Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group. PAMF is one of Sutter Health’s key assets in the Bay Area. She became the president of the Camino Division, SGM of PAMF in 2010, and most recently served as chief of medicine at Mountain View’s El Camino Hospital.

She is just the fourth CEO in the history of the health care group since it was founded in 1930, according to the announcement.

“I have had the pleasure to work closely with Dr. Vilardo since the merger of Camino Medical Group and PAMF in 2000 and know that she will be an exceptional leader for this innovative and growing medical group,” said Sutter Health Bay Area President Jeff Gerard in the press release.

Vilardo received a M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. She also earned a master’s degree in Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

“OUGHTA BE A LAW” CONTEST

State Sen. Jerry Hill’s eighth annual “Oughta Be a Law … or Not” contest, where people are invited to suggest ideas for new state legislation, is open. Hill announced Friday, Nov. 27

“Here’s a great opportunity for constituents to share their outstanding ideas and get a firsthand look at democracy in action,” Hill, D-San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, said in an announcement.

Such public charity is particularly crucial for RotaCare, which operates on a small seven-person staff and a relatively lean budget of about $900,000, the bulk of which comes from the El Camino Healthcare District. While RotaCare relies on that funding for its daily operations, it’s fueled by the drive and energy of about 200 volunteers, including a network of physicians and other healthcare professionals.

“It’s really quite special — they’re giving their time and knowledge”, said Barbara Avery, director of the Community Benefit Program for the El Camino Healthcare District. “There are people who really need these services and need access to free care.”

That spirit of volunteerism is part of the tradition of RotaCare, itself a South Bay success story. The organization was formed in 1989 by Dr. Mark Campbell, a member of the Campbell Hill Rotary Club, from which it gets its name. The nonprofit was founded on the premise that the uninsured and low-income population needed better access to care.

Over the years, the group has expanded to 12 clinics throughout the Bay Area. For most of its history, RotaCare has focused on delivering primary care, but recently the group has offered more extensive medical aid. Thanks to recent partnership with Kaiser Permanente and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Mountain View RotaCare helped provide free surgical procedures for 32 patients. Many of these patients were coping with ongoing health problems, such as knee and shoulder injuries, and hernias, said Avery.

Over the last year, the number of patients served by RotaCare has been dropping off slightly, which Avery attributes to the rising cost of living in the Mountain View area driving low-income people out of the area. She said she also believes this trend is a sign that the Affordable Care Act — better known as Obamacare — is making strides in getting uninsured people onto health insurance plans.

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Palo Alto Weekly staff

The contest is open to all constituents of the 13th Senate District, which includes the cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Sunnyvale, Woodside and parts of the San Mateo Medical Group in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Residents can submit ideas aimed at either improving the quality of life in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and/or the state of California. Ideas can be for the creation of a new law, or the repeal or revision of laws already in place.

Hill will select a winner and introduce the idea as legislation. The winner will have the opportunity to testify in Sacramento at hearings on the legislation.

Past winners have testified on behalf of their bill idea in Assembly or state Senate committees, and many have also had their bill ideas signed into law.

To get an application, call Hill’s office at 650-212-3313 or go to sd13.senate.ca.gov. Applications can be emailed to Senator.Hill@senate.ca.gov, faxed to 650-212-3320 or mailed to his district office at 3528 South El Camino Real, Suite 303, San Mateo, CA 94402. Proposals must be received by Jan. 15. The deadline to introduce bills for the 2016 legislative year is Feb. 19.
How to Give

Your gift helps children and families in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 150 Voice readers and the Wakerly, the William and Flora Hewlett and the David and Lucile Packard foundations contributed $91,000, or $13,000 each for the nonprofit agencies supported by the Voice Holiday Fund. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

Day Worker Center
The Day Worker Center of Mountain View provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages and work conditions. It serves an average of 60 workers a day with job placements, English lessons, job skills workshops or guidance.

Mentor Tutor Connection
Mentor Tutor Connection matches adult volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in the Mountain View, Los Altos and the Los Altos Hills area and offers tutoring to many students, including some in high school and beyond.

Community School of Music and Arts
The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Nearly 45 percent of the students are socio-economically disadvantaged, and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

Mountain View RotaCare Clinic
The RotaCare Free Clinic provides uninsured local residents with primary care and many specialty care services. The clinic is frequently the last resort for this underserved demographic group.

YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence
This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

Community Services Agency
CSA is the community’s safety-net providing critical support services for low-income individuals and families, the homeless and seniors in northern Santa Clara County, including Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Community Health Awareness Council
CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

Donate online at
www.siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund

Enclosed is a donation of $_______________
Name _______________________________________________________
Business Name _______________________________________________
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Signature ____________________________________________________
I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)
☑ In my name as shown above
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☑ In honor of:
☑ In memory of:
☑ As a gift for: ____________________________________________________
(Name of person)

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Mountain View Voice unless the boxes below are checked.
☑ I wish to contribute anonymously.
☑ Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

Please make checks payable to:
Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund
2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300
Mountain View, CA 94040

The Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
Cookbooks of 2015

Readers, cooks can explore tastes ranging from Eastern Europe to Chez Panisse

By Anne Sturmtthal Bergman
Photos by Veronica Weber

Perusing the cookbook selection at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park, I selected several volumes that were published during the past year, took them home and tried out a few of the recipes. Here’s what I found.

Recipes reflect diversity

Mamushka: Recipes from Ukraine & Eastern Europe, by Olia Hercules, Weldon Owen, 2015, hardback, 240 pages, $35

When most of us think of Ukraine, we think of civil war and cold weather. This book offers a very human view of a different world. The book starts out with a brief overview of the contents by noting the diversity of people in Ukraine: Serbs, Bessarabians, Jews, Moldovans, Uzbekistsans, Armenians and Ossetians. The recipes reflect this complex mix. The broths and soups exemplify this diversity and include beet broth, sorrel broth, beef soup, chicken broth and several Armenian soups. The recipes use expected ingredients, such as beets, cabbage, sorrel, potatoes, onions and carrots. But they also use gherkins, dill, fresh herbs, allspice and salami. These are hearty soups for a cold, rainy night. There are sections on dumplings and noodles, meats, fish, conserves, breads, pastries and more. This is not a book for light eaters.

I made tomatoes stuffed with herbs and cheese, which was easy and unusual. The tomatoes are hollowed out and stuffed with the pulp that is mixed with feta cheese and fresh herbs. Then, they are baked with a touch of olive oil on the top. I used dill, parsley, a bit of garlic, and some sorrel, potatoes, onions and carrots. But they also use gherkins, dill, fresh herbs, allspice and salami.

This is a nice cookbook for those who might want to learn more about Eastern European food, or those who can trace their family roots back to this region.

Unpretentious wine guide


This is a good book for someone who may have just moved to California, who simply wants to discover the world of wine, or for people such as myself, who know what they like but don’t know how to describe it. While I found some of the diagrams confusing, the basic layout is good.

It starts with fundamentals, including the size of a glass, alcohol content and characteristics of wine. The rest of the book goes over styles of wine (sparkling, full bodied, dessert and so on) and wine regions of the world, from Argentina to Australia and Spain to South Africa.

I liked this unpretentious beginners guide to wine. It will help you sound knowledgeable without being pretentious.

A life through food

Kitchen Gypsy: Recipes and Stories from a Lifelong Romance with Food, by Joanne Weir, Oxmoor House, 2015, hardback, 287 pages, $35

Joanne Weir is one of the many chefs who was nurtured and influenced by Alice Waters and Chez Panisse. She has written 17 cookbooks, lectured, taught and traveled, and this is very personal book about her life with food. There is far more writing than recipes, and if one wants to follow a life immersed in food, this is a good book.

However, I buy cookbooks for recipes. There were not nearly as many as I would have liked, and not many jumped off the page and begged to be made. I did make the lamb chops with lavender salt, and although I do not have a “ridged cast iron stove top grill pan” and made them in a heavy iron stove top grill.


See COOKBOOKS page 19
Time to settle down with new books

Children’s literature offers stories for all ages, including parents

By Debbie Duncan

The search for personal identity and young people dealing with modern challenges figure prominently in notable new books for children and teens, including several by local authors. (Disclosure: the Bay Area children’s writers community is small and collegial. I know the writers and illustrators.) Listen up, parents: these books are not just for kids.

Cambodian dance to children in San Jose.

Sophany was a premier dancer in Cambodia before the Khmer Rouge took over her country. Dr. Reicherter and award-winning Palo Alto illustrator Christy Hale convey the horrible history of that takeover with honesty and sensitivity; then show the healing power of dance and how it can instill hope in refugees and cultural continuity for their children.

Sophany was a premier dancer and survivor of the Khmer Rouge who once was — until a train accident in Cambodia before the Khmer Rouge took over her country. Dr. Stanford psychiatrist Daryn Reicherter gracefully tells the story of a Cambodian dancer and survivor of the Khmer Rouge who now teaches ancient Cambodian dance to children in San Jose.

This lyrical biography is enhanced by a note from the author filling in the details of Pavlova’s life and influence.

The Cambodian Dancer: Sophany’s Gift of Hope by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Julie Morstad; $18; Chronicle Books; ages 5-8.

Before Sophany, there was Anna Pavlova, a Russian prima ballerina who had a major impact on ballet. In poetic text and stunning illustrations, “Swan” shows how attending a performance of “The Sleeping Beauty” inspires the daughter of a single mother laundress not to give up trying to get into ballet school even though she’s too thin and her feet are all wrong. Yet she works hard and changes dance to fit her style. Anna dances for royalty, but also for those in remote areas of the globe — poor people, as she once was — until a train accident in the snow gives her a chill that leads to her death.

This novel is certain to appeal to young people who love being on stage or backstage, or who simply enjoy a fast-paced book about performance or theater. It’s set in a fictional Peninsula town.

The Cambodian Dancer: Sophany’s Gift of Hope includes a Khmer translation of the text, illustrations by Christy Hale and author’s notes from Daryn Reicherter.

This new book for children, by Debbie Duncan

“Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova” by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Julie Morstad; $18; Chronicle Books; ages 5-8.

Anna Pavlova, a Russian prima ballerina, led her country. Dr. Stanford psychiatrist Daryn Reicherter tells the story of how attending a performance of “The Sleeping Beauty” inspires the daughter of a single mother laundress not to give up trying to get into ballet school even though she’s too thin and her feet are all wrong. Yet she works hard and changes dance to fit her style. Anna dances for royalty, but also for those in remote areas of the globe — poor people, as she once was — until a train accident in the snow gives her a chill that leads to her death.

This lyrical biography is enhanced by a note from the author filling in the details of Pavlova’s life and influence.

Playing Juliet by Joanne Stewart Wetzel; $16; Sky Pony Press; ages 8-12.

Palo Alto author and self-proclaimed theater geek Joanne Stewart Wetzel’s middle-grade novel is certain to appeal to young people who love being on stage and is becoming a young Shakespeare scholar. Her dream part is Juliet in “Romeo and Juliet.” She thinks that may happen someday, and then she hears rumors the theater is going to close. In her quest to save her favorite place in the world, Beth makes some bad choices and pays the price. Yet even while being grounded she manages to deepen her devotion to Shakespeare and, ultimately, to use her studies to the theater’s advantage. Brava!

Playing Juliet

George by Alex Gino; $17; Scholastic; ages 8-12.

George is a fourth-grader and the only one who knows she’s a girl. “George” is a groundbreak- ing novel by an Oakland author.

“Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova” is by author Laurel Snyder and illustrator Julie Morstad.

See NEW BOOKS, page 18

December 4, 2015 Mountain View Voice MountainViewOnline.com 17

Snow Queen

Bayer Ballet Company presents Two-act ballet based on a story by Hans Christian Andersen

December 19, 1pm & 6pm

December 20, 1pm & 6pm

For Tickets Call 650-913-6000 or visit www.MVCPA.com www.bayerballetacademy.com

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“Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova” includes a Khmer translation of the text, illustrations by Christy Hale and author’s notes from Daryn Reicherter.

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NEW BOOKS

Continued from page 17

about a kid who wants what a lot of kids want: to be seen as they truly are, along with, perhaps, a certain part in the class play. In George’s case, her family at first misunderstands her “differentness” — George isn’t gay, she’s transgender. She’s bullied at school and isn’t allowed to try out for the part of Charlotte in “Charlotte’s Web” because, of course, her teacher sees her as a boy. Thank goodness George has best friend Kelly in her life. Kelly comes to acknowledge George as her new girlfriend Melissa, and not only helps George with the “Charlotte” dilemma, but also shows Melissa how much fun being a girl can be. Parents: read this book with your kids over winter break.

Sunny Side Up
by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm; $13 paperback; Graphix/Scholastic; ages 8-12.

The brother-sister creators of the bestselling Babymouse books for younger readers here produce an autobiographical graphic novel dealing with a serious subject that’s surprisingly funny.

Ten-year-old Sunny’s summer with her Florida grandfather isn’t the vacation she envisioned. Grampa lives in a retirement community with a bunch of old people, and she has to sleep on a squeaky, uncomfortable hide-a-bed. But that’s better than what she had back home in Pennsylvania with a violent, probably drug-addicted teenage brother.

Sunny hangs out with Gramps and “the girls” and makes friends with the groundskeeper’s son, Buzz. He introduces her to comics and comic book heroes. Sunny learns that superheroes can’t save everyone, and neither can she. She decides she doesn’t want to keep secrets anymore, especially about her brother.

The authors end with a note encouraging kids in families struggling with substance abuse not to feel ashamed or blame themselves, and to talk about it.

Paint My Body Red
by Heidi R. Kling; $14 paperback; Entangled Teen; ages 13 and up.

“Paint My Body Red” is Palo Alto author Heidi R. Kling’s response to local teen suicides: a story of Silicon Valley high school students who have enormous academic pressure and irresponsible parents, where suicide on the train tracks becomes contagious. (This is not a chronicle of real people and events. The author did not know the circumstances of local victims.)

Paige Mason’s mother is a CEO with a new husband and stepson who was accused of date rape in New York. Paige and her step-brother are left alone in the house. What could possibly go wrong?”

The novel begins after graduation and the sixth suicide, when Paige is sent to spend the summer with her father on his Wyoming ranch. Senior year has left her a physical and emotional wreck, wracked with guilt. She arrives to find Dad dying of ALS (Mom hadn’t told her). Paige has trouble getting over the bad times in California (“Then” chapters) even as she heals in Wyoming (“Now” chapters) with the help of a hot cowboy and a horse to break.

“Paint My Body Red” is ultimately a hopeful and important book for teenagers, and also highly recommended for parents.

Contributing writer Debbie Duncan is a Stanford writer and author of books for children and adults, and can be reached at debbie@debbieduncan.com.
bottomed frying pan, they had a nice variation and an unexpected combination of flavors.

If you are looking to relive the Chez Panisse experience and the food world that grew from it, this is a worthwhile book.

**Short and sensible**

*How To Eat*, Thich Nhat Hanh, Parallax Press, 2014, 125 pages, small paperback, $9.95

This charming book, which would make a lovely stocking stuffer, reminds us to eat mindfully. For those of us who eat in a hurry, who don’t stop to appreciate even a good pickle, this book will cause us to pay attention to what, when and how we eat.

**Dishes with zest**


When I first came to California as a college student from the Midwest, I was enchanted by seeing lemons, limes, oranges and other citrus fruits on trees, as opposed to wrapped in plastic wrap in the grocery store. The fragrance when the trees bloomed was intoxicating. I discovered Meyer lemons, which were unlike any lemon I had ever tasted. I have looked for years for a cookbook that does justice to citrus fruits. This is the one.

I made linguini with clams, which had lime zest and juice in it. The lime made it slightly more piquant than the usual clam linguini, but still delicious. I also made the marmalade bread pudding. The bread I used was too large and it ended up being more like a vertical French toast. With smaller pieces of bread, it would have been perfect. The almonds with chili and lime were easy to put together and had a little bite. The curried chicken, which only took a few minutes to make, used the citrus and coconut milk in a unique and distinctive way. I used a premixed curry powder from Draeger’s Market, and I think the choice of curry powder is crucial. If you want it spicy, add a spicy curry mix; if you want it milder, choose a more mild one. The herbed and smashed potatoes with lemon juice and oregano were crispy and unusual.

The citrus in these recipes added a little zest (so to speak) to each dish. Highly recommended.

Freelance writer Anne Sturmthal Bergman can be emailed at anniebergman@gmail.com.
Invest in safety for bikers and walkers

It's a sad irony: To stay fit and healthy, we are told, we should all exercise, and incorporating routines such as walking and bicycling into our everyday lives is a simple and satisfying way to do so. But local walkers and bicyclists might be forgiven for wondering whether their regular means of exercise really is a wise health strategy, given the number of vehicle collisions with bicyclists and pedestrians on increasingly congested city streets this year.

The latest incident took the life of Michelle Montalvo, who was struck by a vehicle as she was crossing the street, in a marked crosswalk, at El Monte Avenue and Marich Way. Grieving family members gathered at the recent Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting, urging city leaders to put better safety measures in place where the accident occurred. But while improved safety features are undeniably called for at that complex intersection, improvements are also urgently needed at other trouble-spots where walkers and bicyclists regularly find themselves at risk.

The argument for boosting pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout the city is not a hard sell for City Council members, a number of whom are regular bicyclists and neighborhood walkers. And the city has already shown its willingness to study and improve specific dangers. After a man was killed last February in a crosswalk at Independence Avenue and Charleston Road, for example, the city made changes in that intersection's traffic controls that now prevent the type of vehicle movement that led to the man's death.

But the problem is complicated. For one thing, the number of trouble-spots in the city is high, and coming up with intelligent, well-engineered solutions requires significant time and funding. But another key factor is one that anyone who walks, bikes and drives our roadways can see every day: There are considerably more vehicles on the roads as Mountain View attracts more jobs, and behind the wheel of an uncomfortably high number of those vehicles are people in a hurry, often distracted.

After the fatal accident in October on El Monte Avenue, police officers observing area traffic reported that a significant number of drivers on El Monte exceeded the 35 mph speed limit, and it would be no surprise to learn that the statistics reported for El Monte were typical citywide where traffic is flowing.

Last summer a police department spokesman told the Voice that addressing the problem is not as simple as just writing up tickets for traffic violations. Public education is also an important part of the strategy, he said. But nothing achieves public awareness the way a visible police presence does — including traffic stops and subsequent hefty fines for speeding.

To accomplish such campaigns in the number of areas they're needed may require an increase in the number traffic unit police officers, but until the city can put in place measures to improve safety — from lowering speed limits to increased traffic enforcement is a worthwhile investment.

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Don’t let your New Year’s resolutions fall by the wayside — local classes and programs can help achieve intellectual, health or creative goals. Whether your aim is to get up and move, learn how to play a new sport like pickleball, ace the SATs or create a painted masterpiece — local businesses around the Peninsula can help keep you motivated. Do what inspires you and make positive changes this year.

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

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS**

**Flex College Prep**
4600 El Camino Real, Suite 201, Los Altos
650-987-7742
info@flexcollegeprep.com
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 previews and tutoring for a variety of high school subjects. Winter classes begin Jan. 8.

**Zenith Tutoring**
1674 N. Shoreline Blvd., Suite 136, Mountain View
650-824-4703
grayson@zenithtutoring.com
www.zenithtutoring.com

Zenith Tutoring offers SAT and PSAT exam preparation courses, online classes, private tutoring and coaching through the college application process. Registration is open.

**FOR THE DANCER**

**Alberto’s Salsa Studio & Ultra Lounge**
736 W. Dana St., Mountain View
650-966-1307
clubalbertos@gmail.com
www.albertos.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 with more experience. Modern Spanish rock music is also featured (Saturdays).

**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 re-introduce participants to the art form.

**Cassand Ballet**
1411 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View
415-505-5659
cassandballet@gmail.com
www.cassandballet.com

This ballet school and company follows the classical French tradition and teaches boys, girls, teenagers and adults starting at age 3. The winter semester for children begins in February.

**MamboNova Dance Studio**
223 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View
925-250-8552
info@mambonovasf.com
www.mambonovasf.com

MamboNova Dance Studio and Company offers group lessons in salsa and bachata. Private individual dance classes are also offered for individuals and couples.

**For the Love of Dance**
2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View
650-861-0650
fortheloveofdancemv@gmail.com

For the Love of Dance provides training in ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, musical theater and aerobics. The family-owned studio teaches children and adults at all levels and serves the communities of Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos and Sunnyvale. Registration is open.

**The Lively School**
Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View
650-968-4455
livelyfoundation@bkglobal.net
www.livelyfoundation.org/TheLivelySchool.htm

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

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

*Continued on next page*
THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Shoreline Lake Aquatic Center
3600 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View
650-985-7474
boathouse@shorelinelake.com
www.shorelinelake.com
Shoreline Lake’s Aquatic Center offers a variety of group lessons for sailing, stand-up paddle-boarding, kayaking and windsurfing, as well as private lessons.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Barre3
4758 W. El Camino Real, Los Altos
650-481-8139
info@barre3.com
www.barre3.com/locations/los-altos/
Barre3 combines ballet barre exercises with elements of yoga and Pilates, aiming to help students develop flexibility, stamina and muscle.

Bikram Yoga Mountain View
1910 W. El Camino Real, Suite E, Mountain View
650-967-2968
info@bikramyogamountainview.com
www.bikramyogamountainview.com
In its 90-minute classes, Bikram Yoga Mountain View instructs students in 26 Hatha yoga postures and two breathing exercises in a heated room. Classes are held each day of the week.

California Yoga Center
1776 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View
650-967-5700
info@californiayoga.com
www.californiayoga.com
California Yoga Center in Mountain View holds yoga classes for students at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. The center also holds classes designed to help individuals with back problems.

Jacki’s Aerobic Dancing
Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View
650-941-1002
joanier@pacbell.net
www.jackis.com
Jacki’s Aerobic Dancing offers dance classes with abdominal work, strength training and easy-to-follow aerobic routines. Complimentary child care is available and provided by the staff.

Mountain View Tennis
Cuesta Tennis Center, 685 Cuesta Drive, Mountain View
650-967-3913
info@mountainviewtennis.net
www.mountainviewtennis.net
Taught by certified professionals, Mountain View Tennis’ affordable programs for youth and adult tennis players of all abilities are held at a handful of locations throughout the city. The first winter session begins Jan. 3.

Yoga Belly
453 Castro St., Mountain View
650-862-9787
info@yogabellystudioso.com
www.yogabellystudioso.com
Yoga Belly offers yoga classes in heated and non-heated rooms, more physical VRY classes and Yoga Tune Up sessions, which combine yoga, corrective exercise and self-massage.

Yoga is Youthfulness
390 Castro St., Mountain View
650-964-5277
info@yogaisyouth.com
www.yogaisyouth.com
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
1910 W. El Camino Real, Suite E, Mountain View
650-985-7474
senior.center@mountainview.gov
The Mountain View Senior Center offers a wide array of classes exploring topics and activities such as art, music, computer use, dance, exercise and pickleball — a low-impact game played with a paddle.

Peninsula Youth Theatre
2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View
650-988-8798
www.pytnet.org
Peninsula Youth Theatre (PYT) offers drama classes in acting, musical theater and other skills to children of various abilities and ages. It also puts on a number of productions featuring youth at local venues.

Savvy Cellar Wines
750 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View
650-969-7858
info@savvycellar.com
Savvy Cellar Wines also puts on a number of productions featuring music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age. The winter semester for music, art and preschool classes begins Jan. 11.

Silicon Valley Shambhala Meditation Center
2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite 110, Mountain View
650-352-1499
shambhalasv@gmail.com
www.siliconvalleymeditation.org
The Silicon Valley Shambhala Meditation Center holds practice meditation sessions each week. The center also organizes courses, retreats and contemplative art activities.

MUSIC, ARTS AND CRAFTS

Mountains of Music
3901 Los Altos Blvd., Mountain View
650-964-7534
info@mountainsofmusic.org
Mountains of Music cancels programming for the winter beginning Jan. 3.

The German International School of Silicon Valley (GISSV)
MOUNTAIN VIEW • BERKELEY • SAN FRANCISCO
www.gissv.org
The German International School of Silicon Valley (GISSV) offers high-quality bilingual programs that foster critical and imaginative thinking, academic excellence and an appreciation of cultural diversity.

Just After the Bell
2660 El Camino Real, Mountain View
650-963-2180
justafterthebell.org
Just After the Bell offers after-school music and arts classes in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age.

Olde Village Preschool
120 S. Villa Ave., Mountain View
650-969-3958
info@savvycellar.com
Olde Village Preschool also puts on a number of productions featuring music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age.

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A BILINGUAL EDUCATION OPENS DOORS

The German International School of Silicon Valley (GISSV) offers year-round language immersion programs to children and adults in German or English.

www.gissv.org
PRESCHOOL – GRADE 12 AT THREE LOCATIONS IN THE BAY AREA

Admissions Open House
Sunday, December 13th | 1:00pm - 3:30pm
RSVP: kehillahrams.eventbrite.com or to our Admissions Director, Marily Lerner, mlerner@kehillah.org

3900 FABIAN WAY, PALO ALTO | 650.213.9600 | KEHILLAH.ORG
Art students attend a lesson at the Community School of Music and Arts.

www.savvycellarswine.com
Savvy Cellars Winex has classes that highlight regional wines, pair wines with food and introduce wine tasting to novices. Students must be 21 or older to attend.

Tumasov Fine Art Studio
833 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View 415-490-8925
www.tumasovfineart.com

The studio offers workshops and art classes in painting, drawing, ceramics, metalworking and more, as well as an after-school art program for kids.

Vekslier Academy of Music and Dance
1710 Minniman Ave., Mountain View 650-254-0777
www.veksliera.com

This school program teaches ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop dance classes for children ages 3 and up. Music programs include preschool music classes, song and dance, and a children's choir. Private music lessons are also available for a number of instruments, as well as voice training.

West Valley Music
262 Castro St., Mountain View 650-961-1596
www.westvalleymusic.com
info@westvalleymusic.com
650-961-1566
262 Castro St., Mountain View

West Valley Music helps students further their music skills or try their hand at different instruments. Group lessons and private lessons are offered for instruments such as the piano, guitar, ukulele, violin, cello and flute.

PARENT EDUCATION

El Camino Hospital childbirth and parenting classes
Mountain View Campus, 2300 Grant Road, Mountain View 650-988-3200
www.elcaminohospital.org/WomensPregnancyChildbirth

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

SCHOOL DAYS

Action Day Primary Plus
333 Easton Ave., Mountain View 650-967-3780
mview@actiondayprimaryplus.com
www.actiondayprimaryplus.com

Action Day Primary Plus in Mountain View serves infants and children in preschool and kindergarten. The school offers enrichment activities and extended day care, and its facilities are spacious.

Building Kids
250 E. Dana St., Mountain View 650-967-8000
www.buildingkids.com

Building Kids School provides infant, preschool and kindergarten care that encourages children's physical, social and cognitive development.

Emerson School
310 Easy St., Mountain View 650-254-0788
office@emersonschool.org
www.emersonschool.org

Emerson School provides a full-day, year-round program for grades one to eight, teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum. Lessons draw from classical subjects and other areas, including art, music, foreign language, physical education, communication, life skills and more.

German International School of Silicon Valley
310 Easy St., Mountain View 650-254-0788
office@giisv.org
www.giisv.org/gii-s-home-english

This college-preparatory high school (grades nine through 12) features modern science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of academic courses with small class sizes, sports teams and more.

Kehillah Jewish High School
3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto 650-213-9600
www.kehillah.org

This college preparatory high school (grades nine through 12) features modern science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of academic courses with small class sizes, sports teams and more.

Mountain View–Los Altos Adult Education
333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View 650-940-2333
adulted@mvla.net
www.mvla.net/MVLA_Adult_Education/

Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education offers English as a second language, music, dance, needlework, family education, physical fitness and more. The school also has a high school diploma and GED programs. The winter session begins on Jan. 4.

Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education's high school department at 650-326-8210.

Class Guide, call the display advertisement at 650-326-8210.

Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Sam Sciolli at ssciolla@pawweekly.com or call 650-223-6515.

For the Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Sam Sciolli at ssciolla@pawweekly.com or call 650-223-6515. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertisement at 650-326-8210.

Adviser Directory

Emerson School, Palo Alto
German International School of Silicon Valley, Mountain View
Heads Up, Palo Alto
Jack’s Aerobic Dancing, Mountain View
Kehillah Jewish High School, Palo Alto
Peninsula School, Menlo Park

The Class Guide is published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and the Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos and beyond are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Sam Sciolli at ssciolla@pawweekly.com or call 650-223-6515. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertisement at 650-326-8210.
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CALM ADVICE FROM CHARLES “CHICKEN” LITTLE

Even in a drought, flooding can occur. ARE YOU READY?

Water district’s top tips this flood season

- Prepare a family disaster plan.
- Make an emergency kit for your home and car.
- Keep a full tank of gas in your car.
- Know your local streams and drainage channels.
- Purchase flood insurance for your home.
- Avoid low-lying areas and learn the best route to high ground.
- Never drive through flooded areas. Just one foot of water will float away most cars.
- Designate a family meeting spot in the event of an emergency.
- Check for current data on stream, reservoir and precipitation gauge information at www.valleywater.org/services/alert.aspx.