

Mountain View VOICE



VIVID REALITY
Mike Wang dazzles
in downtown
exhibit
A&E | P.25

JULY 27, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 30

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Housing market through the roof

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUCKS TREND, WITH SINGLE-FAMILY
HOMES GOING FASTER THAN EVER; CONDOS UP
\$100,000 FROM LAST YEAR

By Daniel DeBolt

While the housing market seems to have slowed elsewhere, single-family homes have been selling faster than ever in Mountain View, according to recent statistics.

In the second quarter of 2007, single-family homes sold in Mountain View within 13 days — consistently the shortest time on the market of any city in the

Greg Perry, who consistently pushed for more housing in Mountain View while on the council, said the economy, rather than schools, should get the credit.

“Mountain View has had more job growth in the last couple of years than we have ever seen. As a result we have a housing market we haven’t seen either,” he said.

Perry bemoaned what the changes have wrought for mid-

dle-class families hoping to live in Mountain View. “It used to be Mountain View was an island where people could afford to live,” he said. “The middle class is being forced out and is being replaced with tech executives, doctors and lawyers.”

On the upside, residents of Mountain View have reported strong satisfaction with city services, paid

for in part with increased sales revenue, property tax revenue and city land leases with companies like Google.

From French’s point of view, “We are very lucky to live in this area,” he said.

In San Jose or the East Bay, by contrast, the housing market has been deeply impacted by foreclosures and sub-prime loans. French said the current inventory of homes in east San Jose and in parts of the East Bay will

“The middle class is being forced out and is being replaced with tech executives, doctors and lawyers.”

GREG PERRY

Days on the market is the best way to gauge demand, experts say, making Mountain View the most sought-after property in the region.

The median price of homes has jumped to \$1.1 million, up from \$882,000 in the first quarter of

2006. Homes in the Monta Loma neighborhood, for example, are now in the \$850,000 range and typically sell within eight days.

Nick French, a broker for Catton Properties, said Mountain View and nearby cities are facing “a lot of demand” from buyers with children looking for good schools, but the area is also facing “very little supply.”

“It’s really the schools that are driving it,” French said. Markets with good schools are doing well, while others aren’t.

Former City Council member

► See **HOUSING**, page 10



KELLEY COX



KELLEY COX

COLORS OF SUMMER

Parisa Kubota, above, carries her 2-year-old daughter Summer during the Bon Odori, a Japanese Buddhist folk dance, at the Obon Festival and Bazaar, held last Sunday at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. At left, Marilyn Ozawa, Aiko Sugimoto and Frances Sawamura perform the Bon Odori. The festival brings thousands to the Buddhist Temple each year to celebrate Japanese food, music, art and culture.

Catch 22 at El Camino Hospital

DOC: ADMINISTRATION DID MORE HARM THAN GOOD IN CASE OF JIMMY CAMPBELL

By Alexa Tondreau

Editor’s note: Four weeks ago, the Voice reported that a patient at El Camino Hospital had been released after an unparalleled length of stay — five and half a years. Due to a technicality in his Medi-Cal coverage, Jimmy Campbell, 43, who has a degenerative neurological disease called spinocerebellar atrophy,

was unable to receive full coverage for the 24-hour at-home nursing care that his doctor prescribed.

Without the full coverage, said Dr. Ron Hoffman, Campbell’s neurologist and personal physician, Campbell would have died, most likely from choking, as he is unable to properly swallow on his own.

The Voice sat down for an

interview with Dr. Hoffman soon after that article was published. He described the unusual predicament of a patient unable to leave the hospital for his home, and detailed the conflict between the hospital’s administration and Campbell’s family and physicians — a personal story that Hoffman believes has larger implications

► See **HOSPITAL**, page 12



Ellen & Katie Saviano



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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Melody Dye.

What's on your summer reading list?



"All books about how to get my baby to sleep through the night. Though I've got second dibs on 'Harry Potter' when he's finished with it."

Marguerite Merchant with Justin and baby Devin, Mountain View



"I'm reading a book on ancient Indian, Greek and Chinese philosophy. Whenever I feel down, something like that relaxes me. Even reading a page or two means a lot."

Harun Cetin, Livermore



"I read 'Harry Potter y la Orden del Fénix' and now I'm reading the expanded version in English. I like it better in English, I think she explains more."

Alejandro Velasquez, Mexico



"Top of my list is 'Five Skies' by Ron Carlson. It's about a couple of guys who come together on a construction project in the Rocky Mountains — a dark novel of the soul, so to speak. It just came out and a friend mentioned I might like it."

Cody Christiaens, Redwood City



"I have 105 books checked out from the Mountain View library right now, so it's hard to say just what's on my list. At the moment I'm on a philosophical bent, so I'm looking forward to reading 'Doubt' by Jennifer Michael Hecht."

Chris Olsen, Palo Alto

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July 9: **CHOCOLAT** (1989)
Cameroon/France, directed by Claire Denis

August 6: **SOMETIMES IN APRIL** (2005)
Rwanda, directed by Raoul Peck

July 16: **LUMUMBA** (2000)
Zaire/Democratic Republic of Congo,
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August 13: **TSOTSI** (2006)
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LocalNews

■ CRIMEWATCH

BATTERY, SHORELINE AMPHITHEATRE, 7/20
Two women got into an argument that ended in aggravated assault. After a verbal disagreement, the first woman pushed the second, knocking her into her friend and landing both of them on the ground. The friend of the victim was injured in the fall, aggravating a prior back injury. When the victim confronted the suspect about the fact that her friend was injured, the suspect punched the victim in the face and then fled. The friend who was injured in the initial fall was treated at a local hospital with minor injuries.

BURGLARY/RESIDENTIAL, 2200 BLOCK CALIFORNIA ST., 7/21
A man briefly went outside his apartment only to return and find his backpack missing. He went outside again to look around and saw a suspect carrying his pack. He confronted the suspect, who fled on foot. The victim discovered that there had been a party at an upstairs apartment and that the suspect had been there, drinking. With the help of police, the suspect was located and arrested later that night.

■ POLICE LOG

ALCOHOL IN AMPHITHEATRE
Amphitheatre Parkway, 7/19

BATTERY
600 Block Tyrella Ave., 7/18
300 Block Truman Ave., 7/19
Security Office, 7/19
Amphitheatre Parkway, 7/19
2500 Block Old Middlefield Way, 7/19
500 Block Walker Dr., 7/20

BREAKING/REMOVING VEHICLE
800 Block E. El Camino Real, 7/17

BURGLARY/AUTO
600 Block Mariposa Ave., 7/17
Century 16 Cinema, 7/17
100 Block Space Park Way, 7/19
Amphitheatre Parkway, 7/19

BURGLARY/COMMERCIAL
2000 Block Landings Dr., 7/17

BURGLARY/RESIDENTIAL
2200 Block California St., 7/21

CORPORAL INJURY
1500 Block Tyler Park Way, 7/17
200 Block San Antonio Ct., 7/17

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
2600 Block W. El Camino Real, 7/18
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 7/19
E. El Camino Real, 7/19
Amphitheatre Parkway, 7/19

DISTURBANCE
Huff Elem School, 7/18
100 Block Chetwood Dr., 7/18
1200 Block Dale Ave., 7/18
100 Block Castro St., 7/19

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
200 Block Tyrella Ave., 7/21

DRINKING IN PUBLIC
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 7/18

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE
Calderon/W. El Camino Real, 7/18
Northbound 101/N. Shoreline Blvd, 7/19
Miramonte Ave/Park Dr., 7/21

FALSE IMPRISONMENT
2800 Block Tyrella Ave., 7/21

FORGERY
2500 Block California St., 7/19

GRAND THEFT
1500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd, 7/17
Castro St/W. Evelyn Ave., 7/18
Amphitheatre Parkway, 7/20

IDENTITY THEFT
500 Block Pettis Ave., 7/17

NARCOTICS POSSESSION
1000 Block W. El Camino Real, 7/19

OBSCENE/ANNOYING PHONE CALL
500 Block Central Ave., 7/17

PETTY THEFT
300 Block Central Ave., 7/17
200 Block Castro St., 7/17
600 Block Sierra Vista Ave., 7/18
300 Block N. Whisman Rd., 7/19
2600 Block Fayette Dr, 7/19
7-Eleven, Latham, 7/20
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 7/20
Walgreens, 7/20
1800 Block Higdon Ave., 7/21

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
Montecito/N. Rengstorff Ave., 7/17
1900 Block W. El Camino Real, 7/19

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
Crittenden/N. Shoreline Blvd, 7/19

ROBBERY
200 Block Moffett Blvd., 7/17
Cost Plus, 7/19
200 Block W. El Camino Real, 7/19

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE
2600 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/20

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON
500 Block Ortega Ave., 7/18
1400 Block W. El Camino Real, 7/18
800 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 7/18
2200 Block California St., 7/21

TRESPASSING
100 Block Grant Rd., 7/19
400 Block Tyrella Ave., 7/20

VANDALISM
100 Block Bryant St., 7/17
400 Block Thompson Ave., 7/18
300 Block San Antonio Rd., 7/19
City Lot 3, 7/21



Star spangled clutter

By Don Frances

WALKING BY the downtown post office on Hope Street earlier this week, I glanced up and caught sight of the American flag flying there.

It was in horrible shape — thin, faded and dog-eared. Its blue field was two shades lighter than the actual sky above it. The red and white stripes were coming apart at the end, giving it a ruffled look, like some banner from the Middle Ages.

I'm not the biggest flag-waver, and don't care anything about the United States Flag Code. But our government institutions, in particular, ought to keep their flags in order. So I'm hoping somebody over there glances up like I did, and orders up a new Old Glory.

ALLEN PRICE, of Velarde Street, has sent this paper a steady stream of opinion pieces over the years. But this is surely the first time he ever sent us haikus.

Recently Price sent in two of the little poems, giving me something great to print and also an idea: I propose a "haiku hoedown."

The haiku hoedown is simple: Send in your haikus and I will run them as space permits. Points will be awarded (but probably not announced) for hilarity, footwork, and relevance to Mountain View.

Below are Price's submissions. Though they were untitled, they came under the subject line "Mayfield Project Haiku."

Haiku #1

Sun on the railway platform,
Baseball on my mind.
Train grows larger

Haiku #2

Council chairs filled
Pledge of allegiance
Mayfield project objections

Don Frances can be reached at
dfrances@mv-voice.com.



MAGIC MADNESS

Nearly 500 people, many of them dressed as witches and wizards, lined up outside Books Inc. in Mountain View last Friday to get their hands on "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the seventh and final novel in J.K. Rowling's famous series.

At Books Inc., 20 percent of advance sales were donated to the Mountain View Educational Fund, a trust which supports public schools, libraries and the arts in the local community. By their latest estimate, Harry Potter customers had helped contribute over \$3,700 to support the fund.

MELODY DYE



Mini-parks galore

CITY POINTS TO PROGRESS IN QUEST FOR MORE GREENERY, ESPECIALLY NORTH OF EL CAMINO REAL

By Daniel DeBolt

The city seems to be making headway in creating more parks, and recent developments have brought officials closer to their ultimate goal: a park within walking distance of every Mountain View resident.

Of late, the city has acquired or is about to acquire land in two areas long underserved by parks, resulting in a mini-park for each. Though the pending parks are small, officials say, they represent progress for a city that is already "built out."

"It's an exciting time for parks," said city manager Kevin Duggan. With the construction of a dozen neighborhood parks in the last 14 years, he said, "We have probably created at least one neighborhood park within walking distance of most residents in town."

Last week the city purchased two lots at 380 and 390 Del Medio Ave. for a .35-acre park. However, development there can only begin once the current tenants move out.

"We've been trying to get property in that neighborhood for 10

► See **PARKS**, page 11

Thursday Night Live brings music, cars, traffic

By Alexa Tondreau

Mountain View has three dates left in its series of "Thursday Night Live" events, which close Castro Street to car traffic between Evelyn and Church streets during designated evenings to give way to some summertime activities.

This created a problem on July 12, however, when cars trying to cross the tracks at Moffett Boulevard backed up onto the tracks and into Central Expressway. The city's senior traffic engineer, Mike Vroman, promises the gridlock

should be avoided for the next three dates.

"Ordinarily we prohibit left-turn movement on Central Expressway during these types of festivals," Vroman said. "My understanding is we did not do that for the last event, but we will do it for the next one."

The city estimates that about 1,500 people showed up for the July 12 event.

This is the first summer the city has sponsored "Thursday Night Live," a street fair featuring three different musical acts — rhythm and blues, jazz and

New Age — and a host of street vendors and booths.

Karen McNutt, from Mountain View's Central Business Association, said the program, whose remaining dates are Aug. 2, Aug. 16 and Sept. 13 from 5 to 10 p.m., was dreamed up as a means to give local businesses a boost.

There will be no food vendors brought in to the event, McNutt said, because "We are relying on the restaurants here. We really want them to shine."

Businesses on Castro Street will have the chance to set up

booths to show and sell their merchandise, McNutt said.

She said her group also has been working with car clubs to have them put their vehicles on display along Castro Street. The upcoming Aug. 2 event will feature the Pantera Club of Northern California, she said, and a host of vintage Panteras with their owners.

"We wanted to give people something new and different to look at," she said. ■

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at
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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Brazen squirrel

Dmitriy and Lorie Grigoryev sent in this shot of a common backyard thief. "This squirrel was brazen enough to enter our yard, take a peach off of our tree, and sit on the fence and eat in front of seven of us as we were having a cookout," they wrote. "Much to our chagrin, they eat/ partially eat about 50 percent of our fruit. But you've got to admit that they are cute!"

If you have a photo taken around town which you'd like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.

Mountain View brothers rule Pokémon world

TALENT RUNS IN THE FAMILY AS BOYS TAKE FIRST AND FIFTH AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

By Melody Dye

Two Mountain View brothers have dominated local, state and national competitions for a popular card game, and are headed to the world championship competition to be held next month.

Daniel Chin, 13, and his brother Jason Chin, 10, last month received invitations to compete in the Pokémon Trading Card Game World Championships in Waikoloa, Hawaii. Along the way, they've conquered most Peninsula opponents, took first and fifth place in the state, respectively, and picked up a tidy sum of cash and prizes to boot on the national level.

Pokémon can be a social event, with players gathering monthly for local league competitions. To receive an invite to the national tournament, players earn points by participating and ranking in city and regional tournaments.

At only 10, Jason won six city tournaments on the Peninsula, including Mountain View's, and swept this year's California regionals in Los Angeles. He then placed fifth in the national competition

in the Junior Division. The wunderkind has collected \$2,250 in scholarship money thus far.

His older brother, Daniel, fared even better, placing first in the national competition in the senior division and taking home a \$5,000 scholarship and a Nintendo Wii game console along with other prizes.

Next month's Hawaii competition is limited to the top 64 players on the international scene, grouped into three categories by age group. While there are thousands of Pokémon gamers in the U.S., and some 700 participants at the national competition this year in Ohio, only 12 American players have advanced to the world championship.

In the Pokémon Trading Card Game, spawned by a popular television cartoon from the late 1990s, players assemble 60-card decks which are used to defeat opponents. Though the format of the game is fairly straightforward, with players laying out cards in sequence to "battle" each other, game play can become complex, with hundreds of possible card combinations and rulings

depending on the decks being used.

The Chins' father, Frank, described the game as "half luck, 20 percent consistency, and 30 percent skill." Successful gamers, he said, rely on strategy and killer instincts.

In the game, five different types of cards serve a variety of purposes — character cards, for instance, feature Pokémon characters with certain powers and attack modes, while energy cards are used to enable and enhance those attacks.

The trading cards feature nearly 500 different characters, with players selecting just six for competition. Jason favors Mime Jr., a harlequin Pokémon that mimics those around it, while Daniel prefers Munchlax, a rare Pokémon with giant eyes and a playful demeanor currently found only in Japanese decks.

The two boys are now gearing up for the international competition and honing their skills at home — by playing against each other. ▀

E-mail Melody Dye at mdye@mv-voice.com

Summer dumdums

SOME PARENTS, EDUCATORS WORRY THAT LONG BREAK CAN LEAD TO 'BRAIN DRAIN'

By Alexa Tondreau

With summer vacation in full swing, students are enjoying their chance to kick back and relax for awhile. But a recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Education warns parents not to let the kids get too comfortable — or else be prepared to face the so-called “brain drain” come fall.

In Mountain View, warding off brain drain is mainly the responsibility of parents, since local schools tend to knock off for the standard eight-week summer break. However, the Mountain View Whisman School District does offer summer school classes at Graham Middle School and Castro Elementary during the month of July, said Sharon Burns, principal of Graham Middle School's summer school program.

While plenty of students can take the whole summer off without a noticeable slowing in their academic performance, Burns said, many others need to stay engaged in order to not fall behind.

Christy Tonge, a parent of two students at Castro Elementary, said she has worries about how summer break might affect her children's academic performance.

“We love summer, but I did feel a little anxious about the unstructured weeks,” she said. “I wanted to keep their brains going.”

Tonge's solution was to fashion a “homegrown” summer school at her Alice Avenue home. Four mornings a week this summer, Tonge said, she has been working with her children on geography, writing and science, but makes sure to keep things fun by including lots of games and creative ideas for lessons.

“It's been our experiment this summer, and it's been really delightful,” she said.

Burns said she thinks this type of stimulation is exactly what kids need.

“It certainly doesn't hurt to keep kids' minds active, but it doesn't need to be in the traditional school

setting. Trips to museums, visiting the library and reading, all of those things are great,” Burns said.

For many parents, summer break is important precisely because it provides a much-needed respite from the hectic school days.

“We try to spend a good part of the summer lolling around doing nothing,” said Bubb parent Janet Sloan. She continued, “I think summer should be about fun and taking a break from schedules and expectations. My children attend summer camps that give them a chance to try some fun activities, like theater camp, music or sports.”

Sloan said she noticed the brain drain phenomenon in her two children “a little bit.” However, “It has not been a pronounced problem, and once they are reminded they usually remember old skills very quickly,” she said.

Fellow Bubb parent Joe Mitchner said he has vivid memories of how much he looked forward to summer break as a child, and wouldn't want to deny that experience to his children.

“Because our kids are keeping pace academically,” he said, “we generally kept summer mostly for fun camps and relaxation.”

Mitchner said he and his family enjoy the Mountain View

Public Library's annual Summer Reading Program, which has students set a goal for the number of books they will read during the summer, and record those books in a special log. Students who reach their goal are eligible for special prizes and free books.

“They do a wonderful job of encouraging summer reading,” Mitchner said. “We see many local kids participating, and they deserve strong kudos.”

Burns said the brain drain issue ultimately comes down to the individual child.

“Some kids are raring to go in the fall,” she said. “And some need more support.” ■

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

“It certainly doesn't hurt to keep kids' minds active, but it doesn't need to be in the traditional school setting. Trips to museums, visiting the library and reading, all of those things are great.”

SHARON BURNS

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**Photo of Vivek Vineyak in front of the
Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville in Pondicherry, India**

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BLOOD CENTER MOVES FOR RENOVATION

Stanford Blood Center's Mountain View location will be closed this Thursday, July 26 and Friday, July 27 as the donor room moves to a temporary location while the space is renovated and expanded.

Donors should visit one of the blood center's Palo Alto locations during the two-day closure. During the rest of the renovation, the blood center will be open next door at 515 South Drive, Suite 21. Donors can follow signs to the temporary space's entrance.

The entire renovation is expected to take about 10 weeks and will add 1,200 square feet to the center.

Eligible donors are encouraged to donate this summer as supplies are scarce. Call (650) 723-7831 or (888) 723-7831 or visit <http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu> for information or to make an appointment.

NONPROFIT WINS EBAY GRANT FOR AFRICAN ORPHANS

The local nonprofit Sustainable Living Foundation recently won a \$2,500 grant from eBay toward funding the Makumi Children's Home, an orphanage in Zimbabwe for children whose parents have died of AIDS.

The nonprofit, founded and led by Ellen Clark, organizes the annual "Run for Zimbabwe Orphans," which raises funds to provide the orphans with food, shelter, clothing and education. This year, the race raised over \$30,000.

With the new grant, provided through the eBay Foundation's "Champion a Charity" program, the organization will step up publicity and outreach for its annual event. For additional information or to contribute, visit www.sjmv.org.

LOW-COST HEALTH SCREENINGS IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

On Aug. 16, Life Line Screening will offer low-cost health screenings for Mountain View residents. The screenings use ultrasound technology to scan for potential health problems and risk factors related to stroke, ruptured aorta, heart disease and osteoporosis. All four screenings are fast, painless and non-invasive, taking

less than an hour to complete. The total package costs \$139.

Appointments start at 9 a.m. at the Saint Athanasius Church, located at 160 N. Rengstorff Ave. in Mountain View. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call (877) 237-1287 or visit www.lifeline-screening.com. Pre-registration is required.

TUTORS SOUGHT FOR 'JUSTREAD'

Local nonprofit JustREAD is looking for volunteer tutors for high school students struggling to keep up in their classes. The literacy organization focuses on helping students develop basic reading and writing skills, as well as the life skills they need to receive high school diplomas, jobs and college degrees.

Volunteers can commit to as little as an hour a week working in the program's Reading Center, located at the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District offices. Comprehensive tutor trainings will be held this summer.

For more information, contact JustREAD at (650) 940-7402 or Wendy.Furuichi@mvla.net.

FAMILY FIRST AID THROUGH CAMINO MEDICAL GROUP

Camino Medical Group's health education department is offering a "Family First Aid" class to equip community members with the skills needed to successfully handle emergencies and everyday health issues.

The class teaches students how to deal with bleeding, burns, bites and stings, sprains and strains, exposure to heat and cold, allergic reactions, asthma, diabetic emergencies, seizures, strokes, heart attacks and poisoning.

Classes are run by Bob Sippel, an emergency medical technician with more than 30 years of field experience, as part of the MEDIC First Aid training program. Classes meet one Monday each month from 6 to 9 p.m. on the third floor of CMG's new Mountain View medical facility.

Upcoming class meetings are Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10. The fee is \$45. To sign up, call (650) 934-7373.

—Melody Dye

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HINT: As simple as it may seem, replacing ignition wires is a job for an experienced auto technician.

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Are you interested in learning more about your diet and your risk of heart disease?

Health Research & Studies Center in Los Altos is recruiting volunteers for a study on the effects of fish oil supplements on the risk of heart disease. We are looking for healthy men ages 35-65 willing to take a fish oil supplement for 8 weeks. There will be \$100 compensation for those who finish the study, plus lots of information on how to optimize your diet to keep a healthy heart. If you are interested, please call (650) 941-7984, or email us at:

HRSCenter@aol.com

HOUSING

► Continued from page 1

sit on the market for up to a year, while the total current inventory of homes in Mountain View and its surrounding cities will be gone in a month.

Condo prices have also remained high because of the large number of young high-tech workers in the city, French said. The median price of a condo is now \$633,000, up from \$530,000 in the first quarter of 2006.

The typical home buyer

French said 98 percent of his clients are high-tech executives with children, in households where "each person makes \$90,000 to \$100,000 or more. That's the typical buyer."

And even though Google is probably Mountain View's biggest employer with 10,000 workers in the city, French said it is surprising how few of his clients work at Google. That's because Google employees are mostly right out of college, and are more interested in living in a high-density city like San

Francisco — made easier by the shuttles that Google runs up and down the Peninsula.

When one of his buyers is an engineer, French said, 60 percent of the time they work for Cisco, which is based in San Jose.

Of course, these trends can always change. Council member Margaret Abe-Koga said she knew of Google employees who were looking to move from San Jose to Mountain View. As Google's employees get older, more of them may want to do so, she said.

"Either they have a ridiculous amount of money or they don't have much money," French said of Google employees. Some veteran Google employees are cashing in their stock options and buying in Los Altos. He recalled one Google-employed couple that left a \$2,000-a-month rental house in Mountain View to spend \$3 million in Los Altos.

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Another new trend is people buying homes with foreign cash. Because the U.S. dollar has weakened recently, to an outsider an American home is like a home that's "on sale."

severely impacting other Bay Area markets, French said buyers think Mountain View prices are going to keep rising.

"They think it never goes down, and 'If I don't do it now I'm going to miss the boat,'" he said.

Another new trend is people buying homes with foreign cash, French said. Because the U.S. dollar has weakened recently, to an outsider an American home is like a home that's "on sale." He recalled one couple that received \$1 million for a down payment from wealthy parents in another country, which increased to \$1.3 million when converted to U.S. dollars.

French gave some advice.

"People who have property in the area, considering selling," French said. "You have all the buyers not effected by the recent sub-prime issues." ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

PARKS

► Continued from page 5

years," Duggan said.

Once the apartment building there finally went up for sale, he said, the city jumped on it, paying a bit under the asking price at \$1.3 million. The house next door was also purchased for \$750,000.

In the central planning area, just west of Shoreline Boulevard and south of Central Expressway, the city is negotiating for another half an acre which is also currently occupied by homes.

Besides that area, there are only two neighborhoods left on the city's list: the Rengstorff and San Antonio planning areas.

Add in the fact that the City Council wants to spend as much as \$4 million for additional park space at Mayfield and you have a significant amount of park development, Duggan said. He added that all of the projects are north of El Camino Real, where residents have complained about a lack of park space.

One such resident is Elna Tymes, former president of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association, who points out that nearly all housing development in the city is taking place north of El Camino Real, where there are fewer parks per resident than to the south.

Tymes said the city could do more, and pointed to the Rengstorff planning area, just north of Monta Loma, as an example. There, residents on Wyandotte Street, Rock Street and Independence Avenue must cross busy Middlefield Road or Rengstorff Avenue to get to parks, she said.

A similar situation exists in the San Antonio area, where the neighborhood of apartment buildings just north of San Antonio shopping center and just east of Ortega Avenue lacks a park within safe walking distance.

Tymes said that, given the recent housing development on Rock Street, she didn't understand why the city hadn't bought park space in the Rengstorff planning area.

Parks and recreation director Dave Muela said the city has \$811,000 in the San Antonio park fund, while Rengstorff has none. When property is developed, developers pay in-lieu fees towards parks in that neighborhood.



This map by city staff shows the two lots on Del Medio Avenue recently purchased by the city.

Muela explained that the city has money on the way for the Rengstorff planning area, but it has yet to be appropriated.

"In 2005-06 and 2006-07, the city collected just a little over \$1.6 million in in-lieu fees from the Rengstorff Area," Muela

El Camino Real. A pedestrian bridge could connect the Dale neighborhood to the open space along the other side of Highway 85, near the trail.

Northwards in the Whisman area, even larger changes could be in store if the city purchases the Francia orchard on Whisman Road. The Monta Loma Neighborhood Association, Save Open Space and the Mountain View Farmlands Group expressed support of the plan last month. Such a park could include the demonstration farm originally proposed for the Grant Road site.

Former council member Mike Kasperzak said a coalition of groups could pass a bond measure to buy the nine-acre property, which may cost less than \$100,000 an acre with its agricultural zoning. The orchard-turned-park would serve as many as 2,000 more residents living in developments planned along Ferguson Drive.

Muela encouraged residents to become involved in the city's update to the parks and recreation master plan, which, in part, determines where parks will go. Those interested can call (650) 903-6331 to be added to a mailing list.

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

Elna Tymes, former president of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association, points out that nearly all housing development in the city is taking place north of El Camino Real, where there are fewer parks per resident than to the south.

said. "The use of these fees, however, has not yet been designated by the council. This will not occur until later this fall."

Funding for new parks could also come from a new \$3 million park fund, established this year to be used throughout the city.

Future possibilities

The oft-forgotten corner of Mountain View known as the Dale neighborhood doesn't have access to many parks either, except for open spaces in developments like Guernavaca. That may soon change, however, once the Stevens Creek Trail crosses

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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

James "Jimmy" Campbell, who suffers from a paralyzing disease, lived at El Camino Hospital for five years because of difficulty with medical insurance.

HOSPITAL

► Continued from page 1

for a health care system under stress.

Beginning at age 29, when he was first diagnosed with the neurological disease that would eventually leave him debilitated, life was not easy for Jimmy Campbell.

According to Campbell's family and personal physician, administrators at El Camino Hospital, where he would spend the next five and half years, didn't make it any easier.

Soon after Campbell was admitted to El Camino, in January 2002, administrators began to put pressure on his family and his doctor, neurologist Ron Hoffman, to have Campbell moved to a nursing home, Hoffman said. But because Campbell was unable to secure coverage to pay for round-the-clock care, Hoffman refused to allow him to leave.

For Dr. Hoffman, it was always obvious what should be done.

"It was Medicine 101," he said. "This person can't fend for himself. He needs tube-feeding, suctioning and someone to attend to his basic needs. Left unattended, he would have died."

Besides attending to his medical needs, a bedside attendant would alleviate some of the internal pain and stress that he goes through as a result of his condition, which has degenerated his body to the point of complete immobility while leaving his mind intact.

"It would be stark terror for him to be alone. Jimmy can't call for help, push a call button or move his arms and legs in any purposeful way," said Dr. Susan Hansen, a neurologist who also cared for Campbell during his time at El Camino Hospital.

Despite this, Hoffman said, the hospital requested that he sign orders for Campbell to be transferred to a nursing home, which the doctor refused to do.

Campbell's parents, Jim and Glenna Cecchini, became so concerned that Campbell might be moved to a nursing home while they were gone, or be left unattended, that in the first year of his hospitalization they lived at El Camino for almost five months straight, often sleeping on the floor of his room.

"We packed up a lot of our stuff, and we moved our clothes in. We hardly ever went home," Glenna Cecchini said.

They also allege that administrative staff did not inform nursing home staff as to the full extent of Campbell's disabilities, or the limitations of his coverage, when the hospital was trying to find Campbell a place to go.

"The first two years was a tremendous strain on us" said Jim Cecchini. "During this time period Jimmy's cost was the primary concern, not his care."

Physicians make the call

While the hospital would not comment on any aspect of Campbell's case directly, citing confidentiality constraints, administrators did describe the general process they follow when a patient like Campbell has been stabilized and no longer requires hospitalization.

"Our responsibility as an acute care hospital and facility, when the patient no longer needs that level of care, is to help them find an appropriate placement," said Diana Russell, vice president of patient care services.

Russell said numerous discharge planners and care coordinators are employed on-staff, and that it is their job to "help the family and physician evaluate the alternative levels of care."

But Russell stressed that whatever their findings, hospital administration cannot legally act in noncompliance to a doctor's orders.

"A physician must write a discharge order before any patient is discharged," she said.

Given the average length of stay for patients at a hospital like El Camino — 4.3 days, Russell said

► Continued on next page



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► Continued from previous page

— it didn't surprise the physicians watching over Jimmy Campbell that administrators wanted to see him moved.

"The hospital was not the normal place for him to be. It was not unreasonable for the hospital to want another venue," said Dr. Hoffman.

But despite Campbell's unusual predicament, Hoffman said, there was little in the way of constructive assistance, and mounting pressure to discharge him. It was this interference by administrators that caused so much friction.

By law, Hoffman said, "A physician cannot be unduly influenced and has to have undivided loyalty to his patients. The difficulty occurs when the administrative or insurance company overreach in effect alters the will and intent of the physician's directions on behalf of his own patient."

Dr. Hansen agreed, saying, "There was an attempt to make us do what was best for the hospital's bottom line."

Though the hospital could not say exactly how much it cost to board Campbell, one indication is the minimum amount of insurance coverage needed to provide him with 24-hour care — \$250,000 per year, the Cecchinis said.

Within the first two years of Campbell's stay, the Cecchinis went to then-CEO Lee Domani-co and asked if the hospital could help with grants to bring Jimmy home. They said they were told the grants were not for individuals, but for the community.

Two weeks later, the Cecchinis said, the hospital offered the family \$30,000 to move Campbell elsewhere. The Cecchinis rejected the offer.

Russell could not confirm the offer, but said it is not uncommon.

"We do have a hospital foundation that raises money for individual patients when it is needed. We have provided rent for patients, purchased wheelchairs and medicine for patients, and paid for hotel rooms for homeless patients," she said.

The bottom line

To Dr. Hoffman, a nonprofit hospital like El Camino has a mandate to provide charitable care in appropriate circumstances.

"It's such a simple story. A doctor gives orders and one would hope all dedicated to the execution of those orders would rally around it. There are no heroics here."

DR. RON HOFFMAN

"It has to be remembered that it is a tax-funded hospital. They do not exist unequivocally to make a profit in every instance."

Hoffman believes the Cecchinis would have benefited from a concerted effort by the hospital to appeal to the state, the Medi-Cal system and charitable means to find Campbell coverage. As it was, the Cecchinis were finally able to secure financing for Campbell through the help of Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, who managed to amend the waiver that prevented patients like Campbell from getting full coverage.

After five and a half years, the Cecchinis were overjoyed to welcome Campbell home last month.

But they said the experience has left its mark on them.

"I feel disillusioned about hospital care. I've seen behind the scenes, and what they were telling me is, 'Our bottom line is money. You're wasting our money, so get out,'" Glenna Cecchini said.

Drs. Hoffman and Hansen said bottom-line priorities are hardly unique in the health care industry.

"There's been a gradual erosion of physician authority in hospitals," Hoffman said. "There are interferences coming from every sector of the medical community." As an example, he said, "Insurance companies reserve the right to deny payment for tests deemed appropriate by the treating physician."

Hansen agreed, saying, "There needs to be a change in medicine. It is what the doctor orders that needs to happen. We bear the special burden and privilege of working to save a patient's life."

The Cecchinis site both doctors as their "heroes," and say the sixth-floor nursing staff where Campbell was stationed treated Campbell like family and provided him with excellent care.

Hoffman said he was just doing his job.

"It's such a simple story. A doctor gives orders and one would hope all dedicated to the execution of those orders would rally around it. There are no heroics here." ▀

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Zeiler Randall-Reed, 3, and Reyhaneh Turner, 6, grab hands and dance behind Samba instructor Sandy Del Rio while the band Sambao Para O Povo plays during Mountain View's CultureFest last Sunday.

KELLEY COX

OBITUARIES

LAURA JANE M. CLAPP

Laura Jane M. Clapp, a Santa Clara County resident for more than 30 years, died July 12. She was 88.

Laura Clapp was wife to the late Robert Clapp and mother to Sally Batesole and Suzanne deMaria.

Private services have been held. She was buried in the Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto, with arrangements by Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary of Mountain View.

vacations to Southern California, Hawaii, and especially Italy. He was also an avid churchgoer.

He was beloved by his wife of 60 years, Jean; his sister Virginia; his children James, Donald and Shirlee; his nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and a vast array of family and friends.

A Memorial service was held on Thursday, July 12. Contributions are preferred to your favorite charity.

CHRISTINE MARIE FARAVELLI

Longtime Mountain View resident Christine Marie Faravelli, mother of former mayor Ralph

Faravelli, died in Sunnyvale on July 21. She was 98.

Faravelli, a native of northern Italy, was a member of the Sons of Italy and the Peninsula Seniors Club, and the founder of the Sunnyview Family Club in Mountain View. She loved to spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren, and she had a passion for travel and cooking.

She was a devoted mother to her sons Ralph and Ted and her daughter Felice. She was a beloved sister to John, Edward, Bob, Louise, Irene and Paul; a grandmother of seven; and a great-grandmother of 11.

A funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, July 24 at St. Joseph's Church in Mountain View. Contributions are preferred to the American Heart Association.

JAMES A. CARPENETI JR.

James A. Carpeneti Jr., a World War II veteran, died July 9 after a long bout with congestive heart failure.

Carpeneti was born in San Francisco in 1922 and raised with his three sisters. He served in the Coast Guard during WWII and was a longtime employee of Bank of America, working faithfully with the company for over 40 years.

Carpeneti loved to spend time with his wife and family at his cabin in Boulder Creek and take

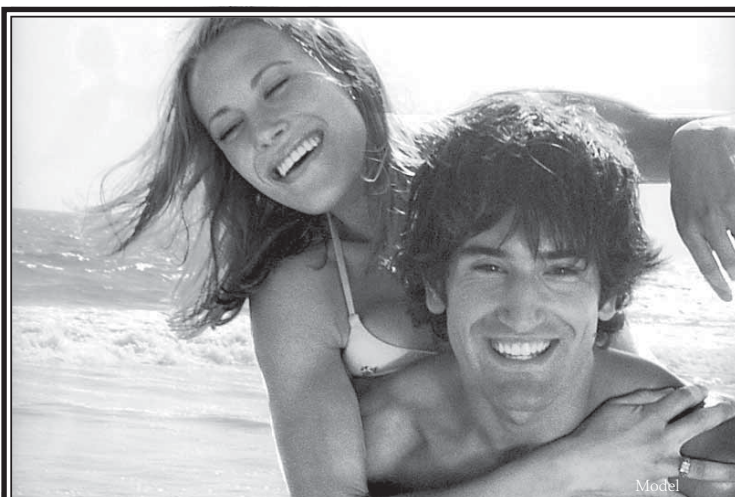
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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Google's wall of silence

There are probably as many opinions about Google as there are people who use Google, and it's easy to single out the company for criticism (or let it off the hook) because it's *the* giant among Internet giants.

Obviously, as host to Silicon Valley's most famous company, Mountain View has a special relationship with Google. And in turn, its residents and local newspaper have an interest in — and right to know — the ways in which the company affects us.

It is in this last area that Google has increasingly frustrated local news outlets, including the *Voice*. For years now — at least since the company went public and ballooned to its current size — its communications with the public have fallen somewhere between spotty and nonexistent.

For our part, the *Voice* regularly sends e-mails to Google's press department, inquiring about its development plans in Mountain View, among other things. (Google's press office, like the rest of the company, communicates primarily through e-mail.) The most common response we've received is no response at all. The second-most common response is, "We'll get back to you" — followed by silence.

Generally, our questions have been straightforward, uncontroversial and answerable. Besides asking about its development plans, we've asked Google how many people it employs in Mountain View, who is in charge of its development projects, how many square feet it occupies in Mountain View — and heard nothing back. (The *Voice* often was able to acquire the information through other sources.)

Other newspapers have shared similar complaints about Google. One reporter from a Bay Area daily told us she sometimes had to rely on quarterly Securities and Exchange Commission reports for basic information about the company's local real estate transactions.

Mountain View officials have also had complaints. One told of a good rapport with a tech executive who, once hired by Google, stopped returning phone calls. Another city official said he wished Google had a reliable local contact person. And a third wished us good luck in getting certain information, "especially from them."

Ultimately, the company is hurting itself with this wall of silence. As a self-proclaimed organizer of the world's information, Google's position and continued success rely on the public's trust in its motives and actions. That trust cannot thrive unless the public feels Google is an open and forthright organization. No public acts of philanthropy or environmental friendliness can compensate for good old-fashioned accessibility.

The company certainly doesn't lack public relations skills. Recent stories about Google WiFi and the Google bookmobile show that at least some of its employees are able to practice good public relations.

A touchier subject, however, is how the company may triple its size in Mountain View, where the jobs-to-housing imbalance is already notoriously out of whack. Where is Google at with plans for 3.7 million square feet of new office space? The company still has not returned e-mails seeking comment — a tack which will only hurt its reputation as a member of the local community and only cause more resistance from residents as it tries to expand here.

Google's silence could be seen as arrogance. It could be other things as well, including overworked communications employees who seem to do double duty in both external and internal communications. But we may never know what the real reason is: Our latest series of e-mails, in which we asked the company about its communications practices, went unanswered by Google.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

LET'S NOT BECOME A 'COMPANY TOWN'

Editor:

While Google's success has been good for Mountain View so far, I believe that some caution might be in order ("City of Google," July 20).

Although a giant corporation's tax revenues are pleasing in the short term, excessive reliance on a single source places us in fiscal danger if Google ever stumbles.

Furthermore, even if Google thrives, we risk turning Mountain View into a "company town" where the government fears opposing Google's plans, even when they degrade the lives of the actual people who live in this community.

Ed Taub
Devoto Street

SUMMER WATERING ALERT

Editor:

In the hot summer months, a green and healthy canopy brings welcome relief. But the conditions that we find hard to endure are also very difficult for the trees that provide this canopy, and young

street trees can suffer greatly. Many young trees line our streets, their leaves brown and dry.

Although most residents want our urban forest to thrive, many believe that the city waters young street trees, and that residents do not have an active role to play in this area. However, the city only waters very young street trees, and staff is finding that many street trees decline in their second and third year in the ground.

To sustain and enhance our trees, we must take an active role and water our young street trees ourselves. Up until they are about 5 years old, our trees need us to water them deeply perhaps as often as once a week in summer.

For more information about taking care of young street trees, see www.mountainviewtrees.org. This is the Web site of Mountain View Trees, a group of Mountain View residents dedicated to sustaining and enhancing Mountain View's urban forest through community stewardship, education and advocacy.

Ronit Bryant,
Council Member
W. Dana Street



■ STAFF OPINION

Lazy Sunday in Mountain View

IT'S EASY TO HAVE A FUN DAY AROUND TOWN, EVEN WITHOUT A PLAN OR MUCH MONEY TO SPEND

By Daniel DeBolt

Last Sunday my 5-year-old son and I found out just how much fun one can have in Mountain View in one day, with no plan, and on the cheap.

During a routine visit to Mercy Bush Park around noon, we heard the drumming on Castro Street at CultureFest 2007. "Let's go see where that music is coming from," I said to Isaac. He seemed excited, so we headed over to the front of City Hall, where a crowd had gathered to watch a group of female dancers in elaborate, sparkling getups performing to Brazilian drumbeats.

It turned out that the dancers were students of a drum and dance class taught at the Rengstorff Park Community Center called Sambao Para o Povo. Isaac was a bit too shy to join the other kids in the congo line.

The friendly folks at the nearby food stand made Isaac a hot dog, and my boy was unusually content to sit on the steps in front of City Hall among the crowd.

That probably would have been the end of our day out, but Isaac insisted on going to Shoreline Park. As we made our way there, the Computer History Museum caught my attention and I thought Isaac might enjoy a quick look around. After all, admission is free.

As we walked through the "visible storage" exhibit, he pointed to the massive circuit boards and mysterious devices that have changed history, saying "Wow, look at that daddy," several times. I was mesmerized by the

exhibit on Deep Blue, the supercomputer that beat the best chess player in the world in 1997.

We then stopped over at the 7-Eleven turned into a Kwik-E-Mart across the street, which continues to draw big crowds since it opened July 1. On Sunday the parking lot was full and the line at the cash register extended to the back of the store. Isaac and I splurged on a 75-cent Simpsons-themed, pink-frosted donut. The Pear Avenue store will become a 7-Eleven again after "The Simpsons Movie" is released.

The lake at Shoreline Park is a busy spot on weekends. After jockeying for parking we headed for the pedal boat rental. Isaac kept asking a question I couldn't really answer — "How deep is the lake?" — but he was more at ease after noticing the large rack of life jackets.

We were warned not to go too far out in the lake, or we'd have to fight the unusually heavy wind to get back. Apparently some people have had to be towed back to the dock. Once we were off, he told me to pedal while he manned the rudder. It cost \$16 to rent a pedal boat for an hour.

Afterwards, we got something to drink at the lakeside cafe and headed down to the boat-themed playground nearby. As I sat there watching my son play, I thought about how much fun one can have in Mountain View with a child, no plan and little money. Actually, it's the best kind of fun one can have.

Daniel DeBolt is a Voice staff writer. He can be reached at ddebolt@mv-voice.com.

■ GUEST OPINION

The Mayfield boondoggle

CITY COUNCIL MADE TOLL BROTHERS, HP ITS PRIORITY — NOT RESIDENTS

By Godfrey Baumgartner

The recent Voice article about the Hewlett-Packard/Toll Brothers high-density development ("What's in store for the Mayfield project," July 20) shows that the Mountain View City Council was not representing the neighborhood.

They did not listen to the presentations by many of the local residents that clearly showed the site did not meet transit-oriented requirements as defined by many organizations, including the Sierra Club's own "infill housing" policy. The "infill housing" clearly did not match the neighborhood density.

Even the developer said the reduction of 26 units, down from 495 units, would not be noticeable. But the almost 500 units with 1,000 cars making five to nine trips a day, seven days a week, on overcrowded San Antonio Boulevard and Central Expressway — that will be noticeable.

There will be increased pollution, and not just from the traffic. According to the Environmental

Protection Agency, the average U.S. home causes twice as much greenhouse emissions as a single car. A typical house requires power for heating, air conditioning, hot water and lighting — enough to cause the emission of tons of polluting carbon dioxide gases each year.

Toll Brothers got far more units than it needed because a repeat of the pullout threat was not made, even though a slight increase of the small required park size was added. The so-called park will be surrounded by high-rise structures that will overshadow it and the back yards of the adjacent one-story residents.

As for mass transit, Mayor Laura Macias said she would talk to Supervisor Liz Kniss to get transit service increased near the new development. But just increasing the number of trains does not necessarily increase the ridership. In any case, if 10 percent of the Mayfield residents — a fantastic number — used the nearby San Antonio Station, that would result in around 50 more people using Caltrain. This would be an average

increase of about one person per train — hardly worth increasing the train service.

There are no high-density industrial or office sites next to any Caltrain stations. Can the council imagine the number of shuttles that would be required if half of Google's 10,000 workers commuted by Caltrain and used shuttles to Google? The unfortunate fact is that door-to-door times for the majority of people's work trips are not competitive with the automobile. The commute travel time compared to public transit is about equal for workers that commute a long distance — Livermore or Gilroy, for instance.

It is clear that the majority of the council was representing HP and Toll Brothers' interests more than those of the people who voted them into office. Council members need to stop this project and save the HP facility from being destroyed if they want to be part of a green council.

Godfrey Baumgartner lives on Betlo Avenue.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Land of sushi

GIANT MENU, FLAWLESS SERVICE AMONG HALLMARKS OF SATSUMA JAPANESE RESTAURANT

By Elaine M Rowland

One of the keys to a restaurant's survival in these parts is its viability as a business lunch venue. Surely this has helped Satsuma Japanese Restaurant succeed for two decades: the combination of menu variety, plenty of seating, brisk but welcoming service, and consistent quality keeps the place humming with regulars and their clients.

Satsuma's convenient location — near the interchange of El Camino Real and Highway 85 — also keeps it bustling for dinner. (Not to mention the giant new Camino Medical Group facility

next door contributing customers.) Large and open with just a few, well-placed pieces of art, Satsuma has seating at tables, a sushi bar, and semi-private, Japanese-style tables where you remove your shoes to dine. I wouldn't recommend Satsuma for a quiet date because the popular place gets quite loud, but families and large groups abound.

The menu is huge, with choices from Nabemono (simmering one-pot dishes popular in wintertime in Japan) to katsu (cutlets), yakimono (grilled meats), udon (noodle bowls) and tempura (deep fried foods in a light bat-

► Continued on next page



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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Satsuma's dinner combo.

► Continued from previous page

ter). But Satsuma is ultimately a sushi restaurant, with most of the menu devoted to it.

So sushi is where we kicked things off during a recent lunch, trying maguro nigiri sushi (\$4.75), fingers of raw tuna over vinegary rice. Maguro is usually bluefin, and here it was fresh and good. Many of the special rolls at Satsuma are inside-out (uramaki) style like a California roll, with rice on the outside instead of seaweed (nori).

The special spider roll (\$8.95) is cut into about eight pieces of deep-fried soft shell crab rolled with avocado and cucumber, and topped with beautiful, coppery flying fish roe. Very attractively laid out, with decorative fried crab legs poking out of the top, it tasted as good as it looked.

Going all-out at dinner, we ordered the nigiri sushi dinner entree (\$19.25), 10 different pieces of fish on rice, which ranged from very good to not-the-best. It included eel (good), salmon (decent), tuna (not the best), shrimp (great), octopus (great), herring with roe (an acquired taste?), and red snapper (good), as well as a very savory miso soup (\$2 as a side dish). If you want rice and salad with your meal, go for the Bento box choices. Most of the sushi we ate was good, with only a couple pieces that should have been fresher.

The special spring roll (\$9.95) was an unusual one: salmon, tuna, avocado, cucumbers and lettuce wrapped in bean paper dotted with sesame seeds, seasoned with what tastes like Sriracha.

► See SATSUMA, page 20

DINING NOTES

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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Satsuma's spicy albacore, shrimp tempura, spicy tuna, cucumber avocado topped with albacore spicy eel sauce and flying fish roe.

SATSUMA

► Continued from page 19

cha sauce. The salmon was falling apart, and perhaps not the best, but the roll was still good; it's hard to taste each ingredient distinctly with that much going on in one roll.

Satsuma also serves chirashi sushi (rice bowl with fish and usually other ingredients on top), sashimi (simple slices of raw fish), and, if you request them, temaki sushi (conical hand rolls, rolled in nori).

But you don't have to eat sushi to enjoy eating here; we started one meal with salted edamame, not sea life. I confess the first time I tried edamame (\$4.25) I wasn't a fan of the green soy beans. But then, nobody told me to pop the beans out of the pod before eating them. Sure, that means less fiber, but I do like them better now.

The gyoza (\$4.95) are like pot stickers or fried dumplings; very good, and a big hit with small children since they balance the

right amount of crunch with tenderness, packing lots of flavor into an easy-to-eat-with-small-hands shape.

The oyako udon, a chicken and vegetable soup with thick udon noodles, tastes like it could use a fish sauce or paste for flavoring. It has big chunks of egg and chicken, and is quite filling. The

then the child did the most obvious thing a small child would: revved the truck along the table until it smacked a second plate off the table.

No matter how often this kind of thing happens, the restaurant is clean and tidy, and the staff as friendly toward tykes as to tab-paying adults.

Satsuma offers daily specials, and on Sundays from 5 to 9 p.m. there's an all-you-can-eat rolls menu for \$19.95. You're sure to find a sake to go with it from the drinks list, but if not, there's beer (such as Asahi for \$3.95), a few wines, soda, juice and tea.

Certainly one of the best things about Satsuma is the top-notch service,

One of the best things about Satsuma is the top-notch service, with plenty of welcoming attention, even during busy times.

beef sukiyaki (\$14.95 with salad) is sweet, as usual, but its meat wasn't as good as in the oyako udon — more stringy and fatty.

Children not ready for sushi can choose teriyaki dinners (\$7.95). We saw one of the chicken teriyaki dinners arrive on the back of a bright red fire truck platter. It seemed like a terrific idea for about a minute;

vice, with plenty of welcoming attention, even during busy times. And although it's best known as a sushi restaurant, it's also an easy and inexpensive place to try just a few pieces alongside a grilled entree, for example. If you want a more intimate space, perhaps a place like Yakko is a better fit — but you'll never beat the service. ▼



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MOVIE TIMES

1408 (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 2, 4:25, 7 & 9:35 p.m.
EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) ★★ Century 20: 12:05, 2:35, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:45 p.m.

EVENING (PG-13) ★★ Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 2:15, & 5 p.m.

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG) ★★ ★★ Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 4:40 & 9:40 p.m.

HAIRSPRAY (PG) ★★ ★★ ★★

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:40, 1:55, 3:40, 4:40, 6:50, 7:35, 9:40 & 10:25 p.m.
 Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:25, 1:20, 2:15, 3:05, 4, 4:55, 5:45, 6:40, 7:35, 8:25, 9:20 & 10:15 p.m.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13) ★★ ★★ 1/2

Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 12:30, 3:35, 4:50, 7, 10:05 & 10:35 p.m. Century 12: 11:45 a.m.; 1, 3, 4:30, 6:15, 7:40 & 9:30 p.m.

I KNOW WHO KILLED ME (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 2:35, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 1:25, 2:45, 4:05, 5:20, 6:45, 7:55, 9:15 & 10:30 p.m.

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY (PG-13) ★★ ★★

Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 12:35, 2, 3:20, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30 & 10:15 p.m.
 Century 12: 11:25 a.m.; 12:30, 1:20, 2:20, 3:15, 4:20, 5:20, 6:20, 7:20, 8:20 & 10:10 p.m. Fri. also at 9:20 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 9:10 p.m.

INTERVIEW (R) ★★ ★★ 1/2

Palo Alto Square: 2:50, 5:10, 7:30 & 9:50 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 12:40 p.m.

INTRODUCING THE DWIGHTS (R) ★★ ★★

Aquarius: Fri. only at 1:45, 4:15, 6:40 & 9:20 p.m.

KNOCKED UP (R) ★★ 1/2 Century 20: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:25 p.m.

LICENSE TO WED (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 2:25 & 7:55 p.m. Century 20: 2:20 & 7:05 p.m.

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG-13) ★★ ★★

Century 16: 12:50, 3:50, 7:05 & 10 p.m.
 Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:25, 7:10, 8:30 & 10:10 p.m.

MY BEST FRIEND (PG-13) ★★ ★★ Guild: 2. 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

NO RESERVATIONS (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 12:15, 1:50, 2:50, 4:25, 5:25, 7:10, 8, 9:40 & 10:35 p.m.
 Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:20, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:15, 6:55, 7:55, 9:30 & 10:25 p.m.

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG-13) ★★ ★★

Century 20: 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:45, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

ONCE (R) ★★ ★★ 1/2 Aquarius: 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13) ★★ 1/2 Century 20: 8:15 p.m.

RATATOUILLE (G) ★★ ★★ Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 5:05, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 12:15, 2, 3:20, 4:50, 6:15, 7:40, 9 & 10:25 p.m.

RESCUE DAWN (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 20: 1, 4:15, 7:20 & 10:20 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:20, 7:15 and 10:10 p.m.

SICKO (PG-13) ★★ ★★ ★★ Century 16: 12:45, 3:35, 6:45 & 9:35 p.m. Century 20: 1:05, 3:55, 7 & 9:50 p.m.

THE SIMPSONS MOVIE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:05, 1:15, 2:20, 3:30, 4:35, 5:45, 7, 8:05, 9:20 & 10:20 p.m.
 Century 12: Fri. at 11:30 a.m.; 12:10, 12:50, 1:30, 1:50, 2:40, 3:20, 4, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40, 10, 10:15 & 10:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. at 11:30 a.m.; 12:10, 12:50, 1:30, 2, 2:40, 3:20, 4, 4:40, 5:20, 6, 6:40, 7:10, 8, 8:40, 9:20, 9:40 & 10:30 p.m.

SUNSHINE (R) ★ 1/2 Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:40 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.

TRANSFORMERS (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: Noon, 3:15, 6:55 & 10:10 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 1:45, 3:30, 5, 7, 8:20 & 10:20 p.m.

WHO'S YOUR CADDY? (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 12: 12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30 & 10 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)

CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)

CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

SPANGENBERG THEATRE: 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com

★ Skip it
 ★★ Some redeeming qualities
 ★★★ A good bet
 ★★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

1408 ★★ 1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Author Mike Enslin is a paperback expert at debunking supposedly ghost-laden locales. The skeptical writer ventures to spooky destinations with haunted histories, stays overnight and then bangs out moody novels with the help of his handy tape recorder. But in Mike's myriad travels he has never experienced tangible proof of the paranormal — until a mysterious postcard encourages him to visit the Dolphin Hotel but warns him to steer clear of room 1408. The enticing challenge is too tempting for Mike to pass up. Things seem normal at first. But soon Mike is seriously regretting his decision, as mind-boggling occurrences and transparent specters begin intruding on his otherwise dull day. Fans of Stephen King and John Cusack will enjoy an engaging 90 minutes, but being trapped in a dreary hotel room is hardly must-see cinema. *Rated: PG-13 for thematic material, disturbing sequences of violence and terror, frightening images and languages. 1 hour, 34 minutes.* — T.H.

HAIRSPRAY ★★ ★★ ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Nikki Blonsky's big smile and big talent are a perfect fit for the role of Tracy Turnblad, the lovable central character of John Waters' 1988 original film and the Tony award-winning Broadway production. The height of her hairdo gets her sent out of the classroom and into detention. Seaweed (Elijah Kelley) and the others teach her all the right Detroit-sound dance moves. After school, Tracy and her best friend Penny (Amanda Bynes) race home to bebop to the televised Corny Collins Show — and swoon over Link Larkin (Zac Efron). Tracy is a young woman with a vision. The teen empathizes with the segregation concerns voiced by Motormouth Maybelle (Queen Latifah). If television is in black and white, why not "do the checkerboard?" African Americans should have equal rights on and off the dance floor. The themes of standing by one's convictions and struggling for fairness never lose their relevance. Campy and sweet-natured, "Hairspray" will shake away any summer-time blues. *Rated: PG for language, some suggestive content and momentary teen smoking. 1 hour. 47 minutes.* — S.T.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX ★★ ★★ 1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) Following the death of a classmate in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," Harry, Hermione and Ron have lost the joie de vivre that once fueled their lives at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. And the resurgence of the evil Lord Voldemort has the rest of the wizarding world in an uproar. The Order of the Phoenix holds clandestine meetings to prepare for war. The Order includes several former Hogwarts professors, such as "Mad-Eye" Moody and Remus Lupin, and Harry's godfather, Sirius Black. But the Ministry of Magic

► Continued on next page

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► Continued from previous page

refuses to believe that Voldemort has returned, instead labeling Harry a liar and Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore a conspirator against the Ministry. To squelch any possible uprising, Ministry mainstay Dolores Umbridge takes over Hogwarts' Defense Against the Dark Arts class. But Umbridge's presence at Hogwarts proves stifling, and soon Harry and others are meeting secretly to study practical defense spells in preparation for a major conflict with Voldemort and his loyal Death Eaters. Fans of the novel will be thoroughly satisfied, as will fantasy fans in

general. *Rated: PG-13 for sequences of fantasy violence and frightening images. 2 hours, 18 minutes.* — T.H.

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY ★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Firefighters and longtime friends Chuck Levine (Adam Sandler) and Larry Valentine (Kevin James) represent two extremes of the testosterone spectrum. While Chuck enjoys sexual escapades with a cornucopia of gorgeous women, Larry is busy raising his two young children while still mourning the death of his wife. Both men are forced to rethink their lifestyles when

Larry is informed that only marriage or a domestic partnership will ensure his kids are covered by his pension. A newspaper article about gay marriage sparks Larry's imagination. If he can convince Chuck to register as his domestic partner, his kids will be well taken care of. Naturally, man's man Chuck has no interest in even pretending to be gay, but Larry lays on a guilt trip and Chuck reluctantly agrees to help his friend. Soon the very straight "couple" is trying to convince a beautiful attorney that their union is sincere while dealing with the prejudice of fellow firefighters and a homophobic public. Sandler and James are a terrific odd couple, a sort of Laurel and Hardy for the 21st century. But the film is at odds with itself. Viewers are left to wonder: If the movie's message is that gays should be treated equally, why do the filmmakers spend so much time making fun of them? *Rated: PG-13 for crude sexual content throughout, nudity, language and drug references. 1 hour, 50 minutes.* — T.H.

INTERVIEW ★★★★★1/2

(CineArts) Pierre Peders (Steve Buscemi) is a hard-bitten war correspondent assigned to an unlikely puff piece on It Girl actress Katya (Sienna Miller), who is touting her latest B-movie. The interview is off from the get-go. Pierre hates stooping to superficiality and Katya resents his lack of preparation and palpable disdain. The meeting is cut short and the two go their separate ways until an unforeseen incident pulls them back together at Katya's

swanktastic loft. Pierre and Katya mark their territories with suspicion and doubt: he a veteran of real-life horrors and she a pampered, petulant star with an endless parade of sycophants at her beck and call. But both ache from deep hurts, possessing the uncanny ability to lay a foundation of deceit both dark and profoundly illuminating. Tension, humor and pathos are wrung out from smart scripting and surprisingly effective performances. *Rated: R for language, sexual references and drug use. 1 hour, 23 minutes.* — J.A.

INTRODUCING THE DWIGHTS ★★★

(Aquarius) Brenda Blethyn is a knockout as bawdy comedienne and overbearing single mom Jean Dwight, ready with a smile and a hug but perpetually searching for the emotional spotlight. Jean plies her trade at local clubs, desperately seeking the quintessential break while teenage boys Tim (Khan Chittenden) and Mark (Richard Wilson) play second fiddle in the shaky family dynamic. When Tim falls hard for fetching beauty Jill (Emma Booth), Jean sees to it that the girl is made as unwelcome as possible, refusing to remember her name and insisting that Tim's budding romance will shatter the unique bond between mother and sons. That's the beauty and intrigue of "Dwights"; it's warm and fuzzy on the outside but palpably threatening within. *Rated: R for sexual content and language. 1 hour, 48 minutes.* — J.A.

SICKO ★★★★★

(Century 12) "Sicko" looks at the lucky Americans, the 250 million who have private health-care insurance. Applying the Michael Moore method of documentary filmmaking, the director combines humor with tales of personal tragedy — and then veers into audacious, unexpected territory. The folksy fire-brand again puts himself in front of the camera, making his position clear: His nonfiction film functions as a personal essay that includes pointed commentary, offers a politically charged vision and raises big questions. As Moore's most brilliantly structured work, "Sicko" starts off with ordinary Americans whose claims and coverage have been denied for ridiculous reasons. Close-ups capture their emotional testimonies, appealing to our hearts more than our minds. Then doctors and industry insiders testify about how insurance companies maximize profits by keeping benefits from the premium-paying patients who need them. Eventually the rumpled rabble-rouser throws his questioning back at us: "Who are we? A nation that dumps its own citizens like garbage on the curb because they can't pay their medical bills?" *Rated: PG-13 for brief strong language. 1 hour, 56 minutes.* — S.T.

MOVIE CRITICS

S.T.-Susan Tavernetti,
J.A.-Jeanne Aufmuth, T.H.-Tyler Hanley

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ART GALLERIES

LE JARDIN: FLORAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Featuring the photographic works of Christina Florkowski and Joanne Koltnow. Through July 30, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Modernbook Gallery, 494 University Ave., Palo Alto. www.modern-book.com/exhibitions.html

LF CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY Featuring work by established and emerging artists Hank Buckholdt, Lea Feinstein, Gretchen Frank and William Lynam. Through July 31 (open Thursdays 5-7 p.m., first Fridays 6-8 p.m., and by appointment). Free. LF Contemporary Art, 825 Emerson St., Palo Alto. Call 650-743-0852.

PALO ALTO ART CENTER: SUMMER 2007 EXHIBITIONS “From The Ground Up: Painting, Process & the Garden - Frances McCormack”; “Photography: Beyond Botanica”; “Renee Adams: Under Fragile Skies.” Through Sept. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Tue.-Sat.); 1-5 p.m. (Sun.): 7-9 p.m. (Thu.). Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2366. www.paacf.org

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW More than 40 local fine art photographers explore the theme of “Captured Light” in this annual, juried photography show. Through Aug. 31, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pacific Art League - Norton Gallery, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-3891. www.zivkov.com/pete/PHLG.html

BENEFITS

CHEFS WHO CARE Dinner buffet. Reservation deadline Aug. 8, 2007. Aug. 13 and 14, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. \$24 prepaid in advance, \$26 at door. Child (ages 6-12) \$14/\$16. Cafe Bombay, 4546 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 650.961.3584. www.CSAcares.org

VINTAGE VEHICLES GALA A night of “rock-in’ & rollin’” to support the Museum of American Heritage. This evening celebrates the cars, culture, and craziness of the 1950s. Saturday, August 4, 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$115 Members/\$125 General Public Call for Information, San Carlos.. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

“CONNECTING WITH YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY” (5-11 YEARS) Explore ways to build a lifelong parent-child relationship of trust and love through open communication and true respect. With Susan Stone Belton, BSE. Pre-registration is required. July 31 & Aug. 7, 7-7:30 p.m. \$50 for two sessions Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org

BATIK AND TIE-DYE WORKSHOP Learn the traditional Indian art of batik. Work with designs on cloth using wax and dye fabrics. Ages teen to adult. Bring lunch. July 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$85. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800. www.arts4all.org

FALL VEGGIE GARDEN WORKSHOP Learn sustainable, organic methods for soil preparation and techniques for transplanting season vegetable seedlings in this hands-on workshop by master gardeners at their Palo Alto demonstration garden. Beginning gardeners are especially welcome. Open garden follows, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat., Aug. 4, 10-11 a.m. Free. Palo Alto Demonstration Garden, 851 Center Drive, Palo Alto. mastergardeners.org

LINE DANCE SUMMER REVIEW PLAY SHOPS For Hedy McAdams alumni or by special permission of instructor (650-325-3371). Review of dances taught during previous quarters plus some surprises. All skill levels. Through July 27, 9 a.m.-noon. Ea Playshop \$25 res/\$29 non-res; 3 playshps \$65/\$75. Cubberley Community Center, Auditorium, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2418 or 650-463-4900. www.DanceAdventures.com

MINI-MUSIC CAMP FOR KIDS Children will participate in choral singing, music, crafts,

games and will learn to play hand bells, lead by Jenni Gaderlund (Choral Director at Graham School). Camp will culminate in a concert and free barbecue. Aug. 1-4, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$30/child or \$50/family. Foothill Covenant Church, 1555 Oak Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-967-7447.

PARENTING AS A TEAM: FOR COUPLES (BIRTH-6 YEARS) Explore ways to strengthen the couple relationship, manage conflict and develop discipline skills that are effective for the whole family. With Elizabeth Eastman, LCSW. Pre-registration is required. July 25 & Aug. 1, 7-9 p.m. \$100 per couple for two sessions. Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org

PLANT COOL SEASON VEGGIES NOW UC Master Gardener Susan Zaslaw demonstrates how to plan and plant a vegetable garden suited the unique, Mediterranean climate of the Bay Area. Sat., Aug. 11, 9-11 a.m. Free. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverly St., Palo Alto. Call 408-282-3105. www.gamblegarden.org

PRIME TIME LEGAL SERIES Session 7: Stock Options & Benefits. Representatives from platinum sponsor, Fenwick & West LLP, will be presenting the series. Thu., Aug. 9. Space limited. Register to reserve a spot. 12-1 p.m. Free. Fenwick & West LLP, 801 California St., Mountain View. Call 415-421-5500. <http://www.wtc-sf.org>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

KIDS ART ON MAIN STREET Showcases works by 30 young artists (grades K-6) from CSMA’s Arts in Action program. Sponsored by the Los Altos Town Crier and Community School of Music and Arts. July 3-31, Free. Main Street Cafe and Books, 134 Main St., Los Altos. Call 650-917-6800 ext. 305. www.arts4all.org

CONCERTS

CARTE BLANCHE CONCERT III: THE VIOLIN SONATA TREE OF LIFE, C. 1700-1999 Music\@>Menlo Chamber Music Festival. “The Violin Sonata Tree of Life” is part of the festival’s recital series offering artists a chance to curate their own concert programs. Sun., Aug. 5, 10:30 a.m. \$68 Adult; \$35 Student. Stent Family Hall, Menlo School, 50 Valparaíso Ave., Atherton. www.musicatmenlo.org

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW SUMMER SOUNDS Big City Review at Cuesta Park. Thu., Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Cuesta Park, Mountain View. Call 650-903-6446. www.mountainview.gov

JIMMY COBB QUARTET FEATURING KENNY BARRON Drummer Jimmy Cobb will be joined for this concert by pianist Kenny Barron. Wed., Aug. 1, 8 p.m. \$16-32. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

KENNY BARRON/TERELL STAFFORD/DAYNA STEPHENS/MATT WILSON Terell Stafford, trumpet; Dayna Stephens, tenor saxophone; Kenny Barron, piano; John Wiitala, bass; Matt Wilson, drums. Sun., July 29, 8 p.m. \$16-32. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

MADELINE EASTMAN/DENA DEROSE Singers Eastman and DeRose are members of the Stanford Jazz Workshop faculty. Tue., July 31, 8 p.m. \$16-32. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

SJW ALL-STAR JAM SESSION Stanford Jazz Workshop unites artists of past and present, including Lee Konitz, Frank Wess, Wycliffe Gordon, Terell Stafford, Kenny Barron, Eddie Gomez and Jimmy Cobb. Thu., Aug. 2, 8 p.m. \$18-36. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

TWILIGHT CONCERT SERIES Los Pinguos. Tue., July 31, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Eleanor Pardee Park, 851 Center Drive, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4940. www.cityofpaloalto.org/concerts



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROMAIN AGOSTINI



WATERCOLOR BY TREVLYN WILLIAMS

PAINTING & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT:

Trevlyn Williams, a native of South Africa, features her portfolio “Local Landscape”, paintings in watercolor and oil that include views of Edgewood County Preserve. Romain Agostini, a photographer from Luxembourg, shows his series “Abstract Realities”, where colors and patterns take center stage. Through Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. None. Gallery House, 320 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-269-1190. www.galleryhouse2.com

DANCE

BALLROOM DANCING West Coast Swing (state dance) will be taught Fri., Aug. 3. Lessons for beginning and intermediate levels, no experience and no partner necessary. General dance party 9 p.m.-midnight. Singles & couples welcome. Free refreshments. Dressy casual attire. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. \$7. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9930. www.readybyte.com/fridaynightdance

ENVIRONMENT

EDIBLE LANDSCAPING TOUR Self-guided tour in and around Palo Alto. Learn what motivates people to grow their own food. Benefit for Common Ground and the Valley of Heart’s Delight project. Sponsored by Lyngso Garden Materials. Sat., July 28, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$35 start at Common Ground Organic Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto.. Call 650-938-9300. www.conexions.org/vhd/gardentour

STOP IN AND EXPLORE Nature Center. Displays about natural communities, larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, pond, picnic tables. Through Nov. 25, noon-5 p.m. Free. Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, Parking at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. www.openspace.org

EXHIBITS

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL ART “Altered Reality”, chromigenic prints and ink-tints from the series “At the Water’s Edge” by photographer and digital artist Meggi Raeder. Through Aug. 30, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free. Plantation Deli Cafe, 109 S California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-326-4570. www.pbase.com/mraeder

STAINED GLASS BY JUDY MILLER Memorial retrospective exhibit of stained-glass pieces by the late Palo Alto artist Judy Miller, along with works in oil by Cheryl Pape, acrylics by Szn Kraft and photography by Jean Slocum. April 22-July 31. Visitors must call and make an appointment to view the exhibit. Free. Sheridan Apartments, 360 Sheridan Ave., Palo Alto. Call 473-1179.

STANFORD ART SPACES & ARTISTS Paintings and prints, Arturo Bolanos; photomontages, Patricia McClung; mixed media paintings, Claire Iris Schencke. Reception Aug. 17 at CIS from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. July 13-Sept. 13, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Stanford Art Spaces, 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 650-725-3622. <http://cis.stanford.edu/~marigros>

STANFORD TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING EXPO The Learning, Design and Technology program at Stanford University School of Education will host its annual Master’s Project Exposition. This tech expo will feature 13 master’s students showing and discussing their projects on technology-based learning products. Fri., July 27, 4-7 p.m. Free. Wallenberg

Hall, Building 160, Main Quad, Stanford. Call 650-380-3408. ed.stanford.edu

FAMILY AND KIDS

EXPLORE THE SF BAY BY CANOE Led by naturalists and canoeing guides from Save The Bay, as well as birding experts from SCVAS. For ages 10 and up. Fri., July 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$25/person. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Palo Alto Baylands (off Embarcadero Road), Palo Alto. Call 408-252-3740. www.scvas.org

GUITAR FOR KIDS Learn to play guitar this summer. Kids ages 6-15 are welcome. Classes will be divided by age and levels. Weekly meetings with flexible summer schedule. Small groups. June 25-July 30, 4:15-5:15 p.m. Monthly \$60 278 Hope Street, Mountain View. Call 650-306-0332.

FILM

STANFORD SUMMER THEATER FILM SERIES Free eight-week film series focusing on this year’s Stanford Summer Theater theme “Africa on stage.” Through Aug. 13, 7-10 p.m. Free; open to public. Cubberley Auditorium (School of Education), Stanford University, Stanford. summertheater.stanford.edu

ON STAGE

“ANYTHING GOES” The Los Altos Youth Theatre cast, ages 12-20, presents this comedy. July 13-28, Shows begin at 8 p.m. except 2 p.m. matinees on 7/15 & 22. \$12 adults, \$10 child/student/sr. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551.

“SWEET CHARITY” Peninsula Youth Theatre will present the Tony-winning musical “Sweet Charity” July 28-Aug. 5. Showtimes are 2 and 7:30 p.m. July 28, 29 and Aug. 4; 7:30 p.m. Aug. 3; and 2 p.m. Aug. 5. Group discounts are available. \$10-\$18. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.pytnet.org

RENGSTORFF HOUSE ARTS FESTIVAL Shakespeare in the garden. Woman’s Will, the Bay Area’s all-female Shakespeare company presents “Romeo and Juliet” in the Victorian garden. General admission. Lawn seating. Sun., Aug. 5, 1-3 p.m. Free/ donations accepted. Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.r-house.org

ROMEO AND JULIET Woman’s Will, the Bay Area’s all-female Shakespeare Troupe, presents Shakespeare’s tale. Sun., Aug. 5, 1 p.m. Free. Rengstorff House, 3070 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-430-1568 .

SENIORS

“WAR ORPHAN IN SAN FRANCISCO” Phyllis shares her memoir “War Orphan in San Francisco”. Reservations required. Thu., Aug. 2, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM 55-Alive Mature Driving class. To register, come in or mail a check dated the first day of class, payable to AARP. Aug. 8 & 14, 6-10 p.m. \$10, no cash . Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

ASAP Mountain View seniors who are interested in attending free performances at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts but are unable or unwilling to drive at night, can participate in the ASAP program. Volunteer drivers provide transportation to and from designated performances. Call for more info. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

■ MORE LISTINGS

For a complete listing of local events, see our website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.



Luxurious new, 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathroom townhouse style, condos located downtown in the heart of San Jose! Master suite is on top level. Skylights. Living room has fireplace. Kitchen has granite countertops and maple cabinets. This luxury downtown living has direct access to shopping and all major freeways.

VIEW MORE PICTURES AT:

www.108BalbachStreet.com



Contemporary 4-bedroom 3-bathroom home in great neighborhood. New roof, breakfast nook, and granite kitchen countertops. Vaulted ceiling, skylight, and double pane windows. Separate family room with fireplace, Berber carpet, and tile entry. Patio, front & rear sprinklers, and an attached 2-car garage.

3254 Padilla, San Jose

\$820,000



Beautiful La Bella Rosa! Town home-style condo includes 2 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms, kitchen has granite counters, stainless steel appliances, and maple cabinets. Marble flooring, skylights, central air, and near the major freeways as well as shopping! **VIEW MORE PICTURES AT:**

www.808LenzenAvenue.com



Charming 3-bedroom 2-bath home located in Fremont. Light-filled and re-modeled this home has skylights, wood floors, fireplace in living room granite countertops in kitchen and pantry. Nice French doors and double pane windows. Bathrooms have been updated. Spacious covered patio and deck in backyard, central forced air heating system, and 2-car garage. **VIEW MORE PICTURES AT:**

www.33059LakeWawasee.com



Contemporary 2-bedroom 1.5-bathroom duplex located on corner lot in San Carlos! This 2-story duplex offers central forced air heat, a relaxing covered patio, 1-car garage, and laundry facilities in garage. Fireplace in living room, large trees for cool shade, and large windows for great light!

Elm Street, San Carlos

\$1,080,000



Traditional style 2-story condo has 1-bedroom and 1-bathroom. Formal entry with tile flooring, fenced backyard with patio, utility room, 1-car garage with indoor entry to condo, new carpeting, fresh paint, new flooring in kitchen, and new shower tile with sliding glass doors. **VIEW MORE PICTURES AT:**

www.1208PermataCourt.com

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