

Mountain View VOICE

OCTOBER 10, 2008 VOLUME 16, NO. 40

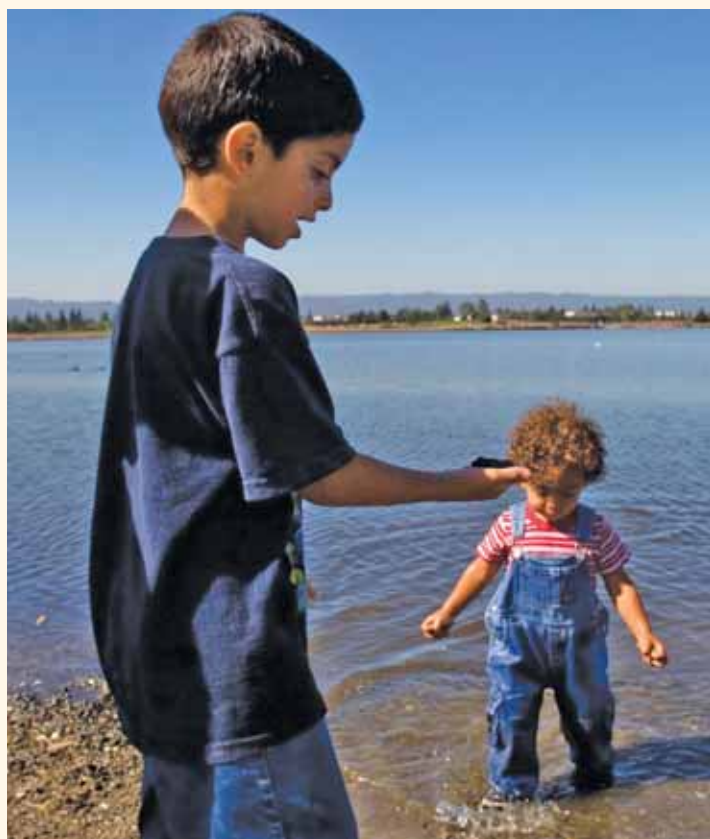
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Inside:
Fall
Real
Estate



COLLEEN CUMMINS

THE PERFECT SKIPPING STONE

Adam and Joseph Tadros play at Shoreline Park last week.

Debate season is here

School board hopefuls discuss budget, term limits and achievement gap

By Casey Weiss

A public forum last week for high school district board hopefuls turned into a contest of old versus new, with incumbents Susan Sweeley and Phil Faillace endorsing each other as the candidates best qualified to add to the foundation they have already helped build.

Colin Rudolph, the challenger, said the board could use a fresh outlook, especially when it comes to bringing innovative technology to the campuses and building community partnerships.

This is the first contested election in 10 years for the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District board, with the three candidates running for two open seats.

After short opening statements at the Los Altos library on Monday, Oct. 1, the candidates took questions from the audience about the achievement gap, budget challenges and term limits.

The local League of Women Voters and local branch of the American Association of University Women sponsored the forum.

In their opening statements, Faillace and Sweeley both identified the same accomplishments of the board during the last decade, including making advanced placement classes available to more students, bringing a technology and media academy to the district and helping to narrow the achievement gap of underrepresented students. Faillace, who owns his own software company, joined the board in 1996, and Sweeley, a real estate agent, joined in 2000.

"The diversity of our students creates challenges," Sweeley said. "We have made successes, but I am not done yet."

Colin Rudolph, an account executive in the high-tech industry, reminded voters of the importance of this contested election during his opening remarks.

"Mountain View-Los Altos High School District has

Council candidates field a few hardballs from League of Women Voters

By Daniel DeBolt

Eight of the nine City Council candidates fielded tough questions at a forum Monday night, which covered special tax districts, police oversight and other subjects.

The forum was organized by the League of Women Voters and co-sponsored by the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. Candidate Tracy Gordon did not attend.

The candidates were asked if they were willing to have the city relinquish millions in tax revenue to local schools, currently withheld as part of two special revitalization districts.

Former council member Mike Kasperzak first explained where the districts were, one encompassing the downtown and the other covering Shoreline Park and nearby office buildings such as the Googleplex. He said the Shoreline district was particularly important, and added that while he was on the council a resolution was passed that gave local schools a portion of the tax revenue.

"We have a landfill there that has cost a lot to maintain," Kasperzak said about Shoreline. "It allows us to have the great park we have at Shoreline."

Alicia Crank said the issue was a "toughie" because she was concerned that schools may not be getting their share of the city's taxes.

As the Bay level rises, the Shoreline area may need even more of that tax money to deal with flooding, said Laura Macias. But the downtown district tax, which Macias says will expire in 2010 unless the council renews it, may be ending "at the right time."

Chris Clark also said he would consider ending the downtown tax district. "I haven't heard anyone [from the schools] say they are unhappy about it," said Tom Means, who



■ VOTER'S GUIDE

A rundown of local candidates and issues on the Nov. 4 ballot. **Page 21**

■ ENDORSEMENTS

The Voice picks its favorites. **Page 14**

Two kinds of depression

ECONOMIC ILLS LEAD TO STRESS, PARTICULARLY AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND ELDERLY

By Casey Weiss

Since stocks started tumbling late last month, Judith Webb has been cutting way back on shopping trips, visiting only her local grocery store to buy necessities.

Webb, 65, works for Avenidas, a local senior care organization with branches in Mountain View and Palo Alto. Like her, many other senior citizens have been rolling back expenses, she said, as they wait

to see what happens with the economy.

"There is so much uncertainty," Webb said. "We are all in a state of anxiety."

While the nation's attention is on the financial sector, staffers at local agencies say the economic problems are having direct psychological effects, particularly on seniors and adolescents, who worry about the hardships

"We are all in a state of anxiety."

psychological effects, particularly on seniors and adolescents, who worry about the hardships

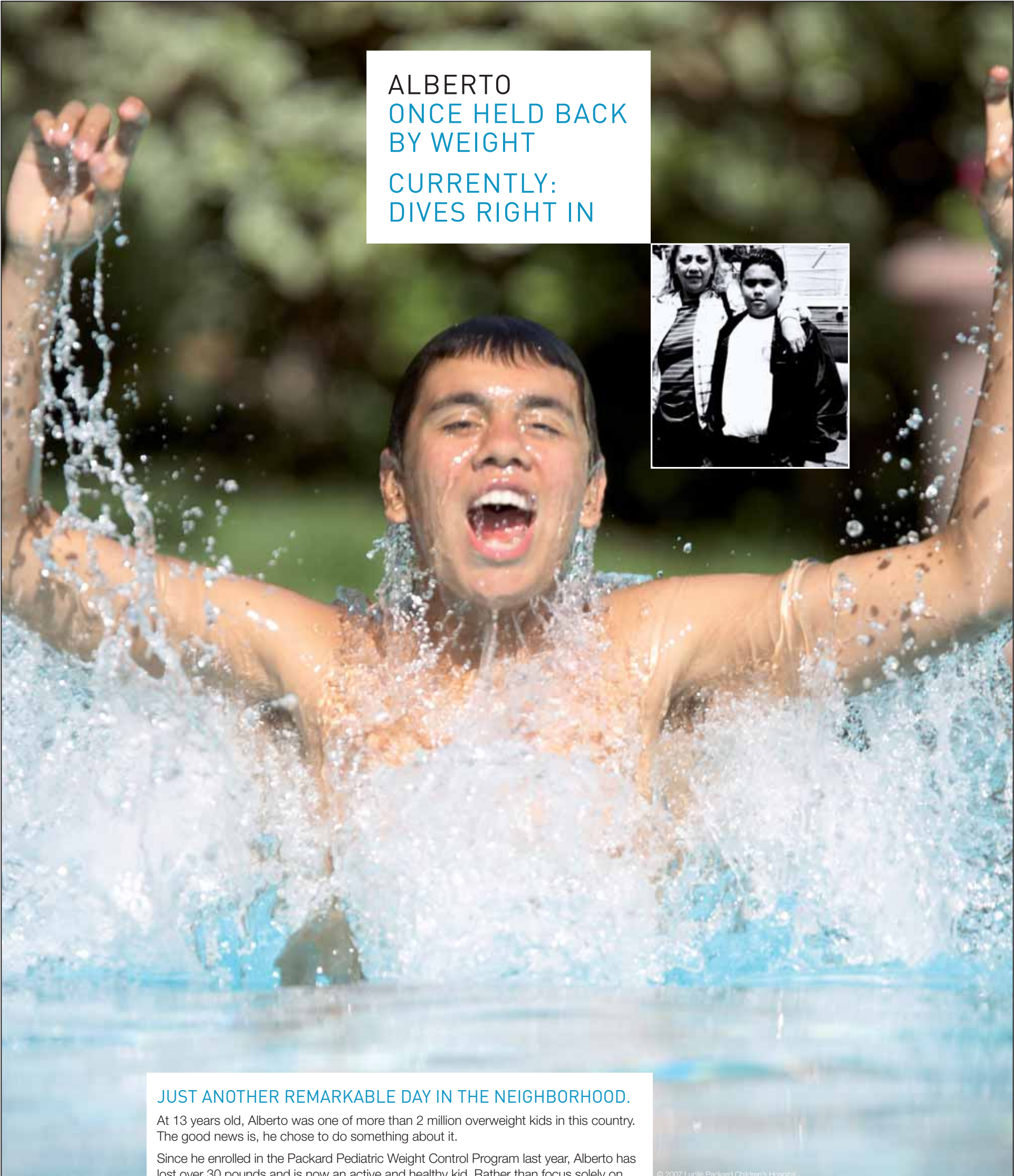
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INSIDE

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AT STANFORD



Voices

AROUND TOWN

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Kelly Truong.

What do you think is the most important political issue in the upcoming election?



"I think the economy is probably number one on everyone's mind."

Vladimir Tetelbaum, Redwood City



"I think the economy. My friend was just laid off his job recently, and it's affected his life."

Peng Wu, San Jose



"I'm sure everyone's concerned about the economy, but I think foreign policy is equally important. We really have become very unpopular throughout the world thanks to preemptive policy and the Bush Doctrine."

Cheryl Powers, Mountain View



"Creating green businesses that keep money local, and not giving money to Wall Street."

Craig Marquardt, Sunnyvale



"The economy, probably. Someone has to take charge of things and fix it. We have to start a new era after the last eight years."

Claudia Blas, Redwood City



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Supervisor Liz Kniss

Last on the ballot, First in Experience!

MIKE'S ENDOREMENTS (Partial List)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Organizational Endorsements | Nancy Noe
Former Vice Mayor |
| The Sierra Club | Randall Stock |
| Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters | Maria Lange
Library Board of Trustees |
| Chamber of Commerce Mountain View | Ed Mussman II
Parks and Recreation Commission |
| Silicon Valley Association of Realtors | Ken Rosenberg
Old Mountain View Neighborhood Assn. |
| Public Officials | Bruce Karney
Mountain View Environmental Sustainability Task Force |
| Steve Poizner | Patricia Cheng |
| Senator Joe Simitian | Leroy A. Mattis |
| Sheriff Laurie Smith | Jodi Porter
Performing Arts Committee |
| Supervisor Liz Kniss | Rick Meyer |
| Larry Stone Assessor | Kim Copher |
| Wesley F. Alles | Nathan Barreras |
| John Zoglin | Julin Lu
Downtown Committee |
| El Camino Hospital District | Dina Cheyette |
| Patrick Kwok | Ervin Upton
Visual Arts Committee |
| Santa Clara Valley Water District | Leslie Train |
| Bruce Swenson | Bryan Malone |
| Hal Plotkin | John D. Carpenter |
| Betsy Bechtel | Barry Jay Burr
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee |
| Laura Casas Frier | Roger Petersen
Human Relations Commission |
| Foothill-De Anza Community College District | 'Theo' Nykos P. Trakas |
| Judy Hannemann | Anita Lowney
Senior Advisory Task Force |
| MV-LA High School District | |
| Fiona Walter | |
| MVWhisman School District | |
| Margot Harrigan | |
| Los Altos School District | |
| Jim Cochran | |
| Ralph Faravelli | |
| Rosemary Stasek | |
| Matt Neely | |
| Former Mayors | |

MY GOALS:

No single issue is simple or one-sided. A thoughtful, experienced and balanced approach is what I bring to the table. My priorities are:

- Developing a new community park & improving open space
- Preserving & enhancing unique neighborhoods
- Broadening economic development opportunities
- Maintaining high quality police & fire services
- Developing improved transportation options
- Enhancing youth & senior programs
- Implementing thoughtful & balanced growth
- Developing innovative affordable housing solutions

Community Leaders

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| David Greene | Kevin McBride | Twana Karney |
| Julie Lovins | Aaron Grossman | Betsy Collard |
| Dr. Richard Slavin | Bob Reay & Judi Fan | Larry Sokoloff |
| Greg Zlotnick | Jack & Rada Ford | Marilyn Manning |
| Gloria Higgins | Jerylann Mateo | Jean Mardo |
| Rose Filicetti | Joan & Wally MacDonald | Andre Burnett |
| Elna Tymes | Stuart & Jeanne Farwell | Cathy Kroymann |
| Monique Kane | Carla Paul | Jack & Norma Melchor |
| Kathy Thibodeaux | Terry Guess | Robert Chang |
| MV Educational Foundation | Cosette Delgado | Paul J. Lesti |
| William A. Reeves, MD | John K. Dalan | Karen Cabello McNaught |
| Pat Showalter | Bernie Rosen | Martha Maris |
| Robin Iwai | Roy Hayter | Roy Lave |
| Phyllis Bismanovsky | Lance Sapera | Alison Sokoloff |
| Henry Gee | Nancy Gee | Jim Geers |
| Steven Rasmussen | Oscar Garcia | Gregory Fowler |
| Justine Fenwick | Steve & Carol Olson | |
| | Carol Tolen | |

Paid for by Mike Kasperzak for City Council FPPC # 1306084

Have a question for Voices Around Town? E-mail it to editor@mv-voice.com

■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON

100 Block California St., 10/4

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Tyrella Ave., 10/6

AUTO BURGLARY

100 Block Walnut Dr., 10/1
100 Block Walnut Dr., 10/1
Century 16 Cinema, 10/5
200 Block Lida Dr., 10/6

BATTERY

100 Block Alison Ave., 9/29
100 Block Villa St., 9/30
200 Block Rock St., 9/30
Moffett Blvd., 10/1

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

100 Block El Monte Ave., 10/1
100 Block Castro St., 10/1
Alberto's, 10/5

DISTURBANCE

Chili's, 10/5
Chili's, 10/6

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

Safeway - N. SLB, 10/2

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

E. El Camino Real/Highway 85, 10/4
Central Expressway/Farley St., 10/6

GRAND THEFT

Clyde Ave., 10/1
Clyde Ave., 10/1
W. Middlefield Road, 10/2
Showers Dr., 10/6

IDENTITY THEFT

Mariposa Ave., 10/2

INDECENT EXPOSURE

N. Whisman Road, 9/30

100 Block Grant Road, 9/30

PETTY THEFT

Villa St., 9/29
200 Block California St., 9/30
The Club, 10/2
Rite Aid - Grant, 10/2
Franklin St., 10/2
Nob Hill Foods, 10/4
Walmart, 10/5
Sears Department Store, 10/5
La Salsa, 10/5
200 Block Old Middlefield Way, 10/6

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

Farley St./San Ramon Ave., 10/6

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Easy St., 10/1
Tyrella Ave., 10/2

ROBBERY

E. El Camino Real, 10/5

STOLEN VEHICLE

100 Block Colony St., 10/1
100 Block Colony St., 10/1
Century 16 Cinema, 10/1

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

Mountain View Garden Apartments, 10/6

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

100 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 10/1
100 Block Alison Ave., 10/2
900 Block Miramonte Ave., 10/2
200 Block Escuela Ave., 10/4

VANDALISM

W. Dana St., 10/1
Cypress Point Dr., 10/1
100 Block Latham St., 10/2
700 Block Sonia Way, 10/4
200 Block Latham St., 10/5
W. Dana St., 10/6
Golden Wok, 10/6



The Mayor's Corner

Should Mountain View Ban Cars & Plastic Bags?

One of my initial mayoral assignments in 2008 was to appoint residents to the city's first Environmental Sustainability Task Force. This team was asked to study the effect of climate change on our city and recommend how we might respond. We received over sixty applicants with impressive and diverse backgrounds in finance, construction, auto repair, health care, real estate, transportation, statistics, architecture, engineering, computer programming, building facilities, green building, etc. My goal was

to appoint a diverse group of men and women who would provide input from a variety of perspectives. It was a challenge to narrow the selection to appoint only 12 board members. Last week, after months of hard work, the task force released its report consisting of 11 chapters and 89 recommendations. Their report can be found on the city's web site (www.ci.mtnview.ca.us). The next step will be for council to review the recommendations and determine which ones should be implemented. As

an economist, I promise to evaluate each idea to see which ones provide the best return in terms of sustainability using common sense benefit/cost principles. I would also welcome and value your input and perspective on any of the recommendations. Please feel free to contact me by email. Finally, I hope you will join me in thanking the task force members for their service and commitment to the city. Working together we make Mountain View a better community.

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Hope Street dog declared vicious by city hearing

By Daniel DeBolt

To the relief of some downtown residents, Sylas — the large dog from Hope Street that was the subject of a police hearing last month — has been ruled a vicious animal by the Mountain View Police Department.

The ruling by hearing Officer Jim Williamson, mailed out on Sept. 29, gives the owners 20 days to bring Sylas to Palo Alto Animal Control Services, where director Sandi Stadler would make the call on the animal's fate.

Although Stadler has the option of putting Sylas to sleep, she said she would consider allowing him to reside with co-owner Audra Rowles at her home in Struggle Mountain, a Los Altos Hills commune where the dog is believed to be now.

The catch, however, is that neither Audra Rowles nor her mother, Hope Street resident Linda Rowles, had complied with the order as of press time. Stadler said that unless the dog is surrendered, or spotted in Mountain View and recovered by animal control officers, there is nothing she can do.

Neighbors had complained that Sylas' owners were unable or unwilling to control the dog's aggressive behavior or keep him on a leash. For years he was known to wander the area, sometimes growling threateningly at people on their own property.

According to witnesses at last month's hearing, Sylas once bit a mail carrier and has attacked at least three other dogs, including a small Boston terrier that required stitches last month.

It's unclear what the consequences would be for violating the order to surrender the dog. Lynn Dobson, deputy city attorney, said she would notify the city of Los Altos Hills about the dog, and Las Altos Hills has the right to make its own ruling on the matter.

"I'm pretty happy with the way things turned out," said Sam Rohlfs, the owner of the Boston terrier. "Already it's been a huge relief in the neighborhood." ▀

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF MVFPD

CUDDLE UP:

Members of the Mountain View Fire Department accept new stuffed bears from first graders at Springer Elementary School. Firefighters will keep the bears in their fire engines in case they encounter children needing something to hold during a painful or scary experience.

Voice returns to mail delivery in two weeks

Staff Reports

Beginning with the Oct. 24 edition, residents will once more receive their Mountain View Voice in the mailbox, rather than in a blue plastic bag on the driveway.

"Our campaign to ask readers

to request the paper has paid off," said publisher Tom Gibboney, who noted that lower U.S. Postal Service rates and concern about the effects of all those plastic bags on the environment were major factors in deciding to return the Voice to mail delivery.

To receive your Voice in the

mail, go to www.mountain-viewonline.com and click on "Home Delivery" in the left column, then follow the prompts.

Print copies of the Voice are still available in racks placed at strategic locations around the city, and at many downtown businesses. ▀

Police: Kenneth Ivory Thomas on rampage

SUSPECT IN PLYMOUTH STREET MURDER ALLEGEDLY ROBBING AND PIMPING IN GEORGIA

By Casey Weiss

One of two remaining at-large suspects in the double homicide on Plymouth Street was last seen robbing and pimping in the southern state of Georgia, Mountain View police said.

Kenneth Ivory Thomas, wanted for two counts of murder and conspiracy in the June killings of Omar Aquino and his sister Maria Teresa Sanchez-Aquino, was recently spotted outside Atlanta, police say,

where he was allegedly pimping out a missing 15-year-old runaway from the Bay Area.

According to police, the unnamed juvenile's mother tracked her down using her MySpace page, then contacted police in Georgia, who went to the hotel where Thomas, 20, and the girl were staying. Thomas fled when authorities arrived and remains at large, police



Kenneth Thomas

say. The runaway girl was returned to her parents.

Mountain View detectives, who went to Georgia and are aiding the investigation there, have also linked Thomas to three violent robberies. At the same hotel outside Atlanta, a person matching his description robbed and pistol-whipped another hotel guest. Also, a person match-

► See **THOMAS**, page 6

Council moves quickly on task force report

By Daniel DeBolt

Already the City Council has begun implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Task Force report, voting unanimously Tuesday to form a three-person committee on the topic that will meet as early as next week.

"We need to do something immediately," said council member Ronit Bryant, who made the motion, later approved, that a council subcommittee be formed.

"I am dying to be on it," she said.

The 300-page report lists 89 proposals to make the city more environmentally sustainable, with recommendations on city planning, transportation, water use, garbage and recycling, buildings, energy, natural ecosystems, public education and adapting to climate change. It represents the "best thinking" of more than five dozen residents, said chair Bruce Karney, who formed 11 working groups that met weekly in coffee shops, Google buildings and living rooms for over six months.

Council members said the next step was to "drill down" to the most cost-effective of the 89 goals in the report.

"I would like to see every city department saying ... 'This is what I will do,'" Bryant said.

But the report may come at a bad time for the city financially.

"We are all watching, basically, the devastation of the economy," said council member Nick Galiotto, who supports those goals in the report that could be a financial "win-win." City budget trouble was predicted in a few years, but "now it's like it's not a couple years down the road, it's now," he said.

"Without an environment, there's no need for a budget," said Aileen La Bouff, chair of the task force working group on public outreach.

► See **COUNCIL**, page 8

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As an elected council member, I will meet constituent needs, provide and improve basic services, maintain and improve upon an aging infrastructure and find the resources to attract new investment and growth to reinvigorate your community.

THE ISSUES

- ★ The city of Mountain View, like the bay area, has a lack of affordable housing and it must be addressed if we are to achieve a prosperous future for future generations.
- ★ I would like to create a Community Action Team, to help attract private investment for high-impact community development projects. The CAT Team's job is to actively search for and help create public-private partnerships.
- ★ I am a strong advocate for youth programs and healthy families.
- ★ I believe that open spaces such as parks and trails are critical to our environment and our legacy to future generations. Parks preserve priceless landscapes and ecosystems, improve our health and fitness, enhance our quality of life and contribute to our economic growth.

DIANA WANG

970 San Pierre Way, Mountain View, CA 94043
Phone: (650)483-2483 • Email: wangetc@yahoo.com



www.dianawangforcitycouncil.com

LocalNews

THOMAS

► Continued from page 5

ing his description robbed a local Wendy's restaurant and a Metro PCS cell phone store.

Meanwhile, police continue their search for his sister, 17-year-old Faith Thomas, in connection with the double-murder on Plymouth Street. Six other suspects are already in custody.

"This is unusually huge," police spokeswoman Liz Wylie said. "It is so big, it is so massive." The siblings, she said, "are fleeing back and forth across state lines. They are fugitives."

In order to track down the fugitives, particularly Kenneth Thomas, local police have partnered with the television show "America's Most Wanted." The show posted information on its Web site about the fugitives, and plans to run an episode on Thomas.

"There was no reason to keep the case hidden," Wylie said. "At this point we think Kenneth is dangerous."

Aquino, 24, and Sanchez-Aquino, 27, were shot to death on June 28 in their home on the 1900 block of Plymouth Avenue while Sanchez-Aquino's 8-year-old son slept in the next room.

Police believe Kenneth Thomas

was traveling with his sister, and that the two stopped in Las Vegas together. But they are not together now, police say, and Faith could be in Florida. Police consider both to be armed and dangerous.

The suspects in custody include another Thomas sibling, 15-year-old Fame. All three siblings are from Campbell, and Wylie said the Thomas family is not being cooperative in the case.

The others suspects in custody are: Nicory Span, 18; Michael David Adams, 20; Kim Pham, 19; Eric Williams, 22; and Victoria Thompson, 20. Williams is from Fremont and the others are all from the South Bay. Police say they are all "connected socially."

The six suspects appeared in court this week, but attorneys say it could be several weeks before they enter pleas.

Police now believe Kenneth Thomas is the main suspect in the double murder. They say he is a member of the United Crip Gang and has "UCG" tattooed on his left arm. He has been traveling by Greyhound bus and has been swapping his cell phones, making him hard to track.

According to a complaint filed in Superior Court, Kenneth Thomas and his sisters had been planning to rob Aquino for months. As part of their plan, the document says,

Fame Thomas and Aquino went to the movies the night of the murder, and the eight suspects used text messages to communicate, eventually meeting back at Aquino's house, where they killed him and his sister. The suspects allegedly stole an iPod and other items from the house.

Robbery was the original motive, police believe, but they have not ruled out drug or gang activity.

Police say Faith Thomas is 5-foot-9 and about 140 pounds. She often has colored or streaked hair. Kenneth Thomas is 6-foot-3 and 195 pounds.

According to the press release, "Detectives believe they made stops in Las Vegas, Texas, Florida and Georgia."

"Who knows what he was up to along the way," Wylie said.

Anyone with information on their whereabouts is urged to call Mountain View police at (650) 903-6357. Community members may call in anonymously. Additionally, those with information can call the America's Most Wanted hotline at (800) CRIME-TV. To see the TV show's Web site posting on the case, go to www.amw.com/fugitives/case.cfm?id=59788.

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

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The Harrell Remodeling Design Center is 85% solar powered.

Mountain View man killed in Palo Alto crash

Palo Alto Weekly

Tyler Larsen, 24, of Mountain View, was one of two men killed in a crash last Thursday morning at Park Boulevard and Stanford Avenue, according to the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office.

Larsen is believed to have been the driver, Palo Alto Police Agent Dan Ryan said.

The passenger killed was David Colin Barge, 20, from Springfield, Va. Ryan said Barge had been living in the area for about eight months. The van was registered in his name.

Larsen and Barge were killed when their speeding minivan crashed into a tree at 3:39 a.m. on Oct. 2 at the south end of Peers Park, police reported.

The van hit a curb and a tree and spun out of control, wrapping around a second tree, police reported.

One occupant was pronounced dead at the scene and the second died at Stanford Hospital, police said. Firefighters took about 45 minutes to extract the occupants,

removing the van's roof.

The police department's Specialized Traffic Reconstruction Team (STAR) is investigating the crash, Ryan reported. He said a preliminary finding suggests that the vehicle was speeding north on Park and the driver failed to stop at the stop sign at Stanford Avenue. The vehicle struck the curb and a tree as the road curved to the left just past the intersection.

Ryan said there was no evidence at the scene to suggest that alcohol was involved in the crash, but it may take a few days to make a final determination.

All vehicle and pedestrian traffic on Park Boulevard between Stanford Avenue and Leland Avenue will be closed during the STAR Team's investigation, Ryan said.

A patrol officer reported seeing a similar van, a Mercury Villager, at the Jack-in-the-Box at Cambridge Avenue and El Camino Real shortly before the crash. It had five young men in it, the officer reported, but apparently three had gotten out of the van prior to the crash. ■



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Saturday, October 11, 2008
9:15 – 11 a.m. Doors open 8:15 a.m.

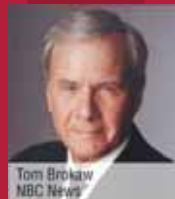
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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 5

Karney recommended that the city spend a million on implementing the report in its first year, and substantially more in following years.

Council member Jac Siegel said he had read the entire report, and disagreed with some of it but concluded that “To do nothing because we don’t have the perfect solutions is the worst thing that can be done.”

“There’s some good stuff in here,” said council member Matt Pear. Task force members took issue with Pear’s calls for a detailed “life cycle cost benefit analysis” on all of the report’s goals, saying that costs were estimated where possible but often were not possible to do.

“We are advocates, we are not dispassionate analysts,” Karney said.

More presentations

Each of the 11 working groups gave a three-minute presentation at the meeting, which could not do justice to the report.

Chaired by Janis Zinn, the “waste, waste reduction, and recycling” working group starts its chapter with the words, “Trash is not a sexy topic. It does not conjure up visions of Grand Boulevards or

sparkling arrays of photovoltaic panels.” The chapter goes on to describe the consequences of plastic bags and polystyrene, and says that the methane gas produced by food waste in landfills is much worse than carbon dioxide. It proposes a “zero waste plan” similar to Palo Alto’s as its top goal.

The “water availability and use” working group, chaired by Steven Bishop, recommends that the city leverage existing programs to conserve water, which will become increasingly expensive and scarce. It also proposes reorganizing utility bills to encourage conservation and make it easier for property owners to install grey water systems.

Favoring a “feet first” approach, the transit and transportation working group, chaired by Cliff Chamber, proposes that the city implement bike boulevard plans, a bike rental program, a shuttle service and a controversial parking program that prioritizes electric cars.

Karney’s group, “renewable energy,” put solar panels and solar water heaters on all city buildings as a top goal, claiming it would be a cost benefit to the city in the long run. The report includes an example of how a laundromat could save hundreds of thousands of dollars in gas bills in a few years

by switching to solar water heaters.

A group of green architects got together for the “built environment” working group, and recommended firstly that all city buildings be rated LEED silver. They also recommended a loan program for building owners to help them implement energy-efficient upgrades, as well as a requirement that businesses do an energy audit through PG&E to renew business licenses.

The “sustainable quality of life” group, led by Ignacio Martin-Bragado, a physicist at Synopsis, recommends firstly that the city include a sustainability expert on its Planning Commission. Secondly, all residents should have access to family planning.

Technology is not the answer, Martin-Bragado says — in fact it’s allowed even more unsustainable consumption of resources.

“We are too many people consuming too many things needing too many resources,” he said Tuesday. When looking for solutions, “looking for simplicity is the golden rule.”

The full report can be downloaded at www.sustainablemountainview.gov.

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

VOTE

JOHN MCALISTER

CITY COUNCIL



I have lived in Mountain View for over **50 years**. I attended Mountain View schools, graduated from **UC Berkeley in Business Administration** and obtained my **CPA certificate**. As a business owner of the **local Baskin Robbins**, I not only understand commerce but also the importance of education which is why I support the local schools. My wife and I are raising two children who attend Mountain View High and Graham. I served on the School Site Council, Treasurer for the PTA, and coached youth sports. I’m currently on the **Environmental Planning Commission**. I would appreciate your support and vote.

Top Priorities:

- Neighborhood Preservation**
 - Appropriate Growth
 - Keep neighborhood character
- Financial Strong City Government**
 - Provide quality and essential city services while being prudent with the budget
- More Parks, Open Space, and Sports Facilities**
 - Increase sports fields, new park in Mountain View
 - Leverage new development to increase park sizes
- Strong Business Sector**
 - Improve and maintain business districts to help generate sales tax dollars to fund quality services, and not raise taxes and fees.

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- ✓ Financial Strong City Government
- ✓ More Parks, Open Space & Sports Facilities
- ✓ Strong Business Sector

COUNCIL DEBATE

► Continued from page 1

reiterated that the schools get a negotiated share of the taxes, a share that grows larger annually.

John McAlister said the districts were important to keep in place so that businesses wouldn't want to relocate outside of the city.

McAlister differed from the rest of the candidates on the next question, which the moderator put to him first: Should the city have civilian oversight of the police department?

"To have an independent agency ... is a great idea," McAlister said after he paused to think about it.

The others largely disagreed. "I don't think that's appropriate," Macias said. "I think public safety officers know what to do in any type of instance."

"To some degree we already have that with the Human Relations Commission," Kasperzak said, noting that the commission has tackled such police-related issues as racial profiling.

Clark also said he didn't see the need for a new oversight group to "usurp" the Human Relations Commission.

John Inks said he didn't think civilian oversight was necessary since there was no police brutality in Mountain View. "I have not heard of these types of complaints in the city," he said.

"I have had a very good experience with the police in Mountain View," agreed Diana Wang. "They know what to do."

Means said the additional oversight wasn't necessary at this point, and added that he has received e-mails from people commending local police.

The moderator finally called on Crank, the only candidate who is a member of the Human Relations Commission. She said her commission meets with the police chief twice a year, and that some of the work she is most proud of has been in conjunction with local police.

Other topics covered include city auditing and high density housing. The debate can be watched, along with statements from each of the candidates, at www.kmvt15.org.

KMVT will host its own live council candidate debate on Thursday, Oct. 9, moderated by scientist Seth Shostak. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. on local cable channel 15, and viewers may call in and ask questions at (650) 968-1540. That debate will be rebroadcast on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 10:30 p.m. ▀

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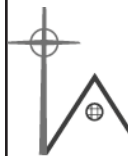
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SCHOOL DEBATE

▶ Continued from page 1

not had an election in 10 years," he told the approximately 30 audience members. "It is critical that you the voters pick who is going to lead the district."

Audience members first asked about the biggest challenges facing the board, and Faillace said it was important that all students perform "at the highest level that the student can achieve."

Sweeley said the budget is the biggest obstacle facing the district, especially with the state of the economy and cuts to public education. Although the district is not currently experiencing drastic cuts, Sweeley said, it is important to keep any that may occur "far away from the classroom."

Rudolph and the other candidates agreed about the importance of having "clear modeling and forecasting" while the state of the economy remains uncertain. He added that trustees also need to make sure the district has competitive technology for all students.

Audience members asked about the achievement gap and what new ideas trustees had to address the lower scores among Latino and other less successful students.

Rudolph answered first, saying trustees needed to look more

closely at the home conditions of these students, and work with the elementary and middle schools which feed into Mountain View and Los Altos high schools.

But Faillace said the district already has a strong partnership with both of the local elementary school districts, and holds forums and community seminars for Latino parents. "What the questions asked is about new ideas," he said, adding that trustees have to encourage teachers to take more risks and be creative when working with these students.

"The achievement gap is something that has been studied to death," he said.

The forum ended with a discussion on term limits for board members. Four of the five high school trustees have been on the board for at least eight years, and audience members asked if the candidates thought term limits should be introduced.

Faillace and Sweeley, who are endorsing each other, said they were open to the idea. But they added that they have built a strong school board despite having no challengers over the last 10 years. Rudolph said he is "imposing his own term limits," and will step down from the board in two terms when his daughters start at the high school district. ■

Alicia Crank for City Council

Community First



Our community's priorities are Alicia's priorities

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Strengthen Gang task force and support the expansion of the Police Activities League
- Expand CERT programs (various languages)
- Expand Women's Safety Training program
- Advocate for the creation of a Teen Center and positive activities for youth

SUSTAINABILITY

- Create a shuttle to service underserved areas of Shoreline Blvd, including Shoreline Park, the amphitheater and the movie theater
- Expand opportunities for affordable housing by revamping the BMR program to better address the needs of public safety officers, teachers and first-time homebuyers

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Establish better and more flexible hours at the Recreation Department
- Increase City-sponsored after school programs
- Create more programs for adults after work/weekends



FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

- Support business development efforts to expand revenue generation
- Analyze previous reductions and restoration of services before considering new spending measures
- Make wise investments that will result in future cost-saving opportunities

Dear Neighbor,

I've sincerely enjoyed living, working and volunteering in Mountain View.. What I love about our city is its riches in diversity: culturally, socially, and economically. This is followed by the diversity of services offered to our community and our overall quality of life.

As your Council member, I will work hard to putting a "community first" focus on our neighborhoods while serving on Council. From our pre-teens and working-age residents to our senior citizens, renters to homeowners, we can all work together to improve our public safety, affordable housing, recreation and sustainability opportunities.

I hope that I will have your support on November 4th. Together, we can continue to build our community to be the safe, diverse and comfortable environment we know it can be.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and concerns. I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you,

Alicia

OUR COMMUNITY IS MY TOP PRIORITY

- Commissioner: Mountain View Human Relations Commission
- Community Service Chair/Board Member: Mountain View Rotary
- Board Member: KMVT-15 Community Television
- Supporter of programs for special needs children and adults

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■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PRIZES OFFERED IN 'MV READS' CONTESTS

In an effort to inspire local youth to make a difference in the world, Mountain View Reads Together is holding two contests related to its 2008 book of choice.

Each November, the group selects one book and holds events designed to encourage residents to read and discuss that book as

a community. This year the book is "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, which chronicles Mortenson's work building schools in impoverished regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The first contest, open to everyone, is to create a short film (no longer than 10 minutes) capturing the themes of the novel. The second contest, aimed at students in grades 3 to 12, encourages

young people to organize projects to improve their communities. Both contests are offering cash prizes to the winners.

The deadline to submit entries for the film contest is Oct. 31, and the deadline for the second contest is Nov. 1. Those interested in competing can visit www.mvreads.org for more information.

—Kelly Truong

 **Re-Elect LAURA MACIAS**
To MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY COUNCIL



I AM FIRST ON THE BALLOT & FIRST WITH THE REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE THAT OUR CITY NEEDS.

I ask for your vote on November 4th!

I am the current Councilmember serving my first four-year term. I served last year as Mountain View's engaged and proactive Mayor. I meet with all groups, individuals and neighborhoods because I know that I need to listen well to represent our city.

My steady voting record and initiatives embody what I stand for: value and strengthen our neighborhoods and businesses; build quality of life with city services; support compatible development; and advocate for environmental practices at the individual, local and regional level.

My background on council for four years, city commissioner for nine years on planning and parks & recreation, Mountain View resident, community leader and volunteer for almost twenty years, management and high tech business professional for twenty five years is a great foundation for another four-year term on City Council.

www.LauraMacias08.com

In these uncertain times, Mountain View needs a councilmember who:

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- **Stands up for** parks and open space
- **Stands up for** a healthy city and economy
- **Always stands up for** a responsible budget

Paid for by Re-Elect Laura Macias to Mountain View City Council, FPPC ID 1268975.

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DEPRESSION

► Continued from page 1

facing their families.

In Palo Alto, counselors at Academic Counseling Services, an agency working with local schools and students, say they have seen an upsurge in stress among students due to the economy, particularly as some of their parents have lost their jobs or are struggling to keep their homes.

"The people we see are really struggling," said Margaret Murchan, on-campus counseling program director.

"Sometimes when parents are under stress teenagers feel it," she said. "Sometimes there's a minor problem parents would have not reacted to before, and they take it out on the family now."

Murchan said parents who are struggling financially often become more restrictive, and are sometimes easily angered by their children. Teens, meanwhile, manifest their stress in different ways, Murchan said,

with some struggling in school. The agency provides individual and family group sessions, and tries to help parents enter retraining programs or find new jobs.

Back at Avenidas, Nancy Jensen, who participates in support groups and dancing lessons there, said the current state of uncertainty and anxiety reminds

with his children in the house she owns in Menlo Park. He is learning new skills to reenter the workforce, but money is owed on the mortgage. If not for her new husband's economic stability, Jensen said, she would have trouble supporting herself.

Even the support agencies themselves are feeling the pinch. Avenidas' regular speaker series, which cost only \$3 for members, is suffering a low turnout as seniors — worried about their pensions and savings — opt for free events instead.

Kari Martell,

director of marketing and communication at Avenidas, said the center had to cancel a conference last month due to lack of participation. Senior citizens have not wanted to talk about their troubles, Martell said, but she credits a "drop in enthusiasm" at Avenidas to the economic hardships.

"Where people can, they are cutting back," she said. ▀

"Sometimes there's a minor problem parents would have not reacted to before, and they take it out on the family now."

MARGARET MURCHAN

her of living through the Great Depression.

"I lived through a time that was comparable to what we are going through now," she said.

Jensen was born in 1932 in a poor fishing village in Alaska. She said she always had enough food and clothing growing up, but her neighbors and friends were often anxious about their financial situations.

These days, she said, members of her own family are experiencing hardship. Her son is currently unemployed and living

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com



BA Economics UCD
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Re-Elect Tom Means For a Better Mountain View

Decision – Maker

As a community leader and professional economist, Tom has guided the city in the sound evaluation of decisions. He understands the trade-offs necessary to improve the quality of life for Mountain View residents.

Consensus - Builder

Tom's experience in collegial governance brings a collaborative rather than managerial approach to the council. He understands the importance of forming consensus with other council members to produce results.

Budget - Balancer

Tom has the experience and expertise in maintaining quality services while being fiscally responsible. Under his leadership Mountain View has maintained an appropriate reserve while providing high quality public services.

- Over 25 years as a Mountain View resident and community volunteer
- Over 25 years as an applied economist researching municipal spending and output
- Over 25 years of collegial governance and committee work at SJSU

Mayor, City of Mountain View, 2008
Mountain View City Council 2004-2008
Parks and Recreation Commission 1998-2004
Association of Bay Area Governments
2020 Peninsula Gateway Corridor Study: Advisory Comm.
Santa Clara County Cities Association

Selected Accomplishments

Thursday Night Live Initiated the city goal of closing off a portion of Castro Street on summer evenings for community enjoyment.

Environmental Task Force Appointed the first task force to study ways we can become a more environmentally friendly city.

Steven Creek Trail Access Initiated the effort to open SCT once the El Camino Real underpass was completed.

Youth Services Led the first teen center tour to rally support for a new recreation building with a teen component. Supported re-introduction of the Police Athletic League.

Financial Responsibility Approved balanced budgets, maintained AAA credit rating, secured retiree health care benefits, fashioned responsible long-term police and fire contracts.

Affordable Housing Initiated the use of Below-Market-Rate funds to help low-income displaced renters. Promoted real affordable housing alternatives.

More Parks and Playing Fields Approved property purchases for new neighborhood parks in the Del Medio and Central areas. Supported more playing fields.

NEWS BRIEFS

FATHER-DAUGHTER DUO ARRESTED IN POT BUST

Mountain View police arrested a father and daughter last week for allegedly growing marijuana for sale after an anonymous tip that the plants were in their backyard.

Police say they found seven mature plants and three pounds of dried marijuana after searching the house on the 1300 block of Lloyd Way on Wednesday, Oct. 1. After receiving the tip about the plants, police obtained a warrant to search the property and arrested the father, 45, and the daughter, 20.

"This only happens a couple times a year," said police spokesperson Liz Wylie regarding the anonymous tip. Normally, she said, police discover marijuana plants "because we are in someone's house for something else."

Neighbors say seven police cars and vans arrived at the house in

the early afternoon on Wednesday. They said the father waited in handcuffs outside while police searched the property.

— Casey Weiss

WOMAN MISSING FROM LOCAL GROUP HOME

A 59-year-old woman from a group home in Mountain View was reported missing Monday by Mountain View police.

Laura Leighty was last seen Friday morning on Valley Transit Authority bus No. 22 heading toward San Jose. She is 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighs 140 pounds, has green eyes and wears her brown hair in a Mohawk hairstyle.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the MVPD at (650) 903-6344.

— Bay City News

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Macias, Means, Kasperzak and Crank for City Council

Mountain View voters are fortunate to have nine candidates to choose from when they decide who should fill the four open seats on the City Council Nov. 4.

They are also fortunate to live in a well-run city, which makes the choosing that much easier.

Two of the candidates, Tom Means and Laura Macias, are incumbents seeking second terms, and another, Mike Kasperzak, is seeking a third term following a two-year break (required of all council members after two consecutive four-year terms).

As we do in all city elections, the *Voice* invited the candidates to participate in one-on-one interviews with the publisher, editor and city beat reporter. Seven of the nine candidates responded, and we based our endorsements on those interviews, as well as our continuing coverage of city issues.

Given the state of the national economy and the possible fallout from it on local decision-making, the next four years could be a stressful time for the city. Mountain View is very much a part of the Silicon Valley economy, with tenants like Google and Microsoft firmly ensconced here. Strong, experienced leadership on the council is needed to lead the city through what could be some challenging times.

With that in mind, the *Voice* is endorsing the candidacies of three experienced council members — Tom Means, Laura Macias and Mike Kasperzak — who we believe have the knowledge to keep the city on course. In our interviews, all exhibited a thorough understanding of city operations and a willingness to make tough decisions on the budget and other matters if need be.

Alicia Crank is our fourth choice in this race. Although she did not receive our endorsement two years ago, this time around Crank has shown us more maturity and knowledge of the issues, gleaned from her ongoing interest in local government and long service on the Human Relations Commission. Like the other endorsed candidates, she will continue to support sensible housing development, believes the city is on the right course in halting gang violence by appealing directly to our youth, and will protect the city's already healthy budget.

We believe the city will be in good hands with Tom Means, Laura Macias, Mike Kasperzak and Alicia Crank, and urge local residents to support them on Nov. 4.

Sweeley, Fallaice for MVLA district board

A normally sleepy school district election received a shot in the arm this season thanks to Colin Rudolph, a newcomer who decided to challenge highly experienced incumbents Susan Sweeley and Phil Fallaice for one of their four-year seats on the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District board.

While the board has suffered a few distractions this year —

most notably over term limits and “transparency,” false issues being put forth by two Los Altos City Council members — we believe experience remains the key factor in this race, especially with a bumpy state economy and some tough issues facing the board in the near future.

Although Rudolph is intelligent, articulate and sincere, he did not demonstrate his opponents' grasp of the issues during debates and candidate interviews with the *Voice*. We believe Susan Sweeley and Phil Fallaice should continue to be trustees of the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, and urge local residents to vote for them.

Paul Fong for state Assembly

Democrat Paul Fong, a longtime college professor and trustee, is our choice to fill the state Assembly seat of Sally Lieber, who is termed out.

Fong, who faces Republican Brent Oya in this heavily Democratic district, supports the proposed state health plan, and is a strong backer of requiring alternative fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We recommend Paul Fong for the District 22 Assembly seat.

Yes on Measure A: \$840 million for medical facilities

Approval of this measure would OK sale of up to \$840 million in bonds to retrofit Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and replace the closed San Jose Medical Center to meet state-mandated seismic upgrade requirements. It is estimated that county property owners would pay an additional \$13.90 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, or about \$70 a year for a home valued at \$500,000.

This measure will shore up or replace the only medical facilities in the county that serve welfare clients. These hospitals must not be allowed to close or disappear. We recommend a yes vote on Measure A to issue \$840 million in bonds to keep these facilities viable.

Yes on Measure B: 1/8th cent sales tax for BART

In 2006 the *Voice* opposed an additional quarter-cent sales



Viewpoint

tax to support county health needs and the BART-to-San Jose project. Most voters agreed that it was not a good idea to give county officials a blank check to remedy a myriad of problems, and said so by voting no.

This time around, the Valley Transportation Authority, with strong support from the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, has done its homework and is back with a one-eighth cent sales tax dedicated to funding BART operations for the project — but only if federal and state funds are released and the project is built. Conversely, federal regulators will not back the project without approval of the additional funds for BART operations.

Although we continue to be concerned about how North County transit projects would fare if the \$6 billion-or-more BART project ever does get a green light, we respect transit leaders who are willing to go before voters for approval of this 30-year tax, which must pass by a two-thirds vote. There are built-in safeguards on when and how the money can be spent, which should reassure voters who might be nervous about backing a project that has yet to be approved.

Transit improvements are sorely needed throughout Santa Clara County, and if approved, the 16.1-mile BART extension will allow riders from the East Bay to travel all the way to Santa Clara, where they can then connect with Peninsula-bound Caltrain or VTA Light Rail lines.

We recommend a yes vote on Measure B, the BART sales tax.

No on Measures C and D: VTA housekeeping items

Measure C is an advisory vote on a VTA wish list of bus,

► Continued on next page

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Photo of Robert Mullenger and Rhonda Radeliff camel riding in Mongolia with a ger (round cone shaped tent) in the background.

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► Continued from previous page

light rail and train transit projects as required every six years by legislation passed in 1976 and amended in 1990.

However, the list noted in this measure has not been approved by the VTA board and lacks adequate detail. Although this is an advisory vote, we recommend a no vote on Measure C.

Measure D goes a step further, and asks voters to waive the requirement that the VTA conduct an advisory vote every six years by substituting a vote by the Citizens Watchdog Committee. While this committee does some good work, we believe the VTA should continue to submit its projects to a full — and better detailed — advisory vote every six years. We recommend a no vote on Measure D. ▀

ANNEX A POOR SPOT FOR HISTORY MUSEUM

Editor:

My aunt Maude Burdett and my first cousin G. Truman Letcher and their family owned the property that is now the Post Office at Villa and Hope streets. That would have been an ideal location for the city's history museum — not in the Cuesta Park Annex. The Annex was purchased by Mountain View

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

as future "open space" and that is what it should stay, as part of a community park.

A far better location for the history museum would be at the city-owned property across from City Hall on Bryant Street. The decision, of course, is up to the current City Council, although five members belong to the non-profit Historical Association.

A joint venture with the city supplying \$6 million in public land (not park land) and the private nonprofit supplying the other \$6 million could make the 30-foot-tall history museum a reality without sacrificing any community park land. Matching funds will be necessary.

Donald Letcher
N. Rengstorff Avenue

For our organization, it means connecting our operating and business choices with our larger mission — solving the climate crisis by bringing about a low-carbon economy. We are fortunate that Caltrain works for us, but for many the connections don't work yet.

New taxes and expenditures should never be undertaken lightly; however, we should bear in mind that we will all be "paying" for our commutes, one way or another, with or without initiatives such as Measure B, which would approve a 1/8th-cent sales tax to pay for BART operations when it is extended to the South Bay.

Without needed infrastructure investment, made possible through initiatives such as Measure B, more of us will be driving on imported oil, more of us will be sending those dollars and jobs overseas, and more of us will be in our cars clogging regional roads and highways — contributing to poor air quality, global warming and other environmental damage.

Margaret Bruce
The Climate Group

YES ON MEASURE B

Editor:

When The Climate Group recently opened offices in Silicon Valley, access to convenient, reliable public transportation for staff and guests was a high priority. We selected a location within easy walking distance of the San Antonio Caltrain station in Mountain View.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



COLLEEN CUMMINS

The super burrito at Taqueria La Bamba #2, located at 152 Castro Street in Mountain View, is a favorite among the lunchtime crowd.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Straight-up and tasty

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET AT TAQUERIA LA BAMBA'S NEW DOWNTOWN LOCATION

By Andrew MacLeod Doerschuk

Chinese/Indian. Vietnamese/Californian. Three parts Polynesian with a pinch of Scandinavian. Sure, feasting on exotic fusion cuisine can be a lot of fun, but must all new restaurants challenge preconceptions? I'm occasionally in the mood for something simple, nourishing and familiar — like the straightforward Mexican food offered at Taqueria La Bamba downtown.

If the La Bamba brand sounds familiar, that's because the new Castro Street restaurant is the chain's second location in

Mountain View (a third will soon reopen in Richmond). The saga began in the mid-1980s, when a disgruntled cook at La Costena Market (another venerated burrito joint in Mountain View) set up shop just two doors down from his former employer on Old Middlefield Road. Business boomed in the 1990s, as La Bamba earned a reputation among high-tech workers craving fast, cheap and tasty lunchtime burritos.

So when the short-lived El Grullense on Castro closed ear-

► See **LA BAMBA**, page 18

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LA BAMBA

► Continued from page 17

lier this year, La Bamba decided to take over the lease. The place still has artifacts from the Grul-lense era: folk-art murals, ornate wall sconces and, more notably, a fully stocked and grandly appointed rear bar, which now sits unlit and untended. Apparently the new management isn't too worried about the bar business. They're focused on serving food.

And while the food is good, let's begin where every Mexican meal should: with the chips and salsa. The chips had a satisfying, freshly fried taste, though we found it odd that they aren't offered complementary; we had to request them every time we visited, and each bowlful was skimpy.

Meanwhile, La Bamba's fresca and picante salsas, available in a dark corner under the glass, are little more than standard-issue as salsas go. Still, they get the job done.

A similar compliment/criticism can be made for the rice, beans, guacamole, sour cream and shredded lettuce that come alongside every meal (or, in the case of burritos, inside the meal). Our rice contained a smattering of diced peppers, the refried beans were topped with melted cheese but were otherwise pretty pasty, and the guacamole works best when buried within a burrito.

By contrast, the main courses really hit the spot. The chicken flautas dish (\$9.24) was three crispy rolled-up tortillas generously stuffed with shredded chicken, sprinkled with spicy

► Continued on next page

■ DINING NOTES

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► Continued from previous page

red sauce and melted panella cheese, and topped with yet another dollop of sour cream (La Bamba's cooks get a bit happy with the crema). Compared with flautas I've eaten at many other Mexican establishments, these were particularly plump and meaty.

Indeed, while you can order a veggie basket salad (\$5.55) or vegetarian burrito (\$6.01), La Bamba is for carnivores. Most tacos and burritos come with a choice of carne asada (grilled steak), carnitas (pork shoulder), al pastor (marinated barbecued pork), chili colorado (beef in a spicy red sauce), lengua (beef tongue), pollo (white meat chicken), chili verde (pork in a spicy sauce) and pollo azado (grilled chicken).

Wrapped in tinfoil, our enormous al pastor super burrito (\$6.47) required two hands to navigate. We ordered the works and got a mixture of rice, beans, sweet grilled onions, fresh chopped cilantro, salsa fresca, sour cream and guacamole tossed with savory pork dripping with a mysterious red marinade that celebrated the unlikely marriage of chili and pineapple. It was crazy good.

Our chicken enchiladas (\$9.24) were a little more ordinary, and yet nobody complained about the three rolled-up tortillas stuffed with chicken and baked with red sauce and crumbled panella cheese. I liked the fact that the tortillas weren't drenched in the sauce, which

boosted the chicken flavor.

But if you're in the mood for meat — and I do mean a lot of meat — go for the carne asada (\$9.24). Ours came with no fewer than four thinly sliced marinated skirt steaks sandwiching grilled onions and served with all the fixings, including three flour tortillas nestled in a warmer. I love this kind of presentation, in which you measure the exact proportions of meat, rice, beans, guacamole and sour cream piled onto each forkful.

You'll find no pretension at Taqueria La Bamba, except, perhaps, with their unusual pricing, with dishes listed at \$6.01, \$2.31 and so on. But study your receipt and you'll find that, once tax is applied, the bill adds up to an even number, reducing the need for pesky pennies. This type of commonsense ethic applies to every aspect of the La Bamba experience, where the basics — good food, huge portions and reasonable bang for the buck — are more than covered. ▣

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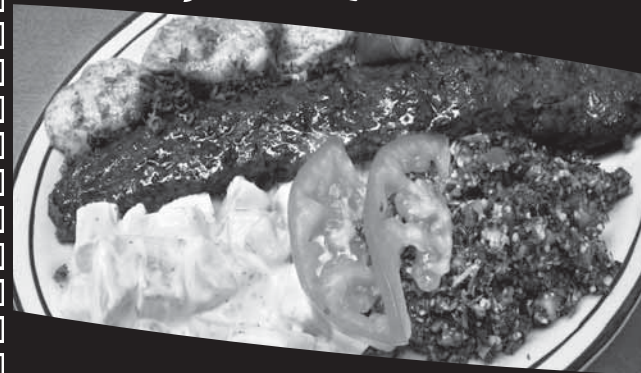
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2008 Women's Health Fair

PRESENTED BY EL CAMINO HOSPITAL

8AM-3PM, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2008

AT THE CYPRESS HOTEL, CUPERTINO, CA www.thecypresshotel.com

register today to join us for an exciting health event hosted by El Camino Hospital. You'll hear from a variety of hospital experts addressing health issues of particular interest to women who want to age gracefully and in good health. Plus you'll enjoy a delicious lunch, and have time to wander through booths featuring products and information to help you stay fit and fabulous.



keynote speaker: *Lisa Rinna*

With her boundless talent, energy and business savvy, Lisa Rinna is the picture of success and health. Come learn about her approach to health, happiness and life after 40.

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Looking Younger with Healthy Skin • Better Health with TM, Yoga and More • Women's Heart Health Nutrition • Intimacy and Sex for the Older Woman • Care and Compassion • Osteoporosis Genetics and Breast Cancer • Hip and Knee Replacements • Aging in Place and Caregiving

registration details: \$75 for the first registrant and \$65 for each additional woman noted and paid on the same registration. Bring a friend! Visit www.elcaminohospital.org/womensfair to register. Seats are limited to 300! Registration starts on 10/1.

Questions? Call 650-988-7703.

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