

Mountain View VOICE



**GREENEST
OF THE
GREEN**

HOME & GARDEN
| P.29

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INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 22

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MountainViewOnline.com

Mayfield Mall developer could be bowing out

By Daniel DeBolt

Toll Brothers, the high-flying nationally ranked home builder that was retained by Hewlett-Packard to develop a huge housing project on its 27-acre Mayfield Mall site, appears to be on shaky ground in its involvement with the project, saying it cannot build the required tunnel to the train station or pay the land price it had negotiated with HP.

Toll Brothers spokesperson Jo Price said the \$6 million tunnel — which would connect the San Antonio station to the project at 100 Mayfield Ave. by going under Central Expressway — was no longer feasible, a sentiment that could kill the project altogether.

Three members of the City Council, Jac Siegel, Margaret Abe-Koga and Laura Macias, told the Voice on Tuesday that they would vote against Mayfield unless they were

Toll Brothers said the \$6 million tunnel was no longer feasible, a sentiment that could kill the project altogether.

assured the tunnel will be built. It only takes three votes from the seven-member council to kill the project because Council member Ronit Bryant must recuse herself due to her husband's employment with HP.

Toll Brothers expects to have its last City Council hearing on the 495-unit project Dec. 9. So far only the 42 single-family homes around the perimeter have been approved; 408 more homes await the green

light in Mountain View, while Palo Alto is expected to approve 45 additional homes Dec. 8.

Apparently due to financial pressure, Toll Brothers has recently elected not to exercise its final option to buy the property for the price it negotiated with HP. Instead, the company wants to reassess the property's value next year, a move that would appear prudent to

► See **MAYFIELD**, page 8

Schools escape cuts, for now

By Casey Weiss

After watching and waiting for the state Legislature to adopt a budget, local school officials have learned that, at least initially, they will not suffer the drastic cuts they expected from state funding.

But they are not out of the woods yet. Some administrators say more cuts could come in the second half of the year as state officials try to cover huge deficits caused by the economic downturn.

By law, all school districts in the state must pass a budget by July 1, even though they did not know how much Sacramento would contribute to education this year.

The final 2008-09 budget promises to give California schools slightly more money than last year, but cuts could still be on the way if state tax revenues fall short.

This year the state allotted \$58.1 billion for the education budget, a \$1.5 billion

► See **BUDGET**, page 11



DAN SULLIVAN

Candidates square off again at KMVT debate

By Daniel DeBolt

In one of the most intense debates for City Council hopefuls so far this election campaign, eight of the nine candidates sat under the lights in the studios of KMVT local cable Channel 15 last Thursday, where moderator Seth Shostak grilled them on live television “like shrimps on the barbie,” he joked.

Shostak, a renowned speaker and senior astronomer at Mountain View's SETI Institute, is a longtime KMVT volunteer. With all

of the candidates present except Tracy Gordon, Shostak started the debate by asking: What is more important environmentally, open space or high-density housing?

John Inks said parks and housing go together in a well-planned city, but “if you tighten up housing growth, that's how you get sprawl in the Valley,” he said.

“Open space — once it's developed, it's gone,” said John McAlister, who believes the city should buy parkland before

it gets too expensive.

However, Mike Kasperzak said voters would have to step up and approve a bond measure to make parkland purchases — such as the Francia orchard in the Whisman area — financially feasible. To that, Tom Means pointed out that the city needed the Francia family to agree to sell the land.

Chris Clark advocated the

► See **DEBATE**, page 14

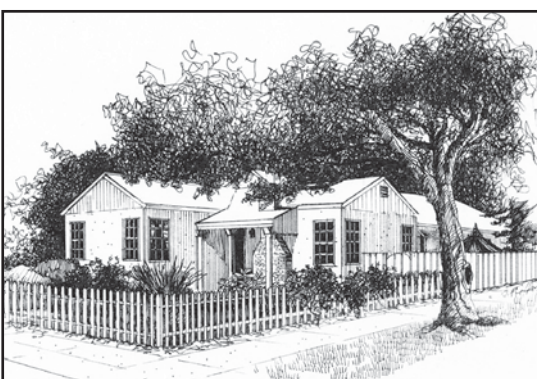


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MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Two homes on one lot in Old Mountain View. Stunning 3bd/2ba with formal DR, + 2bd/1ba home, both with hardwood floors + designer paint. **\$1,398,000**

Tori Atwell



LOS ALTOS ■ Classic 3bd/2ba home with HW floors. Great location, close to Loyola school, Heritage Oaks Park and shopping. Large lot, + garage used as a workshop. **\$1,388,000**

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

What is your favorite thing about fall?



*"The weather.
I do not like the heat."*
Armin Beck, Pleasanton



*"The colors. The really bright
crisp days with the blue skies."*
Penny Gardner, Los Altos



"The crisp air."
Sallie Kim, San Mateo



*"The weather.
It's nice and crisp."*
Hung Lieu, Campbell



"The colors."
Palon Shuster, Mountain View

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



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2008 LIVING WELL



The Mayor's Corner

Where Should Mountain View Build More Parks?

In 1998 I was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC). I served for six years (two as chair) before being elected to council in 2004. Please note that all of the current council members have served on commissions. I enjoyed my work as a commissioner because it equipped me for council service and allowed me to work with others on many "quality of life" projects. During my tenure more neighborhood parks were added, and playground facilities were updated. We also worked on the design of the Stevens Creek Trail,

added a dog park, a skateboard park, and updated the Golf Pro Shop. In addition to building several nice facilities, we worked on a new field use policy, and completely revamped the Parks and Open Space Plan (POSP). The 2002 POSP is an incredible document. For the first time census data was used to describe the economic, geographic, land use, and recreational characteristics of each neighborhood. My background in economics provided guidance on making sure we included the right statistics to

adequately describe each neighborhood. It's not a perfect document, but it faithfully guides the council in deciding where to build more parks. Last year the council purchased property in two underserved areas, Del Medio and Central, for neighborhood parks. We are also planning to build fields on the 12-Acre sight at Shoreline. I encourage everyone to consider applying for commission positions when vacancies arise. Working together, we make Mountain View a better community.

Visit www.tommeansonline.com

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Tom Means (ID#1307820)

Whole House Remodels & Additions Workshop

Thursday, October 23 ■ 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

(Doors open at 6:00 pm)

Workshop to be held at Harrell Remodeling Design Center - 1954 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View



Topics will include:

- Making the decision to remodel ■ The design process
- Choosing an architect, designer & contractor
- Budgeting ■ Materials ■ Floor plans ■ Scheduling
- Code requirements, Inspections & Building permits
- How to live through a remodel ■ Fabulous photos!

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- For more information or to pre-register for the workshop call (650) 230-2900 or register online at www.harrell-remodeling.com
- Fee is just \$20 per household with pre-registration, or \$25 at the door ■ No credit cards accepted ■ Refreshments will be provided

The Harrell Remodeling Design Center is 85% solar powered.

■ POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Tyrella Ave., 10/7

MISSING PERSON - JUVENILE

200 Block Latham St., 10/10

AUTO BURGLARY

Mountain View Ave., 10/7
200 Block Rock St., 10/9
100 Block Dale Ave., 10/9
100 Block Dale Ave., 10/9
W. El Camino Real, 10/9
N. Whisman Road, 10/13

NARCOTICS POSSESSION

Highway 101/San Antonio Road, 10/10

PAROLE VIOLATION

100 Block W. El Camino Real, 10/10

PETTY THEFT

Castro St., 10/7
Nob Hill Foods, 10/7
Walmart, 10/8
Church St., 10/8
200 Block Lida Dr., 10/9
100 Block Space Park Way, 10/9
Gold's Gym, 10/9
Costco, 10/11
200 Block California St., 10/11
Sears Department Store, 10/12
100 Block Miramonte Ave., 10/12

BATTERY

Calderon Ave., 10/7
100 Block Montecito Ave., 10/8
Terra Bella, 10/8
Springer School, 10/10
Farley St./W. Middlefield Road, 10/12
Red Rock Coffee, 10/12

CHILD NEGLECT

200 Block Grant Road, 10/13

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

Stierlin Road, 10/7
500 Block N. Shoreline Bl., 10/9
Walmart, 10/11

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

100 Block Crisanto Ave., 10/10
200 Block Sun-Mor Ave., 10/13

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Walmart, 10/7

DISTURBANCE

S. Rengstorff Ave., 10/8

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

700 Block W. Middlefield Road, 10/10

GRAND THEFT

Wolf Camera, 10/7
Golf Course Pro Shop, 10/8
Showers Dr., 10/8
Shoreline Amphitheater, 10/10
200 Block Leghorn St., 10/10

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

Crittenden School, 10/8
100 Block Karen Way, 10/8
100 Block El Monte Ave., 10/9
900 Lane Ave., 10/11
Marilyn Dr., 10/12
200 Block Fayette Dr., 10/12
Walker Dr., 10/12
100 Block W. El Camino Real, 10/13

TRESPASSING

Starbucks - El Monte, 10/8
Hope St., 10/13

IDENTITY THEFT

100 block Ednamary Way, 10/7

MISSING PERSON - ADULT

200 Block Gabriel Ave., 10/11
Shoreline Amphitheater, 10/11

VANDALISM

Crisanto Ave./S. Rengstorff Ave., 10/7
100 Block Ednamary Way, 10/8
500 Block N. Shoreline Bl., 10/10

■ CORRECTION

A story in last week's *Voice*, "Two kinds of depression," misstated the name of a local counseling agency. The agency is called Adolescent Counseling Services. The

agency also clarified that "The focus for our Adolescent Counseling Program, which sees clients from Mountain View, is on teen and family counseling only."

Let's Hear from You!

Letters to the editor and guests columns are welcome.



Mail your comments to

Mountain View
VOICE

P.O. Box 40
Mountain View, CA 94042
or fax at
650-964-0294



Seen around Shoreline

By Don Frances

FOR AS LONG as I've had the "Seen Around Town" thing going (see page 6), Cecil Aird has sent in many lovely shots, mostly of the natural beauty in and around Shoreline. But this time he's really outdone himself.

Recently Cecil dropped by with a gift for the *Voice*: four shots of Shoreline Park, neatly framed in the horizontal with "Shoreline Park, Mountain View" etched beneath. Individually the photos are great, but as a set they're greater, capturing the diversity in color and landscape that Shoreline offers.

Come on by the *Voice* office sometime if you want to see Cecil's work for yourself. We've got it hanging front-and-center as you walk in.

"EVERYONE'S a critic" is one of my favorite expressions. The phrase must be all the more poignant for actual critics.

Voice food critic Sheila Himmel would probably agree, especially since "Everyone's a Critic" is the name of a class she's hosting at Draeger's Cooking School in San Mateo along with Carolyn Jung, former food editor at the *San Jose Mercury News*. (That's where Sheila wrote food reviews for much of her career, before bowing out gracefully a couple years ago.)

In the class, students will learn what it's really like to be a food critic, and gain tips on how to be a more discriminating reviewer. The course, which costs \$55 per person, includes a Draeger's-cooked dinner of mixed green salad, Vietnamese shrimp and rice noodle summer rolls, chicken involtini with roasted potatoes, and creme brulee.

The class is 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23 at Draeger's in San Mateo, located at 222 E. Fourth Ave. For more information, visit www.draegerscookingschool.com or call (650) 685-3700. ▀

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



ROBERT WEAVER/WEAVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Firefighters investigate a third floor apartment after putting out the fire at 333 Escuela Ave. on Friday afternoon. See story in News Briefs, below.

■ NEWS BRIEFS

WOMAN KILLED BY DOWNTOWN TRAIN IS ID'D

The Santa Clara County medical examiner's office has identified the woman struck and killed by a train at the downtown Caltrain station Monday evening.

Mountain View resident Arden Sullivan, 51, was struck at about 6 p.m. by southbound train No. 270, Caltrain spokeswoman Christine Dunn said.

Sullivan was apparently trying to cross the tracks and was hit by the southbound train as a crowd

of commuters looked on.

"She walked right into its path," said one witness, obviously shaken from what he saw. He said he couldn't tell whether it was suicide or an accident.

Another witness, Dave MacLachlan, said he believed it was an accident.

"Honestly she seemed like a commuter trying to beat the train across the tracks," he said. "She didn't realize how close it was ... and got hit."

The train involved was removed and both tracks reopened for ser-

vice at about 7:30 p.m., Dunn said. Trains continued to run an hour behind schedule for much of the night on Monday.

— Staff Reports

ESCUELA AVENUE FIRE DESTROYS APARTMENT

A fire Friday afternoon in an apartment on Escuela Avenue displaced two families, who wound up spending that night at the

► See **NEWSBRIEFS**, page 6

Voice returns to mail delivery next week

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.

Publisher Tom Gibboney said lower postal rates and concern

about the effects of plastic bags on the environment were major factors in deciding to return 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. Or send your name, address

with ZIP code and phone number to:

Voice mail delivery request
655 W. Evelyn Ave., Suite 3
Mountain View, CA 94042
Print copies of the *Voice* will still be available in racks placed at strategic locations around the city, and at many downtown businesses. ▀

Vargas talk raises cash for nonprofits

PULITZER WINNER CLIMBED JOURNALISM LADDER; FIRST RUNG WAS AT MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH

By Casey Weiss

In the Spartan Theatre at Mountain View High School last week, before a small audience of mostly community leaders and former school administrators, Jose Antonio Vargas said his journalism career began there, at his "second home," more than a decade ago.

Vargas, who arrived in Mountain View from the Philippines in 1993, said he was "disconnected" until he started high school three years later.

"I wanted to do a lot and the school allowed me to be myself," he said.

Today, eight years after graduation, the *Washington Post* reporter is planning to write a book and will co-produce a documentary based on an article he wrote about AIDS. But he still returns frequently to Mountain View, where it all began for him.

He came back on Oct. 9 for an on-stage interview with his onetime mentor, former superintendent Rich Fischer, as part of a fundraiser for two local nonprofits, Mountain View-Los Altos Community Scholars and Partners for New Generations. The agencies played a crucial role in Vargas' career, pairing him with Fischer and helping him get college scholarships.

Pat Hyland, former principal of Mountain View High School, introduced the two, fighting back tears as she described the first time she saw Vargas, looking "despondent."

"Jose has given me more things than I could ever give him," Hyland said. "I happened to have the wherewithal to buy him a computer. Whoopee — look at what he has done."

Vargas and Fischer sat side-by-side on stools and laughed comfortably while Fischer

► See **VARGAS**, page 7

■ SEEN AROUND TOWN



Miller's dill

Micki Miller of Mountain View Avenue wrote: "My dill, in the front yard, is 'as high as an elephant's eye,' to alter, yet quote, a well known song."

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.

NEWSBRIEFS

► Continued from page 5

local Senior Center, officials said.

Mountain View firefighters rushed to the fire, located on the third story of 333 Escuela Ave., a 142-unit apartment building, at around 2:30 p.m., fire spokesman Lynn Brown said. The three-alarm fire also drew firefighters from Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, the county and NASA-Ames, but the heavy flames were out within 15 minutes, Brown said. No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

As firefighters worked the fire Friday afternoon, dozens of resi-

dents waited in a small park across the street. Police blocked off the street around the building, and neighbors stood on nearby lawns to watch the activity.

The Red Cross reports that of the 25 families living in the building, only two needed help in finding shelter that night. By Saturday night, the displaced residents had made other living arrangements.

— Casey Weiss

BAR'S CEILING COLLAPSES

A ceiling caved in last Wednesday at a bar on El Camino Real, trapping one man inside who managed to extricate himself with minor injuries, firefighters said.

The incident occurred a few min-

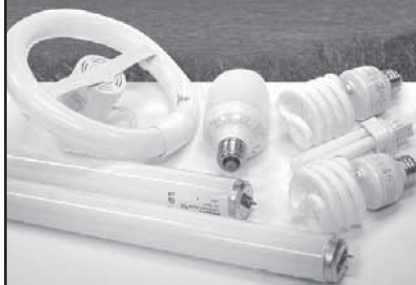
utes before noon at Bert's Alibi bar, formerly known as Ugly's, located at 1313 El Camino Real. According to Ben Yousefi, the city's chief building inspector, all but one man inside the bar exited quickly after hearing squeaking noises as the ceiling started to come down.

Firefighters arrived to find the man had already gotten out of the building. He was treated for minor injuries and did not require a hospital visit.

The bar and adjacent convenience store have been temporarily closed. The structure, originally built to house Johnny Mac's drive-in during the 1940s, will not necessarily be torn down, Yousefi said.

— Daniel DeBolt

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JustREAD tutors unlock reading skills

By Casey Weiss

Only a month ago, Ashley, a local high school student, found it difficult to read in front of her classmates. Today, as she learns to sound out words during one-on-one tutoring sessions organized by JustREAD, a nonprofit literacy program, Ashley is learning a new attitude toward reading.

"I hate reading out loud in class," she said. But with her tutors, "If you say something wrong here, they don't laugh, they just help you."

At Mountain View High School, some students are as many as five grade levels behind in reading and writing. These students can easily lose hope, said Principal Keith Moody during a luncheon for JustREAD tutors last week.

The nonprofit, which pairs volunteer tutors with underperforming students from Mountain View High and Crittenden Middle School, has become essential in helping these students build their literary skills over the last three years, Moody said. He was joined by MVLA Superintendent Barry Groves and JustREAD directors

in a celebration for new volunteers last Friday at the nonprofit's tutoring center behind the district office.

"They come here and they get hope and confidence," Moody told the tutors. "Someday they will thank you and know you made it all possible."

Groves, who also gave a speech to the volunteers, said the main reasons students fall behind are because they arrive to the district poorly prepared, come from "literacy-deficient homes" or are English language learners.

After 10 hours of training, the tutors are ready to give students the extra help they need to catch up. The volunteers work one-on-one with students in grades six to 12 who have been recommended by parents, teachers or counselors.

Meeting at JustREAD centers at the district office and Crittenden, the approximately 40 students in the program review vocabulary and punctuation with their tutors during an elective period five days a week. There they practice the reading, writing, listening and speaking skills essential for passing the mandatory high school exit exam and earning graduation

credits. Last year, all but one of the students in the program passed the exit exam and graduated on time.

Founded in 2005, JustREAD relies heavily on donations. Although all board members and tutors volunteer their time, the program spends nearly \$100,000 a year on tutoring services, with the money going to tutoring supplies and curriculum. The program recently received a grant from the Koret Foundation, which will match up to \$30,000. All matched funds must be pledged by Saturday, Nov. 15.

"The schools are just overwhelmed," said board member and tutor Mina Wuchenich. "Students who did not get it in an earlier grade have no resources besides us." ■

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

■ INFORMATION

To find out about more about JustREAD or to donate, visit www.justreadcenters.org or e-mail program director Wendy Furuichi at wendy.furuichi@mvla.net.

VARGAS

► Continued from page 5

questioned Vargas about his past. Vargas, saying there were plenty other "Josés" needing help, held the interview to help raise money for a four local nonprofits: Partners for New Generations; MVLA Community Scholars; Avenidas, which runs a tutoring program that pairs seniors with at-risk students; and JustREAD, which provides tutoring for students behind in reading.

The four nonprofits have combined their resources and fund-raising abilities to form the "Mentoring/Tutoring Collaborative." The Vargas interview raised \$1,500 from audience members to go to the collaborative.

While in high school, Vargas said, he landed a job at the *Voice* answering phones. The young intern got his first break when a fire broke out near his home.

"I remember going to the scene in Hawaiian shorts," Vargas said. "That was the start."

Vargas later attended San Francisco State University. He worked for the *San Francisco Chronicle* while in school, and spent one summer in

Philadelphia covering homicides for the *Philadelphia Daily News* as an intern. During his 10 weeks there, he covered 22 murders, he said, and often had to hitchhike his way to the crime scenes.

His work there led to a post-graduation job with the *Washington Post*. In 2004, Vargas began working on a story about AIDS in the capital city, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

"When you think of Washington, D.C., you think of the powerful," he said. "I wanted to write about the powerless."

Most recently, Vargas traveled with Hillary Clinton during her presidential campaign and is now covering the connection between

politics and technology. He said he never forgets the people who helped get him to where he is.

"I can't let Pat and Rich down," he said. "I worry every day I am not living life as fully as I can."

For more information on the Mentoring/Tutoring Collaborative, contact Nancy Lippe at (650) 949-5908, Ext. 7 or e-mail nancy.lippe@gmail.com. To make a donation, visit www.losaltoscf.org. ■

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



Jose Antonio Vargas



Re-Elect LAURA MACIAS TO MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY COUNCIL

In these uncertain times, Mountain View needs a council member who:

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

Councilmember & Former Mayor Nick Galiotto:

I have served with Laura on City Council for four years and respect her approach. She takes her civic work seriously and researches complex issues from all sides.

Local Community Leader Oscar Garcia:

Laura is about action, not just handsome talk. She gets things done for the entire community.

Resident Konrad Sosnow:

(former) Mayor Laura Macias deserves a big Thank You for allowing the residents the opportunity to be heard on many controversial issues.



I Am First On the Ballot and First With the Expertise That Our City Needs. I ask for your vote on November 4!

FPPC#1268975

See www.LauraMacias08.com for my endorsements and accomplishments.

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Readiness
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MAYFIELD

► Continued from page 1

stockholders, Price said.

Reflecting the housing industry's decline due to lower home values, the financial crisis and a lack of credit in the economy, Toll Brothers' stock price finished at \$20 a share Monday. It peaked at \$57 a share in 2005.

"Hewlett-Packard is not going to get what Toll was willing to pay for that site five years ago," Price said.

Although Toll Brothers has not placed a total value on the project, using a conservative estimate of \$700,000 average retail price per unit, the Mountain View portion alone could bring in \$350

million or more before expenses. The last negotiated price of the land remains undisclosed, but appraisers had estimated several years ago that the site was worth \$80 million.

Price said Toll Brothers has spent five years and millions of

gatekeeper request — to 450 units today. The unusually long planning and approval process involved about 30 meetings.

"Toll decided not to go with the project at the negotiated price," said Council member Jac Siegel. "Hewlett-Packard said

"We'd like to hire you to go ahead and get the entitlements. We want to get the OK to get the units' — which makes the land more

"A tunnel that connects residents to transit is a smart growth principle that must not be waived because of developer whim."

LAURA MACIAS

its own dollars to plan the project, often in the face of major neighborhood opposition and, after the 2006 election, a recalcitrant City Council. The new (and current) City Council voted to decrease the size of the Mountain View portion of the project from 578 units — the number originally called for in the 2005

valuable for HP. Toll may or may not do the project."

Price denied that Toll was simply going through the motions in getting entitlements for Hewlett-Packard.

"We've been getting calls [from Monta Loma residents] asking,

► Continued on next page

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County of Santa Clara

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 22, 2008, at 6:30 P.M.

The County of Santa Clara invites you to attend a Board of Supervisors Community Workshop to discuss the proposed Community Outreach Plan for the Fairgrounds Project. The Board will receive public input regarding the Community Outreach Plan, as well as the scope of continuing community activities on the site and revenue generating development of the balance of the Fairgrounds property. This meeting and the Community Outreach Plan will help the Board shape its vision for how the Fairgrounds will accommodate public uses.

THE FAIRGROUNDS

The Fairgrounds property consists of two parcels totaling approximately 150 acres. The main Fairgrounds site is 136 acres and is generally bordered by Monterey Road, Tully Road and Umbarger Road. A separate 14 acre parcel, which serves as the main Fairgrounds parking lot, is bordered by South Seventh Street, Tully Road and South Tenth Street.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Community members interested in future public use and development of the Fairgrounds property, including neighbors, users, and vendors.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The Board of Supervisors will review the proposed Community Outreach Plan for the Fairgrounds Project and will receive community input regarding the Outreach Plan and the proposed Fairgrounds Project.

WHEN: WED., OCT. 22, 2008 AT 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: Board of Supervisors Chambers,
70 West Hedding Street, First Floor

► Continued from previous page

“When is it going up for auction?” Price said. “We want to see this through the long term. We’re still building on the Peninsula while others have closed up shop. That says a lot.”

Tunnel a stumbling block

“The tunnel is just not going to work at the moment,” Price said, citing a feasibility report commissioned by the city which she says was based on incorrect information about the location of the existing tunnel under the tracks.

“The city paid \$150,000 for that report and it’s fundamentally flawed,” she said. “That’s money down the drain.”

Council members said the city stands by the report, and many members had strongly advocated for the tunnel earlier this year as a requirement, saying the project would not be transit-oriented “smart growth” without it.

“A tunnel that connects residents to transit is a smart growth principle that must not be waived because of developer whim,” said Council member Laura Macias in an e-mail.

The impression many City Council members have is that Toll Brothers is no longer the developer

— and the project will be up for grabs next year.

“If Toll can’t do it, Toll can’t do it,” Abe-Koga said. “I’m not sure HP has decided on Toll as the developer.”

City staff members were told several weeks ago that HP would take on a larger role in the project, said city planning manager Aarti Shrivastava.

Still, Price said, “Our goal is still to purchase the property. Hewlett-Packard is hoping we will. We just need to be prudent in these uncharted times. Plenty of projects up and down the Peninsula and the Bay Area have been killed. And that’s because these deals are just not penciling out. Sales are slowing down to even a standstill — that’s what hurts a lot of builders.”

Despite the ongoing credit crunch, Shrivastava said Friday that Mountain View’s planning department is still seeing a lot of activity.

“People are still pulling permits and planning applications,” Shrivastava said. “Small developments have gone down a bit — people might be proceeding a little cautiously.” ■

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

PROGRESS ON TWO PEDESTRIAN TRAILS

A pedestrian underpass that will some day extend the Permanente Creek Trail under Old Middlefield Way was approved as a general concept by the City Council on Tuesday night.

Council member Ronit Bryant said she was concerned that neighbors were not notified of the consent calendar item, but city staff members said that neighbors were notified of the recent study session when the council informally selected the underpass instead of an overpass.

Meanwhile, local software company Intuit has donated \$50,000 for trees along the new section of Stevens Creek Trail extending to Sleeper Avenue. The donation was in recognition of company founder Scott Cook.

NEW HOUSING ON PETTIS APPROVED

Four single-family homes were approved by the City Council on Tuesday to replace an open lot and a small apartment building at 712 Pettis Ave., located just north of El Camino Real.

■ CITY BRIEFS

Council member Jac Siegel said it was a “quality” project, but the council spent a good deal of time discussing excessive guest parking and the loss of heritage trees before approving the project essentially unchanged.

Council member Laura Macias said she wanted to make sure the builder did not remove the existing tenants unless there was funding for the project. She said she didn’t want to see a repeat of what happened at 291 Evandale Ave., where 64 units were evicted for a huge condo project which then came to a halt due to lack of financing. The building is now vacant.

PAL GETS PAID DIRECTOR

Approving it quietly on the consent calendar Tuesday, the City Council OK’d \$24,000 a year out of the police department’s budget to pay for a part-time director for the Police Activities League.

Police Chief Scott Vermeer explained in a report that the organization, which he recently revived in Mountain View, requires a staff member to run its day-to-day operations, which now include a boxing program at

Crittenden Middle School.

CITY REFUNDS PARKING TICKET

Jane Horton got an erroneous parking ticket recently when the city accidentally installed a “No Parking” sign in front of her N. Whisman Road home in error. On Tuesday night, she asked the City Council to refund the ticket.

Horton said she felt she was getting the runaround from the city about the ticket, and encountered problems with the city contractor who originally installed the sign. She said the contractor, when ordered by the Public Works Department to correct the problem, started to put the sign somewhere else that was, again, incorrect.

“I don’t think the city of Mountain View should behave like this,” Horton said.

City attorney Michael Martello said that because of the unusual circumstances the \$27 parking ticket would be refunded, but reminded everyone that “We don’t fix tickets or rescind tickets. Please don’t bring us your parking tickets.”



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- 💧 Water before 6 a.m.; save 20-25 gallons per day.
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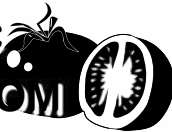
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and download registration forms from 9/15 - 10/31. Mail
the forms in or bring them to the parents meeting on 11/2 at
12pm, at the Cupertino Middle School Football Field.

Join the "seahawk youth" group & email list:
<http://groups.yahoo.com>

Email questions to youth@sjrugby.org
www.seahawk youthrugby.com

LocalNews

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OHLONE DAY RETURNS

Mountain View's Deer Hollow Farm will be holding its annual Ohlone Day, dedicated to the Ohlone tribe the region's original inhabitants, this Sunday, Oct. 18.

The day will include activities designed to imitate daily Ohlone life, such as acorn grinding, rope making, spear throwing and face painting. Docents will offer lessons in flint-knapping, cooking, archery, fire-starting and tool making.

Entrance fees are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, with free admission for children under 2. Funds raised go to supporting Deer Hollow Farm and fund scholarships for Mountain View elementary students.

The festival will take place at Deer Hollow Farm's replica Ohlone village in Rancho San Antonio County Park. Those interested may visit www.fodhf.org for more information or call (650) 965-FARM.

THE STARS COME OUT IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Mountain View's 14th Annual Celebration of Leaders will take place on Nov. 7, and the deadline to RSVP is fast approaching.

Sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, the yearly event celebrates leaders in the community. This year, Nancy Gee will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, El Camino Hospital will be honored for Outstanding Large Business, Studio 22 Design will be honored for Outstanding Small Business, David Joud will be honored for Outstanding Business Person, and the Support Network for Battered Women will be honored for Outstanding Non Profit Organization.

The event will take place at Microsoft's Mountain View campus, 1065 La Avenida Ave. The deadline to RSVP is Oct. 23. Those interested may visit www.chambermv.org for more information or call (650) 968.8378.

—Kelly Truong

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL

HEARTier Choices Education Series

Presented by the South Asian Heart Center at El Camino Hospital

Wednesday, October 22 ▶ 6:30–8:00 pm

The Physiology of Stress and Stress Reduction

César Molina, MD, FACC, Medical Director, South Asian Heart Center

El Camino Hospital, back of cafeteria, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View

Community Wellness Lecture Series

Presented by the Health Library & Resource Center — A Planetree Affiliate

Wednesday, November 5 ▶ 7:00–8:00 pm

Brought to you in partnership with the City of Sunnyvale

Medicare Update: Latest Changes in 2009

Connie Corales, HICAP Program Manager, Council on Aging

City of Sunnyvale Council Chambers, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale

To register and for more information call **800-216-5556**

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BUDGET

► Continued from page 1

increase from 2007-08. The new budget includes a .6 percent cost of living adjustment, although some analysts say the cost of living increased by more than 5 percent in the last fiscal year. It does not cut special programs by 6.5 percent as originally expected.

But despite the relatively good budget news, the battle may not be over.

"We are not going to spend any of the money because we are afraid they are going to take it back," said Joe White, associate superintendent of business services in the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District.

Given the collapsing stock market, financial woes have increased since the Legislature passed the budget on Sept. 23, a record-breaking 85 days late. The state will now have \$3 billion less than expected due to the mortgage crisis and high unemployment rates, and politicians are looking at possibly cutting education to make up the difference.

Mountain View Whisman and high school district trustees planned their budgets in June, based on a May revise from Gov.

Arnold Schwarzenegger which predicted harsh cuts to education. Local administrators say districts are going to put the extra funds from the new budget aside to compensate for cuts, which they are sure will come later in the year.

"It isn't 'is there is or isn't there' going to be mid-year cuts," White said. "It is how much."

White's high school district receives the majority of its funding from property taxes. It cut \$600,000 from adult education, special programs and deferred maintenance. Under the new proposal, it will not lose this funding.

But even if the state does not make mid-year cuts to education, White said, the budget is "still not a good deal." This is mainly due to the skyrocketing cost-of-living increase, which the new budget does not reflect, he said.

For its part, Mountain View Whisman is a revenue limit district and receives the majority of its funding directly from the state. The district had reduced its budget by \$434,000 and faced a \$2.1 million deficit. Craig Goldman, the district's chief financial officer, said the 6.5 percent of funding originally cut from special programs "will be part of the reserves they put aside."

"We based our budgets on the worse-case scenarios and we have reserves," he said.

"The good news is we did not get a cut in funding," Goldman said. "The bad news is the government holds the right to cut mid-year."

County shielded from stock crash

Many of the state's school districts face even steeper losses due to the stock market crash. Some counties had invested school district funds in companies that have since failed.

This is not the case in Santa Clara County, however, according to Larry Slonaker, spokesperson for the county Office of Education. The county had invested education funds in mortgage finance companies Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, which have since been "government-backed."

Slonaker said the county investor said the investment pool is sound.

"She is comfortable with the quality of the investments in the portfolio, and all indications are we should be able to weather this storm reasonably well," Slonaker said in an e-mail last week. ▀

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

Cesar R. Molina, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Surendra B. Gudapati, M.D., F.A.C.C.

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All programs will be re-broadcast on KMVT Channel 15 through November 7. Check www.kmvt15.org for schedule.





Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is called and will be held in the chambers of the Board of Directors at 5700 Almaden Expressway, Headquarters Building, San Jose, California, on October 28, 2008, at 9:40 a.m. concerning the following:

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE
PROVIDING FOR INCREASE IN COMPENSATION OF
DIRECTORS OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 10, CALIFORNIA
WATER CODE AND FOR PUBLIC HEARING THEREON**

The Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District does **ORDAIN** as follows:

FIRST: This ordinance is adopted pursuant to Chapter 2, Division 10, Section 20200, and following of the California Water Code.

SECOND: For each calendar year following the effective date of this ordinance, the current compensation of two hundred thirty-six dollars and thirty-nine cents (\$236.39) per day provided to each District Board member for each day's attendance at Board meetings, or for each day's service rendered as a member of the Board by request of the Board, is increased by an amount equal to ten (10) percent, for a total of two hundred sixty dollars and three cents (\$260.03), commencing on January 1, 2009.

The increase is in accordance with the California Water Code Section 20202 which authorizes the Board to increase compensation up to five (5) percent for each calendar year following the last increase adopted by ordinance. The last increase adopted by Ordinance 06-02 for calendar year 2007 represented an amount equal to five (5) percent over the 2006 compensation.

THIRD: This ordinance shall not be deemed to authorize compensation for more than a total of ten (10) days in any calendar month.

FOURTH: This ordinance shall become effective not less than 60 days from the date of its final passage, which final passage must follow a public hearing thereon.

At the public hearing all persons may appear and be heard.

Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend this public hearing. For additional information on attending this hearing including requesting accommodations for disabilities or interpreter assistance, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (408) 265-2607, Ext. 2277, at least three days prior to the hearing.

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Police join Twitter networking site

RESIDENTS AND MEDIA CAN TRACK
CRIME AS IT HAPPENS

By Casey Weiss

Local residents can track crime in real time now that the Mountain View Police Department has joined the social networking site Twitter.

The city's police department became the first in California to sign up for Twitter, which allows the media and community members to follow events, natural disasters and police activity. Residents joining the department's Twitter page will be alerted by e-mail or text message when the police update their site.

Police spokesperson Liz Wylie said Twitter will allow the department to keep community members posted about events and street closures before they happen. Wylie can also update the page while she is on a crime

scene. Currently, she said, she has to go back to her office and send out press releases, which are often outdated by the time they reach the media.

"At the crime scene, when new information is coming out every second, it will be easier to send this information out," she said.

Mountain View is following in the footsteps of other out-of-state police departments. The department in Scottsdale, Ariz. has close to 400 Twitter members, who have been using the site most recently to follow a missing person case.

To join the Mountain View Police Department's Twitter page, visit www.twitter.com/mountainviewpd. ■

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

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL

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Using creativity to find new answers to old problems

Sunday, October 26, 9 am to 4:30 pm

El Camino Hospital, back of cafeteria

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please call
650-988-8011**

Workshops are free, \$4 charge for workbook

Federal council backs Hangar One restoration

By Daniel DeBolt

Yet another potent political force is pushing the Navy to ensure that Moffett Field's Hangar One is restored beyond current plans.

The Washington, D.C.-based Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which reports directly to the president, held a hearing in Mountain View on Sept. 18 where local residents spoke passionately about the 200-foot-tall landmark.

Now the ACHP has written a letter to Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter calling for the Navy to work with NASA Ames to make sure the hangar is re-skinned immediately after its toxic siding is removed. The ACHP also wants the Navy to apply "additional funds" to the effort. The Navy has said it wants to leave the hangar a bare skeleton, on option preservationists believe is untenable.

In the letter, John L. Nau, ACHP chairman, writes that "We recommend the Navy develop a formal partnership with NASA to develop a single coordinated delivery schedule to re-skin the Hangar and find a viable re-use for the building. We urge the Navy to apply additional funds to this effort and to work with NASA and its potential public-private partners who also may provide funding to return Hangar One to a viable, re-usable building."

The support of the ACHP, in addition to members of the California Congressional delegation, will be important next year when the next president and his appointees provide new direction for military clean-up and restoration issues such as Hangar One.

The full letter can be viewed at www.nuqu.org. ■

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

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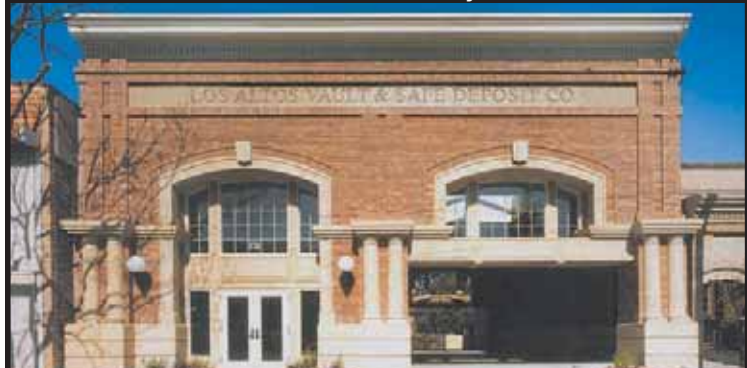
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The City of Mountain View – Recreation Division Presents...



FREE Family Event

Sunday, October 26, 2008

Come be a part of the Monster Bash
Halloween Celebration!

Mountain View Community Center 201 South Rengstorff Avenue

- Craft Projects will be offered from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Children's Costume Parade will begin at 5:45 p.m.
- Enjoy the movie on a large screen on the outdoor stage: 6:00 p.m. - "Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium" (rated G)
- Please bring your own blankets and lawn chairs.
- In the case of inclement weather, events will be moved indoors.



For more information
Please call the Mountain View Community Center at
(650) 903-6331

Candidates file spending reports

By Daniel DeBolt

Candidates for City Council filed their income and expense reports last week, showing that Mike Kasperzak is the top fund-raiser among the nine residents seeking the four open seats. Kasperzak, with \$12,531 raised, edged out John Inks at \$12,183 and incumbent Tom Means at \$11,089.

All candidates have agreed to the city's voluntary \$19,000 spending cap. Diana Wang has filed a Form 470, which means she does not intend to raise more than \$1,000.

MICHAEL KASPERZAK

Total funds raised: \$12,531
Spent: \$7,159
Total unitemized contributions since July 1 (less than \$99): \$163
Notable contributions: \$100 from former council member Rosemary Stasek, \$250 from San Antonio shopping center manager Mike Couch, \$100 from Greg Zlotnick of the Santa Clara Valley Water District
Money loaned to himself: \$1,000

JOHN INKS

Total funds raised: 12,183
Spent: 6,453
Total unitemized contributions since July 1 (less than \$99): \$30
Notable contributions: \$500 from the firefighters union, \$100 from former Mayor Art Takahara, \$500 from the

Mountain View Housing Council, \$200 from the League of Conservation Voters, \$250 from La Costena building owner Charles Gardyn
Money loaned to himself: \$3,000

TOM MEANS

Total funds raised: \$11,089
Spent: \$7,002
Total unitemized contributions since July 1 (less than \$99): \$8,590
Notable contributions: \$300 from Norcal Waste in San Jose, \$500 from firefighters, \$500 from Mountain View Housing Council, \$500 from the California Apartment Association Tri-County Division

LAURA MACIAS

Total funds raised: \$8,692
Spent: \$4,759
Total unitemized contributions since July 1 (less than \$99): \$3,892
Notable contributions: \$500 from Democratic Activists for Women Now, \$100 from Mesa de la Comunidad president Oscar Garcia, \$500 from city-contracted affordable housing developer ROEM, \$200 from the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, \$100 from Sustainability Task Force chair Bruce Karney
Money loaned to herself: \$1,500

CHRIS CLARK

Total funds raised: \$6,748
Spent: \$2,918
Total unitemized contributions since July 1 (less than \$99): \$358

Notable contributions: \$1,000 from Loopt CEO Samuel Altman, several small contributions from family
Money loaned to himself: \$3,750

ALICIA CRANK

Total funds raised: \$6,185
Spent: \$2,451
Total unitemized contributions since July 1 (less than \$99): \$3,000
Notable contributions: \$250 from Democratic Activists for Women Now, \$300 from San Jose Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, small contributions from Community Health Advisory Council board president Bruce Barsi, Community Action Team member Marilu Delgado and Jim Spangler of Spangler Mortuaries

JOHN MCALISTER

Funds raised: \$2,872
Spent: \$2,272
Total unitemized contributions since July 1 (less than \$99): \$498
Notable contributions: \$200 from John Capelletti, manager of Redwood Villa
Money loaned to himself: \$1,974

TRACY GORDON

Funds raised: \$2,031
Spent: \$1,190
Total unitemized contributions Since July 1 (less than \$99): \$731
Notable contributions: \$300 from the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, over \$1,000 in donations from friends and family

DEBATE

► Continued from page 1

“healthy villages” concept in the Environmental Sustainability Task Force report, which would have parks, jobs and retail in walking distance of every major neighborhood so that cars are less necessary.

Laura Macias wanted an even stronger focus on parks. She said Mountain View is 12 square miles with over 70,000 people, and in some areas, like Escuela and Latham streets, the city has 10,000 people per square mile. “We’ve actually overachieved” in terms of making people fit in Mountain View, she said.

The discussion continued to point to the City Council’s frequent split over housing — often leading to 4-3 votes against high-density developments — when a woman, whose question was recorded on video by KMYT, asked how the city would keep companies like Google from leaving.

“What’s killing them is their employees cannot afford to live here,” Kasperzak said. “Not everyone that works at Google is a millionaire.” He added that people living as far away as Tracy “having to drive here every day and night is

► Continued on next page



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► Continued from previous page

not a quality of life.” Without some growth, Kasperzak said, “we will lose what we love about Mountain View, and that’s diversity.”

“We have to have supply to meet demand,” Clark said about housing prices in a city with more jobs than homes.

“Go get a Google map,” Means said. “You’ll see a lot of empty lots that can be developed” for parks or housing.

McAlister stood up for the neighborhood groups who have complained about new developments and traffic. He said the Monta Loma group says “There’s too many people,” and the Wagon Wheel group wonders “What are you doing?”

Diana Wang said there wasn’t necessarily a problem with increasing the city’s housing supply to accommodate growing families and new immigrants.

Alicia Crank mentioned her “key point,” which is that the city must plan for a better transit system, such as a city-run shuttle program up Shoreline Boulevard which could help Google employees get around.

When the discussion turned to youth crime and calls for an after-school teen center, Wang said she visited the current teen center on Escuela, which is “too small.” As for keeping kids out of a trouble, a new teen center “would help a lot,” she said.

Clark said the teen center should be built at Rengstorff Park and cautioned against cities’ propensity to “micromanage” such facilities.

“I don’t know of evidence that a teen center, while a great cause, necessarily addresses the problem,” Kasperzak said, advocating for neighborhood groups to become involved with positive youth activities. Macias pointed out that the poorer neighborhoods often don’t have well-organized neighborhood groups.

However, “Youth violence is not just associated with disadvantaged youth,” Crank said.

The full debate, including discussions about Moffett Field, the city’s murder rate and city budget problems, will be available online at www.kmvt15.org. ■

COMING UP

Four debates held by various neighborhood groups are scheduled in the coming week. The first will be an Old Mountain View event on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, followed by a Whisman Station event on Monday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Whisman Station clubhouse near the Whisman Station light rail stop. A Cuesta neighborhood event will be held on Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. at St. Timothy’s Church on Grant Road and Cuesta Avenue, followed by a Monta Loma event on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 9:45 a.m. at Monta Loma School.



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She’s led educational sea kayaking expedition trips in Mexico, whitewater rafting in California, and naturalist programs on Catalina Island and the Colorado River.

She ran a marathon and a ½ ironman triathlon.

She is the 2008 recipient of the Kriewal-Haehl family endowed faculty chair in honor of the Priory’s Father Pius Horvath.

Her favorite quote is: “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life.” —Mary Oliver

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- ★ 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

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www.dianawangforcitycouncil.com

Foothill-De Anza district seeks applicants for bond committee

By Casey Weiss

The Foothill-De Anza District board is looking for applicants for the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee for Measure C, a 490 million bond measure which local voters passed in 2006 to fund construction and renovations on the campuses.

California law requires oversight committees for school bonds, and the seven members of this committee will review bond expenditures and give presentations to trustees.

The two-year terms on the committee are staggered, and three seats — for at-large representative, senior citizens' representative and student representative — are up for grabs. Applicants must apply by Friday, Nov. 7, and former members are

allowed to apply. Trustees will announce the appointments at a committee meeting on Dec. 1.

Committee members must live in a city the district serves: Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, most of Sunnyvale and parts of San Jose, Santa Clara and Saratoga. Committee members meet quarterly and do not receive payment.

To apply, send a resume, cover letter and desired position to the Office of the Chancellor, Foothill-De Anza Community College District, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, 94022. Or e-mail chancellor@fhda.edu, or fax the application to (650) 941-6289 by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7. For more information, visit www.measurec.fhda.edu or call (650) 949-6100. ■



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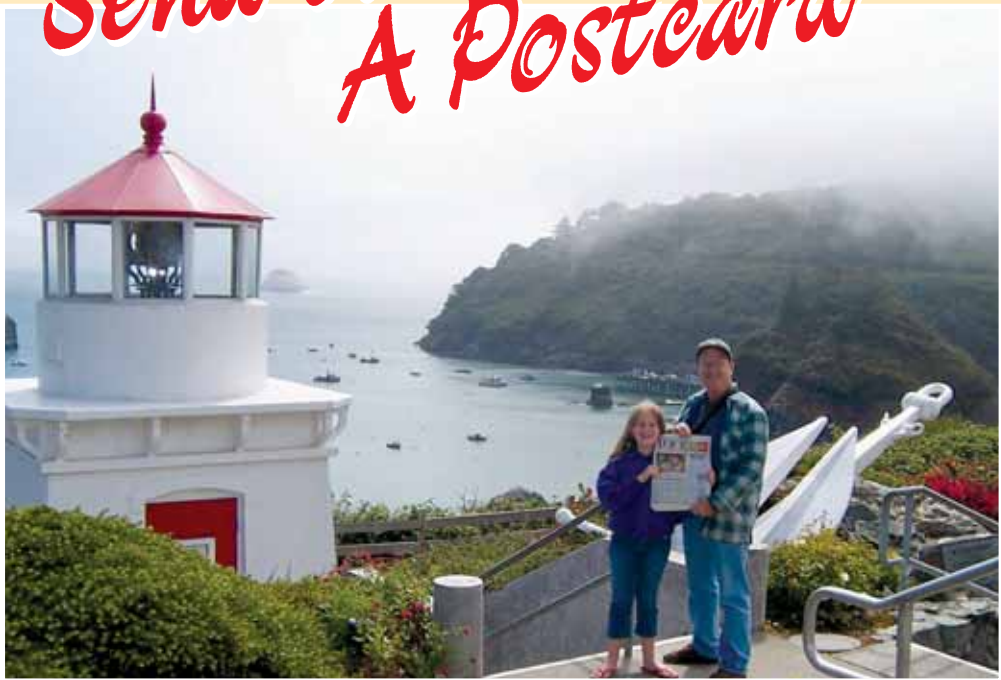


Photo of Edith Frost in Madrid, Spain at the monument to Don Quijote and the Prado Art Museum.

Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice on your next trip and email to dmartin@mv-voice.com or mail to Postcards, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

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More city residents cast ballots by mail

VOTING TREND CONTINUES AS SEVERAL WALK-IN PRECINCTS CLOSE DOWN

By Casey Weiss

Polling centers are slowly disappearing in Mountain View and across Santa Clara County, with the majority of voters now registering to vote by mail before Election Day.

In Mountain View, nearly 20,000 of the 32,478 registered voters are signed up to permanently vote by mail, according to Elma Rosas, spokesperson for the county Registrar of Voters. She said this reflects a countywide trend, with 68 percent of the county's 759,645 registered voters signed up to use mail-in ballots in this November's presidential election.

It's the largest percentage of mail-in voters the county has ever seen, Rosas said, and the change is being spearheaded by the Registrar itself.

"There were 9,000 [mail-in

voters] in Santa Clara County in 2002," she said. "This is a dramatic increase."

County officials hope mail-in ballots will be more convenient for voters, while also making the counting process quicker and easier for the county.

"Your ballot would be one of the first counted on election night right as the polls close," Rosas said of mail-in voters. "We would like to have as many results as soon as possible."

To be counted, all "Vote by Mail" ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on election night, the same time the polls close, and each ballot must be signed.

As more people sign up to vote by mail, the county is starting to close polling centers. Each voting precinct must have 250 walk-in voters to warrant its own polling center. For the upcoming election, five of the 38 precincts in Mountain View will not have polling

centers. Instead, all residents in these neighborhoods must vote by mail.

Due to the closing of these centers, there are nearly 21,845 Mountain View voters who will have to vote by mail, while only approximately 20,000 originally signed up to receive mail ballots. Residents can still vote in person at the Registrar's office, located at 1553 Berger Drive in San Jose, any weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Nov. 4. ■

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

■ INFORMATION

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 20. Voters can check whether they are currently registered by calling (866) 430-8683 and punching in birth date and home address. Those still needing to register can request that a form be mailed, or pick up forms at post offices, libraries, city halls or online at www.sccvote.org or www.sos.ca.gov.



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Re-Elect Tom Means - City Council 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.

Tom has, "exhibited a thorough understanding of city operations and a willingness to make tough decisions on the budget and other matters if need be."

Mountain View Voice, Editorial Oct. 10, 2008

Selected Accomplishments

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

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.

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

A heap of propositions on Nov. 4

The 12 statewide propositions on the November ballot once again demonstrate that California's initiative process has been largely captured by special interests. Often it is being used in a way not intended by those reformers who conceived it so many decades ago.

For this reason, and because of our ongoing state budget disaster, we are sympathetic with anyone who votes no on all measures.

But for those more discriminating, over the next three weeks the *Voice* will provide closer analysis, and our recommendations, on most of the propositions. We have relied on the state Legislative Analyst for some of the descriptive information on each proposition.



No on Proposition 1A: High speed rail

We have followed the intense interest in this \$9.95 billion bond measure on the Peninsula over the last year or more.

We can see why many residents are enamored by the speed and "green" attributes of the train, which could carry thousands of passengers between San Francisco and Los Angeles in under three hours per trip. But we have serious questions about whether the state can afford the \$9.95 billion down payment.

Given California's current challenge to borrow billions of dollars just to meet its monthly obligations, we have to question if this is the right time to market nearly \$10 billion in bonds. As much as we would like to see a high speed train, it is our opinion that California cannot afford to launch such a project at this time. We recommend voting no on Proposition 1A, the High-Speed Rail bond measure.

Yes on Proposition 2: Treatment of farm animals

According to the Legislative Analyst, this proposition, beginning Jan. 1, 2015, would prohibit, with certain exceptions, the confinement on a farm of pregnant pigs, calves raised for veal, and egg-laying hens in a manner that does not allow them to turn around freely, lie down, stand up and fully extend their limbs. Any violators would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Many farmers have been moving in the direction of more humane treatment of animals. State law already prohibits animal cruelty. Other states have passed similar laws, as has the European Union.

In California this measure will primarily affect egg-laying hens in cages. Opponents argue that it will increase the price of eggs and drive large factory farms out of the state. Proponents argue that Proposition 2 prevents cruelty to animals, improves food safety, supports family farmers, protects air and water and safeguards the environment.

The Humane Society is promoting this proposition and is joined by the California Veterinary Medical Association, Center for Food Safety, Union of Concerned Scientists, Sierra Club and Consumer Federation. Large egg producers oppose it. We recommend a yes vote on Proposition 2.

No on Proposition 3: Children's hospital bonds

This measure authorizes \$980 million in general obligation bonds to pay for capital improvement projects at children's hospitals.

The measure specifically identifies the five University of California children's hospitals as eligible for 20 percent of bond funds. The remaining 80 percent would go to other nonprofit hospitals based on various eligibility criteria.

Voters passed Proposition 61 in November 2004 which authorized the sale of \$750 million in bonds to fund children's hospitals, of which about \$403 million of the funds from Proposition 61 had been awarded to eligible hospitals.

In our opinion, such funding should come through the legislative process. Furthermore, officials have not even allocated all of the funds from the prior children's hospital bond. We think children's hospitals do wonderful work, but are not convinced that we should add to the state's budget deficit without a clear reason for it. We recommend a no vote on Proposition 3.

No on Proposition 4: Parental notification for abortion

This measure would amend the state Constitution to require, with certain exceptions, a physician to notify the parent or legal guardian of a pregnant minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion involving that minor.

► See **EDITORIAL**, next page



■ GUEST OPINION

VTA needs reform, not more tax money

By Greg Perry

Measure B is a county tax increase placed on the November ballot by the Valley Transportation Authority. The tax will be collected by the VTA, to fund a project designed by the VTA, to be built by the VTA, according to VTA cost estimates and VTA ridership projections. It is worth examining the VTA's record.

Nearly every year for the past five years, at least one external audit has said that something is wrong with the VTA. A 2003-04 grand jury found that the VTA withheld information from voters, that it was inefficient and needed governance reform. MTC audits in 2004 and 2007 found that VTA spending is out of line with other Bay Area agencies. A 2006/2007 VTA-commissioned audit found that VTA financial planning was out of touch with reality. A state audit one year later found the same thing.

So why are we thinking about giving the VTA more money? We gave the agency

billions for transit in 1976 and 1978, when it was still part of the county. Those two taxes now generate over \$250 million per year for the VTA.

We gave VTA officials billions more in 2000. They told us it was for new transit service. Then they used nearly 20 percent of that money to subsidize existing service.

We give them billions more through state and federal grants and tax-exempt bond status. The VTA even double dips on its tax-exempt status by using "debt swaps," a type of derivative.

In all, the VTA has a total budget of \$720 million a year — one of the wealthiest public transit agencies in the nation. There is absolutely no reason that the VTA should be in financial trouble. But it is.

Now they tell us that with one more tax they're going to build BART. They told us that eight years ago, and haven't even gotten around to writing the expenditure plan for it. (Read Measure C. It asks voters to approve a plan that the VTA hasn't even written yet.)

Measure B has a nominal link to BART, and a restriction on use of funds. However, that restriction is relatively weak: Measure B funds can be used for anything the VTA describes as a BART "improvement." And the restriction extends only

**The truth is
that the VTA
can't finish
BART, whether
or not B passes.**

to this tax, so the VTA could simply shift other funds around to effectively redirect Measure B funds however it wished.

The truth is that the VTA can't finish BART, whether or not B passes. Its own CFO issued a report in 2004 stating that, even if the VTA canceled every other project,

the agency would run out of bonding capacity. Not only would it run out of money, but it wouldn't be able to borrow either.

Since then, the financial picture has grown far worse. Sales tax revenues are lower than predicted. Concrete, copper and steel prices are higher. And if the VTA couldn't borrow the money in the 2004 market, there's no way it can borrow the money now.

In light of today's economic situation, voters deserve a current picture of VTA finances, so they know what they will and will not get. Instead, the VTA has purposely delayed publication of its expenditure plan until after the election. Its officials don't want us to know how bad it is, because they want our money first — via Measure B.

Why is it so bad? Because the VTA doesn't spend our money wisely. For example, the VTA used to have contracted shuttles run by a union contractor for less than half the cost of a VTA bus. Last year, the VTA brought

those shuttles in-house — and doubled the cost.

In all, the VTA is one of the worst-run public transit agencies in the nation. Our light rail system carries fewer passengers per dollar spent than any other large system in the nation. Our bus system ranks 368 out of 373 in per-hour cost efficiency — worse than 98 percent of all public transit agencies. If you measure efficiency on a per-mile basis, we're in exactly the same spot: 368 out of 373. We should be getting a lot more for our \$720 million per year, but we aren't.

We need to fix VTA. They sure aren't going to fix themselves if we reward them with more money. Passing Measure B would just throw good money after bad. ■

Greg Perry served on the Mountain View City Council from 2003 to 2006, and as a VTA board member in 2006. He was a member of the VTA policy advisory committee from 2003 to 2005.

■ EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

► Continued from previous page

This amendment is similar to others defeated by voters in 2005 and 2006, and is proposed by the same backers as the prior two. It creates additional barriers and delays for pregnant minors seeking medical assistance and creates potential penalties for doctors who attempt to serve them using their best medical judgment.

Californians strongly support freedom of choice. This initiative is an effort to get part of what anti-choice crusaders want, since they know they can't win the battle head-on. We believe family communication cannot be legislated, and that parental notification laws will force some teenagers to choose between talking to their parents or having illegal and unsafe abortions. Some will choose the latter, resulting in injuries and deaths.

The real answer to teen pregnancy is prevention — and strong, caring families — not new laws that endanger our daughters. Planned Parenthood and health care providers, including the California Medical Association, the California Nurses Association and the California Academy of Family Physicians, oppose Proposition 4. We recommend a no vote on Proposition 4.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

VOICE GOT IT HALF RIGHT

Editor:

The *Voice* batted .500 in my view in its selections for City Council candidates ("Macias, Means, Kasperzak and Crank for City Council," Oct. 10). Not bad when your editorial opinions average about the same.

The selection of the incumbents, Tom Means and Laura Macias, is acceptable in that both have done a good job in their first term and need that experience to tackle the challenges coming up.

The important last two seats need to be filled by candidates who are long-term residents of our community, have proven leadership experience in their careers and are actively engaged in city activities.

Given these criteria there are no better candidates than John Inks and John McAlister. They both have lived in our city for 30 to 40 years and understand its history. They both have local business and corporate backgrounds and education. They are both cur-

rently on the Environmental Planning Commission, and in the past Inks was a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission and McAlister volunteered in local schools.

As you stated, we face serious challenges in the next few years. We need people who are qualified to assume these roles. With all the problems we have in our Congress and state Legislature, let's elect qualified and responsible new leadership. We deserve the best for Mountain View.

Art Takahara
Foxborough Drive

INKS DESERVED VOICE ENDORSEMENT

Editor:

The *Voice's* failure to endorse John Inks for City Council is a glaring oversight. Based on John's professional background, his extensive commission and advisory experience and his absolutely outstanding record of community service, he is one of the most quali-

fied candidates in the race.

Overall, he has the broadest experience in parks, open space protection, major development, environmental quality and regional transportation. He is clearly among the best choices to lead on the council in the challenging times ahead.

Throughout John's campaign, he has developed strong personal rapport with thousands of voters. Many *Voice* readers must be puzzled why you did not endorse him. In any case, the election results will vindicate John's strong candidacy and cause readers to further question the *Voice's* judgment.

Kendle Bahl
Ortega Avenue

PARTY AFFILIATIONS NOT RELEVANT

Editor:

In last week's edition, you provided the political party

► See **LETTERS**, page 20

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LETTERS

► Continued from page 19

affiliation of each of the nine candidates for City Council, but no party affiliation of the three candidates for the high school board (Voter's Guide, page 21).

I am not sure that we need to know a candidate's party affiliation in a non-partisan race. On the other hand, it may be revealing that all four of the candidates the *Voice* has recommended for City Council are currently registered Democrats (even though one recently switched party affiliations.)

I, too, am a Democrat. Particularly at the local level, I am open to candidates who are more frugal than the usual Democrat.

Valerie Harris
View Street

HUGE LOSS IF MEASURE A LOSES

Editor:

California has lost over 70 hospitals in the last decade, and right here in Santa Clara County we have seen the closure of San Jose Medical Center and the announced closure of Los Gatos Community Hospital. Santa Clara County already has among the lowest ratio of available hospital beds per resident in the state.

In the near future, we are at risk of losing 270 more hospital beds at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, one of the county's Level One trauma centers and hospital. With the reduced capacity, approximately 11,000 people would have to be turned away each year from VMC. The resulting shortage of hospital beds and reduced trauma

services would be catastrophic to every other hospital in the county. In the event of a major earthquake or disaster, the catastrophe could become a nightmare for the health care system in the county.

By voting yes on Measure A on the November ballot to approve funding for the seismic upgrades necessary at VMC, you can protect the health care system in our county and ensure that Level One trauma, burn and neonatal services continue to be delivered at VMC now and in the future, especially after a major disaster. Vote yes on Measure A and learn more at www.vmcmmatters.com.

Jen Eng
Perich Court

SALES TAX WILL HELP BART REACH COUNTY

Editor:

I applaud the *Voice's* decision to endorse Measure B. After so many years of local, state and federal shortsightedness, bringing BART to Santa Clara County is an excellent way to begin planning for the future of the South Bay.

Though we face hard economic times, a 1/8th-cent sales tax increase for efficient public transit is really a small price to pay. Over the course of a year, that's one moderately priced lunch. Furthermore, this tax will not be levied unless the federal government provides part of the construction funding.

Almost everyone can agree that the South Bay is getting crowded. BART is an effective alternative to traffic and pollution. Measure B is a move in the right direction for Santa Clara County and Mountain View.

Edmond Hui
Calderon Avenue

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■ GUEST OPINION

Why our county hospital is worth saving

VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER NEEDS MEASURE A TO REMAIN REGION'S HEALTH CARE LYNCHPIN

By Jane Bahr

I'm very concerned about the future of our outstanding county hospital, Valley Medical Center. If you have good health insurance, and if you live in the northern part of Santa Clara County, you may know almost nothing about this facility. Here are some of the things you should know:

■ One in four residents of Santa Clara County is served by Valley Medical Center (VMC).

■ The center is affiliated with the Stanford University and UC San Francisco schools of medicine, and has 180-plus Stanford and UCSF residents on its staff.

■ The center is nationally known for its "centers of excellence" in burn treatment, spinal cord injury and rehab, and traumatic brain injury and rehab. If you're in an auto accident in Monterey, you'll probably be taken to Valley Med.

■ The center is the only Level 1 trauma center for pediatrics in the county, caring for premature infants from Silicon Valley and all of Northern California.

■ There has been a 40 percent growth in the center's patient population in just three years.

■ 144 languages are spoken by Valley Med staff.

With its main hospital located on Bascom Avenue in San Jose, and with outpatient clinics located throughout the county, VMC is the only open door hospital in Silicon Valley. The center's mission is to provide quality health care services to everyone, with or without insurance, regardless of their ability to pay. Administrators at competing hospitals agree that VMC, with its centers of excellence and its open-door policy, provides the glue that holds the county's medical

system together.

This won't be true five years from now if Valley Med is unable to find funds for the state-mandated seismic upgrade. The state imposed new seismic standards after 12 Southern California hospitals suffered earthquake damage in the 1994 Northridge quake, yet the Legislature provided no

funding for hospitals to retrofit their buildings by the 2013 deadline.

The VMC's main building, completed in 1999, meets California standards. But its older building,

which houses more than 250 of its 524 beds, was built 40 years ago and must be replaced. Since the cost of replacement amounts to roughly \$2 million per bed, hospitals have been closing at an alarming rate; more than half in California are operating in the red.

This leads us to Santa Clara County Measure A on the Nov. 4 ballot, an \$840 million bond measure to replace the older part of the hospital. A two-thirds vote is required to pass the measure. If the bond measure does not pass, and the hospital is forced to close half of its beds, then the remaining 250 beds would not be enough to justify running a burn and trauma center. These "centers of excellence" would disappear from our community.

I hope we won't let this happen to one of our county's chief treasures. To learn more about Valley Med go to www.vmc-foundation.org. Or contact Chris Wilder, executive director of the foundation, and request a tour of the facility for your family or small group. ■

Jane Bahr was director for health care of the Mountain View-Los Altos League of Women Voters from 2006 to 2008, and participated in a task force on Santa Clara County health care last year. She lives on Redcliff Court.



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MARJAN SADOUGH

Faz Poursohi, chef and co-owner of MacArthur Park restaurant in Palo Alto, poses by the organic produce table from Perry and Webb farm at display by the entrance of the restaurant.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Palo Alto's historic eatery

MACARTHUR PARK HAS LANDMARK AMBIANCE, BUT THE MENU NEEDS ATTENTION

By Dale F. Bentson

The MacArthur Park restaurant occupies one of the loveliest buildings on the West Coast. Officially known as "Hostess House," the structure is a California historical landmark. Designed by regional architect Julia Morgan, the Arts and Crafts-era building was once a place where World War I soldiers from the former Camp Fremont in Menlo Park could meet with their families.

The spacious interior features exposed wood trusses, oversized fireplaces and a balcony at either end of the long main room with an impressive vaulted ceiling. The building was moved in 1919 to its present location at the end of University Avenue in Palo Alto after Camp Fremont was dismantled.

This past April, chef Faz Poursohi and business partner Chuck Frank acquired MacArthur Park from the bankrupt Spectrum

► Continued on next page

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MARJAN SADOUGHI

Poursohi checks the barbeque baby back ribs in the mesquite grill designed by him.

► Continued from previous page

Restaurant Group. Deja vu. Frank had hired Poursohi as the original chef at MacArthur Park in 1981, when Frank was an executive with Spectrum. It was a happy reunion for the two restaurateurs.

The partners refocused the historic eatery, painted, installed new carpeting and lighting, and upgraded the aging kitchen. The decidedly American menu is still the culinary draw. The ingredients are fresher and feature more locally raised products than in the past. The food varies from good to very good, but a few missed details jarred several dishes.

For starters, baby artichokes (\$6) steamed, then grilled over mesquite, were served with an herb/yogurt/sour-cream sauce over a bed of watercress. While tasty, the chokes needed one or two more layers of spiny leaf peeled away; that first bite was extraordinarily chewy.

I enjoyed the delicate alder-smoked salmon (\$12). The house-smoked fish was presented paper-thin, carpaccio-style. Served with crispy wafers, chopped egg, capers, red onion and Dijon mustard sauce, the salmon was brilliant orange-red and melt-on-the-tongue delicious.

The pasilla pepper (\$8) was filled with cheddar, jack and blue cheeses, then grilled and served with salsa fresca, cilantro and lime. The cheese wasn't melted; it clotted rather than oozed. The pepper was nicely charred and the salsa fresca was a triumph of fresh flavors.

MacArthur Park has a long-standing reputation for ribs. A full slab of baby back ribs is \$24. I opted for the ribs and chicken (\$22), a half slab of baby back ribs (eight ribs) and half a chicken. Both options came with great house-made fries and tempting, slightly piquant coleslaw.

So-called baby back ribs are

► See **MACARTHUR**, page 24

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MACARTHUR

► Continued from page 23

really pork loin ribs and refer to the size of the bone rather than the age of the hog. Tender and lean, yes, but with little meat on the bones. They are cut from the upper part of the animal's back ribs. Nonetheless, they are a lot of fun to eat. Chef Poursohi brings his ribs in from Chicago. They are about as luscious as baby back ribs get.

The barbeque sauce was less viscous than most rib and chop house sauces. Although the recipe was not divulged, I discerned tomato, slightly sweet flavors with hints of garlic, chili pepper, lemon and perhaps Tabasco. I wouldn't call the flavors bold, yet there was a residual tang. The sauce proved delightful with the delicious tower of onion strings (\$6). I was surprised to learn the barbeque sauce was not house-made but imported from Chicago.

The fabulous double-cut pork chop (\$24) spoke to me. House-smoked and grilled over mesquite, the chop had an outside that was charred black-gold while the interior was snowy-white, juicy and irresistible. Sauteed apples and a garnet yam added to the eloquence.

Ravioli of the day (\$22) was stuffed with spinach and cheese. Bathed in tomato cream sauce



MARJAN SADOUGHI

Alderwood smoked salmon is served with chopped egg, capers, red onion and Dijon mustard sauce.

and dotted with bits of smoked trout, the ravioli had flavors that were sophisticated and rich. The salty fish added a degree of earthy depth to the plump, yielding pillows of pasta.

Jumbo diver scallops (\$22) were fleshy, fresh and perfectly cooked through while retaining their natural juices. The scallops were wrapped in apple wood bacon, which prettified the presentation, but imparted too much saltiness to the delicately flavored shellfish.

The salmon special (\$22), with garlicky mashed potatoes and a

medley of green beans and red peppers, was suffocated by the off-tasting lemon-kiwi sauce. The sauce was more like an oversweet lemon curd and the kiwi had little flavor. I'm not sure what the point was.

Desserts had similar results. I was enthused by the rendition of warm apple tart (\$7), but the creme brulee trio (\$9) was more pudding than airy custard. Meanwhile, the wine menu lists about 80 California wines. Prices are heady and most California wines are overpriced anyway. Corkage is \$5. ■

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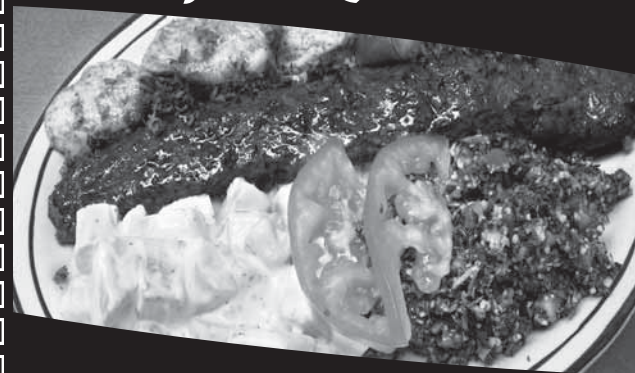
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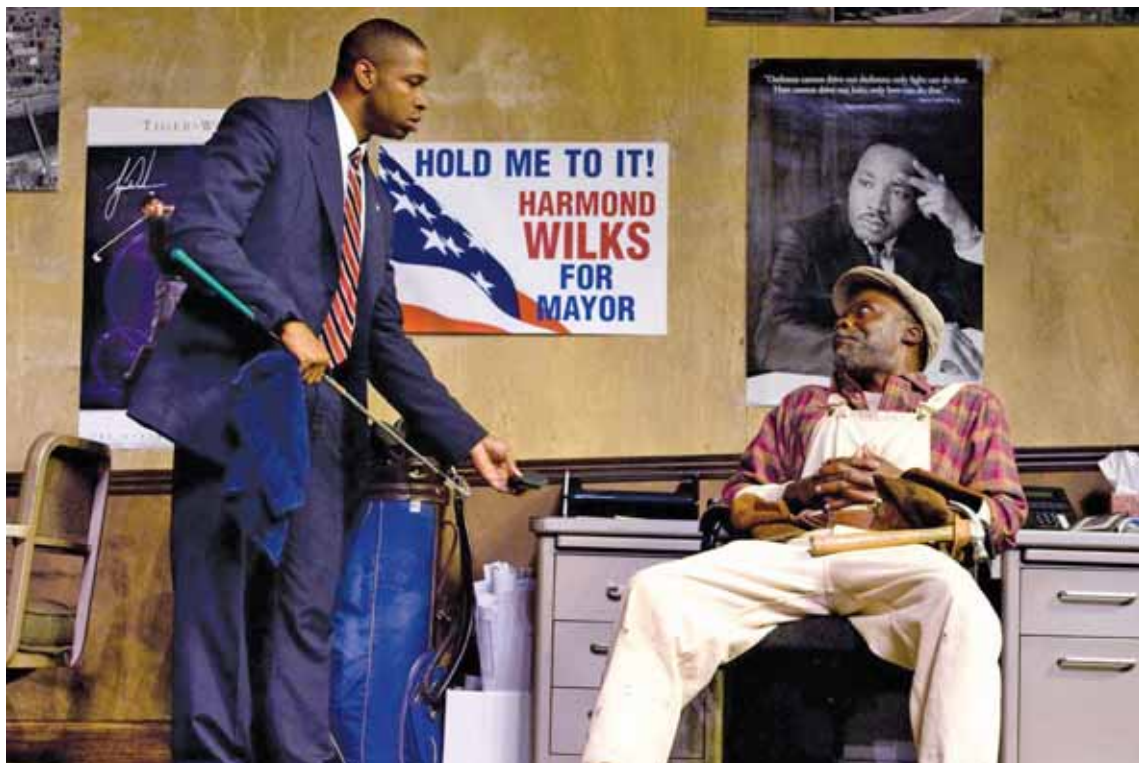
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MARK KITAOKA

From left: Mayoral candidate Harmond Wilks (Aldo Billingslea) is confronted by handyman Sterling Johnson (L. Peter Callender) in the TheatreWorks premier of "Radio Golf."

Provocative finale for Wilson's series

'RADIO GOLF' NAVIGATES POLITICAL LANDSCAPE WITH HUMOR AND RESONANCE

By Jeanie Forte

TheatreWorks' second show this season brings us the regional premiere of the final play in August Wilson's ambitious play cycle, in which he has chronicled the African-American experience in each decade of the 20th century.

Written just months before Wilson's death in 2005, "Radio Golf" captures the 1990s indelibly, detailing challenges in the American political and social landscape that are still playing out today.

The plot centers on Harmond Wilks (Aldo Billingslea), real estate mogul and would-be mayor of Pittsburgh, wheeling and dealing to secure the final permits for a multimillion-dollar development in Bedford Hills, the poor (and black) part of town in desperate need of rejuvenation. While the planned complex includes a Whole Foods Market, Barnes & Noble and Starbucks, it also means destruction of a particular house — and the contention over this house and its history becomes a focal point for Wilks' emerging consciousness.

Wilks' wife, Mame (C. Kelly Wright), and his business partner, Roosevelt Hicks (Anthony J. Haney), at first prop him up and remind him of his obligations to the development project, but then begin to chastise and abandon him as he insists more and more on doing the "right" thing.

Thrown in the mix are two lower-class black men, Sterling Johnson (L. Peter Callender) — a one-man unionist surviving on low-level

THEATER REVIEW

odd jobs and handyman work — and Elder Joseph Barlow (Charles Branklyn), who claims ownership of the house in question and who challenges Wilks' preconceptions about race and class every time he opens his mouth.

There are some plot twists along the way, as Wilks journeys from his work within the system to taking a stand outside of it. But the political landscape is quite real, and the complexity of culture and identity couldn't be more palpable. Wilson pulls no punches here: Just when you think you have it figured out, and know whose side you're on, he hands you a different perspective, giving you an increasingly large and frustrating puzzle to deal with.

The two culminating monologues, delivered by Wilks and Hicks, are stunning in their delineation of perspectives marked by difference in priority and, ultimately, identity. Who is the contemporary black American to emulate, and what does it mean to assimilate? Why are these still issues even in the late 20th century, or today? You may be surprised, or puzzled, or find yourself nodding in agreement and then turning your own agreement on a dime in the next minute.

Billingslea as Wilks has a boyish, eager quality that transforms into bravery as he commits political suicide. Haney is an incredible force as Hicks, the unstoppable, unflappable "Negro" of the play who knows that assimilation is his

path to wealth and success.

Branklyn has perhaps the best role of the play as Barlow, supplying much of the laughter and light-heartedness while still delivering zingers and truisms that can't be denied. Callender is earnest and straightforward as the seemingly hapless Johnson, foil to Hicks' ambition and thorn in Wilks' conscience. His surprising strength and wisdom are well-played by Callender, never cloying or righteous.

Mame is the least-defined character of the five, but Wright gives her depth and breadth as a woman torn between her vision of possibility and the love of her man.

While the piece is talky and slightly too long, it also delivers a great deal of humor, keeping you laughing right up until you find yourself suddenly sober. Erik Flatmo's soaring set works on many levels and is lovely to look at. Director Harry J. Elam Jr. keeps the staging lively and engaging, and the production values overall demonstrate TheatreWorks' usual excellence. ■

INFORMATION

What: "Radio Golf" by August Wilson, presented by TheatreWorks
Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View

When: Through Nov. 2, with shows Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Sundays at 7 p.m.

Cost: Tickets range from \$23 to \$61
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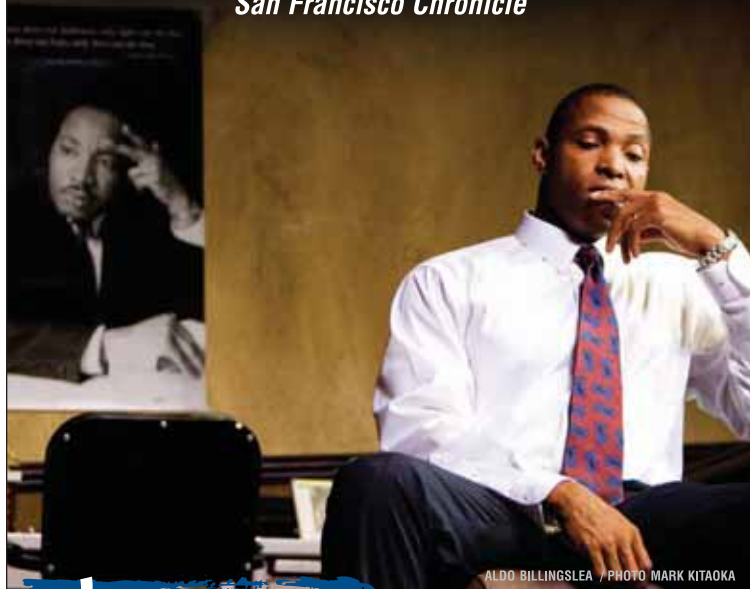
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ALDO BILLINGSLEA / PHOTO MARK KITAOKA

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MOVIE TIMES

APPALOOSA (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 1:20, 4:25, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 1:40, 4:25, 7:25 & 10:10 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 11 a.m.

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 16: 12:40, 1:55, 3:05, 4:20, 5:30, 6:45, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:10 p.m.
Century 20: Noon, 1:20, 2:25, 3:45, 4:50, 6:15, 7:20, 8:40 & 9:50 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. also at 10:55 a.m.

BLINDNESS (R) ★★★ Century 16: 1:05, 4 & 6:55 p.m.
Sun.-Thu. also at 9:50 p.m. Century 20: 4:10 & 10:30 p.m.

BODY OF LIES (R) ★★★ Century 16: 12:35, 2, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8 & 9:25 p.m. Century 20: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m.

BULLITT (PG) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: Sat. at 10 p.m.

BURN AFTER READING (R) ★★★★1/2
Century 16: 1, 3:20, 5:45, 8:05 & 10:30 p.m.
Century 20: 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.

CALL AND RESPONSE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 20: 12:45, 3 & 5:15 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 7:30 & 9:45 p.m.

CHOKE (R) ★★★★1/2 Aquarius: 1:30 & 10 p.m.

CITY OF EMBER (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 16: 12:30, 3, 5:25, 7:50 & 10:10 p.m.
Century 20: 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m.

DEATH NOTE 2: THE LAST NAME (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: Wed. & Thu. at 7:30 p.m.
Century 20: Wed. & Thu. at 7:30 p.m.

THE DUCHESS (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 12:50, 3:55, 7 & 9:40 p.m.
Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 10 p.m.

EAGLE EYE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 16: 1:45, 4:30, 7:15 & 10:25 p.m.
Century 20: 12:20, 1:50, 3:10, 4:40, 6, 7:35, 8:50 & 10:20 p.m.

THE EXPRESS (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 16: 12:45, 3:40, 7 & 10 p.m. Century 20: 1, 4, 7 & 10 p.m.

FLASH OF GENIUS (PG-13) ★★★
Century 16: 1:35, 4:40, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 1:30, 4:30 & 10:10 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 10:50 a.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 7:25 p.m.

GHOST TOWN (PG-13) ★★★1/2
Century 16: 1:50 & 4:50 p.m. Fri.-Tue. also at 7:25 & 10:20 p.m.
Century 20: 2:30 p.m. Fri.-Tue. also at 7:35 p.m.

HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 3:55 & 9 p.m.
Century 20: Noon. Fri.-Tue. also at 5 & 10:05 p.m.

IGOR (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 20: 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50 & 9:05 p.m.

LAKEVIEW TERRACE (PG-13) ★★★★1/2
Century 20: 12:55, 4:05, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: SALOME (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: Sat. at 10 a.m. Century 20: Sat. at 10 a.m.

MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA (R) ★★ CENTURY 20: 12:40 & 7:05 p.m.

NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST (PG-13) ★★★1/2
Century 16: 12:40, 1:40, 3:10, 5:25, 6:35, 7:40 & 9:55 p.m.
Century 20: 12:10, 1:05, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m.

NIGHTS IN RODANTHE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 16: 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 20: 12:35, 3, 5:35, 8 & 10:25 p.m.

QUARANTINE (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 12:50, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 3:20, 5:40, 8:05 & 10:20 p.m.

RACHEL'S GETTING MARRIED (R) ★★★★
Guild: 1:30, 4, 7 & 9:45 p.m.

RELIGULOUS (R) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 20: 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.
Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:40 & 7:25 p.m. Mon.-Fri. also at 10:05 p.m.

SEX DRIVE (R) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 16: Sat. at 7:30 p.m. Century 20: Sat. at 7:30 p.m.

THE SHINING (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: Fri. at 10 p.m.

TELL NO ONE (NOT RATED) ★★★1/2 Aquarius: 4 & 7 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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

★ 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

BLINDNESS ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) The resurrection of humanity is a touchy subject, uncomfortable on its surface and downright horrifying beneath. Such is the case for the residents of the edgy, unnamed Anytown where an epidemic of blindness known as the “white sickness” descends on a bewildered population. Psychosomatic or neurological? Scientists are at wits’ end as the country falls into a state of crisis and victims are sent to camps housed in an abandoned mental asylum to fend for themselves. Among them is a brilliant eye doctor (Mark Ruffalo) whose 20/20 vision abandons him, and his seeing wife (Julianne Moore) who is inexplicably spared yet refuses to leave her husband behind. *Rated: R for violence, sexuality and very mature themes. 1 hour, 59 minutes.* — J.A.

FLASH OF GENIUS ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Detroit, Michigan, circa early 1960s. Robert Kearns (Greg Kinnear) is burning the candle at both ends as a gifted MIT professor of electrical engineering, amateur inventor and Catholic father of six. During a routine flash rainstorm he hits on a great idea: intermittent windshield wipers that function much as the human eye does. With a great deal of enthusiasm and can-do naivete, the nutty professor takes his idea to the Ford Motor Company with the proviso that he be allowed to manufacture the wipers himself. Eighteen months and endless stalling tactics later, Ford rolls out its revolutionary Mustang, a flashy roadster with a short rear deck and, you guessed it, intermittent windshield wipers. Refusing to let this blatant patent infringement go without a fight, Kearns digs in, determined to stand for what’s right. *Rated: PG-13 for brief strong language. 1 hour, 59 minutes.* — J.A.

NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Michael Cera is the titular Nick, a broken-hearted high school senior trying to recover from the dumping received at the hands (and heart) of Tris (Alexis Dziena), who’s moved on to bigger and better things. About the time that Nick is burning Tris another volume of his agonizing break-up mix (aptly titled “Closures”), pals corral him into a night on the town to seek out elusive underground sensation band Where’s Fluffy, whose members are dropping baffling clues all over Manhattan. At one such indie rock haunt Nick meets Norah (Kat Dennings), a brainy frenemy of Tris’ and head squire in best friend Caroline’s (Ari Graynor) quest for maximum attention. *Rated: PG-13 for language and mature themes. 1 hour, 30 minutes.* — J.A.

CHOKE ★★★1/2

(Aquarius, Century 20) What’s not to love about a twisted, sex-addicted historical interpreter (i.e., tour guide)

MOVIE CRITICS

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

with relentless wit and a big old damaged heart? That's Victor Mancini (Sam Rockwell), who spreads himself razor-thin between gigs at the colonial theme park, weekly addiction workshops and tending to his delusional, sociopathic mother Ida (Anjelica Houston). Raunchy sex and nudity accompany a witty, pattering voiceover that utilizes dialogue from Chuck Palahniuk's controversial novel of the same name. *Rated: R for graphic language, nudity and sexuality. 1 hour, 35 minutes.* — J.A.

MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA ★★ (Century 16, Century 20) Spike Lee is passionate about this tall tale of a murder that takes place in 1980s New York City, where WWII vet and postal worker Hector Negrón (Laz Alonso) pulls a Luger on a customer, killing the man in cold blood. When police investigate Negrón's apartment they find a priceless artifact buried in his closet. Flash back to Tuscany circa 1944, where the African-American Buffalo Soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Division

are making their presence felt on the front lines. *Rated: R for language, nudity and excessive violence. 2 hours, 40 minutes. In English, German and Italian with English subtitles.* — J.A.

LAKEVIEW TERRACE ★★★1/2 (Century 16, Century 12) Samuel Jackson is L.A. cop Abel Turner, an edgy single dad of two whose grip on sanity and the responsibilities of neighborhood watch is a tad tight. New neighbors Chris and Lisa Mattson (Patrick Wilson and Kerry Washington) find out the hard way. Abel doesn't take kindly to their biracial coupling and makes it known in a number of intimidating ways: security lights shining in windows, late-night parties and ethnic slurs. *Rated: PG-13 for language, violence and mature themes. 1 hour, 46 minutes.* J.A.

■ MOVIE REVIEWS

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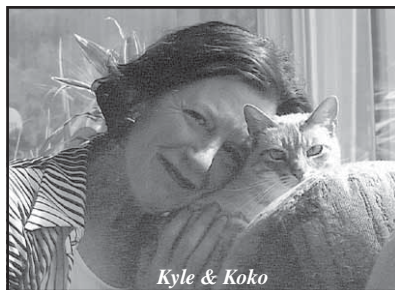
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