

Mountain View VOICE



UP SHIP! | P.5

OCTOBER 31, 2008 VOLUME 16, NO. 43

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NASA: Fighter jet is for research

BUT SOME WORRY ABOUT PRECEDENT, AND SAY ARRANGEMENT WITH GOOGLE EXEC'S PRIVATE COMPANY IS TOO COZY

By Daniel DeBolt

The fighter jet brought quietly to Moffett Field a few months ago isn't a toy for Google executives, say NASA officials, but in fact will help the agency collect atmospheric data and fight wildfires.

But some observers remain skeptical, noting that the jet, while lucrative for NASA Ames, has yet to collect any data.

The European-built Dornier Alpha Jet, a sleek two-seater capable of 600 miles per hour, is one of five planes belonging to H211 LLC, a company owned by Google executives Sergey Brin, Larry Page and Eric Schmidt. Besides the Alpha Jet, H211's fleet includes two jumbo jets stationed at Moffett and two Gulfstream Vs stationed at San Jose Airport.

Officials say the Alpha Jet, however, can do what the other planes cannot: fulfill the terms of a lease with NASA Ames, signed in August 2007, that allows H211's private planes to land at Moffett Federal Airfield. In exchange, the company pays NASA more than \$1.3 million a year and lets the agency outfit its planes with scientific instruments.

NASA officials admitted Monday that so far no special scientific instruments have been fitted to any H211 planes, after hundreds of flights and more than year of allowing them to fly out of Moffett. The only equipment used on them thus far is handheld cameras, said Steve Zornetzer, deputy director of NASA Ames, in an e-mail.

The cameras were used to take footage of the Aurigid meteor shower on Aug. 31, 2007 for the SETI Institute. That was the last scientific mission for H211.

As for the money, it already helped NASA Ames close a \$7 million deficit for Moffett runway operations last year, Zornetzer said. The Alpha Jet brings even more revenue for

CITY COUNCIL

Possible housing deal for cops and firefighters

By Daniel DeBolt

In order to better respond to emergencies and deepen connections with the community, the city may soon be using a homebuyer assistance program to encourage its police officers and firefighters to live within city limits.

At a City Council meeting Tuesday, city staff presented options for the program. Council member Margaret Abe-Koga had proposed a home loan program after being approached by several new police and fire personnel, who are hoping to buy a home in Mountain View.

► See **CITY COUNCIL**, page 12



RACHEL PALMER

Homecoming Time:

The Los Altos High School Marching Band leads the homecoming parade down Main Street in downtown Los Altos on Friday, Oct. 24.

Election pumps up local volunteers

WITH NOV. 4 LOOMING, ADULTS AND STUDENTS GIVE THEIR ALL FOR CAUSE OR CANDIDATE

By Casey Weiss

Gilda Desimone and Madeline Damianu paced the downtown train station for hours on Monday, urging morning commuters to vote against Proposition 8, which would prohibit same sex marriage in the state of California.

Everyone who passed by the women had something to say — two bikers said they had already voted against it on their mail-in ballots. A trucker honked as he drove by, gesturing to show that he didn't support their cause.

The women, who are a couple, laughed off the trucker's input and continued to walk up and down the street holding "No on Prop. 8" signs. The proposition touches on an important political and human

rights issue, they said.

"This affects us," Desimone said. "We have been together for 10 years and plan on getting married."

With only a few days left until Election Day, local residents are remaining politically involved to the end, putting up lawn signs and posters throughout the region and campaigning hard for the politicians and measures they support. Both presidential candidates have set up headquarters in Santa Clara County, and local volunteers said they'll continue to spend hours making calls on political phone banks.

At Los Altos and Mountain

View high schools, hundreds of students, most of them not old enough to vote, are anxiously counting the days until Nov. 4 — and in a surprising number of cases, they're doing more than that.

"Growing up I didn't think anything interesting happened in this time period," said Los Altos High School student Jackie Radford. "But on the eve of an African-American being elected, we are living in the most fascinating time."

Radford, 17, stands outside her classroom with fellow student Karim Poonja, 16. The students,

► See **VOLUNTEERS**, page 17



REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990
Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

Ryan Gowdy



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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.

How have you had to adjust due to the changing economy?



"I was planning to do a major renovation of my house, and I'm probably going to have to put that off for at least a year."
Steve Epsteif, Burlingame



"My husband was laid off in July. It means tightening your belt, tapping into your savings, watching what you buy at the grocery store."
Kathrine McInroe, San Jose



"So far I don't have to adjust at all."
Frank Kuehnel, San Francisco



"I can't spend as much on other things. I only have enough money to pay for rent and food: necessities."
Ricky Nunez, Mountain View



"Work harder — eating a lot more at home."
Rick Reinhart, Sunnyvale



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

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.

State Senator Elaine Alquist:

Councilmember Laura Macias named as Mountain View Woman of the Year, 2008

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

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



The Mayor's Corner Increasing Affordability or "Affordable Housing"?

When I ran for election four years ago, the big campaign buzzword was "jobs-housing ratio". Was Mountain View out of balance because we had too many jobs? Should we build more housing or tell companies to reduce their workforce? In this year's campaign, there has been much chatter about "affordable housing". I support making housing more affordable, but some are using this term to promote price-controlled housing. They believe we should force builders to sell million dollar units for \$300,000. Research sug-

gests the price-controlled approach actually makes housing less affordable to every one. One way to make housing more affordable is to provide a supply of diverse housing products. My personal experience provides a great example. As a young couple, my wife and I rented a small townhouse in Mtn. View. Two children later we purchased a larger, newly built townhouse near Slater school. Seven years later we upgraded to a larger, older house near Cooper Park. The woman who sold us the home wanted to

downsize to a smaller unit. Similarly, the woman who purchased our townhouse was moving across town to scale back. Now, with our kids grown, the house is too big, and we talk about reducing our footprint. My point is that without the availability of diverse housing options, some of us might have had to leave Mtn. View. Allowing variety keeps our community intact and is one way to provide affordability. I encourage this approach by supporting a wide variety of housing products. Together we build a better Mountain View.

Visit www.tommeansonline.com

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

■ POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

200 Block W. El Camino Real, 10/24

AUTO BURGLARY

700 Continental Cl., 10/22
Archstone Apartments, 10/23
800 Block E. El Camino Real, 10/24
100 Block Grant Road, 10/25
300 Block N. Shoreline Bl., 10/26

BATTERY

Amphitheatre Parkway, 10/21
200 Block California St., 10/22
600 Block Showers Dr., 10/23
200 Block Castro St., 10/25
100 Block Castro St., 10/25
Amphitheatre, 10/25
Amphitheatre Parkway, 10/26

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

600 Block Castro St., 10/24
In and Out, 10/27

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Light Rail - Whisman, 10/22
Molly Magee's, 10/24
400 Block Castro St., 10/24
California St./Ortega Ave., 10/26

DISTURBANCE

Graham Middle School, 10/21
Sierra Vista Ave., 10/21
100 Block Dale Ave., 10/25
200 Block Rock St., 10/25

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

200 Block San Luis Ave., 10/22
500 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 10/22
Mountain View, 10/25

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

E. Evelyn Ave./Pioneer Way, 10/24
200 Block California St., 10/26
Castro St./Central Ex., 10/26
W. Middlefield Road/N. Rengstorff Ave., 10/27

GRAND THEFT

100 Block W. El Camino Real, 10/21
Moffett Blvd., 10/22
100 Block W. Middlefield Road, 10/23
E. Middlefield Road, 10/24
500 Block S. Rengstorff Ave., 10/25

IDENTITY THEFT

Monte Carlo Club, 10/27

INDECENT EXPOSURE

100 Block Villa St., 10/24

LEWD CONDUCT

200 Block W. Middlefield Road, 10/21

MISSING PERSON - ADULT

200 Block Grant Road, 10/21
Eunice Ave., 10/26
Escuela Ave., 10/26
100 Block Latham St., 10/26

MISSING PERSON - JUVENILE

PETTY THEFT

Sleeper Ave., 10/21
Burger King, 10/21
W. Middlefield Road/Moffett Bl., 10/22
100 Block Crestview Dr., 10/22
100 Block Brenton Ct., 10/23
Walmart, 10/24
100 Block Charleston Road, 10/24
100 Block Calderon Ave., 10/25
W. Middlefield Road, 10/26
Walmart, 10/27
Costco, 10/27

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

Amphitheatre Parkway, 10/26

RAPE

San Antonio Inn, 10/24

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

E. El Camino Real, 10/21
100 Block Grant Road, 10/22
100 Block California St., 10/24

ROBBERY

Sizzler Restaurant, 10/25
Montecito Ave./N. Shoreline Blvd., 10/25

SALE OF MARIJUANA

Amphitheatre Parkway, 10/26

STOLEN VEHICLE

Pear Ave./N. Shoreline Blvd., 10/26

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

100 Block Tyler Park Way, 10/21
300 Block Easy St., 10/23
600 Block Clyde Ave., 10/25
Longs, 10/25
100 Block Morgan St., 10/26

THEFT BY FRAUD

E. Middlefield Road, 10/26

VANDALISM

200 Central Ave., 10/22
400 Block Chiquita Ave., 10/23
Amphitheatre Parkway, 10/26
200 Block Leghorn St., 10/26
200 Block Casey Ave., 10/27

■ CORRECTION

An Oct. 17 story on City Council candidates' campaign expenses incorrectly reported that John Inks had \$30 in unitemized campaign contributions. Inks had \$5,728 in unitemized contributions and \$30 in unitemized payments.

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Three seconds and a nod

By Don Frances

A LITTLE MORE notoriety came our way this week in the form of a mention in the *New York Times*. First Jay Leno, now this!

The nod, made briefly on page 8 of Monday's business section, was for Daniel DeBolt's scoop regarding the Google executives' private fighter jet stationed at Moffett Field (see page 1). This probably marks the first time the *Voice* ever broke a story that was picked up by the *Gray Lady*. Perhaps, given our excellent sources at Moffett Field, it won't be the last.

THE RECOGNITION takes some of the sting out of not getting a first place this year in the California Newspaper Publisher Association's Better Newspapers Contest.

The *Voice* was up for three awards — best front page, best editorial, and general excellence. The winners were announced last weekend, and I for one was waiting with bated breath, particularly in hopes of snagging that general excellence. We wound up with three second places.

Don't get me wrong: three red ribbons is an honor, and the competition is stiff. Still, you like to have at least one nice plaque to hang on the wall.

The editorial which eventually won second place was "Google's wall of silence," a July 2007 op-ed piece calling for more transparency from Mountain View's largest employer. Seems a little ironic now, given the fighter jet scoop.

"MY FATHER, Chuck Kaspar, a Mountain View resident, is being awarded 'Volunteer of the Year' by the Mountain View YMCA this year for over 15 years of ser-

▶ See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 8



MARJAN SADOUGHI

Bye bye balloon: passengers wave after disembarking at Moffett Field on Monday.

Zeppelin touches down at Moffett

A RIDE ON NEW ATTRACTION REMINDS ONE PASSENGER OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS

By Daniel DeBolt

The Germans have written poetry about the experience of floating through the sky in an airship. On Monday my grandfather and I found out why.

Airship Ventures, Inc. let me bring along Ben DeBolt,

81, for a media tour on the 246-foot Zeppelin NT, which arrived Saturday afternoon to its new home in Moffett Field's Hangar Two. From there it will give paid tours and help NASA Ames researchers on scientific missions.

Ben DeBolt may be the biggest airship enthusiast around.

Growing up in Lompoc — former site of a Navy base for blimps — his favorite book was "Tom Swift and His Airship." He joined the Navy himself in the late 1940s (after the Navy had dropped its rigid airship program), and later became founding president of the Moffett Field Historical

Society. He once even owned a car with a convertible top made from blimp fabric.

On Saturday he joined a crowd of about 75 at Moffett, there to witness the return of a rigid-frame airship to the United States after eight decades.

▶ See **ZEPPELIN**, page 14

Council debates wrap up at Monta Loma School

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council candidates closed a long series of debates with three neighborhood forums last week in which the major issues of this election became clear: city finances, overall growth and numerous individual projects, such as a shuttle system and new teen center.

By some estimates half of Mountain View has registered to

vote by absentee ballot, so much of the city has already voted. But the race isn't over until Nov. 4.

The final debate was at Monta Loma School on Saturday, where the top issues were the Mayfield development, traffic and parks. All nine candidates except Tracy

▶ See **COUNCIL DEBATE**, page 18



Testing, budget covered in final schools debate

By Casey Weiss

Opinions were sharp during the final debate in the race for Mountain View-Los Altos High School District Board of Trustees, with the two incumbents at odds with the challenger over standardized testing and funding policies. This is the first contested

board election in the district in 10 years, with Los Altos resident Colin Rudolph challenging incumbents Phil Faillace and Susan Sweeley for two open seats. Throughout the campaign, Sweeley, who is running for her third term, and Faillace, who is running for his fourth, have endorsed and supported each other. They continued to do so during the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association

▶ See **SCHOOL DEBATE**, page 19



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SHE EARNED HER B.A. IN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA STUDIES FROM FORDHAM UNIVERSITY AND AN M.A. IN MUSEUM STUDIES FROM UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS IN PHILADELPHIA.

She was a former Miss California contestant and has won County, State, and National Awards in Tap and Jazz, including Showstoppers Highest Point winner for Tap.

She believes that teaching is one of the most important things she can do with her life because she can participate in the physical, mental and spiritual growth of students.

Her favorite quote is: "Forget your troubles and dance,/Forget your sorrows and dance,/Forget your sickness and dance,/Forget your weakness and dance/Cost of livin' gets so high/ Rich and poor they start to cry/Now the weak must get strong/ They say oh, what a tribulation/..." (Bob Marley "Them Belly Full (But they Hungry).")

She lives on campus and works as a Residential dorm advisor in addition to teaching modern dance.

She hopes her dance students learn the importance of non-verbal communication, emotion, focus, inspiration, and perseverance.

KENDRA ANDERSON

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Praying mantis



This shot of a praying mantis, sent in by Monta Loma resident Michelle Schaal, is a properly spooky image for Halloween.

Schaal said she arrived at her home on the corner of Jane Lane and Thompson Avenue to find the creature on her doorstep. "He was huge. I took pictures of him but was scared to get too close."

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.

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Mountain View swimmer Katie Duffy wades ashore at San Francisco's Crissy Field after completing the mile-and-a-half Swim Across America charity event earlier this month.

COURTESY PHOTO

Katie Duffy swims for a different gold

MOUNTAIN VIEW RESIDENT BRAVES CHILLY BAY WATERS TO RAISE MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH

By Kelly Truong

While most of Mountain View slept, Katie Duffy spent a recent Saturday morning swimming the San Francisco Bay.

Duffy was one of the 120 swimmers who took part in San Francisco's Swim Across America event, one of several held around the country to raise money for cancer research. Participants swam in the cold waters of the Bay on Oct. 18, with their pledged funds going to children's hospitals in the area.

"The water was everything I'd expected it to be," said Duffy, a member of the Mountain View Masters swim team. "It was pretty choppy, and I'm not a big open water swimmer."

Through the cold and the currents, however, she kept her purpose in mind.

"There was a sense of peace — this is what we can do to help save people's lives, make some people's lives better," she said. "It was kind of exhausting and relaxing at the same time."

The swim lasted about 45 minutes, with participants jumping off a ferry boat stationed under the Golden Gate Bridge. They swam from there to Crissy Field, a mile-and-a-half-long journey that culminated in an awards ceremony and celebration on the beach.

The event was part of a larger fundraising effort led by Swim Across America, a nonprofit that hosts similar swims across the nation. The group says it has

raised more than \$25 million since its founding in 1987.

Veteran Olympians participated in the San Francisco event along with other Bay Area swimmers, with the goal of raising \$200,000 for UCSF Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland.

Duffy herself raised a total of \$1,020 for cancer research, with a sponsorship base made up of family, friends and colleagues at the law firm where she works as a patent secretary.

"Most of my coworkers think I'm kind of crazy, but they've been really supportive," she said.

Duffy, 26, has been swimming since she was 6 years old. As a child, she was involved with other charity swims to raise funds for juvenile diabetes.

"Because I didn't have any money, I thought this was a great way to contribute," said Duffy. "Instead of money, I gave the fact that I could swim."

So it was natural, after a flyer caught her eye, that she should sign up for Swim Across America. Duffy felt that cancer research was too good a cause to ignore — next year, in fact, she plans to be out in the open water again, continuing to do her part.

"Cancer research is definitely needed and it's needed today," she said. "This is my way of contributing." ■

E-mail Kelly Truong at ktruong@mv-voice.com

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\$3.00 wheel bright
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of El Camino Hospital District will hold the following public hearing:

Place, Date and Time of Meeting:

2500 Grant Road
Mountain View, CA 94040
Back of Cafeteria
November 12, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Subject Matter: Proposed Issue of Obligations for up to \$25 million by El Camino Hospital District to finance the acquisition of medical equipment for El Camino Hospital.

El Camino Hospital District (the "District") proposes to issue obligations in an aggregate principal amount of up to Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00) to one or more qualified investors in one or more transactions (the "Obligations"). The District intends to use the Obligations to finance the acquisition of medical equipment, including CT scanning, MRI scanning, interventional imaging, angiography, radiology and related equipment (the "Project") for El Camino Hospital, located at 2500 Grant Road in Mountain View, CA 94040 (the "Hospital"). The Hospital is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and the District is the sole voting member of the Hospital. The Hospital leases the real estate on which its facilities are located from the District. The equipment will be owned by the Hospital or leased by the Hospital from the District. The Hospital intends to use the equipment at its facilities to carry out the Hospital's tax exempt purpose to provide healthcare services to the community.

All interested parties are invited to attend such public hearing to express their views with respect to the Project and the issuance of the Obligations. Questions and requests for additional information may be directed to Marla Marlow at El Camino Hospital District, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View, CA 94040; (650) 940 7073.

Persons who intend to appear at the hearing and express their views are invited to, but need not, contact Pam Marshbank at the above address in writing in advance of the hearing. Any interested persons unable to attend the hearing may submit their views in writing to the attention of Pam Marshbank at the above address prior to the date scheduled for the hearing.

NEWS BRIEF

NEIGHBOR STOPS MAN FROM LIGHTING MOLOTOV COCKTAIL

Thanks to an intervening neighbor, an apartment on the 400 block of Del Medio Avenue was spared an attack early last week by a man trying to light a Molotov cocktail.

The incident was reported

on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 9:41 a.m. by a neighbor who said he saw a man attempt to light the Molotov cocktail — an improvised bomb made from a glass bottle of combustible fluid with fabric stuffed in as a wick — on the apartment's doorstep. The suspect fled, and police say they found two more Molotov cocktails and a

lighter dumped nearby.

The suspect is described as a 6-foot-tall Hispanic male in his 20s wearing a black baseball cap and black clothing. An investigation is still underway, and those with information are urged to call Mountain View police at (650) 903-6344.

— Daniel DeBolt

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

vice to the local community."

This announcement comes from daughter Kimberly Kaspar, who tells of how Chuck, an erstwhile youth sports coach for her and her brother, turned around one day to find his kids grown and "finally has time to focus on himself and his friends." (This could happen to me one day.)

"Four years ago, he realized that there was not a good outlet for adults to play basketball and so he decided to create a year-

round competitive 3-on-3 adult basketball league that he both runs and plays in."

As a result of his efforts, Chuck Kaspar "has provided an outlet for adults (approximately 48 people per season) to continue doing what they love. Additionally, he has given countless people the opportunity to learn and love the sport of basketball."

"THE MUSIC Department of Crittenden Middle School in Mountain View is having a fundraising project," wrote Helen Jennings. (Aren't they all.)

"They are currently selling

Chico Bag, the reusable bag that fits in your pocket."

Jennings, a mother of one of the band members, noted that the sales not only help raise money for the school's Music and Arts Department but encourage people to help the environment by not using wasteful disposable bags.

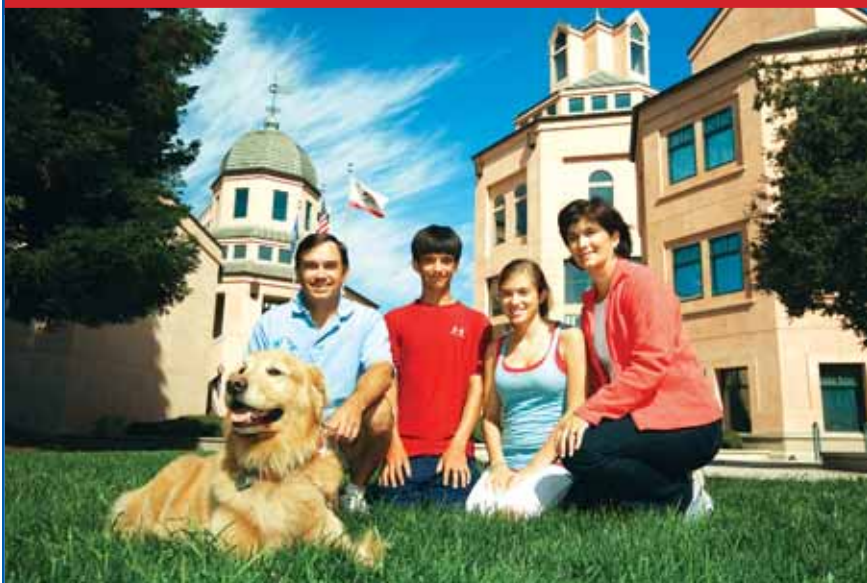
The best way to find out more is probably to contact Miss Weatherly, Crittenden music teacher, at (650) 903-6945 ext. 2309 or at lweatherly@mvwsd.org. ▀

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

VOTE

JOHN MCALISTER

CITY COUNCIL



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

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

Top Priorities:

Neighborhood Preservation

- Appropriate Growth
- Keep neighborhood character

Financial Strong City Government

- Provide quality and essential city services while being prudent with the budget

More Parks, Open Space, and Sports Facilities

- Increase sports fields, new park in Mountain View
- Leverage new development to increase park sizes

Strong Business Sector

- Improve and maintain business districts to help generate sales tax dollars to fund quality services, and not raise taxes and fees.

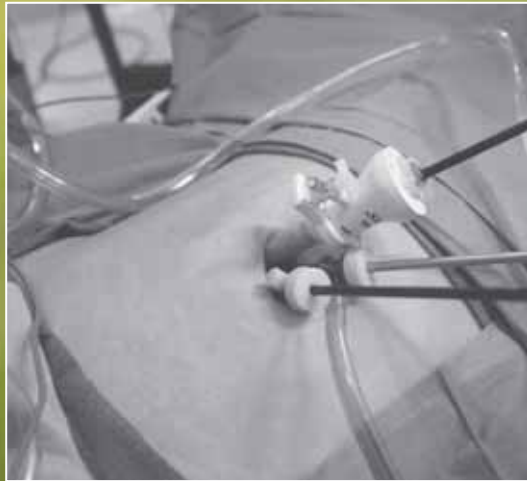
All of the above help improve the quality of life.

If you would like to share your thoughts, find out more information, or help out, please see:

www.johnmcalister.org

E-Mail: john4mv@johnmcalister.org

Paid for by John McAlister for City Council FPPC#1309928



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SHOW-OFF.

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Visit www.lpch.org for more information.

© 2008 Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

Lucile Packard
Children's Hospital
AT STANFORD



www.lpch.org

JET

► Continued from page 1

NASA Ames, he said, although he wouldn't give specifics.

Zornetzer added that failing to pay for runway operations could threaten Ames' control of the runway — a bad development for local residents given the Federal Aviation Administration's eagerness to allow cargo flights there.

But Lenny Siegel, director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight, a group involved with Moffett's restoration, thought the arrangement could be setting a bad precedent.

"If anyone can use the airfield to help Ames overcome its deficit, who knows what will end up there," he said.

City Hall officials were less vigorous in their criticism. Council member Jac Siegel said the issue is between Ames and Google. Council member Laura Macias expressed concern, saying the arrangement is "not something

that I can feel really good about."

When dealing with local businesses, she said, "It's always a balance. I think in this case it's a little bit too cozy."

The existence of H211's Alpha Jet was revealed publicly for the first time in a *Voice* story last week. Zornetzer said the jet was purchased in December 2007 after it was realized

that H211's other planes couldn't be modified, due to FAA regulations, to hold the scientific equipment required under the lease agreement. For technical reasons, the FAA restrictions don't apply to the Alpha Jet.

The fact that four of the five

H211 planes won't serve much of a purpose to NASA's mission won't keep them out of Moffett, Zornetzer said. According to the original lease agreement, the planes were supposed to be fitted with the scientific instruments by August of this year.

Zornetzer said the Alpha Jet is now undergoing a major revamp — resulting in a quieter engine and a payload of instruments built and paid for by NASA —

"When dealing with local businesses, 'It's always a balance. I think in this case it's a little bit too cozy.'"

LAURA MACIAS



COURTESY PHOTO

This photo of a Dornier Alpha Jet was taken from the Royal Air Force website. The one at Moffett Field is reportedly painted green.

before it begins flights out of Moffett this spring. It has been in Seattle off and on to receive the modifications, he said.

"This particular Alpha Jet is being converted from military to civilian use," he said. "Its turbo-fan engine will be stage III compliant; it will not be noisy when done."

Atmospheric data from the

Alpha Jet's payload will be collected by the earth science division at NASA Ames led by Stephen Hipskind. The plane can fly in and out of Moffett as the Google executives see fit. Zornetzer noted that H211 made up only 1 percent of the 19,000 flights in and out of Moffett last year.

The Alpha Jet's NASA payload

will also include equipment to collect data on wildfires: high resolution cameras, hyper-spectral analysis instruments and an infrared detector. NASA has an unmanned aircraft called the Ikhana that collects similar data. ■

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



BA Economics UCD
PhD Economics UCLA

Re-Elect Tom Means - City Council
For a Better Mountain View

Experienced Decision - Maker

Experienced Consensus - Builder

Experienced Budget - Balancer

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

Endorsement - Mountain View Voice, Editorial October 10, 2008

"We want a practical, fiscally disciplined council rather than one looking to add programs that bust the budget. We've seen from his first four years that he's able to use his training in finance to help his colleagues make good decisions."

Endorsement - Palo Alto Daily Post, Editorial October 20, 2008

Selected Endorsements

County Supervisor Liz Kniss, Patrick Kwok SCCWD
Former Mayors, Art Takahara, Ralph Faravelli, Nick Galiotto, Matt Pear
School Board Members, Susan Sweely, Joe Mitchner
Commission Members, Todd Fernandez, Laura Brown, Bob Weaver(fmr),
Ed Mussman, Rick Meyer, Bill Maston, Ken Rosenberg, Kal Sandhu,
Chris Burley, Jamil Shaikh, Bryan Malone, Barry Burr, Randall Stock,
Community Leaders, Robert Chang, Oscar Garcia, Aaron Grossman,
Kevin McBride, Justine Fenwick

MV Chamber of Commerce *MV Housing Council*
MV Firefighters *SV Asian Pacific American Democrats*

Selected Accomplishments

Initiated Thursday Night Live
Appointed First Environmental Task Force
Provided Real Affordable Housing Options
Approved More Parks and Playing Fields

Mountain View dad loses name dispute with Boy Scouts

Bay City News

A Mountain View father lost a bid in federal court in San Francisco on Tuesday to use the name "Youthscouts" for a youth activities group he founded for his daughter.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White ruled that the Boy Scouts of America has a trademark right to exclusive use of the word "scouts" in an organizational name. White also said the Boy Scouts, founded in 1910, had additional protection from a special charter passed by Congress in 1916 giving the group rights over the word.

Mountain View resident Gregory Wrenn, a Silicon Valley attorney, founded Youthscouts in 2002 after his daughter Emma was asked to stop attending meetings of her twin brother's Cub Scouts pack.

Youthscouts was intended to be nondiscriminatory and open to all members and staff regardless of gender,

sexual orientation or religion. Wrenn, who sued the Boy Scouts in 2003 after the organization initiated trademark enforcement proceedings, argued that the terms "scouts" and "scouting" were generic and should not be subject to trademark protection.

But White wrote in a 15-page ruling that the terms as used by the Boy Scouts "have achieved and been accorded significant conceptual and commercial strength." He said there was a likelihood of public confusion between the Boy Scouts and Youthscouts.

Wrenn and Boy Scouts of America were not immediately available for comment on the decision, which could be appealed.

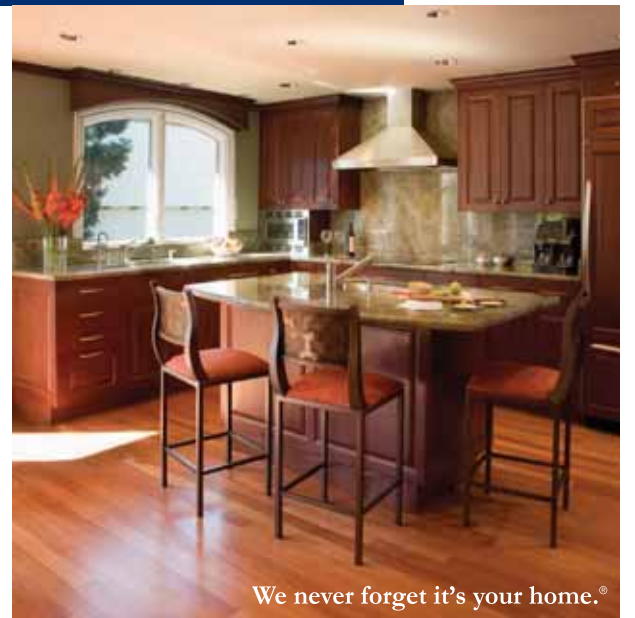
In several other cases during the past decade, the U.S. Supreme Court and other courts have ruled that Boy Scouts of America is entitled to exclude girls, homosexuals and atheists because it is a private organization. ■

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MEASURE C CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees seeks applicants for appointment to the independent, volunteer **Measure C Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**, which will review and report to the public on the District's Measure C bond expenditures. Applicants must reside in the District's service area, which includes the cities of Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and portions of San Jose, Santa Clara and Saratoga. Applicants may not be an employee, contractor, consultant or vendor of the District. The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee bylaws are available at www.measurec.fhda.edu or by calling (650) 949-6100.

Currently three committee members are needed in the following categories:

- Representative, Senior Citizens' Organization
- Representative, At Large
- Representative, Student Enrolled at Foothill College or De Anza College

This Committee is responsible for reviewing expenditures related to the District's \$490,800,000 general obligation bond, Measure C, approved by the voters on June 6, 2006. Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter detailing their qualifications and noting which of the above categories they would represent to:

Mail: Office of the Chancellor
Foothill-De Anza Community College District
12345 El Monte Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

E-mail: chancellor@fhda.edu
Fax: 650.941.6289

Completed applications must be received by **5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7**. For more information, please call (650) 949-6100 or email chancellor@fhda.edu.



MIKE KASPERZAK FOR CITY COUNCIL

www.kasperzak.org

Last on the ballot, First in Experience!

I have seen Mike in action throughout Santa Clara County for the past 10 years. He is committed to fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and ensuring the quality of life in Mountain View. Mike makes things happen! Supervisor Liz Kniss

MIKE'S ENDOREMENTS (Partial List)

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

MY GOALS:

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

My priorities are:

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

Community Leaders

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| David Greene | Kevin McBride | Twana Karney |
| Aaron Grossman | Aaron Grossman | Betsy Collard |
| Bob Reay & Judi Fan | Bob Reay & Judi Fan | Larry Sokoloff |
| Jack & Rada Ford | Jack & Rada Ford | Marilyn Manning |
| Jerylann Mateo | Joan & Wally MacDonald | Jean Morda |
| Joan & Wally MacDonald | Stuart & Jeanne Farwell | Andre Burnett |
| Stuart & Jeanne Farwell | Carla Paul | Cathy Kroymann |
| Carla Paul | Terry Guess | Jack & Norma Melchor |
| Terry Guess | Cosette Delgado | Robert Chang |
| Cosette Delgado | John K. Dolan | Paul J. Lesti |
| John K. Dolan | Bernie Rosen | Karen Cabello McNaught |
| Bernie Rosen | Roy Hayter | Martha Maris |
| Roy Hayter | Lance Sapera | Roy Lave |
| Lance Sapera | Nancy Gee | Alison Sokoloff |
| Nancy Gee | Oscar Garcia | Jim Geers |
| Oscar Garcia | Steve & Carol Olson | Gregory Fowler |
| Steve & Carol Olson | Carol Tolen | |
| Carol Tolen | | |

Paid for by Mike Kasperzak for City Council FPPC # 1306084

CITY COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

One proposal was for the city to invest \$1 million of its reserves into a revolving door fund that would give \$100,000 down payment loans to help public safety personnel and, possibly, other city employees. A police officer's average starting salary is \$92,000 a year, but that is still not enough to qualify for many home loans.

Only two of the city's 69 firefighters and 18 of the city's 97 police officers live in Mountain View. Firefighters in particular tend to live many hours away, where homes are much cheaper. Because they work long shifts, they only have to drive to Mountain View once or twice a week, working several days in a row and sleeping in the fire house. Nineteen percent of firefighters live in Santa Clara County, compared to 73 percent of police.

As for police, there is a widespread sentiment against living in the city they serve, according to Chief Scott Vermeer. Often, he said, police think it will lead to uncomfortable situations, such as seeing that "parolee in the supermarket" that you had arrested. Vermeer disagrees with the sentiment, and is in favor

Police officers, as residents, "build relationships on a daily basis."

NICK GALIOTTO

of bringing more Mountain View officers to the city to live. Council member Nick Galiotto was once a police officer in Mountain View when

about half of the officers lived in the city. "It was not often that you would run into that person you just arrested," he said. "If you did you probably would just arrest him and put him back in jail."

Police officers, as residents, "build relationships on a daily basis," creating a place where neighbors and friends can turn for help, Galiotto said. "This is a depth of public safety you do not get from someone who spends eight to 12 hours here and goes

back to their community."

Member Matt Pear was adamant that the city should build a housing complex for public safety officers on city-owned land, calling it the most practical solution. But the others disagreed.

"How about if that's the first place that gets hit?" Galiotto said, alluding to a natural or other disaster. "You don't want all your eggs in one basket."

Boost for office projects

The City Council also considered ways to accommodate higher density office buildings north of Highway 101 to maintain a competitive edge with other cities in attracting business.

"We need to densify, otherwise we can't continue to attract the businesses we need," council member Jac Siegel said Monday in a phone interview.

During the Tuesday study session, the planning department, now led by director Randy Tsuda, proposed a new high-density zone overlay (ML-FAR) that would provide density bonuses for projects that met certain criteria. Those criteria include a five-acre minimum lot size, increased open space, possible LEED green building certification and an emphasis

on alternative transportation options.

There are 10 properties within the city limits that are large enough, including two in North Bayshore and six in the Whisman area.

Some say the city already has too many offices and not enough homes, resulting in major traffic problems during rush hour, especially for those who are exiting or crossing Highway 101 along or near Shoreline Boulevard.

"It's already absolutely out of control as to how people are commuting over to North Bayshore," said council member Laura Macias.

Council members did not oppose the increase in density, however. Some proposed that fees be collected to create a shared shuttle system in North Bayshore that would serve everyone, similar to the systems many tech companies run on their own, including Google.

"We're expecting traffic not to increase proportional to the

increase in density," said council member Ronit Bryant.

The test case for the zoning changes is an office development at 1615-1625 Plymouth Ave., which is now a vacant office complex. The property is being developed by Alexandria Properties, likely for a biotech operation. Alexandria wants to

"We need to densify, otherwise we can't continue to attract the businesses we need."

JAC SIEGEL

raise current density limits for what the city calls "floor area ratio" from .35 to .50 — shown in one example to increase a building from 113,000 square feet to 172,000 square feet. Sunnyvale is allowing .70 floor area ratio in some areas, according to a city staff report.

Also proposed is a streamlined permit process for higher density office buildings, including "T-zone" developments, which would take six to nine months for approval rather than a year. ▀

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



Chris Clark
for City Council

On Nov. 4th, you can vote for 4 city council candidates. Please use one of your votes to diversify the council and elect a fresh voice with the long-term vision to preserve the qualities we love while implementing the change we need for a better Mountain View. Please vote for **Chris Clark**.

SUPPORTERS

- Democratic Party
- Sierra Club
- Mountain View Advocates for Affordable Housing
- Recognized for business-friendly policies by the MV Chamber of Commerce
- Mountain View Whisman School District Trustees Gloria Higgins and Fiona Walter
- BAYMEC and DAWN
- SV Young and LGBT Dems
- SV Asian Pacific American Democratic Club

QUALIFICATIONS

- Education: Stanford University**
- B.A. in Political Science
 - Minor in Economics
- Work Experience:**
- Loopt (Mountain View Startup)
 - Stanford Residential Counselor
 - U.S. House of Representatives
 - U.S. State Department
 - AT&T Leadership Development Program
- Community Service:**
- HIV/AIDS Outreach
 - United Way
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Junior Achievement

PRIORITIES

1. Responsible Fiscal Management
2. Environmental Sustainability and Protection
3. Balanced Growth and Development with more Efficient Use of our Affordable Housing Funds
4. Economic Vitality through the Support of our Local Businesses
5. Stronger Partnerships with Surrounding Cities, Businesses, Schools, and Community Organizations
6. Renewed Focus on Youth

LEARN MORE AT: www.electchrisclark.com

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PAL HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

Local residents will get a chance to meet the new boxers and director of the Mountain View Police Activities League during the nonprofit's open house next week.

The league, which pairs police officers and at-risk youth in various sports activities, hired a new executive director this month. Travis Martin and members and staff of the league's new boxing team will be showing off their ring and equipment during the open house on Thursday, Nov. 6 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Whisman Sports Center at 1500 W. Middlefield Road.

PAL will serve pizza and soda during the open house, and all donations for the food will go to the nonprofit's programs.

For more information, call Detective Hung LeDang at (650) 903-6364 or Agent Cary Shueh at (650) 903-6161, ext. 1014.

SHARLENE GEE RECEIVES HERO AWARD

Mountain View resident Sharlene Gee received the Asian American Hero Award last week for her local volunteer work.

Gee was selected by local librarians for her work on Mountain View Reads Together. Gee, who has her training in the tech industry, also is a board chair for Del Sol Performing Arts Organization, a nonprofit that educates the community about chamber music. She is a volunteer mediator for the city of Mountain View and works with other local nonprofits.

— Casey Weiss

The award is presented each year during a luncheon to one community member in Supervisor Liz Kniss' District 5, which includes Mountain View.

"The idea is to nominate someone who makes the community a better place," said Marsha Adler, a policy analyst for Kniss.

MVHS BOOK CLUB PICKED BY NATIONAL GROUP

The Mountain View High School Book Club is one of only two teen reading groups in the Bay Area selected by the Young Adult Library Services Association to participate in the nomination of books for the group's annual "Teens Top Ten" reading list.

The local teens will be the first consumers to read new young adult books before they are published and will write short reviews for the publishers. The groups will also nominate books for the list, which is voted on by teens throughout the country during the organization's Teen Read Week each October.

Noveltees, a group from the San Leandro Public Library, is the other Bay Area group chosen to be part of just 15 groups across the nation taking part in the project.

More information can be found by visiting www.ala.org/teenstopten.

— Bay City News



Larry's Knows...

Brought to you by
Larry & Laurie Moore



GLASS ACT

While few features in an automobile provide more convenience than power windows, few inconveniences are more annoying than the failure of a side window. If the power window motor can be heard to run when the switch is pushed and the window does not move, then the window regulator needs to be replaced or fixed. This component employs a bar to support the window glass and the gears that enable the driver and passengers to raise and lower the side windows. At first, vehicle owners may be tempted to make this repair on their own. However, even if they can get past the tricky removal of the door panel, it quickly becomes obvious that this is a job for a professional.

At Larry's AutoWorks, we hope that you bring your

car to us when your power windows begin to fail. We are proud of our outstanding reputation serving the community, and their automotive needs. Every car our customers bring to us for service has a technician who is factory-qualified and trained on that vehicle. Keep that in mind. Come visit us today! We are located off of the 101 Freeway on Leghorn between San Antonio and Rengstorff in Mountain View. Take the Rengstorff exit south, then right on Leghorn.

HINT: Since the window regulator serves to lock side windows in place, a faulty regulator may cause the window glass to drop suddenly into the door frame.

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P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042

MountainView
VOICE

Inspirations

A Guide to the Spiritual Community

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9:45 am Church School Nursery
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SPEAKING UP SINCE 1992

THE
MountainView VOICE

STANFORD UNIVERSITY



Author
Edward P. Jones
will be reading from his work

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Free and open to the public

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For more information, call **(650) 723-0011** or visit
<http://creativewriting.stanford.edu>

ZEPPELIN

► Continued from page 5

With a bottle of champagne, the crew celebrated the end of a long trip from Germany.

The Zeppelin took eight days just to get here from Texas. On the last leg of its journey, it flew up from Southern California, passing over the Pacific Ocean around Point Sur — the place where the Moffett-stationed U.S.S. Macon airship crashed in 1935 — and hovered for photo-ops over the Golden Gate Bridge before backtracking down to Moffett.

On our flight two days later, I felt like Charlie taking his grandfather to the chocolate factory. Not since the days of Moffett's air shows in the 1980s, when Moffett was still a Navy base, had either of us stepped onto the runway there. It was hazy out, but visibility was good enough.

Airship Ventures' staff seemed a bit nervous on this first day of public flights aboard the Zeppelin. "Stay together," they said several times as we crossed the tarmac. Then the overwhelming white vessel floated down, coming almost right at us, but not quite. So as not to alter its

buoyancy, two people stepped onto the gondola whenever two passengers got off.

We boarded, strapped ourselves in and put our confidence in the two pilots: Kate Board, the world's first female airship pilot, and Fritz Guenther, a former East German Air Force pilot. One reporter tried to bother them with a request, but Guenther deflected him with clipped German efficiency: "After takeoff."

Suddenly the ship rushed straight upward with the help of 200-horsepower Lycoming engines, which can point thrust up, down and forward. "Up ship!" my grandfather said, using an old Navy phrase. Before we knew it we were slowly floating through the sky, casting a large shadow below us, and hearing nothing but a peaceful hum from the engines. The crew seemed to relax once in the air; seatbelts came off and everyone saw the views from each window.

Moffett Field sat about 800 feet below, alongside wetlands to the north and the Whisman area to the south. The Francia family orchard, nearly invisible from surface streets, seemed enormous.

"The hover is so wonderful, isn't it," said Michael Schischke, COO of Zeppelin

Luftschifftechnik GmbH.

It's not every day you're sitting next to a Zeppelin executive, so Grandpa asked him some questions. It turns out the airship's frame weighs only 2,200 pounds and the helium "envelope" another 2,200 pounds. "That's lighter than a Ford truck," my grandfather said. The airship gathers static electricity in flight, which is released through conductive landing gear once it touches down.

The all-important helium envelope is much more durable than those used in the 1930s. This one is made from Kevlar, carbon composite and polyurethane, and lasts over 10 years. The sailors of the Macon would be envious.

My grandfather plans to write an article about the flight for *The Noon Balloon*, the newsletter of the Naval Airship Association, of which he is a member. (He said it's mostly read by "old blimp sailors.") And the Zeppelin's arrival has led to a slough of newspaper articles to add to his "lighter than air" file.

"That was quite an experience," he said after we touched down. "I'm not sure how to express it yet."

After Monday's tours the air-

► Continued on next page



MARJAN SADOUGH

The 246-foot Zeppelin positions itself before loading passengers at Moffett Field on Monday.

Alicia Crank for City Council

Community First



Our community's priorities are Alicia's priorities

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

SUSTAINABILITY

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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



FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

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



Alicia is a fair and ethical public servant with a proven commitment to Mountain View. She cares deeply about people and listens to all sides of an issue. I look forward to having her fresh energy and strong commitment on City Council!"

ASSEMBLY WOMAN SALLY LIEBER Speaker pro Tempore California State Assembly

I am supporting Alicia Crank for City Council because I believe she is a straight forward, no nonsense person that will make sure the citizens of our community are heard.

SANDI MCDONOUGH

Small Business Owner, Minuteman Press



I'm supporting Alicia because she truly cares about the people in this community. She has an unbelievable drive to get things done, sincere compassion for everyone she serves, and a vision of how the City will become even better in the future. Combine these qualities with the highest level of integrity and you have a person who will make a positive difference as a member of the City Council.

BRUCE BARS Ret. MV Police Captain

"[Alicia] has shown us more maturity and knowledge of the issues, gleaned from her ongoing interest in local government and long service on the Human Relations Commission. Like the other endorsed candidates, she will continue to support sensible housing development, believes the city is on the right course in halting gang violence by appealing directly to our youth, and will protect the city's already healthy budget."

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE 10/10/2008

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

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► Continued from previous page

ship was put away in Hangar Two for some much-needed maintenance. But soon it will be available for Bay Area sightseeing tours, with tickets starting at \$495. Rides out of airports in Oakland and Sonoma County are also planned. See www.airshipventures.com for more information. ▀

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



MARJAN SADOUGHI

Ben DeBolt's view of Highway 101 from the airship.

DANIEL DEBOLT

Co-pilot Fritz Guenther asks passengers to remain seated before the airship lands. Pilot Kate Board guides the ship.



DANIEL DEBOLT

Airship Ventures' Zeppelin hovers over Moffett Field with hangars two and three in the background.

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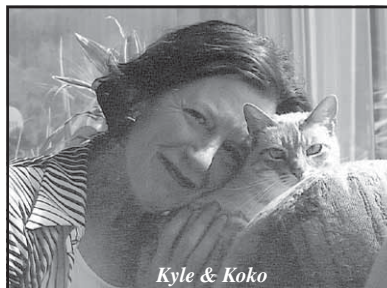


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Diana Wang is running for Mountain View city council. She will be leading Mountain View in the right direction by taking on tasks to help the city and the people that live in it.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE ISSUES

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

DIANA WANG

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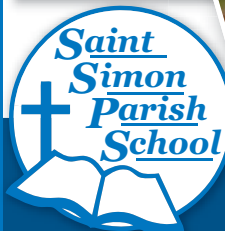
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Measure B foes file complaint

Palo Alto Weekly

Opponents of Measure B are accusing supporters of working too closely with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, the agency which put the measure on the Nov. 4 ballot. VTA and pro-B campaign officials strongly deny the allegations.

The group Citizens for Sensible Transportation filed a complaint last Thursday with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) charging the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, which supports Measure B, of failing to disclose in-kind donations from the VTA. The group is basing its complaint on e-mails, released through a Public Records Act request, between staffers from SVLG and the VTA.

Some of those e-mails refer to meetings between officials from the two agencies to discuss media outreach strategies and campaign organizing — evidence, the group claims, that SVLG failed to report the VTA's "significant donations of staff time and materials" to the pro-B campaign.

"It's clear the VTA has crossed the line from being an impartial agent and is actually engaging in advocacy," said Margaret Okuzumi, one of the leaders of the "No on B" campaign.

But Phil Yost, spokesman for the "Yes on B" campaign, dismissed the complaint as baseless and said the VTA was simply fulfilling its duty as a public agency by providing the requested materials.

"The opponents of Measure B understand how popular BART is among voters of this county and are raising smoke about issues that are non-issues," Yost said. "VTA is in charge of this project. It's the source of information on ridership, costs and routes and it provides that information to anyone because they're a public agency."

The proposed measure would create a 1/8-cent sales tax to operate, maintain and improve a 16-mile extension of BART between Fremont and Santa Clara. The funds would only be collected if state or federal funds are acquired to match local spending. ▀

VOLUNTEERS

► Continued from page 1

both self-described political junkies and fans of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, share text messages sent from Obama's campaign.

Poonja said he recently participated in a phone conference with Obama and other student leaders. The candidate talked about how his health care policy would allow students to stay on their parent's health care plan until they turned 25.

"Obama reaches out to us," he said.

Poonja has been volunteering with "Los Altos for Obama" as a student director at the high school. Radford has been working on Obama phone banks, and will take Election Day off to work at a local polling center.

"Because we can't vote, we want to be really involved," said Radford, who can recite the most recent polling numbers and frequently checks political news sites online.

Obama is popular among students, especially at Los Altos High, the two said. A recent poll by the *Talon*, the student newspaper, showed that 81 percent of students supported the Democratic

day. Many of these are first-time voters who are excited by McCain, she said.

"We have seen a lot of enthusiasm come out of this election," Theis said.

Albera is one of these new vol-

unteers, and puts in 20 hours of volunteer work each week in an effort to help defeat the Democratic opponent.

"I do not like Obama's stance on issues," Albera said. "I think he will be bad for our country." ▀



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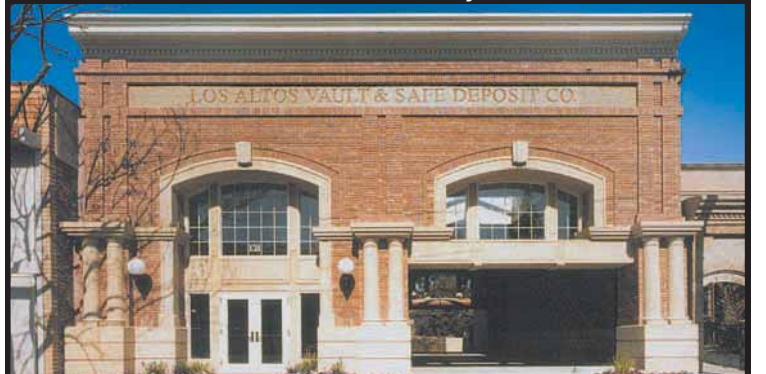
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The City of Mountain View is currently accepting applications for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) funds. The funds will be awarded around April 2009 and distributed during Fiscal Year 2009-10 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010). The City anticipates that approximately \$1.2 million in CDBG and HOME funds will be available. Local funds may also be available, subject to City Council discretion.

Eligible Activities: Public service programs, affordable housing developments, and community projects benefitting low-income individuals, households, and areas.

Application Period: October 27, 2008 - December 15, 2008

Where to Obtain an Application:

- ◆ Download it from the City's website at <http://www.mountainview.gov> under "Announcements";
- ◆ Call the City's Neighborhoods Division at (650) 903-6379; or
- ◆ Pick up applications in the Community Development Department at City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA.

Applications are due December 15, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact:
Regina Adams, Senior Planner

Phone - (650) 903-6049
E-mail - regina.adams@mountainview.gov



candidate.

"Ralph Nader is getting more love at this school than John McCain," Radford said. "If you are a Republican, you don't talk about it."

Local volunteer Renee Albera said this is not the case at all in San Jose, and she has been pleased with the local enthusiasm for Sen. John McCain, the Republican presidential candidate. Albera, a Redwood City resident, has spent months working the phone bank for McCain along with dozens of volunteers throughout the Peninsula at the Santa Clara County Republican Party office.

This week, McCain volunteers opened a new office on El Camino Real in Mountain View, where callers reach out to voters in Santa Clara County and Nevada each evening.

Overall, Republican activity was decidedly harder to find in Santa Clara County. But Kim Theis, director of the Santa Clara County Republican Party, said that around a dozen volunteers come to each of the three county Republican headquarters every

COUNCIL DEBATE

► Continued from page 5

Gordon attended.

"We've got to get the project before we get the parks," said John Inks regarding the massive Mayfield housing development, which could be in jeopardy over a required pedestrian tunnel under Central Expressway — a tunnel which is key to Mayfield being smart growth, said Chris Clark. In its current iteration, Mayfield will include three acres of parks

and 495 homes on 27 acres.

When the candidates were asked about "cut-through traffic" in neighborhoods, only a few seemed to understand that they were being asked about the Monta Loma traffic problems that could result from Mayfield development. Tom Means and Mike Kasperzak talked about the city's traffic management program, which allows neighborhoods and street users to vote on traffic circles and speed humps.

There has been talk about a complete redesign of the Mayfield development to include

retail or offices. "We want retail there so we can walk," said candidate John McAlister. But Kasperzak warned that retail would bring in even more traffic than homes would.

"The city should have plan (for Mayfield) not driven by the developer," said Diana Wang.

The conversation shifted to the "healthy villages" concept for city planning, which encourages retail, parks, homes and workplaces orga-

nized so as to reduce walking distances.

"I'm not too sure about the villages concept myself right now," Inks said.

"It's not a new concept, it's just not something we have done very well," said Alicia Crank

"We have a ways to go before we can allow healthy villages to promulgate throughout the city," said Laura Macias. "When you step back you'll find we're

the city we've been looking for."

"People come to me and say there are no services here," Means said. The reason, he said, is because there aren't enough people to form a customer base. He cited the development around San Francisco's Pac Bell Park as "the kind of density that gets people out of their cars."

"I don't think we have density that does that" in Mountain View.

A debate was held in the Whisman neighborhood the Monday before. Organizer Bruce Eng-

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land said the top issues were similar to Monta Loma's: Whisman residents want more retail in their area, such as a grocery store, or at the very least, a bike path to access the grocery stores in other areas.

A Cuesta neighborhood debate was held that Thursday where candidates wondered why they were not asked about that neighborhood's biggest concern: the Cuesta Annex. ▀

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

SCHOOL DEBATE

► Continued from page 5

debate on Oct. 25.

Both incumbents said the board has worked well as a group to create strong programs on the district's three campuses. But Rudolph said the board needs a fresh perspective, and should make new community partnerships to improve programs on campus and help hire the best teachers.

When asked about their view of a board member's responsibilities, the incumbents drew a firm line between themselves and direct oversight of the district.

Faillace said the board stays away from "managerial affairs," and instead approves policy according to the education code. The board hires and fires the superintendent, Faillace said, adding that he helped choose current Superintendent Barry Groves, "who is well on his way to becoming superintendent of the year."

Sweeley agreed, adding that all five trustees are involved on all three campuses.

Rudolph said the responsibilities of the board need to change to concentrate more on the budget.

"During economic uncertainty, one of the major responsibilities of the board is to have a model that makes sure we have fiscal responsibility in the long run," Rudolph said.

The two incumbents said they were experienced with budget cuts and that the board has been planning ahead. Despite the economic downturn, all three candidates agreed the district should continue to provide training programs and offer top pay in order to retain qualified math and science teachers.

Sweeley said the district receives 200 applications for each vacant teaching position. The district allots thousands of dollars a year for teacher training in the math and sciences, Faillace added.

"We hire only the best and keep only the best," Sweeley said.

Rudolph said that as a school

board member he would build relationships with teaching programs in nearby universities. By working with the local high schools, these teachers in training will "have a sight and can get excited," Rudolph said.

The debate became more heated when an audience member asked how the candidates felt about standardized testing.

Rudolph said the federal No Child Left Behind program had "the right idea," but should not require all the students to meet the same standards.

"You cannot have standards across a nation, state or within a region," he said. "It has to be regionalized."

Faillace disagreed, saying the standardized testing helped to challenge all students.

"You can't say it is acceptable for kids in Mississippi to read at third grade level when they graduate, but it is not acceptable in Silicon Valley," he said.

Standardized testing has been particularly important for special education students, he said, who are receiving more attention since the legislation passed.

Although Sweeley agreed with Faillace, she said standardized testing is only effective if it is done right. She said she does not support the idea of just "teaching to the test."

The debate ended with a question about the legality of teaching Intelligent Design or other non-scientific philosophies in public schools.

All three candidates agreed it did not have a place in the science classroom, but both Faillace and Rudolph said it could be an important part of the social studies curriculum.

"It is simply another name for creationism," said Faillace. "It is not on par with any other scientific study."

Sweeley's answer was brief: "If Intelligent Design becomes standard, we would start teaching it." ▀

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Our positions on Props. 9 to 12

Over the last two weeks, the *Voice* offered recommendations on the first eight of 12 state propositions on the Nov. 4 ballot. Today we complete the series, with our analysis of Propositions 9 to 12.

No on Proposition 9: Victims' rights, parole

This measure amends the state Constitution and various state laws to expand the legal rights of crime victims and the payment of restitution by criminal offenders, restrict the early release of inmates, and change the procedures for granting and revoking parole.

This measure is promoted by billionaire Henry T. Nicholas III, who provided almost \$5 million for the campaign in addition to the \$1 million he gave to Proposition 6. Nicholas has funded multiple anti-crime measures over the years. He also was indicted this summer by a federal grand jury for 21 counts related to conspiracy, securities fraud, wire fraud and separately for narcotics crimes.

We don't believe one person should be able to spend a personal fortune pushing complex crime legislation through the initiative process (and locking it into the state Constitution), especially when that person is as questionable as Nicholas. We recommend a no vote on Proposition 9.

No on Proposition 10: Alternative fuel, renewable energy

This measure allows the state to sell \$5 billion in bonds for various renewable energy, alternative fuel, energy efficiency and air emissions reduction purposes. The majority of that (58 percent in cash payments of between \$2,000 and \$50,000) would go to purchasers of certain fuel efficient and alternative fuel vehicles. Another 20 percent is allocated for R&D and production of renewable energy technology, and 11 percent goes to R&D of alternative fuel vehicle technology. The cost would be about \$325 million annually over 30 years to repay the bonds.

The financial support for this initiative comes from the Clean Energy Fuels Corporation (CEFC), to the tune of \$3.2 million and counting. This corporation, which operates natural gas fueling stations, is owned by T. Boone Pickens and would benefit from the subsidies in this initiative. We're not convinced that California citizens should subsidize his large-scale natural gas vehicle plan. Proposition 10 is opposed by a number of consumer groups, including Consumer Federation and TURN in the Bay Area.

While it may seem attractive on the surface, there are many reasons to be troubled by this initiative: its narrow support and benefit, focus on fossil fuel use subsidy, and long term public cost. We recommend a no vote on Proposition 10.



Yes on Proposition 11: Redistricting

Proposition 11 creates a 14-member redistricting commission responsible for drawing new lines for state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts. The system creating that commission is complex: The state auditor randomly selects commissioners from a registered voter applicant pool, rejecting applicants for various reasons (they have recently been a lobbyist, political candidate, etc.); a 60-person pool is created; legislative leaders of both parties strike 24 names; the auditor randomly draws eight commissioners, three from each major party plus two others, who select the final six from the pool.

The measure establishes standards for drawing lines that require respect for the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and that encourage compact districts. The commission would hold hearings and take public comment. Nine votes are required to approve final district maps. The state Legislature would still draw lines for congressional districts but must adhere to the same geographic standards.

The measure is supported by the League of Women Voters, California Common Cause, AARP and many business groups as well as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. It is opposed by the state Democratic Party, Don Perata, Barbara Boxer and Nancy Pelosi, who fear losing Democratic seats if it passes.

While we share some of the opponents' concerns, it's apparent to us that the governing process in Sacramento is



broken. Part of the problem is term limits, which produce a rotating cast of amateurs who work with an ineffective governor. Part is the two-third vote requirement for budgets. Part is the campaign finance system. But part of it is also non-competitive legislative districts for both parties. This measure is not perfect, but it's the best we've seen, and it's time for change in Sacramento. We recommend a yes vote on Proposition 11.

Yes on Proposition 12: Veterans' Bond Act

This initiative appears on the ballot as a result of legislation sponsored by state Senator Mark Wyland, R-Carlsbad. It authorizes the state to sell \$900 million in general obligation bonds for the Cal-Vet program, which allows the state Dept. of Veterans Affairs to purchase farms and homes and resell them to California veterans. These bonds would provide sufficient funds for at least 3,600 additional veterans to receive loans. Each participating veteran makes monthly payments to the department.

According to the legislative analyst, these payments are sufficient to reimburse the department for its costs of purchasing the farm or home; cover all costs resulting from the sale of the bonds, including interest; and cover the costs of operating the program. Given the history of this program, there is not likely to be any substantial cost to the state.

While we think it's the federal government's responsibility to provide for veterans, not the state's, this is a proven program which helps deserving Californians at little or no cost. We recommend a yes vote on Proposition 12. ▣

Voice Endorsements

MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY COUNCIL

Tom Means, Laura Macias,
Mike Kasperzak, Alicia Crank

U.S. HOUSE

Anna Eshoo

STATE SENATE

Elaine Alquist

STATE ASSEMBLY

Paul Fong

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Lane Liroff

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Grace Mah

MOUNTAIN VIEW LOS ALTOS

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Susan Sweeley, Phil Faillace

COUNTY MEASURE A

\$840 million bond for seismic upgrade
on medical center: Vote Yes

COUNTY MEASURE B

A one-eighth-cent sales tax to support BART extension
to San Jose: Vote Yes

COUNTY MEASURE C

Valley Transportation Plan: Vote Yes

COUNTY MEASURE D

Valley Transportation Authority ordinance:
Vote Yes

STATE PROPOSITION 1A

High-Speed Rail: Vote No

STATE PROPOSITION 2

Treatment of Farm Animals: Vote Yes

STATE PROPOSITION 3

Children's Hospital Bonds: Vote No

STATE PROPOSITION 4

Parental Notification of Abortion: Vote No

STATE PROPOSITION 5

Changes in Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation: Vote Yes

STATE PROPOSITION 6

Tougher Criminal Penalties and laws: Vote No

STATE PROPOSITION 7

Renewable Energy: Vote No

STATE PROPOSITION 8

Limit on Marriage: Vote No

STATE PROPOSITION 9

Victims' Rights, Changes in Parole Policy: Vote No

STATE PROPOSITION 10

Alternative Fuel Vehicles, Alternative Energy: Vote No

STATE PROPOSITION 11

Redistricting for state Assembly, Senate: Vote Yes

STATE PROPOSITION 12

Veterans Bond Act: Vote Yes

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■ GUEST OPINION

Support Prop. 2 to end inhumane treatment of farm animals

By Sharon Kilburg

On the state ballot this November is a measure titled "Standards for Confining Farm Animals." The measure is a commonsense reform of some of the cruelest practices of factory farming against certain animals — veal calves, breeding pigs and egg-laying hens.

In the big factory farms across the state, these animals spend their entire lives in tiny, cramped cages, unable to even spread out their limbs or wings. As a lifetime pet owner, I know that animals experience pain and fear. Pigs, especially, are known to be just as intelligent as dogs. It has to be very distressing for them to not be able to move around and tend their babies naturally. Egg-laying hens are crammed into small cages, six or eight to a cage. To imagine how they feel, consider how you would like it if you had to live with six or seven other people in an elevator for the next year and a half.

Proposition 2 will require that egg-laying hens, veal calves and breeding pigs be able to stand up, lie down, turn around, and extend their limbs or wings. It is simply the least we can do for these animals from which we take so much. Because the measure protects family farms, it is endorsed by more than 100 family farmers, United Farm Workers, Family Farm Defenders and similar groups.

However, in recent decades,

more and more family farmers have been driven out of business by the large agribusiness companies. This causes disastrous environmental damage due to the large concentrations of animal waste polluting our groundwater, lakes and waterways. That's why California Clean Water Action and the Sierra Club endorse Prop 2.

Americans agree that farm animals deserve to be treated humanely and offered some modicum of protection. However, undercover investigations of factory farm operations in recent years have shown cruel and inhumane treatment by the workers on some of these farms. This demonstrates that enforceable laws are required to protect these animals. That is why the Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA, and hundreds of California veterinarians and the California Veterinary Medical Association support this proposition.

Proposition 2 is also supported by the California Council of Churches, which states: "Taking care of those in food insecurity is essential. Care for God's creation, including animals, is equally an important aspect of a humane society."

I urge all Californians to join all the supporters of this initiative, and vote yes on Proposition 2 for more humane treatment of farm animals. ■

Sharon Kilburg lives on Easy Street.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

PROP. 8 FOSTERS GOOD ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN

Editor:

In Proposition 8 we must consider the question, "What is the effect on our society of the state Supreme Court redefining marriage to include partners of the same sex?"

The court said gay people had an inherent "right" to participate in marriage. That implies that marriage between several people (polygamy) is also an inherent right because such rights reside in the people, right?

Wrong. Clearly the justices got it wrong. Such rights do not reside in the people. Marriage, like driving an automobile, is not a civil right. I agree with Barack Obama that gay

unions should be allowed, but not with all the rights of marriage.

As a liberal Democrat and agnostic, I believe it is the fate of the children that are most important in this proposition. If rejecting the court makes you queasy, remember, courts once ruled that humans could be property of other humans. Now that was denying a civil right.

If we defeat Prop. 8 and allow marriage to be redefined to include partners of the same sex, then we have no basis to limit all other combinations between adults. Think of the options. Think of the reality shows they would spawn! Eons of evolution teach us to give our offspring the healthiest environment possible — a mother and a father. Every child deserves the

► Continued on next page

► Continued from previous page

healthiest environment we can offer. Supporting Prop. 8 fosters that healthiest environment.

Allen Price
Velarde Street

CHRISTIAN REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST PROP. 8

Editor:

There are four good reasons to vote no on Prop. 8:

1. Those who claim to be Christians must not vote to “forbid marriage” as it is one of the “teachings of demons” (1 Timothy 1:3).

2. Again, those who claim to be Christians are supposed to love and support others in their love. There is nothing in the Gospels that advocates prohibiting a ritual to express love between individuals, quite the opposite.

3. There are a lot of men who avoided the draft during the Vietnam War, including many of our political leaders, yet they have married the person of their choice. There are a number of Vietnam War veterans who are gay so do not have the right to marry the person of their choice. Draft avoiders should not have more rights than veterans.

4. Those who claim to support “traditional marriage” must make an equal effort to outlaw divorce. To not make such an effort exposes the hollowness of their beliefs.

John Cormode
Franklin Avenue

WHO'S MINDING THE CITY'S FINANCES?

Editor:

As I read the city's Oct. 25, 2007 finance committee minutes, I see that Mountain View maintains liquidity “by investing in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)” including Fannie Mae and Federal Home Loan Banks, and “may have a small amount of sub prime exposure.”

It goes on to say that Fannie Mae “is considered too large an entity to let fail, though,” and that “the city keeps a significant balance in LAIF.”

It clearly states: “The city's portfolio continues to be a safe portfolio.”

OK, the above are quotes from the Oct. 25, 2007 minutes; what has transpired since? Mountain View's finance director of over 20 years has quit. Currently there is no city auditor and as far as I know there has never been a complete outside audit in the past 20 years. And Fannie Mae and Federal Home Loan Banks essentially did fail (they had to be bailed out).

There has recently been a 2008 finance committee meeting with no information released. What happened to the Mountain View

► See **LETTERS**, page 24



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

COUNCIL NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Neighborhood Meeting with the
SAN ANTONIO/RENGSTORFF AREA

MARIANO CASTRO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
505 Escuela Avenue
November 6, 2008 • 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee will be hosting a neighborhood meeting for residents in the San Antonio/Rengstorff area on November 6, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. (area designated on the map below). The Neighborhood Meeting will be an open forum to discuss:

- What would you like to see changed in your neighborhood?
- How can the City work with your neighborhood to make it a better place to live?

This is an opportunity to make a difference in the future of your neighborhood and express your thoughts about ways to improve our community. For further information, please call the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division at (650) 903-6379.



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- November 9th - Bill Butterworth
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- November 16th - Tim Smith
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LETTERS

► Continued from page 23

taxpayers' reserve funds?

Kevin Duggan, our city manager, sounds like Henry Paulson did when he asked for a trillion dollars to manage as he saw fit with no oversight, and I, for one, don't like it.

I am severely persecuted by the Mountain View government for my thoughts, but the city charter requires a city auditor, and I think we absolutely need an independent city auditor that works directly for the City Council, not Mr. Duggan or his attorney.

Donald Letcher
N. Rengstorff Avenue

LET'S NOT GIVE AWAY CUESTA ANNEX

Editor:

The history and heritage of our seniors should be considered. Some of us have been volunteering long hours to get our city where it is today. Like the true articles of Donald Letcher, Robert Schick, Steven Nelson and other citizens taking time to express themselves with great pride.

A majority of great speakers at the last City Council hearing on Cuesta Annex did not favor the plan to build a history museum at Cuesta Annex that some council members support.

Referring to the flood of the early 1950s, some of us are still here to prove that there was not even a puddle in our area; there were small amounts of water near Highway 101. We asked for pictures but none were shown. The Santa Clara Valley Water District says they will not charge

Mountain View for creating the proposed flood basin at Cuesta Annex, but we do not have to take their offer just because it's free.

Please stop picking at our beautiful Cuesta Annex like woodpeckers. Lots of other issues need work like, the Shoreline projects.

Rose Talmage
Montalto Drive

PUTTING DOWN RUMORS IN COUNCIL RACE

Editor:

We were very surprised to hear a rumor that Laura Macias, City Council member and former mayor, intends to work to close down the bars in Castro Street. We were not surprised at all to speak with Laura about this and discover that these rumors are completely without foundation.

By the time this letter is published, many readers will have heard this from Laura herself, since she had plans to go "pub crawling" to show her support for the businesses in downtown Mountain View.

We are very fortunate in Mountain View to have such bright and dedicated people seeking service on our City Council. We are confident that whoever started this rumor did so without the knowledge or approval of any of the candidates. We would encourage everyone who supports these candidates to adhere to their high standards and shun such tactics in the future. The people of Mountain View have a right to know the truth about our City Council candidates as we decide where to place our votes.

Martha and Steve Cutcomb
Ernestine Lane

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



COLLEEN CUMMINS

Angela Lopez, left, founded El Calderon in 1969, and Yolanda Krapivkin, right, has been working in the restaurant for 20 years.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

El Calderon's timeless appeal

ONE OF MOUNTAIN VIEW'S OLDEST RESTAURANTS STILL REMAINS A FAMILY-RUN SANCTUARY

By Andrew MacLeod Doerschuk

El Calderon, located on Calderon Avenue in a residential neighborhood at the southeastern edge of Old Mountain View, is removed from the downtown restaurant district, and perhaps this is the secret to its long-running success. Untroubled by the Castro Street bustle, the Mexican/Salvadoran restaurant has only its own warmth, ambience and menu to work with — and with

proprietor Angela Lopez at the helm these 39 years, that's been more than enough.

On a recent Saturday evening, for instance, patrons lined up outside waiting for a table, and it's easy to see why: Lopez' heartfelt personality and home-style cuisine has kept the fans coming back. On our first visit, the diminutive Lopez spent several minutes chatting with us after our meal was finished. She

► See **EL CALDERON**, page 26

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EL CALDERON

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pointed out family members in the photo collage that spans an entire wall by the front door, including her grandson who currently serves as a Marine in Iraq. Military service runs in the family — her husband was a

Marine when she first met him in the 1950s at Camp Pendleton.

A crowd constantly gathers around Lopez. “Goodnight Mama,” a grey-haired woman calls out as her family heads for the door. You feel as if you’re sitting in someone’s living room.

“We love people, otherwise we wouldn’t have a restaurant,” she says.

They love food, too. Not counting the chips (a dry store-bought variety) the dishes that crowded our table were large, warm and delicious.

We began on the Mexican side of the menu with chicken enchiladas (\$10.95). They hit the spot, swimming in a mild enchilada sauce and covered with melted

cheese on a plate so packed not a square inch peeked through. (None of El Calderon’s selections are spicy. When asked about the *picante* level, our waitress pointed to the salsa and advised, “You do it yourself.”) Like all El Calderon meals, the enchiladas came with a mound of rice, refried beans topped with melted cheese and a small lettuce salad dribbled with French dressing.

Our chicken chimichanga (\$8.95) offered a dramatic presentation. Rather than wrapping shredded chicken, onion, cheese and chili mole like a burrito, they pull back one edge of the flour tortilla to form a large, crunchy

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► Continued from previous page

lip. It was fun to eat.

Beef steak ranchero (\$13.95), a Salvadoran special, is sauteed chunks of rib eye steak with sliced tomatoes, green peppers and onion in a mild tomato sauce spiced with oregano and chili mole. Large slices of ripe avocado were arranged on top of this fresh-tasting entree.

It had grown chilly on our second visit, so a bowl of soup sounded good. We discovered perfect comfort food in caldo de camarones (\$10.50), a steaming bowl with large prawns, slices of cabbage, carrots, potatoes, zucchini, celery, squash and half a corn cob in a golden vegetable broth. Served with tortillas and a small bowl of rice on the side, it was hearty yet light.

We couldn't resist the Salvadoran dinner for two (\$25.95). It kicked off with pupusas — thick corn tortillas (freshly made with every order) stuffed with cheese and beans melted into a wonderful concoction. Up next came the plantanos fritos, in which sliced fried plantains circled a bed of refried beans with sour cream squiggled over all. A platter of yucca con chicharrones followed, with crisply fried pork, sliced boiled yucca root, tomato, onion and cabbage simmered in a chili mole sauce with garlic and lemon.

In addition, native Salvadoran fruit drinks rendered from tamarind and guava arrived in half gourds, along with small portions of coleslaw and a bowl of guacamole (truly little more than mashed avocado). Just when we were about to burst, the waitress brought a cup of Salvadoran coffee and a dessert made of tortilla chips in a yummy sauce that tasted like apple pie and cinnamon.

"Oh honey, when some of my customers first came, they were 30 years old," Lopez chuckled. "Now they're 70 and they still come." I believe her. Most probably call her "mama" too. ▣



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