

# Mountain View VOICE

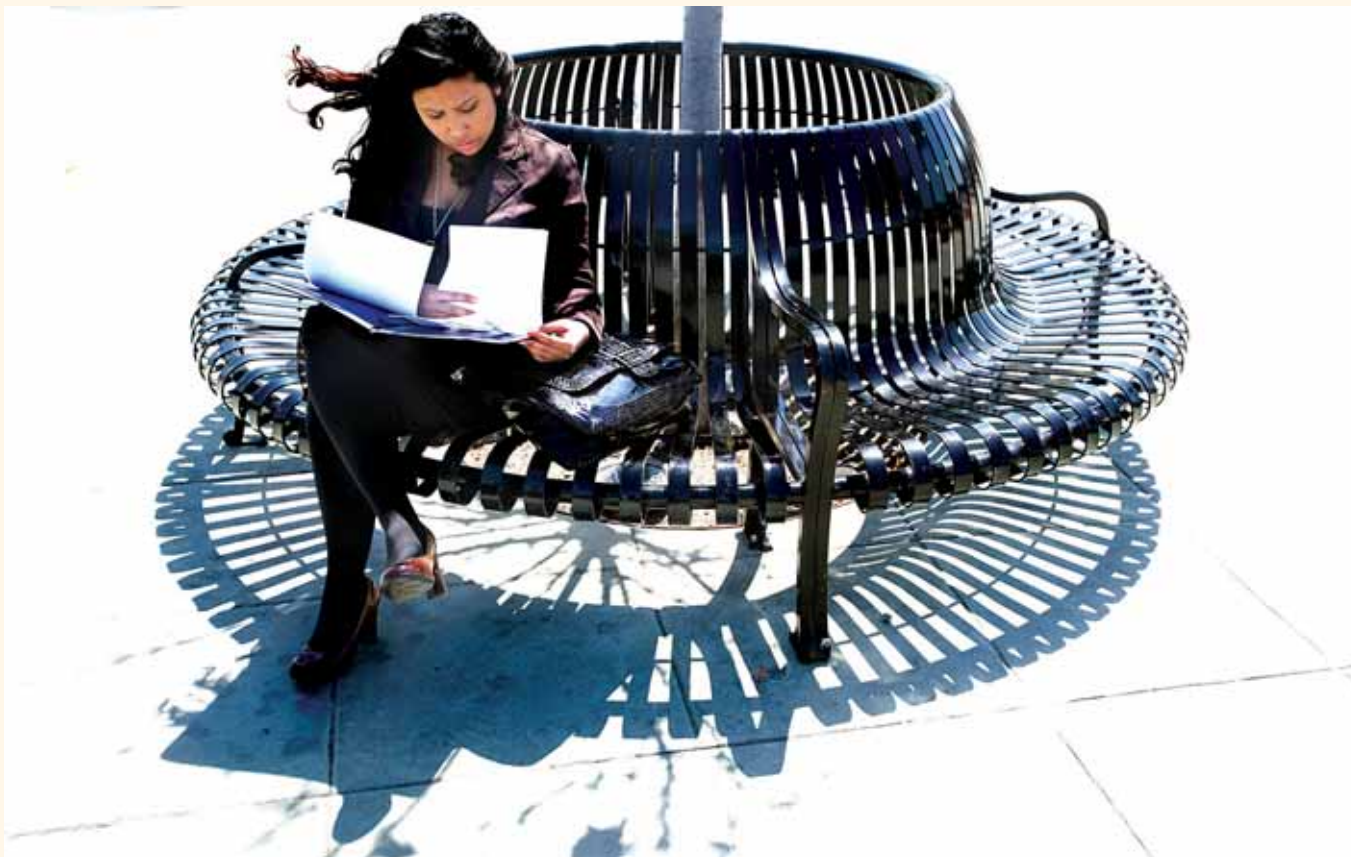
APRIL 17, 2009 VOLUME 17, NO. 15

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 16

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**'MEMORY IN  
THE MAKING'**  
HEALTH & FITNESS | P.21



MICHELLE LE

## FLYAWAY HAIR:

Rachel Rocero's papers and freshly curled hair flutter in the wind on Tuesday as she waits for a friend to pick her up at the downtown Caltrain station. Tuesday's winds were strong enough that the National Weather Service issued a wind advisory, and power was knocked out for dozens of Mountain View residents Tuesday night. See story p.5.

## National legal group targets Worker Center

By Daniel DeBolt

Escuela Avenue residents have called in a legal group from Washington, D.C. to "protect" their neighborhood from a proposed Day Worker Center, and a representative from the group met with neighbors this week.

In an e-mail, Escuela resident Brad Keller said the group Judicial Watch is concerned "that the DWC facility may, in violation of U.S. federal immigration law, support undocumented workers and employers of undocumented workers, and that local cities may be using citizens' tax dollars to support these activities."

Judicial Watch has already sued other California cities for supporting day worker centers and lost, according to Maria Marroquin, director of the Day Worker Center of Mountain View.

"Judicial Watch represents the legal arm of the nativist vigilante movement in this country," said Chris Newman, a lawyer with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network. "They in no way

► See **WORKER CENTER**, page 12

## City employees may be asked to take pay cut

By Daniel DeBolt

Mountain View officials are in talks with the city's labor groups about ways to ease the impact of a projected \$6 million budget deficit — and one of those ways involves reining in salary increases.

The city's 600-plus employees may be asked to forgo at least a portion of pay raises for next year, though talks have not reached any specific proposals. Any pay cut would be voluntary for most of the city's unions, as all of them have contracts locked in for the next year, with the exception of the SEIU, which represents most of the city's lowest paid workers.

The current deficit arose after the economic recession caused city revenues to

decline despite rising costs. Among those rising costs, personnel expenses are climbing at a rate of about \$3.8 million a year, a

**For his part, Duggan, who currently makes \$251,125 a year, is refusing a pay increase that could total about \$20,000.**

cost which will compound if solutions are not found, warns city manager Kevin Duggan.

Patty Kong, the city's finance director, says the personnel cost hikes are due to pay raises to city employees in the form of cost-

of-living adjustments (\$2.3 million), and regular pay raises and merit pay (\$700,000), with the remaining \$800,000 from cost increases for health and dental benefits.

Not including benefits, the total cost of city employee salaries has gone from \$53.8 million in 2006 to \$62.3 million a year in 2008 — an increase of 16 percent. The city has a general fund budget of \$89 million, and revenues are expected to remain flat through 2012.

### Meetings underway

Although Duggan says his predictions are not "overly pessimistic," some union representatives believe they may be too conservative. Labor unions, includ-

► See **BUDGET**, page 14

## Council moves ahead with major projects

By Daniel DeBolt

Budget problems notwithstanding, the City Council supported moving forward with many of its infrastructure plans during a study session Tuesday, including a \$9 million athletic field, a \$10 million fire station and several climate change initiatives.

The council has labeled about 40 percent of the capital improvement projects "non discretionary." These include basic items such as regular road and sewer mainte-

► See **COUNCIL**, page 13

INSIDE

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**Soli Saatchi**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Twice the value! Spectacular 5bd/3ba home with LR/DR, FR and gourmet kitchen, + separate 1bd/1ba guest house with LR and kitchen. Open Sunday. **\$1,788,000**

**Ellen Saviano**



**SUNNYVALE** ■ Lovely, updated 4bd/2ba + bonus room atrium-model Eichler. Gorgeous kitchen with maple cabinets and granite. 7,300+/- sf lot. Open Saturday & Sunday. **\$1,075,000**

**Jack Earl**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Wonderfully remodeled 4bd/2.5ba home with HW floors, family room, updated kitchen and baths, large master bedroom suite, and dual pane windows. **\$1,049,950**

**Sharon Walz & Marcella Christoff**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ 3bd/2.5ba home with LR/DR combo + beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Wood burning fireplace in the LR. French doors open onto rear yard. Los Altos HS. **\$1,055,000**

**Helen & Ki Nyborg**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Elegant 3bd/2ba single-level Cuernavaca home. Grand formal entry, spacious LR/DR with FP + soaring ceilings. Inside laundry area + 2-car garage. Community pool + spa. **\$990,000**

**Stephanie Schley**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ This 4bd/2.5ba home is a must see! 1925+/- sf and numerous upgrades. Located in the desirable Whisman Station Community, this is the perfect place to call home. **\$874,000**

**Barb Conkin-Orrcock**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Opportunity knocks! Remodel or rebuild this charming 2bd/1ba home situated on a large, 10,890+/- sf lot. Loads of potential for this property. Great location. **\$819,000**

**Jerylann Mateo**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Great opportunity to expand or build new. 2bd/1ba home with bright kitchen + spacious living room with dual-pane windows. Big backyard with fruit trees. **\$699,000**

**Margo Kelly**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Lovely 2bd/2ba condo in quiet, well located complex. HW floors, crown moldings, + updated baths. Large living room/dining room combo. Los Altos schools. **\$499,998**



# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Andrea Nott.

## What do you think of the Obamas' new dog?



*"I just hope he's a rescue dog or from a shelter. Our dog Baxter is."*  
**Daniel Zavala, Stanford**



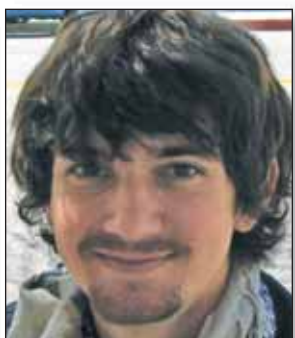
*"It's dainty. I could use some free health care, but the dog's cute."*  
**Thomas Hargreaves, San Jose**



*"I don't really care. I don't really follow that stuff."*  
**Daren Chow, San Jose**



*"I think he's really cute, and I like how he's small so you can pick him up and cuddle him."*  
**Margarita Golod, Sunnyvale**



*"It's cute. I think it's a nice gesture; another piece of the Obama fanfare."*  
**Lawrence Cramer, Mountain View**



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### POLICE LOG

#### AUTO BURGLARY

1500 block N. Shoreline Ave., 4/7  
 1600 block Villa St., 4/7  
 900 block High School Way, 4/7  
 2600 block Terminal Blvd., 4/7  
 1600 block Villa St., 4/8  
 100 block N. Whisman Rd., 4/8  
 100 block N. Whisman Rd., 4/9  
 2100 block W. El Camino Real, 4/9  
 2100 block Old Middlefield Way, 4/10  
 Century 16 Cinema, 4/11

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1600 block Villa St., 4/13

#### PETTY THEFT

1700 Ednamary Way, 4/7  
 200 block Fairchild Dr., 4/8  
 700 block Castro St., 4/8  
 200 block Andsbury Ave., 4/9  
 200 block Houghton St., 4/9  
 800 block W. El Camino Real, 4/9  
 Sears Department Store, 4/10  
 2600 Fayette Dr., 4/10  
 Sears Department Store, 4/11  
 800 block Villa St., 4/12  
 1500 block W. El Camino Real, 4/13  
 1600 block Spring St., 4/13  
 1000 block Grant Rd., 4/13  
 Sears Department Store, 4/13

#### GRAND THEFT

1000 block Terra Bella Ave., 4/9  
 2500 block Hospital Dr., 4/13  
 2000 W. Middlefield Rd., 4/13

#### STOLEN VEHICLE

1000 block El Monte Ave., 4/8  
 800 block San Lucas Ave., 4/13  
 0 block Sierra Vista Ave., 4/13

#### VANDALISM

900 block Jackson St., 4/8  
 100 block N. Whisman Rd., 4/8  
 200 block South Dr., 4/10  
 1100 block Castro St., 4/10  
 1900 block Ednamary Way, 4/10  
 Graham Middle School, 4/11  
 500 block Showers Dr., 4/12  
 600 block Palo Alto Ave., 4/12  
 1900 block California St., 4/13  
 1900 block Hackett Ave., 4/13

#### BATTERY

El Camino Hospital, 4/7  
 Mountain View High School, 4/7  
 Bruce Bauer Lumber, 4/7

#### DISTURBANCE

Launderland, 4/7  
 600 block Escuela Ave., 4/9

#### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSONS

100 block Montebello Ave. 4/7  
 2200 block Latham St., 4/8  
 Huff School, 4/8  
 100 block E. El Camino Real, 4/9  
 1300 block Terra Bella Ave., 4/9  
 1900 block Plymouth St., 4/12  
 100 block N. Rengstorff Ave., 4/12

#### DISORDERLY CONDUCT

1300 block W. El Camino Real, 4/8  
 California St./Showers Dr., 4/13

#### UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

High School Way/S. Shoreline Blvd., 4/7

#### CRUELTY TO A CHILD

2500 block Grant Rd., 4/9

#### POSSESSION OF A STOLEN ITEM

400 block San Antonio Rd., 4/9

#### DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Hwy. 85/Moffett Blvd., 4/10  
 Cypress Point Dr./Moffett Blvd., 4/12  
 E. Dana Ave./S. Whisman St., 4/12

#### ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

1900 block California St., 4/11  
 900 block Rich Ave., 4/13

#### MISSING PERSON - JUVENILE

100 block Evandale Ave., 4/12

## STANFORD UNIVERSITY



Poet  
**Brigit Pegeen Kelly**  
 will be reading from her work

**Monday, April 20 at 8:00 p.m.**  
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## Windstorm leaves dozens in the dark

DOWNED LINE TAKES HOURS TO REPAIR  
— SIMILAR STORY THROUGHOUT REGION

By Casey Weiss

Nearly 200 residents in Mountain View had no electricity Tuesday night after gale-force winds knocked over a power line on Oak Avenue. By Wednesday morning their power was restored following an eight-hour outage, a PG&E spokesman said.

A similar story played out all over the Bay Area, as winds Tuesday and Wednesday reached up to 60 miles per hour in parts of the region. In all, more than 25,800 PG&E customers in the Bay Area went without power on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning due to a series of wind-related outages, according to Pacific Gas & Electric Co. spokesperson Paul Moreno.

In Mountain View, a tree fell onto a power line on the 1300 block of Oak Avenue on Tuesday at around 5:45 p.m., leaving 187 residents without power until early Wednesday morning, Moreno said.

The outages appear to have been caused by powerful winds that swept through the region Tuesday and Wednesday. A strong wind advisory was in effect beginning on Tuesday morning, and drivers of high-profile vehicles were warned that the gusts could make driving dangerous.

Most of the outages started at about 4 p.m. Tuesday, said PG&E spokesman J.D. Guidi. As of press time on Wednesday, about 1,300 PG&E customers in the Bay Area still were without power, but Moreno said power was slowly returning to most customers. ■

Bay City News contributed to this report.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the nonprofit group CHASE give garments to homeless people in San Francisco's Tenderloin district earlier this year. The local teenagers knitted the garments as part of a program to keep kids away from drugs and alcohol.

## A sober path for teens

CHASE GROUP OFFERS WAYS TO AVOID DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

By Casey Weiss

In the two years since Mountain View High School graduate Chase Rogers died from a cocaine overdose, locals have been using the memory of the 18-year-old to help keep other local teens away from drugs and alcohol.

After Rogers was found dead in a San Jose school yard in December 2006, his story served as an eye-opener for other Los Altos residents who wanted to reach out to teens with simi-

lar problems. They launched Community Hope and Sober Events (CHASE) in January 2007, just a month after Rogers died.

In the last two years, the nonprofit has grown, now also reaching out to Mountain View and Los Altos Hills with presentations for families and parents, weekend events for students and discussions in local schools.

Rogers' story was especially touching for Leslie Lodestro, a Los Altos resident who never

knew the overdose victim. Lodestro's son also struggled with drug and alcohol abuse, and he attended the same wilderness programs and went to the same rehabilitation centers that Rogers did.

"Both of our boys were out of control," Lodestro said. "But I still have my boy."

Lodestro said her son has now recovered, but she wanted to help other local families and

► See CHASE, page 10

## County poet laureate looks to you for muse

Bay City News

Santa Clara County's poet laureate is encouraging residents to participate in an exercise to create the first Santa Clara County poem in celebration of National Poetry Month.

Nils Peterson, a professor at San Jose State University, is asking residents young and old to try to capture the essence of the

area in a line between nine and 13 syllables long.

"If you begin each day with the intention of writing a line of poetry, you will be in the world differently," Peterson said. "Try it. I think you'll find it fun and rewarding."

Peterson will create a word collage composed of 100 lines that showcases the spirit of Santa Clara County.

Participants can send their

line to Peterson through May 3 at poet.laureate@ceo.sccgov.org, or by mail to Santa Clara County Poet Laureate, Office of Public Affairs, County of Santa Clara, 11th Floor East Wing, 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose, 95110.

For more information contact Gwendolyn Mitchell or Lingxia Meng at (408) 299-5119, or Anna Weldon, communications director of Arts Council Silicon Valley, at (408) 998-2787, ext. 217. ■

► See HOSPITAL, page 8

## It's official: El Camino adds Los Gatos site

HOSPITAL EXECS HAVE PROFITABLE OUTLOOK FOR NEW OPERATION AFTER FIRST YEAR

By Casey Weiss

It was an "end of an era" last week as El Camino Hospital officially took over the Community Hospital of Los Gatos and prepared to extend its services and staff to the new property.

The acquisition will require a \$103 million investment, hospital officials say, including capital costs over the next five years. Officials have closed the facility temporarily and will reopen it, they hope, by mid-July.

El Camino staff will run the Los Gatos hospital as a sister site offering basic services such as an emergency department and operating rooms. Staff also will focus on orthopedic, spine, heart and vascular care, cancer and urology at the Los Gatos facility, according to Eric Pifer, who has been named president of the new hospital.

A new name has officially been chosen for the facility: El Camino Hospital Los Gatos.

"This is an end of the era when El Camino Hospital is just one campus," hospital CEO Ken Graham told the board of directors during its April 8 meeting, prior to the April 11 closing.

Hospital executives announced in December that they had entered into an escrow agreement to buy the facility, but said strict disclosure rules prevented them from releasing key details to the public. That decision did not sit well with the few dozen local residents who opposed the purchase and said the public hospital had an obligation to share details with taxpayers before committing to pay for the purchase price and upgrades to the aging facility.

But those opposed were nowhere in sight on April 8 as Pifer told board members that El Camino's financial model



## ■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

*Hello hare*

**Mountain View resident** Bob Leiser sent in this photo of a hare at Vista Slope at Shoreline. He wrote: "While on a walk at Vista Slope on March 14, this guy stopped to say hello."

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](mailto:editor@mv-voice.com).

## Shop the Mountain View Citywide Garage Sale May 2-3, 2009



Maps available May 1st

- Online at [www.mvrecycle.org](http://www.mvrecycle.org)
- Voice newspaper
- City Hall Plaza, 500 Castro @ Mercy



City of Mountain View

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## ■ NEWS BRIEFS

### TWO CHARGED WITH ASSAULT USING BOTTLE, SCREWDRIVER

Police arrested two "associated gang members" on charges of assault with a deadly weapon after the young men allegedly attacked a group of juveniles with a screwdriver and a broken beer bottle last Saturday.

Police say the two suspects, Pascal Pinzon, 18, and Miguel Aragon, 20, both Mountain View residents, are affiliated with the local Sureno gang, and initiated the fight on April 11 with five juveniles who were hanging out at an apartment complex on the 1900 block of California Street. The suspects believe the complex "is their territory," said police spokesperson Liz Wylie, and the fight started after they told the teenagers to leave. None of the victims are associated with gangs, Wylie said.

Pinzon and Aragon approached the teens at around 6 p.m., immediately punching one 16-year-old female suspect in the chest, according to Wylie. The fight escalated when Aragon started attacking another male suspect with a broken beer bottle and a screwdriver, she said.

A witness tried to break up the fight, and was also attacked

by the suspects, Wylie said, but he punched out Pinzon before police arrived. Pinzon was taken to Stanford Hospital, where he was treated for injuries and released to police. Both suspects are charged with battery and assault with a deadly weapon, and Aragon also faces charges for resisting arrest and possession of cocaine.

The main victim, who was attacked with the two weapons, was treated at El Camino Hospital for minor injuries.

### UNARMED ROBBER TAKES \$5,000 FROM BOFA

Mountain View police are looking for a man who they say stole about \$5,000 from the Bank of America inside Lucky grocery store during an unarmed robbery on Tuesday afternoon.

Police say the man entered the store, located on the 700 block of East El Camino Real, and handed the bank teller a note demanding money. He took the cash and fled in a white car, according to witnesses. No one was hurt.

The robber is described as a black male in his mid to late 20s with a tall and skinny build. He was wearing a white baseball cap, dark sunglasses, a light jacket and dark pants at

the time of the crime.

— Casey Weiss

### CONVICTION REINSTATED IN '76 MURDER CASE

The California Supreme Court last Thursday reinstated the first-degree murder conviction of a Sunnyvale man in the strangling and rape of a Mountain View woman 33 years ago.

Gary Dean Story was convicted in Santa Clara County Superior Court in 2005 of murdering Betty Vickers, 26, who was found strangled in her Mountain View apartment in 1976. He was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. Story and Vickers were coworkers in the production department of the *Wall Street Journal* in Palo Alto.

Story was not charged with the murder until 2002, after the case was reopened and investigators found that two of his ex-wives would testify he had told them he had killed someone. In Thursday's ruling, the state high court in San Francisco unanimously overturned a decision by the state Court of Appeal in San Jose last year that set aside the conviction.

— Bay City News

# Freeway express-lane project speeds ahead

NEW TOLL POLICY WILL ALLOW SOLO DRIVERS IN CARPOOL LANES — FOR A PRICE

By Sue Dremann

Under a plan for State Highway 85 and U.S. Highway 101, carpool lanes will be converted into express toll lanes, allowing solo drivers with FasTrak transponders to drive in the fast lane at any time.

Toll rates have not been determined, but similar express-lane projects across the country have fees ranging from \$1 to \$10, based on time of day, the distance driven and the level of traffic in the express lane.

Cars with two or more occupants, motorcycles, transit buses and eligible hybrid vehicles can still drive in the lanes for free, according to Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, which will set the toll price.

The VTA board approved the project in December. A final vote by the board on the designs of the express lanes will take place later this year. Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol will also have input into the designs of Highways 85 and 101.

The express lanes on Highway 85 will run its entire 24-mile length and would open in 2012. Highway 101 might have two express lanes in each direction, which would stretch 41 miles from Morgan Hill to Whipple Road in Redwood City, according to the VTA. It would open in 2015.

The lanes would be separated from regular lanes by a double-yellow line. Electronic signs would display the toll for solo drivers using FasTrak. An overhead antenna would read the car's FasTrak transponder and deduct the fee. The toll would adjust so that traffic maintains a minimum of 55 mph, according to the VTA.

The express or "smart" lane program could double the number of cars allowed to travel in the carpool lanes, according to VTA spokesper-

son Jennie Loft.

"The existing carpool lanes are underutilized. For example, on SR 85 the carpool-lane volumes vary between 600 and 1,000 vehicles per hour. The carpool lanes can accommodate up to 1,650 vehicles per hour, while maintaining a high level of service," she wrote in an e-mail.

The project cost is estimated at \$496 million -- \$96 million for Highway 85 and \$400 million for Highway 101. Net revenue between 2015 to 2035 could reach \$1.2 billion in future-year dollars, Loft said.

Express lanes have been popular and successful in other parts of the country, according

to the VTA. San Diego, Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle and Salt Lake City are among cities with express-lane programs.

Alameda County is installing express lanes to Interstate highways 680 and 580. Those "smart lanes" are due to be completed by 2010, according to the VTA.

The VTA claims the lanes will help lower pollution by reducing the number of vehicles stuck idling in traffic. In a study by engineers at the University of Central Florida, some drivers in Orange County, Calif., reported a 40-minute cut in their commute times when using the express lanes on a 10-mile toll road.

On April 20 the California State Assembly will hold a hearing on Assembly Bill 744, which would authorize the Bay Area Toll Authority to acquire, construct, administer and operate the express-lane-network program on state highways in the nine-county Bay Area. The VTA was authorized to implement the express lane project by the state Legislature in 2004 and 2007. ■

Sue Dremann writes for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Voice's sister paper.

*The VTA claims the lanes will help lower pollution by reducing the number of vehicles stuck idling in traffic.*



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**WHO:** Anyone wanting to avoid costly repairs and keep their vehicle reliable. We especially encourage new drivers (teenagers) to attend!

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 22nd, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

**WHERE:** Dean's Automotive  
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**INSTRUCTORS:** Warren McCord, ASE Certified Master Tech  
George Norton, ASE Certified Service Consultant

**COST:** Free

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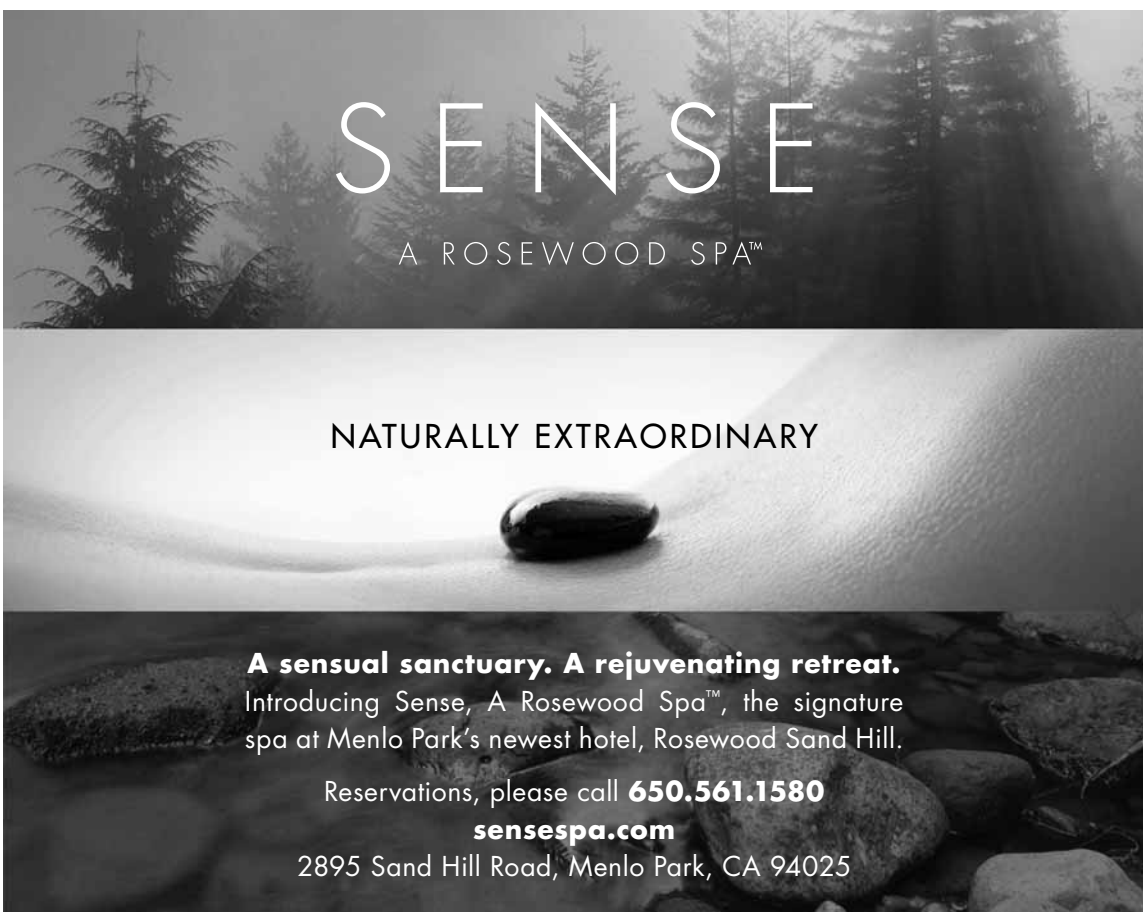



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| <b>PINEAPPLES</b><br>GOLDEN LOW ACID SUGAR SWEET 79¢ LB | <b>CLEMINTINE MANDARINES</b> \$1.49 LB. | <b>HONEYDEWS</b><br>MELONS SUGAR SWEET 79¢ LB             |
|                                                         | <b>SPRING SALAD MIX</b> \$3.99 LB.      |                                                           |
|                                                         | <b>BABY SPINACH</b> \$3.99 LB.          |                                                           |
|                                                         | <b>BANANAS</b> 99¢ LB.                  |                                                           |

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## LocalNews

### HOSPITAL

► Continued from page 5

shows a \$1 million net income in the first year, \$9 million the second year and earnings of \$10 million to \$11 million in each of the next three years of operations in Los Gatos. Achieving those numbers will require an average of 42 patients a day in the first six months and 39 patients a day for the year, he said.

According to the model, to reach the census numbers will require “a very strong focus on opening in mid-summer and maintaining and growing physicians’ relationships” in Los Gatos.

Hospital officials project a 25 percent return on the \$65 million initial investment after the first year, and say the total investment will be \$103 million over five years. That includes \$22 million to perform seismic retrofitting work required by the state.

“I think the proof of the pudding is if anyone will show up,” Graham told trustees last week before escrow was finalized.

Graham has said El Camino has \$400 million in cash reserves and a balance sheet of \$1.1 billion.

Buying the new hospital, executives said, allows them to compete with other local hospitals and to meet their strategic goals by moving business southward. Taxpayer funds, paid by residents of the hospital district, will not be used for the new purchase, hospital officials said.

The hospital’s business model of attracting 42 patients a day is a realistic goal, Pifer said, especially considering Los Gatos will open with 113 beds. The hospital also has a 30-bed rehabilitation center, and officials are now considering opening this soon.

Business was slipping under the hospital’s previous operators, but Pifer said the hospital averaged over 60 patients a day several years ago.

The plan “is primarily based on getting back to numbers the hospital has had over the last several years,” he said.

To accomplish this, Pifer said, it’s important that the hospital opens in mid-summer, and he and a management team are in the process of hiring doctors and setting up programs. The hospital has received over 200 physician applications. As it prepares to reopen, El Camino staff is also focusing on bringing software to the new site and getting the clinical programs up and running. ▀

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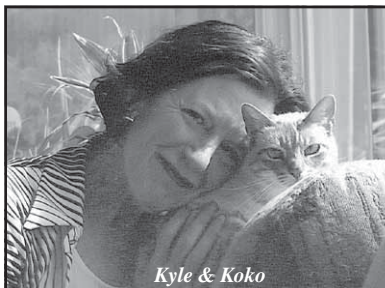
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## LocalNews

### CHASE

► Continued from page 5

teens struggling with substance abuse. With the help of the Rogers family, she asked the Los Altos City Council for a \$5,000 grant to launch CHASE. The nonprofit was up and running just months after Rogers died.

"No one should have to go through what Chase's family went through," Lodestro told a group of community leaders last week. "We need some positive changes."

The nonprofit started small in 2007, but now has a \$200,000 county grant over three years, one full-time employee and runs counseling programs in six local schools. After receiving the county money, CHASE hired Alicia Crank, a former Mountain View Human Relations Commissioner, as the nonprofit's program director. She has been instrumental in bringing the programs to Mountain View.

CHASE members hope to decrease teen drug and alcohol use partially through "social norming," a psychological approach based on the theory that people set their own behavior based on what they think others are doing. Often teenagers have the false perception that many of their peers are drinking and doing drugs, when in fact the percentage is relatively small, Lodestro said.

Crank said the nonprofit is modeling its programs on an experiment in Fort Collins, Colo. after that city saw a rise in drunk driving accidents. Students started putting signs up around their campus, saying that 84 percent of teenagers in the city did not drink and drive.

"It was suddenly cool to say you don't do that," Crank said.

The nonprofit held a seminar about social norming for parents and families last month, but staffers also hope to give students an alternative to drinking and drugs through weekend activities and campus groups.

For example: On many Friday nights CHASE holds a knitting group with local teens.

"It's very grassroots," Crank said of the program. "But they do this on a Friday night instead of going out and partying."

Crank said the group attracts all type of students, from "nerds" to "jocks," many of whom have already experimented with drugs and alcohol. The group went to San Francisco earlier this year to hand out knitted clothes and garments to homeless people in the Tenderloin.

As part of its outreach, CHASE also sponsors Teen Talk!, a program at six local middle school and high school campuses where

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► Continued on next page



■ OBITUARY

**LARRY LAMAR FRYE**

Larry Lamar Frye, a lifetime Mountain View resident, died on March 26. He was 59 years old.

Frye was born in Palo Alto on Sept. 26, 1949. He played Mountain View Little League, Babe Ruth and Senior Babe Ruth, and graduated from the Mountain View High School Class of 1967 as a varsity letterman in football, baseball and basketball.

He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1971 and worked for Santa Clara County for 30 years as a senior construction inspector, eventually retiring in 2007.

His family described him as a nature and animal lover of all kinds, with a special love for cats.

He is survived by his mother Virginia Frye; brother Jim Frye; sister Debbie Frye; and his nephew and godson, Joe Guarnera II.

At his request, no services were held. To view or sign the guestbook, visit [www.cusimanocolonial.com](http://www.cusimanocolonial.com).

► Continued from previous page

students meet with counselors from the Community Health Awareness Council to discuss peer pressure, drugs, alcohol and other issues.

"It's a secure area for them to talk about drugs and alcohol," Crank said of Teen Talk!

The nonprofit intends to continue offering community events, and is planning a party at the Los Altos Plaza on June 14, Rogers' birthday, in memory of the teenager.

For more information visit [www.chasespace.org](http://www.chasespace.org). ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at [cweiss@mv-voice.com](mailto:cweiss@mv-voice.com)

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## WORKER CENTER

► Continued from page 1

have been involved in proffering solutions. Instead they are intent on generating problems for local communities in order to make a political point that would be better served if it was made on the national level."

Kellar says Judicial Watch has been following Mountain View and its Day Worker Center over the last year, and is meeting with neighbors as part of a campaign to bust "sanctuary cities" which actively protect illegal immigrants from deportation.

Chris Farrell, director of research for Judicial Watch, met with local residents to discuss the Day Worker Center and other Judicial Watch campaigns on Wednesday at the Residence Inn Marriott in Los Altos.

Speaking at Tuesday's council meeting, Farrell cited a federal law that he interprets as saying that "If you encourage or induce a person here illegally to work in the country, that's illegal."

City attorney Michael Martello says the law could be interpreted to say illegal immigrants shouldn't be allowed medical care, education or to even get on a bus, but instead the courts have ruled in favor of day worker centers. He says there is no legal problem with the city giving the center a lease deal for a parking lot on city property

ers will cause traffic problems and lower property values.

The Day Worker Center already owns the property at 113 Escuela Ave., and a conditional use permit was approved by the city's zoning administrator that would have allowed the center to relocate from its current downtown location. But neighbors have appealed that decision to the City Council, which is scheduled to decide on May 12 whether to allow the center to use the property.

Despite rumors to the contrary, Martello says, city officials have never declared Mountain View a "sanctuary city." Police here are

not prohibited from contacting Immigration and Customs Enforcement if necessary.

Police Chief Scott Vermeer told the *Voice* in June 2007 that local police have "no role enforcing federal immigration laws ... unless the safety of the general public is at stake." ▀

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)

**Despite rumors to the contrary, Martello says, city officials have never declared Mountain View a "sanctuary city."**

next to 113 Escuela Ave.

Because of its English classes and other services, the Day Worker Center is a "community center," Martello said, that serves "many folks, including those that may be undocumented."

Neighbors are calling the center a commercial business that does not belong in the residential neighborhood, and say its 80 or so workers and their employ-

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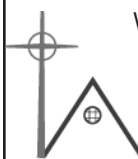
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## COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

nance, but some particular projects got a boost as well.

For example, the Shoreline tax district is seeing a drop in property tax revenue — \$25.2 million next year, down from \$27.6 million in 2007-08 — so city staff have proposed a bond to pay for several large projects in the area, including a \$9 million athletic field on a former landfill along Garcia Avenue, a \$10 million fire station on Shoreline Boulevard, and \$4 million to build a crossing for the Permanente Creek Trail over Highway 101. Because the bond will not raise taxes it does not have to be approved by voters.

The proposed hotel next to Google could also receive a substantial investment through the Shoreline bond — as much as \$30 million — but the exact figure has yet to be determined. The city is expecting a substantial return on its investment in the hotel, at least \$1.5 million a year in tax and lease revenue for the city's general fund.

Council member Mike Kasperzak was surprised by the \$9 million price tag for the ball fields, which city staff explained was necessary to pay for artificial turf, lighting and to address landfill and wildlife issues.

Among the new projects are

six sustainability projects totaling \$870,000: \$100,000 to help homeowners with energy efficiency improvements under AB811, \$140,000 to “green” the library, \$50,000 for “bike boulevard” improvements, \$150,000 to explore renewable energy options for the city (half paid for by the Shoreline tax district), \$230,000 towards the study of a “zero waste” plan for the city's garbage (paid for by the solid waste fund), and \$50,000 towards creating a green building code. Most of the projects get funding from the construction and conveyance tax fund.

The council also did not object to two large new “discretionary” projects that were part of the proposed Capital Improvement Program: \$5 million to extend Stevens Creek Trail from Sleeper Avenue over Highway 85, and a proposed \$1.8 million seismic upgrade to the water reservoir on Whisman Road to be paid for with water funds. But council member Laura Macias was skeptical about the necessity of using \$887,000 in Shoreline tax funds to fix storm drainage along Shoreline Boulevard within Shoreline Park.

Among several ongoing projects, the package includes \$1.1 million in park funds for design and construction of a mini park on Del Medio Avenue. The previously approved project is moving forward after an

apartment building and a house on the site are demolished. The last tenant, an elderly woman, is moving to Tracy in July.

The council chipped away at the city's \$6 million general fund deficit as well by supporting the transfer of a \$1 million annual Civic Center debt payment out of the general fund and into the city's construction and conveyance tax fund, which has revenue of \$2 million to \$6 million a year, cutting the general fund deficit to \$5 million. The move is part of \$4 million in cuts the city manager will support May 5. The trade-off is that fewer infrastructure projects can be funded with the tax fund.

Three projects were deferred — including improvements for McKelvey and Crittenden parks — but only one drew concern. Council member Ronit Bryant was dismayed at the deferral of the \$205,000 design of support space for the Center for the Performing Arts' SecondStage, which would allow both stages in the center to be used simultaneously, increasing its use and marketability. But the \$1 million needed for construction is unavailable because of new constraints on the construction and conveyance tax fund.

The proposed Capital Improvement Program will return to the council on May 29 for adoption. ■

## Curb enthusiasm

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council unanimously made an exception to the rules Tuesday, allowing the Rex Manor neighborhood to keep its much-loved rolled curbs.

The city was preparing to rebuild 10 streets and sidewalks in the area — just north of Central Expressway between Burgoyne and Farley streets — when public outcry over the benefits of the rolled curbs caused city staff to reconsider the idea, eventually recommending an exception to the city standard.

A city survey found that 78 percent of the neighborhood supported rolled curbs, and only 15 percent preferred vertical curbs.

“In our experience and for our neighborhood, rolled curbs fit. They suit our needs,” said Rich

Tanner, a Rex Manor resident.

The rolled curbs allow a flatter sidewalk with no dips for driveways, and homeowners have made use of the resulting design flexibility, relocating driveways without changing the sidewalk.

But to some, the flexibility can be a bad thing, letting drivers park their cars on sidewalks and lawns. Misuse of the curbs can happen, city staff said.

The city's standard vertical curbs could provide a little more safety for sidewalk users, as it is harder for a car to jump a vertical curb.

Several council members said they were fans of rolled curbs, including Tom Means, who said that as a kid who grew up with rolled curbs he found they were better for floating boats down the gutter in the rain. ■

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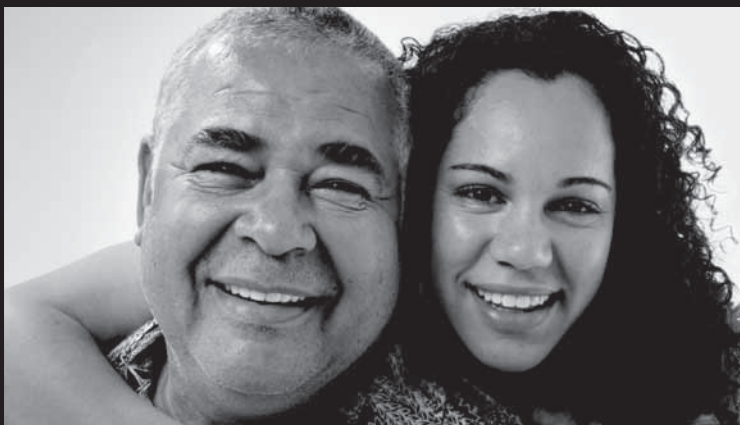
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## TOP 20 SALARIES

Following is a list of the top 20 salaries among Mountain View city employees in 2008. The list includes all city employees making more than \$200,000 a year.

| Name and Position                                   | Wages   | Overtime | Total          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|----------------|
| <b>Kevin Duggan</b> , City Manager.....             | 251,125 | n/a      | <b>251,125</b> |
| <b>Richard Alameda</b> , Battalion Chief.....       | 228,259 | 19,661   | <b>247,920</b> |
| <b>Clifford Del Carlo</b> , Fire Captain.....       | 163,561 | 83,489   | <b>247,050</b> |
| <b>John Owen</b> , Battalion Chief.....             | 187,295 | 45,307   | <b>232,602</b> |
| <b>Michael Martello</b> , City Attorney.....        | 231,081 | n/a      | <b>231,081</b> |
| <b>John Miguel</b> , Fire Captain.....              | 151,023 | 78,811   | <b>229,834</b> |
| <b>Michael Wester</b> , Fire Engineer.....          | 135,029 | 92,059   | <b>227,088</b> |
| <b>Zachary Bond</b> , Fire Captain.....             | 142,817 | 83,960   | <b>226,777</b> |
| <b>Scott Vermeer</b> , Police Chief.....            | 224,592 | n/a      | <b>224,592</b> |
| <b>Dennis Custodio</b> , Fire Captain.....          | 158,828 | 59,942   | <b>218,770</b> |
| <b>James Varano</b> , Fire Captain.....             | 141,449 | 77,271   | <b>218,721</b> |
| <b>Wade Trammell</b> , Fire Captain.....            | 155,396 | 56,014   | <b>211,410</b> |
| <b>Nadine Levin</b> , Assistant City Manager.....   | 210,465 | n/a      | <b>210,465</b> |
| <b>Corey Demers</b> , Fire Engineer.....            | 134,589 | 75,491   | <b>210,080</b> |
| <b>Cathy Remson-Lazarus</b> , Public Works Dir..... | 206,854 | n/a      | <b>206,854</b> |
| <b>Jim Biakanja</b> , Fire Captain.....             | 141,879 | 64,156   | <b>206,035</b> |
| <b>David Muela</b> , Community Services Dir.....    | 205,883 | n/a      | <b>205,883</b> |
| <b>Steven Hawkes</b> , Battalion Chief.....         | 205,197 | n/a      | <b>205,197</b> |
| <b>Steve Zarubin</b> , Fire Engineer.....           | 125,878 | 78,887   | <b>204,765</b> |
| <b>Ted Vandenberg</b> , Fire Captain.....           | 145,417 | 56,746   | <b>202,163</b> |
| <b>Kenneth Leal</b> , Police Sgt.....               | 143,783 | 58,219   | <b>202,002</b> |

SOURCE: CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

## BUDGET

► Continued from page 1

ing the Firefighter's Association, have been meeting with the city manager to figure out how to address the budget issues more specifically.

Duggan contends that the "less painful" budget cuts have already been made, but union representatives and some council members think there may be alternatives to some of his proposals, which include closing the library one day a week and cutting three police officer positions. Specific budget proposals will be presented on May 5.

"We have and we are continuing to work with city staff to try and find a solution to this," said John Miguel, president of the Mountain View Firefighters Association. "We were in meetings as late as yesterday [Monday] regarding this and what could be done."

Next week the city is set to begin contract negotiations with the SEIU, whose contract is set to expire in June. At this point the union, which represents employees in nearly every city department, is still gathering information about the city's budget situation.

"Everybody [at SEIU] is on board to at least be a part of the solution, if there is a problem," said Chris Costanzo, chapter chair. "We're not going to stick our heads in the sand — we

really want to understand" the situation.

Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga expressed concern that the city's lowest paid employees could be strong-armed into forgoing salary increases while the groups that have contracts would not have to.

"This needs to be a group effort, we can't single out one group," Abe-Koga said.

To patch the \$6 million deficit in the \$89 general fund budget next year, Duggan has proposed cutting the city budget by \$4 million and filling the rest of the gap with \$2 million of the city's \$38 million in reserves. The cuts would likely mean elimination of staff positions, but whether that can be done without layoffs is unclear. Duggan aims to reduce staff through attrition.

If city employees agree to forgo pay raises, it wouldn't be the first time. In 2003-04, non-public safety employees took a pass on cost-of-living adjustments, agreeing instead to a \$700 lump sum and additional time off (City Hall shut down during the holidays that year). Miguel says firefighters were not asked to take a pay cut then.

Calls to current and former Police Officer's Association presidents were not returned by press time.

### Sacrifices

Costanzo said the SEIU was not taking an "adversarial" approach to negotiations. The SEIU will be engaging in a collaborative

"interest-based" approach, he said, which involves department heads negotiating with a team of city staff who are SEIU members. He said this is cheaper and may be less contentious than "position-based" bargaining, which in the past required the city to pay for an outside attorney to mediate negotiations.

For his part, Duggan, who currently makes \$251,125 a year, is refusing a pay increase that could total about \$20,000. He was scheduled to receive a 3.2 percent cost-of-living adjustment in July and an additional merit pay increase of up to 5 percent.

"Now I'm just saying forget about it, to set an example basically," Duggan said. Given the state of the economy and how it has affected people, "I simply don't think it is an appropriate time for me to accept such increases."

Duggan says city department heads have expressed interest in forgoing similar pay raises. City attorney Michael Martello said he hasn't decided whether he'll forgo his pay raises yet.

"Certainly if a critical mass [of city employees] is going to do it I would certainly go along with it," Martello said, adding that it wouldn't be for "symbolism" but to make a "real difference" and continue the city's tradition of being a year ahead of other cities in anticipating budget problems. ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)



# Viewpoint

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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### ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

## Balancing the budget will take sacrifices

We're not sure if other managers and rank-and-file city employees will voluntarily join Kevin Duggan in giving up his cost-of-living adjustment and salary increase to help close the city's \$6 million budget gap. But they should.

To be sure, at \$250,000-plus a year, the city manager's gesture is more symbolic than truly painful. By comparison, the city's lower-paid workers are undoubtedly in great need of whatever salary boost they can get. Even the middle and upper managers — the 200 or so city employees who make over \$100,000 a year — probably are much more reliant on those raises.

But the idea is sound. Without counting benefits, compensation alone for all city employees has gone up 16 percent (\$8.5 million) in the last two years. It is easy to see why city employees should volunteer to at least give up the cost-of-living increases due to kick in this July.

Just like a private business that must make ends meet, the city is facing tough decisions during the economic downturn. Costs keep going up and Duggan estimates the city's income will remain stagnant for the next few years. If personnel costs continue to rise and nothing is done, the city could have a \$15 million deficit by 2012, and will either have to use reserves to pay its bills, lay off workers or cut basic services.

Another course, as the city manager suggests, is to hold back on pay and cost-of-living increases for as long as possible. Coupled with other possible cuts that he laid out to the City Council last week, the city could conceivably bring its spending into line with revenues without cutting positions.

The council members, at least three of whom were less than enthusiastic about the city manager's plans, want more information, as do the city's unions. But we fear that few alternatives to painful sacrifices will be found.

If the city manager can eliminate at least a good chunk of the expected deficit by convincing most city employees to forgo the pending increases, it will be tremendously helpful in balancing next year's budget. We urge the city's employees to facilitate the process, as they did in 2003-04.

This year the situation is just as drastic, if not more so. City employees have enjoyed substantial pay increases during the last few years, and today, with few other options before us, it seems appropriate for them to make sacrifices where possible to help Mountain View weather this economic crisis.

### ■ TOWNSQUARE VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### ON A NATIONAL LEGAL GROUP TARGETING THE DAY WORKER CENTER

Based on the reported experience of prior and current neighbors of the Day Worker Center, the only thing the residents of Escuela Avenue have to fear is fear itself.

**GDM, a resident of the Blossom Valley neighborhood**

"Day Worker Center" is a euphemism for "illegal immigrant employment hall." If it were not, it wouldn't be much of an issue, and we surely wouldn't have the extreme left-wing "sanctuary city" folks defending them so vigorously. These arrogant people insist on deciding for the rest of us that certain laws they don't agree with — federal immigration and employment statutes, in this case — are to be subverted using everyone's taxes and the power of city government.

**RM, a resident of the Whisman Station neighborhood**

Anybody following this story knows that I approve of the Day Worker Center of Mountain View. I just think they belong in a commercial area rather than a residential neighborhood. It's better for everybody. That's why Mountain View has zoning ordinances. The neighborhoods stay residential, the DWC will do more business in a location with more exposure, and the people who hire them will have easier access. That's a win-win-win situation.

I am not a hater and I hope this can all be resolved gracefully.

The writer of the article made it sound otherwise.

**Brad Kellar, a resident of the North Whisman neighborhood**

I see this purely as a lack of proper outreach and communication on the part of the Day Worker Center to state their value to the community and their legal legitimacy.

I support the idea of having a center to help disadvantaged people and people of insufficient financial means. However to move into a neighborhood without explaining what the center is about or even whether it has the legal right to exist is to expect confusion and distrust.

I don't see this as a non-winnable situation. However I would prefer the parties representing the DWC to step forward and state their case in terms of how the DWC will be a net-win for the neighborhood. I see this as their burden of proof. It's otherwise regrettable that the neighbors-to-be are to be forced to examine the legal bearings themselves, taking it upon themselves to bring in third-party legal experts. To call these new neighbors "racist" for exercising this right is to pull a sensationalistic trump card for doing their civic duty. (I don't endorse any racist comments from above postings.) Even worse, calling these new neighbors "racist" merely alienates the neighbors you're otherwise trying to win over. Is this really the impression you want to make before moving into the neighborhood?

**Robert, a resident of the Shoreline West neighborhood**







VERONICA WEBER

The Torta de Elote at Reposado restaurant in Palo Alto is a sweet corn cheese cake with vanilla bean brulee.

## ■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Almost Mexican

REPOSADO IN PALO ALTO IS URBANE AND STYLISH, BUT FOOD NEEDS VOLUME TURNED UP

By Dale F. Bentson

If I could write two reviews of Reposado, the first appraisal would applaud the stylish decor, the vivid, generous portions, the attentive service and the choice of four dozen or more tequilas.

The second review, though, would take issue with the food. Not that it isn't pleasant; it just isn't south-of-the-border enough for my palate, and nearly everything registers low on the taste-o-meter. I want the volume turned up; I crave goat, not short ribs.

I want the food to be assertive in my mouth and scream

"Mexican cuisine" with its ingenious layers and combinations of spices and herbs, that collision of unusual textures, rare aromas and incomparable taste sensations. I'd like Reposado to underline why Mexican is among the world's greatest cuisines.

Despite what I think, owner Rob Fischer told me that a number of patrons still send back their orders because the food is just too spicy for them. It's hard to believe that here in Foodieville, U.S.A., anyone's palate is still so dumbed-down, so uneducated and so unappreciative of the glories of food. OK,

► Continued on next page

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VERONICA WEBER

*The Ceviche de Camaron at Reposado restaurant features prawn ceviche with lime and cucumber juice, Serrano chili, avocado and grilled pineapple.*

► Continued from previous page

maybe I'm just grouchy today. The newish, usually jam-packed Reposado is the brain-child of Fischer, who owns the Palo Alto Creameries downtown and at Stanford.

"We didn't want to open a taqueria, not the typical taco, burrito and enchilada restaurant. We wanted something more upscale, something found in the finer areas of Mexico City. And we wanted it updated and eclectic,"

Fischer said in an interview.

Reposado is housed on Hamilton Avenue in downtown Palo Alto, in the home of the long-gone Cafe Verona. Fischer spent big and the result is a striking, stylish, restaurant/bar that caught on as soon as it opened.

The architecture stresses open, airy and elemental with concrete walls and ebony-colored floor, high-beamed ceiling and a mezzanine for overflow dining and pri-

► See **REPOSADO**, page 18

## ■ DINING NOTES

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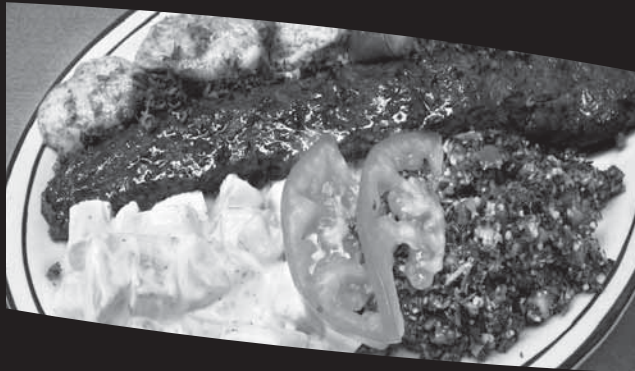
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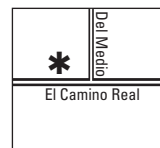
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## Weekend

### REPOSADO

► Continued from page 17

vate parties. Dining room and bar areas are swathed in earth tones with minimal adornment. In all, Reposado is sleek and contemporary without being gimmicky.

The house margarita (\$8) with triple sec and fresh-squeezed lime juice reminded me of languid days in Puerto Vallarta, a nice frame of mind from which to peruse the menu.

For starters one day, I opted for the special crab and corn chowder soup (\$6.50). Creamy and thick, the soup was loaded with chunks of delicate crab and fresh-shucked corn. The cream of sweet corn soup (\$5.50) with fire-toasted poblano chilies is the menu staple. It was like eating creamed corn dotted with tame green chilies: not bold, but not bad.

Three small sopitos (\$9.75) were artistically plated. The beef with toasted guajillo salsa lacked the spicy, tangy, smoky flavor of the chilies. The pork with salsa fresca and the chicken with salsa verde were indistinguishable.

I liked the prawn ceviche (\$10.50) with lime and cucumber juice, serrano chili, avocado and grilled pineapple. The serranos provided nothing more than backdrop but the prawns were meaty and fresh-tasting, and the citrus was slightly less than puckery on the tongue.

Queso fundido (\$8.75) was a small iron pot of melted cheese, fire-roasted (but not fiery) poblanos, shiitake mushrooms and house-made tortillas. The cheese was wonderfully gooey and the mushrooms provided interest but, again, the chilies were too timid to spark the dish to life. Nonetheless, warm comfort food if that's what you're looking for.

Main courses didn't veer from this course. Pollo en mole poblano (\$17.25) was a plump, juicy

► Continued on next page

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VERONICA WEBER

**Reposado's Polle en Mole Poblano** features chicken with a mole poblano sauce and is served with chayote vegetable hash and red rice.

► Continued from previous page

chicken breast blanketed in mole poblano sauce. Mole poblano is a classic and complex Mexican sauce made from chilies and spices, seeds and nuts, often with a hint of chocolate. The finished sauce is rich and fragrant, leaving a sweet to bittersweet resonance in the mouth.

Reposado's version of pollo en mole poblano was too sweet for my taste, too bright red to my eye. It covered the chicken more like marinara than mole. It was tasty in a nondescript way but the lovely layers of chilies never manifested.

Better was the rotisserie chicken (\$16.50) with pumpkin seed sauce and red rice. The fleshy fowl was delicious and the kitchen rotisserie, visible from the dining room, seduced the appetite. The sauce was simpler here, and, I suppose, my expectation level was different.

Pescado asado (\$16.75) was my favorite plate. Grilled red snapper, marinated in achiote (a rust-colored seed, slightly sweet and peppery) was served with jicama-mango pico de gallo and green rice. The fleshy and sweet fish tasted ocean-fresh. The pico de gallo sauce was delightfully citrusy and nicely balanced the snapper.

The desserts were excellent, especially the Azteca chocolate cake (\$6.75) — moist and rich with Mexican chocolate sauce, lime sabayon and ancho chili honey. A pleasing hint of chili lingered on the tongue. ■

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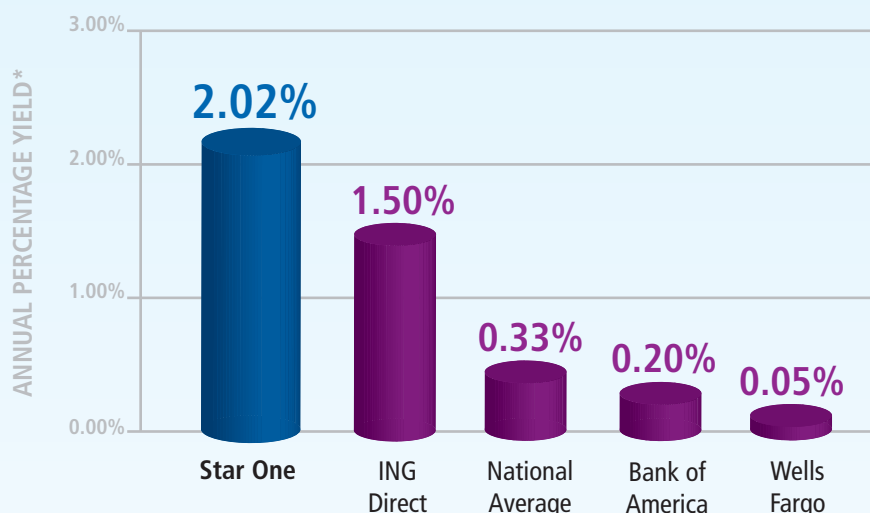
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