

# Mountain View VOICE

OCTOBER 9, 2009 VOLUME 17, NO. 40

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FALL  
REAL  
ESTATE  
| P. 21



MICHELLE LE

**Valerie Harris** shows off an unripe orange on her tree. Harris, who lives in Old Mountain View, says people have been trespassing and stealing her fruit.

## Resentment builds against downtown fruit thieves

By Daniel DeBolt

Downtown property owners say they are creeped out and irritated by the regular presence of fruit thieves in their neighborhood — people who sneak onto properties and strip trees of their fruit, which the residents believe is then sold elsewhere.

Over the past few years, they say, people on foot, on bikes and in cars have been taking fruit from people's front yards — and, in at least one case, from backyards as well. The most popular fruit to be stolen is persimmons, which will ripen all over the neighborhood in a few weeks.

The pilfering isn't a serious

enough crime for police to dedicate a lot of resources to stopping it. But it's enough to be an annoyance for neighbors, who say they wouldn't mind so much if they were asked first.

After posting on the neigh-

**“Apparently there's some kind of underground persimmon market.”**

borhood e-mail list, the *Voice* received eight reports of fruit trees being stripped without permission in the area surrounding View, Bush and Loreto streets.

Downtown resident Bruce Karney said that up until 2000, people would ask to pick his persimmon tree. Now they are stripping his apple tree as well, without asking.

“I'm angry about it,” he said, adding that he once saw a fruit thief drive up in a Mercedes Benz.

“Creepy is a good word” to describe it, said one downtown resident, who had a persimmon tree in her unfenced backyard completely stripped of its persimmons last year. The thieves squashed her landscaping in the process when they stacked stones to get high enough to reach every piece of

► See **FRUIT**, page 8

## Change on horizon for local schools

MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN OFFICIALS PROPOSE REVISIONS TO BOUNDARIES, CLASS SIZE IN THE FACE OF GROWING ENROLLMENT

By Kelsey Mesher

School officials contemplated big changes last week as they discussed a possible overhaul of the Mountain View Whisman School District's policies — such as boundaries and class sizes — in order to meet the demands of rising enrollment.

The discussion put trustees in the position of trying to prioritize their educational values in the face of some big variables: rapidly rising enrollment numbers, plus a shift in the district to Basic Aid status.

Whatever changes are finally implemented could mean adjustments to school boundaries, enrollment policies, bus routes and school and class sizes.

Among the proposals presented at last week's board meeting, one proved especially controversial: new school boundaries that would mostly affect areas feeding into Castro and Monta Loma. Administrators noted that, if implemented, the change would probably not take affect until 2011-12 because of an unsafe crossing at Rengstorff and Central Expressway (see map, p. 12). Also, it would only pertain to new families in the district, and would not displace current students at those schools or their siblings.

While some trustees said it is more important for students to be able to attend their neighborhood school, others said maintaining diversity should be a priority.

“We know that low-income Hispanic and low-income African-American students often do worse in their neighborhood school than if they go to a different school,” said trustee Ellen Wheeler. She pointed out that the current proposal would shift an area currently assigned to Bubb over to Castro, which serves

a higher population of low-income families and scores lower on standardized tests.

“It troubles me,” she told fellow board members, “and I don't have a solution for us. I don't have a formula, but it troubles me.”

She called for board members and administrators to get creative while keeping in mind the needs of the Castro neighborhood students. She emphasized that she felt Castro administrators and teachers were doing their job, but that underserved students historically do better in higher-achieving schools.

“I'm uncomfortable about mov-

► See **ENROLLMENT**, page 9

## Navy: We will defer on Hangar One

By Daniel DeBolt

In response to a letter and phone calls from Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus says that the Navy will not remove the siding from Moffett Field's historic Hangar One until the White House makes a decision on its restoration.

“It is my intention that no siding will be removed from the hangar until the arbitration process has concluded,” Mabus wrote. “Once OMB's decision has been made, the Navy will work with all parties to ensure that the 30-month remediation effort supports future plans for

► See **HANGAR ONE**, page 12

INSIDE

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

**Jerylann Mateo**



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**Ginny Zachow**



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**Jeff Stricker & Steve TenBroeck**



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**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Stately, traditional 5bd/3ba home in great downtown location. 2316+/- sf., with high-end finishes, 9 foot ceilings, FR, DR, + MBR suite. Open Sunday. **\$1,299,000**

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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Kelsey Mesher.

*What would you do if you saw someone steal fruit off a tree in your yard?*



*"You wouldn't want to steal from any old tree because you don't know what you're going to get. If people spray their trees they leave boxes out that say, 'For free.'"*

**Vandi Linski, Mountain View**



*"I'd probably yell at them."*

**Jessica Gallagher, San Jose**



*"Probably nothing, it's not like I can eat all the fruit on the tree."*

**Diana Hatch, Santa Clara**



*"I have a lemon tree, but I don't care for it that much. ... I would set up a little basket with a sign that says 'Take One.'"*

**Eric Sung, Palo Alto**



*"We used to have an orange tree, but we haven't had that experience. I don't know — you would probably just react on the spot."*

**Alyona Eidinger, San Jose**

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## LocalNews

### ■ POLICE LOG

#### ATTEMPTED MURDER

1500 block North Shoreline Blvd  
10/2

#### STOLEN VEHICLE

200 block Castro St 10/4

#### ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

1900 block California St 9/30

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT

2500 block Grant Rd 10/4

#### BATTERY

3500 block Truman Ave 10/1  
1700 block Miramonte Ave 10/1  
300 block Sylvan Ave 10/1  
300 block Franklin St 9/30

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

900 block Farley St 05 10/5  
100 block Estrada Dr 10/4  
1900 block Crisanto Ave 10/4

#### GRAND THEFT

Diericx Dr and Levin Ave 5/10  
24 Hour Fitness 9/30

#### AUTO BURGLARY

1300 block Cuernavaca Cir 10/4  
600 block Sylvan Ave 10/1  
700 block North Shoreline Blvd  
10/1

#### PETTY THEFT

2400 block Villa Nueva Way 10/5  
700 block Continental Circle 10/3  
1000 block North Rengstorff  
Ave 10/2  
2500 block Grant Rd 10/1  
500 block Mariposa Ave 10/1  
1900 block Old Middlefield Way  
10/1  
500 block North Shoreline Blvd  
9/30

#### POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

2200 block Latham St 10/3  
1900 block West El Camino Real  
10/3

#### POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

West El Camino Real and Escuela  
Ave 10/3  
Fairchild Drive and North Whisman  
Road 10/1

#### UNDER INFLUENCE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

1900 block California St 10/2

#### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE: TRANSPORT FOR SALE

Clyde Ave and Maude Ave 10/1

#### VANDALISM

300 block Bryant St 10/3  
100 block Sierra Vista Ave 10/2  
Mora Dr and Ortega Ave 10/2  
1700 block Wright Ave 10/2  
Pacific Inn 10/1  
600 block Rainbow Dr 9/30  
500 block Castro St 9/30  
900 block Lane Ave 9/30

#### SHOPLIFTING

400 block San Antonio Road 9/30

#### OBSCENE/ANNOYING PHONE CALLS

1700 block Wright Ave 9/30  
2200 block Latham St 10/5

#### DISORDERLY CONDUCT

700 block East Evelyn Ave 10/1  
Castro St and Villa St 10/2  
West Dana St and Hope St 10/4  
Jane Lane and North Rengstorff  
Ave 10/4  
800 block Cuesta Dr 10/4

#### DISTURBANCE

Showers Dr 10/3

#### FALSE IMPRISONMENT

2200 block Latham St 10/1

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## City officially a contender for HSR stop

By Daniel DeBolt

In response to requests from the community and the Mountain View City Council, the California High Speed Rail Authority has included Mountain View among the possible locations for a High Speed Rail stop on the Peninsula.

At a meeting in San Carlos last Thursday night, the Rail Authority presented various design alternatives for running high speed trains up the Peninsula. For the first time, the agency included a possible high speed rail stop in downtown Mountain View at the existing Caltrain, bus and light rail station.

The same information will be presented at a meeting at the Sunnyvale Recreation Center at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 9.

“What we’re presenting here tonight is just the first cut at the alternatives in the design options for the Caltrain corridor,” said Dominic Spaethling, regional manager for the San Francisco-to-San Jose segment.

After studying the various possibilities, the Rail Authority will decide whether Mountain View, Redwood City or Palo Alto will host a mid-Peninsula stop, and whether the tracks will be in a tunnel, in a ditch, at grade, above grade or some combination.

“People need to be aware that this is happening and get informed about it,” said council member Ronit Bryant, who attended the meeting. “Our comments can make a difference. It is wrong to wait until decisions have been made and say ‘I didn’t know anything about it, this is terrible.’”

The agency proposes running the tracks at grade on the corridor’s stretches east

► See **HSR**, page 7

## Food critic fights anorexia at home

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TEAM UP TO WRITE ‘HUNGRY,’ AN IRONIC LOOK AT A SERIOUS PROBLEM

By Kelsey Mesher

It is an old story: A teen rebels against a parent. But what happens when the parent’s career is based on eating, and the teen’s rebellion a hunger strike that spirals into an uncontrollable eating disorder?

Such was the case with Sheila and Lisa Himmel, a food critic mom and her daughter from Palo Alto. They tell their story in a new book, “Hungry: A Mother and Daughter Fight Anorexia,” which they co-authored.

Sheila is a celebrated Bay Area food critic and Palo Alto resident who worked for many years at the *San Jose Mercury News*. She has also written food reviews for the *Voice* and its sister paper, the *Palo Alto Weekly*.

“Hungry” is not just another book about anorexia, of which there are many. It is also a portrait of how a confluence of societal and social pressures wreaked havoc on the Himmel



CLIFFORD PHAM

Sheila Himmel, left, and her daughter Lisa Himmel. The two teamed up to write “Hungry: A Mother and Daughter Fight Anorexia.”

family. As Sheila highlights in the book, their situation was fraught with a terrible irony:

“While I was out judging American’s favorite vegetable (French fries) for flavor, texture, and price,” she writes, “my daughter was home, starving herself.”

Though the story is as personal as can be, the authors wanted to “use our story as something that would resonate with people, if they had a fam-

ily member who had an eating disorder or, if not, a family struggling with something,” Sheila told the *Voice*. “I also tried to weave in some reporting and interviews and research to put it in a larger context,” she said.

In some ways, the Himmels’ experience with food is an anomaly. But the book also underscores the rapt atten-

► See **HUNGRY**, page 11

## Man stabbed in the heart at Century 16

By Kelsey Mesher

Police say a 25-year-old San Jose man was stabbed in the heart and the stomach last Friday night as late-night movies were letting out of the Century 16 theaters at Shoreline. An 18-year-old from Sunnyvale was arrested and charged with the crime.

The stabbing appears to be gang-related, said police spokesperson Liz Wylie. The unnamed victim remains in the hospital and is expected to survive.

Wylie said the fight started after “There were some words exchanged before the movie” between two groups. “A security guard had noticed it and told them to go their separate ways.”

Wylie said that after the movies let out, the suspect, Jesse Guerrero, 18, of Sunnyvale, apparently approached the



Jesse Guerrero

victim again outside the theater. There was another exchange of words, Wylie said, before Guerrero attacked.

She said a reserve police officer happened to have stopped near the theater to pick up some food and noticed a large crowd standing out front. A security guard at the theater waved down the officer even before an emergency call was placed.

The officer called dispatch to alert them that a stabbing had

► See **STABBING**, page 7

## Council wrestles with housing policies

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council found itself in the quandary of trying to figure out how to encourage appropriate housing development Tuesday despite a relative lack of developable land and a housing market slowdown.

During its Tuesday night study session, the council discussed a long list of suggested policies for a new “housing element,” a state-required general plan policy document that will guide housing development over the next seven years. Consultant Simon Alejandrino said the proposals, though numerous, were only

**Mountain View needs more housing for its workers because the city is “jobs rich” compared to neighboring cities.**

BAE REPORT

“tinkering around the edges” in the effort to meet the city’s housing needs.

“The cities that are successful at generating a lot of units tend to have more land than Mountain View,” said Alejandrino, vice president of Bay Area Economics, a city-hired consultant group.

BAE released a report in April that helped substantiate the notion that Mountain View needs more housing for its workers because the city is “jobs rich” compared to neighboring cities.

There now appears to be more focus on redeveloping the city’s existing apartment buildings, 19 percent of which are in danger of

► See **COUNCIL**, page 10

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

## Colorful dragonfly



"Our backyard garden has been visited by a number of dragonflies over the years but none quite so colorful," wrote Tom Fletcher of Limetree Lane. "This one flew over our pool looking for a meal and finally landed on a tomato cage."

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).

# FREE SKIN SCREENING

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■ NEWS BRIEFS

### JUDGE RULES CARBAJAL CAN STAND TRIAL

A judge ruled Friday at a preliminary hearing in Santa Clara County Superior Court that there is enough evidence for Mountain View soccer coach Pedro Carbajal to stand trial on charges of child molestation.

Three of Carbajal's young relatives, who are now 19, 16 and 12, were the only witnesses called to testify. Though their statements differed on some dates and on the sequence of some events, all three girls said they recalled being inappropriately touched several years back. The oldest testified that she had been raped on multiple occasions.

Only a year ago, Carbajal, 34, was championed in Mountain View as a youth advocate. He was best known for starting the Amigos Soccer League in 2006, teaching his players both about the sport and about the importance of school and staying out of gangs and away from drugs. He also held positions on the Mountain View

Whisman School District's English Learners Advisory Committee and the Mountain View Community Action League.

But in February of last year, his young relatives came forward, claiming Carbajal had illicit relations with each of them. On Feb. 27 he was arrested and charged with three counts of child molestation and one count of aggravated assault.

Carbajal's next court date is an arraignment scheduled for Oct. 13.

— Kelsey Mesher

### HOMELESS MAN SENTENCED FOR COUNTERFEITING

A federal court judge has sentenced a Gulf War veteran and drug addict who apparently lived in Mountain View to 30 months in prison after used equipment to counterfeit tens of thousands of dollars.

A public defender says 37-year-old Paul Rickett was

a methamphetamines addict who had been taught how to counterfeit money, which he was doing in the back of his Ford Aerostar minivan. Before he was arrested, Rickett had counterfeited \$30,000 using his own equipment.

According to the Associated Press, though Rickett was homeless he had an address in Mountain View at one point, and has family in Sacramento.

As part of a deal with prosecutors, the people who originally showed Rickett how to counterfeit money gave him up to authorities. Before he was arrested, Rickett was found passing counterfeit bills and was given counterfeiting equipment by an undercover Secret Service agent so that he could produce another \$100,000 in a hotel room.

A similar case is pending against Rickett in Santa Clara County. He must serve 85 percent of the sentence before he is eligible for parole.

— Daniel DeBolt

## Mountain View man arrested for alleged hate crime

By Daniel DeBolt

A 26-year-old Mountain View man was arrested last Wednesday evening for a hate crime, police say, after he allegedly yelled a racial slur at an African-American couple and proceeded to throw a beer container and punches at the male victim.

Police responded to a 911 call about a fight at the 1900 block of California Street at 7:22 p.m. The two victims, a 20-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman, were standing outside of an apartment complex when the suspect — Humberto Pineda, a resident of the apartment complex — drove up in a purple van.

Police say that Pineda jumped out of the van, smashed a beer bottle on the ground and shouted a racial slur at the couple, both of whom ran to a friend's



Humberto Pineda

door in the complex. Pineda allegedly threw a beer can at the male victim and missed. Police say Pineda punched the male victim the face, at which point the male victim fought back in defense. Neighbors came out to break up the fight and the victim's girlfriend called 911.

Though police say Pineda fled the scene, a patrolling officer saw him pull his van back into the parking lot later that evening at 9:49 p.m. Pineda was approached by the officer and appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and had a suspended driver's license, police say. The victims identified him as the suspect and he was arrested without incident.

Pineda was charged with a hate crime, assault with a deadly weapon, battery, driving while under the influence, driving with a suspended driver's license and violating his probation terms for a previous incident of driving under the influence. He was booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail. ▀

the suspect as the person who stabbed the victim," Wylie said. "He was arrested and booked in for attempted homicide and a gang enhancement."

Wylie described it as an open-and-shut case: "We don't believe there was anyone else involved; it was one suspect doing the stabbing."

This is the second major crime to occur at the theater complex in the last two weeks. On Sept. 24, two women were robbed at gunpoint, and one of them was zapped with a Taser. Wylie said that despite the recent activity, the Century 16 cinemas are a generally safe place. But she said it is likely that patrol officers will make more frequent checks in the theater lot in the near future. ▀

## STABBING

► Continued from page 5

taken place. Police officers and a bystander assisted in giving the victim CPR until paramedics arrived. He was taken to the hospital and treated for life-threatening wounds. Wylie said he is still in the hospital and is expected to live, though she did not know his current condition.

An officer with a K-9 searched the area and found Guerrero hiding in some bushes nearby, Wylie said. The dog found two knives in the area, and police believe one of them was the weapon used in the stabbing.

"There were numerous people who were able to identify

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Santa Clara Valley Water District  
**Public hearing**

## Proposed Ordinance

You are invited

**Topic:** Proposed Ordinance providing for increase in Compensation of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District

**Who:** Santa Clara Valley Water District

**What:** Board Compensation

**When:** October 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Room  
5700 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

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

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

**SECOND:** For each calendar year following the effective date of this ordinance, the current compensation of two hundred sixty dollars and three cents (\$260.03) per day provided to each District Board member for each day's attendance at Board meetings, or for each day's service rendered as a member of the Board by request of the Board, is increased by an amount equal to five (5) percent, for a total of two hundred seventy three dollars and three cents (\$273.03), commencing on January 1, 2010.

The increase is in accordance with the California Water Code Section 20202 which authorizes the Board to increase compensation up to five (5) percent for each calendar year following the last increase adopted by ordinance. The last increase adopted by Ordinance 08-02 for calendar year 2009 represented an amount equal to ten (10) percent over the 2007 compensation, five (5) percent for 2008 calendar year and five (5) percent for 2009 calendar year.

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

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

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

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District

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JAMES TENSUAN

## THE DAVINCI MODE:

*Terry Christiansen watches a demonstration of the DaVinci surgical robot during a ribbon-cutting event last Saturday at El Camino Hospital’s new facility on Grant Road.*

## FRUIT

► Continued from page 1

fruit.

The woman, who wished to be anonymous, filed a police report in which she estimated the damage and the fruit to be worth \$400.

“Apparently there’s some kind of underground persimmon market,” she said. “Persimmons are particularly attractive to some people. I’m mad about it for various reasons.”

Many neighbors say they are afraid that the thieves will become emboldened if left unchecked.

Bush Street resident Anne Urban remembers walking out her front door one afternoon last fall to see a man in her persimmon tree in her front yard. “I yelled at him,” Urban said. “The annoying part was that he laughed. He didn’t run away fast until I started chasing him.”

Noam Livnat, leader of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association, wrote about the “fruit thieves in our midst” in the association’s September newsletter. Livnat said he’d caught a woman red-handed up in his fruit tree and had seen his neighbors chase some

fruit thieves down his street.

“I’m concerned that those who drive here to steal fruit from front yards will move to stealing from back yards or from houses,” Livnat wrote. “I haven’t been worried about crime in the neighborhood and I’m not sure I am now, but I’m not as sanguine about it anymore.”

In the newsletter, Livnat said that chasing the thieves from the neighborhood was “the neighborly thing to do.”

“I think it’s appropriate to chase them away,” Karney agreed, adding that it might also be a good idea to “take their photographs, get license plate numbers and file a police report.”

In an e-mail, police spokesperson Liz Wylie said that “the best course of action” is for homeowners to “call us as the picking is occurring so that we can do something about it.” She said the fruit thieves may not be aware that what they are doing is not OK with the homeowner, and suggested that people put up signs with messages to the effect of “Please don’t pick my fruit.”

“If we caught somebody in the act, we would likely give them a warning, depending on the

circumstances,” Wylie said. “If somebody were to be arrested and it’s under \$50 worth (of fruit), the DA’s office would prosecute it as an infraction, not a misdemeanor” — and that’s if they chose to prosecute it at all.

Downtown neighbor Eugene Cordero had a different take on the situation.

“It’s been my observation that there is more fruit rotting in our front yards than fruit picked by unwelcome guests,” he wrote on the neighborhood e-mail list. “The real issue is the expanding divide between rich and poor. If people were not in such challenging times, they wouldn’t resort to stealing food to feed their families.”

The situation “illustrates an unwillingness to imagine what it’s like to live on the other side of the street.”

A local volunteer organization called Village Harvest will pick residents’ fruit trees and donate the fruit to local food agencies. To learn more, visit [www.villageharvest.org](http://www.villageharvest.org), call (888) fruit-411 or write [info@villageharvest.org](mailto:info@villageharvest.org). ■

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

## ■ EDUCATION BRIEFS

### LOCAL SAT SCORES BEAT STATE, NATIONAL AVERAGE

College-bound seniors at Mountain View and Los Altos high schools continue to outperform their California peers in the SAT Reasoning Exam. The results of the 2008-09 exam were released earlier this month.

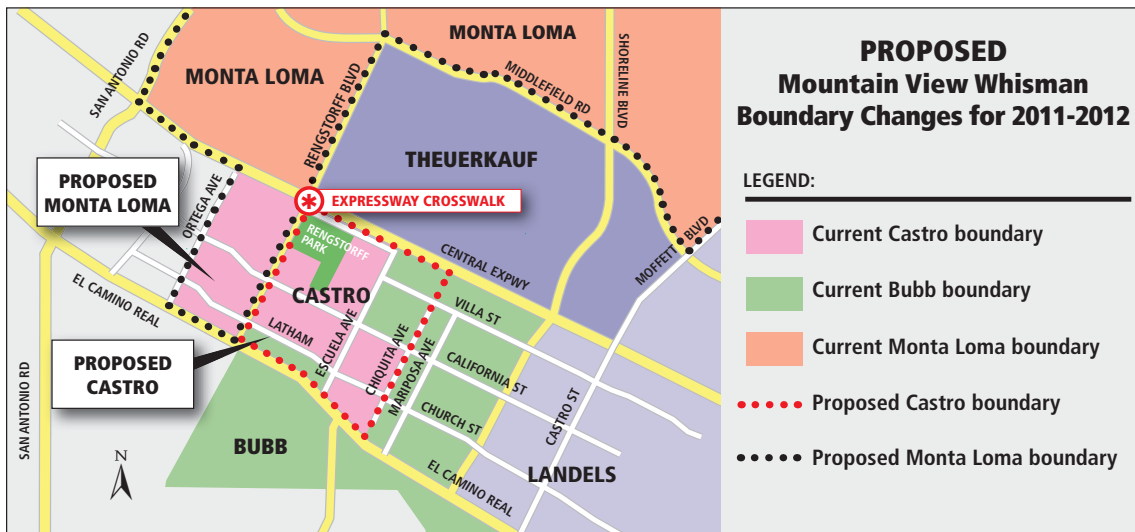
Seniors at both high schools posted above-average marks, with Los Altos students scoring 587 in critical reading, 620 in math and 598 in writing for a total of 1805. Mountain View students scored 583, 619 and 589 in the same subjects, respectively, for a total of 1791. A total of 2400 is possible.

Statewide, students averaged

a score of 1511, and nationwide they averaged 1509.

“We are proud of our students’ achievement,” said Brigitte Sarraf, associate superintendent, in a press release. “Over the years we have seen growth in performance on virtually all academic indicators.

— Kelsey Mesher



## ENROLLMENT

► Continued from page 1

ing this boundary,” she said. “And if we do move the boundary I’d like to see us do something to help those kids.”

### Home schooling

At an earlier session, a proposal was made to eliminate the district’s \$150,000 independent study program (ISP), which currently serves 50 students, only 15 of whom live within district boundaries. Craig Goldman, chief financial officer for the district, said if the cut was eventually made, there are alternatives

for families that want to continue home schooling.

Judy Zellers, whose daughter tried out both middle schools before opting to do ISP, told board members that the program provides an important service for students who don’t thrive in traditional public school settings.

“The ISP program could easily fill with families from the district if it were publicized within the district,” she said, adding that for the past few years the program has been at full capacity just by word of mouth.

Zellers told the *Voice* that if the program is cut, she may try to find an alternative home school program for her daughter. But she

noted that “cost is an issue” — the program provides parents with textbooks free of charge — and that she would lose out on the guidance provided by ISP resource teachers.

### Bus routes, PI

Also on the agenda at Thursday’s meeting was the topic of transportation. The proposed plan includes eliminating morning pick-ups at all schools except Castro. Other home-to-school stops that would be spared include Creekside Park, Space Park Way and Whisman Park.

“The idea would be ... that none of the schools other than Castro would have a pick-up,” Goldman said.

He added that right now buses

running from Castro to other district schools are usually very full, but buses that make morning pick-ups at most other schools are almost empty.

Goldman said the previous policy was to create a stop for any student who filled out a bus application. Currently, he told trustees, there are buses making stops for only one or two students, and that is simply not efficient.

A related consideration in making the changes is Monta Loma and Theuerkauf’s Program Improvement (PI) status under the federal government’s No Child Left Behind act. Because students at PI schools have the option of transferring to another school, the district is required to provide free transportation to those who request it.

It remains to be seen if any parents will elect to move their children from these schools, though one Theuerkauf parent at the meeting said he didn’t believe there would be any sort of exodus due to PI status.

“In the five years I’ve been a parent (at Theuerkauf) I think the school has improved dramatically,” he told trustees. “I don’t see that any parents are upset about this or have any plans to leave the school.”

### Class size

In terms of class size, Goldman told trustees that the current pro-

posal would allow up to 25 students in K-3 classes if necessary. This would give the district flexibility in utilizing its facilities while still allowing it to receive special funding from the state based on class size reduction.

Due to growing enrollment, the district wants to provide its most crowded schools — those with more than 600 students — with an additional staff member to help with administrative duties. Goldman said the person would not necessarily have to be someone credentialed in administration. The school currently closest to that mark is Bubb, with 562 students.

While policies are revised every year, the district’s new Basic Aid status — where funding is based largely on property taxes regardless of the number of students — puts this year’s exercise in uncharted territory. Rising enrollment numbers will mean less money per student under the Basic Aid funding model.

Trickier still, administrators say, in an unstable economic climate the district may be drifting in and out of Basic Aid and Revenue Limit status in the coming years.

Administrators will make revisions to the proposals based on Thursday’s meeting and present them at the next board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15. ■

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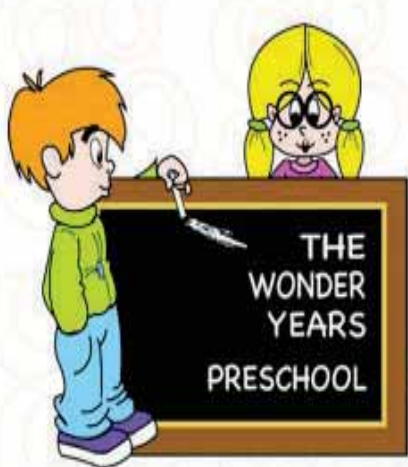


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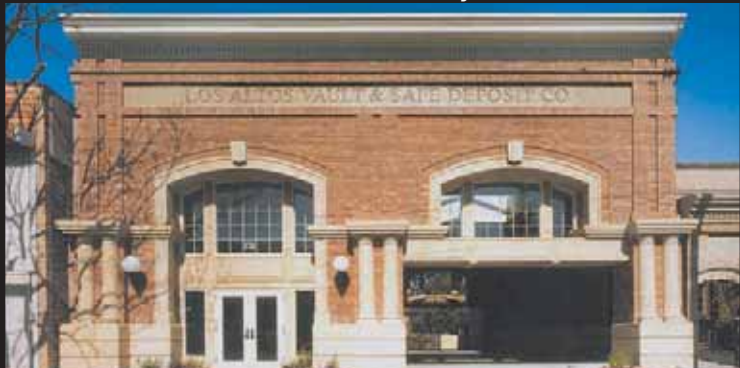
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LocalNews

**COUNCIL**

► Continued from page 5

falling over in an earthquake due to their “soft story” design.

The proposed housing element doesn’t present very many “new ways of doing things,” said council member Mike Kasperzak, who believes the city’s numerous aging apartment buildings present an opportunity for new development.

There was at least one new way of doing things presented in the draft housing element: require less parking for housing near transit. According to the Greenbelt Alliance, Mountain View requires more parking on average than other Bay Area cities, and less parking would leave more room for homes and discourage people from using cars.

The Environmental Planning Commission objected to the proposal, however, citing impacts

on surrounding neighborhoods. Council member Jac Siegel agreed with the commission, others did not.

“We do need to look at parking requirements,” said council member John Inks. “Our parking

**“I’m all for reducing free parking. (Too many people) fill up their garages and driveways and park on the street.”**

TOM MEANS

requirements are a little higher than surrounding cities.”

“I’m all for reducing free parking,” said council member Tom Means. Too many people, he said,

“fill up their garages and driveways and park on the street.”

To meet its “fair share” of the county’s unmet housing needs, the Association of Bay Area Governments has calculated that Mountain View needs to accommodate — perhaps through zoning — another 2,123 housing units by 2014, including 467 very low income units.

But that goal may be difficult to achieve in a slow housing market: Permits for only 99 units were approved last year, while 377 units were permitted in 2007.

In a letter to the city, the League of Women Voters said the city had a poor track record in meeting its ABAG requirements for building new low income housing. To help address that problem, it has been proposed that the city try to build 150 affordable housing units per year.

Several council members also supported removing a cap on the number of “efficiency studios” that can be built. Currently the city has 118 of the small apartments at San Antonio Place, and only 62 more can be built.

Kasperzak said the city needed to talk with developers about how the city could realistically build that many affordable housing units.

“I’m sure you don’t enjoy it when neighbors complain about affordable housing,” said Roy Hayter of Advocates for Affordable Housing. Nonetheless, he said, building more of it “is the right thing for this group to be doing.”

Council member Laura Macias suggested a cap on annual housing production and a “beauty pageant” similar to Morgan Hill’s in which the best projects are selected and built. She asked Alejandrino, “Have you ever seen a city say, ‘We’re only going to accept affordable housing?’”

“I think the state would see that as a major constraint on housing,” Alejandrino said. “I doubt you would get a (state) certified housing element that way.”

Macias took issue with the terms “affordable housing” and “subsidized housing” because the words have a negative connotation. City staff suggested “assisted housing” or “rent restricted” housing. Audience members were overheard commenting that changing the name wasn’t good for government transparency.

Council member Ronit Bryant said she wanted the city to encourage mixed-use development, with retail shops below housing. In General Plan hearings, “People have been telling us again and again, we want more mixed-use development,” Bryant said.

While some say the city’s zoning doesn’t encourage mixed-use, planning director Randy Tsuda said the real constraint was a lack of appropriately sized lots on El Camino Real and elsewhere. ■

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## HUNGRY

► Continued from page 5

tion most Americans pay to food, eating and body image, whether it's getting together around the dinner table or trying to lose weight

Since the book's release last month, Sheila said she's heard from families all over the country.

"It's been gratifying, the reaction," she said.

The decision to write

and in the end, Sheila said, it was therapeutic to write.

"I think it helped both of us in the same way, in that it helped us figure out what happened," she said. "We had to keep looking at it; we couldn't just say, 'OK that's over and let's move on.'"

"It's like writing anything. It helps you figure out how you feel or how you think.

For now, Sheila said, Lisa is recovering, not recovered.

"You can totally recover from eating disorders — it takes years. She's just in that

*It would be difficult for any parent to talk about the issues "Hungry" brings up.*

"Hungry" came after overwhelming response to a *Mercury News* cover story on the family's battle with the eating disorder. Still, it wasn't an easy decision to make.

"As a journalist you don't write about yourself. Your voice is in it, but you're not the story," Sheila said. However, "At some point we just kind of got over that"—though in retrospect there are some things in the book she might have omitted.

It would be difficult for any parent to talk about the issues "Hungry" brings up. Besides the gruesome details of Lisa's fight with anorexia and bulimia, the book touches on tough themes like gender and the generation gap. It also seeks to elaborate on the more well-known complexities families deal with, such as sibling rivalry and the mother-daughter relationship.

These subjects may be even more pronounced in Silicon Valley, with its fast-paced, success-obsessed culture and, as Sheila put it, a "fetishization of food" in the Bay Area.

But the book succeeds because the Himmels are so candid about their journey,

process now, but she's been exercising and eating really well."

In the end, she added, her relationship to food has grown stronger.

"In a funny way it's made me appreciate it more, because I see now it can be such a source of struggle," Sheila explained. "It's more important to me than ever that we just eat well and enjoy it. And everybody can do that. We all have our excuses, but everybody can pick good food and eat in moderation and get a little exercise." ▼

E-mail Kelsey Mesher at [kmesher@mv-voice.com](mailto:kmesher@mv-voice.com)

### ■ INFORMATION

**What:** Sheila and Lisa Himmel discuss their book, "Hungry: A Mother and Daughter Fight Anorexia"

**Where:** City of Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St.

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** Call (650) 903 6337

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**HSR**

► Continued from page 5

of Highway 85 in Mountain View. But west of Highway 85 there are several possibilities for the Castro Street and Rengstorff Avenue rail crossings. The tracks could either continue at grade above a depressed street, under the street in a tunnel or ditch, or above the street on either a raised berm or an aerial platform. Bryant said there could also be a raised berm and a slightly depressed street, similar to what has been done in San Carlos for Caltrain.

It appears that an aerial platform is unlikely because of the existing Shoreline Boulevard overpass. The City Council has expressed its preference for a trench or tunnel at Castro Street. Meanwhile, city staffers have advised against a tunnel or trench at Rengstorff Avenue, because Permanente Creek is just

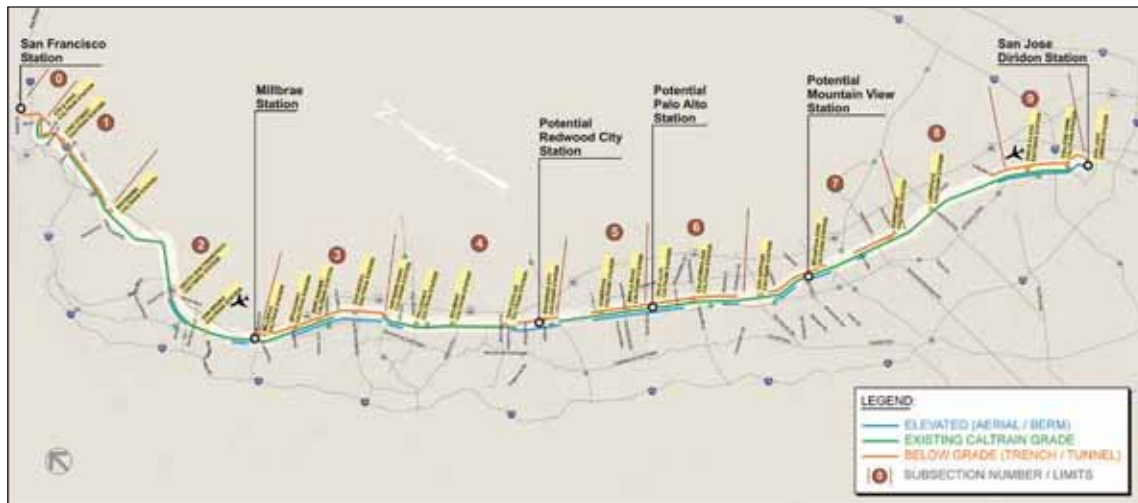
to the west, and instead favor a design with tracks at grade and Rengstorff underneath.

The line could transition from below ground to above grade from section to section, though engineers hope to keep the tracks as level as possible to allow trains to move at a consistent speed.

“We don’t want a rollercoaster,” said project engineer Timothy Cobb.

As a next step, rail officials will compare design options using evaluative measures such as construction feasibility and neighborhood impacts, which will be published in a draft “Alternatives Analysis” report in December. The Rail Authority is scheduled to select the actual track alignment in early 2011, and construction of the \$40 billion segment could start in late 2012.

Some cities along the corridor received only one proposed alignment and would not have



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This map shows the proposed stops for High Speed Rail along the Peninsula.

their track elevation altered. Those sections include: railroads from Bayshore to South San Francisco Caltrain stations; San Bruno; Belmont to San Carlos; and southern Sunnyvale to northern Santa Clara.

The authority will conduct

two more Alternative Analysis workshops. One is Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Recreation Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, Sunnyvale; the other is Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Milton Marks Conference Center, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

The alternatives also will be posted under the “Library” tab at [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov). ▀

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

**HANGAR ONE**

► Continued from page 1

Hangar One.”

The Navy is responsible for toxic cleanup of Hangar One’s asbestos- and PCB-laden siding, while NASA Ames is the owner of the property and would like to see the structure re-used.

The two agencies asked the White House Office of Management and Budget to make a decision on how the hangar should be restored after negotiations broke down over funding for the restoration project, which could cost over \$15 million.

Two weeks ago the Navy made a surprise announcement that it was awarding a contract to remove the siding regardless of the OMB’s decision, a move which drew criticism from Eshoo as well as from the city of Mountain View, the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board and local preservationists. Their concern is that leaving Hangar One as a bare skeleton would cause irreversible corrosion damage to its steel frame.

Mabus said de-skinning the Hangar wouldn’t begin for at least six months.

“We are sensitive to the desires of the city and recognize the historic significance of Hangar One to the local area,” he wrote.

“I’m extremely pleased with the Secretary’s letter,” Eshoo stated in a press release. “Our conversations have been very productive and I’m pleased that he is committed to a remediation plan that supports future plans for Hangar One.”

“It is clear that the Secretary will not allow any siding to come down until the Office of Management and Budget has issued a decision,” she said. ▀

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### ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

## Energetic Stasak got things done

Even though her life was cruelly cut short on Sept. 24, former City Council member Rosemary Stasak accomplished more during her few years in Mountain View and Kabul, Afghanistan than most of us do in a lifetime.

She was a courageous council member who dedicated herself to getting the complex and unpopular measures passed, rather than skate by on the easy issues. For example, she worked tirelessly to develop an ordinance to preserve the city's historic buildings. Although that effort was not successful, she did convince her colleagues to extend benefits to domestic partners of city workers, and to hire the first female firefighters.

As one friend told the Voice, "She was not a friend to anyone who discriminated. She stuck to her principles even if it hurt her politically and financially."

Stasek was considered a hip council member — she wore a stud in her nose and enjoyed the night life in San Francisco — and was called a "rebel with a cause." She was also a brilliant politician and strategist "who found solutions where there seemed to be none," said council member Laura Macias, a longtime friend.

After her two council terms, which ended in 2004, Stasak made an unsuccessful run for a state Assembly seat, taking on her former colleague Sally Lieber, who won the race. After that Stasak looked for other challenges and wound up moving to Kabul in 2005 (she had previously visited Afghanistan on vacation).

There she saw an opportunity to improve the lives of the thousands of women smothered by the repressive Taliban regime. Her first effort, which she wrote about in dispatches published in the Voice, centered around the Kabul Beauty School, an institution that gave young women the skills they needed to start their own beauty salons, thereby earning their own income.

In Kabul, Stasak refused to bow to the prevailing culture of men keeping women out of public life and the business community. She was one of the few women in Kabul to drive a car, which she said drew intimidating verbal comments from men an average of six times a day. But she did not take these affronts lying down. At one point, for instance, she collected a debt owed to her while carrying a Kalashnikov rifle.

After her stint at the beauty school, Stasak used her new-found fundraising and networking skills to bring aid to maternity hospitals and improve terrible conditions in a women's prison, which housed many young women who had run away from arranged marriages.

Despite her absence of nearly four years, Rosemary Stasak had many good friends in Mountain View who recognized her incredible energy and ability to improve the lives of those around her. Although her unexpected death was a huge loss to those who knew her in Afghanistan as well as in Mountain View, all of us will remember her work to fight discrimination at every turn, and to never let up. That is how she would want to be remembered.

### ■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### ROSEMARY STASEK WAS EASY TO LOVE

Editor:

I first got to know Rosie when I was a staff writer at the *Mountain View Voice* about 10 years ago and she was on the City Council. As a city official, she struck me as gregarious, approachable, whip smart, an unapologetic feminist, and committed to creating community in her adoptive home town of Mountain View. Her votes on issues were not always predictable, but were always well-reasoned.

After I left the *Voice* we became good friends, and my husband, Matthew Walker, and I were married by Rosie on our rooftop patio overlooking the Hope Street parking lots. I remember her joking that being the mayor that year did not earn her the privilege of skipping the long line at the county clerk's office, when she applied to become our officiant. I also remember Rosie toasting us with a tequila shot at our wedding dinner at Fiesta Del Mar Too.

I know she found much fulfillment in Afghanistan, and in Mountain View, and I'll miss her so much. Here's to Rosie!

Karen Lee Willemssen  
Seattle, Washington

#### MORE THOUGHTS ON AN ENTRYWAY ARCH

Editor:

For several years now I have had a vision for some type of

arch that would distinguish the entry into downtown Mountain View. It would cross Castro Street on the Evelyn Avenue side of the train tracks.

So you can imagine my interest in the guest opinion by Allen Price, "If not Eiffel, why not a Castro Tower?" that appeared in last week's paper. That story stated how great cities often have important landmarks that are both an expression of the city spirit and a visual compass for its people. Those are my sentiments exactly.

Last year while visiting Anacortes, Wash., I enjoyed an arch that wonderfully reflects the spirit of that town. Not only does the arch provide a visual entry to the downtown but it is further enhanced by the flowers, bushes and hanging baskets that adorn it. The effect truly captures the city spirit by illustrating how a portion of the work was paid for by donations — indicated by row after row of red bricks in the sidewalk inscribed with the names of individuals, families and businesses who contributed money to the project.

Price suggested a tower with a viewing platform. What a wonderful idea. What if Mountain View were to build a landmark that encompasses an arch with a viewing platform? It might even go beyond that to include some or all of the other stunning features suggested by Mr. Price.

Chuck Henderson  
Aldean Avenue

► See **LETTERS**, page 14



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## LETTERS

► Continued from page 13

### NO SIDEWALKS IN SAN ANTONIO PLAN?

Editor:

I've been following the proposals for the new San Antonio shopping plaza with great interest. What I find odd is that none of these plans include any serious discussion of pedestrian access.

Even a recent *San Jose Mercury News* article, which featured a promising-sounding "Main Street," highlighted angled parking spaces instead of a pedestrian sidewalk. This seems incredibly out of place amidst all the discussions of "green cities" and "carbon footprints" and "food miles."

It's doubly disappointing considering that the current shopping plaza is one of the most unfriendly pedestrian areas around. I'm actually coming to the conclusion that it's impossible to walk across the plaza (Walmart to Milk Pail, for instance) while staying on sidewalks and marked crossings at all times. And to go from the restaurants to Target without jaywalking requires a substantial detour to the crosswalk either at California or by Walmart. Even the best intentioned shopper can end up driving

between stores when it's so unpleasant to walk.

What are we teaching our children when we preach to them about environmental sustainability but drive our cars 100 feet between stores? Being green doesn't always mean fancy (and expensive) technology — sometimes it just means leaving a human-sized footprint instead of an SUV-sized one. I can only hope that the eventual design of the new plaza takes this into account.

**Birgit Werner**  
Mountain View Avenue

### THROW OUT NCLB

Editor:

I agree with your Sept. 25 editorial that the No Child Left Behind act should be canceled, since it sets unrealistic goals for many K-12 schools ("The NCLB hockey stick").

In fact, I think that the Department of Education should be closed. The U.S. Constitution does not show that the federal government has any place in the K-12 education of children, which is left to the states and the parents. If we did not have to pay all those bureaucrats in Washington, local schools would have more money to teach with and fewer forms to fill out.

**Charlie Larson**  
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*The Piccata Di Vitello con Limone & Capperi at Osteria features veal in a lemon and butter sauce and served with steamed veggies.*

VERONICA WEBER

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Comfort food for our times

IN THIS ECONOMY, THE WELL-PRICED ITALIAN MEALS AT OSTERIA IN PALO ALTO CAN BE JUST THE THING

By Dale F. Bentson

If you're looking for trendy Mediterranean cuisine, skip Osteria. If you want a dimly lit, romantic Italian ristorante, forget Osteria. If you hanker for four-star Euro elegance, pass right on by Osteria.

But if you're seeking good quality, old-fashioned Italian fare at reasonable prices, Osteria in downtown Palo Alto is the place for you. The restaurant's decor reminds me of dozens of places found in North Beach three or four decades ago. It's stylishly nondescript, in a comforting sort

of way.

Large but unimposing Expressionist art decorates the walls; tables have linens but there are no candles; and tiny vases hold plastic flowers. The background music is eclectic: Elvis during one visit, New Orleans jazz on another.

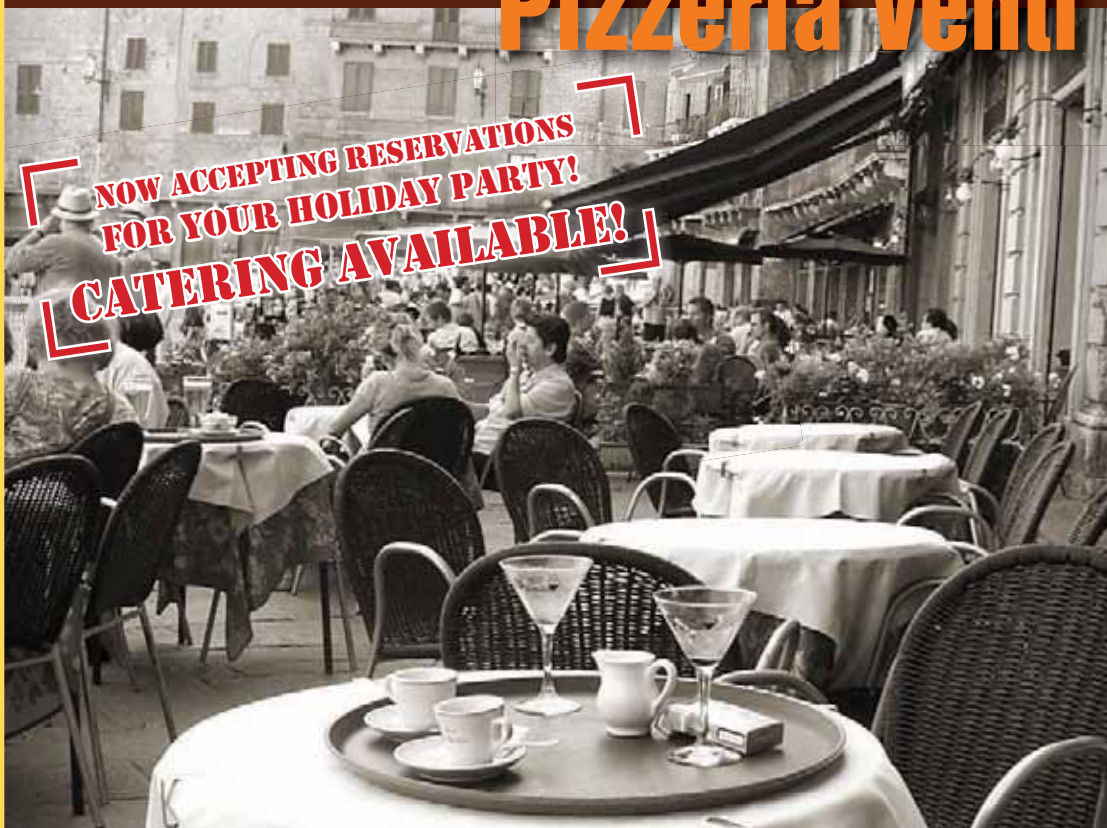
The food is reassuring. All the old standards play well here: lots of generously portioned pasta dishes, tender veal offerings, fresh fish, daily specials, creamy desserts, and a wine list that pleases the wallet.

"We have two chefs in the

► See **OSTERIA**, page 16

## DINNER BY THE MOVIES AT SHORELINE'S

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All coastal regions of Italy serve some version of this dish. In the north it is *Burridda alla Genovese*, in Tuscany it's *Cacciucco Livornese* and along the Amalfi coast it's *Zuppa di Pesce*. The American dish  *Cioppino*  gets its beginning from these dishes. No matter the myriad of names and recipe variations, this dish holds an honored and storied place in Italian cooking.

**From our kitchen to yours.**

**Buon appetito!**

Chef Marco, Venti's Chef

### Zuppa di Pesce

(Fish soup)

- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- pinch of red pepper flakes
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 lb squid, cleaned and cut into 1/2-inch rings and tentacles (about 1 lb when cleaned)
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 large ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded, and chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf Italian parsley
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups water
- 1 lb black mussels, soaked in cool water for 30 minutes and well scrubbed
- 1 lb assorted firm-fleshed fish filets such as whiting, monkfish, porgy bream, red snapper, and sea bass, cut into chunks
- 1/2 lb large shrimp, deveined
- 4 slices crusty bread, toasted and rubbed on one side with a garlic clove



#### Preparation:

In a large saucepan over medium heat, sauté the garlic and pepper flakes in the olive oil until the garlic is slightly golden, about 2 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove the garlic. Add the squid and cook and stir until opaque, about 2 minutes. Add the wine and simmer for 1 minute longer. Add the tomatoes, parsley, and salt and cook until the juices evaporate, about 10 minutes longer.

Add the water and bring to a simmer. Add the clams (discard any that do not close to the touch) and fish, cover, and cook until all the clams open and the fish is opaque throughout, about 5 minutes. Discard any clams that failed to open. Adjust the seasonings.

Place a bread slice in each warmed soup plate. Ladle the soup over the bread and serve.

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VERONICA WEBER

The Piccata Di Vitello con Limone & Capperi at Osteria features veal in a lemon and butter sauce and served with steamed veggies.

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**OSTERIA**

► Continued from page 15

kitchen. Both have been with us since the beginning, nearly 24 years," said Greg Piccinini, who co-owns the restaurant with his father, Angelo. "In addition, my father still makes some of the sauces and pasta. In the kitchen, we still do things the old fashioned way."

In Italy, an osteria is cafe-like with good regional food: a place for neighbors to gather, drink wine, gossip and make merry.

Our Osteria is more restaurant than cafe.

Service was excellent during my visits: quick, accurate and professional. The wait staff looked as if they were almost anticipating what I was going to order from my attire and demeanor.

For starters, the shrimp and artichoke bottom (\$8) came with hearts of palm blanketed under a very garlicky dressing. Tangy and tasty — but not recommended if you are on a first date.

The polenta and wild mushrooms (\$9) arrived steamy hot. It

► Continued on next page

**DINING NOTES**

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► Continued from previous page

was a hearty plate: again, heavily sauced, this time with a vibrant, thick marinara. I liked the marinara, but there was a tendency by the kitchen to bury plates with sauce, obscuring some of the more delicately flavored dishes.

One evening, we split the vegetarian eggplant entree (\$13) as a first course. Two huge servings of spinach, thick slices of meaty eggplant and gooey Teleme cheese were layered under the marinara sauce. It was a tasty dish, one of my favorites at Osteria.

The best of the pastas was the pappardelle (\$13.25). The wide noodles were entwined with threads of spinach, chunks of prosciutto, and sliced mushrooms. The marinara sauce didn't engulf this dish; there was a nice balance of all the ingredients. It was peppery and perfumed and the inviting aromas were worth savoring before digging in.

I question the pesto linguine (\$12.75), which was made with cream and fresh pesto. While it tasted OK, the cream dumbed down the exquisite pungency of those lovely classic ingredients of fresh basil leaves, olive oil, garlic, pine nuts and pecorino cheese.

Ditto the spaghetti carbonara (\$13.25), which was made with eggs, cream, parmesan cheese and pancetta. The pancetta — Italian pork belly bacon — is almost sweet when cooked, with a distinct flavor. The diced pancetta in that carbonara had no flavor at all and it struck me more as meat from a canned ham than that lovely flavor-packed bacon I had looked forward to.

The special one evening was salmon-filled ravioli (\$15). The house-made pasta was plump and fresh, doughy and eggy. The cream sauce was delicate enough not to overwhelm the seafood, but this salmon filling was potent, too fishy to have been

fresh. Nonetheless, the flavors were good and the portion more than filling.

Veal piccata (\$18.50) was milky tender, subtle and irresistible. The lemon and capers were in harmony with the meat, creating an excellent interpretation of a classic dish. The same carrots and green beans accompanied.

Petrале sole (\$18.50) was a lovely piece of fish that was buried under the marinara sauce. I scraped the sauce off, or the gentle flavor of the petrале would have been lost. The dish came with beautifully prepared buttered green beans and garlicky carrots.

Desserts were respectable. The tiramisu (\$6) was a cloudlike creamy affair that was more fluff than flavor. The mascarpone and whipped cream obliterated much more than a hint of the espresso liqueur, ladyfingers and chocolate.

The special dessert one evening

was a delicious lemon tart (\$6), just sweet enough and tangy. The custard was lush and nicely congealed, the crust buttery and flaky.

Osteria flies in the face of the contemporary notion Italian res-

taurants: slick ambiance, high prices and complex fare. But what goes around comes around, and in this economy, where value-driven comfort food is king, Osteria is right on top of things. ▣



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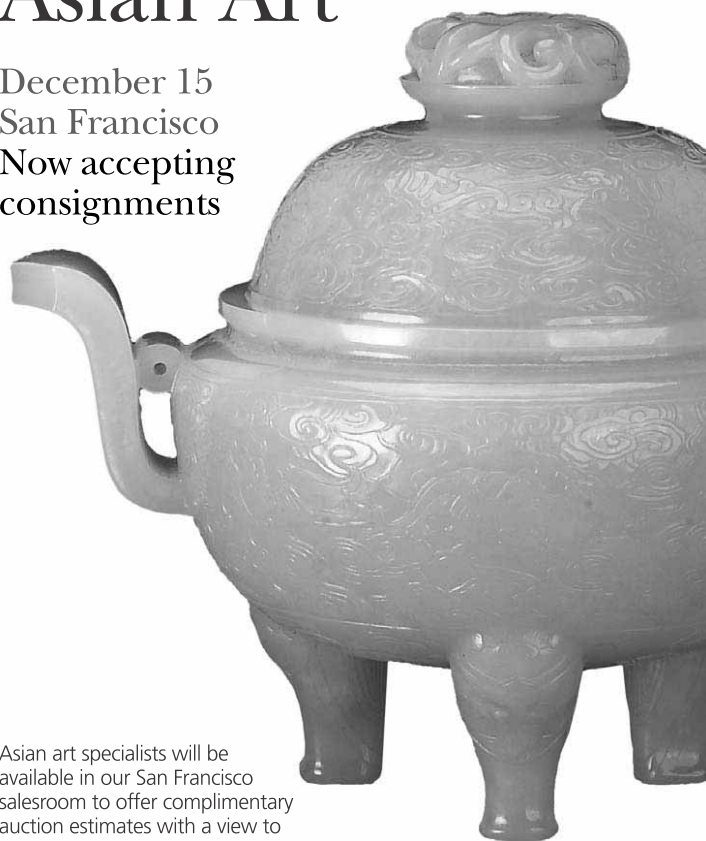
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MOVIE TIMES

**THE BOYS ARE BACK (PG-13)** ★★ Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m. Aquarius: 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.

**BRIGHT STAR (PG)** ★★ Guild: 2, 5 & 8 p.m.

**CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY (R)** ★★★ Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 12:55, 2:35, 3:50, 5:30, 6:55, 8:30 & 10 p.m. Sat. also at 10 a.m.  
Palo Alto Square: 1, 2:30, 4, 5:30 & 7:15 p.m. Fri.-Sun. also at 8:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 10:05 p.m.

**CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: In 3D at 11:55 a.m.; 2:20, 4:40, 7:35 & 10 p.m. Century 20: 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:10 & 10:25 p.m. Sat. also at 10:20 a.m. In 3D at 11:35 a.m.; 1:55, 4:25, 7:05 & 9:35 p.m.

**COCO BEFORE CHANEL (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)**  
Aquarius: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

**COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13)** ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 1:05, 2:25, 3:45, 5:05, 6:25, 7:45, 9:05 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 12:35, 1:35, 2:25, 3:20, 4:15, 5:10, 6, 7, 7:55, 8:45, 9:45 & 10:40 p.m. Sat. also at 9:55 & 10:55 a.m.

**DISTRICT 9 (R) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 12:25 & 5:55 p.m.

**FAME (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 1, 3:40, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:25 & 10:10 p.m.

**FROM MEXICO WITH LOVE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)**  
Century 16: 12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 7:55 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m.

**THE INFORMANT! (R) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:40 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m.

**INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (R)** ★★★ Century 16: 3:10 & 9:50 p.m. Century 20: 7:10 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 1:15 p.m.

**THE INVENTION OF LYING (PG-13)** ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50 & 10:20 p.m.

**JULIE & JULIA (PG-13)** ★★★ Century 16: 12:20 & 7 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m.

**LOVE HAPPENS (PG-13)** ★ Century 16: 3:15 & 8:40 p.m. Century 20: 4:35 & 10:30 p.m.

**THE METROPOLITAN OPERA (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED)**  
Century 20: Sat. at 10 a.m. Palo Alto Square: Sat. at 10 a.m.

**MY ONE AND ONLY (PG-13)** ★★★ Aquarius: Fri.-Wed. at 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m. Thu. at 2 & 4:30 p.m.

**PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) (NOT REVIEWED)**  
Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 12:30, 1:35, 2:40, 3:50, 4:55, 6, 7:05, 8:10, 9:15 & 10:30 p.m.

**SURROGATES (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: Noon, 2:35, 5, 7:20 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:45 & 9:55 p.m.

**TOY STORY 2 IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3-D (G) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 1:20, 5:20 & 9:20 p.m. Century 20: 1:25, 2:45, 5:25, 6:45, 9:25 & 10:45 p.m.

**TOY STORY IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3-D (G) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 3:25 & 7:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:50, 3:30, 4:50, 7:30 & 8:50 p.m.

**WHIP IT (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:25 & 10:15 p.m.

**ZOMBIELAND (R) (NOT REVIEWED)** Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 12:40, 1:45, 3, 4, 5:15, 6:15, 7:30, 8:30 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:20, 1:30, 2:30, 3:40, 4:45, 5:50, 7:15, 8:05, 9:30 & 10:25 p.m. Sat. also at 10 a.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

**AQUARIUS:** 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)  
**CENTURY CINEMA 16:** 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)  
**CENTURY PARK 12:** 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (800-326-3264)  
**CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN:** 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)  
**CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE:** 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)  
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**SPANGENBERG THEATRE:** 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit [www.LandmarkTheatres.com](http://www.LandmarkTheatres.com)

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

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit [www.mv-voice.com](http://www.mv-voice.com) and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

**BRIGHT STAR** ★★

(Guild) "Bright Star" tells the story of 19th-century English poet John Keats' unconsummated love affair with his neighbor, Fanny Brawne, which obsessed them both for the last several years of Keats's short life (he died of consumption at 25). When the two first meet, Fanny is an outspoken, flirtatious 18-year-old more interested in her clothes than in the moody poet busy nursing his mortally ill brother. However, an attraction soon forms. Fanny, ignorant about poetry, arranges to take lessons with Keats, providing an opportunity for him to read several of his great poems aloud. But until later in the film, the romance feels more like a teenage crush — Keats himself is only 23, after all — than a mature passion. *Rated PG for brief language, thematic elements, some sensuality and incidental smoking. One hour, 59 minutes.* — R.P

**CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY** ★★★

(CineArts, Century 20) It's been 20 years since populist filmmaker/gadfly Michael Moore made his landmark documentary "Roger and Me," and in that time the bleak economic shadow over his hometown of Flint, Mich., has only gotten bleaker and spread over the United States as a whole. In "Capitalism: A Love Story," Moore revisits some themes of "Roger and Me," this time attempting to tackle the nation's capitalistic structure itself. Moore interviews families who have lost all their worldly possessions, Catholic priests who decry capitalism as immoral and un-Christian, a slimy Realtor proudly billing himself as a "condo vulture," government officials and even his own father, a former General Motors employee. The film's essential argument is that the current U.S. system of capitalism (based on greed and profit for the rich at any cost) is evil. It's a purposely inflammatory argument and, if overly simplistic and shaky at times, raises an appropriate level of outrage. *Rated R for language. Two hours, seven minutes.* — K.K.

**INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS** ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) There's no mistaking "Inglourious Basterds" for anything other than a Quentin Tarantino film. "Inglourious Basterds" is a comedy for the film-savvy. The crux of the plot is the story of a Jewish survivor (Melanie Laurent) of a Nazi slaughter, as she plots revenge. Now hiding in plain sight as the proprietress of a Parisian cinema, she falls into the opportunity to wipe out the Nazi leadership at the premiere of a propaganda film. Meanwhile, the British government targets the same premiere. The whole enchilada turns out to be a self-referential commentary on the power of the medium, figuratively as propaganda or violent entertainment, and literally as the fuel to a fire. *Rated*

R for strong graphic violence, language and brief sexuality. Two hours, 33 minutes.— P.C.

**THE INVENTION OF LYING** ★★

What if full disclosure was the way of the world? Are there certain things we'd be better off not knowing about ourselves and each other? And is a lie the ultimate excess of "information," or a necessity for a happy existence? These and many other questions arise in "The Invention of Lying," a provocative comedy. Ricky Gervais stars as Mark Belison, an overweight, powerless schlub living in a universe that differs from our

own in one significant regard: Humanity never evolved the ability to lie. Promised by his boss (Jeffrey Tambor) that his firing is imminent, Mark has a sinking feeling that his date with the beautiful Anna (Jennifer Garner) can't possibly end well. When the sacked Mark goes to the bank to withdraw his paltry savings, inspiration strikes. What if he were to say something that wasn't? Like a superhero discovering a power, Mark considers what he wants. With great power comes great responsibility. *Rated PG-13 for language including some sexual material and a drug reference. One hour, 39 minutes.* — P.C.

**JULIE & JULIA** ★★★  
(Century 16, Century 20) "Julie" rests heavily on the charm of its lead actresses, and there's plenty to go around. Its structure unfurls in overlapping roles. There's Julia (Meryl Streep) as she embarks on a love of cuisine while in Paris with State Department husband Paul (Stanley Tucci). And Julie Powell (Amy Adams), an unfulfilled government worker in Queens, N.Y., who sets herself a lofty goal: cook every recipe in Julia's enigmatic bible and blog about it. In the end Ephron doesn't quite seal the deal — surrendering nuance for fluff and rendering the climax flat —

but the whole is a tasty confection. *Rated: PG-13 for language and mature themes. 2 hours, 4 minutes.* — J.A.

**LOVE HAPPENS** ★

(Century 16, Century 20) Aaron Eckhart plays Burke Ryan, a therapist who has parlayed his wife's death into a business conducting seminars for the grieving. Though he's skilled at helping others he can't help himself. He fearfully avoids both elevators and intimacy. About to close a deal to be franchised as a multimedia personality, the hypocritical life coach is at a crossroads. Enter florist Eloise Chandler (Aniston). Get this: She's sensitive and quirky. Stumbling

into a relationship after a couple of comically unpleasant chance meetings, Burke and Eloise help each other to move forward from past pain. "Love Happens" provides sappy reassurance that love can indeed happen, but sexy it is not. By the time Ryan earns a slow clap from his patients, you'll be scrambling for the exits. *Rated PG-13 for sexual references and language. One hour, 49 minutes.* — P.C.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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

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After replacing the tie rod, get your car realigned. This is important since the replacement parts may not be exactly the same length as the originals, and even if we have tightened the new tie rod ends the exact number of turns as old ones, your alignment may still be off. At **Larry's AutoWorks**, we know good handling, performance, and fuel efficiency rely on proper maintenance of your wheel alignment settings. You can trust us with any repairs for your car. Call us today, or bring your car to **101 Freeway on Leghorn between San Antonio and Rengstorff in Mountain View. Take the Rengstorff exit south, then right on Leghorn** to have your alignment checked. There is a difference here and our customers know it. You'll know it when you entrust your vehicle to us.

**HINT:** One way to check the tie rod ends involves placing the car on a lift and jerking on the wheel hub to see how much play there is in the tie rod end ball joint.

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*From left: Sari Levine, MD, urologic surgeon;  
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Ted Prairo, materials tech II;  
Ken Graham, chief executive officer;  
Linda Heider, president,  
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