

Mountain View VOICE

Lecker! WEEKEND | P.18



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Fiber-mania sweeps nation

CITIES GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO WIN GOOGLE'S
'FIBER FOR COMMUNITIES' PROJECT —
MOUNTAIN VIEW CAMPAIGN MORE LOW-KEY

By Daniel DeBolt

The mayor of Duluth jumped into a freezing lake. Topeka renamed itself "Google, Kansas."

And in Palo Alto on Monday, city staffers and residents leapfrogged and jived in front of City Hall to the tune of "YMCA" by the Village People.

Cities across the country are staging publicity stunts to attract Google's attention, hoping to be selected for the company's live experiment with ultra-fast broadband. Will Google's home town be able to compete?

"I think we'll be equally attractive whether I jump into the water

or not," said Mountain View Mayor Ronit Bryant.

Instead of stunts, Mountain View leaders are calling on residents to write in and nominate their city for the experiment.

"We plan to test ultra-high speed broadband networks in one or more trial locations across the country," Google's "Fiber for Communities" Web page states. "Our networks will deliver Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today, over 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections. We'll offer service at a competitive price to at least 50,000 and potentially up to 500,000 people."

On that same page, located at www.google.com/appserve/fiber-ri, residents can voice their support for Mountain View by clicking on the "Get Involved" button and filling out a form.

The point of the endeavor, Google says, is to jumpstart efforts to provide ultra-fast broadband everywhere by providing a test bed for the technology and exploring the numerous yet-to-be-discovered uses for it. To that end, Silicon Valley and Mountain View has an advantage: "They know the tech-savvy kind of population we have," Bryant said. Palo Alto, Cupertino and Sunnyvale are among the nearby cities in the race.

Despite the competition — Mountain View is up against towns across the country with populations between 50,000 and 500,000 — the city has not gone to outlandish lengths to publicize its interest. There is an announcement on its Web site at www.mountainview.gov, and a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fiberformountainview.

► See **FIBER**, page 16



MICHELLE LE

READY FOR THE RUN: *Ellen Clark* instructs student *Andres Schrier* on where to pin up a flag of Zimbabwe prior to a volunteer recruitment speech she gave to Saint Francis High School runners. Clark is seeking help for the 11th Annual Run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair, coming up next Sunday. See story, page 7.

Sticky budget scenario for MV Whisman

DISTRICT'S FORUMS MAKE CLEAR THAT TROUBLE STILL LIES AHEAD

By Kelsey Mesher

With little hope for more support from Sacramento, state educators at all levels of instruction are again planning for a school year under severe budget constraints.

Locally, the Mountain View Whisman School District is no different, grappling with a budget that district administrators say is \$6 million less than it should be and, even worse, is continually vulnerable to more cuts from the state because of the way it's funded.

It's a message being delivered over and over this month — 10 times in all — at budget forums presented by the district's chief financial officer, Craig Goldman.

Mountain View Whisman offi-

cially became a "basic aid" district last summer, which means it is funded largely by local property taxes along with some supplemental funding by the state. Regardless of student enrollment, basic aid districts must operate with the same amount of funding.

Goldman says such districts typically are thought of as affluent, because the revenues generated by property taxes exceed a "guaranteed" amount designated by the state. But with California \$20 billion in debt, he said, the state has lowered that guaranteed amount.

And some basic aid districts — like Mountain View Whisman, which serves high numbers of low-income students and therefore receives greater amounts of supplemental state funding — are the

most vulnerable to state take-backs, he said.

While local revenues generated from property taxes, parcel taxes or similar income sources are safe from state cuts, Goldman said, it is the state revenues, which include so-called categorical funds, that are vulnerable. These funds help pay for things like class size reduction, textbooks and programming for low-income students and English language learners.

The result is a particular squeeze which comes from just barely qualifying for basic aid. (Last year, the Mountain View Whisman's property taxes exceeded the state's nearly \$5,400-per-student threshold by

► See **MV WHISMAN**, page 13

Council lukewarm to giving up Shoreline funds

By Daniel DeBolt

When it comes to giving up Shoreline Community funds to local schools, some City Council members are more open to the idea than others.

As reported last week in the *Voice*, Mountain View Whisman School District officials would like to negotiate a larger slice of property tax revenues from Shoreline-area companies like Google. Those property taxes are almost entirely funneled by the city into the "Shoreline Community," a tax district which regularly runs multi-million dollar

► See **SHORELINE**, page 10

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Ellen Huet.

What changes would you like to see from health care reform?



"I'd like to see better health care for seniors. Both my parents are on Medicare and Medi-Cal, and it's nothing like it used to be six years ago. It's very hard for low-income seniors to pay for medicine now that it's so much more expensive."
Tess Santos, Milpitas



"I don't think it should be changed at all. My work currently pays for my insurance, and I think the government would probably screw it up and raise taxes."
Donald Myers, Mountain View



"I think members of Congress should decide as if they were going to be using the health care reform bill's plan for themselves, instead of knowing that they'll still be able to afford private health care. I think that if the bill passes, a lot of employers might stop providing insurance to their employees."
Paul Meese, Sarasota, Fla.



"I'd like to see insurance providers stop discriminating against patients with preexisting conditions, and I think doctors should be held more accountable for health care decisions than HMOs."
Sue Wilhite, Santa Clara



"The health care system definitely needs to be changed, but I'm not sure that this current bill is the answer. I'm not principally against government-sponsored health care, but I'm not sure that the USA has the best track record about providing it."
Ben Margolis, San Bruno

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AUTO BURGLARY

1200 block Dale Ave., 3/8
2000 block California St., 3/9
2700 block Preston Ave., 3/9
100 block N. Whisman Ave., 3/10
1800 block Charleston Rd., 3/12
800 block E. Middlefield Rd., 3/12
500 block Cypress Point Dr., 3/13
2200 block Latham St., 3/13
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 3/13
1500 block W. El Camino Real, 3/14

Leong Dr./Moffett Blvd., 3/12
Bryant St./California St., 3/13
Barbara Ave./Miramonte Ave., 3/14

GRAND THEFT

2500 block California St., 3/8
800 block San Veron Ave., 3/12
400 block Sierra Vista Ave., 3/13
200 block Castro St., 3/13

MISSING PERSON

500 block View St., 3/10

BATTERY

1 block Starlite Ct., 3/8
600 block Moorpark Way, 3/8
N. Shoreline Blvd./Terra Bella Ave., 3/9
400 block Tyrella Ave., 3/9
1700 block Rock St., 3/11
500 block Central Ave., 3/12
800 block Sierra Vista Ave., 3/13

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

2600 block Grant Rd., 3/10
2700 block Marine Way, 3/12

DISORDERLY CONDUCT:

ALCOHOL

2500 block Grant Rd., 3/8
Residence Inn, El Camino Real, 3/10
600 block San Antonio Rd., 3/14
600 block Willowgate St., 3/14
Bryant St./W. Dana St., 3/14

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Central Expy./N. Rengstorff Ave., 3/9
Higdon Ave./Villa St., 3/11
Old Middlefield Way/N. Rengstorff Ave., 3/12

PETTY THEFT

400 block San Antonio Rd., 3/8
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 3/8
100 block E. El Camino Real, 3/9
1000 block N. Rengstorff Ave., 3/11
600 block Showers Dr., 3/11
500 block Showers Dr., 3/13
600 block Showers Dr., 3/13
Sears Dept. Store, 3/13
Kohl's, 3/13

TRESSPASSING

300 block Escuela Ave., 3/11

VANDALISM

100 block N. Rengstorff Ave., 3/8
Spring St./Telford Ave., 3/12
200 block Fay Way, 3/13
2600 block California St., 3/13
1000 block Wright Ave., 3/13
200 block Easy St., 3/14



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Council set to discuss Minton's project

PUBLIC COMMENT SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK; MEMBERS TO VOTE THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY

By Daniel DeBolt

In an issue which so far has drawn intense local scrutiny, the City Council is scheduled to take public comment this Tuesday on a proposal for 214 homes on the site of Minton's Lumber and Supply. A final vote on the project is scheduled for the following Tuesday, March 30.

Though five of the council's seven members were supportive of the project in a meeting last June, one council member said recently he believes it may be a tight vote this time around.

Some neighbors have been lobbying for more a scaled-down version of the housing project, citing potential problems with traffic and parking and a change in character for the neighborhood. Controversy was hot enough to force out of office much of the leadership of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association, placing opponents of the project at the helm.

Last month the city's Environmental Planning Commission largely agreed with them, voting 4-1 in opposition to the project at its meeting on Feb. 10.

Prometheus Real Estate has touted numerous environmental benefits of its project — located on Evelyn Avenue across from the downtown train station — including a "Green Point rating" of 110 for its sustainable design.

The firm hopes to build 214 one- and two-bedroom apartments above an underground garage on 3.3 acres. Two buildings, split by a promenade and courtyard, are designed to look like two-story town homes with porches on Villa Street but transition to four stories at Evelyn Avenue. The latest plans for the project can be viewed at www.455westevelyn.com.

The regular session of this Tuesday's meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. ■



MICHELLE LE

Officer Lloyd Curns is one of 49 Mountain View Police Department patrol officers who host ridealongs through a program available to local residents.

Rollin' with the law

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 'RIDE ALONG' PROGRAM IS YOURS FOR THE ASKING

By Kelsey Mesher

Mountain View police Sergeant Jessica Nowaski usually makes her patrols solo. But recently she let the *Voice* join her as a participant in the department's "Ride Along" program.

The program is open to anyone who lives, works or goes to school in Mountain View. Riders must be at least 14 years old and pass a criminal background check. (For "confidentiality purposes," no photographs are allowed; the *Voice* was not allowed to bring a photographer on its ridealong.) In fact, applicants for Police Department jobs go on ridealongs as one of the first parts of the hiring process.

Participants are typically assigned to one of the department's 49 patrol officers and accompany police on one of the city's five "beats." Passengers agree to follow any instructions given by the officer, especially in the case of a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation.

A typical ridealong lasts about four hours, during which a passenger might see offi-

cers conduct routine traffic stops, investigative stops or, as spokesperson Liz Wylie put it, visit with "people who just need help."

On a recent afternoon, Sergeant Nowaski and a *Voice* reporter answered a "call for service" at an elderly woman's home, ran license plates in motel parking lots and checked on a mother who had accidentally locked her baby in the car — although the Mountain View Fire Department already had the situation under control when she arrived.

"My job as a supervisor is to monitor what's going on," Nowaski explained after calling in a "Code 7" (police speak for meal time). The sergeant on patrol oversees all the officers on duty, and is not usually the first one to respond to a call, she said. They are also in charge of more administrative work.

In her time patrolling Mountain View, Nowaski has picked up stories about nearly every park, street corner or convenience store.

Last summer, she said, her team consistently monitored a group of men who had developed a habit of drinking and urinating in Rengstorff Park.

"There are many of those names that we see often," she said. "They'll get belligerent, panhandle. A lot of times they'll get in a fight with a buddy."

The police get calls about the ubiquitous "Idea Farm" truck "almost every day," she said.

She said traffic stops are tricky for officers, because a negative interaction with the police can make a "big impact" on someone's day. Each officer has his or her own philosophy when it comes to making contact with community members, she said.

"We have a lot of discretion. People are committing violations all the time." She pointed to several jaywalkers skidding across El Camino Real. "Like those people crossing the street over there." ■

■ INFORMATION

To sign up for a ridealong, visit the Police Department online at www.mountainview.gov or pick up a ridealong form at department headquarters, located at 1000 Villa Street in downtown Mountain View. Allow three weeks for processing. For more information, call (650) 903-6186.

NASA, Navy hug

BOTH SIDES SAY THEY'RE COMMITTED TO RE-SKINNING HANGAR ONE, BUT FUNDING STILL SCARCE

By Daniel DeBolt

NASA and Navy officials made a show of solidarity last week and said that, for the first time, they are jointly "committed" to preserving historic Hangar One at Moffett Field, and that various options for restoring the Hangar will probably be released by the end of March.

"We are currently working to figure out the details of various options," said NASA Ames director Lew Braxton during the Moffett Restoration Advisory Board meeting Thursday night. "We all have a requirement to get back to Congresswoman Eshoo in a couple of weeks."

The hope of nearly everyone involved is to make sure a new exterior can be installed at the same time that the old skin is removed later this year, using the same scaffolding. While NASA's tone was positive, there is still no funding allocated — more than \$15 million is needed — to put a new skin on the 200-foot-tall structure, and the Navy still plans to remove its siding as part of an environmental cleanup in mid-December.

Braxton told reporters after Thursday's meeting that he was fairly confident funds would be found to restore the Hangar, but could not say when. He called the current state of cooperation between the Navy and NASA a "high-water mark," and made a conciliatory gesture by going out of his way to give a hug to Navy spokesperson Kathryn Stewart during the meeting.

"Everybody watch this," Braxton said. "NASA and the Navy are getting along."

The RAB meeting came on the heels of a White House Office of Management and Budget arbitration process that concluded NASA is solely

► See **HANGAR**, page 15



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LEAGUE HOSTS 'ELECTED OFFICIALS' FORUM

The local chapter of the League of Women Voters is holding its annual "Meet Your Elected Officials" event this Sunday, Mar. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Garden House in Los Altos' Shoup Park.

Invited officials include council members from Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View. Members of the Santa Clara Office of Education also are invited, along with elected board members from several school districts: Mountain View-Whisman, Mountain View-Los Altos, Cupertino Union, Fremont Union and Los Altos.

Event organizers also invited state senators and Assembly members as well as board members from the county Board of

Supervisors, El Camino Hospital District, Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District and Santa Clara Water District.

All members of the community are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Shoup Park is located at 400 University Ave., Los Altos.

— Ellen Huet

FASHION SHOW BENEFITS HEARING IMPAIRED

Quota International of Mountain View/Los Altos will host its annual Spring fashion show on Saturday, March 20 to benefit services related to the deaf and hearing impaired.

The fashion show will feature designs from local retailers including Mountain View's Boutique 4 and Cambric Ltd.,

Yum Yum Tree and Shunzi in Los Altos. Speakers will include professional hearing dog trainer Martha Hoffman as well as Linda Austin, a puppy raiser who uses a hearing dog herself.

Proceeds fund Quota International's high school scholarship program, meant for college-bound students who are hearing impaired or deaf, or for students who are planning to pursue a career that assists the hearing impaired or deaf.

Quota International of Mountain View/Los Altos was founded in 1948 to support community programs. Saturday's event begins at 11:30 a.m. at Michael's at Shoreline, 2690 Shoreline Blvd. Tickets are \$40. RSVP to Robby Jorgensen at (650) 964-4360.

— Kelsey Mesher

Anyone who may have knowledge about allegations that a member or members of **Stanford Law School** may have communicated negative information about former **Stanford Law School** students between 2001 and the present, is urged to call 415-205-8925. All responses will be kept confidential.

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They do run Run

11TH ANNUAL RUN FOR ZIMBABWE ORPHANS AND FAIR COMES NEXT WEEKEND TO ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

By Ellen Huet

A local foundation and its spirited directors are at it again, busily preparing for another Run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair — the 11th such event, held every spring in Mountain View, to raise money for a Zimbabwean orphanage and to share the joys of that country's culture.

Ellen Clark is founder of the Run and co-director of the Sustainable Living Foundation, a nonprofit established to organize the event, among other philanthropic duties. Clark has tirelessly combined her passions for Zimbabwean culture and physical fitness education every year since 2000, and as a result the event has expanded dramatically over the past decade: Today it includes 11 races of varying lengths and a fair full of games, food, live music and art exhibitions, all celebrating the culture of Zimbabwe.

Time is short, however — the upcoming Run is Sunday, March 28 at St. Joseph School in Mountain View — and organizers are still hoping to bring in more registrants. The races, which include a \$5 registration fee, begin at 1 p.m., and the fair, which is free to all, opens at noon.

People of all ages can participate in the races, which are 220 yards for preschoolers, a half-mile for kindergartners and one mile for older children and adults. Last year, 400 participants ran in the races, which are named after different animals and accompanied by African animal mascots — Clark's favorite part of the race.

"The mascots are all just running around, and I love seeing the looks of joy on the children's faces," she said.

This year's event features the usual games, live music and food, including *sadza*, Zimbabwe's cornmeal food staple. A new addition to this year's lineup is a booth from Batsiranai, an organization that helps support Zimbabwean mothers with disabled children by selling the mothers' handicrafts.

In addition, the event includes an art exhibit for children from preschool to high school, as well as a shoe drive, where locals can donate "gently worn" rubber-soled shoes by bringing them to the Run.

Since its inception the event has raised \$250,000 for the Makumbi Children's Home, an orphanage in Zimbabwe that cares for 100 AIDS orphans. Last year it raised \$33,000, and every year, Clark said, all participation fees, T-shirt sales and donations go directly to the orphanage. She said the main underwriter of the event is the Wakerly Family Foundation (the late Kate Wakerly was a co-founder of the *Voice*).

The inspiration for the event came after Clark's son volunteered as a teacher in Zimbabwe in 1997. Clark and her husband visited the country and were deeply moved by the poor living conditions and high rate of HIV infection, which leaves many children as orphans.

"I had to do something," Clark said of the original inspiration for the Run. "I don't know much, but I like running — so I said, 'Let's have a cross-country race.'"

Clark also emphasizes that for local children, the benefit of learning about another culture is as important as the financial aid their participation gives to Zimbabwe.

"If the children leave the Run having learned just a little bit more about Zimbabwe, then we've done our job," she said. ▀

E-mail Ellen Huet at ahuet@mv-voice.com

■ INFORMATION

What: The 11th annual Run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair

When: Sunday, March 28; the fair starts at noon and the first race is at 1 p.m.

Where: St. Joseph School, 1120 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View
Info: Call Ellen Clark at (650) 948-8029, e-mail info@zimbabweparaguay.org or visit www.zimbabweparaguay.org.



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- Provisions of the State's Ordinance.
- Developing Mountain View's Water Efficient Landscape Regulations.

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mountain View Senior Center
Social Hall

266 Escuela Avenue, Mountain View

If you have questions about the meeting, please contact **Elizabeth Flegel, Water Conservation coordinator**, by Email at Elizabeth.flegel@mountainview.gov or by phone At (650) 903-6774

ANNUAL Water System Flushing

The City of Mountain View will begin its annual flushing of the water system in March, 2010. Flushing the system clears water lines of sand and sediment that may have accumulated during the year. Signs and barricades will be posted in neighborhoods the day before flushing, and the flushing is anticipated to be complete by approximately July 1, 2010.

If you would like more information about the City's water system flushing program or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood, please contact the Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329 or visit the City's website at www.mountainview.gov.



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Police sting cites stores for selling to minors

By Kelsey Mesher

Police announced last week that a sting operation by local authorities has resulted in several Mountain View establishments being cited for selling alcohol or tobacco to minors.

The operation, conducted on four separate days since January, used a decoy — someone underage working with police — to find out which stores would sell to minors.

"We hit basically every single vendor," said police spokesperson Liz Wylie. "We don't spot check, we hit all of them."

To conduct the checks, non-uniformed members of the Police Department's "Explorers" program attempted to buy tobacco or alcohol products under the supervision of regular officers. The Explorers were under age 18 if purchasing tobacco products, and under 21 if purchasing alcohol.

Police say that on Jan. 22 and Feb. 5, Explorers attempted to purchase tobacco products at 56 stores in Mountain View and authorities cited three for violations. On Feb. 24 and March 5, Explorers

attempted to purchase alcohol at 60 stores in Mountain View and authorities cited 11 for violations.

Wylie said police have run a program for the past five years where volunteers visit every tobacco vendor in the city to check for state and municipal code compliance. She said the program is educational — the volunteers make sure stores have the proper signage, that their permits and licenses are posted and that tobacco products are locked or stowed behind a counter. She also said police are considering adding an alcohol component to the volunteer program.

Clerks who sell alcohol or tobacco to minors are cited with misdemeanors, according to District Attorney's Office spokesperson Amy Cornell. Improper sale of alcohol results in at least 24 hours community service and a \$1,000 fine, she said. The maximum sentence is six months in jail.

As for selling tobacco, "For the first offense it is a \$200 fine, for the second, a \$500 fine, and for the third offense a \$1,000 fine," she said.

"We forward these to the agen-

cies that issue the permits and the licenses ... so they know that vendors at these stores sold illegally," Wylie said. "They can take additional action on their end if they so desire."

The Mountain View establishments cited for selling tobacco in the recent sting are Fast Mini Mart on Moffett Boulevard, Valero Gas Station on Moffett Boulevard and Giant Liquor on E. Middlefield Road.

The establishments cited for selling alcohol are Cigarette Express on W. El Camino Real, Brown & Gold Market on El Monte Avenue, Beverages & More on San Antonio Road, Central Liquors on N. Rengstorff Avenue, Bailey Plaza Liquors on Shoreline Boulevard, Liquor Tobacco & More on N. Rengstorff Avenue, Fast Mini Mart on Moffett Boulevard, Clydes Liquors on W. El Camino Real, Giant Liquor on E. Middlefield Road, Smart & Final on E. El Camino Real and Stop and Save on E. El Camino Real. ▀

E-mail Kelsey Mesher at kmesher@mv-voice.com

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SHORELINE

► Continued from page 1

balances used for large projects.

The practice is defended by city officials as a necessity for improvements and services to the Shoreline area, which in turn increase land values and property taxes for everyone. But school officials say their district needs more help, and point out that the tax district diverted about \$5.8 million this year alone from the city's elementary and middle schools.

Council members Jac Siegel, Mike Kasperzak and Laura Macias were staunchly opposed to relinquishing any of the Shoreline Community property tax revenue to schools, while other members were open to discussing the situation with school officials, or at least to learning more about it.

Council member Margaret Abe-Koga, whose two daughters attend a Mountain View Whisman elementary school, was the only one to explicitly say she was open to negotiating new payments to local schools from the Shoreline Community.

"As long as the city can cover its costs," Abe-Koga said, the city could "probably do better" than the \$450,000 annual grant each local school district receives from the Shoreline Community.

This year the Shoreline Community is expected to bring in \$26.8

million, with \$19 million in ongoing expenses and a \$20 million reserve.

Abe-Koga said the Stevenson campus, where her daughters attend the PACT school program, had been vacant prior to this year and is in serious need of renovations and a playground. "We are totally grateful we have a new campus but it's a pretty dire situation," she said. And because of a school district budget that is short by an estimated \$1,000 per student next year, the size of her daughters' class could go from 21 students to 27 students.

Other Mountain View officials point to a host of services already given to the schools that are uncommon for cities to provide, including field maintenance and gym maintenance at the middle schools. The city reported Tuesday that the cost of those services in 2005 was \$2.3 million. Some newer programs are not accounted for in that number, including school resource officers at the middle schools and the city's "Beyond the Bell" after-school program.

Varied opinion

Council member Mike Kasperzak opposed opening conversations with the school district that could lead to negotiations over Shoreline funds. "The problem is that (talking about it) sort of creates a false expectation" that more funds could be given to the schools, Kasperzak said.

Mayor Ronit Bryant disagreed. "Talking together, that's how we should do it," she said. "If they have questions we should meet and talk" in order to "see what solutions we should come up with." But she added that when it comes to whether or not the Shoreline Community can afford to give the school district more funds, "I just don't know enough about it."

Council member John Inks also

trying to create a conflict when the city already has an agreement with local schools.

"I don't know why everybody is blowing this out of proportion," Kasperzak said. "We have understood this for many years. It's a fact of life in Mountain View."

Even Abe-Koga said she was a bit surprised by the school officials' stance. Until now, she had believed that the yearly \$450,000 grant to

because it makes Mountain View a major employment center and increases property values throughout the whole city, thereby increasing school district revenues. He said he is "never afraid to sit down and negotiate a fair and equitable and just agreement, but I'm not sure they (the school district) have much to complain about."

Kasperzak said the city needed the large Shoreline Community reserves to prepare for the worst. Property taxes usually decline after a recession, as they did after the dot-com bust, which lowered Shoreline property taxes to a low of \$17 million in the middle of the decade. Kasperzak went as far as to say that there were no guarantees that Google would always be around to increase property values.

"Everybody assumes Google will be there forever — that's not a given," he said. Years ago, "SGI went away and property taxes plummeted."

Several council members pointed to the large expense of maintaining the city's three landfills at Shoreline Park, which will cost \$2.2 million this year, a number corrected by finance director Patty Kong who had previously put the number at \$200,000. They talked about how unexpected and expensive problems with the landfill sometimes occur, and are required to be fixed by law. ■

"The problem is that (talking about it) sort of creates a false expectation" that more funds could be given to the schools.

MIKE KASPERZAK

said it was too complicated an issue to make a call just yet, but he said he would be examining the Shoreline Community budget with a new perspective.

Siegel said the tax district was "vital" to the city and that he would not want to entertain negotiations with local schools. "I think it would be a real loss to the city of Mountain View," he said, adding that Shoreline funds are not "wasted" and could be accounted for.

Siegel also said he felt the city was "blindsided" by school officials on the issue. Kasperzak expressed a similar sentiment, saying some are

Mountain View Whisman from the Shoreline Community made up for a perceived loss in property tax revenue for the schools.

Council member Macias, who was asked for comment before last week's story went to press, said there were too many obligations in the Shoreline Community to give up any more of the funds. She blamed local school problems on the fundamentally unequal way in which schools are funded through property taxes.

Council member Tom Means said the schools benefit indirectly from the Shoreline Community

City-Wide Garage Sale at Homes May 1

Community Yard Sale at Rengstorff Park May 8



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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW



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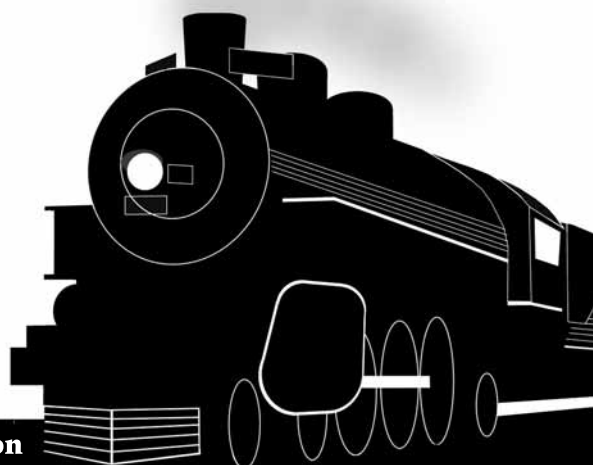
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EDUCATION BRIEFS

FOUNDATION GEARS UP FOR MONTE CARLO NIGHT

Organizers from the Mountain View Educational Foundation have high hopes for this year's Monte Carlo Night fundraiser, with a goal of raising \$80,000 to support art, music, after-school sports and performance electives in local schools.

The event features casino games, a live and silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, drinks and dancing. This year, astronaut Dan Bursch, who shares a U.S. space flight endurance record of 167 days in space, will talk about space exploration and answer questions during a special VIP reception.

The event, sponsored in part by Microsoft and HSBC, is March 27 at the Computer History Museum. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and VIP tickets are \$50. The fun goes from 6:30 to 11 p.m., with VIP reception beginning at 5:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets go to www.mvef.org. For more information, or to volunteer, contact event co-chair Rose Filicetti at (650) 965-9870 or write mvef.contact@gmail.com.

Last year's Monte Carlo Night brought in \$75,000. The foundation contributes \$320,000 to student programming annually.

STATE LOSES 'RACE' FUNDS

Earlier this month, 16 finalists in the first phase of the federal government's "Race to the Top" stimulus funding program were announced — and California was not among them.

The finalists were decided based on their commitment to "ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling and comprehensive education reform."

"I was not surprised that California was not selected by the federal government to participate in Race to the Top," said Mountain View-Los Altos High School District Superintendent Barry Groves. "There was not widespread support for the initiative throughout the state from all stakeholders."

California may apply for a second round of Race to the Top funding by June 1. The state is eligible to receive up to \$700 million one-time dollars.

In January, state lawmakers passed controversial legislation to make the state eligible to apply for a piece of the \$4.35 billion pot; among the measures were provisions allowing districts to tie teacher pay to student testing. Several prominent educational organizations, including the Association of California Administrators, the California School Boards Association and the California Teachers Association, opposed the bills.

— Kelsey Mesher

GUIDE TO 2010 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Camp Connection

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To advertise in a weekly directory, contact 650-326-8210

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Menlo Park mom wonders: Who wins with Prop 13?

By Renee Batti

Menlo Park resident Jennifer Bestor had long heard many arguments for and against Proposition 13, passed in 1978 to control rapidly rising property taxes in the state.

About three years ago, as treasurer of the parents' group at her son's school, questions about the property tax law's consequences, particularly on schools, became more pressing.

"I told myself, I can't just wonder about this—I have to figure it out," Bestor said.

Countless hours later—hours spent in the county assessor's office, in county and city archives, and poring over assessment rolls she had purchased—Bestor has come to the firm conclusion that, while Proposition 13 has generally worked for homeowners as voters had intended, "For commercial landlords, it's been an incredible windfall."

Commercial property tax, she says, "has evolved in a way that not even the direst opponents of Prop. 13 envisioned."

Bestor, a talented writer as well as a dogged researcher, took a whimsical approach to spreading the word about her findings: She composed an open letter to billionaire Warren Buffett, who famously said in 2003 that Proposition 13 was damaging the financial health of the state and needed to be repealed or changed—and was consequently told by then-gubernatorial candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger that he would have to do 500 sit-ups if he ever brought it up again.

She sent the letter last week, telling Buffett, "Please let me know how I can help you with the sit-ups."

Tax imbalance

Bestor, who has an MBA from Stanford and is a former high-tech executive, collected countywide tax statistics, but her most focused research was on properties in the Menlo Park City School District. She did a parcel-by-parcel examination of commercial properties on Santa Cruz Avenue, and residential parcels in her own Allied Arts neighborhood.

Before she started her project, she says, "I wrote down all of my bad assumptions." The most erroneous among them: Commercial property owners pay more of the property tax burden than residents.

What she concluded after gathering data and crunching numbers from the assessor's office was startling: Although the countywide property tax burden was almost equally shared between homeowners and commercial property owners in 1978, "By 2008, homeowners were paying two-thirds and commercial property owners one-third

(of property taxes), despite the fact that the major development in the county over those 30 years was commercial property east of (Highway) 101."

The growing tax-burden imbalance reflects the fact that houses change hands far more frequently than commercial properties. Under Proposition 13, the tax rate is capped at 1 percent of a property's assessed value, and that value can be increased by no more than 2 percent annually. That formula is kept in place until the property is sold, at which time it is reassessed to determine its value at the current market rate.

Two streets

Bestor's research of Menlo Park properties—particularly of parcels on one commercial strip and one residential street—sheds light on how two provisions have created the lopsided tax-burden equation. The first provision is Proposition 13; the second is Proposition 58, passed by voters in 1986, which allows property to be passed from parent to child with no reassessment of the property.

Looking at Menlo Park's main downtown street, she found that of the 56 commercial parcels on Santa Cruz Avenue, 23 are at the 1978 assessment (plus 2 percent per year) level. Of those 23 parcels, only four are owned by the same people who owned them in 1978. Eleven have passed to a son or daughter, and in a number of cases are held in family trusts.

By contrast, of the 53 residential parcels in Bestor's neighborhood, 13 are owned by the same people who held them in 1978, and two are held by children of the 1978 owners, so are taxed at the 1978 level. The assessments of two other parcels were affected by other factors.

The other 36 parcels, including Bestor's, have been reassessed after changing hands, she says.

"My street is paying its way," Bestor says. For homeowners, she adds, "I think that Prop. 13 did what people hoped it would do. It allowed people to stay in their homes and families to plan their financial futures."

On the other hand, she says, commercial property owners who are assessed at 1978 levels are not paying their way. "Does it really make sense to subsidize family trusts, major real estate corporations and developers, who make smaller and smaller contributions (proportionally) to public services each year?"

INFORMATION

To read the full letter by Jennifer Bestor, go to www.tinyurl.com/BuflettLetter. A longer version of this story is available at www.mv-voice.com.

MV WHISMAN

► Continued from page 1

just \$63.) Basic aid districts aren't funded on a per-student basis, but some still rely on state revenues—which the state now threatens to take away.

Looked at as slices of a pie, the differences can be significant. In Mountain View Whisman, 13 percent of total revenues come from the state, whereas in the neighboring Los Altos School District (LASD), state funding sources make up just 3.5 percent of all revenues.

Randy Kenyon, LASD's assistant superintendent of business services, said it is "potentially true" that Mountain View Whisman's funding is more vulnerable to take-backs from the state. However, he said, under current state proposals his district expects to have the "same level" of take-backs this year.

Implications

The greatest impact on Mountain View Whisman students thus far is a proposed increase in class sizes from kindergarten to third grade. Administrators say that allowing K-3 classes fill to an average of 25 students, with no more than 27 students in any classroom, will save the district about \$1 million a year.

That change would eliminate 11 teaching positions and 20 classrooms, even after taking into account a higher projected enrollment for next year. The proposal has been negotiated with union representatives, but so far it has not been approved by the district's board of trustees.

While the elimination of 11 positions may seem harsh, Goldman said in a typical year the district hires around 30 new teachers anyway. He said attrition, leaves of absence and not renewing some temporary contracts will take care of the 11 positions without any layoffs.

"The truth is, in terms of temps being affected, we don't see this as being different than any other year," Goldman said, adding that like every year, "We're going to be selective about the temporary teachers we expect to hire back."

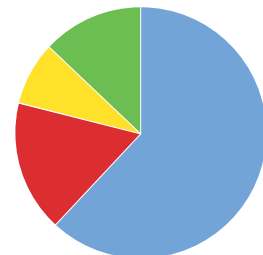
Goldman said that internally the district has negotiated the elimination of three sick days previously given to classified employees beyond the required number. He said they were seeking to do the same for certificated staff and administrators.

When asked whether administrators have considered a pay cut, he said the district has no planned cuts in compensation for staff, teachers or administrators. He added that district administrators make 80 to 83 percent of what administrators make in Palo Alto, and that for Silicon Valley, "We don't think we're competitive in terms of our administrative salaries."

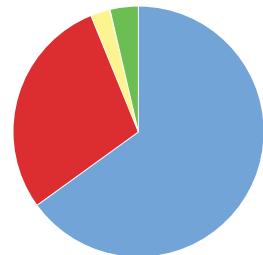
Worse elsewhere

Nearby, other districts are taking more drastic action to make up for budget shortfalls.

According to Kenyon, 18 teachers in LASD received layoff notices last week. That district is looking at upping class sizes in K-3 classrooms as well as in its junior high schools. Kenyon said some classes could have as many as 30 students, depending on the school, grade and enrollment.



Mountain View Whisman School District:
 Revenue Limit sources: 62 %
 Local revenues: 17 %
 Federal revenues: 8 %
 State revenues: 13 %



Los Altos School District:
 Revenue Limit sources: 65 %
 Local revenues: 29 %
 Federal revenues: 2.5 %
 State revenues: 3.5 %

* State revenues, in green, are subject to cuts from Sacramento.

What next

Educators have little hope that extra funding will come down the pipeline. Worse still, they expect the cuts to continue for the next several years—a California schools consulting firm estimated the districts will not return to full funding levels before 2015.

Locally, some parents have taken on the fundraising burden. A group in Cupertino is reportedly campaigning to come up with \$3 million to stave off large class sizes and layoffs for teachers.

A parent at Goldman's budget forum at Bubb Elementary asked how district families could help. Goldman said supporting the Mountain View Educational Foundation, or MVEF, is one way. He added that currently the foundation can't find a parent from every school to sit on its board, which is missing representatives from Bubb, Monta Loma and Crittenden schools.

"We're aspiring to get to \$500,000 within the next couple years," said Rose Filicetti, executive director of MVEF. She said the foundation currently raises around \$320,000 annually to support music, arts and after-school sports programming, as well as science materials. (A major MVEF fundraiser is the "Monte Carlo Night" event happening March 27.)

By comparison, nearby foundations raise millions annually—Los Altos raised \$1.91 million last year alone. Palo Alto Partners in Education, which supports all Palo Alto schools, announced in February a \$2.9 million donation from its 2009-10 fundraising efforts.

"A million is too far off with the diversity in population in Mountain View," Filicetti said. Nearly half of the students in Mountain View Whisman qualify for free or reduced lunch, she said.

E-mail Kelsey Mesher at kmesher@mv-voice.com

INFORMATION

The remaining Mountain View Whisman School District forums are:
 March 23, 4-5:30 p.m. at Landels
 March 23, 6:30-8 p.m. at Crittenden
 March 30, 4:15-5:45 p.m. at Stevenson
 March 30, 6:30-8 p.m. at Theuerkauf

Funding of local basic aid districts

District Name	Type of District	2008-09 ADA	2008-09 Actual General Fund Revenues	Revenue Per ADA
Palo Alto Unified	Unified	11,052.37	\$ 157,219,253.70	\$14,225
Mtn View - Los Altos	High School	3,511.37	\$ 49,194,483.06	\$14,010
Los Gatos - Saratoga	High School	3,064.31	\$ 36,683,287.67	\$11,971
Saratoga Union	Elementary	2,212.49	\$ 23,742,844.46	\$10,731
Los Altos - Elem	Elementary	4,155.39	\$ 43,538,748.90	\$10,478
Campbell High	High School	7,287.49	\$ 73,512,450.30	\$10,087
Mt. View Whisman	Elementary	4,335.89	\$ 42,110,100.84	\$9,712
Los Gatos Elem	Elementary	2,744.10	\$ 26,618,709.78	\$9,700
Santa Clara	Unified	14,061.87	\$ 133,730,148.52	\$9,510
Campbell Union	Elementary	7,089.52	\$ 66,672,852.55	\$9,404

ADA = Average daily attendance

Source: County Dep. of Education

Peninsula Easter Services



Los Altos Lutheran Church

From death into life, Good Friday into Easter



- Palm Sunday: March 28th, 9:00 AM**
Celebration with palms & the passion story
- Maundy Thursday: April 1st, 7:30 PM**
Jesus washed their feet & said love one another
- Good Friday: April 2nd, 2:00 PM**
Meditating on the mystery of the cross: a service of prayer
- Good Friday: April 2nd, 7:30 PM**
Service of shadows: watching & waiting through the night
- The Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 3rd, 6:30 PM**
Walking into light and life: The first Easter service.
- Easter Sunday: April 4th, 9:00 & 11:00 AM**
Easter brunch and children's activities at 10:00 AM

Easter Party: Saturday, April 3rd, 2:00-4:00 PM
Bible stories, crafts and egg hunt

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PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, March 28

8:30 & 10:30 am Procession with Palms, Holy Communion
10:30 Music: Bach's Passion According to St. John; FLC & Kids Choirs

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1

6:00 pm Light Supper, Word, Foot Washing,
Communion, Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2

12:00 noon Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Procession of the Cross

EASTER VIGIL, April 3

8:00 pm Fire, Word, Baptism, Bread and Wine; Reception following

EASTER MORNING, April 4

9:00 am Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am Festival Holy Communion

Music: The final chorus from Beethoven's oratorio,
Christ on the Mount of Olives, accompanied by organ and tympani



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7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
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April 2 – Good Friday Service
Noon to 1 pm in the Chapel

April 4 – Easter Sunday & Sunday Service 6:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 am

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(Miramonte at Cuesta)
www.fpcmv.org • 650-968-4473



First Baptist Church
of Los Altos

Easter Weekend Service Times:

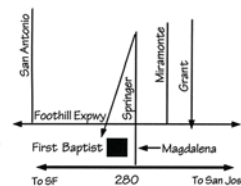
Good Friday Service: April 2nd, Noon & 7:00PM

Easter Morning
April 4th

8:45 Praise Service

10:30 Modern Service

*childcare available at all services



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MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 1 7:00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2 Noon - 3:00 pm: Solemn Liturgy of The Passion 7:00 p.m.: Holy Communion Service	EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4 10 am: Holy Communion Family Service 12 pm: Holy Communion Service
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Maundy Thursday (4/1 | 7:30 pm)

Good Friday (4/2 | 12 pm & 7:30 pm)

Easter Vigil (4/3 | 7:30 pm)

Easter Sunday (4/4 | 8:30 am, 10:45 am)



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byoc@pawekly.com or call
650-326-8210 x6596

HANGAR

► Continued from page 5

responsible for Hangar One restoration costs, ending negotiations that NASA hoped would result in the Navy helping to restore the structure by providing some of the up-front costs.

There had also been a recent meeting between the secretary of the Navy, the head of NASA, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and the OMB in which everyone agreed that "the Hangar needs to be preserved," Braxton said.

Braxton made comments indicating that NASA was seriously considering the use of private development funds to restore the Hangar. He said he had gotten a tour of the former Ford auto plant in Richmond restored by Orton Development, a firm which has asked NASA to allow open bidding for Hangar One restoration. Orton wants to restore the structure and lease it out for various uses. "They did an outstanding job," Braxton said of the Ford plant.

There was still much skepticism from preservationists and members of the RAB, who pointed out that there was no reason to believe that the Hangar's massive skeletal structure wouldn't be left exposed to the elements when the siding is removed later this year. (The Navy said the schedule for siding removal has been pushed from November to mid-December.) RAB members decided to form a subcommittee that would meet more frequently about Hangar One in the coming months.

At the meeting, NASA Ames employee Cheryl Orth suggested that a grassroots campaign be started to raise money from regular citizens to restore Hangar One. Costs for restoration have been put at anywhere between \$15 million and \$40 million.

"I would be happy to write the first check to Lew Braxton for \$100," she said.

Lenny Siegel, director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight, said it was important to designate a reuse for the Hangar and a cost for restoration in order for the community to be more involved in saving it.

Braxton said he imagined there may be some sort of public-private partnership to fund restoration and reuse, and did not want to say how much re-skinning might cost so as to not influence possible future bids on the project.

In the next few weeks, Braxton said, NASA intends to narrow down a list of potential ways to fund restoration and reuse of the Hangar. There is still an early proposal to use Hangar One to house another large airship for aeronautical research, Braxton said, but NASA does not have such a program funded yet. ▣

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

**Notice of Availability
Draft 2010-15 Consolidated Plan**


The Draft 2010-15 Consolidated Plan is currently available for public comment through April 13, 2010. The Consolidated Plan contains policies and a five-year Strategic Plan for using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program funds to address the needs of lower-income households. Once adopted, the new Plan will cover the period beginning July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2015.

To request a copy of the Draft 2010-15 Consolidated Plan or submit written comments on the Plan, contact Regina Adams at 650-903-6049 or regina.adams@mountainview.gov prior to April 13, 2010. Interested persons may also comment on the Draft 2010-15 Consolidated Plan during the following public hearings:

1. **Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.**
Human Relations Commission Hearing
Senior Center, Multi-Purpose Room B
266 Escuela Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040
2. **Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. or thereafter**
City Council Adoption Hearing
City Hall Council Chambers
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

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| Monday, March 22 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, March 27 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. |
| Monday, April 5 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. |
| Thursday, April 15 | 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, April 21 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, April 24 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. |

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Community Meeting Notice Del Medio Park

You are invited to a second Community Meeting to review the draft conceptual designs for the new Del Medio Park (location map below). Come provide input on the refined concept plans before they are presented to City decision-makers for approval.

The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Monday, March 29, 2010
6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA)
230 San Antonio Circle
Mountain View

If you have any questions please contact the project manager, Anne Marie Starr, at (650) 903-6311 or at annemarie.starr@mountainview.gov. You can also find more project information online at www.mountainview.gov.



FIBER

▶ Continued from page 1

Elsewhere, publicity stunts abound. In Sarasota, Fla., a water park was renamed "Google Island." At a college basketball game in

Colombia, Miss., fans waved 15,000 Google signs. And back in Duluth, Minn., Mayor Don Ness — aside from his videotaped jump into freezing Lake Superior — has jokingly promised to name the city's first-born children after Google.

As for Monday's dance event in Palo Alto, captured on video and posted on that city's Facebook page, "It was kind of loosey-goosey," said Steve Crow of Crow Digital Media, the video's producer. The aim was for a "flash mob" type video, he said, referring to an event in which people spontaneously gather to do a silly or seemingly random activity and then disperse.

Of course, Mountain View already enjoys a free WiFi network courtesy of Google. "People have been very excited about that," said economic development director Ellis Berns, who hopes Google will remember that Mountain View is already well versed at working with the company. At least one company — Meraki Networks, which aims to build WiFi networks for third-world countries — has located in Mountain View partly because of Google WiFi.

In the same sort of symbiotic way, Google fiber "could be tremendously beneficial to residents and to businesses," Berns said. ▀

*The Palo Alto Weekly
contributed to this report.*

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■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Give schools a bigger slice of Shoreline money

Back in 1969, when the state Legislature created a special tax district in Mountain View called the “Regional Shoreline Park Community,” no one could have guessed that one day a company called Google would set up shop there and begin reaping billions in yearly profits.

Similarly, no one knew that the value of Shoreline properties would jump from \$200 million to more than \$3 billion, and pour some \$26 million a year in property taxes back into this strategic tax district — in part by diverting that money away from local schools.

The stated purpose of the Shoreline district is to use property taxes to pay for maintenance of Shoreline Park and for improvements in the surrounding industrial neighborhood, an arrangement similar to that of many special districts around the state. And it has worked beyond anyone’s expectations, with diverted taxes going to such gems as the Stevens Creek Trail and Shoreline Park, as well as freeway overpasses, fire services and much more.

And there’s more to come: In the next few years, the city expects to back \$31 million in bonds to build a hotel near the Googleplex, paying them off with funds from the Shoreline tax district.

Over the years, the city has shared a small part of this revenue with local schools, but last week Craig Goldman, chief financial officer of the Mountain View Whisman School District, said he believes it is time for local schools to recoup a larger share. He told the *Voice* that his district has not been getting the full benefit of taxes paid by high-tech companies in the Shoreline area, a loss he estimates to be more than \$5.8 million this year alone. (Another \$4.3 million would go to the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District if the special tax district were not in place.)

Not surprisingly, city officials defend the Shoreline Community district, noting that its funds pay for important maintenance at Shoreline Park and the industrial area, which has surely been a factor in attracting so many high-flying companies. City finance director Patty Kong said she doubts the region, a former landfill, would be generating such stellar income in the first place without

the tax district’s help, and she’s surely right.

Meanwhile, city manager Kevin Duggan notes that the city already helps out the school district by maintaining sports fields and other benefits, in addition to funneling \$450,000 a year to each district for use in technology-related programs.

At the end of the day, however, the lion’s share of Shoreline tax revenue has been going, and will continue to go, to a list of items benefiting the very companies which pay those taxes — and local schools, unfortunately, are not on that list.

It makes sense that city leaders would worry about this money, which has been an important component — arguably the most important component — to Mountain View’s financial success. And we join the administrators of Mountain View Whisman in not wanting to upset a city budget so painstakingly balanced by Duggan and his colleagues.

However, one can’t ignore the fact that local schools are themselves an important part of the future success of companies like Google, especially if the company is serious, as it claims, about moving more of its employees close to the Googleplex. Many of those high-tech workers are young today, but soon they will be starting families — and looking around for the best schools for their children.

With this in mind, and with Shoreline property taxes at record levels, is it fair — or good long-term planning — to divert so much money away from local schools?

Because this tax district was created through state legislation, there may be technical hurdles to changing its makeup. We believe the city and local school districts, in concert with state Rep. Paul Fong, should begin to investigate what possibilities exist in making the Shoreline district more equitable for all concerned — not just the schools but the city and Shoreline companies as well.

In the meantime, it seems logical that the city would voluntarily begin sharing more of the Shoreline revenue with local school districts, if only to help them out in a time of crisis. Doing so would be for the betterment of all of Mountain View.

■ TOWN SQUARE VOICES FROM OUR WEB SITE

ON REEVALUATING ‘SHORELINE COMMUNITY’ PROPERTY TAX FUNDS

I’d be all for the district requesting tax money from the city and Google, as long as a few Google accountants and managers were allowed to go the school district and audit their books for waste and then recommend some cutbacks to management and more emphasis on teacher support and effectiveness. Fair enough?

**The Plow, a resident of
The Crossings neighborhood**

This sounds like they are somehow bypassing Prop 13’s (very unfair) limit of 2 percent per year growth in assessed value of property. If only that were true for everyone — then the schools would have plenty of

money, even without the Shoreline district.

I don’t want to ditch Prop. 13, but I sure would like to get rid of that 2 percent per year limit.

**Doug Pearson, a resident of
the Blossom Valley neighborhood**

I agree, and have said in other postings, that it is high time for the city to start forking over some dough to the school district. Property values and quality of life are closely dependent on the quality of education offered to the children of Mountain View. Whether anyone will want to live here, buy a house here, and send their children to school here while working at these companies, is an extremely important part of the equation.

**localmom, a resident of
the Cuesta Park neighborhood**





Esther's German Bakery features Mohnschnecke, poppy seed rolls, and Pudding Teilchen, vanilla pudding danishes.

MICHELLE LE

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Esther's fills a German niche

BAKERY OFFERS A SLICE OF OLD EUROPE IN HEART OF SAN ANTONIO SHOPPING CENTER

By Andrew MacLeod Doerschuk

It all starts with bread. And we don't just mean the dense, nutritious whole-grain-emboldened loaves with consonant-stuttering German names that sail off the shelves daily at Esther's German Bakery.

No, we're also referring to the paler, blander varieties hawked in every American supermarket. You see, had Esther Nio never come face-to-face with such half-baked gluten after moving from Munich, Germany to Silicon Valley in 1997, she might never have

become inspired to open her own bakery. And what a shame that would have been.

With a background in marketing and advertising, Nio considered herself a consumer rather than a retailer upon landing in the U.S. with her husband, an engineer who accepted a position with a high-tech company on the Peninsula. It took years for her to find a German baker who specialized in the type of breads and pastries of her homeland. Once she did, though, Nio

► Continued on next page

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The History of The Olive

The olive is one of the plants most often cited in literature. The Roman poet Horace mentions it in reference to his own diet, which he describes as very simple: "As for me, olives, endives, and smooth mallows provide sustenance." Lord Monboddo comments on the olive in 1779 as one of the foods preferred by the ancients and as one of the most perfect food. Olive oil has long been considered sacred and is mentioned over 30 times in the Bible and seven in the Quran with some living olives trees dating back over 2,000 years. With this kind of history there is no wonder that we have identified this recipe from the Le Marche region of Italy as a true example of the power of the king of all fruits.

From our kitchen to yours.

Buon appetito!

Chef Marco Salvi, Executive Chef

Split Chicken with Olives & Pine nuts

Mezzo Pollo con Olive e Pignoli

- 4-5 pounds boneless, chicken breast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoons butter
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled and sliced
- 2 bay leaves, preferably fresh
- ½ cup pitted brine-cured green Italian olives
- ½ cup pitted oil-cured black Italian olives
- ½ cup white wine- Pinot Grigio or similar
- ½ lemon
- ¼ cup toasted pine nuts

To prepare: Season the chicken all over with the salt.

Put the olive oil and butter in the pan, and set over medium-low heat. When the butter is melted and hot, lay in the chicken pieces; drop the garlic cloves and bay leaves in the spaces between the chicken.

Cover the pan, and let the chicken cook over gentle heat, browning slowly and releasing its juices. After about 8-10 minutes, uncover the pan, turn the pieces, and move them around the pan to cook evenly, and then replace the cover. Turn again in 10 minutes or so, and continue cooking covered.

*After the chicken has cooked for 20-25 minutes, toss the olives onto the pan bottom, around the chicken, and add the wine. Raise the heat so the liquid is bubbling, cover, and cook, gradually to concentrate the juices, about 5 minutes.

Remove the lid, and cook uncovered, evaporating the pan juices, occasionally turning the chicken pieces and olives. Toss the pine nuts around the chicken, and continue cooking uncovered, turning the chicken over gently until the pan juices thicken and coat the meat like a glaze.

Turn off the heat, and serve the chicken pieces on a platter or in a shallow serving bowl. Spoon out the sauce and pine nuts and drizzle over the chicken. Squeeze ½ lemon over the top and serve.

► Continued from previous page

began distributing wholesale to local specialty supermarkets in 2004, as well as selling directly to the public at farmers' markets around the area.

After haggling with prospective landlords for years, she simultaneously opened her Mountain View bakery (on Showers Drive) and Los Altos restaurant (on San Antonio Road) in 2008. We visited the Mountain View shop, located a few doors down from Trader Joe's in the San Antonio Center, and were surprised to learn that it doesn't actually have a working kitchen — just a back room where food is plated.


This explains why menu choices are rather limited at Esther's. But despite the handicap, we were never bored by the food we sampled, beginning with soup (\$3.95 per bowl) prepared daily from scratch at Esther's nearby Los Altos location.

Our two choices couldn't have been more different. While the French onion soup featured a thin, dark beef broth loaded with caramelized onions and specks of seasoning, the butternut squash soup was thick, creamy and colorful, mildly spiced and imbued with the sweet flavor of vegetables roasted and slow-cooked. Fittingly, we ordered both on cold, damp days, and couldn't imagine a more perfect repast.

We tried several sandwiches, including bratwurst (\$6.95). Perhaps the most Germanic of the sandwiches we ordered, its formula was austere, with a halved brat served on a choice of plain or poppy seed bun with a pickle slice on the side — and that's it. My suggestion is to cough up the extra \$2 for a mound of the most sumptuous sauerkraut you've ever savored, slow-cooked with apple slices, bacon, white wine and onions. Dip the bratwurst in spicy German mustard and take a bite of the sandwich followed by a forkful of warm sauerkraut. Your mouth will explode with sweet and spicy tones.

Not everyone digs sausage, of course, so Esther's also offers a number of more standard sandwich selections (\$5.95). Our roast beef sandwich was piled high with thin-sliced meat roasted in Esther's off-site kitchen. It proved to be so tender and fat-free that every bite sliced like a knife through butter. Other ingredients included a slice of provolone, tomato and lettuce wedged between two thick slices of Esther's hefty Steiner bread. (The bread's ingredients include organic wheat and rye flour, flax, sesame and sunflower seeds, rolled oats, sea salt, walnuts, honey and extra virgin olive oil.

► See ESTHER'S, page 20



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MICHELLE LE

Dimitri and Maria Vaynblat frequent Esther's German Bakery.

ESTHER'S

► Continued from page 19

You can take home your own loaf for \$5.75.)

Even an avowed carnivore enjoyed the rich taste of the vegetarian sandwich, featuring cream cheese rolled in herbs, ripe avocado slices and a slice of provolone served on Steiner bread. And I fell in love with the spinach quiche (\$5.95), which arrived steaming hot. While our slice was relatively thin, it was light on flaky pastry and heavy on a filling bound by cream, egg and the slightest dash of cheese, allowing the spinach and onion to stand out.

And then there were the pastries and snacks! Allow the filling of the poppy seed coffee cake (\$2) to roll around in your

mouth to fully enjoy its intense flavors. While the cinnamon roll (\$2.75) was a bit dry, its glaze was sweet and loaded with cinnamon. The walnut chocolate cake (\$3.50) looked decadent but was bafflingly semi-sweet, and the German pretzel (\$1.75) was crunchy and doughy at once, depending on where you bit it.

For some reason we were surprised to find a granola bar (\$2.75) in the display case, but its crunchy texture of seeds bound by a caramel glaze and a rivulet of chocolate makes a great midday snack.

We couldn't resist the simple pleasures of Esther's German Bakery — but why resist at all? Fresh ingredients and homemade traditions invite foodies and neophytes alike to dive into the wealth of delicious baked goods at this proud outlet. In the final analysis, what starts with bread ends with bread. ▣

■ **DINING NOTES**

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MOVIE TIMES

- A Prophet (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16:** 9:05 p.m.
- Alice in Wonderland (PG) ★★ Century 16:** 11:40 a.m.; 1, 2:25, 3:45, 5:10, 6:30, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.; In 3D at 11 a.m.; 12:20, 1:35, 3:05, 4:30, 5:50, 7:15, 8:35 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** Noon, 1:20, 2:40, 4:05, 5:20, 6:40, 8:05, 9:20 & 10:40 p.m.; In 3D at 12:45, 2, 3:20, 4:45, 6, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m. Fri.-Sat. & Mon.-Thu. also at 11:30 a.m. Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 8:45 p.m.
- Avatar (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20:** In 3D at 12:50, 4:20 & 8 p.m.
- The Bad Sleep Well (1960) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Stanford Theatre:** Fri 7:30 p.m.
- The Bounty Hunter (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16:** 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:35, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:15 a.m.; 12:35, 1:55, 3:15, 4:35, 6, 7:20, 8:50 & 10:05 p.m.
- Brooklyn's Finest (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20:** 1:05, 4:10, 7:10 & 10:15 p.m.
- Crazy Heart (R) ★★★ Century 16:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 7:25 & 10 p.m.
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16:** 11:50 a.m.; 2:15, 4:40, 7:10 & 9:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:25 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 11:30 a.m.
- The Ghost Writer (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 1, 2:20, 3:55, 5:15, 6:50, 8:10 & 9:50 p.m. **CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 1:25, 4:20 & 7:15 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 10:10 p.m.
- The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Guild Theatre:** 1:45, 5 & 8:30 p.m.
- Green Zone (R) ★★ Century 16:** 11:30 a.m.; 12:50, 2:10, 3:30, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 8:55 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m.; 12:55, 2:20, 3:40, 5:05, 6:25, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:35 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 10:15 a.m.
- The Hurt Locker (R) ★★★1/2 Aquarius Theatre:** 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.
- The Idiot (1951) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Stanford Theatre:** Wed 7:30 p.m. Thu 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
- Kagemusha (1980) (PG) (Not Reviewed) Stanford Theatre:** Sat 2:50 & 7:30 p.m. Sun 2:50 & 7:30 p.m. Mon 7:30 p.m. Tue 7:30 p.m.
- The Lower Depths (1957) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Stanford Theatre:** Wed 5:15 & 10:30 p.m. Thu 5:15 & 10:30 p.m. 5:15 & 10:30 p.m.
- The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Aquarius Theatre:** 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
- Mother (2010) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Century 16:** 12:55, 4, 7 & 10:05 p.m.
- Our Family Wedding (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16:** Noon, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
- Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 20:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m.
- Remember Me (PG-13) ★ Century 16:** 11:05 a.m.; 1:40, 4:20, 7:05 & 9:50 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:10 a.m.; 1:45, 4:30, 7:15 & 9:55 p.m.
- Repo Men (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16:** 11:35 a.m.; 2:20, 5:05, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:55 a.m.; 2:35, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:40 p.m.
- The Runaways (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 20:** Fri 11:40 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:40 & 10:20 p.m. **CinéArts at Palo Alto Square:** 1:45, 4:30 & 7:20 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 9:55 p.m.
- Sanjuro (1962) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Stanford Theatre:** Sat 5:40 & 10:20 p.m. Sun 5:40 & 10:20 p.m. Mon 5:40 & 10:20 p.m. Tue 5:40 & 10:20 p.m.
- She's Out of My League (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16:** 11:15 a.m.; 12:30, 1:45, 3, 4:15, 5:30, 6:45, 8, 9:15 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.
- Shutter Island (R) ★★★ Century 16:** 12:35, 3:40, 6:55 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:20, 3:45, 7:05 & 10:15 p.m.
- Throne of Blood (1957) (Not Rated) (Not Reviewed) Stanford Theatre:** Fri 5:30 & 9:55 p.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)
GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)
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

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

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

ALICE IN WONDERLAND ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) A time jump and convenient amnesia allow an older hero — in this case Mia Wasikowska's 19-year-old Alice — to rediscover the childhood adventures depicted in Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass." This Alice is a runaway bride of sorts, taking "a moment" away from the marriage proposal of a Victorian prig. In short order, she tumbles down the ol' rabbit hole. In the chamber below, she reenacts Carroll's pre-feminist puzzle of body consciousness to gain entry into Wonderland. It's all more tiresome than entertaining, especially with mind-numbing CGI exhaustion setting in early. *Rated PG for fantasy action/violence involving scary images and situations, and for a smoking cat-erpillar. One hour, 48 minutes.* — P.C.

BROOKLYN'S FINEST ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The narrative threads three storylines about stereotypical cops in different phases of their career and with different moral dilemmas: the burned-out patrolman (Richard Gere) slated for retirement in seven days, the narcotics detective (Ethan Hawke) in need of money to provide for his sick wife (Lili Taylor) and growing family, and the undercover cop (Don Cheadle) who befriended a drug kingpin (Wesley Snipes) but wants his life back. *Rated: R for bloody violence throughout, strong sexuality, nudity, drug content and pervasive language. 2 hours, 13 minutes.* — S.T.

THE GHOST WRITER ★★★1/2

(Palo Alto Square, Century 20) Ewan McGregor plays this mystery's dogged flatfoot, a professional (unnamed) ghost writer hired to rewrite the autobiography of former Prime Minister Adam Lang (Pierce Brosnan). Disconcertingly, the ghost's predecessor lately washed up on the shores of Cape Cod, not far from Lang's seaside property. Though the circumstances are suspicious, the death is deemed an accident; still, no sooner does the new ghost arrive than a scandal involving Lang blows up in the press. Suddenly facing war-crime charges, Lang appears to have authorized the illegal use of British Special Forces for a secret kidnap culminating in CIA torture. *Rated PG-13 for language, brief nudity/sexuality, some violence and a drug reference. Two hours, eight minutes.* — P.C.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

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GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

PENINSULA YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS "WILLIE WONKA"

A theatrical adaptation of the Roald Dahl classic featuring the impoverished Charlie Bucket. March 13-21, 2-4 p.m. \$18/adult \$16/children. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-988-8798. www.pytnet.org

ART GALLERIES

Gallery 9 Watercolor Artists Seven watercolor artists display recent works through April 4. Featured artists: Rajani Balaran, Rosemarie Gorman, Suej McCall, Miyoko Mizuno, Kathy Sharpe, Joyce Savre & Nancy Wulff. Gallery hours: Mon-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun., noon-4 p.m. Throughout March, Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

Shadow Boxes, by Raquel Coelho Shadow Boxes, a 3-D illustrated history of theater. Using hand-made puppets and found objects, Brazilian artist Coelho creates shadow boxes that present the history of theater as a theme. Feb. 12-March 28, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA), Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800 ext. 306. www.arts4all.org

AUDITIONS

El Camino Youth Symphony ECYS is accepting audition applications for current and new members for the 2010-2011 season. Go to www.ecys.org/auditions.html to apply for an appointment. Auditions will take place in March and April. Highlights of the 2010-2011 season include an International Tour for the Senior Symphony. Call 650-213-7111. www.ecys.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Art Classes at the Pacific Art League Registration has recently begun for spring art classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League. Students can sign up for watercolor, sculpture, printmaking, oil painting and other classes -- there are about 70 courses overall. Registration is also open for summer camps for kids and teens. Pacific Art League of Palo Alto, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. www.pacificartleague.org

Herbs in the Garden, Herbs in the Kitchen Learn how to grow and harvest perennial and annual herbs, herbs in containers, and essential herbs for the kitchen. Plant lists, recipes and tasty samples will be provided. Everyone will plant herbs to take home. Sat., March 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$36. Common Ground Garden Supply, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-6072. www.commongroundinpaloalto.org

Prenatal Yoga Prenatal yoga class. March 30-April 27, Tuesdays. No drop-ins allowed. 6-7 p.m. \$8/\$12 KP members/Non-members. American Legion Hall, 347 First St., Los Altos. Call 650-903-2636.

CLUBS/MEETINGS

Leads Club meeting The Leads Club, a

networking organization that aims to help professionals build formal relationships with each other, meets Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 a.m. \$5. St Timothy's Guild Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-428-0950.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cesar Chavez Celebration Hidden Villa celebrates Cesar Chavez Day. Story time, farm animal and garden visits, arts and crafts, mariachi band at 2 p.m. March 28, 1-4 p.m. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-9704. www.hiddenvilla.org

Los Altos Student Art Show Students and their families as well as the general public will be able to see 3,200 samples of student artwork. The opening reception will be held on Friday. Hands-on art projects available on the weekend in the Neutra House. March 26-28, 3-5 p.m. Free Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-947-1194. www.losaltosartdocents.org

CONCERTS

"Mandolin Magic" Israeli mandolinist Avi Avital plays music of Bach and Beethoven with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, plus a Corelli Concerto Grosso and Oswald Golijov's "Last Round." No reservations required, but audience members are requested to arrive early. Sat., March 20, 8-10 p.m. Free. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-248-1640. www.sfchamberorchestra.org/concerts/home-concert/

Peninsula Symphonic Band Spring Concert Norbert Molder conducts an afternoon of music. The program is titled "Classics From A To Z." Sunday, March 21, 3-5 p.m. Free. Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-873-0671. www.psbpaloalto.com

SF Choral Artists Choir offers masterpieces and new works: Britten, Carter, Hindemith, Ives, Poulenc, Puerling, Webern and five world premieres. Fri., March 19, 8-10 p.m. \$14-\$23 advance purchase; \$19-\$30 at door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-979-5779. <http://www.sfca.org>

DANCE

English Country Dancing Peninsula English Country Dance welcomes all, from beginners to experienced dancers. Live music, no partner needed, all dances taught. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Dance meets first, third, fifth Wednesdays through June 2010. 8-10 p.m. \$15 supporters, \$9 non-members, \$7 members, \$5 students or pay what you can. Flex-It Studio, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-493-6012.

Latin Dance Fusion Workout Steps from many genres are folded into easy-to-follow combinations. Move to flamenco, cha-cha, cumbia, swing, merengue, salsa, samba, middle eastern, or other Latin dances. Wear athletic shoes/clothing and bring an exercise mat. Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. \$10. Los Altos American Legion Hall, 347 First St., Los Altos. Call 650-948-1484.

EXHIBITS

"Arts in Action": Student & Faculty Show An annual show of artwork by students and faculty from the Community School of Music and Arts' "Arts in Action" program runs through March 21. Includes artwork by students from all public elementary schools in Mountain View. An opening reception with the artists is set for Friday, March 5, from 3 to 6 p.m. The show is open weekdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View City Hall Rotunda, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800. www.arts4all.org

Art Sale Robert Duvall's fine-arts studio is holding an art sale and exhibit featuring aviation art paintings and landscapes. Sat., March 20, 1-6 p.m. Free. Clocktower Coffee Conference Center, 425 N. Whisman, Suite 700, Mountain View. Call 408-489-9777. www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Robert-Duvall-Landscape-Artist/272918981063

Museum Night at the Los Altos History Museum Hours extended to 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The latest exhibit is "Through Thick and Thin: A Tale of Two Sisters" (the story of Sarah Winchester and Isabelle Merriman). Docent-led tours of the J. Gilbert Smith House, which was built in 1905. 4-7 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. www.losaltoshistory.org

FAMILY AND KIDS

A Taste of Hidden Villa Summer Camp For kids age 6 - 18 and their parents. Come get a sneak peak of Hidden Villa Summer Camp at this year's first ever program preview. Pre-Registration is required. Sat., March 27, 2-5:30 p.m. Free. Hidden Villa Ranch, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-9704. www.hiddenvilla.org

Chinese/English Book Fair A Chinese and English book fair features Scholastic books and stationery, Chinese-language books with traditional and simplified characters, and Pinyin/Zhuyin/Bilingual (Chinese & English). Thurs., March 25, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Fri., March 26, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free. Yew Chung International School Auditorium, 310 Easy St., Mountain View. Call 408-746-0441. www.ycis-sv.org/

Cubes & Crayons: "Kids' Night Out"

Cubes & Crayons, which provides office space, childcare and family activities, is hosting a "Kids' Night Out" event. Parents can drop their kids off for children's art activities and story time, along with pizza, snacks and games. Four Friday times are planned: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, each 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$50 general, \$40 for members. Cubes and Crayons, 154 E Dana St., Mountain View. www.cubesandcrayons.com

FILM

"Oh My God" Peter Rodger's cinematic look at the question "What is God?" RSVPs required. Tues., March 23, 6:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$10. The Cradle of Manifestation, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite 150, Mountain View. themusicwithinus.com/contact

LIVE MUSIC

Bob Harp w/ Blisses B Live music March 19, 8-10 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View.

ON STAGE

Loren Schoenbers In a Stanford Lively Arts Informance, Loren Schoenbers, conductor, saxophonist, educator and director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, gives a talk and performs musical excerpts. Tue., March 30, 6-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA), Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org

OUTDOORS

A Year of Trees -- Monthly Hikes at Hidden Villa Come hike Hidden Villa with Mary Powell, Manager of Community Programs, and explore the trees in its evergreen coastal woodland. Moderately strenuous 90 minute educational hike. All levels of tree lovers welcome. Tuesdays, 9-10:30 a.m. \$5 per car. Hidden Villa Ranch, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-9704. www.hiddenvilla.org

March Ranger Hike Ranger Rich leads a hike. Meet at front entrance. Kids are welcome. Open to Palo Alto residents and accompanied guests. Register in advance. Sun., March 21, 3-5:30 p.m. Free. Foothills Park, 3300 Page Mill Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-329-2423. bit.ly/enjoyonline

Mushroom Hike Ages 10 and up. Learn to identify and appreciate the mushrooms in the Hidden Villa woods. Wade Leschyn of the Mycological Society of San Francisco discusses both edible and poisonous varieties. Hikes are leisurely. No collecting. Cameras encouraged. Space limited. Sat., March 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$16 per adult; \$12 per Senior; \$12 per student. Hidden Villa Ranch, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-9704. www.hiddenvilla.org

SENIORS

Alzheimer's Talk Gerontologist Elna Tymes will discuss the difference between common kinds of forgetfulness and the types of memory loss that seem to happen with early-stage Alzheimer disease. Thu., March 25, 1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330.

TALKS/AUTHORS

Canyon Sam Writer Canyon Sam speaks on her book "Sky Train," which guides the reader on an adventure back to Tibet and an epoch of cataclysmic change. Thurs., March 25, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net

Canyon Sam: Sky Train Canyon Sam presents "Sky Train," which guides the reader on an adventure back to Tibet and an epoch

of cataclysmic change. Thu., March 25, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc. in Mountain View, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. www.booksinc.net

David Deardorff and Kathryn Wadsworth Authors David Deardorff and Kathryn Wadsworth speak on their book "What's Wrong with My Plant," which provides a system for visually diagnosing problems and helping find cures. Sat., March 20, 3 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. www.booksinc.net

Indu Sundaresan Indu Sundaresan talks about "Shadow Princess," a novel based on actual events about princesses fighting for power and respect in India's 17th-century royal court. Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. www.booksinc.net

Kristen Horler Kristen Horler discusses her book "Baby Boot Camp," about a fitness program for new mothers. Saturday, March 27, 2 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. www.booksinc.net

Peter Nathaniel Malae Peter Nathaniel Malae talks about his book "What We Are," a raw story that looks at contemporary America through the eyes of one disillusioned son. Fri., March 26, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. www.booksinc.net

TEEN ACTIVITIES

Teen Open Gym Teen Open Gyms are open every Saturday night for various sports. Middle School and High School students only; bring your student ID. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Whisman Sports Center, 1500 Middlefield Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410. www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/comm_services/recreation_programs_and_services/teen_services.asp

The House The House is open to middle-school students to come hang out with their friends in a safe, fun environment. This free drop-in program is supervised by trained recreation leaders and offers a social atmosphere that includes homework help, billiards, arts and crafts, foosball, video games and more. 5-8 p.m. Free. The House, 298 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410. www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/city_hall/comm_services/recreation_programs_and_services/teen_services.asp

VOLUNTEERS

Junior Museum & Zoo Office volunteers are needed to help with fundraising, community relations and special events. Data input, mailings, internet research, etc. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Junior Museum & Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-326-6338. www.friendsjnmz.org

Stanford Cats Need Foster Homes Stanford Cat Network needs foster homes for newcomer cats to campus. For more info and to volunteer, visit the SCN website and complete the Foster Home Profile: http://catnet.stanford.edu/support_foster.html. Adoption fair help also needed. Opportunities ongoing. Stanford Cat Network, P.O. Box 18287, Stanford. Call 650-566-8287. catnet.stanford.edu

Youth Community Service @ the DROP YCS (Youth Community Service) is a nonprofit organization that promotes the ethic of service learning to middle and high school students. Meets Wednesdays, Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-617-8962. www.youthcommunityservice.org

■ MORE LISTINGS

For a complete listing of local events, see our website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Small family business owner seeking for experienced bookkeeper to handle weekly paycheck. This position is open for the following duties and responsibilities:

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Time: 10AM-12NOON

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This is home-based office duties

We are looking to hire immediately. email: charleslooney1@yahoo.com

Buttons on Parade March 27

Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA)

Free Reiki Open House

Free Singles Travel Party

Helping Haiti: Film/talk 3-18

Heritage Button Show - Free

March 17 Film Screening

Nick Karazisis riding clinic

Outside The Frame— Art Show

Parent Observation

Spring Down Open Horse Show

The Matzoh Ball

Tropical Nights Singles Dance

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133 Music Lessons

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Horse back riding lessons!

Issues with food?

Men! Sing 4 Part a capella

NATURE/OUTDOORS Events Calendar

Pancake Breakfast

Benefitting the Woodside Elem. 8th

Grade Class Sat. March 20

8:00 am - 11:00 am Woodside Fire

Station Tickets prices: Adults \$8.00

Children \$5.00

SPRING BREAK Horsemanship camp

The Matzoh Ball

Women's Networking Alliance

www.art4growth.com

140 Lost & Found

Found - Keys

Lost Earring

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bakery at Town & Country on Thursday. 652-324-1843

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Library Volunteers Needed

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NASA cats need fosterers

Project LOOK! volunteers needed!

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Great Pit Bull needs a home

Eddie is a 1 year old male, neutered Pit who needs a permanent home. He is very loving and sweet. Needs a home with a lot of space and where he will get a good daily workout. Gets along great with my other dogs, and has never shown any aggression towards my cats or kids. Tory (415) 602-1354

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Mountain View, 1550 Ernestine Lane, N/A

PA: 305 N. California Ave, 3/20, 8:30am-2pm

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builds schools and educates children.

Great furniture, sporting equipment, toys and baby gear

Palo Alto, 400 Marlowe St., March 20, 7-12

March 27, 9-4

Palo Alto, 4000 Middlefield Rd, Sat.

March 27, 9-4

RWC: 1180 Main St., 3/18-21 and 3/25-28, 10-3

Huge, 1-of-a-kind estate sale! Good quality

home furn., decor, and household

items both large and small from popular,

contemporary retailers like Pottery

Barn and Williams Sonoma. (xElm)

Svale: 552 S. Murphy Ave., 3/19-20, 9:30-4

Semi-annual sale. Vintage linen and lace

and much more.

San Carlos, 750 Dartmouth Ave, March

20th 8am-3pm, March 21st 9am-1pm

215 Collectibles & Antiques

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235 Wanted to Buy

Antique dolls

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

LAS LOMAS CLEANING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 534471

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Las Lomas Cleaning Services at 570 S. Rengstorff Ave., #55, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County:
SERGIO TORRES
570 S. Rengstorff Ave., #55
Mountain View, CA 94040

This business is owned by an individual. Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 22, 2010.
(Voice Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 2010)

MURACCI'S 2
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 534387

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Muracci's 2 at 244 State St., Los Altos, CA 94022, Santa Clara County:
YASUYUK MURATA
750 Sylvan Ave., # 33
Mountain View, CA 94041
TAMIKO FUKUDA
750 Sylvan Ave., # 33
Mountain View, CA 94041
This business is owned by Husband and Wife.
Registrant/Owner began transacting busi-

ness under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 19, 2010.
(Voice Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2010)

RK TRUCKING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 534751

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
RK Trucking at 1240 Dale Av. #39, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County:
CHIRAKOLE RADHAKRISHNAN
1240 Dale Av. # 39
Mountain View, CA 94040
This business is owned by an individual. Registrant/Owner has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 1, 2010.
(Voice Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2010)

ALKA CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 535047

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Alka Construction at 303 Windmill Park Lane, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County:
MOHAMAD A. ALKADRI
303 Windmill Park Ln.
Mountain View, CA 94043
This business is owned by an individual. Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 3/5/2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 5, 2010.
(Voice Mar. 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2, 2010)

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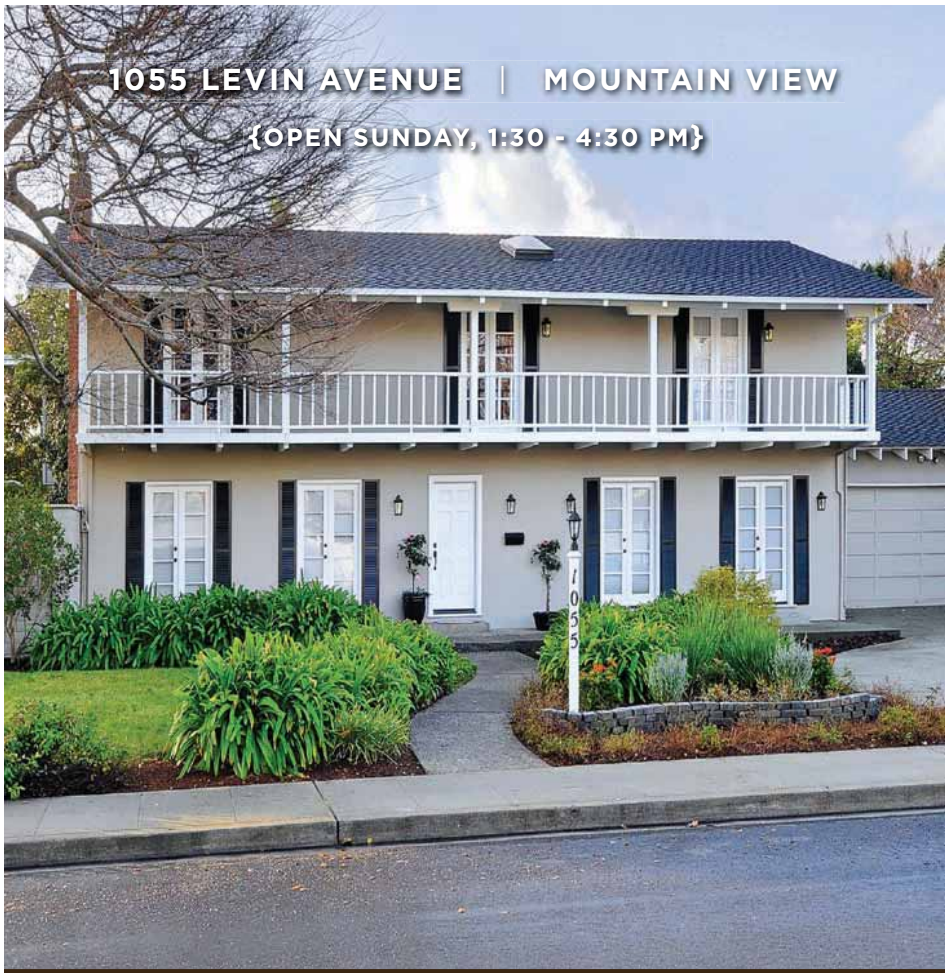
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LOS ALTOS

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

25231 LA RENA

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Spacious 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch style home on 1acre lot with guest house and pool. Double pane windows, updated kitchen and bathrooms and sky lights, private back yard with pool, shaded deck and lovely gardens. Guest house has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen and laundry room and currently rents for \$2,495/month! Great opportunity with rental income awaits!

12011 GREENHILLS COURT

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12125 OAK PARK COURT

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Courtyard-style hm w/large, open kit, gas range, prof landscaping, hrwd flrs & 2car gar

Pat Jordan 650.325.6161

CAMPBELL	LOS ALTOS	LOS GATOS	MOUNTAIN VIEW	PALO ALTO
1199 EL SOLYO AV SAT 1:30 - 4:30 \$575,000 2 BR 1 BA Fixer-upper on 15,695 sf lot, located on prime residential st. Real potential is to rebuilt Paul Engel 650.325.6161	124 2ND ST #3 SAT 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,479,000 3 BR 2.5 BA Le Coeur De La Ville town hm. Gor kit. LR w/FP. Private patio. Hrdwd flrs. 2-car prkng Dana Willson 650.941.7040	453 ALBERTO WAY #D243 SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$430,000 2 BR 2 BA Charming condo in senior complex. Redone to perfection w/granite,new flrs, new kit & baths Veronica Rudick 650.325.6161	229 PALO ALTO AVE SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 CALL FOR PRICE 1 BR 1 BA Enjoy an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. Wonderful yard. Updated throughout. Move in ready. Barbara Zuckerwise 650.325.6161	4137 THAIN WAY SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$789,000 2 BR 2 BA Cathedral ceilings, FP, wood flrs, good light, good storage, garage, balconies, laundry rm Messina/Bella 650.325.6161
CUPERTINO	59 BAY TREE LANE SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,325,000 2 BR 2 BA Gated community offers a rare chance to purchase the twnhm w/the largest yrd of all units! Jo Buchanan & Stuart Bowen 650.941.7040	460 SANTA ROSA DR SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$2,395,000 4 BR 4.5 BA An upper-level mstr ste is a lavish retreat w/a separate sitting area, pass-through frplc. Vicki Geers 650.941.7040	PALO ALTO	101 ALMA ST #802 SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$650,000 2 BR 2 BA Unique opportunity. New Bosch appliances, carpet, light fixture, & more. A bright delight. Dan Ziony 650.325.6161
22330 HOMESTEAD RD #218 SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$565,000 2 BR 2 BA Condo on the 2nd flr overlooks the courtyard. New wood flrs grace the living/dining area. Terrie Masuda 650.941.7040	26 PASA ROBLES AVE SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,275,000 2 BR 2 BA Well-maintained Spanish Mediterranean home with open, sunny floorplan. Lots of windows. Jim Galli 650.941.7040	1029 RAMONA ST SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$3,195,000 4 BR 3.5 BA Renovated in March 2010!Stunning hm appx 3450 sf sits in one the of most sought after area Zach Trailer 650.325.6161	4060 MANZANA LN SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$5,250,000 5 BR 5.5 BA Green to the core! Sophisticated, eclectic & colorful Mediterranean hm. Vivi Chan 650.941.7040	117 S CALIFORNIA AV #D205 SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$599,000 2 BR 1.5 BA Gorgeous updated unit. Bamboo floors, fresh paint, close to shops, FP, in-unit laundry. Kathleen Jarvis Pasin 650.325.6161
20682 CELESTE CIRCLE SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$399,950 1 BR 1 BA 871 square-foot condo. New carpet, some newer wndws, tile floors, & air-conditioning. Kathryn Tomaino 650.941.7040	547 TYNDALL STREET SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$599,000 2 BR 2 BA A special place in Los Altos w/close proximity to the heart of dwntwn. Paige Gienger & Helen Kuckens 650.941.7040	MENLO PARK	1029 RAMONA ST SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$3,195,000 4 BR 3.5 BA Renovated in March 2010!Stunning hm appx 3450 sf sits in one the of most sought after area Zach Trailer 650.325.6161	888 LINCOLN CT SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$888,000 3 BR 2 BA Every amenity including newly added master suite w/decorator design bath. Hrdw flrs. Veronica Rudick 650.325.6161
LOS ALTOS	490 PATRICK WAY SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,495,000 4 BR 2.5 BA On a large deep lot of 12,800 square feet in a prime No. Los Altos location. Nice layout. Charlene & Vicki Geers 650.941.7040	135 OKEEFE ST #4 SAT/SUN 1 - 4 \$659,000 3 BR 2.5 BA Newly rmdld twnhm w/Approx. 1650sq.ft. LG gourmet kit w/granite cntr tops. 2 mstr suit. Stella Rosh 650.941.7040	PALO ALTO	7114 CLARENDON ST SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$750,000 3 BR 2.5 BA 1542 sf, Sought after Cupertino schools. New granite counters, new appliances, new fixtures. Carol Van Zee 650.941.7040
50 PINE LN SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$3,988,000 5 BR 5.5 BA French country home presents classic elegance and modern functionality. Terri Couture 650.941.7040	690 GREENVIEW SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,529,000 3 BR 2.5 BA Knolltop Carmel Cottage w/priv. orchard & 3-car garage on a quiet St is a dream come true. Helen Kuckens & Kirk Mahncke 650.941.7040	MOUNTAIN VIEW	1234 PITMAN AVE SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$2,498,000 4 BR 3 BA 9-year-young custom built lot over 7000. House over 2700+ Attached grg. Family rm+sep study Julie Lau 650.325.6161	2176 JEWELL DR SUN 1:00 - 4:00 \$598,000 3 BR 2 BA Gorgeous. Oak flrs. Grnt, stone & oak kit.D/pane wndws, newer furnace & roof. Pvt, l/scaped yrd Aileen La Bouff 650.948.0456
1255 MONTCLAIRE WAY SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$3,580,000 4 BR 4 BA On nearly 2/3 acre offering extensive of sq. fgt w/4BD/4 baths. Priv. & wooded. Jo Buchanan & Stuart Bowen 650.941.7040	2100 CALIFORNIA ST SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$879,900 4 BR 2.5 BA Contemporary home w/high ceilings. Updtd w/slate & bamboo flrs; fam rm kit, inside Indry. Kathy Horvath 650.941.7040	1640 NOTRE DAME DR SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,199,000 3 BR 2 BA Exceptional Varsity Park hm w beautiful remodeled interior & landscaped yards. LA schools. Lan L. Bowling 650.328.5211	230 DAVENPORT WAY SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,399,000 6 BR 3 BA Expanded & meticulously maintained 2 story hm on CDS. Eik LR w/FP LG sep DR FR/ Media rm. Barbara Sawyer 650.325.6161	SUNNYVALE
603 GLEN ALTO DR SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,999,000 4 BR 2.5 BA Remodeled w/hrdwd flrs, high ceilings. Sep DR, FR Kit w/fireplace, breakfast bar. Brendan Leary 650.325.6161	26726 MOODY RD SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$2,350,000 4 BR 4 BA Tree top views! In a wooded two acres. Featuring soaring ceilings crowned by 22 skylights. Buchanan, Bowen & Scheel 650.941.7040	500 W. MIDDLEFIELD RD. #179 SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$345,000 1 BR 1 BA One level w/no one above or below, FP, remod kit w/granite, slate flrs, new appliances, patio Greg Stange 650.325.6161	3780 STARR KING CI SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,199,000 3 BR 2 BA Beautiful & Bright, this fully renovated home is a classic contemporary with open-design. Lan Bowling/John Chung 650.328.5211	990 YORKTOWN DR SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,049,000 3 BR 2 BA Rare Cherry Chase home w/ 1/4 ac lot, 3 car gar, gourmet kit plus more, Homestead High Clara Lee 650.328.5211
24481 SUMMERHILL AVE SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,599,000 3 BR 1.5 BA Idyllic private location w/gorgeous views! 20,000 sq ft lot, charming Hm. Hrdwd flrs, frplc. Terri Couture 650.941.7040	26600 ELENA RD SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$2,049,000 4 BR 3.5 BA Custom gourmet kitchen. Soaring ceilings in master bedroom & living rm. An ideal sanctuary Janie & John Barman 650.325.6161	FIRST FLOOR END UNIT \$400,000 2 BR 1 BA Overlooking lawn area. Completely updated, kitchen cabinets w/granite counters. Melanie Johnson 650.948.0456	548 EVERETT AV SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$949,000 2 BR 2 BA Impeccably remod. Fml DR.Spa like master bath. Georgous kit. Lrg rms. storge attic. 2 car grg Zach Trailer 650.325.6161	1270 ORTIZ CT SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$599,000 3 BR 2 BA Remodeled on quiet 9975 sq. ft.cul-de-sac lot. Approx 1486 sq. ft. Spacious granite, eat-in Kit Mickey Shaevitz 650.941.7040
852 UNIVERSITY AVE SUN 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,528,000 4 BR 2.5 BA Harmony & good design. Remodeled & close to dwntwn. 11,465 sf lot. LA schools. 2 car gar. F. Khodadad 650.325.6161	311 CUESTA DR SAT 1:30 - 4:30 \$2,199,000 4 BR 2.5 BA Almost completely rebuilt in 2005, this beautiful & spacious home w/office. Hannelore Blanchard 650.941.7040			