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Official program IN THIS ISSUE

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INSIDE: WEEKEND | SECTION 2

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Condos may set trend on El Camino

By Daniel DeBolt

The City Council approved a retail and housing project for 1616 El Camino Real on Tuesday that could be an example of what to expect as El Camino Real redevelops.

The four-story mix of 28 stacked condos above 6,000 square feet of ground-floor retail will go up along El Camino Real and part of Mariposa Avenue. Heights taper down towards neighbors with a half dozen two-story town-homes at the rear of the project.

"We're going to see El Camino Real transformed significantly in the next couple of years," said May-

Four-story mixed-use complex will include retail, 28 units

or Mike Kasperzak. This project and others are "good for El Camino Real and are really the beginning of the Grand Boulevard."

City planners said in a staff report that the closeness of the building to the street with parking in the rear helped it comply with the "Grand Boulevard" vision for El Camino Real.

Next door, 173 apartments have been proposed to replace Western Appliance and the Tropicana Hotel.

Council members Jac Siegel and Laura Macias criticized the design while Kasperzak and Ronit Bryant praised it. Siegel called it "unimaginative" and creating "a wall" on El Camino Real.

"Taken as one block it seems very compact," Macias said. "There's no place to go in terms of folks living here. Thank goodness there's a

► See **MIXED USE**, page 14



MICHELLE LE

Pam Perkins, 68, maps out her route along the Mississippi River

2,000 miles on a bike

AT 68, MOUNTAIN VIEW WOMAN PREPARES FOR 'EPIC' RIDE UP THE MISSISSIPPI

By Nick Veronin

As she approaches her 70th year, Pam Perkins is gearing up for the ride of her life. The 68-year-old Mountain View resident has been training over the past several months for a 2,000-mile, 40-day bicycle ride up the Mississippi River from Louisiana to Minnesota.

On May 3, she and a group of 29 other women—all over 50—will start peddling in New Orleans, and they won't stop until they arrive in Lake Itasca, the source of the Mississippi, about 180 miles south of the Canadian border.

The trip, which spans the United States from one of its southernmost points to one of its most northern, will be the longest ride

the soon-to-be septuagenarian has ever made — one she hopes may prove inspiring to other women her age.

"I think people would be interested in my ride," said Perkins, who will be blogging her adventures at pamsmississippiride.blog

Some of Perkins' best friends are the women she has met through cycling.

spot.com.

Perkins said she loves reading adventure stories and travel articles, as they sow seeds of inspiration for trips she hopes to take in the future. "I think we make a lot of changes in our lives, because we are inspired by other people. Maybe by others reading my story, they might have a seed planted."

Perkins says that one of the big-

gest shifts in her life came when she and her previous husband were divorced. It is an episode she credits as a blessing in disguise, because it pushed her to live more adventurously and "be freer."

"I think when you go through a major change in your life, you do an evaluation of where you've been and where you're going," she said. As a person who had always enjoyed fitness — swimming in particular — Perkins decided to push her athleticism a bit. She dusted off her old bike and began riding, eventually trading in the old cycle for a series of newer, faster machines.

Along the way she married her current husband, Bruce Berger,

► See **PERKINS**, page 8

Community Center: rehab or redevelop?

By Daniel DeBolt

Citing tight finances and the virtues of recycling, on Tuesday City Council members expressed interest in renovating the city's 1960s-era Community Center instead of building a new one.

"The greenest thing we could do is reuse a building rather than tear it down," said council member Ronit Bryant. "Who knows what creative things could be done to make the space useable in a better way."

City staff said they would look into the option, which several council members hoped would be cheaper than the \$53 million estimated cost of a new, 50-percent larger Community Center, a project in the works for over a decade and stymied by budget problems.

The discussion occurred during a study session on a new Master Plan for Rengstorff Park, which has been scaled back to avoid the potential \$139 million cost of revamping the park, as shown in possible designs presented last year. Council members expressed interest in a scenario that kept the Aquatics Center and Community Center in their current locations but expands their size, and would require \$3 million in temporary buildings if they are to be redeveloped where they sit.

Several council members, including Mayor Mike Kasperzak, had just finished touring the Sustainability Base at NASA Ames Research Center, touted as the greenest building around, and cited it as inspiration.

Using the "existing facility, we would get a lot of points for reuse," Kasperzak said, alluding

► See **RENGSTROFF**, page 10

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Voices

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Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Nick Veronin

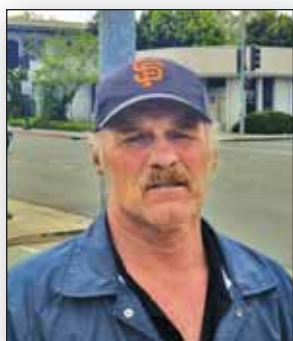
Will California's case of mad cow disease make you change your eating habits?



"When I heard about the mad cow disease, I thought to myself, 'It's a slow news week.' I'm not changing what I eat as a result."
David Fishman, Sunnyvale



"We only eat kosher beef. I know that those standards are very different, and I'm not worried about it."
Betsy Singer, Davis



"I'm not concerned about mad cow disease. I haven't put much thought into it."
Richard Warren, San Jose



"No. From my understanding, that particular cow was not meant to be used for food, so I think it doesn't pose any problem for humans."
Steve Savage, Syracuse, N.Y.



"I'm not worried about mad cow disease. I understand it's a dairy cow — only used for milk and never slaughtered for beef."
Dan Holden, Los Altos

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2011

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Photo of Bob Ramberg & Irma Stalder at Hotel/Restaurant Bergsonne in Rigi Kaltbad, Switzerland, at the foot of the Alps near Lucerne. The Swiss refer to Rigi Kaltbad as the "Queen Mountain".

Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice on your next trip and email to digitalads@paweekly.com

CRIME BRIEFS

SEXUAL BATTERY

An employee of Earthly Delight Gourmet has been accused of sexual battery after he allegedly lured a Santa Clara woman into the business and attempted to force himself upon her on April 16 at around 3 p.m., police said.

The victim, a 27-year-old employee of a water systems supply company, told police she is acquainted with the alleged attacker. Mountain View police spokeswoman Liz Wylie said the woman has tried to sell the man water supply products in the past.

According to Wylie, on the day of the alleged attack, the woman was visiting clients in offices adjoining Earthly Delight — a wholesale supplier of coffee, pastries and other confections, located at 2455 Old Middlefield Road.

The woman ran into the 53-year-old San Mateo man — who has not been identified, as he has yet to be arrested — and he invited her inside the Earthly Delight warehouse so he could give her some coffee cake, Wylie said.

Once inside, the woman told police the man pinned her against a wall and sexually battered her, Wylie said. Ignoring her demands that he stop, the man exposed himself to her before she was able to get away.

She left the building, and later that day reported the incident to her company and the police. Wylie said police are consulting with the county

District Attorney's office. "We believe a crime occurred," she said. "It's just a matter of working with the District Attorney's office to determine which charges are most appropriate."

INSURANCE FRAUD

The operator of a Mountain View painting company is facing charges of insurance fraud, according to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office.

Bill Won Yi, 42, of Campbell lied about his company's safety record and "grossly underreported" payroll by hiring unlicensed contractors and paying some employees in cash between 2004 and 2010, district attorney's officials said.

Yi was arrested on April 12 and charged with cheating his worker's compensation insurance carrier out of more than \$200,000, prosecutors said.

"This type of fraud scheme puts workers at risk of having insufficient or no insurance coverage if they are injured on the job," said Deputy District Attorney Christopher Kwok.

California law requires all businesses with employees to maintain workers compensation insurance. Insurance premiums are based on information about the nature of the business, its safety record, and employee's wages, all of which are reported by the employer, the district attorney said.

—Bay City News Service

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 1200 block Dale Av., 4/24

BATTERY

2000 block California St., 4/18
 600 block Castro St., 4/19
 Bed Bath & Beyond, 4/24

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

2500 block Leghorn St., 4/18
 1900 block Rock St., 4/18
 700 block Continental Cl., 4/22

GRAND THEFT

1500 block El Camino Real, 4/18
 200 block Escuela Av., 4/19

Kohls, 4/19

1600 block Villa St., 4/23
 100 block Oak Haven Pl., 4/23
 First block Fairhaven Ct., 4/24

STOLEN VEHICLE

1000 block Space Park Wy., 4/20
 California St. and Chiquita Av., 4/24

VANDALISM

300 block Castro St., 4/23
 1700 block Villa St., 4/23
 100 block Castro St., 4/23

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MICHELLE LE

Stephanie Kays checks out the Sustainability Base during the grand opening at NASA Ames Research Center, April 20.

'Houston, we have a solution'

LOCAL NASA BUILDING RECEIVES PLATINUM RATING FOR GREEN DESIGN

By Daniel DeBolt

It's safe to say that no other federal building has inspired the sort of language heard at a dedication last week for "Sustainability Base," NASA Ames Research Center's first new building in 25 years.

Officials were not shy in praising two new crescent shaped office buildings near the NASA Ames security gate, named after the 1969 moon landing site "Tranquility Base."

"This is a historic day," said

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo. "This is one of the highest performing buildings in the world. It stands as a model for the world."

Ames director Pete Worden called it "the first moon building on the planet Earth" because of all the NASA technology that's been incorporated, including a water recycling system similar to what is used on the space station, cutting water use by 90 percent.

"I want to do something I don't do often," Worden said. "That is to thank NASA head-

quarters for their enthusiastic support,"

"This is the leading edge of what buildings in the future can be," said Steve Zornetzer, Ames deputy director. "It brings NASA technology back to people on the planet Earth."

The building received the highest award for green building, the LEED platinum rating from the U.S. Green Building Council last week. Officials noted it was a major feat, made possible by using geothermal

► See *NASA*, page 8

Neighbors object to roof-top patio

By Daniel DeBolt

After the City Council approved the project without it, a roof-top patio was added to the 200 luxury apartments under construction near the downtown train station, and some neighbors aren't happy about that.

After a call went out Sunday on the neighborhood email list to oppose the deck, Robert Cox, vice chair of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association, says 109 people have sent emails indicating their opposition. It's being described as a "party floor" on top of a project overlooking a neighborhood where many already thought the building was too tall for the former Minton's Lumber site.

"The activity definitely wasn't discussed or approved" by the City Council, said council member Jac Siegel. "I just think it's wrong, with such a contentious project, for them (the developer) to be so brazen."

Cox's email calls on neighbors to ask Peter Gilli, the city zoning administrator, to turn down the deck at a meeting Wednesday, April 25, at 4 p.m., after the *Voice* goes to press. But Jon Moss, senior vice president of development for Prometheus Real Estate Group, said the deck has already been approved by

city administrators as a way to add open space and recreation amenities to the complex, and it was done after City Council approval.

The deck has already been built because it also doubles as the building's roof, Gilli said. But access to the deck, either by elevator or stairs, has yet to be approved.

"The deck was not in the Council-approved plans, nor were the stairway and elevator shaft projections that are currently on the building," Gilli said in an email. "Promethus raised the deck issue during the building permit review. In hindsight, staff should have required Prometheus to introduce this to the neighborhood as a courtesy."

Explaining why the deck was approved, Gilli wrote, "The use of the rooftop as an outdoor open space did not result in any noticeable architectural changes that would otherwise trigger a planning (discretionary) permit. The roof deck was added to the building plans, with staff's knowledge, and approved."

Gilli said his decision Wednesday has to do with adding a stairway to the project. The stairway is less visible than the

► See *PATIO*, page 9

Developer of Minton's project adds top deck after council approval

'Startup Village' sets up downtown

By Nick Veronin

Anyone with a startup, an idea for one, or the desire to one day think up the next great app or social media platform, should stop by downtown Mountain View on Wednesday, May 2.

Alain Raynaud, founder of The Startup Conference — a touring high-tech trade forum — is encouraging anyone with even the slightest interest in the world of startups to come to the Center for the Performing Arts from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The main event — a daylong series of talks and open-panel discussions with entrepreneurs from around the world — is sold out. It will be held the same day inside the Center for the Performing Arts. However, just outside the conference, Raynaud is optimistic about the "Startup Village."

"It's kind of like an art and wine festival, but for tech," he said. The village, which is free and open to all, will feature 40 tech startups from all over the country and overseas showing off their products in the "demo pit."

Raynaud, who moved from Paris to Palo Alto in the 1990s to get a piece of the first

technology bubble, said the companies have come to the event from Texas, New York, Europe and Asia to gain publicity, attract capital and search for talent.

"Mountain View is one of the best cities for high tech in the whole world," he said, noting the two other cities where he has held the event — Los Angeles and Seattle — are also hubs of technological innovation. Mountain View is home to Google, LinkedIn, Evernote, EyeFi and Y Combinator.

"If you live here in Silicon Valley you are going to catch the bug at some point," he said.

He figures that companies exhibiting at the Startup Village, as well as the 1,000 or so who have registered for the event,

are maximizing the chance of running into someone that can help them start a company. Journalists from Wired and TechCrunch have said they plan on checking out the Village.

"Everybody believes they have the next big company," he said. "My mission is to push people to get started."

Events such as this have been known to get big companies off the ground. Twitter really caught fire at the tech conference South By Southwest in Austin, Texas, Raynaud said. He acknowledged that the Startup Conference is nowhere near the size of that festival. All the same, three

► See *STARTUP*, page 10

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Immigration rights May Day march

Mountain View will be the only city besides San Jose in Santa Clara County to host a march on Tuesday, May 1, and it will focus on the impacts of U.S. immigration laws.

The march will start at Rengstorff Park at 4 p.m. and eventually make its way down Showers Drive and El Camino Real to Castro Street where a rally will be held at the Civic Center plaza, 500 Castro Street, at 6 p.m.

The march is sponsored by St. Joseph's Church, the Day Worker Center of Mountain View and Community In Action, a group based in the Rengstorff neighborhood that aims to empower women.

"We'd like to have a path to citizenship," said Sylvia Villasenor, a St. Joseph's church member. "There is this constant fear of deportation. This is our call to this issue. We can't live in fear."

She said families have been torn apart by high rates of deportation under the Obama administration and organizers want to see families reunited.

A flyer for the event calls for the end of Homeland Security's deportation program called Secure Communities (S-Comm).

The event coincides with May 1 events around the country calling attention to immigration issues and economic inequality.

—Daniel DeBolt

'Out to Eat' at computer museum

An event in support of local gay teens is expected to draw 400 people and raise over \$100,000 on May 11 at the Computer History Museum.

"Out to Eat" started as a regular dinner event in the backroom of Mountain View's Hobeys but has grown into a large scale gala with \$150 tickets.

Keynote speaker at the event will be Mountain View High School alumn Jose Antonio Vargas, Pulitzer prize winner and founder of Define American, a non-profit aimed at elevating the conversation on immigration in the U.S.

The Outlet Program, and its counterpart aimed at Latinos, De Ambiente, are support groups for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth. It is affiliated with Mountain View's Community Health Awareness Council and was founded in 1997.

The event begins at 6 p.m. and while it does not include dinner, there will be hors d'oeuvres, dessert, a raffle and a silent and live auction.

For more information, go to outtoeat.org.
—Daniel DeBolt

Sunnyvale snaps up Martello

By Daniel DeBolt

Just as Los Gatos did after his retirement in 2009, Sunnyvale's hiring Michael Martello, Mountain View's former city attorney, as interim city manager.

After a tense discussion April 24, the Sunnyvale City Council voted 6-1 in favor of Martello, with member Pat Meyering opposed. Meyering complained that the city did not have an open recruitment process and the \$25,000-a-month salary is too high.

Council member Jim Griffith defended the proposal.

"I can't tell me how many times I was told you'd be a fool not to hire this guy," said Griffith. "I would love to be able to hire this guy for half the salary but that's not an option in this market."

Martello served Mountain View for 16 years, winning several major lawsuits, including a settlement for over \$10 million with operators of Shoreline Amphitheater. He was widely praised by city staff and council members for empowering them and providing a sense of confidence about the city's ability to defend itself in court. He is now working for the law firm Thomas Whitelaw, which has a contract with Sunnyvale.

Mayor Anthony Spitaleri was

moved to interrupt two critics of the motion to hire Martello. Activist Tap Merrick brought up Martello's affair in 2003 with the head of Mountain View's garbage contractor, saying the council should be concerned about "people with weak moral values concerning their zipper," — to which mayor Anthony Spitaleri said, "I'm going to have to ask you to be a little more civil with your comments. We don't need to hear anything about zippers."

Meyering said the affair was "100 percent relevant" because city staff were unaware of the nature of Martello's affair at one point.

"Only one individual was interviewed," Meyering said, also noting that the job was not posted online. "This individual was picked out ahead of time (and) it was made sure there was no competition."

Spitaleri stopped Meyering to call a point of order:

"You're making accusations that are not substantiated," Spitaleri said. "You are basically saying this was a done deal before we even had a chance to talk about it."

Griffith defended the quick recruitment. "There is a significant difference between making an appointment to a permanent position and making an appointment to an interim position." ■

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Car crash shutter bike shop

PERFORMANCE BICYCLES ON EL CAMINO
CLOSED 'UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE'

By Nick Veronin

The Performance Bicycle store at 2124 El Camino Real has been forced to close its doors indefinitely after a car crashed through the front window of the shop on April 22.

A rack of bike helmets was knocked over when a BMW burst through the glass storefront, according to police and an eyewitness. No one was injured.

At press time, a notice on the store's website said that the business would remain "closed until further notice." The store's parking lot has been cordoned off with caution tape and a security guard has been hired to keep watch over the property.

A large sheet of plywood covered the broken out window.

There were no signs that the driver of the vehicle — a newer model BMW sedan — was intoxicated, according to police spokeswoman Liz Wylie. Because the incident occurred on private property, there was no official police report filed and Wylie said she didn't have much information on the incident.

Police were called at 2:42 p.m. after the car drove over a curb in front of the store and through a large expanse of glass to the right of the business' main door. Investigators stayed on the scene until 5:11 p.m., Wylie said.

► See **DRIVE THRU**, page 10

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Sustainability Base architect Bill McDonough speaks with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo during the grand opening of the building, at NASA Ames Research Center.

MICHELLE LE

NASA

► Continued from page 5

wells to take advantage of the earth’s temperature for heating and cooling, and solar panels and fuel cells to power itself and other buildings at Ames. Its computer system constantly optimizes the building’s efficiency, opening and closing windows to let in natural winds, or cooling off a conference room before a scheduled meeting.

The building combines “high technology and ancient wisdom,” said architect Kevin Burke, noting how the building was positioned to make the best use of winds flowing south from the Bay.

“Imagine if every building, from this day on, generated more energy than it consumed?” Zornetzer said. “What would that mean for our carbon footprint? It’s possible, it can be done.”

“If you could replicate this building across the U.S., we would no

longer have an energy crisis,” said Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.

Sustainability Base architect Bill McDonough ended the ceremony with a thought-provoking speech. His work and influence has earned him the title “hero of the planet” from Time Magazine, and he’s joined actor Brad Pitt in a project called Make It Right, which builds affordable green homes in hurricane-wrecked New Orleans.

He urged the audience to aspire to Mother Nature’s designs when thinking about architecture.

“The problem is a material one,” McDonough said. “We have carbon, a beautiful thing — the basis of living systems, in the wrong place.”

Mother Nature said, “Let’s give ourselves a nuclear power plant, 93 million miles away, and its wireless,” he said of the sun. The design “takes carbon from the atmosphere and absorbs it in biota” or plants and trees.

“How do you design a build-

ing like a tree? That’s a question I’ve been asking since 1989,” McDonough said. “What if you could design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon, creates habitat, changes color with the seasons, produces food and fuel, creates micro-climates and self-replicates? How about building like a tree? How about building more of them? Let’s think about that.”

McDonough said the Sustainability Base was designed to allow it to be taken apart relatively easily so its materials to be recycled.

“We don’t have income, like we do with solar energy, with materials,” McDonough said. “We need to handle these materials with great care and enjoyment and make sure they can continue to be used by future generations. That’s what we see here. This building is full of cradle-to-cradle certified products, which are designed to go back to the industries from which they came.” ■

PERKINS

► Continued from page 1

who she lovingly refers to as Phileas Fogg — the name of the main character in Jules Verne’s famous novel, *Around the World in Eighty Days* — due to his love of traveling. The two of them have been all over the globe since marrying in 2001.

Further change came for Perkins when she retired from her career

at Stanford in 2002 and really “ramped up her cycling.”

In 2009 she did her first “epic” ride. Organized by Woman Tours — the same company she will be riding with along the Mississippi — she rode from Oregon, through Idaho and then into Washington in one big 1,500-mile loop over 30 days. The tour company charges riders a fixed fee for accommodations, breakfast, dinner and the peace of mind that comes from

knowing a crew in a van is not far away in case of an accident or emergency.

It was on her first Woman Tours ride that Perkins met Penny Bradley — a woman she looks to for inspiration and points to when other women wonder how she can do what she does at her age. Bradley is 72 and has long been active in tests of endurance such as the upcoming Mississippi ride, Perkins said. She looks forward to riding along with Bradley, whom Perkins now counts as a good friend.

Nowadays some of Perkins’ best friends are the women she has met through cycling. “The thing about this company is that they really don’t have to advertise,” she said. “After we finish this ride we all say to each other, ‘What’s the next ride we’re going to do,’ and it proliferates.”

It’s addictive she said. “I love it!” Perkins says she is close to being in the best shape she has ever been, and though she is a bit nervous about the upcoming ride, she knows all she has to do is go for it and all her anxieties will fall away, like the road behind her tires. “Once I get there and get on the bike, I’ll be fine.” ■

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COURTESY CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

A five-condominium development was approved by a split City Council.

Trees axed for \$1.6m condos

By Daniel DeBolt

The loss of two cedar trees nearly killed a plan for five, \$1.6 million condos which the City Council narrowly approved Tuesday for a downtown portion of California Street.

“The project is very attractive, however it would be very attractive somewhere else,” said council member Ronit Bryant, who opposed the project with members Jac Siegel and Laura Macias. The council’s four other members quietly approved it.

“I don’t want to send a message, ‘Come buy the property, cut the trees and put a lot of development on it,’” Bryant said. “I think it’s more important to say, ‘We want to save

heritage trees.”

The five condos would be built on .3 acre, replacing a pair of older —but not historic — homes at 948 and 976 California Street near Franklin Street. The homes would be built atop an underground garage which would leave little or no soil for two cedar trees (18-inch and 23-inch diameter) classified by the city as heritage trees. Only smaller box trees would work as replacements in the project’s central courtyard over the garage. A 32-inch cedar near the front of the property would be saved.

“It’s almost like you could have put in four homes and not cut the trees down,” Siegel said.

Macias said such projects turn the area “into another suburb with very new construction.” There needs to be “a way to preserve old homes and trees.”

The architects on the city’s design review committee said developer Pacific Peninsula Group had designed the project well to fit the neighborhood and would use high quality materials.

The city will receive \$120,000 in park fees and \$240,000 in below market rate housing fees from the project, which increases property tax revenue by \$10,432.

Email Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

PATIO

► Continued from page 5

elevator access to the roof that was in plans approved by the City Council, said Nathan Tuttle, senior development manager for Prometheus. Gilli said the elevator shafts now in the building “were not correctly shown on the primary building elevations in the building plans” and a stop work order was placed on them.

Neighbors say the deck would mean late night parties and noise for neighbors, who are not protected by a city noise ordinance. They also point to the TV, barbecue, speakers and lights on the deck as potentially problematic.

Tuttle said the patio would close

at 10 p.m. every night. The 42-inch television would be mounted a foot from the ground, and the speakers would play ambiance music. “Both have volume limiters built in,” Tuttle said. “(It) is not going to allow booming bass off the roof deck.”

The lights would be for the barbecue and the path from the stairs, the minimum to comply with the city, and would not light up the whole area brightly, Tuttle said.

Moss and Tuttle say the people living in the complex below the deck are a concern, and existing neighbors of the complex would be much further away, separated from the deck by half the block’s width and Villa Street.

“It’s a very sensitive management issue for us,” Moss said. “We have to manage the roof deck and

uses up there so they don’t disturb any of our residents.”

Adding a design detail to a project after City Council approval is not unusual, but the additions are usually at the request of the City Council and generally have not been large or controversial, Siegel said.

Neighbor association chair David Lewis said the deck effectively adds a fifth story to the building and its approval after the fact by city staff could set a bad precedent for other developments.

“I attended all of the public meetings and never once heard that plans included a party area on the roof,” Lewis wrote in an email to the Voice. ▼

Email Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com




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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

COUNCIL NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Neighborhood Meeting with the San Antonio/Rengstorff/Del Medio Area

Location:
SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300

Wednesday, May 9, 2012
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.


The City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee (CNC) will be hosting a neighborhood meeting for residents in the San Antonio/Rengstorff/Del Medio area on May 9th at 7:00 p.m. (area designated on the map below). The Neighborhood Meeting will be an open forum to hear from residents about your ideas and concerns.

Agenda

1. CNC Neighborhood Update
2. Questions and Answers with City Staff
3. Closing Comments

Three Councilmembers and staff from seven City departments will be there to respond to your questions. This is an opportunity to make a difference in the future of your neighborhood and express your thoughts about ways to improve our community. For further information, please call the City’s Neighborhood Preservation Division at (650) 903-6379.

Neighborhood Area





COURTESY CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Several proposals to relocate buildings at Rengstorff Park might be scrapped in favor of remodeling.

RENGSTORFF

► Continued from page 1

to rating systems for green buildings. “Take a 50-year-old building make it last 100 years. Doll it up and see what we can do in a cost effective manner.”

Bryant suggested adding a green roof to the building and extending a pavilion towards the street. “I’d like to do something exciting and innovative like that rather than build another building.” She added that it was a matter of “finding the right person to think through this.”

Council members Margaret Abe-Koga and Jac Siegel also expressed interest in refurbishing the center, but Siegel also added that “a remodel can cost a lot more per square foot than construction.”

“If we stay with the existing structure it will be limiting as to what we can do,” said Council member Tom Means. Having toured new community centers elsewhere, “it’s pretty impressive to see what you can do these days and how they are designed,” Means said.

Mayor Kasperzak said the city needs to use the new Senior Center on the other side of the park more heavily instead of closing it at night, a time when it could be used for classes taught at the Community Center.

“Space shouldn’t be sitting vacant when we’re talking about spending very limited resources to build new space,” Kasperzak said.

There’s also going to be a new Teen Center at near the park at Rock Church, which could lessen the need for a large Community Center.

A few council members expressed interest in building a new aquatics facility at Rengstorff Park first. City staff estimated the cost at \$15 million.

“That’s where our money should go,” said council member Laura Macias. “It seems a little sad when you compare it to Eagle Park pool.”

The focus should also be on making the park as nice as Cuesta Park, she said.

City staff proposed moving a small building for park rangers into a piece of open space near the picnic areas where people have often complained about gang members hanging out. Council member Macias objected to impinging on the park’s open space.

“I don’t think its location is very visible if we’re going to have live human resources monitoring what’s going on in the park,” Means said of the current location.

Bryant opposed the idea of adding any parking, saying that people should be encouraged by the design to bike and walk. Adding an underground parking garage to the Community Center for 60 parking spaces could cost \$4 million. Siegel suggested closing Crisanto Avenue on the northern edge of the park and building a parking structure in its place against the train tracks, providing a noise buffer that would not encroach on the park’s open

DRIVE THRU

► Continued from page 7

She said a city building inspector “determined the structure was compromised and unsafe,” in the wake of the crash. Electricity was shut off and the building struc-

ture was reinforced before the car was removed.

Douglas Gray, who said he was in Performance Bicycles at the time of the incident, said that the car knocked over a rack of helmets and that an elderly woman was driving at the time of the accident. He had no idea what had caused the woman to

drive through the window, and could only speculate that she had accidentally placed the car in drive instead of reverse.

In photos Gray took of the incident, the front half of the BMW is visible inside the store, with the rear end of the vehicle hanging out into the parking lot. ▀

STARTUP

► Continued from page 5

years ago, at the first Startup Conference in Mountain View, he met Ben Silberman, founder of the then-unknown Pinterest — a social network site that has recently exploded in popularity. ▀

INFORMATION

Startup Village is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, at Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Free. Information at thestartupconference.com.

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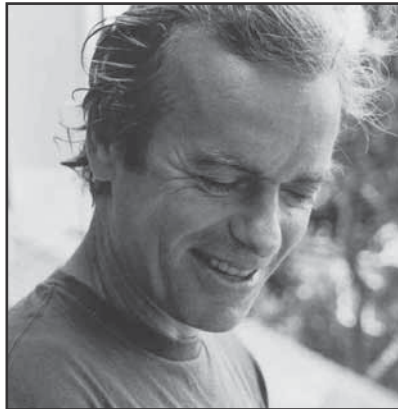


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Brave new world for photo sharing

By Angela Hey

Photo sharing and viewing is undergoing a revolution. Facebook's plan to buy Instagram developer

Burbn for \$1 billion in stock and cash underscores how valuable sharing has become. Simplicity and speed are what make Instagram attractive to users, with 30 million downloads for iPhones at the time of Facebook's announcement, followed by an Android

version that garnered another 5-10 million downloads from Google's Play Store in 10 days.

Google's Street View cameras go far beyond roads and paths. Skiing at Big White Ski Resort in Canada, I saw a Google snowmobile with 9 cameras covering a 360-degree circular view mounted on its rear. Google originally put Canada's Whistler-Blackcomb ski resort on Google Maps for the Olympics, and now includes Squaw, Breckenridge and Deer Valley among its winter sports venues. They also show tourist destinations like the White House, Antarctica, Swiss railway routes and the Amazon River.

Lytro, a Mountain View company, has just started delivering cameras that use rays of light instead of dots or pixels define pictures. Ren Ng, founder and CEO, worked on the technology for his 2006 Stanford University doctoral thesis, entitled Digital Light Field Photography (www.lytro.com/renng-thesis.pdf). He points out that photographers often shoot a picture and then find the wrong part of the picture is in focus.

A photographer can quickly capture a bird in a flowering bush before it flies away. Click on the bird, and it will come into focus. Click on a flower and focus will move from the bird to the flower. The technology could be useful for shopping sites like eBay where you want to inspect goods closely. For example, you could inspect clothing and china by focusing and zooming to check for defects. To experience Lytro's technology, check out the Picture Gallery



at www.lytro.com.

A camera with a small aperture (lens opening) can focus over a long range and needs good light. Enlarging the aperture tends to make some of the picture lose focus — the depth of field is reduced. This may or may not be a desired effect. Sometimes you want a face in focus and a blurred background. The Lytro Camera has an f/2 aperture, larger than the iPhone 4S's f/2.4 aperture, enabling it to take low-light shots.

It lacks flash.

The Lytro Camera has two modes, Everyday Mode where the user controls zoom and the focus is fixed, and Creative Mode where the user can also bring a specific subject into focus by touching it on the camera's screen. There is no viewfinder. In Everyday Mode the maximum zoom level is 3.5x and in Creative Mode it's 8x.

The Lytro Camera works best when subjects are not too distant. In Everyday Mode, according to user Adam Gould, with no zoom it can change focus for objects between 6 inches and 7 feet away. At 3.5x zoom, refocusing works for objects that are 3 feet and 60 feet from the camera.

It comes with wireless connectivity to Lytro Desktop software for the Apple Mac. Windows support is due later this year. Each picture is about 16MB in a proprietary LFP format and can be exported to 1080 by 1080 pixel JPG files. Lytro Web is a web service for storing and sharing pictures, whether public or unlisted.

Challenges, Photo Walks and Lytro Web encourage users to share experiences. Investors include NEA, Andreessen Horowitz, Greylock and K9 Ventures. The Lytro Camera is fun, but at \$399 to \$499, is currently of limited appeal. As with many breakthrough technology products, pioneering users are experimenting to find out where it works best.

Hey advises technology companies on marketing and business development.

She can be reached at amhey@techviser.com.

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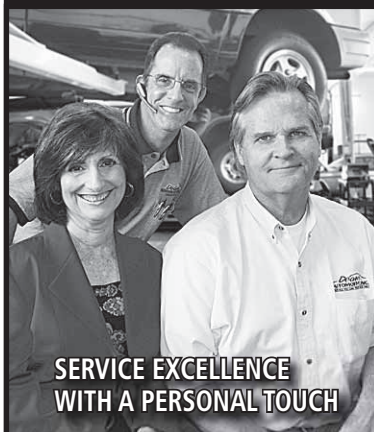
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COURTESY CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The City Council approved this mixed-use retail and housing development on El Camino Real and Mariposa Avenue.

MIXED USE

▶ Continued from page 1

park close by.”

“I actually think this looks very good,” Bryant said. “Aggregating properties and stepping it down to the neighborhood is a very good example. It is enormously nicer than the unloved building that is there. I’d much rather look at this.”

Responding to Macias’ com-

ments, Bryant said, “If we want open space we are going to have to incentivize the developer to give us that space.”

The site is home to the old Austin’s restaurant, a nail salon and a vacant retail space, and was once proposed to be a KFC drive-through which the neighborhood opposed and the city rejected. Neighbors did not oppose this project. Neighbors said it was “a great improvement over the previously proposed fast food establish-

ment,” according to developer, Stan Gamble of Mingstan Development.

With an average price of \$675,000, the units will come in one, two and three-bedroom models ranging in size from 950 to 1,700 square feet.

A large oak tree on the site will be moved to accommodate the underground parking garage, while a large olive tree was found to be in too poor of condition to justify the same treatment. ▀

OBITUARY

NORVIN POWELL

Norvin Powell, a lifelong resident of the Bay Area, died April 8 after more than a year of declining health.

Born in San Francisco July 22, 1952, he served in the U.S. Army, then studied engineering at San Jose State University. He studied bodywork at Body Therapy Center in Palo Alto and the Hendrickson Institute in Kensington. He attended International School of Professional Bodywork in San Diego, where he studied structural integration with one of the school’s founders, Ed Maupin.

After retiring from a career as an engineer for ATT, he worked as a massage therapist at Body Therapy Center in 1998, and became an instructor at the BTC school.

Powell worked at Custom Fitness in Mountain View for eight years and offered bodywork privately through his own business, Within

Reach Massage, for many years.

His warm sense of humor and spirituality were held dear by his colleagues, clients and friends, his family said. He enjoyed jazz and improving his golf swing, and built his life around his beloved daughter, Serena.

Norvin is survived by his daughter Serena Powell; his partner Becky Wecks; Serena’s mother Kristin Powell; his father Ethan Powell; and his sister Debra Powell. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial will take place on Saturday, May 26, at 2 p.m. at Unity Palo Alto, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call (650) 494-7222.

Memorial donations would be welcomed toward Serena’s tuition. Send to Saint Francis High School with a note “for Serena Powell tuition” and mail to St. Francis High School, 1885 Miramonte Avenue, Mountain View, California 94040.

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

There is a way to defeat gridlock

Mountain View is suddenly realizing that along with the glow of Google and other high tech companies that have settled in the North Bayshore area comes a massive problem moving more than 50,000 vehicles a day in and out of the area, including the shuttle buses headed to and from the downtown Caltrain station.

The near gridlock during the morning and evening commute caused by workers trying to travel the last mile to their job is becoming more and more serious. With only two access points from the Bayshore Freeway at Shoreline Boulevard and Rengstorff Avenue just getting into and out of the North Bayshore is nearly as bad as the entire ride home for many commuters.

The City Council recognized the problem last week when members agreed to shell out \$325,000 to hire a consultant to examine the options for improving the level of service at the two main intersections with the freeway. That rating is now F, which essentially means the streets are at capacity. The consultant, William Hurrell of the firm CDM Smith, admits that, "It probably isn't realistic to think you will be able to pull them to C or D levels or even E. When they are at capacity, you essentially cannot move additional traffic. You have to look at alternative ways to move people in and out of the area."

It is clear that the time is ripe to think "outside the box," including two futuristic options already pitched to the city in 2009 by SkyTran and Advanced Transit Systems, which was working on a project that was to be installed at London's Heathrow Airport in 2010. Both systems are expensive, with a cost of up to \$15 million a mile, but both have the capacity to move thousands of riders between downtown and the North Bayshore.

Unimodal developed the Sky Tran system and had a demonstration unit at NASA Ames, where it hopes to build a network of its 1,200-pound electric vehicles using overhead rails. The cars would float on the overhead rails using magnetic levitation or "maglev" technology instead of wheels, and get the equivalent of 500 miles per gallon. The developers say one Sky Tran line can support as much traffic as a three-lane freeway and that power could come from rail-mounted solar panels or wind turbines.

The 2009 proposal made by Advanced Transit Systems included a route starting at the downtown transit station, heading down Stierlin Road and over the Shoreline Boulevard/Highway 101 overpass, and end at the front door of the Googleplex, a five-minute trip. The battery-powered ATS trains are computer controlled and ride on dedicated cement pathways.

Either system would be costly, but unless something new comes along, it is likely that the city will have to consider such a system and then figure out how to pay for it. Certainly it is in the interest of Google and other North Bayshore companies to participate in funding such a system. And it is possible that the city could dedicate some of the unspent Shoreline Community funds to such a project, although more work must be done, first by the consultant and then by city officials, who should take the lead on such a large project.

With Google already committed to developing a large complex at Moffett Field, possibly including residential units, it will be even more important for the city to include such rapid transit solutions in its plans. Without such an investment, the long backups to get into and out of the North Bayshore will only get worse.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SEN. SIMITIAN NEEDS TO EXPLAIN VOTE

Why did state Sen. Joe Simitian vote against SB-967?

Executives in the UC and CSU systems have been living high on the hog for years now as tuition has increased at an incredible rate. But when confronted with a bill to finally bring some accountability to a system that has clearly gone out of control, Sen. Simitian failed to stand up for the needs of students. One wonders what he thinks his role on the Education Committee is if he considers the paychecks of administrators more important than students.

Conni Edwards
Sunnyvale

A GOOD DEED ON A HOT DAY

I have called Mountain View home, on and off, for almost 40 years. What makes Mountain View great are the locals here.

On Saturday, I walked with my little dogs to Baskin Robbins, near El Camino and Shoreline, to get a cold treat on a hot day. Of course, the line was long to get some ice cream.

The little dogs were waiting outside for me and their ice cream. Locals Kellie and Ray played with them and watched them while I waited for my turn. They asked for nothing in return even though I offered. It's people like them, and little acts of kindness like this, that make Mountain View the great place that it

is. Kudos to Kellie and Ray.

Patricia Stevenson
Space Park Way

NEED MORE CARPOOLS ON 85

I reside near Microsoft. If, for any reason, I try to leave home during the morning hours I encounter the gridlock at Highway 85 and Shoreline Boulevard. Then, if the return trip is before 11 a.m., I am faced with a half-hour-plus to drive two miles from Shoreline to my home.

Lately, as I leave and wait for the traffic signal, I have been counting the cars coming off 85, observing how many occupants there are in each car. Out of 70, one had two passengers. All the rest had only the driver. I have been counting for over two weeks now. Same with Shoreline — 50 cars with only one having two passengers. I did notice some relief during Spring Break.

So the shuttle is in this slow traffic too. But, it is carrying about 25 passengers which has taken that many cars out of the commute.

I am sure this will continue to escalate as more and more are hired. Soon we will be locked in during the morning rush hours. I hope for a solution.

Joyce Andersen
Space Park Way

MORE HOUSING LED TO TRAFFIC JAMS

Front page news in the April

► See **LETTERS**, page 16



Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center presents a free

"How To" Series for Family Caregivers



Wed, May 23, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

How To cope with a loved one's Dementia or Alzheimer's

Wed, June 27, 6:30 pm - 8 pm

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Walgreens

- ▶ **Thursday, May 3**
5536 Monterey Hwy
San Jose, 5pm - 8pm
- ▶ **Saturday, May 5**
780 E. El Camino Real
Sunnyvale, 2pm - 5pm
- ▶ **Wednesday, May 9**
2012 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, 5pm - 8pm
- ▶ **Saturday, May 12**
1795 E. Capitol Exp
San Jose, 9am - 12pm
- ▶ **Saturday, May 12**
770 First St.
Gilroy, 2pm - 5pm
- ▶ **Tuesday, May 15**
4170 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, 5pm - 8pm



For a list of accepted proofs of age, visit clippercard.com/VTA or call 877.878.8883.

Vote NO on June Bond G

new School Taxes (\$198 M + interest)

* **Citizen priorities & timeline before new taxes.**

More citizen input to develop priorities and timelines was originally promised. Superintendent did not deliver!

* **\$198 M budget/\$423 M Plan = 47%: less than half** of the funds for the Facilities Plan are in the June Bond.

There is a **\$225 M shortfall!** Like **High Speed Rail, a Bloated Sow!** (SFIP pg. 7)

* **smaller elementary schools/ NOT LARGER** were a "goal" but will not be delivered.

* **NEIGHBORHOOD access to schools?** But Whisman/Slater kids still have no promised school or promised \$\$\$.

* **REUSE more classrooms / DEMOLISH less classrooms** is a great way to save \$\$\$, but not in this Facilities Plan.

* **\$10 M new DISTRICT OFFICE** is not a "Student" Facility!

* **Ineffective oversight is common.** Trustee Walter promised to "maintain small class sizes," Superintendent Goldman instead delivered retention of "custodians."

SFIP \$ pg. 7 and pg. 34: the \$ and the promise

Architect's **fire safety**



Demolition of classrooms

In "Google Maps"

<http://g.co/maps/4re6m>



We want a November Bond **ONLY AFTER** a "7-11" community committee!

Paid for by: NO on **June Bond** Measure G FPPC# 1345976

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given that for the purpose of pre-qualification, sealed Responsibility Questionnaires will be received by the Board of trustees of the Mountain View - Los Altos Union High School District up until the close of business on the date indicated below for:

Project Description:

Tennis Court Repairs at Mountain View High School

Pre-Qualification Packages Due Date and Time: April 27, 2012 at 2pm at Kramer Project Development Company, Inc., attention Matt Hannigan, 4040 Moorpark Avenue #128, San Jose, CA 95117.

Pre-Qualification of Trade Contractors

In order to receive plans and bid, Trade Contractors must possess a current and active license to perform the work listed, submit and certify the required Responsibility Questionnaire information and be pre-qualified by the District. All contractors must have substantiated K-12 public school project experience and previous experience with tennis court construction and repairs to be prequalified.

A. Earthwork and Paving Trades A or C-12 license required

Only Pre-Qualified Contractors will be permitted to bid. Pre-Qualified Contractors will be required to attend a mandatory Pre-Bid Conference scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 2pm at the District Office of the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District, 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA. Opening of the sealed bids submitted by pre-qualified bidders is **tentatively** scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2012 at 2pm. Bidding documents will be available to pre-qualified contractors on or about May 1, 2012. Pre-qualified contractors are advised to verify dates and times of the mandatory pre-bid conference and bid opening prior to the above listed dates. Responsibility Questionnaires and instructions for submission can be obtained by calling Matt Hannigan at (408) 246-6237 or by email matt@kramerpdc.com. Contracts will require a 100% performance bond, a 100% Labor and Materials Bond and a Bid Security in the amount of 10% of the submitted bid. These projects are subject to the State Labor Code. Labor Code 1720-1816 regarding the payment of prevailing wages and submission of certified payroll statements will be enforced. Contractors are allowed according to PCC sec. 22300 to submit securities in lieu of retention.

Viewpoint

LETTERS

▶ Continued from page 15

20 *Voice* "City seeks solutions for Bayshore traffic."

You're kidding me right? I've lived downtown for 28 years and complained about all of the new housing that the City Council continues to approve and asked, "Where is all that traffic going to go?"

My daughter works at Google, lives downtown and it takes her a half an hour on a good day to go a mile and half. It is hard to believe that we keep on building and yet we still haven't figured out a solution for the Bayshore traffic. So the City Council has hired a "consultant" to tell us that there really are no solutions because mankind tells us that they cannot get out of their car and walk or ride bicycles, and we better just learn to live with it or get outta Dodge! The city didn't need to hire a consultant! They should've just asked me and I would've said "When cars can fly," then we'll have our solution.

Muriel Sivyler-Lee
Velarde Street

TO EASE TRAFFIC, STOP THE DEVELOPMENT

To try to tame the traffic mess north of Bayshore, the city must immediately and permanently kill all plans to allow construction of new residential units and also new retail shopping development north of Highway 101.

To allow such development will make traffic even worse than it already is. City Council member Jac Siegel is correct in his assessment of the traffic situation. It is unrealistic and also incredibly naive (my words) to expect large numbers of people to leave their cars at home and switch to walking, biking, and public transportation. It just won't happen.

William R. Hitchens
Sunnyview Lane

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Arts & Events

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

Budding artist brings his spray-paint cans and rockin' themes to the Peninsula art scene

By Rebecca Wallace

No watercolor landscapes for Jay Hill. This artist wields spray paint, utility knives and stencils to make rock-star faces and blasts of color. Sometimes his paintings have the restless look of old concert fliers.

The cutting and spraying and brush-work all go quickly. Hill likes to work in the moment.

He's just had his first featured exhibit, at Palo Alto's Gallery House, and that happened fast, too. He's been painting seriously for less than a year.

When Hill was younger, he tried to pursue art, sometimes oil painting, but that fell by the wayside. He worked in printing in the '80s and did some calligraphy, and those things kept his visual-arts sensibilities alive. Still, his career path didn't lead him back to his own painting for a long time.

"I went from truck driving to printing to desktop publishing to programming," Hill says, standing amid the canvases and slabs of wood and cans

of acrylic paint in his Mountain View garage studio. A respirator face mask sits ready to protect him from the next spray, and bamboo shades and drapes of fabric are spattered with color from where Hill has spray-painted through them to create texture. Fortunately, his landlord is also an artist.



It was a film that finally dropped Hill into making art a significant part of his life. He watched "Exit Through the Gift Shop," a 2010 documentary about the mysterious graffiti artist Banksy, and got hooked. Banksy, a

British 30-something, keeps his identity hidden, spraying and stenciling his sociopolitical statements on buildings, bridges and walls.

"It just kind of sparked me," Hill says. "I just started painting on stuff in the house, pieces of wood. ... Oil painting takes so long to dry. This way felt so fast and loose."

The medium and the method inspired Hill, but not the message.

Rather than painting about politics, he prefers to focus on faces: emotions and expressions, and the countenances of musicians and other creative types he admires.

In the hall of his home is a favorite painting: his bluesy, haunting image of the late Syd Barrett, the troubled Pink Floyd co-founder who left the band in 1968 and became a recluse.

Gazing at the darkened face and deep-set eyes, Hill quotes from his favorite Pink Floyd song, murmuring, "Now there's a look in your eyes, like black holes in the sky." It comes from the tune "Shine On You Crazy Diamond," which was a tribute to Barrett.

The painting, called "Black Holes in the Sky," contains the stylized letters that

► Continued on next page



VERONICA WEBER

'THE BRIGHT' SIDE OF 'THE CANVAS



Clockwise from top left: Mountain View artist Jay Hill stands in front of "Loudmouth," one of his series of baby faces; "Helios;" and "Shoot Pool Fast Eddie."



April Maiten's mosaic, "Pelicans at Sunset" is part of next weekend's Silicon Valley Open Studios tour in Mountain View.

Assembling art

OBJECTS AND ODDITIES COME TOGETHER
IN ARTIST'S WORKS ON VIEW
AT SILICON VALLEY OPEN STUDIOS

By Rebecca Wallace

Every year around May, strangers send inscrutable gifts to Marianne Lettieri. Silver platters are common and pincushions that look like fat red tomatoes.

A farmer in Woodside once sent her an antique weed sprayer. An old woman brought her a box of cat bones.

"Objects appear on my porch like orphaned babies in baskets," she says.

Lettieri is used to people presenting her with oddities, pieces of what she calls "cultural detritus" that she uses in her mixed-media constructions. The number of gifts just goes up

in the spring, after crowds drop by her Palo Alto studio during Silicon Valley Open Studios. Lettieri is one of more than 300 local artists, including 13 in Mountain View, who open their doors to the public during the annual event the first three weekends in May.

"I get all this cool stuff," she says. Excitedly, she pulls out a flat mahogany-colored box about the size of a vinyl record and flips it open. The box is full of teeth. A dentist has given her several sets of old veneers, and Lettieri regards the choppers fondly. "Aren't they just creepy enough to be fabulous?"

► See **OPEN STUDIOS**, page 22



"Lucky Bird" is wearable art by Valeriya Promokhova.



Jay Hill layers printed images before transferring the image to canvas.

VERONICA WEBER

► Continued from previous page

show up in many of Hill's paintings. Here, one of the words is an elaborate and almost unrecognizable version of "Barrett," repeated over and over.

Sometimes the words in Hill's work are clearly stenciled English; sometimes they're a mix of Spanish and German and a vivid iconography something resembling Japanese.

Hill tried to use real Japanese in the past, but he doesn't speak it. When he attempted "resolution," meaning "finality," he wound up with the kind of "resolution" more suitable for a jpeg. He decided, "Somebody's going to end up slugging me if I use the wrong thing," and went with his own fictional language.

In the Gallery House exhibition, which runs through April 28, Hill is showing "Black Holes in the Sky" with about 14 other paintings. He said he had liked the gallery and simply submitted his work. Now he's a member. Titled "Outbreak," the exhibit also features work by Pat Mayer. The Redwood City artist often incorporates found objects into her mixed-media pieces.

"I see beauty in a piece of rusted metal, a torn page from an old book, even a piece of discarded cardboard," Mayer wrote in an artist's statement. "Most often I have no preconceived idea of where these objects will take me as far as composition or subject matter goes. I like the viewer to discover what may or may not be familiar at first glance."

Both artists encourage viewers to look deeper at their work. They don't seem interested in creating images that are a snap to understand. Hill is even reluc-



"Good Time Charlie" is one of Jay Hill's works featuring baby faces.

tant to make his titles specific. In what he calls his "baby face" series, for example, Hill purposely puts not-too-evocative titles on the paintings of young faces (which are often surrounded by mysterious words).

The medium and the method inspired Hill.

Looking at his painting of a baby wailing, he says that the wrong title could easily push viewers' interpretations in one direction: serious and political, or light and silly.

"It could be called 'Crying in Darfur' or 'Get Me a Pepsi,'" he says. "It's all context."

When it comes to their materials, both Hill and Mayer tend to work with many strata. Mayer has her found objects, and Hill sometimes paints over and over on the same canvas

or piece of wood. "I'll just do layer after layer," Hill says. "I'll put down stencils, layers, more stencils, colors." The result is deep and vivid.

In his garage studio, Hill displays pieces of a work in progress. He's started with a stock photo of a face, then blown it up large in his computer. Sometimes he turns the face into a woven pattern or stretches it in the photo program. Then he goes to Kinko's and prints it out big.

Back in the studio, Hill takes an X-Acto blade to the giant photo. He might cut it into strips, or cut out some of its features to make a stencil. Then he creates the painting, spraying and brushing. He originally worked on wood, but now that the size of his paintings has grown along with his confidence, canvas is proving less unwieldy.

One slab of wood became his desk. "On the bottom is a failed painting of David Gilmour," Hill confesses, flipping up the desk to show ghostly images of the Pink Floyd musician.

Other paintings that succeed-

ed — and made it into Hill's first exhibition — include "Helios," a long rectangle of acrylic on wood depicting several faces, all of them looking up. Two women look expectant; one man is glum; one man seems a bit manic. What are they looking at? Who knows?

"Shoot Pool Fast Eddie" is a square of acrylic on linen, centered on the serious face of Jackie Gleason in the movie "The Hustler." Hill muses about the character in that movie, who was focused on playing pool when he was young, then left that world before returning years later.

"I tried to do art when I was younger," he says. "It's kind of my theme, too." ■

"Outbreak," an exhibition of art by Jay Hill and Pat Mayer, Gallery House, 320 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Through April 28. The gallery is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Go to galleryhouse2.com or call 650-326-1668. To see more of the artists' work, go to jayhillart.com or pdmayerart.com.



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(continued from previous page)

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www.supercamp.com **1-800-285-3276.**

Summer at Saint Francis

Mountain View
Summer at Saint Francis provides a broad range of academic and athletic programs for elementary through high school students. It is the goal of every program to make summer vacation enriching and enjoyable!
www.sfhs.com/summer **650-968-1213 x446**

Synapse School & Wizbots

Menlo Park
Cutting-edge, imaginative, accelerated, integrated, and hands-on academic summer enrichment courses with independent in-depth, project-based morning and afternoon week-long programs for children ages 4-12. Young Explorers, Thinking Math, Leonardo da Vinci's Inventions, Nature Connections, Girls' & Soccer Robotics, and more!
synapseschool.org/curriculum/summer **650-866-5824**

Write Now!

Summer Writing Camps **Palo Alto**
Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton open their doors and offer their innovative programs: Expository Writing, Creative Writing, Presentation Techniques, and (new!) Media Production. Call or visit our website for details. Also Pleasanton.
www.headsup.org **650-424-1267, 925-485-5750**

Arts, Culture and Other Camps

Community School of

Music & Arts (CSMA) **Mountain View**
50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, American Idol Workshop, more! Two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care available. Financial aid offered.
www.arts4all.org **650-917-6800 ext. 0**

India Community Center Palo Alto/ Sunnyvale/ Milpitas/Olema

Join ICC's Cultural Camps which give campers a quick tour of India and its vibrant culture. These camps include arts, crafts, folk dance, Bollywood dance, music, yoga, Indian history and geography. Over 10 different camps all through the summer for Grades K-12. To register or for more details visit:
www.indiacc.org/camps **408-934-1130 ext. 225**

Pacific Art League

Palo Alto,
Art camps are fun, and stimulate visual perception and cognitive thinking. Week-long camps are available for kids and teens 5 - 18, from June 18 to August 19, including Glass Fusing, Cartooning, Printmaking and Claymation.
www.pacificartleague.org **650.321.3891**

Palo Alto Community

Child Care (PACCC) **Palo Alto**
PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades kindergarten to 6th, a wide array of fun opportunities! K-1 Fun for the youngest campers, Nothing But Fun for themed-based weekly sessions, Neighborhood Adventure Fun and Ultimate Adventure Fun for the more active and on-the-go campers! Swimming twice per week, periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps! Registration is online. Open to campers from all communities! Come join the fun in Palo Alto!
www.paccc.com **650-493-2361**

TechKnowHow Computer

& LEGO Camps **Palo Alto/ Menlo Park/Sunnyvale**
Fun and enriching technology classes for students, ages 5-14 Courses include LEGO and K'NEX Projects with Motors, Electronics, NXT Robotics, 3D Modeling, and Game Design. Many locations, including Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Sunnyvale. Half and all day options. Early-bird and multi-session discounts available.
www.techknowhowkids.com **650-638-0500**

Theatreworks Summer Camps

Palo Alto
In these skill-building workshops for grades K-5, students engage in language-based activities, movement, music, and improvisation theatre games. Students present their own original pieces at the end of each two-week camp.
www.theatreworks.org/educationcommunity **650-463-7146**



community school of music and arts

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"Christine" by Bill Sarnoff.

OPEN STUDIOS

► Continued from page 18

She laughs with evident delight, and her long earrings swing. "People don't know what to do with these things, but they don't want to throw them away."

Lettieri probably never throws anything away. But you wouldn't know it from a peek into her space at Cubberley Studios in the Cubberley Community Center. This has got to be one of the most organized studios ever. Lettieri's treasures are neatly stored on shelves and in cupboards, drawers and plastic boxes with snap-on tops, all organized by type or subject matter.

Assemblage artists are always looking for the perfect juxtapositions of objects where art is born.

When Lettieri obtains new items — whether as gifts, at garage sales or online — she likes to group her treasures by "visual metaphors." One box is devoted to measurement: clock pieces, rulers and barometers. Others contain sand dollars and scallops, or animal bones. One is labeled simply "Pretties."

The familiar tomato pincushions fill another box. As part of her thesis at San Jose State University, where Lettieri is pursuing an MFA in sculpture, she plans to combine the pincushions into a cathedral rose window, 6 feet across, with a wooden frame. The Middle Ages meet the Victorian era, when the tomato pincushion became popular.

"For me, the pincushion is the soul of a woman," she says.

Lettieri often pays tribute to the hardworking domestic woman in her art, exploring what life was like when women couldn't have careers outside the home. She opens another box, fingering circles of hand-made lace.

"This, maybe, was the only way

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Emerson: 7/9-7/13; Hacienda: 7/23-7/27

Creative Writing—emphasizes point of view, character, setting, action, writing mechanics, and self-expression.
Emerson: 7/16-7/20; Hacienda: 7/30-8/3

Presentation Techniques—develops students' public speaking skills, with an emphasis this year on PowerPoint and poster presentations.
Emerson: 7/23-7/27; Hacienda: 7/16-7/20

Media Production—integrates writing skills into a media-based project (video, website, photos, art, music, etc.).
Emerson: 7/30-8/3; Hacienda: 8/6-8/10

HOURS: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (care available 8:00 - 6:00)
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women could express themselves. These were feats of engineering. They measured out their lives in skeins of string," she says.

It can't have been all bad, though, Lettieri muses, picking up a rolling pin. "All these pies," she says. "Think of the love that went into them."

Lettieri has played her role in the high-tech world. She previously was a graphic artist in public relations. Even now, she is in the midst of a series of assemblages commissioned by Oracle Corp. Her materials are computer parts harvested from company dumpsters and given new life as triptychs.

In a sense, Lettieri's art is all about resurrection, and her Christian faith an integral part of her creativity. In 2005, she founded Arts of the Covenant, a group of artists, art therapists and art educators who explore "the intersection of Christian faith and the visual arts." About 175 people are members, meeting at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

Besides holding lively discussions about the spiritual context of artworks, the members also hold exhibits and do community service. They have held art activities for spiritual retreats and made quilts for rape victims in an African hospital. This weekend, they plan to do free portraits at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System campus.

Several artists will also take part in Silicon Valley Open Studios, joining their comrades from the Peninsula down to Gilroy in opening up individual and group studios.

Lettieri and her Cubberley cohorts will open their doors the weekend of May 5 and 6, along with many other studios in Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford, Ladera and Sunnyvale.

The weekend of May 12-13, the event moves to the South Bay, with locations in the San Jose environs and parts farther south. On May 19-20, Open Studios

returns to the Peninsula: Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside, Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont, San Mateo and Hillsborough.

Studio visits are free, with no reservations required. Event hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday each weekend. For details, go to svos.org. ▣

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STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY



Our community — like many others — has suffered from the economic downturn over the past few years. In 2010, a Santa Clara County Health Profile Report showed the number of uninsured adults jumped 18 percent in 2009, and that nearly half the households in the county do not earn enough to be financially self-sufficient.

Ingrid is one example. She needed her school vaccinations, but her parents had no insurance to pay for them. The RotaCare Clinic gave Ingrid her physical, immunizations, and audiology testing to address a hearing deficit at no cost to her parents. Then there's 68-year-old Adele, who had been hospitalized 22 times in four years. A caseworker through Community Services Agency (CSA) helped Adele monitor her health and connected her with other community resources like RoadRunners and Meals on Wheels, also at no cost to her.

The community has contributed to these efforts to make life better for those like Ingrid and Adele. The funds that support the organizations that helped them were raised through property taxes collected by the **El Camino Hospital District** and earmarked specifically for the Community Benefits Program. The District takes our stewardship of that money seriously. For nearly 50 years, our mission at the El Camino Hospital District has been to ensure that community organizations are able to carry out their important and lifesaving work. Over the past few years, more than 30 community organizations have received nearly \$20 million in District support, driven by four simple principles: improving access to health care, ensuring the health of the community, advancing medical and health knowledge, and relieving the burden on government and other community efforts.

We have developed long-term, collaborative relationships that take on the important health issues within our community today, to serve its ever-changing needs tomorrow. In the near future, we will work closely with our partners to address issues like the obesity epidemic, access to healthy food, safe routes to school programs, tobacco cessation, and falls prevention, which have the potential to positively impact tens of thousands of community members.

Our ongoing commitment to improving the health of our community cannot happen without the help of our community members. To learn more about the organizations the El Camino Hospital District supports, please visit www.elcaminohospitaldistrict.org/CommunityBenefit.

