

Mountain View VOICE



CITY COUNCIL
RACE

Candidate
Profiles
PAGE 6

Endorsements
PAGE 18

OCTOBER 12, 2012 VOLUME 20, NO. 39

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MOVIES | 24



MICHELLE LE

A FIERY DRILL

Firefighters at NASA Ames practice techniques for putting out an aircraft fire during a dramatic three-day training on Oct. 4. The training plane, complete with propane-fueled flames, came from Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, Mich. More photos of the special training session are on page 16.

Football under the lights for MVHS

NEIGHBORS FEAR NIGHT GAME COULD SPELL TROUBLE

By Nick Veronin

Excitement and frustration were in the air Monday night, as the school board voted to allow Mountain View High School students to hold

their Oct. 26 home game against Homestead High School at night under temporary lights. The students were elated, while neighbors took a darker view.

Trustees of Mountain View-Los Altos high school district

made their decision Oct. 8 in front a near-capacity crowd gathered inside the Alta Vista High School multipurpose room.

The board meeting was moved

► See **FOOTBALL LIGHTS**, page 9

Google, others look to fix Shoreline traffic woes

By Daniel DeBolt

In a series of invitation-only meetings, proposals are being discussed for fixing traffic problems in and out of the North Bayshore office district, home to Google and Shoreline Amphitheatre.

After attending the Oct. 4 meeting organized by Sustainable Silicon Valley, Mayor Mike Kasperzak says that developers and tech companies are drafting plans for a traffic management

agency which may pay people to leave their cars at home, charge for parking and provide transit passes. It is a model used by Stanford, which has capped car traffic at 1989 levels despite expansive growth.

"A transit management agency, sort of like what they've done at Stanford, I think will happen," Kasperzak said. "They are creating a charter for the Transit Management Agency. I think the business community is anticipat-

ing that."

Kasperzak recalled a presenter at the meeting who said, "Free parking is like free pizza. If pizza were free, would there ever be enough pizza?"

Potentially adding thousands more cars to an already congested Shoreline Boulevard and Charleston Road, Google, Intuit and other tech companies are planning new office buildings

► See **SHORELINE TRAFFIC**, page 17

Cancer spike found near Superfund site

RESIDENT SUSPECTS VAPORS FROM TCE CHEMICAL COULD BE TO BLAME

By Daniel DeBolt

A study released Monday finds a historical increase in cancer among residents of northeastern Mountain View, where a large plume of TCE has contaminated the soil and groundwater for decades.

Between 1996 and 2005 the report finds nearly twice the normal rate of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a form of cancer that starts in the body's lymphatic

system and quickly spreads. The Greater Bay Area Cancer Registry studied an area east of Shoreline Boulevard and mostly north of Central Expressway, comparing rates of TCE-related cancers to that of average rates in

Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey counties. The registry found 31 cases of non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, but expected only 17.

Rates of kidney and liver cancer were examined as well, but no "statistically significant" elevation in rates was found for those cancers.

The study was done at the request of Whisman Road resident Jane Horton. She lives in one of two homes near the plume which have shown elevated levels of TCE vapors in indoor air. Airborne vapors are the biggest danger for local residents, as the contaminated groundwater is not used for drinking.

The plume is bordered by Whisman, Ellis and Middlefield roads, known as MEW, and was left behind by early computer companies, including Intel and Fairchild Semiconductor, which

used TCE as a solvent during manufacturing in the 1960s and 1970s.

"This whole thing has been such a friggin' battle, to get homes tested, to get knowledge out into the community," Horton said. "Here is another piece of knowledge that should have been out there."

Horton says that when her son was suffering from health problems she attributes to TCE, the report would have come in

'It's important for people not to panic.'

LENNY SIEGEL

handy when talking to his doctor, who said, "Oh, don't worry about it," referring to his TCE exposure.

Armed with such a report, "a doctor would put more credence in a parent concerned about a child's health," Hor-

ton said. Until the report came out, "We never had something to add to any credibility about living in a neighborhood with health risks."

According to a December 2009 EPA report, "TCE is carcinogenic to humans by all routes of exposure," and human health effects include kidney and liver cancer, lymphoma and various other reproductive, developmental and neurological effects.

Horton recalls that a device called an air stripper was used in the area to clean up the TCE until 2003, pumping groundwater to the surface so the TCE could evaporate. The *Voice* reported neighborhood concerns about a cluster of people living near the air stripper who suffered from Parkinson's disease and brain tumors. According to a can-

► See **CANCER SPIKE**, page 12

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 18 | GOINGS ON 25 | MARKETPLACE 26 | REAL ESTATE 29

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Ashley Finden

How would you react if PBS lost its federal funding?



"I would definitely be pretty upset. I think it would be a huge loss to everyone. It's really a pretty clean, low commercial overhead way to get a lot of good information on a wide variety of topics."

Stephen Williams, San Jose.



"I don't agree with it because PBS is very educational. And I like the program because I also enjoy watching it."

Ann Simeona, Mountain View.



"I think PBS is a good thing and I think the public should support it in the form of government money. PBS provides opportunity for the little people, the small film-makers to get their stuff out."

Thomas Howell, Palo Alto.



"I think I would be heartbroken and scared for American youth if PBS were to lose federal funding. I think it's a horrible idea."

Emily Chamberlin, Mountain View.



"I think PBS is an anachronism from a day gone by for our communication medium. It's not very cost-efficient for the type of communication any more that these type of shows provides to us. It's easily and readily available online."

Colin Moore, Santa Clara.

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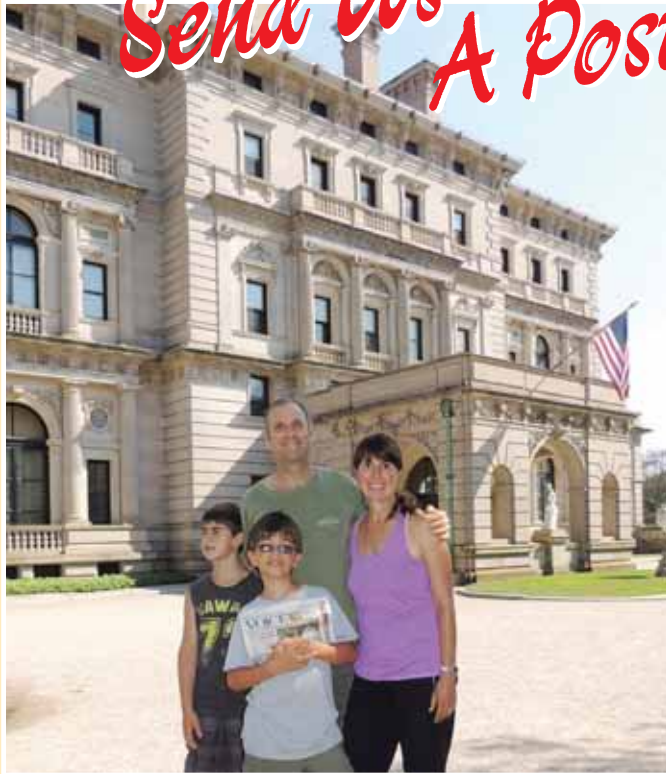


Photo of Paul, Lisa, Josh and Aidan Gefken at the "Breakers" in Newport RI, one of the former summer homes of the Vanderbilt family.

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

CRIME BRIEFS

PEDESTRIAN HIT BY CAR

A 26-year-old woman was hit by a car while attempting to cross Moffett Boulevard on Oct. 3 at about 5:30 p.m., police said. She was not severely injured but complained of pain.

The woman was hit by a driver turning from left from Central Avenue onto Moffett, according to Sgt. Sean Thompson, public information officer for the Mountain View Police Department.

The woman had the right of way, Thompson said, and the driver of the car failed to yield. Neither drugs nor alcohol were a factor in the collision, he said.

BANK ROBBERY

A man disguised in a wig stole an undisclosed amount of money from the California Bank and Trust on W. El Camino Real near Castro Street on the afternoon of Oct. 5, police said.

According to Sgt. Sean Thompson, public information officer for the Mountain View Police Department, 911 operators received a call at 2:19 p.m. that a black man wearing a long-haired wig waited in line at the bank, and when he got to the front of the line, vaulted

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 13

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

800 block Leong Dr., 10/2
1 block Devonshire Av., 10/3
500 block Escuela Av., 10/3
1600 block Alison Av., 10/8
1100 block Castro St., 10/8

1900 block Limetree Ln., 10/3
400 block Clyde Av., 10/3
200 block Escuela Av., 10/5
1200 block Lane Av., 10/6

STOLEN VEHICLE

1 block E. Middlefield Rd., 10/3
500 block Walker Dr., 10/4
2600 block California St., 10/5
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 10/5
200 block Castro St., 10/6

BATTERY

300 block Moffett Bl., 10/3
500 block Showers Dr., 10/7

ARSON

500 block Castro St., 10/5

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

900 block Barbara Av., 10/2
1900 block Latham St., 10/3

GRAND THEFT

Central Exp. & N Rengstorff Av., 10/5
1600 block Villa St., 10/5
200 block Castro St., 10/6

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pack

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ea

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lb

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ea

Hikari Organic Miso (red/white/mild sodium) 17.6 oz

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ea

2 for \$7

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Previously Frozen

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Photo: Marc Silber

New book sheds light on city's earliest buildings

'THEN AND NOW' SERIES SHOWS OLD TOWN IN THE 1800S

By Daniel DeBolt

A new book by Mountain View historian Nick Perry gives a sense of place to the city's history, including an area that was once the center of town, but is now completely erased from the landscape.

The Mountain View edition of Arcadia Publishing's "Then and Now" series, which goes on sale Oct. 8, starts off with a chapter on "the lost old town," a stretch of El Camino Real between Calderon Avenue and Stevens Creek that was the town's main street in its early days.

"That chapter really inspired me to do the book," Perry said. "A lot of people don't even know there is a Mountain View older than downtown. Even I didn't quite really get where that was."

In the 1800s — before the railroad fueled development of Castro Street — the stretch of El Camino Real was home to a hotel, a saloon, a blacksmith shop, a general store, the first location of St. Joseph Church, and numerous homes. It was also the site of the "Highway School"

which existed at the corner of Calderon Avenue and El Camino Real where the "Two Worlds" mixed-use development now stands. Each historic photo of a building is shown with a picture of what's there now, taken from the same location and angle.

"The ability to compare a historic photo from over a century ago of an old saloon or hotel with a modern day image of a fast-food restaurant or car dealership really made the original settlement seem more real," Perry said, adding that he hopes it will help readers picture what that area was like when Mountain View was a brand-new settlement.

Perry says the chapter on North Bayshore was similar in that nothing much exists anymore from its early days where there was little but farms, homes and a shipping port.

"It was kind of like solving a mystery to figure out where some of the old photos were taken," Perry said of North Bayshore. "Other than the Rengstorff House, not much is there from its pre-Silicon Valley days. But I was able to use old maps



COURTESY ARCADIA PUBLISHING

Mancini Motors stood at the corner of El Camino Real and Castro Street, before being replaced by a Chase Bank.



and aerial photos to figure out where places like the Whisman School, Crittenden House, Huff House, and other interesting old structures used to stand."

Perry had become familiar with many historical images of the city when writing another pictorial history of Mountain View for Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series.

"Then and Now" was more

difficult than the other book, he said. "In addition to having to pick interesting historical photos, you also have to know what is there now and make sure there is an interesting story to tell," Perry said.

Among his favorite chapters is one on the city's post-war building boom, which includes pictures of Fairchild Semiconductor with 1950s cars in the parking lot,

► See **HISTORIC**, page 14

El Camino spends big bucks to defeat salary cap

By Nick Veronin

A group opposing Measure M — the upcoming initiative to cap executive pay at El Camino Hospital — is greatly outpacing proponents of the measure, who appear to have spent little or no money promoting their cause.

The Los Altos-based anti-M campaign, which goes by the name Citizens for Responsible Health Care, has collected more

than \$200,000 in campaign contributions and spent close to \$134,000 on legal services, public affairs consultants, campaign literature and print advertisements in an effort to defeat the measure, according to campaign expenditure reports filed with the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters office.

The majority of the money raised came from El Camino Hospital itself, with two contributions totaling \$149,000. An additional

\$49,000 came from two donations by the California Hospitals Committee on Issues, an organization affiliated with the California Hospitals Association that takes positions on ballot initiatives.

As of press time, the registrar's office had no record of any money raised or spent in favor of the measure, and several leading Measure M advocates either did not respond to requests for comment or could not say whether any money had been spent in

support of the initiative, which proposes limiting all salaries at El Camino Hospital to no more than twice the salary of California's governor.

Gov. Jerry Brown currently makes \$173,987 annually. Twice his salary — \$347,974 — is still less than half of the \$714,460 that El Camino's current CEO, Tomi Ryba, is projected to make in 2013.

According to Citizens for Responsible Health Care's report,

filed with the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Office for the period of Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, the committee has taken in \$198,000 in cash contributions and \$5,524 in "non-monetary" contributions, for a total of \$203,524. Additionally, the committee has charged \$11,270 in debts while running its campaign.

The campaign's biggest reported expenditures were paid to

► See **SALARY CAP**, page 8

Pear Theatre looks to Kickstarter for upgrades

By Nick Veronin

In need of new lighting and sound equipment, Pear Theatre officials have tapped into the popular new trend of crowd-sourcing capital. A little more than one week after asking for funding, the theater company is about \$800 shy of the \$8,000 needed to finance the purchase of the new gear — all thanks to

patron donations.

The theater was able to amass the donations in such short order thanks to Kickstarter, a social media site, which allows users to collect pledges of money for a specific project. In the case of the Pear, the goal was \$8,000, which would be used to install new lights, purchase new lighting and sound equipment and perhaps

buy a portable restroom to help cut down on lines at the facilities during intermission.

"I'm amazed," Pear Artistic Director Diane Tasca said of the campaign, which was launched on Sept. 25 and ends Oct. 30. Just one week into fund-raising drive, the theater had accrued \$7,132. "It's very heartening to see the support that's come out, and I

know there's more coming."

In a Kickstarter campaign, people pledge money via credit card, but they are not charged until the campaign reaches its goal. If a project's goal is not reached by the time the campaign ends, the money is returned and the group asking for the money has to start a new campaign or give up. If the goal is met, however, an unlimited number of pledges may be accepted.

Should the campaign maintain its current momentum, the Pear may exceed the amount it set out to collect.

"We would certainly love to see that," Tasca said.

According to Tasca, the Pear is in dire need of new lighting and sound equipment. "We have a real hodgepodge of lights that were donated to us — old theaters were redoing their lights,

► See **PEAR THEATRE**, page 17

Six council candidates vie for four seats

LOSS OF MEANS, MACIAS OPENS AT LEAST TWO SEATS FOR NEWCOMERS

By Daniel DeBolt

In an election that could dramatically change the makeup of the City Council, six candidates are hoping to win one of four seats.

Incumbents Mike Kasperzak and John Inks are running against Margaret Capriles, Jim Neal, John McAlister and Chris Clark. McAlister and Clark are both planning commissioners who are running again after unsuccessful bids in 2008.

In interviews with the *Voice*, each candidate responded to a list of issues, including a potential ban on new drive-through lanes on El Camino Real, traffic in North Bayshore, the challenge of making the city more bikeable and walkable and the possibility of a new deal with local schools to share property tax revenues from the Shoreline Tax District. The Shoreline district is an unusual arrangement created by state legislation which gives the city a near-monopoly on property taxes from North Bayshore companies like Google.

When the dust clears after the Nov. 6 election, at least two new council members will take the council dais. Laura Macias and Tom Means will term out at the end of 2012 after eight years on the council.

All of the candidates have pledged to not spend more than the city's voluntary campaign expenditure limit of \$21,388.

John Inks

Age: 59
Party: Libertarian
Neighborhood: San Antonio
Occupation: Retired engineer (Lockheed)
Web site: www.electinks.com
Campaign funds raised: \$11,099
Notable campaign contributions: \$1,000 from the California Real Estate PAC, \$500 from Los Altos real estate firm Denardi Group, \$250 from property owner Charles Gardyn, \$500 from the Mountain View Housing Council, \$686.27 from real estate broker Donald Bahl and \$250 from apartment management firm Woodmont Real Estate Services.



John Inks

Running for re-election, retired aerospace engineer and Vice Mayor John Inks says that maintaining a balanced city budget is a top issue for him. It should be done with "economic growth as opposed to new fees" on business. "It is pretty expensive to deal with the city right now."

Inks says he reads the Shoreline West neighborhood email list discussions about pedestrian deaths and says the solution may

be "somewhere in between" what he calls "revolutionary ideas like road diets — narrowing California Street, or what is basic traffic engineering."

To fix traffic issues in North Bayshore, he said it probably make sense to have "some kind of traffic demand management, like what they have at Stanford."

Even though Inks voted for a deal in 2011 to share \$13.6 million in Shoreline tax district revenues with local schools over three years, he said "to tell the truth, I'm probably a little more biased towards making sure the city's interests are protected." He noted that he might distrust assurances that sharing more of the funds wouldn't hurt the city's obligations to care for the landfill under Shoreline Park. "Five to 10 years from now I just want to make sure the Shoreline Fund is solid."

Inks is a major opponent of the city's affordable housing program, saying he would only support it if "the tax base was broader" instead of basing it on fees paid by developers. Instead, he said affordable housing could be built without subsidies if developers were allowed to build cheaper and denser projects. "It is probably not the sort of structure you see right now," he said.

A moratorium on drive-through lanes at restaurants isn't something Inks would support, saying it was adequate for the zoning administrator to put proposals "through the ringer." "I don't see anything wrong with having drive-throughs themselves."

Margaret Capriles

Age: 69
Neighborhood: Varsity Park
Political affiliation: moderate Democrat
Job: data quality consultant
Web site: margaretcapriles.com
Campaign funds raised so far: \$11,407
Notable campaign contributions: \$2,000 from the Mountain View Firefighters Association, \$500 from the California Apartment Association, \$500 from the Mountain View Housing Council and \$600 in food from Chef Chu's.



Margaret Capriles

While Capriles doesn't have any experience on a city commission, she says she brings the perspective of a resident of over 40 years, a mother of four children and someone who has served on the boards of the local YMCA, Leadership Mountain View and El Camino Hospital's Hope 2 Health Initiative. "My passion is getting people to work together" after a 27-year career at Hewlett Packard which involved

getting people around the world to create and implement data management systems.

Unlike the other candidates, Capriles is unequivocal in her opposition to drive-throughs on El Camino Real, supporting a moratorium being discussed by the City Council. "We have enough, thank you very much," Capriles said, noting the negative environmental effects of such car-oriented development on El Camino Real.

Expressing interest in streets that favor alternatives to car travel, "I'd love to be able to get to some shopping centers without having to drive. The hard problem is that ... we built this area's infrastructure for cars."

A top concern is the large amount of development going on in the city and how it can be made to fit the surrounding neighborhood. In a recent debate she said she would support a new eight-story building at San Antonio shopping center if it were put in the right spot.

"I definitely support what we can with the schools," she said about an ongoing effort to share Shoreline tax district revenues with schools. "What we want to do is make sure we've got a good solid balance" to pay for items like landfill maintenance and transportation infrastructure north of Highway 101.

To fix traffic as Google makes room for thousands of new jobs, Capriles said the bottom line is to "get rid of the cars" and build on the private shuttle services already in use. "I think this is an opportunity to work together with Google as a partner." She mentioned the idea of building a new transit hub north of Highway 101. Capriles opposes housing in North Bayshore because of its potential impact on wildlife in Shoreline Park.

To balance the city's books, she wants to continue to seek creative solutions from city employees who have suggested recent measures used to contain the growth of their compensation costs. She's open to raising fees, but wants to remain competitive in attracting businesses to the city.

Chris Clark

Age: 29
Party: Democrat
Neighborhood: Cuesta Park
Occupation: Senior operations manager (Loopt)
Web site: www.electchrisclark.org
Funds raised: \$19,979
Notable campaign contributions: \$12,000 in loans from himself, \$2,000 from the Mountain View Firefighters, \$2,000 from software consultant Nicholas Sivo, \$1,000 from the California Real Estate PAC, \$500 from the Mountain View housing council, \$500 from the California Apartment Association.

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Mountain View Whisman school board

Note: Chris Chiang is one of five candidates running for the Mountain View Whisman School Board. His profile was mistakenly omitted from the print edition of last week's Voter Guide story. The Voice regrets the error.

By Nick Veronin

Christopher Chiang is a teacher who is married to a teacher. He's lived in Mountain View for six years and taught for eight years, was named teacher of the year at Monte Vista High School in 2010 and has a passion for progressive educational methods.



Chris Chiang

A "workaholic," Chiang said he spends the majority of his non-working hours with his wife and 2-year-old daughter or reading.

Although he works as a sixth-grade social studies teacher at Sacred Heart School in Atherton, Chiang said he plans to send his daughter to either Castro or Bubb (he lives on the border between the two school's boundary lines).

After losing his bid for the state Senate in June, Chiang decided he might be more effective in affecting change if he started closer to home, by running for the Mountain View Whisman board. If elected, he said he would challenge the board to consider reforming the way the district is run.

"Right now, it is my opinion that the school district, and the state in general, still focuses too much on standardized testing," he said, noting that there are candidates running for the board with strong community relationships and strong business relationships. "I felt there needed to be somebody who has a mind for education reform."

Chiang said he believes there is a disconnect between teachers who want to push public education into the 21st Century and policy makers — both in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. — who are stuck in the outdated 20th Century model of passive learning. Learning multiplication tables and studying history is important, he said, but schools need to be engaging students in hands-on learning, using computers and developing real-world skills.

"We are undermining our kids' future if we are teaching them to only do rote memorization," he said. "If all they can do is repeat what is on a standardized test, we aren't preparing them for today's economy."

Chiang said he is prepared to push the district to move away from old modes of teaching — not only to improve the education of students attending district schools, but in the hope that Mountain View might be a leader in the world of education.

"Policy makers need to see school districts experimenting," he said. "We're in a perfect place to really show that there is good policy that isn't happening in Sacramento."

To help low-income and English-learning students, Chiang suggested more after-school programs that work with students as well as family and other community members. Castro Elementary, he noted, has already been doing this with some success, but he said it ought to be more widespread and rigorous.

Chiang proposes tracking more than just standardized test scores — polling students, parents and teachers about what they like about their schools and what could be improved, as well as measuring critical thinking and problem-solving in students.

"I want to start the conversation about new metrics," Chiang said.

The district already conducts surveys of parent opinion. By expanding upon this collection of data and compiling the results in a way that is easy to understand, the community would be able to learn more about a school than simply whether it has a high or low API (academic performance index score), he said. "If all we give to home-buyers and all we give to parents is the API, then they don't have all the information we are collecting."

He said he would advocate for programs that would give financial incentives to teachers who pursue the administrative track. "I really believe we should be proactively going to our teachers and saying, 'We need you to be a principal and we will pay you to go to school.'"

If there isn't state money to support it, he would pursue asking local companies to help foot the bill — a cost he thinks firms like Google and LinkedIn would be willing to help cover, since they will ultimately benefit from better schools with better employees.

In addition to running for the school board, he started the MVW21: Mountain View Whisman School Study Group — a series of privately run seminars designed to help prospective "board candidates and school supporters develop a vision for Mountain View Schools for the 21st century," according to the website, mvw21.org. "This is not an official policy-setting organization, but an open space to exchange new ideas."

Age: 31

Occupation: Social Studies Teacher (Sixth Grade), Sacred Heart School, Atherton

Education: BA in Political Science, UC Irvine; MA in Teaching from Stanford University; MA in Educational Leadership, Columbia University

Neighborhood: Shoreline West

Website: www.whychris.org

Assembly race: Software engineer challenges legislative veteran

By Renee Batti

The incumbent served three terms as a San Mateo County supervisor before being sent two years ago to Sacramento, where his record suggests he knows how to find bipartisan support for his bills. And, he's a Democrat in a heavily Democratic district.

The Republican challenger has held no elective office, but served for a time as chair of the San Bruno Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee.

It's not hard to see how this race will go.

Rich Gordon of Menlo Park is asking voters to return him to Sacramento next year to represent residents in District 24. He now represents District 21, but redistricting has altered boundaries, and areas of the Midpeninsula that he's represented since December 2010, including his hometown, are now in District 24.

In addition to Menlo Park, the newly reconfigured district includes Mountain View, Palo

Alto, Los Altos Hills, Sunnyvale, Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley and most of the San Mateo County coastside from El Granada south.

Challenger Chengzhi "George" Yang of Menlo Park, a software engineer, has criticized Gordon for "not listening to the people of the district," especially on topics such as high-speed rail. "My mission is to really listen to people and hear what they want

► See **ASSEMBLY RACE**, page 8

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Jose Vargas arrested in Minnesota

By Andrea Gemmet

Jose Antonio Vargas, the Mountain View High School grad and immigration reform advocate, was arrested Friday and cited for driving without a valid license.

Vargas was arrested in Hennepin County by the Minnesota State Patrol, according to the MinnPost in Minneapolis. Born in the Philippines, he came to California as a child and didn't learn he was undocumented until he tried to get a driver's license at age 16. A Pulitzer Prize-winning

journalist, he gained national prominence with his article about life as an undocumented immigrant for the New York Times Magazine.

"His arrest here on a traffic violation is newsworthy because the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, which operates the county jail, participates in Secure Communities, a Bush administration initiative to secure local law enforcement cooperation in reporting undocumented immigrants to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials," according to the Min-

nPost.

Vargas quit his job at the Washington Post last year to start the nonprofit Define American, which seeks to elevate the discussion about immigration in the U.S. He was reportedly headed to Carlton College, where he was scheduled to speak.

He wrote that he was able to get a valid Oregon driver's license after his California license expired in 2011.

While in high school, Vargas got his start in journalism as a newsroom intern for the Mountain View Voice. ▀

ASSEMBLY RACE

► Continued from page 7

to see changed in Sacramento," he said.

During his tenure in Sacramento, Gordon introduced 35 bills, with 26 signed into law. The 74 percent success rate is the highest in the Assembly, he noted.

Among the bills he pushed through this year is AB 481, which was signed by the governor in September. The bill, which was supported by the Fair Political Practices Commission, requires greater transparency for campaign spending by independent committees that are not controlled by a candidate.

The bill was needed, Gordon said, because committees run ads and create campaign literature with no identification of who's paying for it. AB 481 requires "identification of who's behind the ad, and more (and more timely) reporting to the FPPC." It will make it "far easier for the FPPC and others to track spending," he said.

Another component is the requirement that committees identify a person who would be accountable to the FPPC after the election. "Many of these committees right after an election go out of business — they disappear," Gordon said. "That's when a lot of violations are found ... but who do you contact? The entity no longer exists."

Any change to FPPC law requires a two-thirds vote, Mr. Gordon noted, adding that it made his ability to achieve bipartisan support for his bills all the more critical.

Asked for other highlights of his term, Gordon points to a bill he wrote that was signed into law that created financial incentives for California companies to remanufacture the plastic recyclables that are typically being shipped overseas — a jobs-boosting and environmentally superior strategy to deal with plastics — and another aimed at reducing fraud in recycling, which has been costing the state millions of dollars, he said.

Gordon, who had been chairing a budget subcommittee in the Assembly, was appointed chair of the Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee last summer.

He has yet to decide on bills he would introduce during a second term, but noted that the "areas I have great interest in" are the environment and education. In the latter category, "I remain very concerned with inequity of funding in school districts, and the high drop-out rate."

Yang also lists education as one of his top two concerns, the state budget being the other.

Of his inexperience in elective office, Yang said that as an engineer by training, he is a problem-solver and innovative thinker. He also said his strong skills as a negotiator would make him an effective legislator who could find bipartisan support.

He has floated ideas about job creation, such as promoting ecotourism in the state's areas of innovative sustainable and organic farming. "There are great organic farms in Half Moon Bay, for example," he said.

He also has introduced his

own visions for pension reform and for the state's planned high-speed rail system. His rail plan would route the train along the Altamont Pass, create a spur into Oakland, and boost ferry service to link the North Bay, San Francisco and the Peninsula to the Oakland hub.

An Altamont route is supported by many on the Peninsula, who have fought the current plan to route the train along the Caltrain right-of-way into San Francisco.

Yang criticizes Gordon for a July vote with the Assembly majority on a high-speed rail funding bill. He said the bill includes only a small amount of money for the electrification of Caltrains — a carrot for the Peninsula — with "no guarantee that it won't be built with four tracks."

Gordon dismissed the criticism, and said there was a lot of misinformation reported in the media about the vote. The bill he voted for, he said, funded only ancillary components of the rail plan, but no high-speed rail construction.

Those components are: electrification of Caltrain, modernization of the rail service between Los Angeles and Anaheim, new tracks in the Central Valley that will be used solely by Amtrak if high-speed rail isn't built, and funding for rapid transit systems across the state.

"There's actually no high-speed rail activity in any of those projects," he said. ▀

Renee Batti is the news editor for the Almanac, the Voice's sister paper.

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- Community Commitment** – Schools, PTA/Site Council, Youth Sports Coach, Rotary Member
- Education** – UC Berkeley, BS Business Administration
- 55 Year Resident**

#5 ON BALLOT

ENDORSEMENTS:

Elected Officials:

Jerry Hill - State Assembly
Paul Fong - Assemblyman District 22
Rich Gordon - Assemblyman District 21

Former Mayors of Mountain View

- Jim Cochran, Nick Galiotto, Lara Macias, Matt Pear, Art Takahara
School Board Trustees - Fiona Walter, Ellen Wheeler, Philip Palmer, Joe Mitchner, Bill Cooper

Community Leaders:

Lisa Maticchak - Vice Chair of Environmental Planning Commission
Dr. Barry Groves - Superintendent MVLAS
Bob & Lois Adams
Juan Aranda
Don Bahl
Laura Blakey - Vice President of MVLAF Foundation
Nathan Barreras
Betty Bell
Laura Brown - Former Chair of Environmental Planning Commission
Robert Brown
Robert Chang - Former Member, Environmental Planning Commission
Robert Cox
Chris & Mary Dateo - Director Netgain
Marilu Delgado - Director Community Action Team
Ed & Robyn Del Fierro

(Community Leaders continued)

Rada & Jack Ford
Jean Newton Fraguiglia & Steve Fraguiglia
Dr. Sam Pesner
Phil Pellerin
Marie George
Richard-Dick-Henning - Founder Celebrity Forum
Dale Kuersten
Bob Weaver - Former Chair, Environmental Planning Commission
Elna Tymes - Seniors Advocate
Wyatt Allen
Dennis Young - CPA
Jamil Shaikh - Human Relations Commissioner
Eric Windes

Organizations:

Mountain View Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Club
Silicon Valley Association of Realtors
Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters
DAWN - Democratic Activists for Women Now
Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club
Democratic Party - Santa Clara County
Mountain View Housing Council
Mountain View Professional Fire Fighters

To learn more about John McAlister or donate, go to

www.JohnMcAlister.org

Paid for by John McAlister for City Council 2012 FPPC#1309928

SALARY CAP

► Continued from page 5

Competitive Edge, a San Diego-based research and communication firm, which received payments of around \$37,750 for polling and survey research; BergDavis Public Affairs, a San Francisco-based PR firm, which

received payments of about \$25,000 for public relations services; and Meridian Pacific, Inc., which was paid about \$24,350 for campaign literature and mailings.

Other big-ticket items included website design, campaign paraphernalia and legal services.

Although a pro-M web address

appears under the "Arguments for Measure M" section on the SmartVoter.org website, it seems that no site was ever built; those who click on the hyperlinked URL EICaminoExecPayCap.org will be taken to a mostly blank GoDaddy.com page, which asks whether the visitor wishes to purchase the domain. ▀

FOOTBALL LIGHTS

► Continued from page 1

to Alta Vista to accommodate the large crowd of students, parents and other community members — some in favor of hosting a night game and some against.

Those in favor argued that it would be great for school spirit, saying the event would not cost the district more than a regular daytime game because all additional costs are being covered by the MVHS Athletic Boosters and other sponsors. Proponents said that the district would likely make money on additional ticket and concession sales.

“I’m stoked,” Dean Trammell, an MVHS junior, said after the board voted.

Neighbors worry

Those opposed to the idea — mostly neighbors living around the school’s perimeter — said they worried about noise, light pollution, traffic, drug and alcohol use (of teens and adults alike), and general hooliganism. Some worried that there is a hidden agenda to eventually open the door to more night games in the future and install permanent lights on the school’s football field.

“We have no voice whatsoever with the school district,” said Victor, whose home abuts the school. He asked that his last name not be used for fear that vindictive teens might vandalize his home.

“They do what they want,” he said of the school board. “It was preordained as a railroad job. They made a publicized comment that they wanted neighbor

involvement, but they didn’t listen, they just do what they want.”

The same arguments were heard at the Oct. 3 community forum in the the Alta Vista multipurpose room. That discussion was heated but civil. The Oct. 8 gathering was decidedly more heated, and there was at least one argument between two men.

Community meeting

“The point of doing this game is to build school spirit,” JJ Kapp said at the Oct. 3 meeting.

Kapp is vice president of the MVHS Athletic Boosters Club and parent of a sophomore. The school’s sports teams have all been improving, advancing further in the season and participation is up in certain athletic activities, he told the room. “Now the time is right to build school spirit.”

After the Oct. 3 meeting, Martin VanRyswyk said that he felt the Athletic Boosters were trying to pull a quarterback sneak with the proposal. “It’s a strategy,” VanRyswyk said, recalling that the boosters were “chastised” once already by the MVLA board of trustees for not including the community in their planing for this night game. So they are holding a “perfunctory meeting,” and hoping they can “ram” the proposal through at the upcoming board meeting, he charged.

“We’re not trying to ‘ram’ anything through,” Kapp responded to VanRyswyk’s charge.

The reason his group has been working so rapidly, Kapp said, is that the school year has only recently begun and the boosters

simply want the students and the community to be able to rally around the team — not to mention the cheerleaders, the band and the dance squad who are also slated to perform at the event.

At the meeting two community members who addressed the board said they had seen a petition floating around that called for the eventual installation of permanent lights on the campus.

Many of the school board members said they wished the Boosters had done a better job including the community in the discussions. Several of them reminded the Boosters that they had been instructed at the Sept. 24 board meeting to include the entire community in the Oct. 3 community forum — by Kapp’s own admission, only the homes closest to the perimeter of the school received fliers about the community forum

“I’m disappointed that the community was not involved sooner and more thoroughly,” Phil Faillace, president of the MVLA district board said.

But the board still approved the night game — emphasizing that it is only one game, that there are no plans for any other night games this season, and that there are no plans to erect permanent lights on the MVHS football field.

Joseph Florez, a senior on the football team, and his younger sister, Angelica, were elated.

“Words can’t describe how I feel right now,” Joseph said.

“I was extremely happy,” Angelica chimed in. “I’ll get to cheer with my brother at the night game.” ▽

Correction

Jim Pollart is the vice president of acquisition and development for the Irvine Company. His candidate profile in last week’s Voter Guide story on the Mountain View Whisman School District listed his former job as vice president of land acquisition and forward planning at O’Brien Homes.

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COUNCIL RACE

► Continued from page 6

After gaining experience on the Human Relations Commission for two years and the Environmental Planning Commission for another two, Clark is taking a second shot at the council election. The Stanford graduate says the commission experience has been critical, and “reinforced that I’d like to serve at the council level.”



Chris Clark

At 29, he’s the youngest candidate. And he may also be the city’s first openly gay council member. “You don’t want council made up of a bunch of young folks,” he says. “You want at least one person on council to represent that perspective.”

He said that his generation of young workers “are getting out of their cars,” referring to a surge in bicycling among the city’s commuters. “We really need to take a second look at how we are planning things. Mountain View has a strong bicycle and pedestrian committee. We need to work more with them.”

To fix traffic problems from increased office development north of Highway 101, Clark said he was eager to see a “menu of options” in an anticipated transportation study. “I’m open to anything from a community shuttle to bike and pedestrian overpasses to a pod car system or something along those lines. Mountain View should make a statement and do something really innovative.”

Paying for such innovation should take precedent over the campaign to share more Shoreline tax district revenue with local schools. “That should be the first priority for those funds,” Clark said. “I’m not sure whether an increased percentage” of the tax revenue for schools makes sense, he said, adding that the city needed to determine its financial obligations for Shoreline.

Clark says the city has “done a pretty good job over the last four years” to balance its budget. He applauded unions for sharing the cost of pension increases and said it makes no sense to “kick the can down the road” with unaffordable employee compensation increases. He also opposes balancing the city’s budget with higher fees on small businesses. He says voters may have to approve a sales tax increase soon, because after years of cuts, “I’m

not sure how much leaner you can get at city hall.”

As for talk of banning new drive-throughs, Clark says “moratoriums are a really big deal. There has to be absolutely no public benefit. Fast food is one thing, I understand the opposition to that. But there are other valid uses for drive throughs. A pharmacy is one.”

Michael Kasperzak

Age: 59
Party: Democrat
Neighborhood: Gemello
Occupation: Mediator
Web site: www.kasperzak.org
Campaign funds raised: \$13,848
Notable campaign contributions: \$250 from apartment management firm Woodmont Real Estate Services, \$500 from California Real Estate PAC Silicon Valley, \$200 from property owner Roger Kao, \$250 from MGP IX Properties.

If re-elected, Mayor Mike Kasperzak will be among the few residents to have served two eight year stints on the City Council.

“I’m running because I do think experience on the council is important,” Kasperzak said. “It takes a while to get to understand the real issues.”



Michael Kasperzak

Kasperzak says he brings to the table “pragmatism, objectivity, creativity and willingness to look at new things,” including the possibility of having paid parking in downtown, an idea about which he says there are many myths — the idea that free parking is really free or that it would drive people away. If parking had a cost for drivers, “maybe people would come to downtown Mountain View because they could find parking,” he says.

Kasperzak appears more open to new ideas for making bicycling and walking safer. “Streets like California and Rengstorff were designed in an era when cars were presumed to be the future,” he says. “I think we’re stepping back from that.” He’s also been an advocate of personal rapid transit to connect Google to downtown, calling himself the “pod car mayor.” He says it would even work for El Camino Real better than dedicated bus rapid transit lanes.

In response to concerns that the city is not sharing enough of Shoreline property taxes from Google and others, Kasperzak said that historically, no one anticipated the wealth of North Bayshore and the effects of Proposition 13 on schools. “My belief is the schools should share to at least a better degree,” he said.

Kasperzak was hesitant to say he would be for or against a moratorium on drive-through restaurants on El Camino Real. “As we go towards a more pedestrian-, bicycle- and public transit-oriented system and as we focus on more on wellness and physical activity, I think drive-throughs are not in keeping with that.”

John McAlister

Age: 60
Party: Democrat
Neighborhood: Waverly Park
Occupation: Business owner (Baskin Robbins)
Web site: www.johnmcAlister.org
Campaign funds raised: \$10,011
Notable campaign contributions: \$5000 loan from himself, \$1,000 from the California Real Estate PAC, \$100 from Robert Cox, \$100 from Councilman Jac Siegel, \$500 from the Mountain View Housing Council and \$500 from the California Apartment Association.

After barely losing in 2008’s City Council election, John McAlister served four years on the city’s environmental planning commission before deciding to run a second time.

“The reason I’m running is I have deep roots in Mountain View,” McAlister said. “I’ve lived here 55 years, raised a family here, run a business here and been involved with youth programs.” He notes his experience getting city permits to remodel his house, serving on PTA boards and being a youth sports coach among numerous experiences that qualify him for the job.

McAlister said “We should give as much as we can,” from the city’s Shoreline tax district to local schools “without putting the city into financial concerns.” Increasing enrollment could mean the district would lose revenue from its lease of Slater, Cooper and Whisman school campuses if one had to be re-opened. “When my kids were at school over 250 kids (were) at



John McAlister

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Supervisor Liz Kniss

MIKE'S ENDOREMENTS (Partial List)

Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters	Carol Fisher (Former) Trustee, Mountain View Whisman School District
Silicon Valley Association of Realtors	Bill Cooper
The Sierra Club	Margot Harrigan (Former) Trustee, Los Altos School District
Mountain View Chamber of Commerce	Nick Galitto
Organizational endorsements for the 2012 City Council election are currently underway.	Matt Pear
Public Officials	Matt Neely
Congresswoman Anna Eshoo	Pat Figueroa
Senator Joe Simitian	Jim Cochran
Assembly Member Paul Fang	Former Mayors
Assembly Member Jerry Hill	Nancy Noe
Assembly Member Rich Gordon	Former Vice Mayor
Assembly Member Jim Beall	Rachel Grossman
Supervisor Liz Kniss	Paul Lesti (Former)
Larry Stone, Assessor	Pat Showalter (Former) Planning Commissioners
John Zaglin	Phyllis Bismanovsky (Former) Library Board of Trustee
Director, El Camino Hospital District	Helen Walter
Brian Schmidt	Gary Griffith
Patrick Kwok	Ed Mussman II (Former) Parks and Recreation Commissioners
Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District	Ken Rosenberg
Bruce Swenson	Jamil Shaikh
Betsy Bechtel	Betsy Collard (Former) Human Relations Commissioners
Laura Casas Frier	Raymond Chan, Chair
Hal Platkin (Former)	Patricia Cheng (Former)
Trustee, Foothill-De Anza Community College District	Leroy A. Mattis (Former) Performing Arts Committee
Judy Hannemann	Rick Meyer
Trustee, Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District	Kim Copher
Steve Olson	Nathan Barreras
Fiona Walter	Julia Lu
Ellen Wheeler	Downtown Committee
Gloria Higgins (Former)	

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

MY PRIORITIES ARE:

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

Dina Chettye (Former Chair) Visual Arts Committee	Barry Groves Superintendent, MVLA High School District	Stephen Gazzera Paul Lynch Larry Sokoloff Carla Paul Robert Chang Alison Hicks Twana Karney Mike Couch David Ginsberg Jim Geers Rich Strock Marilyn Manning Susan Burwen Roy Minor Alice Smith Jean Coblenz Jean Mordo Sev Daudert
Marc Roddin Leslie Train Bruce England John D. Carpenter (Former) Barry Jay Burr (Former) Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee	Carol Olson Former CEO, Chamber of Commerce Mountain View	
Elna Tymes Roger Petersen Pam Conlon-Sandhu Senior Advisory Committee	Kathy Thibodeaux Former President, Mountain View Educational Foundation	
Bruce Karney (Former) Mountain View Environmental Sustainability Task Force	Community Leaders Shana Nelson Sherril Sager Katie Zaglin Susan Frank Ted Kim Heidi Chun	

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McAlister has often questioned the need for high-density development, and goes against the current trend among urban planners as he calls for adequate parking in developments, which he says will also keep streets clear for bicyclists. He also is not interested in making drivers pay for parking downtown, unlike Mayor Kasperzak.

As for North Bayshore, he calls for numerous options to be studied, though he says the solution will probably be a private transportation system. He has opposed housing there but says, “Let’s get transportation in and then we can see how many houses can we put in there.”

As for drive-throughs, McAlister says he would support them on a case-by-case basis. “I have a business that could potentially use a drive through,” he said. “From my perspective, yes, I think drive-throughs have a place”

Jim Neal

Age: 48

Neighborhood: Old Mountain View

Job: Information technology assistant administrator at U.C. Berkeley

Political affiliation: Independent

Web site: facebook.com/nealformountainviewcitycouncil

Campaign funds raised: \$2,725

Notable campaign contributions: \$1675 from himself, \$400 from David Stafford, Apple engineer

Neal became involved in Mountain View politics this year as a major opponent of the city’s new ban on smoking near publicly accessible buildings and the city’s proposed plastic bag ban. “Government seems to be determined to subject people to projects, laws, and regulations that they do not want or need such as High Speed Rail, telling businesses how much to charge for paper bags, and banning things based on their personal preferences.”

Despite his libertarian positions, Neal says “I am not endorsed by any special interest group and therefore do not owe anybody anything, so I will be free to represent the best interests of the people of Mountain View.”

A former business owner, homeless person and father, Neal says he has “seen firsthand what effect the wrong decisions” made by government can have.

Neal opposes the “Share Shoreline” campaign pushed



Jim Neal

by parents of local students who want the city to share more of its Shoreline tax district revenue — and Google’s lucrative property taxes — with schools. Instead, he calls for voter-approved parcel taxes and “lobbying businesses or individuals to provide additional funding as long as it is not done in a coercive manner.”

To balance the city’s budget, Neal said “revenues should not be raised,” and blamed the high cost of employee salaries, which account for over 80 percent of the city’s budget. He advocates a two-tier system “to restructure the benefits and pension plan only for any new employees” in order to cut costs.

As the City Council considers the idea, Neal opposes raising affordable housing fees on commercial development, such as that of Google, calling it a “disincentive” for businesses to locate in the city. He also opposes a moratorium on new drive-throughs in the city. “People that are disabled, elderly, have small children, or are time-constrained would be at a tremendous disadvantage.”

Email Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com





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7. Improved Support and Resources for Youth and Seniors

QUALIFICATIONS

Experience

- Planning Commissioner
- Mountain View Homeowner and Former Renter
- Executive at a small, local tech company
- Extensive Financial, Strategic Planning, and Land Use Experience

Stanford University

- B.A. In Political Science
- Minor in Economics

Community Service

- City Commissioner (4 years)
- CHAC Board Vice-Chair (4 years)

SUPPORTERS

- Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
- Assembly Members Paul Fong and Rich Gordon
- Local Public Officials and several Former Mayors
- Chamber of Commerce
- Numerous School District Trustees
- Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters
- Democratic Party
- Mountain View Firefighters
- For a complete list, visit www.ElectChrisClark.com

LEARN MORE AT: www.ElectChrisClark.com

■ COUNCIL BRIEFS

CHICK-FIL-A APPEAL

The approval of a Chick-Fil-A restaurant with a drive-through in Mountain View could be reversed on Oct. 16 if the City Council agrees with appeals filed against the administrative decision by two different groups.

The fast food chain's financial support of anti-gay rights groups has fueled one group of opponents while a group concerned with the consequences of car-oriented development has filed a second appeal.

Chick-Fil-A CEO Dan Cathy sparked outcry in July by saying the company is "guilty as charged" in opposing gay marriage. The controversy appeared to be dying down after the company's WinShape Foundation said it was pulling its financial support for such groups. But on Oct. 4, Cathy confirmed the company's support of "biblical families," stoking more protests.

The Tuesday evening meeting will be held in the City Council chambers at 500 Cas-

tro Street.

PESTICIDES IN PARKS

After residents expressed concern about chemical exposure risks, a presentation will be given on the use of pesticides in city parks on Thursday, Oct. 18.

The presentation will be given to the City Council's Environmental Sustainability Committee, chaired by council member Ronit Bryant, who said she has been concerned about the practice for years.

"With advocacy from the community, we could work on a plan to put together items such as easier-to-access information about levels of toxicity used, best practices, and goals for reductions with periodic evaluation of goal achievement," Bryant wrote in a message on the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association list serve.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the atrium conference room at City Hall.

—Daniel DeBolt

CANCER SPIKE

► Continued from page 1

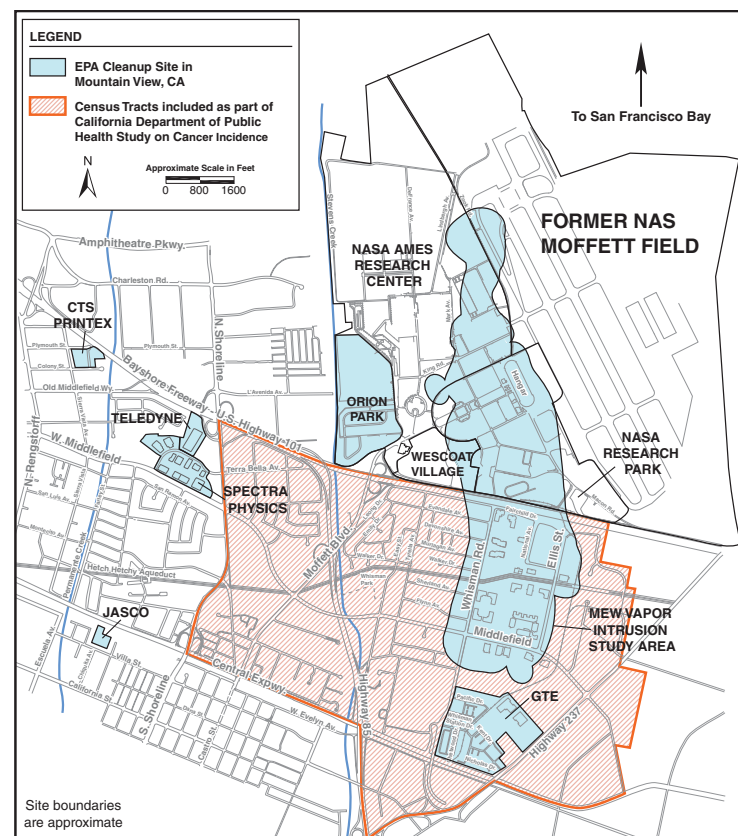
cer registry spokesperson, brain tumors are "not usually" associated with TCE.

Horton said the air around the stripper was never tested before it was removed.

"It's important for people not to panic and conclude from this study that the TCE was responsible for the increase in counted cancers," said Lenny Siegel, director of the Mountain View-based Center for Public Environmental Oversight.

"I believe that it's wrong to associate the reported non-Hodgkin lymphoma cases with the Regional TCE plume, because there was almost no known exposure," Siegel told the *Voice* via email. "It's possible that there were emissions from the unscrubbed air strippers at the MEW Superfund area before 2003, but calculations based upon groundwater concentrations suggested otherwise, and no one ever sampled for them."

Horton said she hoped for legislation that would require such studies for areas where residents may be exposed to toxics. A registry spokesperson said such



studies are not required by law but are often done at the request of citizens.

"It should be required," Horton said. "If you've got a cancer registry, what in the world are you

doing with it if you aren't looking for trends? It is time for our laws to protect us and our health." ■

Email Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

AFRICAN FILM FEST AT CSMA

The Third Annual Silicon Valley African Film Festival is returning to the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View from Oct. 12-14, bringing African culture to local residents.

In partnership with Oriki Theater, CSMA will host the festival throughout the weekend at 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View.

The opening ceremony begins Friday, Oct. 12 at 5:30 p.m. Events include workshops, a flag parade, African drum and dance performances, panel discussions, post-screening discussions with filmmakers, food and an African market.

Film screenings will begin at 11 a.m. both days. The African Diaspora Forum is Saturday evening at 4 p.m., followed by a closing awards ceremony the next day, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. There will be a combination of feature films, animations and shorts offered to viewers.

Mountain View Mayor Mike Kasperzak will be attending the opening ceremony and presenting a proclamation declaring the three-day event "Silicon Valley African Film Festival Weekend." California State Assembly member Paul Fong will be at the opening ceremony as well.

Veteran filmmakers will be attending the three-day event, such as Tunde Kelani, who will also be receiving the top award at the festival, the "2012 African Reel Award."

Kelani's new film, "Maami," is set to screen on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 8 p.m.

Oriki Theater is a nonprofit performing arts company based in Mountain View committed to promoting Africa's heritage through dance, music, folk stories, chants and drums.

HAUNTED FARM TOUR

Who needs a haunted house? For those who want to get into the Halloween spirit, Deer Hollow Farm and Friends of Deer Hollow Farm offer Spookfest, a haunted farm tour on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Guests will be able to do hands-on children's activities and crafts as well as meet the farm tenants — sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits, pigs and Luna the cow.

Entrance is \$7 per person, \$5 if in costume and free for babies under one year old. The event is open light rain or shine. All profits from the event go toward providing care and feed for the livestock.

Deer Hollow Farm is located at 22500 Cristo Rey Dr. in Los

Altos, in the Rancho San Antonio Open Space Reserve, and is partly funded by the city of Mountain View.

The educational farm is 150 years old and sells fresh eggs and seasonal produce when available.

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm is a non-profit organization that supports the Farm's educational programs to the community and schools by raising funds through donations, grants and public events.

Two years ago Google co-founder Sergey Brin along with his wife, Anne Wojcicki, co-founder of 23andMe, donated \$35,000 to the farm to help keep it open.

READING PAYS OFF

Third-grade Mountain View resident Ethan Xie won a \$529 check towards his college education from ScholarShare, California's 529 College Savings Plan.

Xie was awarded the money as a part of Think Big! Save for College! Summer Reading promotion.

ScholarShare gave a total of \$20,000 to 40 children in California during the first week of October. The program partnered with California public libraries to organize an annual summer reading program, with children from preschool

through 8th grade participating.

The winners were selected at random and there were over 3,600 entries by the end of the summer. Besides donating the money towards college education, ScholarShare is matching the winning amount and donating it to the Mountain View Public Library for reading programs.

LOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM EXPANDING

Mountain View based Music For Minors is in the midst of a major expansion, thanks to a new partnership with the San Mateo-Foster City School District.

The organization aims to maintain musical education by offering affordable and comprehensive music programs to Mountain View and neighboring areas.

With the new partnership, Music For Minors' number of students will increase by over 15,000. In the past three years, the program service has grown above 130 percent — the biggest growth spurt came with the new partnership.

"We are thrilled with this opportunity to reach more kids," said Sanja Palmer, the organization's executive director, in a press release. "Music is a

vital part a well-rounded education that should be available to every young student."

In addition, the nonprofit organization offers education programs to students in the San Carlos and the Redwood City school districts.

Fifteen more schools, from San Jose to Pacifica, participate with Music For Minors. The organization has also worked with San Mateo and Santa Clara counties in order to provide a well-rounded education.

According to Music For Minors, musical education has been shown to enhance academic growth and helps with problem solving and teamwork, as well as improve a student's success in math, science and reading.

The programs offer hands-on experience in singing, theory and appreciation, movement and dance, use of rhythm instruments and musical games.

Music For Minors teachers are composed of professional educators and volunteers.

Outside of the classroom, the organization offers interactive assemblies and special programs separate from school, such as choral groups and recorder lessons. It is also collaborates with the Ives Quartet and West Bay Opera.

—Ashley Finden

■ CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

over the counter, grabbed some cash from the register and ran out of the bank. Police are still looking for the man.

CAR ON FIRE

A car caught fire sometime shortly before 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 5 in the 500 block of Castro St., police said.

Mountain View police public information officer Sgt. Sean Thompson said investigators are not releasing any more information about the blaze, which is listed as an arson on the website CrimeReports.com.

The fire was reported a little more than 10 minutes after a bank robbery was reported three blocks away at the California Bank and Trust on W. El Camino Real. Thompson would not comment on whether investigators believe the two are related.


CAR HITS CYCLING KID

An eighth-grade boy was hit by a car on the morning of Oct. 5 while riding his bike to Graham Middle School, a mother of another Graham student said. The collision was confirmed by Mountain View police.

Police did not have much information on the incident, as the case is still under investigation, according to Sgt. Sean Thompson, public information officer for the MVPD.

However, the mother, who asked not to be identified, said the boy broke his wrist.

—Nick Veronin



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ENDORSEMENTS INCLUDE

- Mountain View Mayor Mike Kasperzak
- Mountain View City Councilman Matt Pear (ret.)
- Foothill-DeAnza Trustee Laura Casas Frier
- MVLA School Board Trustee Delia Ybarra (ret.)
- Cupertino School District Trustee Anjali Kausar
- El Camino Hospital Chiefs of Staff (retired): Dr. Sari Levin, Dr. Gerry Besson, Dr. Dex Hake
- Dr. Richard Gilman ECH Quality Assurance
- Sunnyvale City Councilwoman Tara Martin-Milius
- Los Altos Mayor Val Carpenter
- LAH Councilman John Harpootlian
- Former Republican Assemblyman Jim Cunneen
- Former Democratic Assemblywoman Sally Lieber

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COURTESY ARCADIA PUBLISHING

Then and now photos of the Castro family's Villa Francesca, now Rengstorff Park's picnic grounds.



HISTORIC

► Continued from page 5

the Hunt Foods plant replaced by the city's police station and the Camino Bowl bowling alley, now housing on El Camino Real, to name a few. The former Mayfield Mall — set for a facelift soon for use as an office building — is shown with its 1960s JC Penney facade.

Downtown, there's the former-

ly pointy Der Wienerschnitzel building, the bottom of which still stands as a beer garden and burger joint, and Mervyn's fine foods, an American-style diner and namesake of the tiny bar

behind what is now Chef Liu Mandarin Cuisine.

Perry was able to find the location of the city's 1923 shipping port — and a short-lived salt-water pool recreation area next

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COURTESY ARCADIA PUBLISHING

Above and right: The Manfredi general store on El Camino is now an In-N-Out Burger. **Below:** The Mayfield Mall, circa 1966, and today.



to it called the Kingsport Plunge. He says it can be found on a map by drawing a line as if Whisman Road continued north straight to the bay. Though the buildings are gone, the location can be seen from the Bay Trail after crossing into what is now Sunnyvale.

Several members of the Mountain View Historical Association contributed photos for the book, including former City Manger Kevin Duggan, who had postcards of the Highway School, the former El Camino Real bridge over Stevens Creek and a large Victorian home that Perry even-

tually found was still standing at the corner of Villa and Oak streets. Former Mayor Matt Pear contributed a then-and-now image of him and his brother as boys standing in his family's orchard, and the pair standing at the same spot today, now a condo building at 400 Ortega Avenue. It turned out there were many more photos contributed than there was space for in the book, Perry said.

The book hits local retailers on Monday, Oct. 8, or can be ordered from arcadiapublishing.com. ▣

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Fighting the flames at NASA Ames

It was a dramatic scene at Moffett Field, as flames licked the edges of a red aircraft, and firefighters in shiny silver suits dragged limp forms from the inferno. Fortunately, the only casualties were dummies. The NASA Ames Fire Department's three-day training session held last week looked pretty realistic, as firefighters in special suits designed for fighting aircraft fires hosed down the propane-fueled flames and rescued "victims." Fire departments from throughout Santa Clara County were invited to participate so that mutual aid partners would be ready to respond to aircraft incidents, said Rachel Hoover, a spokeswoman for NASA Ames Research Center.

Impartial Analysis

Santa Clara County Counsel,
8/21/12

"There is a legal question whether a hospital district is subject to a voter approved initiative. Additional questions may also arise with respect to implementation of Measure M, which is not addressed in the Measure."

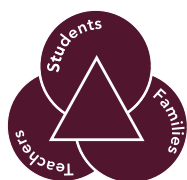
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SHORELINE TRAFFIC

► Continued from page 1

following the approval of the city's 2030 general plan. It potentially allows more than double the density of existing buildings in North Bayshore and could increase the employee count from 17,000 to nearly 30,000.

Despite the efforts, there may still be more cars.

"It does concern me that developers are talking about two major parking structures out there," Kasperzak said. "We don't need 8,000 more cars on 101."

There is also discussion about better markings on streets for bicyclists, Kasperzak said.

Kasperzak said he introduced himself as "the pod car mayor" because he has called for a personal rapid transit system to connect North Bayshore to downtown train station and NASA Ames, a system which has been estimated to cost \$10 million. But Vice Mayor John Inks said North Bayshore businesses don't seem as interested in that concept, at least not yet.

"Traffic and transportation system engineers are working in a world in which they know," Kasperzak said. "We're not looking at new things that are faster, safer, better." ▀

PEAR THEATRE

► Continued from page 5

so they gave their old ones to us, things we found online, used lights and things we borrow from Jordan Middle School and Palo Alto High School," Tasca said.

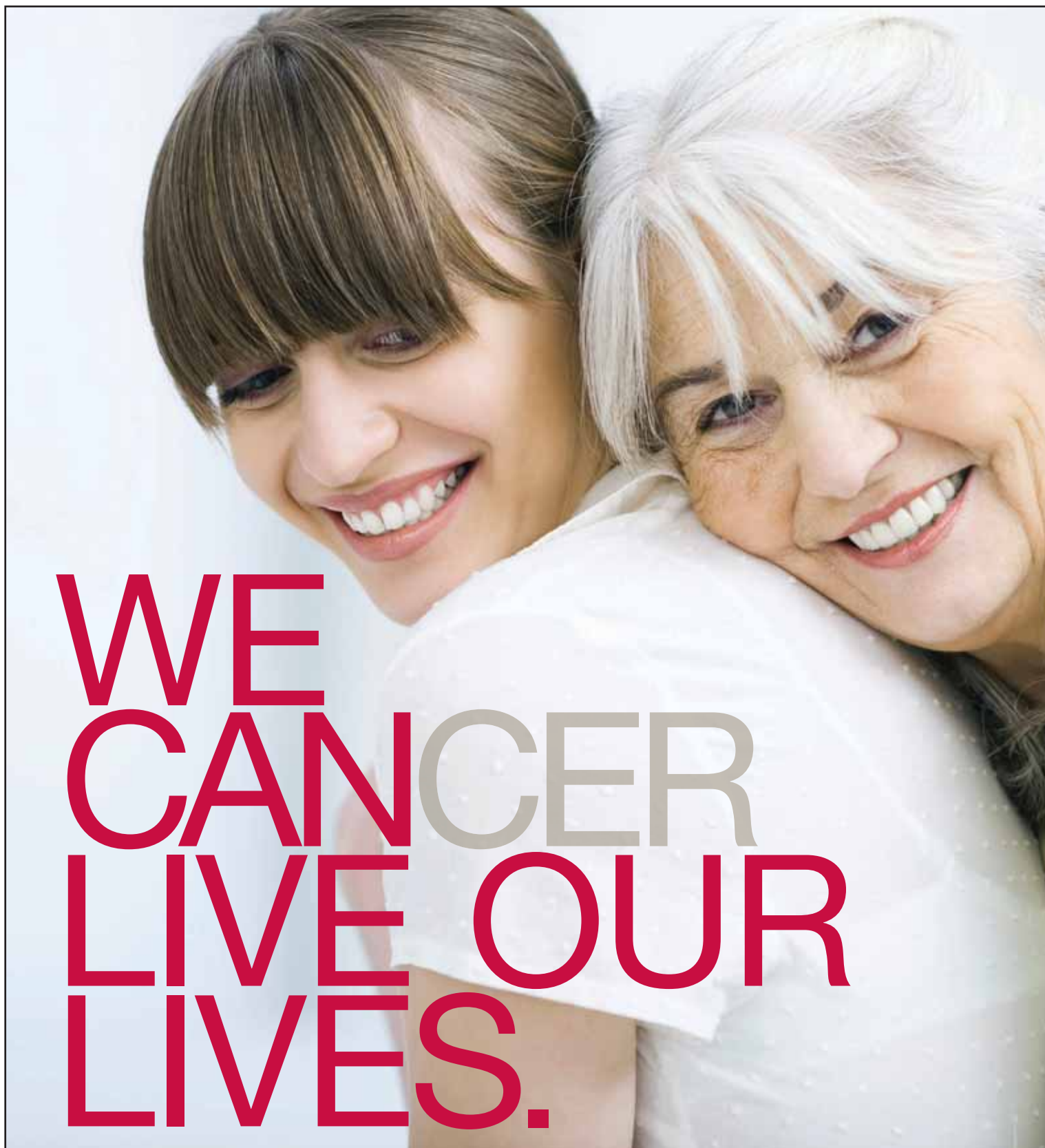
The computer used to run the sound and the board they use to control the lights are outdated. "We really need new sound equipment," she said.

Tasca said it has commonly taken at least a month or more to raise about \$5,000 the traditional way — through a "direct appeal" in letters sent to theater members.

Depending on how much money is raised, the Pear may buy an upscale portable bathroom to set up outside the theater. Tasca said they are wary about many big improvements to the space with an uncertain future as their landlord, Google, continues to expand in the area.

However, they do have a problem on occasion with long restroom lines during intermission, and in the middle of an act, flushing the in-house toilet can ruin the mood.

Those who donate will be eligible for a range of prizes depending on how much they give. At the lower end, donors may request acknowledgment on the Pear's website or in a play's program. On the high end, donors may receive tickets and even a private performance in the venue of their choosing. ▀



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Member, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce



■ 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

Voice endorsements in local races

Four seats up on City Council

Incumbents Kasperzak, Inks lead field of five candidates

As the city wraps up a year busy year — a new General Plan adopted, construction underway on San Antonio Shopping Center and the Mayfield Mall ready for a \$90 million makeover for high tech offices — there are nagging issues that will occupy much of the council's time over the next four years. Among them will be finding a way to unravel North Bayshore's traffic gridlock, making city streets safer for bikes and pedestrians, which could mean reducing car lanes, and whether to continue sharing Shoreline tax revenue with local schools.

Another sticky issue will be whether to impose a higher BMR housing fee on developers of what will likely be a huge number of office projects.

With the departure of Tom Means and Laura Macias, who are termed out, the council is certain to see at least two newcomers take office in December. We support returning the two incumbents, Mike Kasperzak and John Inks, to the council and recommend newcomers John McAllister and Chris Clark for the remaining two seats. The incumbents are running for reelection to complete their second and last consecutive term. Kasperzak is actually running for his fourth term. He stepped down for several years after his first two terms and then ran again in 2008.

Members of the *Voice* editorial staff conducted interviews with all candidates (except Jim Neal, who answered questions via email) last week. Here are our endorsements.

Mike Kasperzak, an inspired legislator who knows the job

Mike Kasperzak, the current mayor, lives and breathes Mountain View. As he moves into his 13th year on the council, it is no surprise that he is up to speed on virtually every issue, from the budget to transportation policy. But he is well aware that by 2015, he and John Inks, if they are reelected, could be the only council members with more than four years experience. It is important that the city, which also has a relatively new manager, has a council that knows the issues. Kasperzak definitely

► See **CITY COUNCIL**, next page

Change coming to MV Whisman board

Darrah, Lambert, Pollart stand out in qualified field

For the first time since 2004, residents of the Mountain View Whisman school district will see a competitive race for three seats on the five-member board — a majority. With the retirement of Fiona Walter, Steve Olson and Ed Bailey, three seats will be held by newcomers. They will face significant challenges, such as making up for fading state support for education and deciding how to get the most out of the district's ambitious \$198 million bond issue to upgrade campuses and buildings, which was approved by voters in June.

In this race, out of the five candidates, the *Voice* endorses Peter Darrah, Bill Lambert and Jim Pollart, all of whom will bring a wide range of new skills to the board.

Peter Darrah a longtime district volunteer

The *Voice* endorses Peter Darrah for one of the three open seats on the board. As a fluent Spanish-speaker, involved parent and computer engineer, Darrah has a lot to offer and in addition, his spouse is a kindergarten teacher at Landels, which will give him an "on the ground" perspective of how the district is operating.

Darrah's language skills will help him support the district's effort to involve more parents and the community at Castro School, which is a good step toward improving academic performance of all Hispanic students. We also like his commitment to help the district seek financial support from the local business community, similar to what Google is providing now.

We urge district residents to support Peter Darrah for Mountain View Whisman School Board.

Bill Lambert brings wide experience

With an impressive academic resume of his own (BA in biochemistry at Berkeley, Ph.D in chemical physics at Caltech and a JD at the

► See **WHISMAN BOARD**, next page

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SUPPORT CANDIDATES WHO BACK HOUSING FEE

Residents who are concerned that working people in Mountain View often can't find housing here should consider the positions of City Council candidates on "affordable housing."

The city's numerous policies and initiatives have made a small dent in our local housing crisis. Two candidates (Mike Kasperzak and Chris Clark), drawing on their council and planning commission experience, strongly support these initiatives and others.

In response to an Advocates for Affordable Housing questionnaire sent to all candidates, they

suggest further steps that they would work on to get us additional affordable units. For example, higher rental development impact fees to add incentives to actually building affordable units, supplemented by higher commercial impact fees, have succeeded in other communities.

The AAH endorses Mike Kasperzak and Chris Clark. Candidate Margaret Capriles also recognizes the drastic impacts on all of us that the lack of affordable housing (for those with lower incomes) has on our entire community, such as additional traffic congestion and more air pollution.

*Joan MacDonald
Advocates for Affordable Housing*

VOTE AGAINST WATER DISTRICT TAX EXTENSION

Measure B is a parcel tax extension proposed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District that is expected to yield \$548 million over its 15-year duration. The district has a reputation for misusing money.

The current members of the district's board of directors did not improve the district's reputation when they voted last November to add fluoride to the water when money is available. Sure, other local legislative bodies have made the same mistake, but anyone who even reads the label on fluoridated toothpaste

can see a warning against ingestion. Fluoride is not a nutrient; it is a poison. I'll vote against Measure B.

*Gary Wesley
Continental Circle*

FUNDING NEEDED FOR WATER DISTRICT

State and federal funding for ensuring a safe and clean water supply for Santa Clara County has been diminishing and is unreliable. In 2000, the voters responded and approved a local funding initiative that has been critical to helping meet

► See **LETTERS**, page 19

CITY COUNCIL

► Continued from previous page

fills the bill.

We admire his strong support of charging developers a fee to pay for some BMR housing, in order to protect economic diversity among city residents at a time when an “affordable” home here could cost \$800,000 or more. Kasperzak also supports the ambitious addition of housing called for in the new General Plan, which could see hundreds of units built in the next 10 years.

Kasperzak was an early supporter of adding bike lanes and safer pedestrian corridors to local streets. As a fan of SkyTran, he would consider investing some city funds in a \$5 million test of the pod car system, which could whisk commuters from the Caltrain station downtown over the Bayshore Freeway to their jobs at Google and other high tech companies in North Bayshore. Such a system could put Mountain View on the map, he said.

He is also cautiously in favor of continuing to share Shoreline tax revenue with local schools, although he noted that the city must hold adequate funds to maintain Shoreline, especially its vulnerability to sea level rise.

The *Voice* urges voters to return Mike Kasperzak to the City Council.

John Inks offers a fiscal anchor on council

Incumbent John Inks has not been our favorite council member. He often votes no on good projects that he says the city cannot afford.

But Inks is not a total slave to his Libertarian philosophy, and without his termed out colleague Tom Means, also a Libertarian, on the council his conservative spending message will have less clout. Nevertheless, we admire Inks for his willingness to investigate issues and draw his own conclusions. We understand when he said it pains him to approve additional funding to pay overtime for a fire department battalion chief.

Inks said he does see a need for special needs housing, but he is opposed to the new BMR project on Franklin Street at Evelyn Avenue, a very expensive way to provide 50 families with a place to live. Instead, he supports allowing developers to build denser housing that costs less to construct, an unpopular position on the council. He said he could support housing for runaway children or for domestic violence shelters.

We agree with Inks’ support of the Grand Boulevard concept for El Camino Real, which envisions taller buildings or mixed-use projects like the one planned for

the Austin’s Barbeque site on El Camino Real. And, like many other candidates, he does not see a problem with drive-through lanes at new fast-food restaurants or other businesses that want to offer customers easy accessibility.

The *Voice* urges voters to return John Inks to the City Council.

John McAlister deserves to step up from EPC

John McAlister knows Mountain View from the multiple perspectives of his work on the Environmental Planning Commission, and owning and operating a popular ice cream shop on El Camino Real, where he employs many teenagers who are working their first job. And he sees the big picture of the city through his long tenure on the planning commission, which just completed work on the new General Plan.

He is no stranger to public meetings, saying he has attend more than 80 during his service on city bodies. Housing is an important issue for McAlister, who laments that often his store managers are priced out of the local rental market. He does not favor assessing fees on developers to pay for BMR housing, but instead would prefer passing a small sales tax to pay for it. Bikes and pedestrians deserve more space on some city streets, he said, although he would first

study traffic counts and a new transportation plan that is due out in a few weeks before making a final call.

On El Camino Real, McAlister favors the sensible course of mixed-use growth and would make sure public transportation is available before adding huge housing projects. He says he is a big supporter of local schools, but would be cautious before renewing an agreement to share Shoreline tax revenue.

The *Voice* urges voters to elect John McAlister to the City Council.

Chris Clark is young, but has done his homework

A high-tech worker, at 29, Chris Clark already has served on the Human Resources Commission and the Environmental Planning Commission, giving him a good inside look at how the city operates. He lost a close council race four years ago, but brings much more experience to the campaign this time around. We agree with his contention that the council needs a younger person who can speak for the city’s huge tech labor force, which is mostly under 30.

In supporting more bike and pedestrian lanes on major thoroughfares, Clark said people his age like to get out of their cars and away from the “automobile-centric” street grids that we have

today. Clark would keep options open for a solution to the “huge bottleneck” and economic loss created bringing employees in and out of North Bayshore during commute hours. He believes the problem presents an opportunity for the city to make a statement in the region — something really innovative — with support and planning shared by companies and the city. He also looks forward to seeing a traffic study that will be out in a few weeks. He said he would be cautious about making a commitment to build a podcar type project, which could lock the city into one technology for a long time. Instead, he would prefer to see smaller investments like Google’s self-driving car.

On other issues, Clark believes plans to redevelop parts of El Camino Real have so far succeeded in avoiding a wall of tall buildings facing the street. He also is against any ban on drive-through lanes on El Camino, saying they are valid uses for many businesses. If the city does impose an impact fee on developers, it should be in line with neighboring cities and shared equally between residential and commercial projects, he says. And although he supports sharing the Shoreline tax with local schools, the North Bayshore should be the top priority for use of these funds, he said.

The *Voice* urges voters to elect Chris Clark to the City Council.

WHISMAN BOARD

► Continued from previous page

University of New Hampshire) Bill Lambert has demonstrated his wide interest in education in general and the Mountain View Whisman School District in particular. As a representative of the League of Women Voters, Lambert has attended virtually every district board meeting for the last two years, which certainly gives him a feel for how the board operates and the issues they confront.

With his law degree, Lambert

shifted his career from research scientist to become a patent attorney who helps Valley startups. As a resident of the Monte Loma neighborhood, he says he would work to get more Hispanic students interested in science, technology, engineering and math so they could find work in the technology industry. Since his daughter graduated college and moved to New York, Lambert has become more active in local schools. He has volunteered in the classroom and said he “has always wanted to be a teacher.” He is involved in various com-

munity groups, including the League, Day Worker’s Center and Leadership Mountain View.

Due to his varied experience and community spirit, the *Voice* endorses Bill Lambert for a seat on the Mountain View Whisman School Board.

Jim Pollart guided campaign for Shoreline funds

As a parent with one daughter at Bubb Elementary School and the other at Mountain View High, Jim Pollart has plenty of reason to have a high interest in

education. He demonstrated that as the leader of a successful effort to convince the City Council to share part of the Shoreline Community tax revenue, which brought nearly \$14 million to Mountain View Whisman and the Mountain View Los Altos High School districts three years ago. Pollart’s intention is to renew or enhance the agreement when it lapses later this year.

Pollart said he will urge the district to step up its outreach to many other parts of the community, including the residents and the business community so that

“we can harness these resources to benefit our kids.” We believe Pollart will also be invaluable as the board works through the \$198 million in Measure G funds to improve and upgrade the schools. As a civil engineer with a master’s degree in business administration and extensive experience in the construction industry, Pollart will be a major asset on the board as plans are formulated to launch numerous building projects.

The *Voice* endorses Jim Pollart for a seat on the Mountain View Whisman School Board.

LETTERS

► Continued from page 18

our area’s needs for clean, safe creeks and waterways. However, this funding which cannot be taken away by the state or federal government is set to expire.

This November, if we do nothing, critical water programs that ensure the safety of our water supply could be greatly reduced or eliminated. That is where Measure B comes in. Measure B will renew the funding source that will continue to fulfill our water supply, flood protection and watershed

stewardship needs of our area without increasing taxes. The Chamber of Commerce Mountain View supports Measure B — it is good for our county.

Oscar Garcia
President & CEO, Chamber
of Commerce Mountain View

WORKING WITH PG&E ON BACKYARD PIPELINE REPLACEMENT

I am a resident with the PG&E pipeline easement in my backyard. I’ve lived with it for almost 50 years and have nothing to worry about. I don’t fear for my life and it doesn’t bother me that it’s there.

The one thing I didn’t like, years ago, was that we couldn’t have a sunken swimming pool. It is unfortunate that many trees have to be removed but there are a lot of ways to replace a tree with something that can give similar shade and it doesn’t have to be pruned. Pergolas of some kind with a cross trellis come to mind.

There are more than 4,000 miles of PG&E easement on private property and PG&E is probably doing this to a lot of it. So many others are having similar backyard renovations.

As far as I figure, the pipeline can’t be moved for several reasons.

■ It is in great shape and has been certified okay to be used;

■ There is really no place it can be moved to as other people would be upset if it was installed near their property;

■ If it was moved to Middlefield Road the traffic nightmare at Moffett Boulevard would be nasty;

■ The Hetch Hetchy water system going under Middlefield and Moffett is probably why the pipe is routed the way it is;

■ If it were moved, other people with 4,000-plus miles of gas pipeline in their backyard would also want their pipeline moved and that would be a headache;

■ If the pipe did get moved I would think all our house gas lines would have to be rearranged and that would cause a lot of digging up.

Common sense tells me to work with PG&E and get the best new backyard possible, including pergolas and anything else to give you a nice new place to enjoy the outside and evening. PG&E is bending over backward to please us. The current people with PG&E are not the ones to be mad at as they are only doing what they can to make and keep the pipe in safe condition.

Susan Coles
San Lucas Court

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De Anza Blvd & Homestead Rd

El Camino Branch | **Palo Alto**
3903 El Camino Real
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1090 Blossom Hill Rd
Blossom Hill Rd & Almaden Expy

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at www.xfcu.org/lifeworks or contact Matthew Butler

at 650.691.6501 or mbutler@xfcuc.org.

Attend and receive a copy of Buelow's book, *Insight: reflections on the gifts of being an introvert.*



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