

# Mountain View VOICE



NOVEMBER 23, 2012 VOLUME 20, NO. 45

www.MountainViewOnline.com

650.964.6300

MOVIES | 29

## Hospital will seek to block Measure M

By Nick Veronin

El Camino Hospital's board of directors will be exploring all legal avenues to block the provisions of Measure M. A spokesman for the union that pushed to get the measure on the ballot said he wasn't sure whether his labor organization would go to court to defend the initiative.

Board members said at their Nov. 14 meeting they will continue to pay all executives at their current rates, even those who make more than twice Gov. Jerry Brown's salary, the limit laid out in Measure M. The salary-capping measure passed by a thin margin in the Nov. 6 election.

"We have respect for the voters," said John Zoglin, chairman of the board of directors. "Although, we are certainly disappointed."

The chairman said that the board had decided in closed session to ask lawyers to find out if Measure M is legal. "We have some concerns that it may not be a legal measure," Zoglin said. "So, we are going to start to explore that."

Steve Trossman, a spokesman for the SEIU-UHW — the union that pushed to get Measure M on the Nov. 6 ballot — said it was too soon to say what the union might do in response to a hospital legal action.

If the hospital were to sue the SEIU-UHW, he imagines the union would indeed defend itself in court, along with the measure. Trossman said he is not a lawyer and isn't sure how the hospital might try to challenge the measure.

Board member David Reeder commented on the passage of



Jose Vargas poses with a pair of undocumented students, Mayra Aguilar and Magali Molina, outside Los Altos High School's theater.

## 'Undocumented' but inspiring

JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS SPEAKS ON FUTURE OF IMMIGRATION POLICY IN AMERICA

By Nick Veronin

Immigration reform activist Jose Antonio Vargas spoke at a near-capacity crowd at Los Altos High School last weekend, advocating for swift, comprehensive and fair changes to current U.S. immigration policies.

In his speech, titled "Not Legal. Not Leaving," Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who

discovered as a teen that he'd been brought to the United States illegally, discussed the future of immigration law in America and the way immigrants are talked about and perceived in the media.

It was an emotional talk, as Vargas identified aspects of the current immigration debate he sees as ironic, illogical and downright unjust — sometimes laughing, sometimes scowling

and sometimes holding back tears. He recounted his own story as well as those of people he's encountered while conducting research for his current project, "Define American," which seeks to paint a more complex and multicultural picture of modern America than is usually seen on television, movies or in the news.

## Zeppelin grounded

AIRSHIP VENTURES ENDS OPERATIONS

By Daniel DeBolt

After floating its Zeppelin over the Bay Area for four years, Airship Ventures announced Thursday that it has grounded the airship and is issuing refunds to passengers. A lack of corporate sponsorship and high helium prices are to blame, company officials said.

"It is frustrating because we were kind of hitting our stride," said Airship Ventures CEO Brian Hall. "We need a long term sponsor to make it all work."

Unless an investor steps forward with \$5 million to \$6 million, the Zeppelin Eureka will soon be disassembled and sent back to Friedrichshafen, Germany, where it was manufactured by Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH, an "inelegant end" to what has been a big journey, Hall said.

Hall says there is "a window of a week or two" in which a "white knight" CEO could come forth and take on a sponsorship of the airship for about the same cost as a super bowl commercial. In exchange the company could advertise on the side of the airship for a whole year.

Housed in Moffett Field's Hangar Two, the airship gave tours of the Bay Area, Wine Country and Southern California, able to hover in place for hours or cruise a bit slower than highway traffic. Passengers paid between \$375 to \$950 to sit in the 12-person gondola with panoramic views from wrap-around windows. Dubbed "Eureka" after its arrival, the Zeppelin NT saw 20,000 passengers over four years, even flying all the way

► See **MEASURE M**, page 10

► See **IMMIGRATION**, page 6

► See **ZEPPELIN**, page 8

BETTER BANKING WITH GREAT RATES

# You deserve a better student loan

Higher education has the power to transform lives, build futures, and shape society for the better.

At **Star One**, we have offered thousands of affordable student loans to members and their families to help them make higher education a reality.

Call a Star One Credit Union Student Choice Program Representative at **(800) 741-2893**

Credit Union **StudentChoice**

[www.starone.org](http://www.starone.org)

**STAR ONE**  
CREDIT UNION

De Anza Branch | **Cupertino**  
10991 N. De Anza Blvd  
De Anza Blvd & Homestead Rd

El Camino Branch | **Palo Alto**  
3903 El Camino Real  
El Camino Real & Ventura Ave

Blossom Hill Branch | **San Jose**  
1090 Blossom Hill Rd  
Blossom Hill Rd & Almaden Expy

Stevens Creek Branch | **San Jose**  
3136 Stevens Creek Blvd  
Stevens Creek Blvd & S. Winchester

Enterprise Branch | **Sunnyvale**  
1080 Enterprise Way, Ste 150  
Enterprise Way & 11th Ave

Good for **Business**. Good for **You**.  
Good for the **Community**.

# ShopMountainView.com

## Support Local Business



**When you shop locally, good things happen to make our community stronger:**

- You keep tax dollars in the community
- Shopping districts remain diverse and vibrant
- You build relationships with small business owners who appreciate your concerns and feedback
- You help create jobs for local residents and teens
- Your recommendations to neighbors and friends encourage others to join in supporting local business and commerce.

**Discover local businesses at ShopMountainView.com**

- Search listings
- Read and write reviews
- Find coupons and special deals
- Purchase gift certificates
- See upcoming special events
- View photos and maps

For more information call **650.223.6582** or email [info@ShopMountainView.com](mailto:info@ShopMountainView.com)

# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

## What are you thankful for this year?



*"This year I'm thankful for my family, my husband, my cute little kitty-cats and just to be alive."*

**Emily Marshall**, Mountain View



*"I'm thankful for my friends, my family, my awesome co-workers and my band."*

**Adam Rupp**, Redwood City



*"My family and their support."*

**Charles Christy**, Santa Clara



*"I am deeply thankful for love."*

**Ellen Anderson**, Campbell



*"I'm thankful for all my friends and family in my life."*

**Michael Johnson**, San Mateo

Are you past due for your check-up and cleaning?



• *Service* – At smiles dental, we believe in treating our patients to the best of dentistry and technology with first class personal service.

• *Passionate* – Our skilled team is passionate about helping our patients maintain healthy beautiful smiles.

**Dr. William Hall, Dr. Peri Eilers, & Dr. Ayman Fayyad**

100 W. El Camino Real, Suite 63A  
Mountain View  
(Corner of El Camino and Calderon)  
**650.964.2626**

• *Smiles* – Our office is equipped with the latest technology to help you achieve the smile you deserve.

*Health & Beauty*

**FREE EXAM**

**NEW PATIENTS ONLY  
INCLUDES EXAM & DIGITAL X-RAYS!  
SECOND OPINIONS WELCOME**

Call for details.  
Some restrictions may apply.  
Offer Good for 60 Days.



[www.SmilesDental.com](http://www.SmilesDental.com)

**THE MENKES CLINIC**  
Medical, Surgical, Pediatric & Cosmetic Dermatology

EXCITING  
*New Services*

**COOLSCULPTING PACKAGES**  
Freeze away stubborn fat from your belly, love handles, back and man boobs.  
Packages start at \$2,400.

**CELLULAZE™**  
This breakthrough technology treats cellulite from beneath the skin and yields amazing, lasting results.

**SMARTLIPO TRIPLEX**  
This is the latest, most advanced laser-assisted liposuction technique that's less invasive and results in a shorter recovery time. Plus it tightens the skin for a more sculpted look.

Melchor Pavilion, 2490 Hospital Drive, Suite 201, Mountain View, CA 94040  
**650.962.4600 | [www.menkesclinic.com](http://www.menkesclinic.com)**

[facebook.com/themenkesclinic](https://facebook.com/themenkesclinic)

Have a question for *Voices Around Town*? Email it to [editor@mv-voice.com](mailto:editor@mv-voice.com)

**Kozy Brothers**  
**De Martini Orchard**  
 www.demartiniorchard.com  
 66 N. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos  
 650-948-0881  
 From our Family to Yours  
 Happy Thanksgiving  
 Open 8 am to 3 pm on 11/22



Open Daily  
8am-7pm  
Prices Effective  
Fri 25-Tues 27



<b>SEEDLESS MANDARINS</b> <b>CUTIES</b> CALIF. SWEET, JUICY E-Z PEEL <b>\$3.99</b> 3# BAG	<b>ARGENTINA BLUBERRIES</b> NEW CROP VERY LARGE SWEET & TASTY <b>2 PKG \$6.00</b> FOR	<b>ARTICHOKEs</b> LARGE 30 SIZE TENDER & MEATY <b>99¢</b> EACH
<b>ORGANIC LOCAL LEEKS</b> JUMBO GREAT FOR SOUP <b>\$1.69</b> LB.	<b>HOLIDAY SEASON ITEMS</b> Los Altos <b>DRY COTS</b>	<b>ORGANIC LOCAL BROCCOLINI</b> EDIBLE TENDER STEMS <b>2 BUN \$5.00</b> FOR
<b>COMICE PEARS</b> NORTHWEST SWEET AND JUICY <b>99¢</b> LB.	<b>DIPPED APRICOTS</b> GIFT FRUIT TRAYS GLACE FRUIT ALMOND PASTE	<b>RAW ALMONDS</b> <b>\$5.99</b> LB.
<b>BLACK RAISINS</b> <b>\$2.39</b> LB.	<b>DRIED APRICOTS</b> <b>\$9.99</b> LB.	<b>PORK TENDERLOINS</b> <b>\$3.99</b> LB.
<b>PEETS COFFEE</b> <b>\$8.99</b> BAG	<b>MEDJOOL DATES</b> <b>\$7.49</b> LB.	<b>RAW ALMONDS</b> <b>\$5.99</b> LB.

*Your Everyday Farmers Market*  
**Online at [www.DeMartiniOrchard.com](http://www.DeMartiniOrchard.com)**

**CRIME BRIEFS**

**ATTEMPTED ROBBERY**

A man fought off two would-be robbers in the early hours of Nov. 12., suffering a kick to the face, but managing to hold onto his wallet in the scuffle, police said.

The victim, a 26-year-old Mountain View man, was walking home from work on El Camino Real near Mountain View Avenue at about 1 a.m. on Nov. 12, when he was approached by two men who asked him for some change, police spokesman Sgt. Sean Thompson said. When the man took out his wallet to give the men some money, the men tried to grab it.

In the struggle that followed, the victim fell down along with one of his attackers, and the other attacker kicked him in the face, Thompson said. Despite the blow, the man did not let go of his wallet and both of his attackers ran away empty-handed.

The two men were described as being in their early to mid-20s, and both around 5 feet 7 inches tall, Thompson said. The man who fell down with the victim was said to be black with short hair. The man who kicked the victim in the face was described as Hispanic and bald.

**ROBBERY AT FOOTHILL**

Two men were robbed of their backpacks Monday morning, Nov. 19, at Foothill College by man carrying a gun, a campus spokesman said. According to law enforcement officials, no one was hurt during the robbery.

The robbery occurred at about 9 a.m., when a man approached two other men, brandished a handgun and then made off with their backpacks, according to Kurt Hueg, associate vice president of external relations at Foothill.

A Foothill press release described the robber as a black man, about 18-25 years old, approximately 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighing perhaps 160 pounds. His hair was black and cropped close. He did not have any facial hair and was not wearing any jewelry according to the two victims.

The robber was last seen running up from the footbridge onto campus with the two victim's black backpacks, the release said. The authorities are currently working on a sketch of the robber.

**BATTERY AND KIDNAPPING ARREST**

Police arrested an 18-year-old on charges of battery and kidnapping on Sunday after he allegedly grabbed a younger teenager by the arm, attempting to pull him behind a building and punching him a number of times.

The victim of the battery, a 15-year-old boy from Mountain View, was approached by the 18-year-old and another 16-year-old at the corner of Escuela Avenue and Latham Street at about 9:20 p.m. on Nov. 18, according to Sgt. Sean Thompson, public information officer for the Mountain View Police Department.

The young man grabbed the victim by the arm, and allegedly asked, "Do you bang?" — slang for "Are you involved in gangs?" according to Thompson. The 18-year-old guided the victim behind a church nearby, while the 16-year-old followed close behind.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 8

**POLICE LOG**

**AUTO BURGLARY**

Castro St. & W. Dana St., 11/15  
 800 block California St., 11/15  
 800 block High School Wy., 11/16

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

500 block Castro St., 11/16

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

800 block Sonia Wy., 11/17  
 800 block Sonia Wy., 11/18

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

200 block Almond Av., 11/14  
 Oak St. & Villa St., 11/17  
 1800 block Ednamary Wy., 11/18

**VANDALISM**

300 block Sylvan Av., 11/12  
 800 block E. Dana St., 11/13  
 300 block Moffett Bl., 11/15

**BATTERY**

Escuela Av. & Latham St., 11/18





Thank you for voting us  
best auto repair for 9 years



# Larry's knows Jeeps.

(And other American Vehicles)

**You know you are dealing with experts when ...**

- Technicians are Nationally Certified Masters
- Technicians receive over 40 hours of specialized training every year
- They are certified environmentally friendly
- All repairs are guaranteed in writing for 3 years/ 36,000 miles —no other shop does this!
- Each technician is a specialist on the vehicle they service.



650-968-5202

[www.autoworks.com](http://www.autoworks.com)

2526 Leghorn Street, Mountain View



## SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Support Mountain View Voice's print and online coverage of our community.

Join today: [SupportLocalJournalism.org/MountainView](http://SupportLocalJournalism.org/MountainView)

**The Mountain View Voice** (USPS 2560) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306 (650) 964-6300. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto CA and additional mailing offices. The Mountain View Voice is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Mountain View. Subscription rate of \$60 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mountain View Voice, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



MICHELLE LE

**Nurse Candie Bradley** gives John Harrison a flu shot in a new exam room at El Camino Hospital's Senior Health Center.

## Senior Health Center

NEW EL CAMINO FACILITY PROVIDES SENIOR SERVICES TOGETHER UNDER ONE ROOF

By Nick Veronin

With the flu season swing, El Camino Hospital sought to showcase the services offered at the newly opened Senior

Health Center, which include free flu shots and blood pressure screenings.

The Senior Health Center held an open house on Nov. 16, drawing more than 300 people

to the facility that's designed specifically for patients 65 and older, which opened in late October. In addition to the free

► See **SENIOR CARE**, page 11

## Council to take up bike-ped safety

By Daniel DeBolt

In response to several collisions — some deadly — and calls for change from residents, the City Council is beginning to look at ways to improve bike and pedestrian safety.

The council was set for a study session Tuesday, Nov. 20, on the topic, after the *Voice's* press deadline. It follows months of advocacy by bike advocates, school officials and neighborhood groups and a series of articles in the *Voice*.

Police and public works officials have recently started studying data on where such collisions occur and why.

"Now that we know where accidents happen we can start to figure

out what we can do," said council member Laura Macias, who called for the discussion "to make sure the council continues to monitor what's going on with traffic management."

The meeting will take place at 5 p.m. in City Hall at 500 Castro Street.

The council will hear a presentation on new efforts by police and public works to make the city's streets safer, including new signage and striping in front of Graham Middle School where several students recently were hit by cars. There's also a new team of police officers devoted to bike and pedestrian safety.

City officials indicated in a report that they are taking traffic safety seriously, noting major accidents that occurs this year, including three deadly collisions, on California Street and Shoreline Boulevard, where bike advocates say the speed limit is too high.

There's a chance of some larger projects to improve safety and encourage biking and walking the city's streets. City officials say in a report that a Pedestrian Master Plan is

going to be presented to the City Council in December which will include projects that could be funded in next year's capital improvement program budget. While details were not provided, residents have called

for more crosswalks with flashing lights, "bike boulevards" like the ones in Palo Alto that discourage car traffic and "road diets," where dangerous streets are narrowed to slow traffic and create protected bike lanes.

"We really have to switch the way we think about getting around," Macias said, noting increases in bike and transit use.

Macias said she had attended a workshop recently conducted by a Long Beach city planner about how that community made its streets more bike friendly. It's a move that's supported by busi-

► See **BIKE-PED SAFETY**, page 11

**'We really have to switch the way we think about getting around.'**

LAURA MACIAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER

## City blames contractors for janitors' job losses

By Daniel DeBolt

After janitors protested job losses and pay cuts last week, city officials shifted the blame for the cuts onto the city's janitorial service providers.

The janitors say most of them lost their jobs and others lost most of their income in the city's recent switch to a non-union janitor service. About a dozen janitors held a small protest in front of City Hall on Thursday.

Just over a dozen workers held

up banners that said, "Respect our contract" and "What do we want? Affordable healthcare." They urged the city to find a union janitorial service that could rehire them.

The SEIU-represented employees say that the city terminated its agreement with their company, GCR, when it refused to pay for increased benefit costs in a new contract. The city then temporarily hired a non-union janitor service, which, by law, was supposed to rehire all the

janitors, said Rafael Ramos, internal organizer for the SEIU.

Instead, only five of the 14 were hired, Ramos said. One worker said his hours were cut from 40 hours a week to 12, his pay cut from \$13.70 an hour to \$9.25, and all health care, seniority, vacation and sick leave benefits were lost.

"The new company, they don't have anything," the worker said as Ramos interpreted. "Just \$9.25

► See **JANITOR JOBS**, page 11



DANIEL DEBOLT

A member of the **MV Community Action Team** speaks to the protesters.



MICHELLE LE

Vargas chats with his aunt, Marite Pavas, at Los Altos High School.

## IMMIGRATION

► Continued from page 1

His words drew a standing ovation from the crowd, and served as inspiration for at least a few high school and college students who said they could relate to Vargas' experience as an immigrant living in America illegally.

Miriam Amaya and Max Blumenstein both said they walked out of the event feeling better about themselves. Amaya, a senior at Los Altos High School, said she is very close to the immigration debate, and was encouraged by Vargas' words.

Blumenstein, a junior at Mountain View High School, identified himself as bisexual and said he was inspired by the talk. Seeing someone like Vargas speak so openly about growing up gay is reflective of the Mountain View and Los Altos community's tolerance, he said.

As he neared the end of his speech at Los Altos High School's Eagle Theater on Nov. 18, Vargas apologized if what he was about to do might be embarrassing.

"Pat Hyland," Vargas began, addressing the former principal of his alma mater, Mountain View High School. "Please stand up."

### Help along the way

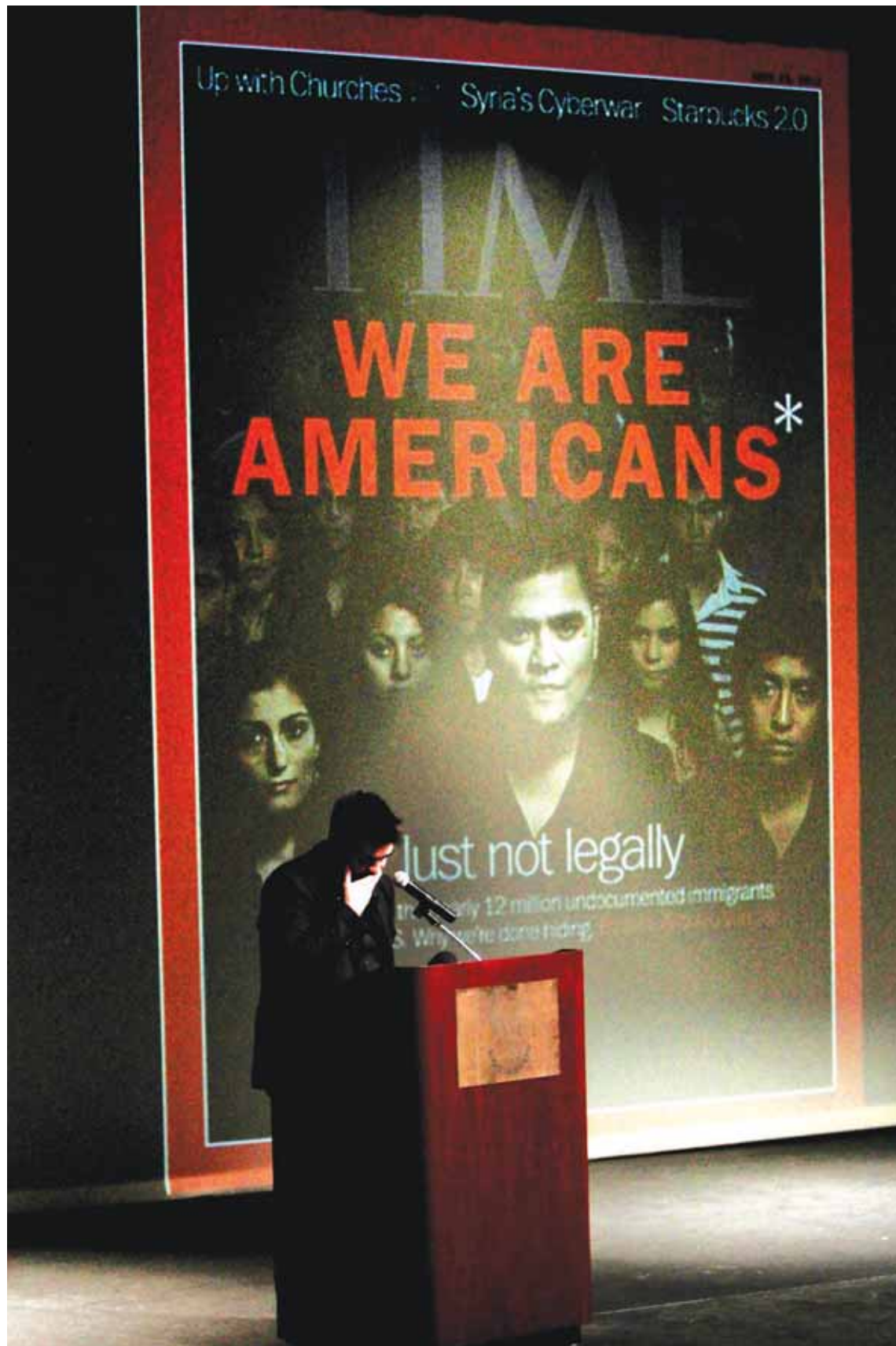
The Filipino-born, Mountain View-raised Vargas called out

all those in the audience who had served as his own personal underground railroad over the years — helping him find the money he would need to go to college when it was clear he would not be able to get government aid, teaching him to drive and then driving him up to Oregon where he could lie about his identity to obtain a driver's license, and otherwise assisting or encouraging Vargas on his journey to become a top journalist and one of the nation's "most famous" illegal immigrants.

As the 10 or so people stood up in the 300-seat auditorium, he said: "They didn't need a passport or a green card to treat me as a human being or as an American."

Vargas came to the United States from the Philippines when he was 12 years old. His mother sent him to live with his grandparents, "because she wanted a better life for me." He was able to stay in the country, attend college and ultimately work for a series of increasingly prestigious news organizations — beginning as an intern at the *Mountain View Voice* and going on to win a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the Virginia Tech shootings in the Washington Post and to write a profile of Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg in *Vanity Fair*.

"I owe an enormous debt of



MICHELLE LE

Jose Vargas talks about writing for *Time Magazine* in a sometimes emotional speech on Nov. 18.

gratitude to this school district," he said, singling out Rich Fischer, the former superintendent of the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District. "Rich taught me how to drive," Vargas said, becoming emotional as he acknowledged that he could not have accomplished so much in his 20 years in this country without his support network.

### Many like him

Vargas said his story is quite typical. All over the United States, there are people living just like he has lived — in fear that they will be caught and sent back to a place they don't really remember. These people

have friends and relatives who help them find ways to earn money, to obtain false Social Security numbers and drivers' licenses.

Finding a just solution to the immigration issue should not only be a priority for illegal immigrants — a term Vargas takes umbrage with, preferring "undocumented immigrant." He said anyone who cares for someone in a similar situation has a stake in the issue.

"Illegal immigration" is a term he says is "imprecise" and downright cruel. "Something goes terribly wrong when you categorize human beings as 'illegal,'" he said. "Words matter a lot."

He ended by striking a confident tone, saying that he firmly believes President Barack Obama will pass comprehensive immigration reform within a year, and that even those who now vehemently oppose such reform will either eventually come around or fade away as they are replaced by a much more tolerant generation.

Vargas' confidence seemed to rub off on Amaya, the Los Altos High School senior. "I'm affected by all this," she said. "The way he deals it — he's so open and free about it. I know a lot of people who are scared to address this topic and he's not. He makes it feel like it's OK." ■

# In a tight spot: residents pitch ideas for Stevens Creek Trail

By Daniel DeBolt

Over 120 people packed a meeting hall in Los Altos on Nov. 14 to discuss the biggest challenges yet in extending the Stevens Creek trail — the last links through Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Cupertino that would eventually connect the Bay to the hills and a trail network to the Pacific Ocean.

The meeting, the first in a series, offered a rare chance for residents to get down to the nitty-gritty of how to design a public works project. Attendees mostly came from Los Altos and Sunnyvale, as well as Mountain View and Cupertino.

Printed maps were given out for people to draw on with colored pencils to show how the trail could be routed around numerous obstacles — mostly private residential property that extends to the creek, as well as freeways, railroad tracks and streets. The maps showed in color where the all important public properties exist; mostly water district and city lands scattered next to the creek. The trail may not be able to run anywhere else.

Sunnyvale and the three other cities have pooled their money to study options for the most difficult segments between southern Mountain View and Cupertino. The goal is to come up with a trail alignment from Southern Mountain View to Cupertino that “all four cities can buy into,” said Jack Witthaus, Sunnyvale’s traffic and transportation manager.

Environmental planner and consultant Jana Sokale said that 35 percent of the trail users are people getting to and from jobs, shopping and schools.

And surprisingly, there are a lot of steelhead trout spawning in the creek near Blackberry Farm in Cupertino, where Sokale said 1,400 of the fish had to be relocated for a project not long ago.

“We moved 1,400 steelhead,” Sokale said. “Did you know you have 1,400 steelhead? Pretty cool, huh?”

## Plotting a route

During most of the meeting, attendees met in groups and drew on maps, and discussed possible routes with city officials and consultants.

“You could build a trail there but it depends on what the neighborhood wants,” said Sokale to a Sunnyvale resident. The woman was pointing to public land on a map running along the creek



DANIEL DEBOLT

**Community members** try their hand at designing Stevens Creek trail connections.

for half a block south of Fremont Avenue, which abruptly ends at an alleyway between homes on Bedford Avenue, potentially a place for a trail-head.

“If you lived in that neighborhood, would you want neighborhood access to that trail?” Sokale asked.

## Private property

South from there the creek runs through dozens of residential properties in Sunnyvale and Los Altos, with only a smattering of public land. In some places there is room for a trail (10-15 feet of width is needed), but the land isn’t public or the bank has partially collapsed into the creek. Some attendees marked where the trail should go on city streets while others wanted it to go along the creek, no matter what.

As Mountain View builds the trail closer, the view of residents in the areas just south of Mountain View has increasingly moved to: “No matter what the cost is, we want what we can get next to the creek,” said Ross Heitkamp, a Mountain View resident and member of the Friends of the Stevens Creek Trail. Its big change from the past. “At one point, Los Altos’ view of the trail was just put a couple signs that say ‘Follow it this way,’” on city streets, Heitkamp said.

Los Altos was hamstrung for a

while by Sunnyvale’s lack of participation. For much of the trail between Fremont Avenue and Homestead Road, the creek is the border between the two cities. But the bits of public property the trail could use are mostly in Sunnyvale.

“My city years ago decided it did not want to participate in building a trail,” said Witthaus, Sunnyvale’s project manager. “Now the city of Sunnyvale is taking the lead, kind of ironically.”

“It’s the first time Sunnyvale has studied the trail, except for 25 years ago,” Sokale said.

The multi-city approach could provide some balance to the heated opposition the trail has seen in the past. Heitkamp says there’s much less to be concerned about than some may think. He recalled one very vocal opponent of a trail segment in Mountain View who told him, “Now that it’s in, I have no problems and I use it everyday.” City officials have also said the trail has become popular wherever it’s been built.

## A long effort

Consultants pointed to documents that showed plans for Stevens Creek trail going back fifty years.

“All the way back in 1962, San-

▶ See **STEVENS CREEK**, page 10



THE GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL

ALL GIRLS

Woodshop  
Engineering  
Field Science  
Computer Science  
Skateboarding  
Start-Ups

OPEN  
HOUSE  
SAT. NOV 10  
SUN. DEC 9  
1-4PM

REDEFINED

Come see us at the new campus

3400 West Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303 | 650.968.8338

Professional Clogs  
& SO MUCH MORE...

dansko



**Buffy: Grey, Black • \$185**  
Padded insole and arch provide stability and support.



**Harlow: Black, Mahogany • \$140**  
Memory foam footbed for all-day support.



**Nadine: Charcoal, Black • \$155**  
Stable footprint. Footbed sits atop a supportive heel design.

Footwear etc.

walk your world in our shoes

www.footwearetc.com • OPEN 7 DAYS! • 1.800.720.0572

San Mateo • San Carlos • Palo Alto • Los Altos  
Cupertino • Sunnyvale • San Jose  
San Diego: Little Italy • Rancho Bernardo



## Khaled Hosseini

Author of *The Kite Runner* and  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns*

**Fri., Nov. 30 | 7:30 p.m.**  
Adult: \$10, Student: \$5

**Enjoy a Private Reception  
with the Author!**

**6:30-7:30 p.m., \$125**

Includes a personalized copy of "*A Thousand Splendid Suns*" with inscription, appetizers and a reserved seat at 7:30 presentation.



Photo by  
John Dolan

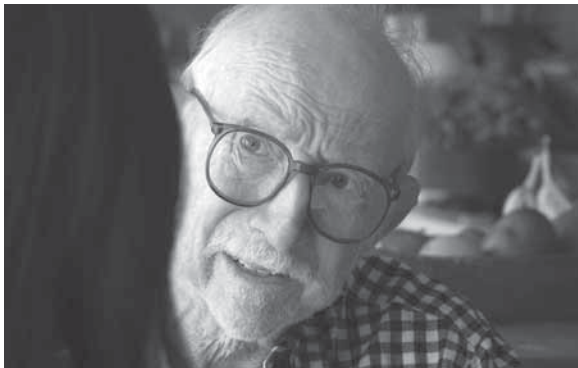
**RSVP Required**

**Tickets: [www.harker.org](http://www.harker.org)**

All proceeds from both events will be donated to  
the Khaled Hosseini Foundation.

**The Harker School | 500 Saratoga Ave. | San Jose**

## ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA



## See the future of Alzheimer's in-home care.

You're invited to a free seminar to walk through the seven most common and challenging behaviors you face with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

We'll show you how our techniques capture life's journey, keep your loved one safe and engaged, and how to take care of yourself. Our highly trained and qualified in-home CAREGivers are here for you, and here with your loved one.

**NOTE:** Due to the increase and awareness of Alzheimer's and other dementias, space is extremely limited.

**What** Helping Families Cope

**Where** Home Instead Senior Care  
883 N. Shoreline Blvd A100  
Mountain View, CA 94043

**When** Tuesday, December 4, 3:00 - 5:00pm

**Home Instead**  
SENIOR CARE  
To us, it's personal.

Each Home Instead Senior Care Franchise Office is Independently  
Owned and Operated. [homeinstead.com/168](http://homeinstead.com/168)

HI646-01QD 111612

## ZEPPELIN

► Continued from page 1

across the country in 2011.

"We launched it at the beginning of the recession," Hall said. "I've seen a recession before but boy, this one's just been lingering."

The ship is one of two like it in the world, the other being in Germany. A third had been operating in Japan but faced similar challenges — and was based away from populated areas, Hall said. Hall wonders if Eureka might have fared better if based near San Francisco at Treasure Island, but that would have also been more expensive, and less convenient for the Silicon Valley companies that used the airship for employee retreats.

Hall said the company had a goal of eventually buying two more Zeppelins costing over \$15 million each. "Our business goal was to be operating three of them," Hall said. "That's when the economics starts really tipping in your favor." He said more revenue could be raised with the efficiency of sharing staff and infrastructure among three ships. Hall recalls having to turn down sponsorship offers because "we only had one" airship and its advertising space was already sold.

Another problem was that the cost of helium, the gas which keeps the airship aloft, at one point "increased tenfold," due to a worldwide shortage. "Imagine if the price of gas went from \$5 to \$50 a gallon," Hall said.

Zeppelin Eureka first arrived at Moffett in October of 2008. The company says it was the first "large-scale" passenger airship operation in the U.S. since the golden era of airships in the 1930s ended with the 1937 crash of the Hindenburg in New Jersey. With non-flammable helium gas and sophisticated computer controls, Eureka boasted a "perfect" safety record, the company says.

On its maiden voyage, Eureka was shipped across the Atlantic and flown to Moffett from Texas, passing the Point Sur crash site of the U.S.S. Macon. Hangar One was built to house the Macon, the massive 1930s Navy airship stationed in Moffett Field. While not as large as the 784 foot



MARJAN SADOUGHI

*Airship Ventures' zeppelin became a common sight in the skies above Mountain View.*

Macon, the 246-foot Eureka is longer than a Boeing 747 jumbo jet and 50 feet longer than the balloon-like Goodyear blimp.

Much of the cost of the business is meeting the airship's unique needs. "Imagine you had the only car in the U.S. and now you want to bring it to L.A.," Hall said. "You have to bring all your spare parts with you. You can't pull into a gas station, there is no gas station." With the airship "we have to take all of our infrastructure with us." Though there are some efficiencies, like getting many times the fuel mileage of a helicopter.

Zeppelin Eureka had become a common sight in the region, floating overhead with advertisement for such companies as Farmers Insurance and 23 and Me. It was used to provide aerial coverage for large events, including the Mavericks Surf Contest and the Rose Bowl, and was even used as a platform for

skydiving on a few occasions.

It also aided in a long list of scientific research projects, such as collecting data on gases in the atmosphere for NASA and helping SETI conduct research in the Bay's salt ponds on "extremophiles," tiny organisms that live in extreme environments.

"We will demonstrate that the airship's flight characteristics not only make it a great way to see the world, but also to understand it better," said Airship Ventures co-owner Alexandra Hall in 2009.

The first female airship pilots trained with Eureka, including the first American female pilot.

There's a still chance the Zeppelin will fly again over the Bay Area.

"I think we're better than a cat, we've had more than nine lives," Hall said. "It's not over until its over, but it is very close." ■

## CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

The victim told his attacker "no," Thompson said. The 18-year-old reportedly punched the victim in the chest twice. The teen managed to escape his attacker's grasp; Both the 18-year-old and the 16-year old chased him, but they stopped

when the victim arrived at a group of adults. The adults helped him call 911 and report the incident.

Police later arrested 18-year-old Jose Mora of Mountain View for kidnapping and battery outside of the 7-Eleven at the corner of Escuela Avenue and Latham Street. The 16-year-old, who was also at the 7-Eleven,

was cited for conspiracy and released.

When asked whether police suspected this was some kind of gang initiation gone awry, Thompson said it could have been. "But it also just could be that none of them were in a gang — just kids acting out."

—Mountain View Voice staff

# New board member pushes for fire sprinklers

By Nick Veronin

Should the Mountain View Whisman School District install fire sprinklers throughout all its buildings?

It is a safe bet that Steven Nelson will be pushing for just that once he takes his seat on the district's board of trustees.

At the Nov. 15 school board meeting, board member-elect Nelson gave a presentation to the current trustees. Quoting a local fire official who advocated for all districts in the state to pledge to install fire sprinklers in all school buildings, Nelson said he would like to see the district use Measure G bond funds to install sprinklers in all the buildings where children spend a significant amount of time. There are laws which allow districts to forgo the installation sprinklers in certain instances.

"Something like 2 percent of the 200 million (dollars projected to be raised by Measure G) could put sprinklers in all the students' classrooms," Nelson told the *Voice*.

Those unfamiliar with the laws surrounding fire sprinklers might presume that all schools would be required to install them — especially in new buildings.

However, schools have long been subject to different building code laws than business and residential buildings. For a long time, districts were not required to install automatic fire sprinklers. As a result, many, if not most, of the buildings in the Mountain View Whisman School District do not have sprinklers.

A law passed in 2002, the

Green Oaks Family Academy Elementary School Fire Protection Act, said that all new school buildings would be required to have sprinklers, and that schools engaging in significant improvement projects would have to put sprinklers in old buildings they were retrofitting. But that law had one exception. "Private and parochial school projects and public school projects 100 per cent funded by local funds are not required to install automatic fire alarm systems under this law."

Because the Student Facilities Improvement Plan will be funded entirely by local funds, the district doesn't have to install fire alarm systems and sprinklers if officials don't want to.

Superintendent Craig Goldman said he wouldn't rule out the installation of such systems in certain instances. But he said that automatically triggered fire sprinklers do a great deal more to protect property than they do to protect human life, noting that no student has died from a school fire in California since the passage of the Field Act in 1933. Because automatic sprinklers cost money to install and maintain, and because they are more likely to help save property — which can be insured for less money — Goldman said he was hesitant to pledge to install automatic sprinklers across the board.

"There's no evidence that suggests the addition of automatic sprinklers will improve upon the safety of the children and staff," Goldman said. "The

position of the administration is, that as stewards for local taxpayer funding, it would not be appropriate for us to make such a pledge. Ultimately we should be considering each project on a case-by-case basis."

Nelson said that the potential loss of life should not be the only metric taken into account when considering the installation of fire sprinklers. Automatic sprinklers can greatly reduce the impact a fire has on a structure, and they have the potential to limit a fire from spreading out of the room where it begins. The difference between one room being slightly burnt, and a multitude of classrooms burning down is significant, he said, as it could be the difference from a school being slightly disrupted and a school being entirely shut down for an extended period of time.

Nelson acknowledged that installing sprinklers as a matter of policy, instead of selectively, would cost more money, but he said it would be worth it. Even if the sprinklers aren't statistically likely to help save a life, there is a chance they could, he said. Plus, teachers leave many materials in their classrooms that have sentimental value or that they purchased using their own money.

Pointing to the July 2010 fire at Trace Elementary School in San Jose, Nelson wondered whether fire sprinklers might have saved that school from losing more than 12 classrooms. "It was the teachers at Trace Elementary that were most impacted," he said. ■

## MV cancer rates topic of Q&A

A report that found a spike in cancer rates in northwestern Mountain View will be the topic of an EPA presentation and question-and-answer session on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Mountain View's Senior Center.

The report released last month by the Greater Bay Area Cancer Registry found a higher rate of non-Hodgkin lymphoma — nearly twice that of the regional average — in a residential area east of Shoreline Boulevard and north of Central Expressway between 1996 and 2005, when rates dropped to average levels.

The residential areas border several Superfund sites east of Whisman Road contaminated with the industrial solvent TCE.

TCE is a carcinogen and is known to cause non-Hodgkin lymphoma, according to the Cancer Registry. It's also a cause of kidney and liver cancers, though those were at found at average levels in the study.

The report was met with mixed reactions, from alarm and outrage that such a study was not done sooner, to a call

"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.

The presentation by the Environmental Protection Agency is part of the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board's Thursday night meeting at Mountain View's Senior Center at 266 Escuela Avenue. It begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 9:15 p.m.

—Daniel DeBolt

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### CARBON MONOXIDE WARNING

As temperatures around the Bay Area start to cool and heaters are turned on, residents are being reminded to have working carbon monoxide alarms at home to prevent accidental gas poisonings.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced from heaters, fireplaces furnaces and many types of appliances and cooking devices.

Each year, 480 people in the U.S. are killed by carbon monoxide poisoning, and as many as 20,000 are hospitalized, according to the San Carlos Fire Department.

The best way for homeowners to stay protected from carbon monoxide is to have a CO2 alarm installed on every floor and outside each sleeping area, officials said.

As of July 1, 2011, California law requires owners of single-family homes with attached garages or fossil fuel sources for heating to install carbon monoxide alarms in the home.

More information on carbon monoxide can be found online at [tinyurl.com/carbmono](http://tinyurl.com/carbmono).

—Bay City News Service

#### HOLIDAY TRAIN COMES TO TOWN

The Caltrain "Show Train" will be returning to Bay Area stops on Dec. 1 and 2 to collect toys for underprivileged children.

The special train will be covered with over 60,000 lights and decorations and will depart at 4 p.m. from the San Francisco Caltrain Station. It is scheduled to stop in Mountain View on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 6:55 p.m.

At each stop there will be free entertainment prior to the train's arrival. The full schedule can be found at [www.caltrain.com/riderinfo/specialevents/holidaytrain.html](http://www.caltrain.com/riderinfo/specialevents/holidaytrain.html).

The "Show Train" will make four stops each day.

During each stop, holiday music will be performed by the Salvation Army brass band and on-board carolers.

Santa, Mrs. Claus and other winter characters will walk around greeting children and posing for pictures with them. Members of the United States Marine Corps Reserve and representatives will collect new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to local children.

—Ashley Finden

# wellness at your door

NEW!



Harborside  
Delivery

Order Online for  
**FREE DELIVERY or In-store Pick-up**

- full menu available
- hours of delivery: 1pm–7pm daily
- serving the Greater Bay Area  
(see map online)

**(888) 99-Harborside**  
[www.harborsidehealthcenter.com/ep](http://www.harborsidehealthcenter.com/ep)



1840 Embarcadero, Oakland • 2106 Ringwood Ave, San Jose  
DISPENSARY HOURS: 10am–8pm daily

# A fond farewell

SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES LEGACY OF DEPARTING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

By Nick Veronin

Laughter and tears punctuated Mountain View Whisman School District board meeting, as teachers, administrative officials, and even a former MVWSD superintendent commemorated the departure of trustees Ed Bailey, Steve Olson and Fiona Walter.

The three outgoing trustees were officially recognized for their service to the district at the Nov. 15 meeting — their last before the newly elected board members, Christopher Chiang, Bill Lambert and Steven Nelson, take over.

“I just want to say thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for what you’ve done for this district,” Donna Campbell said in front of a packed board room. Campbell, who teaches at Bubb and also serves as the head of the district’s teachers’ union said she greatly appreciated the work all three had done during their tenure.

“They always put students first and never allowed their personal interests interfere with the greater good of the districts and the students,” Superintendent Craig Goldman told the *Voice*. “I’m extremely grateful for their service to the district. This was an exceptional board.”

The departing board members were at times emotional as they addressed the crowd, teachers, district administration and fellow trustees.

Walter made sure to credit the Mountain View Whisman community for all the support that the board received over the years she served. “Nothing happens without hours and hours and hours of community involvement,” she said, as she tried to keep her composure. She also thanked the district’s administrative staff. “We have a brilliant staff here at the district office.”

Bailey compared the board to his family, most of whom were present in the audience. “Outside my family, I think that this is the best team I’m aware of.”

And Olson said it had been “an honor” to work on the board, thanking his “amazing colleagues.”



**Clockwise from left:** Fiona Walter, Phil Palmer, Ed Bailey, Steve Olson, Craig Goldman, Ellen Wheeler.

He also made a point of thanking former superintendent Maurice Ghysels, who spoke favorably of the board.

“The three of you flipped the MVWSD from a district that was spiraling down to one that is spiraling up,” Ghysels said in a brief speech to the board.

All three incoming trustees were in the audience, and the outgoing board members had some words of advice for them as they took their new positions as the majority of the district’s governing body — to listen carefully to the advice of the administrative staff and to always try to keep their personal views at an arms-length so they might objectively evaluate all the proposals that come before them.

“You’ve got some big shoes to fill,” said current board member Phillip Palmer, addressing the incoming trustees.

“We are clearly going to miss their leadership and engagement,” Goldman said. “At the same time we’re highly hopeful that the new trustees will see the current board members and retiring board members as models. ▀

## STEVENS CREEK

► Continued from page 7

ta Clara County planners first envisioned this green corridor extending all the way out from the hills to the Bay,” Sokale said.

And it may take many more years to fund and design. To continue the trail south from its current end at Sleeper Avenue and Heatherstone Way, the trail will have to make its way through some very tight spots, Sokale said. Officials would be meeting with Caltrans to discuss a half dozen options for “pinch points” such as where there’s little room between the sound wall and the creek. Possible solutions include a platform hung off the side of the highway’s sound wall, or even moving the sound wall out of the way.

A bit further south there are only tiny pieces of public property for the trail near Mountain View’s southern border just north Fremont Avenue. Sokale suggested that the street bridge there be rebuilt to allow the trail to go down onto the slopes of the creek bank and underneath Fremont Avenue, likely a very expensive proposition.

“This is a very challenging project,” Sokale said. “This team of consultants have built this trail in hard, hard areas, but this is even harder.”

For more information, including dates of future meetings and property maps, visit the study’s website at [tinyurl.com/SCTpage](http://tinyurl.com/SCTpage).

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

## MEASURE M

► Continued from page 1

Measure M by reading from a scathing editorial in the Nov. 12 San Jose Mercury News:

“This was no grass-roots rebellion against lavish pay,” the editorial says. “It was a negotiating ploy by hospital unions. They admit they floated the measure as a bargaining chip, and they stopped campaigning for it when they got their way in a labor contract.”

“It just defies the facts,” Trossman said in response to the editorial. The measure was put on the ballot in a relatively affluent area, no money was spent in support of it, the hospital aggressively fought against it, and it still passed, he said. By virtue of that fact, Trossman said he believes it is clear that people feel that the

hospital’s pay scale is out of balance.

“I think we and a lot of other economists think that the polarization of wealth in this country is a growing problem and needs to be addressed,” he said.

Reeder noted that he suspects Measure M passed, in part, because of the national conversation surrounding the fairness of CEO salaries. However, Reeder and Zoglin have said in the past that comparing the nearly \$700,000 annual salary El Camino CEO Tomi Ryba is paid to the tens of millions of dollars paid to Wall Street CEOs is like comparing apples and oranges.

Zoglin has repeatedly said that the hospital only pays fair market wages to all of its employees, and that if they were forced to pay less than fair market value, the hospital would be hurt because it would not be able to hire the best and the brightest leaders to run the organization.

Trossman rejected this thesis and said the hospital will not be hurt if the measure were to go forward. “They will be able to go out and find plenty of qualified people that are willing to work for under \$350,000 a year.”

In a statement, AFL-CIO representatives denied that Measure M was cooked up to be a “bargaining chip,” as Kary Lynch, a union steward and El Camino Hospital employee, was quoted saying in a local paper.

“SEIU-UHW members placed Measure M on the ballot solely to rein in executive salaries at the El Camino Hospital District, which is partially supported by taxpayer dollars,” the statement said. “Kary Lynch is not an official of SEIU-UHW. He is not an elected member of the union’s executive board and does not hold any other official position. His statement does not reflect the current or past position of SEIU-UHW.” ▀

Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center presents a **FREE**

## “How To” Series for Family Caregivers



**Tues, Dec. 4, 6:30 pm - 8 pm**  
Palliative Care

Join us for this **free** event.  
Enjoy light refreshments and a  
chance to connect with others in  
similar circumstances.

**RSVP to (650) 289-5498**

**Avenidas**  
Rose Kleiner Center  
Quality Daytime Care for Older Adults

\* Free on-site care of your aging loved one available while you attend the workshop. 48-hour notice required.



## Peninsula School

NURSERY THROUGH 8TH GRADE • PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION SINCE 1925

**We believe education can be  
engaging and joyous.**

- Celebrating arts and academics
- Working together to cultivate curiosity and imagination
  - Strong community building
  - Focusing on the process of learning
- Low student teacher ratio, small class size

**OPEN HOUSE** Nursery, Kindergarten, First Grade  
Saturday, October 27,  
10–11:30 a.m. *Children welcome.*

**SCHOOL TOURS** October 11 & 25, November 8 & 15,  
December 6 & 13, January 10, beginning at 10:00 a.m.  
*Parents only please—registration not required.*

For an appointment, please call (650) 325-1584, ext. 5  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 18, 2013**

920 PENINSULA WAY, MENLO PARK, CA | 650.325.1584  
[WWW.PENINSULASCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.PENINSULASCHOOL.ORG)

Photo: Marc Silber



MICHELLE LE

Joanne Quermann, a hospital volunteer, thanks Lydia Gordon for a diabetes screening. Gordon is a clinical integration manager at El Camino.

## SENIOR CARE

► Continued from page 5

vaccinations and blood pressure readings, hospital officials were eager to share the other services they have brought together to help seniors stay healthy as they grow older.

Senior Health Center staff gave demonstrations of the VGo robotic monitoring system. The VGo looks a bit like a miniature, autonomous Segway, with a video screen at the top. The video communications technology can go to wherever a patient is within a home, instead of having the patient sit down at a computer. It was created to help doctors and nurses check in on their patients remotely, and could prove particularly helpful in checking up on low-mobility seniors.

The VGo isn't the only remote monitoring system that nurses and doctors in the Senior Health Center plan to use. They may also have scales equipped with wireless transmission and other similar devices to help doctors and nurses track a patient's progress without needing that patient to come into the office.

If the patient does have to come in, he or she will be able to take care of more things under the same roof. When hospital officials were planning the Senior Health Center, they envisioned a facility where patients would have access doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, social workers, dietitians, pharmacists and other senior-oriented health professionals.

Having all these specialists working under one roof should

have many benefits, hospital officials say. Better communication among doctors and pharmacists means certain patients will have a more finely tuned prescription drug regimen. Patients won't have to go to an entirely separate office to talk to a mental health expert or to get dietary counseling.

"We are thrilled with the overwhelming attendance at the open house," said Dr. Eric Pifer, chief medical officer at ECH. "Our goal is to provide a useful community service and an adjunct to the great primary care already available in our community."

More information on the Senior Health Center and the services offered there can be found by calling 650-962-4360 or at [www.elcaminohospital.org/seniorcenter](http://www.elcaminohospital.org/seniorcenter). ▀

## JANITOR JOBS

► Continued from page 5

an hour — that's it."

City officials had a different take, pointing the finger at the janitor's employer, GCR, for giving up on contract negotiations and issuing a 10-day notice to the city to find a new janitorial service provider.

"After many months of negotiating, GCA issued a cancellation notice with 10 days' notice to the City," said Kimberly Thomas, assistant to the city manager, in an email. "The city had to secure temporary services in the interim with IMS until it bids for a new provider. Second, because GCA terminated janitorial services to the city (with 10-days' notice), the Janitorial Displacement Act does not apply. The City still took multiple measures to provide an opportunity for the



DANIEL DEBOLT

Janitors protest outside City Hall over job and wage cuts.

temporary vendor, IMS Janitorial, to consider GCA employees for employment."

Thomas stressed that the IMS contract is a temporary one until a new janitorial service provider could be found.

A city employee walking by said he knew some of the jani-

tors and said felt bad for them, particularly the ones who had learned the city well and went above and beyond their duties as janitors.

"It's a bad time of year, it's terrible, with the holidays and Thanksgiving coming up," the employee said. ▀

## BIKE-PED SAFETY

► Continued from page 5

nesses there who give bicyclists discounts. Advocates say bicycle improvements increase business because cyclists are more likely to stop and spend their money.

She noted the use there of protected bike lanes created by moving parked cars away from the curb and sandwiching a bike lane in between. Such an improvement could be used on California Street, she said, one of the more dangerous streets for cyclists, according to police data.

"If you are biking and you are not a completely confident cyclist, like me, you don't have to worry about getting hit by a car because you have a parked car protecting you," Macias said.

Macias also noted that the city needs a new way of determining

speed limits. The city follows state rules that say when "80 percent of the traffic is going at this speed they have to keep them at this speed," and speed limits can be no lower. "That's really a car-centric model. We need a people-centric model, not a car-centric model."

Macias said she hopes council members take note when they pick new goals in January. Council member Ronit Bryant has also expressed interest.

"I hope this goes somewhere," Macias said. "It seems necessary. We can't just keep on allowing drivers to keep on driving faster. There's lots of solutions."

For coverage of the meeting, which occurred after the *Voice* went to press on Tuesday, visit [mv-voice.com](http://mv-voice.com).

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

## THE 26TH ANNUAL LOS ALTOS

# KIWANIS TREE LOT

QUALITY NOBLE FIRS, WREATHS, GARLANDS & CENTERPIECES

OPENS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD! 10AM-5PM

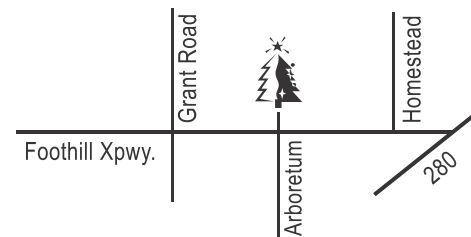
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

3:00 pm — 7:30 pm

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

9:00 am — 6:00 pm

Visit us at the Lucky's parking lot,  
Foothill Expressway and Arboretum.



Last day of sales — Sunday, December 16th



For more info: call (650) 988-9900  
or visit: [www.kiwanistrees.org](http://www.kiwanistrees.org)

All proceeds benefit your local schools  
and other community organizations.

# In SEARCH of the car-less COMMUTE

Cities, companies look to convince employees to try new ways of getting to work

Story by Jocelyn Dong

Photos by Veronica Weber

On any weekday morning, upwards of 17,000 commuters — some in buses, others on bicycles, but the majority in cars — stream onto north Shoreline Boulevard and North Rengstorff Avenue in Mountain View. By their sheer numbers, they could almost fill Shoreline Amphitheatre. Instead, they're on their way to Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft and other companies whose office complexes populate the area between U.S. Highway 101 and the San Francisco Bay.

At peak hours, the line of cars on Shoreline is so long, it backs up on the off ramp from 101 north.

The traffic is only projected to get worse.

The Mountain View City Council in July approved a plan that allows companies in what it calls the North Bayshore Area to expand to 10.7 million square feet of buildings by 2030, or almost one-and-a-half times the current square footage. Conservatively, that growth could bring the number of employees trundling their way to work each day to 28,000.

The roads weren't designed for that much traffic. About 25 percent more cars could squeeze onto the streets, officials say, but after that it would be perpetual gridlock.

Mountain View's not the only city where traffic jams are a part of daily life. The Page Mill Road exit from Interstate Highway 280 south is a logjam on most weekday mornings. Ditto the Willow Road exit from 101 south in Menlo Park.

And it's not just highway intersections that transportation planners are scratching their heads over. Officials in Palo Alto are puzzling over traffic and parking downtown. Residents in neighborhoods near University Avenue have been clamoring for



**Michael Gratz**, executive director of Stanford Hospitality & Auxiliaries, started by riding Caltrain from San Francisco twice a week, but now rides the train daily;

relief from downtown workers who park their cars all day along neighborhood streets, leaving residents to park blocks from their homes.

And when a 21,700-square-

novel requirement: Its owners must manage how people working in the building commute to and from work. The city is banking on having at least 20 percent fewer cars parking there than

streets, residents have already said.

The Lytton Gateway project, as it's called, as well as other upcoming developments downtown, have triggered a study of parking and commute options that planners are hoping to get off the ground this fall.

### Leave cars at home

In the Bay Area and nationwide, transportation experts have long examined roads, parking and public transportation, aiming to make them as efficient as possible. They've considered

a raft of questions: Are there enough lanes? Are traffic signals timed to allow for a smooth flow of cars? Is parking sufficient for the demand? Are routes laid out so buses pick up the most people and deliver them as quickly as they can?

Increasingly, however, officials are turning to additional transportation tools to ease congestion, techniques that go squarely to one central goal: convincing people to leave their cars at home.

As with other efforts to get people to change their habits,

## Mountain View's not the only city where traffic jams are a part of daily life.

foot office building on the edge of downtown Palo Alto was approved by the City Council in May, it came with one fairly

would normally be allotted. And those workers ought to arrive by bike, carpool, bus or train — not park their cars on adjacent

*Valeries Ojha walks past the cactus garden at Stanford University on her way to work at the Stanford School of Medicine*



transportation-demand management programs, as they are known, offer people both carrots and sticks — rewards and penalties — to motivate them to adopt new ways.

The toolbox includes passes for free public transit, shuttle buses, van- or carpools, car- and bike-sharing and even cash and raffles for those who convert to alternate modes of transportation.

Many of the larger companies in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Mountain View have started to tackle these issues. Ubiquitous Bauer's Intelligent Transportation shuttles and white double-decker Google buses pick up high-tech workers as far away as Marin and the East Bay and deliver them to work. Free bicycles, painted in primary colors, allow Google employees to get quickly from building to building without hopping in a car.

Palo Alto's Hewlett-Packard Co. lets its employees buy transit passes with pre-tax income and partners with rideshare.org to encourage workers to carpool.

Facebook, now located in Menlo Park, provides workers with free passes to ride Caltrain and runs shuttles from the nearest stations to its campus along Bayfront Expressway.

The efforts have shown decided results. More than 40 percent of Facebook's workforce take the

train or bus, hop on Facebook-run shuttles, join van- and carpools, bike or walk, according to the company. In Mountain View's North Bayshore Area, 25 percent of employees at the four largest companies take transit or employer-run shuttles, while 6.4 percent use a car- or vanpool, and another 5.6 percent bicycle, according to a consultant's study released in October.

Some 61 percent drive to work by themselves.

"Compared to the typical Bay Area business park where 80 percent or more of the employees drive alone, the current modal share for the North Bayshore Area shows the effectiveness of the programs the existing employers use to encourage use of alternative travel modes," the report states.

Palo Alto, meanwhile, is contemplating how to work with its downtown businesses and their merchants group, Palo Alto Downtown Business and Professional Association, to make stores and offices aware of the many ways their employees could get to work. By banding together, they might even be able to make a car-sharing program or discounted transit passes available.

It's all about economies of scale, according to Jaime Rodriguez, the city's chief transportation official.

"If I'm a seven-person business, how can I take advantage ... and create a transit-pass program?" he asked hypothetically.

The city already has in place a commute-alternatives program for its own staff, but encouraging — or outright requiring — businesses to do likewise is an area under exploration, Planning Director Curtis Williams said recently.

The challenges the city faces in getting people to leave their cars at home are unlike those of private companies. In terms of the city's own employees, union contracts prohibit the city from taking away benefits, such as

parking, that otherwise could be used as a means to get people onto trains, buses and bikes.

And some developers might balk at requiring tenants to run a transportation program, fearing it would scare off potential tenants because of the costs.

While companies such as high-tech security firm Palantir "are progressive on their own," Williams said, "other businesses think, 'Well, that's going to cost me money to provide transit passes for all my employees.'"

But offering commute options could be a perk for employees and help the business to attract workers, he said. The city's role

could be to make companies aware of what they could offer, and at what cost, if they join with other businesses.

Unlike Mountain View, which surveyed the North Bayshore Area companies, Palo Alto doesn't yet have firm data on the driving habits of commuters, let alone its residents on the whole. To better assess these habits and devise a transportation-management strategy, the city is looking to start an annual transportation study, Rodriguez said. It could document both how people are getting to and from where they

► See **CAR-LESS**, page 14

## Bikram Yoga

### Mountain View

Intro Special

"10 Days for \$20!"

Time	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
6:00 am	X	X	X	X	X		
8:00 am		X	X		X	X	X
10:00 am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4:00 pm						X	X
4:30 pm	X	X	X	X	X		
6:30 pm	X	X	X	X	X		
8:15 pm	X	X	X	X			

**NOVEMBER PROMOTION**

\$99 Unlimited Monthly

\*Must be new to auto pay

1910-E W. El Camino Real, Mountain View • 650.967.2968

E: info@bikramyogamountainview.com

http://www.bikramyogamountainview.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

# FORMER NAVAL AIR STATION

# MOFFETT FIELD

## Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

November 2012

The next regular meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field will be held on:

Thursday, November 29, 2012, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at:

Mountain View Senior Center Social Hall  
266 Escuela Avenue  
Mountain View, CA 94040-1813

The RAB reviews and comments on plans and activities about the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities underway at Moffett Field. Regular RAB meetings are open to the public and the Navy encourages your involvement.

**To review documents** on Moffett Field environmental restoration projects, please visit the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View, CA 94041, (650) 903-6337.

**For more information**, contact Mr. Scott Anderson, Navy Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator at (619) 532-0938 or scott.d.anderson@navy.mil.

**Visit the Navy's website:** <http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/basepage.aspx?baseid=52&state=California&name=moffett>

**CAR-LESS**

► Continued from page 13

want to go and also, over time, how people shift from traveling by one mode of transportation to another.

**Stanford's model**

While city planners look for ways to keep their roads and parking lots from clogging, they already have one local organization to look to when it comes to getting people out of their cars: Stanford University.

Partly by choice and partly

because of limits imposed on it by Santa Clara County, Stanford's become a national leader in transportation-demand management.

The university has managed to keep the number of cars coming onto and leaving campus steady for the past 10 years, even while the campus population has grown from some 10,300 employees (not including those at the hospitals) in 2001-02 to about 12,700 during the last academic year. Add to that thousands of undergraduate and graduate students.

As part of a 2000 agreement with the county, which governs the conditions under which Stanford can construct new buildings and add more employees, the university agreed not to allow the amount of traffic to increase. Twice-yearly measurements show the university's succeeded: In 2002, 3,474 cars arrived during a peak morning commute hour of 8 to 9 a.m.; in 2011, the count was 3,081. The number of cars leaving campus one day between 5 and 6 p.m., the evening commute, was 3,591 in 2002 and 3,540 last year.

The success has been consistent but not necessarily easy. One year, the count of evening commuters exceeded the 2002 "cap" by 144 cars; however, the university only has to implement measures to ease the traffic if the surplus occurs in two of three consecutive years.

The commute counts may be the official measure of compliance, but the real success of its transportation program is seen in the number of people who no longer drive themselves to work, according to Brodie Hamilton, the university's director of parking and transportation services.

Today, just 46 percent of employees drive alone to campus, down from 72 percent 10 years ago. Those taking Caltrain to work has jumped to 21 percent from 4 percent. The bicycling population has grown to nearly 13 percent from 7 percent. People taking the free Marguerite Shuttle, Stanford's fleet of 41 red-and-white buses that roam campus and the Palo Area, account for more than 7 percent, up from 4 percent a decade ago.

Stanford's success has relied on introducing and expanding a host of programs that draw on psychology, access to transit information, publicity, new infrastructure and even giving people cash in order to convince them to commute differently.

"When I got here (in 2000), it had a good TDM program," Hamilton said, referencing some of its features: a program that guaranteed rides to a commuter

2004 — growing from 212,000 rides to 449,000 last year.

Another major initiative for the program was the creation of the Commute Club, a way to offer recognition to alternative commuters.

"The idea was, 'Let's create this group, an identity, a sense of belonging, and people who are having a common cause, if you will: 'We're alternative-transportation users!'" Hamilton said.

**One of the program's biggest successes has been a partnership with Caltrain to offer employees free rides.**

in a personal emergency, the Marguerite service, and Clean Air Cash, which rewards alternate-commuters with money. "What we needed to do ... was enhance that."

One of the program's biggest successes has been a partnership with Caltrain to offer employees free rides, a ticket now known as the GO Pass. So many people took the university up on the offer that the Marguerite system, which stopped at the train stations, had to expand, he said.

"If you're ever out there from between 7 and 8 a.m., the train pulls up and they disgorge all those people, and they pile into the buses and off they go," Hamilton said of the seamless transition for commuters.

In fact, the number of rides Marguerite buses provide to and from the train has doubled since

To create a buzz and raise awareness, the department held a competition for the best testimonials from people who loved their alternative commute. It featured the winners on posters and postcards.

"It was like putting a face to members of the Commute Club," he said. Soon groups of people from departments contacted his office wanting to be featured as well.

"Now we're up to 8,000 Commute Club members. That sense of identity is there," he said.

In addition to recognition, cold hard cash has helped the Commute Club grow from an initial group of 3,700. Commute Club members receive \$25 a month in exchange for not having a parking permit.

Stanford also has a way to nudge those not swayed by rewards, in the form of one fairly large "stick": the price of a parking permit.

The annual price of an "A" permit, which allows prime parking, is \$792, more than twice of what it cost in 2001. A "C" permit, which allows parking farther away from most buildings, costs \$309 a year, nearly three times the price in 2001.

With more than 20,000 parking spaces on campus, the university has been able to avoid building any parking for new commuters, according to Hamilton.

"Most of our parking now is replacement parking, or if a new dorm is built, we do need to meet that demand," he said.

The same agreement with the county that limits traffic has put a cap on parking at 2,300 new spaces — much to the dismay of visitors to Stanford who circle around for the better part of the hour looking for a slot.

As the numbers show, limiting parking and raising the price have been effective. Demand for parking has dropped more than 6 percent since 2002, even

**MVLA Girls Softball**  
Girls. Softball. It's all we do. Since 1972.

**Registration for Spring Softball Opens Nov 1st**

**THROW LIKE A GIRL!!**

Sign Up by Nov 8th and Save

Playing in Mtn View & Los Altos: Stevenson Park, Graham Jr. High, Oak School, Springer School (among others)

Ages 5 - 16  
Everyone Plays!  
Buddy System  
Scholarships Available

Learn more at: [mvlags.org](http://mvlags.org)

**Ventana School**  
Nurturing Minds and Hearts  
Come grow with us

**Serving Preschool - 4th Grade 2013 - 2014**

Ventana is an Episcopal school taking its inspiration from the schools of Reggio Emilia and other progressive models which encourage artistic expression, critical thinking and hands-on investigative learning.

**Elementary School Information Night**  
November 29, 2012  
Kindergarten: 6 - 7pm  
Elementary: 7 - 8pm

**Kindergarten Readiness Discussion Panel**  
January 10, 2013, 6:30 - 8pm

**Elementary School Open House**  
January 17, 2013, 7 - 8:30pm

**Limited spaces available for current year.**  
Young 5s, Grades 1-3

To RSVP, or schedule a tour, call 650.948.2121 or email: [ventanaschool@ccla.us](mailto:ventanaschool@ccla.us)

1040 Border Road, Los Altos

City of Mountain View Community Services Department presents the annual

**Community Tree Lighting Celebration**

Monday, December 3, 2012  
5:30-7:30pm

Join us in downtown Mountain View for a great community event!  
Civic Center Plaza  
500 Castro Street

**Parks Make Life Better!**

Santa arrives at 5:45pm!  
Take a Picture with Santa!  
Bring your own Camera.

Including:  
Refreshments  
Face Art  
Live Music  
Activities for kids

In the spirit of the season, bring a can of food to help build the Giving Tree, which benefits the Community Services Agency of Mountain View.

For more information, call (650) 903-6331. Event will take place, rain or shine!  
Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mountainviewrecreation](http://www.facebook.com/mountainviewrecreation)

as buildings and employees have been added, according to a university report.

In spite of the successes, Hamilton admitted there have been a few bumps in the road to the alternative-commute lifestyle. About eight years ago, the university decided to mount a pilot program for its East Bay residents by offering free passes for BART.

"It was going to be a piece of cake. We knew we had 2,000 to 3,000 people living in the East Bay ... that would be eligible," Hamilton said.

But the response was underwhelming, to say the least.

"We had 11 people take us up on this," he said. "We said, 'Wait a minute; it's free!'"

It may have been free, but getting to campus on public transit still felt too onerous for most people. The typical commuter would have to get to BART, then transfer from BART to another transit line, and then leave that transit line to hop on Caltrain or the Marguerite, Hamilton said.

"That was telling us that was a long way to come with maybe too many connections," he said.

It was either an idea that was before its time, or it was just not a good idea, he added.

### Lessons learned

So what lessons can be learned from Stanford's decade-long program?

"The biggest takeaway I would offer is: With the right mix of incentives, and maybe some sort of disincentive, you can change people's commuting behavior," Hamilton said.

There is no single service that has been responsible for the university's success, he said, but rather a vast array that have met the needs of Stanford's commuters.

Free transit passes, the Marguerite system and the Commute Club form the pillars of the overall program, but car-sharing, emergency rides home, help with planning one's commute, one-day parking passes and bicycle-repair stations, to name just a few additional services, all make the program work.

Hamilton believes, however, that not all of Stanford's services are directly transferable to other organizations, in part because of differences in location, budget and other factors. Stanford, for example, spends more than \$5 million to run its program, he said. That doesn't cover infrastructure, such as the Marguerite shuttles.

Then, there's control.

"Universities, because they are like small communities on their own, have the flexibility to do things municipalities don't. We can control our parking. Very few universities don't charge for

parking," he said. "We're in a situation where we can do that, and it works out very well."

Likewise, Stanford commuters rely on Caltrain, but a company located away from a train line would have to consider whether that option makes sense, as the business might have to run shuttles to get workers from the depot to the office.

Where employees live and whether there is a sufficient concentration of them there could also determine whether an option, such as a company-sponsored shuttle, would make sense.

The City of Palo Alto has been working on a few initiatives that could make life easier for train and bus commuters. A rental bicycle program, in which 100 bikes would be stationed at train depots and other strategic locations around town, is aimed at helping commuters get from public transit to their workplaces. That connection, known as the "last mile," can be one of the thorniest problems of public transportation, planners say. The timeline for deploying those bikes, officially part of the Valley Transportation Authority's Bicycle Share Program, is due at the end of the year.

The city's also rolling out bike corrals downtown — green rectangles the size of one car parking space that can fit up to 10 parked bicycles — to motivate more people to travel by bike.

In the bigger picture, the city is hoping to work with merchants, through the Palo Alto downtown association, to make small-business owners aware of commute options for their employees.

And the council took a huge

step in pushing alternative transportation when it approved the expansion of Stanford Medical Center in June 2011. As part of an agreement with the city, the medical center pledged to provide GO Passes for free Caltrain rides to all of its current and future workers, thus stemming a potential flood of thousands of cars driven by employees. As of mid-December last year, 2,000 workers had already signed on.

Mountain View officials, meanwhile, are continuing to examine the city's options for the North Bayshore Area. Among those could be automated and magnetically levitated "pod cars" that run on an overhead track, akin to a monorail, from downtown Mountain View to the North Bayshore Area and NASA Ames, according to the October study and city officials.

It is also considering launching a Transportation Management Agency, a partnership of the city and employers that would organize transportation-management programs and institute incentives and penalties. Such groups, usually nonprofit organizations, have sprung up over the past several decades around the country and have been successful in getting people to leave their cars at home.

City planners intend to return to the council in January for direction on action steps, once stakeholders have weighed in this fall and a list of "preferred options" has been defined.

*Jocelyn Dong, editor of the Voice's sister paper, the Palo Alto Weekly, can be emailed at [jdong@paweekly.com](mailto:jdong@paweekly.com).*



Good for Business. Good for You.  
Good for the Community.

# Inspirations

a guide to the spiritual community

## MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTRAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

**Sabbath School:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Saturday Services:** Worship 10:45 a.m.  
**Wednesday Study Groups:** 10-11 a.m.

Pastor Kenny Fraser, B.A.M. DIV

1425 Springer Rd., Mtn. View Office Hrs. M-F 9am-1pm  
[www.mtviewda.adventistfaith.org](http://www.mtviewda.adventistfaith.org) Phone: 650-967-2189

To include your Church in  
**Inspirations**  
Please call Blanca Yoc  
at 650-223-6596  
or e-mail [byoc@paweekly.com](mailto:byoc@paweekly.com)



## SAN ANTONIO VISIONING PROCESS

### PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2

**Saturday, December 1, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

The workshop will be held at:  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation – Meeting Room 3F,  
2440 West El Camino Real, 3rd Floor (Suite 300).  
**All interested parties are welcome to attend.**

The San Antonio Visioning Process will result in community-defined objectives and strategies, and is the first step in implementing 2030 General Plan goals and policies for this area. This input will help guide creation of a new San Antonio Precise Plan, beginning in early-2013.

San Antonio Visioning Process and related General Plan information may be found on the project website:  
[www.SanAntonioVisioning.com](http://www.SanAntonioVisioning.com).

### PRE-WORKSHOP WEB SURVEY # 2

The San Antonio Visioning website will be updated with a "Visual Preference" Survey before Workshop #2. The Survey is intended to gather community input on desirable characteristics of future San Antonio Area open space, streetscape and buildings. Interested parties are encouraged to complete this survey before the workshop.

Contact the Community Development Department at (650)903-6306 or [community.dev@mountainview.gov](mailto:community.dev@mountainview.gov) if you have questions or to sign up for notifications of future meetings.



## LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH TASK FORCE (ONE APPOINTMENT)

Applications will be accepted until **December 7, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.** for Mountain View registered voters within the boundaries of the Los Altos School District (LASD) as shown on the LASD Boundary Map ([http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/files/user/1/file/Adopted\\_attendance\\_boundaries\\_6\\_18\\_07.pdf](http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/files/user/1/file/Adopted_attendance_boundaries_6_18_07.pdf)). Volunteers for this position are expected to attend two or three meetings a month, on Tuesday evenings, which are expected to begin in December and run through April.

**Appointments are made on an equal opportunity basis.**

**Call the City Clerk's Office at (650) 903 6304 for an application. An application can be downloaded at <http://www.mountainview.gov>**

**Call the Los Altos School District at (650) 947-1150 for further information.**



*"Late Afternoon with the Ancient Oaks" by Ken Fowkes*

# Open space views



*"Russian Ridge on Canvas" by Kimmy Zalec*

Each year, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District holds a photo contest to encourage visitors to explore the beauty of the district's open space preserves. On this page are winners of the 2012 contest. Photographers competed in five categories: artistic/contemporary, landscapes, people, plant life and wildlife. Winning photos were chosen, in part, for their power to transport viewers to the preserves, said contest judge and professional photographer Nate Donovan.



*"Barn Swallow and Family" by Niki Muller*



*"Sunset from Turtle Rock" by Chow Hong Liu*



*"Explore" by Charles Tu*

# Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

## MountainView VOICE

Founding Editor, Kate Wakerly

### ■ STAFF

#### Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

#### Editorial

Managing Editor Andrea Gemmet

Staff Writers Daniel DeBolt, Nick Veronin

Editorial Intern Ashley Finden

Photographer Michelle Le

Contributors Dale Bentson, Angela Hey, Sheila Himmel, Ruth Schecter, Alissa Stallings

#### Design & Production

Design Director Shannon Corey

Designers Linda Atilano, Lili Cao, Diane Haas, Rosanna Leung, Paul Llewellyn, Scott Peterson

#### Advertising

Vice President Sales and Marketing Tom Zahiralis

Advertising Representatives Adam Carter

Real Estate Account Executive Rosemary Lewkowitz

Real Estate Advertising Coordinator Samantha Mejia

Published every Friday at  
450 Cambridge Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
(650) 964-6300  
fax (650) 964-0294

Email news and photos to:  
editor@MV-Voice.com  
Email letters to:  
letters@MV-Voice.com

News/Editorial Department  
(650) 964-6300  
fax (650) 964-0294

Display Advertising Sales  
(650) 964-6300

Classified Advertising Sales  
(650) 964-6490 • (650) 326-8286  
fax (650) 326-0155

Email Classified ads@MV-Voice.com

Email Circulation circulation@MV-Voice.com

The Voice is published weekly by Embarcadero Media Co. and distributed free to residences and businesses in Mountain View. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 964-6300. Subscriptions for \$60 per year, \$100 per 2 years are welcome.

Copyright ©2012 by Embarcadero Media Company. All rights reserved.

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.

#### TOWN SQUARE FORUM

Post your views on the Town Square forum at www.MountainViewOnline.com

EMAIL your views to letters@MV-Voice.com. Indicate if it is a letter to be published.

MAIL to: Editor Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405 Mountain View, CA 94042-0405

CALL the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507

### ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

## End your year with a Holiday Fund gift

The economic heart of Silicon Valley is beating faster these days for those fortunate enough to have good jobs, or any jobs at all, but many families continue to struggle and would not make it through the winter without help.

And that is where the Holiday Fund comes in. Funds raised from the annual campaign are distributed to seven nonprofit organizations that help the hungry and homeless, families in trouble or those needing health care. Each group received just over \$13,000 in March, their share of the record \$91,000 raised for the year.

The 2011-12 campaign was helped by generous donations from the Wakerly Family Foundation, in memory of Voice founder Kate Wakerly; the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Google's Tides Foundation, and the Milk Pail Market.

If you are able, we invite you to make a contribution by using the coupon provided in this issue or by giving directly via the link on the Voice website, www.mv-voice.com. And besides the larger grants, merchants subscribing to Pago made a small donation after each purchase using the site.

Money contributed to the Holiday Fund, now in its 10th year, is held by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and will be distributed to the nonprofit agencies in March of next year. No administrative costs or fees are deducted from Holiday Fund gifts, so 100 percent of all donations will be received by the nonprofits supported by the Fund.

Here are the agencies that will benefit from this year's Voice Holiday Fund:

#### Community Services Agency

CSA assists homeless families and seniors with short-term housing, medical care, and more. The nonprofit is a cooperative effort of 17 faith-based communities in Mountain View and Los Altos.

#### Community Health Awareness Council

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

#### Mountain View RotaCare Clinic

The RotaCare Clinic provides uninsured local residents with medical care and medications and is frequently the last resort for this underserved demographic group.

#### Day Worker Center of Mountain View

The Day Worker Center provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. It serves 50 or more workers a day with jobs, English lessons and guidance.

#### YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence

This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

#### Community School of Music and Arts

CSMA provides hands-on arts and music projects in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Nearly 40 percent of the students are low-income, and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

#### Partners for New Generations

Partners for New Generations matches adult volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in Mountain View, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills area.

### ■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### IDLE SHUTTLE BUSES SHOULD BE PUT TO USE

Thank you to the Voice for voicing support for a public-private partnership to make a city shuttle viable.

While I understand Google's (and any corporation's) concern about privacy and security regarding public use of their shuttle, it seems like there should be a way to make this work. The driver could do a sweep of the bus for any items employees might have left behind before it transitions to public day-time

use. Shuttle users could be limited to Mountain View residents and employees of companies based here, by using an ID card.

In this age of increasingly constrained natural resources, it is a pity to see so many corporate shuttles from the various companies sitting unused in parking lots during non-peak hours, while local residents are forced to increase their eco-footprint to get around town because there is limited public transit available here.

Marn-Yee Lee  
Montecito Avenue

### ■ TOWN SQUARE

HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ON TOWN SQUARE

#### HOSPITAL BOARD MAY CONTEST SALARY-CAP

Posted by PH, a resident of another community

The message is clear: The people are tired of paying those in executive positions so much while they are struggling to pay their bills with no hope for their future and retirement. It doesn't matter who got Measure M on the ballot, the people passed it and expect it to be enacted. It shows how tired we all are of some of the ECH administration's actions as far as being fiscally responsible and how much we want changes to be made.

Posted by Steve, a resident of the Old Mountain View neighborhood

Let's see; when unions use the courts to circumvent the will of the voters "that is what democracy looks like," but when management does the same it is spitting in the face of the voters. Talk about hypocrisy. The unions pretty much admitted that they manipulated voters into Measure M so they could use it as a negotiating tool against management. Management is within their rights to take this to court. It is how our system works. I hope they pre-

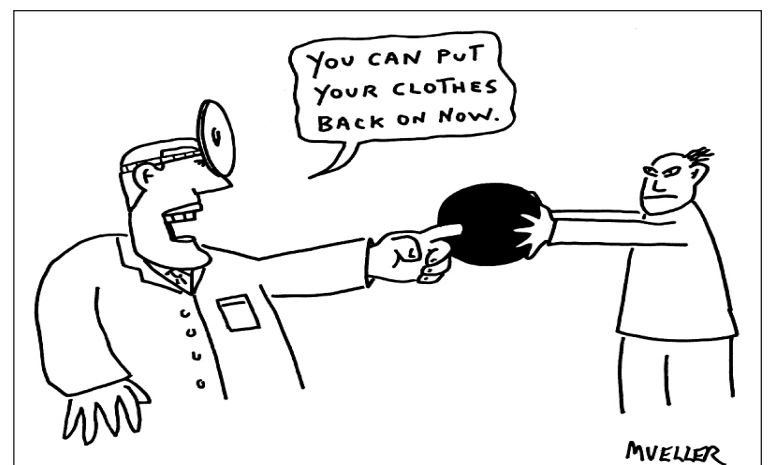
vail. The worst thing that has happened to this country is public sector unions. They should be illegal.

Posted by Dave, a resident of the Gemello neighborhood

Yes, but you miss the point of the over compensation for CEOs these days. What are they? Gods? Who are we? Nobodies? Not very democratic.

Posted by Ken, a resident of another community

The fact of the matter is that the union's hand was behind the ballot measure as a bargaining tool. I would be all for the "will of the people" if I thought that no amount of cynical union shenanigans was behind Measure M. But unfortunately it was. Besides which, anyone who has ever been in a leadership position will tell you that everyone always has a better idea than you do if they're not the ones in the hot seat. If the executive leadership of ECH leaves en masse then the hospital will be in big trouble. Do you really want people with no experience whatsoever running ECH? Because that is what you'll get.



# Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund

## How to Give

### Your gift helps children and others in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, *Voice* readers contributed more than \$50,000, up slightly from the prior year. With additional funds from the Wakerly Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the total raised was more than \$90,000, or nearly \$13,000 for each of the seven participating nonprofit agencies supported by the *Voice* Holiday Fund. No administrative costs are deducted from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

**Donate online at**  
[www.siliconvalleycf.org/  
mvv-holiday-fund](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund)

### This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

#### Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos

CSA assists homeless families and seniors with short-term housing, medical care, and more. The nonprofit is a cooperative effort of 17 faith-based communities in Mountain View and Los Altos.

#### Community Health Awareness Council

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

#### Mountain View RotaCare Clinic

The RotaCare Clinic provides uninsured local residents with medical care and medications and is frequently the last resort for this underserved demographic group.

#### Day Worker Center of Mountain View

The Day Worker Center provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. It serves 50 or more workers a day with jobs, English lessons and guidance.

#### YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence

This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

#### Community School of Music and Arts

CSMA provides hands-on arts and music projects in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Nearly 40 percent of the students are low-income, and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

#### Partners for New Generations

Partners for New Generations matches adult volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in the Mountain View, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills area.

#### Use this form to donate by mail.

Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (MC, VISA, or AMEX) \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)

In my name as shown above

– OR –  In honor of:  In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of person)

The Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and gifts amounts will be published in the Mountain View Voice unless the boxes below are checked.

I wish to contribute anonymously.  Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

Please Make checks payable to:  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
and send to:

**The Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund**  
**c/o Silicon Valley Community**  
**Foundation**  
**2440 W. El Camino Real, Suite 300**  
**Mountain View, CA 94040**



The Mountain View Voice will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2012, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

#### Use Pago to make a Holiday Fund donation

Anyone making a purchase at a participating local merchant can use a Pago account to make a donation to the Voice Holiday Fund. Here are the businesses participating in the Pago promotion: Amber India, Bajis Café, Baskin Robbins, Best Bite, Bushido, Chaat Paradise, El Paso Café, Han Gen, Las Muchachas, Neto Caffè, New York Pizza, Pasta Q, and Sunny Bowl. For more information on the Holiday Fund go to [siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund)

# 'Miracle on El Camino' helps CHAC expand

By Daniel DeBolt

They are calling it "the miracle on El Camino Real."

After several decades without having adequate space, good fortune has finally smiled on the Community Health Awareness Council, the non-profit which provides low- or no-cost mental health services to local schools and the general public.

This spring, CHAC is planning to move into a building at 590 West El Camino Real that doubles the size of its long-time downtown home.

"We will have twice the space, which we will fill in one day," said CHAC executive director Monique Kane.

How did a non-profit that has lost funding this year make such an upgrade? An unusually charitable developer bought CHAC the building to make way for a

project on CHAC's property. The Malek Family Foundation is offering a "deed swap" which will be complete any day now.

CHAC's home across the street from St. Joseph's church will be torn down for a new development that also fronts Castro Street. There's already a notice on the door to let CHAC's clients know the organization is moving.

"We move, then they knock it down," said Kane as she sat in her second story office overlooking the intersection of Church and Hope Street. "I'm going to miss this building because it's so homey."

The move to a larger building is long overdue, staff members say. With the new space, CHAC's staff will no longer have to leave their offices to make space for counseling sessions conducted by one of the organization's 80 interns. And there will be much-needed rooms for community classes and intern training and meetings that might have taken place in a hallway, staff members said.

The new building, now home to tech companies Loopt and Green Dot, will be owned by CHAC, mortgage-free.

"This building is going to meet our needs like a hand in a glove," said development director Paul Shutz. He and Kane called it the "Miracle on El Camino Real" because CHAC would not have been able to afford the move by itself. The building will double the value of CHAC's assets, Shutz said.

The deal was part business, part charitable contribution. It happened because "the footprint of this building was valuable enough," Shutz said, and because the developer wanted to support CHAC, Kane said.

CHAC is going start raising funds soon to

furnish and update the new building; the Malek family foundation donated \$10,000 towards that effort.

The patriarch of the Malek family who was behind the deal passed away this year and was very happy about doing this for CHAC, Kane said.

## This year's successes

Staff members at CHAC were abuzz about the expansion of their school counseling services into Sunnyvale this year, which they say caused a significant drop in expulsions and suspensions.

Excited to show some proof about the effectiveness of their school counseling services, the same as are used in Mountain View schools, CHAC's staff pointed to a

66 percent drop in Sunnyvale School District's suspensions and expulsions after CHAC's counselors came in. Referrals for disciplinary action dropped 78 percent.

The numbers are a result of students being able to talk about stress, anxiety and depression-related to problems at school and home such as bullying, divorce, gangs, drugs and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence.

School administrators said the service helped to "increase opportunity to learn and keep students on task."

"It is clear that CHAC helped us achieve that goal," said Dr. Benjamin Picard, superintendent of the Sunnyvale School District.

The district also measured an 18.8 percent increase in behavior, attendance, motivation and academic performance. CHAC also found an increase in how safe students feel at school.

Kane added that this year there are now some full-time counselors at Mountain View's high schools to help the students suffering the most. Counseling is usually conducted by interns.

## CHAC seeks funds

Despite the good fortune with the building, CHAC still lacks funds. The Packard foundation recently pulled a \$60,000 grant. As a result, CHAC's interns will take home a stipend around Christmas of only \$100. That isn't much for work that usually takes 20 hours a week for several years, staff members say.

Donations to the Voice's annual Holiday Fund will go to CHAC as well as other Mountain View-serving non-profits which will be featured in future issues of the *Voice* through the end of the year.

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



# LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET



**BEGINNING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5**

El Camino Hospital is pleased to host an Autumn Farmers' Market every Friday starting October 5.

**Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Location: El Camino Hospital Mountain View campus, in parking lot east of Emergency Entrance**



For more information visit [www.elcaminohospital.org/calendar](http://www.elcaminohospital.org/calendar).

# Chasing kids, not medical records



AWARD-WINNING  
HEALTH CARE



*See my story at*  
**[pamf.org/findadoctor](http://pamf.org/findadoctor)**



*Palo Alto Medical  
Foundation*

A Sutter Health Affiliate

Part of the Sutter Health network