

# Mountain View VOICE



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WEEKEND | 25

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## Google Town: imagining housing for all employees

By Daniel DeBolt

If you've ever wondered what Mountain View might look like if there was enough housing for all of Google's local employees, you aren't alone.

Berkeley-based designer Alfred Twu wondered the same thing. He created a digital rendering of what 10,040 apartments (800 square-feet each) could look like if built on the parking lots of Google's headquarters at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway in Mountain View. Housing everyone required 39 high-rise buildings, ranging in height from seven to 50 stories tall.

Twu explained his motivation for creating the image: "The booming tech industry has created huge demand for housing in

the San Francisco Bay Area, driving up housing costs and leading to long commutes," he writes on his website, [google.com/site/techcampushousing](http://google.com/site/techcampushousing), where he also posts images of housing for other major valley employers.

Mountain View is under increasing pressure to do something about Google's growth. Twu noted recent protests in San Francisco have targeted Google's iconic white commuter shuttles, now a symbol for the Bay Area's soaring housing prices and spiking commuter traffic.

Twu says the renderings are not a serious proposal, just a way to visualize how much housing might be needed. A more realistic plan could make use of

► See **GOOGLE TOWN**, page 16



Berkeley-based designer Alfred Twu created this rendering showing what the Googleplex would look like if apartments for 10,000 Google employees were provided on its Mountain View site.

## Google talks up its 'tools' for journalists

PRESS GATHERS TO TALK ABOUT FUTURE OF MEDIA

By Nick Veronin

They've worked with municipalities to provide free wireless and broadband Internet, created the world's most popular email service — also gratis — and now they are giving newsrooms around the country pro bono access to their new Google Media Tools site.

On Tuesday, March 4, Google's media outreach department invited Bay Area reporters, bloggers, photojournalists and media professionals to the W Hotel in San Francisco for a summit on the intersection of technology and journalism — and to tout their recently launched media-oriented project.

Over the course of the day-long event, dubbed "Google for

Media: San Francisco," representatives from universities, major news outlets and Google gave speeches, participated in panels, and led smaller workshops — all focused on using cutting-edge technologies and web-based tools to tell stories.

"Today's event is about giving journalists an opportunity to talk about, in a local sense, what's happening in the digital age — what are the challenges, what are the opportunities," Daniel Sieberg, head of Google's media outreach team, told the *Voice*.

Google's Media Tools page, which basically functions as a hub for all of the company's apps that journalists might find useful, was launched in October 2013. That same month, Sieberg and his team began holding

media-focused events in major U.S. cities to promote the new product. Tuesday's event was the first to be held on the West Coast.

### Brave new world

The first part of the day consisted of speeches, presentations and panels on the myriad high tech tools available to journalists. Participants included members of Google's media outreach team, as well as representatives from the event's co-organizers: the Online News Association, the Society of Professional Journalists, Northwestern University's Knight Lab, and UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism.

After an introductory speech from Sieberg, photographer and "visual journalist" Samaruddin Stewart took the main stage to discuss the digital tools to use to figure out if a photo has been doctored.

He explained how media outlets, lawyers and insurance

► See **GOOGLE**, page 11

## 'Place-making' expert dazzles council with San Antonio plan

By Daniel DeBolt

Nationally renowned place-making expert Fred Kent presented his plan to the City Council Tuesday for making a "great place" in San Antonio shopping center. Council members largely approved his ideas.

"I don't want to be too critical of this area but there aren't many great places in this region," Kent told the council. "This will be a great place in this region."

"I think it will be better than Santana Row — there's no real square in Santana Row. People from 20 to 30 miles away will come here," he said. "When people have visitors, this will be one of the places they'll come to to show them."

The plan would provide a number of interesting features for the 50,000-square-foot square, to be built in phase 2 of Merlone Gei-

er's redevelopment of San Antonio shopping center. It includes a "pop-jet fountain" which can be turned off and used as a stage or holiday tree location. There are various game tables, movable tables and chairs, a 2,000 square foot "jewel building" where food and drinks can be served, vendor kiosks, a small outdoor library for kids, large chess pieces and an elevated monument to the birthplace of Silicon Valley. The monument compliments another nearby at the real birthplace, William Shockley's former lab building at 391 San Antonio Road, which will be knocked down for the project.

Kent removed half the 39 trees from the square, professing a different philosophy than city staff about how they contribute to place-making. Kent says they

► See **SAN ANTONIO**, page 14

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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Interviews and photos by Katie Straub

*Has the rain affected your commute recently?*



"I usually bike to the train, but since it has been raining I've been driving instead."

**Matt Kantor, Millbrae**



"The roads are fine. I think it is more inconvenient to have to carry an umbrella around."

**Puja Ramani, Menlo Park**



"It's not enjoyable. I prefer being in a car, to be honest, but even then, visibility with the windshield wipers is not opportune."

**Annie Anton, Palo Alto**



"I drive to work, but it hasn't affected me at all. I live very close to work, so no problems."

**Shawn Kaku, Mountain View**



"I love the rain. It's a free car wash!"

**John Akkaya, Mountain View**

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

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

**PEEPING TOM REPORTED**

A resident of the Americana Apartments, located at 707 Continental Circle in Mountain View, called police at 5:15 p.m. on March 2, reporting that she had seen a man masturbating while looking at her through an apartment window.

According to Sgt. Saul Jaeger, public information officer with the Mountain View Police Department, the woman did not want to prosecute the man and was unable to identify the purported peeping Tom after an investigation.

No arrests were made.

**SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION EMBEZZLEMENT**

The former executive director of the Peninsula Symphony Association has been accused of embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from the decades-old Los Altos community orchestra.

Stephen Jay Carlton, a 45-year-old Novato resident, is facing multiple felony charges, including grand theft, embezzlement, forgery, identity theft and tax evasion. He faces up to 18 years in prison if he is convicted. He was arrested late last week.

Carlton came under suspicion in September 2013 after one of the association's board members was alerted that the 65-year-old nonprofit's funds were unusually low, according to a press release issued by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office.

Carlton resigned shortly after board members brought the issue to the Los Altos Police Department, the press release said. One of the symphony's endowments dropped from \$227,000 to \$375; another was depleted by nearly \$200,000 — going from \$195,000 to \$395.

In a subsequent investigation, it was shown that Carlton had used association checks to pay himself, according to investigators. He is accused of forging the signatures of two board members on a number of the checks, taking out an unauthorized \$25,000 loan in the association's name and using the money to pay down personal debts.

**PURSE-SNATCHING**

A woman was robbed of her purse in front of the Ross store, located at 405 San Antonio Rd., at about 6 p.m. on March 4, police said.

The victim, who was in her mid-20s, told police that she was walking through the Ross parking lot near the front of the

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 7

■ POLICE LOG

**AUTO BURGLARY**  
1 block E Middlefield Rd., 1/27  
500 block W Middlefield Rd., 2/28

**AUTO THEFT**  
500 block Cypress Point Dr., 2/28  
Central Av. & Horizon Av., 2/28  
600 block Tyrella Av., 3/3  
1300 block Montecito Av., 3/4

**BATTERY**  
100 block College Av., 2/26  
300 block Sierra Vista Av., 2/28  
1000 block N Rengstorff Av., 3/1  
400 block N Shoreline Blvd., 3/4

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**  
300 block Showers Dr., 2/27  
100 block E El Camino Real, 2/27  
600 block Showers Dr., 3/3

600 block Showers Dr., 3/4

**DRUG SALE**  
1900 block Latham St., 3/1  
Broderick Way & Terminal Blvd., 3/2

**GRAND THEFT**  
100 block Del Medio Av., 2/27  
200 block South Dr., 2/28  
1000 block Space Park Way, 3/1

**INDECENT EXPOSURE**  
700 block Continental Cir., 3/2

**ROBBERY**  
Ross Store, 3/4

**VANDALISM**  
400 block Moffett Blvd., 3/1  
500 block Walker Dr., 3/2

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MICHELLE LE

**Karen Nebre** draws saline solution out of a vial at the Mountain View-Los Altos district's adult school on March 4.

## Medical tech program is just what the doctor ordered

DISTRICT'S ADULT SCHOOL OFFERS AFFORDABLE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

By Nick Veronin

A group of about 25 students, clad in dark blue medical scrubs, sat in pairs — facing each other on either side of several long tables on a recent afternoon. About half of the mostly-female group clutched hypodermic needles in their hands as they looked at their partners and prepared to draw blood.

Nearby on the second floor of the Mountain View-Los Altos school district's adult education

building, mannequins with open mouths for practicing CPR lay on medical benches against the wall, next to two prosthetic arms. A few weeks prior, the students had practiced drawing fake blood from each of the fake arms — one with white skin, the other with dark skin — but today, it was time for the real deal.

When they have completed the 17-week Medical Assistant Training Program, the students will be certified medical assistants and will be placed in an

“externship” at a local hospital or private practice, where they may draw blood, keep track of medical records and escort patients in from the waiting room to a private office, where they will conduct preliminary tests before a doctor or nurse arrives.

The role of medical assistant is “very critical,” said Dr. Abhaya Karangutkar, who teaches the class. “It is very critical, especially in today’s health care

► See **ADULT SCHOOL**, page 17

## Gov. Brown, Netanyahu sign trade, research partnership pact

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in Mountain View Wednesday morning meeting with Gov. Jerry Brown at the Computer History Museum, where the leaders signed a pact to expand economic, cultural and academic cooperation between Israel and California.

The pact, referred to by Israeli consular officials in San Francisco as a “strategic partnership,” focuses on water conservation, cyber defense, alternative energy,

biotech, health and education among other areas, according to the governor’s office.

Prior to the arrival of Brown and Netanyahu on March 5, security personnel circled the museum with dogs that sniffed around the building’s perimeter.

About 10 demonstrators gathered outside the museum on Shoreline Boulevard in anticipation of Netanyahu’s visit. Most were there in support of Palestinians, including John Lehman, a

60-year-old San Jose resident.

“The reason I’m against the cooperation, the partnership, is that it would directly or indirectly support the occupation,” Lehman said.

“They have a right to be left alone,” he said of Palestinians.

Standing on the center median of North Shoreline Boulevard near large letters strung up between trees reading “Free

► See **NETANYAHU**, page 18

## Google-employed commissioner resigns

REAL ESTATE PROJECT EXECUTIVE SAID SHE WANTS TO AVOID PERCEPTION OF BIAS

By Daniel DeBolt

Citing concerns about the perception of a conflict of interest, Google employee Rachel Grossman has resigned from the the commission that advises the City Council on land use issues.

In a city where many land use decisions are impacted by her employer, Grossman had come under some scrutiny about the influence of her new job as a Google real estate project executive. She responded by resigning effective March 1, according to a letter to the city clerk.

“I believe I can effectively disassociate my employment with Google from my volunteer service with the Environmental Planning Commission; however, I decided to resign in order to avoid the potential for a perception of bias,” Grossman said in an email to the *Voice*.

Nevertheless, Grossman’s influence while being employed by Google caused concern for resident Konrad Sosnow, who wrote in a letter to the editor, “Will Rachel Grossman, a Google executive, recommend plans that are in the best interest of Google, her employer, or Mountain View? How much of Rachel Grossman’s compensation at Google will be a function of how she directs the Environmental Planning Commission to support Google’s wishes?”

Grossman had been on the

commission since December of 2009, and had been selected to serve as its chair in January, despite having been hired by Google in November.



Rachel Grossman

Fellow commissioner Lisa Matichak said Grossman notified the commission of her new job in September.

“While Rachel was a solid contributor on the EPC, there was growing public perception of a conflict of interest given her employment with Google,” Matichak said in an email.

City attorney Jannie Quinn had given the OK to Grossman being on the EPC, saying conflicts of interest would have had to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis for each decision before the commission. Grossman had recused herself from EPC meetings whenever land use decisions for Google’s North Bayshore area were on the agenda, said Quinn.

“I will miss Rachel’s insight and leadership on the EPC,” said fellow planning commissioner Margaret Capriles, who is a City Council candidate for the November election.

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



MICHELLE LE

**Gov. Jerry Brown** shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday.

# Caltrain plan would fell trees, add substations

AGENCY'S NEW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ANALYZES THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ELECTRIFICATION

By Gennady Sheyner

For years, Caltrain officials have been advocating a switch from diesel trains to electrified ones as the best way to both help the environment and keep the popular but cash-strapped commuter service financially viable.

But a new report analyzing the environmental impacts of electrification indicates that these benefits will come at a cost beyond the project's \$1.5 billion price tag. Specifically, it could result in removal of more than 2,000 trees and the addition of poles up to 50 feet high, safety walls built on existing bridges that cross the train corridor, and substations — including one in Palo Alto — to support the electrification.

The draft Environmental Impact Report, which the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board released Feb. 28, argues that

Caltrain's long-planned electrification is a critical project for increasing ridership and for giving the Peninsula an "environmentally friendly and reliable service." More than a decade in the works, the previously stalled project sparked back to life in 2012, when the California High-Speed Rail Authority agreed to adopt a "blended" two-track system along the Peninsula in which the new high-speed trains would share electrified tracks with Caltrain. As part of a 2013 agreement between the agencies, the rail authority would pay for about half of the project's \$1.5 billion costs, with the balance coming from Caltrain and other Bay Area transportation agencies.

According to the new report, Caltrain plans to have its new electrified system in place by 2019, at which time about 75 percent of its train fleet would be electric and 25 percent would be

diesel. Once the remaining diesel trains reach the end of their service life, they would be replaced with electric trains.

Caltrain carried about 47,000 riders on a typical weekday in 2013, according to the report, a number that is projected to go up to 57,000 in 2020 and to 84,000 even if electrification doesn't happen. With the project, the estimated ridership would be 69,000 in 2020 and 111,000 in 2040. The overall number of daily weekday trains would jump from the present level of 92 to 114.

The environmental review notes that the project would significantly reduce traffic on regional roads by 235,000 "vehicle miles traveled" in 2020 and by 619,000 in 2040.

Yet the benefits will come with costs. The overhead power lines would be supported by poles with heights ranging from 30 to 50 feet, according to the report.



Overhead wires and tree removal are part of Caltrain's electrification plan.

The poles would stand on either side of the tracks, about 10 to 12 feet from the centerline, and would be spaced about 200 feet from each other (with shorter spans between poles on curved track sections). Wires would stretch across the tracks in a cantilever configuration.

The electric infrastructure would also require installation of one switching station, which controls how power is fed within the system; 10 traction power substations, which convert electricity to the voltage trains use; and six paralleling stations, which boost power along the system.

One paralleling station would be in Palo Alto, either near Greenmeadow Way or just south

of Page Mill Road, according to the report. But, the report notes, such a station would have some visual impact. Located in a compound that has typical dimensions of 40 feet wide and 80 feet long, the station could be partially screened by trees. If located by Greenmeadow, "roadway users and residents may have limited views" of the site when there are gaps in vegetation.

The Page Mill option would also benefit from screening provided by trees on the Alma Street side and from the new four-story Park Plaza building on the other side, according to the report.

The environmental analysis noted that the Greenmeadow

► See **CALTRAIN**, page 10



## SILICON VALLEY'S ULTIMATE REMODELING DESIGN WORKSHOPS

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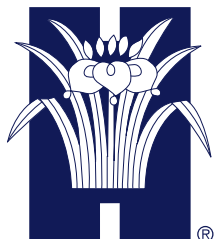
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# 'Google park' now a possibility

COUNCIL OKS POLICY ON NAMING RIGHTS, SPONSORSHIPS

By Daniel DeBolt

Googleville, USA, here we come.

With Google in the midst of a donation-spree that seems timed to counter it becoming a symbol for Bay Area gentrification and under-funded public transit, Mountain View City Council members took action Tuesday night to make sure the city doesn't miss out on some more corporate funding.

To be fair, the council never mentioned Google as the specific reason for the policy change, which sets the stage for companies to buy naming rights to city parks and city buildings, and sponsor city events, such as outdoor concerts.

Council member Mike

Kasperzak said he wanted to make sure the possibility existed. He raised the hypothetical scenario where a company bought the city enough land for a relatively large park — would council members really want to turn that down if it required naming the park after that company? After all, the council would still have to approve any name change.

"If we don't have the policy to permit that, no one is really going to try anything," Kasperzak said. "It's a lot easier to get people to think about it if it might be permitted."

Council members Jac Siegel and Ronit Bryant were the only council members to vote against the policy change, citing concerns over the naming rights

issue. Member John McAlister said he liked the event sponsorship aspect. The rest of the council was silent.

"I don't want people to be able to buy the names of parks — it just doesn't seem right to me," Siegel said.

"I don't want to visit my neighborhood park and find it called AT&T park or ... not to mention the names of any Mountain View companies," Bryant said. "We are so surrounded by advertising all the time. Naming rights I absolutely cannot support. It's the Mountain View Community Center, not company XYZ Community Center."

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

## Google donates \$50K to restore Immigrant House

DONATIONS STILL NEEDED FOR A COMPLETE RESTORATION

By Daniel DeBolt

As Google looks to improve its image locally, the search giant's latest gift to the city will help with the restoration of Mountain View's tiniest historic home.

The Mountain View Kiwanis Club has received a donation of \$50,000 to go entirely towards moving and restoring the 400-square-foot home built for immigrant laborers in the 1880s. It was recently saved from demolition and moved from where it stood downtown at 160 Bryant Street.

It's still unclear how much the restoration will cost, but "Google's financial assistance and the support of the Mountain View Kiwanis Club in this arena is an incredible help to us," said Marina Marinovich, who has formed a group called Friends of the Immigrant House. Her

grandparents and father lived in the home as immigrants from Croatia in the 1920s and 1930s.

With the Google money, the Immigrant House can be moved from a city storage yard to a new city park on the Stieper property at 771 Rengstorff Avenue, where it would be restored. City Council members have approved the new location but have yet to approve a design or funding for what will be the city's newest park, though there is lots of interest in surrounding the Immigrant House with community gardens.

Marinovich said Google's donation could be traced back to the May 25 meeting when the City Council approved a plan to save the house. "Not only did the firefighters and members of city's SEIU union-represented employees stand up and declare their support and their intention to donate time and talent toward

its restoration — but it also led to Google's generous support and now the dream of seeing Immigrant House saved for future generations is on its way to fruition," Marinovich said.

As for the Immigrant House's former home at Bryant and Villa street, a four-story office building is under construction there now and is expected to house a major tech company. A display is in the works for the front of the office building to illustrate the past, present and future of the area.

The Los Altos Community Foundation is taking donations toward completing the Immigrant House restoration, which may cost much more than \$50,000. To make a donation online, visit [losaltoscf.org](http://losaltoscf.org) and type "Immigrant House" into the search box.

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

### ■ CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

store, when someone came up from behind her grabbed the small, clutch purse she had under her arm, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger with the Mountain View Police Department.

When she turned around, she saw a man running away toward San Antonio Rd.,

Jaeger said. The woman described the robber as a black man in his late 20s, about 6 feet tall, of thin build, and wearing a white baseball hat, a gray jacket and torn blue jeans.

Not much of value was in her purse, according to Jaeger. She was not hurt.

Nick Veronin



The online guide to Mountain View businesses

[ShopMountainView.com](http://ShopMountainView.com)

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Join our Auxiliary.



### El Camino Hospital Auxiliary

is looking to recruit adult volunteers who are willing to commit to a one day per week shift of 3 ½-4 hours. We are looking for positive and outgoing individuals to assist visitors and staff. We have a range of opportunities in the following services: Java Junction, Early Greeters, Information Desk, and Tele-Care, just to name a few.

El Camino Hospital is dedicated to serving the community, and its Auxiliary volunteers make a difference every day.

Please inquire online at:

[www.elcaminohospital.org/Auxiliary](http://www.elcaminohospital.org/Auxiliary)

or contact the Auxiliary office at **650-940-7214**.



Mountain View and Los Gatos  
[www.elcaminohospital.org](http://www.elcaminohospital.org)

# Rare, polio-like virus striking Bay Area children

By Sue Dremann



MARCH 2014

## COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit [pamf.org/education](http://pamf.org/education).

### PREDIABETES

**MARCH 3, 1 – 2:30 P.M.**

JUDY FARNSWORTH, R.D., CDE  
PAMF NUTRITION SERVICES

Prediabetes – a wake-up call! Registered dietitian, Judy Farnsworth, will discuss what prediabetes is and how to manage it. Learn small lifestyle changes for making big steps toward diabetes prevention.

#### Cupertino City Senior Center

21251 Stevens Creek Blvd.  
Cupertino  
(408) 777-3150

## DR. TOM MCDONALD MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES AT THE PALO ALTO CENTER

### SUPPLEMENT FACTS AND FICTION

**MARCH 11, 7 – 8:30 P.M.**

DARCIE ELLYNE, M.S., R.D., CDE  
PAMF NUTRITION SERVICES

Are supplements good or bad for you? Will they help prevent disease? Can you trust what's in the bottle? We'll answer these questions and others to help you decide if taking vitamin, mineral, amino acid, herbal or botanical supplements is best for your health.



### BYE BYE DIAPERS

DR. MARVIN SMALL MEMORIAL PARENT WORKSHOP

**MARCH 12, 7 – 8:30 P.M.**

HEIDI EMBERLING, M.A.  
PARENTSPLACE

This workshop will help you understand how to create an environment and adopt an attitude that will guide and promote your child's progress towards using the toilet.

#### Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real  
Mountain View  
(650) 934-7380

### DISASTER MEDICAL RELIEF

**MARCH 24, 7 – 8:30 P.M.**

ENOCH CHOI, M.D.  
PAMF FAMILY MEDICINE

Come hear how Enoch Choi, M.D. and your local physicians have helped those without medical access, and how you can prepare for the inevitable earthquake here in the Bay Area.

#### San Carlos Library

610 Elm Street  
San Carlos  
Call Rhea Bradley at  
(650) 591-0341, ext. 237



[pamf.org](http://pamf.org)

 Palo Alto Medical Foundation  
**Sutter Health**  
We Plus You

A polio-like illness has stricken 25 children in California, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital officials announced Feb. 24 at a press conference.

Patients suffering from the disease quickly and permanently become paralyzed in one leg or arm, and others have lost use of up to all four extremities. Some patients have respiratory symptoms before the paralysis begins, said Dr. Keith Van Haren, a Lucile Packard Children's Hospital pediatric neurologist.

"We suspect it is a virus," but doctors have not yet confirmed its presence in all of the patients, he said.

Van Haren and Dr. Emmanuelle Waubant, professor of neurology at the University of California San Francisco, are researching the cases and have found a virus, enterovirus-68, in the nasal swabs of two patients, but that sample is too small to draw conclusions, Waubant said. Enterovirus-68 is in the same family as the polio virus.

The polio vaccine does not protect against enterovirus-68 and there is no evidence that the vaccine causes the disease. Doctors stressed the disease is rare. It is occasionally seen in the Bay Area, but the presence of five cases in the past 18 months is unusual, Van Haren said.

Other enteroviruses can cause similar symptoms. Another strain, enterovirus-71, has been implicated in similar cases of acute flaccid paralysis in Southeast Asia and Australia, but that strain is not known here, Van Haren said. The cases, which began in September 2012, have ranged in location from Monterey County to the North Bay, with others in southern California. There are no confirmed cases outside California.

Most of those stricken are ages 2 to 16 but the disease has affected some adults, Van Haren said.

In some cases, the paralysis is preceded by a respiratory infection. In other cases, sudden muscle weakness rapidly progresses to flaccid paralysis, where the limb hangs and cannot move.

"All of the children have permanent weakness," Van Haren said. "So far, we've seen modest to very little recovery."

But parents should not panic if their child drops a toy. The weakness will be much more

apparent and sudden. Any weakness that lasts for a few hours should be immediately looked at by a physician, the doctors said.

But in most cases, the virus won't progress to paralysis, they said.

"We think it's a very small number of patients infected with this virus who will have the neurological condition," Waubant said.

One case investigated at Lucile Packard involved a Berkeley girl, Sofia Jarvis, who is now 4 years old. In November 2012, Sofia, then 2, suffered from a respiratory infection and severe wheezing. Her parents took her to the doctor, and she was treated with Albuterol, an inhaler medicine that opens airways, her mother, Jessica Tomei, said. On the way home, Sofia started vomiting.

She was admitted to the hospital with breathing distress, Doctors thought she had asthma, her mother said. After four days, she returned home. The next day, she returned to her pediatrician for a follow-up appointment, as the doctor did not rule out pneumonia.

After the visit, Sofia reached into the treasure box in the family's waiting room.

"I saw her left hand in mid-grasp stop working," Tomei said. "Over three days, she was not using her left arm."

Sofia's parents, Tomei and father Jeff Jarvis, said they spoke publicly to alert other parents about what happened to their daughter.

"I know we are so lucky that she is here, and she is going to do amazing things," Tomei said.

Sofia calls her dangling arm "Lefty." It's a way to keep the arm integrated with the rest of her body as she tries to regain some movement, Tomei said.

A lively girl with wavy red hair, the disease has not affected her mentally, her mother said. She loves to dance, attends a Montessori preschool and is still academically advanced for her age. But she must learn alternative ways to dress herself and tie her shoes, Tomei said. She is currently physical and occupational therapy.

Van Haren and Waubant will present their findings at the American Academy of Neurology's annual meeting, held in Philadelphia, Penn., April 26 to May 3. The California Department of Public Health is also tracking the cases. ■

# Local author find sci-fi success with Martian thriller

By Katie Straub

Andy Weir calculates that it would take 124 days for humans to reach the red planet from Earth. And with good reason.

"I can feel confident 124 days is an accurate amount of time. I wrote my own software to do a simulation," Weir explained. He paused. "Yeah, I did a lot of work on that."

It's hard to believe that Weir doesn't work for NASA: computer simulations, mathematical calculations and chemical studies all go into his work. But Weir is not literally sending a man to Mars, he is a novelist doing research for his recently published first book, a sci-fi thriller called "The Martian," which was released in bookstores last month.

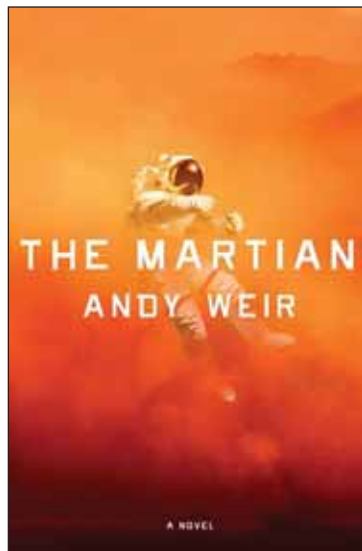
The Martian is a uniquely hyper-real space adventure, fusing sound science (as gathered by Weir) with straight-shooting storytelling to yield a story of survival on Mars. The story follows wise-cracking astronaut Mark Watney, who is forced to survive after he is unintentionally abandoned by his crew after a dust storm forces them to retreat back to Earth.

In the novel, Watney is faced with no connection to Earth, few resources, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Told through Watney's mission log, "The Martian" tells a story of one man's brains, his ingenuity, and his unrelenting will to survive against all odds.

Weir said he wanted to bring sci-fi readers a fulfilling experience, and his unique attention to scientific detail sets the piece apart from many other novels in the sci-fi genre.

"The problem I have when I am reading sci-fi is that it will go by some hand-wavy science explanation, and it will set off all the alarms in my head," Weir said. "I wanted to make a story that was as scientifically accurate as I possibly could. What I really want is for readers to unquestionably believe the science presented to them and not have to second-guess it."

Much praise has followed "the Martian." Critics categorize the novel as a gripping Robinson-Crusoe-cum-MacGyver tale set in space and applaud Weir's ability to meld scientific fact with pulse-quickening fiction. And true sci-fi fans simply seem to delight in Weir's reverence for geekdom: he does the extra work



to create a story that feels hyper-real.

It makes sense that accuracy would mean a lot to Weir. He is a software engineer by trade. As early as age 9, he toyed with computer programs at school. By 15, he worked as a lab assistant at Sandia National Laboratories and taught himself to write code. By his early 20s, he was a professional computer programmer, and now, at age 41, Weir develops software for Silicon Valley tech firms.

But Weir loves science fiction as much as he loves science fact. From early childhood, he developed a love of classic sci-fi books as well as a self-professed "dorky" fascination with space travel, orbital dynamics and astronomy that still sticks with him today.

Take, for example, the fact that, though many of his software simulations on space were for "The Martian," a number of them are just for Weir's own curiosity.

"I made a gravity simulator, where I put millions of rocks out into space and just let them all affect each other gravitationally. It formed a big solar system," Weir said. "That was something I built for fun."

Weir's professional writing career also initially began "for fun."

After a first failed attempt at becoming a writer while in between computer programming jobs in his early 20s, Weir decided to keep writing as a hobby.

In recent years, as he discovered self-publishing over the Internet

was increasing in popularity, he decided to join the trend.

"I started writing fiction and just putting it up on my website," Weir said. "The Martian" was just one of the things I was working on. I was posting it in serial format for free, for people to read. It was really popular."

Soon Weir began receiving emails from fans about "The Martian," requesting he release it in an e-book format. The requests prompted Weir to self-publish a Kindle version on Amazon in 2012, while keeping it available for free on his site.

"That's when I learned the amazing, unbelievable reach into the readership market that Amazon has. Way more people bought it from Kindle than downloaded it, for free, on my site," Weir said.

The Martian rocketed to the top of Amazon's online best-seller charts soon after its release. Such acclaim and Internet buzz caught the attention of Random House publishers, spurring a book deal, a literary agent and a hard-copy publication last month. And it doesn't stop there — "The Martian" has received a recent request for movie rights.

"I'm really excited. I would love it to happen," Weir said. "But Hollywood studios buy movie options like I might buy Tic-Tacs. It is still only a small probability that they would make a movie out of it. But I can hope."

It seems that the biggest compliment for Weir, however, has not come from Hollywood, but from Houston. A self-professed "fanboy" of NASA, Weir mentioned his feelings of pride and gratitude upon receiving positive feedback on the book from Mission Control after the book's release.

"Before the book got out on Kindle, I never had any interaction with NASA at all. Now, I have had lots of emails from astronauts and NASA personnel, which is really cool," Weir said. "They are commenting on the accuracy, and how it is a pretty accurate portrayal of what astronauts are like."

In the wake of his success with "The Martian," one will likely find Weir still experimenting with space phenomena on his computer, dreaming up his next sci-fi story.

"I'm a big fan of how this stuff works," said Weir. "I love that. That's the kind of guy I am."

Email Katie Straub at [kstraub@mv-voice.com](mailto:kstraub@mv-voice.com)

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By Anabel Pelham, PhD

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## CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

### City of Mountain View

## COUNCIL NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

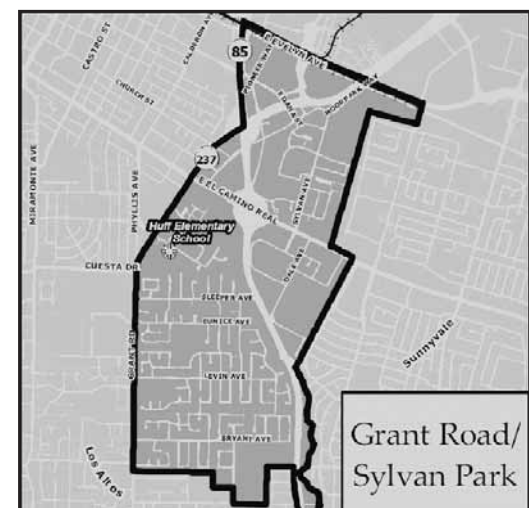
### Grant Road/Sylvan Park Area Neighborhood Meeting

Huff Elementary School  
253 Martens Avenue  
March 20, 2014  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee will be hosting a neighborhood meeting for residents in the Grant Road/Sylvan Park area on March 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. (see area map below). The Neighborhood Meeting will be an open forum to listen to and respond to your concerns.

This is an opportunity to make a difference in the future of your neighborhood and express your thoughts about ways to improve our community.

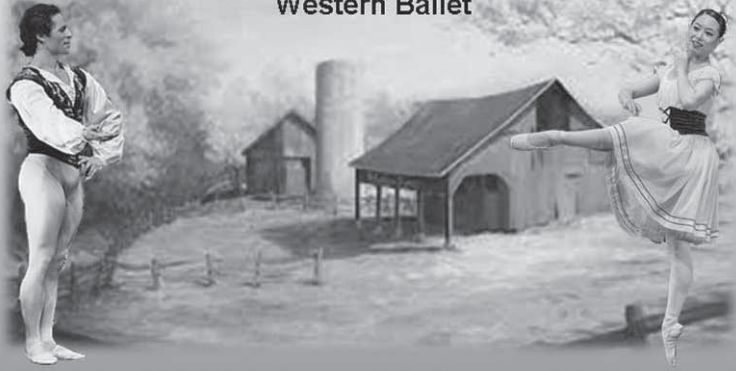
For further information, please contact the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division at (650) 903-6379.



## LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE

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ABOUT THE REBELLIOUS FARM GIRL

From Mountain View's  
Western Ballet



April 18th, 7:00 pm  
April 19th, 1:00 pm

Smithwick Theatre  
Foothill College  
12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

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Alison Share as *Lise*  
Maykel Solas\*\* as *Colas*  
Ramon Moreno\*\* as *Mme. Simone*  
Alex Kramer\*\* as *Alain*

\*\*Courtesy of Ballet San Jose

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## BECOME A VOLUNTEER MEDIATOR for the MOUNTAIN VIEW MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Mountain View Mediation Program is now accepting applications from volunteers who live, work, or own property in Mountain View.

Typical cases handled by the program include disputes between:

- Tenants and Landlords
- Neighbors
- Consumers and Merchants

The program, sponsored by the City of Mountain View, seeks applicants, representative of the ethnic and economic diversity of the City. Bilingual applicants are particularly encouraged.

**Deadline for submitting an application  
is March 21, 2014 at 4pm**

Application is available at [MountainView.gov](http://MountainView.gov) under  
*Announcements or News*

For more information, call the Mediation Program at  
**650-960-0495**

## El Camino Hospital names new CFO

IFITKHAR HUSSAIN HAS MORE THAN 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN HEALTH CARE FINANCE

By Nick Veronin

El Camino Hospital has appointed a permanent chief financial officer. Beginning in April, Ifitkhar Hussain will replace the outgoing interim CFO, Ned Borgstrom.

Hussain comes to El Camino after 26 years in health care finance, according to a hospital press release. Prior to taking the position, Hussain worked as the chief financial officer at Mills-Peninsula Health Services for nine years. Before that he was director of finance



Ifitkhar Hussain

at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center for 12 years. Prior to that, Hussain was director of accounting services at Mercy Healthcare/Catholic Healthcare West.

"Ifitkhar brings a proven track record of careful fiscal management, organizational leadership and innovative thinking that will be a tremendous asset to our hospital," El Camino's President and CEO, Tomi Ryba, said in the press release.

The outgoing Borgstrom has served twice as interim CFO and once as interim CEO for El Camino Hospital. Most recently,

he replaced former CFO, Mike King, who according to a hospital spokeswoman left in mid-September of 2013 "to pursue other opportunities."

Borgstrom is scheduled to stay on as interim CFO until Hussain takes over the role in April.

"The next couple of years will bring some exciting changes to El Camino Hospital that will allow us to better serve our patients and create greater operational and cost efficiencies," Ryba said. "Ifitkhar has experienced many of these changes and will be able to provide us with critical guidance as we embark on our journey." ▽



New electrical substations are proposed along the Caltrain corridor.

## CALTRAIN

▶ Continued from page 6

Way option would require trees to be removed, causing "significant" aesthetic impact. Caltrain is proposing to compensate by installing new "screening vegetation" along Alma between the roadway and the new station.

In addition to the electric infrastructure, Caltrain plans to build safety barriers on dozens of existing bridges to prohibit access to the Caltrain corridor and to prevent objects from being thrown off the bridges, according to the document. These barriers would typically be about 6.5 feet above the pavement level and would generally be about 40 feet long. Each barrier would feature a black, red and white signs that read: "Danger. Live Wire."

The 47 bridges identified in the report include one bridge in Palo Alto (two new walls would be built on the San Antonio Road overpass) and six in Mountain View (Shoreline Boulevard overpass; Stevens Creek pedestrian

crossing; Whisman Road; Route 85; and Route 237, both eastbound and westbound).

While the new infrastructure will be going up, hundreds and possibly thousands of trees would be going down. The report estimates that about 2,220 trees would be removed for the project and another 3,616 pruned. This includes 188 trees in Menlo Park, 177 trees in Palo Alto and 284 in Mountain View, which is second only to Sunnyvale's 497.

The report notes that Caltrain is exempt from local regulations guarding tree removal because it is a federally regulated rail carrier and thus benefits from an exemption in the Public Utilities Code. Still, it lays out a strategy to mitigate the loss of trees, including locating poles and alignments to "minimize tree removal and pruning" and removing trees "only as necessary to provide safety clearance." The project would include a creation of a "Tree Avoidance, Minimization and Replacement Plan," which would be developed in consultation with cities and

a certified arborist and which would consider best practices for replacing and protecting trees.

The report is subject to modification based on comments from stakeholder communities along the corridor. But Caltrain officials stressed the importance of releasing the document, which Caltrain Executive Director Michael Scanlon called "the next step in a critical partnership between Caltrain and the communities we serve."

"We must work together to ensure the successful delivery of the Caltrain Modernization Program," Scanlon said in a statement. "We are committed to seeking public comment and to make sure the concerns of our communities are addressed directly, collaboratively and transparently."

Caltrain will be accepting comments on the draft EIR until April 29. The document can be found at [www.caltrain.com](http://www.caltrain.com).

Email Gennady  
Sheyner at [gsheyner@embarcaderopublishing.com](mailto:gsheyner@embarcaderopublishing.com)

## GOOGLE

► Continued from page 1

companies are using “imagery forensics” to determine how much a given image has been altered with software like Photoshop. Techniques include examining photo files for clues about which editing programs an image has been run through, and looking for geotags to verify the location a given picture was taken. Stewart also talked about common techniques that are often deployed to doctor images and the tell-tale “footprints” that give such frauds away.

Audrey Cooper, managing editor for the San Francisco Chronicle, outlined her publication's efforts to modernize the 150-year-old paper's coverage and create more engaging content. “Too much of daily journalism has become boring,” Cooper told the room.

Cooper discussed the steps she has taken to push her newsroom to create more multimedia content and innovate on the web. In order to motivate her editorial team, she created a contest to see which of her reporters could produce the best video for the web.

Cooper also detailed how she had moved the paper's bloggers and web producers into a room entirely separate from the old newsroom, in the hope that getting them out of the offices where the print paper is produced would aid their creative process, and prevent them from worrying about how their stories would work in print.

“We all know print readership is going like that,” Cooper said, tracing a downward slope in the air with her hand. She was referring to the declining number of news consumers who turn to paper and ink media, and the rise in the number of readers who access media on computers and mobile devices. “There are no more print readers being born today.”

All of this begs the question: what is traditional media to do? The answer, according to all of the morning's speakers and panelist, is that media must adapt.

**A helping hand?**

Google, to be sure, is more than willing to help with that. The second part of the day was broken into various workshops, in which members of Google's media team talked about a variety of free Google tools available to journalists — whether it be creating and maximizing the reach of a YouTube channel, conducting interviews with Google Hangouts, using Google's analytics

tools to stay on top of trends, or embedding Google-produced maps and data visualizations into stories.

And yet, while Google is happy to share how its innovations can help the media tell stories, the company's public relations department can often prove to be a major obstacle for reporters.

Recently, when the *Voice* asked about the company's trial run of a ferry service from San Francisco to Redwood City — a seemingly banal topic, which had been confirmed by a number of local and national news organizations — a representative from the company would only speak on background, and asked that the paper not attribute any information about the service to any official Google sources.

When asked about the some-

***‘We all know print readership is going like that,’ tracing a downward slope in the air with her hand.***

AUDREY COOPER,  
MANAGING EDITOR OF THE  
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

times standoffish nature of the search giant's public relations department, Maggie Shiels, Google's international media liaison, insisted that the company tries first and foremost to be helpful to journalists. Sometimes, however, the company is unwilling or not ready to talk to the press about certain things, she acknowledged.

“Until a deal is done, a deal isn't done,” she explained. “If you start talking about it, you put a lot of pressure on the teams that are trying to work on a product. ... A lot of the process is about failing. And you want to do failing in private. ... Why talk about something that just doesn't work, that people will never see?”

When asked if Google had any ulterior motives with the San Francisco event (breakfast, lunch, and an open bar were provided to all attendees), Sieberg said he and his team's only intention was to create “a forum for journalists to talk candidly and openly about what they're working on.”

“The truth is,” Sieberg said, “I don't know of a time we've ever charged people for an event. Google events are free.” ■



COURTESY GOOGLE

Members of the press talked with Google staff about Google Glass at the Google for Media event March 4.

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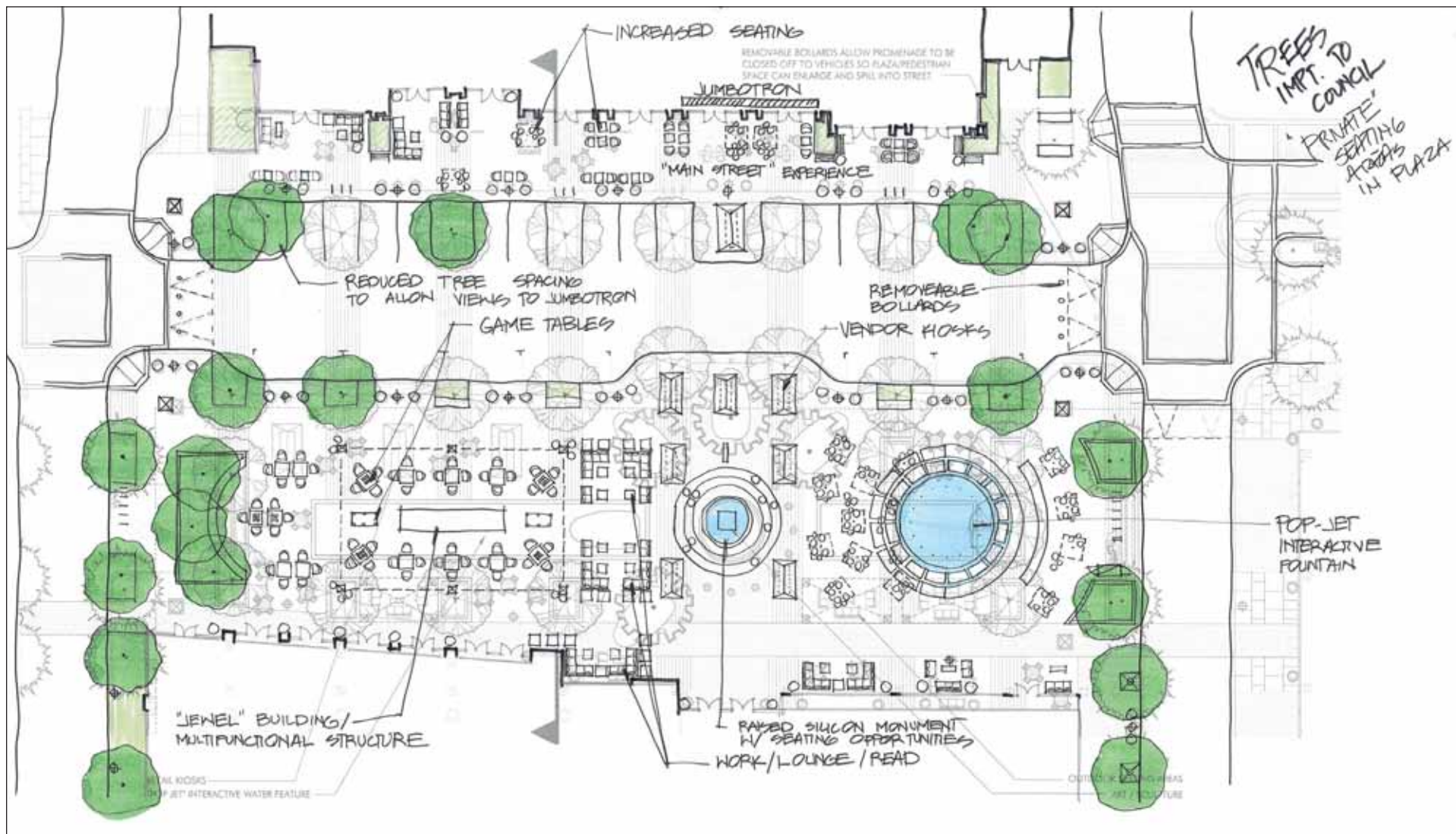
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COURTESY CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The design for phase 2 of the San Antonio Center redevelopment includes fountains, tables and chairs, and a monument to the birthplace of Silicon Valley.

## SAN ANTONIO

► Continued from page 1

can often get in the way.

The most controversial aspect was a large Jumbotron hung on a parking garage wall in the square,

which could play movies or show major sports events, or even a live feed of the square so people could look at themselves, Kent said. Fears were expressed that it would become a billboard.

Also part of the 9.9-acre project is 121,000 square feet of ground

floor retail, presumably higher-end shops than those found in Phase 1 of the redevelopment at El Camino Real. There's a 397,000-square-foot office building, a 70,000-square-foot movie theater, and the tallest building, an eight-story, 167-room hotel. There

will also be a 1,480-space parking garage. No homes are proposed.

Kent's passionate speaking before the council was no less impressive than his resume as founder and director of the Project for Public Spaces, which includes place-making efforts

spanning 37 year: plans for New York's Time Square and Rockefeller Center, as well as the transformation of portion of downtown Detroit using a beach concept. More locally, his efforts can be seen in and around downtown Los Altos, which he says has become quite popular. He said there would be "10 times" as many people drawn to Mountain View's new great place.

"Great places reach out like an octopus" to bring people in and "Great places have at least 10 things to do in them," he said. He showed pictures of people embracing and laughing. "That's what happens when people feel comfortable," he said.

Kent said the plan would encourage regular users who "take charge of it and they make it safe and they make it comfortable." To that end, chairs and tables would be movable so groups could arrange them as necessary.

"There's nothing I love more than a square — all kinds of things go on in them," Kent said.

Council member Jac Siegel and others said they enjoyed the presentation, though they didn't agree with all of it. Siegel said of the jumbotron, "I think that's a mistake. It's too Disneyland. I don't know, I just don't see it."

Some residents criticized developer Merlone Geier's plans for not including the Milk Pail mar-

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**Watsonville**  
243 Green Valley Rd., Ste. A

**Wed, March 12**  
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18511 Mission View Dr., Ste. 120

**Thurs, March 13**  
**Fremont**  
1999 Mowry Ave., Ste. C1

**Fri, March 14**  
**Los Altos**  
658 Fremont Ave.

ket, but showing another open air market at the Pachetti Way entrance to the shopping center with outdoor seating. The Milk Pail may be forced from its long-time location at the California Street corner of the site because it lacks adequate parking in the plan. It now relies on a shared parking agreement with the Ross and BevMo property proposed for redevelopment. There are over 700 signatures on an online petition calling for shared Milk Pail parking in the new plan.

While Kohls, Trader Joe's and Walmart will remain, Siegel lamented the loss of a portion of a regional shopping center of big box stores in favor of smaller, more high end stores.

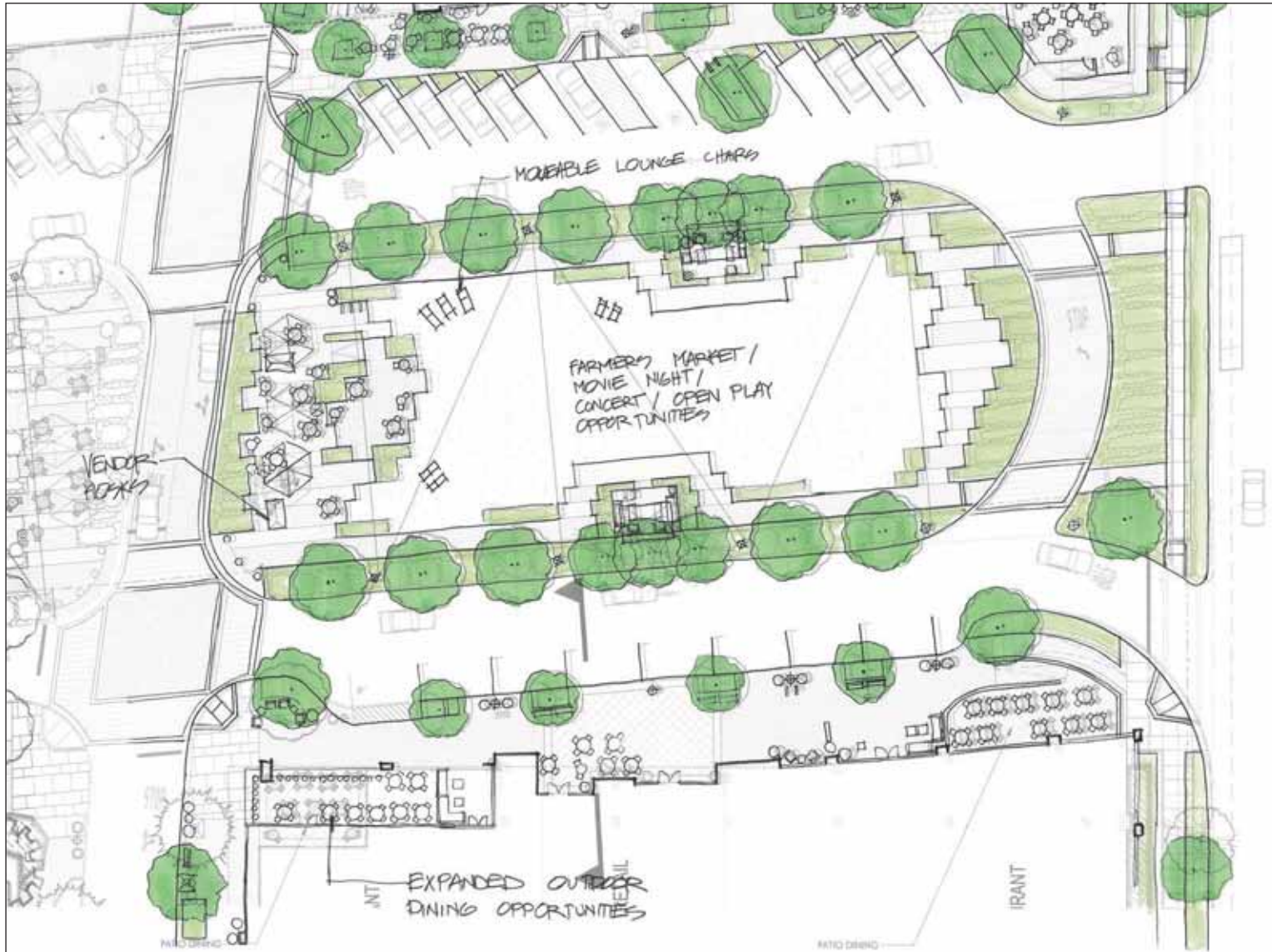
"A lot of people still need places to shop and buy merchandise — we're not creating that here," Siegel said.

Others were also not entirely sold. Resident Don Bahl said Kent slaughtered many "sacred cows" in his talk, such as his position that San Antonio Road and El Camino Real be reduced to two lanes in each direction to make pedestrians feel they have more "authority" in the area, following the lead of Vancouver, which he said has only two-lane streets citywide.

Council candidate Jim Neal picked up on Kent's remarks about how rents around one of his places — Manhattan's Bryant Park — are now some of the highest in the world.

"(Project for Public Spaces) mentioned this will drive up the cost of rentals — we really need that, don't we?" Neal said.

"I am concerned about the Jumbotron being turned into an



COURTESY CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

"Place-making designs" include a redesign of the Hetch Hetchy park.

electronic billboard," said resident Nancy Morimoto.

Others liked the idea of the Jumbotron. Council member Mike Kasperzak said Merlone Geier had a right to many of the improvements on the privately owned

square without city approval. Merlone Geier had hired PPS to come up with the plan at the request of the City Council.

"One of the things that would draw me there is the movie theater or on Sunday to have brunch

and watch" a football game on the Jumbotron, said Mayor Chris Clark. "I hope it wouldn't just become an ad billboard."

Council members also decided to have Project for Public Spaces propose improvements to the

project's pedestrian and bicycle paths before the project is reviewed by the city's commissions. Council members will take vote on a final plan later this year. A draft environmental impact report will be released in April. ■

# Inspirations

a guide to the spiritual community

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Alfred Twu's rendering of how the Google campus would appear from Highway 101 with housing for 10,000 employees on its parking lots.

## GOOGLE TOWN

► Continued from page 1

Google's many other properties nearby, including the vacant 18-acre "Charleston East" lot next door, for example.

"I simply matched the number of jobs to housing to show how much housing a certain amount of office space requires," Twu writes.

While striking, the image does not capture the full picture. City officials estimated last year that Google actually has over 20,000 employees in Mountain View, double what Twu's rendering accommodates. Only about 2,000 of those employees live within city limits, according to the estimates.

In July of 2012, the City Council decided against North Bayshore housing proposed by Google, voting 4-3 to remove zoning for 1,100 Google homes north of Highway 101 from a new city general plan.

Instead of housing, council members gave a preliminary OK to six- and eight-story offices for Shoreline Boulevard last week as a "precise plan" for the area is developed this year. The offices would be built above ground-floor retail in a transit-oriented downtown-like corridor north of Highway 101 and south of Charleston Road where the Google housing had also been slated. The plan makes room for



An overhead view of the Googleplex campus by Twu.

an additional 15,000 to 20,000 employees by 2030 (many more are planned elsewhere in Mountain View), though the city's new general plan will allow for fewer than 7,000 new homes elsewhere in Mountain View — likely making the city's jobs-housing imbalance much worse.

Council members Ronit Bryant and Margaret Abe-Koga supported the office concept last week, along with Mayor Chris Clark and Mike Kasperzak. Members John McAlister and John Inks thought the plan was too restrictive on office growth. The move wasn't unusual. The

council has approved well over a million square feet of new offices in recent years.

"It's hard to blame the city for doing that because of the state's tax policies," Twu said. "It's in every city's interest to have as few residents as possible and as many businesses as possible. So to really solve the Bay Area's housing problem would take something from the state level."

In their opposition to Google housing north of Highway 101, council members expressed fears about feral cats and stray dogs endangering the rare burrowing owl at Shoreline Park, and

compared the idea to Chinese factory dorms where workers do not live "happily ever after." Voting against new North Bayshore housing were members Jac Siegel, Ronit Bryant, Margaret Abe-Koga and Laura Macias (Macias termed out shortly after.)

As candidates line up to replace Abe-Koga, Bryant and Jac Siegel this fall, there's increased questioning of the council's position against North Bayshore housing while supporting so much office growth.

"I don't understand the comments about housing in North Bayshore resulting in insular,

private towns, and comparisons to Chinese workers, coal towns, 'needing to grow up and get out' and so on," wrote one commenter on the *Voice's* Town Square reader forum. "Maybe I'm mistaken, but I thought that employees who live on military bases (like Moffett Field), students who live on college campuses (like Davis, Chico, San Luis Obispo) and even seniors in retirement communities do lots of shopping, eating, and participating in the local community. Everyone I know who works at Google is married with kids who attend public school in MV. Google already provides their employees with numerous on-site amenities, but getting there causes the huge traffic mess."

Twu says the image may be surprising because the Valley's job growth has happened in such a small footprint, and inside low-rise buildings. Computer programmers don't use much office space, he said.

He explained his focus on company parking lots: "Right now in the Bay Area we have situation where we don't want to build on open space and generally don't want to build in existing residential areas either — or existing industrial areas," Twu said. "So that really leaves the parking lots."

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



**Hseihsin Li**, left, injects fellow student **Katie Deras** with saline solution while teacher **Abhaya Karangutkar** and **Analin Metcalf** watch.

## ADULT SCHOOL

► Continued from page 5

environment.”

Karangutkar noted that as health care costs continue to grow and doctors take on more patients, it is necessary for them to delegate the more basic and administrative tasks, such as checking vitals, taking patient histories, filing paperwork and drawing blood.

Nelsi Candanoza is looking forward to helping a doctor with such tasks. She’s been dreaming of working in the medical field since she was a student at Mountain View High School. However, after graduating in 2014, she discovered that achieving her dream was going to be expensive and time-consuming — at least if she continued on the route she was going.

By the time all was said and done, Candanoza said she would have ended up paying \$25,000 to get her medical assistant credential at a large technical school. And if the cost wasn’t daunting enough, after giving birth to her daughter, she found it very difficult to get out to Milpitas early enough to take the classes she needed. Then a former teacher from Mountain View High School pointed her to the adult school’s program.

“It was easier for me,” Candanoza said. She no longer had to drive to Milpitas, she could take classes in the afternoon, which was better for her schedule, and, to top it off, she would only need to pay \$900 for the entire course — materials included. It was just what the

doctor ordered.

Zuby Kaderali’s story is similar to that of Candanoza’s. Though older than her classmate, Kaderali said she could not afford to attend a private school.

“Adult education has really helped me out,” Kaderali said.

If it weren’t for the program, Kaderali said, she wouldn’t dream of getting away from her former family-run business of working at a gas station convenience store. Now, like Candanoza, she plans to transition into a role as a medical assistant and then, perhaps, pursue nursing.

Both of these women have good odds of landing a medical assistant job, according to Connie Webb, coordinator of the adult school’s career technical program. Webb does her best to stay in touch with all of the medical assistant program’s graduates. By her estimation, about two-thirds of the students who complete the course end up landing a job.

It helps that the school has a good reputation with local health care providers, according to Brenda Harris.

Harris, the assistant director of the adult school, said graduates of the medical assistant’s program go on to “externships” working for local health care providers like the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Stanford Hospital. “We’re always looking for other employment opportunities for our students.”

The same goes for students of the adult school’s other medical industry-oriented programs, such as the Acute Care, the Certified Nursing Assistant and the Medical Administrative Assistant programs — where

students learn skills that can get them into entry-level medical jobs.

“For a lot of students, this is really a great opportunity, Webb said, noting that many of the students she sees taking the medical courses wouldn’t be able to afford to learn the skills they learn in any other way.

“This is the stepping stone to nursing (or another medical career) if that’s what you choose to do,” Harris said. Offering the programs to students who couldn’t otherwise afford to learn medical skills is incredibly valuable, she said — especially since some of the adult school programs only require a high school education to enroll and others don’t even require that.

Often, people with a high school diploma or only some high school education have to work in menial jobs when they are younger, which will only make it harder for them in the future. “Our mission is to give students the opportunity to get the skills they need to support their families,” Harris said.

Both Harris and Webb said that the medical training programs offered at the MVLA adult school aren’t offered many other places at such a low cost, and they want to spread the word. That’s why the adult school is holding an open house on April 2 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Harris and Webb encouraged anyone with an interest in continuing their education to check out what the adult school has to offer.

The school is located at 333 Moffett Blvd. More information can be found on the school’s website, [mvlcae.net](http://mvlcae.net), or by calling 650-940-1333. ■



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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at the Computer History Museum on Wednesday.

## NETANYAHU

► Continued from page 5

Palestine,” 68-year-old Paul Laudree, of El Cerrito, said he opposes settlements in the West Bank.

“Why are we sending them billions of dollars?” he said of U.S. aid to Israel. “It’s also destroying our relations with the entire Arab world. Is this really to our benefit?”

Nearby holding three Israeli flags was 53-year-old Faith Meltzer, the lone supporter of the pact among the demonstrators.

“I’m here to support a close relationship between the United States and Israel,” she said. “The

only path to peace is for a Jewish state alongside an Arab state, with close diplomatic ties.”

Meltzer said the agreement being signed today will be good for everyone involved.

“What is happening today is Israel is doing amazing things with water conservation. It’s a great opportunity for both Israel and California to enhance their relationship,” she said.

Netanyahu’s stop in Mountain View follows a trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with President Barack Obama, and a visit to Los Angeles, where the prime minister attended a screening of a TV documentary in which he appears.

—Bay City News Service

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### ZIMBABWE EVENT'S POETRY SLAMS

Three slam poetry and storytelling events, the Zimbabwe Poetry Slam and African Folk Tales performances, will be held in Los Altos this month to promote the 15th Annual Run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair. in Mountain View.

The performances will feature African and African-inspired poetry and bring to life African stories through the use of puppetry and costumes.

These poetry slam events help promote this year's Run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair, which is put on by the Sustainable Living Foundation to raise money for the Makumbi Children's Home, an orphanage in the African country of Zimbabwe. As pre-race events, the poetry slams hope to forward the Sustainable Living Foundation's philosophy of "Be Fit, Create Art, Help Others."

Admission is free. Performances will be held at Know Knew Books on Thursday, Mar. 6, at 7p.m., The Los Altos Public Library on Friday, Mar. 7, at 3:30p.m., and Linden Tree Books on Saturday, Mar. 15, at 11a.m. The run for Zimbabwe Orphans and Fair will be held on Mar. 23. More information is at [www.ZimbabweParaguay.net](http://www.ZimbabweParaguay.net)

—Katie Straub

### KMVT NOW ON ROKU, APPLE TV

Mountain View's community access television station is no longer just for those who subscribe to Comcast's cable service.

Mountain View's local TV station is now available online to those who have a Roku player or Apple TV. The \$50 Roku device allows Internet services such as Netflix and Hulu to be easily watched on a TV set. A KMVT spokesperson says Apple TV users can watch KMVT though an app, but details were not immediately available.

KMVT broadcasts a variety of locally produced shows, as well as a live broadcast of the Tuesday night City Council meeting.

—Daniel DeBolt

# Class Guide

Springtime has arrived in Mountain View, making it an ideal time to get out and enjoy the bounty of local classes the area has to offer. Whether for children or adults, for interests ranging from cooking and wine tasting to Scottish dancing and volleyball, there's something for everyone.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Mountain View Voice, The Almanac and the Palo Alto Weekly.

## Academic Achievers

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www.flexcollegeprep.com  
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## For the Dancer

### Bayer Ballet Academy

2028 Old Middlefield Way,  
Mountain View  
650-988-9971  
info@bayerballetacademy.com  
www.bayerballetacademy.com  
Bayer Ballet Academy is a school of Russian ballet that teaches the Vaganova method.

### For the Love of Dance

2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B,  
Mountain View  
650-861-0650  
ForTheLoveOfDanceMV@gmail.com  
www.fortheloveofdancemv.com



Shoreline Lake Aquatic Center in Mountain View offers a variety of classes.

For the Love of Dance offers training in ballet, jazz, tap and other styles of dance. Serving Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos and Sunnyvale, it is a family-owned studio that teaches dance to children and adults at all levels of ability.

### L'Ecole de Danse

740 Sierra Vista Ave., Unit G,  
Mountain View  
650-365-4596  
www.lecolededanse.net

L'Ecole de Danse (School of Bal-

let) teaches Cecchetti style of ballet. Creative dance, pre-ballet and full curriculum for all levels starting at age 4. The school also offers beginning, intermediate and advanced adult classes.

### Western Ballet

914 N. Rengstorff Ave., Unit A,  
Mountain View  
650-968-4455  
info@westernballet.org  
www.westernballet.org  
Western Ballet offers adult classes for beginners to professionals as well as for children through teens

preparing for careers in ballet (there is a graded youth program with 13 pre-professional levels). Faculty consists of current and former professional dancers. Cost of a single adult class: \$15.

## The Great Outdoors

### REI

2450 Charleston Road, Mountain View  
650-969-1938

www.rei.com/stores/104  
REI regularly offers classes on topics such as bike maintenance, riding and outdoor navigation.

### Shoreline Lake Aquatic Center

3160 N. Shoreline Blvd.,  
Mountain View  
650-965-7474  
boathouse@shorelinelake.com  
www.shorelinelake.com/aquatic/aquatic.htm  
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► Continued on next page



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Center offers a variety of week-end lessons for sailing, stand up paddleboarding, kayaking and windsurfing, as well as private lessons. There are also some summer camps approaching for kids and teens. Camp Shoreline for younger kids has a combination of water sports and land activities, while the teen camps teach windsurfing and sailing.

## Health & Fitness

### Feldenkrais Movement with Jean Elvin

266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View  
650-940-1333  
[www.mvlaae.net](http://www.mvlaae.net)

Jean Elvin, a certified Feldenkrais practitioner, leads these fitness classes at the Mountain View Senior Center. Feldenkrais can help improve coordination, balance, posture and self-esteem. The classes run March 28 through June 6, Fridays, 10-11:15 a.m. Mats provided.

### Jacki's Aerobic Dancing

890 Church St., Mountain View  
650-941-1002  
[joanier@pacbell.net](mailto:joanier@pacbell.net)  
[www.jackis.com](http://www.jackis.com)

Jacki's Aerobic Dancing offers hour-long dance classes with abdominal work, weight training and safe, easy-to-follow aerobic routines. Complimentary child care is available. Classes meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9-10 a.m., at the Mountain View Masonic Lodge.

### Red Star Soccer Academy

248 Walker Drive, #8, Mountain View  
650-380-0099  
[www.redstarsoccer.com](http://www.redstarsoccer.com)

Red Star Soccer Academy is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to youth player development. Offers various youth soccer programs for boys and girls. Red Star is affiliated with the U.S. Soccer Federation and U.S. Club Soccer. Red Star teams compete in Nor Cal Premier League and U.S. Club Soccer sanctioned tournaments.

### Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

1185 Castro St., Mountain View  
831-688-8295  
[info@mtview-rscds.org](mailto:info@mtview-rscds.org)  
[www.mtview-rscds.org](http://www.mtview-rscds.org)

Scottish country-dance classes are held most Wednesdays at the Mountain View Sports Pavilion. Classes started in mid-February and run through May. Classes for both advanced and beginning dancers are available. Drop-ins are \$10, or \$8 per week if entire fee is paid at the beginning of the semester.

## United States Youth Volleyball League

Sylvan Park, 550 Sylvan Ave,  
Mountain View  
310-212-7008

[tim@usyvl.org](mailto:tim@usyvl.org)  
[www.usyvl.org](http://www.usyvl.org)  
Run by the USVYL and volunteers, the youth volleyball program allows boys and girls of all skill levels from ages 7 to 15 to play and learn the sport in a fun, supportive and co-ed environment. The season begins on April 16 and lasts until June 7.

### Yoga Belly

455 Castro St., Mountain View  
650-862-3976

[www.yogabellystudio.com](http://www.yogabellystudio.com)  
Yoga Belly offers a range of yoga classes for all levels of experience. Discounts offered for students and seniors.

## Just for Seniors

### Mountain View Senior Center

266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View  
650-903-6330

[www.mountainview.gov/city\\_hall/comm\\_services/](http://www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/comm_services/) (click on the "Senior Center" link on the left, then click on the "Classes" link on the left)

The Mountain View Senior Center offers a wide array of classes covering topics and activities such as art, music, language, history, dance and exercise.

## Mind and Spirit

### Silicon Valley Shambhala Meditation Center

2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite 110, Mountain View  
650-352-1499

[sushambhala@yahoo.com](mailto:sushambhala@yahoo.com)  
[siliconvalley.shambhala.org](http://siliconvalley.shambhala.org)  
The Silicon Valley Shambhala Meditation Center holds regular practice meditations sessions each week. Instruction is available free of charge to both new and more experienced practitioners. The center also organizes courses, retreats and contemplative art activities that include flower arranging, archery, photography and writing.

## Music, Arts and Crafts

### Alberto's NightClub

736 W. Dana St., Mountain View  
650-968-3007

[www.albertos.com](http://www.albertos.com)  
Alberto's NightClub holds lessons throughout the week for salsa (Tuesdays and Thursdays), bachata (Wednesdays) and tango (Sunday) styles of dancing for both beginners and more experienced dancers.

rienced dancers.

### Build It Again With Bricks

398 Main Street, Los Altos  
650-935-2166

[www.facebook.com/builditagainwithbricks](http://www.facebook.com/builditagainwithbricks)  
At this locally owned LEGO store, children and adults can build and play with LEGOs. Among its offerings: after-school LEGO classes, summer and winter LEGO camps/workshops, birthday parties as well as adult classes and workshops.

### Casablanca Market

2287 Mora Drive,  
Mountain View  
650-964-3000

[info@casablancamarket.com](mailto:info@casablancamarket.com)  
[www.casablancamarket.com](http://www.casablancamarket.com)  
Casablanca Market offers monthly Moroccan cooking classes. Students will prepare three to four Moroccan dishes, which they will eat during the dinner at the end of class. Many classes are already filled, so contact the market to ask about the coming months.

### Community School of Music and Arts

Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View  
650-917-6800

[www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org)  
[info@arts4all.org](mailto:info@arts4all.org)  
The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) offers classes year-round in music, visual and digital arts for ages 14 months to adult. One- and two-day arts workshops offered throughout the year. Financial assistance available.

### Custom Handweavers

2263 Old Middlefield Way,  
Mountain View  
650-967-0831

[webemit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:webemit@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.customhandweavers.com](http://www.customhandweavers.com)  
Ongoing classes, both day and evening sessions, are offered in weaving, spinning and knitting for beginner and intermediate students. Students can explore the ancient art of Temari, a Japanese folk art, or learn to weave the Navajo way.

### Kindermusik with Wendy

1404 Bonita Ave.,  
Mountain View  
650-968-4733

[www.wendyofmv.yourvirtuoso.com/](http://www.wendyofmv.yourvirtuoso.com/)

Group music classes for children ages birth to 7 years and their caregivers. All classes include singing, instrument play, movement, musical games and home materials and aim to develop the whole child through music. Five levels of classes as well as a multi-age class. Cost depends on class and session length.

**Peninsula Youth Theatre,  
School Play in a Box**

Range of locations  
650-988-8798  
mfischer@pytnet.org  
www.pytnet.org  
Peninsula Youth Theatre, based in Mountain View, offers on-site, after-school drama classes for both public and private schools, called School Play in a Box. Students learn basic acting skills, character development, team-building, story telling, creativity, leadership skills and more. Instructors are experienced theater professionals, and will meet with students (up to 20 per class) once a week for an hour and a half at a time. During the meetings, students play theater games, learn basic acting skills, and rehearse a script for a final performance.

**Savvy Cellar Wines**

750 West Evelyn Ave., Mountain View  
650-969-3958  
info@savvycellar.com  
www.savvycellar.com  
Savvy Cellars Wines has classes highlighting regional wines, pairing wine with food and introductory classes for wine novices. Must be 21 or older to attend classes.

**Tumasov Fine Art Studio  
and Gallery**

823 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View  
415-490-8925  
tumasovfineart.com  
The studio and gallery offer private art lessons in acrylic, watercolor, ceramics and drawing for a variety of styles and subjects, as well as day camps for both kids and adults.

**Parents Only**

**Childbirth and Parenting  
Classes at  
El Camino Hospital**

2500 Grant Road, Mountain View  
650-940-7302  
www.elcaminohospital.org  
El Camino Hospital offers a wide array of classes for mothers, expecting mothers and their spouses and children. Classes include childbirth preparation, breastfeeding preparation, infant safety and mothers support groups.

**School Days**

**Action Day/Primary Plus**

333 Eunice Ave., Mountain View  
650-967-3780  
mtnview@actiondayprimaryplus.com  
www.actiondayprimaryplus.com  
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and preschool programs for more than 33 years. On-site dance and computer classes offered. Fully accredited staff and facilities.

**Building Kidz**

Building Kidz School  
250 E. Dana St., Mountain View  
650-967-8000  
www.buildingkidzschool.com/  
Building Kidz School provides infant, preschool and pre-kindergarten care and gives individual attention to kids. The school also offers a performing-arts program.

**German International  
School of Silicon Valley**

310 Easy St., Mountain View  
650-254-0748  
www.gissv.org/locations/  
mountain\_view  
The German International School is a private school providing students from preschool to high school with a bilingual education. The school also offers German language courses for all ages on Saturdays, as well as adult and corporate courses on weekdays.

**Palo Alto Prep**

2462 Wyandotte St., Mountain View  
650-493-7071  
www.paloaltoprep.com  
Palo Alto Prep is a private high school designed to help students succeed in every aspect of life with confidence and success.

**Yew Chung International  
School (YCIS)**

310 Easy St., Mountain View  
650-903-0986  
info@sv.ycef.com  
www.ycis-sv.com  
YCIS provides multi-cultural and bilingual, English and Mandarin Chinese, education to children from preschool to 5th grade. Yew Chung education aims to liberate the joy of learning within each child. No prior Chinese experience is required.

**Something for  
Everyone**

**Mountain View-Los Altos  
Adult School**

333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View  
650-940-1333  
adulted@mvla.net  
www.mvla.net  
The MV-LA Adult School offers courses in arts and crafts, computers, digital-camera techniques, ESL, foreign languages, high school programs and GED, memoirs, music and dance, needlework, orchestra, parent education, physical fitness and vocational education. Older-adult classes (55+) available.

*The Class Guide is published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and Menlo Park Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Stanford, Atherton, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto and beyond are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the above cities are given priority.*

*To inquire about placing a listing in the class guide, email Editorial Assistant Sam Sciolla at ssciolla@paweb.com or call 650-223-6515. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.*

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

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## ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

# Plans emerge for electrified Caltrain

Cities along the busy Caltrain corridor may be in for a shock if plans to electrify the now diesel-powered locomotives are approved. The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) has just been released and now can be viewed at the Mountain View Public Library.

If the \$1.5 billion plan is adopted, people will see substantial changes along the two-track corridor, including hundreds of poles up to 50 feet high on either side of the right-of-way to support the overhead wires that will transmit power to the trains. To clear a path for the power poles up to 2,200 trees may need to be removed along the corridor, with 284 trees identified for the chopping block in Mountain View. Sunnyvale is expected to lose 497 trees, the most of any city affected by the project. In addition, the report estimates 3,616 trees along the route will need to be pruned.

Although as a federally funded rail carrier Caltrain is exempt from local regulations applying to tree removal, the impact report includes a strategy to mitigate loss of trees by locating poles and alignments to “minimize tree removal and pruning” and remove trees only as necessary to provide safety clearance. A plan to be developed with cities and a certified arborist along the corridor would consider the best way to replace and protect trees.

Electrification has long been a goal of the Joint Powers Board that operates the trains, making service noticeably faster, producing less pollution and noise and be able to make more trips — up to 114 weekday trains compared to the present level of 92. The railroad carried an average of 47,000 weekday riders last year, a number that is projected to grow to 57,000 by 2020 and 84,000 after that, even without electrification.

Besides the loss of trees, city residents will give up a view as they cross bridges over the tracks. The rail line plans to install 6.5 feet tall safety barriers on many existing bridges to prevent access to the Caltrain corridor below and to stop objects from being thrown off the bridges onto the trains or tracks. The current plan is to install barriers on bridges in both directions on San Antonio Road, Shoreline Boulevard, the Stevens Creek pedestrian crossing, at Whisman Road and Highway 237.

Electrification was unfunded and dormant until 2012, when then-state Sen. Joe Simitian, Rep. Anna Eshoo and Assemblyman Rich Gordon struck a deal with the High Speed Rail Authority to upgrade and then share Caltrain tracks to bring HSR from San Jose to San Francisco. To do so, the Caltrain system would be electrified and other improvements made so faster trains could pass slower trains, even those still using diesel power, along the two-track corridor.

The deal was a coup for Caltrain, which finally may receive funds to get the project started. The HSR authority will pay for about half of the \$1.5 billion cost, with the rest coming from Caltrain and other Bay Area transportation agencies.

Caltrain says comments on the impact report will be accepted until April 29. Caltrain Executive Director Michael Scanlon called the report “the next step in a critical partnership between Caltrain and the communities we serve.” He added that the agency is “... committed to seeking public comment and to make sure the concerns of our communities are addressed directly, collaboratively and transparently.”

## ■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### HAVING GOOGLE BETTER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE

Don't curse success unless you know what the alternative is really like. I for one am grateful that Google is in our town.

One only needs to look at cities that have massive empty commercial spaces or pollution-spewing factories to see how lucky we are to have vibrant clean companies in our backyard. I encourage residents to look with an open mind at Facebook and its deal with Menlo Park to build housing that is biking distance to its offices as part of the solution to our traffic and housing issues.

Who can dispute that the smallest carbon footprint comes from walking or biking to work to smaller homes?

*Christopher Chiang  
Space Park Way*

### COUNCIL'S LAISSEZ-FAIRE ATTITUDE UNFAIR

Mountain View has three possible development scenarios: status quo, laissez-faire, and land-use planning.

Status quo, “no-growth,” is not realistic. Buildings age, maintenance costs increase, and the buildings become inefficient and need to be replaced. Business and housing needs and desires change over time. The highest and best use of property changes over time. For example, who wants El

Camino Real to continue with used car lots, deteriorating strip malls, and vacant buildings?

Laissez-faire, “let them do as they will” is a libertarian philosophy. It allows property owners to maximize their return on investment and the developers to maximize their profits.

What laissez-faire ignores is the fact that residents also have rights. An example is that prior to the City Council's El Camino Real study session, residents had collected 539 signatures, objecting to the (Greystar) developers' plan. Once again, the majority of the City Council totally ignored the residents of Mountain View.

Land-use planning is a device used by local governments in most developed countries. Land-use planning is used to prevent new development from interfering with existing residents or businesses and to preserve the “character” of a community.

Five members of the City Council hold a laissez-faire attitude toward development. Their policy maximizes the rights of land owners and developers and ignores the rights, needs and desires of residents as to population density, building height, parking, and traffic. It is high time for these five council members to acknowledge that residents, as well as property owners, have rights and chart a course that equitably balances these rights.

*Konrad Sosnow  
Trophy Drive*



■ GUEST OPINION  
VOICE FROM THE COMMUNITY

## Arts overload in school bond projects?

By Steven Nelson

Can there be too much song and dance?

Investments in middle schools needs to reflect a balance of community values, and of the future career needs of the students. I think the emphasis on performing arts (40 percent of Graham facilities improvements) is part of what undercuts STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) investments. Allocating over \$6 million for a large performing arts theater, plus almost \$4 million for performing arts classrooms and a corresponding MUR (multi-use room) move, means 40 percent of Graham expenditures go to performing arts.

Trustees of the Mountain View Whisman School District are set to discuss the spending plan for Measure G bonds at the March 6 meeting and at a community meeting March 16.

There is no endowment for

technology equipment upgrades in five to 10 years. Is there “fiber to the classroom” so adequate Internet bandwidth will be easily available in three to five years? There are not ‘eight sinks in all science classrooms’ that five science teachers have repeatedly asked for. Instead, there is a performing arts gush of spending. And there is a projected overspending of the \$25 million bond money for Graham. Crittenden plans “waive” class 1 earthquake upgrades to save money.

Science, technology, engineering and math is the path most of our students choose for careers in the 21st century. More of our students take science and math than take performing arts. Most jobs and most careers in Silicon Valley are in STEM, not in theater arts, or song, or dance. When young people graduate from even a community college, the median income from performance arts are about \$24,000, and for those in STEM fields is about 50 percent higher, \$36,000. At the four-year college degree level, different studies show a similar large difference in the first years of a career. Neither President Obama or I ‘trash’

performing arts careers, but let’s keep a realistic, non-American Idol, perspective.

I support the arts, both performance and graphic. I think there easily is a need for 10 percent of the budget for a brand spanking new GMS strings (Performing Arts) classroom. One-tenth of the budget or \$2 million to \$3 million for a brand new classroom and also renovation (more like Crittenden) of the existing arts spaces. We have two high school-sized performing arts theaters already — they are at our public high schools, and they are easily rented. This year, the total community demand for 350 seat theaters is so small that Mountain View High School no longer even rents out its theater.

Spend our taxpayer’s money in proportion to the needs of the high-tech community we are in. “Education for the World Ahead” must not get so diverted, in my opinion, from the highest paying careers available in our own community. We are not New York City. And this is only ‘my opinion.’

*Steven Nelson is a trustee of the Mountain View Whisman School District*

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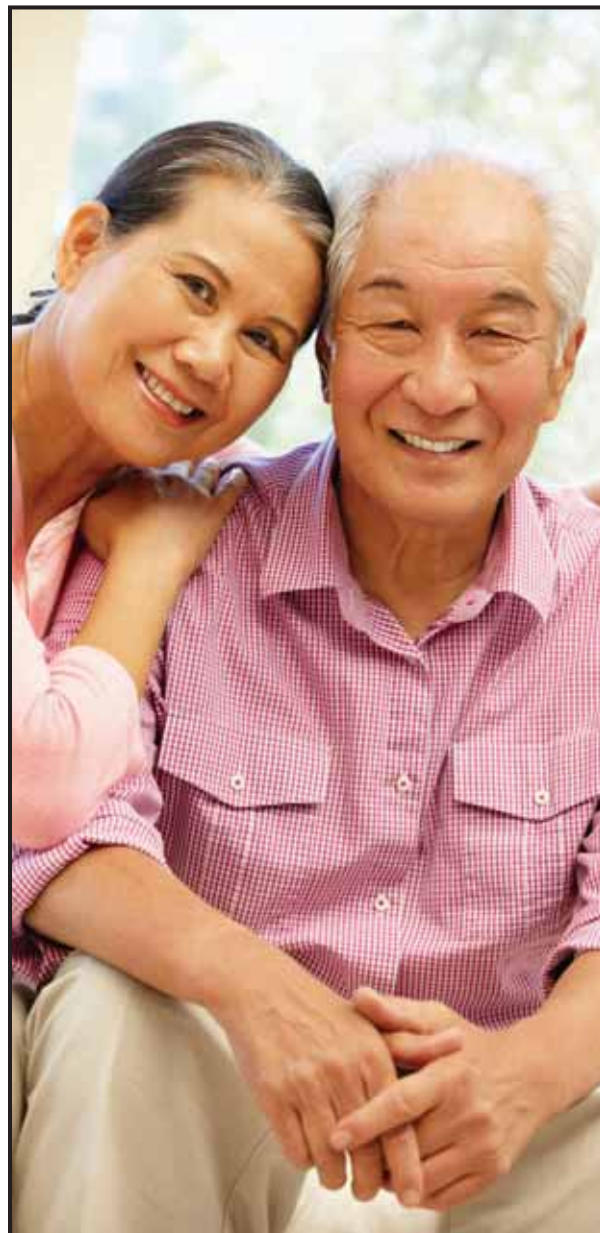
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