

# Mountain View VOICE



**Brunch at  
The Annex**  
WEEKEND | 25

MAY 2, 2014 VOLUME 22, NO. 13

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MOVIES | 29



MICHELLE LE

**Arlyn Jorgensen** of the Raging Grannies puts fake money on **Barbara Goodwin's** hat on April 24 as they prepare for their protest outside of the Mountain View Walmart, urging the company to raise wages and increase benefits. Petitioners seeking a higher minimum wage in the city targeted Walmart shoppers on Saturday.

## Council thinking about minimum wage hike

ACTION MIGHT COME IN CONCERT WITH OTHER PENINSULA CITIES

By Daniel DeBolt

On Tuesday night all but two members of the City Council expressed interest in raising Mountain View's minimum wage, possibly working with neighboring cities to bring the sort of increase seen in San Jose to more of Silicon Valley.

With members John Inks and John McAlister opposed, council members directed city staff to look at how the city could implement such an increase by the end of the year, possibly working with Sunnyvale, where the issue is being studied by city officials,

and other neighboring cities. "I think part of the process should be that we reach out to our neighbors," said Mayor Chris Clark, who expressed concern about Mountain View "going it alone."

**'If the city of Mountain View did it by itself, it would not be a level playing field.'**

COUNCILMAN  
JOHN MCALISTER

"I think there are very few cities ... our size that are setting the minimum wage," Clark said.

At the April 22 City Council meeting, it was noted that there are also few cities as expensive as Mountain View.

"The least expensive studio apartment I can rent in Mountain View is \$1,500 a month," said resident Joan

► See **RAGING GRANNIES**, page 14

## City considers fees to reduce commuters

CONGESTION PLAN MAY RESTRICT SOLO TRIPS TO NORTH BAYSHORE

By Daniel DeBolt

Though Google and others expressed concerns about potential unintended consequences, on Monday City Council members supported the use of "congestion pricing" as a way to enforce proposed limits on commuter traffic into the city's growing North Bayshore office park.

Like the system now used to collect tolls on the Golden Gate Bridge, license plate cameras would be installed on the three "gateway" roads providing the only vehicle access to the north side of Highway 101 in Mountain View, potentially enforcing a yet-to-be-determined fee on thousands of employees of Google, Intuit, Microsoft and others who choose to commute by car dur-



Cars back up on Shoreline Boulevard.

ing morning rush hour instead of taking a shuttle or a bike.

"Some of the developers and companies may balk at this, but do you want 10 million cars in there or do you want us to

manage this?" said City Council member Mike Kasperzak.

If approved in December as part of a "North Bayshore precise plan," Google and others would not be allowed to build up to 3.4 million square feet of new offices in North Bayshore unless traffic on the three roads is kept under their collective capacity limit of 18,900 trips between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. — the so-called "cap." There are now 13,900 inbound trips during that period on an average workday. Shoreline Boulevard is already over capacity during morning rush hour by 60 car trips, causing regular traffic jams at Highway 101.

Google representatives did balk at the idea, at least as a first resort. Google real estate director John

► See **CONGESTION**, page 18

## MV man accused of kidnapping two women

SUSPECT'S FATHER SAYS SON IS IRAQ VET SUFFERING FROM PTSD

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Police Department took a man into custody after he allegedly kidnapped two women in two separate incidents last Sunday, one which led to a freeway collision.

Police identified the man as 23-year-old Kenneth Middlebrook of Mountain View.

His father, Jeffrey Van Middlebrook, said his son is an Iraq War veteran who has struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder since his return from military deployment in 2011.

Police said that Middlebrook approached the first victim, a 19-year-old, in the driveway of her San Jose home and convinced her to drive him to Mountain

View in his car, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

When the woman got to Mountain View, Middlebrook became agitated and held the victim in the vehicle against her will, according to the police report.

In an attempt to get away from Middlebrook, the woman drove the vehicle onto Highway 101, where she intentionally crashed into another motorist.

When the woman pulled to the side of the road and got out, Middlebrook drove away in his vehicle. The vehicle was later found in a nearby parking lot, but police could not locate Middlebrook.

Police later received a report from a second female victim, who said Middlebrook had entered

her home and forced her into her car, this time with Middlebrook as the driver. He allegedly drove around the East and North Bay for hours and did not allow the victim to leave. Middlebrook eventually stopped in the Gold Country city of Ione and left the vehicle, telling the woman to wait for him, she reported. After a few minutes, the woman drove away and escaped.

Middlebrook was later detained by Ione police, and was taken into custody by detectives from



Kenneth Middlebrook

► See **KIDNAPPING**, page 11

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**SAN JOSE**

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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Interviews and photos by Kayla Layaoen

What do you think of efforts to raise the City Council members' monthly salaries from \$600 to \$1,000?



"I think if that's their only job it should get raised. But if it's just a side thing, they shouldn't get paid that much."  
**Jasely Grullon, Mountain View**



"I feel like it's pretty fair."  
**Neeja Patel, Mountain View**



"That money should be going to our community rather than people who say they're making improvements. We've got a beautiful city, but there's always room for improvement."  
**Suzie Goodrich, Los Altos**



"Considering that they work 20 to 30 hours per week, I think that they should have that pay increase."  
**Emma Russon, Los Altos**



"I feel like that's a big increase. It's pretty drastic. If they're actually doing work, then sure, they deserve the money."  
**Neha Mannikar, 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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May 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).

### South Asian Health: Partnering for Community Wellness

EVENT

#### Sunnyvale Center

301 Old San Francisco Rd.  
Sunnyvale  
Call Parisa Montazeri at  
(650) 853-2994.

**May 10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Join researchers, policy makers, doctors and other community members for this free conference to explore ways to improve the health of our South Asian community members. Lunch provided.

Registration online by **May 4** at  
[pamf.org/discover/event/agenda.html](http://pamf.org/discover/event/agenda.html).

### Dr. Tom McDonald Memorial Lecture Series at the Palo Alto Center

#### Palo Alto Center

795 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto  
(650) 853-4873

#### HIV Prevention Starts at Home

**May 13, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Nancy Brown, Ph.D., PAMF Education

#### Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real  
Mountain View  
(650) 937-7380

#### Raising a Spirited Child

Dr. Marvin Small Memorial Parent Workshop

**May 13, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Susan Stone Belton, Parenting Coach

#### Palo Alto Center

795 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto  
(650) 323-2225

#### Chronic Kidney Disease: Staying One Step Ahead – An Update

The Charles & Joan Horngren Kidney Education Series

**May 18, 1 – 4 p.m.**

Toby Gottheiner, M.D., PAMF Nephrology

#### San Carlos Library

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

#### A Moving Target: Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Guidelines

**May 19, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Lynette Lissin, M.D., PAMF Cardiovascular Disease

#### Sunnyvale City Senior Center

550 E. Remington Drive  
Sunnyvale  
(408) 730-7360

#### Plastic Surgery Options for Older Adults

**May 20, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

Cindy Russell, M.D., PAMF Plastic Surgery

#### Cupertino City Senior Center

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

#### Advancements in Cataract Surgery

**May 28, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

Yichieh Shiuuey, M.D., PAMF Ophthalmology



Palo Alto Medical Foundation  
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[pamf.org/education](http://pamf.org/education)

### CRIME BRIEFS

#### CVS PHARMACY ROBBED

Police received a report that two men entered the CVS Pharmacy on 850 California St. and stole approximately \$1,477 in merchandise.

According to the report, the two suspects entered the pharmacy on April 25 at 8:34 p.m. and stole a number of items before leaving the store without paying. The stolen merchandise included lotions, body creams, dental products and hair products, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department. The total losses are still being tallied.

The first of the two suspects is described as a white man in between 20 and 30 years old, the second is described as a white man between 30 and 40 years old with brown hair. Police have collected video surveillance footage and have forwarded the case to detectives.

Kevin Forestieri

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### CSMA WORKSHOP AND MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT

Comedic musicians Aleksey Igudesman, a violinist, and Hyung-ki Joo, a pianist, will be giving a workshop called "8 to 88" at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View on Sunday, May 4, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Musicians are welcome to bring their own instruments, along with original compositions and sketches and are encouraged to share any "hidden talents." The workshop encourages musicians

► See *COMMUNITY BRIEFS*, page 19

### POLICE LOG

#### AUTO BURGLARY

2600 block Terminal Blvd., 4/24

#### BATTERY

500 block View St., 4/24  
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 4/29

#### COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

600 block Showers Dr., 4/24  
500 block Showers Dr., 4/25  
300 block Showers Dr., 4/25  
600 block Showers Dr., 4/26

#### GRAND THEFT

800 block California St., 4/25

#### KIDNAPPING

200 block Easy St., 4/27

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

200 block Ortega Av., 4/23

#### STOLEN VEHICLE

1200 block Crittenden Ln., 4/29  
100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/29

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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MICHELLE LE

**Tim Dobbins**, the much-loved “Teacher Tim” at Mountain View Parent Nursery School, is retiring after 25 years.

## Saying goodbye to Teacher Tim

PRESCHOOL TEACHER RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS

By Kevin Forestieri

Whether it’s building ramps for toy cars, making paper airplanes or dressing up as a clown, “Teacher Tim” has been the creative and upbeat teacher preschoolers have come to love. This year Tim Dobbins is retiring after more than 25 years of being an actor, an inventor and a teacher at the Mountain View Parent Nursery School.

Dobbins became an assistant teacher for the preschool in 1989, and was a teacher when

the school had moved into its current location — an area tucked away near the girls softball field and the Freestyle Academy at Mountain View High School. The spot began as an empty lot, and is now home to a log cabin, a performance stage, a playground structure and a track for kids to ride bicycles.

And Dobbins’ legacy spans the preschool grounds — literally. He set up a multipurpose zip line that runs through the middle of the school. Though

it’s not designed for the kids to actually ride, they have sent stuffed animals in baskets down the zip line, according to Marie Faust Evitt, a teacher who works closely with Dobbins at the school.

Dobbins has a reputation with the parents and teachers for being a tinkerer, building ramps for race cars and drive-through “car washes” with spray bottles for tricycle riders. Sometimes compared to Mac-

► See **DOBBINS**, page 16

## El Camino Hospital to build new \$50 million facility

NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BUILDING WILL FULLY REPLACE OLD ONE

By Kevin Forestieri

Plans are well underway to build a new, \$50 million behavioral health services facility at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View. The 52,000-square-foot building will house one of the biggest, and one of the only, places for psychiatric health services in the county. The two-story facility will

replace the current old and inadequate behavioral health unit at the hospital, according to Michael Fitzgerald, executive director of behavioral health services at El Camino Hospital. He said the current facility was built to be used for 30 years, and it’s going on 52.

“It’s unusual for healthcare buildings to still be in existence that were built over 50 years ago,”

Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald said the hospital cannot remodel the old facility without being subject to new building requirements and huge costs. Upgrading the facility to comply with the state standards would require the hospital to increase bedroom and bathroom sizes, increase the number of sinks for hand-washing, and tear out all the old floors and walls.

Fitzgerald said the cost to remodel would be in excess of \$20 million, and would bring down the number of beds in the facility from 25 to 15.

Because remodeling would cost so much and likely continue to fail to meet the needs of the community, Fitzgerald said

the two choices were to rebuild the facility or close inpatient services.

The behavioral health facility is also attached to the old main hospital that houses its outpatient services. The old hospital cannot be torn down until a new, separate mental health building is constructed.

At 52,000 square feet, the new building will have 36 beds in private rooms — more than a 40 percent increase from the 25 beds in the current building. The beds will also be split up into sections based on symptoms. For example, the intensive care area will have 12 beds, and will be for patients with significant behavioral conditions. The women’s

specialty area will have nine beds, and will be designated to conditions like postpartum depression and psychological trauma.

Fitzgerald said designating beds for specific symptoms will have a positive effect on patient care, which can be tailored to the needs of the patient, and allows hospital staff to move patients to appropriate areas as their symptoms change. The building design will also be flexible enough to create five “treatment areas” to accommodate an influx of patients with specific needs.

But the improvements will include more than just new beds. Fitzgerald said the design

► See **HOSPITAL FACILITY**, page 21

## A good year for the city budget

SURPLUSES, NOT RED INK, FORECAST FOR MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Daniel DeBolt

With Mountain View growing at an unprecedented rate, the city budget is projected to have a surplus for years to come, the city manager said Tuesday.

City Manager Dan Rich expressed relief that no cuts would have to be made this year. “In my nine years of being a city manager, this year has been the most enjoyable after many, many years of cutting (budgets),” he said.

Rich recalled that the city went through four years of budget reductions after the recession, trimming \$7.4 million from the city budget and eliminating 31 full-time city employees.

The rosy budget is because of rising property values and property taxes, along with rising sales tax revenue, as consumers have apparently taken five years to resume spending at pre-recession levels. At \$33.8 million, property taxes make up 33 percent of the city’s general fund budget revenues, city staff said.

It’s predicted that in 2014-15, the city’s general fund revenues will rise 5 percent to \$102 million, with a balance of \$2 million left over.

Rich and finance director Patty Kong say there will be an unexpectedly high amount of money left over when this budget year ends on June 30, about \$6.5 mil-

lion, including \$1.5 million in reimbursements from developers for city planning services.

Rich proposes putting the money into various reserves, including \$915,000 to general fund reserves, \$1.2 million into a “compensated absences” reserve, \$300,000 into a workers compensation reserve, up to \$2 million to a capital improvement reserve, \$1 million towards retirees health care costs and \$1 million towards growing employee pension costs.

Among \$774,000 in other miscellaneous expenses, Rich also proposes \$150,000 for the city to hire a mobility coordinator — also called a bike and pedestrian czar — for two years. Another \$110,000 could go to hiring a part-time civil engineer to help handle the city’s numerous infrastructure projects.

Rich said there wouldn’t be any major fee increases, except for increased fees for an increasing number of film crews that have been shooting in Mountain View for TV shows based on Silicon Valley. There is also a recommended 4 percent increase in water rates and a 2 percent increase in garbage rates for residents and businesses.

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

# New principal tapped for Bubb

CYNDEE NGUYEN TO REPLACE RETIRING PRINCIPAL

By Kevin Forestieri

Cyndee Nguyen will be the new principal of Benjamin Bubb Elementary School. Her selection was announced at the Mountain View Whisman School District board meeting on April 17, where Nguyen was accompanied by a dozen of her supporters from Bubb School, where she taught first grade.

Nguyen is set to replace Mary Dietrich, who is retiring this year.

At the board meeting, Superintendent Craig Goldman's announcement was met with cheers and applause. Teachers from the elementary school had come with Cyndee to the board meeting to show their support, and celebrated when they heard the news.

"It is without any hesitation that we appreciate the fact that you're joining our leadership team," Goldman said at the

board meeting. "We are excited as you take on this new role."

Nguyen was a first-grade teacher at Bubb Elementary for seven years. She was selected by her colleagues to be named Teacher of the Year in 2012 by the Santa Clara County Office of Education — one of two teachers in the entire school district.

Nguyen spent the last two years as an instructional coach at Bubb and Landels elementary schools, helping other teachers in the classroom. Nguyen said as a coach, her job was to watch and observe teacher instruction, and give feedback either during or after class. It also meant working with the district officials to implement district-wide initiatives at the classroom level.

Goldman said her two-year

experience as an instructional coach helped ready her for an administrative role.

"Nguyen is increasingly seen as someone who can lead teachers and students," Goldman said. "She is well-prepared to take over for Mary."

Nguyen was one of 44 applicants for the job. After the first screening, that number went down to eight. Nguyen said she was interviewed by two panels for the job: the first was panel of teachers, staff and neighborhood leaders, the second was the executive team for the district, including Goldman. In the interviews, she asked about her vision for Bubb elementary and how she was going to make that happen, as well as changes to instruction.

At the board meeting, Goldman said she did an outstanding job in her interviews, and "wowed" the panel, the executive team and the board of trustees. ▣



Cyndee Nguyen

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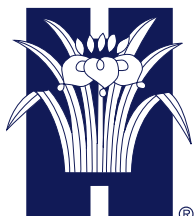
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# County passes new food-safety law

RESTAURANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO POST FULL HEALTH INSPECTION RESULTS ON SITE AND ONLINE

By Sue Dremann and Elena Kadvany

Restaurants in Santa Clara County will be required to post a food-safety grading placard in their windows starting this fall, per a proposal the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Tuesday, April 29.

The new law mandates that all restaurants publicly post the color-coded placards indicating their inspection levels — green for pass, yellow for conditional pass or red for fail/closed. In order to pass, restaurants cannot have more than one major violation (“major” is defined as any violation that poses an imminent health hazard). An establishment with two or more violations would receive the yellow “conditional pass” placard.

Restaurants that fail to correct violations upon inspection get slapped with the red card and are closed until they comply. This rating system is modeled after Sacramento County’s “Green-Yellow-Red” grading system.

Santa Clara County does currently post restaurants whose permits have been suspended, along with the reason for the suspension and dates they closed and reopened. An online

database is also searchable by restaurant and posts the most recent inspection report.

The law will also require that complete inspection results — including all violations — be posted on the Department of Environmental Health website, along with an “easy-to-understand” online score for these results (from 1 to 100).

“Right now, when you walk into a restaurant, about all you know for sure from a health and safety standpoint is that it hasn’t been bad enough to get closed down,” Simitian said in a statement. “And if nobody knows you’re ‘just barely good enough,’ then there’s no real incentive to do better.”

The statement also calls food borne illness a “major public health issue,” citing a Disease Control and Prevention estimate that each year, roughly one in six Americans (or more than 48 million people) gets sick, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases.

“This is pretty straightforward,” Simitian said. “If the results of our health inspections are readily available, then local restaurants have an added incentive to improve food safety,

and local consumers have the information they need to make informed choices.”

Under the new law, restaurants will have to pay a fee, which is expected to not be more than \$100, but the amount won’t be finalized until 2016 when overall costs have been evaluated, county staff said Tuesday.

The county will bring on two new hires — an additional environmental health specialist and a senior environmental health specialist — to help ensure re-scoring of restaurants can be completed in a timely manner if the establishment has corrected the violations.

Simitian has long advocated for increased public access to restaurant-inspection information. While serving as supervisor in 2000, the board did approve a previous proposal he put forth to post health-inspection results online, but it was never actually implemented.

“In fact, when I returned to the Board in 2013, I discovered that we’d actually gone backwards in terms of our online disclosure efforts,” he said. “I’m glad we’re finally poised to make progress, even if it’s coming 13 years later.” ■

## County creates human-trafficking commission

By Sue Dremann

Addressing a growing need to combat local human labor and sex trafficking, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday, April 29, to set up a human-trafficking commission.

The commission will coordinate a range of government and community efforts to eliminate human trafficking. It will be charged with investigating the types and scope of human trafficking in the county; identifying policies, services and prevention for victims; working with county police departments and the sheriff’s office to develop a coordinated response to sex and labor trafficking; creating a public-education campaign; collaborating with law enforcement and the District Attorney’s Office to prosecute traffickers and developing training for law enforcement and public agencies, according to the proposal.

The San Jose Police Department and the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking have worked with 300 victims or

potential victims since 2003, the majority of which were subjected to forced labor, according to Ruth Silver Taube of Santa Clara University’s Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center. Those numbers are rising, she told the supervisors Tuesday.

“This is one of those problems that’s been hidden in plain view,” said Supervisor Cindy Chavez, who introduced the proposed commission. “This is an opportunity to lift the efforts up.”

The U.S. State Department defines trafficking as the “act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.” Trafficking includes slavery, forced labor, debt bondage and commercial sexual exploitation. As many as 100,000 American children are trafficked each year, according to the State Department. Internationally, there are an estimated 20.9 million victims of human trafficking.

But it’s also a pressing local problem: Most of the reporting calls to the National Human

Trafficking Hotline come from California, and the Bay Area is said to be a top destination point for trafficked victims. The Bay Area’s major harbors and airports, robust industries, growing economy and large immigrant population make it an attractive place for human trafficking, Chavez said.

“Human trafficking denies many county residents basic human dignities and strains the county’s safety net by increasing the need for law enforcement to combat the issue. Innovative solutions and improved collaboration between governmental entities and the community are sorely needed,” she said.

The timing of the commission is critical, since grant money funding anti-human-trafficking work by the San Jose Police Department will end this summer. The commission will help coordinate efforts surrounding the 2016 Super Bowl, which, along with other large events and conventions, often attracts traffickers, Chavez said.

Email Sue Dremann at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com)

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# A HISTORY OF CARING

**F**or fifty years, Community Services Agency (CSA) has been providing vital social services for residents of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills. We understand that hardship can come at any time and knows no age limit. We provide a safety net so that independence and self-sufficiency can be restored and maintained.

- The first Brownie and Scout groups for minority children, now integrated into the Girl Scouts.

The agency has also sought and established partnerships with other nonprofit providers, to ensure their delivery to CSA's clients. Examples: Women Infants and Children, Lawmobile, and Rotacare.

## An evolving name reflects an evolving organization

CSA has grown from humble origins. In 1957, a group of Mountain View residents, concerned about the welfare of low-income families in the city, gathered to talk about the plight of the local migrant farm workers. They decided to form the Mountain View Welfare Council to address the needs of this population. Within a year, the council was incorporated, and it was planning its first sharing of holiday gifts for families.

By 1967, the interests of the council had expanded to include housing issues, immigration issues, and the needs of senior citizens. Accordingly, its name was changed to the Mountain View Community Council.

With a move into larger, permanent office space in 1974, the organization changed its name once again, this time to Mountain View Community Services, reflecting the increasing services provided, such as meals and counseling.

CSA assumed its present name, Community Services Agency, in 1982, in recognition of a client base that extends through Los Altos to Los Altos Hills.

## A growing repertoire of programs and services

CSA's first program in 1958 was a holiday gift distribution called Christmas Clearance. Later called Santa Claus Exchange, the program remains today an important element of CSA's work, now the Holiday Sharing program.

1974 was a big year for the agency. Clothing distribution was added to a growing list of Emergency Assistance services. Also, the agency moved into larger facilities at 204 Stierlin Road, Mountain View. Interior painting of the building was performed by clients and board members, while volunteers from the Mountain View Police Department handled the move from the old office space to the new.

Another milestone occurred in 1977, with the initiation of food service to the needy.

CSA's Emergency Assistance program added crisis intervention services in 1982 and the Community Kitchen (food distribution) and financial assistance services in 1983. The Senior Services program added transportation in 1983 and case management in 1984.

In 1989, the agency launched a new Homeless Services program designed to lift the homeless up from their situation to rejoin society. The Alpha Omega Shelter was the first service offered, in cooperation with 17 local churches.

CSA conducted a capital campaign and dramatically upgraded its facility in 1990. Among other features, the building had greater capacity for food service, then termed the Food Closet.

The Homeless Services program stepped up in 1995 with the creation of Graduate House, a transitional housing facility managed by Project Match. CSA was a partner in this facility.

In 1998, CSA fundamentally changed the nature of its Food and Nutrition program by creating the Food Pantry (grocery store for the needy) at the Stierlin Road facility and discontinuing its meals program.

Another fundamental change occurred in 2006, when CSA discontinued the rotating homeless shelter in favor of enhanced case management services, pursuing the demonstrated "housing first" model for serving the homeless. The revised program is now called Alpha Omega Homeless Services.

Programs Originated or Facilitated by Community Services Agency

Throughout its history, CSA has been a source for new, innovative social services within the community. Many of these services are now administered by other agencies. A few examples:

- The first day care center in Mountain View, now Whisman Child Care Center.
- Mountain View Community Health Center, now managed by a community group.
- Transportation services for students in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, now operated through Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education.

## CSA Today

Mature at age 55, CSA now follows a strategy of first contact for the community's needy, providing fundamental services and referring clients to other agencies for additional services.

## Caring for the homeless

CSA's Alpha Omega Homeless Services provides case management, direct assistance, and referral services (most importantly housing) to individuals and families. CSA partners with numerous other county service providers, assembling a comprehensive package of assistance to the local homeless population. Caring for the working poor and unemployed

CSA's Food and Nutrition Center supplements the nutrition requirements of needy families with fresh and staple groceries. Food items are contributed by community supermarkets and by nonprofit organizations like Second Harvest Food Bank and Hidden Villa.

CSA's Emergency Assistance program provides a much needed helping hand to those afflicted with short-term severe needs. Assistance includes rent, utility payments, short-term shelter, medical purchases, and many services for children, especially related to school.

Holiday Sharing, providing food to families and fun toys to kids, is a joyful program that draws together volunteers and clients from throughout the community.

## Caring for the elderly

Senior Services is the fastest-growing CSA program, reflecting the growth of the elderly population in our community. Case managers deliver in-home assessments, counseling, referrals, and educational seminars, designed to allow local seniors to remain safe and independent.

Our Senior Nutrition Program at the Mountain View Senior Center serves subsidized hot lunches every weekday, countering the isolation and apathy that can afflict the elderly.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY** 204 Stierlin Rd., Mountain View, CA 94043 • 650-968-0836 • [www.csacares.org](http://www.csacares.org)

**MOUNTAIN VIEW SENIOR CENTER** 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040 • **LOS ALTOS SENIOR CENTER** 97 Hillview Ave. Los Altos, CA 94022

THIS SPACE DONATED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY THE MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

# Google grant to back bike projects

By Daniel DeBolt

As the city looks for ways to manage Google's commuter traffic, the Internet giant announced Tuesday that it will give the city \$350,000 a year for three years to support bicycle infrastructure projects.

"I'm here today to provide you with a letter of commitment from Google for a three-year funding process," said Google real estate director John Igoe at Tuesday's City Council meeting, as the council prepared to look at the city budget. He said the funding is to be used at the city's discretion for bicycle safety related projects.

As part of a proposed reduction in car trips for Google if it intends to grow in Mountain View, Google and city officials want to significantly increase the number of commuters on bicycles, but the benefits may extend to residents all over the city.

It's been a year since Google made its first dona-

tion of \$500,000 towards bike improvements in the city. It paid \$160,000 toward designing a new bike master plan for the city, \$50,000 for new bike racks that will be installed downtown in the next few months, and \$75,000 to add flashing lights to three crosswalks on Shoreline Boulevard near downtown, a project the City Council will be asked to approve on May 13, said Jacqueline Solomon, the city's public works director. Commuters and residents will also benefit from an extension of the Permanente Creek Trail to Middlefield Road that is in the works; with help from \$150,000 paid by Google last year.

Google's Shoreline Fund property taxes will also help fund a new "cycle track" bike path that is being studied for Stierlin Road and North Shoreline Boulevard. If completed, it would create a direct route for commuters from the downtown train station, likely crossing a new bike and pedestrian bridge over Highway 101. ▀



TIANA MASNAGHETTI

## A GEYSER ON MIDDLEFIELD

A geyser sprang up like Old Faithful on Middlefield Road Tuesday afternoon around 3 p.m., the result of a rental car hitting a fire hydrant. Police said the water was shut off by 3:47 p.m. and there were no injuries or evidence the driver was intoxicated. But it looks like the driver may have to cough up some dough to a rental car agency if he didn't play it safe and pay extra for the insurance.

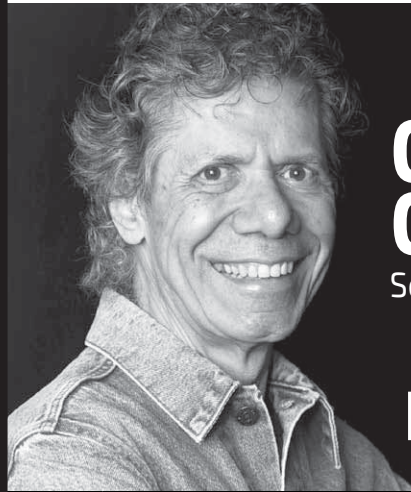
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## County seeks owners of \$244K in unclaimed money

The Santa Clara County Department of Revenue has published a list of approximately 1,060 people who are potential owners of nearly \$244,000 in unclaimed money on deposit with the County.

The money comes from a variety of sources such as fines, penalty assessments, fees and restitution owed to crime victims. The list of names can be found at [www.sccgov.org](http://www.sccgov.org), under the "Hot Items" tab.

As Santa Clara County's central collection agency, the Department of Revenue collects for services provided by many of the county's departments and for Santa Clara County Superior Court.

The office processes nearly 337,000 payments, totaling some \$79,000,000 per year, and distributes it to the various agencies and departments that provide multiple county, city and state government services.

Unclaimed money becomes available at DOR for a variety of reasons, including overpayment; adjustment of charges; payment of victim restitution by a defendant when the victim has moved and a new address is unavailable; returned mail resulting in the discontinuation of payments; and deposits for which the recipient can find no service-related charges.

The department attempts

to locate the owners by mail, phone calls and skip tracing. In some cases, recipients don't want the money or don't have records to validate their acceptance of payment.

"Efforts are made to locate owners of the unclaimed money, but in many cases, we are unable to reach them because of limited or outdated information," said Susan Ping Wong, county director of revenue collections.

"We cannot stress enough how important it is that residents who have accounts with DOR keep their contact information current," she said.

Residents who believe that they may be due a refund or victim restitution payment based on their published names should fill out the claim form on the department's website, [www.sccdor.org](http://www.sccdor.org), or contact DOR at (408) 282-3203. Residents must provide a valid ID when submitting the form.

All claims should be filed by May 30. After the deadline, unclaimed money in the Victim Trust Fund will be used to fund the District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program. Unclaimed money in the General Trust Fund will be transferred to the County General Fund and used as directed by the county's Board of Supervisors.

*Bay City News Service*

### OBITUARY

#### WILLIAM ALLAN SKINNER

William Allan Skinner, a Mountain View resident and retired captain in the United States Navy, died April 14. He was 85.

He was born to John Seaborn and Annie Skinner on June 26, 1928 in Augusta, Georgia, he graduated from the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point in 1948. In 1952 he married Klotylda Jozwiak of Warsaw, Poland. He earned his master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey in 1958. As a commissioned officer in the Navy, he participated in the design and deployment of nuclear submarines, including the Navy's first nuclear research vehicle, the NR1. He retired as a captain in 1976 after overseeing production and repair of nuclear submarines at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, his

family said.

Over the next two decades he worked as a senior engineer at Lockheed with the team that designed the Sea Shadow, an experimental stealth ship built for the Navy.

He enjoyed travel, photography, carpentry and gardening, his family said.

He was preceded in death by his wife Klotylda in 2006. He is survived by his three children, Mary, Lydia and John.

Funeral services have been held, with burial on April 24 at Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto. Donations in his memory may be made to the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point for any purpose ([usmma.edu](http://usmma.edu)). An online guest book is at [cusimanocolonial.com](http://cusimanocolonial.com).



William Skinner

### KIDNAPPING

▶ Continued from page 1

the Mountain View Police Department. He was booked at Santa Clara County Main Jail in San Jose on Monday under \$331,000 bail.

Middlebrook has been arrested several times by the Mountain View Police Department since his return from Iraq in 2011, according to his father, a Mountain View resident. The

elder Middlebrook wrote to the *Voice* and praised Mountain View police for showing compassion in dealing with his troubled son.

He said Kenneth Middlebrook suffers from extreme PTSD, and sustained a traumatic brain injury in Iraq after being blown up twice — once when a mortar landed near him and blew him 50 feet head-first into a wall, and again when he was hit by an improvised explosive device while on patrol.

He said his son has been homeless and living in his car since October last year.

He said that he has been trying to get his son admitted to a rehab program but that the VA system's treatment programs are voluntary and his efforts to get the courts to mandate treatment have been to no avail.

"Our wounded warriors like my son are being abandoned by the legal system, until some finally crack and commit crimes," Middlebrook wrote. ▀

Public hearing

## Flood Control Benefit Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District

You are invited

**Topic :** Flood Control Benefit Assessment Rates for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

**Who :** Santa Clara Valley Water District

**When :** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

**Where :** Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters  
Board Room, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

This public hearing will cover the **Flood Control Benefit Assessments Report, 2014-2015**. The written report incorporates by reference a description of each parcel and the expected amount of assessment under the approved formula for each parcel within the flood control zones of the District.

At the hearing, the Board of Directors will hear any and all protests. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board may adopt or revise any assessment and will make its determination upon each assessment referred to in the report.

A copy of the report may be inspected at the Office of the Clerk of the Board at the above address at any time during business hours. Copies of the report have also been placed and may be inspected at the following locations:

**Campbell City Hall**  
70 North First Street  
Campbell, CA

**Campbell Library**  
77 Harrison Avenue  
Campbell, CA

**Cupertino City Hall**  
10300 Torre Avenue  
Cupertino, CA

**Cupertino Library**  
10800 Torre Avenue  
Cupertino, CA

**Gilroy City Hall**  
7351 Rosanna Street  
Gilroy, CA

**Gilroy Library**  
350 West Sixth Street  
Gilroy, CA

**Los Altos City Hall**  
1 North San Antonio Rd  
Los Altos, CA

**Los Altos Library**  
13 South San Antonio Rd  
Los Altos, CA

**Los Altos Hills Town Hall**  
26379 Fremont Rd  
Los Altos Hills, CA

**Los Gatos Civic Center**  
110 East Main Street  
Los Gatos, CA

**Los Gatos Library**  
100 Villa Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA

**Milpitas City Hall**  
455 East Calaveras Blvd  
Milpitas, CA

**Milpitas Library**  
160 North Main Street  
Milpitas, CA

**Monte Sereno City Hall**  
18041 Saratoga-  
Los Gatos Rd  
Monte Sereno, CA

**Morgan Hill City Hall**  
17575 Peak Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA

**Morgan Hill Library**  
660 West Main Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA

**Mountain View City Hall**  
500 Castro Street  
Mountain View, CA

**Mountain View  
Public Library**  
585 Franklin Street  
Mountain View, CA

**Palo Alto City Hall**  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA

**Mitchell Park Library**  
4050 Middlefield Road  
Palo Alto, CA

**San Jose City Hall**  
200 East Santa Clara St.  
San José, CA

**Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr. Library**  
150 E. San Fernando St.  
San José, CA

**Hillview Branch Library**  
1600 Hopkins Drive  
San José, CA

**Pearl Avenue Library**  
4270 Pearl Avenue  
San José, California

**Santa Clara City Hall**  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA

**Santa Clara Central  
Park Library**  
2635 Homestead Rd  
Santa Clara, CA

**Saratoga City Hall**  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA

**Saratoga Library**  
13650 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga, CA

**Sunnyvale City Hall**  
650 W. Olive Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA

**Sunnyvale Library**  
665 West Olive Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA

To secure information on an individual parcel assessment, you must know your Assessor Parcel Number. If you do not know it, call the Assessor at (408) 299-5000 and ask for it, giving your name and street address. Using that parcel number, you can learn your proposed assessment by calling the Santa Clara Valley Water District Tax Assessment Hotline at (408) 630-2810.

Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend this public hearing. For additional information on attending this hearing including requesting accommodations for disabilities or interpreter assistance, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (408) 630-2277, at least three days prior to the hearing.



Check out:  
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for more information

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Check out:  
[www.47viewstreet.com](http://www.47viewstreet.com)  
for more information

47 View Street, Los Altos - 5 Bed | 5 Bath (+



Check out:  
[www.379stockbridge.com](http://www.379stockbridge.com)  
for more information

379 Stockbridge Avenue, Atherton - 4,159 sq. ft. - 4 Bed | 3.5 Bath - \$5,298,000



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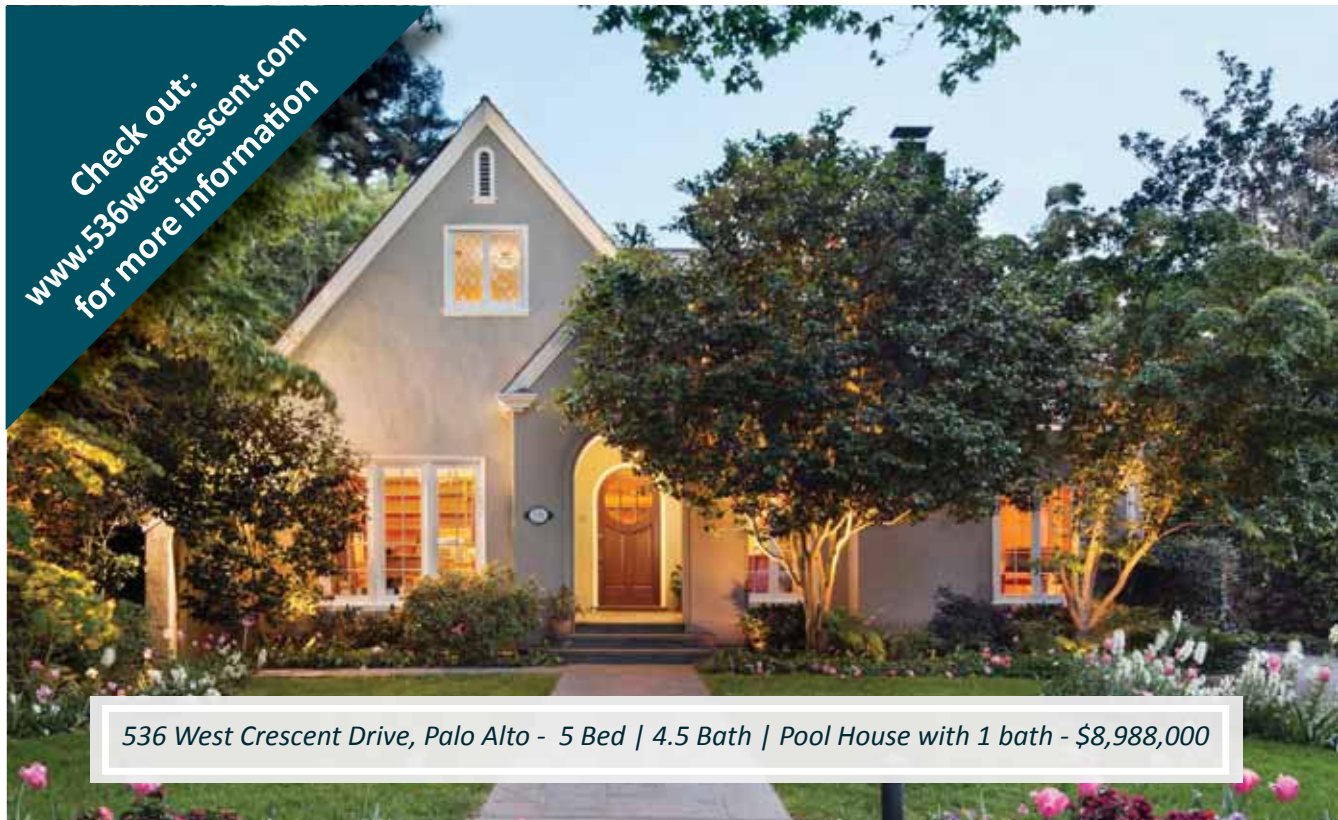


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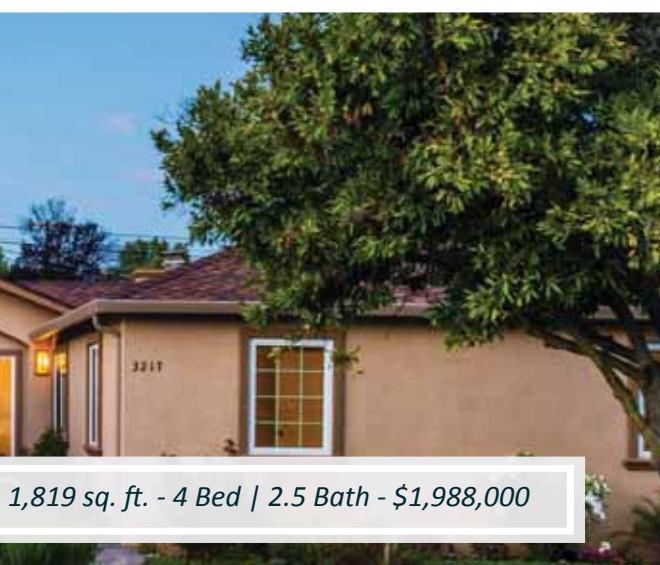


-5,288 sq. ft. - 4 Bed | 3.5 Bath - \$4,998,000



Check out:  
[www.1302channing.com](http://www.1302channing.com)  
for more information

1302 Channing Avenue, Palo Alto - 2,206 sq. ft. - 5 Bed | 3 Bath - \$2,698,000



1,819 sq. ft. - 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath - \$1,988,000



Check out:  
[www.510alicia.com](http://www.510alicia.com)  
for more information

510 Alicia Way, Los Altos - 1,975 sq. ft. - 3 bed | 2 bath - \$1,998,000

For more information please visit:  
[www.DeLeonRealty.com](http://www.DeLeonRealty.com)





**A Walmart employee collects shopping carts as members of the Raging Grannies sing protest songs seeking higher wages and benefits for workers.**

## RAGING GRANNIES

► Continued from page 1

MacDonald. For many people on a minimum wage there is “no money left for food, clothes, health care, transportation or education,” she said.

The new minimum wage advocated for Mountain View ranges from more than \$15 to \$10.15 an hour, San Jose’s new minimum that was enacted as the result of a 2013 ballot measure and a campaign by San Jose State Uni-

versity students.

The state’s minimum wage is set to go to \$9 in July and \$10 in 2016, where it could remain for years. San Jose’s new minimum wage is tied to a consumer price index and may rise annually, something advocates want for Mountain View as well.

Council members expressed support for considering the raise, along with several other proposed goals for the year on Tuesday, even though city staff say they are stretched to their limits trying to manage unprecedented growth.

“We hope that this first step is followed by actions that will make a raise in the wage in Mountain View a reality for people who struggle every day to pay their bills, feed their kids, and put a roof over their heads,” Meghan Fraley, one of the leaders of the campaign to raise the minimum wage in Mountain View, said on Wednesday.

In San Jose, businesses have found various ways to absorb the increase and some have found benefits for attracting workers and saw increases

in sales, according to recent reports. Some business owners now support it, including the owners of Philz Coffee and the Pizza My Heart chains. Council member John McAlister, who owns Mountain View’s Baskin Robbins, is not a supporter. He said going to \$15 an hour would be detrimental to “mom-and-pop” small businesses and would mean he’d have to lay off many of his teenage employees who he says often have their first jobs at his ice cream shop.

“If the city of Mountain View

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did it by itself, it would not be a level playing field," McAlister said.

Dozens of people raised their hand at the April 22 City Council meeting when asked if they supported a raise of Mountain View's minimum wage to \$15 or more.

Only one speaker opposed a possible increase, saying it was an "exercise in futility" because it would only raise the cost of goods and services. Others disagreed, saying that research into minimum wage increases showed that "the net effect of a higher minimum wage is to shift costs back to employers" while increases to the wage boost the economy because consumers have more spending money. Advocates have also pointed to boosts in employment following the increase in San Jose, where there has been a rising number of downtown businesses.

MacDonald asked the council to research economist Robert Reich's views on the minimum wage, who said that lower wages also means more workers rely on government assistance such as food stamps.

"The rest of us make up for what their employers are unwilling to do," Reich says in an online video on the topic.

One such worker spoke to the council April 22, saying, "I don't make enough money to feed my family without government assistance" while working for a fast food chain. "Imagine having to decide between eating or having money to take the bus to work."

Paul George, director of the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, noted that the writers of the country's minimum wage law went out of their way to allow cities and states to increase the wage to better reflect local costs of living.

"California's state minimum wage effectively asks us to treat a Mountain View worker on an equal par with a worker in, say, Fresno or Bakersfield, yet costs of living are higher by 30 percent



A Walmart employee wearing a hat with the company slogan "Save money. Live Better" watches the Raging Grannies sing in the Mountain View store's parking lot as they protest over the company's low wages and benefits.

or more (in Mountain View)," he said.

Local attorney Gary Wesley put some blame for the situation on the City Council. "The reason we have soaring rents in town is you

have participated in adding jobs without adding housing."

"Many people are worried. People in our community are being displaced by rising rents," said resident Mike Fischetti. "A

couple working full time (for minimum wage, after taxes, takes home \$2,000 a month."

"I went to the Mountain View Day Worker Center over the weekend and I was astounded to find out the average wage paid to day workers by the people who hire them is bit under \$15," Fischetti said. "The minimum is \$12 and \$17 is the max. In our community there are people who believe in a just and fair wage."

City Attorney Jannie Quinn said the city staff members were tracking a study of minimum wage increases in Sunnyvale, to be presented to its City Council in May. Members said they wanted to see about possibly taking some kind of action by the end of the year, which could mean asking voters to approve a raise or the council taking the action itself.

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



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Teacher Tim Dobbins shows students how to hit the ball at the Mountain View Parent Nursery School.

**DOBBINS**

► Continued from page 5

Gyver, Dobbins said he's used duct tape and cardboard boxes to build castles with bungee cord draw bridges. "The knights inside say 'Who goes there?' and I like saying 'It is I, Arthur, King of the Britons,'" Dobbins said.

Dobbins is also an actor. He graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts before becoming a teacher, and said his experience has come in handy at the preschool. He said he plays a number of different characters at the school, usually with names that start with "Silly." He's been Silly Santa, Silly Bunny, and Mr. Silly the clown.

Not that his goal is to surprise kids with a clown costume and traumatize them — Dobbins explained that he is very careful in how he adopts roles like a clown or Santa. He dresses up like a clown in front of the preschool kids to let them know it's Teacher Tim dressed up as a clown, and that the face paint is supposed to exaggerate facial features and expressions for performance purposes. After that, Dobbins said,

some kids are champing at the bit to dress up as a clown.

Dobbins' teaching philosophy revolves around the idea that preschool kids learn through play. He said teachers at the preschool rely on emergent curriculum, where student interests dictate what will be taught, and playing as a way of teaching to

that focus on learning by doing.

Parents like Susan Pence see Dobbins as a jack of all trades because of his imagination, his inventions and his acting. "One minute he's gardening, and the next minute he's doing science experiments," Pence said.

Pence has a son in kindergarten who attended the Par-

***'Kids are receptive to someone who has playful energy and can act like a child.'***

SUSAN PENCE, PARENT

ent Nursery School for the last couple of years, and said kids tend to gravitate toward Dobbins because he's playful and silly in a way that kids aren't intimidated by, and feel safe.

"Kids are receptive to someone who has playful energy and can act like a child," Pence said. "They feel like they've found a partner in crime for having fun."

But after a quarter century of working at the preschool, Dobbins said it's time to move on. At

ent Nursery School for the last couple of years, and said kids tend to gravitate toward Dobbins because he's playful and silly in a way that kids aren't intimidated by, and feel safe.

"Kids are receptive to someone who has playful energy and can act like a child," Pence said. "They feel like they've found a partner in crime for having fun."

But after a quarter century of working at the preschool, Dobbins said it's time to move on. At

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Tim Dobbins helps a young batter work on his swing.

age 66, he said he wants to go out “on top” and not end his career too old to keep up his upbeat and active persona.

To celebrate Dobbins’ 25 years of teaching at the preschool, the Mountain View Parent Nursery School will be hosting a carnival on Sunday, May 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Alta Vista High School. The event will include music, face painting, temporary tattoos and a ring toss, along with a slide show and skit in the multi-purpose room. Evitt said they expect a big turnout from current families as well as alumni parents and children. The event will also be a fundraiser for plans to relocate the Mountain View Parent Nursery School in the future.

Three years ago, the preschool came together along with community members to support Tim Dobbins when his house burned down in 2011. Dobbins said a candle had been left burning one night and the building caught fire. Though nobody in the family was hurt, the house was unlivable.

Shortly after the fire, women working at the preschool got together and starting sending money, anonymously, to a bank account they had set up to help Dobbins and his family. Dobbins said they had raised quite a bit of money — enough to help him move into a new place and get back on track.

Dobbins said he plans to come back and visit the school from time to time, maybe making a cameo appearance as one of his “silly” characters, to keep in touch with the preschool and the kids. But parents say he will be missed. “If I asked my son right now,” Pence said, “he would say Tim was one of his favorite parts about preschool.”

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**Outdoor Tips**

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- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and save 10 to 15 gallons a minute.

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## CONGESTION

► Continued from page 1

Igoe expressed concern about the unintended consequences of congestion pricing. He and Google transportation planner Jeral Poskey suggested the city try other measures first to manage traffic, including a new Charleston Road underpass to connect the road across Highway 101, and a new Highway 101 off-ramp onto Huff Avenue, possibly allowing better Google bus access.

"Let's do everything we can to improve (streets and intersections), then we can give up and say, that's the trip cap," said Poskey, who is overseeing the development of transportation strategy for Google in Mountain View.

In order to allow office growth and minimize traffic, City Council members have long discussed a hard limit on commuter car trips into North Bayshore. Council members have been inspired by success with such a cap imposed by the city of Palo Alto, which prevents the Stanford campus from expanding unless car trips are kept at 1989 levels. Mayor Chris Clark described congestion pricing as "a really good final tool we would have in our tool belt" to enforce such a cap.

"I personally was thrilled to see the trip cap because we've been talking about this a really long time," said council member Ronit Bryant. "If you have a trip cap, you have a trip cap. Everyone is responsible for it. It actually has teeth."

"I like it, I wouldn't even put it as last resort," said council member Margaret Abe-Koga of congestion pricing. She noted the success of new toll lanes on local highways she saw as a VTA board member. "I used to think it was just for rich people and didn't help poor people, but then I started looking at the data — it actually works" for everyone.

North Bayshore could see major redevelopment at the start of 2015, mostly for Google, allowing as many as 15,000 to 20,000 new employees in the city in the coming years. City Council members want more than half of the area's employees to give up driving to work alone.

North Bayshore employers would be forced to work together to meet the cap as part of a newly created Transit Management Agency if any company wishes to build new office buildings in North Bayshore. Council members said larger companies like Google may end up having to help smaller companies change commuter behavior. Such measures could include charging for parking, paying employees not to drive or encouraging more use of

employee shuttles, Caltrain, bicycles and perhaps the building of a ferry terminal at Moffett Field.

Council members John Inks, John McAlister and Jac Siegel opposed moving forward with the traffic plans for North Bayshore, with Siegel expressing concern over the amount of office space in the works.

"I really have this fear that we are going to be one of the most unsuccessful office parks in the Bay Area," Siegel said. "And we haven't talked about the jobs-housing imbalance and its impacts on the city."

Resident Lenny Siegel (no relation to Jac), also opposed congestion pricing as leader of the Campaign for a Balanced Mountain View.

"Instead of developing strategies that punish commuters, the city should ameliorate the North Bayshore jobs-housing imbalance by restricting employment,

while the more popular routes would come with a price.

"It doesn't need to be one fee for each gateway," Tsuda told the council. "For some time, it could be potentially free at San Antonio Road. It's all about calibration to achieve your desired goal."

The council's goal is to make solo driver car trips only 45 percent of all commute trips into North Bayshore. The number now stands at 61 percent for Google alone. There would be easier interim goals as the area develops and alternatives to driving are created, Tsuda said.

Resident Bruce Karney expressed concern that parking garages would be built at the edges of North Bayshore, as has been proposed previously, to get around the trip cap. "That would not enhance the neighborhood or North Bayshore or reduce traffic on the highway," he said.

*'I used to think it was just for rich people and didn't help poor people, but ... it actually works.'*

COUNCILWOMAN MARGARET ABE-KOGA

and developing efficient transit," Siegel said in an email.

Advocates of congestion pricing say it has been effective in reducing traffic in Stockholm, London and Singapore, but Jac Siegel said the city was doing something wrong if it was already having to take such big-city measures.

Council candidate Jim Neal and others expressed concern about the potential impacts to small businesses in North Bayshore, where many restaurants and other businesses say they face closure because they can't compete with Google's free cafeterias and other free services.

"The people working at Google are likely the ones with more money," said resident Linda Curtis. "It's not penalizing them as much as people working at small businesses."

Community Development Director Randy Tsuda said there would be ways to focus on commuters to tech companies and to exempt some drivers, such as those who are going to Shoreline Park or who live in North Bayshore's mobile home park. To determine who is who, a license plate reader could be placed inside Shoreline Park, for example, Tsuda said.

The system may also be used to push traffic off an already gridlocked Shoreline Boulevard and onto the less-traveled North Bayshore gateways, Rengstorff Avenue and San Antonio Road. Tsuda suggested that San Antonio Road could be free at first,

Karney also called on the city to build housing in North Bayshore so fewer Google employees would have to commute.

Tsuda assured council members that there would be numerous conditions and requirements that would likely delay full build out of North Bayshore for years, as many council members are concerned about overwhelming growth. Members watched as it took less than a year for new office proposals to max out the 1.1 million square feet allowed in the city's new general plan for the Whisman area, a cap that was supposed to last until 2030.

"The smarter thing to do is reduce the 3.4 million square feet and increase it as time goes on," Siegel said. "Once it's written and goes in, it becomes pretty much the way it goes."

The 3.4 million square feet proposed for North Bayshore would be in addition to about 2 million square feet of office space recently constructed, under construction or about to start construction in Mountain View. That includes a 1.1 million-square-foot campus Google is ready to build at a portion of NASA Ames within city limits. There is another 1 million square feet proposed for other parts of the city, mostly in the Whisman area, for a total of about 6.4 million square feet potentially coming to Mountain View soon, bringing tens of thousands of more commuters and potential residents to the city with a general plan that makes room for only about 7,000 new homes by 2030. ▀

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

to be more open to ideas that are often ignored in the music-making process, like improvisation, choreography, dramaturgy and humor.

All types of musicians are welcome. More information is at [CaptiveArtists.com](http://CaptiveArtists.com).

Joo and Igudesman will also be performing the West Coast premiere of their new show, "And Now Mozart" at the Flint Center in Cupertino on May 3 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35-\$75 at the Flint Center box office, through [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or by calling 800-745-3000.

The CSMA will also be hosting its annual Merit Scholarship Students Mother's Day Concert on Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m.

The free concert will be performed at the CSMA's Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle in Mountain View. Limited on-site and street parking will be available.

Merit Scholarship students from the CSMA will showcase many instruments at the event, including piano, violin, flute, trumpet, percussion and voice, in small ensembles.

These students are awarded scholarships based on commitment levels, talent and achievement in musical studies.

"We are so proud to give our excellent Merit Scholars the opportunity to perform for the community. It is always a thrill to show off the talents of these outstanding artists," said Vickie Scott Grove, executive director of CSMA.

The concert is part of CSMA's 2013-14 Community Concert Series. For the full schedule or more information, go to [art4all.org](http://art4all.org).

—Kayla Layaoen

**GIVING DAY FOR NONPROFITS**

On May 6, the Mountain View-based Silicon Valley Community Foundation will be hosting SVGives. Over 500 charities have registered to participate in the fundraising event. SVCF has raised \$2.8 million in preparation to fund matching gifts and prizes for nonprofit organizations.

SVGives is sponsored chiefly by Microsoft and aims to raise millions in charitable donations for nonprofit organizations in San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito counties. The 24-hour event takes place mainly online. Donors can log onto [www.svgives.com](http://www.svgives.com) to contribute to nonprofits.

In-person events will also be

hosted at several Whole Foods markets and Microsoft retail stores.

PayPal will match 1 percent of each donation made through their web service up to a maximum of \$500,000.

"Enthusiasm about SVGives is running high in the local nonprofit community, and for good reason," said Emmett Carson, CEO and president of Silicon Valley Community Foundation. "This event will

raise awareness of — and money for — the many terrific organizations working to make our communities stronger."

Since last fall, the foundation has hosted nearly two dozen training sessions for nonprofit organizations. The sessions were designed to help charities maximize potential donations and provide them knowledge for future fundraising and marketing.

"SVGives is an innovative and

engaging way for organizations to tap into the vast resources of Silicon Valley in an effort to better the lives of its citizens," said Dan'l Lewin, corporate vice president of technology and civic engagement at Microsoft.

Locally, volunteers with SVGives will be onsite at Stanford Shopping Center and Whole Foods markets on May 6. Information is at [www.svgives.org](http://www.svgives.org).

—Kayla Layaoen

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**HOSPITAL FACILITY**

► Continued from page 5

philosophy for the building is to promote a healing environment and the feeling of safety. To do this, the facility will be well-lit and have meditation rooms and wide hallways with seating for family visitors, which Fitzgerald said will help minimize the institutional feeling of the building. It will also include outdoor patios and a large recreation yard that will be open to the public.

Another reason for the facility upgrade is that the community El Camino Hospital serves, and even the county as a whole, has limited or no access to quality mental health care. Fitzgerald said the county is at least 60 percent under capacity to accommodate the needs and space of psychiatric patients, based on estimates from the Treatment and Advocacy Center. What's more, he said the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center is constantly full, and many patients are sent out of the county due to a lack of beds.

On top of that, Fitzgerald said El Camino Hospital has a reputation for its quality psychiatric care. Unlike most mental health facilities, which focus specifically on severe and persistent mental illness, El Camino Hospital has inpatient services for conditions that, left untreated, can lead to serious consequences such as suicide. Fitzgerald said the El Camino Hospital Board and District Board recognize that the hospital has a responsibility to provide quality behavioral health care to the community.

The decision by El Camino Hospital to build the new facility contrasts sharply with other hospitals, where behavioral health facilities are on the chopping block, Fitzgerald said. For-profit hospitals see the behavioral health as a "money loser" that under-performs and is expensive to operate, he said. Not-for-profit hospitals, on the other hand, struggle to keep up with building costs.

But this is not to say that the hospital is going to incur losses just for the sake of having the expanded, newly build health facility. The hospital will contribute to its overhead costs and meet the direct costs of the facility and program.

"We do not see this as a money-loser," Fitzgerald said. "We will be looking for community support, but at an operational level we cover the costs."

The \$50 million price tag is by no means the final, definitive cost of the facility. Fitzgerald said \$50 million is a preliminary estimate, and is likely to change.

Construction of the facility is slated to begin in 2015, and will be open and ready for use in late 2017. ▣

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## WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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## EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

# Time to set parameters on council pay

Compensation for City Council members and other elected public officials is far from uniform across various cities on the Peninsula, with pay ranging from \$600 a month in Mountain View to nearly \$2,000 a month in the adjoining city of Sunnyvale. Los Altos is on the low end, paying \$300 a month, while a Cupertino council member receives more than \$700 a month. Nearly all cities, including Mountain View, provide medical benefits, although not all council members take them.

But going forward, as city council members are overseeing budgets that are often hundreds of millions of dollars a year, it is time for the city to institute a professional approach for council compensation by setting a fair wage for city council members, including a built-in inflation escalator so that the issue is out of the way for many years to come.

The Mountain View City Council took a significant step forward last week when it voted to limit the size of a proposed salary increase to \$400 a month, instead of doubling their earnings to \$1,200, as was earlier suggested. The voters will decide whether to approve the ballot measure authorizing the raise to \$1,000 a month with a cost of living escalator in the November election. If passed, the measure would take effect Jan. 1 next year, and would apply to a City Council with three new members.

In our view, this was a reasonable decision, although given the council's estimated workload of 30 hours a week, each member earns less than \$9 an hour — less than the state's new \$9-an-hour minimum wage that will kick in this July and jump to \$10 in 2016.

The comparison begs the question of whether we want to pay our elected public officials less than the lowest salary permitted in the state. Also keep in mind that we are entrusting them with the city's nearly \$100 million annual general fund budget. The total cost of the increase is \$33,600 a year, a tiny fraction (.00003 percent) of city's budget.

There are other yardsticks to apply to council compensation. Here a few that were discussed by the council last week before deciding to approve an increase to \$1,000 a month:

■ A lower pay rate means that most renters and residents who work for a living could not afford to serve on the council, thus giving the edge to home owners, those who are retired, independently wealthy or are supported by spouses. While it would take three or four times more than \$1,000 a month to attract anyone to the job who was going to depend entirely on a council salary to pay the bills, a higher wage would at least make it easier for someone with part-time job. Not surprisingly, there are currently no renters on the council. All members are home-owners who appear to be able to make ends meet and can afford to spend 30 hours a week on doing the city's business.

■ Some have suggested that council members should be happy to serve as volunteers in the spirit of making a contribution of their time and expertise to the community. Hogwash! There is good reason to use volunteers on the various city commissions, but elected officials who make final decision on critical city issues deserve to receive a reasonable paycheck.

■ Contrary to conventional wisdom, the council is actually making less today than in the 1960s and 1980s. A quick calculation by the *Voice* shows that the council's \$250 a month pay in 1968 would be worth \$1,697 in today's dollars and 1984's \$500 monthly salary would be worth \$1,137 today. Bringing council compensation up to \$1,000 a month or even higher would hardly break the bank or be out of step with what has been paid many years ago.

In 2006, by a 4 percent margin, voters rejected a plan to triple council wages from \$500 to \$1,500 a month. Since then, council pay has gone up only \$100 to \$600. The modest proposal that will go before voters in November is a reasonable request to simply bring council compensation within sight of the minimum wage. It deserves serious consideration.

## LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### WHERE'S THE BEEF ON CCA?

Regarding Bruce Karney's letter of April 25, just what is Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and how does it work? How does the electricity get to my home? Where does the renewable energy come from? Where would this renewable energy go if it didn't come to Mountain View? Would this cause more renewable energy to be created, or simply redistribute existing energy? What happens to people who already generate their own renewable energy with solar panels on their homes?

Don't ask me to blindly support something I know nothing about by using popular buzz words like renewable energy or urging me to join the crowd already doing it.

Glenn Meier  
Walnut Drive

### TIME TO GET AFFORDABLE HOUSING FACTS

I would like to get to hard numbers to replace speculation.

The median family income in Mountain View is \$86,460. Suggested housing spending is a maximum of 30 percent of income, or \$2,162 per month.

For a family with income of \$50,000, suggested housing spending of the maximum 30 percent of income is \$1,250 per month.

Question 1: How many additional rental units would have to be built in Mountain View so that the rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$2,162 per month?

Question 2: How many additional rental units would have to be built in Mountain View so that the rent for a two bedroom

► Continued on next page



■ GUEST OPINION  
VOICE FROM THE COMMUNITY

## Caltrain could avoid cutting trees

By Mario A. Lecce

Once again, it seems that special interests are leading the way into any substantial changes in our society. The Caltrain electrification project as described by a recently released environmental report states that thousands of trees must be cut and power poles installed in order to replace diesel trains with electric ones.

This is nothing more than replacing 1950s diesel technology with 1920s electric technology. The largest content of this \$1.5 billion project is profit.

Industrially speaking, the development of both technologies have been completely amortized and there is no research costs, making the production of this equipment highly profitable. Here in America, majority shareholders once again dictate what the public will have.

In the rest of the world, the public rides on quiet high speed electric trains even on short commutes with no overhead wires. Here in America, only in Disneyland can we experience the future electric train, or perhaps in some airport. The Dallas airport has installed fully automatic electric trains which

shuttle thousands of passengers back and forth along miles of elevated track from concourse to concourse without flaw.

Rather than spending millions of dollars for tree cutting and lumber hauling, let's keep our feet on the ground, get in focus a moment and look up, into the future. Leave the trees where they do the most good, right where they are. Let's put the power cables on or very near the ground.

The obvious example is the famous third rail system used by BART. That would be 1960s technology. Better yet, let's put on a contest. Silicon Valley is home to some of the brightest thinkers and innovators in the world. Why not ask for suggestions? Why not offer a moderate prize of money and honor to the best idea, the most innovative alternative to power poles and wires 50 feet in the air?

Right off the bat, let me seed the thought with a suggestion: a high frequency multi-phase, multi-contact, multi-channel power rail strip. In between the existing rails why not have a T-shaped stand, perhaps a foot off the ground, where multi-mini rails are affixed. These rails could each carry say, 100

volts in multiple phases. The train cars underneath having a multi-wheel contactor that rides under the T-shaped isolator.

High frequency AC lowers the noise, multi-phase and multi-rails lowers the power concentration per contact making it safer and the system more flexible. These power rails could also theoretically carry other signals. In addition to train service and car status, data such as cable TV, telephone, Internet, and so on, could be carried on the rails.

The T-structure itself can be made of recycled materials. Solar panels on each and every rail car can provide some power and keep batteries charged for auxiliary services.

Come on folks, we have 64-bit computers in our cell phones now. Why not in our electric trains? Let's demand innovation and not accept condemnation.

Killing of trees that took decades to grow in the name of the future for cleaner public transportation is absurd. Replacing them with poles and wires is obscene and a sin.

Mario A. Lecce lives on Rialto Court

► Continued from previous page

apartment is \$1,250 per month?

Question 3: Where would you build the number of additional rental units from questions 1 and 2?

Until we have answers to these questions we are just speculating.

I am not an economist or planner. However, Tom Means, former City Council member, is a professor of economics. I would like to see Tom and his students take on this project. It would be useful for us and make an interesting article for economics journals.

Konrad Sosnow,  
Trophy Drive

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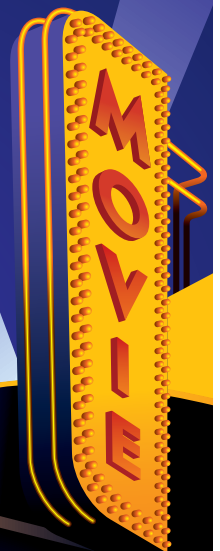
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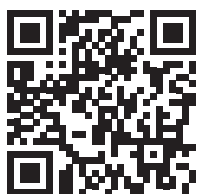
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