

Mountain View VOICE

MAY 16, 2014 VOLUME 22, NO. 15

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**Ruth Reichl
sinks her teeth
into fiction**

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MICHELLE LE

The Blossom Valley Post Office branch on Miramonte Avenue will close next week after losing its lease.

Blossom Valley post office to close

DOWNTOWN OFFICE TO TAKE ON STAFF, PO BOXES

By Daniel DeBolt

It appears that even the U.S. Postal Service is not immune to the effects of Mountain View's relentless rent hikes. Thanks to one landlord's decision, residents living south of El Camino Real will lose their local post office branch on May 24.

A notice on the door of the Blossom Valley post office — which

serves the 94040 zip code from an office at 1768 Miramonte Ave. next to Safeway — explains that the closure is “because of the termination of our lease at the landlord's request,” writes Mountain View postmaster Yogi Singal, who was not available for further comment.

“What a drag,” said resident Janet Wade about the Blossom Valley Office. “This is conve-

nient, I like this.”

She said she prefers using the relatively quiet post office even though she lives on Shoreline Boulevard near the downtown post office, especially when making a trip to the CVS or the Safeway in the same the strip mall.

As a result, residents in Mountain View's 94040 zip code will

► See **POST OFFICE**, page 15

Police officer arrested on child porn charge

SAN JOSE POLICE SAY SEARCH OF HOME LED TO ARREST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW OFFICER KEVIN NGUYEN, 36

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View police officer Kevin Nguyen was arrested Tuesday afternoon on suspicion of possession of child pornography, according to San Jose Police.

The San Jose department had a search warrant to investigate the home of the 36-year-old Mountain View police officer for child

pornography. During their search Tuesday afternoon, May 13, officers located items in Nguyen's home determined to be child pornography, including content on his computer, according to Sgt. Heather Randol, public infor-



Kevin Nguyen

mation officer for the San Jose police.

The San Jose officers arrived at the Mountain View Police Department later on Tuesday afternoon and took Nguyen into custody. He was booked into the San Jose Main Jail on charges of possession and distribution of child pornography, according to

► See **NGUYEN**, page 21

Council tackles jobs-housing issue

HOUSING ELEMENT APPROVED; CRITICS CALL IT WOEFULLY INADEQUATE

By Daniel DeBolt

On Tuesday evening, residents pressed the City Council to do something about the city's worsening housing shortage while some council members, who term out this year, resisted a significant change in course.

In a study session Tuesday, council members discussed a planning document called the housing element, a key component of the city's general plan for city-wide development. It allows for 2,926 homes to be built in Mountain View by 2023, but office projects in the works could bring over 30,000 employees, creating a more competitive housing market, and force out lower- and middle-income residents, residents said Tuesday.

“It's not, ‘If you build it, they will come.’ They are coming anyways,” said council member Mike Kasperzak of workers at Google, LinkedIn, Intuit, Samsung and other companies that are expanding in Mountain View. “They are bidding up the (housing) prices and forcing people out of town.”

Using numbers from the state and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the housing element calls for the city to identify zoning for 2,926 new homes to be built by 2023, the “regional housing need allocation” or RHNA. Council members supported it without much

hesitation, but members of the public said the document was inadequate in the face of the expectations of tens thousands of new jobs, and derided it as simply a “checklist” required by the state. With as much as 3 million square feet of office space under construction, recently finished or proposed in Mountain View and at NASA Ames, and another 3.4 million square feet in zoning proposed for the North Bayshore area, there is the potential for 36,571 employees to come to Mountain View soon, if calculated at 175 square feet per employee.

‘We sort of say we need to do something and then we talk ourselves out of it.’

COUNCIL
MIKE KASPERZAK

“Not everyone has to live in Mountain View or vice-versa, but quantitatively, we have to do more than provide 3,000 units,” said Lenny Siegel, leader of the Campaign for a Balanced Mountain View. “People are really hurting in this city and its planning decisions (are) partially responsible for that hurt.”

A resident named David told the council that, despite his good tech job, he can't afford to buy a home in Mountain View.

“Since moving here three years ago my rent has doubled and keeps going up,” he said. “I actually can't afford to set down roots in Mountain View because we aren't growing enough housing. I implore you to act to create enough housing for the jobs that are here.”

Council members Jac Siegel,

► See **HOUSING**, page 15

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Lovely 4bd/2.5ba home with updated kitchen and baths. Spacious rooms, + living room with wood-burning fireplace. Serene backyard ideal for the country gardener. **\$1,695,000**

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Beautiful 4bd/2.5ba two-story home in desirable location near park and tennis center. Hardwood floors, family room, dining room and A/C. Open Sat. & Sun. **\$1,449,950**

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Kayla Layaoen.

What would you do if you encountered a mountain lion?



"I would do exactly what I did the last time I saw a mountain lion, when I was hiking. I would run screaming and call my mom."

Ashley Chavez, Cupertino



"I would be seriously freaked out."

Aaron Hanks, Mountain View



"I did go hiking before with my sister, and they said, 'Don't look at the mountain lion.' You have to look down and make them feel like they're superior."

Beatriz Cadiz, Mountain View



"I would first be really freaked out, and then I'd call animal control. Or the police. I think the police. I don't know the number to animal control."

Ryan Pugh, Los Altos



"I wouldn't tell anyone. I'd keep it, train it to be good, name it Roberto and love it forever."

Melissa Parlan, Santa Clara

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City of Mountain View
Council Neighborhoods Committee

2014 NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications are Now Available

The Neighborhood Grants Program provides financial support for programs and activities that can improve your neighborhood. Some examples of eligible grant activities are:

- Neighborhood Cleanups
- Ice Cream Socials
- Neighborhood Picnics
- Youth Activities and Events
- Association Recruitment Activities
- Assistance for New Associations



The Council Neighborhoods Committee would like to encourage your neighborhood group to apply. Applications and grant guidelines may be picked-up in the Community Development Department, City Hall, 500 Castro Street, and are available on the City's web page at www.mountainview.gov. Please call (650) 903-6379 if you would like an application mailed to you or have questions. The application deadline is June 4, 2014.

CRIME BRIEFS

MAN HITS SECURITY GUARD, POLICE OFFICER

Police arrested a man at Molly Magee's in downtown Mountain View after he allegedly struck a security guard Sunday. The man later struck an officer after being arrested, police said.

Zachary McDonald, a 32-year-old Mountain View resident, allegedly grabbed and struck a Molly Magee's security guard at 1:36 a.m. last Sunday. According to police, the man was belligerent and uncooperative while in custody, and struck a police officer.

McDonald was booked into San Jose Main Jail on charges of battery as well as battery on police officer.

Kevin Forestieri

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

2400 block Charleston Rd., 5/12

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON

Charleston Rd. & N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/11

BATTERY

Hope St. & Villa St., 5/10

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 5/10

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 5/10

200 block Castro St., 5/11

Central Av. & Moffett Blvd., 5/13

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

600 block Showers Dr., 5/7

300 block Showers Dr., 5/8

1900 block Latham St., 5/8

2300 block Old Middlefield Wy., 5/8

2600 block W. El Camino Real, 5/9

GRAND THEFT

1100 block PO Box., 5/8

2400 block W. El Camino Real, 5/9

VANDALISM

700 block Continental Cir., 5/7

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 5/10

Light Rail Efficiency Project,
Mountain View Double Track
Phase II Notice of Availability of the Draft
Initial Study and Public Hearing

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority is proposing to construct a second set of light rail tracks adjacent to the existing single set of tracks between State Route 85 and Whisman Light Rail Station in Mountain View, CA. The project would involve adding a second light rail track to the current single tracked section; closure and removal of the existing Evelyn Light Rail Station; installation of light rail support systems; relocation of telecommunication, cable and electrical utilities; removal of landscaping and trees; and modification of the municipal storm drain system. No recorded hazardous waste sites are located in the project area. Project construction would begin in early 2015 and end in late 2015.

Public Review

Copies of the Draft Initial Study are available online at vta.org/lre-mv or at the following locations:

- VTA Building B Lobby
3331 N. First St., San Jose
- Mountain View Public Library Reference Desk
585 Franklin St., Mountain View

Public Comment

VTA requests your written comments on the potential environmental impacts of the project and overall content of the Draft Initial Study. The deadline for receiving comments is 5 p.m. on June 15, 2014.

Comments may be submitted at the public meeting or sent by email to LRE.InitialStudy@vta.org or by postal mail to: VTA, Environmental Programs and Resources Management, Attention: Tom Fitzwater, 3331 N. First Street, Building B-2, San Jose, California 95134-1927

Public Meeting
6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, May 22, 2014
Mountain View City Hall Council Chambers
500 Castro Street, Mountain View

This location is served by VTA Bus Line 35. Additional bus service is also available on El Camino Real and light rail service is available at the Mountain View Transit Center.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, VTA will make reasonable arrangements to ensure meaningful access to its meetings for persons who have disabilities and for persons with limited English proficiency who need translation and interpretation services.

Requests for ADA accommodations or language assistance should be made at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. To do so, contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575 or e-mail: community.outreach@vta.org or, (408) 321-2330 (TTY only).



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MICHELLE LE

Parent Nursery School and Parent Observation are preparing to move from their sites between Alta Vista and Mountain View high schools.

Preschools give up space for high schools

NEXT SITE MAY BE PARKING LOT AT OAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Kevin Forestieri

The carnival hosted by the Mountain View Parent Nursery School celebrated Tim Dobbins' 25 years of teaching earlier this month, but the preschool will be saying goodbye to more than just Teacher Tim. The Parent Nursery School is working with Parent Observation preschool to relocate, and soon will say farewell to their current location between Alta Vista and Mountain View high schools.

The preschools have to move in order to make room for the growing Mountain View-Los Altos High School District.

Enrollment in the district is projected to grow by 20 percent over the next five years, and with it come a growing need for the facilities currently occupied by the preschools, according to Superintendent Barry Groves. Groves said the plan is to use the facilities to expand Alta Vista High School and offer a place for the district's career technical education program.

The carnival on May 4 doubled as a fund-raiser for the Parent Nursery School and Parent Observation's \$200,000 capital campaign to raise the final amount necessary to move, according to Marie Faust Evitt, a teacher at the Parent Nursery

School. The campaign raised about \$60,000 going into the carnival weekend, and has since grown to \$86,000.

The cost to move goes well beyond \$200,000, but will help close the gap between planned and actual expenses, according to the Parent Nursery School website.

The new proposed site is in an empty lot next to Oak Elementary School, adjacent to the Foothill Covenant Church, just across the street from the Mountain View High School's football field. Groves said the preschools have city permits to move to

► See **PRESCHOOL**, page 16

Google may take over city trail-crossing project

By Daniel DeBolt

City Council members unanimously voted Tuesday to postpone construction of a trail crossing near Google headquarters after the company proposed what may be a superior alternative for bicyclists, pedestrians and the environment.

Google officials didn't have to make a fuss to persuade council members that it might be better to build an under-crossing for the Permanente Creek Trail rather than the \$400,000 crosswalk approved last year to get trail users across Charleston Road in the heart of Google headquarters. Numerous Google employees use the trail to commute to work, and to move around the massive Googleplex on its brightly colored bicycles.

"We think it's a far safer type of crossing and one that's probably a little more environmentally sensitive," said Google's John Igoe of the design, which provides "anyone biking in the area with a much enhanced experience."

Going beyond what anyone had asked for, Google representatives propose the removal of 96 parking spaces along the west bank of the creek to widen the creek channel between Highway 101 and Charleston Road. To do so would help restore the creek and improve wildlife habitat, work which Google and local non-profit Acterra have already begun by planting native plants on the creek banks. Google provided the city with a long list of native plants that would be used to restore the creek,

described as little more than a "concrete ditch" through much of Mountain View by resident Greg Unangst.

"Permanente Creek is one of the most abused creeks in the Valley, from the (Lehigh Hanson cement) quarry all the way to to Bay," Unangst said. "Hopefully we can do much better. This is a great improvement."

Last year council members balked at paying \$4.2 million for such an under-crossing. It did include a more convenient connection to Charleston Road, but council members hesitated at the removal of 20 trees required to make that work.

Google is avoiding the removal of those 20 trees, but it likely means cyclists and pedestrians must take a more indirect route to the street.

"To access Charleston Road from the trail, a trail user would cross the creek on one of the two bridges included in the project," explained public works director Mike Fuller in an email.

Google will be building two new footbridges across the creek, including one at a yet-to-be-determined location south of Charleston Road and another north of Charleston replacing a heavily used footbridge connecting the former Alza headquarters to the Googleplex, which Google has deemed too narrow.

Unangst, also chair of the city's bicycle pedestrian advisory committee, said the committee had not been able to review the design yet, adding that there is some confusion about access to

► See **GOOGLE TRAIL**, page 17

EPA begins toxic cleanup on Evandale Ave.

NEW GAS ANALYZER CAN DETECT SMALL AMOUNTS OF TCE

By Daniel DeBolt

The Environmental Protection Agency is investigating the theory that early computer chip manufacturers spread toxics into the residential neighborhood east of Whisman Road through sewers lines that were eaten through by a toxic cocktail of acids and solvents.

To help with the investigation, a sort of laboratory on wheels has been roaming around the area, helping to test air samples taken

from under manhole covers, among other sites. Commissioned by the EPA and operated by Lockheed, it is called the TAGA, or trace atmospheric gas analyzer. The converted white passenger bus has an electronic nose so sensitive that it can sense TCE — the toxic solvent that ended up polluting the groundwater and soil under much of northeastern Mountain View — from inside a sealed jar. Operators say they can get an idea of where to look first just by driving it slowly down the

street, although toxics deep in the ground may escape its detection.

The EPA is keeping silent on the results until they are finalized, but if the theory is proven, polluters such as Fairchild Semiconductor (now called Schlumberger), may be on the hook for cleaning up several "hot spots" — underground concentrations of TCE that trace the path of a sewer line.

Following the path of the line are two hot spots recently dis-

► See **EVANDALE TCE**, page 16



DANIEL DEBOLT

Yi Hua Lin, senior chemist with EPA contractor Lockheed Martin, shows the "gas chromatograph mass spectrometer" systems for detecting TCE along an old sewer line in Mountain View.

Los Altos high names new assistant principal

By Kayla Layaoen

Los Altos High School will have a new assistant principal, Suzanne Woolfolk, beginning this July.

She taught Spanish and English language development at Hillsdale High School, and was the adviser for their nationally-ranked yearbook. After that, she was the assistant principal at Burlingame and San Mateo high schools for seven years.

Recently, she was named a 2014 Kent Award Winner by the San Mateo County School Board for creating Family Literacy Nights. The FLNs are weekly events designed to encourage a love of reading in elementary-aged students.

"I am honored to join LAHS and to be accepted into such a talented and admirable professional community. I am eager to learn from current leadership, and to also bring my experiences working with students and instructional programs to benefit our school," Mrs. Woolfolk said.

"When I first met Suzanne, it

was clear that she is passionate about students and their academic and personal success. When she talks about her involvement with students you can feel her energy and excitement. I believe that she will make a great addition to Los Altos High School," Principal Wynne Satterwhite said.

Woolfolk will be replacing Cristy Dawson, who served as assistant principal for the past 13 years. Dawson is retiring after a 39-year-long educational career.

"She has worn many different hats while working at LAHS but the foundation that she has built her successful educational career on is students first. Cristy's energy and passion when it comes to kids is immeasurable," Satterwhite said.

At LAHS's Diversity Assembly last month, staff and students danced and performed to honor Dawson's work with at-risk students and her "commitment to the academic and emotional development of students." She was presented with the "Tireless Teacher" award at the assembly. ▣



Suzanne Woolfolk

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Photo by: Patrick Fraser Dancers left to right: Robin Semmelhack, Jonathan Dummar, Erica Felsch and Joshua Reynolds

Virgin eyes downtown MV site for hotel

By Daniel DeBolt

Billionsaire entrepreneur Richard Branson has gone into the hotel business, and he has set his sights on Mountain View, as have several other hotel companies.

City Council members met behind closed doors Tuesday night to discuss the possibility of leasing to Virgin Hotels some city owned parking lots near the downtown train station for a project that might actually increase downtown parking. City officials have been seeking redevelopment proposals for the downtown parking lots for years, and up for discussion are two parking lots on either side of Hope Street, between Evelyn Avenue and Villa Street.

City officials did not reject the proposal Tuesday, and have requested more information before deciding to move ahead.

"Our hopes are to build, as part of a new parking structure, a Virgin Hotel that would help finance the new parking garage on existing lots," said project

architect Bill Maston, who is based in Mountain View. "This would be a public benefit that would actually increase available parking in downtown Mountain View while bringing a first-class hotel into the downtown area."

Depending on whether some smaller lots on Evelyn Avenue are incorporated — including the *Voice's* old office at 655 West Evelyn Ave. — the hotel could potentially be constructed directly across Evelyn Avenue from the downtown train station.

Whatever happens may be a marked contrast to the modest buildings on the sites now.

"There's no place for modesty here — Virgin is recognized and respected across the globe," says the website of the corporate behemoth which has its hand in the cell phone industry, space tourism and Formula One race cars, among hundreds of other things. The hotels would target travelers in the "creative class," its website says. Virgin Hotels has yet to open a hotel since launching in 2010, but makes big claims that it will change the hotel industry.

Plans for Virgin's Nashville hotel incorporate a state-of-the-art recording studio.

City Council members may have to consider how many hotels are viable in Mountain View. On April 25 the city received a letter from developer Shashi Group LLC about its interest in building a 200 room, five-story hotel near Google headquarter on a 1.4-acre site at 1625 North Shoreline Blvd. that would be "one of the most technologically advanced in the world," the company wrote. The City Council also wants a hotel on another piece of city land known as the "Moffett Gateway" site at Moffett Boulevard and Highway 101, in order to raise revenue for the city budget through a lucrative long-term land lease. Five developers have made proposals for the site. Most development proposals received for the 6.69-acre Moffett site have included office space along with a hotel, but no housing.

The number of hotel proposals is another sign that the city is in the midst of an unprecedented real estate development boom. ■

High school district names teacher of the year

ENGLISH TEACHER MICHAEL MOUL TO RECEIVE AWARD THIS FALL

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District named Michael Moul teacher of the year last week for his role as an outstanding teacher, leader, and advisor at Los Altos High School. Moul will be honored at the county-wide Teacher of the Year celebration in October.

Moul has taught English at Los Altos High School for nine years, but his role at the school goes well beyond the English department. He's also a staff advisor for the award-winning student newspaper, the Talon.

As the advisor, Moul gives a fair and helpful critique of the news stories in every issue, according to Zoe Morgan, editor-in-chief at the Talon this year. She said Moul helps facilitate

the process, but has a hands-off approach that lets the students run their own newspaper.

Moul also takes time out of each year to explain journalism ethics and First Amendment rights. Morgan said he starts each year by going through the law and landmark court cases that gives high school newspapers some of the strongest free speech rights.

Beyond the school newspaper, Moul has taken up a number of leadership roles on the campus. Los Altos Principal Wynne Satterwhite said Moul is the co-chair of the leadership team of staff and administrators, as well as the English department program coordinator. He also par-



Michael Moul

ticipates in the Homework Club, Skills Team, Camp Diversity, and is a last minute fill-in for whatever the school needs, according to a district press release.

"He's a calm, thoughtful presence on campus, and he's an emerging force as a leader on campus," Satterwhite said.

Moul graduated from Santa Clara University with a degree in English and theatre arts. He teaches world literature and AP English language at Los Altos High School, according to the press release.

Every year, school districts in the county choose one teacher for the Teacher of the Year award. The high school district rotates between schools, and this year Los Altos High School teachers nominated prospective teachers to be voted on by the entire school staff. ■

OBITUARY

BERNADINE ELIZABETH DICKSON

Bernadine Elizabeth Dickson, a Mountain View resident, died in her sleep May 3. She was 85.

She was born in Leoville, Kansas on July 18, 1928. Her parents died when she was young and she was raised in St. Joseph Orphanage with her brother Laurence. She worked

as a dietitian for the Veterans Administration in Palo Alto and San Jose Hospital until her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Henry and Kathryn Elizabeth (O'Mara) Schieferecke



Bernadine Elizabeth Dickson

and her brothers Francis John and Laurence William Schieferecke.

She is survived by her husband, Jay Dickson; her children Michael and Patrick Wilder, and Ron, Lillian, Terrence and Lyman Dickson; and her grandchildren, Grace, Andrew, Jessica and Jewel.

Services were held and an online guest book is available at cusimanocolonial.com.

Girl Talk: What do I need to know about breast cancer?

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&
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Parents push for P.E. exemptions

SCHOOL BOARD OPTS TO DELAY DECISION ON HOT TOPIC

By Kevin Forestieri

Parents and students loaded up the multipurpose room at Alta Vista High School Monday seeking to convince the school board to allow some ninth graders to skip P.E., freeing up the schedules of incoming freshmen who take after-school sports and electives.

But after hours of discussion and public comment on May 12, the board was still split. Trustee Joe Mitchner said he would have trouble creating a path for students through high school where they are never exposed to physical education across all four years. Grades 10 through 12 already have less restrictive P.E. exemptions, and adding ninth grade to the fold means students could avoid P.E. altogether.

"District policies apply to everyone," Mitchner said. "It's

important for students to be exposed to some of the things in the (P.E.) curriculum."

Doug Moore is the parent of an incoming freshman who plays trumpet, takes a foreign language and participates in after-school sports. As of next year, he might have to stop playing an instrument to make room for the mandatory P.E. course — a decision Moore thinks his son should not have to make.

Kenneth Moussavian, the board representative for Los Altos High School, said he managed to do extra-curricular activities and take challenging courses in his freshmen year without the exemption, and valued P.E. as one of the few courses that can take students out of their comfort zone and teach them important skills.

Marti McGuirk, a counselor at Mountain View High School,

added that students who participate in P.E. in ninth grade are not at a disadvantage when it comes to preparing for college, and student acceptance rates to top-tier colleges are not hindered by the requirement.

Trustee Phil Faillace, on the other hand, supported bringing back the exemption. He said students should have the flexibility to specialize in the courses they choose, and it should be up to the students to decide. He added that scheduling conflicts are a problem because students would still have to enroll in P.E., but that shouldn't stop the board from voting for the exemption.

"This is a logistical problem to be solved," Faillace said.

The board agreed to look at more options and find creative ways for ninth grade students

► See **P.E. EXEMPTIONS**, page 17

Group weighs referendum on city's plan for office growth

Daniel DeBolt

The Campaign for a Balanced Mountain View is weighing whether to use a little used lever in Mountain View politics: the referendum.

Likening office space in the works for an estimated 30,000-plus workers to the proverbial "iceberg" headed for the Titanic, Lenny Siegel of the Campaign for a Balanced Mountain View said he hopes the referendum will help the city change its course from becoming a place where landlords can charge ever higher premiums for scarce housing and commuting becomes a must for an unprecedented number of people.

At its last meeting, Siegel said the group of balanced growth advocates expressed interest in a referendum. After doing some research, Siegel now says it is doable. The group would have to collect 3,240 signatures (equal to 10 percent of the city's voters) to force the City Council to either kill the North Bayshore Precise Plan or put it on a ballot for Mountain View voters to approve or reject, probably next year. Either way, North Bayshore development would be delayed, as LinkedIn — and probably Google — wait on the precise plan's completion by year's end before developing new office projects. As it stands, the plan would allow 3.4 million square feet of offices in North Bayshore, space for as many as 20,000 new employees.

It all depends on what council

members decide to do with the North Bayshore precise plan by year's end. If the group succeeds with signature gathering, going with a plan for offices and no housing may not fly.

"Basically we're looking for any council action that approves major increases in employment without providing for commensurate housing," Siegel said.

In 2012, Google supported a plan for 1,100 homes near its headquarters, but a split council, along with the Audubon Society, opposed it, citing wildlife impacts and disparaging the potential for dorm-like housing. Siegel has advocated for more than 5,000 homes in North Bayshore, which would bring enough population density to support a grocery store there.

Depending on the timing of the council's vote on the precise plan, which is expected to happen near the end of the year, the referendum could also pass key decisions onto a new City Council. It will only take one new council member to create a majority in favor of building a new neighborhood in North Bayshore. Three newcomers will be elected in November and seated in January. The six candidates now in the race are divided on the issue.

"There's still this attitude left over from the not-too-distant past that Mountain View has more apartments as a percentage of our housing stock than a lot of other cities, so people say, 'We've done our bit,'" Siegel said. "Even

if you say we have done our bit, we haven't done anything for this wave of (office) development that's been planned."

There's also interest among the group's members to hold a referendum on developer Merlone Geier's plans to include a pair of six-story office buildings totaling 367,000 square feet in phase two of the San Antonio shopping center redevelopment. While office is apparently a lucrative development prospect, the group says the space would be better utilized to meet local housing needs. "It's in an area where there aren't a lot of Mountain View residents that feel threatened by housing as they do further down El Camino Real," Siegel said.

Using numbers from the Association of Bay Area Governments, the city's draft housing element says the city needs only 2,926 homes by 2023, and the city's general plan makes room for about 7,000 by 2030. Critics like Siegel say that may be sorely inadequate if all of the office buildings in the works are built, potentially adding well over 30,000 jobs to the city in the coming years, including 15,000 to 20,000 just for North Bayshore as Google and LinkedIn expand.

"The good programs in the (housing element) won't do much good if we keep moving the city further out of balance in terms of jobs and housing," Siegel said of efforts to build more subsidized housing for low-income residents. ▣

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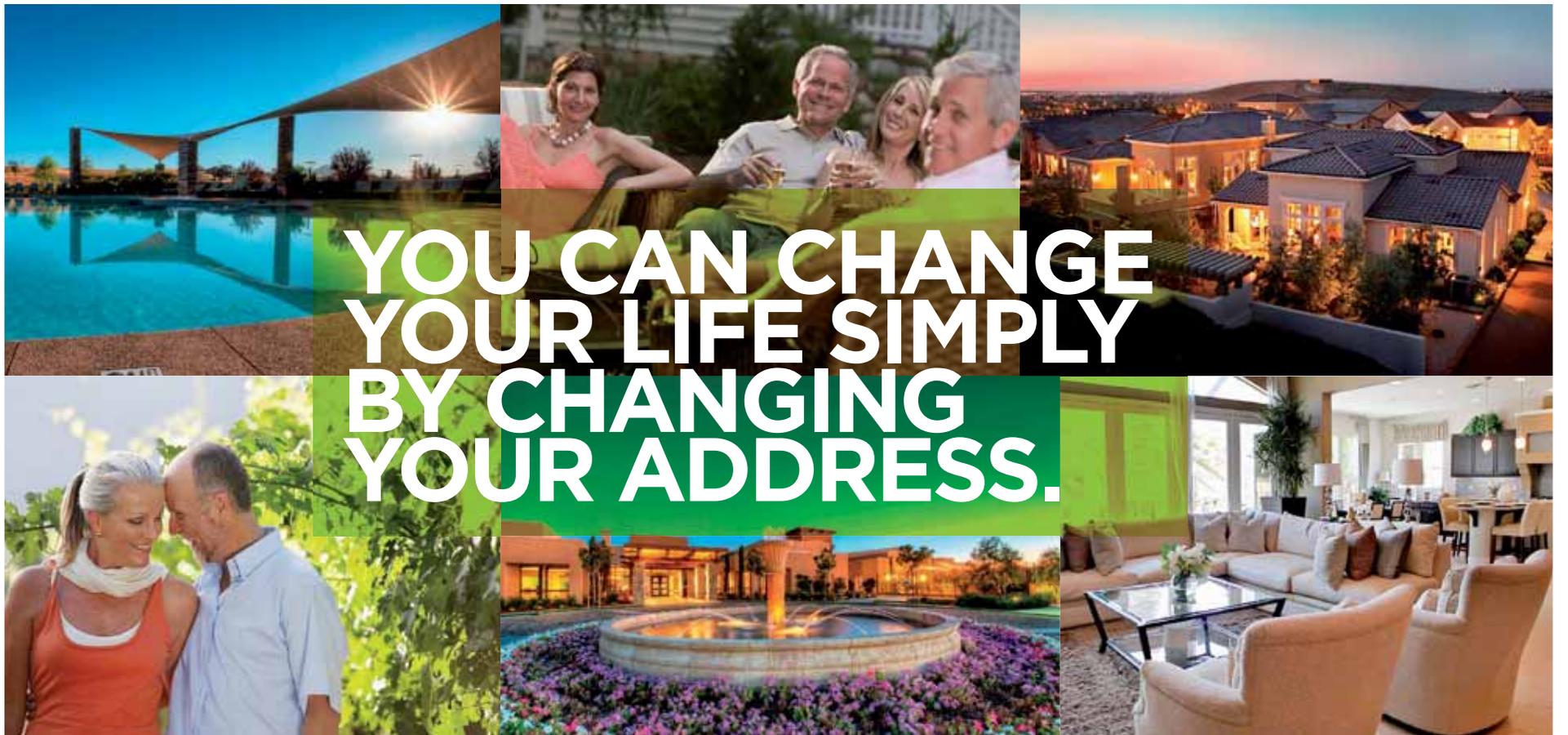
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President makes case for solar at MV's Walmart

OBAMA SAYS ENERGY EFFICIENCY GOOD FOR ECONOMY, GOOD FOR BUSINESS

By Daniel DeBolt

President Barack Obama spoke about energy efficiency at Mountain View's Walmart May 9, saying that if solar panels are good enough for cost-conscious Walmart, they are good enough for wide-spread use in the United States.

"Hello, Mountain View!" Obama said to the crowd of Walmart employees, media and government officials as he took the podium inside the store, where aisles had been cleared for the event. He made some humorous remarks about being careful to not forget Mother's Day.

Obama said he decided to visit Mountain View's store because it is unique. "A few years ago, you decided to put solar panels on the roof of the store, you replaced some traditional light bulbs with LEDs, you made refrigerant cases more efficient, and you even put in charging stations for electric vehicles. And all told those upgrades created dozens of construction jobs and helped this store save money on its energy," the president said. "That's why I'm here today. Because more and more companies like Walmart are realizing that wasting less energy isn't just good for the planet, it's good for business. It's good for the bottom line. And it means jobs."

With protesters gathered outside to call attention to complaints about Walmart's anti-union policies and low wages, Obama noted, "Walmart is pretty good at counting its pennies" while making the case that Walmart's adoption of solar is a sign of the times. Walmart's CEO had announced earlier that the company will save \$1 billion a year on energy costs by 2020 by adding 7 billion kWh of

solar to its 850 million square feet of buildings in the U.S., a space equal to half the city of San Francisco, Obama noted.

Obama said Walmart isn't the only company taking such steps.

"Last month I called up leaders from a whole range of industries and today more than 300 organizations, home builders, affordable housing builders, companies like Home Depot and Apple, announced that they are going to expand the use of solar energy, thereby creating more jobs and cutting carbon pollution," Obama said.

Banks like Connecticut's Green Bank and Goldman Sachs are "ready to invest billions of dollars in renewable energy," he said.

Obama also announced that he is making sure the federal government does its part though energy upgrades to federal facilities. "Today I'm ordering an additional \$2 billion in upgrades over the next three years. These upgrades will create tens of thousands of construction jobs and save taxpayers billions of dollars," Obama said.

Obama made the case that green jobs are now key to the American economy. He noted how Americans wanted a chance to create "an economy that works, not just for a few at the top, but for everybody. The idea that no matter who you are, what you look like, what your last name is, if you work hard, if you take responsibility, you can make it here in America. And that starts with helping businesses create more jobs," he said.

"The biggest factor in bringing jobs back to America has been our commitment to American energy over the last five years," Obama said, later adding that the energy sector "is probably



MICHELLE LE

President Barack Obama greets members of the crowd after his speech about energy efficiency at the Mountain View Walmart on May 9.

going to have more to do with how our economy succeeds than just about any other."

The president said jobs in the solar panel industry went up 20 percent last year while solar panel prices have dropped 60 percent over the past few years.

"Every four minutes another American home or business goes solar," Obama said. "And every panel is pounded into place by a worker whose job cannot be shipped overseas."

"Climate change is real and we have to act now," said the president. "In Washington, we've got some climate deniers who shout loud, but they are wasting time (arguing) a settled debate."

"Earlier this week we issued a report," Obama said. "It was years in the making, called the 'National Climate Assessment.' Hundreds of scientists, experts, businesses, not-for-profits, local communities all contributed over the course of four years.

What they all found, unequivocally, is that climate change is not some far off problem in the future, it's happening now, it's causing hardship now, it's affecting every sector of our economy and our society. More severe floods, more violent wildfires. It's already costing cities and states and families and businesses money. Here in California, you know what's happening, and increasingly more Americans do." ■

Walmart unveils big plans for solar

As President Barack Obama made his way to the Mountain View store Friday morning, Walmart leaders announced plans to double the number of solar panels on its U.S. stores and distribution centers.

Bill Simon, president and CEO of Walmart, said his company is already leading American companies in generating solar power, but plans to produce 7 billion kWh of renewable energy by the end of 2020.

"When Walmart commits to something it gives other companies the incentive" to move ahead, he said. Walmart's initiative would have a "ripple effect" in reducing the price of solar, he said. The company itself expects to save \$1 billion in energy costs by 2020. The company now saves \$4.8 million a year with 240 solar installations.

Simon said the Mountain



MICHELLE LE

Bill Simon, CEO of Walmart, announces solar energy plans May 9 to a crowd gathered at the Mountain View Walmart to hear President Barack Obama speak about renewable energy.

View store was chosen for the event because 15 percent of its energy comes from an on-site solar array.

"Walmart's scale, brand, and leadership is sending the

signal that solar is cost effective," said Lyndon Rive, CEO of Solar City, the company that supplied solar panels to the store.

—Daniel DeBolt



Dominic Ware, left, protests against low wages and poor treatment of Walmart employees with a crowd gathered outside of Walmart in Mountain View.

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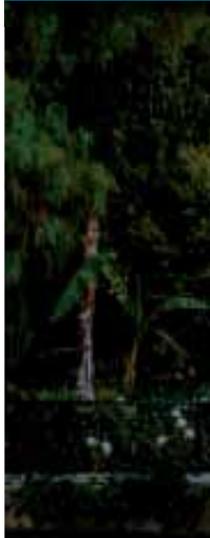


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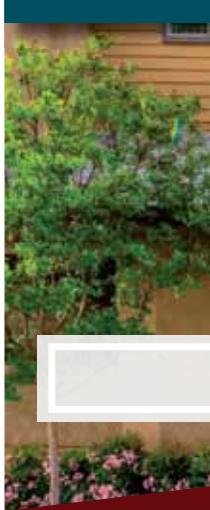


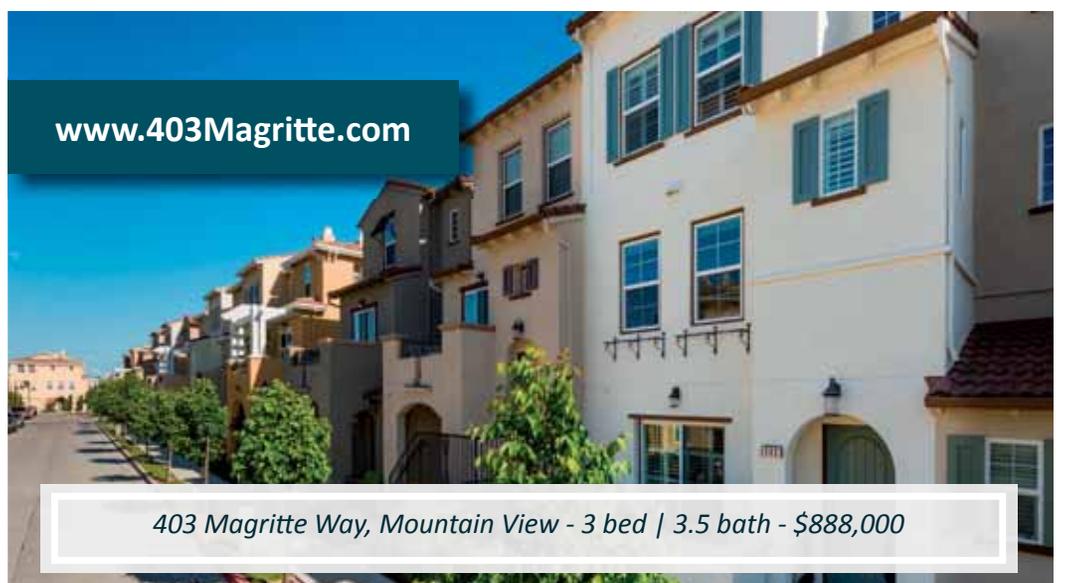
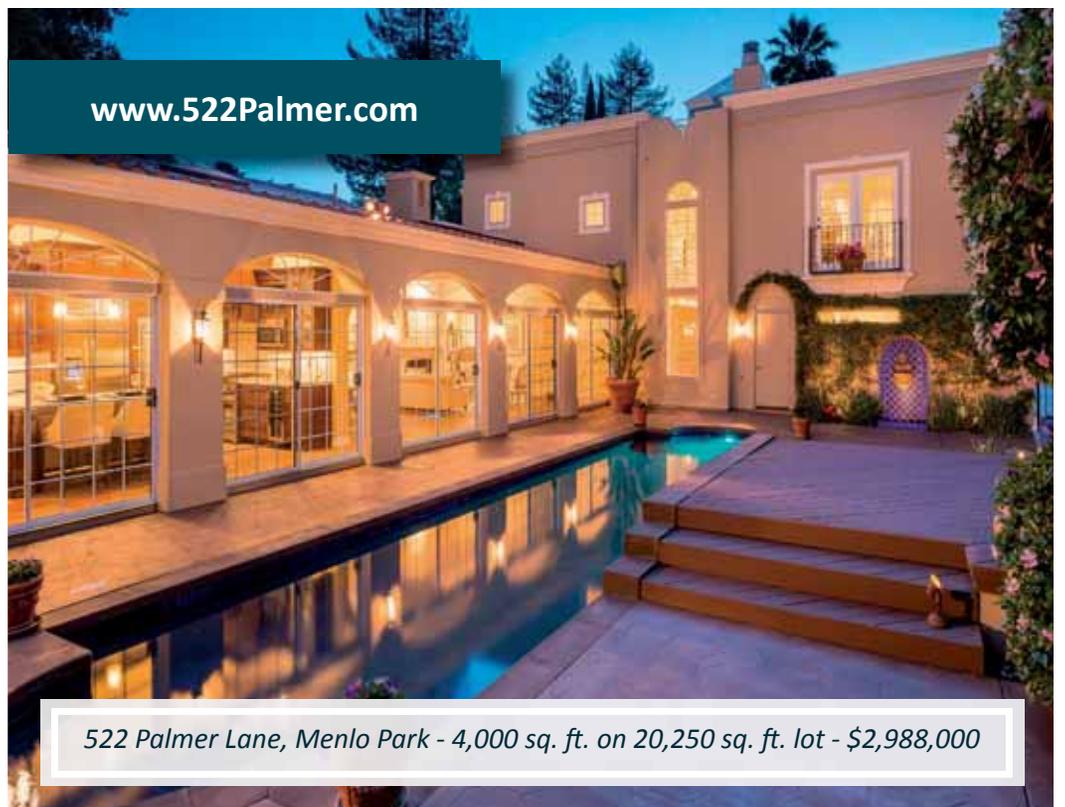
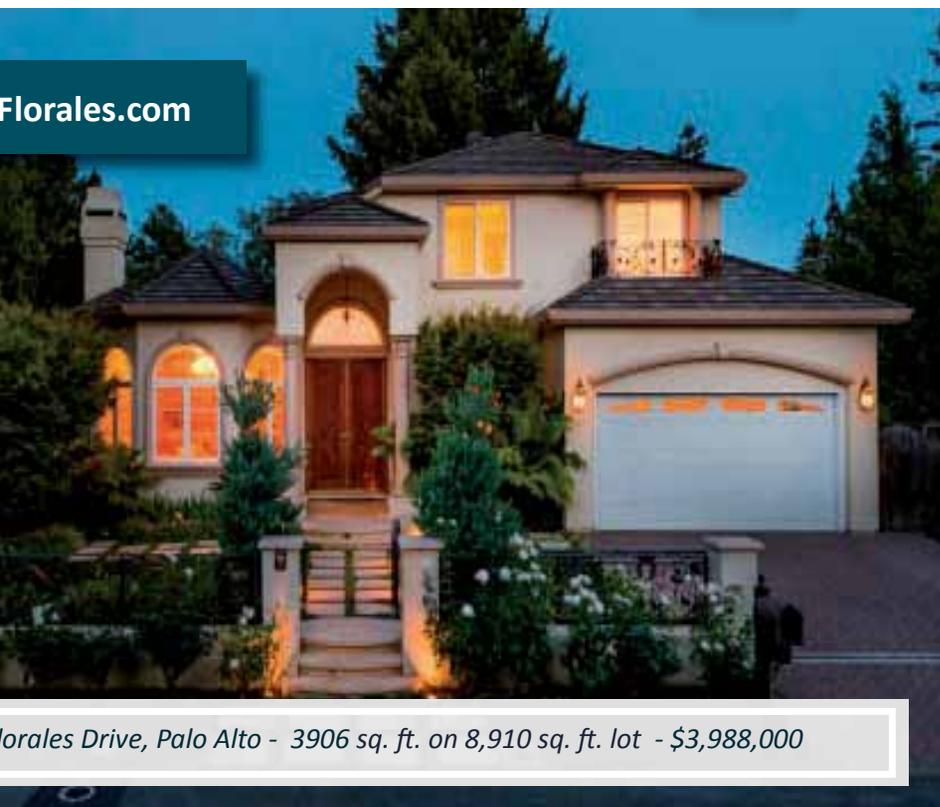
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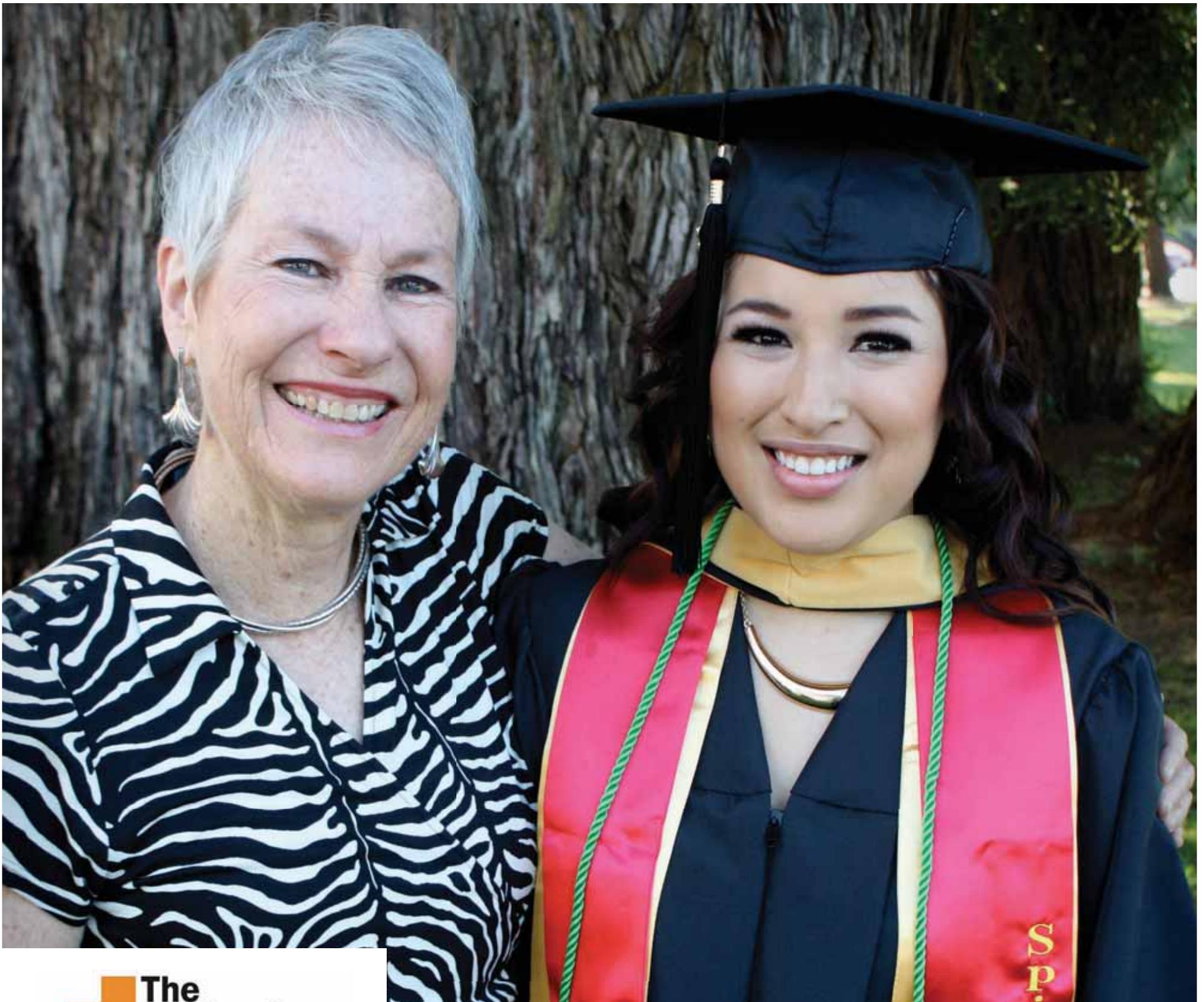


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PALO ALTO

HOUSING

▶ Continued from page 1

Ronit Bryant and Margaret Abe-Koga expressed concern about the problem, but resisted efforts to balance new job growth with housing growth.

"My three kids are not homeowners and I have no idea how they would be home owners if they live in the Bay Area," said Bryant, who sat on ABAG's board of directors for years as the board discussed how to balance job and housing growth in the Bay Area.

"It's not a cop-out to say it is a regional problem," Abe-Koga said.

"It shouldn't be looked at like, 'Mountain View is an island with all the jobs,' and 'We will resolve the problem of all the jobs,'" Bryant said.

"I hear us talking about 'we want our diversity, we want to do something about this,' then I hear, 'It's a regional problem,'" said council member Mike Kasperzak. "We sort of say we need to do something and then we talk ourselves out of it."

He added that it might be difficult or impossible to supply enough housing to keep pace with job growth but "that doesn't mean we don't do anything."

Bryant, Abe-Koga and Jac Siegel are leaving the council due to term limits this year and the Campaign for a Balanced Mountain View hopes to find candidates who will take more aggressive action to correct the city's housing problem. They may also seek a referendum so voters can decide whether North Bay office growth can proceed

without plans for commensurate housing, which was opposed by a slim majority of the council in 2012, including Abe-Koga, Bryant and Jac Siegel.

"I thought we closed the book on North Bayshore housing," Abe-Koga said. "It keeps coming up. At this time the book is closed." She said she couldn't bring herself to support housing development in North Bayshore, when neighboring cities, presumably pricey Los Altos, are still building single-family homes on "quarter-acre lots." She said housing would take up precious open space in North Bayshore, though there haven't been proposals for its open space.

One resident brought up Bryant's comments from 2012 when she joined Abe-Koga, Laura Macias and Jac Siegel to block zoning on North Shoreline Boulevard for 1,100 homes near Google's headquarters: "One thousand units of single-occupancy rooms, that's not a community, that's dorms," said Bryant in 2012. "It's done a lot in China. Huge factories, huge apartment blocks, I don't think everyone lives happily ever after."

The resident said she grew up in company housing and actually enjoyed it.

"It was fine, it all depends on the state of the dormitory," she said. "It's actually fairly common in Asia. I had a great time growing up in the company town. People all over were my father's friends. It's not that bad."

While planning commissioners recently voted unanimously for the city to begin tracking its balance of jobs and homes, council members were much less

enthusiastic, and there was not majority support to have city staff spend much of their time and resources studying the problem, though members seemed to leave it open for staff to do some basic research on jobs-housing ratios in the region. Such research has apparently been done, according to council member John McAlister, who said little else during the discussion.

Abe-Koga, Bryant and Jac Siegel do favor some measures, such as raising the minimum wage in the city, encouraging condo development for moderately priced ownership housing, and raising fees on office development to go toward subsidized housing, which council members supported taking another look at doing, despite having raised such fees recently.

"Obviously, if our less-wealthy residents have better jobs and better paying jobs they would have an easier time finding housing," Bryant said, alluding to the campaign to raise the city's minimum wage.

Abe-Koga suggested that raising housing fees might discourage office growth, which she acknowledged as the source of the problem. She suggested that Mountain View "share some of our economic development with San Jose" — a city where many Mountain View workers have had to go to find affordable housing. "I don't know what it would take to spread it out more. We don't have to have all these businesses in Mountain View. If that alleviates at all some of the pressure to build housing, let's spread all of it out some more," she said.

Sandy Perry, a longtime San

Jose activist for the homeless, happened to be at the meeting to describe some of San Jose's own housing problems, such as accommodating many of the the county's 7,000 or so homeless, including 700 children.

"San Jose has the largest homeless encampment in the U.S." he said. "As you look more into the issue it's clear that the source of the problem is not just San Jose, but here in North County, home of the largest corporations in world. This kind of destitution in one county represents a kind of colossal, economic, political, social and moral failure," Perry said.

"If Silicon Valley can't even keep its people from freezing to death in the winter, what are we good for?" Perry said.

Council member Siegel complained that the Mountain View wasn't getting enough credit for providing jobs.

"Why don't we get some credit for the jobs we have here somehow?" Siegel said. "With ABAG, with any of these organizations, we don't get any credit for that. We supply a lot of jobs for a lot of cities. But yet it's all about, 'What's your jobs-housing balance?' It's all about transportation and I understand about not wanting to create as much noxious gases (from car commuting) and on and on and on. But we should get some credit for that somehow."

Joan MacDonald, speaking for Advocates for Affordable Housing said, "The RHNA numbers would look wonderful if we didn't have another job created."

"We are not facing reality," she said. ▀

POST OFFICE

▶ Continued from page 1

have to travel to the downtown post office at 211 Hope St. to pick up "notice left mail" or mail that needs to be signed for, effective May 24, according to the post office's announcement.

"That's going to have a hell of an impact," said Gary Miles, who had walked with his wife Margarita to the store from their home two blocks away. "We come here all the time."

They took note that the nearest post office for them would be 1.2 miles south at Loyola Corners in Los Altos. "We're not going to be walking, we're going to be driving," Gary said. According to Google maps, it's a 50 minute round trip on foot, but only six minutes by car.

Elderly folks who live in the Villa Sienna nursing home across the street "probably have PO boxes here," Gary said.

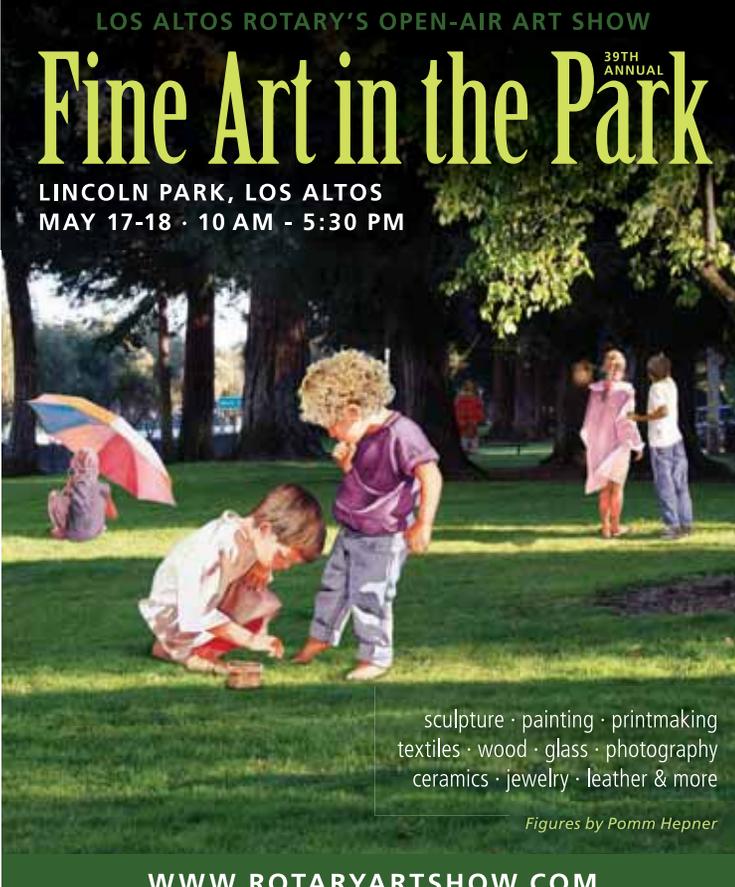
A post office employee said there would be no job losses for the office's staff members, who sort mail and staff the counter at the office, among other duties. They will soon be employed at other locations, including the downtown office, he said.

Residents in the area are being directed to other post offices, including the Moffett Field Post Office at 67 N. Akron Drive and the main Los Altos post office at 221 Main St. There are also several USPS retail centers where packages can be shipped and mailing supplies purchased, including one in the Blossom Valley shopping center and another at 2409 Leghorn St. ▀

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PRESCHOOL

► Continued from page 5

the new location, and tentative approval by the city of Los Altos for three buildings at the site.

A rendering of the new site is available on the Parent Nursery School website, and also is displayed inside the current preschool classroom as a giant poster board. The rendering includes swing sets, slides and sand boxes, as well as more than dozen trees that would surround the preschool campus.

Evitt said the new site puts both preschools side-by-side and merges them into a consolidated program for children between the ages of 15 months and 5 years. It will also include a third building between the school classrooms to act as a meeting room for parents.

Both preschools are included in the Adult Education program at the Mountain View Los Altos School District. Groves said the district provides personnel and publicizes the preschools, but they are independently run and self-sustaining. He said many preschools closed when the state cut funding for adult education in 2008-09, but both the Parent Nursery School and Parent Observation have been able to survive.

The district's growing need for the facilities is not a surprise for the preschools. Associate Superintendent Laura Stefanski said the district has had conversations with staff at the Parent Nursery School for the last couple of years about growing enrollment and the possible use of the parcels the preschools occupy.



Parent Nursery School and Parent Observation are preparing to move from their sites between Alta Vista and Mountain View high schools.

Stefanski said a lot of plans are in flux right now, and district administrators will be meeting with preschool staff over the next few weeks to hammer out more specific details about the move. She said both parties are encouraged to talk about different options and have a conversation about what the next steps will be.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

EVANDALE TCE

► Continued from page 5

covered on Evandale Avenue, where a pair of homes have been found with TCE vapors coming through the floor at unsafe levels after polluted groundwater had spread onto the properties. Another hot spot has been discovered under a hotel

parking lot on Leong Drive and yet another under a vacant city-owned property on Moffett Boulevard. All are located at similar depths and adjacent to the same sewer line.

The EPA has been examining the city's records and found that the line in question was used more heavily by silicon chip makers until the late 1960s, when the area's main sewer line was constructed just to the north along Fairchild Drive. "What we're evaluating is (lines built) prior to the late 1960s," said Alana Lee, vapor intrusion project manager for the EPA.

The EPA is also reporting success in testing the use of chemical oxidation to clean up the hot spots on Evandale Avenue with the financial help of the responsible companies. By injecting a substance called "permanganate" into the ground, the TCE is broken down into harmless carbon dioxide, manganese oxide and salts, said Penny Reddy, groundwater project manager for the EPA. A series of test injections have reduced concentrations from 100,000 micrograms per cubic liter to only 38 in one location, and from 9,600 micrograms per cubic liter to 2,700 in another location.

The injections involve closing off one lane on Evandale and may resume in July in order to reach all of the contamination.

"What we see here are good, positive results," said Reddy at a May 7 neighborhood meeting with the EPA.

Many are waiting on results of the sewer line investigation, as there may be other hot spots that have contaminated soil underneath homes in the neighborhood, causing a threat to the health of residents. TCE vapors can cause cancer and other health problems from long term exposure, and birth defects if mothers are exposed to unsafe levels for just a matter of weeks, according to the EPA.

"You lucked out in finding it on Evandale and Leong, but we don't know where else that risk might be," said Lenny Siegel, director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight. The EPA had found the hot spots by drilling into the street to see if the TCE plume's boundary along Whisman Road had moved.

When describing the effort to clean up the 2-mile-long TCE plume in northeastern Mountain View at a recent neighborhood meeting, Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board co-chair Bill Berry said, "Frankly, it has been our experience that we've had surprises come up all the time, like on Evandale, an area we thought to be very well characterized, which I'm sure Alana would agree with, and then we get surprised. So we try and stay on top of it."

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GOOGLE TRAIL

► Continued from page 5

Charleston Road from the trail and “a lot of chatter in the bike community about how that is going to come off.”

Council member Mike Kasperzak stressed that the council wasn’t approving Google’s proj-

ect by allowing it to move ahead in the design process.

“Safety is paramount,” said resident Linda Curtis, adding that the under-crossing solves the problem of cars striking trail users. “If it ever saves lives, it’s worth it.”

Email Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

P.E. EXEMPTIONS

► Continued from page 9

to fit all the electives and extra-curricular activities in their schedule, and come back to the exemption proposal at a later date. If the board decides to adopt the P.E. exemption, it would not take effect until after the 2014-15 school year.

Moore said the state education code clearly allows exemptions, and the board had little reason to make ninth grade P.E. mandatory back in 2009. He said it’s a common misconception among parents, teachers and even administrators that state code has changed over the last decade to require freshmen to take P.E.

But interpreting the education code may not be that simple. At the board meeting, Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf said she vividly remembers the reinterpretations of the education code over the years to adhere to state standards, including new requirements for P.E. to be taught by a physical education instructor.

Faillace said the education code is ambiguous enough that the board could vote for a limited exemption for ninth grade students, and the discussion would be better spent talking about whether or not the district would have a better ninth grade program if they provided the exemption.

Despite the ambiguity, the exemption is certainly the exception to the rule. Thirty-six of the thirty-nine high schools in Santa Clara County require ninth graders to take P.E., according to a district report requested by the board.

Sarraf said the exemption would help the few ninth grade students who are juggling a stacked schedule, but would change little for the average student taking a normal course load.

“We’re talking about not a lot of students,” Sarraf said. “These are the students that load up their schedule with requirements, sports, music and take foreign languages.”

On top of that, Sarraf said students could still take a

zero period to fit everything into their schedule without the exemption — an option parents like Moore oppose because it would cut into their kids’ sleep schedule. Sarraf said at some point students with ambitious schedules need to decide between a zero period and dropping one of their electives.

If the school board votes to allow the exemption for ninth graders who take after-school sports, those students will still have to enroll in P.E. for that year and attend the course during off-season. This creates a logistics nightmare for P.E. teachers like Barbara Kaufman, physical education department coordinator at Mountain View High School. She said prior to 2009, it was hard to catch students up on activities everyone else in the class had done for months, and she would have to keep track of the five to six students in each period that would vanish during sports seasons.

“It was a mess,” Kaufman said.

The requirement for students to opt out and back into sports depending on the season was a major reason for the decision to eliminate the exemption five years ago, according to the district report.

In some ways, the board’s decision comes down to whether or not the trustees think P.E. is important enough to require it for all ninth grade students to take it. Groves said board members voted for the requirement in 2009 because they believed P.E. was a valuable subject in and of itself.

Kaufman said it’s all too common for people to equate physical activity — like an after school sport — with physical education courses. She said P.E. has a standards-based curriculum where students learn about motor control and fitness standards as well as psychological and social concepts. Conversely, she said after-school sports are extra-curricular, not co-ed and focused on performance rather than learning.

Los Gatos High School recently made ninth grade P.E. mandatory for all students and deemed it a success, according to the administration’s report. ▣



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Spirit of Michael Smuin lives on

BALLET COMPANY THRIVING AFTER DEATH OF FOUNDER;
ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCES COMING TO MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Nick Veronin

Many presumed that Michael Smuin's death in 2007 would result in the death of Smuin Ballet, the San Francisco-based dance company he founded and had presided over for 13 years. According to those close to the dancer, Tony-award-winning choreographer and theater director, the prospect of someone filling his shoes seemed remote.

"I think a lot of people did not imagine that the company could continue without Michael," says Celia Fushille, a former dancer with the company. "When they found out it was continuing, they wondered if it could be as good."

And yet, seven years since the company's namesake was felled by an unexpected heart attack, the company is gearing up for the final performances of its 20th season.

After Smuin's death, Fushille was appointed to the position of artistic director, and, shortly thereafter, executive director. Under Fushille's watch, the company has not only persevered — it has thrived, garnering praise from the likes of *The New York Times* for its innovative programming, attracting world-class dancers and working with award-winning and internationally recognized choreographers.

According to Fushille, the company has survived because, in many ways, its founder never left. "His spirit is still infusing the company," the executive director says of her predecessor, whom she first met when she was just 17.

Amy Seiwert, the company's choreographer in residence, was mentored by the late Smuin. According to Fushille, sometimes, while blocking out a dance, Seiwert will say "Michael is telling me to do this and he is

telling me to do that."

"It's true!" Seiwert says with a laugh.

The choreographer first began working with Smuin as a dancer, back in 1999. The first ballet she created for the company was in 2004. Along the way, the late Smuin gave her lots of feedback and advice, she says.

"When I watch my ballets — while I'm creating them, while I watch them critically — I'll hear his comments," Seiwert says. "The funny thing is, I won't always agree with his critiques, even in my head."

And in a roundabout way, Seiwert not agreeing with the super-ego version of Smuin she carries around with her, is a product of Smuin's mentorship.

"He never once encouraged me to imitate him," Seiwert remembers. Rather, he encouraged her to follow her own intuition.

► Continued on next page



COURTESY CHRIS HARDY/SMUIN BALLET

Smuin Ballet presents *Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino* (everything but the kitchen sink), at its XXcentric Spring Dance Series coming to Mountain View this month.

■ ART BRIEFS

PEAR SLICES SERIES RETURNS

Spring has sprung, and that means the Pear Theatre's annual Pear Slices series is back, now in its 11th season. The series, which kicked off this month at the Mountain View theater, includes nine plays that range in tone and subject matter.

One of the feature plays is "Time For A Fix" in which the audience follows a man who is trying to save his marriage with his self-made time machine. Another, entitled "What Doesn't Kill You," focuses on two young characters who discuss suicide while standing on the Golden Gate Bridge at dawn.

Since it began in the spring of 2004, the series has been the impetus for the creation of many plays — many of which don't make the final cut. This year alone, 21 of the 30 submitted scripts were turned down. For those whose productions are selected, the series gives the gift of exposure, according to co-director Troy Johnson, who has been involved in seven iterations of the Pear Slices.

"We offer local playwrights the opportunity to get their short plays off the page and onto the stage," Johnson said.

All plays in the series are

original pieces and brand new, the Pear Avenue Theater does not include any plays that have already been viewed. Each play is 10 minutes in length, which helps the content to be clear and concise.

"The ten-minute play format allows us to include more playwrights each season and allows the actors to stretch their acting muscles," Johnson said.

The Pear Slices series runs through May 25th. Shows are Thursday to Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.. Tickets range from \$20 to \$30. For more information go to pear.org/slices14.htm or call 650-254-1148.

—Melissa Landeros

SCHOLA CANTORUM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SONG

Schola Cantorum, Mountain View's independent choral ensemble, is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary this weekend, with a concert titled ReSound!, which will include songs from the chorus's history in addition to new music.

One hundred volunteers will sing at Palo Alto's First Congressional Church on Saturday evening, May 17. The concert

will be led by Schola Cantorum's music director, Gregory Wait, who also teaches at Stanford. Professional accompanist, pianist Dawn Reyen, is set to play along with the singers. Audience members may recognize the hymn "Hark, I hear the Harps Eternal" or Reyen's rendition of the classic song "Camptown Races."

"To some degree, it's meant to indicate some of the really important people that were part of the ensemble," said Wait, citing Schola's founder, Royal Stanton, as well as choral greats, like Robert Shaw, Alice Parker and Jester Hairston, as influences on Saturday's show.

Also on the program is a commissioned song from Eric Tuan, a recent Stanford graduate and former student of Wait's.

"We're about old music, but we're about new music, too," said Wait.

In keeping with the idea of bridging musical eras, Schola Cantorum invites chorus alumni to join in on the concert's final two songs, Giuseppe Verdi's "Va, Pensiero" from Nabucco and "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place," from Johannes Brahms' "A German Requiem." Scores for these songs may be downloaded from Schola Cantorum's website.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., May 17, at 1985 Louis Road, in Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door and free for guests 25 and under. The ticket price includes a complimentary wine and cheese reception before the concert at 6:45 p.m. More information is at scholacantorum.org or by calling 650-254-1700.

—Lena Pressesky

GET READY FOR MORE MAYHEM

Foothill College's student-run, volunteer radio station KFJC 89.7 FM is hosting a month of special programming called the Month of Mayhem, through May 31.

Since 1981, the station's DJs have dedicated the month to a variety of different topics, from queer punk and outsider artists to 1950s rockabilly music and Ethiojazz.

"I love the time and effort and creativity that DJs put into their specials during the month of Mayhem. Right now I'm obsessed with Mickey Slim's 'Vinylicious' special," said Cynthia Lombard, who goes by the moniker DJ Too Cool For School on Tuesday nights.

The role of music in popular

culture will be explored in several specials, as will video game music, the music used in the Cosmos television series and in the 'zine Hungry Freaks.

Other specials will look into the work produced by independent labels like Skin Graft Records, Bloodshot Records and Feeding Tube Records, among others. The careers of various producers and artists, from avant artist Anna Holmet to punk and metal producer Jack Shirley, will also be featured.

"Milk and Cookies with Caddy and Pax" is a three-hour special featuring songs with either of the words "milk" or "cookies" in the titles, hosted by Cadillac Margarita and Pax Humana.

The program will end on May 31 with a live "24 Hour Drone" special, where over 40 musicians will work in concert. Drone is a style of music that is rhythmically still with minimal variation. DJ Nozmo King and The Norman Conquest will host the month's last special.

The specials are run at various times throughout the day. A full program schedule is at kfjc.org/mayhem/. To see the KFJC HD livecam, visit <http://kfjc.org/live>.

—Kayla Layaoen

► Continued from previous page

"That was a pretty huge gift."

"In a way Michael Smuin didn't take himself too seriously," Fushille says. "In that same spirit, this program is representative of that attitude." Fushille adds that Smuin was certainly serious about his work. But, at the same time, he never felt tied too tightly by tradition.

Case in point: Smuin Ballet's 2010 original production, "Oh, Inverted World" — which set the company's dancers leaping, pirouetting and pliÉ-ing to music from the 2001 album of the same name by Portland indie rock band, The Shins.

Fushille commissioned acclaimed choreographer Trey McIntire to create the Shins-inspired production, which attracted a great deal of attention and drew praise from the New York Times. A short montage of the performance posted on YouTube has close to 44,000 views.

Smuin Ballet is known for choreographing ballet and modern dance to rock 'n' roll groups, like The Beatles.

In addition to being somewhat of an iconoclast by nature,



COURTESY KEITH SUTTER/SMUIN BALLET

Erica Felsch vamps in front of the men of Smuin Ballet in "Do It Again," a number from "Dancin' With Gershwin."

Smuin Ballet has diverged from convention as a matter of necessity. The company currently has 17 dancers — orders of magnitude fewer than its neighbor, the San Francisco Ballet. By virtue of their size, they can't do clas-

sic productions, like Swan Lake. According to Fushille, Smuin was OK with that. In fact, he preferred working on a smaller scale.

Before starting his company, the late Smuin was co-director

of the San Francisco Ballet. That's where Fushille first met him. "When (Smuin) left to start his own company, he said, 'I used to do large paintings, but now I'm a miniaturist.' He felt he was creating jewels," Fushille recalls.

According to Seiwert, the small scale of Smuin Ballet makes for a great introduction to live dance. Smuin productions are almost always staged in smaller venues, such as the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, where they will bring their final show of the 2013-14 season, "XXCENTRIC," next week.

"Smaller is good often," Seiwert says. "One of the nice things about the smaller houses, is your experience is often more intimate, which leads you to having this personal relationship with the person on stage."

"I am starting to really dislike seeing ballets in an opera house," she adds. That's because the affordable seats are often so far back, that you can barely make out the dancers.

Fushille says she is hopeful that the company's style will work in attracting younger audiences to the ballet, while the

group's grounding in the classics will keep older, more traditional patrons coming. The company's slogan is "Beyond Ballet," and each of productions in this year's season — "XXTREMES," "XXMAS" and "XXCENTRIC" — seem to be named to both acknowledge the 20th anniversary of Smuin and make a statement.

"We're not your classic tutu ballet," Fushille says — both literally and figuratively. While the company has staged productions wherein the dancers wear the stiff skirt commonly associated with ballet, Smuin programs tend to skew modern. "There is that spirit of openness and kind of that anything goes at Smuin Ballet." ■

Nick Veronin can be emailed at nveronin@paweekly.com.

Smuin Ballet's "XXCENTRIC" opens at 8 p.m. May 21 and continues through May 25. Times and prices vary. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Go to smuinballet.org or call the Center for the Performing arts at 650-903-6000.

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NGUYEN

► Continued from page 1

San Jose police.

“We are very disappointed and sad when an allegation is made against a police officer,” Mountain View Police Chief Scott Vermeer told the *Voice*. “Especially allegations of this nature.”

Nguyen is a patrol officer who also serves as the department’s sketch artist, occasionally working in that capacity for neighboring police departments.

Vermeer said the charges and subsequent investigation were news to the Mountain View department. Officials first became aware of the charges when the San Jose police contacted them and told them they were searching a home of one of its officers.

“We had (Nguyen) stand by and told him the San Jose police were en-route, and they came and arrested him,” Vermeer said.

Randol said the San Jose Police Department will continue the ongoing criminal investigation. The investigation was conducted in conjunction with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.

Vermeer said he wants to be honest and open with the community about the situation. He said last night he gathered everyone on duty and told them everything he knew about what was going on. He said the police department will be open to the community and the press, and the police website will be updated with any new information.

Nguyen, who has been with the Mountain View Police Department for seven years, has been placed on paid administrative leave during the the investigation.

In an open letter to the community, Mountain View Police Department officials called the allegations deeply unsettling.

“This is an extremely difficult time not only for our police department family, but also for the Mountain View community and for any innocent parties involved,” the letter said. The department will conduct its own internal administrative investigation into the matter, the letter said. Vermeer said Nguyen will remain on paid administrative leave until the criminal investigation is completed. At that time, the department will take appropriate disciplinary action or exonerate him, depending on the results.

Nguyen had received local acclaim for putting his background in fine arts to use as a police sketch artist, and was featured on KTVU Channel 2 news in February. On the website for Nguyen’s photography business, he touts himself as one of the South Bay’s more popular wedding photographers. ■

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Sylva, Harris for Judge

Voters are at a severe disadvantage when trying to determine the best judicial candidates in contested judge races.

Candidates are forbidden from discussing any substantive issues that could conceivably come before them if elected, so these campaigns are built almost entirely around experience, reputation and the assessments made by interest groups, including the local bar association and unions.

Two races are on the ballot, one with three candidates, including an incumbent, and another with two.

In the two-candidate "Office 21" race, we believe Julianne Sylva is the superior choice, in spite of the more diverse experience of her opponent, Dennis Lempert.

Sylva, a deputy district attorney for the last 23 years, has been a prosecutor who has shown consistent concern and compassion for both crime victims and the accused, especially with regards to juvenile and family-law matters and those involving indigent defendants.

She won the support of the women's lawyers section of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, an important endorsement, as was the endorsement of Judge Kevin McKenney, who is retiring from Seat 21. Her opponent, defense attorney Dennis Lempert, was endorsed by the full rank and file of the bar association.

Sylva has rotated among all the divisions in the D.A.'s office, and last June was named the county's human-trafficking prosecutor, a position that involves working with law-enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute sex-trafficking cases.

She also currently serves as the district attorney's truancy specialist. With the support of local judges, she developed a Parent Truancy Court that brings parents of chronic truants before the court where they can work out plans to get the students back in school and avoid prosecution.

Sylva has not only been recognized locally as an expert in child-abduction matters, but she has traveled to Mexico to train lawyers, judges, social workers and educators about Alerta Amber!, the Mexican version of our Amber Alert program. Fluent in Spanish, she worked with the U.S. Dept. of Justice to create and implement the Alerta Amber! program.

Lempert, who filed for the race at the last minute, will appear on the ballot as "D A Lempert," a campaign ploy that has created a backlash in the legal community. His long career includes stints as a deputy district attorney, police officer and, most recently, a defense attorney. His experience includes trying death-penalty cases and he helped start the county's consumer-fraud unit before moving into private practice, representing mostly criminal defendants.

We urge voters to give Sylva their support on June 3.

Three candidates are running for the "Office 24" slot on the bench. Our choice is Matt Harris, a 23-year veteran prosecutor in the D.A.'s office. He is running against incumbent Judge Diane Ritchie and challenger Annrae Angel, a criminal-defense attorney. It is the first time in 16 years that a sitting judge has faced a challenge.

Judge Ritchie, a former deputy district attorney, has struggled on the bench since being elected in 2008 and was voted "not qualified" by the county bar association, a stunning rebuke. The consensus view among attorneys practicing in Santa Clara County is that she needs to be replaced.

Both Harris and Angel were viewed as qualified by the bar association, but Harris received its endorsement by a large margin. Angel won the endorsement of the women lawyer's section.

Among those two, we believe Harris is more qualified due to his broad experience as a prosecutor and his strong reputation for fairness. He currently serves on the D.A.'s major crimes team and has done stints on assignment to the U.S. Attorney's office.

Angel, who lives in Santa Cruz County, has a private criminal-defense practice in San Jose that specializes in representing indigent felony defendants, including gang members. We applaud her work and legal values, but don't think she has the diversity in her legal experience to recommend her over Harris.

We recommend Matt Harris for Superior Court Judge.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SHORELINE NOISE HEARD 4 MILES AWAY

I can't be the only one. My house is four miles away from Shoreline Amphitheatre and I hear a constant, disturbing, unpleasant thump-thump-thump at 10 p.m. from Shoreline. And did I mention that I live four miles away?

I'm sure you've heard complaints about Shoreline for years, but do the math — if I'm hearing this four miles away, that means that more than 50 square miles of people are subject to this unconscionable noise pollution. Can you do anything to help publicize this issue so that we get action on this?

Today is May 10, the beginning of a long summer of concerts at Shoreline. I'm all for having people enjoy this venue and the concerts it offers. But I'm even more for the residents of Mountain View who choose not to take part in these concerts having a reasonable amount of quiet at 10 p.m. There has got to be a way to get Shoreline to turn down the noise.

I've sent emails to the City Council, and gotten a polite but useless response. I've phoned the Police Department and merely had my name added to a list which nobody will ever look at. The Palo Alto police refuse to even hear my complaints. I've phoned Shoreline and spoken with a sympathetic but completely unhelpful person who, again, took down my name and address to add to a list that nobody will ever look at.

You're my only hope. Well, you

and whatever legal recourse the citizens of Mountain View have to ensure that noise ordinances are not violated, but I'd really rather not go down that route. I'd probably just move out of Mountain View. Nobody wins if the lawyers get involved.

*Hugh Genin
Phyllis Avenue*

ANOTHER TAKE ON RAISING MINIMUM WAGE

I must respectfully disagree with Joanne Knight's letter last week claiming that raising the minimum wage will benefit everyone without "any sizable" job losses. There are two primary problems with this:

■ The minimum wage is arbitrarily set by politicians, not the business owners employing individuals;

■ Business owners will eliminate jobs that do not generate more value than their cost.

Also, Joanne conflates the 2008 downturn with a deregulated market, while the more likely reason was government intervention in the form of Freddie Mac (FHLMC) and the Community Reinvestment Act, both distorting mortgage lending. One can find similar well-meaning economic interventions at the root of the Great Depression.

It's important for people to think beyond "feel good" legislation and consider the unintended consequences. In other words, "the road to hell is paved with good intentions."

*Dan Waylonis
Stierlin Road*



Camp Connection

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at www.paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/
To advertise in this weekly directory, call: 650-326-8210

Athletics

Alan Margot's Tennis Camps

Atherton

Alan Margot's Tennis Camps provide an enjoyable way for your child to begin learning the game of tennis or to continue developing existing skills. Our approach is to create lots of fun with positive feedback and reinforcement in a nurturing tennis environment. Building self-esteem and confidence through enjoyment on the tennis court is a wonderful gift a child can keep forever! Super Juniors Camps, ages 4-6; Juniors Camps, ages 6-14.

www.alanmargot-tennis.net

650.400.0464

City of Mountain View Swim Lessons

Mountain View

Rengstorff and Eagle Park Pools

We offer swim lessons for ages 6 months to 14 years. Following the American Red Cross swim lesson program, students are divided into one of the 11 different levels taught by a certified instructor. Rengstorff Park Pool, 201 S Rengstorff Ave and Eagle Park Pool, 650 Franklin St.

www.mountainview.gov

650.903.6331

Club Rec Juniors & Seniors

Mountain View

Club Rec Juniors and Seniors is open for youth 6-11 years old. These traditional day camps are filled with fun theme weeks, weekly trips, swimming, games, crafts and more! Rengstorff Park, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue

www.mountainview.gov

650.903.6331

Nike Tennis Camps

Stanford University

Weekly overnight and day camps offered throughout June, July and August for boys & girls ages 6-18. Options for all ability levels, great Nike prizes and camp t-shirt. Adult weekend clinics offered in June and August. Come join the fun and GET BETTER THIS SUMMER!

www.USSSportsCamps.com/tennis 1.800.NIKE.CAMP (645.3226)

Palo Alto Elite Volleyball Club

Menlo Park/Palo Alto

In our 7th year, a community club with close ties to the schools we offer volleyball camps for girls, grades 3 - 12. From basics for beginners to advanced techniques for High School. Located at Arrillaga Family Gym (MP). Brush up on skills, get ready for school tryouts.

www.paloaltoelite.com

info@paloaltoelite.com

The Sacred Heart Sports Camp

Atherton

powered by Hi-Five Sports Club

Hi-Five Sports is thrilled to present our third multi-sport competitive summer camp to the San Francisco Bay Area! Through experienced, passionate, and patient coaching, we believe the timeless lessons that only sports can teach with stay with the kids for the rest of their lives.

www.hifivesportsclubs.com/wordpress/bayarea_hi_five_sports_camp/bayarea_camp_summer_camp_atherton/ 650.362.4975

Spartans Sports Camp

Mountain View

Spartans Sports Camp offers multi-sport, week-long sessions for boys and girls in grades 2-6 as well as sport-specific sessions for grades 5-9. There are also strength and conditioning camps for grades 6-12. New this year are cheerleading camps for grades Pre-K - 8. Camps begin June 9th and run weekly through August 1st at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Register today!

www.SpartansSportsCamp.com

650.479.5906

Stanford Baseball Camps

Stanford

Stanford Baseball Camps have gained national recognition as the some of the finest in the country. These camps are designed to be valuable and beneficial for a wide range of age groups and skill sets. From the novice 7 year-old, to the Division 1, professionally skilled high school player, you will find a camp that fulfills your needs.

www.Stanfordbaseballcamp.com

650.723.4528

Stanford Water Polo

Stanford

Ages 7 and up. New to sport or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or fully day option for boys and girls. All the camps offer fundamental skill work, scrimmages and games.

www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com

650.725.9016

Summer at Saint Francis

Mountain View

Sports & Activity Camp (ages 6-12): This all-sports camp provides group instruction in a variety of field, water and court games. Saint Francis faculty and students staff the camp, and the focus is always on fun. The program is dedicated to teaching teamwork, sportsmanship and positive self-esteem. After camp care and swim lessons available.

www.sfhs.com/summer

650.968.1213 x650

Summer Sports Camp@SportsHouse

Redwood City

All sports camp for kids ages 6-13 at SportsHouse from June 16 - August 15. Full day of fun, all summer long. Lunch included. After camp care optional.

www.SportsHouse.us

650.362.4100

Summer at Saint Francis

Advanced Sports Camps (5th-9th grades): We offer a wide selection of advanced sports camp designed to provide players with the opportunity to improve both their skills and knowledge of a specific sport. Each camp is run by a Head Varsity Coach at Saint Francis, and is staffed by members of the coaching staff.

www.sfhs.com/summer

Mountain View

Advanced Sports Camps (5th-9th grades): We offer a wide selection of advanced sports camp designed to provide players with the opportunity to improve both their skills and knowledge of a specific sport. Each camp is run by a Head Varsity Coach at Saint Francis, and is staffed by members of the coaching staff.

650.968.1213 x650

Arts, Culture, Other Camps

Camp Boogaloo & Camp Zoom

Mountain View

These new Summer Day Camps are sure to keep your kids busy! Camp Boogaloo, open to youth 6-11 years old, will be held at Castro Park, 505 Escuela Ave. Camp Zoom, open to youth 9-12 years old, will be held at Crittenden Athletic Field, 1500 Middlefield Road. Both of these traditional day camps are filled with fun theme weeks, weekly trips, swimming, games, crafts and more!

www.mountainview.gov

650.903.6331

Castilleja Summer Camp

Palo Alto

Castilleja Summer Day Camp offers a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama, and music classes each day and weekly field trips.

www.castilleja.org

650.328.3160

City of Mountain View

Mountain View

Recreation Division

Discover fun with us this summer through the many programs available with the City of Mountain View Recreation Division. From sports to traditional day camps, to cooking camps, dance camps and art camps... we have it all! Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue

www.mountainview.gov

650.903.6331

Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA)

Mountain View

50+ creative camps for Grades K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, School of Rock, Digital Arts, more! One- and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care available. Financial aid offered.

www.arts4all.org

650.917.6800 ext. 0

Deer Hollow Farm Wilderness Camps

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Children ages 6-14 can meet the livestock, help with farm chores, explore a wilderness preserve and have fun with crafts, songs and games. Older campers conclude the week with a sleepover at the Farm. Near the intersection of Hwy 85 and Hwy 280

www.mountainview.gov

650.903.6331

J-Camp Oshman Family JCC

Palo Alto

Exciting activities for kindergarteners through teens include swimming, field trips, sports and more. Enroll your child in traditional or special focus camps like Computer Animation, Baking, Urban Art & Murals, Outdoor Exploration and many others!

www.paloaltojcc.org/jcamp

650.223.8622

LEGO Maniac Master Builder's Camp™

Los Altos

Build It Again With Bricks™ the only LEGO Master Building Camp™. Come build, create, learn parts, how to sort/store all using Master Building Techniques™. All ages, week-long camps: 9-12; 1-4. Girls especially welcome!

www.Builditagainwithbricks.com

650.935.2166

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)

Palo Alto

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of fun opportunities! Neighborhood Adventure Fun and Ultimate Adventure Fun for the more active and on-the-go campers! New this year: Sports Adventure Camp, JV for the younger athletes and Varsity for the older sports enthusiasts! We introduce FAME - Fine arts, Music and Entertainment -- a 4-week opportunity for the artists. Returning is Operation Chef for out of this world cooking fun! Swimming twice per week, periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps! Open to campers from all communities! Come join the fun in Palo Alto! Register online.

www.paccc.org

650.493.2361

TechKnowHow® Computer and LEGO® Summer Camp

Palo Alto Menlo Park/Sunnyvale

Fun and enriching technology classes for students, ages 5-16. Courses include LEGO® projects with motors, K'NEX®, NXT® Robotics, Arduino™, iPad® Movie Making and Game Design. Classes feature high-interest, age-appropriate projects which teach technology and science skills. Half and Full day options. Early bird and multiple week discounts are also available.

www.techknowhowkids.com

650.638.0500

YMCA of Silicon Valley

What makes Y camps different?

We believe every child deserves the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. Y campers experience the outdoors, make new friends and have healthy fun in a safe, nurturing environment. They become more confident and grow as individuals, and they learn value in helping others. We offer day, overnight, teen leadership and family camps. Financial assistance is available. Get your summer camp guide at ymcasv.org/summercamp

www.ymcav.org

Peninsula

What makes Y camps different?

We believe every child deserves the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. Y campers experience the outdoors, make new friends and have healthy fun in a safe, nurturing environment. They become more confident and grow as individuals, and they learn value in helping others. We offer day, overnight, teen leadership and family camps. Financial assistance is available. Get your summer camp guide at ymcasv.org/summercamp

408.351.6400

Academics

Early Learning Write Now! Summer Writing Camps

Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton open their doors and offer their innovative programs: Expository Writing, Creative Writing, Presentation Techniques, and (new) test-taking skills. Call or visit our site for details.

www.headsup.org

650.424.1267; 925.485.5750

Foothill College

Los Altos Hills

Two Six-Week Summer Sessions beginning June 10. These sessions are perfect for university students returning from summer break who need to pick up a class and high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates who want to get an early start.

www.foothill.edu

650.949.7362

Harker Summer Programs

San Jose

K-12 offerings taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff. K-6 morning academics – focusing on math, language arts and science – and full spectrum of afternoon recreation. Grades 6-12 for credit courses and non-credit enrichment opportunities. Sports programs also offered.

www.summer.harker.org

408.553.0537

iD Tech Camps and iD Tech Academies

Stanford

Take interests further and gain a competitive edge! Ages 7-17 create apps, video games, C++/Java programs, movies, and more at weeklong, day and overnight summer programs. Held at Stanford and others. Also 2-week, pre-college programs for ages 13-18.

www.iDTech.com

1.888.709.TECH (8324)

iD Film Academy for Teens

Stanford

Discover how filmmaking or photography can lead to a rewarding career. 2-week, pre-college summer programs for ages 13-18. Held at UC Berkeley, Yale, and NYU. Also weeklong camps for ages 7-17 held at iD Tech Camps.

www.iDFilmAcademy.com

1.888.709.TECH (8324)

iD Game Academy for Teens Design & Development

Stanford/Bay Area

Instead of just playing games, design and develop your own. 2-week, pre-college summer programs in game design, development, programming, and 3D modeling. Also week long camps for ages 7-17 held at iD Tech Camps.

www.iDGameDevAcademy.com

1.888.709.TECH (8324)

iD Programming Academy for Teens

Stanford/Bay Area

Gain a competitive edge and learn how programming can become a college degree and even a rewarding career. 2-week, pre-college summer programs in programming, app development, and robotics engineering. Also weeklong camps for ages 7-17 held at iD Tech Camps.

www.iDProgrammingAcademy.com

1.888.709.TECH (8324)

Stanford Explore:

Stanford

A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research

EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford! Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

explore.stanford.edu

explore-series@stanford.edu

Stratford School - Camp Socrates

Palo Alto/Bay Area

Academic enrichment infused with traditional summer camp fun—that's what your child will experience at Camp Socrates. Sessions begin June 23 and end August 8, with option to attend all seven weeks, or the first four (June 23-July 18). Full or half-day, morning or afternoon programs available. Perfect for grades preschool through 8th. 17 campuses throughout Bay Area.

www.StratfordSchools.com/Summer

650.493.1151

Summer at Saint Francis

Mountain View

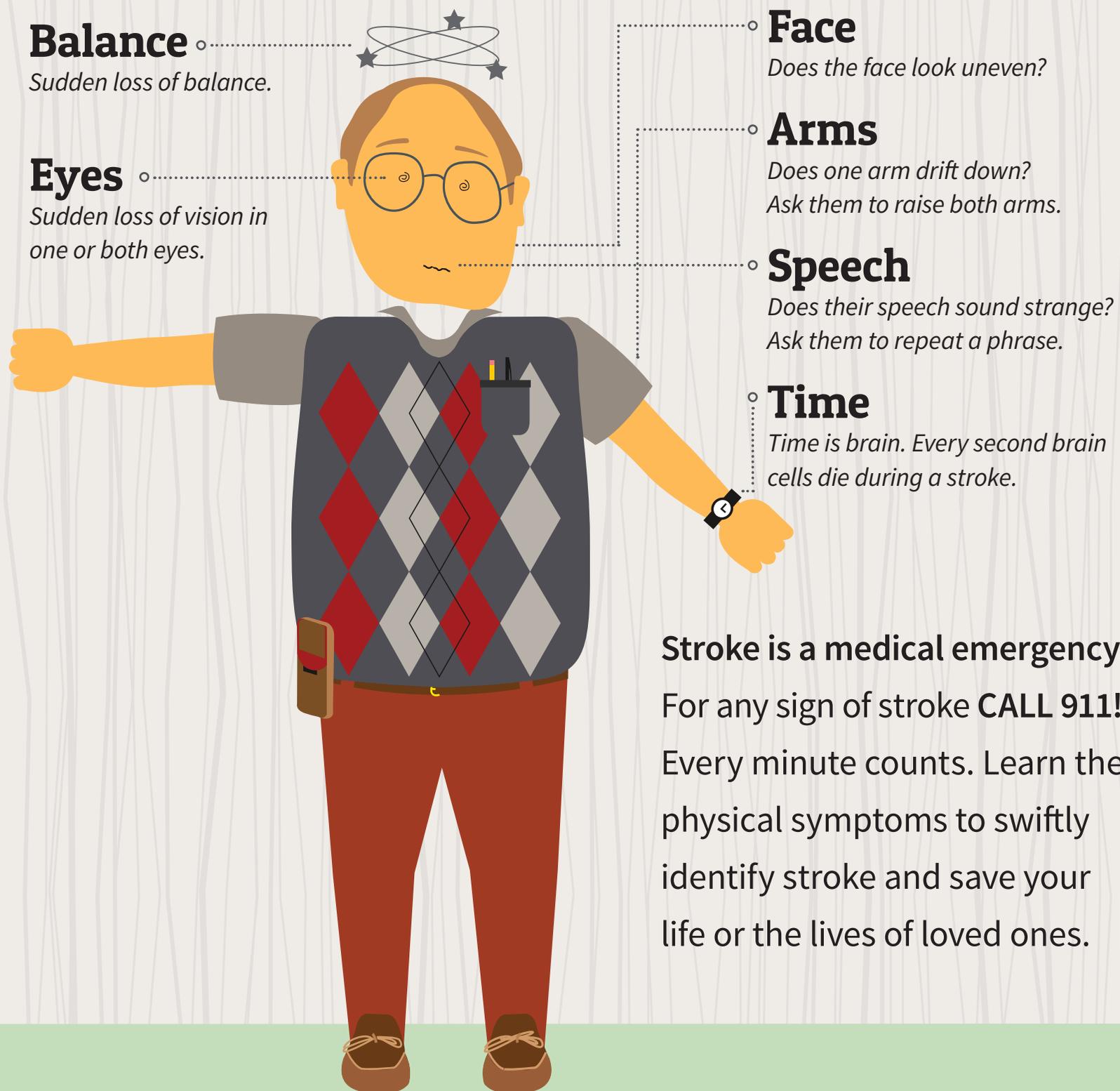
Summer at Saint Francis provides a broad range of academic and athletic programs for elementary through high school students. It is the goal of every program to make summer vacation enriching and enjoyable!

www.sfhs.com/summer

650.968.1213 x446

B E F A S T

Know the signs of stroke



Balance

Sudden loss of balance.

Eyes

Sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes.

Face

Does the face look uneven?

Arms

*Does one arm drift down?
Ask them to raise both arms.*

Speech

*Does their speech sound strange?
Ask them to repeat a phrase.*

Time

Time is brain. Every second brain cells die during a stroke.

Stroke is a medical emergency.
For any sign of stroke **CALL 911!**
Every minute counts. Learn the physical symptoms to swiftly identify stroke and save your life or the lives of loved ones.

To learn more about Stanford's Stroke center, please visit stanfordhospital.org/strokemonth or call **650.723.6469**



Stanford
MEDICINE

Hospital
& Clinics