

Mountain View VOICE

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MOVIES | 25



**A backyard
harvest
without the
hard work**

WEEKEND | 21



MICHELLE LE

Ravit Ortiz embraces daughter, Eden, 6, at Bubb Elementary School. Ortiz, the treasurer of the school's PTA, says rising rent prices may force her family out of the school district.

Middle class anxiety over rising rents

FAMILIES SAY THEY DREAD THOUGHT OF RELOCATING, LEAVING SCHOOLS

By Daniel DeBolt

They might not be the sort of folks you'd expect to hear making such complaints, but several Mountain View families with income from companies like Apple and Google say rent

increases are now a source of considerable anxiety.

"We want to stay here, but we're just terrified that we'll be pushed out" by rent hikes, said Ravit Ortiz, the treasurer for Bubb School's Parent-Teacher Association whose husband works at Google. "I don't think

it's fair to tear our child away from an incredible community and start all over again."

According to data firm Real Facts, average asking rents in Mountain View are on the rise, with an average increase of 12.4

► See **MIDDLE CLASS**, page 8

Google unveils update of its self-driving car

THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY TEST TWO-SEATER PROTOTYPE

By Daniel DeBolt

Google posted a video this week of elderly and disabled passengers enjoying a prototype self-driving car, another step towards "transforming mobility for millions of people" the company says.

Mountain View resident Thida Cornes was among those who were first to test the little electric two-seater vehicle, which was

revealed on Tuesday.

Cornes, who has a disability, said she really enjoyed the "futuristic experience" of technology that would benefit her. Because of her disability, "it is too painful for me to drive after the first 20 minutes and you don't want to drive while you are in pain."

Google's car of the future looks a bit like a toy made for a small child, and has no steering wheel or accelerator or brake pedals

"because they don't need them."

"Our software and sensors do all the work," said Chris Urmson, head of Google's Self-Driving Car Project, in his announcement on a Google blog post Tuesday. He called it "an important step toward improving road safety and transforming mobility for millions of people."

Among the testers was an

► See **GOOGLE CAR**, page 14



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Google's prototype self-driving car got an enthusiastic response from a Mountain View resident who went on a test drive.

City overwhelmed by office proposals

PLANNING DEPARTMENT HAS REACHED CAPACITY, STAFF SAYS

By Daniel DeBolt

Mountain View's real estate boom has hit a new threshold: city planning director Randy Tsuda told the City Council that his department has reached its capacity for reviewing development proposals.

On Tuesday, Tsuda asked the City Council to delay a slew of new development proposals, saying, "We've never been at this level of development activity."

The City Council voted unanimously to delay development proposals that have poured in, including seven office projects and one housing project. Most are for North Bayshore and will have to wait for the development of a precise plan, a blueprint for development for the area north of Highway 101 that

will take into account the larger needs of the area.

The City Council is hoping to approve the plan by the end of the year.

The delayed projects include the following North Bayshore projects: a 296,000-square-foot,

six-story office building for 1625 Plymouth St. by Broadreach Capital Partners; a 200-room, five-story high-tech hotel by the Shashi Grioup for 1625 North Shoreline Blvd.; a three-story, 113,000-square-foot office building at 1040-1060 La Avenida for Berg and Berg Enterprises; and for the north side

of Highway 101, "a gateway signature headquarters" for LinkedIn that may go up to eight stories tall, replacing several small buildings near the movie theater

► See **GATEKEEPER**, page 13

**'Everything we've
talked about
is thousands
of square feet
of office space,
and maybe 38
(housing) units.'**

COUNCILMAN MIKE KASPERZAK

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▶ **JACKIE HAUGH**



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▶ **KRISTI FOXGROVER**



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▶ **KATHY BRIDGMAN**



LOS ALTOS

Exceptional 4bd/3.5ba home features designer appointments throughout creating a warm and inviting ambiance. French doors open to private setting. **\$2,195,000**

▶ **DAVID CHUNG & SUNNY KIM**



SARATOGA

Beautifully updated 3bd/2.5ba home in desirable neighborhood. Chef's kitchen, hardwood floors, LR/DR, + separate family room with fireplace. 9875+/- sf lot. **\$1,598,000**

▶ **PAT TAYLOR**



SUNNYVALE

Light-filled 3bd/2.5ba townhouse. Newer kitchen, laminate floors, insulated windows, central AC, + detached one-car garage. Wonderful indoor/outdoor entertaining. **\$949,950**

▶ **JEFF STRICKER & STEVE TENBROECK**



LOS ALTOS

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▶ **CHERYL OKUNO**



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▶ **DAVID CHUNG & SUNNY KIM**



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Voice

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews
by Nadeshda Banchik on June 3, 2011

*If you could take your
dream vacation this summer,
where would you go?*



*"For me, a dream vacation
would be on a tropical island,
far away, without children!"*

Katie Dellamaggiore,
Mountain View



*"My dream vacation is
sailing all around the world."*

Carmen Roman, Menlo Park



*"My absolute dream is New
Zealand. I like to go hiking in
the wilderness and swimming
around the reefs."*

Bree Watson, Santa Clara



"All over Europe!"

Theresa Ukim, Pleasanton



*"My dream vacation would
be to the moon or Mars."*

Brain Glass, Mountain View

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- Kid's Corner – crafts, snacks, games and music
- Community Resource Tables
- Games, Row 2 Row Recovery demo
- Ice Cream Social – Served by Cancer Center Clinical Team and Staff

"Loving Life – the Cancer Survivors New Perspective"

By Heidi Garland

Heidi Garland is wife, mother to two sons, CEO of Guild West Agency, a San Jose based marketing firm and Breast Cancer Survivor. Heidi's cancer battle gave her an unmatched zest for life. She has since appeared in five Pink Glove Dance videos, El Camino Hospital's patient stories, and on NBC Bay Area News. Heidi has been quoted in countless local and national newspaper and magazine articles on the subject of breast cancer.

"Cancer is a Family Affair"

By Kathie Sutherland, M.D.

Dr. Kathie Sutherland is an OB/GYN with over 30 years of experience, Medical Director of the Genomic Medicine Institute at El Camino Hospital and 19 year breast cancer survivor. Her goal is to build awareness through the use of family history and genetic screening to help overcome the devastations of cancer.

"Movement for Life"

By Joanna M. Losito, RN MSN FNP-c AOCNP

Joanna Losito is a Medical Oncology Nurse Practitioner and RN with over 25 years' nursing experience. She helped create the Exercise for Energy class in partnership with the Palo Alto Medical Foundation with 30+ weekly participants and helped to develop the Better Breathers exercise group at El Camino Hospital. She has a special interest in survivorship, symptom management and wellness promoting behaviors.



Learn more and register online at:
www.elcaminohospital.org/SurvivorDay

LocalNews

■ CRIME BRIEFS

MAN ARRESTED FOR STABBING THREATS

Police arrested a man after he allegedly threatened someone with a kitchen knife, bringing it just inches from the intended victim's throat, on Wednesday, May 21.

Mountain View police responded to a family disturbance at the 800 block of Harpster Drive at 9:36 p.m. The man, 26-year-old Nicolai Semrau of Mountain View, appeared intoxicated and made stabbing motions with a kitchen knife inches from the victim's throat, according to police.

The victim, a 29-year-old man from San Mateo, said he feared for his safety and believed Semrau would harm him, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Police arrested Semrau and booked him into San Jose Main Jail on charges of terrorist threats and drunk in public. His bail is set at \$25,250.

GYRO HOUSE BURGLARY CAUGHT ON VIDEO

Police are looking for a man who burglarized the Gyro House restaurant in downtown Mountain View on May 23.

The man forced his way into the business through the rear door at around 11:40 p.m. and stole approximately \$700 in cash from the cash register, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department. Based on video surveillance, the man appears to be a white male in his 60s with balding gray hair. During the burglary, he was wearing glasses and a long-sleeved button-up shirt.

Mountain View police encourage people who have information about the case to call them at 650-903-6344. Anonymous tips may also be sent via text to 274637 — include 'mvtips' in the body of the message.

—Kevin Forestieri

MEMORIAL DAY DUI CAMPAIGN

Santa Clara County law enforcement agencies arrested 89 people for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, a sheriff's spokesman said today.

Between Friday morning and Monday night, 13 agencies arrested 89 people through 12 different DUI saturation patrols and a sobriety checkpoint, according to Santa Clara County sheriff's Sgt. Kurtis Stenderup.

Officers were on high alert throughout the county as part of the Avoid the 13 statewide DUI campaigns held annually on weekends when drivers might be more likely to drive intoxicated.

There will also be campaigns on Independence Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Participating agencies include the sheriff's office, the California Highway Patrol and local police departments.

Last year, there were 73 DUI arrests over the same period.

—Bay City News Service

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

2500 block California St., 5/21
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 5/24
200 block Easy St., 5/27

BATTERY

California St. & Franklin St., 5/23

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

100 block Ferguson Dr., 5/21
700 block Evelyn Av., 5/22
1600 block W. El Camino Real, 5/23
200 block Castro St., 5/25
1000 block Terra Bella Av., 5/26

GRAND THEFT

2000 block Plymouth St., 5/23

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

600 block Mariposa Av., 5/21
600 block Cuesta Dr., 5/21
100 block Woodleaf Wy., 5/21
2500 block Mardell Wy., 5/22
2400 block Whitney Dr., 5/22

STOLEN VEHICLE

2500 block Grant Rd., 5/21

TERRORIST THREATS

800 block Harpster Dr., 5/21
100 block Calderon Av., 5/23

VANDALISM

1100 block W. Dana St., 5/22
2000 block W. El Camino Real, 5/24

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Dancing through the past

MOUNTAIN VIEW'S DANSE LIBRE BRINGS DECADES OF SOCIAL DANCING TO LIFE

By Kayla Layoen

What do you get when you take a handful of Stanford graduates, passionate vintage dancers and business professionals? The Academy of Danse Libre, that's what.

Danse Libre is a vintage dance performance group based in Mountain View. They are currently preparing for their upcoming theatrical dance show, "The Dancing Dead: Zombies! Vegetarians! Vintage Dance!" in Palo Alto on June 6 and 7.

"Don't be afraid of the front of the stage," Irvin Tyan, the artistic co-director of Danse Libre said to his dancers at a

rehearsal on Monday.

They came closer to the wall of the rehearsal building and once again, the music started. "Okay, one more time," Tyan said for at least the third time. "Five, six, seven, eight!"

The performance is set in 1941, when Adolf Hitler finds a way to turn harmless vegetarian zombies into his own ruthless, brain-eating army, and scientists must travel back in time to stop him. The show, written by Olivia Shen Green and directed by Mark Kennig, takes viewers through 100 years of social dances. Dancers waltz through the Victorian era of the 1820s,

► See **DANSE LIBRE**, page 12



BRANDON CHEW

The Academy of Danse Libre, a Mountain View-based organization dedicated to vintage social dances, puts on a lively show at a recent performance in Portola Valley. They have an upcoming production in Palo Alto on June 6 and 7.

LAHS hosts discredited anti-drug program

STATE ADVISES AGAINST SCIENTOLOGY-CONNECTED NARCONON PROGRAM

By Kevin Forestieri

An anti-drug program discredited by the state for inaccurate and misleading information continues to make presentations in schools in the Bay Area, including at Los Altos High School last semester.

Despite being discredited by the California Department of Education in 2005, the Narconon program made a brief appearance at Los Altos High School last semester when a health teacher invited a speaker from Narconon

to present to students.

LAHS Principal Wynne Satterwhite said she and the vice principal later found the report by the state education department characterizing Narconon's information as misleading and inaccurate. Satterwhite said the school has since discontinued any presentations from Narconon.

The connections to Scientology and the non-scientific information are not all that apparent based on the program's curriculum and website, according to Superintendent Barry Groves.

Groves said that on the Narconon website, there's no clear reference to Scientology, and the content on the website is typical drug abuse prevention information. This is likely how the program made its way into LAHS in the first place.

Narconon is a nonprofit drug abuse and rehabilitation program with an international presence. The website states that the program's rehabilitation methodology was developed by L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the Church of Scientology. Narconon is also licensed by the Association

for Better Living and Education (ABLE), an organization directly established by the church to promote Scientology. Narconon has hosted school presentations for decades.

In 2005 the California Department of Education got involved. A report by the California Healthy Kids Resource Center found that Narconon's drug prevention program's presentations and resources include information that does not reflect accurate medical and scientific evidence.

For example, Narconon teaches that drugs burn up vitamins and nutrients, can be stored in body fat to be "released" years later for a delayed high, and marijuana-induced vitamin loss causes

the food cravings known as the "munchies." All these theories do not reflect widely accepted medical and scientific evidence, according to the report.

Narconon also teaches information that is overgeneralized or exaggerated, according to the report. They teach that drugs are poison, drugs are only used to "avoid problems," and drugs ruin creativity and dull senses.

Along with Los Altos High School, nine high schools in Santa Clara County have invited Narconon speakers into classrooms since 2007, according to an in-depth report on the organization by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



COURTESY OF SILICON VALLEY YOUTH BRIDGE

Kids at a pizza party event play bridge on May 19 at the Bridge Center in Mountain View.

Bridging the age gap

LOCAL GROUP BRINGS CARD GAME TO SILICON VALLEY YOUTH

By Kevin Forestieri

Kids these days get their kicks from digital media and video games, which has some people worried about the tabletop games of the past. That's why fans of bridge are making a concerted effort to get younger generations interested in their favorite card game.

That effort to bring new blood into an old game has started strong in the Bay Area. Last Friday, Silicon Valley Youth

Bridge — a nonprofit that hosts free events to teach bridge to kids — celebrated its first year anniversary. Since its inception last year, the group has hosted events and after-school programs and introduced bridge to 211 kids.

Silicon Valley Youth Bridge had humble beginnings when it debuted at Stanford Splash event last year, according to the Cheryl Haines, the marketing chair for the group.

"When we began in May last year, we had nothing," Haines said.

Though the American Contract Bridge League has a broad, national program to get kids into the card game, Haines said they had to come up with their local group name and logo, and do outreach to the community through events like pizza parties. All the events are the work of volunteers and free to attendees.

The events attract far more than just a one-dimensional group of chess club members

► See **BRIDGE**, page 17



Seen Around Town

Jim O'Malley bid a fond farewell to the Blossom Valley Post Office on its closing day, Friday, May 23. His son Sean snapped the photo of O'Malley, who was Mountain View's postmaster from 1965 to 1980. He presided over the opening of Blossom Valley location in the late 1960s and has frequented it ever since, says his daughter Erin O'Malley. The location served the 94040 zip code for over 30 years, which includes the communities of Cuesta Park, Waverly Park and Varsity Park, she says. Postal officials announced earlier this month that the substation's lease was being terminated by the landlord, forcing its closure.

Seniors vulnerable to accidents in home

PERIODIC SAFETY INSPECTIONS A GOOD WAY TO ALLEVIATE HAZARDS

By Kevin Forestieri

Millions of seniors end up in the hospital every year in the U.S. because of falls and other accidents — roughly a third of all hospital visits for people over age 65. Many of these injuries happen at home and could have been prevented with some careful planning, according to a local senior care company.

Home Instead Senior Care, a company that provides in-home care for the elderly, is offering free home inspections in Mountain View and neighboring cities over the next few months to hunt down any household hazards that could lead to an accident.

According to a survey commissioned by Home Instead of 600 seniors and 100 emergency room physicians, 65 percent of seniors' homes have potential safety hazards, and almost half of accidents in the home

were avoidable. The survey also found that 85 percent of seniors do not take steps to get rid of home hazards as they get older.

Common issues include tripping hazards, like throw rugs, storage that's out of reach or a lack of grab bars to hold onto in the bathroom, according to Michelle Rogers, the franchise owner of Home Instead in Mountain View. She said older people are not as steady on their feet, and could benefit from these small improvements in the home.

But some of the hazards are a little less obvious. Rogers said one of the homes recently visited had newspapers scattered on the floor. She said family members would just drop them once they were done without realizing that it's easy to slip on them and fall. Clutter in general can be a problem for seniors, especially in hallways

► See **SENIORS**, page 9



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20th year for summer music festival a really 'Big Deal'

LIVE 105'S BFD COMES TO SHORELINE AMPHITHEATRE THIS WEEKEND

By Nick Veronin

For those alternative rock fans who came of age in the '90s, 1994 was a particularly big year. It was the year of Green Day's "Dookie," Nirvana's "MTV Unplugged in New York," Hole's "Live Through This," Soundgarden's "Superunknown," Beck's "Mellow Gold" and many more hugely influential records.

That year was a high water mark for the "alternative" genre on the whole — as a series of bands earned radio play and critical acclaim with a sound that embraced the angst of punk rock while simultaneously demonstrating an ear for pop sensibility. There were the grunge bands, like Nirvana, that coaxed sweet melodies out of muddy guitars and thudding rhythm sections; punk bands, like The Offspring, who smoothed out their bratty nasal vocals with rich harmonies; and the progenitors of indie rock, like Built to Spill, who borrowed from the garage rockers of generations past to craft tunes

that sounded as if they were about to fall apart, but somehow managed to tumble forward in a charming, half-drunken lurch.

It was also the year that the San Francisco-based alternative radio station, Live 105, launched its annual summer music festival, BFD, which celebrates its 20th anniversary on Sunday, June 1.

In many ways it is fitting that BFD's double-decade milestone should coincide with one of the biggest years in alternative rock history. The festival has done a great deal to shine a spotlight on promising alternative acts, just as its sponsor station has been committed to breaking new modern rock and alternative talent since its inception in 1985.

In the festival's inaugural year, alternative icons Green Day, Beck and The Violent Femmes rounded out the top of bill — belting out slacker anthems like "Basket Case," "Loser" and "Blister in the Sun" to the crowd gathered at Mountain View's Shoreline Amphitheatre, which has served as BFD's home for its

20-year run.

In 1995, the gathering was headlined by new wave heavyweights Duran Duran and British grunge band Bush, who had released their debut album, "16 Stone," in 1994 to much acclaim. The following year, 1996, ska-punk titans No Doubt — led by Gwen Stefani, who would go on to marry Bush front man Gavin Rossdale — took top billing at BFD.

Surveying BFD's headlining acts over the years is like reading a history of alternative rock trends — the good, the bad and the downright ugly. For those who were on to The Strokes, The White Stripes and Interpol early on, the lineups may serve as an "I saw them when" badge of honor. On the other hand, the festival's 1999 and 2000 bills are like an ill-advised tattoo — a reminder to alternative rock fans that Limp Bizkit, Godsmack and Kid Rock were once quite popular.

Looking further down the list of bands on older BFD tickets is also instructive. Groups that were once stuck on side stages



COURTESY OF AARON AXELSEN

Aaron Axelsen, Live 105's programming director and longtime DJ, says BFD has long served as a launching pad for bands that have gone on to hit it big.

have since gone on to hit it big.

"BFD has been a launching pad," says Live 105 programming director Aaron Axelsen. The longtime DJ fondly recalls 2004 when The Killers opened on the "Festival Stage," starting at 12:45 p.m. The band ended up headlining the festival a few years later. In 2012, Imagine Dragons were also booked on the "Festival Stage." The group won a Grammy this year in the category of Best Rock Performance for their song "Radioactive."

For Axelsen, BFD is more than a place for bands to be heard and

for alternative music fans to find out about the next big thing. "It's beyond the bands," he insists. "It's a lifestyle. It's an event. It's special."

According to Charles Kronengold, an assistant professor of music at Stanford University, Axelsen is on to something. A scholar of popular music and the author of a forthcoming book about American music in the 1970s, titled "Live Genres in Late Modernity," Kronengold says that contemporary music

► See **BFD**, page 15

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MIDDLE CLASS

► Continued from page 1

percent between the first quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014. The average rent for a three-bedroom apartment was \$3,387 in March, up from \$2,954 in 2012.

Ortiz said that Silicon Valley's housing shortage is forcing her to consider the possibility of working and spending time away from her kids — just to pay rising rents in Mountain View. Downsizing is out of the question, as she jokes that her duplex unit has rooms as small as some of the bedroom displays in Ikea.

"I love helping out all the kids, I'm an executive board member on the PTA," Ortiz said. "It's fun, it's wonderful, but I just feel it's looming that eventually we won't be able to do it anymore. Our landlord did communicate with us that our rent would mostly keep going up."

The rising cost was made clear to Carol Williams (we've changed her name to avoid repercussions from her landlord) when her family had to leave their home last year and find another one within the school district their three children attend. To pay their new rent of nearly \$5,000 a month (their old place was \$4,200), Williams said she and her husband — a manager at Apple — have had to dip into retirement and their kids' college funds. "We don't even have money to live from the income my husband makes. We have to live off stock and savings just to live here. We're thinking maybe we need to move to another state."

Williams said their home was the cheapest suitable place they could find south of the railroad tracks. She said everything that was cheaper was too small for their three kids.

When your kids are in public school, "everything shrinks down into this very localized situation and your options are much more limited," Williams said. "You are under the stress of, 'Oh my gosh, I might need to pull my kids out of their comfortable environment where they are thriving and put them somewhere else.'"

The high rents have been a shock to her family, having moved from Michigan four years ago. They had owned a 3,000-square-foot home there which cost \$240,000. That would buy a Silicon Valley home a little bigger than shack, Williams said.

A search on Craigslist shows that three- and four-bedroom homes typically rent for \$4,000 to \$5,500 a month in southwestern Mountain View.

"I think there should be a cap on how much money you can charge for a house," Williams said. "There's no rhyme or reason, it's insane almost."

Williams is acutely aware of what is being pointed out by the group, the Campaign for a Balanced Mountain View: there is a housing shortage in the city and the region that's driven by yet another tech industry boom. "The problem with Mountain View is there's not a whole lot" of housing options, Williams said.

Like everyone else the *Voice* interviewed, Williams would prefer to pay a mortgage rather than rent, but because of the



MICHELLE LE

Eden Ortiz jokes around with her friend Chloe after school at Bubb Elementary.

intense competition for a small number of homes, "there's no way we could afford (to buy a home)," she said. "You have to put \$500,000 down. People are so desperate they are (buying) with cash. Unless you have a huge amount of money in cash you aren't even going to get it."

Some parents are wondering if they should move further south, and commute. But Ortiz says her family's quality of life has improved because her husband has been able to commute by bike to his job at Google.

"One of the reasons we love living here is my husband can actually bike to work which has improved his health tremendously and it's safe because there's bike lanes, there's trails," Ortiz said.

"Some things that I've heard people talk about is moving to San Jose or down to the Morgan Hill or Gilroy area where rent is cheaper, then sending their kids to private schools," said Bubb parent Erin Hung. "I wouldn't want to send my child to private school because I like to have the diversity that Bubb has."

Two families said the only way they can afford to live in Mountain View is because their landlords have been generous in not raising their rent. But these families wonder how long that will last.

"If our landlord came and doubled (the rent) we would still be getting an OK deal," said Hung, adding that she's saving money in case it increases. Not

wanting to give the landlord any reason to raise the rent, she said, "We've had a couple things break here and there, we just repair it and don't bother the landlord."

Lauren Bond, who has kids in local schools and works as a nurse, said owning a home in Mountain View is now a "pipe dream."

"We are two full-time, well-paid, hard-working individuals and if we had not stumbled upon this wonderful home in Mountain View (and a rent amount that is ungodly low) we wouldn't have survived life in the Silicon Valley," Bond said in an email. "We have done this for three years and as of now, this has reached a level of disappointment such that our desire to own a home here is a pipe dream. It is sad because we love Mountain View, we work for the hospital, we support the community and we love the school district, but we are not willing to subject our children to a life in a box, with a green square for a yard. It is our realization, however, that it is also because of no other choices."

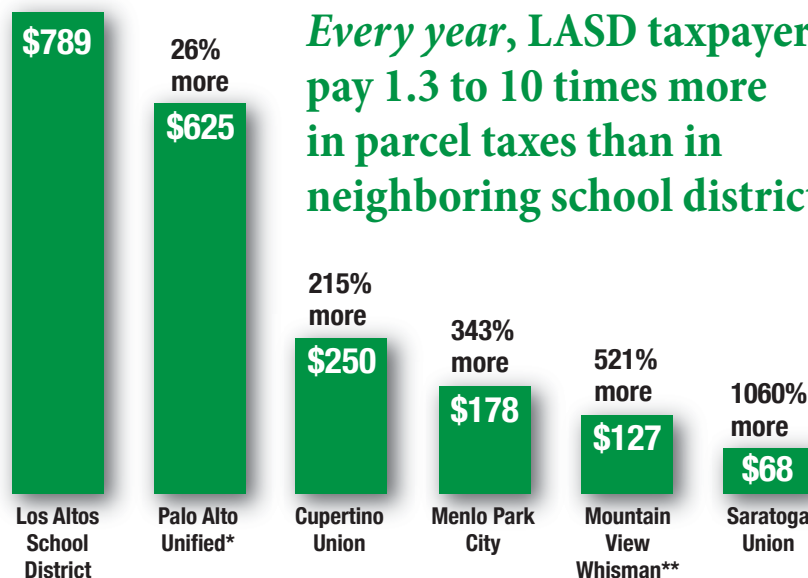
Williams said the lease for her home is about to expire, and she says she is "freaking out" about the possibility of having to abandon her holistic healing business to take a higher paying job she doesn't really want.

Less-affluent families are making much bigger sacrifices.

"I was actually in the classroom and I was talking to one of the kids and he was like, 'Yeah, I am sleeping on the floor with my brother,'" Ortiz said. "You try not to show your facial expression but it's just heartbreaking."

The housing crisis, she said, is affecting everybody, across the board. "I just feel for everybody."

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Email Daniel DeBolt
at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

County joins lawsuit against drug firms

SUIT CLAIMS MANUFACTURERS OF OPIOID PAINKILLERS DECEIVED CONSUMERS ABOUT DRUGS' DANGERS

Santa Clara County joined a lawsuit filed by Orange County charging major drug firms with deceiving consumers about the dangers of using opioid narcotic painkillers for non-cancer-related pain.

Santa Clara County Counsel Orry Korb and Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas allege in the suit that the five largest makers of prescription opioids covered up the addictive nature of drugs such as OxyContin and Percocet, Assistant County Counsel Danny Chou said last week.

The manufacturers named in the suit, Purdue Pharma, Caphalon, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Endo Health Solutions, and Actavis, also made claims about the benefits of the drugs for non-cancer patients without scientific support and only to promote sales of the products, Chou said.

Opioids, which are narcotics derived from opium plants, have evolved into being the most widely prescribed class of drugs in the U.S. and have the same effect in the brain as heroin, Chou said.

"The truth is that there is no scientific evidence to show that these painkillers are useful for treating long-term, non-cancer

pain and the evidence also shows that these drugs pose a serious risk of addiction and abuse," he said.

Drug companies took in \$8 billion from opioids alone in 2010 and the top seller, OxyContin, which has been available since the 1990s, generated \$3.1 billion, according to Chou.

The suit will become "a battle" with the five pharma companies and "I wouldn't be surprised if it took years" to resolve in the courts, Chou said.

Chou and Lead Deputy County Counsel Greta Hansen discussed the joint lawsuit this morning at a news conference at the County Government Center in San Jose.

Hansen said the focus of lawsuit is holding the pharmaceutical industry accountable for "deceptive practices" about opioids during a "massive two decades-long campaign trying to convince doctors and patients that opioids are an effective, safe treatment for chronic, long term, non-cancer pain."

The painkillers can lead to people abusing street heroin, which former users of opioids turn to after their opioid prescriptions run out because it is cheaper, Hansen said.

"Opioid painkillers are certainly connected to the recent

rise in heroin addiction that we are seeing across the country," Hansen said.

In the 105-page complaint filed by the two counties today in Orange County Superior Court, the plaintiffs list examples "of instances where the drug companies misled doctors and patients, as well as use front groups to mislead doctors and patients," Chou said.

The number of deaths annually in the U.S. that are traced to opioid drug abuse exceed those resulting from car accidents, suicides and heroin and cocaine overdoses combined, according to Chou.

About 4,000 people die each year from opioids in California, double the number of homicides in the state, he said.

There are about 2.4 million people abusing opioids nationwide and new users of them increased by 104 percent between 2000 and 2010, he said.

The office of the county counsel in San Jose is authorized by state law to bring lawsuits and has in the past, including a successful one brought against manufacturers of lead paint that garnered a judgment of more than \$1 billion last December, Chou said.

—Bay City News Service

SENIORS

► Continued from page 6

that make it hard to maneuver around with a walker.

"You're just trying to get rid of the accident that's waiting to happen," Rogers said.

Slipping and falling can be devastating for seniors. At El Camino Hospital, around 15 percent of the senior hospital visits are for injuries from falling, according to Margaret Wilmer, director of senior health services at the hospital. Those injuries include open wounds, bruises and fractures.

The problem is two-fold: seniors are more susceptible to falling as they age, and they are more likely to be injured when they do fall. Wilmer said as people age, they may suffer from impaired vision, muscle atrophy, cognitive impairment and balance issues, making it harder to maneuver around without falling. Seniors who have diabetes, arthritis or had a stroke are also at increased risk.

Medications also play a role, and Wilmer said seniors

need to be aware that what they're taking might make them unsteady on their feet. Multiple medications, specifically combinations of drugs, can cause seniors to experience dizziness and other side-effects that can cause a fall.

Wilmer said she encourages seniors to check with a physician, and that the senior health services at El Camino Hospital will continue to focus on fall

prevention programs.

Many safety suggestions rely on family members to help make the house a safe place.

"It just makes it so much easier to get things done when family members are talking about solutions and getting productive," Rogers said.

To request a home safety check or get a home safety checklist, call the Home Instead Senior Care office at 650-691-9671 ■

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2014-15

LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN & BUDGET

As required by Education Codes 42103, 42127, and 52062, the **Board of Trustees of the Mountain View Los Altos High School District** will hold a public hearing to solicit public comment on the 2014-15 Local Control and Accountability Plan and proposed Budget of the District, prior to final adoption.

The public hearing will be held on June 16, 2014, at 12:00 p.m.

The public hearing will be held at: Mountain View Los Altos High School District Office Boardroom 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040

The Local Control and Accountability Plan and Budget can be inspected by the public beginning June 11, 2014 during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at:

Mountain View Los Altos High School District Office Boardroom 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040

5/30/14
CNS-2619101#



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UPCOMING WORKSHOP
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John Lehman,
Linda Sullivan Baity, PhD &
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THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2014
6:00PM - 8:00PM



TAX ISSUES RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY

Please join DeLeon Realty at our June Seminar. Gain insight into tax issues relating to real estate from Michael Repka, the Managing Broker and General Counsel of DeLeon Realty. Also hear the latest market updates from Ken DeLeon, the most successful real estate broker in Silicon Valley.

To RSVP, please contact: **Ting Conway** 650.543.8588

Where:

Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club,
Grand Ballroom
3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto



CalBRE# 01903224

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR 2014-15
LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY
PLAN & BUDGET**

As required by Education Code section 42103, 42127, and 52062 the governing board of the **Mountain View Whisman School District** will hold a public hearing to solicit public comment on the 2014-15 Local Control and Accountability Plan and proposed Budget of the District, prior to final adoption.

The public hearing will be held on June 19, 2014, at 7:00P.M.

The public hearing will be held at:

Mountain View Whisman School District - Board Room

750-A San Pierre Way

Mountain View, CA 94043

The Local Control and Accountability Plan and Budget can be inspected by the public beginning June 13, 2014, during the hours of 8:00 A.M and 4:00 P.M at:

Mountain View Whisman School District

750-A San Pierre Way

Mountain View, CA 94043

5/30/14

CNS-2619089#



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING OF THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO REVIEW THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGETS, PROPOSED WATER, WASTEWATER AND SOLID WASTE TRASH AND RECYCLING RATES AND VARIOUS CITY FEES:

- CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW SHORELINE REGIONAL PARK COMMUNITY
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FINANCING AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that Tuesday, the 10th day of June, 2014 at the hour of 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Council Chamber, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, has been set as the time and place for a meeting to receive citizen input on the use of funds for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Proposed Budget; on proposed water, wastewater and solid waste trash and recycling rates; and various City fees.

If you are unable to attend the budget meeting but would like the City Council, Boards and staff to know your views, please send a letter to the City Council, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, California 94039, or an e-mail to city.clerk@mountain-view.gov on or before Friday, June 6, 2014.

Copies of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Proposed Budget, supporting documentation for proposed water, wastewater and solid waste trash and recycling rates and various City fees will be available for review by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 6, 2014 at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd Floor, Mountain View, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and during public hours at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View. The budget document will be available by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 6th, 2014 on the City's website at <http://laserfiche.mountainview.gov/WebLink/0/fol/72457/Row1.aspx>

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2014.

Patty J. Kong

Finance and Administrative Services Director



Christina Wright and **Lewis Hom** dance "The German," from a Victorian parlor game, at the Sequoias in Portola Valley.

DANSE LIBRE

► Continued from page 5

cakewalk through the 1890s and swing dance through the 1920s, among other styles and eras.

Performances by the dance companies Swing Cats Rhythm Revue and Knotts Dance Company will also be featured at the show.

Every two years, Danse Libre puts on a performance that showcases dance styles throughout a century. They prepare for each show at least one year in advance, and rehearse three to six hours several times per week.

Most of the dancers in the company have alter egos — more commonly known as day jobs. Dancer Valerie Baadh is a javelin thrower, movement coach and teacher trainer for Waldorf schools. Other dancers in the troupe spend their days working as lawyers and doctors, while others have jobs in

the dance industry. Publicity director Jeff Kellem gives dance workshops around the world, and told the *Voice* that historical dancers abroad have heard of Danse Libre.

"We tend to be one of the more well-known vintage dance groups," he said. "I went to Paris and I saw a dance colleague of mine looking at a video. I said, 'Oh, what are you watching? Oh, that's us,'" Kellem said.

On a trip to Moscow, he realized that a group he was instructing had already seen videos of some of Danse Libre's performances. Group members were excited to learn the choreography of one of their dances, and picked it up pretty quickly since they were already somewhat familiar with the Danse Libre's style, he said.

Baadh said she views dance as a very important thing, especially in Silicon Valley, where people are very focused on academia and technology.

"It helps balance an overly-tech culture," Baadh said.

There are other productions in the works. Danse Libre will be collaborating with the Peninsula Symphony on a production called "The Golden Age of Hollywood." A full orchestra will be playing as Danse Libre recreates some of the most beloved dances from the silver screen at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center and the Flint Center. The group will also be performing at the centennial celebration of the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco next year. ■

■ INFORMATION

"The Dancing Dead" will be performed at the Cubberley Theatre in Palo Alto at 7:30 p.m. on June 6 and 7. Tickets can be purchased online at danselibre.org. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$17 for students and seniors.



Valerie Baadh, right, gets help with her necklace from **Danielle Baiata** before a performance May 23.

GATEKEEPER

► Continued from page 1

that house Togos, Laser Quest, Gold's Gym and others at 1400 N. Shoreline Blvd.

LinkedIn's 370,000-square-foot headquarters campus on Stierlin Court could also double in size in another project.

Outside of the North Bayshore area, the Sobrato organization has proposed a 151,000-square-foot office building for 465 Fairchild Drive.

"You're going to be busy for a long time, you've got a lot of projects, a lot of people wanting to come to your community," said developer Andy Byde of Braddock and Logan, as he made his pitch for the lone residential project amongst the office development proposals. He called them "city changing projects" compared to his own. He proposes to renovate the entire complex at 777 West Middlefield Road, while demolishing eight units and building 46. The City Council was already familiar with the plan, having deadlocked 3-3 on the project last year, but backed away from it once again, some members saying it was because it is outside "change areas" in the city's new general plan.

The city's 13 planners are busy processing around 80 development applications. Tsuda has said that his department can hire contract planners to handle additional projects, but there are only so many projects that he and his deputy director can oversee.

Earlier in the evening, council members approved a four-story, 140,000-square-foot office building at 600 National Ave., which Environmental Protection Agency officials said would be an opportunity to speed up a cleanup of toxic TCE from the soil and groundwater under the older buildings on the site, possibly through use of new cleanup methods being tested on Evandale Avenue.

Council members wanted to know how close the city is to hitting the cap of 3.4 million square feet the new precise plan is expected to impose on North Bayshore office development. Zoning administrator Gerry Beaudin said all of the development proposed for North Bayshore added up to 1.3 to 1.4 million square feet, in addition to 300,000 square feet already approved for the area, "so you're at 1.7m sq feet."

The council also wanted to know whether a 750,000-square-foot office project at 700 E. Middlefield Road was going to be withdrawn to make room for more proposals. Google has reportedly bought the property, putting into question a proposal



COURTESY OF CASSIDY TURLEY

An office project at 600 National Ave. got the OK from the City Council on May 27.

by developer Sares Regis and previous property owner Deutsche Asset and Wealth Management (also known as the Rreefs project). The sale apparently happened right after the City Council cut the project down in size from the 1 million square feet originally proposed, with some members saying there was too much office in the pipeline and that the site would be better for housing. Google has reportedly paid an unprecedented amount for the site, \$250 million.

"We've been bombarded with (talk of the) jobs-housing imbalance (in Mountain View)," said council member Mike Kasperzak Tuesday, as he tried to persuade the council to allow the apartment project to move through the planning process. "Everything we've talking about is thousands of square feet of office space, and maybe 38 (housing) units."

Kasperzak proposed to allow the housing project to go through if the big office proposal for 700 East Middlefield fell through because of the sale to Google,

but a slim majority of the council opposed the idea.

"I'm conflicted there," said Mayor Chris Clark. "If Rreefs drops off and that really does free up staff resources, I'm not sure it has more merit than some others."

At the end of the meeting, council member Ronit Bryant suggested that the city come up with ways to "help these older (apartment) complexes," like the one at 777 Middlefield Road. "Had council agreed to let it go through Gatekeeper, we might have found ways to preserve its affordability."

She said preserving such complexes would be preferable to "losing all the older complexes and all the trees and open space that go with that."

Other council members were skeptical, saying that any project renovating older complexes would likely come with higher rents, causing more residents to be displaced from the city.

Email Daniel DeBolt
at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

GUIDE TO 2014 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Camp Connection

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Los Altos

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Mary Burns

November 10, 1931 – May 19, 2014



Mary Burns, resident of Mountain View, California, died suddenly, but peacefully, May 19, 2014 at 9:19 a.m. in the circle of her family. Born Mary Kathryn Morse on November 10, 1931 in South Dakota, she grew up in Berkeley, California and graduated Berkeley High in 1949. She was a devoted wife for 63 years to Robert Burns, ret. Fire Chief of Mountain View, loving mother to Kevin, Pat, Terry, Cathy, Anne, Mike and John and Grandma to Amanda, Kev, Deirdre, Sara, Sam, Aaron, Daniel, Kayla, Aiden, Elliot, Ronan, Isabell, Bronwen and Piper. Mary was a force on the planet and in our hearts; she was the connective tissue of our family. A passionate, loving and feisty woman with a keen intelligence, she spent her life exploring spirituality, championing the underdog and seeking the divinity inherent in each of us.

Mary's life was filled with a passion for dance, music and free expression. She was always the first on the dance floor and last to leave. She played classical guitar, piano and flute. She read voraciously, wrote poetry, nonfiction and memoir, and was a gifted artist and craftsperson. A Master swimmer, Mary enjoyed tennis, skiing, hiking and cycling. She was a devoted 49er fan all her life, and her competitive, take no prisoners, approach to games and cards was a force to be reckoned with.

Her lifelong spiritual journey was launched after hearing Gregorian Chant in college. She left her Protestant beginnings to study Catholicism and was baptized at St. Jerome's Church in El Cerrito for which she was evicted from her family home, her college funds revoked. She met Bob in 1950 and they married at St. Jerome's, later dubbed "the scene of the crime." Living first in Ignacio, CA, then Walnut Creek, they moved to Mountain View in 1962 where she lived for 53 years. Nature was Mary's temple; they built a cabin in Bear Valley they enjoyed for 35 years.

Her spiritual quest took her from St. Jerome's to St. Joseph's to Stanford Newman Center's St. Ann's, to India with Sai Baba, France with Tich Nat Hahn, and Wisdom's Golden Rod in NY. Wearing robes Mary designed and created, she and Bob meditated daily in their home zendos in Bear Valley and Mtn. View. While participating in Companions on the Journey, Mary edited and published three books of Fr. Sean O'Leary's sermons. An avid student of philosophy and spirituality, she studied the teachings of Paul Brunton, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Sufism, and more. She ultimately felt she'd gone beyond religion, but if she'd had to settle on one it would have been Sufism.

One of her early spiritual teachers and dearest friends was Maryknoll Missionary Bishop Lane who taught her *the most important word: Others*, inspiring the marriage of her spiritual life with her compassionate work, including: The Commission on the Status of Women, Global Women's Leadership Network, Results, Dining for Women, Collaborate for Africa and many others. When a Caltrans project threatened Lake Alpine near Bear Valley, Mary was there to stop it.

Mary was the founder and president of Kasimu Education Fund (KEF), which she and Bob created in 2005 after meeting a Cal PhD student from Malawi, Africa seeking to improve education in his village. Through KEF, they created a preschool, funded construction of school buildings, expanded educational programs and trained additional teachers. Mary felt, after family, KEF was her greatest achievement. (See the KEF website for details) Earlier this year she was honored to speak at the United Nations about her work to improve the status of women in Malawi. Her lifelong accomplishments have engendered deep gratitude and numerous awards, inspiring us all to perpetuate her legacy of compassion and justice.

Mary's insatiable curiosity for knowledge and spiritual truth and her unwavering courage to apply new knowledge were exceeded only by her love and service to her family and an untold and growing number of friends. Mary, Mom, Grandma will be deeply missed.

Love, light and peace

In lieu of flowers the family prefers gifts be made to KEF (www.kefmalawi.com) in Mary's honor.

PAID OBITUARY



Safe, Clean Water
and Natural Flood Protection

Public hearing

Modification to the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project

Santa Clara Valley
Water District



Priority E: Provide flood protection to homes, business, schools and highways.

What: Public Hearing on Modification to the San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project

When: June 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: District Headquarters — Board Room
5700 Almaden Expressway,
San Jose, CA 95118

Due to the level of external funding available, staff recommends modifying the program document to advise the public of the level of flood protection that can be achieved at this time.

As stated in the Modified Project Description, the local-state-funding-only project will be the same as the preferred project downstream of Highway 101; but upstream of Highway 101, the project will remedy channel constrictions and modify bridges at Newell Road and Pope/Chaucer Street to allow the channel to contain flood waters equal to the channel's capacity of 7,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), approximately a 30-year flood event. Allowing this level of water to flow through the channel will protect approximately 3,000 parcels in Palo Alto from a flood event close to the February 1998 flood, the largest on record. Currently, the channel can only convey a 15-year flood event.

If sufficient funding becomes available, a 1 percent (100-year) flood protection project upstream of Highway 101, including some combination of: modifications to the University Avenue and Middlefield Road bridges; upstream detention; underground bypass channels; and floodwalls, could be built.



San Francisquito Creek, 1950s flood event

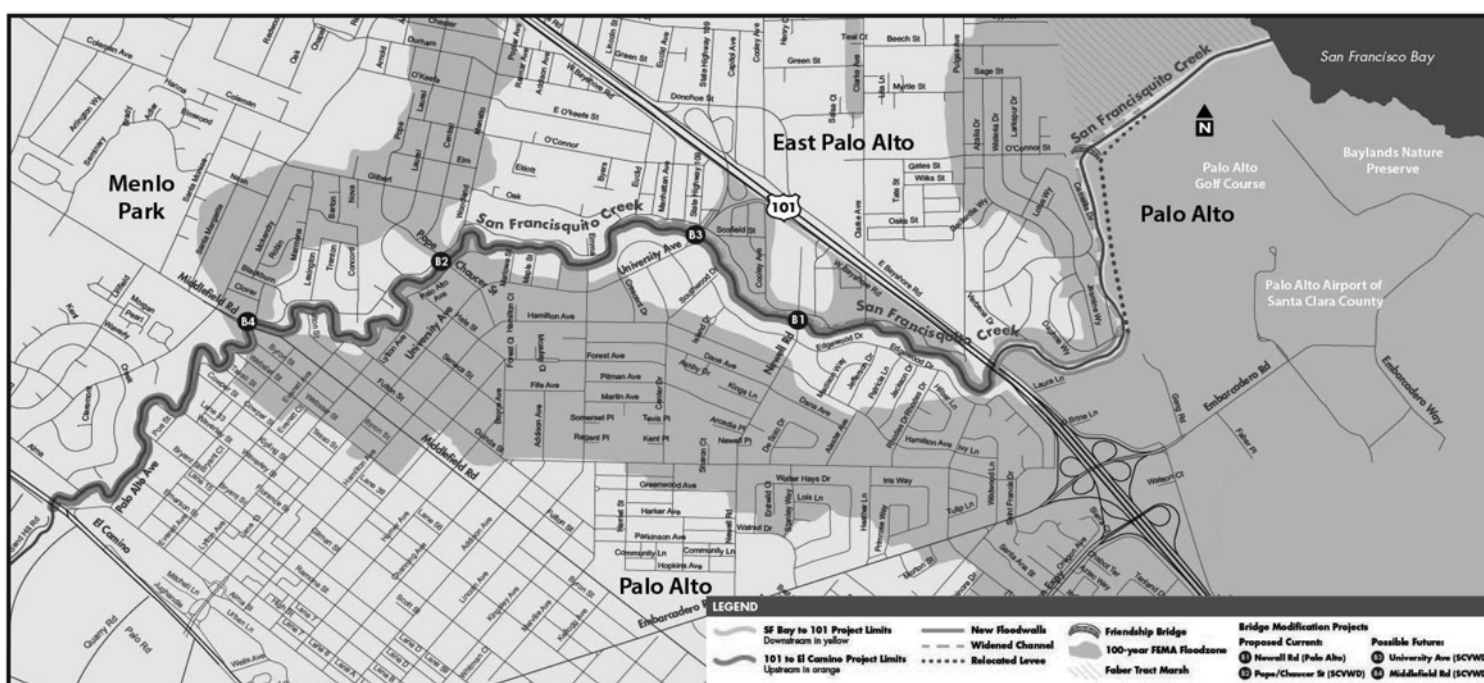
Proposed modifications to key performance indicators:

1. Preferred project with federal, state and local funding: Protect more than 3,000 parcels by providing 1 percent flood protection.

2. With state and local funding only: Protect approximately 3,000 parcels from flooding (100-year protection downstream of Highway 101, and approximately 30-year protection upstream of Highway 101).

The full board agenda memo will be posted online on May 30, 2014 at www.valleywater.org.

For more information on the public hearing, please contact **Melanie Richardson** at (408) 630-2035, or by email at mrichardson@valleywater.org.



elderly couple and a blind man, who giggles with joy while riding in the car. "Our lives are made up of lots and lots of little things," such as be able to drive places, the man said later. "So there is a big part of my life that's missing — a big part of my life that self-driving cars bring back to me."

Urmson extolled the benefits of the vehicles for seniors, writing that "seniors can keep their freedom even if they can't keep their car keys."

"I just went into the car with my service dog and and pushed a button and it drove itself," Cornes said. "It was a very smooth ride, it was pretty amazing actually. The braking was as smooth as I've ever experienced."

The car includes sensors that can detect objects in all directions as far as two football fields away.

"I feel like humans are very unpredictable on the road," Cornes said. "I think a computer would more accurately predict (dangers)."

"Assuming it works, it's going to be safer than humans. It's going have a better reaction time, and it's going to be able to see better," she said of its 360-degrees view around the car.

Cornes cited other benefits: being able to focus on conversations with her kids: "It would be much better if I wasn't multitasking, if I could spend that time with my kids." And she would no longer depend on disabled parking spaces being available, she said. "I would just tell it to drop me off and then have it park itself."

According to Urmson, the first prototypes will have the speed capped at 25 miles per hour. They feature a front end made of foam and a plastic windshield. The cars are prototypes so they are "light on creature comforts, but we'll have two seats (with seatbelts), a space for passengers' belongings, buttons to start and stop, and a screen that shows the route — and that's about it," Urmson writes.

"We're planning to build about a hundred prototype vehicles, and later this summer, our safety drivers will start testing early versions of these vehicles that have manual controls," Urmson writes. "If all goes well, we'd like to run a small pilot program here in California in the next couple of years. We're going to learn a lot from this experience, and if the technology develops as we hope, we'll work with partners to bring this technology into the world safely."

"There's going to be lot of scrutiny of it," Cornes said. "A lot of it is about public perception."

Email Daniel DeBolt
at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

DJ
Aaron
Axelsen
says BFD
isn't just
a music
festival,
it's "a
lifestyle."



BFD

► Continued from page 7

festivals give people a chance to interact with one another.

"There is this sense that everyone is there for different reasons and you could end up learning something," Kronengold says, noting that at an open-air festival, like BFD, as people wander from stage to stage and booth to booth, they are not only exposed to music they may not have otherwise encountered, but people they might not otherwise have associated with.

Festivals have always worked this way, and for many, this aspect of festivals is appealing. Axelsen, for one, says he loves walking around and talking to people at BFD and other festivals. For him, it's about "the intangible" experiences. Kronengold says he thinks these kinds of experiences are becoming less common, which means that when someone can experience a festival, and enjoy it, the event takes on a "magnified sense of importance, because we don't experience each other that way anymore."

Modern American media consumers have a one-stop media shop — the Internet — which allows him or her to search for and acquire new music, video and print media instantaneously, from the comfort of the home, the assistant professor notes. The Web has made discovering new music incredibly easy in some ways. But in other ways, it has hemmed consumers in to their own little bubbles — created by search engine personalization and recommendation algorithms, which have the benefit of introducing music fans to new artists that sound like the bands they have expressed interest in, but which can't curate a play list or a festival bill the way a human can.

Axelsen says he takes pride in helping to put together a great festival lineup, which he sees as an extension of what he does at the radio station and at the many clubs around the Bay Area where he frequently spins records.

"Terrestrial radio is still an invaluable tool and resource for

turning people on to new music," Axelsen says, explaining that most people don't listen to music on the scale he does (he sees roughly 400 records come across his desk each week, he says). "The majority of listeners have lives," he says. "They love music, but they don't go home and sit on the music blogs all day. They expect us to do the heavy lifting."

And it seems that heavy lifting is appreciated. Although Kronengold says he suspects interest in live music is not what it used to be, you wouldn't know it by looking strictly at the festival economy. Since 1999, when the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival was begun, many other similar events have cropped up around the country. In 2002, the Bonnaroo and Sasquatch festivals were established — in Tennessee and Washington, respectively. The Pitchfork Music Festival got its start in 2006 in Chicago. Two years later, the first Outside Lands was held in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. In 2012, Coachella expanded from a single weekend to a two-weekend affair. And just last year, in 2013, the BottleRock festival launched in Napa.

While certainly not the first event of its kind — New York City's CMJ Music Marathon began in 1980 and Lollapalooza got its start in 1991 — Axelsen likes to think that BFD helped set a precedent for the alternative rock festival in its modern form. "BFD definitely laid a blueprint for the festivals throughout the country," he says.

Email Nick Veronin
at nveronin@pawebkly.com

■ INFORMATION

Live 105's 20th annual BFD music festival on June 1, starting at 11 a.m. More than 35 bands on multiple stages, including main stage headliners, Foster The People, M.I.A., Fitz & The Tantrums, Phantogram and New Politics are set to play at Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View. Tickets are \$35 to \$69.50 Go to live105.cbslocal.com or call 650-967-4040.

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BRIDGE

► Continued from page 5

or kids whose grandparents forced them to play cards. Hanes said both boys and girls with varying ethnic and social backgrounds all show up to play the game.

"These are not just math nerds, it's a very diverse group," Haines said.

The Youth Bridge program does focus on a specific age group for participants, however, aiming to bring in middle school-aged kids between fifth and eighth grades. The group decided that high school kids are too busy and likely won't play if they haven't already been introduced to bridge. On the other hand, the game might be too complicated or difficult for elementary school kids.

And with complicated strategies, auctioning, bidding, calling, tricks, dummies, opening leads and a slough of other card-game jargon, it's no wonder bridge has a reputation for being difficult to learn. The American Contract Bridge League puts out its own "Learn to Play Bridge" software and textbooks, and Silicon Valley Youth Bridge has its own method to teach the game with a difficulty curve.

Bridge also has a reputation for being a game that only old people play, and it's not without some truth. Haines said at 53 years old, she is frequently the youngest person in the room. It's also a very time-consuming hobby that makes it difficult to play on a tight schedule. But just because old people play it doesn't make it a game for old people.

"It's a great game, and they seem to like it once they've been exposed to it," Haines said.

On top of being fun, Haines boasts that bridge also has a lot of benefits for the kids who play it. She said the game requires the use of logical and analytical skills as well as teamwork, and the Youth Bridge website cites a correlation between bridge players and higher test scores in reading, math and science.

In a guide to teach new players the game, former competitive bridge player Marty Nathan wrote that the average age of American Contract Bridge League members is 60 years old, and that bridge players have "lost" the next generation to newer forms of entertainment.

"If you and I are going to have bridge opponents 20 years from now, we'd better start developing them now. If we lose this generation, we'll lose the game as well," Nathan said in the guide.

This summer, Silicon Valley Youth Bridge will host a summer camp for kids ages 10 to 17 to play bridge during weekday afternoons. The camp is the first event the Youth Bridge has charged for — \$150 per person — and they will be offering scholarships through the program.

For more information about the program and upcoming events, visit the Youth Bridge website at www.siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org. ■

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EDITORIAL THE VOICE RECOMMENDS

Re-elect Sheriff Laurie Smith on June 3

California's system of electing county sheriffs, especially in metropolitan areas, does not generally serve the public well.

Santa Clara County is a good example of this, where most of the votes cast are from voters in cities served by local police departments and where the only interest in the sheriff is to make sure the jails are running smoothly and the courts are secure.

The sheriff's office is responsible for law enforcement in all unincorporated county lands (except for Stanford, where a unique arrangement delegates authority to the University's own private police force), plus the three smaller cities of Los Altos Hills, Saratoga and Cupertino, which contract with the sheriff for police services.

The current campaign being waged by retired sheriff's Capt. Kevin Jensen against Sheriff Smith demonstrates why a better system would be for county boards of supervisors to hire sheriffs rather than having them elected.

Through mailings, robo-phone calls and anonymous blog postings, Jensen and his supporters are slinging lots of accusations against Smith with little substance to back them up.

They have cherry-picked and distorted some inartfully-handled incidents during Smith's 12 years in office, but their overriding argument is that deputies don't like her or her management style and believe she lacks "vision" for the department.

Not surprisingly, this criticism won Jensen the backing and financial support of the deputy sheriff's union and the union of correctional officers, as well as most of the unions of city police departments and a contingent of retired police chiefs, including former Palo Alto chief Lynn Johnson.

Smith enjoys the support and respect of all five county supervisors, including Joe Simitian, and a long list of elected officials. Perhaps most significant is the fact she has been endorsed by almost every council member in the three cities that contract with the sheriff for police services, in other words, her customers.

With no one other than deputy sheriffs complaining about Smith's management abilities, the public has little reason to turn Smith out of office. The county supervisors who approve her budget and most closely monitor her work and the cities that directly receive services from her department agree she is doing a good, competent job.

Jensen, who retired last year at age 50 after 28 years in the department, is able to draw the maximum pension of approximately \$150,000 a year. The sheriff earns roughly \$240,000 a year.

Jensen has had a long and distinguished career with the sheriff's department, but we are uncomfortable with his campaign tactics, union backing and distorted criticisms of the incumbent. And we find little to fault in Smith's tenure except for her occasional missteps that stem more from a lack of political polish and public communication skills than from a deficiency in her management ability.

We recommend the re-election of Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith.



YES ON PROP. 42

Although Proposition 42 faces only token opposition, its passage is critically important to fix a problem that threatens the transparency of local government operations in California.

The measure, approved without a dissenting vote by both the state Assembly and Senate, will amend the Constitution to make local governments responsible for the costs of making their official documents available to the public.

Under current law, because complying with the Public Records Act is considered a state mandate, the state must reimburse local governments for their costs. While many, if not most, local agencies don't bother to seek reimbursement because the costs are so small, the reimbursement process has led to confusion and recently, to a brief suspension of the law due to the state's financial situation.

Prop. 42 makes clear that cost should never be a factor in whether local governments comply with the Public Records Act. As we have seen many times locally, the Public Records Act is an essential tool to ensure public accountability and cast sunshine on the inner workings of government.

We urge a 'yes' vote on Proposition 42.

THE VOICE ALSO RECOMMENDS....

■ Vote yes on Measure AA, the bond issue for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

■ Vote for Julianne Sylva for the Office 21 and Matt Harris for the Office 24 seats on the Superior Court bench.



A real village at San Antonio, with links to North Bayshore

By Lenny Siegel

Mountain View's current plans for the San Antonio area, as represented by the Phase 2 proposal for San Antonio Center and the current version of the San Antonio Precise Plan, miss the opportunity to create a multi-use urban village centered around medium-density housing with links to transit and North Bayshore.

Phase 2, scheduled for City Council approval on July 1, calls for two office towers, a 167-room hotel, a parking structure for nearly 1,500 cars and **no** housing. The environmental study projects it will bring nearly 2,500 new jobs.

The broader, longer-term San Antonio Precise Plan is expected to bring 1,235 new housing units and a whopping 3,685 jobs, including those in Phase 2, to the area.

In other words, if the council approves Phase 2 and the precise plan without changes, Mountain View's jobs-housing imbalance will get much worse.

Instead, I believe that the city should plan for a massive surplus of homes over jobs in the San Antonio area, expanding and revitalizing retail activity but limiting offices and hotel space. This may be our best chance to provide housing for people who will be working in North

Bayshore, where, even if we are successful in adding a residential neighborhood, there will remain a huge housing deficit.

The San Antonio area is adjacent to one of Mountain View's two Caltrain stations, and it hosts a busy VTA bus transfer station at Showers and Latham (near Walmart). That station is also served by Stanford's Marguerite system. Yet I have seen little in the precise plan or Phase 2 proposal that makes it easy for people to get to either. In fact, Phase 2 proposes to construct a massive parking structure between its office towers and the train.

Instead, the entire area should be designed to make it easy for residents and employees to walk to and from those transit facilities. While transit can serve workplaces, homes, and shopping, I believe the emphasis should be on providing new homes, not just to quantitatively ameliorate the jobs-housing imbalance, but also because the area can be linked to housing-starved workplaces in North Bayshore.

The former Mayfield Mall property, now being remodeled by Google, is an ideal staging area for shuttle buses to North Bayshore, serving both residents of the area (on both sides of the tracks) and train passengers. It is outside the San Antonio area, but

it too is adjacent to the San Antonio Caltrain station. Buses on the north side of the tracks and Central Expressway could more easily get to North Bayshore, via San Antonio Road or Rengstorff, than the buses serving the downtown transit center. There is room for waiting buses to park. There is a walkway under the tracks that could be expanded.

Finally, in cooperation with the Los Altos School District, which serves this part of Mountain View, we should plan to include an elementary school and park in the precise plan. City planners expect that there will be 600 students in the area at build-out under the current plan, so the number could be much higher. Getting all those kids across El Camino is a traffic and safety nightmare.

While lots of people are focusing on the downside of current plans for the San Antonio area, if we junk those plans we have a unique opportunity to create a housing-based, transit-oriented urban village that enhances our quality of life, strengthens our economy, and helps Mountain View retain the diversity that so many of us value.

Lenny Siegel is the executive director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight (cpeo.org) and the founder of the Campaign for a Balanced Mountain View (balancedmv.org).



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