

Mountain View VOICE

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**Winter
Home + Garden
Design**



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Siegel, Showalter and Rosenberg take seats on City Council

JOHN MCALISTER CHOSEN AS MAYOR, SHOWALTER AS VICE MAYOR

By Daniel DeBolt

It was an emotional evening Tuesday night as three City Council members stepped down, three new members took their place, and a new mayor and vice mayor were chosen.

After spending eight years on council each, Jac Siegel, Margaret Abe-Koga and Ronit Bryant said farewell, before newly elected members Pat Showalter, Lenny Siegel and Ken Rosenberg took their places on the dais in front of a crowd of supporters. Then, in a pair of unanimous votes by the new council, it was decided that John McAlister would serve as mayor, replacing Chris Clark, and Pat Showalter would spend her first year on the council as vice mayor.

The selection for the honorary



John
McAlister



Pat
Showalter



Lenny
Siegel



Ken
Rosenberg

positions followed a longstanding tradition that members rotate in based on seniority and who received the most votes in the election. Showalter was the top vote-getter in a crowded field of candidates on the November ballot.

"I believe the Nov. 4 election may mark the beginning of a new era of Mountain View politics," said Lenny Siegel, who stated that he would continue to push for the changes he called for during

election season: balancing job growth with housing growth to help solve the area's housing crisis.

A key issue during the election was whether to allow a large new neighborhood to be developed near Google headquarters in North Bayshore. The new members all support the idea, while the outgoing members had voted against it in 2012, and came

► See **CITY COUNCIL**, page 6

Community shuttle hits the road

By Daniel DeBolt

There are still a few bugs to work out, but the few who rode the city's new free community shuttle on its maiden trip Monday morning gave it a thumbs-up.

The shiny new Google-donated electric shuttle arrived for the first time a few minutes past 10 a.m. to pick up passengers at the downtown train station on Jan. 5. There was little fanfare, as the official inaugural ride isn't set until a ceremony on Friday at 11 a.m. at the downtown train station. But, under a new community shuttle sign at the bus loop at the downtown transit center, Alltrans staffer Megan Huff enthusiastically greeted the first passenger, a woman who didn't want to comment but jumped on just to check it out and ride the full route.

"I'm excited, I've been looking forward to this," said resident Cheryl Walterskirchen, who boarded the shuttle on Grant Road, near El Camino Hospital with her dog and bicycle.

"It's quiet," she said of the electric shuttle. "I was disappointed it didn't go to Mountain View High School but that was the decision they made and I under-

► See **SHUTTLE**, page 7



DANIEL DEBOLT

Passengers board the Google-donated shuttle on Monday.



Tom, 52, became homeless a year and a half ago after living in Mountain View for 20 years.

Homeless woes in affluent Mountain View

HOW SILICON VALLEY'S HOMELESS POPULATION
STRUGGLES TO MAKE DO WITHOUT SERVICES

Story by Kevin Forestieri, photos by Michelle Le

Early Monday morning, Tom staked out a spot behind a 7-Eleven in Mountain View, keeping a close eye on three bags stuffed with all of his belongings. Unable to find work or an affordable place to live in the area anymore, the longtime Mountain View resident says he's been homeless for a year and a half, and it's been tough getting by.

"I had a routine life (here) for 20 years, and now I'm on the street," said Tom, who asked that his last name not be used.

Tom, 52, told the *Voice* that he ran into trouble when the property owner of his residence died and he was forced out by the new owner. He said high rent costs in Mountain View combined with difficulty

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Interviews and photos
by Kevin Forestieri and Michelle Le.

*What will be the biggest
headline in 2015?*



*"Whether to use cash, Apple Pay,
Bitcoin or some other faux money."*
Tracy Corral, San Jose



*"We're gonna hear a whole lot
more about North Korea."*
Luc Berlin, Palo Alto



*"How Ebola didn't turn into an
issue at all. There was so much
stuff about it."*
Edwin Hospes, San Jose



*"The biggest headline is going
to be about being able to live on
Mars."*
Isabella Astorga, Mountain View



*"There's going to be a new style
trend. Like a new style of clothing."*
Tiana Elpedes, Mountain View

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Wed. 14	7:00pm	"Free from Toxic Anger"
Thurs. 15	7:00pm	"Healing from Trauma"
Fri. 16	7:00pm	"A Life without Fear"
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■ CRIME BRIEFS

POLICE ON LOOKOUT FOR 'PEEPING TOM'

Police are looking for a possible serial peeping Tom who allegedly recorded people through the window of their homes with a cellphone on multiple occasions.

Residents in the apartment complex at 2050 California St. reported the first incident to police the night of Oct. 29. One of the victims said she saw a hand holding a cellphone through her window, but did not see the person holding the phone, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Jaeger said police received a similar report on Jan. 1, when someone allegedly recorded someone through a window in the same apartment complex. This time, Jaeger said, a witness was able to spot someone in the area, although police aren't sure its the same person.

The person spotted is described as a man between the age of 20 and 30 years old, with a medium build, wearing a dark hat, dark jacket and dark pants. Police are encouraging people who saw anyone suspicious during either incident to call 650-903-6395 and refer to case number 15-0004.

Kevin Forestieri

■ POLICE LOG

BATTERY

200 block Castro St., 1/1

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

1 block Pioneer Way., 1/1

300 block Ravendale Dr., 1/1

300 block E. Middlefield Road., 1/2

GRAND THEFT

2400 block Charleston Rd., 1/4

PEEKING INTO INHABITED BUILDING

2000 block California St., 1/1

STOLEN VEHICLE

2200 block Old Middlefield Way, 1/2

VANDALISM

800 block California St., 12/31

Moffet Blvd. & Stevens Creek Trail, 12/31

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MICHELLE LE

Mountain View High School girls varsity soccer team (blue) plays against Santa Clara High School on the artificial turf field.

Artificial turf called into question

SEN. JERRY HILL URGES A STATE-FUNDED STUDY
ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF RUBBER USED IN TURF FIELDS

By Kevin Forestieri

A local legislator is pushing to ban the use of artificial turf made of rubber from used tires as an overlay for fields amid concerns that the fields could be linked to cancer and other illnesses.

State Sen. Jerry Hill proposed a bill last month that would prevent cities and school dis-

tricts from installing artificial turf fields that use granulated chunks of used tires, known as crumb rubber or styrene-butadiene (SBR) rubber, for the next three years. The bill also proposes that the state conduct a comprehensive study on the health effects of crumb rubber on the people who use the fields.

Hill introduced the bill in response to growing concerns

from the public that the rubber surfaces on turf fields could be increasing the number of cases of leukemia and lymphoma among young athletes, as well as prostate, testicular and other cancers.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that our children aren't being harmed by materials used to make their fields and playgrounds," Hill said in a

► See **TURF**, page 9

Students kick off discount card program

DISCOUNT CARDS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES
WILL GENERATE MONEY FOR MVHS

By Kevin Forestieri

Two seniors at Mountain View High School are looking to leave one last gift for their fellow students before heading off to college: a student card that could score discounts for teens at businesses all over Mountain View.

Friends Alex Paulsen and Leo Hsia have been working together throughout the school year to create the discount card that students at the school can show to local businesses and get as much as 20 percent off food and haircuts, among other things.

Paulsen said their goal was to help students save money with the discounts while promoting the participating local businesses by attracting more students. He said it also helps the school, which will collect a \$20 fee for each card sold.

"We got the idea last year, and it's something we really wanted to do," Paulsen said.

Paulsen and Hsia coordinated with William Blair, assistant principal at the school, to make their idea a reality. The cards, which are slated to come out in the coming weeks, could include the student's name and photo so businesses can verify the student owns the card.

Blair said both Paulsen and Hsia have been able to track down eight businesses so far that are willing to participate in the student discount card program; they sought out teen-friendly

places that kids might go to during lunch period. Although Blair has helped guide the students on what is possible or even legal for setting up the card program, everything else has been done by the teens.

"They've done all the work," Blair said.

Paulsen said they went door-to-door asking for the manager or the store owner so they could pitch their idea. While some businesses were receptive to the idea and willing to try it out, Paulsen said, the common issue was among large corporate chains that couldn't accommodate a local student discount.

"They were too corporate, so they didn't have the power to make that decision," Paulsen said.

New York Pizza, Peet's coffee, Una Mas and Baskin Robbins are among the businesses that agreed to participate in the discount program.

Los Altos High School already has a similar discount card, called the "Eagle Card," which can be purchased for \$20 and can be used at 21 different local businesses, according to the school website.

There are still several details that need to be worked out before the cards can go live. The school needs to decide what to do with the money collected through card sales, and while Paulsen

► See **STUDENT CARDS**, page 7

Foothill College vying to offer new four-year degree

By Elena Kadvany

Foothill College is in the running to become one of the first California community colleges to offer a four-year bachelor's degree as the result of a bill that took effect Jan. 1.

The bill, which Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law in September, allows up to 15 community colleges to offer one baccalaureate degree in select vocational fields, as long as they meet a local workforce need and don't compete with or duplicate any programs already offered

at University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) campuses. In today's world of increasingly expensive college degrees — for some prohibitively so — the bill aims to give more Californians access to higher education, and at a more affordable price.

Thirty-six community college districts, half of the entire state system, submitted applications in December for a range of career-focused degree programs, from Foothill's dental hygiene to public safety, respiratory therapy, engineering tech-

nology and emergency services. Foothill chose dental hygiene after analyzing its own program and broader industry trends, said Andrea Hanstein, Foothill director of marketing and public relations.

Currently, only three private universities in California offer a four-year dental hygiene degree: the University of Pacific in Stockton, Loma Linda University and the University of Southern California. Annual tuition at those schools range from \$40,000 to \$48,000, Hanstein said. Foothill's program would cost about

\$10,500 per year.

"Community colleges were founded on the premise that everyone deserves an opportunity for education," Hanstein said. "To be able to have a program where we can increase the number of seats because we would be able to increase the number of students enrolled and then get them out there and employed — that's our mission in a nutshell."

Hanstein added that although the technical requirement to become a dental hygienist is a two-year degree, the American Dental Association (which

endorsed Foothill's application) has indicated it's moving toward having a bachelor's degree as the minimum entry-level requirement.

Foothill's dental hygiene program is also extremely popular, with an average of about 100 students applying each year for the 24 spots available, said Dental Hygiene Program Director Phyllis Spragge.

Foothill's students also often graduate with an excess of units — much more than the associ-

► See **FOOTHILL COLLEGE**, page 9

CITY COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

under criticism over it during the election.

Farewell to the council

"The last couple months have been pretty emotional, to be honest," said Abe-Koga. "Eight years, it is a long time, a fifth of my lifetime. It has been a roller coaster ride at times. I woke up every morning looking forward to challenges."

She said that during the recession in 2009, when she was mayor, "there were some sleepless nights ... about what kinds of cuts we'd have to make."

"Affordable housing will continue to be a challenge," Abe-Koga said, adding that she was looking forward to seeing the future council tackle that problem. She called the city's move to raise the minimum wage its "defining, shining moment." Last year the council voted to raise it to \$10 an hour this year and made it a goal to push it to \$15 an hour by 2018.

"We are really proud of what we have accomplished," Jac Siegel said. He estimated that he had spent between 400 and 500 evenings in meetings while on the council. He recalled meeting

President Barack Obama during the recession when he was mayor. After landing at Moffett Field, the president "came right to me and said, 'Mayor Siegel, it's a pleasure to meet you. We know what a wonderful city you have. It's one of the few cities that are creating jobs. It's really fantastic.'"

"People know about Mountain View and how great it is," Siegel said. "Mountain View is a small city with big heart, and it really is."

In her remarks, outgoing member Bryant said she had experienced "eight amazing and very intense years, filled with learning and challenges and a lot of personal growth and a lot of satisfaction."

"We really are a model for many places for how we get along and how truly diverse we are," Bryant said. "I'm proud of how our City Council works. I put a lot of effort to get my fellow council members to see things my way, often enough I've succeeded in convincing three others to vote with me. And it's not always been the same three people. Even across deep philosophical and ideological divides we can reach agreement and make good decisions."

"It's a wonderful tradition to have and something to cherish.

We put so much time, so much effort into what we do, it really is like a family. I come back from vacation and think, 'my family.'"

'People know about Mountain View and how great it is. Mountain View is a small city with big heart, and it really is.'

JAC SIEGEL

Among the things she said she's proud of: the city's new general plan; leaving the city more environmentally sustainable; new neighborhood parks; surviving the country's "financial meltdown"; plans for enhancements to the community center; adding affordable housing at an "accelerated pace"; the newly inaugurated teen center; and the new cross-town shuttle service.

"I was probably quite demanding as a council member, insist-

ing on clarity, trying not to edit everything," Bryant said. "Thank you for your trust. I believe I have helped move Mountain View in the right direction."

New council members

After hearing from the outgoing members, Showalter kept her comments brief.

"I am just delighted to be here," she said. "As many of you know, we've worked very hard for the three of us to get here." She thanked the outgoing members "who have really done a really wonderful public service to Mountain View."

Rosenberg's reaction to taking Bryant's seat on the dais: "This is quite overwhelming."

"I wanted to sit in your seat," Rosenberg said to Bryant. He said he had also followed her as chair of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association. "You don't strike me as a person who would become a politician, yet you were up here for eight years making difficult decisions and doing it with aplomb."

He acknowledged comments that the council was going to be less diverse without Abe-Koga, the only Asian American woman to serve on the City Council. "I will see if I can help at least another woman get elected two

years from now," Rosenberg said.

He acknowledged the hateful comments Abe-Koga said she had received as a council member because of her race, saying he had heard hurtful comments directed at him during the race for being Jewish. "It was really shocking and negative and hurtful," Rosenberg said. "These things are alive and well in Mountain View and we will tackle them."

Rosenberg talked about a cowbell he had been given by a young girl during his campaign, which he said he was going to keep near him and "use it as talisman to remind me of why I'm here." After hearing that one of Rosenberg's campaign signs had been stolen from a neighbor's yard, the girl had tied the bell to her family's Rosenberg sign, put the sign under her bedroom window, and tied it to a tree — to keep it from being stolen, she said. "I received these photographs; it was touching," Rosenberg said.

She presented the bell to Rosenberg when it appeared that he was winning on election night. "It was probably the most touching thing that happened to me on the campaign," he said. ▀

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Fate of Immigrant House awaits community discussion

By Daniel DeBolt

This spring residents will be asked to weigh in on the design of a new park on a 1.2-acre parcel at 771 North Rengstorff Ave., and along with it, help seal the fate of the city's smallest historic home, the Immigrant House.

The Friends of the Immigrant House have garnered some enthusiastic support of the community behind efforts to save the 400-square-foot house — which may be 150 years old — as an example of the tiny homes migrant workers once lived in. But some uncertainty around restoration costs and its final use has made fundraising a challenge.

Marina Marinovich — granddaughter of some former residents of the tiny house and leader of the effort to preserve it — said \$62,000 has been raised so far, including \$50,000 that Google donated early last year. But since then, Marinovich said, some grant requests have been turned down without a detailed list of restoration costs from the city.

Also raising concerns is that the city had an estimate done in 2012 that put the price of restoring the home at \$227,000. The Friends of the Immigrant House are being asked to raise half the final cost, and donors are asking why the estimate is so high.

“Without an itemized description of what is being funded, they really don't feel comfortable funding it,” Marinovich said of some potentially significant donors. “We got denied two grants because of that. I'm going to continue doing fundraising no matter what, but people are asking me why it's so much and I have no answer for them. If it really does cost that, then I guess it's OK.”

Also raising eyebrows is that the city of San Jose restored four similar “migrant cabins” for just over \$127,600 a few years ago for Kelley Park, including \$40,000 in donated architect fees. If the Mountain View house is in similar shape, that would put restoration costs closer to \$20,000, as Marinovich said local architects have also offered to donate their time to the project.

Public works officials were hesitant to immediately reveal the details of the 2012 estimate — done for free by a contractor the city is familiar with — to the *Voice* or anyone else. Another cost estimate will be made after the public planning process this spring, but deputy public works director Jacqueline Solomon said of the estimated cost: “I don't see how it could go down, because it was just to make it structurally sound and because it was in such poor repair. If you are build-

ing it from scratch, that's one thing, but when you are trying to restore it, that makes it that much more complicated.”

She added that the 2012 estimate was “pretty detailed” and put the construction costs at \$170,000, with the rest going to cover “project management and construction management, building permits, that sort of thing.”

The city had previously imposed a deadline on the fundraising that would have meant all funds were to be raised by this month. B on Dec. 9 City Council members unanimously approved an extension for fundraising for the house until September, after public works director Mike Fuller explained the situation. “Until they can demonstrate to prospective donors the context of the house and what that use might be, they are having trouble raising more funds.” He added that it will be up to the council whether to extend the deadline any further.

The Kiwanis Club has been involved in funding the house, and Nick Galiotto, past president of the club and former Mountain View mayor, described the hangup this way: “The actual use of Immigrant House is to be determined through the city

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STUDENT CARDS

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and Hsia want to use the money to support AVID, a program that prepares first-generation college-bound students for four-year

universities, Blair said it goes against the education code to spend student body money on an academic program like AVID.

Paulsen and Hsia plan to do announcements, contacting parents through school emailing

lists and the principal's weekly message, the “Grissom Gazette.” Paulsen said they might also create a commercial for the new card on a local television station.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

SHUTTLE

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stand it. So far it's awesome. I can get down to shopping, I can get to downtown, to Palo Alto Medical Foundation, I can go to Sylvan Park, my daughter can get to volleyball practice — it's great.”

Only three people boarded on its first clockwise loop around the city Monday morning, known as the “gray route.” The “red route” makes the same stops, in a counter-clockwise direction. It took just over an hour to ride the whole route.

As many people have yet to learn about the shuttle, people looked puzzled as the shuttle pulled up to bus stops (it shares a few stops with VTA). It is also expected that students at Graham middle school will be using

the shuttle in the afternoon, as it stops there, and perhaps Crittenden middle school students will find it convenient as well.

The first run seemed to go smoothly for passengers but wasn't without a few problems. A contractor had neglected to remove the temporary cover from one of the signs designating a shuttle stop at El Camino Hospital. There was a complaint that the schedule was difficult to read, as it is hard to distinguish the holiday and weekend schedule from the weekday schedule. Bike racks had yet to be installed, so one passenger's bicycle had to go inside the shuttle, though that didn't cause much of a problem.

The chief complaint was that the stop at the movie theaters on North Shoreline Boulevard and Pear Avenue seemed to be unnec-

essarily inconvenient. While the shuttle pulls up to the theater's front door to turn around, the actual shuttle stop is a bit of walk out from North Shoreline Boulevard, to the chagrin of several passengers who said they'd like to take the shuttle to the movies.

Alltrans staff said they had been working hard to get the shuttle ready, and would discuss passengers' comments in a meeting on Monday.

A shuttle arrives at each stop about every 30 minutes on weekdays and about every hour on weekends and holidays. It runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and from noon to 8 p.m. on weekends and holidays. ■

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TURF

► Continued from page 5

statement.

Mountain View has a number of fields that use crumb rubber from used tires, with more on the way.

The Mountain View-Los Altos school district installed new artificial turf fields at both Mountain View and Los Altos high schools over the summer, both of which include a layer of crumb rubber. The turf manufacturer, Field Turf, maintains that there are no associated health effects to using the rubber, according to Mike Mathiesen, associate superintendent of business services for the district.

Shelley Smith, athletic director for the district, said the new field replaced the old artificial turf that used to heat up to 110 to 125 degrees and had a harder surface, making it less comfortable to play on. He said so far the feedback on the new field has been positive, and he hasn't heard of any complaints about the health effects.

The Mountain View Whisman School District also has artificial turf at Graham Middle School, and has plans for an artificial

turf field at Crittenden Middle School.

The city of Mountain View has a crumb rubber field at Graham School Park, and plans to install acres of artificial turf for the new Shoreline Athletic Fields project, set to be complete by this summer. The project will include a softball field, a baseball field and two soccer fields all using crumb rubber turf, according to city staff member Ray Rodriguez.

Studies on the health effects of the crumb rubber fields to date have been anything but conclusive. The Environmental Protection Agency conducted a study in 2009 and found that the concentration of dangerous compounds were below the "level of concern," according to the EPA website. But by the EPA's own admission, the study was very limited — it looked at only four sites — and should not be used to "reach any comprehensive conclusion."

The 30 chemicals found in the crumb rubber include benzothiazole and trichloroethylene (TCE), compounds known to cause adverse health effects, as well as mercury, arsenic and lead, according to the EPA.

Hill's bill would seek to fill the holes left by the EPA study. Instead of four fields, the study would examine at least 20, and would look specifically at whether the low-level concentrations of toxic compounds and materials can cause leukemia and other cancers and illnesses. It would also examine alternative turf materials such as used shoes, cork, and rice husks.

The study would be paid for through the California Tire Recycling Management Fund, a state fund that collects fees from people who purchase new tires to pay for disposal of used tires.

The bill does not call for cities and schools to tear up existing fields or halt construction, but it would set a state-wide moratorium for new installations of artificial turf using crumb rubber from used tires until Jan. 1, 2018.

Some school districts, like the Los Angeles Unified School District, have already banned artificial turf using crumb rubber.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

► Continued from page 5

ate's degree they earn requires, Spragge said.

"My students have to take the same board exams as students who graduate from the four-year dental hygiene programs," she said, "so the scope of knowledge has to be equivalent, but the degree is not."

Only one other state community college district applied for a dental hygiene program (State Center Community College District in Fresno), but Hanstein said Foothill was told that in theory, both could be selected since the two schools are located in very different markets. Spragge also worked with the four other Bay Area community colleges that currently offer a two-year dental hygiene degree so Foothill would be the only one in the region applying for the expanded program. These four schools — Santa Rosa Junior College, Diablo Valley College, Chabot College and Cabrillo College — are also interested in aligning their curriculum with Foothill's if it is chosen as a pilot campus.

"Even though we only take 24 students a year, we're looking at this bachelor degree program to be larger in number and in scope," Spragge said.

Members of the California Community College Chancellor's Office staff, a member of the business and workforce community, representatives

from CSU, UC and community college administrators, faculty, and staff from districts that did not apply to host a program are reviewing the applications and will make a recommendation to the system's board of governors before the board's Jan. 20 meeting.

The board is expected to announce the 15 pilot colleges on Jan. 21. Considerations for selecting a district include geographic distribution of the pilot programs, diversity of pilot programs, ability of the district to establish a rigorous program in its proposed field, and the proposed program's ability to meet an unaddressed local or statewide workforce need, according to a November press release from the Chancellor's Office. Selected programs will also be accredited by Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

The legislation sunsets after the 2022-23 school year, after which the Legislature and governor may renew it pending two reviews of the pilot program, one in 2018 and another in 2022, according to the Chancellor's Office.

Selected districts can start their programs as soon as this fall, or must offer the degree by the 2017-18 academic year. Hanstein said that Foothill's program, if selected, would likely begin in fall 2016. Though Foothill applied as the Foothill-De Anza Community College

District, it would be offered only at Foothill's Los Altos campus. Foothill also requested as part of its application that graduates of its two-year dental hygiene program be allowed to return to earn a four-year bachelor's degree.

California is joining the 21 states that already allow their community colleges to offer four-year degrees. The state's Chancellor's Office said in the November release that "Further impetus for the measure comes from studies which show that California needs to produce 1 million more baccalaureate degree earners by 2025 to remain economically competitive in the coming decades. Community colleges are an efficient and economical way to help meet those needs due to their numerous locations throughout the state and modest tuition."

Locally, this new offering would allow Foothill to finally match the degree it awards dental hygiene students to the work they do, Spragge said. There are bachelor's completion programs that students who graduate with an associate degree can pursue, but that adds on further costs, both in time and money.

"It's not that there is no alternative, but in some ways it's an issue of fairness," Spragge said. "It's a degree that matches the level of preparation and work that they've done."

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweeekly.com



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HOMELESS

► Continued from page 1

finding a job have left him stuck without a place to live.

"Things just happen," he said, recalling how he used to lead a normal life working in construction. After washing his hair in a nearby faucet, he said he really misses being able to watch TV.

"It's those everyday conveniences," he said.

After about 22 years of living in Mountain View, Tom must relocate. He decided after doing some research on housing costs that he will move to Reno, where he has found affordable rent and living costs.

Tom is not alone. According to 2013 census data from Santa Clara County, Mountain View's homeless population is four times as large as it was in 2011. Tom Myers, executive director of Community Services Agency, said the local homeless population includes plenty of people who "fell" into homelessness because of the high cost of living in the affluent North County area.

Myers said there's a hard-to-break stereotype that homeless people are all drug addicts or mentally impaired, when in reality many of them are employed but sleep in their cars or behind buildings because they can't afford to continue living here anymore.

Tom said it's difficult for people in Mountain View to acknowledge homelessness as an issue, and that they'd rather not think about it. He said people "don't care" when they drive down the street and see him, and probably assume there's a reason he's homeless.

"They're thinking, 'he must do drugs, he's an alcoholic, there's a reason, it's his own fault,'" he said.

Tom said the recent cold weather



The entrance to a large homeless encampment off Stevens Creek Trail.

er has made it difficult to stay warm. He said he'll sometimes stay in a motel room for a night just to have a temporary place to stay, but it adds up quickly. Most of the time he tries to find a covered place to sleep.

Myers said CSA has homeless outreach services including classes on how to "survive the winter," and volunteers went out to find homeless people in Mountain View to give out blankets and information on the shelters throughout the county. Tom told the *Voice* that he wasn't aware of those homeless services.

Santa Clara County ranks worst in the nation among large metropolitan areas for the percent of homeless people who are "unsheltered," meaning they aren't couch-surfing or living in temporary homes — they're in vehicles, abandoned buildings, parks and behind businesses. Of the 139 homeless people in Mountain View, 136 are unsheltered, according to the 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress.

Creekside encampment

With few options on where to go, many homeless people in the

city have taken to the waterways, lining Stevens Creek with tarps and blankets, creating makeshift residences right by bustling Highway 85. Piles of trash and personal belongings sit side-by-side along the creek edge where homeless people sleep, out of sight from the rest of the city.

But living along creeks brings its own set of problems. The Santa Clara Valley Water District has been increasing efforts to clean up homeless encampments along waterways in the county, including this winter's high-profile clearing out of the huge encampment known as "The Jungle" in San Jose.

At the Dec. 16 district board meeting, Carol Fredrickson, the manager of the Watershed Field

Operations Unit, said the accumulation of trash from encampments can eventually hinder stream flow and water quality, and that it's the district's responsibility to actively try to keep waterways clear.

The problem, Fredrickson said, is that as the county's homeless population increases, it's going to be harder to keep up. More than 1,400 homeless people are now living on water district property along waterways throughout the county.

"The growth of the homeless population and their encampments has made maintaining our waterways more challenging," Fredrickson said.

She said the water district has received more and more com-



Tom says being judged by people is the hardest part of being homeless.



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El Camino Healthcare District supports a robust Community Benefit program, which addresses the persistent unmet health needs in our District. These needs are identified through a Community Health Needs Assessment conducted every three years. Community Benefit funded programs include nurses, mental health counseling at schools, safety net clinics, dental services, and programs to improve nutrition and increase physical activity.

For more information about programs in your community that are funded by the District, download our Community Benefit report at www.elcaminohealthcaredistrict.org/CommunityBenefit

Community Benefit at work — RotaCare caring for those in need

The RotaCare Clinic in Mountain View, a volunteer driven program, is one recipient of El Camino Healthcare District Community Benefit funds. RotaCare offers free medical services to residents who are uninsured. Services at this clinic include primary care, 13 medical specialties, counseling, and social work support.

One example is Sasha, age 50, who came to RotaCare to seek treatment for severe and chronic pain. Sasha had depleted her savings and she was unable to support herself because her level of pain made finding work a challenge. RotaCare staff diagnosed her condition with rheumatoid arthritis and began treating her condition while connecting her with a community service agency and food bank. Once Sasha's basic food and lodging needs were met, she was able to focus on her treatments, learn how to control her chronic condition, and improve her life.



EL CAMINO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

Mary E. McCue

February 3, 1926
– December 29, 2014
Resident of Mountain View

Mary E. McCue, a retired nurse who worked at Villa Siena in Mountain View, died Dec. 29 following a brief illness. She was 88.

Her first career was as a nurse, though she left it to become a doctor's wife and to raise six daughters. Once her children were grown, she returned to nursing and became director of nurses for Villa Siena until her retirement. She was a self-taught gourmet cook who was passionate about animal and human



rights, loved fine arts and music, and donated to many charities, her family said.

She is survived by her daughters Mary Ann, Kathie, Patty,

Judy, Barbara and Jean; grandchildren Wendy, Mary, David, Colleen and Tim; and three great-grandsons. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. John J. McCue, and her brother, John J. Titus.

A funeral service was held at St. Simon Catholic Church in Los Altos, with arrangements by Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary. The family prefers that memorial donations be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (nationalmssociety.org), The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (lls.org), or The Humane Society of Silicon Valley (hssv.org).

An online guestbook is at cusimanocolonial.com.

IMMIGRANT HOUSE

► Continued from page 7

process, yet potential funding sources need to know that end use."

The Friends of the Immigrant House would prefer that the structure be used as a static display with period-correct interior and furnishings so people can get an idea of how migrant workers

once lived in it. But the possibility has been raised that the tiny house would be used for other functions, possibly as some sort of gathering space.

At the Dec. 9 meeting, council members also approved \$168,100 for Callandar Associates to design the new park at 771 Rengstorff Ave., with public input this spring. Last year residents expressed support for a community garden

there, and for maintaining much of the fruit-bearing trees, bee hives and the vegetable garden on the site, previously owned for many decades by the Stieper family. The Stieper family home was left standing on the site at the request of the council in case there is a clear desire from the community to make use of it. ■

Email Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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City will regret light rail station decision

By Art Takahara

Looking back on the year 2014 we have seen many challenges in the areas of traffic and transportation. One of the most unfortunate actions or lack thereof will be noticed shortly, when the Evelyn Avenue light rail VTA station will be shut down and demolished.

This is happening because VTA has indicated there is a lack of ridership and also the need to change from a single track to a double track from the Castro Street station to the Whisman station. VTA failed to have a public hearing, which is the normal process if a station or a bus line were to be eliminated. Instead, the question was quietly taken into an early study session of the City Council and then approved. It was then taken to the VTA Board of Directors with no opposition.

I feel our City Council and city staff

lacked leadership and understanding when this decision was made. Maybe we need to review history back to 1991, when there was a heated competition to bring light rail to either downtown Mountain View or Sunnyvale.

Guest Opinion

As mayor in 1992, I represented the city of Mountain View at a Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting when the final decision was to be made. I stated our case that it should come to Mountain View and then-supervisor Rod Diridon asked if Mountain View was willing to put up \$15 million. After a few minutes of talking with the city manager and staff, we said yes — even though no other city had contributed to have light rail go through.

We felt that this action was needed to

support and serve both the businesses and the residents of our community. So the bottom line is that Mountain View purchased the right to have the light rail come through our community and on Castro Street. And that right included stations along our business and residential corridor. We also decided at that time to go to a single track.

So as we move forward into January the light rail will no longer stop at the Evelyn station, and in a few weeks the station will be demolished. This station is in the Evelyn and Pioneer area, an area that could see growth and redevelopment in coming years. And we gave away the station for good.

Unfortunately we will regret this decision for years to come.

Art Takahara is a former Mountain View mayor. He lives on Foxborough Drive.

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

RETHINK MEAT

I hope that many *Voice* readers saw the photo on page 15 of your Dec. 5 edition showing a pig, evidently terrified, being prepared for slaughter. And that they keep this in mind when they consider choosing pig meat products (such as ham, bacon, spare ribs, and so on) for their meals.

Pigs and other animals forfeit their lives in huge numbers for such consumption, and killing them is something that few of us ever have to experience firsthand. But we should always be aware of it and choose accordingly.

There are other options, and selecting these can be far healthier for both humans and pigs.

Bruce England
Whisman Station Drive

HOMELESS KIDS IN LAND OF WEALTH

There are currently over 250,000 homeless children in California, over 20,000 of those homeless children right here in the SF Bay Area, the wealthiest geographical region of the entire United States. This is not only unacceptable, it is morally reprehensible.

The collective high-tech industry here in the SF Bay Area is the driving culprit of the deluge of homeless children because the salaries paid by the collective high-tech industry are driving rents into the stratosphere, forcing thousands into the streets.

I calculated the collective corporate net-worth of the following six companies to be \$1.6 trillion: Google, Apple, HP, Oracle, Facebook, and Microsoft. Just these six companies here in the Silicon Valley could subsidize housing for every homeless child in the SF Bay Area if they collectively donated only 1 percent of their net worth. That would be a whopping \$16 billion, equivalent to \$800,000 per homeless child, enough to build a full-size home for each homeless child's family.

Step up, high-tech industry, and do the morally correct thing.

Jeffrey Van Middlebrook
Easy Street

OPEN LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT SKELLY

The following letter was sent to new Mountain View Whisman district Superintendent Kevin Skelly and the school board, in addition to the *Voice*.

Welcome to our community

and congratulations on your appointment as our new interim district superintendent. You may be aware that the community recently received a notice from the Mountain View Whisman Elementary School District regarding the formation of a Boundary Advisory Task Force (BATF). The current school attendance boundaries that you inherited are an anachronistic patchwork from the district's previous attempts at mitigating

social issues, foiling developers or leasing out schools.

Our school attendance boundaries desperately need resetting to properly accommodate our current needs, and to address future student population projections that naturally follow the exploding housing growth in Mountain View.

Most importantly, Mr. Skelly, we strongly urge you to please

► Continued on next page



An inherent contradiction in immigration movement

By Ron Sackman

I am writing in response to the article "An American Dream Deferred" from the Dec. 5, 2014, issue of the *Voice*. From 1999 through 2006 I worked extensively with an education and medical outreach project in western Guatemala. In 2001, we set up the first Internet cafe in that town. During those years I developed friendships with a number of wonderful people in that community. To a man/woman, all of them were committed to living in their community and making it a better place.

One of them was a colleague I will call Jorge, who eventually became the director of our Internet cafe. On the day we opened the Internet cafe, I was robbed at knife point while walking back to my hotel. Jorge later told me that my assailant was widely known in the community as a criminal. Jorge believed the only reason my assailant was not already in jail was negligence on the part of the local police.

A few years later, Jorge him-

self suffered a similar experience to the one described in the *Voice* article. A group of criminals apparently believed that Jorge was well-to-do due to his work as director of our Internet cafe. They approached Jorge, showed him pictures of his children and the paths they walked

Guest Opinion

to school, and demanded \$40,000 (in quetzals) not to harm them. Jorge decided to take out a loan and pay off the criminals. I certainly cannot judge Jorge's actions; I honestly do not know what I would do if faced with such a horrific decision. The criminals emphasized that Jorge could not trust the local police to protect his family.

Sadly, the circumstances described in the Dec. 5 *Voice* article are nothing new. These conditions and worse have existed in Guatemala for decades; I do not believe changing or worsening conditions in Central America are the primary force driving, for example, the current child immigration crisis in Texas.

The *Voice* article did highlight an inherent contradiction in the current immigration movement. Immigrants are attracted to the U.S. in large part because if you earn something here, you get to keep it. If you succeed here in work/business, you can generally invest your earnings or buy a house without fear of a crime ring or a corrupt police force stealing or extorting the fruits of your labor.

Ultimately, the rule of law in the U.S. is what makes this country an attractive destination for immigrants. This is the inherent contradiction when we support immigration by illegal means; we are eroding the very thing that attracts immigrants to our country in the first place. We are a nation of immigrants, and we are also a nation that benefits from the rule of law; we cannot sacrifice one at the altar of the other.

Ron Sackman is a Mountain View IT professional who spent several memorable years working with a development project in rural Guatemala.

LETTERS

► Continued from page 14

establish a district-wide policy of walkable neighborhood schools for all MVWSD students. Currently, the entire northeast quadrant of our community is not served by a walkable neighborhood school, despite the presence of two district elementary school sites. Mr. Skelly, our children need a new deal and our school attendance areas need a clean install and re-boot.

While there are concerns regarding the membership profile of the BATF, what is paramount for the community is the openness and transparency of the process. The parents and taxpayers need to feel included in every step taken by the task force for the end results to find acceptance in the community. The

most recent closed committee process with the Castro School Task Force proved to be very embarrassing for the district by showing a lack of open communication to the community affected by these decisions.

There are now sitting on the Board Facilities Committee (BFC) excellent community members who should be included on the BATF. They would bring not only their experiences from working on the BFC, but their excellent minds as well. These community members came forth early to the process as they are highly motivated and deeply concerned about our community's schools. The BFC has learned to function as a team, so may we suggest that you simply re-task the BFC, adding additional community members as needed, and let the BATF begin its work?

Perception is often reality, and

the BATF as currently proposed is a closed district committee reporting directly to the superintendent, and would appear to the community to be a pro forma administrative exercise. However, if the process is open, transparent and subject to the Brown Act, the district will have gone a long way toward rebuilding bridges with the community.

As the new interim superintendent, you have the opportunity, the power and the choice, to create a fresh new beginning, or to continue with the business-as-usual policies of the past.

Behind every challenge hides an opportunity. Mr. Skelly, we welcome you to the district and our community, and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to bring you up to speed with current concerns and hopes for our area.

*Robert H. Weaver
Tyrella Avenue*

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■ FOOD FEATURE

Neighborhood Sweet spot

More than
just a candy
store, Sweet
Shop in Los
Altos is a
community
hang-out

story by **Elena Kadvan** // photos by **Veronica Weber**

Stacy Sullivan has fond memories of visiting a now-defunct neighborhood market during her years as a student at Terman Middle School and Gunn High School in the 1960s. During lunch or after school, she'd hop on the bike path connecting Palo Alto to Los Altos, and ride a couple of miles to grab some candy or a drink at

Foodland, which was just a few steps up the road from the path's Los Altos entrance.

Foodland shut down around 2000 and stood vacant and neglected for years in the sleepy North Los Altos neighborhood. Sullivan, now a married mother of two who lives two streets away, said she was walking by



Above: Frozen yogurt is one of the sugary offerings at Sweet Shop in Los Altos.

Top: Besides traditional candy store fare, like jars of bulk gummy candies, customers can find more rarefied treats as well as breakfast and lunch menus.

one day with her family and thought, “We should just redo this, do a whole revamp and open this as something really cool for the community, something that could be a hangout.”

And thus, Sweet Shop — a quaint, wood-shingled cottage whose interior walls are lined with candy and painted sayings like, “Life is sweet!” — was born. Sullivan, a longtime Googler who is now the company’s “chief culture officer” (CCO), opened the shop in 2009 hoping it would become a community gathering space, rather than a popular cafe. All Sweet Shop proceeds go to local public schools, including Sullivan’s alma maters in Palo Alto and the Los Altos schools her sons attend. The shop makes donations a few times a year, often putting the money toward technology-focused educational efforts.

“It’s a nominal amount, but what’s nice is it’s kind of a big deal for the schools,” Sullivan said. “It’s more just the philosophy — we’re not doing this to make more money; we’re doing it because it’s a really fun, really great, and for us, really rewarding way to appreciate the community, which we really love.”

► Continued on next page



Hanging out at **Sweet Shop** on a recent afternoon are (from left), Mahita Bobba, Bella Vandenberg and Manasi Sastry, and Margie Suozzo with her children Molly and Max Dillon.

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Brightly colored sodas at Sweet Shop.

► Continued from previous page

Traces of that attitude are everywhere in the rustic, whimsical shop. The employees who ring you up or make your Verve Coffee Roasters latte are often Gunn or Los Altos High students and are on a first-name basis with some customers. A note on the tip jar at the front counter reminds you that all tips will go straight to local schools. A “Little Free Library” sits out front; customers and passersby

are encouraged to swap out the books with their own.

But back to the sweets. One large wall is dedicated to candies by the pound, with rows of teal-colored shelves stocked with glass jars full of traditional confections: M&Ms, peach rings and sour gummies. All candy is \$8.99 per pound. There’s even a gumball machine and Dippin Dots ice cream case.

Sprinkled throughout the shop are more high-end, carefully curated goodies: San Francisco’s TCHO and Poco Dolce chocolates, Lindt Lindor truffles and Twenty-Four Blackbirds chocolate (handmade in Santa Barbara).

The shop also serves frozen yogurt, breakfast sandwiches and panini. A small selection of baked goods are delivered daily from local bakeries including Icing on the Cake in Los Gatos and Kelly’s French Bakery in Santa Cruz. On a recent morning, there were buttery scones,



Above: Owner Stacy Sullivan says she aimed to make Sweet Shop a community gathering place as well as fundraiser for local schools.

Right: Chocolate-chip cookies and hot chocolate.



cinnamon morning buns, mini pecan pies and perfectly latticed strawberry rhubarb tartelettes. Breakfast is served all day, lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Breakfast comes in the form of a “croissantwich” (fresh croissant with two organic eggs and melted cheddar cheese, \$4.50) and an egg white “skinny” bowl (two fluffy organic egg whites, spinach, sun-dried tomatoes and generous dollops of goat cheese and warm, flavorful pesto on top; \$4.25).

The lunch menu is slightly more extensive, with six types of panini (\$4 to \$5.50) and

organic tomato soup (\$3.75 for a bowl). The panini are both kid- and adult-friendly. The “classic 1920” comes with grilled cheddar cheese on country-style wheat bread, while the “fondue” features brie, sliced apples and a drizzle of honey on sourdough bread. Indulge with the “dolce panini”: challah bread with Nutella and fresh strawberries, sprinkled with powdered sugar and chocolate chips.

“It’s a combination of something for everyone, essentially,” said Sullivan, who loves ice cream and frozen yogurt, but whose husband is a health freak.

Sweet Shop shows its commitment to the environment with solar panels on the roof and skylights to cut down on electricity use. The shop also uses all biodegradable or recyclable cups, plates, bowls and even plastic bags for the candy. But the real focus here is building community. In addition to supporting schools, Sullivan said

the shop participates in local book drives (bring in a book; get a free frozen yogurt) and has been used by neighbors as a stop on treasure hunts.

“A lot of people ask, ‘Is it what hoped it would be?’ If you go there on a given day, it’s usually buzzing with all kinds of people in the neighborhood and kids are coming on bikes and families doing their daily walks over to the Sweet Shop. It’s become such a local destination, which is exactly what we wanted.”



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MOVIE OPENINGS



ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

David Oyelowo plays Martin Luther King Jr. in *"Selma,"* a timely recounting of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery protest marches to secure equal voting rights for blacks.

King for the day

Ava DuVernay's *"Selma"* drops right on time for a symposium on civil rights activism

★★★ (Century 16, Century 20)

Perhaps it's best to start where *"Selma"* ends, with the song "Glory," in which hip-hop artist Common raps, "Resistance is us./That's why Rosa sat on the bus./That's why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up." Given that the film premiered November 11, just two weeks before a grand jury announced its decision not to indict the police officer who shot and killed black teenager Michael Brown, *"Selma"* strikes a timely chord in the ongoing struggle for African-American civil rights.

"Selma" isn't a Martin Luther King, Jr. biopic, something that has still eluded Hollywood (and thank King's heirs for that). But it is the first feature film to put King front and center as protagonist, and it stands an excellent chance at educating a generation about the hard work and imagination required for political change. Paul Webb's screenplay and Ava DuVernay's film begin as King (British actor David Oyelowo) readies, in Oslo, to accept the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. King frets about the pomp and wishes he were doing something more active about the climate that allows hate crimes (the Birmingham bombing, searingly revived in flashback) and voter discrimination (illustrated by Oprah Winfrey's Annie Lee Cooper being denied yet another voter registration application).

The stage set, *"Selma"* sets out to tell the tale of how King

was the calm center of the stormy three-month period in 1965 that built to three Selma-to-Montgomery protest marches and culminated in President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act. Oyelowo commendably wears King's public face (the actor's weight gain for the role contributes to a startling change of appearance), though King feels more enshrined than full-blooded in the film's treatment.

When *"Selma"* is on the ground, cataloging the strategizing of (and tensions between) the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, it's at its most useful: John Lewis

(Stephan James), James Bevel (Common), and Hosea Williams (Wendell Pierce) appear as key figures in a movement that wasn't King's alone. We also follow the civil rights leader to significantly high and low destinations: the Oval Office (for Mexican standoffs with Tom Wilkinson's sympathetic but hesitant and irritable LBJ) and a jail cell (where Nigel Thatch's Malcolm X visits and offers to be the scary alternative to answering King's demands).

It says something, though, that I sat down with a steady stream of coffee to watch *"Selma"* and still found it sleepy. At times, DuVernay's film plays like a talking textbook, with a slow cadence at that. The dialogue is speechy even when King isn't behind a podium (don't get me started on the dramatically D.O.A. scene about King's infidelity), and the characters' frustrations feel less like functions of humanity than illustrations of a thesis. Perhaps that's for the best — there's a certain rigor to it, and DuVernay's general sense of stylistic restraint befits King, just as Spike Lee's fire complemented his *"Malcolm X"* — but a story like *"Selma"* would've benefited from more passion or energy in its writing if not its filmmaking.

All in all, though, *"Selma"* is wet paint Americans (especially young ones) had probably best watch dry, as we remember the past and contemplate where the country goes from here.

Rated PG-13 for disturbing thematic material including violence, a suggestive moment, and brief strong language. Two hours, 7 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



CURTIS BAKER/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Tim Roth plays Alabama governor and segregationist George Wallace in *"Selma."*

MOVIE TIMES

Annie (PG) Century 16: 10:40 a.m., 1:35, 4:25, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.
Century 20: 10:20 a.m., 1:05, 4:20, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.

Big Eyes (PG-13) ★★★

Aquarius Theatre: 1:45, 4:30, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m. **Century 20:** Fri 7:55 & 10:30 p.m. Sat & Sun 10:50 a.m., 1:35, 4:20, 7:05 & 9:45 p.m.

Big Hero 6 (PG) Century 16: 11:40 a.m., 2:20, 5:05, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.
Century 20: 10:40 a.m., 1:25, 4:05, 6:45 & 9:25 p.m.

Birdman (R) ★★★

Palo Alto Square: 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m., Fri & Sat 10:05 p.m.

Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 20: 6:55 & 10:20 p.m.

Foxcatcher (R) ★★★1/2

Aquarius Theatre: 1:15, 4, 7:05 & 9:55 p.m.

The Gambler (R) ★★★

Century 20: 11:35 a.m., 2:25, 5:10, 8 & 10:45 p.m.

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 12:30 & 7:10 p.m. In 3-D at 3:50 & 10:25 p.m.

Century 20: 12:35 & 7:10 p.m. In 3-D at 3:50 & 10:30 p.m.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 10:35 a.m., 1:30, 4:35, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Century 20: 11 a.m., 1:55, 4:45, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

The Imitation Game (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: 11:25 a.m., 12:45, 2:15, 3:40, 5, 6:30, 7:50, 9:15 & 10:35 p.m.

Century 20: 11 a.m., 2, 4:50, 7:50 & 10:40 p.m.

Inherent Vice (R) Century 16: 10:30 a.m., 12:15, 2, 3:45, 5:30, 7:15, 9 & 10:45 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:10, 3:35, 7 & 10:20 p.m.

Interstellar (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 20: 11:10 a.m., 2:50, 6:30 & 10:05 p.m.

Into the Woods (PG) ★★★

Century 16: 10:30 a.m., 1:25, 4:20, 7:20 & 10:20 p.m.

Century 20: 10:20 a.m., 1:20, 4:25, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Turner (R) Century 16: noon, 3:30, 7 & 10:20 p.m.

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG)

Century 16: 11:55 a.m., 2:25, 4:55, 7:40 & 10:10 p.m.

Century 20: 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:35, 7:05 & 9:45 p.m.

The Penguins of Madagascar (PG) ★★ Century 16: 11:35 a.m., Fri & Sat 2 & 4:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:05 a.m., 1:40 & 4:10 p.m.

Selma (PG-13) Century 16: 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 & 10:30 p.m.
Century 20: 10:25 a.m., 1:30, 4:35, 7:40 & 10:40 p.m.

Taken 3 (PG-13) Century 16: 11 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:15 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 20: 10:35 a.m., 1:15, 4, 6:50 & 9:40 p.m. In X-D at 11:45 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 8 & 10:45 p.m.

Tevlar (Not Rated) Century 16: Fri & Sat 7 & 10:40 p.m., Sun 10 p.m.

The Theory of Everything (PG-13) ★★

Palo Alto Square: 1, 4 & 7 p.m., Fri & Sat 10 p.m.

Top Five (R) ★★1/2

Century 20: 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 5, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m.

Unbroken (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 12:15, 3:35, 7:05 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 12:50, 4, 7:15 & 10:25 p.m.

Wild (R) ★★★ Century 20: 10:55 a.m., 1:50, 4:40, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m.
Guild Theatre: 1:30, 4:15, 7:05 & 9:40 p.m.

The Wizard of Oz (1939) (Not Rated) Century 16: Sun 2 & 7 p.m.
Century 20: Sun 2 & 7 p.m.

The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (PG-13)

Century 16: 11:35 a.m., 2:10, 4:45, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

Century 20: 10:45 a.m., 12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:10 & 10:45 p.m., Fri & Sat 1:35, 4:05, 6:40 & 9:20 p.m.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)

CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)

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GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

HIGHLIGHT

‘THE TELL-TALE HEART’ AND OTHER TALES OF MURDER AND MAYHEM

This Mountain View Public Library story-time event for grown-ups will include readings of Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart” and other stories of horror. Hot cider will be on hand. RSVP is optional. Jan. 13, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 2nd Floor Reading Room, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6337. goo.gl/VXczXG

ART GALLERIES

‘Here & There’ Gallery 9 Los Altos will have on display a solo exhibit called “Here & There” of watercolor paintings by Suej McCall, inspired by the local artist’s travels. An opening reception will be held on Jan. 10 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Jan. 2-Feb. 1, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9 Los Altos, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

CLUBS/MEETINGS

ESL Conversation Club This weekly club at the Mountain View Public Library provides a place to practice English conversation skills with friendly company. All levels are welcome, no registration is required. Wednesdays, year-round, 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CSA Homeless Outreach Twice monthly a Community Services Agency social worker will come to the Mountain View Public Library to offer assistance to low-income and/or homeless individuals, providing information and referrals to community resources. Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, year-round, 9-11 a.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

Language Swap This weekly Mountain View Public Library event will allow community members to both practice speaking a different language and teach a language to others. All levels and drop-ins are welcome. Thursdays, year-round, beginning Jan. 22, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

Lego Day During Lego Day at the Mountain View Public Library, adults can enjoy lunch while playing with Legos from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; afterward, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., all ages can participate. No registration is required. Thursdays, Jan. 15-April 16, 12:30-3 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

Sew Sew Saturday The Mountain View Public Library invites community members to drop by on Saturday mornings to use its four Baby Lock (Grace model) sewing machines and one serger. Appointments are required. Saturdays, year-round, 10:15 a.m.-noon. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. goo.gl/TnrYXS

Step Out for Pro-Choice Two local branches of the American Association of University Women will come together to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade with a program featuring two Stanford professors speaking on women’s health and safety. The event will be followed by a walk around downtown to demonstrate support for abortion rights. Jan. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$2 (to defray expense). Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-968-8476.

Tri-City Business Mixer The chambers of commerce of Palo Alto, Los Altos and Mountain View will hold their annual Tri-City Business Mixer, featuring more than 30 exhibitors. Attendees should bring business cards or resumes. Jan. 14, 5:30-7 p.m. \$10 in advance; \$20 at the door. Crowne Plaza Cabana Palo Alto, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-324-3127. www.eventbrite.com/e/tri-city-business-mixer-tickets-14324594247

CONCERTS

‘Torment and Triumph’ Jeffrey Siegel will perform one of his unique ‘concerts with commentary,’ this time focusing on the topic of “Torment and Triumph: Romantic Music of Franz Liszt.” Jan. 15, 7:30-9 p.m. \$25 member, student; \$30 general; \$35 at the door. Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8664. paloaltojcc.org/Cultural-Arts/Music

Chapman University Singers The Chapman University Singers, a choral ensemble from Chapman University in Southern California, will give a concert of pieces ranging from medieval and Renaissance-era selections to international folk songs and contemporary sacred music. Jan. 21, 7 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School Spartan Theatre, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. Call 714-997-6871. www.chapman.edu/choir-tour

Filipino Gong Music and Dance Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo and Nancy Wang of Eth-Noh-Tec will offer a music and dance performance in the Kulintang tradition from the Southern Philippines island of Mindanao. Jan. 18, 2-3 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/concerts.htm

DANCE

Wonderful Winter Workshop The Wonderful Winter Workshop will offer eight master classes on a number of dance styles — including Dunham, Salsa, contemporary and line dancing — as well as Pilates. Classes are suited to a variety of experience levels; no partner is needed. Class prices reduce with each additional class participants take. Jan. 18, 12:30-5:30 p.m.; Jan. 20, 6-9 p.m. \$25-\$77 general. Mountain View Masonic Center, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-4110. www.livelyfoundation.org/wordpress/?=cat2

EXHIBITS

‘Beginning with Water’ This exhibit will showcase the work of Community School of Music and Arts faculty and students, both adults and youth as young as age 5. Their work incorporates water both as a material and a theme. Dec. 12-Jan. 11, center hours. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm

‘Raúl Cañibano: Storyteller’ The Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College will host an exhibit called “Raí Cañibano: Storyteller,” which shares images by the Havana-based photographer which capture Cuba, its people and their struggles in the post-revolution era. On Jan. 21, there will be an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m.. Jan. 21-March 11, center hours. Free. Krause Center for Innovation, KCI Gallery, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7082. raulcanibano.wordpress.com

FAMILY AND KIDS

‘Animals, Seasons & Other Musical Fantasies’ For the next Music Journeys event with Frank Levy, the Oshman Family JCC will host a concert called “Animals, Seasons & Other Musical Fantasies.” Levy will introduce young listeners to music by Copland, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Beethoven and other composers that is inspired by animals, stars and the moon. Jan. 11, 3 p.m. \$20 advance; \$25 at the door. Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8664. www.paloaltojcc.org/levy

FILM

‘A Path Appears’ film screening (Part 1) The Oshman Family JCC will host screenings of the PBS trilogy, “A Path Appears,” based on the popular book by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. The first episode examines how young women in America are coerced into a life of prostitution, as well as what programs are trying to change that. Part 2 will be screened on Jan. 28 and Part 3 on Feb. 5. Jan. 14, 7 p.m. Free. Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8664. www.paloaltojcc.org/apathappears

HEALTH

Free YMCA fitness course This weekly course led by YMCA instructors will guide participants in beginner level strength training to develop balance, flexibility, posture, coordination and fall prevention. Classes are appropriate for all levels and backgrounds. Registration is required. Wednesdays, Jan. 7-June 24, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

Jacki’s Aerobic Dancing Jacki’s Aerobic Dancing classes, held three times per week, lead participants in abdominal work, strength training and aerobic routines. Complimentary child care is available. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, year-

round, 9-10 a.m. \$36/month; \$5/class. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 650-941-1002. www.jackis.com

LIVE MUSIC

The Tuttles with A.J. Lee Palo Alto musicians The Tuttles will be joined by A.J. Lee, a 16-year-old phenomenon from Turlock, in this bluegrass concert hosted by Redwood Bluegrass Associates. A jam session will be held prior to the show at 5 p.m. Jan. 17, 7:30-10 p.m. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; half-price for teens, students; free for those under age 13, music students. First Presbyterian Church, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-793-0720. www.rba.org

ON STAGE

‘2 Pianos 4 Hands’ TheatreWorks will put on a production of “2 Pianos 4 Hands,” a comic coming-of-age story about two piano students who fall just short of stardom. Featured music ranges from Bach and Beethoven to Scott Joplin and Jerry Lee Lewis. See website for specific times, dates and pricing. Jan. 14-Feb. 8. \$19-\$74; discounts available for educators, seniors, those age 30 and under. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-463-1960. www.theatreworks.org

‘Eurydice’ The Palo Alto Players will put on a production directed by Jeffrey Lo of the play “Eurydice,” a contemporary re-imagining of the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice that explores themes of memory, love and loss. The play is recommended for viewers ages 12 and older. Jan. 16-Feb. 1, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$31-\$45. Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-0891. www.paplayers.org

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Author Guy Finley on ‘The Secret of Your Immortal Self’ Guy Finley, author of “Letting Go,” will share some insights from his new book, “The Secret of Your Immortal Self: Key Lessons for Realizing the Divinity Within.” Jan. 12, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. East West Bookshop, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-988-9800. www.eastwest.com

Insight Meditation South Bay Shaila Catherine and guest teachers will lead weekly Insight Meditation sittings, each to be followed by a talk on Buddhist teachings. Tuesdays, Jan. 6-March 17, 7:30-9 p.m. Donations accepted. St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, Edwards Hall, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-857-0904. www.imsb.org

SUPPORT GROUPS

Meet & Move orientation The Meet & Move program, created by El Camino Hospital and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, provides an opportunity for adult family caregivers to share their experiences with each other while walking. The program serves community members in Mountain View, Los Altos, Sunnyvale, Cupertino and surrounding communities. Jan. 13, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-934-3556. www.elcaminohospital.org/Patient_Services/Health_Library/Meet_and_Move_Program

LECTURES & TALKS

‘Oriental Carpets in Renaissance Paintings’ For this fundraiser for Warm Hearth, an Armenian charity helping young adults with disabilities, art historian Lauren Arnold will give a slide lecture on oriental carpets in Renaissance paintings. A reception will follow. Jan. 10, 5-7 p.m. Free (donations encouraged). Christ Episcopal Church of Los Altos, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Call 650-941-5079. ccla.us

‘Photographer or Artist?’ The Town of Los Altos Hills will host Susanne Karlak to give a slide lecture called “Photographer or Artist?” in which she will discuss her own work and what makes a photograph artistic. Refreshments will be served. An exhibit of Karlak’s work called “Painterly

Photographs” will be on display at the town hall through March 1. Jan. 22, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-941-8073. www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/city-government/community-calendar

Alyssa Gallagher on ‘Using New Methods of Teaching to Inspire Curiosity and Creativity’ St. Timothy’s Preschool will host Alyssa Gallagher, director of strategic initiatives and community partnerships for the Los Altos School District, who will give a talk for parents called “Using New Methods of Teaching to Inspire Curiosity and Creativity.” Jan. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. St. Timothy’s Preschool, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-967-4724. www.sttimothypreschool.org

Author Seth Grahame-Smith on ‘The Last American Vampire’ Seth Grahame-Smith will share his new book “The Last American Vampire” — the sequel to his bestselling book “Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter” — which takes up the story with vampire Henry Sturges after the death of his friend Abraham Lincoln. Jan. 21, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. www.booksinc.net/event/seth-grahame-smith-books-inc-mountain-view

Authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn on ‘A Path Appears’ The Oshman Family JCC will welcome Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn to read from and discuss their latest book, “A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity,” an inspirational book about creating change around the world. Jan. 11, 6 p.m. \$15 in advance; \$25 at the door. Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8664. www.paloaltojcc.org/kristofwudunn

Brent Sverdlhoff and Sarah Goodwin on ‘How Could I Forget You!’ Books Inc. in Mountain View will welcome memory instructor and artist Sarah Goodwin to discuss their recent book, “How Could I Forget You! A Creative Way to Remember Names and Faces.” Jan. 14, 7 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. www.booksinc.net/event/brent-sverdlhoff-sarah-goodwin-books-inc-mountain-view

Greywater systems talk Alan Hackler will lead a discussion about low-tech, residential greywater systems, through which community members can re-use waste water from washing machines, sinks and baths in their home gardens. Registration is optional. Jan. 14, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

Kasia Bryc on DNA analysis For the next Technology and Society Committee Luncheon, Kasia Bryc, a population geneticist at Mountain View-based DNA analysis service 23andMe, will provide an overview of DNA analysis technology, the info contained in an ancestry report and some stories of how people have connected through the results. Jan. 13, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. \$12 lunch. Hangen Szechuan Restaurant, 134 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-7215. tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml

Peninsula Astronomical Society: ‘Space Launch System’ At January’s meeting of the Peninsula Astronomical Society, Faride Khalaf will give a free public lecture entitled “Space Launch System - Our Next Ride into Space.” The observatory will be open after the meeting from 9 to 11 p.m., weather permitting. Attendees should park in Lot #6. Jan. 9, 7:30-9 p.m. Free; \$3 parking. Foothill College, Room 5015, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. www.pastro.org/dnn

TEEN ACTIVITIES

Author Jennifer Niven with ‘All the Bright Places’ Jennifer Niven will visit Linden Tree Books to discuss her new young adult love story, “All the Bright Places,” which is heading to the big screen in a film with Elle Fanning. Jan. 9, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-949-3390. www.lindentreebooks.com

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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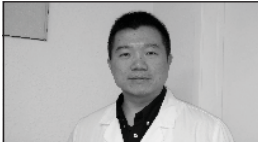
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File No.: 599869
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This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
DIANA OLIVARES
255 S. Rengstorff Ave., Apt. 126 Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Jan. 5- 2015. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 5, 2015. (MVV Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015)

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RENTWATCH

Can I charge each tenant a fee for utilities?

edited by Anky van Deursen

Q I am a landlord who owns and manages a couple of four-plexes. I have always paid for all the utilities — garbage pick-up, electricity and water — for my tenants. However, I started to notice recently that the utility bills were getting very expensive at my properties. Some tenants seem to be running the heat even when the temperature is in the high 60s, while others seem to be using a lot of water.

Because the utility costs are so high, I am thinking of increasing the rent on my apartments by \$80 per person to help defray these costs. My wife, however, is concerned that we might get in trouble under the Fair Housing laws for doing this. Are we allowed to institute such a policy?

A Your wife is correct that you should be careful about making such a policy. Charging rent on a per-person basis, which in essence is what you propose doing, may constitute



discrimination on the basis of familial status. Under the Fair Housing laws, if a landlord establishes a rule or policy that has the effect of discriminating against a protected category of people, even if

the rule or policy does not expressly discriminate against anyone, the policy or action can still be unlawful.

Here, although you are interested in establishing a neutral policy that would apply to all of your tenants equally, regardless of their protected class, your policy could have the discriminatory effect of unfairly penalizing families with children. And, as you probably know as a housing provider, families with children are a protected group under the Fair Housing laws. Your policy may have a discriminatory effect on your tenants who are families with children because you would be

charging a family of five, for instance, an additional \$400 for a two-bedroom unit, while you would be charging a couple only an additional \$160 for that same two-bedroom unit.

Because renting to families with children, almost by definition, means that more people will be living in a single housing unit, compared to tenants that are not families with children, charging rent per person will mean that most families will have to pay higher rent to live in the same apartment than other tenants who are not families with children would. Statistics tell us that such a policy, applied broadly, would effectively deny families with children housing opportunities on the same footing as families without children.

Moreover, the higher rent may not be justified by business considerations because (1) it is wrong to assume that families with children will use more utilities than other tenants; (2) and imposing a flat \$80 probably does not accurately reflect the additional cost incurred by

that family. What if the family of five includes a newborn who does not use any extra utilities? Or one of the individuals in the couple's unit likes to take very long showers? What about the possibility that the family of five is very eco-conscious and always turns off lights in rooms they are not in, while the couple leaves lights on all the time and likes to keep their unit at 70 degrees?

On the other hand, you *can* charge for the utility costs of your tenants if it is based on the actual costs they incurred. So if you did a break-down of the utility costs per unit, you can use those break-downs to request that tenants pay for some of their utility costs.

Project Sentinel provides landlord-tenant dispute resolution and fair-housing services in Northern California, including rental housing mediation programs in Mountain View, Los Altos and Palo Alto. Call 650-856-4062 for dispute resolution or 650-321-6291 for fair housing, email info@housing.org or visit housing.org.

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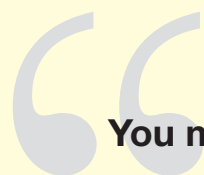
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2015 beginning Real Estate Inventory in our local areas:

City:	Total Active Properties:	Lowest	Highest:
Santa Clara	16	\$ 337,000	\$ 1,999,000
Sunnyvale	9	\$ 439,950	\$ 2,995,000
Mountain View	8	\$ 409,000	\$ 1,999,800
Los Altos	4	\$1,999,999	\$ 6,995,000
Los Altos Hills	12	\$2,950,000	\$15,000,000
Palo Alto	8	\$1,800,000	\$10,000,000
Menlo Park	10	\$ 698,000	\$ 3,825,000

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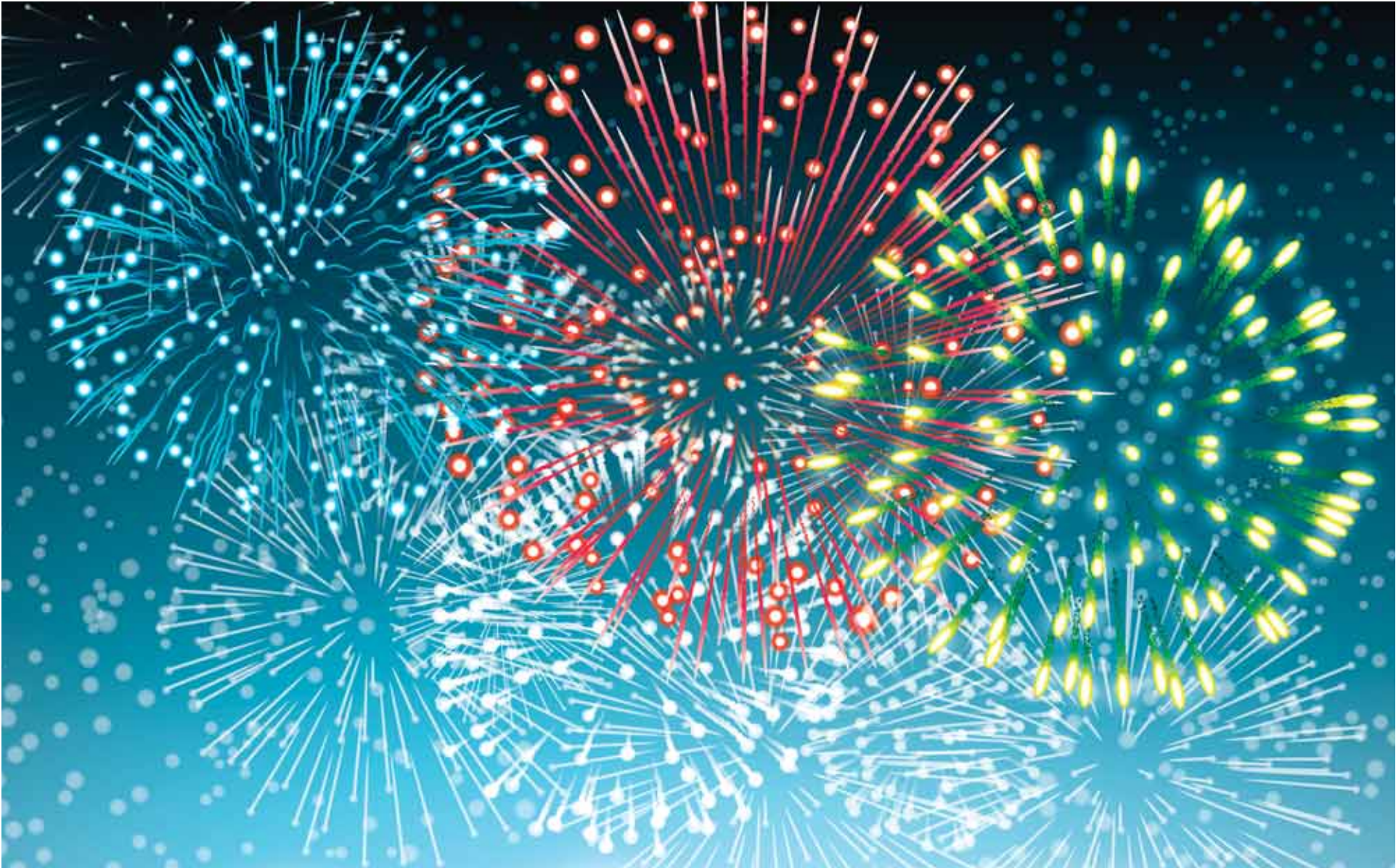
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4030 Altadena Lane 4 BR 2.5 BA Sprawling estate, soaring ceilings,
gorgeous kitchen, spacious master, park like grounds.
Gordon Ferguson CalBRE #01038260 650.325.6161



EAST PALO ALTO Pending **\$648,888**
1249 Runnymede St 6 BR 2.5 BA Rare ~9,800+ SF lot w/tons of
potential, major remodel or build new, bring your contractor
Clara Lee CalBRE #01723333 650.325.6161



SAN MATEO Sat 11 - 2 **\$579,000**
1543 Day Ave #B 3 BR 1 BA Well maintained home with 3 bedrooms
and 1 bath in the desirable Marina Gardens area.
Enmanuel Tepeu CalBRE #01801231 650.325.6161



CENTRAL SAN JOSE **\$525,000**
1026 Liebelt Ct Willow Glen Grand Townhs 2 BR 1.5 BA Willow Glen
Grand SFR-Like 2 Story, End-Unit Townhouse w/ Large Backyard.
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367 Azalia Dr 3 BR 1 BA Located in the Gardens near schools. 3
bedroom home with an open floor plan.
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SUNNYVALE Sun 1 - 4 **\$429,888**
999 W. Evelyn Ter 1 BR 1 BA Well located in SU's Courtyard complex.
Easy access to commute routes. Ground flr condo.
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SAN JOSE (SOUTH) **\$269,900**
3219 Kenhill Dr Unique Huge End Unit 1 BR 1 BA Gorgeously
remodeled kitchen w/covered private patio & attached 1 car garage.
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