

# Mountain View VOICE

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MOVIES | 21



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Brian Schonfeld** tests blood sugar levels with a "finger prick" test for a CSA client during a free diabetes screening.

## Teaming up to beat diabetes

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL JOINS FORCES WITH CSA TO REACH VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

By Kevin Forestieri

Dozens of people showed up at the doors of Community Services Agency on Tuesday, some arriving an hour early, to get screened for diabetes. It may not sound like an occasion to get excited about, but needy residents of Mountain View appeared eager to take

advantage of a new program that takes on diabetes and fights the root causes of the disease.

The program, called Challenge Diabetes, is a four-month-long pilot program where people, free of charge, can come in and get their blood sugar tested for diabetes and pre-diabetes. While at CSA, they can pick bags of food, recipes

and information on how to stave off the disease. The program is a partnership between El Camino Hospital, Community Services Agency (CSA), Sunnyvale Community Services, West Valley Community Services and Second Harvest Food Bank.

► See **DIABETES**, page 10

## Council OKs Rengstorff community center design

\$17 MILLION IN IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPANSION PLANNED FOR AGING FACILITY

By Kevin Forestieri

After years of delays and scaled-back plans to improve Mountain View's community center at Rengstorff Park, the City Council on Tuesday approved a design that would renovate the 50-year-old building and expand the facility deeper into the park.

The design calls for an entirely

new "social hall" to be added to the side of the community center facing the park, big enough to fit 250 seats and support large events. The existing social hall will be renovated and converted into a preschool room.

The \$17 million face-lift will add about 6,700 square feet to the center.

Council members approved the design in a 5-1 decision at the

March 24 meeting, with council member John Inks dissenting and Mayor John McAlister absent.

While the price tag on the renovation is substantially less than re-doing the whole building, and a big step back from the original \$140 million improvement plans to Rengstorff Park

► See **RENGSTORFF**, page 7

## Full steam ahead on park plans and bike improvements

NEW CITY COUNCIL REVISITS PLAN FOR BIG INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

By Kevin Forestieri

Citing transportation enhancements and environmental sustainability as top key issues last month, the Mountain View City Council took a first step toward re-prioritizing major infrastructure projects for the next five years, including a renewed emphasis on bike and pedestrian improvements and possibly a grade separation for the Caltrain crossing at Rengstorff Avenue.

Council members re-visited the five-year list of the city's capital improvement projects a year early because of the huge influx of new potential projects and the changing priorities of the City Council following the November election, according to the city staff report. Council members decided last month that affordable housing, improved transportation and environmental efforts should be the main focus of their decisions and development plans.

Because many of the projects draw from the same funding source, reserve funds and so-called "Construction and Conveyance" taxes, council members had to weigh in on what will take priority if there aren't enough funds to go around.

This year the city has about \$3.1 million in funding for discretionary projects. Council members gave the green-light to put \$130,000 towards designing plans for a bike boulevard on Latham and Church streets between Grant Road and Showers Drive, \$250,000 towards bike paths along Calderon Avenue and about \$1 million on major bicycle and pedestrian projects that have yet to be determined from the city's Complete Street Study or Bicycle Transportation Plan.

Other projects didn't win the

same level of support. Council member Mike Kasperzak questioned the city's plan to spend as much as \$1.7 million on designing and constructing pedestrian and bike improvements at the intersection of Castro Street, Moffett Boulevard and Central Expressway when council members had talked about the possibility of closing Castro Street to traffic at the train tracks earlier this month.

Mike Fuller, the city's public works director, said the decision on whether to close traffic onto Castro street is still years away, and the improvements would help to fix the immediate problems regarding safety and people crossing the street. Council member Ken Rosenberg agreed.

"Crossing (Central) is a hazard to your health," Rosenberg said.

A majority of council members also gave the thumbs-up to look into a grade separation project for the Caltrain tracks at Rengstorff and Central Expressway, although they also expressed skepticism over the fate of the train tracks amid the state's plans for high-speed rail. Fuller admitted that it's hard to know what to do, but suggested it might be good to at least get environmental clearance for grade separations, at a cost of about \$1 million. City Manager Dan Rich said having clearance will keep city officials from scrambling if grant money or federal funds come along to help pay for the projects.

Council member Lenny Siegel said he had his reservations, and noted that Palo Alto is not going for grade separation.

"I'd hate to jump the gun and start doing environmental work before we get a good idea of what

► See **PLANS**, page 6

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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Rachel Lee.

*What public transit improvement would you like to see in Mountain View?*



“So if money was no object, and in terms of new transportation and innovations, I would like to see protected bike lanes.”

**Emily Darling**, San Jose



“The high-speed train. I think that it would be a definite boon to travel, not only by commuters here locally, but also across California, and allow for people to find housing in a broader area and still have a reasonable commute to work.”

**Angela Becerra Vidergar**, Mountain View



“It would be nice to have more buses coming every 10 minutes because there (have) been delays and it’s been kind of a pain to go through that. I think the whole concept right now is pretty good, but if they could improve the frequency, I think that would service the people better.”

**Paul Duvillier**, Mountain View



“Ideally, in a perfect world, a kind of Caltrain system that is run on just cleaner and more renewable energy.”

**Wendy Wu**, Mountain View



“Something like an express shuttle that doesn’t have to sit in traffic — almost like an above- or below-ground kind of rapid transit system — or just taking a shuttle that actually covers the city so you can go from downtown to Shoreline or San Antonio or the hospital.”

**Trenton Hill**, Mountain View

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## LocalNews

### CRIME BRIEFS

#### ASSAULT AT MONTA LOMA

Police are looking for two suspects after a man was attacked by two men Sunday evening while he was flying remote-controlled aircraft at Monta Loma Elementary School, according to police.

The victim, a Mountain View resident, was flying the aircraft at about 6:30 p.m. and was approached by two men while he went to retrieve it, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department. One of the two men allegedly picked up the aircraft and threatened the victim, according to police, and when he tried to get his aircraft back, the man punched him multiple times. The second man also attacked the victim, police said.

The two men were seen fleeing on foot, accompanied by a woman, towards Laura Lane. Police say the suspects were also seen kicking the doors to a nearby bathroom prior to the assault.

One suspect was described as a heavy-set Hispanic man wearing a baseball hat and white shorts. The other was described as a tall man in his late teens or early twenties, police said.

Anyone with more information on the attack or the identity of the suspects can call 650-903-6345 and refer to case number 15-1494.

#### GOOGLE'S FIBER OPTIC CABLES STOLEN

Police arrested a San Jose man last week after he allegedly made his way into a company garage on the Google campus and attempted to steal spools of fiber optic cable.

Company security reported that the man, 52-year-old Octavio Ramos, entered a secured garage of one of the buildings at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway on the evening of March 20. Once inside, he stole several spools of the cable and fled the area, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Officers were able to locate Ramos nearby and arrested him on charges of burglary, where he was found to be in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, Jaeger said. Ramos was booked into San Clara County Main Jail.

—Kevin Forestieri

### POLICE LOG

#### BATTERY

300 block Castro St., 3/18  
Central Expy. & Moffett Blvd., 3/19  
800 block Cuesta Dr., 3/19  
500 block Ortega Av., 3/21

#### COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

2100 block University Av., 3/19  
1600 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 3/20

#### GRAND THEFT

500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 3/23  
1000 block Crestview Dr., 3/23

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1700 block Wright Av., 3/18  
1000 block Space Park Way, 3/18  
70 block Cuesta Dr., 3/21  
100 block Fair Oaks St., 3/21

#### TERRORIST THREATS

300 block Mariposa Av., 3/21

#### VANDALISM

Laurel Way and Whits Rd., 3/23  
200 block Franklin St., 3/23

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### OPEN MIC NIGHT BENEFIT

The Waldorf School of the Peninsula's senior class will be hosting an open mic night on Friday, March 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. According to Alyssa Abe, a student organizer for the event, students from Los Altos, San Jose, and Santa Cruz will be performing.

The event is being held at the school, located on the campus of St. Athanasius Church, 180 N. Rengstorff Ave. Admission is \$5 and the profits benefit the Waldorf senior class of 2015. A silent auction for 10 to 20 works of art such as paintings and drawings, will also be held.

Contact Alyssa Abe at [alyssaabe97@yahoo.com](mailto:alyssaabe97@yahoo.com) or Waldorf School of the Peninsula at 650-417-7600 for more information.

—Rachel Lee

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MICHELLE LE

## GIVE A CAT A HOME

Lily doesn't quite know what to make of her temporary quarters at the Silicon Valley Humane Society's adoption center inside the Mountain View PetSmart on East Charleston Road. Cats Lily and Coralee, plus a puppy named Potter, prowled their corner of the store on Tuesday, waiting to be discovered and adopted into a new family. The location, which opened in November, is the third such outpost for the Milpitas-based branch of the Human Society that serves Mountain View. "Our ability to save lives depends on finding loving homes for the animals we rescue as quickly as possible, and the Neighborhood Adoption Centers have been a hugely successful means of increasing adoptions and decreasing the time it takes for animals to find a forever home," according to Carol Novello, president of Humane Society Silicon Valley.

## Can Mountain View afford a new school?

TASK FORCE UNEASY WITH COSTS, ENROLLMENT NUMBERS IN MV WHISMAN DISTRICT

By Kevin Forestieri

Members of the Mountain View Whisman's Boundary Advisory Task Force are poised to decide whether it's the right time to open a school in the Whisman and Slater neighborhood area. But concerns over under-enrollment and millions of dollars in additional costs are still top issues that could sink the idea entirely.

The task force met Tuesday, March 24, following the school board's feedback last week, which among other things advocated for opening a ninth school and against moving or closing any existing schools, including Theuerkauf and Stevenson elementary schools. The best fit for that scenario would be opening a new school in the Whisman area and leaving all other schools intact, according to a district staff report.

While it sounds like a slam-

dunk decision that fits the board's tastes, it would likely cost the district about \$1.9 million annually, due to higher operational costs and lost revenue from tenants leasing the site. Most task force members agreed they have no idea what that means for the district.

Ronit Bryant, a task force member and former Mountain View City Council member, said if that can be done then that's wonderful, but it doesn't make any sense for them to be making a budgetary analysis and decide for the board what should be done on a financial level.

"I can't discuss that, I really can't. I don't have the data for that," Bryant said.

District staff are still recommending against nine schools because it would not be financially feasible for the district. According to the staff report, that money would have to come from district-wide cuts to programs and staff. Some task force

members said they had a hard time considering the plan without knowing what those cuts look like.

Student enrollment in the plan also troubled task force members because Theuerkauf, Landels and Monta Loma Elementary are all projected to drop to a very low number of students after the proposed Whisman attendance boundary siphons off students. Monta Loma, the smallest, could drop the 321 students, according to staff projections. The district's suggested minimum for students at each school is 450.

What's more, Monta Loma would see a sharp increase in English-language learners and socioeconomically disadvantaged students, which task force members worried could deter even more students from attending and forcing a school closure.

Task force member Thida Cornes said the plan works in the sense that it makes everyone

► See **NEW SCHOOL**, page 10

## Board rejects closing down Theuerkauf

TRUSTEES SPLIT ON MOVING PACT, OPENING A NINTH SCHOOL

By Kevin Forestieri

After a marathon discussion last week that drew an overflow crowd of parents, members of the Mountain View Whisman school board indicated they had no appetite for closing down a neighborhood school. Earlier plans drafted by district staff singled out Theuerkauf Elementary School for possible closure.

And while it was a first step towards coming to a consensus on decisions to redraw the patchwork of school boundaries and meet demands to open a school in the Whisman and Slater neighborhood area, the board could only offer split votes and a handful of ideas on how to go forward.

At the March 19 meeting, the majority of the board opposed the idea of closing an existing school in order to open a new one in the northeast quadrant of the city. Two of the five board members, Ellen Wheeler and Steve Nelson, indicated that they would still be willing to look at options where the Stevenson campus is closed and its parent participation (PACT) program is moved to another location.

"PACT is a program, not a school, so I'm willing to close Stevenson," Wheeler said. She was the only trustee willing to support, specific district-wide plans, including moving the PACT program to the former site of Whisman Elementary School.

District-wide plans on the table right now include re-opening Whisman Elementary School as a neighborhood school and leaving the other campuses intact, or moving PACT to the Whisman or Theuerkauf campuses and closing down the Stevenson campus. Wheeler said she supported moving PACT to Whisman.

But moving choice programs around faces opposition from PACT parents, who made their wishes known during the meeting. When Nelson suggested that the PACT community does not have any strong attachment to the Stevenson site, he was met with vocal opposition from Stevenson parents in the room who did not want the program

uprooted.

"You guys would rather be in these old buildings for the next 10 years?" Nelson asked. "Rather than to be in a new school?"

"Yes!" shouted several parents in response.

Stevenson parents also took issue with the idea of a "hybrid" boundary, in which some students would have enrollment priority over others. If PACT is moved to Theuerkauf, for example, families within the Theuerkauf attendance boundary would get priority for enrollment into the PACT program, which draws students from all over the district.

Marco Garcia, a Stevenson parent, told the board that enrollment that is based on proximity over family choice would be problematic, and that PACT needs to remain a district-wide program accessible to all students.

"Our progressive education model and philosophy is of the utmost importance, and families must choose Stevenson PACT for its unique mission above any other reason," he said.

Board president Chris Chiang said he opposed the hybrid boundary because it would result in PACT no longer being a choice program. He said it would also mean Theuerkauf students who want to go to a neighborhood school will have to travel to Monta Loma.

"Rengstorff is a gnarly street to cross," Chiang said. "Monta Loma was not designed for those streets."

### Theuerkauf parents show strength in numbers

The board discussion was largely a response to the district's Boundary Advisory Task Force meeting, held earlier this month, where members refused to give the board recommendations on the handful of district-wide plans. Members of the task force said they lacked critical information and adequate time to consider the effects of the decisions before bringing recommendations to the school board.

Among the questions to the board Thursday night, task force members asked for a definitive

► See **THEUERKAUF**, page 6

## PLANS

► Continued from page 1

kind of project we're talking about," Siegel said.

Council members deferred making expensive improvements to a downtown parking lot they decided not to commit to development earlier this year. The city-owned "lot 11" at the corner of Franklin and Villa streets would need about \$1.2 million for resurfacing and installing parking curbs. With the possibility that the parking lot could still be developed, council members agreed it would be good to de-prioritize the project. Rich pointed out that it's a big commitment of money just to pretty up a parking lot.

Council members also put off

committing funds for library remodeling and construction, which could be paid for by developers in exchange for floor-area ratio (FAR) bonuses, meaning it would not have to draw funding away from other projects on the list. Siegel, who opposed the decision, said he didn't feel like they could count on bonus FAR allocations to pay for the library, and that he was nervous about dropping the project and facing cuts to the square footage. He said it could also change how they make decisions in regard to North Bayshore developments knowing that the library could depend on those bonuses.

"Development interests are depending on exactly that," Siegel said.

## New parks

Council members changed their tune when considering park projects, which have substantial funding from park development fees and didn't need the same careful prioritizing and de-prioritizing as the other city improvements. The strong housing development market brought in about \$14 million in park land fees between March 2014 and February 2015, and an additional \$20 million is expected in the next three to five years, according to city staff.

Top priorities include newly proposed park sites at Evandale Avenue, the Mora Drive and Ortega Avenue area, 400 San Antonio Road and South Whisman Road.

Siegel took a particular interest in the San Antonio sites, saying the city lacks open space in the area and that the Los Altos School District has been eyeing the area as a potential site for a new school. Siegel said that while he agrees with including the Mora-Ortega park on the list of park developments, he said it's important the city doesn't do anything to rule it out as a location for a new school.

"We have a good habit of locating parks next to school. I want to make sure moving ahead we don't pre-empt that kind of decision," Siegel said.

Sticking to the new City Council priority on environmental sustainability, Vice Mayor Pat Showalter advocated for expand-

ing the city's recycled water system project for future development plans, saying it's entirely possible the drought is going to continue for years to come.

"Everyone is considering this as the fourth (and) the last year of the drought," Showalter said. "We don't know when it's going to end. We need to plan now for a new normal."

Showalter said Mountain View has progressive plans in regards to recycled water, but that she wants to do more than what is listed for future capital improvements. Improvements could come in the form of using more water from Palo Alto's water recycling plant, which currently gives Mountain View about 3 million gallons per day. ▣

## THEUERKAUF

► Continued from page 5

answer on whether the district should stay at its current eight elementary schools or find enough money in the budget to take on the operational costs of nine schools by re-opening a campus in the Whisman and Slater area. If the board sides with district staff and says the district can only afford eight schools, officials may have to scrap plans for a new school or shut down an existing school to make way for the new one.

Parents from all over the district packed the small board room and with the overflow ending up in a "viewing" room. Among the attendees were about 30 parents and students from Theuerkauf sporting the school's blue shirts. They held signs

demanding PACT not be moved to Theuerkauf and that the district let Theuerkauf remain a neighborhood school.

Lisa Whitfield, a district parent, said it doesn't make sense to open Whisman and close Theuerkauf to re-open Whisman Elementary. While the northeast "quadrant" of Mountain View has been without a nearby school since 2006, she said the district shouldn't solve one neighborhood's problem by shutting down another neighborhood's school.

"I completely understand that they want to have a neighborhood school," Whitfield said. "I don't think it makes sense to uproot Theuerkauf, a great school with great parents and a great network, to make that happen."

Chiang said there are "creative solutions" to opening Whisman, but urged his colleagues not to

commit themselves to opening Whisman yet, especially if it means doing something to Theuerkauf or Stevenson Elementary.

"If you say yes to Whisman, you're basically saying yes to blending PACT ... or closing Theuerkauf," Chiang said.

Bob Weaver, a district resident and long-time advocate for opening a neighborhood school in the Whisman and Slater area, said the community in northeast Mountain View has been patient ever since the district closed Whisman 15 years ago. He said all options need to be open in considering a new school, including the possibility of moving the Dual Immersion language program from Castro Elementary.

"You're not putting all the chips on the table," Weaver said to the board.

All the trustees except board member Greg Coladonato opposed the idea of moving Dual Immersion.

The other possibility, which would avoid the problem altogether, would be to re-open Whisman elementary and leave all other schools intact. But district staff reports say that option is not financially feasible because it spreads resources too thin and puts enrollment numbers at unsustainable levels.

Board member Bill Lambert, who expressed skepticism over opening a new school, said the district staff and the task force ought to look at new ways the district could rent out land and facilities to generate more money.

Chiang, on the other hand, said making the most out of its facilities in an area where land is in such high demand could make a nine-school solution more plausible. Though Coladonato suggested the district make better use of its land at Cooper and Sylvan parks, Chiang said there are plenty of creative ways to shift around facilities at the dis-

trict's large, 17-acre parcel where Stevenson, Theuerkauf and the district offices are located.

A combination of new revenue sources and holding onto Measure G bond money for future plans to open Whisman Elementary could make for a financially feasible ninth school, Chiang said.

Nelson was uneasy with the idea of putting off plans for Whisman Elementary, and questioned whether the district could hold onto that type of money amid site improvements at the rest of the schools. He said the district ran out of money from the last bond before it finished all the sites, leaving Monta Loma with unfinished roofs.

"It doesn't work unless there's a district-wide plan," Nelson said.

Coladonato said the money is already there for re-opening and running a school at the Whisman site in the form of "at least \$40 million in lease revenue," which he said is currently sitting in the district's substantial reserve funds. Coladonato said he was concerned that delaying concrete plans on Whisman now will mean the bond money will dry up and the area will continue to go without a nearby school.

"If we don't decide to start doing something at Whisman or Slater now, I have a feeling it's going to happen again. There's going to be another bond that completely passes the northeast quadrant of town," he said.

## Challenging the numbers

One of the primary factors driving the debate over having eight or nine schools is that enrollment is expected to flatten out and decline in the coming years, despite new housing developments and increasing demand to live in Mountain View.

The number of elementary school students in the district is at 3,611 this year, and is projected to decrease next year and nearly every year after that, all

the way to the 2024-25 school year, according to a demographic study by Jack Shreder and Associates. The study takes into account city-approved residential developments, including hundreds of row houses and multifamily homes.

The projected "student generation rate" of row houses, in particular, is about 0.07, meaning the district can expect to see about 7 students for every 100 row houses built. Coladonato questioned those rates at the board meeting and said he did an anecdotal headcount of the students at the Ada Avenue row house development. There, he said, he was able to find seven kids in seven houses where he should have found only four among the 59 homes.

Stevenson parent Kate Kester said if Google's new plans in North Bayshore are approved it could mean as many as 10,000 more employees in the area, which she said is going to put plenty of kids in the district's schools no matter what the student generation rates are.

"If it's true that we're going to have 10,000 more Google employees, then I think that there has to be at least 500 more children who are elementary-aged coming out of that," Kester said. "Growth in this school district is inevitable in the next few years."

Nik Kalyani, also a Stevenson parent, said there appears to be a lot of problems with the data the district staff has been using to steer its decisions, and that it would be good to disseminate the raw information so the public can look through the data and fact-check it.

"There's a concept in information technology called 'garbage in, garbage out,' which translates into 'bad data results in bad decisions,'" Kalyani said. "There's plenty of us (in Mountain View) who are qualified who can analyze this data and come up with scenarios ... but we need the data for that. The raw data." ▣


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**RENGSTORFF**

► Continued from page 1

in 2011, council member Mike Kasperzak pointed out that's still a pretty big cost for how much the city is getting.

The high cost can be largely attributed to the state the community center is in, according to Karl Danielson of the architectural firm Dahlin Group. Danielson said the Rengstorff Community Center, built in 1964, needs substantial work inside the building to address problems like accessibility, aging plumbing, lack of elevators and a non ADA-compliant ramp into the building, among other things.

One of the key design changes in the proposal is to make the center open up to and link into the park itself, rather than remain an isolated building on the edge of the park.

"Today you have a community center at a park. You don't have a community center in the park," Danielson said, noting that the building is fenced off from playgrounds and the park, and has no windows facing the park at all.

So to turn that around, the design calls for the social hall to be built out into Rengstorff Park with plenty of large windows and doors that open up directly into the park. Council members had mixed reactions on the design choice.

Council member Ken Rosenberg said the design will bring both "utility and function" to the park by increasing the usage of the community center, and the loss of park space will be offset by future open space projects. While the new square footage does eat up part of the park, he said the addition of windows and access to the park at the new social hall will bring the outdoor open space into the facility.

"When you bring the outside world in, you extend the park," Rosenberg said.

Kasperzak agreed, and said it's been interesting to see how the plans for the community center have evolved over the

**'Today you have a community center at a park. You don't have a community center in the park.'**

ARCHITECT KARL DANIELSON

years. Kasperzak reminded his colleagues that he was on the council when the original, more expensive plans to tear down the facility and rebuild it were discussed.

"To me, this is making it part of the park, not something at the park," he said. "I think this is the way to go."

Inks, on the other hand, said he was inclined to support an alternative design by the architect that keeps the social hall in the same place and adds new multi-use rooms to the front of the facility facing Rengstorff Avenue.

"I would be inclined to support (the) option ... if for no other reason than for less of an open space compromise," Inks said.

Mountain View property owner Don Letcher told City Council he "totally opposes" the idea of spending \$17 million on a project that takes away the small amount of park space left in the city for more building space and pavement.

Other residents raised concerns over the eight heritage trees that would need to be removed to make way for the facility, and issues over traffic and the ability for residents to get in and out the homes on Rengstorff Avenue with increased traffic and future plans to add a stoplight at the intersection of Rengstorff and Stanford avenues.

The upgrades are likely to be paid for through \$12 million in park fees and \$5 million from reserve funds, according to a staff report. Planning and construction could start in the 2016-17 fiscal year. ▽

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## NEW SCHOOL

► Continued from page 5

happy “politically,” but having four schools below 400 students appears to be problematic and goes against the criteria the task force has been basing its decisions on.

“The board has ruled out closing a school, which I understand,” Cornes said. “At this point I’m sort of at a loss (on) how to try and make this all work out.”

Cleave Frink, another task force member, suggested they try to look at a smaller Whisman school that doesn’t have a “full-sized” boundary, so students would have the option to go to a

local neighborhood school without having an overly large impact on the surrounding schools.

“I’d be comfortable with drawing a smaller boundary around Whisman,” Frink said. “It doesn’t necessarily have to have a full complement of administrators. It doesn’t necessarily have to have a principal.”

Cornes suggested that an option where no school is opened and boundaries are re-drawn should be considered, despite the verdict from the board.

Some members questioned whether the board really gave the task force clear enough guidelines to steer its decision-making,

something that was suggested in the opening remarks by Jamie Iseman of Jack Schreder and Associates, the firm that conducted the student enrollment projections.

Peter Darrah, a task force member, said he went to the board meeting last week and said none of the board’s votes were unanimous, that most straw votes were split 3-2, and that they were all using different information and statistics to make decisions that conflicted with one another. At the board meeting, board members came to different conclusions on whether Mountain View schools are too big, too small or just right as is compared

to neighboring school districts.

On the southern end of the city, task force members asked district staff to look into why a long strip of development along El Camino Real remains zoned for Castro Elementary when it runs along a Bubb Elementary boundary area. Task force member Jennifer Coogan also questioned the proposal’s effect on Huff Elementary, which is expected to see a drop in socioeconomic diversity and English-language learner student population. She said it could end up inflating scores making a “perverse” incentive for families to wedge their way into the current boundary and get grandfathered

in as long as they can.

Other questions posed for future meetings include taking another look at opening a new school at the Slater Elementary site rather than at Whisman, limits to PACT enrollment, and a better idea of how a Whisman school would affect the German International School of Silicon Valley currently leasing the site, particularly in regards to shared facilities.

The committee is expected to meet again on March 31 in a joint meeting with the district’s facilities committee, and anyone interested in giving input can email the task force at [boundaries@mvwdsd.org](mailto:boundaries@mvwdsd.org). ▀

## DIABETES

► Continued from page 1

When participants made it past the bustling line outside the door at CSA this week, they were greeted with an extensive screening process including checklists on risk factors, surveys and blood tests. The table in the front included a 3D diorama of all the parts of the body affected by diabetes — the brain, the kidneys, the feet — and a pile of fake body fat to give people a visual idea of what can cause diabetes.

Diabetes affects about 29 million Americans, of which 8.1 mil-

lion of the cases go undiagnosed, according to a report by the Center for Disease Control. The rate of diabetes in the United States has been steadily increasing since 1980, and if left untreated, the disease can cause grave complications, including blindness, heart disease, kidney failure and death.

Because catching the symptoms and risk factors early is key to managing diabetes, CSA has been reaching out to its clients to get people screened. Between the five agencies, hundreds of people have shown up to see if they’re at risk. But for Maureen Wadiak, program director for CSA, the

prevalence of diabetes isn’t just some meta, country-wide statistic.

“We’ve seen it in our food and nutrition center throughout the years,” Wadiak said.

The program is funded by El Camino Hospital as a community-run way of bringing down the “looming health care issue” of diabetes, according to Cecile Currier, vice president of community health services at El Camino Hospital. Currier said the incidents of diabetes and pre-diabetes are very high, particularly in Latino communities, where the rate of diabetes is twice that of Caucasians. Working with CSA, which helps clients every day with food services and referrals to clinics, was just the right fit for the outreach program.

“We wanted to work with a group of community organizations that work with food and serve a cross-section of the community, and reach out to people that may not know they have pre-diabetes and may not know what to do about it,” Currier said.

Prediabetes is when a patient’s blood sugar is too high, but not high enough to be diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, according to the Center for Disease Control, and the prevalence is staggering — about 86 million Americans have it, but only 1 in 10 know about it. Wadiak said of the people that come in to CSA for the screening, nearly all of them have either diabetes or prediabetes.

Challenge Diabetes is a structured, months-long program that kicks off with a prediabetes test, developed by the Center for Disease Control, where patients answer questions to see just how at-risk they are. If they score high enough, they go on to the A1C or “finger prick” test, where a small sample of blood is used to monitor a person’s blood sugar level. Major risk factors include high body weight and lack of exercise, but just being over the age of 65 gives people enough points to immediately move on to the A1C test.

Program attendees also fill out a survey with questions about

their level of food insecurity and knowledge about diabetes, as well as whether they might be depressed.

“Some of the research has shown that there’s a correlation — that people who have food insecurity and diabetes have higher rates of depression,” Wadiak said.

Diabetes can be linked to food insecurity and the availability of healthy food, Wadiak said, which is a problem for people whose budgets have been squeezed by the high cost of living in the area. She said the program is mostly tailored for CSA clients who rely on food pantry services to stretch their budgets, but it also targets low-income families and seniors.

“Diabetes is fast-becoming an epidemic of the poor,” she said.

While the program includes testing and monitoring of blood glucose across several months, the real focus is on diet and education. Each month, program participants come back for a big bag of food, recipes and information on how to eat healthily, which is a natural fit for a place with pantry services. Wadiak said CSA has a nutrition education program to try to get people to eat food they might not know how to cook, like squash. The recipes also consider recipes that are culturally relevant to people using different ingredients.

“If white rice is a staple in their diet, we introduce brown rice and then provide recipes that people will use,” Wadiak said.

The program also includes information on “portion control” of meals. Because body weight and daily caloric intake plays a big role in diabetes, she said, it’s not just about what people cook, but how much of it they eat. During one nutrition program, CSA had nurses come in to show how half a sandwich with a salad instead of a full sandwich with a cookie can make all the difference in the world.

Currier said the turnout for screenings has been good so far, but the real challenge is keeping people engaged. She said with any

program that calls for a change in lifestyle, it has to include a place — like CSA — where people visit frequently and identify with others who are trying to adopt new eating and exercise habits.

“It’s really important to have that connect point,” Currier said.

To get feedback from the participants and make sure they are adhering to the program, Challenge Diabetes program coordinator Vanesa Ieraci has been establishing relationships and following up with people who got food bags to get a sense of how well the dietary program is working, whether people are heeding the advice and suggestions, and to figure out how to adjust the program to better work for them.

While the El Camino Healthcare District is helping to fund the program, Wadiak said, it is also helping to translate all the educational material and information into different languages, including Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese and possibly Korean. Translators from both El Camino Hospital and CSA were at the screening Tuesday, squeezed into the front room with the rest of the participants, and were in high demand as people speaking Mandarin, Spanish and Russian made their way in.

“We need a translator for Chinese!” yelled Todd Trowbridge, director of preventative medicine at BaySport. Trowbridge was one of two people from the Los Gatos-based health company doing the A1C blood tests for patients, and needed to use a translator to explain to many of the CSA clients what was going on.

Wadiak said being able to communicate that information in the language people are most comfortable with is an important tool for outreach and helps keep people engaged in the program.

“El Camino has been awesome in helping us with language translation, and that’s key — letting people understand the information in their own language and read the steps they can take and feel empowered,” Wadiak said. ▀



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MOVING SERVICES HOURLY RATES GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECT - MEASURE G

Mountain View Whisman School District invites proposals from qualified individuals, firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, or professional organizations to provide hourly rates for moving services at Crittenden Middle School and Graham Middle School in the Mountain View Whisman School District - Measure G Projects.

If your firm wishes to submit a proposal for this RFP, please submit one (1) unbound original and three (3) bound copies of your completed proposal package to the following address:

**RFP for Moving Services Hourly Rates  
Mountain View Whisman School District  
Attn: Terese McNamee, Chief Business Officer  
750-A San Pierre Avenue  
Mountain View, California 94043**

**Provide the following ONLY – Hourly rates for workers, supervisors, trucks, equipment, and supplies along with a proposed markup percentage for overhead and profit for moving services related to perform moving services for the Mountain View Whisman School District**

All proposals must be submitted to the above address in a sealed envelope labeled **RFP for Hourly Moving Services Rates** no later than 3:00 p.m. local time on April 7, 2015. **NO Facsimile** proposals will be accepted.

This same RFP information can be downloaded at <http://www.mvwdsd.org/measure-g-rfps-rfq> or be picked up at the District Office, listed above.

For questions regarding this RFP, contact the District’s Construction Manager:

Greystone West Company  
621 W. Spain Street, Sonoma, CA 95476  
707-933-0624 Office / 707-996-8390 Fax

**There is NO packet for this proposal. There will be NO BID WALK for this proposal.**

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# Viewpoint

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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## ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

# 'Human rights city' question should inspire welcome discussion

The city's Human Relations Commission last month drafted a resolution that commissioners hope will lead to a designation of Mountain View as a "human rights city." It is expected to be passed along for City Council consideration sometime this year. The resolution says, in part, that with its commitment to human rights, the city would explicitly embrace "the principles of equality, inclusion, social pluralism, and the recognition of human dignity."

Leaders of the effort include Lucas Ramirez, chair of the Human Relations Commission, and City Councilman Ken Rosenberg, a former commission member. Rosenberg notes that viewing issues facing the city through the lens of human rights, "you may make different decisions."

Becoming a "human rights city" is an intriguing concept, but what would it mean to day-to-day life in Mountain View? Would it be merely a way for us to feel better about ourselves as the number of homeless people around us continues to inch upward? Would a "human rights city" designation lessen the plight of fellow residents who struggle to feed their families, or who might be the victims of racial profiling?

The commission helped shed light on the possibilities that could become realities when it invited a member of the Eugene, Oregon, Human Rights Commission to speak at a recent meeting. Ken Neubeck provided a compelling overview about how his city has taken meaningful steps in caring for those in need after the Eugene City Council, in 2011, endorsed a Human Rights City project.

Aided by local nonprofits, Eugene has designated tent camps and villages of small shelters to house some 65 percent of its 2,000 homeless people, Neubeck said. "Just to have a safe and legal place to be, people are feeling so much better," he said. "Some of them are beginning to find jobs — it stabilizes their life."

Eugene has developed other strategies since the project began in an effort to improve the lives of less-fortunate residents, including mandatory training of police officers to avoid racial profiling and to respond effectively and humanely when dealing with people on the street with problems not easily understood, according to Neubeck. Homeless people can now obtain library cards, he said, adding, "That's doing human rights work, because you are extending to people the human right of education, and giving people equal access."

Consideration of becoming a "human rights city" would inspire a new level of discussion in Mountain View about the government's role in caring for and protecting residents who struggle to survive because of the lack of housing or income, or who face injustice due to their race, ethnic background, gender or other factors. It would be a welcome and hopefully productive discussion. And, if Rosenberg and Human Relations Commission members have their way, it will happen soon. ■

## ■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### PARKING SOLUTION

Stanford requires employees to pay for parking permits and uses the resulting funds to subsidize transit programs. Why shouldn't Mountain View require local employers over a reasonable-size threshold to do the same? The city could make participation by smaller companies easier by striking an umbrella deal with VTA, SamTrans, Caltrans, Zipcar, Carma, Uber and Lyft.

Alison Chaiken  
Middlefield Road

### BOND MONEY BEING PROPERLY SPENT

The courts have already spoken decisively about Ken Horowitz's contention (March 20) that the list of Measure C bond projects in the Foothill-De Anza Community College District is too vague.

In a published opinion in 2007, a panel of judges from the Sixth District Court of Appeal concluded that the Measure C project list approved by voters in 2006 met the legal requirement of being specific enough that the voters would know the types of projects they were voting for, and that auditors and oversight committees would know how to evaluate the district's performance. That opinion stands.

The district is proceeding with the needed renovation of 50-plus-year-old offices and construction of new offices because they are necessary to support the effective and efficient operation of the district. These projects were deferred for many years to ensure that top priority was given to other projects that support and

enhance student instruction. Now the time is finally here.

The renovation project and new offices have received close review by financially sophisticated, well-informed members of the Measure C Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. These individuals have long histories of professional success and civic involvement, and they represent the community's interests with integrity.

Linda Thor, chancellor  
Foothill-De Anza Community  
College District

### A SHEPHERD SHOULD LISTEN TO SHEEP

Now that the auxiliary Catholic bishop of the Diocese of San Jose Thomas Anthony Daly has been appointed as bishop of Spokane, Washington, I hope Pope Francis will replace Bishop Daly with one willing to go to the peripheries, and willing to get the "sheep smell," and one who would be bilingual (English-Spanish) since about 40 percent of the Catholics in the Diocese of San Jose speak Spanish as their native language.

When Bishop Daly visited Saint Joseph parish in Mountain View in March 2013, I met him, thanked him for his visit to Saint Joseph's, and handed him a personal letter asking him to publicly support comprehensive immigration reform, which at the time was being debated in the U.S. Senate. I never heard from him. Last year I learned from another high diocesan official that it's their policy not to answer letters from parishioners. In other words, they ignore their flock's voiceless "little sheep."

Job Lopez (a Roman Catholic)  
McCarty Avenue



## Preserve Stevenson PACT School's thriving ecosystem and culture

Richard and Jacqueline Tanner

The Stevenson PACT School, where our daughter attends first grade, is not "just another school," or a pawn on a chess board; nor is it a bargaining chip, or a commodity to be rented off to the highest bidders. It is a living and unique ecosystem being cared for by hundreds of families.

The Stevenson PACT School ecosystem thrives so well and draws so many dedicated parents from all over the district exactly because of the unique circumstances it has finally been allowed to enjoy after being drastically disrupted twice before.

To yet again tear out our PACT school to the roots would not only be entirely unfair, but would also send a clear message to everyone that the MVWSD does not value the PACT philosophy and would likely again disrupt or even disband PACT altogether in the future.

Why should any parents take PACT seriously if the MVWSD leadership does not?

The Stevenson location, dedicated administration, PACT-experienced staff, PACT-experienced parents, kids, community support and cooperation, and the expectation of stability are each critical to the continued health of the PACT School ecosystem.

The PACT model depends not only on its unique methods, but equally depends on the culture of

PACT being handed down from experienced parents and kids to the new parents and kids each year, regardless of who they are or where they live. The relationships that develop in this process bind people from every corner of our district together in friendships that would not otherwise be possible.

Every year parents from all parts of our district put their kids on a waiting list in hopes that their children may attend the

tion that includes a full-time principal is also critical to the health of the school. We have seen how "choice programs" do not function well under a shared administration with a traditional school. PACT must function in a fundamentally different manner than a traditional school. These differences are not compatible with traditional schools in countless ways.

The parents and staff of the Stevenson PACT School ecosystem have made the sacrifices and dedicated their time, effort and money (and often the assistance of close friends and relatives) to the task of supporting our school. These efforts are only reasonable if the parents and staff believe that they are investing in the future of an ecosystem they can rely on and will continue to be there for the kids and for a long-term vision of what PACT can accomplish. If the future of PACT is once again thrown into limbo and doubt, then the parents and staff will have no good reason to continue the high level of dedication and sacrifice they have shown in recent years.

We cannot stress too much how important it is to maintain the Stevenson PACT School ecosystem where it is and with its own dedicated administration. The MVWSD superintendent, trustees and BATF need to send a clear message to the parents that PACT is valuable and has a continued and stable future in our district. The parents and staff of PACT need to feel that PACT is worth the huge investments we are all making in this unique ecosystem.

Should Whisman get a new school? Perhaps. That desire needs to be supported by the facts demonstrating a practical need. If such a need can be demonstrated then let's find a creative way to fulfill that desire without such drastic disruptions to existing schools.

PACT should be a major point of pride for our entire district and no longer treated like the proverbial red-headed stepchild. PACT is an idea given life to become an ecosystem; we should nurture it, not starve it to death!

### Guest Opinion

Stevenson PACT School. Hundreds of families in our district want their kids in PACT and are able to manage the commute because of the special location of the Stevenson school. Unlike any of the other school sites, the Stevenson campus location allows for reasonable commute times from all corners of our district.

Moving the PACT school to any of the other locations around the district would severely impact the families that would find themselves too far away to be able to manage the commute, and would thus decrease the diversity at the Stevenson PACT School. Moving PACT would also cause the loss of existing experienced leaders among the parents and loss of friendships among many students.

The fact that the PACT school has a dedicated administra-

## We're looking for a great CFO

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# Peninsula Easter Services



## HOLY WEEK

**DINNER & MODEL SEDER**  
April 1, 6:30pm

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
April 3, 7pm

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
April 5, 9 & 11am

For more info:  
650 494 3840  
pbc.org



3505 Middlefield Rd  
Palo Alto, CA 94306



## Grace Lutheran Church

3149 Waverley Street • Palo Alto, CA 94306 | www.gracepa.org | 650.494.1212

### Holy Week

Maundy Thursday  
April 2 | 7:00 pm

Good Friday  
April 3 | 12 pm & 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil  
April 4 | 8:00 pm

### Easter Sunday

April 5 | 8:30 am & 10:45 am

Easter Breakfast: 9:00 - 10:30 am

## Celebrate Easter!

## HOLY WEEK at FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

600 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto 650-322-4669 www.flcpa.org

Pastors Katherine Marshall and Bernt Hilleland



### PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, March 29

8:30 & 10:30 am Procession with Palms, Holy Communion

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2

6:00 pm Light Supper and Worship

### GOOD FRIDAY, April 3

12:00 noon Service 7:30 pm Procession of the Cross

### EASTER VIGIL, April 4

8:00 pm Fire, Word, Renewal of Baptism, Bread, and Wine

### EASTER CELEBRATION, April 5

9:00 am Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 am Festival Holy Communion



JOIN US FOR

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**APRIL 5 | 10AM**

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT  
WITH SPECIAL MUSIC

ALCF.NET/EASTER  
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**Peninsula Easter Services**  
is a resource for ongoing  
religious services and special  
events. To inquire about  
or to reserve space in  
Peninsula Easter Services,  
please contact Blanca Yoc  
at 223-6596 or email  
byoc@paweekly.com

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

1715 Grant Road | Los Altos  
650.967.4906 | www.ilclosaltos.com



*Come Join Us for Holy Week Services!*

**Palm Sunday, March 29 at 10 am**

*Procession with Palms*

**Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7 pm**

*Holy Communion*

**Good Friday, April 3 at 6 pm**

*"Stations of the Cross"*

Interactive meditation and prayer

A truly moving experience for all ages!

**Easter Sunday, April 5 at 9 & 11 am**

Festive celebration for the whole family!



## ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PALO ALTO

❖ 6:15pm

**Maundy Thursday — April 2**

*Monastic Supper & Liturgy of the Word followed  
by Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar*

❖ Noon to 2:00pm

**Good Friday — April 3**

*A service focused on "The Adversaries and  
Companions of Jesus"*

❖ 2:00 to 3:00pm

*Devotional Labyrinth Meditation*

❖ 7:30 to 8:30pm

*Tenebrae: The Office of Shadows*

❖ 5:30am

**Easter — April 5**

*Easter Vigil, Eucharist & Baptism*

❖ 8:00 to 9:30am

*Festive Breakfast & Family Easter Activities*

❖ 10:00am

*Festive Holy Eucharist*

600 Colorado Ave, P.A. (650) 326-3800

www.saint-marks.com

# Easter

## Sunday, April 5

8\*, 9:30, 11am & 5pm

*Join us for an Egg Hunt after the 9:30 & 11am services.*

**OPEN DOOR CHURCH MOUNTAIN VIEW**

1667 Miramonte Avenue | odcmv.org

\* Childcare for ages 3 months - 3 years at 8am service only. All other services offer childcare as normal.

# THANK YOU

## WE SALUTE OUR DOCTORS FOR THEIR SKILL, WISDOM AND DEDICATION.

National Doctor's Day reminds us how fortunate we are to work with such a high caliber team of physicians. Our doctors have trained at the nation's finest programs and are at the forefront of their fields. It is thanks to their skill, dedication and innovation that we offer the highest level of care. Our doctors share the hospital's commitment to fostering health and wellness throughout the community and are dedicated to providing health education and preventive care. When medical care is needed, they provide patients access to sophisticated treatments, technologies and clinical trials. We express our heartfelt thanks to this expert group of healers for taking such good care of our community.

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