

Mountain View VOICE

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www.MountainViewOnline.com

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MOVIES | 26



MAGALI GAUTHIER

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

The air was particularly smoky in the Whisman neighborhood early this week as members of the Mountain View Fire Department ran live fire training at Station 4 on Monday and Tuesday, using a controlled burn inside a shed to give students in a state certification course for fire training some hands-on experience putting out fires. Fire fighters from Mountain View and other nearby agencies practiced putting out a live fire in the station's "training cell," where materials are set ablaze. Captain Scott Robbins, pictured, would close the door of the cell when the fire needed to be built back up.

City to ID hazardous 'soft-story' buildings

SURVEY ESTIMATES THOUSANDS ARE LIVING IN STRUCTURES
VULNERABLE TO EARTHQUAKES

By Kevin Forestieri

The city of Mountain View is set to follow the example of San Francisco and Berkeley after staff last week proposed taking the first steps towards encouraging — or forcing — property owners to retrofit buildings in the city that are more likely to collapse in major earthquakes.

At the April 28 city council meeting on the draft budget, community development staff proposed putting \$350,000 toward a study to identify all the

so-called soft-story buildings in the city — as well as what would need to be done to retrofit those buildings, and to outline potential incentives or mandates for property owners to make those building upgrades.

Soft-story buildings have structurally weak ground floors, normally wood-frame construction with a large open area often used for parking, and they are vulnerable to damage and collapse in earthquakes. The structural weakness was clear in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, when soft-story buildings "pan-

caked" following a collapse of the first floor, according to William Strawn, public affairs director for San Francisco's Department of Building Inspection.

Mountain View's study would survey where soft-story buildings are located in the city, but it would also explore next steps. The city could create incentives for property owners to move forward on retrofitting unsafe buildings, or it could go straight into passing a city ordinance mandating property owners to

► See **BUILDINGS**, page 6

LinkedIn wins big, Google plans gutted in North Bayshore decision

COUNCIL DIVVIES UP DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS IN
FIERCE COMPETITION FOR OFFICE SPACE

By Mark Noack

In a split vote Tuesday night, the Mountain View City Council laid out a future vision for North Bayshore, divvying up 2.2 million square feet in fiercely contested office development rights among several rival firms.

LinkedIn emerged as the big winner, receiving more than two-thirds the total allotted space for a proposed 10-building campus just off Highway 101. On the losing end were the dozen or so members from team Google, who seemed shell-shocked after seeing their proposal for a dramatic glass-canopied office park scuttled by the council on a 4-3 vote.

The much anticipated meeting on Tuesday, May 5, brought to a head months of competition for space to expand in North Bayshore. With Mountain View facing a shortage of available space for tech firms, city officials identified North Bayshore as one of the few areas left for expansion. Last December, city officials set a limit of 3.4 million square feet of bonus office development that would be allowed in the area. That cap effectively created a competition between Google and other firms looking to stake their claims in advance of the city meeting. By Tuesday that number had winnowed down to just 2.2 million square feet.

The council's decision gives the green light for winners to go ahead with submitting their plans to the city, with final

approval of the individual projects yet to come.

More than one person described the process a "beauty contest," with contestants taking turns asserting the various perks and benefits they would bring to the community. To judge the various projects, Mountain View city officials last year laid out a list of criteria, including how well each project improved traffic, environmental sustainability and the city's overall vision for the area. But the city was still left in a dilemma with too many qualified projects fighting for too little space.

To call the meeting long would be an understatement. As the only significant item on the agenda, the North Bayshore deliberations stretched over six hours with a series of company presentations, public comments and much back-and-forth among elected leaders. Despite the length, the meeting remained packed with stakeholders the entire night, dwindling only slightly as it stretched past midnight.

Repeating a phrase he had often used in recent days, Mayor John McAlister explained his role was to "play Solomon" in slicing up the pie of limited space. Making the motion that eventually won the day, the mayor proposed giving smaller applicants Broadreach Capital Partners and Rees Properties their full requested space. LinkedIn was allocated 1.45 million bonus square feet, an amount just short of the com-

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Taco shop
with a twist
WEEKEND | 21



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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked at A la Carte & Art in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Rachel Lee.

What's a sure-fire winner of a Mother's Day gift?



"I would say, at least for my mom, a plant. Not necessarily like a bouquet of flowers, but something that lasts and she can plant. She loves plants."

Jessica Shepardson, Palo Alto



"Spending time with my mother."

Samantha Eng, Mountain View



"Flowers ... are a good distance gift. For moms in town, I like well-made pottery."

Doug Liand, Mountain View



"Taking (my mom) to an outlet store and allowing her to get whatever she wants. She's a shopper."

Sam Tongo, Mountain View



"A home-cooked meal because it shows that you're putting effort into doing something rather than just going out, paying money and buying something. It shows you really care."

Roger Noel, Mountain View

Have a question for [Voices Around Town](#)? Email it to editor@mv-voice.com



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Saturday, July 4, 2015 — Shoreline Amphitheatre

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2,000 Free Resident Tickets!* (while supplies last)

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- *To obtain your free or discounted tickets: BRING THIS COUPON, proof of residency (a driver's license AND current utility bill with a Mountain View address) or a 2015 Shoreline Resident Ticket ID card with valid ID to the Amphitheatre Box Office.
- Shoreline Amphitheatre Box Office Hours: Monday - Friday 12 noon to 5:00 p.m., Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Box office can be reached at (650) 967-4040.**
- Doors open at 5:00 p.m with games and activities for family fun.
- Get your free tickets by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22 unless sold out prior to this date.
- Discounted tickets can be purchased up to and including the day of the event.
- An additional \$10.00 parking fee will be collected the night of the event.

Helpful Tips to get to Shoreline Amphitheatre

- Easy access to the Amphitheatre is available from the Stevens Creek Trail and Permanente Creek Trail.
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- Trail hours will be extended to allow public access after the event to walk or ride home.

The Mountain View Senior Center Presents THE SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

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2:30 - 5:00 pm
Mountain View Senior Center
266 Escuela Ave, Mountain View, CA

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- Home Care Information
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- Volunteer Opportunities
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CRIME BRIEFS

DRUG SALE ARREST

Police arrested a 34-year-old San Jose man on Monday after a vehicle stop led to an investigation that found drugs, scales and other objects that led police to believe he was selling illegal drugs.

The man, identified as Martin Barragan-Torres, was stopped by an officer for a traffic violation near Highway 101 and Moffett Boulevard. The officer suspected Barragan-Torres was driving while intoxicated, and found methamphetamine and cocaine in a subsequent investigation of the vehicle, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

The officer also found scales, multiple cellphones, unused baggies and other objects, Jaeger said.

Barragan-Torres was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance for sale, transportation of controlled substances and driving under the influence. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 17

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

1 block E. Middlefield Rd., 4/29
600 block N. Whisman Rd., 5/3
600 block Showers Dr., 5/3
500 block Tyrella Av., 5/3

BATTERY

700 block California St., 5/2
2500 block Grant Rd., 5/1

FORGERY

600 block Showers Dr., 5/2

GRAND THEFT

100 block Castro St., 4/29
1900 block Silverwood Av., 5/4

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

900 block Wright Av., 5/4

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE FOR SALE

Highway 101 & Moffett Blvd., 5/4

SALE OF MARIJUANA

1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 4/30

STOLEN VEHICLE

500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 5/4

VANDALISM

500 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/30
1300 block Isabelle Av., 4/30
California St. & View St., 5/1

CORRECTION

Last week's report on a Mountain View civility roundtable misstated the results of one question on an audience survey. The story reported that 46 percent of those surveyed responded no to the question "Could Ferguson happen in Mountain View?" In fact, 46 percent responded yes to the question; 34 percent responded no.

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MICHELLE LE

Activist Roberto Muñoz carries an American flag with Maria Marroquín, the director of the Mountain View Day Worker Center, at the annual May Day march through downtown.

May Day march focuses on plight of migrants

By Mark Noack

A modest yet motivated crowd of local immigration-rights activists marched through Mountain View on Friday for what has become an annual rally on May Day. The message to elected leaders and the wider public is that immigration reform remains the predominant political issue for more than 11 million undocumented people living in limbo in the United States.

The group, which started with about 60 people, gathered at Rengstorff Park in the late afternoon and marched alongside the bustling commuter traffic toward downtown. The crowd nearly doubled in size by the early evening as the march ended at the downtown St. Joseph Church for a series of speeches and music.

“All the pain and suffering in the community is represented here,” said Rosa Mancilla, a pastor associate at St. Athanasius church. “We’re seeing

families being split up and that’s why we’re here.”

This was the fourth year for the march, which began as a December event with barely 15 people attending. Since then it has grown, peaking in 2013 when as many as 1,000 people participated, according to some counts.

People attending the rally this year described comprehensive immigration reform as a necessity despite the recent steps

► See **MAY DAY**, page 17

Depression still a top problem in high schools

SURVEY SHOWS REDUCTION IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE, BUT CONCERNS REMAIN OVER STUDENT ANXIETY

By Kevin Forestieri

High school staff in Mountain View have a lot to brag about after recent results from a school climate survey showed Mountain View and Los Altos high schools remain supportive, low-violence environments with little in the way of bullying or substance abuse problems reported among students.

But depression and anxiety still remained high in the survey of more than 2,000 students last year, with anywhere from 14 to 17 percent of students per grade level reporting that they seriously considered attempting suicide in the last year, and more than a quarter reporting they are dealing with chronic sadness and hopelessness.

The results come from the 2013-14 California Health Kids Survey, a state-wide school climate survey that asks students a range of questions about the level of engagement, participation and connectedness they have at school, as well as whether students have been taking drugs or alcohol, including prescription medications like Adderall.

When compared with other high schools, the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District ranks in the top 4 percent in the state for overall support and engagement, and the top 1 percent for overall low levels of violence, victimization and substance abuse, according to a report by the district.

Board member Fiona Walter said she was particularly impressed with the big improvements to the substance abuse numbers, with the percentage of juniors who reported never smoking marijuana in their lives jumped from 60 percent to 69 percent between the 2009-2010 school year and last year. The number of juniors who have never had a “full drink” of alcohol also got a big bump from 38 percent to 55 percent.

But the percentage of students who have considered suicide has seen just a slight improvement over the years, and only among freshman students. And when compared with the Palo Alto Unified School District — where Gunn and Palo Alto high schools have received national attention for the rate of suicides in recent years — MVLA students are reporting even higher rates of having seriously considered suicide.

Superintendent Barry Groves said part of maintaining a positive school climate is making sure students are happy even in the context of rigorous academic programs, and that district staff is “very mindful” of teen anxiety and stress. He said staff will likely recommend an increase in the number of school therapists to the board for the coming school year.

Board president Susan Sweeley said even if the percentage

► See **DEPRESSION**, page 7

Development prompts ranks of city staff to grow

By Mark Noack

Rebounding with gusto after a recessionary slowdown, Mountain View City Hall could be entering a new period of rapid growth. City officials intend to expand their ranks with up to 19 new employees in the coming months, primarily to get a handle on a crush of work from the flurry of proposed development projects.

The need to hire new workers

was first mentioned last week as part of the city’s draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Laying out the plan, City Manager Dan Rich explained that development-driven work was overwhelming the city’s current staffing, particularly the public works and community development departments.

“We’re at an all-time high of work and demand, and it’s not a sustainable equation any more,” Rich explained to council mem-

bers on April 28.

With just over \$107 million in revenues, Mountain View is experiencing a steady period of growth with the best budget outlook in recent memory. While Rich and other city officials noted the need for added help, they cautioned city leaders that they needed to tread lightly on expanding the city workforce too much, in case another recession comes in the near future.

To that end, Rich reported that

only 3.5 permanent full-time positions are being added to the city’s team. The rest would be temporary positions, many of which would be paid for by special funds derived from developer fees, utilities or other sources.

A major force behind the new positions is the spree of tech-fueled development being proposed for the North Bayshore. Several competing projects are being considered by the council

(see story on Page 1), and the scope of the proposals as well as the rigorous stipulations in the city’s precise plan will make the workload a challenge, said Community Development Director Randy Tsuda.

Tsuda said the number of projects in the city’s pipeline was comparable to past years; however, the new developments are much more complex this time

► See **CITY STAFF**, page 16

Community Health Education Programs



For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit pamf.org/education.

May 2015



Survivorship Celebration Day and Art Show

Presented by PAMF's Cancer Care Program

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PAMF Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real, Third Floor, Mountain View



Dr. Tom McDonald Memorial Lecture Series Skin Cancers and Common Look Alikes

May 12, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Amy Adams, M.D., Ph.D., PAMF Dermatology

PAMF Palo Alto Center

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Senior Driving: Take Control Of Your Driving Future

May 21, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Rosemary Robles, DMV Senior Driver Ombudsman

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LocalNews

BUILDINGS

► Continued from page 1

have an architect or engineer inspect the building and pay for any upgrades that are identified.

"More critically, it's about what do we do about these buildings that are highly vulnerable in an earthquake," said Randy Tsuda, community development director for the city of Mountain View.

A 'substantial' number of rental units

Tsuda estimates that somewhere between 100 and 125 buildings in Mountain View have a soft-story design that may need retrofitting, which he said is a "substantial portion" of the rental housing stock in the city. A survey by San Jose State University in 2006 found 1,129 first-story apartment units in soft story buildings in Mountain View, which adds up to an estimated 2,823 residents.

Many of the homes severely damaged in the Loma Prieta earthquake as well as the 1994 Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles were soft-story buildings, which prompted changes in building codes, Tsuda said. That means new soft-story buildings can still be constructed, but with very different building standards.

That doesn't help Mountain View much, considering most of the city's housing was built long ago. A study in 2009 of the city's housing stock shows 53 percent of three homes are over 40 years old, and roughly 19 percent of the total housing is soft-story multi-family dwellings.

There's also no pressure by the state on property owners to retrofit soft-story buildings, leaving it up to individual cities. The California Health and Safety Code states that soft-story buildings can create "dangerous conditions" in an earthquake, and were responsible for "7,700 of the 16,000 housing units rendered uninhabitable by the Loma Prieta earthquake and over 34,000 of the housing units rendered uninhabitable by the Northridge earthquake."

Despite the damning evidence that soft-story buildings are unsafe in earthquakes, the health and safety code only "encourages" cities and counties to address seismic safety of soft-story residential buildings.

Property owners in Mountain View are currently not required to tell tenants whether they are living in a soft-story building that haven't had retrofitting done for earthquake safety, Tsuda said.

There was some confusion among City Council members at the April 28 meeting over why the city needed to conduct a survey itself. After all, San Jose State

University had already tracked down over 1,100 apartment units in the city that are potentially unsafe.

Tsuda told the council that city staff did request that information, but were turned down after they were told the university's housing inventory was proprietary. It's not clear why the university is withholding the data from the city, Tsuda said.

"We don't even know if the people who did the study are even at San Jose State anymore," he said. "They would not release that information."

The *Voice* contacted members of the San Jose State University Research Foundation, but did not receive an answer by Wednesday's press deadline.

Once the funding is approved, Mountain View will be the first city in Santa Clara County to get moving on retrofitting its soft-story housing, but it will be years behind cities like San Francisco and Berkeley that have not only mapped out potentially unsafe housing, but led the way in passing ordinances mandating earthquake inspections and retrofits.

Warning signs required

In 2005, Berkeley adopted an ordinance requiring owners of soft-story buildings to submit engineering reports that include a list of structural weaknesses and ways to reinforce the building. It also required owners to let tenants know that the buildings they're living in are soft-story. In an effort to make it painfully obvious, landlords were forced to put a sign on the building entrance in plain sight that states "Earthquake Warning. This is a soft-story building with a soft, weak, or open front ground floor. You may not be safe inside or near such buildings during an earthquake."

Landlords in Berkeley have been paying anywhere from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per unit for the seismic retrofit work, averaging about \$3,280 per unit, according to the city's Planning and Development department. Property owners are allowed to increase rents to offset the costs on a "case-by-case" basis.

San Francisco's success

Strawn said San Francisco's Mandatory Soft Story Retrofit program has been very successful so far, and as of last week all but 5 of the nearly 6,700 property owners of soft-story buildings in the city have submitted screening forms determining whether retrofit work is needed. As of May 5, he said about 50 retrofit jobs have already been completed.

"The initial part of the program has definitely been success-

► Continued on next page

► Continued from previous page

ful,” Strawn said. “The fact that we literally have 5 of 6,700 who haven’t responded is amazing, really.”

The program did little to pit tenants and landlords against one another, he said, and members of the San Francisco Apartment Association, many of whom own soft-story buildings, were supportive of both the legislation and implementation. All the costs associated with the retrofit work can be passed onto tenants through rent increases.

Getting a head-start relative to the rest of the county on retrofit work might be a good idea in light of recent data that shows the chance of a major earthquake in the Bay Area is higher than previously estimated. The chance of an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 or greater in the next 30 years is now pinned at 72 percent, according to Andrew Michael, a research geophysicist at U.S. Geological Survey’s Earthquake

Science Center in Menlo Park. That’s up from the 63 percent probability found in a 2008 study.

Part of the reason for the increase, Michael said, is that research now analyzes faults more as a “network” where quakes can jump from fault to fault, rather than determining isolated earthquake probabilities for the San Andreas and Hayward faults. He said earthquakes involving multiple fault lines can produce longer and larger earthquakes, causing widespread and devastating earthquakes like Loma Prieta.

The higher probability may not prompt major changes in building retrofit programs, Michael said, but it’s certainly a reminder that earthquake readiness remains a key issue for residents in the Bay Area.

“The data really highlights that we should be doing something,” Michael said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

DEPRESSION

► Continued from page 5

of students feeling hopeless or depressed was lower, it should still be a district priority to help them out.

“Even if the same 6, 7 or 8 percent of kids were disenfranchised on all the questions, those kids still matter. Every single one of them,” Sweeley said.

Homework has come up as a possible reason for the high levels of academic stress on students, Sweeley said, but in talking to teachers and other school staff, she is convinced that homework is really only a symptom of a larger problem. Increased enrollment in multiple Advanced Placement (AP) classes might be the culprit, she said, as more students are taking four or more AP classes at a time.

“It’s a high stress area and we all need to dial it back a bit,” Sweeley said.

Still, there is a draft of a district-wide homework and make-up work policy in the works, according to Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf. The draft policy calls on students, teachers and parents to strike a balance between homework, extra-curricular activities, sleep and unstructured free time. The draft is currently floating between stakeholders for additional input, and is expected to make it to the board for a presentation on May 26, Sarraf said.

At the April 20 board meeting, board member Phil Faillace cautioned against looking at the survey results at face value, which he said can appear frightening without context. Faillace compared it

to the unemployment rate, and said 5 percent unemployment is considered a great achievement among economists but, in isolation, sounds pretty bad.

“When you think of that in absolute terms, it’s really kind of awful. It means 1 out of 20 people who are looking for work aren’t getting it,” Faillace said. “Having a comparison shows systemic flaws and whether we’re doing better.”

Nationwide surveys show an average of 16 percent of high school-aged teens in the U.S. have reported “seriously considering suicide,” according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which is roughly the same rate at the Mountain View-Los Altos school district.

Further comparisons with the county is difficult because many school districts are now opting out of the California Healthy Kids Survey. Every school used to be required to do the survey in order to get federal “Title IV” funding for safe and drug-free school programs, but the requirement was dropped when categorical school funding was dropped, according to Tina Jung, a spokesperson for the California Department of Education.

Even if the district’s survey results do well against state or national averages, Faillace told the board that some of the results are still “too high” and need to be addressed.

“You can’t rest on the fact that we have systemic problems. Our job is always to do better than the system, and that’s what we’re gonna try to do,” Faillace said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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Henry Hiller Parker (British, 1858 - 1930), Oil on canvas



Chinese Rosewood and Jade Screen



Ferdinand Gehr (Swiss, 1896 -1996) Two floral watercolors on paper



Pair of bronze figural torchers



Jacques & Mary Regat bronze sculpture, "Eclipse". Limited edition #2/12



Italian Marble Statues, The Four Seasons

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LONG-TIME NONPROFIT LEADER HAS ROOTS IN MENTAL HEALTH WORK

By Kevin Forestieri

The Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC) board of directors has tapped a 34-year veteran in the nonprofit world to take over for Monique Kane, who is set to retire. Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, currently the executive director of West Valley Community Services, will take over as the new executive director of CHAC on July 1.

Nakano-Matsumoto has spent most of her career at South Bay community organizations. And she will almost certainly have her hands full. The transition in leadership comes at a time when teen mental health has surfaced as a top priority for local schools and hospitals, and both local parents and students have expressed a growing desire for peer counseling groups.

Nakano-Matsumoto moved to California in 1991 and began

working in the Bay Area with Asian Americans for Community Involvement, a nonprofit that seeks to overcome the social and cultural barriers that keep Asian Americans from getting the health, advocacy, and community services they need.

She later worked for Asian American Recovery Services in East San Jose, helping families with substance abuse prevention, treatment and intervention, and eventually moved over to West Valley Community Services in 2005.

Despite making the jump from community service nonprofit work to the field of mental health, Nakano-Matsumoto said it's hardly uncharted territory. She said she cut her teeth in nonprofit work at mental health agencies as well as spending five years in the school system as a social worker in Denver.

"It feels like I'm going back to my roots," Nakano-Matsumoto said.

While most of her work has been in the West Valley region of the Bay Area, which includes Campbell, Cupertino, and Los Gatos, she said she's pretty famil-

iar with the Peninsula. Nakano-Matsumoto lives in Sunnyvale, and her children go to a school where CHAC offers counseling services.

'It feels like I'm going back to my roots.'

NAOMI NAKANO-MATSUMOTO

"There are specific players that I need to get to know better, but I feel like Mountain View is an extension of my community," she said. "I feel very comfortable"

Nakano-Matsumoto said there's a "clear need" for more behavioral health services in the area, and greater levels of awareness and acceptance of mental health issues have helped underscore that need. She said some of her top priorities include finding new ways to help kids learn coping mechanisms for stress, as well as improving access to mental health services among people

who can't afford it.

"People with enough money to pay for the services have plenty of access, but if you don't have adequate insurance or are very low or no-income, there's not enough," she said.

Nakano-Matsumoto will take over for current executive director Kane, who has been working with CHAC for the last 28 years and spent the latter half leading the nonprofit. Kane, a therapist and former teacher, announced her plans for retirement late last year.

Since Kane took over, CHAC has expanded its presence to 33 schools in Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Los Altos, where it offers counseling and other support services for students — an achievement that stretched CHAC's staff and resources.

Both Nakano-Matsumoto and Kane have been named Woman of the Year by County Supervisor Joe Simitian. In a press release, Simitian called Nakano-Matsumoto a "local hero" who helped guide West Valley Community Services through the recession, when demand for food, shelter and emergency assistance jumped

in 2008 and 2009.

"Through her leadership, our neighbors have somewhere to turn in their time of need," Simitian stated in the press release.

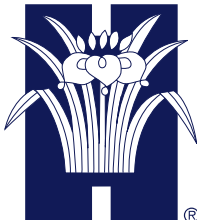
Some of the new programs Kane still has in the works prior to her departure include a peer counseling group for high school students, likely to be hosted at CHAC headquarters on a weekly basis for teens to talk about depression, stress, and anxiety.

Other key players for mental health programs in the Bay Area include El Camino Hospital's Community Benefit Plan, which contributes more money each year to school districts for increased mental health services at schools.

Tom Myers, executive director of Community Services Agency, said he looks forward to continuing to work with Nakano-Matsumoto after collaborating with her on through West Valley Community Services, a sister agency of CSA. Myers said Kane has been a great leader of CHAC over the years, and that Naomi will bring a "natural continuity" in leadership. ■



Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto



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LASD hosts broad outreach sessions

By Kevin Forestieri

The Los Altos School District is seeking broad public input for how to handle growing enrollment with \$150 million in bond money on the table, marking a change after six months of meetings with the 30-person Facilities Master Plan Committee.

The school district recently shifted gears with an open-to-all public meeting at the Los Altos Youth Center where more than 100 people were able to pitch in their ideas, thoughts and concerns on how to handle growing enrollment. The meeting marks the beginning of several planned discussions, both online and in-person, on what strategies would work best.

Up until March, the district has relied on feedback from the facilities committee, made up of PTA members, parents and school principals on how to spend Measure N bond money to increase student capacity. The group has since been put on hold by the district.

Working with Mountain View-based company Conteneo, district staff had groups of seven work together on giant printouts of boats on the walls. Each "engine" that groups pinned on the ship would represent a solution to solving enrollment growth, like buying new land for a school, and each engine was connected to associated drawbacks, or "anchors," such as high land acquisition costs or congested traffic.

It may look a little silly at first, but Laura Richardson, vice president of sales at Conteneo, said it's an effective way solicit new ideas from people who might not normally give feedback at these kinds of meetings. By framing problems in a limited way and sticking to group work, Richardson said, there's real discussion going on and people no longer feel intimidated when they make suggestions or raise concerns.

"Normally meetings feel like open mic night, which can sometimes be difficult to get information from everyone," she said. "Those people that talk are an incredibly small percentage of the community."

Board member Sangeeth Peruri said they will continue to work with the company to pick up where last week's discussion left off with online, virtual group discussions and real-time updates. The district has not announced when the online forums will go live.

As of April 15, the district has

paid \$33,000 in consulting fees to Conteneo, according to district records.

Did the boat strategy work? Katie Kinnaman, principal at Gardner Bullis Elementary and co-leader of the Facilities Master Plan Committee, said she the format was very successful as members of each group threw ideas out there and slapped hundreds of post-it notes onto the boats with their own concerns and suggestions. She said once the group she facilitated got into the swing of things, all she had to do was step back and watch.

"I did almost nothing that night," Kinnaman said. "Our group really owned what they were creating."

Lingering concerns

Before the meeting broke out into groups, some friction bubbled up from attendees over the district pushing the direction of discussion toward land acquisition. One person insisted he didn't know much about the possible uses of district-owned land for the meeting, while another questioned why the district hadn't considered the roughly 3 acres of district-owned land leased to the Waldorf School of the Peninsula.

At the same time, a two-page document was distributed around the room by an unnamed person encouraging people to support no new land acquisition, and instead consider options for using existing district land to build a new school. The suggestion conflicts with the district-preferred enrollment growth "option" which is to buy new land for a new school site, preferably in Mountain View north of El Camino Real, on which to house a new school.

Jill Jene, a Bullis Charter School parent and member of the facilities committee, said an alternative to the district's plan could be two schools sharing the large 16-acre Covington site, which borders the city-owned Rosita Park. She said there was a consensus among the committee members that it was worth seriously analyzing the possibility of using Covington for a new school instead, but the idea was not included in the official report by the Facilities Master Plan Committee to the board in March.

Jene helped write what she called the committee's draft minority report listing a number of grievances on the way the committee was run, but no other committee members have surfaced as co-authors or signatories. ■

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Google bike projects hinge on North Bayshore approvals

COMPANY PRESENTS VISION FOR BIKE-FRIENDLY FUTURE

By Mark Noack

Google representatives hinted Monday night that some transportation-friendly projects envisioned for the North Bayshore would be scaled back if Mountain View officials didn't grant the company's full request for new office space. In its goal to create an architecturally cutting-edge campus, Google earlier this year submitted an ambitious bid for 2.4 million square feet, the entire amount of new commercial expansion being allowed in the competitive corporate neighborhood.

The issue came up at the Monday, May 4, public meeting on bike-friendly projects in Mountain View organized by Google and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. The event centered on Google's Bicycle Access Vision Plan, a fleet of transportation projects the company is promoting to reduce vehicle traffic and expand safe bicycle accessibility throughout Mountain View.

Jeral Poskey, a Google transportation planning program manager, explained that the company would have to ditch its goal to have no net increase in parking spaces if the company's plans to build at four sites were to be scaled back. Other projects designed to minimize traffic in the neighborhood could also be impacted, he indicated, although he didn't go into specifics.

"In the long run, it doesn't change our vision although some numbers could change," he said. "If we only have one site (to build), then we have to add parking. If we get all four, then zero parking."

The bicycle meeting came just one day before city leaders were scheduled to review a series of competing bids from Google and several rivals for development rights in North Bayshore. Some materials promoting the company's North Bayshore project were distributed at the meeting, but Poskey gave assurances that the timing was a coincidence. The company's bicycle vision plan had been a work in progress

for the last two years, he said.

As part of the bicycle plan, company officials said Google would spend \$60 million on various transportation projects identified by Mountain View city officials in a North Bayshore Precise Plan issued last year. In addition, the company wants to subsidize a new bike shop somewhere on its campus and provide a fleet of electric bicycles for city staff.

As the highlight of the plan, company representatives said they wanted to link the roadway network throughout the city with new bicycle-safe features. While Mountain View has extensive bike lanes, Poskey pointed out that only a fraction, about 87 miles, were fully inter-connected without putting bike riders in a competition for road space against motorists. The company's plans call for connecting 270 miles of streets for cyclists so that bicycles could be a primary mode of transportation in Mountain View, he said.

"You have to be able to bike not just to work. It has to work across a network," he said. "We want you to get to all sorts of destinations."

As part of the event, Google officials made the pitch that they can improve traffic patterns while growing in the neighborhood. The company presented a series of color-coded maps depicting how much "stress" a bike rider encounters on streets, as well as pinpointing spots where transportation investments can make the most impact.

Google has set a company goal to eventually encourage 20 percent of its employees to bike to work.

The 40 people in attendance at the meeting included two council members, numerous bicycle advocates and a cluster of nearby residents. The response was overwhelmingly appreciative.

"Google is such a big company, but they are looking at this issue as a good neighbor," said Villa Street resident Jamil Shaikh, an avid cyclist. "I'm hopeful that people like me will feel safe."

E-mail Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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NORTH BAYSHORE

▶ Continued from page 1

pany's entire request.

Meanwhile, the mayor proposed sacrificing most proposals from Google and The Sobrato Organization, the applicants who signaled the strongest commitment to bringing housing to the neighborhood. Google received support for only one of its four sites, a 515,000 square-foot allotment that would go to an eight-story building off Landings Drive. Plans for that site were meant to provide parking for the much larger expansion Google officials envisioned.

As the motion moved to a vote, exasperated Google representatives cried foul, saying they were being penalized for trying to adhere to the city's rules.

"This is such an unfair process, I'm concerned that the city is moving forward with it," said David Radcliffe, Google's vice president of real estate and workplace services. "This would be very, very difficult for us. We have a growth trajectory and we were anticipating substantially more than this."

Google's grand plans

In his opening pitch, Radcliffe described Google's full proposal as something that would "bring tears to your eyes." The company's full, 3.4 million-square-foot design called for crane-like robots to manipulate changeable interiors, and a series of unique glass-canopied buildings — a startling vision that drew international headlines. In addition, the company indicated it would adapt its plans to include a swath of new housing, something city leaders added as a priority for applicants last month, following post-election changes in the council majority.

From the start of the Tuesday meeting, Radcliffe asked city officials to hold off on making any final decisions because he said more time was needed to study how the city's desire for housing would impact North Bayshore plans already in the pipeline.

Echoing that concern, Councilman Lenny Siegel emphatically urged his colleagues to postpone a decision until the completion a \$1.2 million housing study approved by the council in April. Making judgments without info would be like "flying blind," he said. He criticized the mayor's motion for promoting office growth but leaving housing as an afterthought.

"We may be eliminating the chance to build the mixed-use community many of us have talked about," he said. "Why would Google make land available for housing, when they can

Applications	Council Direction
Broadreach	123,479
Google-Landings	515,325
LinkedIn/Sywest	1,450,998
Rees	102,248
Total	2,192,050
Allowable Floor Area	2,192,050
Available	0

build offices at the base floor ratio. It won't be as exciting ... but it'll give their people a place to work."

Siegel offered a counter motion to delay any decision until next year. But the proposal ultimately lost in a 3-4 vote, with only council members Pat Showalter and Ken Rosenberg voting in favor of it.

The opposing council members expressed concerns that waiting on a decision would compromise other applicants, particularly LinkedIn.

'We may be eliminating the chance to build the mixed-use community many of us have talked about.'

COUNCILMAN LENNY SIEGEL

LinkedIn's 'fragile' deal

The professional networking company had cobbled together a tenuous partnership between five separate landowners to develop a 6.79-acre site just off Shoreline Boulevard. The company's plans call for 10 buildings of mixed-use office and commercial space, with plans already in place for a new gym and movie theater.

If the council dithered on a decision, the land partnership could fall apart, putting "millions of dollars at risk for no reason," warned LinkedIn representative Jim Morgensen.

"This is not a small investment and the reality is we'll have a substantial investment at risk," he said. "The longer we wait, the more this fragile relationship will erode. It's really as simple as that."

Those pleas got some backing from the council, particularly because LinkedIn representatives pointed out they had only a small foothold in North Bayshore whereas Google owns hundreds of acres. As icing on the cake, Morgensen reminded the council his group would pledge to give \$40 million to MidPen Housing for affordable housing projects in

Mountain View.

In comparison, Google offered a wide range of community amenities, including 31 acres of new parks, hundreds of affordable homes and a network of new bike trails. More than one council member described the company's full proposal as the most impressive of the bunch.

But Google's request for everything on the table left some council members unsympathetic. With only 2.2 million square feet in bonus space to dole out, Mountain View leaders say they were hard-pressed to take Google's bid for 2.5 million seriously.

"Google's original proposal exceeded the amount of developable land," chided Councilman Mike Kasperzak. "At some point, we couldn't even have done that."

Speaking for Google, Radcliffe reminded city officials that the original space available was 2.5 million square feet, but the city later reduced that cap.

Other council members proposed ways to give more office space to Google, but those pitches went nowhere. Siegel offered what he dubbed "an unfriendly amendment" to McAlister's motion to reduce LinkedIn's allotment by about 100,000 square feet and give that portion to Google. The amendment died without a second.

As a concession to keep some housing in the equation, McAlister offered Sobrato and Google a future opportunity to increase their allotment by showing how much office space they could retire to create future housing.

That was essentially useless, Radcliffe said, because his company would need to retain all its remaining office space.

The city approved McAlister's motion in a 4-3 vote, with Clark, Siegel and Rosenberg opposed.

In a separate 6-1 vote with Siegel dissenting, council members also signaled they would give future consideration for a 200-room hotel project being proposed in North Bayshore by the Shashi Group. Council members indicated they wanted staff to negotiate with Shashi representatives on adequate community benefits before the project is moved forward. ▣

E-mail Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NEW DIRECTOR AT NASA AMES

The NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field has a new head honcho. Dr. Eugene Tu, a longtime Ames scientist who has led several research divisions, was picked as the agency's new director, according to a press release earlier this week.

Tu comes from a research background, with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as a master's degree and doctorate in aeronautics and astronautics from Stanford University.

Since joining NASA, Tu has led four research divisions, including the agency's supercomputing facility and its arc jet testing complex. NASA officials note that Tu has also led research in computational aerodynamics, information technology and high performance computing.

—Mark Noack

SCHOOLS WIN STATE AWARDS

Both of Mountain View's middle schools and two of its high schools have been selected this month as

California Gold Ribbon Schools, a new program that recognizes schools for showing gains in "academic content and performance standards" and temporarily takes the place of the California Distinguished Schools Program.

Crittenden and Graham Middle schools were chosen as two of 193 middle schools in the state for the award, and Mountain View and Los Altos high schools were among the 180 high schools honored. All the schools will be recognized at an awards ceremony at the Marriott Marquis in San Francisco on May 29.

Schools applied for the Gold Ribbon Award based on "a model program their school has adopted that includes standards-based activities, projects, strategies, and practices that can be replicated by other local educational agencies," according to a press release by the California Department of Education.

Los Altos High School was recognized for the school's "Learning in the Cloud" program, which includes a one-to-one ratio of students to digital devices and a greater use of cloud computing for learning in the classroom, according to a district press release. Assistant Principal Galen

Rosen played a significant role in the implementation of the program as well as in the new "Bring Your Own Device" program.

The award also recognized Mountain View High School for its work with the nonprofit Equal Opportunity Schools, which helped the school identify first-generation students who could thrive in Advanced Placement and honors courses, which helped the school encourage hundreds of students to take more rigorous academic classes.

—Kevin Forestieri

E3 YOUTH PHILANTHROPY SEEKING APPLICANTS

E-Cubed (E3) Youth Philanthropy, a Los Altos Community Foundation program, is accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year. Students entering ninth, 10th or 11th grade this fall who live in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills or Mountain View, or attend school in Los Altos or Mountain View, can apply for a spot in the program. Applications are due on Friday, May 15, at 5 p.m.

The E3 program aims to empower local youth to make a positive social change in their local and global communities. E3

currently has 35 members from eight local schools who learn from doing service and making grants. E3 program participants learn from local philanthropists about nonprofits, organize service projects, become effective grant-makers, make grants to local youth ventures, and work with other youth leaders in the area, organizers said.

The E3 program term lasts for two years and meets twice a month on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in Los Altos from September to May. The application for E3 can be found at <http://losaltoscf.org/E3>. For more information, contact e3youth@gmail.com or the Los Altos Community Foundation at (650)-949-5908 or info@losaltoscf.org.

BIKE MONTH IN MV

The Mountain View Library is celebrating bike month in May with free programs, including making up-cycled bike jewelry, lessons on riding safely, and an alley cat race with Cowgirl Bike Courier. Events include:

■ A one-hour "Intro to Urban Bicycling" course offered on Tuesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. by the Silicon Valley Bike Coalition.

Participants will learn how to move safely through city traffic and afterwards take a free ride on Bikeshare bicycles.

■ A drop-in bike clinic at the Dero Fixit Station will be held on Saturday, May 16, at 11 a.m.. Professional mechanics will be on site and offer tips and advice. Participants can also learn how to use certain tools to fix bikes.

■ Mountain View Police Officers will be conducting a "Theft Proof Bike" talk on Wednesday, May 20, at 7 p.m.. Officers will discuss bike crime and ways to prevent bike thieves from accessing bikes.

■ A courier challenge will be held on Saturday, May 23, at 11 a.m.. Participants will compete in an "alley cat-style" race against messengers from Cowgirl Bike Courier, a professional courier service promoting green sustainability and women cycling in Silicon Valley.

■ A sewing session will be held on Monday, May 27, at 7 p.m.. Participants will learn how to make panniers out of Friends of the Library book bags.

For more information, contact librarian Emily Weak at 650-526-7020 or emily.weak@mountain-view.gov.

—Rachel Lee

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SWEET SOUNDS ON THE PLAZA

MICHELLE LE

Trio Sol de Mexico performs on May 1, at the second of Mountain View's monthly Concerts on the Plaza series. From April through September, the Civic Center Plaza hosts musical performances, food trucks and a pop-up park for kids from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Next up on the schedule is Hootenanny, performing on June 5.



CITY STAFF

► Continued from page 5

around. Case in point is Google's bid for a series of glassy canopies and modular buildings that could be rearranged on a whim, he said.

"These are big projects that will consume quite a bit of staff time," he said.

Among the positions sought are two engineers to focus on traffic impacts to North Bayshore as well as a mobility coordinator who would work on alternative-transportation improvements

throughout the city. Four new city planners would be funded primarily through special development fees.

As part of the budget, city leaders were also asked to continue another year of funding for multiple part-time positions, including an office assistant, a communications coordinator and a financial analyst.

The City Council is expected to take up the final version of the 2015-16 fiscal year budget in June. ▣

E-mail Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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<p>AVODERM NATURAL DRY DOG FOOD 24-26 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lamb Meal & Rice \$29⁹⁹ Chicken Meal & Rice ... Lite • Original \$32⁹⁹ Large Breed Adult <p>Effective 5/6/15 - 5/12/15</p>	<p>IAMS DRY DOG FOOD 26 - 30 Lb Bag Only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lamb Meal & Rice • Weight Control Mini-Chunk • Lrg Breed Adult <p>Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$25⁹⁹</p> <p>Effective 5/6/15 - 5/12/15</p>	<p>NUTRO NATURAL CHOICE DRY DOG FOOD 30 Lb Bag • Chicken, Brown Rice & Oatmeal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult • Large Breed Adult <p>Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$33⁹⁹</p> <p>Effective 5/6/15 - 5/12/15</p>	<p>IAMS DRY CAT FOOD • Original • Weight Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hairball • Indoor/Weight/Hairball <p>16 & 17 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags \$19⁹⁹</p> <p>Effective 5/6/15 - 5/12/15</p>
<p>9 LIVES CANNED CAT FOOD 5.5 Oz All Varieties • Single Cans</p> <p>Limit 1 Case Per Family 35¢</p> <p>Effective 5/6/15 - 5/12/15</p>	<p>FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD All Varieties 3 Oz</p> <p>Limit 2 Cases Per Family 20/\$11⁰⁰</p> <p>Effective 5/6/15 - 5/12/15</p>	<p>PURINA CAT CHOW DRY CAT FOOD • Regular • Indoor 16 Lb Bag</p> <p>Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$11⁹⁹</p> <p>Effective 5/6/15 - 5/12/15</p>	<p>SCOOPAWAY CLEAN CLUMPING CAT LITTER 20 Lb Box</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-Cat • Unscented (Fresh Step Scoop, 20 Lb Box - \$6.99) <p>Limit 2 Boxes Per Family \$5⁴⁹</p> <p>Effective 5/6/15 - 5/12/15</p>

<p>PURINA PRO-PAN CANNED FOOD SALE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit 2 Dog Food 89¢ Dog Food 53¢ Cat Food 53¢ Grain Free \$1.19 13 Oz 	<p>PEDIGREE DRY DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult (Large Breed) 36 Lb \$21.99 46 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$23⁹⁹ 	<p>NEW SIZE! WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Lbs \$11⁹⁹ Limit 2 Bags Original \$12⁹⁹ Extra Strength 	<p>MEOW MIX DRY CAT FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Choice 16 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$10⁹⁹
<p>NEW FORMULA MERRICK'S CLASSIC NATURAL DRY DOG FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken/Brown Rice/Green Pea (Adult & Large Breed) 30 Lbs Beef/Banana/Carrots (Lamb)/Brown Rice/Apples Limit 2 Bags ON SALE 	<p>CAT'S PRIDE FRESH & LIGHT PREMIUM CLUMPING CAT LITTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Lb Jug Limit 2 Jugs \$5⁴⁹ 	<p>WILDERNESS DRY CAT FOOD AS MARKED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken • Salmon • Duck • Indoor Weight Control 100% Grain Free 11-12 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags \$5 OFF OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES 	<p>CORE NATURAL DRY CAT FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 FREE Cans Cat Cans 5.5 Oz With each purchase Original • Indoor • Turkey Grain Free 12 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$34⁹⁹

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<p>OUTWARD HOUND PET TRAVEL GEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car Booster Seat • Pet Carriers Life Jackets • Dog Backpacks Port-A-Bowl All Varieties OUR SUPER LOW PRICES <p>20% OFF</p>	<p>NEVER HAIR PET HAIR PICK UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reg. \$2.99 (Refills Reg. \$2.49 XL \$2.99) XL \$3.49 	<p>MARINELAND POWER FILTER SALE</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>MODEL</th> <th>TANK SIZE</th> <th>PET CLUB SALE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>PENGUIN 100B</td> <td>20 Gal.</td> <td>\$19.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PENGUIN 150B</td> <td>30 Gal.</td> <td>\$27.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PENGUIN 200B</td> <td>50 Gal.</td> <td>\$33.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PENGUIN 350B</td> <td>75 Gal.</td> <td>\$45.99</td> </tr> </table>	MODEL	TANK SIZE	PET CLUB SALE	PENGUIN 100B	20 Gal.	\$19.99	PENGUIN 150B	30 Gal.	\$27.99	PENGUIN 200B	50 Gal.	\$33.99	PENGUIN 350B	75 Gal.	\$45.99
MODEL	TANK SIZE	PET CLUB SALE															
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PENGUIN 200B	50 Gal.	\$33.99															
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POST Peninsula Open Space Trust

MAY DAY

► Continued from page 5

taken to staunch deportations under President Barack Obama. Many described the executive action announced last year as a Band-Aid on the problem, which did not enough to address issues inherent in the outdated U.S. immigration policy.

In fact, some perceived President Obama as the face of the problem since he pledged to make immigration reform a

priority in his campaigns. His actions in office did not live up to those promises, said Job Lopez, a parishioner at St. Joseph's Church and an organizer for the rally.

"More people are being deported under (Obama) than any other past president," he said. "A kid might come home from school and find his father or mother isn't there."

This wasn't a hypothetical — Lopez had witnessed members of his own family in the

Bay Area who have been living with the fear of being forced out of the country. His niece's family was torn apart in 2011, he said, after federal immigration officials deported her husband to Mexico. His niece remains in the country, taking care of their four children on her own, he said. Lopez said they were one example of the "thousands" of similar cases across the nation. ■

E-mail Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

COUNTERFEIT MONEY

A San Jose man was arrested late Saturday night after allegedly trying to refill a gift card using counterfeit money at the Walmart on Showers Drive.

Walmart security contacted police between 9 and 10 p.m. reporting that the man, identified as 25-year-old Christopher Hughes, had tried to refill the gift card with as much as \$322 of counterfeit bills. Hughes had an outstanding warrant for theft, and officers suspected Hughes was under the influence of a controlled substance at the time of the incident.

Hughes was arrested on charges of possession of and attempting to pass counterfeit bills as well as the outstanding warrant, and was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

WOMAN REFUSES TO PAY FOR FOOD

A 42-year-old transient woman was arrested at the Shell Shock Restaurant in downtown Mountain View on Saturday after eating at the restaurant and refusing to pay.

The woman, later identified as Jung Hee Holub, ate \$83 worth of food from the restaurant and refused to pay. She then locked herself in the bathroom and refused to come out. Officers arrived and entered the bathroom and were able to get Holub out, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Holub was warned that she was not allowed back in the restaurant, and was arrested on charges of defrauding an innkeeper. She was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

TWO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS

Police made two arrests last week following an alleged domestic violence incident where a husband and wife both claimed to officers that they had been attacked.

On Tuesday, April 28, a

36-year-old woman on the 1900 block of Crisanto Drive called 911 just after 4 p.m. claiming her husband had slapped her and had a knife. When officers arrived, they searched for the man outside the home and found him in the area close to Rengstorff Park. The husband, a 29-year-old man, told police that his wife tried to cut him with a knife, and he had superficial cuts to his chest, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Both the husband and wife provided conflicting stories on what happened, Jaeger said, and based on the investigation police arrested both on charges of committing "corporal injury" to the other. Both were booked into

Santa Clara County Main Jail.

\$2,500 LAPTOP STOLEN

A 34-year-old man San Mateo man had an expensive laptop stolen from his vehicle in downtown Mountain View last week after he left his trunk open to unload supplies.

The man parked his car at 135 Castro St. and began unloading supplies from the trunk to a nearby business on Wednesday, April 29, at around 6 p.m. When he returned to the vehicle four minutes later, the laptop in the trunk was gone. The laptop is valued at \$2,500.

No witnesses saw the incident and no security cameras were in the area.

—Kevin Forestieri



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

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**Parks and Recreation Commission
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The Parks and Recreation Commission will review and comment on the design of the new park, and recommend a conceptual plan to the City Council.



For more information, contact Rey Rodriguez,
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or email rey.rodriguez@mountainview.gov

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NOTICE OF VACANCY ON THE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The City Council is seeking applications for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee from persons interested in serving the remainder of a four-year term ending December 31, 2016.

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee consists of five members appointed by the City Council. Members shall live or work within the City limits and have a strong interest and enthusiasm for planning, improving, and maintaining bicycle and pedestrian facilities. A majority of the members shall be Mountain View residents. This Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month except for May, July, and December, at 6:30 p.m. in the Plaza Conference Room, City Hall, 500 Castro Street. Members are appointed for a maximum of two four-year terms. The Board, Commission, and Committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council.

Call the City Clerk's Office at (650) 903-6304 for further information and an application. An application can be downloaded at <http://mountainview.gov>. Completed applications will be accepted until June 5, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Appointments are available on an equal-opportunity basis.

Lorrie Brewer, MMC
City Clerk

■ A + E BRIEFS

'HEALING RIVER'

Life's joys and pains, turmoil and tranquility will be expressed in song at the Peninsula Women's Chorus spring concert of Latin American music at Palo Alto's St. Mark's Episcopal Church (600 Colorado Ave.) on Saturday, May 9, 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 17, 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 general admission, \$10 students. Go to pwchorus.org or call 650-327-3095.

'IN MY LIFE: A MUSICAL THEATRE TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES'

Once so wildly popular that a new term was coined to describe the frenzied fans at their concerts, The Beatles' time has come and gone. Or has it? On Friday, May 15, John, Paul, George and Ringo will take the stage at Redwood City's Fox Theatre (2215 Broadway St.) for a night of classic hits from "Twist and Shout" through "Rubber Soul" and "Revolver" all the way to "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." Of course, it's not *really* them, but Beatles tribute band Abbey Road

has earned a reputation for their realistic and historically accurate concerts, down to the costumes and instruments. And it's more than just music; Beatles manager Brian Epstein narrates the show, helping audiences relive the band's legacy, from its breakthrough Ed Sullivan Show performance of 1964 to its psychedelic years. Fifty years after the Liverpool foursome took the world by storm, it's not too late to catch yourself a little Beatlemania.

MOITREYEE CHOWDHURY AND JENNIFER GASKIN

Blink and you'll miss it: Palo Alto residents Moitreyee Chowdhury and Jennifer Gaskin will hold a pop-up art gallery Saturday, May 9-Sunday, May 10, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at 739 Layne Court, Palo Alto, with a reception on Friday, May 8, 7-9 p.m. Admission is free. Go to moitreyee.com and jennifergaskin.com.

FIROOZEH DUMAS

Humorist Firoozeh Dumas, who's competed for literary prizes against Jon Stewart and Bob Dylan, will present an evening of

stories at Stanford's Jordan Hall on the Main Quad, Building 420, Room 40 on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Go to tinyurl.com/pl7ognq or call 650-724-0939.

SILICON VALLEY IRISH FLEADH

Erin go Bragh! The City of Mountain View welcomes back the annual Irish festival Saturday-Sunday, May 9-10 from noon-8 p.m. The cultural celebration includes live music and dance, arts and crafts, food, drink and more. Admission is free. Go to siliconvalleyirishfleadh.com or call 650-964-9151.

'ONCE UPON A MATTRESS'

The princess and that problematic pea are back in Peninsula Youth Theatre's performance of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, "Once Upon a Mattress," at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (500 Castro St.) May 9-17. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors and children 12 and under. Go to pyt.net or call 650-903-6000.
— Elizabeth Schwyzer

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■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

Town Square forum

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Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6528

Giving thanks to teachers

By *Christopher Chiang*

Tuesday was National Teacher Day, part of the week-long Teacher Appreciation Week. Please join us in reaching out to teachers past and present and thanking them for their civic service.

A lot of fanfare is given to the builders of the Silicon Valley like Steve Jobs of Apple, or more recently, Jan Koum of WhatsApp. Both these accomplished individuals

Guest Opinion

have praised their teachers for changing their lives during particularly challenging times in their childhood. For Mr. Jobs, it was fourth grade teacher Imogene Hill of Monta Loma Elementary School. For Mr. Koum, it was teacher Matt Neely at Mountain View High School.

A joint Harvard Columbia study by economists calculates that a teacher cre-

ates \$700,000 in added economic value each year in the skills they develop in our children. Teachers are the true “venture capitalists” of the Valley, seeding and guiding our community’s most valuable investments, reaping in return neither large sums of money nor fame, but driven by faith alone in their noble calling. Thank you, teachers!

*Board President Christopher Chiang,
writing on behalf of the trustees of the
Mountain View Whisman School District*

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

HOUSING THE PROBLEM, NOT BUS LANES

This street fight over bus lanes on El Camino is an unneeded distraction from our bigger issue, a housing crisis that has reached a level that people in the top 10 percent of U.S. incomes are being evicted and are struggling to find affordable places to live. Last week, it was my friends who live in the townhouses next to mine on Granada Street. Today, it’s my accountant friend and her auto mechanic husband who rent a small house in downtown Sunnyvale.

I feel so fortunate that we own our place and don’t face spiraling rent increases. But I feel a painful loss for the people being forced out. The people we’re losing are more important than whether El Camino is sprouting taller building or has fewer lanes dedicated to cars. I voted for Showalter and Rosenberg because I trusted in their leadership for this crisis, and I continue to support them today with their vote on BRT.

*Janet Lafleur
Lotus Lane*

PRAGMATIC ARGUMENT AGAINST BRT

I applaud Lenny Siegel’s logically solid guest opinion piece (in the May 1 issue) opposing dedicated bus lanes on El Camino. To quote his refreshingly pragmatic argument, “we should entice people out of single-occupancy vehicles by improving mobility, not attempt to force people out of their cars by restricting it. The latter is politically unsustainable.” Oh, so true that is, with Mountain View traffic becoming more

immobile every year due to ever-increasing regional overcrowding.

In light of their shocking post-election flip-flops on the very serious issue of dedicated bus lanes, council members Rosenberg and Showalter need to reassess their roles on the City Council. They must realize that they represent all Mountain View residents and businesses, and also that voters hate nasty surprises and do not forgive or forget them easily.

*William R. Hitchens
Sunnyview Lane*

PICKLEBALL COMES TO MOUNTAIN VIEW

Mountain View will be the first

city on the Peninsula to introduce outdoor pickleball to senior citizens.

My husband and I discovered this game a year ago. One pickleball game in Arizona and we were hooked, putting down our racquets after 50 years of playing tennis!

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States. It’s easy on the joints, low impact, social, and lots of fun. Even for those who have never before played a sport. It’s played with a paddle and a whiffle ball on a court a fourth of the size of a tennis court.

Mountain View Senior Center will be offering a free introduction to this sport for ages 55-plus

on Thursday, May 28, at 10:30 am. Call (650) 903-6330 to make a reservation.

We are proud to be residents and senior citizens of this thriving and progressive city and are excited that we have discovered the joy and health benefits of pickleball, which we want to share with everyone we meet.

We want to commend the Mountain View Parks and Recreation Department and the Mountain View Senior Center for their support to bring pickleball to Mountain View. This, we believe, will be one more step on Mountain View’s journey towards being identified as a senior-friendly city.

*Monica Williams
Walker Drive*



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health matters



Stanford Medicine Community Day

health talks | interactive health pavilion | food & fun

saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. may 16

Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge

291 Campus Drive | Stanford

hear from **Stanford Medicine faculty** on a wide range of health topics. Learn what's new in research, prevention, and treatment.

health talks

7 talks from
10:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

tips for safe workouts:

how to stay healthy and injury-free

teen mental health and your family:

practical information and insights

understanding breast cancer biology:

the latest discoveries and treatment advances

infectious disease:

risks and precautions

approaching the second half of life with health and vitality: the latest research on aging and longevity

heart disease prevention: what you really need to know about diet, exercise, and heart health

dispelling the myths: realistic strategies for maintaining cognitive health and preventing dementia

meet **Stanford health pros** and answer your most pressing medical questions

engage in healthy and fun activities that will **lift your spirits and relieve stress**

explore nutritious and **fun food options for kids** with Stanford's children's experts

a collection of exhibits featuring interactive, hands-on attractions and activities for the whole family
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

interact with the **human body** through cutting-edge, robotic, and 3D technologies

find out ways to prepare, plan, and **protect your family** during an emergency

plus, the first 100 attendees to check in will receive a **4-pack of tickets** to the September 12 Stanford football game!

health pavilion

register today at healthmatters.stanford.edu