

Mountain View VOICE

MAY 29, 2015 VOLUME 23, NO. 18

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MOVIES | 24



Voting
ends
May 31
PAGE 16



MAGALI GAUTHIER

A trio of off-leash dogs takes a leisurely sniff around Bubb Park on May 26.

Letting Fido off the leash

COUNCIL MAKES OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS PERMANENT AT CITY PARKS

By Mark Noack

Go ahead and leave the leash at home — the Mountain View City Council unanimously voted to make handful of public parks more dog-friendly by allowing canines to roam off-leash. The

approval on Tuesday night, May 26, would make permanent a pilot program designed to test off-leash rules.

The pilot phase began about one year ago, with city officials setting aside unfenced areas at seven public parks for dogs to run freely and play. Of course,

dog-owners were already letting their pets loose at parks, but the pilot program represented the first significant effort by city to regulate and map out where this would be allowed.

The issue hit home for dog-

► See **OFF LEASH**, page 9

Dessert shop is ground zero in neighborhood feud

INFIGHTING OVER SNOZEN, ZEALOUS ENFORCEMENT OF RULES DIVIDING THE CROSSINGS' RESIDENTS

By Mark Noack

A corner cafe specializing in frozen desserts would seem like the perfect setting to relax and cool off, but the proprietors of the Mountain View parlor SnoZen have found themselves in the center of a heated political battle between residents in the Crossings neighborhood.

SnoZen, which opened in late 2013, serves Taiwanese shaved snow, a unique dessert that has attracted a following in the Bay Area. But along with its success, the business has also drawn some complaints from neighbors that they're being too noisy.

SnoZen owners Teague and Jennypher Ho, as well as other residents in the Crossings neighborhood, say the complaints come solely from the one

household living directly above the shop. Over the 18 months since SnoZen opened, residents Konstantin Okunev and his wife Yelena Okuneva have made an estimated seven complaints about the noise to Mountain View police and code-enforcement officials. When authorities found no substantial issues, the Okunev family hired an attorney, who began sending written warnings to SnoZen to be quiet.

The Ho family say the noise complaints make little sense. Other than the chatter of customers, the only other sound coming from the shop is a radio with only one speaker working that they couldn't blast if they wanted to, they say. They point out these complaints are particularly odd

► See **FEUD**, page 8



MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE FILE PHOTO

SnoZen, which serves up Taiwanese-style shaved snow desserts, is the focus of a neighborhood dispute that could force it to close.

When enrollment swells, special ed students get bumped

DISTRICT COMMITTEE SEEKS \$2.1 MILLION FOR PERMANENT CLASSROOMS

By Kevin Forestieri

Getting moved from one school to another can be jarring for any kid trying to make friends and get used to a new learning environment. For

special education students in the Mountain View Whisman School District, it happens all the time.

Earlier this month, parents of special needs students told the school board that their children,

like many others enrolled in the district's special education classes, are often bumped from school to school every year, making it difficult for them to

► See **SPECIAL ED**, page 7

INSIDE

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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 do you hope to achieve by your 90th birthday?



“To make it to my 90th birthday.”

Brent Rockwell, Mountain View



“I hope to own a house in Mountain View because we love it, but it is very expensive and we’ll need to do a lot of saving.”

Kendra Poppy, Mountain View



“Retirement, because it’s so hard to retire these days. And maybe a beach house, too.”

J. Lane, Mountain View



“Satisfaction — in terms of relationships and my family.”

Nawagata Nilambari, Sunnyvale



“Family and retirement security. I really want my kids to be happy and secure by my 90th birthday.”

Dan Johnstor, Mountain View

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

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

KIDNAPPING ARREST

A 19-year-old Mountain View man was arrested last week after he allegedly refused to let his girlfriend out of his car and threatened to crash the vehicle following an argument over their relationship.

Police say Fernando Gomez got into an argument with his 20-year-old girlfriend on May 16 over pictures that were posted online and the fact that she wanted to end their relationship. Gomez allegedly kept her from leaving the room where the argument started, but later agreed to bring her home, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Rather than drive his girlfriend home, Gomez allegedly drove her around for an hour, threatened to crash the car, wouldn't let her out and took her cellphone away from her. Fernando eventually dropped her off at a nearby fast food restaurant, where she contacted police.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 9

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY
 800 block California St., 5/21
 2500 block W. El Camino Real, 5/21
 2000 block Old Middlefield Way, 5/25

900 block Sladky Av., 5/21
 200 block Tyrella Av., 5/25
 100 block Calderon Av., 5/25
 600 block Rainbow Dr., 5/25

BATTERY
 1000 block El Monte Av., 5/20
 1100 block Grant Rd., 5/22
 1900 block Silverwood Av., 5/22
 2600 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/24

SALE OF NARCOTICS
 1000 block Villa St., 5/21

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY
 2600 block California St., 5/23

STOLEN VEHICLE
 2400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/21
 600 block Mariposa Av., 5/23
 800 block Sierra Vista Av., 5/24
 1000 block Wentworth St., 5/24
 2000 block California St., 5/25

GRAND THEFT
 1000 block Bonita Av., 5/24
 1800 block Appletree Ln., 5/24

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY
 200 block San Antonio Rd., 5/20
 600 block Yosemite Av., 5/21

VANDALISM
 700 block Continental Cir., 5/20
 300 block Camille Ct., 5/22
 100 block W. Evelyn Av., 5/24
 1500 block California St., 5/24
 200 block Villa St., 5/25

■ CORRECTIONS

Last week's report on the city's new water use restrictions, "City toughens up water restrictions," omitted the word "million" in a description of the new landscaping ordinance. The ordinance will save the city an estimated 171 million gallons of water.

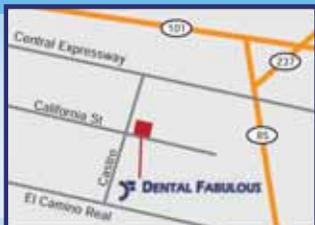
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City of Mountain View
 Council Neighborhoods Committee

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- Assistance for New Associations



The Council Neighborhoods Committee would like to encourage your neighborhood group to apply. Applications and grant guidelines may be picked up in the Community Development Department, City Hall, 500 Castro Street, and are available on the City's web page at www.mountainview.gov. Please call (650) 903-6379 if you would like an application mailed to you or have questions. **The application deadline is June 1, 2015.**



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MICHELLE LE

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Students gathered after school last Thursday under colorful flags from around the world to celebrate Stevenson Elementary's first International Day. Parents cooked up dishes from Russia, Iran and Vietnam, which were sold to raise funds for the school's English Learner Advisory Committee. Other events included a cricket game as well as music and costumes from various cultures across the globe. Pictured from left are Alex, 9, who played soccer with Reo, age 1, and Rui, 5, while their big brother Keitou, 8, stood nearby.

Big changes afoot at San Antonio Center

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON UPSCALE MOVIE THEATER, HOTEL, SHOPS

By Mark Noack

A new round of large-scale demolition and construction is under way at San Antonio Center as part of a long-planned second phase of The Village mixed-use development.

Expected to be finished by late 2017, the project will bring a hotel, upscale movie theater

and nearly 400,000 square feet of new office space to the shopping center at the corner of El Camino Real and San Antonio Road. Along with those plans, the project will also feature enough commercial space for about 30 new shops and restaurants, creating a "true mixed-use environment," according to David Geiser, managing design director at Merlone

Geier Partners.

"We're teed up to provide a great development for the community," Geiser said.

Demolition has already begun on a row of buildings along San Antonio Road, including the International Halal Market and the Barron Park Plumbing

► See **SAN ANTONIO**, page 12

High school district to revise homework policy

GREATER EMPHASIS PLACED ON STUDENT WELL-BEING, REDUCTION IN STRESS

By Kevin Forestieri

Students feeling swamped with homework may be able to breathe a sigh of relief. The Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District took a definitive step Tuesday night, May 26, toward revamping its homework policies to lighten the workload on students and compel teachers to be mindful about what they ask of students.

The crux of the issue is that

many parents and students in the district feel that homework stresses out students who have to focus most of their time outside of school completing assignments. Following numerous public comments late last year regarding student stress, district staff decided to revamp the homework policy and put a greater emphasis on student well-being.

The draft homework policy states that teachers, students and parents all need to strike a careful

balance between academic success and student mental health and well-being. Teachers would be expected to give deadlines well in advance and consider how much time it would take the "average student" to complete assignments, among other new responsibilities.

The current policy, now two decades old, consists of a couple paragraphs about how homework should "reinforce" academic skills taught in the classroom, and that students have a respon-

sibility to get their homework done on their own.

Adjusting to the new policy is going to be particularly challenging for teachers, who will have to find a way to assign homework that isn't burdensome for students who struggle with the content, but not too easy or pointless for high-achieving students, according to board member Phil Faillace.

"Homework, which is desperately needed by some students, is a waste of time for others,"

Faillace said. "I think it's a real challenge for teachers to find a way to give homework that can be fairly graded."

School administrators told the board they are trying to gauge the difference between how long teachers expect their assignments to take versus how long students end up working on it. Schools will be collecting data, conducting surveys and talking to teach-

► See **HOMEWORK**, page 6

Not enough students, not enough money

SCHOOL BOARD COMES DOWN AGAINST OPENING NEW WHISMAN SCHOOL

By Kevin Forestieri

Months of long, difficult and sometimes bitter meetings came to a head in a marathon Mountain View Whisman school board meeting last week, when board members narrowly decided in a 3-2 straw vote not to open up a new school in the Whisman and Slater neighborhood area.

The decision came after both the district's Boundary Advisory Task Force and the District Facilities Committee recommended against the new school, saying that the district has neither the students nor the bond money to open a school in the northeast quadrant of the city.

Board member Ellen Wheeler said she agrees with the task force's verdict. Wheeler ran for the school board last year saying the northeast quadrant of the city needs a school. While she said she went into the process believing opening a ninth school was the best choice, she acknowledged that necessary conditions haven't been met.

"It's not a question of if, it's a question of when. And I think 'when' is not now," Wheeler said.

The boundary advisory task force boiled it down to the question of whether there are enough kids in the district, now and in the coming years, who can fill up nine schools. "Filling up," in this case, means enrollment of 450 to 600 students. In all of the scenar-

ios that did not include closing or relocating an existing school, the task force found enrollment would sink dangerously low at certain schools, and risk either a closure or severely compromise the academic programs at nearby schools like Monta Loma Elementary.

The relatively simple question came after months of task force members being swamped with information on budgetary constraints, distribution of school-aged kids across the city and dozens of potential attendance boundaries that did everything from move the district's Stevenson PACT choice program to the Landels campus to closing down Theuerkauf Elementary.

Board president Chris Chiang came down on the side of supporting eight schools, but insisted that in the future there were options for creating an alternative school model in the area, including "micro-schools" and "single schoolhouse" models. He said if Whisman eventually gets a school, it shouldn't just be a relocation of the PACT program and should be a 21st century-style "school of the future."

Board member Greg Coladonato said a decision on a Whisman school needs to be made now using the current bond money, or it likely won't happen at all. He contested that enrollment below 450 at schools

► See **CAMPUS**, page 12

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The award-winning news organization Palo Alto Weekly/PaloAltoOnline.com is seeking a well-rounded journalist to become our new associate editor. The ideal candidate is equally comfortable editing hard and soft news and possesses the creativity, organizational aptitude, focus on quality and adroitness in interpersonal communications to guide publications from start to finish.

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HOMEWORK

► Continued from page 5

ers in the coming months trying to figure out what "perception versus reality" is, according to Wynne Satterwhite, principal at Los Altos High School.

One of the things being considered, Satterwhite said, is a cap on time spent on assignments. A teacher might tell students to work on an assignment for 30 minutes and stop after that, leaving some of it unfinished.

Board president Susan Sweeley suggested that the schools could also set up a database that shows what teachers are assigning each day to avoid a pile-up of homework on specific days.

Administrators from both Mountain View and Los Altos high schools will be working on their own school-specific homework policies over the fall this year. The final version of the district policy will return to the board for a final vote in December, and is slated to be implemented at both schools by the spring.

While the meeting focused mostly on the nuances of the wording of the policy, board member Joe Mitchner offered up a number of ideas to be considered in the coming months. He said he would love to see

one weekend carved out of each semester or quarter as the designated "no homework" weekend, which parents and students can look forward to and plan events. He said it also be good to think about nixing major tests on Fridays prior to extended breaks.

Mitchner said another problem that's worth looking into is the numerous classes with finals that are assigned and completed prior to their allotted period on finals week, which he said can cause considerable stress on students.

"I do believe the teachers doing this are well-intentioned, but the unintended consequence I'm seeing is when multiple courses do this ... the end of semester becomes a major source of anxiety," Mitchner said.

The focus of concerned parents has been squarely on the homework policy thus far, but Sweeley said it's important to remember that it's just one of many school-related problems that causes teen anxiety.

"Homework is one part of the bigger problem of stress," Sweeley said.

One of the key issues that has yet to be addressed, she said, is that students feel the need to sign up for any and every Advanced Placement class they can, which causes their work-

load to overflow. The perception is that all students have to get into top-tier colleges like Harvard and Princeton, she said.

Premika Ratnam, a parent, told the board that she appreciate their concerns about wellness and that they are specifically addressing student wellness in the context of the district's homework policy. She said one of the key problems right now is that some teachers lay out every assignment and due date on the syllabus at the beginning of the year, while others leave kids in the dark for what's to come.

"There's a huge range of what is known, and the more we have that is known, the less stress that is on the child," Ratnam said.

Others felt it was absolutely key to get as much feedback from parents and students as possible. Tamar Sofer-Geri, a parent, said while she is impressed with the way administrators have taken into consideration sleep, school work and everything else students have to balance in their lives, she said parents need to be looped in when implementing the more nuanced school-specific policies.

"Please bring parents into that conversation," Sofer-Geri urged the board. "I think it will be better off for everyone to be part of the conversation." ■

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SPECIAL ED

► Continued from page 1

get a foothold in the community and acclimatize to new classrooms.

A recently proposed \$2.1 million “fix” that would add permanent classrooms for special education students at all schools could break the trend — provided there’s enough bond money left to fund it.

The problem comes down to the way the district currently houses its special needs students. A number of schools, including Bubb, Monta Loma and Landels Elementary, generally have enough classrooms for special education classes while still accommodating the rest of the student body.

But when enrollment fluctuates, special education students are forced to move to another school to make space for general education students, said Christine Case-Lo, chair of the Learning Challenges Committee.

Case-Lo said she is all too familiar with the problem. Her son, Alex, had been sent to three different schools and had six teachers in just four years in the district, eventually causing him to have a breakdown, she said. She eventually pulled her son out of the district.

“It was that traumatic,” Case-Lo said.

Other parents came to the May 7 school board meeting with similar stories. Sarah Sun, who said her son is autistic, said she currently has to cross the city to take her son to Monta Loma for class, and that it’s been difficult getting used to a new community.

She said the teacher there is “awesome,” but the classroom is not suited for special education — it’s essentially a makeshift class environment with no bathrooms and areas partitioned off for cubicles. Even so, she now has roots in the area and fears she will have to move her son to Landels next year, she told the board.

Case-Lo said she is advocating for permanent classrooms, to the tune of \$2.1 million, that would allow special education students to go to the same school from kindergarten through fifth grade, and could be split up into separate “strands” for students with different types of disabilities. She said this has already been done with great success in the nearby Los Altos School District for the past decade.

At the May 7 board meeting, Case-Lo explained that both the current and the incoming special education directors for

the school district support the proposed buildings, and that it would give students their own bathrooms, better access to therapy, and make them feel like they are part of the rest of the school’s campus.

“They don’t need to be shoved off to a portable on the edge of campus. They can be part of the school community,” Case-Lo said.

After making an appeal to the District Facilities Com-

‘We had special education parents come and tell us that this was very traumatic for their kids.’

THIDA CORNES

mittee, the \$2.1 million in permanent special education buildings was put on the top of the committee’s “wish list” for any available funds left over in Measure G bond money once other site improvements have been made.

At the May 21 district board meeting, there was some back-and-forth over whether the committee should drop one of the currently-funded improvements to the district’s schools to get the special education buildings off the unfunded list, trading one school site upgrade for another. Board president Chris Chiang pointed out the \$2.5 million committed to kitchen upgrades could be de-funded in favor of the new classrooms, which he said makes more sense from an “equity and justice” standpoint.

“While I support upgrades to our kitchen facilities, the fact that we could leave out our most vulnerable students over kitchens ... I just can’t consciously support that,” Chiang said.

Thida Cornes, a member of the District Facilities Committee, told the board the proposed facilities improvement for special education would create “permanent homes” for students so they would not have to move to different schools. By placing special education students wherever there is “excess capacity” at a school, she said, the district is creating a situation where the most vulnerable students are most susceptible to being moved.

“One year you’re in Landels,

the next you’re in Monta Loma and the third year you’re at a different school,” Cornes said. “We had special education parents come and tell us that this was very traumatic for their kids.”

Committee member Peter Darrah, on the other hand, said keeping special education students at the same school from kindergarten through fifth grade can be done with current facilities, and that creating a “dichotomy” between kitchen upgrades and special education classrooms may not be the best way to look at it.

“It’s not like special education kids are out in a trailer if they don’t get that,” Darrah said.

The committee will review feedback from the board and public comments, and will return to the board on June 4 with its final recommendations. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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FEUD

► Continued from page 1

due to the building's location — right next to the Caltrain tracks — where roaring trains drown out all sounds as they pass by.

"It's totally subjective what 'quiet' is to each person," Jennypher Ho said. "We've tried every way to appease them and meet their demands, but we just feel like we were pushed into a corner and there was no way to make them happy anymore."

Meanwhile, the Okunev family describes the throbbing stereo beats coming from SnoZen as being like something straight out of Edgar Allen Poe's story "The Tell-Tale Heart." The noise has been an ongoing nuisance that has impacted their right to relax at home, said Konstantin Okunev, pointing out their daughter had to change bedrooms just to sleep.

"The building is constructed in such a way that if you turn on music, the whole building

vibrates," he said. "Let's say you come home around 7 p.m., and you can't relax because you just keep hearing this beat, and it's been like that for months."

For more than a year, this situation seemed like just another stalemate between neighbors who could never get along. But things changed in recent months when Yelena Okuneva joined the Crossings Homeowners' Association, and the organization suddenly began taking a strong interest in the issue. The homeowners' group represents about 230 residences in the mixed-use neighborhood just north of the San Antonio shopping center, and it governs the insular rules for the private community for things like landscaping, street parking and renting out the pool.

Under a set of newly amended rules the homeowners' group approved in February, all businesses in Crossings would be forced to abide by "quiet hours" after 6 p.m. each day. In effect,

that rule only affects SnoZen since the only other nearby shop, a salon, closes each day before the rules take effect.

For their part, SnoZen owners Teague and Jennypher Ho say they rules if implemented would effectively force them to close up early each day. What's more, if they lost their peak business hours in the evenings, they see little alternative but to close down the shop for good.

But the shaved-snow shop is really the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the infighting in the Crossings neighborhood. A group dubbing itself the "Crossings Resistance," has rallied behind SnoZen, turning the shop into a larger symbol for other alleged injustices spearheaded by the homeowners' association. The group recently mounted a banner above the SnoZen entrance, urging people to visit a website laying out their grievances against the association.

One vocal critic has been

Charles Bransi, a software engineer living at the Crossings who previously took the homeowners group to small-claims court over how it nominated new members to the board. He blames the association for crossing the line by making unnecessary revisions to the governing rules, and then enforcing those rules in a hard-line fashion. As example, Bransi pointed out that people began getting their cars towed or fined for parking alongside red curbs — before they would first get a warning from private security patrols. Similarly, he pointed to an incident last month when the board confiscated a family's security deposit and banned them for a year from using the community facilities after they rented out a clubhouse for their daughter's birthday party and some children started swimming in the adjacent pool.

"People aren't happy with the management if they keep doing these things like this," Bransi said. "There's a way to do things through negotiation ... but through this approach, they keep making enemies every day."

For their part, association board members say they're only enforcing the rules, most of which have been around for decades. Just as many people are urging the Crossings association to penalize those who violate the rules as there are people complaining about it, said board president Paul Simons de Carvalho. He acknowledged that about 50 cars were towed in the neighborhood over a period of about six months, but he said that by enforcing those rules the red curbs were totally clear when a fire occurred in March.

"When people buy homes here they sign an agreement with rules, and then some don't abide with it," he said. "This whole thing is you're damned if you do, damned if you don't. You can't please everyone. Some people want the rules enforced, some don't."

But the disputes at Crossings are also fast becoming a matter for the courts. In March, the

association board launched a civil lawsuit against its former property management company as well as five Crossings residents who formerly served as board members. The suit sought \$450,000 from the defendants for allegedly mismanaging the HOA's finances and failing to follow the organization's governing documents for board meetings. Attorneys working for the board indicated that seeing the lawsuit to fruition would cost about \$150,000 in legal fees.

Seeking a second opinion, a group of homeowners hired a competing law firm to analyze the merits of the case. Among the attorney's findings, it cast doubt on the suit, suggesting the board itself had violated protocol by initiating litigation without properly notifying members. For that matter, the case had a uncertain shot at winning and would likely cost well in excess of \$150,000 before it came to a trial, he warned.

In fact, the political battle will even soon have its own neighborhood election. Bransi and other residents gathered enough signatures on a petition to potentially veto the amended rules passed by the association board in February. In early June, the votes of 230-plus households will be counted to determine whether those rules should be overturned. In recent days, SnoZen hosted a meeting of about 40 people seeking to rally support for the veto.

Carvalho acknowledged there were an active corps of opponents trying to undermine the board, but he said that group was really only a handful of people. A better way to change the neighborhood's policy, he said, would be for people to write letters and participate without resorting to "nastiness."

In fact, one of the few things the two feuding sides in the dispute seem to agree on is that most people at Crossings neighborhood seem blissfully ignorant of the strife.

"The neighborhood actually isn't that divided," Bransi said. "The majority of people here don't even know what's going on."

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CRIME BRIEFS

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Gomez was arrested on charges of kidnapping, false imprisonment, domestic violence and blocking access to a phone. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail with bail set at \$165,500.

CAR THIEF SOUGHT

Police are asking for the public's help in finding a woman suspected of stealing a credit card and over \$950 in cash and other personal belongings from a car parked in the Rengstorff Center early last week.

The victim of the theft reported to police that a little after 2 p.m. on May 18 her wallet, credit card, cash and other personal items had been stolen from the car. Surveillance footage shows the suspect stealing a handbag and getting picked up by some-

one in a small purple truck with a missing hubcap on the rear passenger side.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic female, 5 feet, 7 inches tall with a heavy build and brown hair pulled up into a bun. She was seen wearing a red, white and blue hoodie with a white star on the front, blue jeans, and was carrying a large black and white handbag.

Anyone with information on the suspect is encouraged to contact police at 650-903-6395 and refer to case number 15-2676.

SUSPECTED CAR THIEF ARRESTED

Police arrested a San Jose man after he was allegedly spotted attempting to gain entry into vehicles in the Walmart parking lot on Showers Drive last week.

A witness called police reporting that a suspect was in the parking lot on May 21 at

around 10 a.m. The man, identified as 40-year-old Ricardo Roman, was later located by police. He was positively identified as the same person who was seen trying the door handles of parked vehicles, which Roman eventually admitted to doing, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Police also suspected Roman was under the influence of a controlled substance throughout the investigation.

Roman was arrested and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail on charges of tampering with a vehicle and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

—Kevin Forestieri

POLICE SEEK TO ID BURGLARY SUSPECTS

Los Altos police released video footage of two suspects in a

burglary committed earlier this month.

On May 15, officers responded to a report of a residential burglary in the 600 block of Harrington Court around 3:45 p.m., police said.

Investigators determined at least two people entered the home by forcing their way through a rear window, according to police. The burglars managed to steal electronic devices and jewelry from the home, police said.

Both suspects are described as black men between 18 and 25 years old who were wearing hooded sweatshirts with the hoods up, police said.

One of the suspects wore a gray sweatshirt and carried a blue duffel bag and the second suspect wore a blue sweatshirt, according to police.

Video of the suspects captured on the home's security camera can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/videoLAPD>.

com/videoLAPD.

Anyone with information on the burglary is asked to call Los Altos police at (650) 947-2770.

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OFF LEASH

▶ Continued from page 1

lovers, and nearly a dozen owners made a show of force before the council, relating stories about how their favorite pets needed the exercise and freedom offered by public open space. For the most part, the canines brought to the parks are well-behaved and not aggressive, said Mountain View resident Richard Woolley, who has been bringing his dog to Bubb Park for 12 years.

Since the pilot program started, reports of dog attacks have been practically non-existent, he pointed out. Instead, the biggest complaint has been dog-owners using the parks during off-hours.

"Dogs in general are not scary," Woolley said. "I realize safety is paramount. The record, at least at Bubb, has been excellent in this regard."

A number of dog owners echoed this theme, urging the council to make the dog-designated areas a permanent fixture in parks.

But that suggestion wasn't entirely shared by members of the city's own Parks and Recreation Commission, who suggested the system still needed to work out some kinks. After a long meeting to review the program last month, the commission concluded the best path forward was to extend the pilot phase for another year to figure out the best balance of enforcement, scheduling and boundaries.

In some cases, dog owners didn't fully understand how their animals could appear threatening to others, said city Parks Manager Bruce Hurlburt.

"Oftentimes, dog owners will have the blinders on with their

dog," he said. "They love their dog and they assume all people love being around dogs."

That sentiment resonated for local resident Dwight Rodgers, who spoke before the council. He related how dogs running loose around the park had effectively ruined times when he and his 6-year-old son were tossing around a ball.

"I'm one of the people who love dogs, but my child is deathly afraid of them," he said. "I've often seen people in violation of the hours and they don't cede the park when kids try to use it."

Enforcement would be a challenge, Hurlburt said. As part of the approval, the city budgeted an extra 30 hours per week for rangers to patrol parks, at a cost of \$52,000. Those rangers are authorized to educate dog owners about following the rules, but they can't write citations for flagrant violations. Only the city's animal-control officers were authorized to issue tickets.

Despite the challenges, council members unanimously favored making the program permanent. Making a motion, Mayor John McAlister opted to also expand hours for off-leash dogs at Whisman Park to include weekends. A new area for off-leash canines would also be created at Rengstorff Park that could be used seven days a week. In addition, parks staff in the coming months will bring the issue back to the Parks and Recreation Commission to consider expanding evening and weekend hours at other open areas.

The motion passed in a 7-0 vote. ▀

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CAMPUS

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should not be seen as a risky decision, and that the now-successful Huff Elementary once had enrollment that fell well below the criteria the task force used when it first opened.

“We better do it with this current bond money, because if we don’t then we’re not going to get that school. There is going to be no ‘school of the future,’” Coladonato said.

Board member Steve Nelson, similarly, stood firmly behind opening a new school in the Whisman and Slater neighborhood area, saying it was his duty as an elected official and that it would be an “injustice” to the thousands of residents in the northeast quadrant of the city to continue to deprive them of a walkable school.

Gary Rosen, who had a child at Slater Elementary before it closed, questioned the demographic data used to make the decision. He said parents were told the same things when Slater was being closed down — that enrollment wasn’t there and the district couldn’t afford to keep the school afloat — but enrollment in the district ended up increasing anyway.

The task force recommended relatively conservative changes to the district’s boundaries, re-

zoning the area in the Whisman neighborhood between Tyrella Avenue and Whisman Road from Huff to Theuerkauf elementary, and re-zoning the small wedge of residents north of Grant Road and south of El Camino Real, moving them from Huff to Bubb. This would bring Huff enrollment down by more than 150 students and alleviate some of the overcrowding at the district’s most popular neighborhood school.

Parents in the north Whisman area zoned for Huff, including Tyrella resident Ken Brent, voiced opposition to the change, saying they bought in the area assuming their children would be able to attend Huff. Brent described Huff as a sort of bastion amid other, lower-performing schools that attracts residents to the area.

“The reason people are moving out is because of the lack of quality of the surrounding schools,” Brent said.

Other Huff residents in the neighborhood challenged the idea that the decision would favor residents because they wouldn’t need to travel across the city to get to school, saying they knew perfectly well when they made the decision to buy that they would need to make the trek across town.

Not a lot of money to go around

The District Facilities Committee, charged with deciding on a spending plan for improving all the district’s schools using Measure G bond funds, came to a similar conclusion — if the board wants to open a new school and stay within budget, it’s going to require either closing Theuerkauf Elementary or

‘The reason people are moving out is because of the lack of quality of the surrounding schools.’

HUFF AREA RESIDENT KEN BRENT

relocating the PACT program from Stevenson.

Following the board’s straw poll vote in March directing the committee to avoid closing or relocating a school, the committee had only one option that stayed within the \$143 million budget — no new school.

Of the \$198 million in total bond funds, \$55 million has already been committed to upgrading the middle schools, and \$43 million has been reserved for turning Castro Elementary into two schools — one for the neighborhood school and one for the Dual Immersion program. The remaining schools had to share the \$100 million left over.

“This was our challenge as a committee. This was a big constraint that led us to make some very hard decisions,” said Patrick Neschleba, a member of the committee.

One of the controversial compromises that caught some flak from public speakers at the meeting was a decision by the committee to have the adjacent Theuerkauf and Stevenson campuses share a library and multipurpose room.

Neschleba said rebuilding the entire Stevenson campus with its own multipurpose room and library would either encroach on the Stevenson park space owned by the city or require part of the district office to be torn down, the latter of which would cost \$10 million to rebuild.

Leslie McClellan, a second-grade teacher at Theuerkauf, told the board she had serious concerns about having to share facilities with another school. Theuerkauf is about to start a four-year process to improve its academic programs through a “turnaround process,” and she said having to do it with the new configuration would be difficult. She suggested the board wait to see how Castro’s shared campus works first before making a decision.

Coladonato said he wanted to see what an austere version of the building plans would look like, and if there could possibly be enough money to set aside for a new school at the Whisman or Slater campus. Even a campus entirely composed of portable buildings would be better than nothing, he said.

Doing that would include “draconian” cutbacks to site improvements all over the district, including a reduction in square footage for all the school’s

multipurpose rooms, according to Todd Lee, the district’s construction project manager.

Committee member Thida Cornes said reducing project costs at all the schools to a bare-bones build to fit a new school into the budget would limit the district to making fixes, rather than the big improvements that voters were promised.

“If you cut everything to the bone, it does not enhance learning across the district, which is one of the promises of Measure G,” Cornes said.

Nelson said he felt the committee’s recommendations were unfair because there were no representatives from the Theuerkauf campus, and that Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly had stacked the group with people from Stevenson PACT and got an unfair verdict.

“I don’t know what Mr. Skelly was thinking about when he put five people from Stevenson on this committee. He should have exercised more restraint,” Nelson said.

Skelly disagreed, and said parents are perfectly capable of acting in the interests of all parents and students regardless of where their kids go to school. He said Coladonato, for example, has a child who goes to Stevenson, but he wouldn’t doubt he could stay impartial in making district-wide decisions.

“The folks who worked on this committee did a fine job. I don’t think they were partial in any way,” Skelly said. “I don’t agree with this idea that somehow because someone is from one school they can’t take a good look at the whole district.” ■

Administrative Assistant

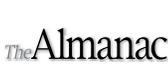
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SAN ANTONIO

▶ Continued from page 5

Supply sites. The unassuming-looking market was the former site of Shockley Semiconductor — a seminal, albeit unsuccessful, business credited with kicking off the silicon chip industry in the South Bay and considered by many to be the true birthplace of Silicon Valley. As of now, the only mark left of the former building is a signpost mounted years ago summarizing the history of the Shockley site.

As part of their plans, Geiser said the finished development would include a variety of silicon-transistor-themed artwork as well as a plaque and photos to commemorate the Shockley building.

In the coming weeks, the Shockley site will become a 40-foot-deep crater as construction crews begin a massive excavation effort for an office building. The planned building will house five stories of new offices along with four levels of subterranean parking.

Some longstanding businesses at San Antonio will also be making way for the transformation. The discount department store Ross is planning to move north to relocate near the Costco shopping center off Rengstorff Avenue, Geiser said. Liquor store BevMo! will relocate to a new site across the street on El Camino Real.

For the most part, it remains unclear exactly what new shops will be moving into the second phase of The Village development, but one committed tenant does stand out. A Chicago-based movie theater chain, Kerasotes ShowPlace ICON, announced plans last week to open a 10-auditorium complex at San Antonio. The movie theaters are being promoted as luxury entertainment, featuring recliner seats and VIP levels that can be reserved in advance. Along with the usual movie theater trappings, the ICON complex will also include a gourmet bistro and full bar.

Through the construction, one of the few things that will remain unchanged is the Milk Pail Market. Store owner Steve Ras-

mussen described his shop as an “island” amid the rapid change. He said he had assurances his store would be provided enough parking through the construction. The construction may cause occasional access issues for the store, but he was confident the Milk Pail would persevere.

“The challenge for us will be living through a couple years of remarkable construction in our neighborhood,” he said. “We’re already planning our promotions: bulldozer bananas and contractor cucumber sales. I haven’t figured one out yet for the big dig.”

More cranes and work trucks could be on the horizon for the San Antonio shopping center. In recent months, Maryland-based developer Federal Realty acquired 33 acres on the southern side of the commercial block, giving it ownership of Trader Joe’s, Walmart, Kohl’s and more than two-dozen other businesses. The company, best known as the owner of Santana Row in San Jose, has yet to publicly disclose its plans for the Mountain View site. ■



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Shoreline hosts summer's kick-off concert

LIVE 105'S BFD FEATURES BIG NAMES, LOCAL BANDS

By Yoshi Kato

While Memorial Day is widely accepted as the unofficial start of summer, Bay Area concert-goers — and specifically modern rock fans — are more likely to celebrate it at LIVE 105's BFD festival on Saturday, June 6.

"LIVE 105's BFD has become the unofficial kick-off concert for the summer season," said Aaron Siuda, Vice President of Live Nation Northern California. Concert producer and promoter Live Nation partners with San Francisco-based radio station Live 105 on the annual 12-hour event.

Most of the attention will go to the Main Stage headliners. American indie rockers Modest Mouse released their sixth album, 'Strangers to Ourselves,' in mid-March, while Icelandic folk-pop practitioners Of Monsters and Men is likely to showcase songs off its long-anticipated sophomore album, 'Beneath the Skin,' which will be released June 9. Dance rock outfit Panic! at the Disco, melodic poly-stylistic practitioners Cold War Kids and hard-driving Australian brother band Atlas Genius round out the main-stage lineup.

But BFD has done a thorough job with its curation of other spaces, including the Bud Light Festival Stage, the Local Band Stage and Bud Light Subsonic Tent.

"Think about all of the major acts that started on the side stages of BFD over the last 20 years: The Killers, Incubus and Death Cab For Cutie," noted Siuda. "When you can get that much talent on one show, it becomes more about the overall event than a single artist on the lineup. And that's why the show is consistently so popular."

Among the acts gracing the Festival stage are twenty one pilots, Death from Above 1979 and Best Coast, all of whom have headlined or will soon be doing their own shows at venues such as the Fox Theater in Oakland and the Fillmore and The Independent in San Francisco.

The French producer and DJ Martin Solveig, rapper/producer/Stanford alumna K.Flax and The Limousines from San Jose have scheduled sets at the Subsonic Tent. And an undetermined-at-press-time competition winner will open up the Local Band stage.

One highly buzzed-about band will be doing a sort of homecoming performance on the Festival Stage. Cathedrals vocalist Brodie

Jenkins and multi-instrumentalist Johnny Hwin are also both Stanford grads who met not on The Farm but in San Francisco, where their duo is based.

She was a creative writing major who wrote for the Stanford Daily; he got his bachelor's degree in psychology and his master's in management science and engineering.

"We overlapped at Stanford — Johnny's two years older than me," explained Jenkins, a Sebastopol native. "We had a bunch of the same friends but somehow never crossed paths."

Cathedrals released its debut track, "Unbound," on SoundCloud about a year ago and have since built up an enviable profile.

"Live 105 has been so supportive of us, specifically Aaron Axelsen, who has become an incredible friend to Cathedrals," Jenkins said of the station's music director/assistant program director who is also an on-air personality. "He's been playing us on Live 105 since we first started."

"We ended up meeting about a week later, both of us feeling a little skeptical about what the outcome would be," Jenkins admitted. "And we ended up writing a song in the first hour."

Creating a noirish sound that uses techno-pop instrumentation at times and dark rock guitars and drums at others, Cathedrals has developed very publicly and communally through social media and a network of artisans. Its Facebook page is updated regularly, and so far every song has been uploaded for free soon after completion.

"Honestly, I think nowadays you have to take that approach if you're an independent musician," Jenkins said. "We're not trying to make music in a box. So as far as getting it out there and sharing it, you kind of have to treat it like a (tech company's launch) and really put all your effort into it."

Featuring bass guitarist/keyboardist Jonathan Herrera and drummer Mitchell Wilcox in live settings (and increasingly in the studio, too), Cathedrals currently has an EP's worth of material and is recording a full album that's scheduled for release next year.

The pair's complimentary personalities have helped the group as a business as well as a creative outlet. "Johnny has always been an entrepreneur," Jenkins said. "Though we're both creative people, he was able to apply small business tactics and start-up approaches to our band."

Hwin is also a community organizer involved with The

SUB, a San Francisco-based creative collective started in a warehouse in The Mission. "It's a place innovators, artists and musicians hang out," Jenkins explained.

Cathedrals has enmeshed itself with The SUB, as evidenced by the ambitious debut video for "Unbound."

"It was absolutely huge, a collaboration between a bunch of people from The SUB as well as friends and other artists," Jenkins said of the shoot. "We also had Maria Kochetkova, who is a principal dancer with San Francisco Ballet, perform. She was just incredible and so amazing to do that with us."

Unlike some duos with defined songwriting duties — the singer writes the lyrics, the other half programs and plays on the tracks — Cathedrals is a fluid musical partnership. "I just feel like you can't allocate roles," Jenkins explained. "Our songwriting process can be so different with each song. 'Want My Love,' for instance: One day I just wrote the entire song a cappella in the shower." After recording a scratch vocal and a basic piano line, she sent it over to Hwin who then created an arrangement.

After participating in the famed Treasure Island Music Festival and selling out two nights at The Independent, Cathedrals recently had a memorable performance opportunity that beautifully suited its artistic sensibilities — a twilight concert at the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

"That wasn't planned at all," Jenkins noted. "They reached out to us, and we said, 'Hell, yes! We will do that!' It fit perfectly with everything we love."

"We got there really early, so we got to walk around the grounds. And we started playing just as the sun was setting," she recalled.

"It had that really kind of golden light turning into darkness — very 'Cathedrals' in my mind, as far as our aesthetic goes." ▀

■ INFORMATION

WHAT: Live 105 BFD 2015

WHERE: Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View

WHEN: Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

COST: \$37.50-\$69.50

INFO: live105.cbslocal.com or livenation.com.

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Simitian: 'Significant' need for inpatient psych beds for teens

By Elena Kadwany

After several months of researching the demand for adolescent inpatient psychiatric services in Santa Clara County — and the utter lack of hospital beds for youth in crisis — Supervisor Joe Simitian is bringing to the Board of Supervisors a request for staff to analyze the feasibility of opening an inpatient unit for children and adolescents.

An average of 20 adolescents each day are receiving inpatient psychiatric care outside of the county, according to Simitian's report to the Board of Supervisors. Teens in crisis who seek emergency care at local hospitals are sent outside of the county to be hospitalized, with the closest available beds to Midpeninsula residents at Mills-Peninsula Health Services in San Mateo. Teens from all over the county can be sent to farther-flung hospitals in San Francisco, Berkeley, Fremont, Vallejo, Concord and even Sacramento. Adolescent inpatient psychiatric units in the Bay Area run as large as 34 beds (Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley) and as small

as 17 at Mills-Peninsula.

Four-hundred, twenty-four Santa Clara County youths who were either uninsured or on Medi-Cal visited out-of-county hospitals from last July through this February, and each stayed an average of 6.6 days, according to Simitian. There were 653 duplicated visits by Santa Clara County youth to out-of-county hospitals during the same period.

More than 200 commercially insured youth and 189 uninsured or Medi-Cal beneficiaries were sent for treatment outside of the county after seeking care at the nonprofit EMQ Families First's new Crisis Stabilization Unit in Campbell.

"To the extent that this is a question of medical economics, I think the numbers pretty clearly indicate we have a real and significant need right here in Santa Clara County," Simitian said.

After hearing from a parent in the community about the local dearth of inpatient beds for teens, Simitian said, he and his staff began looking into the issue.

But with fresh leadership at the top of his organization — the county brought a new Department of Behavioral Health Services

director on board in November — and a clear, demonstrated need, Simitian said he's "cautiously optimistic" that the county can help local teens access inpatient psychiatric care closer to home.

The county's primary concern is to create a safety net for lower-income families whose adolescents are on Medi-Cal or uninsured, but having an inpatient unit within the county would be a community-wide benefit, Simitian said.

"It's both a question of, how do we make sure that the kid who is getting help gets it in the best possible set of circumstances, but also that we don't essentially allow the existing system to be a deterrent for families who just aren't able or willing to send a youngster off to a remote location," he said.

Simitian will be requesting at the June 9 Board of Supervisors meeting for staff to prepare a report within the next six months on the feasibility of either opening or contracting for an inpatient psychiatric unit to be located in the county.

Simitian said his office has had preliminary conversations with hospitals and organizations in Santa Clara County and will continue to work with them throughout the process.

"The challenge is to figure out

what works and what doesn't, and I think we know that these beds are an integral and essential part of the continuum of care," he said. "To be here in largest county in the Bay Area and be without that resource,

that seems to me — it's startling, at least to me."

The Board of Supervisor's meeting will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, in the Board Chambers, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose. ■

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2015-16 LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN & BUDGET

As required by Education Codes 42103, 42127, and 52062, the governing board of Mountain View Los Altos High School District will hold a public hearing to solicit public comment on the 2015-16 Local Control and Accountability Plan and proposed Budget of the District, prior to final adoption.

The public hearing will be held on June 15, 2015, at 12 (PM).

The public hearing will be held at:

District Office Board Room
1299 Bryant Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

The Local Control and Accountability Plan and Budget can be inspected by the public beginning June 12, 2015, during the hours of 8:00 (AM) and 4:00 PM, at:

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GUEST OPINION VOICE FROM THE COMMUNITY

Council will determine future of North Bayshore housing

By Bruce Liedstrand

A recent article in the *Voice*, "Housing dealt setback in North Bayshore decision," might be read to imply that the City Council can only do the housing that Google and other developers are willing to agree to. I strongly disagree.

As a long-term local Mountain View city manager and community development director, I believe the City Council and the Mountain View community, working together, have the ability to decide the essential elements of our new North Bayshore residential neighborhood and to include them in a new, pro-housing precise plan.

The city has adopted a North Bayshore Precise Plan that regulates all development in the area. Unfortunately, that Precise Plan does not include residential development. The Mountain View community objected to this lack of residential development in North Bayshore and elected new council members who have created a pro-housing majority and the city is in the process of adding a residential neighborhood in North Bayshore.

Companies who are interested in developing in North Bayshore submitted development proposals under the old no-housing version of the Precise Plan, and some might prefer to develop offices without residential development. Fortunately, the decision of what balance of housing and offices to allow in North Bayshore, and where they should be located, lies with the City Council, not with the developers.

The City Council can and should adopt a new Precise Plan that includes a residential neighborhood and once that plan is in place, all development in North Bayshore must comply with it. The City Council cannot force a developer to build housing, but it can and should designate where housing should go in North Bayshore and the standards for that residential development. If an area is designated for housing, office development cannot be built there without City Council approval.

As everyone knows, development interest in Mountain View in general, and North Bayshore in particular, is very strong right now. North Bayshore is a hot location, and the City Council has the opportunity and the ability to decide its future, including the location and details of the new residential neighborhood, and that City Council decision will control all new development in North Bayshore.

So let's slow down a little and, in the coming months, let's have a short collaborative process that includes the City Council, the Mountain View community, and any of the developers who are interested in collaborating, to work together to decide the essential concepts for our future North Bayshore residential neighborhood. After we decide that, the planning staff can take the necessary steps to include our new neighborhood in a new pro-housing Precise Plan to govern development in North Bayshore.

Bruce Liedstrand is a former Mountain View city manager and former community development director for Redwood City.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

VOTE ON EL CAMINO BUS LANE PLAN

I would like to voice continued displeasure with the consideration of a lane dedication on El Camino Real to the VTA's Bus Rapid Transit. This is a major issue and should require a ballot measure or vote by the general public. I am certain if this was put to the public it would not pass and for the council to make this decision without the approval of their constituents is beyond reasonable.

I absolutely support a recall of those council members who have reversed their position.

*Melissa Phillips
Aldean Avenue*

REVERSAL A 'SHAMEFUL BETRAYAL'

Deciding whether to have dedicated bus lanes on El Camino is one of the most important issues affecting quality of life in Mountain View. For council members Ken Rosenberg and Pat Showalter to dramatically reverse their position on this matter represents a shameful

betrayal of the voters who put them in office.

It is a slap in the face, and the message is clear: "Now that we're in office, we can do what we want."

They should be recalled.
*Robert E. Patterson
Tyrella Avenue*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OR HIGHER SALARIES?

What is going to happen when there is nothing like affordable housing anywhere Mountain View, with the imminent closing of our RV park and the gentrification of the rest of Mountain View? Those who work in Mountain View at minimal wages and who have to live far from our city and drive 100 miles round-trip every day will be working at a loss — their driving costs and parking costs will far exceed the minimal income from their jobs.

The obvious results are either to forget operating businesses in Mountain View with low cost labor, or pay the workers enough to compensate them

for the costs of having to commute into Mountain View from far away. Mountain View is already doing this with its police force and firefighters and its schoolteachers. Perhaps the local economy with its highly overpaid tech workers can afford to pay restaurant workers and staff at the local

car washes \$20 or \$25 per hour. Otherwise, we can forget about going out eat in Mountain View, or hanging out at the local bars and night clubs, or getting our car washed every week.

*Carol Lewis
Oak Street*



DELEON REALTY SUMMER SPLASH

DeLeon Realty is excited to announce the July Summer Splash.

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