

Mountain View VOICE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015 VOLUME 23, NO. 33

www.MountainViewOnline.com

650.964.6300

MOVIES | 26



**A recipe
for success**
WEEKEND | 21



MICHELLE LE

Protesters rally outside of Mountain View City Hall on Tuesday, asking the City Council to take action to alleviate the city's soaring rents and evictions.

Huge crowd pushes for MV to address housing crisis

By Mark Noack

Like so many other residents, Leticia Rios is wondering if her family has a future in Mountain View. Since 2009, the six-member Rios family has lived in a two-bedroom apartment off Higdon Avenue, east of Rengstorff Park. Recently, it has become abun-

dantly clear that her landlord wants her family out.

Through a series of increases over the last year, her monthly rent nearly doubled, jumping from \$1,100



Leticia Rios

to \$2,000, she said. Just three weeks after the latest rent hike, her landlord, Golden State Property Management, sent her an eviction notice. No reason was given, she said.

Now her family is dealing with a multi-pronged crisis, all too common for those

► See **HOUSING PROTEST**, page 8

Growing city aims to expand park space

By Mark Noack

In an effort to expand Mountain View's parkland, the City Council on Wednesday approved a series of ordinance tweaks designed to help the city compete for scarce real estate.

With more than 196 acres of parks — a number that includes parts of public school campuses — Mountain View is considered

to have a generous amount of open space when compared to nearby cities. But local officials say that parks could soon get crowded as the city grows in the coming years with denser housing in areas like North Bayshore.

Through a series of meetings earlier this year, city staff and parks commissioners recommended streamlining the process for acquiring new parks. They

recommended giving new discretionary power to City Manager Dan Rich, allowing him to negotiate for land purchases without first getting approval from the City Council. This would potentially allow city staff to better compete with private developers for the limited real estate on the market.

► See **PARK**, page 17

School board weighs parcel tax renewal

DISTRICT LIKELY TO DITCH TIERED TAX TO AVOID LEGAL BATTLE

By Kevin Forestieri

School board members say if voters renew the Mountain View Whisman School District's parcel tax next year, revenue from the tax could fund class-size reduction, a robust science curriculum and new ways to attract teachers amid a statewide teacher shortage.

But selling the idea may not be easy, as most property owners are likely to be asked to pay more just to keep funding at a break-even level. Due to recent legal decisions, parcel taxes must be uniform, meaning the owner of a 45,000-square-foot building will pay the same as the owner of a condo. It's a big change from the parcel tax structure the district now has in place.

The current parcel tax, passed with Measure C, has most owners of property under 8,000 square feet paying \$127 annually. For properties at or over 44,000 square feet, that number jumps to \$1,016. The Measure C tax brings in about \$2.8 million annually, according to Charles Heath, a political consultant for the district. Measure C is set to expire June 30, 2017.

If the district adopts a flat tax, which it will likely have to do, property owners would have to pay \$191 — a 50 percent increase from the tax now paid by most district property owners. This leaves little room to increase the parcel tax's total revenue without a higher risk that the tax measure will fall short of the two-thirds vote needed to pass. Heath advised that the board not try to

double the tax in a single election, saying that it would be an aggressive approach.

The legal basis behind ditching the tiered system comes primarily from the Alameda Unified School District, where property owners filed a suit against the district in 2008 claiming the tax had to be uniform. In the end, the California Court of Appeals ruled that taxing properties varying amounts violates state government code, which requires that school districts' parcel taxes be applied "uniformly to all taxpayers or all real property within the school district."

"I am totally uninterested in spending district money on a lawsuit again."

BOARD MEMBER
ELLEN WHEELER

Board member Steve Nelson argued that while the district may be barred from a tiered tax, it could still levy a tax based on square footage. He said he planned to vote no on a parcel tax that was uniform for all properties.

"I'm going to vote no if a parcel tax is 'Google's headquarters gets taxed the same as a condo,'" Nelson said. "If the law doesn't allow a progressive tax, I'm not going to vote for a regressive tax."

Phil Henderson, the district's legal counsel, explained that the verdict from the Alameda Unified case was clear in saying districts cannot assess properties differently. Doing a tax based on square footage, Henderson said, would be potentially subject to a legal challenge.

When Nelson asked if Henderson knew of any legal firms that would support a measure based on square footage, Henderson told Nelson that law firms would

► See **PARCEL TAX**, page 12

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 18 | GOINGS ON 28 | MARKETPLACE 29 | REAL ESTATE 30



**JUDY
BOGARD-TANIGAMI**
650.207.2111
judytanigami@gmail.com
CalBRE# 00298975

**SHERI
BOGARD-HUGHES**
650.279.4003
shughes@apr.com
CalBRE# 01060012

**CINDY
BOGARD-O'GORMAN**
650.924.8365
cbogardogorman@apr.com
CalBRE# 01918407

ConsultantsInRealEstate.com



**BUILD YOUR
DREAM HOME**



**Design Discount
with Blu Homes
if Buyer Assumes
Seller's Plans**
www.BluHomes.com

110 Stadler Drive, Woodside

Beautiful One Acre Flat Lot

Don't miss this one acre* flat lot nestled in the majestic redwoods of the beautiful Skywood Acres in Sky Londa, just minutes from downtown Woodside. This unique community offers serenity and natural beauty as well as the enjoyment of the adjoining Wunderlich Park with scenic biking and hiking trails, plus stables for horseback riding. Seller has begun the design of a Blu Homes contemporary home for this lot and will provide completed reports, survey, and Topo Map.

Significant design discount with Blu Homes if buyer assumes the seller's plans. Excellent Portola Valley schools with bus service and Woodside High School (buyer to verify enrollment on both schools). Just minutes from 280, San Hill Road, and the famous Alice's Restaurant.

Offered at \$899,000
www.110StadlerDrive.com

- Reports completed and provided to buyer:
- Geotechnical Survey
- Arborists Report
- Slope Calculations
- Conceptual Design
- Successful Perc Test – A
- Topographical Map

** buyer to verify*



COMING SOON



Sweeping Bay Views Bordering the Los Altos Golf & Country Club

Located on a private cul-de-sac, with gated circular driveway, this exclusively designed home has it all — sophisticated interiors with soaring ceilings, sweeping Bay views, and resort-inspired outdoor living. The ultimate retreat from the fast pace of Silicon Valley.

Offered at \$5,988,000
www.1472ClubViewTerrace.com

- 33,167* square foot lot with Bay Views
- 4,500* square foot single-level design with 4-car garage
- Gated circular driveway
- Infinity pool, gazebo, and outdoor kitchen
- Soaring ceilings throughout
- Great room with gourmet kitchen and media room
- 4 bedrooms and 4.5 bathrooms
- Executive office through double glass doors off the entry

** buyer to verify*

Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Carl Sibley.

If there was a movie about your life, what actor would play you?



“Maybe Adrien Brody, or Eddie Redmayne. But then again, people have always told me I look like Bruce Lee.”

Casidhe Lee, Mountain View



“Probably Rebel Wilson. She’s a comedy actress, and she doesn’t really conform to any stereotypical ideas about size.”

Robyn Courtney, Toronto



“Emma Watson. She’s like 20, around the same age as me, so I think she could relate. I always kind of wanted to be like her.”

Alex Lee, Beijing



“Julia Louis-Dreyfus, when she had curly hair. She’s really funny.”

Carrie Perzow, Los Gatos



“I would hope Meryl Streep would agree to play me. I feel like we’re kindred souls.”

Jackie Garvin, Mountain View

Have a question for **Voices Around Town**? Email it to editor@mv-voice.com



LET US HELP
YOU BE HAPPY
& HEALTHY

\$99

New Patient Special!

Includes: Exam, Digital
X-Rays & Cleaning

A \$366 VALUE!

Offer valid for new patients only. Second opinions welcome. Call for details. Some restrictions may apply.

DR. WILLIAM HALL · DR. TIFFANY CHAN · DR. J. JANICE CHOU · DR. ROB VAN DEN BERG

100 W. El Camino Real, Suite 63A
Mountain View (Corner of El Camino & Calderon)

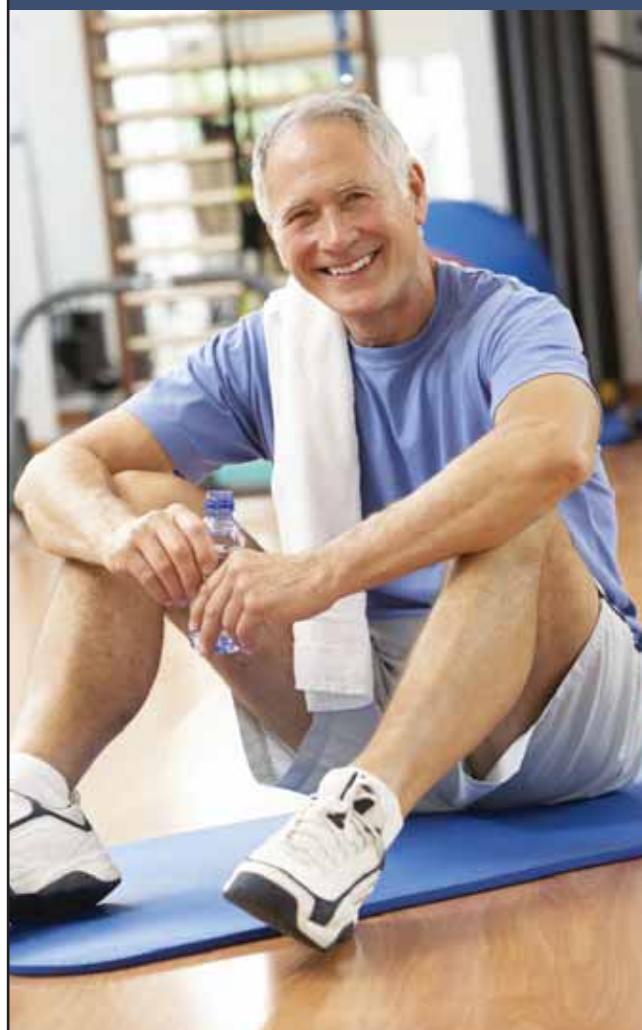
WWW.SMILESIDENTAL.COM | 650.564.3333

SMILES
DENTAL CARE

QUALITY · SATISFACTION · TRUST

Living Well

SENIORS' GUIDE TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



We are pleased to once again offer our annual, all-glossy publication covering the local needs and interests of the 50-plus market.

**Coming to the
Midpeninsula
on October 30**

For information on advertising in the 2015 Living Well, please contact Connie Jo Cotton, Sales Manager, at ccotton@pawebly.com (650) 223-6571 or your sales representative.

**Deadline to advertise
is October 2.
Call today for details.**

Palo Alto Weekly VOICE
The Almanac

450 Cambridge Avenue, Palo Alto | **650.326.8210**
PaloAltoOnline.com | AlmanacNews.com | MountainViewOnline.com

Healthy Teeth and Gums That Last a Lifetime!



- Voted Best Dentist 2014 and 2015
- Experienced and Gentle Dentist, and Friendly Staff
- Caring Treatment that Focuses on Your Comfort
- New Patients Welcome!
- Free Consultations and Second Opinions
- Saturday Appointments Available

DENTAL FABULOUS
Cosmetic & Family Dentistry

Don't Wait! Call 650.969.6077
for your appointment today!



Conveniently located in Downtown Mountain View
756 California Street, Suite B Mountain View 94041
cross street: Castro, next to Bierhaus
650.969.6077
dental fabulous.com



WEEKEND SPECIAL

SATURDAY + SUNDAY: 11AM - 7PM



**LOCKEFORD BRAT +
16oz PREMIUM
DRAFT BEER
\$10.95**



**LOS ALTOS COURTYARD
BY MARRIOTT**
4320 EL CAMINO REAL,
LOS ALTOS, CA 94022
(650) 941-9900

OUR FOOD IS PREPARED FRESH DAILY. WHEN IT'S GONE IT'S GONE. SOME ITEMS ARE LOCAL TO LOS ALTOS AND MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT OTHER COURTYARDS.

CRIME BRIEFS

MAN ARRESTED FOR HARASSING GIRLS

Police arrested a 25-year-old San Francisco man Tuesday after he allegedly asked two middle school-aged girls to come to a hotel room with him, and accosted a third girl later that day.

Police received a call at 3:51 p.m. that the man, identified as Matthew Kuhl, approached the first two girls as they were heading to Graham Middle School. The girls did not respond to the man's suggestion or talk to him, and quickly walked away toward the school, where they notified school staff, police said.

The girls provided a description of the suspect that eventually helped identify him, police said.

Less than 20 minutes after the first call, police received another call that a man had allegedly harassed another girl, following her and asking her questions. According to police, Kuhl grabbed the girl by her arm several times throughout the encounter.

The girl found a group of people on Escuela Avenue and was able to use someone's phone to call her mother, who told police that Kuhl had boarded a bus heading westbound on El Camino Real from Escuela Avenue. Police stopped the bus and detained Kuhl, who was combative with the officers, police said.

Kuhl was arrested and booked on charges of annoying or molesting a child under age 18, as well as resisting or obstructing a public officer. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail with bail set at \$25,000.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 6

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

1900 block California St., 9/2
500 block Mercy St., 9/3
400 block Bryant St., 9/3

2500 block California St., 9/7
1200 block Dale Av., 9/7
500 block Del Media Av., 9/8

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON

100 block Castro St., 9/7

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

500 block McCarty Av., 9/5
400 block Chagall St., 9/6

BATTERY

1900 block Latham St., 9/3
1 block Pioneer Way, 9/4

STOLEN VEHICLE

2300 block California St., 9/4
1000 block Crestview Dr., 9/6

GRAND THEFT

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 9/2
2500 block California St., 9/4
400 block W. Evelyn Av., 9/7

VANDALISM

900 block W. Middlefield Rd., 9/2
200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 9/4
1500 block W. El Camino Real, 9/6

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Diaz selected as city's new fire chief

Interim fire Chief Juan Diaz will permanently fill the top post in the Mountain View Fire Department. Diaz first joined the city in 2014 and has served as interim fire chief since Brad Wardle left the position in May.

City officials stated in a press release that Diaz was the best candidate for the job, even after conducting a nationwide search for candidates.

Diaz has a compelling personal background as a Cuban expatriate who arrived in the South Bay as a teenager in the 1980s speaking minimal English. In an interview with the *Voice* earlier this year, he described how he enrolled in firefighting classes at De Anza Community College while working as a janitor in the evenings. He has since completed a bachelor's degree in Fire Science and Emergency Management as well as earning other certificates in fire service.

Diaz has 27 years of firefighting experience, most of it with the San Jose Fire Department. He joined Mountain View last year as a deputy fire chief.

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 9



Juan Diaz

The Mountain View Voice (USPS 2560) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306 (650) 964-6300. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto CA and additional mailing offices. The Mountain View Voice is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Mountain View. Subscription rate of \$60 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mountain View Voice, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



MICHELLE LE

Daniele Gozzi, a private instructor, practices the cha-cha with a student at Mountain View's Cheryl Burke Dance Studio. Landlord LinkedIn has redevelopment plans for the property, so the studio is shutting down at the end of the month.

Dance studio's last waltz

CHERYL BURKE STUDIO CLOSING TO MAKE WAY FOR LINKEDIN'S EXPANSION PLANS

By Mark Noack

Later this month, a close-knit group will bid farewell to their "home away from home." The Cheryl Burke Dance Studio in Mountain View, one of the largest ballroom-dancing venues in the Bay Area, will shut its doors permanently at the end of September. The closure is sparking an exodus of dancers and instructors in search of a new home.

The Cheryl Burke studio has provided a haven for dance-

lovers at its somewhat hidden location, tucked in the back of an industrial lot off Shoreline Boulevard. Mountain View resident Steve Clamage said he has been coming to the studio for years. Taking a break from his two-step lesson on Friday, he gushed about what the studio has meant for him.

"It's a wonderful social activity, and there's no other place like this," he said. "I sure hope something else like this opens up."

The Mountain View dance

studio is closing because its landlord, LinkedIn, has plans to redevelop the property. The professional networking company earlier this year announced plans to patch together several adjacent properties for a new 10-building campus. Other nearby tenants, including Laser Quest and Togo's Sandwiches, will also be moving in the coming months. Studio owner Cheryl Burke gained renown in the

► See **DANCE**, page 7

School district wants a second look at enrollment

OPENING A NEW SCHOOL HINGES ON DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF FUTURE STUDENT GROWTH

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District is now seeking a second opinion on whether public school enrollment is on the rise or staying flat.

Citing a need for everyone to agree on the data being used to make critical decisions about school facilities, district staff convinced school board members last week to approve a new study delving deep into what enrollment growth, if any, the district can expect over the next decade.

The newly-approved study comes less than a year after the school district spent tens of thousands of dollars on a 32-page demographic study, which looked at birth rates, new residential developments and changes in the city's demographics, and concluded that student enrollment would remain the same and even decline slightly in several years.

But the data had not been "well-received" by members of the public, who criticized the results and the techniques used to measure enrollment, according to Chief Business Officer Robert Clark. He said the community did not agree with the results of the study and questioned the methodology used. The new firm, Decision Insight, will conduct the new study for \$11,585.

Board members Bill Lambert and José Gutiérrez expressed confusion at the Sept. 3 board meeting over why the new study

was needed and what exactly district residents weren't happy about in the previous study. Clark, who joined the district over the summer, said it would be useful to see if the new study contradicts the student projections or not.

"Either they will be completely different ... or they will be similar results and we'll match that data," Clark said.

Superintendent Ayindé Rudolph added that it wasn't clear whether the demographer included newly-approved residential development in Mountain View. Significant decisions by the Mountain View City Council include 600 new homes in the South Whisman area, and the still-pending decision on adding thousands of homes to North Bayshore.

"We felt like the best thing to do is to make sure we have our numbers right so we can understand whether or not we truly are flat in terms of our enrollment over the next couple of years," Rudolph said.

The results of the study will play a significant role in mapping out how the district will re-draw school enrollment boundaries to balance out school campuses, and will also be used by the district's committees and school board to decide whether there are enough elementary school-aged kids in the district to justify opening a new school in the Whisman and Slater neighborhood area.

► See **ENROLLMENT**, page 6

New rules to level mathematical playing field

GUIDELINES EXPECTED TO BOOST LATINO, AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN ADVANCED MATH CLASSES

By Kevin Forestieri

Amid growing pressure from state lawmakers, the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District is poised to adopt a new policy that makes test scores and student performance a key requirement to get into higher math classes.

Math placement policies, or lack thereof, came up as an issue earlier this year, when the district was criticized by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. The group released a report claiming that the district had disproportionately placed minority students into lower-level math in

ninth grade, even after they had completed the equivalent course in eighth grade.

Superintendent Jeff Harding proposed to the school board at the Sept. 8 meeting that the district set up new guidelines for how freshmen are placed into classes like algebra and geometry, based almost entirely

on cold, objective measures. Students will be placed based on placement tests, standardized tests, grades and any other "objective indicators of student performance and proficiency in mathematics," according to the report.

Placement recommendations and other subjective measures

are not considered in the newly proposed policies, but it leaves room for students who show "talents and abilities" to teachers and counselors that are not apparent in test scores, the report states.

There was little discussion among board members, who

► See **MATH**, page 14

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR MOUNTAIN VIEW TENANTS

Know your Rights & Responsibilities

Security Deposits • Repairs • Evictions • Rent Increases
Initial Rent Agreements • Assistance for New Associations
Lease Obligations • Privacy • Discrimination
City's Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance

Thursday, September 17, 2015 – Held in English
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 22, 2015 – Held in Spanish
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mountain View Senior Center – Multi-Purpose Room
266 Escuela Ave, Mountain View, CA 94040

Presented by the Mountain View Mediation Program and Project Sentinel.
Sponsored by the City of Mountain View.

For more information, call 650-960-0495

Language Assistance in Russian or Mandarin can be provided upon request.

ENROLLMENT

► Continued from page 5

Earlier this year, the district's Boundary Advisory Task Force came to a near-unanimous conclusion that the district simply did not have enough students to make opening a new school feasible, and that doing so would cause a reduction in the quality of education at nearby schools and possibly force another school to close. The task force had used the demographic data provided by the district in the fall of last year by Jack Schreder and Associates.

But residents of the Slater and Whisman neighborhoods in the northeast quadrant of the city, who do not have a neighborhood school, fought back and went through the study with a fine-toothed comb. They later made a presentation to the board claiming that student generation rates by household were far too conservative, and kindergarten enrollment for 2015-16 already shows the study's projections are off.

District parent Vicki Chang, one of several parents leading the charge for the new school, said she was encouraged by the decision to do a new study. She said there are millions of taxpayer dollars on the line for residents in the northeast quadrant of the city, where there has been no neighborhood public school since 2006.

Associate Superintendent Karen Robinson said at the Aug. 20 board meeting that enrollment did not spike for the 2015-16 school year and was consistent with the old demographic study, reporting to the board that enrollment had gone from 5,129 to 5,145 from last year to this year — an increase of only 16 students.

Clark said the best thing the district can do to ensure that the results of the new demographic study don't get the same blow-back is to have it done by a highly qualified firm. While the study is not guaranteed to be well-received by the community, he said it will constitute a second

data point that, if consistent with the previous study, will give further credibility to forecasts that enrollment will stay flat.

"As a community member I may like the report because it says what I want it to say, and if it doesn't say what I want it to say, I may not like it," Clark said. "If we have two sources of data that say very similar things — I'm not sure we can dispute them."

Clark and Rudolph both acknowledged that if the results are wildly different, the district will likely have to go out and get

its boundaries to better balance enrollment between its school campuses, members insisted that the root of the problem was not the boundaries themselves. The problem, they argued, was that families are not sending children to their neighborhood school.

Reports from the district show that only 32 percent of parents from the Theuerkauf Elementary attendance area requested their own neighborhood school for kindergarten enrollment, followed by Castro Elementary at 33 percent and Monta Loma and Landels at 35 percent.

Chang and other parents in the Whisman and Slater neighborhood area also argue that more families in the area would attend district schools if there was a local, neighborhood school, and that they have been forced to attend private schools or move out of the area.

Board member Greg Coladonato said the sentiment in some Mountain View neighborhoods could be for parents to leave the area once their kids reach kindergarten.

"If this were happening, how would we ever hope to capture that?" Coladonato asked.

Gutiérrez agreed, and said he wanted to know more about how rent increases are changing enrollment at schools like Castro, Mistral and Monta Loma.

"I understand these demographic studies don't take that into account but that's what I'm thinking about," Gutiérrez said.

Chang said she is optimistic, and that the new study could be a first step toward finding out how many students the district could attract with a new school and how many new families would be encouraged to stay in the area.

"We can't necessarily answer this with the demographic report alone, but my hope is that the district will also consider commissioning a comprehensive neighborhood survey," Chang said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

'We felt like the best thing to do is to make sure we have our numbers right.'

SUPERINTENDENT
AYINDE RUDOLPH

a third study to triangulate the results. Rudolph said it's not his goal to do enrollment studies over and over, but if there's a discrepancy, it has to be resolved.

"We really need to be pragmatic in our approach to make sure that we're taking the right steps to predict what each school is going to look like, and what each area is going to look like, knowing that there is a lot of building taking place," Rudolph said.

Subjective measures still absent

There were several reasons why the previous demographic results were hard for district residents to come to grips with, in part because it only dealt with objective data and did not take into account some of the more nuanced reasons why school enrollment looks the way it does.

Throughout the first few meetings of the Boundary Advisory Task Force, which looked at ways the district could re-draw

to police spokeswoman Shino Tanaka.

The bicycle is described as a silver Santa Cruz Blur hybrid.

—Kevin Forestieri

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

BIKE STOLEN FROM 24 HOUR FITNESS

Police received a report that a \$3,000 bike had been stolen from a rack outside of the 24 Hour Fitness in Mountain View early last week.

The bicycle had been locked to the bike rack outside of the gym at 2535 California St., but the thief managed to circumvent the lock, according

had been burglarized. Police found that the front door had been forced open, and the inside of the home had been ransacked, according to police spokeswoman Shino Tanaka.

The homeowner decided to call police instead of entering the residence when it appeared the home had been broken into, Tanaka said.

The homeowner reported that jewelry had been taken from the home, but police did not have a tally on the approximate value, Tanaka said.

MV HOME BURGLARIZED

A home in the Sylvan Park neighborhood was burglarized over the weekend when one or more thieves broke into the residence.

Police received a call on Sunday, Sept. 6, that a residence on the 400 block of Chagall Street

THE BAY AREA'S BEST
ART & WINE FESTIVAL



44TH
ART & WINE
FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER
12 & 13, 2015
A CULTURAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

FREE ADMISSION!

SEPTEMBER 12TH & 13TH

10AM - 6PM

CASTRO STREET
DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN VIEW

600 EXCEPTIONAL ARTISTS

STELLAR LIVE MUSIC EVERYWHERE

ORGANIC & GREEN PRODUCTS

FABULOUS FOOD & DRINKS

PREMIUM WINES

MICROBREWS

REFRESHING MARGARITAS & SANGRIA

SMASHING ENTERTAINMENT ON STAGE & STREET

SALSA
SUNDAY
1:30PM

Orquesta Borinquen
Ruckatan
The Peelers
Old School
Lyn I's (Eagles Tribute)
Pacific Soul
The GroWiser Band

Bob Culbertson
Aryeh Frankfurter
HeartStrings Music
Oscar Reynolds
John Clarke
Ancient Winds

PREMIUM WINE TASTING TENT 12-5PM

50 TOUR
The 50 Tour: Champions of the Bay
See All Eight Championship Trophies Won By Your 49ers and Raiders!

AWESOME ACTION-PACKED KIDS' PARK

"Mountain View's Got Talent Community Stage"

Wild & Wacky Waterballerz • Thrilling Bungee Jump
Amazing Climbing Wall • Obstacle Course
Hula Hooping Fun • Feather Hair Extensions
Exotic French Hair Braiding • Henna Tattoos
Super Cool Face Painting • Caricature Art

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY











































#MVArtWine | WWW.MIRAMAREVENTS.COM | VISA

INFO: 650.968.8378 | WWW.CHAMBERMV.ORG | NO PETS | NO SEGWAYS

DANCE

► Continued from page 5

professional dancing circuit after twice winning *Dancing with the Stars*,” the reality TV series that pairs celebrities with professional dancers. She’s become one of the show’s central professional performers and has appeared in 18 seasons of the show.

Since she’s still a regular on the show, Burke decided to partner with her mother, Atherton resident Sherri Burke, to create her own dance studio. It was an obvious step, her mother explained. As Cheryl’s profile continued to grow, more people were asking about getting private lessons.

“But there was no way she could do it on her own,” Sherri Burke said. “She asked me to help her open the studio and develop it into a franchise.”

Burke and her mother retained control as they experimented with different studios. A studio in San Francisco had to close down due to parking and crime problems. A smaller Orange County venue located in an upscale shopping center made a go of it for three years



MICHELLE LE

Cheryl Burke Dance Studio is closing at the end of the month.

before closing in 2013.

The 14,000-square-foot studio in Mountain View opened in 2009 and became the flagship and most successful of Burke’s studios. The venue attracted a loyal circle of dance aficionados, both professionals and amateurs. Burke’s mother credited the tech-hub location

for drawing a regular group of engineers and programmers looking for a social and physical activity.

“They take off their shoes after a long day and use this as their way to unwind as they wait for traffic to die down,” Sherri Burke said. “When they start dancing, all their shyness

goes out the window.”

The studio has offered lessons in all kinds of ballroom dancing, including tango, waltz, salsa and foxtrot. Thursday through Sunday the studio holds social dance parties, which often included many regulars.

“It’s sad for a lot of people,

many have been coming up to me to talk about all the fun they’ve had over the years,” Sherri Burke said. “For many people this was like their second home.”

The dance studio is holding some events to say goodbye. A farewell dance party that will include an appearance by Cheryl Burke is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12. A final dance showcase is planned for Sept. 27. All other classes and events will continue through the end of the month.

Many of the professionals are already making contingency plans for what to do after the closure. Daniele Gozzi, a dance instructor at Cheryl Burke, said he hopes to draw many of the regulars to a new studio he is opening in San Jose. His new venue, Starlight Dance Studio, will employ many of the dance instructors from Cheryl Burke, he said.

“They’re all excited to have a new place to dance,” he said.

He said that Starlight Dance Studio will open in early October at 5178 Moorpark Ave. in San Jose. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Star One Visa® Signature Rewards Card

Packed with Perks for Travel Lovers.

If you love to travel, the Star One Visa® Signature Rewards is the perfect card for you. It’s free. And it’s packed with travel-related perks, protections and privileges.

- Get through airport security lines faster with a CLEAR membership at no additional cost from Star One. Details at visa.clearme.com/starone. CLEAR
- Free Trip Cancellation insurance.
- Free Rental Car insurance.
- Free Signature Concierge Services and more!

Plus, you’ll earn points for every dollar spent that you can redeem for travel, cash and all kinds of cool things. Apply now at starone.org.

STAR ONE
CREDIT UNION
Come get the Star Treatment

(866) 543-5202
www.starone.org

San Jose
1090 Blossom Hill Rd.

San Jose
3136 Stevens Creek Blvd.

Cupertino
10991 N. De Anza Blvd.

Sunnyvale
1080 Enterprise Way

Palo Alto
3903 El Camino Real

Copyright © 2013 ALCLEAR, LLC. All rights reserved.

HOUSING PROTEST

► Continued from page 1

struggling to stay afloat amid Mountain View's climbing cost of living. Few apartments in her price range are available on the rental market, Rios said, and those landlords she spoke with wanted proof showing she was earning double or triple the monthly rent. Rios' daughters are starting a new school year amid uncertainty whether they will be moving to a new town and attending a different school by next month.

"We're trying to stay here, but it's difficult," Rios said. "My neighbors are all worried because they could be next."

Jacqueline, Rios' eldest daughter, said two of her best friends had recently moved out of the area to more affordable cities. Now she's worried her life could be uprooted, too.

"My home is here. My school is here. I do everything here," the eighth-grader said. "It's really sad. We've already searched for a place to live, but it's not manageable."

Rios' story and dozens more like it are fueling a new push to address a housing market that has become untenable for many residents. Exactly what that solution should be isn't clear. Whether it's restrictions on evictions, rent stabilization, tenants' protections or all the above, advocates say some kind of action is needed to rectify what has become Mountain View's most pressing social problem.

On Tuesday evening, an estimated 300 people, including a huge turnout from the city's Latino community, rallied at City Hall to press city leaders to take up the issue of housing affordability. It was the most crowded City Council meeting in recent memory, with dozens of parents and children waving placards and recounting their stories of rising rents and lost homes. Through the evening, many speakers urged elected leaders to immediately impose a moratorium on rent hikes until a long-term answer could be found.

"The community owes them the consideration to find a way to alleviate their pain," said Father Bob Moran, the former pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church. "They should not be treated as disposable objects."

Apartment rents in Mountain View increased about 14 percent last year, making it one of California's most expensive cities as well as having among the highest rent growth, according to data from the website Apartment List. That ongoing trend is pricing out a new segment of residents, and many warned it was irrevocably

changing the fabric of the community. Outside, organizers set up a "Mountain View Wall of Pain" for people to post signs describing how much their rent has gone up in recent months. A Castro Elementary School PTA board member described how the student body is shrinking because of families leaving the area.

The Mountain View city government has been in recess since July, but the pressure surrounding the housing issue has been mounting over the summer. For months, a group of struggling renters have been meeting every Thursday at the St. Athanasius Church to share experiences. The meetings have taken on the name "Cafecitos" or "little coffees."

Last week, organizers held a special Cafecitos meeting in front of Rios' apartment. The crowd of about 60 people joined hands for a prayer, and then took turns describing their recent travails to stay housed.

One mother, Araceli Bautista, described how her family of eight is struggling to make ends meet in a two-bedroom apartment. The landlord issued an ultimatum for them to either leave or start paying \$3,000 a month in the coming weeks. Two years ago, their rent was \$1,800 a month, she said.

"We don't know what to do," she said. "We might be able to find another job, but then we won't be able to take care of our children."

Many recounted tales of landlords who were flouting the city's existing tenants' protection law, giving renters only days or hours to pack up and leave. Several people said they felt mistreated because they are immigrants.

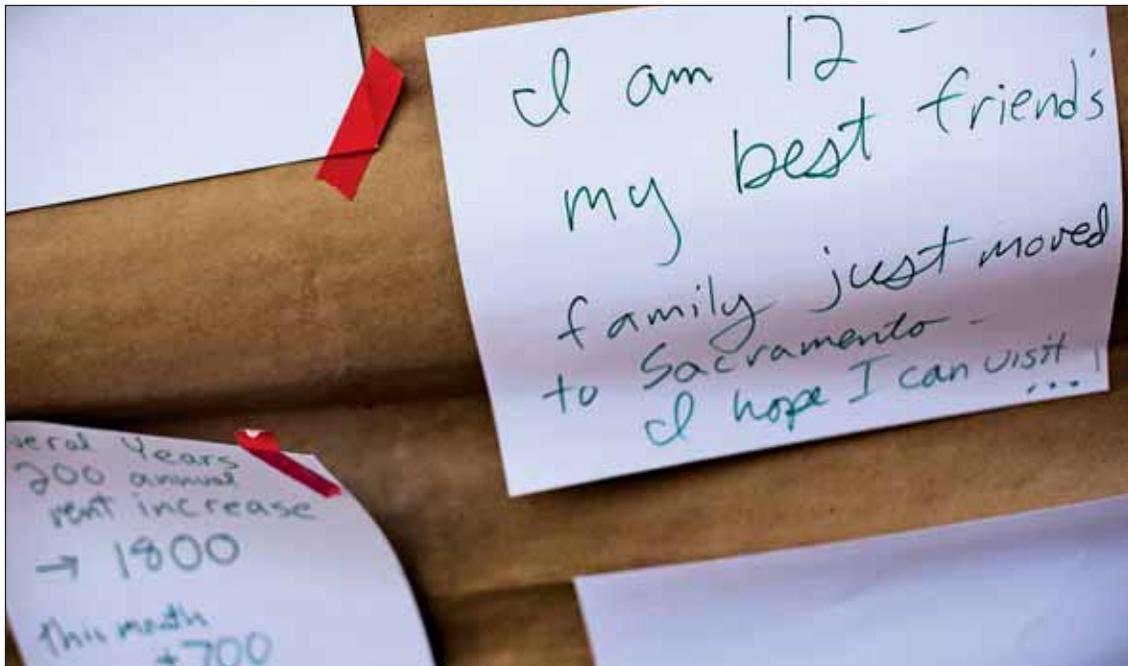
Anibal Corado said he lost his two-bedroom apartment following the July fire at the Park Vista Apartments. The fire left only one apartment uninhabitable, but his family and other households were also told they couldn't live there. His landlord put his family in a Quality Inn but refused to continue footing the bill after four days. His family of four had to sleep at friends' or relatives' homes, he said. He was lucky to get legal help, and his landlord acquiesced by temporarily putting his family up in a studio apartment. Corado urged the council on Tuesday to take some action on housing costs.

Mountain View council members have tried to address housing affordability. Last year, the city increased compensation for displaced tenants, and have sought to maximize affordable housing from new developments. Renters' advocates have long pressed the city to take more controversial steps, such as a cap on rent hikes. The idea received a tepid



MICHELLE LE

Danna, 10, speaks to the City Council before at Tuesday's meeting. A big crowd gathered to ask for help stemming a wave of soaring rents and illegal evictions in the city.



MICHELLE LE

A "wall of pain" at City Hall Tuesday evening displayed a collection of personal stories about the impact of Mountain View's housing crisis.

response from candidates during last year's City Council election, and city leaders declined to make rent stabilization a priority in strategic planning sessions held earlier this year. Instead, the city went with a long-term strategy of encouraging residential growth throughout the city.

But that approach could be changing. Other Bay Area cities, including Richmond and San Jose, have recently taken action to strengthen local rent restrictions. Concerns over cost-of-living issues have taken on new prominence among Bay Area cities, with many signaling support for raising the minimum wage.

On Tuesday night, Mountain View city leaders were clearly affected by renters' personal stories, not to mention the huge turnout of constituents. Mayor John McAlister frequently asked to see the rent-increase notices brought by the speakers,

explaining that he was getting an "education" on what residents are facing. Councilman Mike Kasperzak often asked speakers to identify their landlords.

Council members explained they could not have a full discussion of the housing issue since it wasn't scheduled on the meeting's agenda, and no emergency actions were taken. The council's only debate on the issue came at the tail end of the four-hour meeting when much of the crowd had long since left.

Explaining he wasn't a strong believer in rent control, Kasperzak said he was nonetheless disturbed by evidence that landlords were hiking rents by 25 percent or more. He called on property owners to curb exorbitant rent increases.

"In some regard it seems as if landlords out there are daring us to do something about this like rent control," Kasperzak said.

"It's almost as if there's people out there, not just in Mountain View but throughout the area, saying: 'Bring it on, do it if you've got the guts. We're just going to milk this recession for everything we can.'"

Councilman Lenny Siegel, who backed unsuccessful past efforts to pass rent-control measures in Mountain View, asked for a special study session that could include a broad discussion on housing affordability. Siegel said he was deliberately avoiding recommending any specific solution, and he urged city staff to bring back a "menu" of options.

"This was a big deal. We had hundreds of people here, and we owe them a response," he said.

The council unanimously backed the proposal for a special housing study session. City Manager Dan Rich said the earliest the council could schedule a meeting would likely be sometime in November. ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

As the new fire chief, Diaz will start on Sept. 13 with a salary of \$242,000 a year, according to the city.

Mark Noack

AWARD FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

El Camino Hospital recently announced that it received the 2015 Outstanding Treatment Provider Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California Chapter. The award recognizes excellence of care in behavioral health services.

“The behavioral health services team at El Camino Hospital is dedicated to reducing the stigma around mental illness through their multicultural outreach programs and services and providing quality care. We’re pleased to recognize them for their achievements,” said Jessica Cruz, executive director of the National Alliance’s California Chapter, in a statement.

El Camino Hospital has provided inpatient psychiatric care since its founding over 50 years ago and outpatient mental health services for over 20 years. Each year, El Camino Hospital receives about 22,000 mental health visits.

“To be recognized by such a prestigious organization like NAMI California, is a testament to the valuable services we provide,” said Michael Fitzgerald, executive director of Behavioral Health Services at El Camino. “This award reflects the hard work and dedication of our team.”

HOMETOWN HEROES

As housing prices in Mountain View continue to rise, lack of affordable housing is an issue for many of the city’s residents. Community Services Agency, a local nonprofit, will honor Susan Russell and Jeanne Richter for their community activism on housing issues at its annual Hometown Heroes event on Friday.

Hometown Heroes honors both individuals and businesses

“for their philanthropic contributions to both CSA and our local community.”

Raley’s Nob Hill will also be honored at the event for its Food for Families program, which allows Community Services Agency (CSA) to purchase food at reduced prices. Food for Families plans to expand its program this month to provide healthier options such as fresh fruits and produce.

“It truly takes collaboration between residents, government, and businesses for Community Services Agency to accomplish its mission,” said Tom Myers, CSA’s executive director, in a statement. “The Hometown Heroes event recognizes these efforts and we all should be inspired by the commitment and hard work of our very own ‘hometown heroes.’”

The event is set for Friday, Sept. 11, at 7:15 a.m. at the Computer History museum in Mountain View, with Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian as a featured guest speaker.

SIDEWALK OFFICE HOURS

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian is back for another round of sidewalk office hours this week. Simitian will be answering questions from community members at several local farmers’ markets this month.

Locally, the supervisor will hold office hours at the Mountain View Farmers’ Market in the Mountain View Caltrain Parking Lot from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13.

He will also be stationed at the Los Altos Farmers’ Market on State Street in downtown Los Altos from 4 to 5:40 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10.

“I look forward to talking to people one-on-one,” said Simitian in a statement. “The farmers’ markets are a wonderful venue for sidewalk office hours. The setting is relaxed, it’s easy to find, and a lot of folks stop by to talk on the spur of the moment.”

Simitian also plans to hold office hours at the Saratoga and Downtown Palo Alto farmers’ markets. All are welcome, and no appointment is required.

For additional dates and times,

or to contact the supervisor, go to his website at supervisorsimitian.com or call his office at (408) 299-5050.

Carl Sibley

SCHOOL BOARD REFUNDS 1998 BOND

The Mountain View Whisman School District school board voted last week to refinance an old, 1998 school bond passed by the former Mountain View School District in order for taxpayers to save money.

Chief Business Officer Robert Clark said individual residents in the former district probably won’t see much of a difference in their taxes, if any at all, but it will certainly add up for the district. The district is expected to save \$700,000 as it continues to pay back the bond debt.

The decision does not cost the district any money, and was

approved unanimously by the board at the Sept. 3 meeting.

“We’re doing it to save our community as much money as possible,” Clark said.

—Kevin Forestieri

PAMF HEAD TO RETIRE

After more than five years as chief executive officer at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF), Richard Slavin, M.D., announced Sept. 3 that he plans to retire in January 2016, according to a press release.

Dr. Slavin has been CEO at PAMF, part of the Sutter Health network, since 2010. Before that, he was president of its Camino division in the South Bay.

“Dr. Slavin has been a driving force behind the clinical and operational excellence, strong financial performance and exceptional growth at PAMF for more than 15 years. After more

than four decades as a physician and physician leader, he wishes to pursue other facets in his life,” said Jeff Gerard, president of Sutter Health’s Bay Area Region, in a statement.

Dr. Slavin was part of the Sutter Health Senior Management Team from 2010 to 2015. During his time with PAMF, he led a “period of unprecedented growth, including the design and construction of distinctive new medical centers in Mountain View, Sunnyvale and San Carlos,” the press release reads. “Under his leadership, PAMF’s patient base reached one million, simultaneously being recognized statewide and nationally for exceptional quality and patient experience.”

His successor hasn’t yet been named, but that decision is expected “soon,” according to the press release.

Palo Alto Weekly staff

EVER BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW?



If you’re missing any permanent adult teeth, it can definitely feel that way sometimes. Eating mouth-watering, delicious foods can be more of a pain than it’s worth.

Dental implants are ideal for replacing missing teeth and can make eating enjoyable again. It will also help retain the natural shape of your face and jaw line by reducing bone loss. Dental implants look great, feel natural and last a long time.

Call Dr. McEvoy at 650-969-2600 for your free implant consultation.
Then make a reservation at your favorite restaurant and prepare to eat with abandon!



As a Diplomat of the Board of Oral Implantology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, Dr. McEvoy has the highest level of certification possible. This means you can have your implant managed by just one highly trained doctor and you’ll soon be smiling again.

Patrick P. McEvoy
DDS, FAGD
The Art of Science of Dentistry



COSMETIC DENTISTRY • ONE TREATMENT LASER WHITENING • NO-PREP VENEERS
CEREC (ONE VISIT CROWNS) • GENERAL DENTISTRY • SEDATION DENTISTRY

105 South Dr., Ste. 200, Mountain View | www.drmcvov.com 969-2600

MountainView ONLINE

LET’S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at **MountainViewOnline.com**



20 Lane Place, Atherton Offered at \$4,288,000

Gated Property with Dramatic Remodel

Fully remodeled in 2010, this impressive 5 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home of 3,930 sq. ft. (per plans) accompanies a detached garage with an additional half bath on a sprawling lot of 1.2 acres (per county). Automatic gates access the circular driveway, while the sensational interior provides a host of custom touches and a free-flowing floorplan with a living/dining ensemble, a dreamy chef's kitchen, a large breakfast area, and a family room with a fireplace. Two bedrooms, including the relaxing master suite, are downstairs, and a gracious staircase leads up to a spacious loft, a home office, and three more bedrooms. Outdoors, the converted garage enjoys a studio, and the fine grounds also include a paver terrace, a custom shed, and an immense backyard. A short stroll from Holbrook-Palmer Park, this home also features easy access to Caltrain and prestigious schools like Sacred Heart and Menlo School, plus other excellent schools like Encinal Elementary (API 930), Hillview Middle (API 950), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.20LanePlace.com



Ken DeLeon
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka
CalBRE #01854880

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 pm
Complimentary
Lunch, Lattes, & Jazz

650.488.7325 | info@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | CalBRE #01903224



46 Marianna Lane, Atherton Offered at \$3,498,000

Impressive Home with Private Gardens

Surrounded by an oasis of greenery, this private 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom home of 3,300 sq. ft. (per county) sits on a lot of 0.96 acres (per county). Featuring hardwood floors, oversized picture windows, and beamed ceilings, this home enjoys park-like views from almost every room.

Large common areas include a dining/living room ensemble and an immense family room, each with a fireplace and bookcases, plus a light-filled kitchen with a breakfast nook. Boasting many flexibly designed rooms, the home also includes two remodeled bathrooms, an in-law suite, a two-car garage, an office, and a gym that may convert to a sixth bedroom. Spectacular grounds surround an expansive terrace, a swimming pool, and a poolhouse with a raised hot tub, while featuring vegetable planters, lush foliage, and mature fruit trees.

Here, you will be within mere steps of Holbrook-Palmer Park and Atherton Library. Terrific schools include Encinal Elementary (API 930), Hillview Middle (API 950), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.46Marianna.com



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 pm
Lunch & Lattes



Ken DeLeon
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka
CalBRE #01854880

650.488.7325 | info@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | CalBRE #01903224

A windfall in hospital safety

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL BRINGS DOWN PATIENT FALLS THIS YEAR USING NEW TECH UPGRADES

By Kevin Forestieri

It's tough for nurses to predict when a hospital patient is going to try to climb out of bed and risk tumbling to the ground, but some recent tech upgrades at El Camino Hospital are enabling hospital staff to be a little more proactive.

Using a new data collection system and notification devices for nurses throughout the hospital, El Camino has lowered the number of patients' falls by 39 percent over the last six months, down to 3.5 falls per month from 5.7 last year.

Patients falling constitutes a serious issue for hospital qual-

ity in the United States. Between 700,000 and 1,000,000 patients fall down each year, and close to one-third of the falls can be prevented, according to one U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Injuries from the falls include lacerations, fractures and internal bleeding.

Hospital administrators and the hospital board at El Camino Hospital have made it a goal to bring patient falls to zero, but up until recently, they weren't making much headway, according to Cheryl Reinking, chief nursing officer for the hospital.

"Around last fall and winter we were just not experiencing the kind of improvement, consider-

ing the kind of effort we were putting into fall prevention," Reinking said.

The hospital enlisted the help of analyticsMD, a Mountain View-based tech company, to develop a sophisticated system that monitors patients and alerts nurses if a possible fall is imminent. Mudit Garg, the company's founder and CEO, explained that the system pulls in information from dozens of indicators, whether bed sensors, call lights or changes in patient movement.

If a patient appears to be trying to get out of bed soon, nurses are equipped with a warning device with an LED screen showing the room number of the patient.

"Our goal in general is to make it so (nurses) are not being forced to log in and look at 5 to 10 graphs, but rather to have an intelligent system that says, 'hey, here is something that you should act on,'" Garg said.

Reinking said the old methods nurses used to monitor patients were all reactive, and patients would already be out of bed and moving when the alerts would go off. The new system is far more proactive, and while there are occasionally false alarms, nurses can decide whether to intervene, she said.

Nurses have been pretty receptive to the new system, Reinking said, and haven't given any negative feedback yet. The alert tends to only go off once each shift or every other shift, and hasn't been a burden on the nursing staff.

"I think the nurses have come

to understand that it's unique — it's a smart alert, so to speak," Reinking said.

The system is expected to get better with time. Garg pointed out that the data system includes an element of machine learning, and as more time passes and there are more patterns and parameters associated with falls, the alert system will be better at determining who is at risk. The hospital's new online medical records system, iCare, is also nearly complete, and could be used to better assess who's at risk of falling.

The reduction in patient falls have been significant so far this year, but Reinking stressed that there's still work to be done.

"Our goal is to get to zero falls in the hospital, and we're not there yet," she said. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

Stanford | Continuing Studies

FALL 2015



Professional & Personal Development

Featured Fall Courses:

How to Start Your Business: From Idea to Business Plan • Financial Planning Part I

Demystifying Silicon Valley Technologies • Tame Big Data to Drive Big Insight

Enhanced Website Design • Creativity and Leadership

Building a Career of Meaning and Impact • Advanced Public Speaking

Stanford Continuing Studies offers a broad range of on-campus and online courses in liberal arts & sciences, creative writing, and professional & personal development. Courses are taught by notable Stanford faculty, experienced professionals, and leaders in their fields.

All adults are welcome to attend.

Fall registration is now open and most classes begin the week of September 21.

Learn more and register: continuingstudies.stanford.edu

PARCEL TAX

► Continued from page 1

be happy to defend the district in court, which would likely happen if it enacts that kind of tax.

"I think every law firm out there that does this kind of work is going to advise you cautiously in this area" Henderson said. "You will not fly under the radar."

Board President Ellen Wheeler said she had heard enough legal opinions to believe that the law is "settled," and she had no appetite for a legal battle. She pointed out that a previous district parcel tax, Measure J, had been challenged in court in 2004, which wasted a lot of the district's money.

"I am totally uninterested in spending district money on a lawsuit again," Wheeler said.

The board has yet to vote to approve a parcel tax renewal for the ballot, and is still in the early stages of planning for the ballot measure.

Big ticket items

Polling for a parcel tax renewal measure kicks off in the coming months, and the board went through a list of new programs and perks that could be brought to life with more funding. Board members focused on class sizes, after-school activities, a boost to science curriculum and a possible bump in teacher compensation.

Board member Bill Lambert focused on science programs and developing a "first-class science curriculum" in the district, which he said would resonate well with voters.

Nelson came out in favor of supporting teachers with new tax revenue, saying it should help to attract and retain teachers and staff. Wheeler also said she

wanted to include something in the parcel tax language about increasing teacher pay, beyond the vague promise in the Measure C language of "attracting and retaining" teachers.

"We always have 'attract and retain teachers and staff' and nobody knows what that means," Wheeler said. "I would hope that we could be a little more specific."

Not all board members agreed with using tax revenue to pay teachers. Lambert said he wants to hear from district staff about whether it is sound fiscal policy to tie teacher compensation to a parcel tax. If it's a bad idea, he said, the district shouldn't poll voters on it.

"We'll be giving unrealistic expectations to voters on the survey," Lambert cautioned.

The Mountain View Whisman School District's parcel tax revenue is dwarfed by that of some of its neighbors. The Palo Alto Unified School District passed a parcel tax earlier this year that increased the tax by \$120 to \$758 per parcel, which will bring in close to \$14.7 million each year in revenue. In the Los Altos School District, where 20 percent of the student body is from Mountain View, \$10 million in parcel tax revenue was collected in the 2014-15 school year, which amounts to a flat \$790 per parcel.

Board members expressed interest in catching up with the nearby school districts on parcel taxes, but Heath noted that the Los Altos and Palo Alto districts raised their taxes incrementally over time, tying increases to new benefits. He said it would be hard to double or triple the tax, and that voters tend to be uninterested in what their neighbors are paying.

"We need to be realistic," Heath said. ■

■ OBITUARIES

ROSE E. TALMAGE

Rose E. Talmage, a longtime resident active in the Mountain View community, died on Sept. 3, surrounded by family and friends. She had recently celebrated her 96th birthday.

Born Aug. 23, 1919, she grew up during the Depression on a family farm and moved to San Francisco at the age of 18, where she worked at IBM as a key-punch operator. Eventually, she owned and operated her own restaurant. She moved to Mountain View with her family in 1954, and lived in the same house for the next 61 years. She was an active member of the community right up until the end of her life, said her son, Rick Talmage. If she couldn't attend a City Council meeting, she would watch it on TV, her son said. She was one of the original members of the Save the Cuesta Annex organization, which successfully preserved the only remaining natural parcel in Mountain View.

Her family said they will remember her best for her dedication to her family, her generosity towards friends, neighbors and those less fortunate, and her colorful jokes. She was an avid dancer, and an active community member who volunteered at the Mountain View Arts & Wine Festival every year. This year marks the first Art & Wine festival that she'll miss, her son said.

She is survived by her two sons, Ron Talmage of Rockland, Calif., and Rick Talmage of New York City; grandchildren Jonathan Smith of San Jose, Kristen Dyke of Stockton and Victor Talmage of Bakersfield; and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter Darlene Smith and her former husband and friend Darwin LeRoy (Tom)



Rose Talmage

Talmage.

A private celebration of her life will be held later in September for family and close friends. Her final resting place will be at the Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto. Masses will be said in her memory at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mountain View on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 27, at 11:30 a.m.

The family prefers donations in memory of Rose Talmage be made to the Community Services Agency of Mountain View. Her family credited CSA with making it possible for her to live at home with dignity and comfort for the past 10 years, with help ranging from daily Meals on Wheels deliveries to arranging low-cost in-home help and lining up rides to doctor's appointments.

ALICE ROYLANCE

Memorial services are set for Saturday for Mountain View's former city clerk, Alice Roylance, who was considered a one-woman institution at City Hall. She died Aug. 29 at age 92.

Born Alice Gordh, she grew up in Portland, Ore., then moved with her husband to the Bay Area around 1950. The couple ultimately settled in Mountain View to start their family. After raising two children and wanting to get back to work, Roylance landed a job at City Hall as a typist. She rose up the ranks, becoming the Planning Department's secretary and later the city clerk.

Roylance's family recalled how much she enjoyed working elections, coordinating the handling of thousands of ballots and reporting the results to an anxious audience.

"Very few people could manage their job with such dignity and aplomb, having had as many boss-

es as Alice," read a 1989 Mountain View resolution honoring her on her retirement. She served a total of 25 years with the city.

Roylance spent her retirement traveling the world with her husband, and going on cruises with her brother and his wife, traveling to Europe, Asia, Africa and South America, her family said. She was a member of Quota Club and the Retired Public Employees Association, volunteered at the Costume Bank and enjoyed playing bridge and watching classic movies

She is survived by her son Jerry and daughter Lynn; brother Don; and granddaughters Morgan and Taylor. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack Roylance.

A visitation is set for 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, 96 W. El Camino Real in Mountain View. A memorial service will follow at 2 p.m.



Alice Roylance

Support the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Trailblazer Race

Sunday, September 27, 2015



www.stevenscreektrail.org

5K/10K USATF Races • 3-Mile Walk

Free kids races, giant inflatable games & face painting

1065 La Avenida, Mountain View

Race Day Registration 7:30am • Events Start 8:30am

Save \$5! Register by 9/24 at www.stevenscreektrail.org

Avenidas presents the 12th Annual

CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

The Art of Caregiving

Saturday, October 17
8:30 am - 3:30 pm
266 - 270 Escuela Ave



- Keynote by Dr. Mehrdad Ayati, Stanford Gerontologist & Author of Paths of Aging
- 9 Workshops on Health Care Resources, Caregiving Strategies & Legal Decision-Making
- Affinity Groups & Respite Center Tour
- Access to Sponsors & Door Prizes
- Boxed lunch, specialty coffee cart & dessert!

\$35 BEFORE 10/2. FREE PARKING.

Register at Avenidas.org or call (650) 289-5435



Co-sponsored by City of Mountain View

INTENTIO™
Professional Health and Fitness

We train with YOUR INTENTION

INTENTIO is a holistic, multi-disciplinary fitness center with training professionals, nutritionists and sports medicine

Introductory Offer: \$150/Month*

INCLUDED
Access to Unlimited Small Group Functional Movement Screening & Health Assessment
*3 Month commitment required

CONTACT US FOR DETAILS NOW!

260 Moffett Blvd. Mountain View, 94043 info@intentio.com • **650.963.9888** • www.intentio.com

MATH

► Continued from page 5

generally agreed that Harding's drafted policy was the right direction for the district. Board member Phil Faillace said the placement standards should help to encourage students to move expeditiously through the district's math courses.

"I think it's on the right track, let's keep going," Faillace said.

If approved, the policy would be a significant about-face from the district's current practice,

which has no math placement requirements at all. The current policy offers open access to students who want to challenge themselves in a more difficult math course.

Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf told the *Voice* in June that she saw the district go through numerous iterations of math-placement policies, and open access had worked much better and didn't keep students from taking classes because they bombed a single test.

Left behind

The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights group published a 37-page report that found Latino and African-American students are far more likely to get placed in ninth-grade algebra than their white and Asian peers throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties — despite the fact that the students meet or exceed standards that would allow them to take geometry in their freshman year.

Students placed in algebra in their freshman year are unlikely

to reach higher-level math classes like calculus by their senior year, and have a lower chance of getting accepted into four-year universities, the report states.

The group specifically pointed to the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District as a prime example of minority students being held back. After filing multiple public records requests with the district for data on ninth-grade math placement, the LCCR parsed the information and concluded that 92.9 percent of white students advanced to geometry from algebra in ninth grade, compared to 61 percent of African-American students and 71.7 percent of Latino students.

The LCCR report noted most of the African-American and Latino students in the district come from Mountain View's middle schools, Crittenden and Graham.

Harding's proposed policy comes at a time when the California Senate is considering making it a requirement for districts with eighth- and ninth-graders to explicitly state the math placement policies. Senate Bill 359, introduced by State Sen. Holly Mitchell, would require school districts to adopt fair, objective and transparent math placement policies. The bill is intended to increase the number of teens preparing for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, particularly minority students.

The bill has been firmly backed by the Mountain View-based Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which is leading a statewide coalition to address math misplacement in the region and

the state, according to the non-profit's website.

Prior to the newly proposed bill, the state Senate last year adopted a resolution that encourages local school boards to develop mathematics placement policy that takes into account placement tests, statewide assessments, grades and coursework. The resolution pointed to math misplacement as a serious concern, and called the disproportionately high misplacement of minority students a serious concern.

One of the fellows working with LCCR, Dana Isaac, told the *Voice* in June that the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District was of particular significance not only because minority students are underrepresented in higher-level math, but because it's located in the center of the tech industry, right next door to Google, which lacks a strong minority presence. She described the issue as a pipeline problem, and said the nearby schools may be a contributing factor.

Isaac also said it was a significant issue that the district had no written math placement policy, which she said means there is no assurance that students will be placed in the correct level of math. An open access policy on math placement, she argued, means the burden is shifted to the families who have to advocate for their kids and make sure they get in the right class.

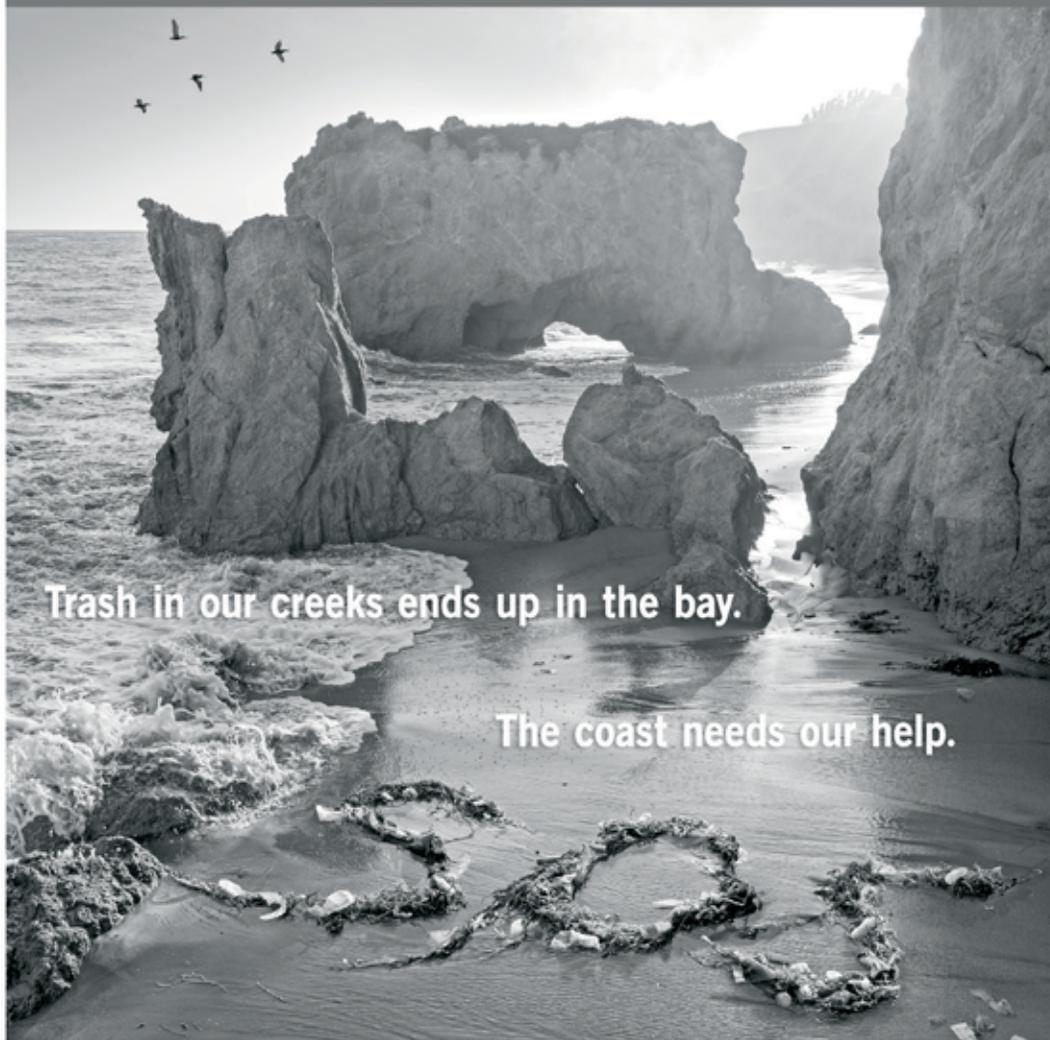
The district's new math placement policy is expected to return to the board for a vote later this year. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP DAY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

9 AM - NOON



Trash in our creeks ends up in the bay.

The coast needs our help.

JOIN OVER 60,000 CALIFORNIANS AS WE COME TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP OUR STATE'S BEACHES AND WATERWAYS

SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY! | www.cleanacreek.org



#CleanCreeksSCC

Hanging crow's nest by Joki



adventuretoyslosaltos.com
173 Main Street, Los Altos
650.941.6043



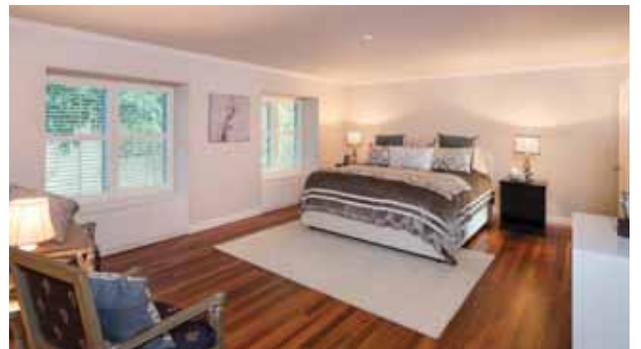
111 Pepper Drive, Los Altos Offered at \$2,988,000

Chic Details and Private Location

Set back on a flag-shaped lot of 14,810 sq. ft. (per county), this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home of 2,916 sq. ft. (per county) offers rich amenities and a secluded setting. Floored with natural hardwood, the interior offers plantation shutters, built-in sound speakers, and handsome millwork. Well-appointed common areas include a formal living room, an open dining area, and a family room with a fireplace, plus fine spaces like a private home office and a glamorous island kitchen with a butler's pantry. The sizable bedrooms are grouped upstairs with the master suite, which displays heated bathroom floors, a soaking tub, and a spacious walk-in. Outdoors await a covered porch and a pool fringed by a slate terrace. Additionally, the home provides an attached three-car garage, a pool bath, and vegetable planters. This spectacular home is within a stroll of downtown Los Altos, Hillview Park, and Los Altos Library Excellent schools nearby include Covington Elementary (API 975), Egan Junior High (API 976), and Los Altos High (API 895) (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.111PepperDrive.com



Ken DeLeon
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka
CalBRE #01854880

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 pm
Complimentary Lunch,
Lattes, & Jazz

High-speed rail shifts focus back to the Bay Area

IN LAUNCHING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, OFFICIALS HOPE TO PLACATE CRITICS ON PENINSULA, ELSEWHERE

By Gennady Sheyner

After gaining some momentum in the Central Valley, California's beleaguered high-speed rail project is now hoping for a fresh start and a smoother journey — on the Peninsula.

The California High Speed Rail Authority, the state agency charged with building the controversial, \$68 billion system, is now preparing to launch its environmental reviews for the two northern segments of the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles line. One stretches between San Francisco and San Jose and the other between San Jose and Merced.

The rail authority plans to complete the environmental analyses for the two segments by late 2017 and begin construction shortly thereafter. If all goes well, the new rail system will be in place by 2029.

To date, all has not gone well for the rail authority on the Peninsula, where the project remains a dicey and deeply polarizing proposition.

The Palo Alto City Council officially took a stance in 2009, and rail authority hearings have consistently attracted angry crowds of opposition. Atherton and Menlo Park have also been skeptical, with the latter taking part in several lawsuits against

the rail authority. Mountain View city officials have taken a much less strident approach to the project, declining to join neighboring communities in either legal actions or the Peninsula Cities Coalition advocacy group.

Things have quieted down somewhat since 2010, when the rail authority decided to launch the system in Central Valley. Now, the conversation is starting up again and the rail authority is hoping to strike the right tone this time around.

The re-launch began Tuesday, Sept. 8, with a community meeting in San Francisco. Some things have changed since 2009. No one, for example, is talking any more about building a four-track system with Caltrain on the outer tracks and high-speed rail on the inside — the preferred alternative five years ago.

The deeply unpopular plan to elevate the tracks is also off the table. Now, the only alternative being considered is the “blended” approach in which high-speed shares the rail corridor with Caltrain on existing tracks — a design championed by U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, Assemblyman Rich Gordon and then-state Sen. Joe Simitan. This proposal was also deemed palatable by local communities.

“Part of beginning this outreach is as much to talk about what this isn't as what it is,” Ben Tripousis, who as the rail authority's Northern California Regional Director is overseeing the construction of the Peninsula segment, told the Weekly. “There's significant concern about the full build-out and

she said, the rail authority had fewer than 20 staff members. Today, it has the authority to hire 219.

“It's a question I get asked the most: ‘Is this going to happen? Is this really going to happen?’ And the answer is, ‘Yes! It's going to happen.’ And with your input, it's going to happen the right way,” said Selby, who joined the board in March 2014.

Yet the project continues to face a series of formidable challenges, including lawsuits and a budget shortfall in the tens of billions. Though the project's price tag dropped when the rail authority committed to a shared-tracks approach, it is still roughly twice the estimate in Proposition 1A, the successful 2008 measure that provided \$9.95 billion for the new rail system and related improvements.

Lisa Marie Alley, the rail authority's deputy director for public affairs, told the *Voice's* sister paper, the Palo Alto Weekly that the goal of the meeting was mostly to remind residents that the project is still here. The rail authority hasn't held any meetings on the Peninsula in a while, she said, and it was time for an update.

While the project has been a tough sell on the Peninsula, rail officials on Tuesday pointed to signs of success elsewhere in the state. San Francisco is well on its way to building the new Transbay Center, which will serve as the northern terminus of the proposed line.

Construction in the Central Valley began last year. And on the Peninsula, Caltrain is now preparing to begin the long-awaited electrification of the rail corridor, a project that will both boost the capacity of the commuter service and set the stage for high-speed rail. The rail authority is providing \$705 million for the Caltrain project.

Yet several steep obstacles remain, including funding. While Proposition 1A authorized the expenditure of \$9.95 billion for the rail system, and related improvements, that amount falls far short of the project's cost.

James Janz, a former Atherton mayor who is a member of the grassroots group Community Coalition on High Speed Rail, said the uncertainty over the project's cost remains a concern.

“They say it will cost \$68

billion,” Janz told the Weekly after Tuesday's meeting. “Even if that's right, that's a bit of a shortfall.”

Tripousis said the rail authority will address the issue of funding next year, when it releases its updated business plan. In its prior iterations, the funding plan has relied heavily on private investment that has not materialized. Officials indicated Tuesday that this has not changed.

“The funding will come from most likely the private sector and potential state funding,” Alley told the Weekly when asked about the funding shortfall. “What the ultimate price tag is — those details will still be worked out.”

Another obstacle is political. Though the “blended” system has squelched long-held anxieties about elevated tracks and four-track designs, officials remain concerned about the rail authority's transparency and the project's compatibility with state law.

Palo Alto councilman Pat Burt said on Aug. 31 that he and other members of a policy-working group were surprised to learn earlier in the month that the rail authority had already issued a request for information for an environmental analysis on the Peninsula segment (the board of directors authorized the request at its Aug. 4 meeting). The effort, Burt and other local officials in the group said, went ahead without prior notifications.

“It really doesn't mean the authority has the funding to go ahead, but it will make it an open issue on the Peninsula again,” he said.

Burt said virtually all representatives expressed “concern over both the substance and the process by which it had been done.”

“They're not being very transparent and that's one of the big pushes we made to the authority: to open up,” Burt said.

Tripousis said one of the goals of the new outreach tour is to re-open the conversation and convince the communities throughout the state that the system is worth supporting.

“Our greatest goal in this effort is to ensure the high-speed rail project is actually an asset to each community and not an eyesore,” Tripousis said. ■

Email Gennady Sheyner at gshyner@paweekly.com

‘It's a question I get asked the most: Is this going to happen?’

THEA SELBY,
RAIL AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER

what has gone before and it's not that. It's blended service on existing Caltrain tracks. It's about rail integration at its best.”

At the Tuesday event, Tripousis was joined by more than a dozen members of the rail authority's staff and about 50 residents. Thea Selby, vice chair of the rail authority's board of directors, told the audience that the project faces challenges throughout the state, each unique to its region. But she said the authority feels “confident that this is going to happen.” Just two years ago,



Kozy Brothers
De Martini Orchard
www.demartiniorchard.com
66 N. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos
650-948-0881

Farm Fresh and Always the Best



Open Daily
8am-7pm
Prices Effective
09/09 thru 09/15

<p>LOS ALTOS HILLS' NATURALLY GROWN CRAIG MURRAY'S GARDEN</p> <p>TOMATOES \$2.99 LB.</p> <p><small>IF YOU LOVE TOMATOES, THIS IS YOUR TIME TO FEAST</small></p> <p>HEIRLOOM \$3.99/Lb. ASSORTED CHERRIES \$4.99/Lb.</p>	<p>ORGANIC LOCAL</p> <p>SWEET PEPPERS RED & YELLOW BELL PEPPERS \$2.99 LB. RED OR YELLOW CORRO DE TORO HUNGARIAN PEPPERS</p> <p>PATRON PEPPERS \$9.99 LB.</p>	<p>ITALIAN</p> <p>PRUNES \$1.49 LB. <small>GREAT FOR BAKING</small></p>
<p>SAN JOSE GROWN</p> <p>WHITE CORN IN HUSK SUPER SWEET 3 EARS 99¢ FOR</p>	<p>HONEYDEW</p> <p>MELONS 49¢ LB. <small>VERY SWEET</small></p>	<p>SWEET</p> <p>BASIL 99¢ BUN. <small>CAPRESE SALAD TIME</small></p>
<p>ORGANIC LOCAL</p> <p>SWISS CHARD GREEN RED OR RAINBOW 2 BUN \$3.00 FOR</p>	<p>ORGANIC LOCAL</p> <p>BROCCOLINI \$1.99 BUN. <small>TENDER BABY BROCCOLI</small></p>	

Your Everyday Farmers Market
Online at www.DeMartiniOrchard.com

■ A + E BRIEFS



COURTESY MIRAMAR EVENTS

The Mountain View Art & Wine Festival takes place Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 12-13, on Castro Street in downtown Mountain View.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Where can you find 600 artists and craftspeople, 13 live bands, premium wines and microbrews, gourmet food and fun kids' activities all in the same place? That would be the Mountain View Art & Wine Festival, which kicks off its 44th year this Saturday, Sept. 12, and runs through Sunday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Aside from the booths boasting an abundance of jewelry, sculpture, woodwork, blown glass, ceramics and more, festival highlights include Salsa Sunday with a free dance class at 1 p.m. followed by live music from salsa band Orquesta Borinquen, the Comcast Pigskin Lounge at Mercy and Castro streets where festival-goers can watch the games on a giant LED screen and Taste of the Mountains Passport Days, where ticket holders can sample wines from seven artisanal vintners based in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Art & Wine festival takes place in downtown Mountain View on Castro Street. Admission is free; wine-tasting tickets are \$45. For more information, go to mountainview.miramarevents.com or call 650-968-8378.

FAREWELL DANCE PARTY

Her ballroom dance classes have been a mainstay in Mountain View for the past seven years. Now, Cheryl Burke Dance Studio prepares to vacate the premises at 1400 N. Shoreline Blvd. On Saturday, Sept. 12, from 7 p.m. to 12, the studio is holding a farewell dance party. Tickets are \$15. Go to cherylburkedance.com or call 650-864-9150.

MIDPEN MEDIA CENTER MOSAIC

For a quarter of a century, Palo Alto's Midpen Media Center at 900 San Antonio Road has recorded and broadcast the community's stories and public events. Join them for the 25th birthday party on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 2- to 5 p.m. to explore the center and the art of storytelling. Go to midpenmedia.org or call 650-494-8686.

3D ART SHOW

Art can happen in more than two dimensions. On Friday, Sept. 11, the Atherton Arts Foundation hosts a 3D art show featuring kinetic sculpture, jewelry and more. The free show takes place from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. Go to athertonarts.org or email arts@athertonarts.org.

FOO FIGHTERS

Hot on the heels of their new album, "Sonic Highways," the Foo Fighters touch down at Mountain View's Shoreline Amphitheatre on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. Former Nirvana drummer and Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl is one of the greats of American rock music. Tickets start at \$78. Go to theshorelineamphitheatre.com.

'REFLECT + CREATE'

Past meets present at the Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, where the current exhibition, "Reflect + Create," presents new works of art inspired by objects and oral histories from the museum's collection. The show runs



COURTESY MIRAMAR EVENTS

Among the arts and crafts for sale at the Mountain View Art & Wine Festival will be greeting cards by Janneth Mitchum.



COURTESY FOO FIGHTERS

The Foo Fighters will play Mountain View's Shoreline Amphitheatre on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

through Oct. 4. Admission is free. Go to losaltoshistory.org or call 650-948-9427. — Elizabeth Schwyzer



READ MORE ONLINE
MountainViewOnline.com

Watch videos of the Mountain View Art & Wine Festival, the Foo Fighters and more in the online version of this story at mv-voice.com.

PARK

► Continued from page 1

"I want to give our city manager the discretion to buy property that he deems would be an asset to the city," said Mayor John McAlister. "With the scarcity of land, you should buy it when you can."

As part of the amendments, the city would revise their standards for parks, allowing for smaller parks that serve wider areas. By loosening these rules, city staff members said they would have more options for opening new parks with park fees paid by developers.

Any affordable-housing units built in Mountain View would be excluded from having to pay these park-dedication fees. By providing that exception, staff noted that two planned affordable-housing projects would save a total of \$7 million that otherwise would have gone to park fees.

Much of the discussion of the evening centered on the city's benchmark for measuring how much parkland is available for residents. Mountain View officials report that the city has about 3 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. A few council members and public speakers urged the city to aim higher and set a new goal to raise that metric.

"I want to know if there's support for this," said Councilman Ken Rosenberg. "What kind of quality of life are we going to (have) if we can't provide adequate parks?"

He proposed an amendment to set a new goal to have 3.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

But that proposition was met with resistance from other council members. Councilman Mike Kasperzak chided Rosenberg for adding new conditions that hadn't been fully studied by staff.

"This is like negotiating from the dais," Kasperzak said. "To go willy-nilly and change this is not good policy-making."

Rosenberg's amendment was defeated in a 3-4 vote, with council members McAlister and Councilwoman Pat Showalter voting in support.

The council approved the ordinance changes without the amendment in a unanimous vote. The changes will come back before the council for a second approval at a future meeting. ■

Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

MountainView
VOICE

Founding Editor, *Kate Wakerly*

■ STAFF

EDITOR

Andrea Gemmet (223-6537)

EDITORIAL

Associate Editor

Renee Batti (223-6528)

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Elizabeth Schwyzer (223-6517)

Special Sections Editor

Brenna Malmberg (223-6511)

Staff Writers

Kevin Forestieri (223-6535)

Mark Noack (223-6536)

Intern

Carl Sibley

Photographer

Michelle Le (223-6530)

Contributors Dale Bentson, Ruth Schecter

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Marketing and Creative Director

Shannon Corey (223-6560)

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers

Linda Atilano, Diane Haas,
Rosanna Leung, Paul Llewellyn,
Nick Schweich, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing

Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

Advertising Representative

Adam Carter (223-6573)

Real Estate Account Executive

Rosemary Lewkowitz (223-6585)

Published every Friday at

450 Cambridge Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94306

(650) 964-6300 fax (650) 964-0294

Email news and photos to:

editor@MV-Voice.com

Email letters to: letters@MV-Voice.com

News/Editorial Department

(650) 964-6300 fax (650) 964-0294

Display Advertising Sales

(650) 964-6300

Classified Advertising Sales

(650) 964-6490 • (650) 326-8286

fax (650) 326-0155

Email Classified ads@MV-Voice.com

Email Circulation

circulation@MV-Voice.com

The Voice is published weekly by Embarcadero Media Co. and distributed free to residences and businesses in Mountain View. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 964-6300. Subscriptions for \$60 per year, \$100 per 2 years are welcome.

©2015 by Embarcadero Media Company. All rights reserved.

Member, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce



■ 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

Post your views on Town Square at MountainViewOnline.com

Email your views to letters@MV-Voice.com. Indicate if letter is to be published.

Mail to: Editor
Mountain View Voice,
P.O. Box 405
Mountain View, CA 94042-0405

Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6528

Urgent need to fix intersection problems

By *Kris Geering*

Given the rise in traffic fatalities recently reported by the *Voice*, I wanted to bring to mind again how the recent “improvements” to the intersection of Rengstorff and Central Expressway will — not may, but will — lead to such a fatality if nothing is done. Much like the Caltrain intersection in Menlo Park (where a mother lost her life in February of this year), this is an accident waiting to happen.

These are the issues that need to be addressed immediately if we don't want another fatality added to our growing list:

1. Lights cannot be seen: The new lights at this intersection, at Leland Avenue, are not visible. Drivers turning left on Rengstorff and crossing the tracks can't see if the light is green or red until they are *on* the railroad tracks. So if the light is red, drivers have a difficult choice — run the red light or get stuck on the very active railroad tracks. It is also impossible to see the lights from the other direction, causing problems if the light at Leland is red and the light immediately beyond it is green.

2. No light/train crossing coordination. The light at Leland is not coordinated with the trains crossing, meaning drivers in the above situation also have to consider if there are people in the crosswalk ahead of them or traffic coming out of Leland if they run that light.

Guest Opinion

3. Crosswalk complication. The above also means that if the crosswalk at Leland is activated, the light on Rengstorff turns red — even if the left green arrow is on for drivers turning left off of Central. More than once I have been one of the drivers who got stuck in the middle of the intersection, and I have seen it happen to other drivers on a weekly basis. I have also seen it happen that a train comes at that moment, meaning that all the cars stuck in the intersection block traffic on Central. Not to mention the dangers of a car being stuck on the tracks in the first place (see point No. 1) and having nowhere to go.

The answers seem relatively easy:

1. Put in new lights at Leland that can be seen easily.
2. Time the lights at Leland with the railroad track.
3. Take out the crosswalk at Leland and move it farther down Rengstorff, providing a safer crossing for pedestrians and drivers alike.

I believe this intersection is under the control of Caltrain and not the Mountain View City Council. I urge all those involved, including the police department and the City Council, to take whatever steps are needed to make this intersection safer as soon as possible. What happened in Menlo Park could easily, easily happen here.

Kris Geering lives on Hackett Avenue in Mountain View's Rex Manor neighborhood.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

PROTECT TREES, BUT PROTECT TENANTS TOO

This summer we launched a backyard remodel (among other things, replacing our lawn with drought-tolerant plants). Because we have a loquat tree not aging well, we consulted with an arborist. He confirmed we should replace that tree (we will put in an olive tree) but he also suggested we remove one of our redwood trees, as he felt it was too close to our house.

We contacted the city and picked up a heritage tree removal form. In the form, we had to indicate the reason we wanted to remove the tree. Upon filing we paid a \$115 fee and were given a bright yellow tape to wrap around the tree to notify our neighbors of our intent. A week later, a city arborist visited to review our application. In his view, there was no immediate danger to our tree or to our house. He walked us through the process we could use to appeal his opinion.

We love our trees and we followed his second opinion and withdrew our application.

As I see the constant stream of displacement in Mountain

View, I couldn't help but contrast the heritage tree-uprooting process with an eviction process. When a landlord wants to evict a tenant, there is no form to file with the city, no fee to pay, no check box to indicate a reason for the eviction; there is no city housing officer visiting, approving or denying the eviction notice, no city board a tenant could appeal his/her eviction to.

I'm thankful to live in a community that has all these safeguards in place to protect

our heritage trees. As a community, though, we need to find a way to provide a similar level of empathy and protection for our residents — who are in many ways our human heritage.

*Serge Bonte
Lloyd Way*

NOT SO FAST IN PULLING THE FOGGING TRIGGER

I am a member of Healthy Alternatives to Pesticides. All members are volunteers. We

distributed a flier to some Mountain View residents just before the Sept. 2 “fogging” of a pesticide named Zenivex E4 in parts of Los Altos and Mountain View.

The state has a website called WestNile.ca.gov. It explains that a mosquito can acquire West Nile Virus (WNV) by biting an infected animal. Mosquitoes do not bite each other. WNV can cause flu-like symptoms. It is rarely more serious. The website shows that so far in 2015 (through Sept. 4) there



Viewpoint

has been only one reported human case of WNV in Santa Clara County (population 1.9 million). And before anyone thinks that the lack of human cases stems from effective “fogging,” realize that only three mile-wide areas in Santa Clara County had been fogged this year (before Sept. 2). Santa Clara County covers 1,290 square miles.

According to the county Vector Control District’s own website, Zenivex E4 is 4 percent Etofenprox and 96 percent “non-hazardous and/or trade secret.” It is not disputed that Etofenprox kills more than just mosquitoes. It kills other insects including bees and harms creatures big and small. Vector Control in our county initiates fogging when it obtains even one positive test for WNV in one batch of trapped mosquitoes.

One claim made by Vector Control is that the pesticide dissipates quickly (when exposed to sunlight the next day). To test that claim, we collected a bush and flower sample the evening of Aug. 28 from a special needs school in Santa Clara following the fogging the night before (i.e., after a full day of sunlight). A week later, the lab we used found Etofenprox in the samples in abundance. The pesticide does not just go away.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, which also serves as the Board of Directors for the Vector Control District, should reconsider the practice of pulling the trigger on fogging so quickly and using Zenivex E4.

*Brandi Madison
Los Altos*

INNOVATE TO CREATE MORE HOUSING IN CITY

With “supply by demand,” when there are more renters than available housing in the area, the rent just keeps going up and up, which undoubtedly has priced a lot of people out of the rental market. Long-term

residents are forced to move out of Mountain View as their rent increases by as much as double in recent years. Landlords seem to enjoy this frenzy and to keep raising rent. A group of Mountain View residents wish to have rent control to prevent owners raising rents at every opportunity.

San Francisco and New York City have rent control. Does it really resolve this complex issue? Not really. When a unit becomes vacant, the landlord immediately raises the rent very high to so-called “market rate.” Owners have no incentive to improve or repair the units because they cannot raise the rent. A lot of these rental units fall into very poor conditions due to lack of care/maintenance/repair.

San Francisco has new rules that allow owners to convert unused spaces, such as storage areas and garages, into new housing. Owners are allowed to legalize illegal inlaw units if they meet building codes. This is to add more units to the rental market. This was not possible 10 or 15 years ago.

Mountain View leaders need to have more forward-looking vision as there are over 1,900 R2 housing units here. If owners of multiple units are allowed to sell one of their units separately, the proceeds may help them improve the rest of their units and at the same time help other people to own property to fulfill their American dream of owning a home.

I believe more families prefer home ownership without having to move constantly when being chased away by landlords. With the price of buying a home very high here in Mountain View, would it not be beneficial to be creative and innovative by encouraging more ownership opportunities? Consequently, this will improve the neighborhood, community, and Mountain View.

*Rae Tso
Centre Street*

Your New Home for Cosmetic Care



Palo Alto Medical Foundation Center for Cosmetic Surgery: Beautiful, Private, Personal Care

The new center will provide a full range of cosmetic surgery and aesthetic services:

- Facial contouring: including face lift, brow lift and eyelid procedures
- Body contouring: including tummy tucks, arm lifts, thigh lifts and liposuction
- Breast reshaping and augmentation
- Skin rejuvenation services: including Botox and fillers, laser treatments, chemical skin peels and medical-grade skin care

If you have been considering cosmetic surgery or aesthetic procedures, we welcome you to our new center to explore the possibilities. Please contact us for a complimentary consultation.

SUPPORT LOCAL
JOURNALISM

Support Mountain View Voice's
coverage of our community.

Memberships begin at only 17¢ per day

Join today:

SupportLocalJournalism.org/MountainView

Center for Cosmetic Surgery
715 Altos Oaks Drive, Los Altos

650-934-7020
pamf.org/cosmeticsurgery

 **Sutter Health**
Palo Alto Medical
Foundation
We Plus You



62 Fredrick Avenue, Atherton

Private Home, Prized Setting

Sheltered within a gated property just moments from Flood Park, this grand home of 4,330 sq. ft. (per county) offers 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, and an additional poolhouse with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, on a flat lot of nearly an acre. Featuring cherry hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, and a zoned sound system, this fine home includes a living room with a limestone fireplace, a large dining room, a splendid family room, and a home office. A fantastic chef's kitchen adjoins a breakfast room, and a den nearby may serve as an in-law suite. A sizable master suite opens to the tree-shaded grounds, which provide a heated pool, a cherry tree garden, and a terrific poolhouse with a kitchen and a lounge. The property also offers a three-car garage, two water heaters, and well-water usage. Here, enjoy close proximity to the vibrant downtown areas of both Palo Alto and Menlo Park, and prestigious institutions like Sacred Heart and Menlo School. Additional fine schools include Laurel Elementary (API 927), Hillview Middle (API 950), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.62Fredrick.com

Offered at \$4,988,000

OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00**

**Lunch, Lattes,
& Jazz**

650.488.7325 | michaelr@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | CalBRE #01903224