

MountainView VOICE

OCTOBER 16, 2015 VOLUME 23, NO. 38

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MOVIES | 28

Stars in alignment
WEEKEND | 25

Dangerous city streets could get squeezed

COUNCIL SIGNALS SUPPORT FOR FEWER TRAFFIC LANES, MORE ROOM FOR BIKES AND PEDESTRIANS

By Mark Noack

In a meeting centered on traffic, the Mountain View City Council on Tuesday night signaled support for a series of road-safety upgrades that would add new bike paths and crossings while scaling down the number of lanes for motorists.

At a study session preceding the council's regular session, council members reviewed a set of traffic changes proposed for three well-used corridors: California Avenue, Escuela Avenue and Shoreline Boulevard. Those streets were singled out following a string of accidents in recent years, including 22 injuries and four fatalities, according to staff.

Last year, the city hired the firm Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates to develop safety changes that would foster other modes of travel, particularly walking and biking. For each street, the firm came back with three options, each presenting a slightly more ambitious set of changes for the roadway.

On Tuesday, council members made clear that they wanted to aim high, giving a thumbs-up to the most ambitious changes proposed for each of the roads.

On California Street, this proposal would eventually reduce the lanes for cars from four to two. The road would be outfitted with a new landscaped median, left-turn pockets, and new bike paths that would be separated from

motorists by a lane for parked cars.

Shoreline Boulevard would see a reduction from six traffic lanes to four, along with wider sidewalks, protected bike lanes and other "traffic-calming" elements.

On Escuela Avenue, the council supported plans to remove on-street parking on one side of the road, along with adding wider sidewalks, new bike lanes and other modifications. Given its close proximity to the campus of Mistral and Castro elementary schools, the council urged city staff to make the Escuela upgrades a priority.

"I listen to the residents who have children in this area and are worried about their safety," said Councilman Ken Rosenberg. "I drive through (Escuela) all the time, and honestly, I'm scared to drive it."

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of the plan, reducing the number of traffic lanes, was handled carefully

by city officials. The city's traffic projections showed that taking away lanes would indeed mean a longer travel time for motorists. Under current conditions, a drive on California Street from Showers Drive to Bryant Street would take more than a minute and a half longer during the evening rush hour. That trip currently takes just under seven minutes.

At rush hour, traveling Shoreline Boulevard from Montecito Avenue to El Camino Real would take about half a minute longer.

▶ See **CITY STREETS**, page 7

COUNCILMAN KEN ROSENBERG



MICHELLE LE

Katarina Hayes holds 3-year-old son Henry as she and daughter Vicky, 10, stand in the Mountain View house that the city red-tagged over a permit dispute. The family had to move to a temporary rental in Milpitas.

Home fix-up sets off legal quagmire

COUNCIL OVERRULES STAFF TO ALLOW FAMILY BACK INTO HOUSE

By Mark Noack

Did Mountain View city staff nearly stumble into a civil lawsuit by offering some friendly advice? Did a longstanding Mountain View family almost lose their

home by attempting a simple fix-up?

The answer seems to be yes for both in an unusual and complicated dispute swirling around Jim and Katarina Hayes and their University Avenue house. A Gordian knot of city

land-use rules, the conflict between city officials and a local family trying to perform home improvements generated about two hours of discussion at the City Council meeting

▶ See **HOME FIX-UP**, page 6

Uncertainty ahead for new Slater Elementary

DISTRICT DESIGNS NEW SCHOOL, BUT DOESN'T APPEAR TO HAVE FUNDS OR STUDENTS FOR IT

By Kevin Forestieri

Residents pushing for a new school in the Mountain View Whisman School District got a sneak peek at what a new campus would look like at the former Slater Elementary School. New conceptual designs by the district show how a two-

story campus, able to hold 450 students, could bring back a neighborhood school after nearly a decade.

But whether the school at 325 Gladys Ave. should be built in the near future is up in the air. At the same Oct. 8 board meeting that explored the new school design, district

staff admitted it's still an open question whether the district has the students or the money needed to make the new school a reality.

At the board's request, the district's hired Quattrochi Kwok Architects to draw up two plans for a school on the campus. Both designs call for 18 classrooms — three of them for kindergarten — as well as a library, multipurpose room and administrative building on the Slater campus. The main difference between the two is in the layout of the buildings.

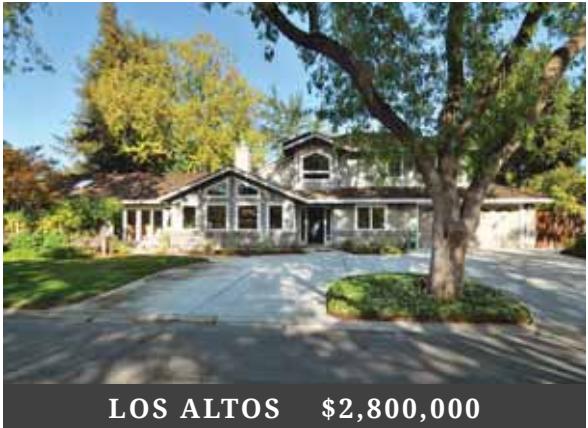
The total cost of construction

▶ See **SLATER**, page 9

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 22 | ARTS + EVENTS 23 | GOINGS ON 29 | MARKETPLACE 30 | REAL ESTATE 34

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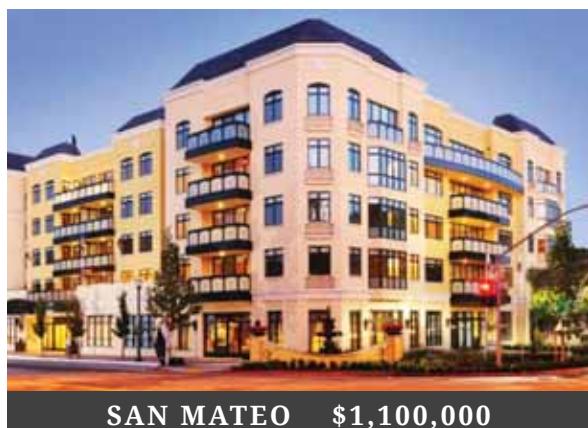
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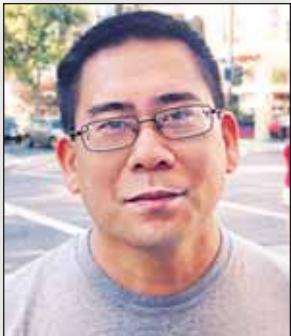
2025 California Street, Unit 32 | 1bd/1ba
Ghodsi Emambakhsh | 650.941.1111

Voices

AROUND TOWN

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

What's your favorite movie?



"I'll go with 'Seven Samurai.' It's an epic action adventure and cinematography lesson all in one. There's some quick cuts, slow motion... and it's all in black and white."

Dean Inouye, Mountain View



"Team America: World Police, because it's irreverent."

Rick Clark, St. Louis, Missouri



"'Two Weeks Notice' is really funny. It's about this rich guy who gets a personal assistant and he'll do random things like call her up at three in the morning and say 'I need a tie, now!' and she's like, 'Now? It's three in the morning!'"

**Danielle Hanks
Kirkland, Washington**



"'The Thomas Crown Affair.' It's like the rated-R version of 'Ocean's Eleven,' because it's exciting, it has sex, it's a caper movie, and it makes you feel smart while you're watching it."

Lisa Inouye, Mountain View



"I would say 'Forrest Gump,' because the movie seems to connect with the common man. It touches on all the different aspects of somebody's life, and I think everybody can connect to some aspect of the movie."

Raghav Vanga, Sunnyvale

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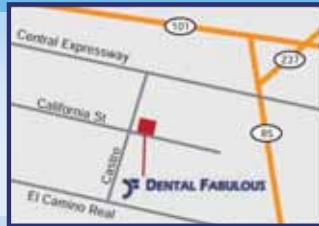
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■ CRIME BRIEFS

MOLESTATION ARREST

A Mountain View man was arrested earlier this month for allegedly molesting a 12-year-old boy, according to police.

Mountain View police arrested 59-year-old David Norman Elliott on Oct. 1 after receiving a tip from the victim's mother, who said she learned of "inappropriate behavior" between Elliott and her son, police said. Elliott was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail on charges of lewd and lascivious acts on a child, where he remained in custody with bail set at \$525,000.

Elliott has been a foster parent in Santa Clara County for five years, and police are searching for other possible victims who may have been in contact with him. Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Marco Garcia at 650-903-6395 and refer to case number 15-5889.

In the wake of the arrest, Mountain View police are reminding families to communicate with their children and be involved in their day-to-day interactions. In a blog post, police urge parents who believe their child may have been victim to physical or sexual abuse to notify police immediately.

ALTERCATION LEADS TO STABBING

An 18-year-old Mountain View man was arrested last week after he allegedly stabbed his father in the arm during an argument.

The victim, a 58-year-old Mountain View man, contacted police on Oct. 7 at around 9:30 pm. after he receiving a large cut on his left forearm, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie. The victim told police that his son had been in a verbal and physical argument with him inside the apartment at 535 Walker Drive, which led to his son stabbing him with a weapon. The victim was transported to a local hospital, Hardie said.

The son, later identified as Shawn Charles Walker, had fled on foot prior to police arriving. He was found by police early the next day and arrested on charges of assault with a deadly weapon. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

MAN ARRESTED FOR FIREWORKS POSSESSION

Police arrested a 20-year-old Mountain View man last week after he was pulled over and allegedly found to have a firework, as well

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 17

■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON

500 block Walker Dr., 10/7

AUTO BURGLARY

1500 block W. El Camino Real, 10/7

900 block Rincon St., 10/7

1100 block Creek Way, 10/7

1900 block Silverwood Av., 10/8

2700 block Del Medio Ct., 10/8

2400 block Charleston Rd., 10/8

500 block Showers Dr., 10/9

2600 block W. El Camino Real, 10/9

BATTERY

500 block N. Rengstorff Avenue, 10/6

■ CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 8 issue, the article "Council picks Encinitas developer for downtown hotel" incorrectly states that the Mountain View City Council approved a downtown hotel project. In fact, the council picked the developer who will go forward for further negotiations with the city before a final project is approved.

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MICHELLE LE

DON'T FEAR THE FLAMES

Normally, the sight of a flaming plane is cause for alarm, but at Moffett Field last week, there was no need to worry. The annual training held by NASA Ames' fire department is open to Santa Clara County firefighters and teaches crucial skills, such as how to respond to flaming-liquid spills, engine fires and interior cabin fires, according to Sharon Lozano of Ames Research Center. The training plane is equipped with propane-fueled flames, which were visible from Highway 101 in Mountain View. The multi-day training helps ensure that emergency personnel called to airport emergencies are knowledgeable about how to safely respond.

A kinder, gentler PG&E approach to tree removal

SEEKING TO CLEAR LAND ABOVE GAS PIPELINES, UTILITY PLEDGES FRIENDLIER OUTREACH TO HOMEOWNERS

By Mark Noack

Officials with PG&E plan to begin a new round of outreach to Mountain View homeowners as they seek to clear trees and other obstructions above gas mains running through their yards. This time around, the utility is pledging to engage Mountain View residents on friendly, cooperative terms after the company's tough stance three years ago backfired, generating a groundswell of resistance.

Making safety upgrades to the utility's natural-gas network of pipes has been a big priority since the 2010 San Bruno pipeline explosion that killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes. In the aftermath of that disaster, the company committed \$500 million to clear obstructions that

could hinder access to its 6,750 miles of gas lines.

But that effort spurred a fierce backlash among residents in Mountain View, as well as other

'We were getting as focused as we could on safety, and we weren't listening to our customers.'

JEFF SMITH, PG&E SPOKESMAN

communities, when it was proposed in 2012. At the time, PG&E officials went door-to-door in some neighborhoods and

warned residents they needed to remove trees, sheds and anything else that might block an aerial view of the pipeline.

In Mountain View, push-back against the plan was centered in neighborhoods such as San Lucas Avenue. Residents took their complaints public and launched a website devoted to the issue. They complained that PG&E's was essentially calling for them to strip their backyards bare.

Residents who refused to cooperate were warned by PG&E that they could face legal action.

In retrospect, utility officials say they shouldn't have taken such a "heavy-handed" approach. The company now hopes to hit the restart button and find a better way to work

► See PG&E, page 17

Achievement gap widens in high schools

MVLA DISTRICT STAFF SEARCH FOR WAYS TO HELP LOW-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

By Kevin Forestieri

When the results of the state's new standardized tests rolled out last month, the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District had some of the highest scores in the county. But hidden in the strong overall performance, results from the first Common Core-aligned tests show many of the district's low-income and minority students are struggling.

At the Oct. 12 board meeting, district staff revealed that the performance gap between its higher and lower achieving students is not only big, it's worse than before. Now the district is looking at ways to turn things around, including getting some outside advice on closing the achievement gap.

Last month the California Department of Education released results for the new standardized test, showing that a large majority of low-income and minority students struggled to meet state standards. Across Santa Clara County, only a third of Latino and economically disadvantaged students were able to meet or exceed standards in math and English language arts, and only a quarter were able to meet the standards for math.

The contrast between the lower and higher-achieving students is even more significant in the Mountain View-Los Altos school district, where overall performance was stellar and well above both the state and county-wide averages. Of the 11th-grade students tested, 76 percent met the standards for English language arts and 66 percent met the standards for math.

"Overall, our results are actually very impressive. They are definitely better than any of us had ever expected," said Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf.

But English-learner, Latino and economically disadvantaged

students lagged well behind their peers, resulting in an achievement gap that is, at times, much larger than that of the rest of the state. In English language arts, only 12 percent of the English-learners tested met the state standards. Special education students also performed poorly on the standardized test.

"That's not a pretty picture. And when you look at math, that picture is even more disturbing," Sarraf said. "This is absolutely something that we have to work on."

English learners

Scores at Alta Vista High School were particularly bleak. Only 4 percent of students met the state standards for math, and 22 percent met the standards for English language arts. None of the English-learner students met the standards for English language arts.

Sarraf said it's important not to jump to conclusions about Alta Vista, and that many of the roughly 35 students who took the test had recently arrived at the continuation high school. Students struggling in classes at the comprehensive high schools or who are severely behind on

class credits are often sent to Alta Vista to get back on track.

"The results at Alta Vista are really not indicative of the value of Alta Vista," Sarraf said.

While the achievement gap is nothing new and has plagued the district for decades, Sarraf said the performance gap has widened in the latest batch of test results. This could be, in part, because of the new test format.

The new Common Core-aligned test is done entirely online, testing the student's computer literacy. It requires more than just a correct answer — answers have to be explained. Math sections are often filled with dense word problems, Sarraf said, and students from all

► See ACHIEVEMENT GAP, page 16

HOME FIX-UP

► Continued from page 1

last week. In the end, the council basically called a mulligan on the whole affair. Council members said emphatically that city staff took the right actions, even though the council's decision essentially overturned staff's handling of the situation.

The dispute circles back to around May of this year, when homeowner Jim Hayes applied for a series of clearances to do small fix-ups to his house, which was built in the 1930s. He intended to perform the work himself, and he obtained over-the-counter permits to replace the roof, remodel a bathroom, and replace a portion of a wall.

But city staff allege Hayes essentially tried to pull a fast one. Instead of the minor repairs outlined in his permits, Hayes began taking down walls and making upgrades for what city officials say was an illegal companion or "in-law" unit. When city planning officials learned of this, they revoked Hayes' permits and told him he was forbidden from finishing his work or restoring the house to its former state.

At the Oct. 6 City Council meeting, Assistant Planning Director Terry Blount presented a slideshow showing how Hayes' work consisted of more than just repairs. His house's roof, walls and most of the structure were being rebuilt.

"These permits did not authorize the work that was actually performed by the owners," Blount said. "If you go beyond ordinary maintenance and move to structural modifications, you've moved from legal non-conforming to an illegal status."

The heart of this dilemma lies in the city's arcane rules for dealing with structures and lots classified as "nonconforming." Put simply, this term refers to older buildings that don't meet current land-use and zoning rules.



Jim Hayes wrote Bible verses on the walls of the University Avenue house where construction was halted.

MICHELLE LE

City planning officials typically allow nonconforming properties to remain in use, but under the assumption that these sites will eventually be brought into compliance. Whenever modifications are made to a nonconforming site — such as what the Hayes family performed — then city officials say that property must meet current building codes.

In the Hayes' case, city planning officials couldn't allow an in-law unit because the property was about half the required size and it lacked the needed parking and setbacks, explained Blount.

But the Hayes family and their attorney have another side to the story. They contended that the companion unit was built in the 1930s. Hayes said that when he approached the city's building department in May with the plans, he was specifically instructed by officials to completely replace the section of roof and walls in order to meet other building requirements. At the time, none of the building

inspectors raised any concerns about a companion unit, said the Hayes' lawyer Eric McAllister.

"All the work the city is now complaining (about) was (at) the express direction of the building department itself," McAllister said. "My clients have clearly detrimentally relied on those requirements."

To his point, McAllister showed city officials some crude sketches one building official had drawn out for Hayes on how their work should proceed. City officials responded that those drawings were only suggestions made by one building official who wasn't aware about the companion-unit issues at the time.

This whole tangled mess resulted in an appeal before the City Council as the Hayes family sought to restore the revoked building permits. It was made abundantly clear during the hearing that if the city didn't reverse its actions, the Hayes family was prepared to take the matter to court.

The decision left council members in a true dilemma. The Hayes and their attorney wanted the city to declare an "estoppel," a legal term that would mean that public officials had committed a grave injustice, leaving them unfit to be further involved in the matter.

But an estoppel would be entirely inappropriate, said City Attorney Jannie Quinn. She pointed out that staff had followed the city's policies every step of the way, and any bad advice they gave was based on inaccurate information coming from the Hayes family.

"City staff does their best to assist people, but it depends on the information that's provided," she said. "This is not an estoppel case. These facts don't rise to the level that (what) we've done is so egregious that they've relied on that (and) we should be estopped from revoking those permits."

If the city made an exception for this one home, then it would be hard to make the argument that other properties shouldn't get similar leeway, Quinn said.

Her recommendation was for the city needed to address this as a policy matter. City Council members had already expressed an interest in loosening the rules on companion units in the coming months. Those modified rules may bring the Hayes' property into compliance, she suggested.

But that process would likely take several months, and council members were reluctant to leave a family literally without their home for that length of time. Jim Hayes said that with an El Niño-fueled rainy season on the horizon, he worried that a prolonged delay would leave his home completely exposed to the elements.

Hayes, who was at the meeting

with his wife and their two children, ages 10 and 3, gave city leaders a clear picture of whom their decision would impact. Hayes said his family is renting a home in Milpitas but they are eager to come back to Mountain View. His family's plan was to live in the companion unit while his uncle would live in the main house.

"We want a solution that doesn't deprive us of a home," Hayes said. "We love this city; we love this neighborhood, and we cannot afford to lose this house."

Describing it as a Catch-22 situation, Mountain View council members were split on how to tackle the issue. Councilman Lenny Siegel made a motion to declare the situation as an estoppel, effectively restoring the Hayes' building permits to recommence repairs. But other council members balked, saying it was tantamount to faulting staff and flouting the city's policies.

"I can't in good conscience agree with that," said Councilman Chris Clark, "I'm not going to grant a permit in violation of the zoning code."

In a 4-3 vote, the City Council approved restoring the Hayes' building permits as a legal estoppel with council members Clark, Pat Showalter and Ken Rosenberg opposed. The city attorney and other officials pledged they would work in the coming days to see that the Hayes' house is built "up to code," per the council's direction.

"Why tear down a home for no good reason?" Hayes said. "We're happy that we found a mutual solution — no one wants to keep litigating and wasting resources." ▀

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CITY STREETS

► *Continued from page 1*

Currently, it takes a little less than six-and-a-half minutes.

That might not seem long, but city staff reported that those delays would increase over the years if the trend of increasing numbers of cars using the roads continued. To this point, more than one council member recommended that the city should remain flexible. The advent of autonomous vehicles could be just one shift that would disrupt current traffic patterns, said Councilman Mike Kasperzak.

"I find it a little disturbing

that we're doing the same things with traffic when we're trying to change traffic modeling," he said. "We're not doing anything willy-nilly here. We're creating a plan that's going to evolve."

Fully implementing all the proposed traffic upgrades is estimated to cost as much as \$72 million, which would be rolled out in phases in upcoming years. City staff members indicated they would begin bringing back portions of the traffic modification plans for the council to review as part of the city's capital-improvement plan. □

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For more stories from this week's City Council meeting, check online at mv-voice.com.



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Presented by Facing History and Ourselves and The Allstate Foundation

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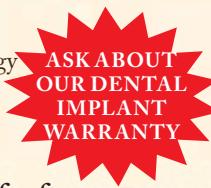
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School district backs out of controversial building practice

MV WHISMAN DROPS USE OF LEASE-LEASEBACK, RETURNS TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District is changing how it does business with construction companies, ditching a strategy that allowed it to hand-pick its construction contractors and avoid the competitive bidding process.

Up until now, the district has been using what's called a "lease-leaseback" agreement in all of its major Measure G school bond projects, which has allowed district staff to choose contractors for building and renovating facilities at both Graham and Crittenden middle schools. But a recent court decision has cast doubt on the controversial practice, which could expose the district to a lawsuit.

In a lease-leaseback agreement, school districts select a contractor to build a new facility — the new middle school auditoriums, for example — then lease the building site to the construction

company, usually for a nominal fee. The contractor completes the project and leases the property back to the school district for an amount equal to the cost of the construction.

Opponents claim that this roundabout way of constructing new facilities allows school districts to skirt the competitive bidding process laid out in the California Education Code and Public Contract Code. School districts are normally required to put construction projects out to bid, and choose the lowest bidder or reject all of the bids.

Rather than submit a competitive bid, lease-leaseback contractors are given a maximum dollar amount that they cannot exceed. Critics say this provides no incentive for construction companies to reduce costs where they can.

Projects completed using lease-leaseback agreements include over \$23 million in contracts to build new facilities at Graham

and Crittenden, according to a district report. The contracts were awarded to build new and renovated classrooms as well as a new library, a multipurpose room and a renovated administrative building at Graham.

Lease-leaseback agreements have been common among school districts across the state, but a recent court case has called into question the legality of the practice. The California Fifth Appellate District ruled in June that Fresno Unified School District violated state laws by using lease-leaseback agreements to avoid putting construction projects out to bid. After the California Supreme Court refused to review the ruling in August, school districts are now forced to reconsider their lease-leaseback agreements or face possible litigation.

While the court decision fell short of calling lease-leaseback

► See **BUILDING**, page 19

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COURTESY OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Two designs for a new elementary school on the Slater School campus at 325 Gladys Ave., by Quattrocchi Kwok Architects.

SLATER

► *Continued from page 1*

would add up to \$30 million, which would escalate quickly if plans are put off past 2018, according to a staff report.

Construction would be pricey, in part because both plans avoid using any of the existing buildings at the former elementary school, which was closed in 2006. Most of the school's facilities are currently leased to Google for the largest of its daycare centers and a preschool, and there was little interest among district staff to lose that lease revenue.

Things would certainly get a lot more cozy on the campus. At 8.8 acres, Slater Elementary is already the smallest of the elementary school sites in the district. The designs place the new facilities on the south end of the campus, using two-story buildings to save space.

The notion that the school district would need to squeeze onto the campus didn't sit too well with board member Greg Coladonato, who said he found it contrary that the public agency that owns the land has to fit into a quarter of the site. At the same time, he said, Google gets to take up twice the space for only 200 to 300 kids.

"Something doesn't quite gel with me that we get the leftover piece," Coladonato said.

Superintendent Ayindé Rudolph, who had been in talks with Google about future plans for Slater Elementary, said encroaching on the leased land would not sit well with the tech giant. A lot of the day-to-day activities at the daycare program take place along the southern end of the old school, he said, making it a pretty restrictive border.

"It is possible, in our conversations with Google, that they would consider moving out," Rudolph said.

Long-term plans for the old Slater Elementary campus remain in the balance. The board at the Oct. 8 meeting approved extending the lease with Google through June 2018, which was seen as a short-term extension while the board figures out what to do with the campus. Google originally sought a 30-year extension for its lease this year, Rudolph said.

The lease renewal doubles Google's current annual rent of \$868,000 to \$1,647,000 in 2016 and ups it to \$1,696,000 in 2017.

Short on students, funds

The larger question is whether the board is comfortable with opening a new school at all. Earlier this year, the district's Boundary Advisory Task Force recommended against opening a new school, citing a lack of students needed to sustain a ninth elementary school campus. A majority of board members have since taken a "wait and see" approach until a new demographic study is presented in December, which might give them a better idea of enrollment projections.

"It's still an open question whether we need an additional school over there," said Board President Ellen Wheeler.

What is clear, however, is that the district will be hard-pressed to pay for a \$30 million school. A current breakdown of facility improvements, either completed or in the pipeline, shows the district has already committed to spending \$134 million of its bond funds. Those projects include the new facilities at both Crittenton and Graham middle schools, the shared Castro-Mistral elementary campus and Monta Loma Elementary School.

Once the expected costs for proj-

ects at Stevenson, Theuerkauf, Huff and Bubb Elementary are added, the district is estimated to spend \$210 million — more than the entire \$198 million Measure G bond, according to a district staff report.

Chief Business Officer Robert Clark told the board that the district is likely to have

It's still an open question whether we need an additional school over there.

BOARD PRESIDENT ELLEN WHEELER

a \$14 million cost overrun, and that doesn't even include construction at Slater Elementary. The estimates also assume Theuerkauf and Stevenson Elementary will have shared facilities, though no decisions have been made on how to design that two-school campus.

Where the district would find the money to fund a re-opened Slater school was unclear, but

board members did offer up a few ideas. Board member Bill Lambert said he wanted to look at the feasibility of issuing another bond, and wanted district staff to come back with a time-frame for putting it on the ballot.

Coladonato, on the other hand, said he wanted to know what cost-cutting measures could be made, either through creating the new campus on Slater with portable classrooms, or starting out with a smaller school that supports fewer than 450 students. He also wondered how much it would cost to kick Google out and renovate the old campus facilities instead.

Rudolph said it would cost an estimated \$20 million to bring existing classrooms up to code if Google vacated the school, which didn't seem very prudent.

"You're spending \$20 million to retrofit an old school, or you can spend \$28 million to build a brand new state-of-the-art school," Rudolph said.

Rudolph also cautioned that they would lose the revenue from the lease with Google.

Coladonato proposed that the district require, as part of the amended lease, that Google get its buildings at Slater inspected by the Division of the State Architect to see how school-ready they are. That way, he argued, the classrooms would be ready to use whether they decide to open a public school or rent it out to someone else.

"I think we're missing a huge opportunity to renegotiate the lease," Coladonato said.

After Rudolph commented that he wasn't sure Google "had the stomach" for dealing with the extra requirement, Coladonato attempted to delay the lease-extension motion in order to get board members to seriously consider his proposed change. But the other four trustees showed little interest in adding the extra requirement. Coladonato, upset with the response, insisted other board members weigh in.

"Can anyone give me a counter-argument to what I've proposed?" Coladonato asked.

The board voted 4-1 in favor of the lease, with Coladonato casting the dissenting vote. □

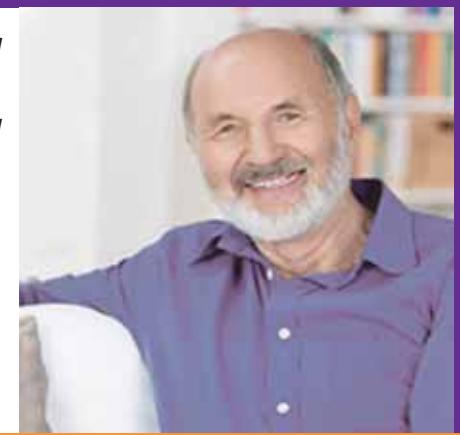
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Public notice

Board of Directors' Consideration of Directors' Meeting Compensation Rate



Topic: Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors' Consideration of Directors' Meeting Compensation Amount for Calendar Year 2016

Who: The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors

What: Public hearing for the Board of Directors to consider Directors' meeting compensation amount for calendar year 2016

When: October 27, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Where: Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Chambers
5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

The Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District will hold a public hearing to consider the Directors' meeting compensation amount for calendar year 2016, and for the adoption of an Ordinance providing for said meeting compensation amount.

At the time and place fixed for the public hearing, the Board of Directors will receive comments relevant to the compensation of the Directors. After considering all information presented, the Board will consider one of the following options:

1. Keep the Directors' compensation at the current amount of \$260.03 per day, up to 10 days per month;
2. Reduce the Directors' compensation to a specified amount below the current \$260.03 rate per day, up to 10 days per month;
3. Approve an increase in Directors' compensation in accordance with the California Water Code Sessions 20200-20207.

Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend this public hearing. To request accommodations for disabilities, arrange for an interpreter, or obtain more information on attending this hearing, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (408) 630-2277, at least three days prior to the hearing.

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MICHELLE LE

Cyclists ride in one of Mountain View's new protected bike lanes in Shorebird Way, near the Google campus. The tech giant is being honored for its contributions to the city's cycling infrastructure.

Mountain View bike advocates win top honors

By Mark Noack

When it comes to creating a bike-friendly city, you might say that Mountain View is pedaling to the head of the peloton. The city and its local cycling advocates are taking center stage later this month at the annual dinner for the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition.

At the event, local resident Janet Lafleur will be singled out for praise as the recipient of the Ellen Fletcher Volunteer of the Year Award. Lafleur, who wrote a cycling blog for the *Voice*, is best known as the founder of

Bike of Shop Day. The event encourages people to ride bikes for everyday errands by partnering with local businesses to offer special deals. Since launching in 2014, the event has grown to include more than 130 businesses and has also spread to San Francisco, Portland and other areas. The event is scheduled each year in May, in tandem with National Bike Month.

Meanwhile, the bike coalition also will honor Mountain View's premier tech giant, Google, with its Corporate

► See BIKE, page 19

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ACHIEVEMENT GAP

► *Continued from page 5*

backgrounds have to understand the words themselves.

"The whole method of testing is so new, and I think for students who have significant gaps in their education experience and their skill level, this test poses more of a challenge," she said.

Samantha Rubenstein, the student board representative from Mountain View High School, said students like herself had to

deal with the added burden of figuring out what the question was actually asking, which was often unclear at first. Rubenstein said she tutors English language learners who are bright and could easily pass the test, provided they were more familiar with the language.

The results of the standardized test were in contrast with the good news reported by the district in recent years regarding Latino student achievement. In September last year, district staff

'Overall, our results are actually very impressive.'

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT
BRIGITTE SARRAF

said that grade-point averages, enrollment in Advanced Placement and honors classes, and the passing rate on the high school exit exam had all gone up for Latino students.

Finding solutions

The district will be hiring the education firm Principal's Exchange to see what kind of institutional problems that might be keeping the district from narrowing the achievement gap. The academic audit will

explore whether any improvements can be made at Alta Vista, as well as the academic programs at all the schools for English learners, economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities.

Superintendent Jeff Harding said the firm has put together a team that will be on the campuses this week, and the district expects to get the results fairly soon. Harding suggested it might be important to see what's going on earlier in the educational pipeline. It's "extremely" difficult for the district to get English learner students to perform well when they have yet to master the language by high school, he said.

When board member Phil Faillace asked if all school districts are dealing with the same issue, Sarraf pointed out that there are a few districts, mostly

in Southern California, who have managed to bring up the performance of low-income and minority students. The trouble is, she said, is that the schools are mostly homogeneous environments — such as having a student body that is 80 percent economically disadvantaged Latino students — and the models and strategies they are using to raise students achievement wouldn't necessarily work here.

Sarraf said the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District is bifurcated, with a substantial number of high-achieving and low-achieving students. She said in looking at other districts that are as "bipolar" as theirs, she has not found any that have made a significant improvement in closing the achievement gap. □

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PG&E

► *Continued from page 5*

with residents, said Jeff Smith, PG&E spokesman.

"Previously, we did an inadequate job explaining the purpose of the program and why it's important," Smith said. "We were getting as focused as we could on safety, and we weren't listening to our customers and making sure their needs were met."

Company officials say obstructions must be removed in order to provide access for emergency responders. The company also wants a clear aerial view to easily monitor the pipeline using laser sensors mounted on an aircraft. Smith said having items blocking the pipeline is like parking a car in front of a fire hydrant.

In general, the company says that trees and other items could need to be removed if they are within 5 to 10 feet of the pipeline. This time around, PG&E officials promise they will talk to residents and determine if obstructions need to be removed on a case-by-case basis. If a tree absolutely must be removed, the company would pay for a replacement planted elsewhere, Smith said.

In its outreach, the company wants to show customers that it is willing to be flexible and offer an array of options, Smith said.

It remains to be seen whether such pledges will forge a better relationship with impacted homeowners. In the San Lucas neighborhood, residents had advocated for PG&E to relocate the gas main from

'They're going to destroy people's backyards for their own benefit.'

EILEEN FERUZZI TELLERIA, RESIDENT

under their properties to the adjacent San Veron Park. If safety was truly the utility's goal, then PG&E should focus on moving the pipeline away from people's homes, said San Lucas resident Eileen Feruzzi Telleria.

"This gas pipe is 10 feet from people's bedrooms and they have an opportunity to put it

someplace else," she said. "But instead they're going to destroy people's backyards for their own benefit."

It is unclear exactly how many trees could require removal by PG&E. In an email, company representatives said they had already reviewed just under 700 trees on public land in Mountain View. Of those, 98 were marked for removal because they were too close to the pipe. New trees will be planted in safer locations to replace any that are removed, Smith said.

More than 1,000 trees on private property in Mountain View will be reviewed by utility workers in the near future. Later this month, affected property owners can expect to receive a letter and a follow-up phone call from PG&E. □

Email Mark Noack
at mnoack@mv-voice.com

CRIME BRIEFS

► *Continued from page 4*

as strobe lights and an air horn hooked up in his car.

An officer pulled over Ernesto Patino Barriga at the intersection of Alta Avenue and Charleston Road on Oct. 7 for a traffic stop. The officer searched the vehicle after smelling marijuana, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie.

Inside the vehicle, the officer found an M-80 firework, as well as switches to activate both strobe lights and an air horn on the vehicle, Hardie said.

Barriga was arrested on charges of possession of an explosive device, as well as having a vehicle with strobing headlights and a siren. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

—Kevin Forestieri



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

NOTICE—CITY COUNCIL MEETING ADOPTION OF BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Mountain View City Council will review and adopt the Final Draft of the Bicycle Transportation Plan Update on:

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015—6:30 P.M.*
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SECOND FLOOR, MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY HALL
500 CASTRO STREET, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA**

Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Council regarding this item at the meeting. A copy of the Final Draft of the Bicycle Transportation Plan Update and staff report will be available on the City's website www.mountainview.gov the evening of Thursday, November 12, 2015.

For further information, contact the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311 or public.works@mountainview.gov.

* Discussion and action on this item will take place during the New Business portion of the meeting.



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BUILDING

► *Continued from page 8*

agreements patently illegal, many school districts are getting cold feet. Mountain View Whisman district staff agreed that going forward with the lease-leaseback agreement for the middle school facilities would be a bad idea. By staying the course, the district would expose itself to "risks ... that can be avoided if the district utilizes a different, more traditional project delivery method," according to a staff report.

The board agreed, and at the Oct. 8 meeting, unanimously supported the decision to back out of the lease-leaseback agreements to build auditoriums at Crittenden and Graham, as well as the classroom and library facility at Crittenden. The projects will instead be put out to bid, and contracts will come back to the board in December for approval. Work is expected to begin on the auditoriums in winter 2016.

Todd Lee, the district's construction manager, said up until recently he had been encouraging the district to use lease-leaseback agreements. During the recession, Lee said, lease-leaseback was a useful tool to avoid what he called a "predatory environment" in the normal design, bid and building process. At the time, he said, contractors would underbid on work and instead rely on "change orders" and subsequent claims to make a profit — expanding the scope of the work and charging for it later.

While the economy is now booming, Lee said, there's still a place for lease-leaseback agreements. To deal with high costs in the red-hot Bay Area construction market, a lease-leaseback agreement gives the district more options for different building materials and construction methods, rather than having to settle for a "take it or leave it" price.

"We found it to produce higher-quality projects with better cost control," Lee told the *Voice* via email.

Robert Clark, the district's chief

business officer, said some school districts are likely to continue to use lease-leaseback agreements, but he and legal counsel agreed it's best to err on the side of caution and avoid a legal battle.

The main concern surrounding lease-leaseback agreements, Clark said, is that there's a perceived conflict of interest on the part of the contractor, who gains an unfair advantage by working closely with the district during construction and creating a cozy relationship with the public agency.

The maximum dollar amount set for construction projects under a lease-leaseback agreement can also be a double-edged sword, Clark said. The guaranteed maximum price may end up being a little higher than if a low-bidder won the job, but the benefit is that there are no surprise price increases later down the road.

"(Bidding) is not a method for saving money; sometimes it costs more and sometimes it costs less," Clark said.

Lee conceded that while lease-leaseback agreements are a useful tool for controlling costs, they do constitute another avenue for misuse and corruption within school districts. In the case of Fresno Unified, for example, the district hadn't even entered a lease agreement — it was just a traditional contract between the construction company and the district that both parties referred to as a "lease."

Still, the appellate court decision, and the subsequent decision in August by the California Supreme Court not to hear the case, mean many school districts are now backing out of lease-leaseback agreements. To Lee, it's a blow to law-abiding school districts.

"It is unfortunate that some (districts) and their representatives took liberties with this delivery method. It was a valuable tool that now may be lost," Lee said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri
[at kforestieri@mv-voice.com](mailto:kforestieri@mv-voice.com)

BIKE

► *Continued from page 14*

Cycling Champion of the Year award. The company is being highlighted for its hefty contributions and work toward creating a network of improved bike paths throughout Mountain View. Earlier this year, the company released its Bike Vision Plan, which calls for making bicycling into a primary mode of transportation in Mountain View by connecting 270 miles of streets with improved paths. As part of that goal, the company has also pledged \$60 million for various transportation projects.

Bike advocates point out that Mountain View is already showing dramatic signs of increasing ridership. In their latest report, the

Santa Clara County Health Department found that Mountain View had the largest increase in bike ridership among commuters of any South Bay city. The latest numbers indicate about 1 in 20 people in Mountain View choose to bike to work on a regular basis. With this rise in ridership, the city has the second-highest percentage of bike commuters in the county, trailing behind only Palo Alto.

The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition's annual dinner is scheduled for 6 p.m., on Friday, Oct. 30, at the Crowne Plaza Cabaña Hotel at 4290 El Camino Real in Palo Alto. It's the group's biggest fundraiser, and tickets are \$175 for members and \$220 for non-members. More information is at bikesiliconvalley.org/svbc8-eighth-annual-dinner. ▀

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Viewpoint

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

A solution or a fantasy? Maybe a cop-out

The only encouraging thing about Councilman Mike Kasperzak's proposal to create a "fair rental-practices program" to address the city's unaffordable-housing crisis is that he described the proposal as a starting point. That's good, because it demonstrates that he is at least concerned about the growing crisis that's driving families and individuals out of their homes, or creating the threat of doing so because of their landlords' frequent and unreasonable rent hikes.

What's not so good about the proposal? The program would be voluntary. The thinking behind it is that landlords in a city seeing rapid and unprecedented rises in property values — hence in potential profits — would be willing to commit to limiting rent increases to once per year. Kasperzak's draft proposal also includes asking landlords who sign on to the voluntary program to limit those annual rent increases to what's "reasonable," although it would set no cap on the size of those hikes.

The proposal was introduced at the City Council's Oct. 6 meeting, the latest in a string of meetings at which residents and housing advocates presented example after heartbreak example of people losing their homes because of spikes in their rent that made their dwelling unaffordable, or because of no-cause evictions or other practices that have become all too common in an era when profit trumps people. At that meeting, Graham School Principal Kim Thompson told the council that her school was experiencing a significant decline in enrollment because soaring rents were pushing the school community's families out of their homes.

Kasperzak's proposal appears to be favored by some landlord group members, but that is to be expected. Some of the "teeth" Kasperzak suggests for his proposed program include landlords who don't sign on to the program being placed on a "naughty list" found on the city's website, which would also have a list naming landlords pledging to abide by the program's terms.

These ideas are distressing to those with a sense of history. Evidence abounds, for anyone seeking it, of the failure — nationally and globally — of industry's self-regulation, particularly when there are no real consequences to behaving irresponsibly, only massive amounts of profit. Also distressing is the apparent lack of enthusiasm by the other council members to challenge the concept of a voluntary program, and push for effective strategies, such as rent stabilization and a ban on arbitrary evictions, to protect residents — teachers, social workers, waiters, gardeners, emergency workers and retirees who have called Mountain View home for decades — from being forced from their homes.

Given the misery the housing crisis has inflicted on so many in Mountain View and the urgent need to staunch the flow of residents of all stripes from the city, we would be more than happy to be proven wrong, to take back all of the above — to allow those who believe in the potential of a volunteer program to rein in housing costs to say, "I told you so." But we're not optimistic, and are calling on the council to act in a meaningful way to address this destructive crisis. □

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

AMERICA'S STRENGTH IS SHARING

Jerry Mungai seems to be missing the point about America, which has been a beacon because it rewards everybody's effort — not necessarily equally, but much better than the countries we all came from. In spite of favoritism toward financial might — did you ever wonder why capital gains gets preferential tax rates over earned income? — the well-to-do who run the country learned that by not hogging all the resources, they acquired

an important new resource, consumer power.

But the Old County got the message. In 1885 leaders invented a set-aside to fund employees' needs, like health, if they became "unproductive," which also helped doctors, grocers and landlords remain "productive."

We should take back that sensible idea and not be scared of people who call it "socialism." Sharing is the key to American prosperity.
Stephanie Munoz
Palo Alto

DRAMA KING

ACTION QUEEN



■ A+E BRIEFS



The sixth annual **Silicon Valley African Film Festival** takes place in Mountain View this weekend, Oct. 16-18. Among the films screening is "Eva," from Burkina Faso.

AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Mountain View's Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, hosts the sixth annual Silicon Valley African Film Festival Oct. 16-18. Between Friday night's opening ceremonies and Sunday evening's awards, there's a chance to catch the African marketplace, discussion forums, live performances and more than 25 film screenings. An all-access pass is \$50; single day tickets are \$20-\$30. Go to svaff.org or call 415-774-6787.

PIEDMONT MELODY MAKERS

A legend in the bluegrass world, Alice Gerrard comes to Mountain View this Saturday, Oct. 17, with her Piedmont Melody Makers. The Masonic Lodge at 890 Church St. opens at 5 p.m. for a bluegrass jam; the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50-\$25. Go to rba.org.

'WOMEN OF MYSTERY'

Original photographs meet, mix and mingle with historical and contemporary images in the work of Palo Alto artist Kathryn Dunlevie. This Saturday, Oct. 17, 5-8 p.m. the artist will hold a reception for her new show, "Women of Mystery." In these whimsical and sometimes haunting mashups, stylish women appear in a variety of settings — traipsing through giant banana fronds, lounging in chic boudoirs or floating high above distant cities. In almost every case, their faces are obscured, replaced by various objects: an orchid, a gyroscope, a tangle of ropes. Dunlevie's studio is located at 1303 Waverley St., Palo Alto, though the entrance is on Melville Avenue. The reception is free to the

public. For more about the artist, go to kathryndunlevie.com.

LAST FESTIVAL

Life, Art, Science and Technology: those are the themes of the interdisciplinary LAST Festival, held at Stanford Oct. 16-18. The festival features multimedia art installations, talks from leaders in science and technology, live performances and more. Admission is free. Go to lastfestival.org.



**SEE MORE
ONLINE**

Watch videos of the Silicon Valley African Film Festival and more in the online version of this story at mv-voice.com

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW City Council Study Session and Community Meeting on Rental Housing

The City Council will hear presentations and public testimony, then discuss possible rent relief options to address rental housing issues. Members of the public are invited to attend.

**Monday, October 19, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

**Senior Center Social Hall
266 Escuela Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040**

**For more information,
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NORTH BAYSHORE PRECISE PLAN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 22ND
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**City of Mountain View Senior Center
266 Escuela Avenue**

Please join us to continue our discussion about updating the City's North Bayshore Precise Plan. This is our second workshop that will build off the community input we received from our July 25 workshop.

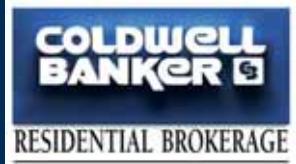
At this workshop we will ask for further public input on planning for a new residential neighborhood in North Bayshore.

All are welcome to attend this community workshop.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Terry Blount | 650.903.6306 | Terry.Blount@mountainview.gov.
Visit: <http://www.mountainview.gov/northbayshore>

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PALO ALTO \$2,800,000
Sat/Sun 1:00 - 4:00
1453 Kings Lane 3 BR 2 BA Great opportunity to remodel/develop. Cul-de-sac. One of the most desirable neighborhoods in Palo Alto.

Lea Nilsson CalBRE #00699379 650.325.6161



LOS ALTOS HILLS Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$2,700,000
14690 Saltamontes Way 4 BR 4 BA Situated in Los Altos Hills on a cul de sac; private 3/4 acre parcel. Flexible flr plan

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Enis Hall CalBRE #00560902 650.941.7040



MENLO PARK Sun 1:00 - 5:00 \$1,698,000
2131 Avy Avenue 3 BR 2.5 BA www.2131Avy.com Elegantly remodeled Prime Menlo Park Townhouse.

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CAMPBELL Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,099,000
2744 Merlone Ct 4 BR 2.5 BA Remodeled 13 year old SFR. High ceilings. Sep. family room plus a 2nd floor bonus FR.

Ric Parker CalBRE #00992559 650.941.7040



MOUNTAIN VIEW Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,050,000
181 Easy St 2 BR 2.5 BA Well Maintained 2 story townhm on a corner lot that feels like a SFR. Spacious BRs

Wendy Wu CalBRE #00922266 650.941.7040



EAST PALO ALTO \$999,888
3 BR 1.5 BA Living room w/FP, fam rm w/wet bar, DR, laundry room and sun room patio. Granite kitchen.

Jane Jones CalBRE #01847801 650.325.6161



SUNNYVALE Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$998,750
570 Monterey Ter 3 BR 2.5 BA Elegant, spacious, 11-yr-new tri-level. Light/airy, open floorplan . 2-car garage.

Merrian Nevin CalBRE #01049294 650.941.7040



SANTA CLARA \$998,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Desirable newer home set in a quiet cul-de-sac. Convenient to shopping, Hwy 101 & 880.

Gil Oraha CalBRE #01355157 650.325.6161



SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$838,000
17 Viewcrest Cir 3 BR 2.5 BA Peaceful retreat with easy access to San Francisco and the Silicon Valley.

Nargis Sadruddin CalBRE #01298074 650.941.7040



SAN JOSE (BERRYESSA) Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$759,000
2818 Stonecrest Way 3 BR 2 BA Well maintained hm on a quiet street facing the walking trail. Sep FR & attached 2 car gar

Wendy Wu CalBRE #922266 650.941.7040



CUPERTINO Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$745,000
20488 Stevens Creek Blvd 1308 1 BR 1 BA Rare Montebello condo offers many amenities such as gym, jacuzzi, pool, and party room.

Vicki Geers CalBRE #01191911 650.941.7040

Los Altos | Palo Alto

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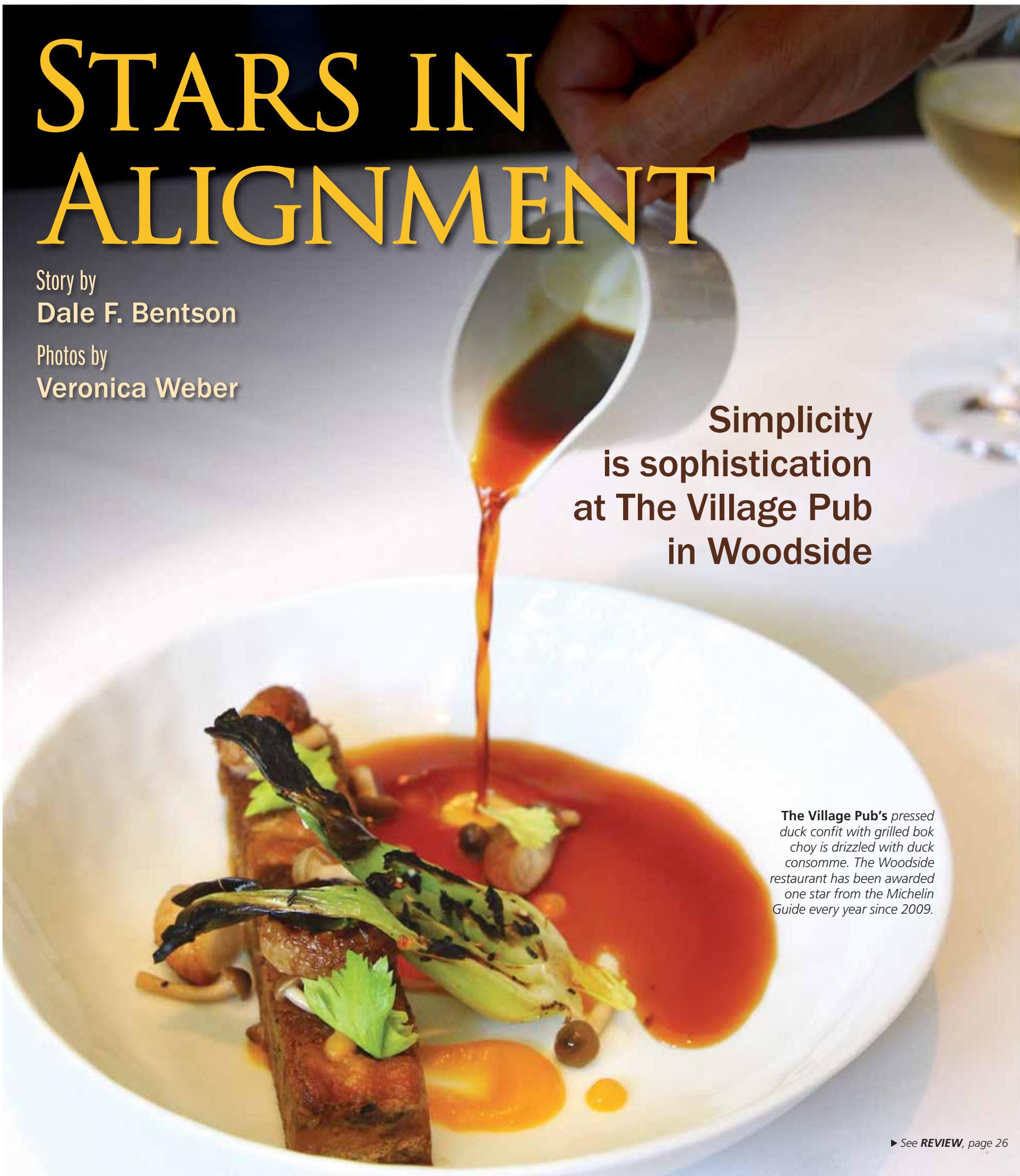
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Simplicity
is sophistication
at The Village Pub
in Woodside

The Village Pub's pressed duck confit with grilled bok choy is drizzled with duck consomme. The Woodside restaurant has been awarded one star from the Michelin Guide every year since 2009.

► See **REVIEW**, page 26



**The Mountain View Firefighters
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Our thanks to the following businesses who donated
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- Vegiworks
- Clocktower Coffee
- Greenleaf
- O'Sullivan Vending
- Philz Coffee
- Whole Foods
- PG&E
- Evolution Fresh Juice
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In addition to the vendors listed above
there were numerous local restaurants
and businesses that provided items to
our silent auction and monetary donation.

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What do Nietzsche, Kant, Spinoza and Michelin-star restaurants have in common? Mark Sullivan.

After completing a degree in philosophy, Sullivan embraced cooking and learned through experience. Now, he is the executive chef of and partner in Bacchus Management Group, which operates Michelin-starred The Village Pub in Woodside, Spruce in San Francisco, Mayfield Bakery & Cafe in Palo Alto and four Pizza Antica restaurants scattered around the Bay. The Village Pub has received one Michelin star every year since 2009.

Among Sullivan's accomplishments: In February, he cooked for President Barack Obama at Spruce — undoubtedly a cerebral as well as a technical challenge.

What does one expect from a Michelin-star restaurant? High quality ingredients, for starters. Bacchus Group has an exclusive partnership with SMIP Ranch, a 5-acre organic farm located in the hills above Woodside. Approximately 80 percent of The Village Pub's produce comes from the farm.

Masterly technique in the kitchen and consistency of dining experience are among the Michelin criteria. Sullivan was raised in a food-attentive family and cooked in San Francisco, then across southern France and northern Spain, before returning to the Bay Area. Along the way, he mastered method and system.



Server Tom Pavic takes lunch orders at The Village Pub on Oct. 12.

At Village Pub, under Sullivan's guidance, chef de cuisine Orlando Pagan and his brigade turn out perfect plate after perfect plate.

To earn a Michelin star, there is more, of course — subtle things, attention to detail. One evening, after the table next to us vacated, not only did busboys quickly clear, but they also produced a small steam iron and smoothed the linen before the table was reset.

Additional factors include a well-stocked wine cellar. Bacchus Management Wine & Spirits Director Andrew Green has assembled at Village Pub a world-class wine cellar with more than 2,500 selections. In 2013, The Village Pub earned Wine Spectator magazine's highest honor, one of only 81 restaurants in the world to receive a Grand Award.

I gasped when examining the inventory, one of the finest wine lists I'd ever seen. The 10- plus pages hold in-depth offerings of the greatest wines of Europe and the West Coast, and particularly a who's who of Bordeaux, Burgundy and California reds.

I gasped again at the prices. The markups are quite significant, though there are affordable wines for those not wielding platinum cards. Don't be shy about asking the sommelier for guidance and give parameters about how much you want to spend.

They are delighted to help.

There is large selection of spirits as well. Fear not and drink well.

And expect exceptional service. The Village Pub servers kept close eyes on their tables without being intrusive. During my visits, pacing from the kitchen was perfect: no rushed courses and not too much time in between, either. Water and wine glasses were refilled when levels reached the halfway point. The servers were knowledgeable about ingredients and preparation.

Utensils were changed after every course. Napkins were discretely refolded if a diner needed to leave the table. The bread basket was never empty. The Parker House rolls were made in-house; the custom-baked breads came from Mayfield Bakery.

There are also décor and ambiance considerations. The Village Pub was quiet enough for conversation, even when the dining room was filled. Tables are dressed with criss-cross double linens to hide table legs and paired with plush red upholstered chairs with matching banquette to divide the bar area from the dining room. An exterior wall with paned windows allows in just enough light during daylight hours. Montara photographer Robert

► *Continued on next page*

Weekend

► Continued from previous page

Buelteman's black-and-white images enhance the walls.

Finally, there is attitude and anticipation. Walking across the parking lot toward the door, I just sensed something special. Inside, reception was immediate and warm.

Yes, we did eat. Two gougeres, or cheese puffs, were brought while we scanned the menu. Our server, soon followed by the sommelier, were helpful. Bread arrived, water goblets filled.

At dinner, the sauteed sweetbreads (\$22) were fork-tender and served with corn, onions and crisp bacon. The aromatic brown sauce was flavorful yet delicate enough to showcase the sweetbreads.

The agnolotti (\$19) were sweet and creamy. Agnolotti is specialty of the Piedmont region of Italy: flattened dough folded over meat or vegetables, in this case, corn.

Roasted duck breast (\$28), pink and savory, was accompanied by tiny carrots and gnocchi. Simple, clean, delicious.

The pork chop (\$39) was so tender, a knife wasn't necessary. A tempura zuc-

chini blossom and tiny onions shared the plate.

At lunch, the Lyonnaise salad (\$14) was mouthwatering. The lardons—delicate strips of bacon—were thick and crisp, and the poached egg so perfect it was a work of art.

The succulent pork schnitzel (\$24) was pounded-thin pork loin, breaded, sauteed golden, and served with snippets of greens, minced vegetables and tiny cherry tomatoes.

Desserts were all pleasure, including the hazelnut chocolate mille-feuille (\$12), a layered chocolate cake ice cream sandwich; a chocolate souffle (\$15) that was feather-light but held the Earl Grey creme anglaise that was poured into the cavity; and a "banoffee cake" (\$12) with walnut-toffee crumb, butterscotch ice cream and chocolate pastry cream.

Leonardo da Vinci is said to have remarked, "simplicity is the ultimate sophistication." At The Village Pub, the food is simple and straightforward, and the ingredients speak for themselves. For Sullivan, utilizing the local abundance doesn't require exhaustive deductive reasoning. Maybe that's why it works so well. □



The "banoffee cake" is served with butterscotch ice cream and walnut-toffee crumble.

DINING NOTES

The Village Pub

2967 Woodside Road
Woodside
650-851-9888
thevillagepub.net

Hours:

Lunch: Mon.-Fri.
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Dinner: daily, 5-10 p.m.

Brunch:

Sun., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pub menu:
Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

Reservations

Credit cards

Happy hour

Children

Takeout

Private Parties

Parking *lot*

Alcohol *full bar*

Corkage *\$35*

Outdoor dining *porch*

Noise level *moderate*

Bathroom cleanliness *excellent*

DINNER BY THE MOVIES AT SHORELINE'S



Cucina Venti
Fine Italian Cuisine



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JULIANNE MOORE AND ELLEN PAGE WANT EQUALITY

★★ (Palo Alto Square)

Let us first dispense with that awkward title: "Freeheld." It's hardly a marketing bonus to the new Julianne Moore drama, though it's inspired by an Oscar-winning documentary short film of the same name. The title refers to the Ocean County Board of Freeholders in New Jersey, circa 2005, freeholders being local landowners who, in this case, serve as county government officials. And now you know.

English majors will gravitate to the title's punny *raison d'être*: since the Ocean County Board of Freeholders denies pension benefits to a legal domestic partner, a struggle ensues, leaving a lesbian couple living in the tension between being bound and yearning for freedom. And the situation is even worse, because one of the partners is dying of cancer, putting the other in jeopardy of losing the home they made together. This is the true story of Laurel Hester (Moore), 23 years a cop in the Ocean County Police Department before cancer sidelines her and the freeholders kick her while she's down. The film's most convincing passages concern the fearfully closeted Laurel's awkward-sweet mutual courtship, over volleyball and dancing, with young mechanic Stacie Andree (Ellen Page). Their initial romance proves more touching than any of

■ MOVIE OPENINGS



COURTESY DOUBLE FEATURE FILMS

Julianne Moore and Ellen Page in "Freeheld."

the hanky-wringing, if timely, Lifetime-movie theatrics to follow.

After the bureaucratic version of a wedding ("Happy domestic partnership day," Stacie cracks), the couple settles into a house and begins home improvements, mostly at the hands of Stacie. But when the cancer diagnosis arrives and Laurel petitions, the freeholders exercise their then-legal right to choose to deny benefits to domestic partners. Once Laurel's very-straight partner Dane (Michael Shannon) gets wind that Laurel is gay and a victim of discrimination, he becomes a stalwart ally, but their brethren (including another closeted gay cop) will take a lot more convincing to get socio-political or, for that matter, personal with a lesbian.

Enter Steven Goldstein of Garden State Equality, a self-described "big, loud gay Jew" eager to seize on the case as an object example in the fight for gay marriage. As flamboyantly played by Steve Carell in full-comic mode, Goldstein drives the movie straight off a cliff.

The real fella may have called every straight man he met "sweetie" and bellowed lines like "We need more Entemann's!" but he comes off here as a caricature who wildly throws off the tone of an otherwise quiet drama.

No movie can fully suppress the talents of Moore, Page, and Shannon, but in Ron Nyswaner's script, every theme gets put in a character's mouth, and every plot point gets telegraphed, mailed, emailed and texted ahead of its arrival. Nyswaner also wrote the controversially tiptoeing gay-themed Oscar bait "Philadelphia" back in 1993, and "Freeheld" shares that film's crowd-pleasing nuance deficit. As directed by Peter Sollett (whose "Raising Victor Vargas" had no such problem), "Freeheld" doesn't operate on the rhythms of reality but rather on those of morally reassuring light melodrama.

Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements, language and sexuality. One hour, 43 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

objective perspective than the voice-over narration provided by Malala and her father, Ziauddin. Still, a portrait emerges of an ordinary girl doing the extraordinary, whether recovering from her injuries, inspiring Kenyan school girls or addressing the United Nations. *Rated PG-13 for thematic elements involving disturbing images and threats. One hour, 27 minutes.* — S.T.

MEET THE PATELS

Single and pushing 30, actor Ravi Patel is feeling the heat to give an arranged marriage a try. When he shows signs of weakness to the idea, his parents, Vasant and Champa, pounce — beginning an often hilarious journey through the world of Indian and Indian-American matchmaking. Doing what any loving sibling would, Ravi's sister Geeta grabs the nearest camera and ultimately creates the personable, heartfelt

documentary, "Meet the Patels." Like a thoroughbred being put through his paces, Ravi gets entered into date after date, some more promising than others. The film doesn't shy away from Ravi's feelings on racial and cultural identity: variations on self-nurturing pride and squirmish embarrassment. *Rated PG for thematic elements, brief suggestive images and incidental smoking. One hour, 28 minutes.* — P.C.

THE MARTIAN

Based on a novel by Mountain View resident Andy Weir, "The Martian" is perhaps the purest ode to science mainstream cinema has ever produced. During a manned NASA mission to Mars, the crew of Ares 3 narrowly escapes a dust storm, leaving behind presumed-dead astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon). Watney wakes to discover himself alone on the red planet.

■ MOVIE REVIEWS

HE NAMED ME MALALA

★★½

The youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Malala Yousafzai found her voice as a teenager. Targeted and shot in the head in 2012 for speaking out against the Taliban and advocating for education for all women, the Pakistani heroine survived and continues her rousing activism. If only documentarian Davis Guggenheim ("An Inconvenient Truth") had found an equally eloquent approach in "He Named Me Malala." Crisp news footage contrasts with over-exposed reenactments and impressionistic animation. Interviews offer a more

■ MOVIE TIMES

99 Homes (R) Century 20: 10:50 a.m., 4:40 & 10:25 p.m.

Beasts of No Nation (Not Rated) Guild Theatre: 1, 4, 7:05 & 10 p.m.

Black Mass (R) ★★½ Century 20: 7:50 & 10:40 p.m.

Bridge of Spies (PG-13)

Century 16: 9:20 a.m., 12:40, 4, 7:20 & 10:40 p.m.

Century 20: 10:45 a.m., 12:40, 2, 3:55, 5:15, 7:10, 8:30 & 10:25 p.m.

Bruce Lee: The Fighter (Not Rated)

Century 16: 11:15 a.m., 3:15, 6:45 & 10:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 11:15 p.m.

Carousel (1956) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.

Crimson Peak (R) Century 16: 10 a.m., 1, 4:10, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m., Fri & Sat 12:01 a.m. **Century 20:** 11:20 a.m., 12:50, 2:10, 3:40, 5, 6:30, 7:50, 9:25 & 10:45 p.m.

Everest (PG-13) Century 20: 1:50 & 7:25 p.m.

Freeheld (PG-13) ★★

Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:20 & 7 p.m., Fri & Sat 9:30 p.m.

Goosebumps (PG) Century 16: 9 & 11:45 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 8:10 & 10:45 p.m. In 3-D at 10:25 a.m., 1:05, 3:50, 7 & 9:35 p.m., Fri & Sat 12:10 a.m. **Century 20:** 10:30 a.m., 12:05, 2:50, 3:40, 5:25, 8 & 10:40 p.m. In 3-D at 11:10 a.m., 1:05, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05 & 9:40 p.m. In 3-D D-BOX at 11:10 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7:05 & 9:40 p.m.

He Named Me Malala (PG-13) ★★½ Century 20: 3:40, 6, 8:20 & 10:40 p.m., Fri & Sun 11 a.m. & 1:20 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 3:15, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m., Fri & Sun 1 p.m., Fri & Sat 10 p.m.

Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG) Century 16: 9:15 & 11:35 a.m., 2, 4:20, 7:05 & 9:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:30 & 11:30 a.m., 12:50, 1:55, 3:10, 4:15, 5:30, 6:50 & 9:10 p.m.

The Intern (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 4:20 p.m., Fri & Sun 10:05 a.m. & 1:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:40 a.m., 1:30, 4:20, 7:15 & 10:10 p.m.

Ladrones (PG-13) Century 16: 7:20 & 10 p.m.

Century 20: Noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m.

The Martian (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 9:05 a.m., 12:20, 3:40, 7:05 & 10:30 p.m. In 3-D at 10:10 & 11:20 a.m., 1:30, 2:40, 4:45, 5:55, 8:05 & 9:15 p.m., Fri & Sat 11:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:35 a.m., 1:45, 4:55 & 8:10 p.m. In 3-D at 11:40 a.m., 2:45, 6 & 9:15 p.m. In X-D at 12:45, 3:55, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m. In 3-D D-BOX at 11:40 a.m., 2:45, 6 & 9:15 p.m.

Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials (PG-13)

Century 20: 6:15 & 9:20 p.m.

Meet the Patels (PG) ★★★

Aquarius Theatre: 2:30, 5, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.

Met Opera: Otello (Not Rated)

Century 16: Sat 9:55 a.m. **Century 20:** Sat 9:55 a.m.

Pan (PG)

Century 16: 10:15 a.m., 4:30 & 7:25 p.m. In 3-D at 1:20 & 10:35 p.m.

Century 20: 10:55 a.m., 4:25 & 7:05 p.m. In 3-D at 1:40 & 9:55 p.m.

Sicario (R) Century 16: 10:20 a.m., 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:10 p.m.

Century 20: 11:15 a.m., 2:10, 5:05, 7:55 & 10:45 p.m.

Steve Jobs (R) Century 16: 9, 9:45 & 10:55 a.m., 12:05, 12:55, 2:05, 3:05, 4:05, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15 & 10:25 p.m., Fri & Sat 12:10 a.m.

The Walk (PG)

Century 16: 1:20 & 10:25 p.m. In 3-D at 10:15 a.m., 4:25 & 7:25 p.m.

Century 20: 10:45 a.m., 4:35 & 10:30 p.m. In 3-D at 1:35 & 7:30 p.m.

Woodlawn (PG) Century 20: 10:35 a.m., 1:30, 4:25, 7:20 & 10:20 p.m.

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

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

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

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

STANFORD THEATRE: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, visit www.landmarktheatres.com

★ Skip it

★★ Some redeeming qualities

★★★ A good bet

★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



His subsequent efforts to feed himself, prolong battery life and contact home amount to a refreshing tribute to scientific ingenuity. Although it features a top-notch cast, the film's real stars are Damon, in a performance that leans on his real-life charm, and director Ridley Scott, who tamed a logically complex production.

Rated PG-13 for some strong language, injury images and brief nudity. Two hours, 21 minutes. — P.C.

■ MOVIE CRITICS

S.T. - Susan Tavernetti, P.C. - Peter Canavese, T.H. - Tyler Hanley

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

GoingsOn

ART GALLERIES

'Heirloom' The show "Heirloom" will share paintings and mixed-media works by Bryan Keith Thomas that celebrate the black experience through historic symbols such as cotton, roses, and African and African-American imagery. See website for facility hours. Monday-Saturday, Oct. 9-Nov. 22. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Mohr Gallery, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm

Paintings by Naomi Mindelzun Gallery 9 Los Altos has on display selected works by Palo Alto artist Naomi Mindelzun. Her pieces use a variety of surfaces and materials to capture organic structures that inspire her. Sept. 29-Oct. 31, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. Call 650-326-1053. gallery9losaltos.com

BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

Harvest Craft Faire Sponsored by the Los Altos United Methodist Women, the Harvest Craft Faire will present a large selection of high-quality handmade items from 55 artisans. There will be also be garden and gourmet shops, homemade pies, vintage collectibles and small antiques. Snacks and lunch will be sold each day at the Harvest Cafe. The event will benefit local charities. Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-948-2044. www.facebook.com/harvestcraftfaire

PenFed Foundation Night of Heroes Dinner Benefiting the Lee & Penny Anderson Defenders Lodge, the second annual PenFed Foundation's Night of Heroes Dinner will honor George P. Schultz, the 60th U.S. Secretary of State, and volunteers serving and protecting the country. Oct. 27, 6 p.m. \$250 single ticket; sponsorship opportunities are available. Los Altos Golf & Country Club, 1560 Country Club Drive, Los Altos. www.pentagonfoundation.org

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Alzheimer's Friendly Business Training Home Instead Senior Care is offering free trainings for local businesses on how to reduce feelings of isolation among individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer's disease. Visit the website or call for more information. Monday-Friday, Oct. 1-31, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. Home Instead Senior Care, 883 N. Shoreline Blvd., A100, Mountain View. Call 650-265-4118. www.homeinstead.com/168/about-us/home-instead-team

Annual Caregiver Conference Avenidas will present its 12th annual Caregiver Conference, giving support and inspiration to caregivers. Industry experts and legal and medical professionals will be on hand, and attendees can participate in dynamic group sessions. Lunch will be provided. Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$45. Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center, 266 and 270 Escuela Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5435. avenidas.org

Drop-In Bike Clinic Professional bike mechanic Ryan Murphy will be available at the Dero Fixit station to give advice and help community members work on their bikes. He can assist with changing a tire, adjusting shifting and brakes, identifying mysterious noises and more. All ages are welcome. Oct. 17, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7035. goo.gl/zfy4GN

Health care programs orientation The Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School will hold a workshop for those interested in health care careers, providing information on the certified nursing assistant and medical assistant paths and the programs offered by the school. Online registration is requested. Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-940-1333. www.mvlae.net

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Friday Nights @ CHM This weekly block party-style event brings together the Silicon Valley community for innovative cuisine provided by Off the Grid, live music and activities for all ages. Fridays, Sept. 28-Oct. 30, 5-9 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.computerhistory.org

Inventions and Imaginations The Friends of "R" House will offer its annual Where History Meets Haunting event series leading up to Halloween, this year entitled "Inventions and Imaginations." Visitors can enjoy a family-friendly steampunk-esque haunted house attraction at the historic Rengstorff house. Evening and family day programs are available. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-31, 6:30-10 p.m. \$10 advance; \$15 at the door. Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-867-7708. www.r-house.org

CONCERTS

Alice Gerrard and the Piedmont Melody Makers

At this Redwood Bluegrass Associates-sponsored event, Alice Gerrard and the Piedmont Melody Makers will serve some old-time bluegrass, honky-tonk and country music. Grammy-nominated Gerrard is a recognized artist in the country-bluegrass-Americana community. Oct. 17, 7:30-10 p.m. \$20 advance; \$25 at door; half-price for teens, students; free for under those under age 13 and music students. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 650-793-0720. rba.org

Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra concert

Conducted by David Ramadanooff, Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra will kick off its 50th Anniversary Season with a program including Respighi's "Trittico Botticelliano"; Glazunov's Violin Concerto, featuring violinist Emma Steele; and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. Oct. 18, 2:30-4:30 p.m. \$15-\$25; free for children. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-208-4159. www.mastersinfonia.org

ENVIRONMENT

California Native Plant Sale This sale at Hidden Villa will offer a variety of different species of California native plants well-suited for local gardens and wildlife. Experts will also be available to talk about lawn alternatives such as native perennials, wildflowers and grasses. Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. www.cnps-scv.org

EXHIBITS

'Rough Around the Edges' The exhibit "Rough Around the Edges: Inspirations in Paper" presents the work of Ronni Jolles, who uses layered paper, acrylic paint and sealants to create dimensional painting-like pieces. See website for daily schedule. Aug. 26-Dec. 7. Free. Goldman Sports & Wellness Complex and Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org/rough-around-the-edges

Annual Gem and Mineral Show The Peninsula Gem & Geology Society will hold its annual Gem and Mineral Show, featuring display cases of club lapidary, jewelry, rocks and minerals. Dealers will be on hand selling handcrafted jewelry, gemstones, fossils, mineral specimens, collectible rocks and other items. There will also be raffle and door prize drawings, and children will receive a free ticket for the Treasure Wheel. Oct. 24 and 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$4 adult; \$2 child age 12-18. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. pggs.org

FAMILY AND KIDS

Author Sherri L. Smith on 'The Toymaker's Apprentice' Author Sherri L. Smith will share her middle grade book debut in "The Toymaker's Apprentice," a beautifully

imagined retelling of "The Nutcracker" that combines history and fantasy. The event is best suited for ages 10 and up. Oct. 17, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-949-3390. www.lindentrebooks.com/events-2/linden-tree-events

Mathnasium TriMathlon Mathnasium of Mountain View-Los Altos will host its fifth annual TriMathlon, allowing second to fifth graders to demonstrate their math skills. Those interested should visit the website to register. Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Mathnasium of Mountain View-Los Altos, 2510 W. El Camino Real, #4, Mountain View. Call 650-941-6284. www.mathnasiumtrimathlon.com

Opera For Families During this educational experience designed to excite young people about opera, two singers and a pianist will give a performance, offer explanations, and lead role-playing games and exercises exploring different aspects of the art form. Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m.-noon. \$8 member, J-Pass holder; \$10 general; free for children under age 2. Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org/opera-for-families

FILM

Movie Night: 'Food Chains' The Peninsula Peace and Justice Center will offer a screening of the 52-minute documentary "Food Chains: The Revolution in America's Fields," which explores the human cost of the country's food supply. A discussion will follow the film. Oct. 27, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free (contributions requested). Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-326-8837. www.peaceandjustice.org/food-chains/

UNAFF International Documentary Film Festival Over the course of 10 days, the 18th United Nations Association Film Festival will bring documentary films dealing with human rights issues, the environment, racism, women's issues, education, war and peace to venues in East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, San Francisco and Stanford University. This year's theme is "Running out of Time." See website for the full schedule and specific locations. Oct. 15-25. \$10 one film session (2-3 hours). Various local venues, East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Stanford. www.unaff.org

HEALTH

Postpartum Wellness: Posture and Body Mechanics This one-hour Postpartum Wellness session at El Camino Hospital will aim to ease participants' recovery from childbirth and promote healthy, happy interactions with their babies. Oct. 22, 1-2 p.m. Free. El Camino Hospital, Park Pavilion, Room O, 2400 Grant Road, Mountain View. www.elcaminohospital.org

FOOD AND DRINK

Hazon Farm To Table Food Fest The Oshman Family JCC will host a day focusing on food, sustainability and Jewish life, offering cooking demonstrations, tastings and samples from local providers, and more. Children can meet farm animals and go to stations to make butter and braid Challah. Calafia Cafe's Chef Charlie Ayers will give a talk and demonstration. UC Master Gardeners will also have an information table. Oct. 18, 2-5 p.m. Free. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 408-282-3105. mastergardeners.org/scc.html

Sourdough Bread Boot Camp Anne Marie Bonneau will teach students how to bake sourdough bread using wild yeast, covering each step from feeding a starter to baking the loaves. Students will taste a finished loaf and take home a formed one to bake at home. Participants should bring a bowl and towel for transporting the loaf. Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$150. Private home, address provided upon registration, Mountain View. Call 650-450-8205. zerowastechef.com/register

HIGHLIGHT

Silicon Valley African Film Festival

The sixth annual Silicon Valley African Film Festival will showcase feature films, shorts and animations made by Africa's veteran and emerging filmmakers. There will also be live performances, opening and closing/awards ceremonies, the African Market and the Innovate Africa Tech Forum. See website for the full schedule. Oct. 16-18. \$20-\$50. Community School of Music and Arts, Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.svaff.org

ON STAGE

'Proof' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will present the contemporary drama "Proof," the compelling tale of a faded mathematical genius and his brilliant but troubled daughter seeking recognition in the male-dominated world of science. See website for specific times and dates. There will be no Oct. 27 show. Oct. 7-Nov. 1. \$19-\$80; discounts available for teachers, seniors and those age 30 and under. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.theatreworks.org

Los Altos Storytelling Club Local storytellers will entertain adults and teens with scary stories told in the oral tradition. Oct. 22, 7-8 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650 948-5971. storyfriends.org

West Bay Opera: Verdi's 'Rigoletto'

West Bay Opera will stage "Rigoletto" by Giuseppe Verdi, a tragic story about a court jester who seeks revenge after his daughter is caught up in debauchery at the court of Mantua. The performances are fully staged, with a chorus and orchestra. Oct. 16 and 24, 8 p.m.; Oct. 18 and 25, 2 p.m. \$40-\$83. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-9999. www.wbopera.org

SENIORS

Food Shopping on a Budget This Mountain View Senior Center class will provide tips on ways to eat healthier while also saving time and money. Oct. 20, 1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330. www.mountainview.gov/seniors

Influenza talk Local emergency medical technicians will give a talk about how best to protect against the flu, discussing flu shots, medicine, rest and more. Oct. 22, 1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330. www.mountainview.gov/seniors

LECTURES & TALKS

'Learn How to Grow Rhododendrons in Your Garden' The De Anza Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will offer a presentation by Dennis McKiver discussing how to raise rhododendrons to create the best show flowers. The program will cover the choosing, planting, fertilizing and pruning of rhododendrons. Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Free. Hillview Community Center, Room 12, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. www.deanza-ars.com

A Listening Party with the Computer History Museum This multimedia presentation from the Computer History Museum will reveal the rich tapestry of past technology through video oral histories and a

Q&A session with museum curators. Oct. 20, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6882. goo.gl/55I59C

Audubon Speaker Series: 'Severe Weather from Climate Change' Author Dan Linehan will give a talk discussing how worldwide, severe weather events have increased in frequency and magnitude, and how grassroots efforts can make a difference with climate change. The event is part of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Speaker Series. Oct. 21, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Cubberley Community Center, Room H1, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 408-253-3747. scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=monthly-meeting#oct

Author Lawrence J. Cohen on 'The Opposite of Worry' For this MVLA Parent Education Speaker Series event, Lawrence J. Cohen, Ph.D. — a licensed psychologist, author, speaker and consultant — will discuss his latest book "The Opposite of Worry: The Playful Parenting Approach to Childhood Anxieties and Fears." Preregistration is required. Oct. 20, 7-9 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School Theater, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. www.lamptac.org/parent-education/mvla-series-2015-2016/

Author Sandra Hincliffe on 'The Cannabis Spa at Home' Sandra Hincliffe will visit Books Inc. in Mountain View for a book launch event for her "The Cannabis Spa at Home," which discusses cannabis and pain management from both patient and home herbalist perspectives. She will sign books, and attendees can receive her new premium app SpaKind when they purchase her book during the event. Oct. 20, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net/book/9781634502306

Author Steven Johnson on 'How We Got to Now' Steven Johnson will mark the paperback release of his "How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World" with a conservation with Computer History Museum CEO John Hollar. Online registration is requested. Oct. 21, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.computerhistory.org/events/upcoming/#how-we-got-now-author

Peninsula Astronomical Society: 'Birth of Stars' This meeting of the Peninsula Astronomical Society will include a free public talk by Mark Krumholz, Ph.D., a professor from UC Santa Cruz, on the "Birth of Stars." The observatory will be open after the meeting from 9 to 11 p.m., weather permitting. Attendees should park in lot #6. Oct. 16, 7:30-9 p.m. Free; \$3 parking. Foothill College, Room 5015, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. www.pastro.org/dnn/

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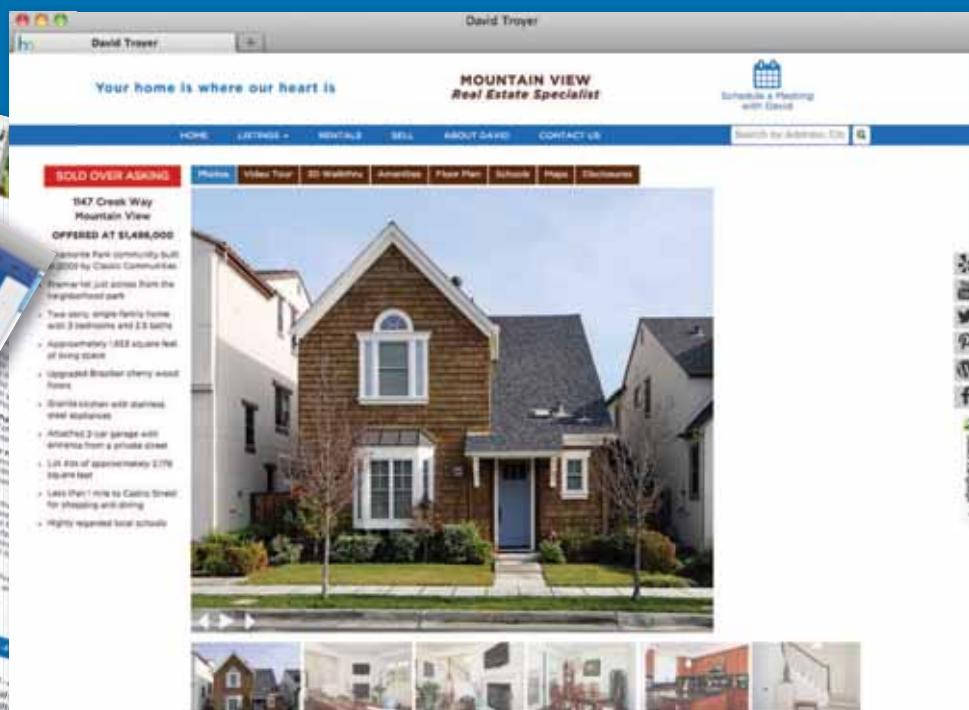
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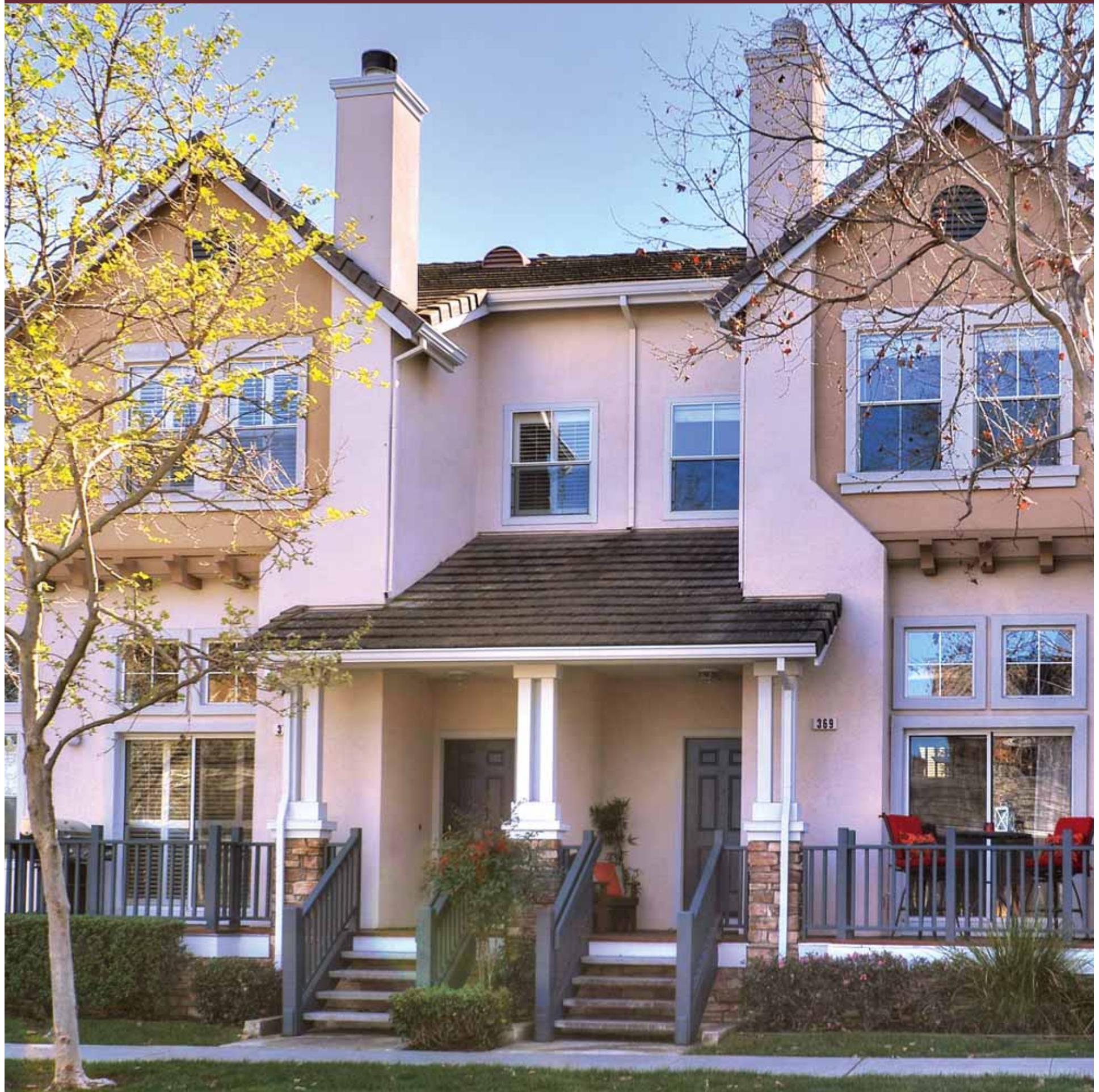
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1633 Edgewood Road, Redwood City Offered at \$2,198,000

Picturesque Equestrian Property

Dotted with mature oak trees, this gated equestrian property provides a 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom home of 2,890 sq. ft. (per county) and offers a total of approx. 0.9 acres (per county). Built in 1914, the home has been thoughtfully updated yet retains authentic charms, including red oak hardwood floors and original lighting fixtures. Fine spaces include sunlit living and dining areas, a remodeled kitchen, and a master suite with vaulted ceilings. The walk-out lower level provides a family room, several flexible spaces, and a private bedroom ideal for au pair quarters. Other highlights include two fireplaces, a cellar, and abundant storage spaces.

Boasting several outdoor living areas, this park-like property also presents a converted garage with a studio, a barn with fenced yards, a large shed, and a staggering variety of flowers and fruit trees. Just moments from parks and local shopping and dining, this home is also steps away from bus service. Clifford Elementary is within walking distance, and Woodside High is easily accessible (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.1633Edgewood.com



Ken DeLeon
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka
CalBRE #01854880



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1909 Aberdeen Lane, Mountain View Offered at \$998,000

Pristine Condo with Terrific Location

Easy access to conveniences is one of the many excellent features of this 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath condominium of over 1600 sq. ft. (per county). Offering high ceilings and dimmable lighting, the home has three levels with one bedroom on the lower level, open common areas on the main level, and two suites on the upper level. The island kitchen opens to the combined living and dining area and displays recessed lighting, granite countertops, stainless-steel appliances, and bar seating. Both of the upper-level suites provide walk-in closets and one includes dual vanities. The lower-level bedroom sports a private half bath, and a space beneath the stairs is perfect for wine storage. Other features include a two-car garage and a laundry closet. Steps from Sierra Vista Park, the home is within one mile of U.S. 101 and the Google campus, and is a short drive from both Monta Loma Plaza and Shoreline. Nearby schools include Monta Loma Elementary, Crittenden Middle, and Los Altos High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

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www.1114BLSquare.com

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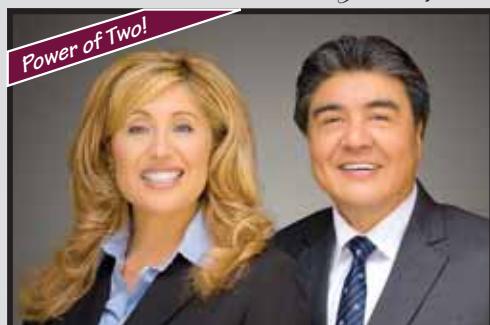
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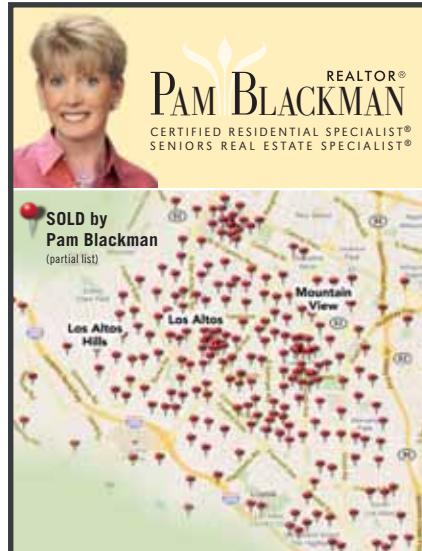
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Current Market Update

City	Total Active Properties:	Lowest Price	Highest Price
Santa Clara	59	\$699,000	\$2,175,000
Sunnyvale	31	\$759,950	\$2,798,000
MountainView	18	\$1,299,000	\$3,200,000
Los Altos	30	\$1,648,000	\$4,495,000
Los Altos Hills	40	\$2,688,000	\$24,000,000
Palo Alto	33	\$1,688,000	\$14,288,000
Menlo Park	35	\$748,950	\$5,625,000

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Above information obtain on the MLS as of October 12, 2015

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1875 San Luis Ave.
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3 bed / 2 bath / 1101 sq ft
Updated single story single family home in desirable Rex Manor. Large enclosed front and back yard and attached garage.

List Price \$1,148,000

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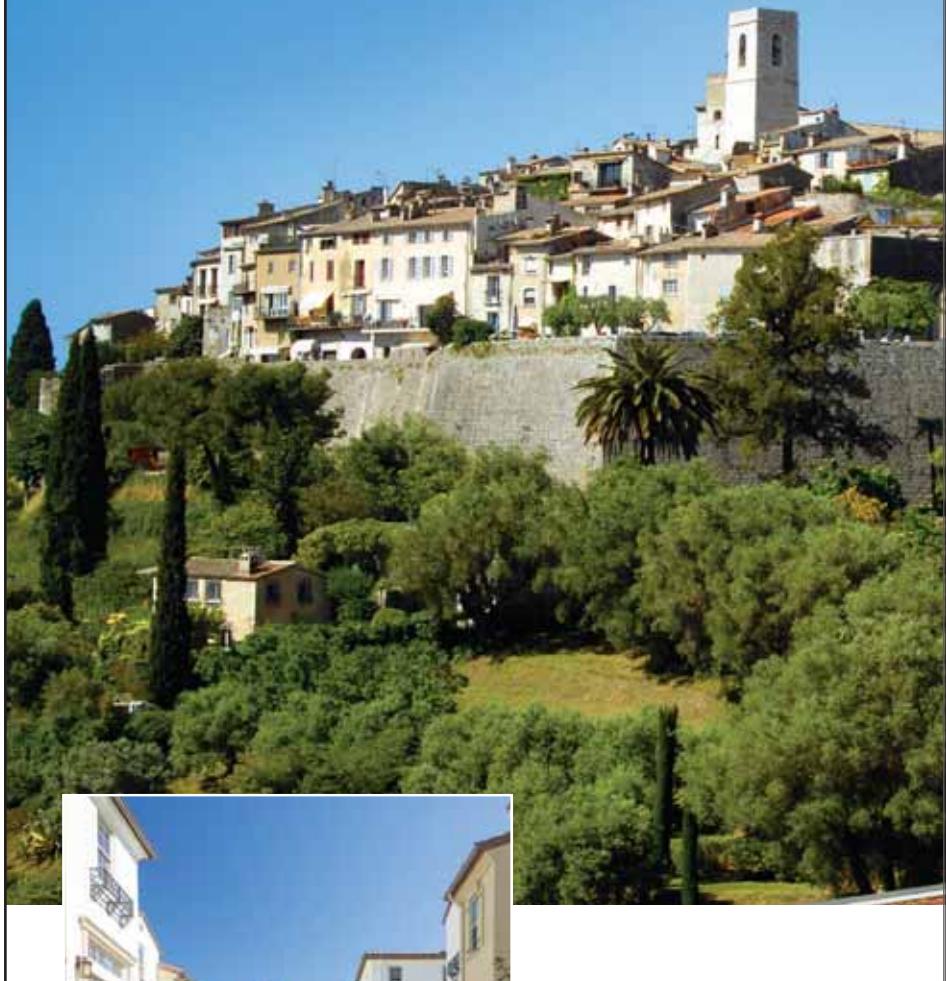
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INDEX

- BULLETIN BOARD 100-199
- FOR SALE 200-299
- KIDS STUFF 330-399
- MIND & BODY 400-499
- JOBS 500-599
- BUSINESS SERVICES 600-699
- HOME SERVICES 700-799
- FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE 800-899
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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135 Group Activities

Kirtan evening-soul music

145 Non-Profits Needs

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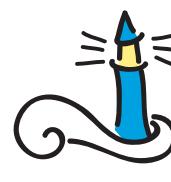
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995 Fictitious Name Statement

STATEMENT OF ABDOMNENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 609551
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

FICTION BUSINESS NAME(S):
KALUAH KENNEL
689 N. Mathilda Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
FILED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ON:
07/07/2009
UNDER FILE NO. 526308
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
THOMAS EUGENE HUTCHISON
689 N. Mathilda Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
DEBORAH DAWN HUTCHISON
689 N. Mathilda Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:
Married Couple.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on September 25, 2015.
(MV Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2015)

QUANTAA
FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609444
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
QuantAA, located at 575 S. Rengstorff Ave., #126, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
RUTH FISHER
575 S. Rengstorff Ave., #126
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2001.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on September 24, 2015.
(MV Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015)

SNGK
RECIPE SACK
KRAFT KABOODLE
FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609685

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SNGK, 2.) Recipe Sack, 3.) Kraft Kaboodle, located at 100 N. Whisman Rd., #4012, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
SAVITHA RAO
100 N. Whisman Rd., #4012
Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/10/2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on September 30, 2015.
(MV Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2015)

SILICON VALLEY HEALTHY VENDING
FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609395
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Silicon Valley Healthy Vending, located

at 1064 Broadway Ave., San Jose, CA 95125, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A General Partnership.
The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
DEL MARKS
1064 Broadway Ave.
San Jose, CA 95125
BILL ROTHENBERG
19337 Athos Pl.
Saratoga, CA 95070
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 9/1/15.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on September 22, 2015.
(MV Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015)

UNISON SPINE CENTER
FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609531

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Unison Spine Center, located at 441 De Guigne Dr. Suite 101, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
MELVIN S. HSU

4173 De Mille Drive
San Jose, CA 95117
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on September 25, 2015.
(MV Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015)

QuantAA
FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609444
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
QuantAA, located at 575 S. Rengstorff Ave., #126, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
RUTH FISHER
575 S. Rengstorff Ave., #126
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2001.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on September 24, 2015.
(MV Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015)

SNGK
RECIPE SACK
KRAFT KABOODLE
FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609685

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SNGK, 2.) Recipe Sack, 3.) Kraft Kaboodle, located at 100 N. Whisman Rd., #4012, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
SAVITHA RAO
100 N. Whisman Rd., #4012
Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/10/2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on September 30, 2015.
(MV Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2015)

SILICON VALLEY HEALTHY VENDING
FICTION BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 609395
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Silicon Valley Healthy Vending, located

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in a Santa Clara County newspaper
of general circulation?**

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- Public Hearing Notices
- Trustee's Sale



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