

Mountain View VOICE

DECEMBER 4, 2015 VOLUME 23, NO. 45

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MOVIES | 28

Winter Class Guide

PAGE 21



MICHELLE LE

Disgruntled protesters seeking relief from rapidly rising rents and evictions gather outside of the Mountain View City Council chambers on Dec. 1.

City approves program to aid renters

OPPONENTS WARN PACKAGE VERGES ON RENT CONTROL

By Mark Noack

For months now, the idea of imposing price caps on the rental market — better known as rent control — has been rejected by most of Mountain View's City Council as a clumsy way to solve the area's

housing crisis. It would be the equivalent, as one councilman put it, of amputating a limb to stop a bleeding cut.

In council chambers filled with protesters holding signs seeking rent stabilization and just-cause evictions on Tuesday, city leaders discussed their

preferred alternative: a package of mediation and rent-relief programs meant to help keep tenants in their homes. But over the course of a five-hour meeting, as council members deliberated and fine-tuned the

► See **RENTERS**, page 8

Audit finds big problems in Mountain View schools

By Kevin Forestieri

Closing the achievement gap in Mountain View schools may require big changes from the top down. A recent educational audit of the Mountain View Whisman School District found that loose guidelines and weak accountability from the district office is short-changing English language learners and students with disabilities, who lack the robust programs they need to succeed.

In August, the district's new superintendent, Ayindé Rudolph, requested authorization to spend \$275,000 from Google to hire the firm Cambridge Education to root out any deep-seated issues in the district that could be preventing students from performing well.

The need for the audit was sealed in September, when state standardized test results showed that the vast majority of the district's low-income and minority students, as well as students with disabilities, did not meet state standards.

While there were some positive findings, like great parent and community support and positive school climates at most campuses, the audit found that the district fell short of provid-

ing a strong program for lower-achieving students who need extra help.

Rudolph was out of town and could not be reached for comment by the *Voice's* Wednesday press deadline. In a statement he released about the audit, he said teachers are ready and willing to take on more professional development to improve instruction in the classroom, and that the district will work on communication between the district, the schools and parents.

Rudolph has referred to the audit as a key component in addressing the achievement gap, referring to the number of low-achieving students as a "symp-tom" caused by a myriad of problems in the district.

Special ed problems 'systemic'

The audit found that students in the special education program in the district are performing well below their peers, which the report said was caused by systemic problems at the district office. The issue became abundantly clear in September when state standardized test results found that 85 percent of students

► See **SCHOOLS**, page 9

El Niño deluge could cause flooding throughout city

By Kevin Forestieri

The city of Mountain View is bracing for heavy rainfall this winter, following predictions of a powerful El Niño season that could leave several areas of the city flooded.

The city's public works department beefed up its storm preparedness efforts this year, planning months in advance to make sure storm drains remain clear of debris and giant pools of water

don't develop on busy city streets. The added efforts are in response to weather forecasts that California could be slammed by a series of powerful storms throughout the winter.

El Niño conditions have stayed strong in the Pacific ocean, where temperatures remain abnormally high. These anomalous conditions are similar to the high ocean temperatures in 1997, which was a harbinger of a powerful storm system that flooded

many areas of the Bay Area.

In other words, residents can expect a wet winter that will push the limits of local creeks and storm drains to keep water from pooling in residential areas.

A moderate El Niño weather pattern was predicted last year and it turned out to be a dud for Bay Area rainfall, according to Gregg Hosfeldt, assistant public works director for the city of Mountain View. But that hasn't stopped the city from preparing

for torrential downpours this year. Hosfeldt said city staff is "extremely" aware of the El Niño weather patterns, and has been in preparation mode for months. Staff members have been setting up sandbag stations, collecting leaves and making sure they have the supplies they need in the case of heavy rainfall.

"We think we're pretty far ahead on the effort," Hosfeldt said.

Rene Munoz, the storm coor-

dinator for the city, said the public works department will be active throughout the city before and during storms to clear out clogged drains, sweep the streets and make sure there are enough sandbags available for residents to protect their homes. The priority, Munoz said, is to keep busy streets and main thoroughfares clear of floodwater, and then focus on secondary streets.

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Voices

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Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Mark Noack.

“What’s the best gift you’ve given or received that cost next to nothing?”



I came from Vietnam, right after the war, and church community gave my family a turkey. That was Thanksgiving in 1975.”

Tuyet Giles, Sunnyvale



“The best gift was my family showing up for my 40th birthday. They traveled all the way out from the Portland area.”

Nick Haberlach, Mountain View



“Once, we got some gold pieces of paper and kept cutting and folding them to make stars. We gave the stars to all our relatives.”

Willow Tock, Mountain View



“There was a girl I thought was cute. She looked up and smiled at me, and I remember that fondly.”

Nathan Wailes, Palo Alto



“My students teach me things all the time. They give me the gift of their thoughtfulness and creativity.”

Wes Swing, San Francisco

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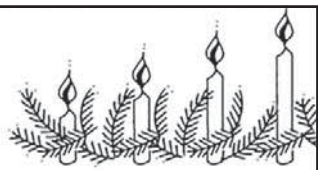
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9:15 a.m. Christian Education

8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion



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4:00 p.m. Traditional and Contemporary Carols
- December 13** **Santa Lucia Festival**
5:30 p.m. International Smörgåsbord—bring a dish to share!
7:00 p.m. Santa Lucia Program and Reception
- December 20** **Lessons and Carols**
4:00 p.m. Theme: O Come, Emmanuel
- December 24** **Christmas Eve**
5:00 p.m. Family Service and Pageant
10:00 p.m. Choir Concert—selections from Handel's Messiah
10:30 p.m. Choral Festival Candlelight Service
- December 25** **Christmas Day**
10:00 a.m. Carols with Communion

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■ **CRIME BRIEFS****HOUSE FIRE INJURES TWO**

A Mountain View man was hospitalized Sunday following a house fire that burned through the garage, causing damage to the home and a gas line.

The fire was reported around noon on Nov. 29, in the 3300 block of Villa Robleda Drive. When fire crews arrived, the blaze had extended from the garage to the first and second floor of the nearby home, according to Mountain View Fire Department spokesman Lynn Brown.

The heat of the fire melted the gas meter, allowing gas to flow and burn out of the home's gas line, Brown said. Because the flames prevented fire crews from reaching the electrical panel, PG&E crews has to be called to shut off gas to the home, he said.

One man, a resident of the house, was hospitalized and later released for minor injuries, and one firefighter was injured and treated at the scene.

Firefighters were able to save most of the interior of the home, though the house was deemed temporary uninhabitable, Brown said. The garage, on the other hand, was severely damaged.

"People tend to have things in their garages (like fuel) that burn pretty well, unfortunately," Brown said.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 7

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200 block Easy St., 11/30

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1900 block W. El Camino Real, 11/28
400 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/30

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

300 block Easy St., 11/25

STOLEN VEHICLE

200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 11/30

VANDALISM

2500 block Grant Rd., 11/29

■ **COMMUNITY BRIEFS****CONTAMINATED WATER IN LOS ALTOS**

Water providers in Los Altos have advised 40 residents not to drink their water without boiling it because of contamination caused by a contractor hitting a water main and adjacent wastewater line, state water officials said Tuesday.

The advisory is for residents of Fallen Leaf Lane between Holt and Morton avenues, Penny Way, Lantis Lane and at 1691 and 1701 Holt Ave., California Water Service officials said.

Drinking water for those residents may have been exposed to fecal coliform and E. coli bacteria. For drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes and preparing food, residents are advised to either boil their water before using it or to use bottled water.

The water is still safe to use for showering and bathing.

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 14

■ **CORRECTION**

The item about Ernie's model train display in last week's "Holiday Highlights" story neglected to say that the trains will be running six nights a week, between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, at 2387 Adele Ave. in Mountain View. The trains do not run on Mondays.

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



MICHELLE LE

Dr. Lynn Bennion examines a regular patient at Mountain View's RotaCare clinic on Dec. 1. RotaCare is one of seven local nonprofits that benefit from donations to the **Voice's** annual Holiday Fund.

RotaCare serves vital role for neediest patients

FREE CLINIC RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS TO PROVIDE PRIMARY CARE

By Mark Noack

For the past three years, the small nonprofit clinic tucked away in a basement on El Camino Hospital's campus has been a lifesaver for Mountain View resident Charles Himmaugh. After losing his job at a furniture warehouse, Himmaugh was



left with no health insurance, and that loss occurred at pretty much the worst possible time. He had developed Type 2 diabetes and finding medical care

was no longer a luxury but a vital concern.

It was around that time when Himmaugh first learned about RotaCare, a place where a cadre of mostly volunteer doctors and medical staff help the neediest of patients free of charge. Since his first appointment, Him-

► See **ROTACARE**, page 14

County launches campaign against human trafficking

Santa Clara County officials launched a campaign Tuesday calling on the public to be on the lookout for human trafficking victims.

"Human trafficking is a real scourge on our community, on our state and on our country. And it's the kind of crime that tends to hide in plain sight," District Attorney Jeff Rosen said during a news conference Tuesday outside the county sheriff's headquarters.

The campaign will feature ads

on Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency buses, bus shelters and light-rail vehicles with images provided through the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

The campaign will also feature a photo by Andrew "AJ" Wassell, a student at Valley Christian High School in San Jose, of a friend blindfolded by the American flag, Rosen said.

Wassell's piece, titled "Blind-ed," won first place out of more than 50 entries submitted in the

district attorney's office "Justice For All" artwork contest against human trafficking, Rosen said.

Human trafficking is an issue that needs to be tackled in the United States first before it can be dealt with overseas, Wassell said.

The campaign comes ahead of Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara on Feb. 7 when large crowds are expected to attend the big game.

"These large events have a tragic

► See **TRAFFICKING**, page 7

Teachers frustrated by poor classroom conditions

By Kevin Forestieri

Improvements are on the way for Mountain View Whisman School District's elementary schools, as Measure G school bond construction kicks into high gear. But for some teachers at Bubb Elementary, it can't come fast enough.

Bubb teachers complained to the school board last month, saying that the portable classrooms at the school have fallen into a state of disrepair. Leaky roofs, faulty heating and broken air conditioning, strange smells and rat droppings are among some of the chronic problems that teachers have reported at the portables located in the back of the school campus.

Speaking on behalf of four teachers, Bubb teacher Barbara Scott told the board at the Nov. 5 meeting that these portables have been around and in use for 20 years, and have recently started to fall apart. Using an instrument to measure sound in her classroom, Scott said she measured 60 decibels in her empty classroom with the air conditioning running — well above the maximum 45 decibels advised by the California Air Resources Board. Other teachers reported that their air conditioning had broken in the hot weather, allowing the temperatures in the classrooms to reach over 80 degrees.

While the district is in the midst of planning for school construction using Measure G funds, Scott urged the board to start thinking about more immediate solutions.

"Not only do we ask that you consider these concerns as you make your budget decisions, but as a heavy El Nino approaches this winter, something needs to be done now," Scott wrote in an email to the board.

At the meeting, district staff appeared to be surprised by the comments. Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph insisted that there are "no issues whatsoever" in the classrooms, and that there are no outstanding maintenance problems that remain unaddressed. While it's not clear why teachers would report on issues that have already been solved, Rudolph said, it's possible the teachers are trying to highlight "old issues."

Teachers might also be airing

their grievances in order to make a case for the portables to be replaced with site-built classrooms during later phases of Measure G construction, Rudolph said.

"(Scott) was just trying to express a sentiment to the board, and as a citizen she's more than willing to do that," Rudolph said. "Through our system, we did not see any of those issues."

Bubb principal Cyndee Nguyen also said she believes the intent of the complaints was to "encourage the board to move forward with construction."

However, some of the teachers' testimony seemed to dispute that, citing problems that occurred just a few days prior to the Nov. 5 meeting.

However, when contacted by the *Voice*, Scott declined to respond to the comments by district administrators, and other teachers working in Bubb portables did not respond to the *Voice's* request for a reaction to Rudolph's assertions. The school's PTA leadership also did not respond to the *Voice's* requests for comment.

Measure G construction plans for Bubb are still murky. The board agreed to the District Facilities Committee recommendations earlier this year, which called for classroom modernization at all the schools. But the recommendations fell short of requiring 24 permanent, or "site built" classrooms at all the schools, which would eliminate the need for portables, citing budget constraints.

Some of the portables on the campus were built prior to 1995, and are "prone to substantial deterioration," according to the district's School Facilities Improvement Plan.

Construction at Bubb is expected to begin in the summer of 2017 and continue through the winter break. The plan would remove most, if not all, of the portables and repurpose existing space in the multi-use room for special education classrooms, according to school construction manager Todd Lee.

Litany of complaints

Several letters sent to the board by Bubb teachers say that the portable classrooms are a source of chronic issues that have caused

► See **CLASSROOMS**, page 10

FLOODING

► Continued from page 1

During a significant storm in December last year, clogged storm drains caused several areas to flood throughout the city. In some locations, like the intersection of San Bernardo and Evelyn avenues, drivers were trapped in several feet of water and required emergency assistance by the Mountain View Fire Department.

Trouble spots that are sure to give the city problems include areas with lots of trees, as well as significant portions of the North Bayshore area, Hosfeldt said.

"We get a lot of water runoff out there, so we keep a close eye on that," he said.

Creek flooding, on the other hand, is more or less out of the control of city staff, and there's not a whole lot they can do about it, Hosfeldt said. Permanente Creek, Hale Creek and Stevens Creek are all prone to overflowing.

Flood maps from the Santa Clara Valley Water District show creeks could flood large residential areas west and east of Shoreline Boulevard between Central Expressway and El Camino Real, as well as Cuesta Park, El Camino Hospital and the areas

around Bubb Elementary School and Graham Middle School.

The district's flood map includes larger swaths of the city when compared to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps because it accounts for any level of flooding in a so-called 100-year storm, according to district spokesman Marty Grimes. He said residents would want to know about any flooding that could affect their homes, regardless of depth.

"One or two inches of water in someone's living room will still cause flood damage," Grimes said.

The water district has poured millions of dollars into long-term flood protection projects in Mountain View, including flood detention basins at both McKelvey Park and Rancho San Antonio to divert floodwater from Permanente Creek away from residential areas. But a sluggish design process and changes to the original plans have caused delays, meaning the basins will not be finished for years. Construction has yet to begin at McKelvey park.

But the water district has done some short-term improvements to make sure the El Nino season goes as smoothly as possible, Grimes said. District staff

have been working on sediment removal, managing creek vegetation and repairing levees all over the county, including the removal of calcium deposits and algae growths along Permanente Creek. Maintenance crews will be available to make quick fixes along creeks during heavy rainfall as well.

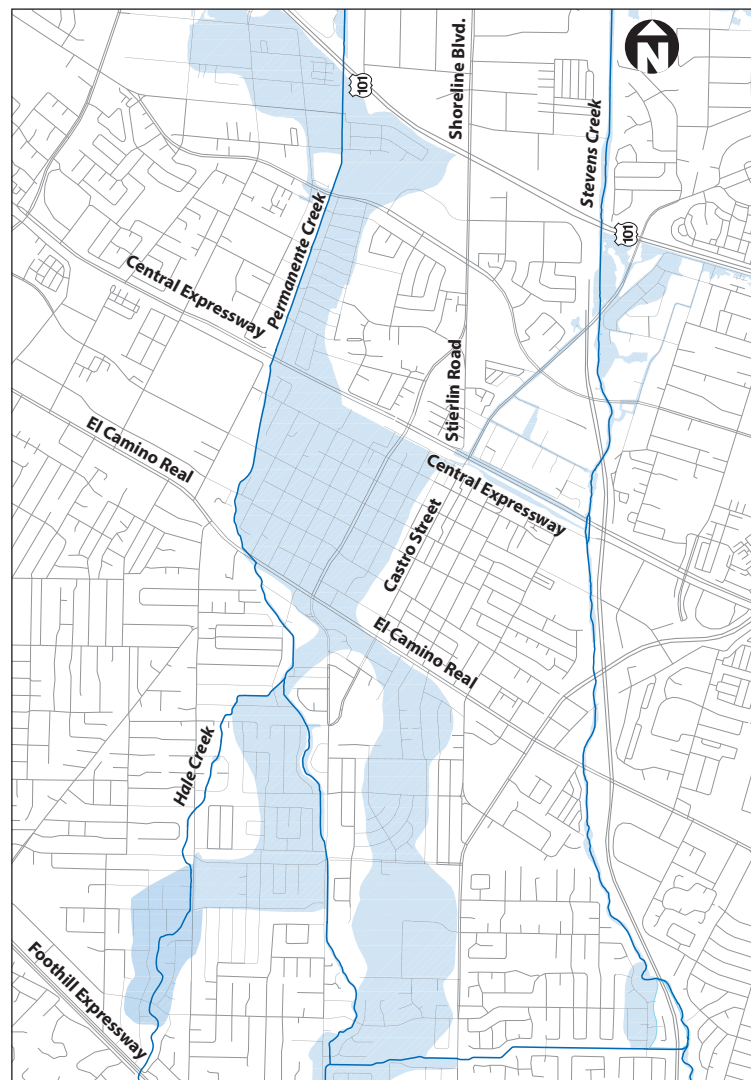
"During storm events, our staff monitors dozens of 'hot spots' where debris can accumulate and cause localized flooding," Grimes said.

Sandbags will be available all over the county, including at 231 N. Whisman Avenue, where supplied will be available all day in the parking lot. In light of the potentially powerful storms this winter, Grimes said the water district opened up its own sandbag sites a month earlier than normal, and plans to double up the number of supplies to meet the heightened demand.

Though flooding is a serious concern, Hosfeldt said El Nino could provide much-needed rain to the Bay Area and help offset four years of dismal rainfall in California.

"El Nino can be a good thing with the drought," Hosfeldt said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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TRAFFICKING

► Continued from page 5

consequence of attracting and increasing human trafficking,” VTA general manager Nuria Fernandez said.

There are 1,880 county employees trained in identifying and reporting human trafficking incidents, nearly 900 of which are VTA workers, according to the county’s Human Trafficking Commission.

“I’m really confident that with the county working together, we’re going to find more victims

in our area, we’re going to help more people and we’re going to stop people from abusing others,” Supervisor Cindy Chavez said.

Anyone who is or sees a human trafficking victim is asked to contact the county’s human trafficking task force at (408) 918-4960 or humantrafficking@sheriff.sccgov.org.

Tips can also be made through the National Human Trafficking Resource Center’s anonymous human trafficking hotline by calling (888) 373-7888 or texting HELP to 233733.

Bay City News Service

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

TENNIS COURT FEUD

Police are searching for a man who allegedly punched someone over an argument on a tennis court at Cuesta Park over the weekend.

The victim, a 50-year-old man, told police he was playing tennis with his family on Saturday, Nov. 28, around 10:30 p.m., when the suspect had entered the tennis court. The suspect allegedly demanded that the victim leave the court, and when the victim refused, the suspect punched him on the left side of the face, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie.

The victim suffered minor injuries, Hardie said.

Officers were unable to locate the suspect. The suspect was described as a black man between 5-foot-6-inches and 5-foot-8-inches tall and 180 pounds, with short black hair and a scruffy beard. The suspect was also wearing a black jacket

and black shorts.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call police at 650-903-6395 and refer to case number 15-7435.

Kevin Forestieri

FIRE DISPLACES SIX PEOPLE

Six people were displaced in a two-alarm residential fire in Mountain View on Monday afternoon, a fire spokesman said today.

Firefighters responded to a report of smoke showing in the 200 block of Lassen Avenue around 2:40 p.m. Nov. 30, fire spokesman Lynn Brown said.

Crews found two single-family homes in flames and brought the fire under control shortly before 3:15 p.m., Brown said.

Brown said he did not know if the displaced residents received assistance from the American Red Cross, family or friends. No injuries were reported.

A damage estimate was not immediately available. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Bay City News Service

CALLING ALL DOGS!!!

Volunteers Needed for Pet Visitation Program

We are seeking pet therapy teams (handler and dog) to visit patients at the bedside, families in waiting areas and lowering stress levels among staff. If you feel your dog can demonstrate how to follow basic obedience commands, has the desire and aptitude to be around strangers and other animals, is comfortable in new environments and would pass a veterinarian health screening, your dog may be eligible to volunteer in many capacities. Adults are required to meet volunteer guidelines.

Stanford Health Care, in conjunction with Pet Partners is holding a free information session (about one hour) on Saturday, January 9th, 2015 at 3:00 pm in Palo Alto. No pets please – humans only.

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RENTERS

► Continued from page 1

enforcement of these programs, some pointed out that what they were proposing actually resembled rent control, a softer version of what they had long considered unworkable in Mountain View.

"You're getting into telling the landlord what you think the rent should be," remarked Councilman Mike Kasperzak to his colleagues. "You all said you don't want soft rent control, and now you're talking about soft rent control."

The discussion has huge stakes for Mountain View, where more than half of the city's residents live in rental units, and on average, rents have risen by 53 percent in the last four years, according to the city's data. Hundreds of citizens have rallied at recent council meetings to complain that the city would soon have scores of families

displaced unless something was done quickly to curb the accelerating rental market.

The issue was brought to a head on Tuesday night in a bout of policy-making at its densest. The meeting involved lengthy deliberation by the council on how to structure complex programs like dispute mediation, rental assistance and data collection. Council members peppered city staff with questions on the various programs and the verbiage of ordinances. In turn, city staff wanted elected leaders to provide nuanced direction on about a dozen facets for five separate initiatives on housing on the agenda.

Mediation

At the center of these talks was the council's desire to create a beefed-up mediation program, where tenants could air their complaints to landlords about steep rent increases, unfair evictions or other concerns. Council

members made it clear that they wanted this program to consist of three separate stages and be mandatory for landlords to participate.

At the simplest level, this program would start with a step called conciliation, an informal phone chat brokered by the nonprofit housing group Project Sentinel to discuss tenants' complaints and see whether a resolution was possible.

If that step failed, tenants could bring the dispute to stage two, mediation, which landlords would be obligated to join if the circumstances met criteria laid out by the city. They would meet with a trained mediator from Project Sentinel who would encourage a compromise, which would be binding only if both parties agreed to make it so.

The rub of the meeting was the council's desire for a third step: formal arbitration managed by a third-party who could dictate a binding resolution to the conflict. In a dispute over a rent increase, for example, an arbitrator could rule on whether a rent increase was "reasonable." An unreasonable rent hike could be revoked by the arbitrator. Project Sentinel Director Martin Eichner urged city leaders to establish criteria to define this term, a step taken by other cities such as Los Gatos.

As council members debated what they felt was a fair amount for a rent increase, some realized they were venturing into rent control territory.

"This is completely sidestepping the economic situation of people not being able to pay to live in Mountain View," said Councilman John Inks from the start. "I don't support this — I think it's the beginning of rent control."

But Councilman Lenny Siegel, a longtime supporter of rent control, asked his colleagues whether that policy would really be so bad. He heard many arguments about how setting price caps on rents would be disastrous for Mountain View, but those points seemed to be based on political ideology, not on facts, he said. In the end, Siegel gave support to the binding arbitration plan, but he warned that the city could be unintentionally signaling to landlords how much they could increase rents going forward.

"My concern is that the rent threshold would set the floor, not the ceiling," he said.

With support from four out of its seven members, the City Council gave direction to staff to bring back a formal guidelines for the three-stage mediation program with binding arbitration. The council laid out a variety of criteria for when mediation should be mandatory, including tenant evictions, poor unit main-

tenance, lease violations and rent increases that surpass a specified amount in a given year. The council majority avoided defining what that amount should be, but indicated it should be somewhere between two times the regional Consumer Price Index (about 5 percent for the last year) and up to 7.5 percent.

Landlords who decline to participate in the mediation program could be fined or possibly face a criminal infraction.

City staff members said they would return with a formal proposal for the council at a future date.

Both sides unhappy

For many in attendance at the meeting, the council's action at the tail-end of the agenda came too late. A crowd surpassing 60 people arrived for the meeting with placards and lapel stickers calling for new protections for tenants. But that crowd winnowed down to handful as the hours stretched on.

"I know that whatever you do, you're thinking about the community, but you have moral obligation to help the most in-need, socially and financially-speaking," Mountain View resident Job Lopez told the council.

For their part, landlords' advocates warned that the city's actions amounted to new bureaucracy and expenses that would be hardest for small property owners in Mountain View. Steve Welter, a Belmont-based property owner, said the city's new rules would bring loopholes and technicalities that could be exploited by tenants.

"This scares me ... numerous things there put the burden on landlords," he said. "Don't let your blinders get so tight that you lose common sense."

More rent measures

In other rental policies discussed on Tuesday, the City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance to provide tenants with longer-term lease options rather than keeping them perpetually on a month-to-month basis. Under the rules, landlords would be obligated to offer tenants either a one-year or half-year lease option. If approved in a second reading next week, it would go into effect for existing tenants by March.

The lease ordinance was approved by the council in a 6-1 vote with Councilman Inks opposed.

In another 6-1 vote with Inks opposed, the council approved a rental relief program meant to provide subsidies to prevent tenant households in financial trouble from losing their homes. Under the plan, the city would provide \$150,000 to the Community Services Agency to help cover any future increases in rents.

For example, a tenant facing a 10 percent increase on a \$2,000-per-month apartment could apply for up to \$200 a month in rental aid.

Tenants would be eligible for this assistance for up to four months, and city officials asked the Community Services Agency to provide financial counseling and case-management services.

The rent-relief money being put forward would be drawn from the city's fund for below-market rate housing, reported city neighborhood services manager Linda Lauzze. Up to 75 households could be helped through the program, she estimated.

Households would be eligible depending on size and if they earn less than 80 percent of the area's median income. For a four-person family, that income threshold would be \$75,500.

More to come

After hours of discussion, the council decided to call off or postpone other measures proposed to address the rental crisis.

Among these, the council declined to go forward with plans for a data collection program. The idea originated from an Oct. 19 study session when City Council members admitted they lacked the information needed to design citywide policies on rising rents. At the time, a large number of tenants were testifying publicly about landlords subjecting them to repeated rent increases, which in some cases doubled as eviction notices. The stories shocked Mountain View's elected leaders, and they said they needed to find out if there were landlords behaving that badly in the community.

City staff laid out a series of possibilities for gathering better information, such as commissioning a full-blown study at a cost of about \$50,000. City staff suggested that if council members wanted to go forward with this idea, they needed to highlight goals and priorities.

But support for collecting more data was exhausted on Tuesday as council members questioned aloud what the real purpose would be. Originally the council wanted to learn whether displacement was a real problem and who was being impacted, said Councilwoman Pat Showalter. But that now seemed beside the point.

"Changes are we're not going to get (those answers)," she said. "I think really this is moot at this point. Let's not do this now — we've got plenty on our plate."

In addition, the council opted to hold off on plans to design "safe-parking" policies for the growing number of people living on city streets in their cars, trailers or motor homes. City Manager Dan Rich said staff could make a report in January. ■

*Rosie G. Garcia**January 8, 1917 – November 13, 2015**Mountain View*

On Friday November 13, 2015, as dawn was breaking a new day, Rosie G. Garcia, 98, passed away peacefully when the Lord called her to His eternal care.

She is survived by her children and grandchildren: Carmen Hernandez (husband Mike Sanchez, children: Victoria, Elizabeth, Michael, Gabriel and Michelle); Margie Vargas (children: Thomas, Ricardo(d), Joseph and Teresa); Rose Marie Andreozzi (husband William, children: Beau, Richard and Mario); many great-grandchildren (16 + one on the way), great-great-grandchildren (4) and in-laws, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, friends and family too numerous to list but not forgotten.

Rosie is reunited with her husband of 67 years, Jose R. Garcia and is predeceased by her son Ricardo and her sister Rafaela.

Rosie was born on Jan. 8, 1917 in Sonora, Mexico. She immigrated to the United States with her mother and sister. She met and married her husband, Jose R. Garcia in 1935, whereupon they made their home and began their family in Mountain View. World War II came to an end while Rosie and her husband resided on a vegetable truck farm, which they ran themselves for many years. After moving away from farming, she found employment at Stanford Hospital, where she worked for 22 years until she retire Rosie, a long-time resident of Mountain View, enjoyed her retirement by keeping busy with her large garden, working on multiple sewing, crocheting and knitting projects and enjoying time with her friends at Mountain View Senior Center. Rosie was an avid armchair fan of the San Francisco Giants never missing a game. Rosie was active and independent until earlier this year when she took ill. We will miss her dearly.

A Memorial service was held for Rosie Garcia on Fri, Nov 20, 2015, at Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, 96 El Camino Real, Mtn.View, In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to one of Rosie's favorite charities: Disabled American Veterans CA Rehabilitation Foundation Inc., 13733 E Rosecrans Ave, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670; City Team, 2304 Zanker Road, San Jose, CA 95131

PAID OBITUARY



SCHOOLS

▶ Continued from page 1

with disabilities failed to meet state standards for English language arts and 88 percent failed to meet the standards for math.

There are a few reasons why performance is so poor, according to the report. There's an ineffective system for identifying and assessing students with disabilities, and providing the services they need in the classroom. What's more, the quality of instruction for special education students fluctuates from one school to another because of weak accountability and guidelines from the district office.

"The quality of instruction provided to students with disabilities varies from school to school because there are no specific expectations or curriculum to support special education teachers," according to the report.

The effects can be seen at the school level. At Bubbs Elementary, for example, the program for supporting special needs students was deemed "insufficient." The curriculum built into the special education program at the school hinders students from being able to learn as effectively as they can, and is so isolated from the regular education curriculum that it limits "the effectiveness of inclusion practices at the school."

The audit also found that students with disabilities at Stevenson Elementary are not being challenged enough, in part because teachers still haven't adopted the school's new accountability practices to make sure classroom activities and lessons are rigorous enough.

English learners program 'ineffective, inconsistent'

The audit was even more scathing when it came to the district's English Language Development program, which it called "ineffective, inconsistent, and, in many cases, counterproductive." The audit found a clear gap between what is expected to happen in the English language learner program and what actually happens at the schools, and said district officials have done little to fix the problems.

"There is a general recognition across the district that the English Language Development program is not working effectively, however, there are no clear plans to address the multiple challenges," the report states.

Like special education, expectations and practices for teaching children learning English vary from school to school, and the standards for promoting (reclassifying) students who have become fluent in English are both misunderstood and poorly implemented.

The same issue came up last

month when the board opted not to vote to institute tougher standards before students can be reclassified as fluent in English. During the back-and-forth debate, a number of parents insisted that students who speak English as a second language tend to thrive in regular classroom settings, and that the sooner they get out of English-language development classes, the better.

English learners and students with disabilities miss out on elective classes like band, music and art because they attend an additional language support classes. The tight schedule prevents these students from taking classes that reflect their personal interests, meaning they do not have access to a "well-rounded" curriculum, according to the report.

In order to teach lower- and higher-performing students in the same environment, the district relies on what's called "differentiated" instruction so that students are given classroom activities that are a good fit for them. Students in need of remedial help can get what they need, while students looking for more rigor aren't left bored or unchallenged.

This is largely seen as an important tool to bridge the achievement gap at Castro Elementary, where 75 percent of the students do not speak English as a first language and 85 percent qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, an indicator of low socio-economic status.

The problem is that this careful balance means something different from one school to another, or even from one classroom to another, and has been applied unevenly and ineffectively at many schools. The audit found that the differentiated instruction at Castro rarely gives students a challenge that keeps up with their academic abilities.

Across Castro, what constitutes "rigor" changes from classroom to classroom, and lessons fail to challenge and motivate students, according to the report.

"In most classes, all students are

working on the same assignments, regardless of their ability or learning modality," the report states.

Throughout the audit reports for each school, there was a consistent message that teachers lacked a firm grasp of how students are performing, and what to do to raise student achievement. The culprit, in cases like Castro and Bubbs Elementary, is that there are not enough tests to track what's working in the classroom and what's not.

Almost all the schools were recommended to adopt more "formative" tests to get up-to-date metrics on how well students and performing, giving teachers a better chance to adjust lessons on the fly.

That may not be the solution for all the schools. In the case of Graham Middle School, teachers aren't using already-available data and feedback enough, which consequently reduces the rigor of classes and leaving "gaps" in learning that go unaddressed, according to the report.

Working in silos

What could be fueling all of these problems? The audit found that lack of communication could be partly to blame. District directives and instructional practices have trouble trickling down to the schools and into classrooms, creating a situation where the district functions as a "system of schools, rather than a school system."

In the case of special education, a number of teachers commented in a 2013 job satisfaction survey that the district office is out of touch with the special education programs at schools and fails to provide adequate support. One teacher commented that the special education director would propose a new policy that would make no sense, leaving a majority of staff unsure what to do next.

It could also explain why the special education program, like differentiated instruction, is so unevenly implemented from one school to another.

The audit found that the district office is poorly staffed, and employees tend to carry out huge workloads "in silos," not communicating effectively from one department to another. The audit also found that there simply isn't enough staff to carry out all the tasks that need to be done to run an effective special education program or English-language development program.

School leaders optimistic

The audit did highlight a series of positive findings at each of the schools as well. At Castro elementary, parent support was referred to as "extremely" strong, with parents willing to volunteer in the classroom and help with after-school programs. At Huff Elementary, teachers at the same grade level were meeting weekly to collaborate on lesson plans, which proved to be effective, according to the report.

The principal at Crittenden

Middle School, Geoff Chang, was lauded in the report for putting a high priority on helping new teachers get acclimatized to the school, and monitoring the quality of learning and teaching of the new staff. This is particularly important at Crittenden, which hired 13 new teachers this year — seven of whom are first-time teachers. The school employs a total of 33 teachers.

Though the school audit shows there's a lot of work to be done, board president Ellen Wheeler said she's "heartened" that most school principals have already tried to adopt the audit recommendations into their school site plans, which guides how the school will spend supplemental funds and raise student achievement throughout the year.

"This means, to me, that they are taking these unbiased comments seriously and will be putting extra work into them," Wheeler said in an email. ■

Austin George Spencer

November 8, 1918 – November 19, 2015

Austin George Spencer died peacefully at his home in Mountain View, CA on November 19, 2015. He was 97.

Born in Mountain View in 1918 to Herbert Joseph Spencer and Maud Louise Spencer, he was the youngest of 5 children, all of whom are deceased. He is survived by his spouse, Eleanor and his two daughters Paulette and Suzette.

Austin was a proud member of the Palo Alto Elks lodge for 73 years, as well as a member and the President of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce from 1968

to 1969. He joined the Mountain View Rotary in 1951, serving as an active member in the banking and savings group and continuing into his retirement. He retired from the Mountain View Branch of Wells Fargo Bank where he was an officer for 30 years.

In the early 1900s his family were merchants on Castro Street, owning McDonald and Burk Blacksmith and Mountain View Ice, where he worked as a boy.

Per his wishes, a cremation was arranged through Spangler Mortuary and a private interment will be held at the family plot at the Santa Clara Mission Hi

There will be an Elks Memorial Service, held on Sunday Dec 6th at 11:00 AM in the Palo Alto Room upstairs, honoring all of the 2015 departed members. The Palo Alto Elks Lodge is at: 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306 650-493-4249. Refreshments will be served.

In celebration of his life an Irish Style Wake with refreshments and appetizers will be held at his favorite Castro Street spot Don Giovanni on Sunday Dec 13th 2015 starting at 5 pm. An invitation is extended to all who wish to raise a glass to his life. Restaurant Don Giovanni is at 235 Castro Street, Mountain View CA 650-961-9749.

He was a graduate of the University of Santa Clara in Santa Clara, California. Donations in his memory may be made directly through the University. If you have questions, please contact the Development Office at 408-554-4400. Santa Clara University Development Office, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053-1400. <http://scu.edu/give/how-to-give/make-your-gift/>.

PAID OBITUARY



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CLASSROOMS

► Continued from page 5

problems as recently as last month. Bubb teacher Emily Campion wrote that in the past, she's managed to cope with the lack of storage space and emergency exits that comes with teaching in a portable. But lately, things have been challenging.

Over the last four months, she went without a functioning projector and document camera to teach students, and was relegated to using a whiteboard and marker for her lessons. In an email, she explained that maintenance staff were "flummoxed" as to why the wiring in the classroom didn't work.

The roof on the portable has multiple leaks "in even the slightest rainstorm," Campion said, and she recalled that on Nov. 2, an entire panel of the ceiling had leaked all over the electronics in the classroom, forcing her to relocate students and unplug everything.

"I understand resources need to be allocated by where the need is greatest, but what exactly needs to happen in my classroom for it be deemed of great need? Do I need the roof to actually fall on a student's head?" Campion wrote.

In another email, teacher Laurel Shephard explained that teachers are working at a huge disadvantage when they have to teach in a portable. They consistently have to worry about leaks when it rains, and have to cross their fingers that the air conditioning continues to work when it gets hot outside. When maintenance staff does come in to make repairs, it's often a disruptive experience as they walk

on the roof and stick ladders in the middle of the room during class time.

Teacher Shana Siegel said in an email that when it rains outside, it rains inside her classroom as well, and that water had dripped onto her students on Monday, Nov. 2. She said there's a "distinct smell of mold" in the classroom, and that many of her special education students — several of whom have Down's syndrome and are more susceptible to catching colds — are affected.

When the weather heats up, other problems crop up. Siegel recalled her classroom's air conditioning breaking, forcing her and her students to go without it for over a week. As a Band-Aid fix, maintenance staff brought in a small, portable air conditioning unit, she said, "which brought the temperature in my classroom down to the low 80s during the heat wave we were experiencing at the time."

According to a 2004 report by the state Air Resources Board and Department of Health Services, portable classrooms tend to have an array of environmental problems. Noisy heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems tend to ratchet up the noise level in excess of 55 decibels. And the alternative — turning off on the noise-making equipment — can prompt serious ventilation problems in the classroom by cutting off outdoor air circulation into the room.

Musty odors, water stains and excess wall moisture are a persistent problem in many portable classrooms, according to the report, and are "often attributable to inadequate maintenance." ▀

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Harold J. Ecker

May 13, 1943 – October 31, 2015

Harold J. Ecker passed away at El Camino Hospital on October 31, 2015, following a short illness. Harold was born on May 13, 1943 in Sutherland, Nebraska, to Fritz and Rose (Sedlacek) Ecker. He grew up in Paxton, Nebraska, and moved to Mountain View, California in 1969. He loved 4-wheeling and was a good mechanic. He was an avid reader and a lifelong learner. He especially loved researching new information on the Internet. He worked as a truck driver for 45 years and logged over four million miles. He worked for Foothill Bulk Transport for more than twenty years. Harold had a love for BIG trucks and SPEED!



He is survived by his wife Patricia, a son Dale and his wife, Audry (Leal) Ecker, grandsons Donny and Daryl and granddaughter Haley of Mountain View, and a daughter, Stace Ecker-Sneddon and her husband, Alex Sneddon, and two grandsons, Kyle and Jacob, of Yelm, Washington. Other relatives include a sister, Delores McConnell of North Platte, Nebraska, and nephews Pat McConnell of Broken Bow, Nebraska, Mike and his wife Cindy of North Platte, Nebraska, and Mark and his wife Sue McConnell of Paxton, Nebraska, a brother-in-law Dennis and his wife, Mickie (Perlinger) Campbell of Paxton, Nebraska, and nephews Denny Campbell of Lincoln, Nebraska and Ryley Campbell stationed in the Middle East with the U.S. Army, sisters-in-law Barbara (Campbell) Woodhouse of Kalispell, Montana, daughters Cystal and Deborah, Elizabeth (Campbell)Drewing of Lincoln, Nebraska, Marjorie(Campbell) vonRenzell and her husband, Willis, of Hastings, Nebraska, daughters Laurie, Roberta and Kim and son James, Mable Ecker of Delta Junction, Alaska, Charlene McFadden and her husband, Mick, of Paxton, Nebraska, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fritz and Rose Ecker, two brothers, Lyle and Dale, brothers-in-law Merle McConnell and Albert Drewing, and a niece and nephews, Shelly Ecker, Jeff Ecker and Ken von Rentzell.

Memorial services were held on Fri. Nov. 6th at Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, Mtn.View.

Please view/sign guestbook at <http://www.cusimanocolonial.com/>.

PAID OBITUARY

ROTACARE

► Continued from page 5

maugh counts himself as one of the clinic's regulars, coming every three months for a checkup.

"It's the best doctors here, they're really good," he said while in the waiting room before his Tuesday afternoon appointment.

For many in similar situations, RotaCare has been a lifeline for those who need medical care, regardless of whether they have insurance. The organization last year helped about 2,200 patients who might otherwise lack primary care.

RotaCare is one of the seven local nonprofits benefiting from the *Voice's* annual Holiday Fund. Donations to the Holiday Fund are divided equally among these organizations, and will be matched by the Wakerly Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Lucile Packard Foundation. With the support of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 100 percent of donations go directly to these local charities.

Such public charity is particularly crucial for RotaCare, which operates on a small seven-person staff and a relatively lean budget of about \$900,000, the bulk of which comes from the El Camino Healthcare District. While RotaCare relies on that funding for its daily operations, it's fueled by the drive and energy of about 200 volunteers, including a network of physicians and other healthcare professionals.

"It's really quite special — they're giving their time and expertise," said Barbara Avery, director of the Community Benefit Program for the El Camino Healthcare District. "There are people who really need these services and need access to free care."

That spirit of volunteerism is part of the tradition of RotaCare, itself a South Bay success story. The organization was formed in 1989 by Dr. Mark Campbell, a member of the Campbell Rotary Club, from which it gets its name. The nonprofit was founded on the premise that the uninsured and low-income population needed better access to care.

Over the years, the group has expanded to 12 clinics throughout the Bay Area.

For most of its history, Rotacare has focused on delivering primary care, but recently the group has offered more extensive medical aid. Thanks to recent partnership with Kaiser Permanente and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Mountain View RotaCare helped provide free surgical procedures for 32 patients. Many of these patients were coping with ongoing health problems, such as knee and shoulder injuries, and hernias, said Avery.

Over the last year, the number of patients served by Rotacare has been dropping off slightly, which Avery attributes to the rising cost of living in the Mountain View area driving low-income people out of the area. She said she also believes this trend is a sign that the Affordable Care Act — better known as Obamacare — is making strides in getting more uninsured people onto health insurance plans. ▀

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

Once repairs are completed and the system has been flushed, Cal Water officials will notify neighborhood residents whether their water is safe. Test results should be ready by Thursday, officials said.

"We apologize for this inconvenience to our customers," Cal Water district manager Ron Richardson said in a statement. "Protecting our customers' health and safety is our highest priority."

Customers using bottled water while the advisory is in effect can submit receipts for reimbursement by Cal Water. Anyone with questions can call Cal Water at (650) 917-0152.

Bay City News Service

PAMF NAMES NEW CEO

Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) has named Elizabeth Vilardo, M.D., as its new chief executive officer, according to a Nov. 25 press release.

Vilardo will assume the position from Richard Slavin, M.D., who announced his retirement in September. Slavin is serving as CEO Emeritus until his retirement in January 2016, according to the announcement.

Vilardo is an internal medicine physician who has held a number of leadership positions within the Sutter Health network. She served on the boards of PAMF, Sutter Health and Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group. PAMF is one of Sutter Health's key assets in

the Bay Area. She became the president of the Camino Division of PAMF in 2010, and also served as chief of medicine at Mountain View's El Camino Hospital.

She is just the fourth CEO in the history of the health care group since it was founded in 1930, according to the announcement.

"I have had the pleasure to work closely with Dr. Vilardo since the merger of Camino Medical Group and PAMF in 2000 and know that she will be an exceptional leader for this innovative and growing medical group," said Sutter Health Bay Area President Jeff Gerard in the press release.

Vilardo received a M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. She also earned a master's degree in Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

'OUGHTA BE A LAW' CONTEST

State Sen. Jerry Hill's eighth annual "Oughta Be a Law ... or Not" contest, where people are invited to suggest ideas for new state legislation, is open, Hill announced Friday, Nov. 27.

"Here's a great opportunity for constituents to share their outstanding ideas and get a firsthand look at democracy in action," Hill, D-San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, said in an announcement.

The contest is open to all constituents of the 13th Senate District, which includes the cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Sunnyvale, Woodside and parts of unincorporated San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Residents can submit ideas aimed at either improving the quality of life in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and/or the state of California. Ideas can be for the creation of a new law, or the repeal or revision of laws already in place.

Hill will select a winner and introduce the idea as legislation. The winner will have the opportunity to testify in Sacramento at hearings on the legislation.

Past winners have testified on behalf of their bill idea in Assembly or state Senate committees, and many have also had their bill ideas signed into law.

To get an application, call Hill's district office at 650-212-3313 or go to sd13.senate.ca.gov. Applications can be emailed to Senator.Hill@senate.ca.gov, faxed to 650-212-3320 or mailed to the district office at 1528 South El Camino Real, Suite 303, San Mateo, CA 94402. Proposals must be received by Jan. 15. The deadline to introduce bills for the 2016 legislative year is Feb. 19.

Palo Alto Weekly staff



Mountain View Voice

Holiday Fund

How to Give

Your gift helps children and families in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 150 Voice readers and the Wakerly, the William and Flora Hewlett and the David and Lucile Packard foundations contributed \$91,000, or \$13,000 each for the nonprofit agencies supported by the Voice Holiday Fund. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

Donate online at
[www.siliconvalleycf.org/
mvv-holiday-fund](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund)

This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

Day Worker Center

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages and work conditions. It serves an average of 60 workers a day with job placements, English lessons, job skills workshops or guidance.

Mentor Tutor Connection

Mentor Tutor Connection matches adult volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in the Mountain View, Los Altos and the Los Altos Hills area and offers tutoring to many students, including some in high school and beyond.

Community School of Music and Arts

The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Nearly 45 percent of the students are socio-economically disadvantaged, and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

Mountain View RotaCare Clinic

The RotaCare Free Clinic provides uninsured local residents with primary care and many specialty care services. The clinic is frequently the last resort for this underserved demographic group.

YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence

This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

Community Services Agency

CSA is the community's safety-net providing critical support services for low-income individuals and families, the homeless and seniors in northern Santa Clara County, including Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Community Health Awareness Council

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

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Cookbooks of 2015

Readers, cooks can explore
tastes ranging from Eastern
Europe to Chez Panisse

By Anne Sturmthal Bergman

Photos by Veronica Weber

Perusing the cookbook selection at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park, I selected several volumes that were published during the past year, took them home and tried out a few of the recipes. Here's what I found.

Recipes reflect diversity

Mamushka: Recipes from Ukraine & Eastern Europe, by Olia Hercules, Weldon Owen, 2015, hardback, 240 pages, \$35

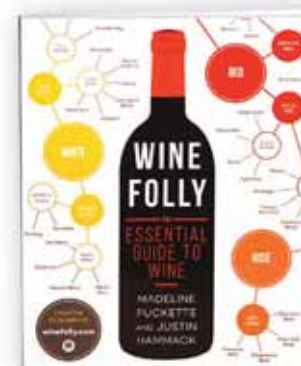
When most of us think of Ukraine, we think of civil war and cold weather. This book offers a very human view of a different world. The book starts out with a brief overview of the contents by noting the diversity of people in Ukraine: Serbs, Bessarabians, Jews, Moldovans, Uzbekistans, Armenians and Ossetians. The recipes reflect this complex

mix. The broths and soups exemplify this diversity and include beet broth, sorrel broth, beet soup, chicken broth and several Armenian soups. The recipes use expected ingredients, such as beets, cabbage, sorrel, potatoes, onions and carrots. But they also use gherkins, dill, fresh herbs, allspice and salami.

These are hearty soups for a cold, rainy night. There are sections on dumplings and noodles, meats, fish, preserves, breads, pastries and more. This is not a book for light eaters.

I made tomatoes stuffed with herbs and cheese, which was easy and unusual. The tomatoes are hollowed out and stuffed with the pulp that is mixed with feta cheese and fresh herbs. Then, they are baked with a touch of olive oil on the top. I used dill, parsley, a bit of garlic, and some tarragon and oregano, but I think that whatever fresh herbs one has would be fine. It looked elegant and colorful, and had a complex mix of flavors. The Armenian baked vegetables included the usual vegetables with the addition of cabbage and dill.

This is a nice cookbook for those who might want to learn more about Eastern European food, or those who can trace their family roots back to this region.



Unpretentious wine guide

Wine Folly: The Essential Guide to Wine, by Madeline Puckette and Justin Hammack,

Avery, 2015, paperback, 230 pages, \$25

This is a good book for someone who may have just moved to California, who simply wants to discover the world of wine, or for people such as myself, who know what they like but don't know how to describe it. While I found some of the diagrams confusing, the basic layout is good.

It starts with fundamentals, including the size of a glass, alcohol content and characteristics of wine. The rest of the book goes over styles of wine (sparkling, full bodied, dessert and so on) and wine regions of the world, from Argentina to Australia and Spain to South Africa.

I liked this unpretentious beginners guide to wine. It will help you sound knowledgeable without being pretentious.



A life through food

Kitchen Gypsy: Recipes and Stories from a Lifelong Romance with Food, by Joanne Weir, Oxmoor House, 2015, hardback, 287 pages, \$35

Joanne Weir is one of the many chefs who was nurtured and influenced by Alice Waters and Chez Panisse. She has written 17 cookbooks, lectured, taught and traveled, and this is very personal book about her life with food. There is far more writing than recipes, and if one wants to follow a life immersed in food, this is a good book.

However, I buy cookbooks for recipes. There were not nearly as many as I would have liked, and not many jumped off the page and begged to be made. I did make the lamb chops with lavender salt, and although I do not have a "ridged cast iron stove top grill pan" and made them in a heavy

► See **COOKBOOKS**, page 19

A range of **2015 cookbooks** includes "Mamushka: Recipes from Ukraine & Eastern Europe," "Kitchen Gypsy: Recipes and Stories from a Lifelong Romance with Food," "Wine Folly: The Essential Guide to Wine," "Citrus: Sweet and Savory Sun-kissed Recipes," and "How To Eat."

Time to settle down with new books

Children's literature offers stories for all ages, including parents

By Debbie Duncan

The search for personal identity and young people dealing with modern challenges figure prominently in notable new books for children and teens, including several by local authors. (Disclosure: the Bay Area children's writers community is small and collegial. I know the writers and illustrators.) Listen up, parents: these books are not just for kids.

Cambodian dance to children in San Jose.

Sophany was a premier dancer in Cambodia before the Khmer Rouge took over her country. Dr. Reicherter and award-winning Palo Alto illustrator Christy Hale convey the horrible history of that takeover with honesty and sensitivity, then show the healing power of dance and how it can instill hope in refugees and cultural continuity for their children.

Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova

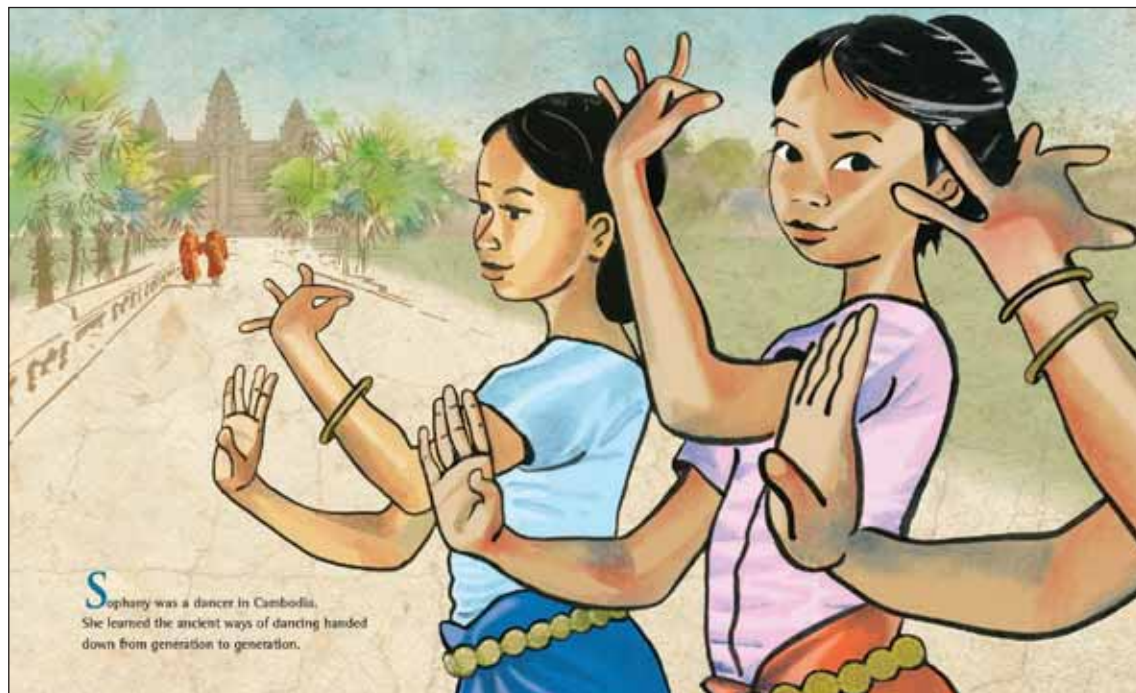
by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Julie Morstad; \$18; Chronicle Books; ages 5-8.

Before Sophany, there was Anna Pavlova, a Russian prima ballerina who had a major impact on ballet. In poetic text and stunning illustrations, "Swan" shows how attending a performance of "The Sleeping Beauty" inspires the daughter of a single mother laundress not to give up trying to get into ballet school even though she's too thin and her feet are all wrong. Yet she works hard and changes dance to fit her style. Anna dances for royalty, but also for those in remote areas of the globe — poor people, as she once was — until a train accident in the snow gives her a chill that leads to her death.

The Cambodian Dancer: Sophany's Gift of Hope

by Daryn Reicherter, illustrated by Christy Hale; \$15; Tuttle Publishing; ages 4-8.

Stanford psychiatrist Daryn Reicherter gracefully tells the story of a Cambodian dancer and survivor of the Khmer Rouge who now teaches ancient



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISTY HALE. IMAGES COURTESY OF TUTTLE PUBLISHING.

"The Cambodian Dancer: Sophany's Gift of Hope" includes a Khmer translation of the text, illustrations by Christy Hale and author's notes from Daryn Reicherter.

This lyrical biography is enhanced by a note from the author filling in the details of Pavlova's life and influence.

Playing Juliet

by Joanne Stewart Wetzel; \$16; Sky Pony Press; ages 8-12.

Palo Alto author and self-proclaimed theater geek Joanne Stewart Wetzel's middle-grade novel is certain to appeal to young people who love being on stage or backstage, or who simply enjoy a fast-paced book about a determined kid and her family and friends. The plot has as many twists and turns as Lombard Street. Bonus: it's set in a fictional Peninsula town.

Twelve-year-old Beth has

been in 12 plays at Oakfield Children's Theater. She lives to be on stage and is becoming a young Shakespeare scholar. Her dream part is Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet." She thinks that may happen someday, and then she

hears rumors the theater is going to close. In her quest to save her favorite place in the world, Beth makes some bad choices and pays the price. Yet even while being grounded she manages to deepen her devotion to Shakespeare and, ultimately, to use her studies to the theater's advantage. Brava!

George

by Alex Gino; \$17; Scholastic; ages 8-12.

George is a fourth-grader and the only one who knows she's a girl. "George" is a groundbreaking novel by an Oakland author

► See **NEW BOOKS**, page 18

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR THE MEASURE G BOND
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE



The Board of Trustees of the Mountain View Whisman School District is seeking qualified, interested individuals to serve on a committee of community leaders which will serve as the independent Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) for the implementation of the District's Measure G school facilities bond program.

On June 5, 2012, Mountain View Whisman School District voters passed Measure G, a \$198 million bond measure. State law requires that the Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Trustees appoint a Bond Oversight Committee to inform the public regarding the District's expenditure of bond proceeds, ensure bond proceeds are expended only for the purposes set forth in Measure G, and present an annual report to the Board of Trustees on their conclusions regarding the expenditure of Measure G proceeds.

Currently, the District is seeking two (2) members to fill the current BOC vacancies and is only accepting applications for those interested parties to fill the Business Representative or the Taxpayer Organization Member positions.

If you wish to serve on this important committee, please review the committee bylaws for more information about the committee's role and responsibilities and complete the application from the COC website at <http://www.mvwsd.org/bond-oversight-committee>. Applications are due by 2:00pm on Friday, January 8, 2016. Completed applications can be mailed to: Mountain View Whisman School District, Attn: Dr. Robert Clark, Associate Superintendent/Chief Business Officer, 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, CA 94043 or faxed to 650-964-8907. If any questions, please call Dr. Robert Clark at 650-526-3500.



IMAGE COURTESY OF SCHOLASTIC INC.

NEW BOOKS

► Continued from page 17

about a kid who wants what a lot of kids want: to be seen as they truly are, along with, perhaps, a certain part in the class play. In George's case, her family at first misunderstands her "differentness" — George isn't gay, she's transgender. She's bullied at school and isn't allowed to try out for the part of Charlotte in "Charlotte's Web" because, of course, her teacher sees her as a boy. Thank goodness George has best friend Kelly in her life. Kelly comes to acknowledge George as her new girlfriend Melissa, and not only helps George with the "Charlotte" dilemma, but also shows Melissa how much fun being a girl can be. Parents: read this book with your kids over winter break.

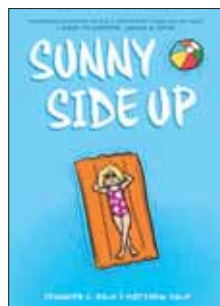


IMAGE COURTESY OF SCHOLASTIC INC.

Sunny Side Up

by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm; \$13 paperback; Graphix/Scholastic; ages 8-12.

The brother-sister creators of the bestselling Babymouse books for younger readers here produce an autobiographical graphic novel dealing with a serious subject

that's surprisingly funny.

Ten-year-old Sunny's summer with her Florida grandfather isn't the vacation she envisioned. Grampa lives in a retirement community with a bunch of old people, and she has to sleep on a squeaky, uncomfortable hide-a-bed. But that's better than what she had back home in Pennsylvania with a violent, probably drug-addicted teenage brother.

Sunny hangs out with Gramps and "the girls" and makes friends with the groundskeeper's son, Buzz. He introduces her to comics and comic book heroes. Sunny learns that superheroes can't save everyone, and neither can she. She decides she doesn't want to keep secrets anymore, especially about her brother.

The authors end with a note encouraging kids in families struggling with substance abuse not to feel ashamed or blame themselves, and to talk about it.



IMAGE COURTESY OF RANDOM HOUSE.

Goodbye Stranger

by Rebecca Stead; \$17; Wendy Lamb/Random House; ages 10-14.

In another Rebecca Stead gem, three longtime best friends navigate seventh grade on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with varying degrees of success.

Bridge wonders if there's a reason she's alive after being hit by a car when she was 8. She likes to wear cat ears on a headband and is becoming friends with a boy, Sherm, whose grandfather up and left the family recently. Soccer star Emily is being asked by an older boy for cellphone

pictures. Third pal Tabitha discovers social justice and activism, but her attempt at civil disobedience backfires. Bridge, Em and Tab may have to break their longtime rule about no fighting.

Older teens aren't having it any easier: a mystery high school girl can't face the consequences of something stupid she did. Bridge's older brother makes silly bets he always loses. And Em's soccer teammate may not be the friend she purports to be.

Once again Newbery medalist Stead weaves plot threads with precision and fillips of humor. Read this one at least twice to see how it all comes together.



IMAGE COURTESY OF ENTANGLED TEEN.

Paint My Body Red

by Heidi R. Kling; \$14 paperback; Entangled Teen; ages 13 and up.

"Paint My Body Red" is Palo Alto author Heidi R. Kling's response to local teen suicides: a story of Silicon Valley high school students who have enormous academic pressure and irresponsible parents, where suicide on the train tracks becomes contagious. (This is not a chronicle of real people and events. The author did not know the circumstances of local victims.)

Paige Mason's mother is a CEO with a new husband and stepson who was accused of date rape in New York. Paige and her stepbrother are left alone in the house. What could possibly go wrong?

The novel begins after graduation and the sixth suicide, when Paige is sent to spend the summer with her father on his Wyoming ranch. Senior year has left her a physical and emotional wreck, wracked with guilt. She arrives to find Dad dying of ALS (Mom hadn't told her). Paige has trouble getting over the bad times in California ("Then" chapters) even as she heals in Wyoming ("Now" chapters) with the help of a hot cowboy and a horse to break.

"Paint My Body Red" is ultimately a hopeful and important book for teenagers, and also highly recommended for parents. ▣

Contributing writer Debbie Duncan is a Stanford writer and author of books for children and adults, and can be reached at debbie@debbieduncan.com.



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Update:

Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations

The City of Mountain View is proposing minor amendments to its Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations to meet new State Requirements. Information about these proposed amendments can be found on the Planning Division webpage of the City's website.

The Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) will be hearing this item at their December 16, 2015 meeting. Please visit the City's EPC webpage for more information.

Please contact Clarissa Burke, Project Planner, for further information.

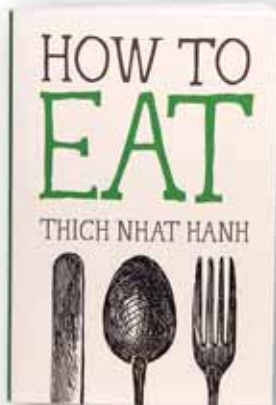
Contact Information: (650) 903-6306 or clarissa.burke@mountainview.gov

COOKBOOKS

► Continued from page 16

bottomed frying pan, they had a nice variation and an unexpected combination of flavors.

If you are looking to relive the Chez Panisse experience and the food world that grew from it, this is a worthwhile book.



Short and sensible

How To Eat, Thich Nhat Hanh, Parallax Press, 2014, 125 pages, small paperback, \$9.95

This charming book, which would make a lovely stocking stuffer, reminds us to eat mindfully. For those of us who eat in a hurry, who don't stop to appreciate even a good pickle, this book will cause us to pay attention to what, when and how we eat.



Dishes with zest

Citrus: Sweet and Savory Sun-kissed Recipes, by Valerie Aikman-Smith and Victoria Pearson, Ten Speed Press, 2015, hardback, 175 pages, \$19.99

When I first came to California as a college student from the Midwest, I was enchanted by seeing lemons, limes, oranges and other citrus fruits on trees, as opposed to wrapped in plastic wrap in the grocery store. The fragrance when the trees bloomed was intoxicating. I discovered Meyer lemons, which were unlike any lemon I had ever tasted. I have looked for years for a cookbook that does justice to citrus fruits. This is the one.

I made linguini with clams, which had lime zest and juice in it. The lime made it slightly more piquant than the usual clam linguini, but still delicious. I also made the marmalade bread pudding. The bread I used was too large and it ended up being more like

a vertical French toast. With smaller pieces of bread, it would have been perfect. The almonds with chili and lime were easy to put together and had a little bite. The curried chicken, which only took a few minutes to make, used the citrus and coconut milk in a unique and distinctive way. I used a premixed curry powder from Draeger's Market, and I think the choice of curry powder is crucial. If you want it spicy, add a spicy curry mix; if you want it milder, choose a more mild one. The herbed and smashed potatoes with lemon juice and oregano were crispy and unusual.

The citrus in these recipes added a little zest (so to speak) to each dish. Highly recommended. ▣

Freelance writer Anne Sturmthal Bergman can be emailed at anniebergman@gmail.com.

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Special Sections Editor

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Staff Writers

Kevin Forestieri (223-6535)

Mark Noack (223-6536)

Photographer

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Contributors Dale Bentson, Ruth Schecter

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Marketing and Creative Director

Shannon Corey (223-6560)

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers

Linda Atilano, Diane Haas,
Rosanna Leung, Paul Llewellyn,
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ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing

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Published every Friday at

450 Cambridge Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306

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

Email news and photos to:

editor@MV-Voice.com

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

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Invest in safety for bikers and walkers

It's a sad irony: To stay fit and healthy, we are told, we should all exercise, and incorporating routines such as walking and bicycling into our everyday lives is a simple and satisfying way to do so. But local walkers and bicyclists might be forgiven for wondering whether their regular means of exercise really is a wise health strategy, given the number of vehicle collisions with bicyclists and pedestrians on increasingly congested city streets this year.

The latest incident took the life of Michelle Montalvo, who was struck by a vehicle as she was crossing the street, in a marked crosswalk, at El Monte Avenue and Marich Way. Grieving family members gathered at the recent Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting, urging city leaders to put better safety measures in place where the accident occurred. But while improved safety features are undeniably called for at that complex intersection, improvements are also urgently needed at other trouble-spots where walkers and bicyclists regularly find themselves at risk.

The argument for boosting pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout the city is not a hard sell for City Council members, a number of whom are regular bicyclists and neighborhood walkers. And the city has already shown its willingness to study and improve specific dangers. After a man was killed last February in a crosswalk at Independence Avenue and Charleston Road, for example, the city made changes in that intersection's traffic controls that now prevent the type of vehicle movement that led to the man's death.

But the problem is complicated. For one thing, the number of trouble-spots in the city is high, and coming up with intelligent, well-engineered solutions requires significant time and funding. But another key factor is one that anyone who walks, bikes and drives our roadways can see every day: There are considerably more vehicles on the roads as Mountain View attracts more jobs, and behind the wheel of an uncomfortably high number of those vehicles are people in a hurry, often distracted.

After the fatal accident in October on El Monte Avenue, police officers observing area traffic reported that a significant number of drivers on El Monte exceed the 35 mph speed limit, and it would be no surprise to learn that the statistics reported for El Monte were typical citywide where traffic is flowing.

Last summer a police department spokesman told the Voice that addressing the problem is not as simple as just writing up tickets for traffic violations. Public education is also an important part of the strategy, he said. But nothing achieves public awareness the way a visible police presence does — including traffic stops and subsequent hefty fines for speeding. To accomplish such campaigns in the number of areas they're needed may require an increase in the number of traffic unit police officers, but until the city can put in place measures to improve safety — from lowering speed limits where warranted to adding traffic lights and flashing crosswalks for uncontrolled intersections — the increased traffic safety enforcement is a worthwhile investment. ▀



Donate to the Holiday Fund and double your gift

As December arrives, we hope you have a donation to the Voice's Holiday Fund on your "to do" list to complete before year's end.

Your contribution will be matched, and all funds will support local nonprofits that help our neighbors in need: Community Services Agency, Day Worker Center, Mountain View RotaCare Clinic, Community Health Awareness Council, Mentor Tutor Connection, Community School of Music and Arts, and YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence.

You can find the Holiday Fund coupon on Page 15 of this week's paper. Or you can donate online at siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund.



ClassGuide



Don't let your New Year's resolutions fall by the wayside — local classes and programs can help achieve intellectual, health or creative goals. Whether your aim is to get up and move, learn how to play a new sport like pickleball, ace the SATs or create a painted masterpiece — local businesses around the Peninsula can help keep you motivated. Do what inspires you and make positive changes this year.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Mountain View Voice, the Almanac and the Palo Alto Weekly.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Flex College Prep

4600 El Camino Real, Suite 201,
Los Altos
650-947-7742
info@flexcollegeprep.com
www.flexcollegeprep.com

Flex College Prep assists high school students with college applications and essays and preparing for SAT, ACT and AP tests. It also offers previews and tutoring for a variety of high school subjects. Winter classes begin Jan. 8.

Zenith Tutoring

1674 N. Shoreline Blvd., Suite 136, Mountain View
650-823-4703
grayson@zenithtutoring.com
www.zenithtutoring.com

Zenith Tutoring offers SAT and PSAT exam preparation courses, online classes, private tutoring and coaching through the college application process. Registration is open.

FOR THE DANCER

Alberto's Salsa Studio & Ultra Lounge

736 W. Dana St., Mountain View
650-968-3007
clubalbertos@gmail.com
www.albertos.com

Alberto's holds lessons throughout the week for salsa (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), bachata (Wednesdays) and tango (Sunday) styles of dancing for beginners and those with more experience. Modern Spanish rock music is also featured (Saturdays).

Bayer Ballet Academy

2028 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View
650-988-9971
info@bayerballetacademy.com
www.bayerballetacademy.com

Bayer Ballet Academy is a school of Russian ballet that teaches the Vaganova method beginning with children at age 3. The academy offers a variety of classes to prepare students for the professional level, as well as adult classes that introduce or re-introduce participants to the art form.

Cassand Ballet

1411 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View
415-505-5659
cassandballet@gmail.com
www.cassandballet.org

This ballet school and company follows the classical French tradition and teaches boys, girls, teenagers and adults starting at age 3. The winter semester for children begins in February.

MamboNova Dance Studio

223 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View
925-250-9552
info@mambonovasf.com
www.mambonovasf.com

MamboNova Dance Studio and Company offers group lessons in salsa and bachata. Private individual dance classes are also offered for individuals and couples.

For the Love of Dance

2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View
650-861-0650
fortheloveofdancemv@gmail.com

www.fortheloveofdancemv.com

For the Love of Dance provides training in ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, musical theater and aerobics. The family-owned studio teaches children and adults at all levels and serves the communities of Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos and Sunnyvale. Registration is open.

L'Ecole de Danse

740 Sierra Vista Ave., Unit G, Mountain View
650-365-4596
www.lecolededanse.net

L'Ecole de Danse teaches a Cecchetti style of ballet, including creative dance and classes for various levels of experience. Classes are open to children starting at age 4, as well as adults.

Pacific Ballet Academy

295B Polaris Ave., Mountain View
650-969-4614
director@pacificballet.org
www.pacificballet.org

The Pacific Ballet Academy instructs students ranging in age from 3 to 18 in the Russian ballet method. Adult classes are also offered, for beginning and intermediate dancers.

The Lively School

Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View
650-969-4110
livelyfoundation@sbcglobal.net
www.livelyfoundation.org/TheLivelySchool.html

The Lively School offers private and small group classes for adults in all levels of contemporary dance, ballet, yoga and meditation, as well as classes in ballet and creative movement and storytelling for youngsters.

Western Ballet

914 N. Rengstorff Ave., Unit A, Mountain View
650-968-4455
www.westernballet.org

Western Ballet holds ballet classes that draw from the Vaganova method and the modern, "open" classical method. Classes are available for children, teens and adults and for both newcomers and those pursuing professional careers.

► Continued on next page

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joanier@pacbell.net or (650) 941-1002
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- International curriculum (Chinese, Spanish)
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- Bilingual Chinese-English classroom option

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www.headsup.org

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► Continued from previous page

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Shoreline Lake Aquatic Center

3160 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View
650-965-7474
boathouse@shorelinelake.com
www.shorelinelake.com

Shoreline Lake's Aquatic Center offers a variety of group lessons for sailing, stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking and windsurfing, as well as private lessons.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Barre3

4758 W. El Camino Real, Los Altos
650-481-8139
losaltos@barre3.com
www.barre3.com/locations/los-altos/

Classes at this studio combine ballet barre exercises with elements of yoga and Pilates, aiming to help students develop flexibility, stamina and muscle.

Bikram Yoga Mountain View

1910 W. El Camino Real, Suite E,
Mountain View
650-967-2968
info@bikramyogamountainview.com
www.bikramyogamountainview.com

In its 90-minute classes, Bikram Yoga Mountain View instructs students in 26 Hatha yoga postures and two breathing exercises in a heated room. Classes are held each day of the week.

California Yoga Center

1776 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View
650-967-5702
info@californiayoga.com
www.californiayoga.com
California Yoga Center in Mountain View

holds yoga classes for students at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. The center also holds classes designed to help individuals with back problems.

Jacki's Aerobic Dancing

Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890
Church St., Mountain View
650-941-1002
joanier@pacbell.net
www.jackis.com

Jacki's Aerobic Dancing offers dance classes with abdominal work, strength training and easy-to-follow aerobic routines. Complimentary child care is available and provided by the staff.

Mountain View Tennis

Cuesta Tennis Center, 685 Cuesta Drive,
Mountain View
650-967-5955
info@mountainviewtennis.net
www.mountainviewtennis.net
Taught by certified professionals, Mountain

View Tennis' affordable programs for youth and adult tennis players of all abilities are held at a handful of locations throughout the city. The first winter session begins Jan. 3.

Yoga Belly

455 Castro St., Mountain View
650-862-3976
info@yogabellystudio.com
www.yogabellystudio.com

Yoga Belly offers yoga classes in heated and non-heated rooms, more physical YBX classes and Yoga Tune Up sessions, which combine yoga, corrective exercise and self-massage.

Yoga is Youthfulness

590 Castro St., Mountain View
650-964-5277
info@yogaisyouth.com
www.yogaisyouth.com

Yoga is Youthfulness offers classes for students of all levels daily, including early in the morning and in the evenings. Classes teach ashtanga, iyengar, and vinyasa/hatha styles of yoga, among other subjects like prenatal yoga.

JUST FOR SENIORS

Mountain View Senior Center

266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View
650-903-6330
senior.center@mountainview.gov
www.mountainview.gov/seniors

The Mountain View Senior Center offers a wide array of classes exploring topics and activities such as art, music, computer use, dance, exercise and pickleball — a low-impact game played with a paddle.

MIND AND SPIRIT

Silicon Valley Shambhala Meditation Center

2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite 110,
Mountain View
650-352-1499
shambhalasv@gmail.com
siliconvalley.shambhala.org

The Silicon Valley Shambhala Meditation Center holds practice meditation sessions each week. The center also organizes courses, retreats and contemplative art activities.

MUSIC, ARTS AND CRAFTS

Build It Again With Bricks

398 Main St., Los Altos
650-935-2166
builditagainwithbricks@gmail.com
www.builditagainwithbricks.com

The offerings of this store include after-school LEGO classes at local schools, seasonal LEGO camps, workshops, team-building exercises, birthday parties and more.

Community School of Music and Arts

Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle,
Mountain View
650-917-6800
info@arts4all.org
www.arts4all.org

The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) offers classes year-round in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age. The winter semester for music, art and preschool classes begins Jan. 11.

Custom Handweavers

2263 Old Middlefield Way,
Mountain View
650-967-0831
webemit@sbcglobal.net
www.customhandweavers.com

Ongoing classes — both day and evening sessions — are offered in weaving, knitting and spinning for students at all levels of experience.

Peninsula Youth Theatre

2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View
650-988-8798
info@pytnet.org
www.pytnet.org

Peninsula Youth Theatre (PYT) offers drama classes in acting, musical theater and other skills to children of various abilities and ages. It also puts on a number of productions featuring youth at local venues.

Savvy Cellar Wines

750 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View
650-969-3958
info@savvycellar.com



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to our Admissions Director, Marily Lerner, mlerner@kehillah.org

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COURTESY OF CSMA

Art students attend a lesson at the Community School of Music and Arts.

www.savvycellar.com

Savvy Cellars Wines has classes that highlight regional wines, pair wines with food and introduce wine tasting to novices. Students must be 21 or older to attend.

Tumasov Fine Art Studio

823 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View
415-490-8925
tumasovfineartstudio@gmail.com
www.tumasovfineart.com

The studio offers workshops and art classes in painting, drawing, ceramics, metalworking and more, as well as an after-school art program for kids.

Veksler Academy of Music and Dance

1710 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View
650-254-0777
www.veksleracademy.com

This school program teaches ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop dance classes for children and teens ages 3 and up. Music programs include preschool music classes, song and dance, and a children's choir. Private music lessons are also available for a number of instruments, as well as voice training.

West Valley Music

262 Castro St., Mountain View
650-961-1566
info@westvalleymusic.com
www.westvalleymusic.com

West Valley Music helps students further their music skills or try their hand at different instruments. Group lessons and private lessons are offered for all ages on Saturdays, as well as guitar, ukulele, violin, cello and flute.

PARENT EDUCATION

El Camino Hospital childbirth and parenting classes

Mountain View Campus, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View
650-988-3200
www.elcaminohospital.org/Womens_Health/Pregnancy_Childbirth

El Camino Hospital holds ongoing classes specifically for expecting mothers, mothers, their spouses and children. Subjects include childbirth preparation, breastfeeding preparation and infant safety. Support groups are also organized.

SCHOOL DAYS

Action Day Primary Plus

333 Eunice Ave., Mountain View
650-967-3780
mtview@actiondayprimaryplus.com
www.actiondayprimaryplus.com

Action Day Primary Plus in Mountain View serves infants and children in preschool and kindergarten. The school offers enrichment activities and extended day care, and its facilities are spacious.

Building Kidz

250 E. Dana St., Mountain View
650-967-8000
www.buildingkidzschool.com

Building Kidz School provides infant, preschool and kindergarten care that encourages children's physical, social and cognitive development.

Emerson School

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
650-424-1267
emersonschool@headsap.org
headsap.org/emerson-school/

Emerson School provides a full-day, year-round program for grades one to eight, teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum. Lessons draw from classical subjects and other areas, including art, music, foreign language, physical education, communication, life skills and more.

German International School of Silicon Valley

310 Easy St., Mountain View
650-254-0748
office@gissv.org
gissv.org/gissv-home-english

The German International School of Silicon Valley is a private school providing preschool to high school students with a bilingual education. The school also offers German language courses for all ages on Saturdays, as well as adult and corporate courses on weekdays.

HeadsUp! Child Development Center

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
650-424-1221
pacdc@headsap.org
headsap.org/headsap

HeadsUp! Child Development Center serves infants, toddlers and preschoolers (to age 6) with a full-day program, year-round. The Montessori curriculum focuses on building thinking skills and personal values. A bilingual Chinese-English preschool classroom is also available.

Kehillah Jewish High School

3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto
650-213-9600
www.kehillah.org

This college-preparatory high school (grades nine through 12) features modern science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of academic courses with small class sizes, sports teams and more.

Palo Alto Prep School

2462 Wyandotte St., Mountain View
650-493-7071 ext. 102
lisa@paloaltoprep.com
www.paloaltoprep.com

Palo Alto Prep School is a private high school that offers a mixture of flexibility and structure, embraces differences, facilitates academic and social success, and prepares students for college.

Waldorf School of the Peninsula

Mountain View Campus, 180 N. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View
650-417-7600
Los Altos Campus, 11311 Mora Drive, Los Altos
650-209-9400
admissions@waldorfpenninsula.org

waldorfpenninsula.org

Waldorf School of the Peninsula serves children from nursery up through high school. Areas of focus include fostering self-discipline, critical thinking, independence and cooperation, creative expression and a love of learning.

Yew Chung International School of Silicon Valley (YCIS)

310 Easy St., Mountain View
650-903-0986
info@sv.ycef.com
www.ycis-sv.com

YCIS provides a multicultural and bilingual (English and Mandarin Chinese) education to children from preschool to middle school. Students are academically challenged, have opportunities for creative expression and acquire a global perspective.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education

333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View
650-940-1333
adulted@mvla.net
www.mvla.net/MVLA_Adult_Education/
The MV-LA Adult School offers courses in arts and crafts, computer skills, vocational skills, English as a second language, music, dance, needlework, family education, physical fitness and more. The school also has a high school diploma and GED programs. The winter session begins on Jan. 4.

The Class Guide is published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and the Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos and beyond are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Sam Sciolla at ssciolla@pawebly.com or call 650-223-6515. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.

Advertiser Directory

Emerson School, Palo Alto

German International School of Silicon Valley, Mountain View

Heads Up!, Palo Alto

Jacki's Aerobic Dancing, Mountain View

Kehillah Jewish High School, Palo Alto

Peninsula School, Menlo Park

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\$4.59 ea

S&B Neri Karashi Tube
1.52 oz
\$1.59 ea

LKK Hot Pot Soup Base
(Selected Varieties) 1.8-2.6 oz
99¢ ea

Kimbo Stuffed Fish Ball/Fish Ball with Roe/Cuttlefish Ball
(Selected Varieties) 227 gm
\$1.99 ea

Kikkoman Sukiyaki Sauce
10 fl. oz
\$2.99 ea

Haitai Ginseng Chicken Stew
29.97 oz
\$8.99 ea

Kuang Chuan Tea Time Milk Tea
(Selected Varieties) 500 ml
88¢ ea

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*item from kids menu of equal or lesser value

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1080 Enterprise Way

Palo Alto
3903 El Camino Real

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CALM ADVICE FROM CHARLES "CHICKEN" LITTLE

Even in a drought, flooding can occur.
ARE YOU READY?

Water district's top tips this flood season

- Prepare a family disaster plan.
- Make an emergency kit for your home and car.
- Keep a full tank of gas in your car.
- Know your local streams and drainage channels.
- Purchase flood insurance for your home.
- Avoid low-lying areas and learn the best route to high ground.
- Never drive through flooded areas. Just one foot of water will float away most cars.
- Designate a family meeting spot in the event of an emergency.
- Check for current data on stream, reservoir and precipitation gauge information at www.valleywater.org/services/alert.aspx.



Santa Clara Valley Water District

