

Mountain View VOICE

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El Camino buys land for new San Jose hospital

\$24 MILLION LAND DEAL TO EXPAND
TO SOUTH BAY KEPT UNDER WRAPS

By Kevin Forestieri

The El Camino Hospital Board voted unanimously on Jan. 13 to buy nearly 16 acres of land in South San Jose, with the goal of building a third hospital facility.

At last week's board meeting, hospital staff announced the plans to buy up two undeveloped parcels of land in South San Jose on Santa Teresa Boulevard between San Ignacio Avenue and Great Oaks Boulevard. The hospital will acquire the land at a cost not to exceed \$24.1 million, according to a staff report.

Until that board meeting, hospital officials did not reveal their intent to buy land and expand El Camino's hospital facilities into a new region of the Bay Area. Hospital officials defended the secrecy, telling the *Voice* that they are not required to reveal if they are looking for land in open session meetings.

The land purchase raises questions about transparency, as the public was not notified about the hospital's intent to expand deep into the South Bay, well outside the boundaries of the El Camino

Healthcare District, prior to the board meeting last week. Decisions about the search and selection of the undeveloped parcels were made in meetings closed to the public before the board's Jan. 13 approval, and hospital officials denied that the board ever directed staff to consider acquiring new property nearly 19 miles away from the Mountain View campus.

Ken King, the hospital's chief administrative services officer, said it's been an "exhaustive" search to find land for the hospital to expand, and that there are few options left for undeveloped land in the Bay Area. A third location will allow El Camino Hospital to serve a greater number of patients who reside far from the existing facilities, he said.

Expansion into San Jose is an important step in handling a growing demand for the hospital's services, King told the board. Estimates show San Jose's population is expected to explode over the next 30 years, increasing by 41 percent by 2040, and many patients who

► See **HOSPITAL**, page 6



MICHELLE LE

Linda Jones, the senior program manager for HomeFirst, prepares for dinner at the Sunnyvale Cold Weather Shelter, which houses close to 100 homeless people each night.

Board of Supervisors OKs millions for homelessness programs

MOUNTAIN VIEW, PALO ALTO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR HOMELESS SERVICES

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor last week authorized a slew of new programs aimed at preventing homelessness throughout the county, including new rental assistance funds for

residents in Mountain View.

The board approved 11 homelessness-related agenda items at the Jan. 12 meeting, in order to bolster the number of shelter beds in the county and provide employment, educa-

tion and even emergency rental assistance to families on the cusp homelessness.

The board capped off the meeting with a resolution

► See **HOMELESS**, page 13

How to spend \$6 billion on transit

MOUNTAIN VIEW AND NEARBY CITIES LAY OUT PLAN FOR NEW SALES TAX

By Mark Noack

A new sales tax to improve the South Bay's transportation woes won't go to voters until the end of the year, but officials from Mountain View and a coalition of other

West Valley cities are notching up the pressure for how those dollars should be spent.

Expected to generate at least \$6 billion over a 30-year span, the Santa Clara County sales tax has become the centerpiece of county-wide efforts to address the

traffic nightmare growing along with the Silicon Valley economy. The prospect of a new tax measure has bolstered a political faction among Mountain View and eight other cities, mostly along the Highway 85 corridor. Over the course of eight meetings

throughout 2015, officials from this coalition, which includes Palo Alto, brainstormed priorities and co-authored letters to the Valley Transportation Authority. Strategically, this group worked under the quid-pro-quo logic that VTA would be more receptive to their concerns since their support could make the difference at the ballot box.

At the Mountain View City Council meeting on Tuesday,

Jan. 19, elected leaders for the first time reviewed the coalition's most definitive product to date: a breakdown for how the sum total of the \$6 billion should be spent. Among its budgeting, this "draft allocation" capped BART spending at 20 percent of the total, and budgeted about \$1 billion for bike pathways, congestion relief and efforts to get drivers into more

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'LANDSCAPES AND FIGURES'

Artist Lin Fischer's paintings will be on display at Palo Alto's Bryant Street Gallery, 532 Bryant St., through Jan. 31. The solo exhibition titled "Landscapes and Figures" features Fischer's hallmark style of bold brushwork and rich color palette. Go to bryantstreet.com.



COURTESY OF BRYANT STREET GALLERY

"Landscapes and Figures" at the Bryant Street Gallery in Palo Alto features "Boy Reading."

JEFF CHANG IN CONVERSATION WITH ADAM MANSBACH

How do Americans see race? How has that changed — or not changed — over the half-century? These questions and more will be discussed at a talk with Jeff Chang, a journalist, music critic and executive director of the Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University, at Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Chang will be interviewed by Adam Mansbach, author of "Go the F**k to Sleep" and the newly released "Who We Be." The free — and timely — discussion starts at 7:30 p.m. Go to keplers.com/event/jeff-chang-conversation-adam-mansbach.

OPENING JUBLIEE

To celebrate the opening of the Palo Alto Art Center's "Bird in the Hand" exhibit, the art center, at 1313 Newell Road, is hosing a free Friday Night at the Art Center event on Friday, Jan. 22, with hands-on art activities, food trucks, a photo opportunity with feathered friends from the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo and a cash bar by the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation. The event starts at 7 p.m. "Bird in the Hand" showcases the colorful and fascinating world of birds. The free exhibition, which includes installation, sculpture, photography, painting, drawing and video by more than 45 Bay Area and inter-

national artists, runs through April 10. Go to cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter.

REAL-DEAL BLUEGRASS

Bluegrass artists Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick will perform traditional bluegrass songs of their highly esteemed California predecessors, Vern Williams and Ray Park, during a performance at the Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St. on Saturday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Both Laurie and Kathy have won a Grammy and two International Bluegrass Music Association awards and have released 20 albums. Go to rba.org.



COURTESY OF REDWOOD BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATES

Redwood Bluegrass Associates presents music by Grammy-winning artists Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick in Mountain View.

WORLD HARMONY CHORUS

Explore music from around the world, including Africa, Latin America and Europe, with the World Harmony Chorus on Monday, Jan. 25. The eclectic chorus will sing a repertoire of worldly music under the direction of innovative musician Daniel Steinberg at the Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to start. Seating is limited to 200 on a first-come, first-served basis. Go to arts4all.org.

—My Nguyen



COURTESY OF CSMA

The World Harmony Chorus performs a free concert at CSMA on Jan. 25.

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Watch videos of Wayne Federman, "A Daring Journey" and more in the online version of this story at mv-voice.com.

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

BANK FRAUD SUSPECTS SOUGHT

Police are searching for two women who allegedly used fraudulent checks to scam people into withdrawing money from their bank accounts.

Police released surveillance photos of the suspects along with their car, which is described by police as a navy blue, two-door car similar to a Mini Cooper, although the photo appears to show a Fiat 500. The suspects allegedly approached the first victim on Oct. 29 in a parking lot in downtown Mountain View near the Bank of America on the 400 block of Castro Street.



Check fraud suspects

According to police, the women asked the victim if he could cash a check for them, saying that they were unable to withdraw funds because they were new account holders. The victim went into the bank with the two women, where he allegedly handed the money to them, police said.

The victim's bank account was later frozen because of the fraudulent check, police said.

A similar incident occurred on Nov. 15 at the Bank of America branch on the 300 block of San Antonio Road, as well as the 20000 block of Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino, police said. Based on surveillance footage, police said the suspects appear to be the same in all three of the incidents.

Police are urging anyone with information on the cases to call Officer Tim Loo at 650-903-6362 or email tim.loo@mountain-view.gov

WOMAN ARRESTED IN NEIGHBOR DISPUTE

A 40-year-old Mountain View woman was arrested last week after she allegedly attacked a neighbor with a hammer.

The woman, identified as Gricelda Alejandra Villanueva, reportedly got into an argument with her neighbor, a 39-year-old Mountain View man, around 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15. The argument escalated when Villanueva allegedly grabbed the man's backpack and threw it to the ground, damaging the contents, according to spokeswoman Leslie Hardie.

The man responded by pushing a shopping cart at Villanueva, which ran over her foot, Hardie said. Villanueva then allegedly picked up a hammer and swung it at the man's head, Hardie said.

The man put his arms up to defend himself, causing the hammer to strike his arm, Hardie said. He suffered minor injuries, but did not require medical attention.

Villanueva was arrested on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon and was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

—Kevin Forestieri

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■ POLICE LOG

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1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/14
1900 block Latham St., 1/15
800 block Villa St., 1/15
2400 block Charleston Rd., 1/19

BATTERY

1000 block Grant Rd., 1/15
600 block Showers Dr., 1/17

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GRAND THEFT

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2400 block Charleston Rd., 1/14

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

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700 block Continental Cir., 1/15
200 block Pamela Dr., 1/16
700 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/19

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MARK NOACK

MOUNTAIN VIEW'S BIG DIG

It's a sea of rebar at the construction site for Phase II of the Merlone Geier's Carmel the Village development at the San Antonio shopping center off San Antonio Road. In what could be called Mountain View's "Big Dig" a five-story pit is being prepared for hundreds of truckloads of concrete, which will be poured for the structure's foundation.

Exit fees trip up plans to ditch PG&E

MOUNTAIN VIEW AGREES TO JOIN NEW COMMUNITY-CHOICE POWER UTILITY

By Mark Noack

Mountain View leaders last week enthusiastically signaled they would join a new alternative energy utility that promises to bring cleaner, cheaper energy under local control in the South Bay. Mountain View is not alone in being eager to poke holes in a market that has been owned solely by PG&E — but it turns out that unplugging from the big utility still carries a price.

'We have no reason to believe there's anything nefarious about this.'

DEMETRA MCBRIDE, COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR

A new political battleground has emerged in recent days over efforts across California to

launch what are known as Community-Choice Energy (CCE) programs. These initiatives — expected to number about two dozen in the coming months — pool local households together to buy power on the energy market, giving customers new leverage to find cost savings or promote renewable sources of energy.

Last month, the California Public Utilities Commission approved recommendations by

► See **PG&E**, page 9

LASD board OKs parcel tax renewal

DISTRICT OFFICIALS PREDICT POOR FINANCIAL HEALTH WITHOUT LOCAL REVENUE

By Kevin Forestieri

Citing a need to brighten an otherwise grim financial future, Los Altos School District officials are gearing up for a renewal of a \$193 parcel tax this November.

Measure E, which narrowly passed in 2011 with 67 percent of the vote, has bolstered the district's annual funds by about \$2.5 million, and has helped to pay for

core academic programs, books and classroom materials. Parcel tax funds have also gone to pay for teacher salaries, according to the district's 2015-16 budget.

The parcel tax is set to expire at the start of July next year, which prompted concerns from district staff. Assistant Superintendent Randy Kenyon told the board in August last year that the loss of the parcel tax would put the district's finances on a "hefty

negative trajectory" that would quickly eat through the district's reserve funds.

District voters appear willing to renew the parcel tax, however. In surveying "likely voters" in the district, the polling firm EMC Research reported to the board in December that there is enough support in the community to pass a parcel tax renewal

► See **PARCEL TAX**, page 11

Water district CEO resigns

BEAU GOLDIE ENDS CONTROVERSIAL TENURE WITH SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By Kevin Forestieri

The Santa Clara Valley Water District announced on Jan. 14 that CEO Beau Goldie would be leaving his post the next day following a number of controversies that put him and other top water district staff on the defensive last year.

Goldie will receive a severance package equal to six months' pay based on his current \$305,000 salary, as well as compensation for unused vacation and sick pay, according to water district spokesman Marty Grimes. Goldie's total compensation amounts to about \$278,000, Grimes said.



Beau Goldie

Goldie's 2009 contract states that he is allowed up to six months of pay if his employment is terminated.

Following the Jan. 14 closed-session meeting discussing the terms of the severance agreement, board President Barbara Keegan described Goldie's move as both a resignation and a retirement. Keegan thanked Goldie for his 31 years of service at the water district, including nearly seven years leading the district as CEO.

"During his tenure as CEO, he brought stability to the organization and delivered high-quality services to the people of our community," Keegan said in a prepared statement.

The water district's three chief operating officers will fill in as acting CEO on a rotation basis, starting with Chief Operating Officer Jim Fiedler, until an interim chief executive is chosen by the board. The board is expected to hire internally to fill the interim position.

Goldie's leadership has been mired in controversy following conflict-of-interest and fraud allegations last year, which eventually prompted an investigation into the water district by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office.

Emails written by one of the water district's engineers, which

were published by San Jose Inside in September, indicated that the engineering firm RMC Water and Environment had billed the district for \$350,000 for work it had not performed on a project it was hired to do several years ago.

In a defensive move, district staff tried to assuage the concerns at an October board meeting, and said an internal audit of the district's finances revealed no discrepancies. At the meeting, it was revealed that the cost of RMC's work on the Lower Silver Creek Flood Protection Project in San Jose jumped from \$375,000 to \$1.7 million because an unexpected "number of needs emerged."

The water district also came under fire for an undisclosed potential conflict of interest. One of the water district's high-ranking officials, Melanie Richardson, is married to RMC co-founder Tom Richardson. Media reports contended that the "firewall" policies meant to prevent her from influencing contracts with RMC were weak and not well-understood by staff.

Goldie's leadership has been mired in controversy following conflict-of-interest and fraud allegations last year.

Despite these concerns, Goldie continued to seek out contracts with RMC. In April, the board authorized the CEO to negotiate and execute contracts to kick-start work on an \$800 million recycled water program. Goldie awarded RMC a \$1.3 million no-bid contract for preliminary engineering work on the project.

Goldie's relationship with the water district's employee unions has also been strained in recent years. A letter to the board by three union representatives noted that there

► See **WATER DISTRICT**, page 11

HOSPITAL

► Continued from page 1

come to El Camino Hospital already travel long distances from the southern region of the county.

King later told the *Voice* that it's too early to say what new facilities might be built on the new land, but the land acquisition marks the hospital's latest effort to bring its broad base of services to a greater number of people.

The first indication that the hospital corporation might buy the land was a closed-session agenda item at that same Jan. 13 meeting. The possible purchase of San Jose property was listed once in a closed session meeting agenda of the hospital's Board Finance Committee on Nov. 30, but the agenda item does not state the specific address or parcels.

While the acquisition of land for another El Camino Hospital campus came as a surprise to many, King maintained that hospital officials are allowed to make decisions on real estate purchases in closed meetings, and do not need to disclose it in advance to the public.

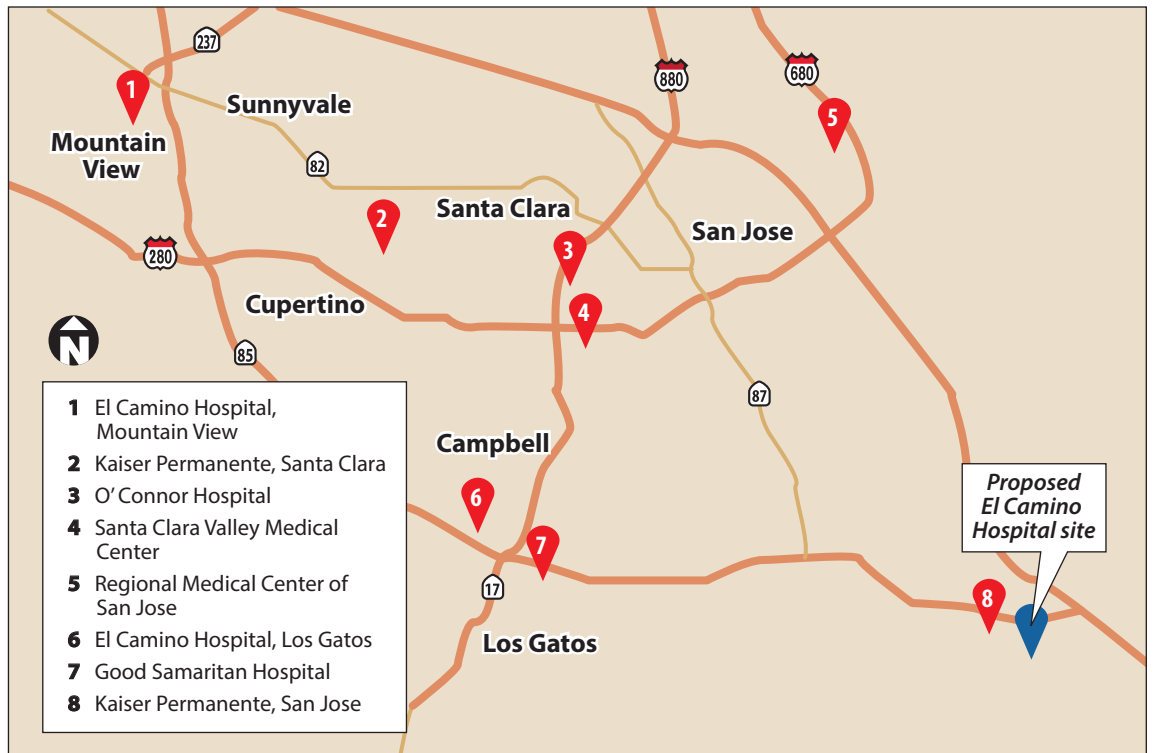
Maintaining the financial health of a small community

hospital like El Camino requires attracting as many patients as possible, according to Iftikhar Hussain, the hospital's chief financial officer. Hussain said the hospital's financial outlook depends on patients who live outside of the health care district, which is bounded roughly by the city limits of Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Last week's decision marks El Camino's second major expansion, following the 2009 acquisition of a hospital facility in Los Gatos, also outside of the district. At the time, some health care district residents opposed the nonprofit hospital's spending of \$45 million to expand outside of the boundaries of the taxpayer-funded district.

The Los Gatos hospital has proved profitable so far and has helped El Camino Hospital's bottom line. Expanding deep into the South Bay is expected to do the same, Hussain said.

The hospital's corporate board is made up of nine members, including all five voter-elected members of the El Camino Healthcare District board. The district is a public agency that collects taxes and, by extension, has a stake in operating the hospital itself.



The **new El Camino Hospital site** will be located about 18 miles away from Mountain View in South San Jose, near a Kaiser Permanente hospital.

Improved services?

Hospital CEO Tomi Ryba said increasing the scale of the hospital's operations around the Bay Area will also help to improve services in Mountain View, and draw the "right kind of talent."

David Reeder, who serves as both health care district and

hospital board member, said the hospital acted within state law when it first expanded in 2009, and that the quality of care and the financial stability of El Camino Hospital has only improved since then.

"The facility in Los Gatos has been a very positive influence,

both in the financial (health) and the quality that we've provided to residents in the district," he said.

Reeder stressed that the hospital will not be using any taxpayer funds from the health care district for the purchase of the property, nor will the funds ever



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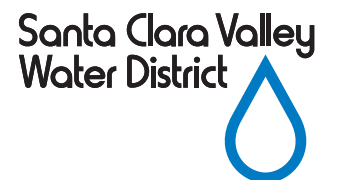
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be used to pay for operations at the San Jose campus.

Health care district board member Dennis Chiu said having a greater patient base will allow the hospital to provide more specialties and a broader range of services that would otherwise not be financially feasible. "Hospital after hospital, study after study, has proven that," he said.

A lack of transparency

After last week's meeting, Chiu defended the board members' decision to keep things under wraps regarding the real estate purchase, and told the *Voice* that the hospital has been as transparent as it needs to be throughout the process.

But because the hospital board is a mix of officials from a private, nonprofit corporation and a health care district — a public agency subject to the Brown Act, which strictly limits what can be discussed and decided outside of public view — the question of transparency may not be so easily settled.

Chiu said the land purchase is purely a hospital corporation transaction that doesn't require the same level of openness as health care district actions. And revealing that the hospital was looking for new property could have put the entire land purchase deal in jeopardy, he added.

"The Silicon Valley real estate market is incredibly competitive," Chiu said in an email. "Premature disclosure of the hospital's search for land would have created a substantial probability of depriving the hospital of a substantial economic benefit."

But because the hospital's board includes all five elected members of the El Camino Healthcare District, it also is subject to the Brown Act, according to Nikki Moore, an attorney for the California Newspaper Publishers Association. That means discussing a policy issue such as whether the hospital should expand would not be permitted

in closed session.

Hospital spokeswoman Chris Ernst said the decision to search for land to expand the hospital was directed by El Camino Hospital's CEO, Tomi Ryba, rather than the board, based on a general strategy directed by the board.

"Strategic Growth is one of the board-approved business strategies for El Camino Hospital," she said. "This land search was directed by (Ryba) as part of that organizational priority."

If this is true, Moore said, the decision to negotiate for and buy land can be made behind closed doors in accordance with the Brown Act. But it does shut the public out on a significant policy-making decision for the hospital.

'I personally have always believed the hospital needs to serve its original district first.'

FORMER CITY COUNCILWOMAN
MARGARET ABE-KOGA

"I think people elect their public officials so they have oversight into decisions like this," Moore said. "It seems like some kind of public discussion about developing a new public hospital should have occurred."

Peter Fung, a health care district board member, said the board received periodic updates on the hospital's search for land, and like Chiu, agreed that the hospital could have lost out on a choice real estate deal if the plans were revealed publicly. He said the public also got a sneak peek at the plans at a publicly noticed meeting by the Santa Clara County's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAF-Co) in December, which satisfies the need for transparency.

The LAFCo agenda included a short letter to LAFCo's executive officer, Neelima Palacherla, listing the parcel numbers of the land the hospital intended to buy.

Past concerns

While the board is going to great lengths to assure health care district residents that service quality would not decrease and taxpayer funds would not leave the district, the same arguments were made in 2009 when the hospital bought the Los Gatos facilities.

The move was, in part, the catalyst for LAFCo to do a full audit and service review of the health care district, with the intent of seeing whether the nonprofit hospital overstepped its boundaries.

The report contended that while taxpayer funds were not directly used to buy the facilities in Los Gatos, the hospital did get help from taxpayer funds to have enough of a cash balance to pursue a big land purchase. Over a five-year period, El Camino Hospital received \$110 million from the district, which helped to pay for improvements at the Mountain View campus, and contributed to the hospital's large cash reserves, according to the report.

"The (hospital) corporation's ability to acquire the Los Gatos Hospital (has) occurred as a result of the significant property tax contributions being made by residents of the current district," the report states.

The blurred line between the health care district and the hospital itself also poses a governance problem. Because all five elected district board members serve on the hospital board and have a significant say in the hospital's operations, the report found that actions by the nonprofit hospital are "by extension activities of the district."

And if that's the case, it raises the question of whether district taxpayers are getting short-

changed by the hospital's decision to build a new facility over 18 miles away.

Former Mountain View Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga, who served on the LAFCo board in 2012 and ran for the health care district board in 2014, told the *Voice* that the new land purchase could constitute a big divergence from the original intent of the hospital, and by extension the hospital district.

"I understand the desire to compete, but I personally have always believed the hospital needs to serve its original district first," Abe-Koga said.

In light of other issues, Abe-Koga said the hospital might want to focus on more pressing, local issues rather than concerning itself with expansion onto a third campus. The fate of Mountain View's RotaCare clinic remains in limbo as the hospital struggles to fill key staffing

vacancies this winter. RotaCare is a free clinic housed on the El Camino Hospital campus, and hospital officials say they have struggled to keep the clinic open due to the departure of nurse practitioners and an in-house physician.

At the same time, the hospital board has grappled with the issue of whether it has enough revenue to support spending more on community grants through the hospital's Community Benefit Program. Late last year, the board backed out of a proposal to add millions of dollars to the program, citing an unpredictable budget forecast as a serious concern.

"It may just be unfortunate timing, but regardless, it brings to light a lot of the questions that we've had in how they manage their operations," she said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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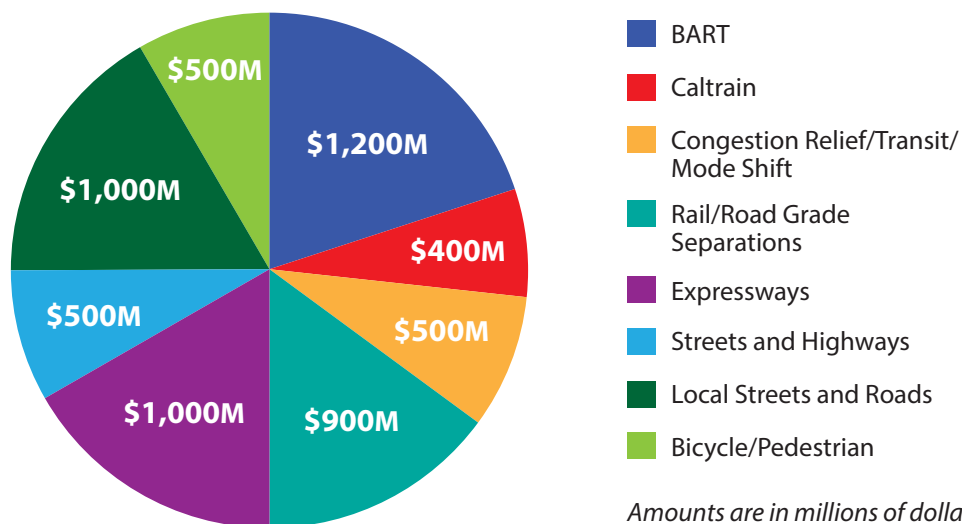
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Proposed breakdown for spending \$6 billion



TRANSIT

► Continued from page 1

efficient modes of transportation. The breakdown doesn't delve into specific projects, like which streets or locations should receive improvements.

The list represents a "preferred" way to spend the money, explained Mountain View transportation manager Linda Forsberg.

"It's difficult to develop an allocation scenario that meets the specific needs and priorities of the cities involved," she said. "This proposed allocation represents a consensus position developed among the North County and West Valley cities that can serve as basis for cities to advocate collectively as the tax discussion continues."

The cities in the coalition include Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Campbell, Saratoga and Los Gatos.

The cities' proposed budget generated a little bit of head-scratching from VTA officials, who were not present at the Mountain View meeting. Transit officials say they've performed

extensive outreach to cities in recent months to determine future transportation needs and priorities. In the months to come, transit officials plan to start screening that list of "hundreds" of ideas to determine which should receive top priority, said VTA spokeswoman Stacey Hender Ross. She expressed doubt that the cities' effort to draft a budget would actually influence the transit agency's decisions.

"We appreciate their involvement, but there's more work to do than to come up with one list," Ross said.

Councilman John McAlister, who represented Mountain View in the discussions, said the general theme of the proposed budget is to "attack" traffic congestion from different angles. The cities want the VTA to take action regardless of whether the sales tax measure passed, he said.

As the Mountain View council began examining the list, elected leaders asked whether they could fiddle with the numbers. City Manager Dan Rich gave a diplomatic response.

"You're the council, you're free to do as you wish — however it is a fragile coalition," Rich advised.

"All the cities agreed to take this list as it is back to their (councils). It'd be a very big challenge if each city began moving the numbers around."

Nevertheless, council members nitpicked at some aspects of the plan. Councilman Mike Kasperzak said he was disappointed that more money wasn't being proposed for alternative modes of transportation. Echoing comments from the public, council members faulted the breakdown for putting \$1.5 billion toward expressways and highways, which they worried could go toward widening roads, compounding the number of solo drivers. Rather than tweak the numbers, they urged the city's representatives to remain flexible while advocating these priorities.

Dissenting from his colleagues, Councilman John Inks questioned the larger purpose of a new sales tax measure as a solution to the area's traffic troubles. He pointed out that the VTA already receives an ongoing half-cent sales tax and voters in recent years had already backed two additional long-term transit surcharges. Among those taxes, the half-cent Measure A is due to sunset in 2036, while the one-eighth-cent Measure B for BART operations will run through 2042. If the upcoming sales tax measure — also expected to run for 30 years — is approved, voters would be paying about 40 percent more on top of what they're already paying for transportation, he said.

"Can I tell voters this is a good deal?" he said. "I think this sales-tax method is a distraction from where this money should really come from: the users, and that's the automobile drivers."

The Mountain View City Council voted 6-1, with Inks opposed, to formally endorse the sales tax draft allocation. ▣

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PG&E

► Continued from page 5

PG&E to roughly double the so-called “exit fees” — monthly charges that must be paid to by CCE ratepayers. Some critics accuse the company of trying to raise those fees so high so as to make it imprudent for ratepayers to switch to alternative utilities.

Under industry jargon, the exit fees are officially called the Power Charge Indifference Amount, a term that will appear as a line item on CCE ratepayers’ bills. These fees are meant to offset the liabilities PG&E faces for planning ahead and signing multi-year contracts to purchase power for its millions of customers. When a portion to those customers sever their ties, PG&E is left with losses that need to be recouped. These fees are reconsidered by the CPUC each year, and this time around, utility regulators approved PG&E’s request to recoup \$135.7 million in exit fees.

Regions that were early adopters of community-choice energy programs, such as Marin and Sonoma counties, came out against the fee hike, pointing out the increase could have a devastating effect on ratepayers. Marin officials pointed out that the new fees in some cases would represent upward of 25 percent of a residence or small business’ power bill. To remain competitive, they argue they would be forced to buy power at less than 75 percent of PG&E’s costs.

Representatives of PG&E did not respond to requests for comment prior to the *Voice’s* press deadline on Wednesday.

The action leaves a cloud of uncertainty hanging over Santa Clara County as well as about 20 other counties preparing to launch their own independent power utilities in the coming months. The South Bay’s new utility — dubbed Silicon Valley Community Choice Energy — is still in the process of formation, and individual cities are in the process of voting to decide whether to join. The full program is expected to be ready to go live by 2017.

Speaking to the Mountain View City Council last week, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Steve Attinger warned counties across the state would be closely watching the higher fees. City officials said the new energy utility could hire a lobbying firm to protect their interests in the future.

“This kind of change on the part of the utility does present

a significant change in the revenues and financial modeling for the CCEs,” he said, adding that currently, the fees have no expiration date.

If the South Bay’s energy alternative were available today, the average residential customer would see about \$11.84 in exit fees on each month’s power bill, said Kirby Dusel, a consultant with Pacific Energy Advisors. While those fees were significant, Dusel pointed out that a community-choice program would still be a cheaper option than PG&E’s regular rates.

“The comparison still looks favorable,” he said. “It’s true that these charges didn’t previously apply, but the (cost of power) generation is so much less that you can layer on these exit fees.” On the bright side, Dusel said the exit fees should show a trend of slowly decreasing over the coming years as more of PG&E’s contracts begin to expire or be renegotiated.

Many details for a future CCE program still need to be determined, and representatives from all participating cities are set to start meeting in April to

‘The comparison still looks favorable.’

KIRBY DUSEL, CONSULTANT

make plans. In a technical study published in November, consultants outlined three distinct scenarios for a local energy utility, each showing a general trade-

off between cost savings and renewable power sourcing. City representatives will meet in the coming months under a new joint powers authority to decide on the best energy portfolio for the South Bay.

At the Mountain View City Council meeting last week, many in attendance urged the city to put a priority on maximizing renewable energy. Bruce Karney, a leader with the Carbon Free Mountain View group, reminded city leaders that their ambitious goals for reducing carbon emissions depended on a swift push toward renewable power.

The CPUC is planning to schedule a workshop in March to determine more specifics on the exit fees, as well as examine the methodology for how they were calculated. At this point, local officials say they are taking it in good faith that PG&E’s fees are justified.

“We have no reason to believe there’s anything nefarious about this,” said Demetra McBride, sustainability director for Santa Clara County. “It might sound naive, but I think everyone’s strongest interest here is what’s best for the ratepayers.”

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City to foot the bill for creek trail project

CRITTENDEN SCHOOL WILL GET NEW FIELDS, PERMANENTE CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION

By Kevin Forestieri

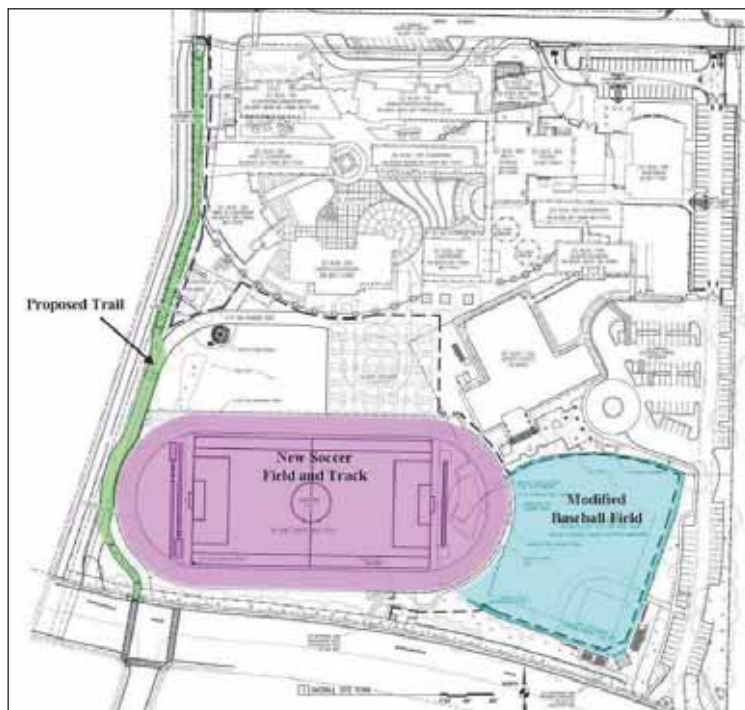
A project to extend the Permanente Creek Trail through Crittenden Middle School is moving forward on, as part of a larger project to revamp the Crittenden field.

The changes at Crittenden come as school officials construct new facilities at both of the Mountain View Whisman School District middle schools using Measure G bond money. To piggyback on those changes and save money on construction costs, the city of Mountain View has opted to foot the entire \$1.5 million bill to construct an extension of the Permanente Creek Trail to Middlefield Road.

The proposal calls for the trail to continue along the creekside before diverging to meet with the Farley Street intersection. The trouble spot for the trail,

which caused some problems in earlier designs, is on the north part of the campus. The trail has to squeeze through a narrow spot between school facilities and the creek, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District requires a 12-foot easement from the trail to allow for future creek improvements. While the trail is typically 10 feet wide with 2-foot shoulders on each side, a small portion of the trail will have to ditch the shoulders to fit.

A number of improvements will also be made at the intersection of Farley and Middlefield to accommodate bicyclists coming off of the trail extension. The district will construct "sharrows" for bicyclists, the pedestrian crosswalk button will be modified, and the curb ramp onto Middlefield Road will be widened, according to the district's agreement with the city.



COURTESY OF CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Permanente Creek Trail will be extended by roughly 1,000 feet through the Crittenden Middle School campus, alongside major changes to the Crittenden field.

The original estimates for the trail were pinned at \$1 million, but because of escalating construction costs and additional costs related to building a creekside retaining wall for the trail, the price has increased to \$1.5 million. The project will

be paid for through the city's Shoreline Community Fund as well as Park Land Dedication funds.

The Permanente Creek Trail extension will be constructed alongside big changes the Crittenden field. The district plans

The original estimates for the trail were pinned at \$1 million.

to replace both existing ball fields in favor of one new, smaller ball field, a 400-meter track and an artificial turf field. Construction is expected to start this summer, and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2017.

The loss of both full-sized baseball fields means only youth softball and baseball leagues will be able to play on the field, so the adult softball leagues that currently use the park will have to relocate to the new Shoreline Athletic Fields, according to a city staff report.

The school district estimates that the field upgrades will cost \$6.2 million. The city has agreed to put down \$1.3 million in park funds in order to pay for a portion of the costs, as part of the city's continued shared-use agreement with the school district. ▣

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PARCEL TAX

▶ Continued from page 5

this year. The parcel tax requires a two-thirds yes vote to pass. Of those polled, 71 percent agree that they would pay for a tax, provided that it does not increase how much they already pay.

The numbers get a little shaky if the taxes are increased, and EMC Research representatives advised against bumping up the dollar amount in favor of a “straight renewal.”

The district currently levies two parcel taxes — the \$193 parcel tax as well as a \$597 parcel tax, for a grand total of \$790 per parcel. This brings in \$10 million in additional revenue each year, which adds up to nearly 20 percent of the district’s entire annual budget.

Measure E was originally passed in 2011 to “fill the revenue gap caused by the recent recession,” and was given a finite life of six years in order to fulfill the district’s financial needs during “what is expected to be a long economic recovery,” according to the district’s budget.

Board members generally agreed last week to put a parcel tax renewal measure on the November ballot. Board president Pablo Luther said it gives the school community more time to do outreach and “enunciate” how the funds will be used, and will attract more voters to the ballot box.

“That will ensure that we have the pulse of the entire community instead of just a special-interest group,” Luther said.

The parcel tax renewal comes at a time when district officials are so concerned about the future financial shape of the district that they have re-opened teacher union negotiations over future salary increases. In August, Kenyon told the board that the original plan to increase teacher salaries by 10 percent over three years may not be within the district’s budget after all.

The district has already granted teachers a 3 percent raise for two years in a row, and he suggested the board re-open negotiations over whether to go through with that third and final salary increase. Doing so, he said, would put the district another \$1 million closer to potentially budget cuts.

At the time, board member Sangeeth Peruri said the district should have the flexibility to consider all of its options given the “looming” threat of a parcel tax expiration. Board member Steve Taglio, likewise, said he wants to take action to avoid having to go through layoffs in May for the 2016-17 school year.

“I don’t want to go down that path, and I’m afraid that’s where we’re headed,” Taglio said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

WATER DISTRICT

▶ Continued from page 5

have been more successful grievances, arbitrations and unfair labor practice complaints during Goldie’s tenure as CEO than with any of his predecessors, and that negotiating contracts has had a tone of “systematic devaluing” of the workforce.

As water district board mem-

bers prepare to search for a new CEO, board member Gary Kremen told the *Voice* that he would prefer a broad, national search for potential candidates. Water districts typically do an internal search for the top leadership position, Kremen said, but it might be better to hire an outsider for a fresh perspective. ▀

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COMPANION UNIT REGULATIONS UPDATE COMMUNITY MEETING

THURSDAY JANUARY 28TH

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

500 Castro Street

Please join us to discuss the City's Companion Unit regulations and ideas for how they can be modified to encourage more Companion Units in the City.

Following this meeting, staff will develop draft regulations and will present these at Environmental Planning Commission and City Council meetings in 2016.

All are welcome to attend this community meeting.

MORE INFORMATION

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MICHELLE LE

Walgreens will close one of its Mountain View stores on Jan. 28.

WALGREENS TO CLOSE MV STORE

The drug-store chain Walgreens is planning to close down one of its Mountain View locations later this month. On Jan. 28, the company will shutter its store at the corner of Rengstorff Avenue near Central Expressway, according to notices posted around the store.

Last year, Walgreens representatives announced they would be closing 200 stores nationwide as part of a plan to trim about \$1.5 billion in expenses. In November, the company also announced it would acquire its smaller rival, Rite-Aid, for \$17.2 billion — prompting speculation that many overlapping stores would need to close. The company operates more than 8,000 stores across the U.S.

Walgreens officials declined to comment.

Customers, particularly those with prescription records, can be transferred to another Walgreens location in Mountain View at 1905 W. El Camino Real.

—Mark Noack

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE FAIR

The Learning Challenges Resource Fair, an annual event with the goal of linking families with special education and mental health services, will be hosted this week at Crittenden Middle School on Friday, Jan. 22.

The event, which will run from

6 p.m. to 9 p.m., will include around 40 resource providers including the Regional Center, Parents Helping Parents, Parent Education Network and the Community Health Awareness Council.

The fair will be located inside the multipurpose room on the east side of the campus, located at 1701 Rock St. in Mountain View.

The event has been spearheaded by parents in the Learning Challenges Committee, as well as members of the local special needs and mental health advocacy group SELPA 1 CAC. The event will include a variety of resources including behavioral, speech and occupational therapists, tutoring services and mental health professionals, according to Christine Case-Lo, chair of the Learning Challenges committee.

“We hope to help families with finding the best help for their children, as well as finding a sense of community with others who understand their families’ challenges,” Case-Lo said.

Anyone with questions can contact the Learning Challenges Committee at 650-387-6745 or lcc@lamvptac.org.

—Kevin Forestieri

CITY READIES FOR SUPER BOWL

Mountain View officials are finalizing their plans for having the city serve as a transportation hub on the big game day.

As the last connector between Caltrain and the Valley Transportation Authority’s light rail lines, the city’s downtown transit station is expected to be a key point for moving thousands of people to the event at Levi’s Stadium.

Mountain View officials are now warning that about 1.3 million people are expected to come to the Bay Area to take part in the Super Bowl and its associated events. On game day, city police are planning to close down the streets surrounding the transit center to vehicle traffic, including Castro Street near Central Expressway and West Evelyn Avenue from Bryant Street to Bush Street. Bikes and pedestrians will still be allowed to pass through.

Street parking in the vicinity of the transit center will be prohibited, and the city instead will direct direct motorists to park at two downtown parking structures. Both the city and Caltrain are planning to charge \$20 to park at their downtown lots for the full day. Other drivers staying for less than three hours can still park for free.

At the Tuesday, Jan. 19, meeting, City Council members agreed to allow the Farmers Market to continue operations on the morning of the Super Bowl. The market will be held at an alternative location at the city’s parking lot at Bryant and California street with slightly reduced hours, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

—Mark Noack

MountainView
ONLINE

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MICHELLE LE

Above: Homeless shelter beds remain in short supply in the North County, despite the recent opening of the Sunnyvale Cold Weather Shelter. County officials are putting more resources into homelessness prevention programs. **Left:** At the shelter, Ana wipes away a tear as she talks about her struggles with depression and homelessness.

HOMELESS

► Continued from page 1

calling on city officials to find new ways to provide more affordable housing.

Some of the big-ticket items include \$5.9 million in agreements with InnVision Shelter Network and HomeFirst Services of Santa Clara County for providing emergency shelter and outreach services over the next three years, which is expected to provide 220 more emergency shelter and transitional housing beds in the county.

The board also approved \$2.6 million in funding on a myriad of services to help prevent homelessness in the first place. The local homeless services agency in Mountain View, Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos, received \$225,000 of the funds in order to help residents who find themselves unable to pay for the rent and need emergency assistance in order to stay off the street. County officials say the funding is expected to help at least 400 families each year over the next three years.

Rental assistance marks a divergence from the county's primary focus on housing for the roughly 6,500 homeless people in Santa Clara County. But it can be a cost-effective way of keeping people from "falling" into homelessness in the first place, according to Maureen Wadiak, associate director at CSA.

The \$225,000 in rental assistance is not intended to help residents who are priced out of the area due to steep increases in rent. Instead, the money is intended to help low-income families dealing with a sudden emergency situation that prevents them from paying rent.

That emergency could be a lay-off, a medical issue or an expensive car repair, Wadiak said. The extra cash from the county

means CSA can step in and, in many cases, prevent an eviction. In follow-up studies of clients in CSA's service area, Wadiak said as many as 83 percent of residents who receive emergency assistance are able to stabilize their finances and remain housed.

"It is effective," Wadiak said. "When people have an emergency situation, we can help to stabilize them."

The InnVision Shelter Network, which operates in Palo Alto, received \$886,000 for emergency rental assistance. Brian Greenberg, vice president of programs and services at InnVision, called emergency rental assistance one of the most inexpensive and cost-effective ways of dealing with homelessness in the county. People with service sector jobs that don't have benefits, Greenberg said, can risk falling behind on rent payments and have their utilities shut off just because they got sick.

"If you can help them out on a part of one month's rent, they can stay in their apartment for years and years," Greenberg said.

The big boost in funding for homeless services is based on a \$26 million list of one-time and ongoing programs and services recommended by the county's Housing Task Force last year. Most of the spending is designed to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing in the short term, particularly for military veterans, children and foster youth.

Homelessness a 'crisis'

If the hodgepodge of homeless housing programs wasn't enough of an indication, the Board of Supervisors made clear in a resolution last week that homelessness in Santa Clara County constitutes a crisis.

"It imposes unacceptable costs, both in terms of public resources and human suffering, and

requires an urgent response from public officials," according to the resolution.

That urgent response specifically refers to creating more affordable housing throughout Santa Clara County, to be spearheaded by individual cities. The resolution calls for cities to require a percentage of below-market rate housing in new residential developments, and impose affordable housing impact fees on new housing, commercial and industrial development. Other suggestions include allowing homeowners to build a secondary, so-called granny units on existing lots, and funding new affordable housing by way of a ballot initiative.

'I do believe the problem is solvable if we all do our part.'

SUPERVISOR JOE SIMITIAN

The city of Mountain View has already put initiatives in place that fulfill many of the resolution's recommendations. In December 2014, the City Council opted to more than double the fees for new office development, from \$10.26 to \$25, in order to shore up funds for affordable housing. The decision raised Mountain View's fees higher than any other city in the region.

But the city does fall short on some of the recommendations. The Board of Supervisors advocated for cities to make zoning changes that would either create affordable housing or protect "naturally" affordable housing like mobile home parks. If a mobile home park has to close, the resolution recommends that cities make a strong effort to fairly compensate the displaced families or require some affordable units in the future development.

This did not happen in July last year, when the Mountain View City Council approved a plan that would displace 21 mobile homes in a North Whisman RV park to make way for 35 new row houses expected to cost around \$900,000.

While the county took several measures to reduce homelessness and provide shelter beds for those in need last week, Simitian told the *Voice* it really does fall on the 15 cities and towns in

Santa Clara County to pitch in as well. Simitian admitted that cities need to look out for their own best interests in approving new developments, but said addressing the regional homelessness crisis needs to be a joint effort.

"This is a problem no one city or county can solve, but I do believe the problem is solvable if we all do our part," Simitian said. ▀

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Assistant Editor

The Palo Alto Weekly/PaloAltoOnline.com is seeking a talented and experienced journalist to become our assistant editor. The position offers opportunities to manage entire publications and special sections, write about home and real estate topics, present and promote work digitally, assist with news editing and serve as a key member of an award-winning editorial team.

The ideal candidate possesses the creativity, organizational aptitude, focus on quality and adroitness in interpersonal communications to guide publications from start to finish. Two to four years of experience as a news editor is desired, as is the ability to juggle multiple projects. A strong interest in home, interior design and gardening topics, the position's main beat, is essential.

Knowledge of the Palo Alto community would be a plus. An enjoyment of teamwork and the ability to direct a variety of writers, including interns and freelancers, are key.

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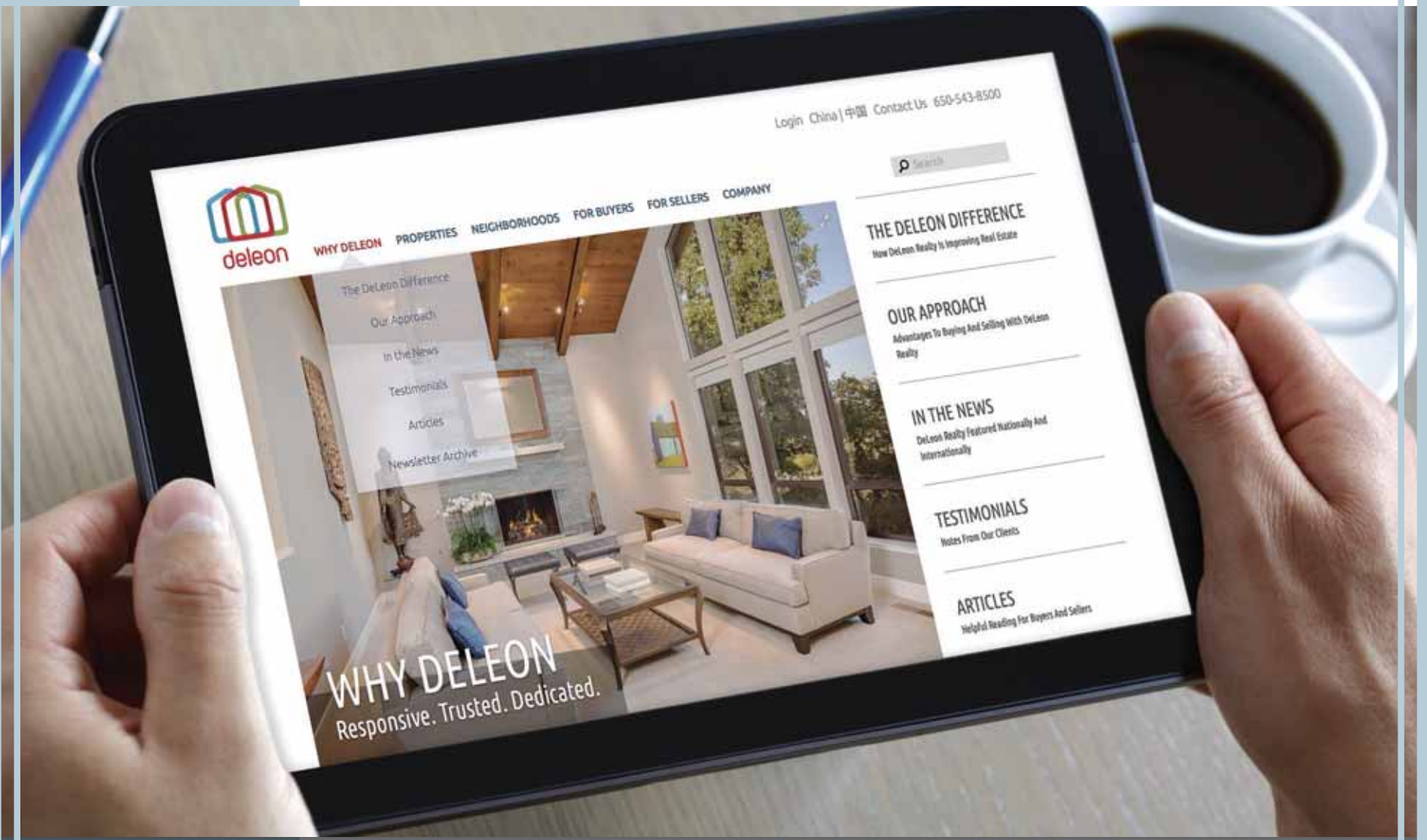
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■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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HOW CAN WE HELP OUR NEIGHBOR?

During the festive weeks of the holiday season, I was touched by the plight of a specific homeless man who is living somewhere near the intersection of Evelyn Avenue and Whisman Road. I saw him on three different occasions over the past two weeks in the same clothes, and what especially caught my attention is that he wasn't coherent and didn't acknowledge when I asked him if he needed any help. I went about putting together a care package for him but couldn't locate him when I arrived.

Homelessness is unfortunate but prevalent. But for those who're not mentally fit, and are homeless, it feels unfair that we can't extend them some help. I reached out to the local community services, but haven't heard back. I also contacted the non-emergency police online, and they agreed to do a welfare check on a particularly cold and wet evening of Christmas Eve when I saw the gentleman on the steps off of Whisman Road on to Evelyn Avenue.

Is there anything we can do to safely and appropriately find some help for our neighbor? After all, this is the land of Google and LinkedIn, and this is a time when families and friends are indulging in merry-making, and 'tis the season of giving!

This gentleman wore a green jacket and black and white Nike shoes the three times I have seen him. Thoughts welcome.

Rina Kacker
Whisman Park Drive

CAN HOUSING WORK ON CITY-OWNED LOTS?

At the Jan. 12 City Council meeting, I was one of about 10 speakers who advocated for housing on two city-owned parking lots adjacent to the downtown transit center, calling the proposal a bad land use decision for our times. Before numerous council meetings in 2015, scores of speakers testified about the woes of steep increases in apartment rents and being displaced from our community. Disappointingly, one of the first votes of 2016 by our council was to approve additional office space over the needs of downtown affordable housing.

Yes, the goals of having a downtown hotel generating \$292 million over 55 years and additional free parking are laudable and important. However, as council member Lenny Siegel points out, this is a rare opportunity where the city owns the parking lots and nonprofit developers are potentially interested in building more affordable housing units in a highly desirable location adjacent to multiple transit options.

Mayor Showalter asked the right question of the developer as to what variables would need to change in order for housing to make economic sense. Without sharing financial pro forma information with the public, it is impossible to know what could be possible and what trade-offs would be required.

For example, could some of the expensive additional parking that is being proposed be developed somewhere else in a downtown parking structure? And with that change, coupled with the use of significant housing fees that are expected to be generated from development projects in North Bayshore, would a downtown hotel and housing project work financially? This is just one example and one would expect a highly qualified economist to explore other alternatives.

I was one of the public speakers who asked for an independent economic analysis to refine the variables so that a definitive, objective determination could be made on the economic viability of a combined hotel and housing project. We desperately need more affordable housing, especially on city-owned property. The needed economic analysis may take time and patience, but if you are one of the Mountain View residents who has had their rent increased beyond your means and are forced to move out of our wonderful community, your patience has already run out, to put it too mildly.

We elect our City Council to make hard decisions, and in my opinion Mayor Showalter and council members Siegel and Inks were listening to the community and asked for the project to be redefined. The final decision has not been made, so please reach out to the other council members

and voice your own opinions. Please tell them what a good land use decision on city-owned property would be.

Cliff Chambers
Midrock Corners

ON PARCEL TAXES AND TERRORISM

In your Christmas Day "open letter" to two of the five trustees in the Mountain View Whisman School District, you cite the opinions of "the district's legal counsel and its parcel tax consultant" that, under a recent court decision, "only a flat tax that treats all parcels the same would pass legal muster." On that basis, you contend that the two trustees should simply support placing a flat per-parcel tax on the ballot in May.

While it is true that a state Court of Appeal in San Francisco did invalidate a tiered parcel tax as not "uniform" within the meaning of California Government Code section 50079, the court did not decide that only a flat tax would be "uniform" (*Borikas v. Alameda Unified School District* (2013) 214 Cal.App.4th 135).

Trustees are right to look for a tax more fair than a flat tax.

There is another major issue, however. Hundreds of Los Angeles schools were closed in December in response to an apparent terrorist threat. If schools can be closed by a terrorist threat or an actual attack, we need to consider de-centralizing schools and schooling.

In the meantime and at a minimum, as I opined to the local school board, schools

need serious plans to deter and repeal attacks — including modern camera systems. In my view: no plan, no more money.

Gary Wesley
Continental Circle

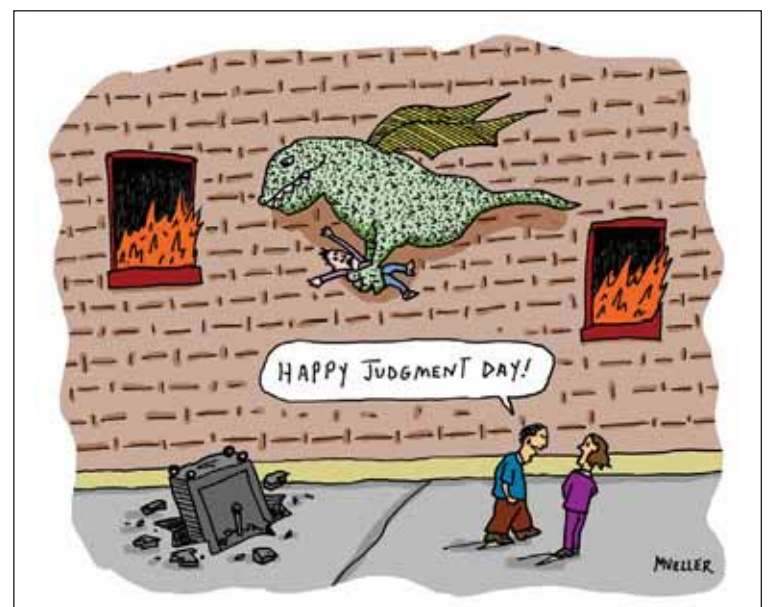
FLAGRANT RACISM

Though I voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012, it's not because I'm some brain-dead doctrinaire lemming who votes from an unquestioned partisan position. I'm actually a non-aligned, free-thinking independent who would vote for John Kasich this year if he were to get the GOP nomination, which of course he's not going to get because he's a decent man who focuses only on the issues.

Having qualified myself in this manner, I find the screaming hypocrisy by the right-wingers in this country to be almost laughable regarding their blatant silence regarding Ted Cruz not being a U.S.-born citizen. The right-wing morons in this country have been badgering Obama throughout his entire presidency regarding the issue of whether he's a U.S.-born citizen or not, but now that one of their own is clearly not a U.S.-born citizen suddenly they've developed Alzheimer's.

Let's get down to the ugly underlying truth here. The right-winger whites in America cannot stand it that a black man who they feel should be out picking cotton dared to invade the master's bedroom. It's flagrant racism, plain and simple, and the right-winger whites are too dishonest to admit it.

Jeffrey Van Middlebrook
Easy Street





Fired up

Vesta's Neapolitan pizzas are rustic, yet refined

Review by
Dale Bentson

Photos by
Veronica Weber

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

My new favorite pizza in the whole world is the carbonara at Vesta in downtown Redwood City. What could have been a dense, gooey affair was feather light, packed with flavor and satisfying on a pizza level, an umami level and an Italian food level.

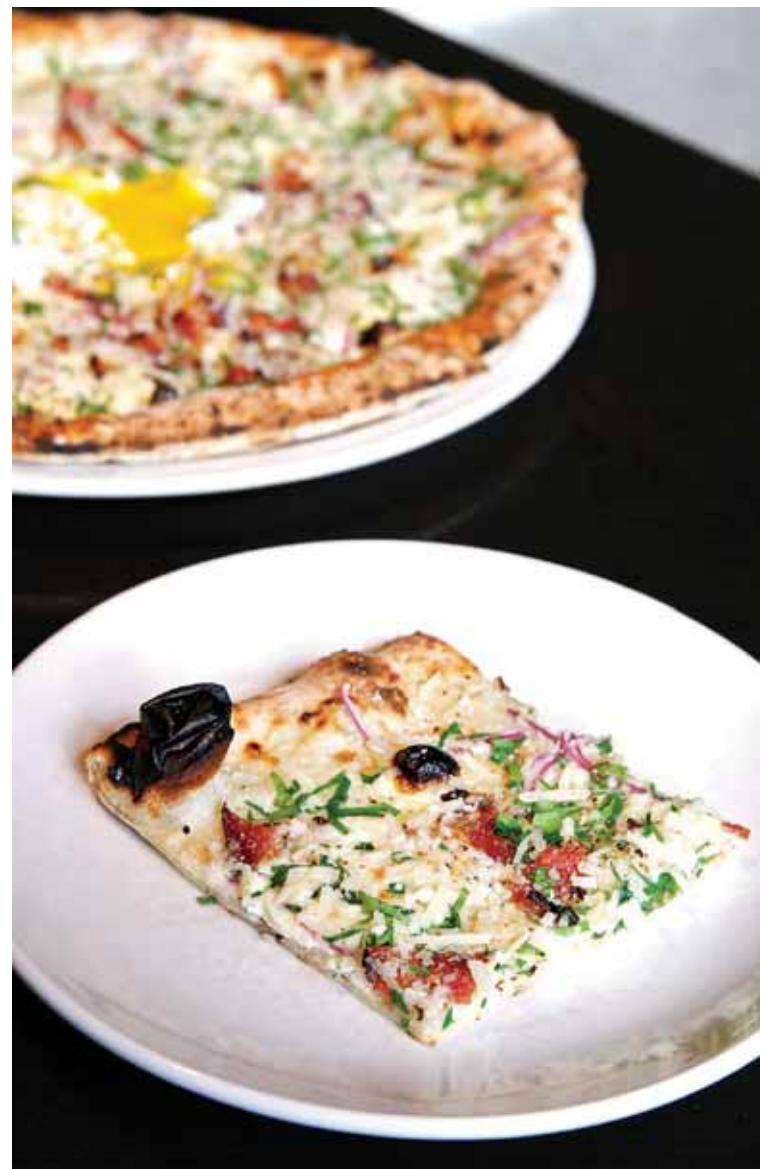
The pizza (\$23) was deftly topped with mascarpone, mozzarella, crisp Applewood smoked bacon, parsley, garlic, black pepper, red onion and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, with an over-easy egg plopped in the center of the pie.

► Continued on next page



Above: Pedro Rodriguez, the sous chef at Vesta in Redwood City, prepares a carbonara pizza. **Top:** Vesta's popular sausage and honey pizza.

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The carbonara pizza is topped with mascarpone and mozzarella cheeses, smoked bacon, red onion and an over-easy egg.

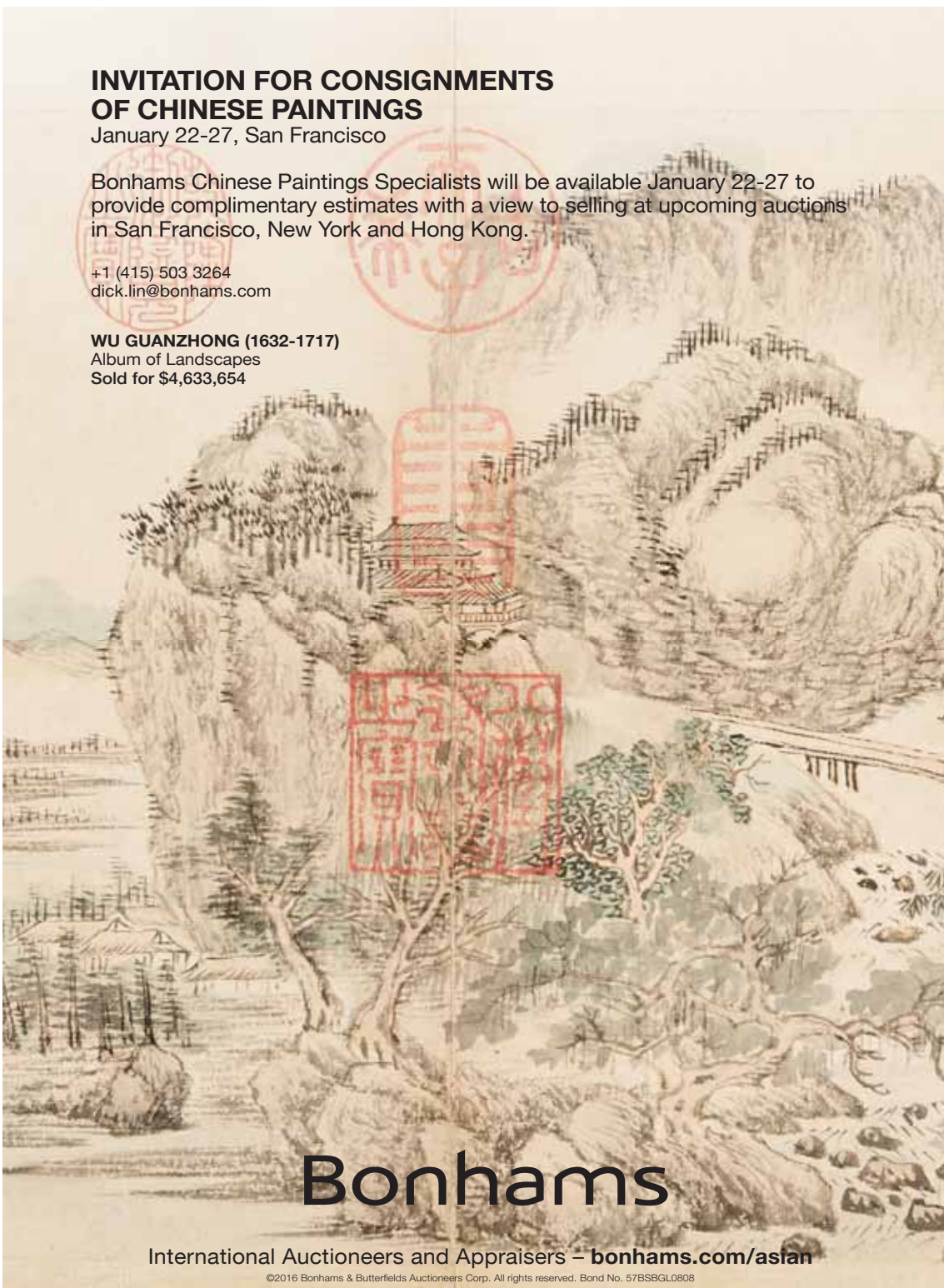
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► *Continued from previous page*

Pricking the yolk allowed me to dip pizza slices into it. The bacon, egg and cheese were marvelous with the pliant, puffy and slightly charred pizza crust. On subsequent visits, I had to force myself to order other menu items so I could complete this review.

Open at 2022 Broadway St. since 2012, Vesta's genesis actually dates back three-and-a-half decades. Roy and Rose Borrone opened their eponymous cafe in 1979 in a building Roy owned at that location.

The Borrone operated it for 10 years before moving to their current, popular location on El Camino Real in Menlo Park. Now son Peter and daughter-in-law Courtney oversee the Broadway space with their hand-crafted pizza and small-plates restaurant.

Vesta is no secret to the downtown Redwood City dining scene. While I have no comparative financials, I would venture to say Vesta is the most popular spot on a street filled with good restaurants. Well before noon, Vesta was packed while other restaurants were still putting out their umbrellas. Reservations are recommended.

The main dining room, painted a mossy green, has high walls, one sizeable abstract canvas and a large fresh flower arrangement. One corner of the space is devoted to the pizza makers and the wood-burning brick oven. Out back is a covered patio with a garden feel and plenty of heaters. A passageway with seating links the main dining room and back patio. In good weather, there is also pleasant street-side seating under market umbrellas. The unifying theme is an outdoorsy feel that seems just right for the space.

Everything about Vesta is big. Besides the high ceilings, which make the main dining room feel lofty, portions are large, flavors are outsize and aromas are prodigious.

The food was hearty — post-fox hunt at Downton Abbey kind of fare, earthy and aromatic, rustic, with huge portions meant for passing round the table while sharing stories of hounds and horses or perhaps more mundane conversations about jobs, sports and the weather.

Grilled, then sauteed cauliflower (\$9) was a robust plate of vegetables smothered in toasted almonds, currants,

and serrano chilies, drizzled with honey, and topped with breadcrumbs—a small-plate appetizer that could satisfy two to four people.

The baseball-sized pork meatballs (\$12.50 for three) were served under a pile of crisp arugula tossed in a jalapeno aioli with curls of fragrant Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese atop. The pork balls were cooked through, despite their size, without being charred on the outside.

The savory mushroom toast (\$12) featured a medley of sauteed forest-fresh mushrooms with creme fraiche and thyme, served over thick slices of grilled bread. Lush and aromatic, it was almost too rich for a first course and very filling.

One waiter told me the most popular pie is the sausage and honey pizza (\$21). Topped with tomato sauce, big chunks of spicy Italian sausage, mascarpone, serrano chilies, parsley and drizzled with honey, it was just a tad too sweet for my taste but clearly enjoyed by many.

The Margherita pizza (\$16), on the other hand, had that classic Neapolitan quality to it—simple ingredients of tomato sauce, fresh mozzarella, basil, olive oil, and fleur de sel with simply amazing results. It had a bubbly soft crust and thin layer of sauce, dotted with tiny puddles of melted cheese.

Even when packed, the service was attentive and I appreciated that there are linens on the tables and not paper napkins. The busy dining

■ DINING NOTES

Vesta

202 Broadway St.
Redwood City
650-362-5052 | vestarwc.com

Hours:
Tuesday–Saturday:
11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Reservations ✓

Credit cards ✓

Happy hour ●

Children ✓

Takeout ✓

Parking street and city lots

Alcohol beer and wine

Corkage \$15

Delivery available from independent companies

Outdoor dining enclosed patio and streetside

Noise level high

Bathroom cleanliness excellent

room could get loud as noise ricocheted off the stark high walls. The pizza oven has limited capacity and can get backed up when the restaurant is filled. All the more reason to take advantage of the inviting appetizers.

The restaurant itself doesn't make deliveries, but Vesta accommodates several inde-



Above: Vesta's main dining room in downtown Redwood City.

Right: Baseball-sized pork meatballs are topped with arugula, jalapeno aioli and curls of Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese.



pendent food delivery services. A word of caution though: Vesta's pizzas are Neapolitan style with soft crusts that could be soggy by the time they're delivered. They are best eaten hot from the brick oven.

Vesta offered a solid selection of craft beers, both draft and by the bottle. The wine list was built around the food: high acid whites and spicy reds, with most labels available by the glass or bottle.

Peter Borrone grew up in the restaurant business. He and Courtney have translated that knowledge into a contemporary, vibrant, thriving restaurant.

Now that this review is completed, I can shower my attention solely on that scrumptious pizza carbonara. ■

Email freelance writer Dale Bentson at dfbentson@gmail.com.

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■ MOVIE OPENINGS



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Géza Röhrig stars in "Son of Saul."

Intense concentration

"SON OF SAUL" A TALE OF TENACIOUS HUMANITY WITHIN AUSCHWITZ

★★★1/2 (Guild Theatre, Menlo Park)

To attempt to encapsulate the unfathomable experience of the Holocaust in a narrative film would seem to be a fool's errand, although that hasn't stopped scores of filmmakers from trying, perhaps emboldened by the prospect of awards for dealing with this most serious of topics.

The Holocaust may be awards bait, but it is also a cultural minefield, demanding sensitivity and a storytelling angle that avoids the appearance of exploitation. Though unavoidably controversial, the Hungarian film "Son of Saul" succeeds in its dramatic aims through its focus on one man's last grasp at humanity amidst the dehumanizing horrors of Auschwitz. "Son of Saul" marks the feature-filmmaking debut of László Nemes, who also co-wrote the film with Clara Royer. A former assistant to acclaimed Hungarian film director Béla Tarr, Nemes has learned from that master the power of simplicity and restraint, to the extent that any depiction of

the workings of a concentration camp can be restrained. Eschewing wide establishing shots, "Son of Saul" plays its action disorientingly tight as it follows sonderkommando Saul Auslander (Géza Röhrig), in his face, at the back of his head, or just behind his shoulder as he moves through the Dante-esque "Inferno" of Auschwitz.

The sonderkommando were prisoners conscribed, in short terms, into leading fellow Jews from the transports into the showers, and then removing the corpses for the next round. The soul-deadening job has already taken its toll on Saul, for whom literal death is promised soon.

But the miraculous survival of a boy breaks through to Saul, and even when the boy's life has been extinguished, Saul's flame of humanity continues to flicker. In spite of his pronounced survival instinct, Saul goes on a desperate, single-minded quest for a pyrrhic victory: a proper Jewish burial for the boy, who Saul immediately claims as his son. Is Saul telling the truth

about his parentage? Is he delusional? Is it a lie of expedience? Or a lie he chooses to believe? Nemes doesn't answer these questions, suggesting that any answer would be smaller than the larger truth.

Make no mistake: "Son of Saul" is a visceral and emotionally draining experience, full-immersion from its surround-sonic onslaught and visual cues — such as out-of-focus masses of bodies, live and dead, clothed and naked — to its psychoanalysis of its haunted protagonist. Röhrig powerfully realizes Saul's studied nonchalance around his Nazi oppressors spinning into a widening gyre of anxiety and reawakened humanity. Nemes' deeply moving film dramatizes those extraordinary circumstances under which even the meanings of life and death become foreign and in desperate need of rediscovery.

Rated R for disturbing violent content, and some graphic nudity. One hour, 47 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



■ MOVIE REVIEWS

ANOMALISA ★★★1/2

One of cinema's most uncompromising artists, Charlie Kaufman teams up with animator Duke Johnson to direct "Anomalisa," a dramedy in stop-motion

puppet animation that challenges big-screen conventions of subject matter and style. The film's "hero" is Michael Stone (David Thewlis), a married-with-kids motivational speaker who travels from city to city to deliver customer-service advice, but he badly needs guidance himself in escaping a dispiriting rut. Restlessness leads Michael to consider enlisting an extramarital bedmate, and he finds a candidate in admirer Lisa (Jennifer

Jason Leigh). The film's intentions prove humble, avoiding unironic motivational lecture and offering a deadpan-funny slice of despairing life. But Kaufman and Johnson score thematic points on the natures of depression and desire, and the silicone figures give us healthy distance to allow for anthropological self-study. *Rated R for strong sexual content, graphic nudity and language. One hour, 30 minutes.* — P.C.

■ MOVIE TIMES

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (R)

Century 16: 10 a.m., 1:15, 4:30, 7:45 & 11 p.m. **Century 20:** 3:55, 5:40, 7:15 & 10:35 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 2:25 p.m. Fri. & Sun. noon

The 5th Wave (PG-13) Century 16: 10:05 a.m., 1, 4:05, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.

Century 20: 10:55 a.m., 1:40, 4:30, 7:20 & 10:15 p.m. In D-BOX at 10:55 a.m., 1:40, 4:30, 7:20 & 10:15 p.m.

Airlift (Not Rated) Century 16: 9:30 p.m.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip (PG)

Century 20: 11:10 a.m.

Anomalisa (R) ★★★1/2 Aquarius Theatre: 2:30, 4:40, 7:20 & 10 p.m.

The Big Short (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 10:20 a.m., 1:25, 4:25, 7:40 & 10:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:25 a.m., 1:25, 4:25, 7:25 & 10:30 p.m.

Bolshoi Ballet: Taming of the Shrew (PG) Century 20: Sun. 12:55 p.m.

The Boy (PG-13) Century 16: 10:10 a.m., 12:40, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m., 2:30, 5:10, 8 & 10:45 p.m.

Bridge of Spies (PG-13) Century 20: 6:55 & 10:05 p.m.

Brooklyn (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 10:40 a.m. 4:45 & 10:20 p.m.

Palo Alto Square: 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 9:55 p.m.

Carol (R) Century 16: 10:15 a.m., 1:05 & 4 p.m.

Century 20: Fri. & Sat. 10:20 a.m., 1:05 & 3:50 p.m.

Casablanca (1942) (PG)

Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 3:40 p.m.

Creed (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: 9:35 p.m.

Daddy's Home (PG-13) Century 16: 7 p.m. Fri. & Sun. 11:20 a.m. Sat. 4:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m., 2:20, 5:05, 7:50 & 10:20 p.m.

The Danish Girl (R) Aquarius Theatre: 1:30, 4:10, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Century 20: 11:05 a.m., 4:50 & 7:45 p.m.

Dirty Grandpa (R) Century 16: 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4:10, 7:15 & 10 p.m.

Century 20: 11:15 a.m., 2:15, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.

The Forest (PG-13) Century 20: 2 & 10:45 p.m.

Gilda (1946) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: 5:30 & 9:25 p.m.

The Good Dinosaur (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.

Century 20: 11 a.m., 1:30 & 4:15 p.m.

The Hateful Eight (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:15 a.m., 3:05, 7:10 & 10:50 p.m.

Century 20: 6:35 & 10:10 p.m.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 20: 9:30 p.m.

Joy (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 9:05 p.m.

Nannaku Prematho (Not Rated) Century 16: 6:40 & 10:25 p.m.

Norm of the North (PG) Century 16: 10:10 a.m., 12:30, 2:50, 5:10 & 7:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:30 a.m., 1:55, 4:40 & 7:05 p.m.

The Revenant (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: 10:45 a.m., 12:25, 2:15, 3:55, 5:45, 7:25, 9:15 & 10:55 p.m.

Century 20: 10:25 a.m., 1:50, 5:20 & 8:50 p.m. In X-D at 11:55 a.m., 3:30, 7 & 10:25 p.m.

Ride Along 2 (PG-13) 1/2 Century 16: 11:55 a.m., 2:35, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m.

Century 20: 10:40 a.m., 1:15, 2:40, 4, 5:25, 6:45, 8:05, 9:20 & 10:40 p.m. Fri. & Sun. 12:10 p.m.

Room (R) Century 16: 10 a.m., 12:50, 3:50 & 9:50 p.m.

Sisters (R) Century 16: 7:05 & 10:50 p.m.

Century 20: 11:25 a.m., 2:15, 5, 7:55 & 10:40 p.m.

Son of Saul (R) ★★★1/2 Guild Theatre: 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

Spotlight (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20: 1:25 & 7:10 p.m.

Palo Alto Square: 1, 4 & 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.

Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: 10 & 11:05 a.m., 1:10, 4:30, 7:45 & 11 p.m. Fri. 6:15 & 9:25 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 2:20, 5:35 & 8:50 p.m. In 3-D at 12:10, 3:25, 7 & 10:15 p.m. Fri. 3 p.m. **Century 20:** 10:45 a.m., 12:50, 4:05, 7:20, 8:30 & 10:35 p.m. In 3-D at 2, 3:05, 5:15 & 6:20 p.m. Fri. 11:50 a.m. In 3-D D-BOX at 2 & 5:15 p.m. In D-BOX at 10:45 a.m., 8:30 p.m.

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948) (Not Rated)

Century 16: Sun. 2 p.m. **Century 20:** Sun. 2 p.m.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (327-3241)

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

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

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

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★★ Some redeeming qualities
★★★ A good bet
★★★★ Outstanding

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HIGHLIGHT

'HERSHEY FELDER AS IRVING BERLIN'

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will kick off the New Year with the regional premiere of a new work by performer and playwright Hershey Felder, in which he inhabits the persona and story of "America's Composer," Irving Berlin. See the website for specific times, dates and pricing. Tuesday-Sunday, Jan. 13-Feb. 14. \$25-\$74. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.theatreworks.org

ART GALLERIES

'Photographic Impressions' Highlighting form, space and color, this exhibit of photography by Dave Massolo shares works that present landscapes and other subjects from a unique and tranquil perspective. Jan. 5-31, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. Call 650-948-2961. gallery9losaltos.com

'Small Works' Viewpoints Gallery is hosting an exhibit called "Small Works," in which 16 local artists present their oil and watercolor paintings, pastels, mixed-media work, jewelry and ceramics. On each Saturday throughout the month, gallery artists will give demonstrations. Visit the website for more info. Jan. 1-30, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Hatha Yoga Thursday Evenings Led by Patricia Joy Becker, these classes focus on proper alignment to balance the body. Each session offers a new sequence of poses that stretch and strengthen different body areas. Breathing practices and short meditations are often included. Thursdays, ongoing, 7:15-8:30 p.m. \$10 new student (see website for pricing). Yoga is Youthfulness, 590 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-285-1867. yourhealthandjoy.com

The Art of Memoir Writing Presented in conjunction with the Los Altos History Museum exhibit "Spirits Return," this two-hour workshop led by Sylvia Halloran will help participants tap into their creative juices for memoir writing. Jan. 23, 2-4 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6882. mountainview.gov/librarycalendar

CLUBS/MEETINGS

California Native Plant Society: Members' Night Slide Show In this annual tradition, members of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will share photos taken during 2015 of notable plants and places they visited. Those interested in participating should visit the website for more info. Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, Program Room, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. www.cnps-sc.org

ESL Conversation Club in Mountain View This Mountain View Public Library club for those learning or improving their spoken English provides practice opportunities with casual conversation and friendly company. All levels are welcome. No registration is required. Wednesdays, year-round, 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. mountainview.gov/library

Peninsula Gem & Geology Society: Mark Hylkema At this meeting of the Peninsula Gem & Geology Society, Mark Hylkema, a state archaeologist, will speak about local Native American tribes and how they used rock and mineral resources available to them in the Bay Area. A door prize drawing and silent auction will follow. Jan. 27, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Hillview Community Center, Room 13, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. pggs.org

Sing and Play Along Ukulele Beginners and ukulele enthusiasts are invited to join this group at the Mountain View Public Library on the fourth Monday of each month to sing and play their instruments together. Attendees can either bring their own ukulele or use one of the library's. Registration is appreciated but not required. Jan. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6882. mountainview.gov/librarycalendar

Step Up for Pro-Choice The Los Altos/Mountain View chapter of the American Association of University Women and other groups will commemorate the 42nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade with a program featuring Linda Williams, CEO of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte. There will also be an opportunity to be part of a social

media support event. Jan. 22, noon-1:30 p.m. \$2 registration fee. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. lamv-ca.aauw.net

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Coloring for Grown-Ups This event for adults only will engage participants in coloring, the latest trend in stress relief. There will be a selection of coloring sheets for adults, and colored pencils and crayons will be provided. Jan. 28, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6882. mountainview.gov/librarycalendar

CONCERTS

Bluegrass Duet: Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick Bay Area bluegrass artists Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick will perform a set of bluegrass duets associated with California as a tribute to Vern Williams and Ray Parks, a West Coast bluegrass duo in the '60s and '70s. Community members can join in a pre-show jam at 5 p.m. Jan. 23, 7:30-10 p.m. \$22 adult; \$20 senior; \$12.50 teen, student (tickets also available at the door). Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 650-793-0720. rba.org

Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra: Nielsen, Bartók and Stravinsky In one of its January concerts, the Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra will present a program with Nielsen's "Helios Overture," Bartók's Piano Concert No. 3, featuring Hélène Wickert on piano; and Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements. Jan. 24, 2:30 p.m. \$15-\$25. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-208-4159. www.mastersinfonia.org

USAF Band of the Golden West Chamber Players The Band of the Golden West Chamber Players, composed of airmen-musicians, will offer a program featuring a variety of musical styles and talents, including soloists and small ensembles. The doors will open at 7 p.m.; seating is limited. Jan. 23, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/concerts.htm

World Harmony Chorus Under the direction of innovative musician Daniel Steinberg, this eclectic chorus will perform a repertoire of songs from around the world, including Africa, Latin America and Europe. Seating is first-come, first-served and limited to 200. The doors will open at 7 p.m. Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/concerts.htm

DANCE

Bayer Ballet Academy Boys Program Bayer Ballet Academy in Mountain View is launching a new boys program, where students can take advantage of specialized boys-only classes with instructor Ivan Goliadin. Classes are held four days a week and are open to ages 8 to 18. Call the school to register for a free trial class. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 4-June 11. See website for pricing. Bayer Ballet Academy, 2028 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. Call 650-988-9971. www.bayerballetacademy.com

Winter Traditions Day of Dance Mad Molly Morris, a group performing English molly and border dancing, will travel throughout the downtown Mountain View area sharing its traditional dancing. The group will make stops at the Caltrain station (11 a.m.), the Mountain View Performing Arts Center Plaza (1:15 p.m.), the Mountain View Public Library Plaza (2:30 p.m.) and Tied House (4 p.m.). Jan. 23, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Downtown Mountain View, on and near Castro Street, Mountain View. www.facebook.com/MadMollyMorris/

FAMILY AND KIDS

'The Physics Show' at Foothill College Children and their parents can witness fun and vivid science demonstrations during these 90-minute performances of "The Physics Show" at Foothill College. Limited tickets are available

and are only sold online. Visit the website for more info. Jan. 23 and 24, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. \$5 (includes free parking in Lot 1). Foothill College, Smithwick Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. thephysicsshow.com

ON STAGE

'Death of a Salesman' Palo Alto Players will stage the acclaimed 1949 drama by Arthur Miller, "Death of a Salesman," which follows traveling salesman Willy Loman as he chases the American Dream and grapples with failing hopes for his family's future. Gunn High School educator Kristen Lo will direct the production. Jan. 15-31, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$32-\$46. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-0891. www.paplayers.org

'Middletown' Los Altos Stage Company's first production of the year will be "Middletown," a modern-day take on Thornton Wilder's classic "Our Town" that offers an offbeat exploration of life's beauty and difficulties. There will be no shows on Feb. 7 and 10. Jan. 28-Feb. 21, Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. \$30 adult; \$18 student (under age 18 or with ID). Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. www.losaltosstage.org

'The Mountaintop' Pear Theatre will present the two-person, Olivier Award-winning play "The Mountaintop," which re-imagines the last night of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life in Memphis in April 1968. Michael Wayne Rice and Nathalie Autumn Bennett star in the production. Jan. 14-31, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$10-\$35. Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. Call 650-254-1148. www.thepear.org

EnActe Arts: 'A Nice Indian Boy' EnActe will stage a dramatic and comedic play by Madhuri Shekar called "A Nice Indian Boy," about an Indian family's struggle to accept their son's relationship with a blonde, blue-eyed Caucasian man who had an Indian upbringing. Jan. 22, 8 p.m.; Jan. 23, 2 and 6 p.m. \$25 general; \$35 VIP (group discounts and other options available). Cubberley Community Theater, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 408-306-2251. www.enacte.org

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Reiki Energy Healing Class The Los Altos Reiki Center will offer a Reiki II class, teaching the gentle healing art of reiki which aims to de-stress and enhance the health, happiness and wholeness of oneself and others. Jan. 24, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$225. Los Altos Reiki Center, 745 Distel Drive, Los Altos. Call 650-862-2425. www.losaltosreiki.com

SENIORS

Functional Aging Fitness Class Evolution Trainers is offering a class taught by Hartmut Broring specifically designed for boomers and seniors. The program aims to help students develop lower and upper body strength, core stability and posture, range of motion and balance. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 5-March 3, 2-3 p.m. \$200 twice a week, \$120 once a week, per month. Evolution Trainers, 2044 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. Call 650-965-8991. evolutiontrainers.com

Learn to play Pickleball Held next to the tennis courts at Rengstorff Park, this event will teach seniors how to play pickleball, a growing sport in the U.S that is easy on the joints. All equipment will be provided; participants should wear court shoes. Wednesdays, Dec. 9-Jan. 27, 1-3 p.m. Free (donations accepted). Rengstorff Park, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-254-1041. www.usapa.org

Personal emergency systems workshop Local emergency medical technicians will visit the Mountain View Senior Center to supply information to seniors and families about personal emergency systems. They will cover available systems, how to choose one, how they work, when to get one and other topics. Jan. 26, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330. mountainview.gov/seniors

LECTURES & TALKS

'Venture Capital and Entrepreneurship in the Silicon Valley' Hadassah of Silicon Valley invites the public to attend a luncheon with global entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers and medical professionals that will feature guest speaker William Henry Draper III — one of the United States' original venture capitalists. RSVP is requested. Jan. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$50 (includes lunch and a \$10 donation). Michaels at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain

View. www.eventbrite.com/e/venture-capital-and-entrepreneurship-in-the-silicon-valley-tickets-19902860993

She's Geeky Bay Area 2016 A two-day networking conference, She's Geeky Bay Area 2016 will provide opportunities for women in science, technology, engineering and math to 'geek out' together and make connections. Jan. 29 and 30, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$140 two days; one-day, student and daughter rates available. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.shesgeeky.org

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

MORA DRIVE STREET EASEMENT VACATION

You are invited to the following City of Mountain View Council meeting where the Council will consider adopting A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE VACATION OF PUBLIC STREET EASEMENTS ON MORA DRIVE. Additional details will be provided at the meeting:

Tues., Feb. 2, 2016

6:30 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as the item can be heard)

Mountain View City Hall

500 Castro St.

Mountain View, CA

The report providing information on this item to the City Council will be published on the City's website (www.mountainview.gov) on or about January 29, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Quynh Byrer at 650.903-6311. Comments may also be e-mailed to public.works@mountainview.gov.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Does dementia stress your family

Handbell Musicians needed

New Beginning Tai Chi Classes

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130 Classes & Instruction

New Year, New Airline Careers
Get training as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Career placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

NEW YEAR, NEW AVIATION
Career. Get FAA approved Aviation Technician training. Financial aid for qualified. Career placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 866-231-7177. (Cal-SCAN)

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Classes begin Monday Jan. 18 7:30 p.m. Loyola School 770 Berry Ave., Los Altos Register January 18th or 25th January Classes are FREE!

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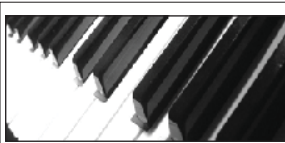


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135 Group Activities

Does dementia stress your family

140 Lost & Found

Found: Metal Vice
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145 Non-Profits Needs

Does dementia stress your family

DONATE BOOKS TO SUPPORT LIBRARY

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230 Freebies

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235 Wanted to Buy

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

NATEA
NATEA-SV
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 612034
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Natea, 2.) Natea-SV, located at 943 Hillsboro Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
NORTH AMERICA TAIWANESE ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION
943 Hillsboro Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/1/1992.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 14, 2015.
(MVV Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 612390
The following person(s)/ registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
BABY NURSE SERVICES
1030 El Monte Ave. #104
Mountain View, CA 94040
FILED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ON:
06/20/2014
UNDER FILE NO.: 593376
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
FERESHTEH AFKAMI
1030 El Monte Ave. #104
Mountain View, CA 94040
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY: An Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 28, 2015.
(MVV Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2016)

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Redwood City - \$4,500.00
Redwood City - \$5,200
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- The Mountain View Voice is adjudicated to publish in the County of Santa Clara.
- Our adjudication includes the Mid-Peninsula communities of Palo Alto, Stanford, Los Altos and Mountain View.
- The Mountain View Voice publishes every Friday.

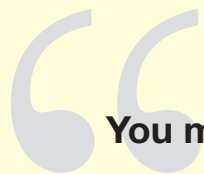
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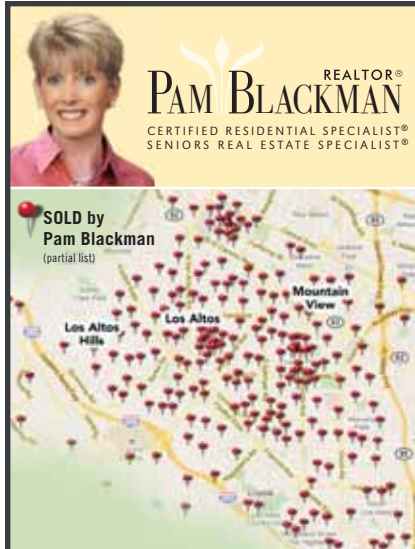
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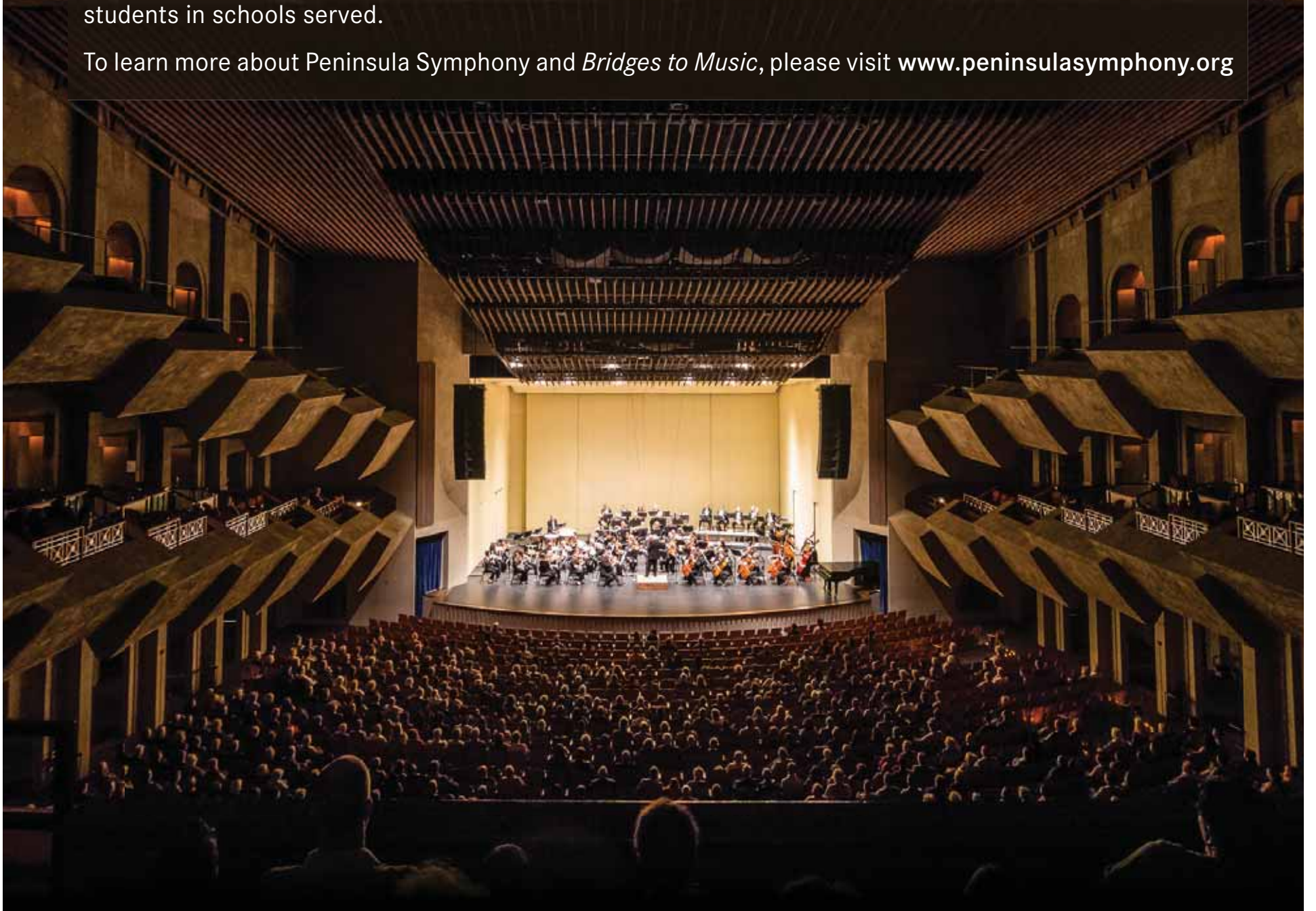


Established in 1949, the Peninsula Symphony is a professionally trained, 90-member, volunteer orchestra led by Music Director and Conductor Mitchell Sardou Klein.

The *Bridges to Music* educational outreach program ensures that all residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties can experience live orchestral music performances. The in-school educational program brings professional musicians and ensembles into elementary schools with little or no music curriculum in Redwood City, East Palo Alto, and Sunnyvale, and provides master classes and sectionals for middle and high school music students.

Bridges to Music also offers two annual youth competitions, free community concerts and distributes free ticket vouchers for subscription concerts to community organizations and family concert vouchers to students in schools served.

To learn more about Peninsula Symphony and *Bridges to Music*, please visit www.peninsulasymphony.org



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ter suite located on the upper level and additional bedroom/office, with access to full bath, located on the main level. Outside, the backyard offers sun-swept areas with level lawn and a large patio covered by a pergola. All of these amenities await plus a wonderful location near local schools, parks, YMCA, and El Camino Hospital.

- 5 bedrooms and 3 baths
- Home is approximately 3,277* square feet
- Formal entry with towering ceiling opens to the living room and formal dining room
- Updated kitchen includes new granite counters and new hardwood floors, and flows directly into the family room
- Inviting family room with brick fireplace and sliding glass doors accessing the backyard and entertainment patio

- Spacious upper landing area perfect for den or second family room
- Flexible floor plan with master suite and three additional bedrooms on the upper level. Fifth bedroom/home office with access to full bath on the main level.

- Lovely backyard with large pergola covered patio and lawn framed by mature landscaping
- Prestigious Waverly Park neighborhood
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CUPERTINO Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30 \$1,499,000
22475 Rancho Deep Cliff Dr 2 BR 2 BA Enjoy the privacy and convenience of living in this much sought-after gated community.
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SAN MATEO \$1,188,000
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