

Mountain View VOICE

JANUARY 29, 2016 VOLUME 24, NO. 1

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Cooking up
a career
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Teen seeks funds for peanut-sniffing dog

FOOD ALLERGY SERVICE
DOG COULD BRING
SAFETY, NORMALITY TO
COLLEGE STUDENT'S LIFE

By Kevin Forestieri

For years, 19-year-old Arielle Davis has been coping with a peanut allergy that used to be completely under control. But over the course of 2015, Davis found herself in and out of the hospital nearly a dozen times as her allergic reactions became more severe.

In the last year, Davis has weathered 15 full-blown anaphylactic allergic reactions, 10 trips to the emergency room and several extended stays in the intensive care unit. Exposure to peanut, coconut or red pepper causes her face and her throat to swell up, which could prove to be fatal if not treated immediately.

Davis, a Mountain View teen currently attending college near Los Angeles, said she suddenly found herself extremely allergic to peanuts during winter break last year



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARIELLE DAVIS

Arielle Davis sits in the hospital following a severe allergic reaction last year. Exposure to peanuts and other foods have caused her to go into anaphylactic shock multiple times.

when a protein bar caused her throat to swell and close up. Since then, she estimates that every two weeks she has to cope with another unexpected and potentially life-threatening reaction.

She said the violent allergic reactions have her constantly on guard to avoid any exposure to even trace amounts of the allergens. Even though restau-

► See **PEANUT ALLERGY**, page 9

Coming soon to North Bayshore?

A FIRST LOOK AT PLANS FOR NEW MICROSOFT CAMPUS,
SOBRATO'S MIXED HOUSING AND OFFICE PROJECT

By Mark Noack

Amid a spree of projects in the pipeline for the North Bayshore neighborhood, two major firms are moving forward with ambitious redevelopment plans along Pear Avenue.

On Thursday, Jan. 21, Microsoft unveiled plans to acquire the campus it currently leases and build a green-roofed office complex in the heart of North Bayshore.

Microsoft carved out a home in Mountain View's tech-centric office park nearly 15 years ago, before Google, LinkedIn or many of the other vaunted tech firms moved into town.

As part of its plans, Microsoft intends to purchase its Pear Avenue facility and redevelop it into a state-of-the-art workplace. In a news release, the company touted a series of courtyards, fitness amenities and outdoor access that would be built into the new design.

Fully rebuilding the campus

is expected to take three years, Microsoft Vice President Qi Lu said in an email to employees.

"I'm excited to announce our plans to further invest in the success of the Silicon Valley region," Lu wrote. "Today's announcement marks the very beginning of a longer term process."

Describing the center as a strategic hub for research and development, Microsoft's Silicon Valley campus has helped spearhead projects including Xbox, Outlook.com, Skype and Yammer, according to company officials. While Microsoft is based out of Redmond, Wash., the company employs more than 2,000 workers in the Bay Area at offices in San Francisco, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale.

For their part, Mountain View city officials have already given Microsoft their blessing to expand its presence in town. Last year, the city allotted the company 128,000 square feet of

► See **NORTH BAYSHORE**, page 9

MV to cede properties to Los Altos

SHORT STRETCH OF JARDIN GETS COUNCIL'S OK TO CHANGE CITY LIMITS

By Mark Noack

To hear Stephen Friedman describe it, his neighborhood of Jardin Drive is like Mountain View's version of the Bermuda Triangle. For the more than 30 years he's lived there, he's gotten used to having to explain to garbage men, emergency responders and sometimes even city officials that, yes, his house is in Mountain View.

For reasons that remain

unclear, the Mountain View boundary along the southwest corner of town juts down like a hanging tooth to encompass a stretch of Friedman's block. That means Friedman's home and five other households belong to Mountain View even though they're surrounded on three sides by the borders of Los Altos.

This might not seem like a big deal, but those who live there say that it is. While Los Altos houses on either side of the block have

addresses in the 300s, Friedman and his neighbors have addresses in the 2100s. That anomaly alone produces a string of problems. He remembers calling 911 years ago after his wife fell unconscious, and the emergency crews couldn't find his house.

"If you blink, you miss our homes — that's the nature of these illogical boundaries," Friedman described.

► See **JARDIN**, page 8



MICHELLE LE

A portion of **Jardin Drive** is in Mountain View, while the rest is in Los Altos. Residents are lobbying to be annexed into Los Altos.

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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.

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'A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF VALERIE CAPERS'

The African American Composer Initiative will celebrate composer, pianist and arranger Valerie Capers with two concerts featuring original compositions and jazz standards. Classical and jazz artists from the Bay Area will team up with Capers, John Robinson and the Eastside College Preparatory School choir. The benefit concert, entitled "A Musical Celebration of Valerie Capers," will take place on Saturday, Jan. 30, and Sunday, Jan. 31, 3 p.m., at Eastside College Preparatory School, 1041 Myrtle Street, East Palo Alto. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Go to brownpapertickets.com/event/2467635.



COURTESY AFRICAN AMERICAN COMPOSER INITIATIVE
The African American Composer Initiative will celebrate Valerie Capers with two concerts.

SILICON VALLEY ITALIAN FESTIVAL

Take a trip through Italy at a festival centered around the country's culture and traditions. The Silicon Valley Italian Festival returns to Palo Alto's Oshman Family JCC, 921 Fabian Way, on Sunday, Jan. 31. The free festival, which takes place from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. will feature Italian movies and food, a market, speakers and children's activities among other things. Go to siliconvalleyitalianfestival.com.

'INTO THE FOREST: LANDSCAPE AS SUBJECT AND STUDIO IN 19TH-CENTURY FRANCE'

The latest installation at Stanford's Cantor Arts Center features prints, drawings and photographs that explore how French artists, including painter James Tissot, Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot and Camille Pissarro, depicted the landscape in the modern age and approached making art en plein air (in the open air). The exhibition opens Feb. 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cantor, located at 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Admission is free. Go to arts.stanford.edu.



COURTESY STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Cantor Arts Center's new art installation, Into the Forest, depicts 19th century French art styles.

'SEARCHING FOR LIFE BEYOND OUR SOLAR SYSTEM'

Dr. Tori Hoehler of the NASA Ames Research Center will give a free, illustrated and, most importantly, non-technical talk on the science of searching for life beyond the solar system in the the Smithwick Theater at Foothill College in Los Altos on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. The free talk is part of the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series. There is a charge of \$3 for parking on campus. Go to foothill.edu.



COURTESY Foothill College
Dr. Tori Hoehler of NASA Ames will give a talk on life beyond the solar system.

ARTS WITH A HEART

"Arts with a Heart," a musical variety show, will be presented Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29 and 30, at 7:30-9:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 31, 2-4 p.m., at Castilleja School, 1310 Bryant St., in Palo Alto. The show, called "The Future's So Bright," is presented by students from Castilleja. Cost is \$20-\$40. Proceeds will benefit Building Futures Now, an after-school academic enrichment program based in East Palo Alto. Go to eventbrite.com/e/arts-with-a-heart-2016-the-futures-so-bright-tickets-19497753305.

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<p>ORGANIC LOCAL</p> <p>ALL CHARDS</p> <p>RAINBOW RED OR GREEN</p> <p>2 BUN \$400 FOR</p>	<p>ORGANIC LOCAL</p> <p>BABY BOK CHOY</p> <p>TENDER AND TASTY</p> <p>\$199 LB.</p>	

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

CRIME BRIEFS



COURTESY MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

Package theft suspects outside of a Mountain View home.

PACKAGE THIEVES SOUGHT

Police are looking for two male suspects in the theft of packages from a Mountain View home, following the arrest of two minors who were taken into custody Wednesday morning.

Home surveillance footage from Jan. 11 at around 2:43 p.m. shows four suspects stopped in front of the home in the 200 block of Beatrice Street. Two of the suspects, both female, allegedly took the packages that were delivered earlier that day, police said.

The suspects are then seen returning to the home about 15 minutes later, and both women can be seen trying to open the front door. The third suspect, a man, was allegedly carrying an

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 15

POLICE LOG

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>AUTO BURGLARY
 1300 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/21
 100 block Bryant St., 1/21
 200 block Franklin St., 1/21
 200 block Franklin St., 1/22
 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/22
 2400 block Charleston Rd., 1/22
 500 block Taylor Ct., 1/24
 200 block Hamilton Av., 1/24
 2900 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/25
 1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd, 1/25
 2400 block Grant Rd., 1/26</p> <p>BATTERY
 Escuela Av. & Latham St., 1/22
 200 block Castro St., 1/24
 100 block E. El Camino Real, 1/24</p> <p>COMMERCIAL BURGLARY
 1700 block Villa St., 1/22
 100 block Bryant St., 1/25</p> | <p>GRAND THEFT
 1800 block W. El Camino Real, 1/22
 100 block E. El Camino Real, 1/23
 500 block Showers Dr., 1/25</p> <p>RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY
 2200 block Latham St., 1/25</p> <p>RESISTING A PUBLIC OFFICER
 200 block Castro St., 1/24</p> <p>STOLEN VEHICLE
 1900 block Latham St., 1/21
 1000 block Alta Av., 1/21</p> <p>VANDALISM
 100 block Hope St., 1/21
 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/21
 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/21
 3000 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/21
 500 block Chesley Av., 1/24</p> |
|---|---|

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CRITICAL BLOOD SHORTAGE

Bay Area residents are being asked to donate blood as soon as possible due to a severe shortage, Stanford Blood Center officials said last Friday.

Supplies of blood types O-Negative, AB-Negative and B-Negative have been depleted by recent patient usage, including a liver transplant surgery, pediatric heart surgery and pediatric leukemia treatments.

A seasonal drop in blood donations is also a factor, according to the Stanford Blood Center.

“We’ve put the call out to our current donors, and now we’re

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 14

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MICHELLE LE

Lowell Klaisner, a docent at the Computer History Museum, says he's going to miss the Babbage Engine when it leaves the museum at the end of the month.

Computer Museum bids farewell to Babbage engine

HULKING PROTO-COMPUTER HEADED FOR PRIVATE DISPLAY IN SEATTLE

By Mark Noack

The Mountain View Computer History Museum is saying goodbye to one of its most unique exhibits, if not also its most priceless. This computer might seem an awkward technological marvel — it doesn't run on electricity, it weighs upward of 5 tons and its total memory is far short of a single kilobyte.

Nevertheless, the towering steel and brass contraption known as the Babbage Differ-

ence Engine for nearly eight years been one of the museum's main attractions. As designed by British engineer Charles Babbage in the 1840s, the Victorian-era machine works as a mechanical calculator that can determine polynomial functions. Today, his designs are hailed as the first working computer.

To be clear, the museum's difference engine isn't an original built 160 years ago by Babbage, but rather it is a working model painstakingly designed

and assembled in the 1990s. Around the time when modern computers began garnering the world's attention, historians and computer buffs rediscovered the significance of Babbage's achievement as well as that of his contemporary Ada Lovelace (considered the first computer programmer). To mark the 200-year anniversary of Babbage's birth, the Science Museum of London decided to build a working model of

► See **ENGINE**, page 12

School board postpones parcel tax vote

CITING WEAK VOTER SUPPORT, SUPERINTENDENT ADVISES AGAINST MAY BALLOT MEASURE

By Kevin Forestieri

In a last-minute decision, the Mountain View Whisman School District's board agreed to delay putting a parcel tax renewal measure on the ballot.

The unanimous vote at the Jan. 21 meeting comes after polling showed tepid voter support for a parcel tax measure generating the same level of revenue as the soon-to-expire 2008 Measure C parcel tax. But a bigger problem was a lack of board member votes. Two of the five school board members expressed unwillingness to impose a flat tax, and that's enough to prevent the board from putting a parcel tax on the ballot.

The plan had been to place a \$191 parcel tax measure on the mail-in ballot in May. The new parcel tax would maintain the roughly \$2.8 million in local revenue generated each year by Measure C after it expires June 30, 2017.

But Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph reversed course last Thursday night, calling on the board to postpone the parcel tax renewal to a future election.

Earlier this month, the district's polling consultant, Gene Bregman, told district officials that 68 percent of the 404 "likely voters" polled would be willing to support a \$191 parcel tax — a very slim margin above the two-thirds vote required for it to pass. The biggest concern, Bregman said, had to do with voters' unwillingness to spend more money, and had little to do with any particular issue with district governance or performance.

"Looking at the data and facts available to us currently, I think it's a risky prospect moving forward aggressively for a spring election," said Charles Heath, the district's parcel tax consultant.

Rudolph pointed out that the board is struggling to agree on how to move forward with a parcel tax, weakening the prospects of a successful ballot measure in May.

Since December, board members Greg Coladonato and Steve

Nelson have advocated against a flat, \$191 parcel tax, saying the measure ought to be based on a per-square-foot tax. Property owners of large, multi-acre parcels would pay more than the average homeowner, which they argued would be more equitable.

Heath and the district's legal counsel, on the other hand, firmly advised against a per-square-foot parcel tax, calling it a risky move that would almost certainly be challenged in court as an illegal tax. But that didn't stop Nelson and Coladonato from seeking out a second legal opinion supporting their case for a per-square-foot parcel tax.

Rudolph, acknowledging the writing on the wall, changed course.

"Based on the (news) articles and where we currently are, this may not be the right time to do it," he said.

Board members were unanimous in their support to wait on the parcel tax renewal, but for different reasons. Board president Ellen Wheeler said she was glad to see that district staff was willing to listen to the community and the district's consultants rather than "plowing" ahead with a parcel tax that may end up failing.

Coladonato said he believes district residents will warm up to the idea of a parcel tax at a future election date once the board outlines the district's strategic plan for improving student achievement by 2021.

"I think the vibe in the district will be a lot different than it is now," Coladonato said.

Nelson said he is willing to delay the parcel tax, but maintained that the district could move forward with a uniform, per-square-foot parcel tax.

Nelson said he counted up as many as 11 districts in the region who currently have parcel taxes based on the size of the parcel, and that Berkeley Unified School District may be going "full hog" on a per-square-foot parcel tax in an upcoming parcel tax election. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

DMV slowing down self-driving cars?

PROPOSED RULES DRAW COMPLAINTS FROM MANUFACTURERS, POLITICIANS

By Mark Noack

Google, Tesla and a pack of other companies investing in autonomous car technology are certain to have circled Thursday, Jan. 27, on their calendars. That's when the California Department of Motor Vehicles was set to hold its first-ever public workshop to finalize the many rules for how self-driving cars should operate and be regulated on the streets.

'(This) falls short on allowing this technology to reach its full potential.'

CHRIS URMSON, GOOGLE'S LEAD SELF-DRIVING DEVELOPER

For about two years, the California DMV has allowed self-

driving cars to navigate city streets on a testing basis. Over that time, government officials have struggled to keep pace as development of the technology shifted into high gear. Some manufacturers are teasing that the technology could be ready for consumers as early as 2018.

Last month, the DMV released its long-awaited first draft of rules for autonomous vehicles,

► See **SELF-DRIVING**, page 16

Teacher salary debate heats up

IS MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN'S PAY BETTER OR WORSE THAN OTHER DISTRICTS? IT DEPENDS ON WHOM YOU ASK

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District is roughly a month away from negotiations with its teacher union on salaries, and both sides are already at odds.

Over the past two years, teachers in the district have sent a resounding message to the district: that the current salaries can't keep up with the high cost of living in the Bay Area. Teachers made a passionate appeal to the school board during negotiations in 2014, and were able to score a 5 percent pay increase. The following year, teachers were given another 4 percent raise, bringing salaries to the current range of \$50,199 up to \$92,629.

But is it enough? It depends on whom you ask. Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph contracted with the firm Hanover Research for \$38,500 late last year to study whether teachers are getting paid more or less than those in comparable school districts. The study found that teachers

in the Mountain View Whisman School District are making thousands of dollars more than teachers in school districts with similar levels of local revenue, enrollment and socio-economically disadvantaged students.

Teachers in Mountain View Whisman have a minimum annual salary that's \$2,369 higher than the average salaries of so-called peer school districts, and a maximum salary that's \$3,780 higher. These peer districts include neighboring Los Altos Elementary and Sunnyvale, as well as some far-flung districts like San Bruno Park Elementary, Mark West Union and Ricon Valley Union Elementary in Santa Rosa.

To make the comparison just a little more complex, districts were given a different multiplier that adjusted salaries based on how much it costs to live in different regions in the Bay Area. Rudolph said this gives the district a better "apples to apples" idea of teacher compensation for other school districts. Mountain

View was given a cost of living multiplier shared with San Jose, Sunnyvale and other South Bay cities.

At the Jan. 21 meeting, Jonathan Pharazyn, president of the Mountain View Educators Association, called the district's com-

'If the district is looking to compare us to San Bruno, that's not a good sign.'

JONATHAN PHARAZYN, PRESIDENT OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

parisons of salaries "dishonest." Rather than compare Mountain View Whisman with neighboring districts that provide better teacher pay and directly compete for teaching talent, Pharazyn

said the district's study sought out comparisons with districts in rural areas of Sonoma County.

Pharazyn said that San Bruno does not have a very good reputation, and teachers are going to get the impression that the district is going out of its way to lower the average to make Mountain View Whisman School District's compensation look higher.

"San Bruno has always had a reputation, going back to the 1980s ... of not being a very good district, and being on the low end of the totem pole," Pharazyn said. "If the district is looking to compare us to San Bruno, that's not a good sign."

Around the same time the district commissioned the teacher compensation study, the local California Teachers Association chapter released a spreadsheet showing roughly the opposite of the district's study. Despite two sizable pay increases in recent years, Mountain View Whisman remains in the among the lower end of the pay scale in the county. Most of the districts with lower salary schedules are in San Jose, Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

The relatively low salaries, in tandem with the rising cost of living, have prompted many teachers to leave the district in recent years, according to

Pharazyn. Last year, the district scrambled to replace the loss of roughly 50 staff members, pushing the total number of new teachers hired to 170 in the last four years.

And things don't seem to be improving. At the board meeting, Pharazyn revealed results from a recent teacher survey that found 46 percent of teachers are considering leaving the district, and 28 percent are considering leaving the profession entirely.

"It's definitely concerning when you have those kinds of percentages," Pharazyn said.

Following the meeting, Rudolph told the *Voice* that teachers have said time and again that they can't live in the district on the current salaries. But he said it's important to put everything into context and understand that the district may not have enough property tax revenue to support teacher salaries the same way a district like Menlo Park does.

Following the 4 percent salary increase for the 2015-16 school year, former Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly told the *Voice* in July that the sizable bumps in teacher pay are not sustainable in the long term, and may have to be

► See **SALARY**, page 16



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Superintendent has big plans to raise test scores

NEW TASK FORCES TO TACKLE MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN DISTRICT'S BIGGEST PROBLEMS

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District could be on the verge of sweeping changes after Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph vowed to improve student achievement and raise employee morale in what he called a "frustrated" district.

In a nearly hour-long speech to the board on Thursday, Jan. 21, Rudolph called for the creation of a strategic plan to outline goals for the next five years, giving the community a clear idea of what an eighth-grade student leaving the district should look like. He also proposed the creation of four task forces to confront some of the district's biggest challenges.

The superintendent called for the creation of task forces focusing on English-language learners and on students with disabilities, to assess what can be done to improve their performance. The initiative comes after last month's scathing review of both the district's English-language learner and special education programs by the firm Cambridge Education.

The 26-page audit of the district office, commissioned by the district and paid for by Google, identified several key problems that may be pushing down student test scores, particularly those of underprivileged students.

The report cited the Common Core-aligned state standardized test from last year, which showed a significant achievement gap for both student groups, who are performing well below their peers. Only 15 percent of students with disabilities met the state standards for English language arts last year, and only 12 percent met the standards for

math. Similarly, only 13 percent of English-language learners met the standards for English language arts and 17 percent met the standards for math.

The audit reported that special education students are not effectively "identified, assessed or served" by the district, and that the quality of special education programs tends to vary from school to school. General education teachers handling special education students were found to be ill-equipped to accommodate their students' needs.

While it will ultimately be up to the task force to find out what can be done to turn the poor performance around, Rudolph said there are already some solutions on the table. He said the instructional assistants who work with special needs students lack professional development, and are not looped in on emerging trends and studies related to autism and Down's syndrome.

"Here's a group of individuals who are charged with our most delicate, at-risk group of individuals, and we don't provide them with the professional development on a day-to-day basis to do their job," Rudolph said.

The report also found that the district's English-language learner program is "ineffective, inconsistent, and, in many cases, counterproductive." While there is a general recognition that the program is flawed, the district staff have yet to develop a plan to address the challenges, the report states.

Parents have voiced their concerns and skepticism about the usefulness of the program. In November, several parents with children in the English-language learner program told the board

that they believe their kids would have been better off if they were just left alone in mainstream classes. Instead, the students are pulled out into English-language development classes with dubious effectiveness.

Communicating with these mostly Spanish-speaking families, and explaining what goes on in these English-language learner classes — and what it takes to get finally declared fluent in English — has been a weak spot for the district, according to the audit. Board member Bill Lambert encouraged Rudolph to make sure the district's Latino community gets included in the task force, calling it an unrepresented voice in the district-wide decision making process.

Similarly, Rudolph said the lack of feedback from the district office has left many teachers wondering whether they are doing their jobs effectively. The poor system of feedback has led to wildly different performance from schools in the district, another problem the audit cited.

"We have to make our general expectation the floor for all of our kids across all of our schools, and currently that floor continues to fluctuate," he said.

Facilities issues

Despite the audit's criticism of the school board for spending too much time on new school construction and building plans for the \$198 Measure G bond, the superintendent said more time needs to be spent laying out future plans for school facilities.

Rudolph called for a reboot of the District Facilities Committee and the Boundary Advisory Task Force to better plan for students expected from the city's housing development, and to even out the lopsided school

enrollment numbers across the district. The current patchwork of boundaries has some schools with double the enrollment of others, Rudolph said, and the district's plans to re-open a new school at Slater Elementary is sure to throw a wrench in things.

"We've got to tackle that issue," he said. "Whether that's about Slater, or whether that's about the new developments coming on (in the city), we need to think about boundaries and how that impacts all of our neighborhood schools."

Recent demographic studies from November show the district could see enrollment grow by as many as 500 students by 2020, while more conserva-

tive estimates show enrollment remaining mostly flat over the next five years. The disparity left some parents in the district convinced that a new school at Slater Elementary was essential for addressing growing needs for schools in Mountain View, while school officials remained unconvinced of the need for increased capacity.

The Boundary Advisory Task Force, before it went on hiatus in June last year, was nearly unanimous in its opposition of the opening of Slater Elementary, just five months before the school board voted 3-2 in favor of opening the school. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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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JARDIN

▶ Continued from page 1

His neighbors who share his plight couldn't agree more. On Tuesday they rallied before the Mountain View City Council to advocate a solution: having their properties formally incorporated into Los Altos. In a complicated process that needs to be approved by both cities, the households requested modifying the borders as well as the federal postal codes to add the six parcels to Los Altos.

"It's nothing against Mountain View," said Barbara Daniels, one of the affected homeowners. "But the streets, the school system ... the surrounding area feels more like Los Altos."

Losing territory isn't something any level-headed government undertakes lightly, but Mountain View staff admitted that the Jardin Drive properties are truly in a unique situation that straddled both cities. For

those six homes, services such as water and garbage pickup are handled by Mountain View while sewers and street maintenance are the responsibility of Los Altos.

It seems that no one really knows how this came to be the case. Friedman, who might have done the most research on the matter, said it apparently dated back to the 1950s when both cities were rapidly expanding in competition with one another. A developer built the Jardin Drive homes in the Los Altos unincorporated area and Mountain View later annexed the parcels. Yet the properties in many ways were treated like they were part of Los Altos, he said. Many county maps from the time didn't show the property as part of Mountain View, he said.

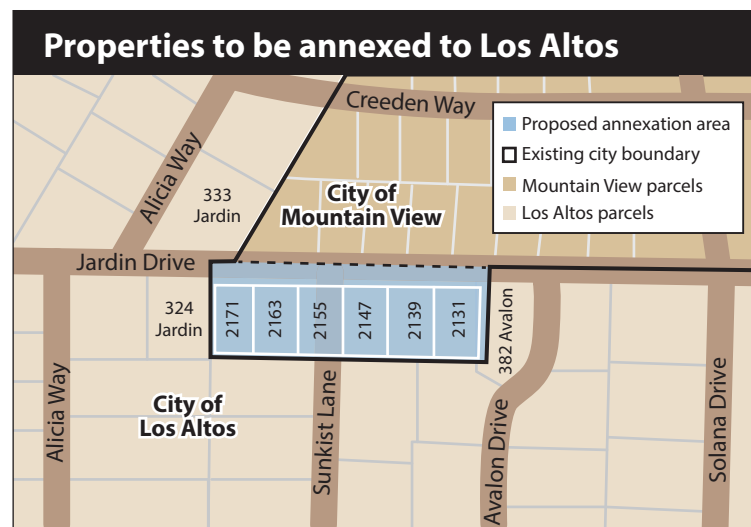
"I could show you seven maps at the county and every one of them are different — some show us in Los Altos; some show us in

Mountain View," Friedman said.

Adding to the tangle, the workmen building the original homes connected the sewer lines to the Los Altos system. Friedman guesses this was done for expediency.

This emerged as a major issue in recent years as Jardin Drive homeowners attempted to get permits for remodels, and Mountain View staff informed them that they had to pay for a new connection back to the city's sewer system. This would cost \$30,000 or more, Friedman estimated. Asked about this on Tuesday night, Public Works department officials explained they would make this requirement regardless of the city boundary issue because the sewer main underneath the homes is due to be replaced.

Mountain View staff ended up siding with the Jardin Drive residents. On Tuesday night, they recommended that a relatively



Six property owners on Jardin Drive are petitioning to leave Mountain View and be annexed into Los Altos.

simple way to clean up this issue would be to allow the parcels to join Los Altos. By doing this, Mountain View's only direct cost would be the loss of some property taxes, worth about \$9,000 a year.

But some in the audience said that far more was at stake. Local attorney Gary Wesley warned city officials that the Jardin Drive homeowners likely had an ulterior motive in trying to join Los Altos, saying their property values would skyrocket.

"Everyone on the border with Los Altos or Palo Alto who wants to live in those cities and make more money, they can now apply to (leave) your city," he said. "I would be surprised if their property values didn't increase by \$300,000."

Wesley wasn't the only one with that perspective. In the audience, a group of Los Altos homeowners were watching the Mountain View council meeting intently, and said that they were concerned that annexing Mountain View homes could sink their property values.

It's pretty much indisputable that the Jardin Drive homes would see a significant property value bump if they had a Los Altos address, according to Coldwell Banker real estate agent Theresa Couture. Exactly how much would depend on the list of factors for each individual parcel, such as lot size, home condition, and even the house's direction in relation to the sun, she told the *Voice*. When it comes to government boundaries, Couture said, the biggest factor for home values is the school district, although the city can also be a significant element.

"The median price in Los Altos is much higher than the median price in Mountain View," she said. "If I was in Mountain View and the city was going to put me in Los Altos, I'd be pretty happy with that."

Asked about the property value gain, Friedman said that wasn't what he and his neighbors cared about.

"The housing prices aren't very different; the tax rates are about the same. The school district is what people are after," he said. "I don't think (property value) is a big deal — that's not my motive."

Most council members gave the residents the benefit of the doubt. A few on the council talked about how they learned of the odd neighborhood as they were walking precincts for past elections.

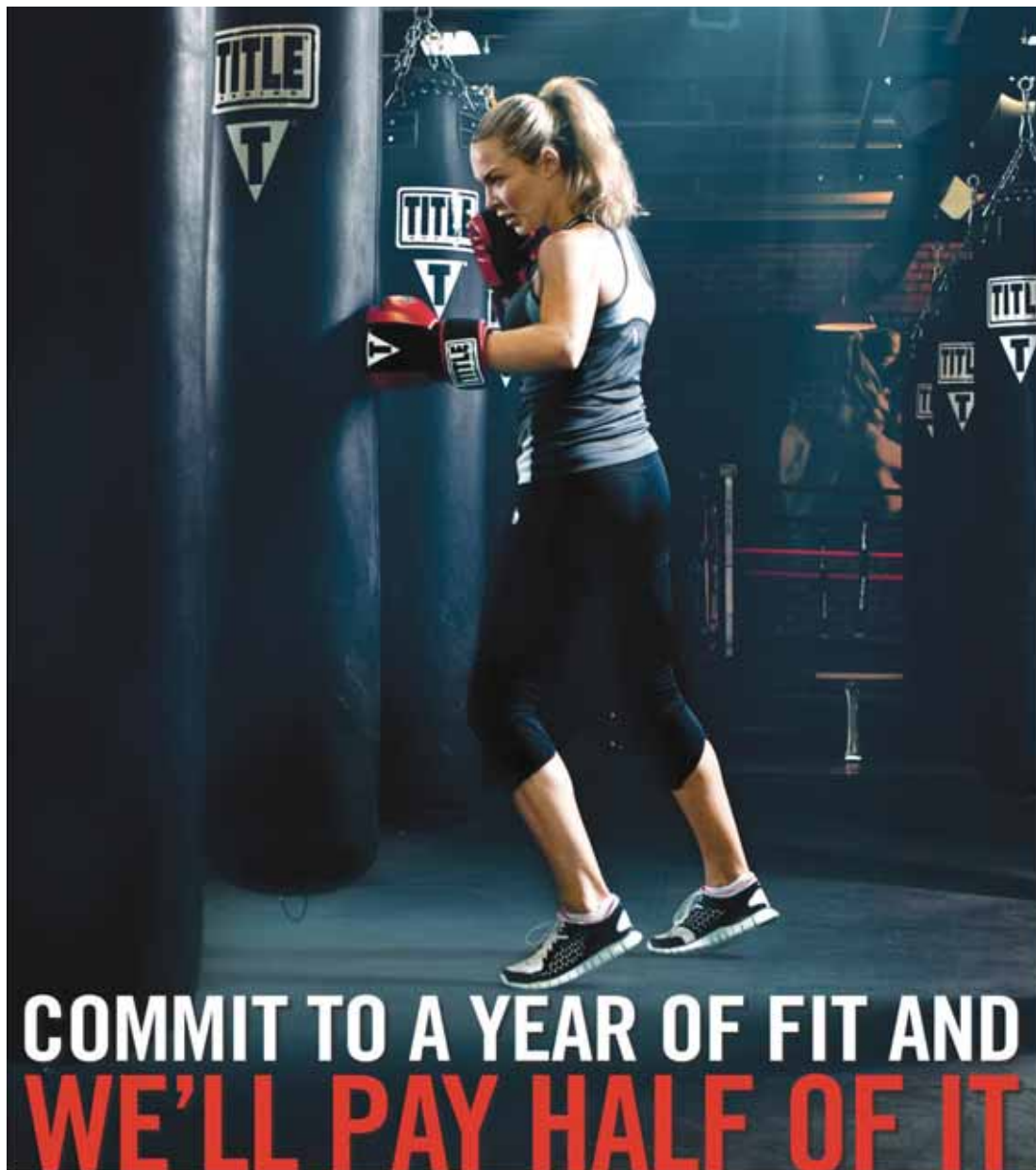
"I remember getting out the precinct map and wondering 'What the heck is happening here?' In a rational world this would be in Los Altos, but it's in Mountain View," said Councilman Chris Clark. "This is an anomaly and we have the opportunity to clean it up."

But Councilman Ken Rosenberg admitted he had his suspicions. Before the meeting, he said he spoke with the residents petitioning to leave Mountain View to ask if there was a way to keep their parcels in the city. If the city worked to resolve the sewer and address issues, would the residents be willing to stay in Mountain View?

"Their answer was definitively no — they want to move to Los Altos," Rosenberg said. "I can only assume that the reason for that is monetary: their housing values do go up."

Saying he didn't like the lack of honesty, Rosenberg cast the lone vote to oppose the transfer. The City Council approved supporting giving the six parcels to Los Altos in a 5-1 vote. Councilman Mike Kasperzak recused himself from the vote since he lives in the vicinity.

With Mountain View's approval, the residents now will petition Los Altos to also sign off on the transfer. As part of the transfer, the Jardin Drive residents will be required to pay for new hookups for CalWater, the water service used in Los Altos. After that, the boundary change will also need to be approved by the county's Local Agency Formation Commission. ■



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PEANUT ALLERGY

► Continued from page 1

rants and her parents take extra precautions, she said, it always seems to sneak its way into food. Over the last year, Davis recalls going through as many as 15 EpiPens — portable shot of adrenaline commonly used to treat anaphylactic shock — just to get her reactions under control. And occasionally, multiple injections don't do the trick.

"I try my best to keep my composure, but every time it's so unpredictable," Davis said.

Just last week, Davis had to delay an interview with the *Voice* because of a strong allergic reaction to her Caesar salad dressing, which she later suspected might have contained red pepper.

But Davis doesn't plan to face the problem alone, and has enlisted the help of a shaggy friend. Davis is currently fundraising to get herself a peanut-sniffing dog that can detect even the smallest amounts of an allergen and alert her to its presence. The dog, a giant black schnauzer-poodle mix (or "Schnoodle") named Pluto, is currently being trained for Davis' particular needs by Noelle's Dogs Four Hope.

Christopher Smith, president of the Colorado-based nonprofit, said he's seen a rise in demand for peanut allergy dogs, diabetic alert dogs, and dogs that can detect trace amounts of gluten in food due to the popular dietary trend to ditch wheat products.

'I try my best to keep my composure, but every time it's so unpredictable.'

ARIELLE DAVIS

Smith said the process is very personalized, as dogs are trained to fit the precise needs of the prospective owners. Davis said she gets frequent updates from the trainer on Pluto's progress, and receives videos showing the dog in action.

Having Pluto around would mean Davis wouldn't have to tread so carefully around the minefield of potential allergic reactions that is daily life. During her statistics class, the teacher brought in M&M's for a class activity, and trace amounts of peanut in the candy caused her face to swell up, she said. Another time, she had to be carried out of the college dining hall because peanut butter had somehow got onto the crust of her cheese pizza.

The cost of a peanut-sniffing dog is a pretty steep — \$8,500. Since April last year, she has made significant progress to raise the money on a GoFundMe fundraising campaign. As of Wednesday, she has raised over \$6,800 towards her \$10,000 goal.

Smith said the price tag is actually on the lower end as well,



Arielle Davis

as peanut allergy dogs typically cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$40,000 outside of the nonprofit sector.

Davis said her family has supported her by paying for her college tuition and the extraordinary medical bills she's incurred over the last year, but it's been left up to her to raise funds for the service dog. If her family didn't have insurance, she said, the costs of the medical bills would've recently blown past \$500,000.

While it seems like an expensive option, Davis said she hasn't found a lot of alternatives. She said she considered the clinical trials going on at Stanford hospital, where patients slowly build up an immunity with incremental exposure to peanuts and other allergens, but a plethora of problems barred her from the study. Her severe asthma, her distance from the hospital, and the multi-year waiting list not withstanding, she said her allergy doesn't



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARIELLE DAVIS

Pluto, a hypoallergenic schnoodle dog, has been trained to help a Mountain View teen by detecting trace amounts of peanut, coconut and red pepper.

show up on blood tests, meaning she doesn't quite match up with the requirements of the trial.

"You need a perfect clinical picture in order to participate," Davis said.

Davis's hope is that Pluto will help her maintain a sense of normalcy in her life. She said she's done her best to distract herself by focusing on school work — and managed to pull off a 4.0 grand point average last year — but that it's hard on her when she can't go out for food with her friends.

"There's times when it's really lonely and frustrating," she said.

Though it's been a tough year, Davis said she's been doing surprisingly well coping with all of the challenges. When the doctor first showed her how to use an EpiPen in an emergency, she said she was convinced there was just no way she was going to do anything like that.

"I've done much better than I thought I would," Davis said.

More information is available on Davis' GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/ariellepeanutpuppy. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

NORTH BAYSHORE

► Continued from page 1

office-space expansion in North Bayshore, and the new building plans are being tailored to fit within that scope.

Microsoft's proposal will still face design hurdles similar to those of other ambitious projects being pitched in the crowded tech center. The company will need to prove its growth won't cause it to exceed city thresholds for solo drivers or trip caps on local streets, said Assistant Community Development Director Terry Blount. Like other developments, the company will be required to join the local shuttle program and take other measures to reduce traffic congestion in the area.

However, Microsoft won't have to suddenly get into the housing game — something Google and other tech developers are now being encouraged to do by city officials. Microsoft's site lies outside the area earmarked for future residential growth in North Bayshore.

Sobrato floats plans for housing

In contrast, housing is the centerpiece for a neighboring project being pitched for 17 acres of land next door.

Last week, members of the city's Environmental Planning Commission took a first look at plans by the Sobrato Organization to build up to 800 housing units east of Shoreline Boulevard. The new residential neighborhood would be coupled with some retail space and 230,000 square feet of new office development.

The mixed-use project is a sort of "guinea pig" for a wave of new housing envisioned for the neighborhood, said Rob Hollister, Sobrato's president for real estate. Mountain View city planners are in the early stages of amending the North Bayshore precise plan to accommodate housing growth, but that process likely won't be completed until 2017. Until those guidelines are solidified, Sobrato is planning its project based partly on assumptions for aspects like height

limits, setbacks and parking, he said. For now, Hollister said his team expects to pursue their project along Mountain View's other published guidelines for dense housing in areas like the San Antonio neighborhood.

"Mountain View isn't starting from scratch here, they have well

Google employees would likely account for many of the future residents of Sobrato's housing development.

thought-out precise plans for other neighborhoods," Hollister said. "It's reasonable that a lot of the standards will be similar."

Sobrato is planning to build as many as 670 standard apartments as rentals.

Asked about Google's ownership of a portion of the 17-acre

site, Hollister acknowledged that the tech company is cooperating with Sobrato on the project. The two companies have a longstanding business relationship, with Sobrato leasing various office sites to Google. Hollister said the two organizations have no formal legal partnership on this new North Bayshore housing project, and said he was prohibited from going into further detail.

He said that his firm has no exclusive arrangement to provide workforce housing to Google, although he expects the company's employees would likely account for many of the future residents.

As part of the project, Sobrato is proposing to build up to 130 affordable units, a number they say is about double what they are obligated to build under city rules. Mountain View could leave it to Sobrato to build those units, Hollister said, or if city officials desired, the company could deed that land over to the city to pursue its own housing project.

The mixed-use project sparked

a strong reaction from nearby residents at the Santiago Villa mobile home park, who expressed concern that the dense development could bring unforeseen impacts to their community. About a dozen speakers at the meeting urged commissioners for more opportunity to weigh in about possible traffic or environmental concerns stemming from hundreds of new households down the street.

The meeting was billed as a study session, and commissioners admitted they were unsure about many of the project's potential impacts and how they should scrutinize them. City staff said that more details on their proposals for North Bayshore would be discussed next month.

"It's a bit difficult to know how we should go forward and what the community out in North Bayshore would look like," said Commissioner Ellen Kamei. "I look forward to the staff presentation in February." ▣

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Schools may have to share campus

WITH BUDGET TIGHT, STEVENSON AND THEUERKAUF CAN SHARE FACILITIES OR FACE BIG COMPROMISES

By Kevin Forestieri

In the latest round of cuts to bring a bloated school construction budget back in line, Mountain View Whisman School District officials said Stevenson and Theuerkauf schools are going to have to divide a too-small pool of money or share new campus facilities.

In the newly proposed plan, Chief Business Officer Robert Clark rejiggered several projects in the construction pipeline, including shaving off 5 percent of the budgets for Huff, Bubb, Landels, Stevenson and Theuerkauf elementary schools. Improvements to the district office could be cut out of the budget entirely.

The problem is that Stevenson and Theuerkauf elementaries have been allocated roughly \$13 million each, which Clark admit-

ted will not be enough money to make all the improvements needed for each school. At the Jan. 21 board meeting, Clark said the schools will have to decide to either share a campus with a single multipurpose room and library, or make do with the smaller budgets.

The big question on what to build at the 17-acre site just blocks away from Shoreline Boulevard goes back to early last year, when the District Facilities Committee had no formal recommendations for the site. In June, the committee asked the school board to allow an architect to work with both school communities to figure out design options, but no one on the board made a motion to actually go through with it.

By contrast, parents and school staff at Castro and Mistral elementary were given a \$43 million

shared-campus budget, which was guided by a months-long process of designing the school with one of the district's hired architects, Mark Quattrocchi.

Leslie McClellan, a third-grade teacher at Theuerkauf, said the community has been entirely excluded from these big construction decisions, and that the board dropped the ball at the June meeting when they left both schools out of the larger conversation on whether to have a shared campus.

"Nothing has happened. There's been no conversations, there's been no discussions," McClellan said. "But it's here, and it's being talked about as though it's the direction everybody wants to go."

Consulting with the school community might help with some of the big components of school construction as well,

McClellan said. The current plans call for the demolition of the current school office, she said, even though it was built just 15 years ago while she was still teaching at the school.

"There's nothing wrong with it. So the idea of demolishing that to make room for a larger multipurpose room sits very poorly with me," she said.

Framing the issue so parents will have to decide between cuts or sharing a campus might come with its own host of problems, said Stevenson parent Bryan Juliano. The district could unintentionally pit one school community against another as they have to make concessions to fit the budget.

"It could create animosity or concern where people feel like either 'I have to share and maybe get better classrooms' or 'If I don't share a multipurpose room, maybe the kids aren't going to get the classrooms improvements they'd like to see,'" Juliano said.

Kicking Measure G into high gear

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph defended the district's actions, saying there would be plenty of time for public input on the previous construction schedule. But in an effort to make the most of the construc-

tion budget, he said the district is planning to begin construction at Stevenson and Theuerkauf in 2017, rather than 2018, compressing the amount of time for public input and feedback.

Since the passage of Measure G in 2012, the district has been sluggishly moving forward with construction plans. A comprehensive list of school site improvements was put together only last year, and only the two middle schools, Crittenden and Graham Elementary, have seen any construction begin.

That pace is expected to change dramatically, after Clark announced an accelerated schedule that would have school construction going on at all 10 schools in 2017. Rudolph said it's important to work fast so Stevenson and Theuerkauf can decide whether or not to share a campus before escalating construction costs take options off the table altogether.

"Every site is going to be fast-tracked, and we're going to be building at every single place as quickly as possible, and capitalize on as much of the money as possible," Rudolph said.

The board will be asked to approve the revised Measure G budget at the Feb. 4 meeting. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

ENGINE

► Continued from page 5

what is known as the Difference Engine No. 2, a design never built by Babbage that only existed in his plans and sketches. Fully constructing the machine took 17 years, about 8,000 custom-built parts and a seven-figure sum to complete.

The London Science Museum keeps one Babbage Engine on display, but its design team also assembled a second model for a private benefactor who financed the project. That donor, Nathan Myhrvold, a former Microsoft executive, originally loaned his Babbage Engine to the Mountain View Computer History Museum in 2008 with the idea to exhibit it for just six months.

Over the years, that deadline has been extended year after year, said Jim Somers, the museum's

services manager. Over that time, museum officials estimate about 500,000 visitors have seen the machine and its regular demonstrations. But in recent months, Myhrvold informed the museum he wanted ship the machine to Seattle to put it on private display.

On Monday evening, a small crowd of the museum's employees held an after-hours party to swap stories and celebrate their last days with the machine.

"It's kind of sad for those of us who have seen it here for all these years," said Somers. "It's like a small child leaving the leaving the family. It's really been something special."

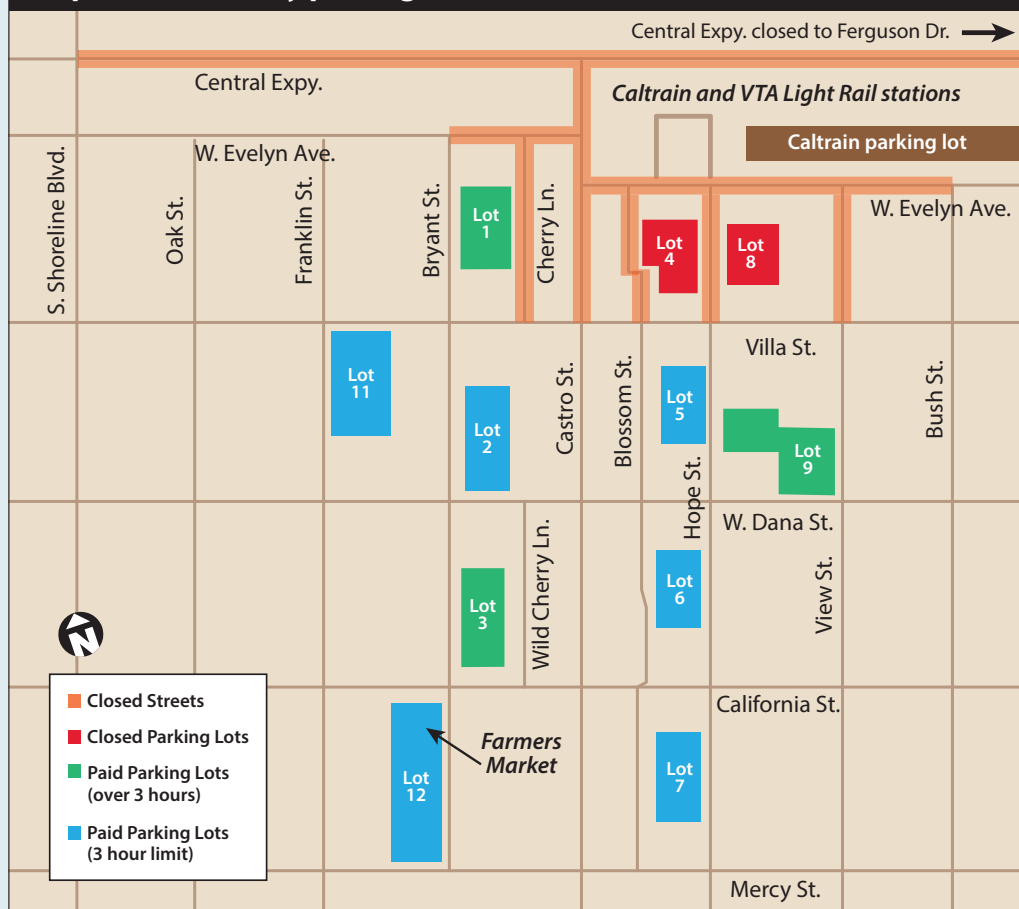
Sunday, Jan. 31, will be the last day to see the Babbage Difference Engine at the Computer History Museum, located at 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. For museum hours and information, go to computerhistory.org. ▣



MICHELLE LE

The Babbage Engine at the Computer History Museum is made up of 8,000 parts and weighs five tons.

Super Bowl Sunday parking lot and street closures



DOWNTOWN DISRUPTIONS FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Super Bowl 50 and its extravaganza of events are expected to bring a flood of footballs fans to the Bay Area, many of whom will be moving through Mountain View. In recent days, city officials released their plans for how downtown will adjust for that blitz. On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 7, city leaders are warning residents that many streets near the downtown transit center will be closed, and people without Super Bowl tickets won't be able to ride the VTA light-rail line. Instead, transit officials are providing a "bus bridge" that will take riders between the light-rail stops. Follow @scsb50 on Twitter for public safety updates, and go to vta.org/superbowlsun for transit information.

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Internal Medicine, Mountain View

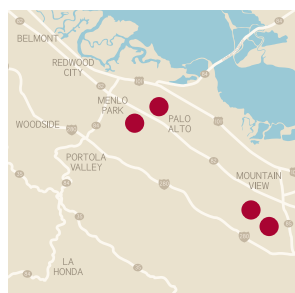


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Junta Informativa para Residentes de
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de Mediación Mandatoria para Disputas sobre la Renta

3 DE FEBRERO, 2016

6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

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FEBRUARY 3, 2016

6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

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For more information please call (650) 903-6145

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

appealing to others in the community for their help,” Stanford Blood Center spokesperson Loren Magana said in a statement, calling the shortage “critical.”

Donors should be healthy with no symptoms of the cold or flu. The process takes about an hour.

The blood center’s Mountain View office is located at 515 South Drive, Suite #20. Potential donors are being asked to call (888) 723-7831 to make an appointment.

COUNTY’S TOP SCIENCE STUDENTS

A Mountain View student is among five Santa Clara County high school seniors who have been selected as finalists in the this year’s Intel Science Talent Search in Washington, D.C., according to the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Forty finalists will travel to the nation’s capital in March to compete for over \$1 million in awards, including the top three receiving \$150,000 each, county education officials announced last week.

The Intel Science Talent Search is a program of the Society for Science & the Public that encourages students to tackle challenging scientific questions.

Anjini Karthik of Saint Francis High School in Mountain View, Jonathan Ma of The Harker School in San Jose, Anin Sayana of Bellarmine College Preparatory School in San Jose, Pranav Srinivas of Monta Vista High

School in Cupertino and Maya Varma of Presentation High School in San Jose will represent the Bay Area at the competition, according to county officials.

The students are past or current participants of the Synopsys Championship, Santa Clara County’s Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held this year on March 17.

—Bay City News Service

GINGER SNAPS SETTLEMENT

Mondelēz International, the world’s largest manufacturer of processed food snacks, including Nabisco, Oreo, Cadbury and Trident, will stop selling ginger snap cookies containing levels of lead that were up to nine times the limit for one serving without a warning label, Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen announced on Friday, Jan. 22, after the company and prosecutors reached a settlement.

Ten district attorney offices and the state Attorney General’s Office began looking into Nabisco Ginger Snaps in 2013 after being alerted by an investigation into high lead levels in products containing ginger by the nonprofit group Center for Environmental Health. Lead in the cookies was linked to supplies of molasses and ginger, Rosen’s office said.

“Lead is a neurotoxin that affects virtually every organ system, primarily the central nervous system, and particularly the developing brain. Children are at a greater risk than adults of suffering from the neurotoxic

effects of lead. While no safe lead exposure threshold has been identified, California’s Proposition 65 limits lead exposure to .5 micrograms per serving per day without a warning,” Rosen’s office said in a press release.

Mondelēz International agreed to a settlement that includes limiting lead in its Nabisco Ginger Snaps to no more than 30 parts per billion per serving. Yen Dang, supervising deputy district attorney for the Consumer Protection Unit, said that level is the equivalent of .03 micrograms, considerably under the state limit.

District attorneys consulted with a Proposition 65 expert from the Attorney General’s Office to develop the testing and processing protocols so there would no longer be violations of the law, she said. Mondelēz International must adhere to the strict testing protocols. The company will also fund ongoing independent auditing of its products for lead, and it will monitor its supply chains to ensure raw materials are within acceptable limits for lead. It will also pay \$823,750 in civil penalties, costs and attorney fees, according to Rosen’s office.

The settlement has a potential worldwide impact on the safety of processed snack foods, Rosen’s office said. The auditing protocols and changes in supplier specifications by a company as large as Mondelēz should have a significant impact on the way other companies screen for lead in processed foods, Rosen’s office said.

—Sue Dremann

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OPENS UP FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Los Altos Community Foundation is accepting grant applications for local organizations in Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills through Feb. 16.

The grant program is intended to help fund events, programs and projects that address unmet needs in the community, including serving vulnerable residents, promoting volunteerism and supporting art and culture in the community. Recent grants have gone to support after-school programs, senior transportation programs and environmental stewardship projects.

Since 1991, the foundation has provided \$1.3 million in grant money to local nonprofits, Executive Director Joe Eyre said in a statement.

Anyone seeking more information may call 650-949-5908 or go to losaltoscf.org.

—Kevin Forestieri



Let the New Year Bring New Opportunities to Save Water.

Thank you, Los Altos District customers, for reducing your water use by **43.6%** in December compared with December 2013. Your dedication paid off, as we ended the second half of 2015 with a **38.3%** savings. Keep up the good work so we can continue to meet the State mandate of **32%**.

As the weather cools and the need to water outdoors eases, saving water indoors becomes even more important. Taking small steps like using water-efficient devices and only running full loads of laundry and dishes will help us meet reduction requirements. For more conservation tips and information about the tools, programs, and rebates California Water Service has to offer, visit calwater.com/conservation.

As a reminder, through the February billing cycle, we will give \$50 gift cards to 25 lucky customers in the district whose names will be drawn from those customers who stayed at or below their water budget the previous month. To learn more, please visit calwater.com/reward.

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CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

orange bag with the contents of the stolen packages, while the fourth suspect, also a man, was seen at the end of the driveway, apparently watching the street, police said.

As of 10:40 a.m. Wednesday, police reported that they have arrested two women, both of them minors, who were allegedly involved in the theft. Police are still searching for the two men. One of the men is described as a Hispanic or white, wearing a red baseball cap, a black hooded sweatshirt, khaki pants and white shoes. The second man is described as Hispanic or white, wearing a dark-colored baseball cap with a red rim, a black hooded sweatshirt, a light shirt and dark, slim cut jeans.

Anyone with information on the two remaining suspects is asked to call the Mountain View Police Department at 650-903-6395.

—Kevin Forestieri

LOS ALTOS MURDER SUSPECT

San Jose police have released photos today of a suspect's vehicle connected with the homicide of a 28-year-old man, whose body authorities are working to locate.

Steve Hlebo, 39, of Los Altos, is suspected of murdering his coworker, Kyle Myrick, late last week, police said.



Steve Hlebo

Investigators have determined Hlebo's white 2003 GMC Sierra 1500 truck is connected with the homicide, according to police.

The vehicle has tinted windows and a California license plate 60414R1, police Lt. Paul Spagnoli said.

There are some areas of the vehicle's front bumper that appear to be missing lights, Spagnoli said.

Police have been conducting a general search from San Jose to Los Altos for Myrick, but haven't centered their efforts on a focused area, according to Spagnoli.

Anyone who saw the truck between 6 p.m. Friday and 2

a.m. Saturday is asked to contact police.

On Friday around 6:20 p.m., officers responded to a report of a suspicious circumstance at 2020 Camden Ave., interim police chief Eddie Garcia said.

GP Sports, a powersports dealership, is located at that address. The business carries new and used motorcycles, scooters, watercrafts and other vehicles, according to the company's website.

When officers arrived they were told Myrick had been missing for several hours and based on the nature of scene determined the case was a homicide, Garcia said.

Additional investigators responded to the scene and identified

Hlebo as the suspect, who was taken into custody at his Los Altos home shortly after 2 a.m. Saturday, according to Garcia.

On Sunday, detectives re-canvassed the area around GP Sports and searched a property off of Mount Umunhum connected with the suspect, Garcia said.

Police were told that Myrick's body might have been disposed of in the ocean, according to Garcia.

John Sparry, Myrick's stepfather, said his stepson was a good and kind person who was always willing to help his friends. Myrick loved motorcycles, enjoyed his job and didn't complain of any problems with anyone at work, according to Sparry.

Myrick's family has also been conducting their own search for Kyle by looking in other areas including Lexington Reservoir and the Santa Cruz Mountains, police said.

Kelly Myrick, Kyle's mother, said she believes her son is alive and other family members are searching for him.

"He's my baby, my only child and I want him back," Kelly Myrick said.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call San Jose police Detective Sgt. Paul Hamblin or Detective Jason Tanner at (408) 277-5283.

—Bay City News Service

BANK ROBBERY SUSPECT

Police in Mountain View are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect in a bank robbery earlier this month.

Officers responded at 2:20

p.m. on Jan. 8 to the California Bank and Trust in the 700 block of West El Camino Real.

Police said the suspect entered the bank and demanded money. The bank teller gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of cash and the man then walked out of the bank.

He was last seen walking toward View Street.

The suspect is described as a black man who is 5 feet 10 inches tall with a slender-to-medium build. He was wearing a black beanie with neon yellow and white writing, a black jacket that had a zipper on the right front side of the shoulder, blue jeans and white shoes. He was also wearing sunglasses.

Anyone with information on the robbery is asked to call the Mountain View Police Department at 650-903-6624.

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Department Toxic Substances Control Public Notice

January 2016

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Draft Removal Action Workplan For Former Platinum Cleaners, Mountain View

Public Comment Period: January 29 - February 29, 2016

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comments on the draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the Former Platinum Cleaners Site (Site) located at 2290 West El Camino Real, Mountain View, California 94040. The draft RAW describes the proposed cleanup activities for the Site.

The Site was a unit in the former Olive Tree Shopping Center used by dry cleaning businesses. Environmental tests show that the soil vapor beneath a part of the Site and a part of the Best Western property next door is contaminated with Tetrachloroethene (PCE), a chemical commonly used in dry cleaning. Plans for the Site include a multi-story mixed use development with an underground parking garage. DTSC has determined that cleanup of soil vapor is necessary before the Site can be developed.

The proposed cleanup would involve installation of a Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system at the Site to remove the contaminated soil vapor.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? During the public comment period, **January 29 to February 29, 2016**, DTSC encourages you to review the draft RAW and provide comments in writing, postmarked or e-mailed no later than **5:00 P.M. on February 29, 2016** to **Jayantha Randeni, Project Manager, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94710** or by email at Jayantha.Randeni@dtsc.ca.gov.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION? A copy of the draft RAW is available for review at the following locations:

Mountain View Public Library
585 Franklin Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
(650) 903-6337; Call for hours

Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3800; Call for an appointment

The draft RAW and other Site-related documents are also available online at the DTSC Envirostor web site:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60002117

DTSC CONTACT INFORMATION: For questions or additional information regarding the Site, contact the following staff: Jayantha Randeni, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3806, Jayantha.Randeni@dtsc.ca.gov, or Wayne Hagen, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (510) 540-3911, toll free at (866) 495-5651, Wayne.Hagen@dtsc.ca.gov, or Sandy Nax, DTSC Public Information Officer at 916-327-6114, Sandy.Nax@dtsc.ca.gov.



NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED: TTY users may use the California Relay Service @771 or 1-800-855-7100. You may also contact the Public Participation Specialist listed at the end of this update.

Cal/EPA State of California

Concrete pour brings traffic delays to San Antonio

650 TRUCKLOADS OF CONCRETE
NEEDED FOR PROJECT

By Mark Noack

A large-scale concrete pour for the second phase of the San Antonio shopping center project is causing temporary road closures along nearby streets.

Starting last weekend, construction crews working for development firm Merlone Geier began laying the foundation for a four-story parking garage that will go below a future office building.

Just laying that foundation requires about 670,000 cubic yards of concrete, or enough to fill about 650 trucks, said Devcon project manager Rick Buellesbach. As they pump concrete, those trucks and other equipment

will need to be staged on two lanes of northbound San Antonio Road between Fayette Drive and California Street. One northbound lane will remain open to traffic and traffic flaggers will be guiding cars through the area.

Even by Silicon Valley standards, this is a boom time for construction with ambitious projects across the Bay Area, Buellesbach said. Compared to other recent projects he's worked on, the San Antonio project and its massive concrete pour is relatively "run of the mill," he said.

"This one is certainly big — I'd put it somewhere between exceptionally big and very big," he said. "But at the same time, it's not going to get us recognized in



MICHELLE LE

Construction crews work at the San Antonio shopping center site, where foundation work on weekends is expected to cause traffic delays.

the construction trade journals."

The road closures will continue for one more weekend, starting at 10 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29 and running through 4 p.m.

on Saturday, Jan. 30.

Expected to be finished by late 2017, the San Antonio redevelopment project will bring a hotel, upscale movie theater, 30 shops

and restaurants, and nearly 400,000 square feet of new office space to the busy intersection. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

SELF-DRIVING

► Continued from page 5

widely seen as a wet blanket to the hot technology. The proposed rules emphasized caution, mandating that any self-driving cars must have a licensed driver behind the wheel ready to take control in case the car's autopilot fails.

For many in the industry, that rule alone crippled the most exciting hopes they had for the technology. Developers had envisioned self-driving cars being able to function as robotaxis, allowing owners to send their autos out independently on errands or to earn money chauffeuring other riders. In one lucrative application, the nation's commercial trucking fleet could be transitioned to move freight automatically.

But under the DMV's proposed rules, autonomous cars were forbidden from operating without the presence of a driver.

Explaining their rationale, DMV officials noted that it was premature to allow computer-guided cars free rein on public streets, but the agency hinted that those rules could be loosened down the road. Officials also set standards for the cybersecurity, making it mandatory for cars to alert drivers about any software breaches and to inform riders about any private data being culled from their vehicle. Any cars being rolled out for the consumer market will be required to undergo testing and certification from an independent testing organization.

In a recent interview, DMV Deputy Director Bernard C.

Soriano said his team's initial rules wouldn't be "be-all and end-all" for the technology. His department is sympathetic to the potential benefits of self-driving cars, such as providing the disabled new means of transportation. But Soriano said they had to ensure they weren't putting something on the road that presented new hazards.

"This technology is changing rapidly and we're taking that into account," he said. "For us, it boils down to making sure the motoring public is safe."

Nevertheless, the rules have already come under fire by both manufacturers and political figures. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and Secretary of State Alex Padilla joined industry critics in blasting the DMV's rules as too onerous.

"This maintains the same old status quo and falls short on allowing this technology to reach its full potential," Chris Urmson, Google's lead self-driving developer, wrote in a blog post. "While we're disappointed by this, we will continue to work with the DMV as they seek feedback in the coming months."

Asked for comment, Google officials declined to say what suggestions they would make to the DMV's current package of rules at the workshop on Thursday. The meeting occurred after the *Voice's* Wednesday press deadline.

In recent days, federal officials stepped in and indicated they too wanted to hit the gas on the technology. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced earlier this month the government would commit

\$4 billion toward development for autonomous cars and help creating unified rules across the various states.

But in any case, California's role in shaping those rules will still be enormous. As the biggest auto market in the U.S., California represents the crown jewel for car manufacturers, and the state's regulations are likely to influence other states.

For its first workshop on the new rules, DMV officials invited stakeholders from the industry as well as academics, consumer-watch groups and anyone interested from the public. The Jan. 28 session was held in Sacramento while a second workshop is scheduled for Feb. 2 in Los Angeles. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Saint Simon Parish School OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 31, 2016
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

10:30 AM Preschool Presentation
11:00 AM Kindergarten Presentation
Guided Tours 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

650-968-9952
school.stsimon.org
No Appointment Necessary



1840 Grant Road, Los Altos, CA 94024
Located at the intersection of Foothill Expressway and Grant Road

SALARY

► Continued from page 6

re-assessed in the near future.

One unresolved issue brought up by the teachers union last year is the lack of a stipend for teachers with master's or doctoral degrees. Mountain View Whisman School District is one of only three districts in the entire county not to offer the additional pay for advanced degrees. Rudolph defended the district's position, saying that the stipend amount has been

rolled into the salary schedule already.

At the same time, Rudolph said the district still has a responsibility to find ways to compensate teachers in other ways.

"Just because we're higher than average doesn't mean we don't have work to do in terms of working conditions and compensation," he said. "What we can do is, we can look at all of our benefits and think of ways to make this an attractive place to work." ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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Please join DeLeon Realty at our February Seminar. Gain insight from Michael Repka, the Managing Broker and General Counsel of DeLeon Realty, into how you can best prepare and market your home to achieve the maximum sales price. Also hear the latest market updates from Ken DeLeon, the most successful real estate broker in Silicon Valley.

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Member, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce

■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

Town Square forum

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■ EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

El Camino Healthcare District is public; its business should be, too

El Camino Hospital officials' recent disclosure that the hospital will spend some \$24 million to buy about 16 acres in South San Jose to build a new campus raises many questions centering on the legitimacy of expanding outside the hospital's original service area and, just as important, the secrecy surrounding the expansion and land-purchase decisions. And residents of the tax-funded district that built El Camino Hospital in Mountain View decades ago have a right to ask why they weren't given the chance to review and participate in the discussion about the expansion plans.

Understanding how El Camino's policy and funding decisions are made is complicated by the fact that the hospital is a nonprofit corporation controlled, in part, by a public agency: the El Camino Healthcare District. That agency is governed by five elected officials and funded by taxpayers living in the district, but the corporate hospital's governing board is made up of the same elected officials plus four non-elected members. This structure is a recipe for murkiness, making the need for a firm commitment to transparent governance all the more critical.

The district itself, formed in 1956 to build a hospital serving district residents whose taxes would fund it, includes most of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills; a large portion of Sunnyvale; and small sections of Cupertino, Santa Clara and Palo Alto. In the 1990s, the district, then called a hospital district, took advantage of a new state law allowing it to restructure; the public agency became a "health care district" connected in important ways with the hospital, which became a nonprofit entity. Murky enough?

Health-care district and hospital officials argue that it was appropriate to make the decision to buy new land outside the district in secrecy — without a single hospital board meeting held to discuss it publicly — because the hospital

board's general operational strategy includes expansion. And, they argue, the \$24 million needed for the purchase will come from the hospital's budget, with no help from district taxpayers.

That's the same argument they made in 2009, when the hospital bought another campus in Los Gatos, also outside the district. But a report resulting from an audit by the county's Local Agency Formation Commission said that even though public money wasn't directly used for the Los Gatos campus, the hospital's ability to buy it "occurred as a result of the significant property tax contributions being made by residents of the current district." In other words, taxpayer funds were tapped to meet the hospital's operational costs so that the hospital could use the money saved because of that back-fill to pay for the second hospital.

That report was issued years ago, after the Los Gatos expansion was criticized by unhappy district residents. The district's elected officials have had plenty of time to put new policies and practices into place to keep district residents informed of future expansion plans and address their inevitable concerns.

Is it a wise strategy to expand El Camino Hospital's services beyond the health-care district's boundaries? That answer must come from the public, not from officials of a corporate hospital, nor from elected officials whose policy-making should reasonably reflect the will of their constituents. Unfortunately, district residents were left out of the discussion, and their public representatives missed the opportunity to make their case in support of expansion. What did they fear?

It may be time to re-evaluate the structure of the El Camino Hospital board, and to consider changes designed to make the public district and nonprofit hospital officials more accountable to the public. ■

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

VOTERS SHOULD DECIDE ON HOSPITAL EXPANSION

I was dismayed by the recent reports in the Mountain View Voice about the rather surreptitious machinations by the El Camino Hospital in purchasing land valued at \$24 million in the south bay and its expansion plans for the hospital.

The crux of the matter is whether the El Camino Hospital District board and/or senior executives have the authority to expand beyond the boundaries

of the hospital district without the approval and consent of the district voters who finance the El Camino Hospital district operations.

As a taxpayer, I believe that decision should be put before the voters and taxpayers, given that the authority the voters/taxpayers vested in the district apply *only* to the district and *only* within the boundaries of the district.

The hospital's decision to purchase south bay property was

► Continued on next page



Viewpoint

made in secret away from public scrutiny; that appears to be a clear violation of the Brown Act, which requires all such decisions to be done openly and in public.

The El Camino Hospital district seems more concerned about increasing profits for its executives and increasing salaries for its doctors than with ensuring that the quality of care and service district residents will receive continues to be excellent.

*Bill Burks
Doverton Square*

I do not personally believe that the policies of President Obama (or Hillary Clinton for that matter) are effective in lifting people out of poverty; that is why I did not vote for Obama and will not be voting for Clinton.

Going forward, I hope we residents of Mountain View can respect each other's political viewpoints without resorting to ad hominem attacks.

*Ron Sackman
Blossom Valley*

A 'RIGHT WINGER' MAKES HIS CASE

I am writing in response to the letter "Flagrant Racism" in the Jan. 22 issue. As a "right winger" myself, I take issue with Mr. Van Middlebrook's assertion that conservatives believe that any people (or) group in our country should be "out picking cotton."

I am an engineer, and also volunteer as a STEM tutor for low-income students in East Palo Alto. My motive for volunteering is to help these students recognize the incredible opportunities available to them in Silicon Valley, and that by applying themselves they can build a better life for themselves and their children.

What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the *Voice* aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@MV-Voice.com. Or snail-mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

We're hiring

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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To apply, please submit a cover letter detailing how your experience fits the needs of the position. Also attach your resume, three articles you've written and links to two publications or sections you've edited. Email the materials, with "Assistant Editor" in the subject line, to Editor Jocelyn Dong at jdong@paweb.com. No phone calls, please.



450 Cambridge Avenue | Palo Alto, CA 94306 | 650.326.8210



COMMUNITY TALK

Atrial Fibrillation

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 • 9:30AM – 11:00AM

Sunnyvale Community Center (Orchard Pavilion)
550 E. Remington Drive • Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Atrial fibrillation is the most common heart rhythm problem, affecting over 2 million Americans. Without detection and treatment, atrial fibrillation can affect quality of life and cause stroke and heart failure.

Join us at this free event for American Heart Month, where Stanford Medicine experts will discuss the latest information about atrial fibrillation—from signs and symptoms, to evaluation and treatment options.

Presented by Stanford Cardiac Arrhythmia Service

SAVE YOUR SEAT

Please register at stanfordhealthcare.org/events or by calling **650.736.6555**. Seating is limited.

This event is free and open to the public. Free parking available.



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