

Mountain View VOICE

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MOVIES | 35



MICHELLE LE

Caltrain commuters head toward Mountain View's downtown transit station on May 10. City officials are debating whether to close Castro Street to vehicle traffic at the train tracks.

City faces tough trade-offs for Castro crossing's future

JUNE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR COUNCIL DECISION

By Mark Noack

Mountain View elected leaders will soon need to choose how to transform Castro Street's precarious crossing at the Caltrain tracks. In a packed com-

munity meeting on Tuesday, May 10, a team of consultants laid out how the city could undertake a dramatic two-year, \$120 million dig project to bring Castro underneath the train tracks. The consultants also provided an option

for a cheaper, less intensive project that would close off the downtown boulevard and rework nearby streets to handle the traffic diversion.

Some call the downtown

► See **TRANSIT**, page 16

Teacher housing idea gains traction

DISTRICT WIDE SURVEY SHOWS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR A NEW SUBSIDIZED HOUSING PROJECT

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View Whisman School District officials are moving full-steam ahead on exploring ways to house teachers in Mountain View at below-market-rate prices. And while it's not clear what the district-owned teacher housing project would look like, a new survey suggests it would be wildly popular among district staff hungry for affordable housing.

Earlier this year, the school board agreed to look for ways to build a housing development on district land for Mountain View teachers struggling to make ends meet in the Bay Area. The high cost of housing, coupled with a salary schedule that is well below the area median

ing for district administrators, who had to go on a frantic hiring spree to fill 55 teaching positions for general education and special education.

Would a teacher housing project decrease turnover and attract more teachers? School staff think so. Recent survey results from 264 teachers and classified employees found that 59 percent of teachers are dissatisfied with their housing situation because of the high cost of rent, and an overwhelming majority — 76 percent — said they would be interested in living in a below-market-rate teacher housing project if it became available.

'Most of that paycheck is actually just going towards paying the rent.'

SUPERINTENDENT AYINDE RUDOLPH

income, was frequently cited at the March 17 school board meeting as a serious problem that has forced many teachers to choose between long commutes or leaving the district altogether.

School board members doubled down on that decision at their May 5 meeting, saying that it's time to consider a large-scale teacher housing development on some of the available district-owned land.

Over the last four years, the district has hired about 170 new teachers, mostly to make up for significant teacher turnover year to year, according to the Mountain View Educators Association. Finding enough people to fill vacancies for the 2015-16 school year was particularly challeng-

The survey results, available on the district website, provide a sobering snapshot of the discontent among district employees. More than two-thirds of the respondents said they are paying more than 30 percent of their paycheck on rent or mortgage payments, with just shy of 17 percent dumping more than half of their take-home pay on housing costs.

"Essentially, we have people working paycheck to paycheck," Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph said at the meeting. "Most of that paycheck is actually just going towards paying the rent. That probably suggests that people have picked up a second job in order to make ends meet."

Just over half of the respondents, 54 percent, said commuting to work takes more than 20 minutes, with 22 percent com-

► See **HOUSING**, page 10

City budget: Higher utility fees, adding 20 new staffers

PROPOSED BUDGET PROJECTS 10.8 PERCENT GROWTH IN REVENUE

By Mark Noack

Mountain View officials are set to begin a hiring spree and citywide improvements as part of their annual budget preparation. But the proposed budget's good news may fall on deaf ears, since city residents will be facing a hefty increase in a variety of utility rates.

In what is an otherwise auspicious fiscal year ahead, residents are expected to see their water

rates increase by 10 percent, while sewage fees are expected to go up by more than 19 percent.

The water rates come primarily as a result of increases in costs from the Hetch Hetchy water system, which provides about two-thirds of the city's water supply. This doesn't come as a huge surprise — as Mountain View and other cities have conserved water during California's drought, the San Francisco Public Utility Commission, which sells water wholesale throughout

the Bay Area, has notched up its prices to counterbalance the diminished revenues.

In contrast, city officials say the sharp increase in sewer costs comes as more of a shock. Public Works employees say they learned recently that the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant was hiking its fees by about 26 percent, or about \$1.3 million more than they originally budgeted. This is partly due to another

► See **CITY BUDGET**, page 11

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 20 | GOINGS ON 37 | MARKETPLACE 38 | REAL ESTATE 40

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Stanford Classics in Theater presents a humorous mash-up of modern political sound bites and classic Greek drama with its production of "The Republican Party in Pieces: A Comedy (In Fragments)" on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, at 8 p.m. at Elliott Program Center, 589 Governor's Ave., Stanford. The action takes place at the 2016 Republican National Convention, with GOP honchos seeking advice from the audience. †Admission is \$5 general; free with Stanford ID. Go to events.stanford.edu/events/602/60257/.



COURTESY FINE ART IN THE PARK

Douglas Brett's whimsical metal sculptures are part of this year's "Fine Art in the Park" in Los Altos.

'FINE ART IN THE PARK'

The annual "Fine Art in the Park" festival, sponsored by the Los Altos Rotary Club, will be held Saturday, May 14, and Sunday, May 15, at Lincoln Park, 199 University Ave., Los Altos, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The open-air event features around 170 artists showing original works in many different media; proceeds go to support local community-service agencies and international-development projects. Refreshments and live entertainment are also on offer. This year, the festival is holding a selfie contest, "Like it to Win it!" Participants can take a selfie next to a favorite piece of art and post it on Facebook. The two entrants who earn the most Facebook "likes" for their photos will each earn \$100 to go toward the purchase of the artwork. Go to rotaryartshow.com.

FROST MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Multi-platinum indie hip-hop artist **Fetty Wap** headlines this year's Frost Music and Arts



COURTESY FROST MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

*Multi-platinum hip-hop artist **Fetty Wap** headlines this year's Frost Music and Arts Festival at Stanford University.*

Festival, taking place Saturday, May 14, at Frost Amphitheater, Lasuen Street and Roth Way, Stanford, at 2:30 p.m. He'll be supported by Bay Area rapper Sage the Gemini and Stanford's own Gin & the Jitters, a co-ed combo with jazz, country and funk influences. Admission is \$24 for Stanford students; \$35 for faculty/staff; and \$44 general. Go to frostmusicfestival.com.

THE MUSIC OF RANDALL THOMPSON

Choral group Schola Cantorum will perform a concert dedicated to the work of composer Randall Thompson, including "Peaceable Kingdom," "Frostiana," and "Testament of Freedom," plus the inspirational "Alleluia," which was commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1940 and not completed by Thompson until 45 minutes prior to its debut performance. Performances are Saturday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road; and Sunday, May 15, at 3 p.m. at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave. Tickets are \$26 general; free for students under 25. Go to ScholaCantorum.org.

'BIRDS OF A FEATHER'

Can't tell your passerines from your peregrines? Environmental Volunteers is hosting a free introduction to birdwatching on Saturday, May 14, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at The EcoCenter, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Children and adults are invited to learn observation techniques (focusing on feathers and beaks), then going on a Baylands hike. Advanced registration, along with a water bottle and comfortable walking shoes, is suggested. Go to evols.org.

—Karla Kane

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CRIME BRIEFS

TWO ARRESTED AT HOSPITAL

Police made back-to-back arrests at El Camino Hospital late last week when two men, in separate incidents, allegedly caused a disturbance at the hospital and were found to be intoxicated.

Around 3:30 a.m. on Friday, May 6, police received reports that a man on the hospital campus was causing a disturbance. Officers found that the man, 62-year-old James Conley of San Jose, was allegedly intoxicated and spitting at hospital staff, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Conley has originally been brought to El Camino Hospital by another agency before the altercation, Nelson said. He was arrested on public intoxication charges and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

The next day, at around 11:49 p.m., police received a report that a discharged patient, 71-year-old Jesse Adams, was acting aggressively towards hospital employees. Officers arrived to find Adams, a Mountain View resident, in the emergency room screaming at people, Nelson said. Officers arrested him on suspicion of public intoxication. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

TRESPASSING ARREST ON GOOGLE CAMPUS

A 27-year-old Mountain View man was arrested last week after he was seen playing basketball on the Google campus.

Google security told police that the man, Alec Nelson was spotted trespassing on the company's campus along the 1300 block of Crittenden Lane at around 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3. Security told police that Nelson, who is not a Google employee, was repeatedly told not to trespass, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Officers found Alec Nelson shooting hoops on a basketball court in the area, and arrested him on trespassing charges.

—Kevin Forestieri

LOS ALTOS BURGLARY SUSPECT SOUGHT

Police are seeking the public's help in identifying a suspect caught on camera burglarizing a Los Altos home partially under construction late last month.

The burglary happened around 5:30 p.m. at a residence in the 400 block of South Clarke Avenue, police said.

The suspect entered the home through a section under construction, took property and left through a sliding glass door, according to police.

Police released photos today of the suspect that were obtained through a video surveillance camera installed inside the home, police said.

Anyone who recognizes the suspect is asked to call police at (650) 947-2770 or their tip line at (650) 947-2774.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 7

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

California St. & Castro St., 5/4
1000 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/4
2500 block W. El Camino Real, 5/5
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/5
800 block E. El Camino Real, 5/9

BATTERY

1600 block Rock St., 5/7
600 block San Antonio Rd., 5/9

BRANDISHING A WEAPON

500 block Showers Dr., 5/4

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

300 block E. Evelyn Av., 5/4
2400 block Charleston Rd., 5/7

GRAND THEFT

500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 5/5
600 block Showers Dr., 5/6
2900 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/10

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1000 block Crestview Dr., 5/9

RESISTING A PUBLIC OFFICER

Bryant St. & W. Dana St., 5/8

VANDALISM

100 block Calderon Av., 5/9
Franklin Av. & Sleeper Av., 5/9

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MICHELLE LE

REACH INTO THE PAST

Sy Gitin reaches for one of the vintage posters on display at the Rocket Fizz store in downtown Mountain View. The shop, which specializes in nostalgia-inducing candy and novelty items, opened up in the former Seascapes pet shop space in October.

Unlikely duo teams up to explore space prospecting

MOUNTAIN VIEW-BASED DEEP SPACE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPING ASTEROID-MINING TECHNOLOGY WITH LUXEMBOURG

By Mark Noack

Even for Silicon Valley — where oddballs and outcasts regularly team up to achieve great things — this partnership announced last week truly stands out.

Last week, a Mountain View start-up and a European grand duchy announced a formal partnership to investigate how asteroids zipping by Earth could be harvested for valuable resources. It was the latest development for Deep Space Industries, a company operating out of the NASA Ames Research Park that is intent on building a supply chain for space mining.

The company's new European partner is Luxembourg, a landlocked nation that is dwarfed in size

by Santa Clara County, but which nevertheless has gained a reputation as a pioneer in satellite manufacturing and space prospecting.

What's valuable enough to make asteroids worth mining? As far back as the 1970s, NASA Ames researchers have reported that rare minerals like platinum, cobalt, gold and silver could be harvested in asteroids and brought back for profit. In more recent years, geologists have found evidence that asteroid impacts are likely the source for deposits of these same precious metals found in the Earth's crust. Deep Space Industries and other companies in the space-mining race assert that it will increasingly make sense to draw minerals from asteroids as the supply dwindles on Earth.

In a February interview with the *Voice*, Deep Space Industries CEO Daniel Faber explained that the market was ripe for a "paradigm shift," and he pointed out that several companies are working in tandem to devise the best way to extract these resources.

"It gives us confidence that other people are looking into this as well," Faber said. "They learn from us, we learn from them. It's cooperative and competitive."

But that's not to say all asteroids are giant gold nuggets waiting to be plucked. Companies would need to first carefully survey the geology before sending in the miners, which would likely be robots, not humans. Exactly how to harvest and transport

► See **DEEP SPACE**, page 17

Huff principal to tackle student achievement gap

HEIDI SMITH TAKES NEW ROLE; CRITTENDEN'S CHANG TO BE NEW HUFF PRINCIPAL

By Kevin Forestieri

Armed with ambitious new plans to close the achievement gap, the Mountain View Whisman School District chose Huff Principal Heidi Smith to spearhead efforts to raise performance among the city's low-income and minority students.

Last week, the district announced that Smith will take over as director of English-language learner (ELL) programs for the district, and will oversee federal funding designated for economically disadvantaged students and English learners. Smith replaces the current ELL director, Phyllis Rodgers, who announced her retirement this year.

Smith called it a bittersweet transition moving from Huff Elementary to the district office after four years of leading the school. She said she looks forward to new opportunities to help more students than before, but said she wants to make sure the district office stays connected with the school community.

"I hope to be a supporter of the district office spending more time at the schools," Smith said.

Smith will be responsible

for handling Title I and Title III federal funding, which is earmarked for programs that help students from low-income families and students who are enrolled in the district's English-language development program. She will also head the efforts to improve the educational programs at both Theuerkauf and Castro Elementary — the district's lowest-performing schools.

The staffing transition comes a year after state test scores revealed low-income and English learner students are performing well below their peers in the Mountain View Whisman School District. Only 17 percent of English learners, for example, were able to meet the state standards in math, compared to 67 percent among students fluent in English. A subsequent \$275,000 audit commissioned by the district found that Mountain View Whisman's programs designed to help these under-performing students — particularly the ELL programs — were ineffective and poorly managed by the district.

In a major effort to close this troubling achievement gap, the district is pouring mil-

► See **SHUFFLE**, page 10

Bay Area cities could drop drought restrictions

By Kevin Forestieri

Water restrictions across California may soon be lifted, after Gov. Jerry Brown and state regulators announced new plans Monday that would empower local water suppliers to set their own standards for reducing water consumption.

California's State Water Resources Control Board will consider a new policy on May 18 that would ditch the mandatory water restrictions set by the state last year, requiring individual water retailers to reduce water

use from 4 percent to 36 percent or face a penalty. Instead, these cities, water districts and private companies would be able to set their own conservation targets based on the local drought conditions. In the Bay Area, that could mean no restrictions at all.

The wet winter season wasn't enough to erase four years of severe drought, particularly in Southern California, but conditions have improved in Northern California. California's largest reservoirs, Shasta and Oroville, are above 90 percent capac-

► See **DROUGHT**, page 15

VOICE FILE PHOTO
BY MICHELLE LE

Measure AA on the June 7 ballot would levy a \$12 parcel tax on Bay Area property owners to fund shoreline and habitat restoration projects.



Council endorses bayland restoration tax

By Mark Noack

The Mountain View City Council voted last week to endorse Measure AA, a proposed parcel tax designed to clean up the San Francisco Bay.

The measure on the June 7 ballot would levy a \$12-per parcel tax over the next 20 years throughout the nine-county Bay Area to fund bayland restoration. If approved by voters, Measure AA is expected to raise a total of \$500 million that would be used to improve water quality, restore wildlife habitat and open up more of the shoreline to the public, according to advocates. But the measure faces a high hurdle by requiring support from two-thirds of voters to pass.

At the May 3 Mountain View City Council meeting, Mayor Pat Showalter asked her colleagues to endorse Measure AA. An outspoken advocate for improving water quality, Showalter sits on the governing board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, the agency behind the measure. While the restoration authority already has some funding for this job, it isn't nearly enough, she said.

"This money is needed to do a better quality job and to do it much faster," Showalter said. "It's much better for leverag-

ing funds for local and state grants."

Some members of the public criticized the city's endorsement, describing the measure as a handout to agencies already financed by taxpayers to address water quality. Saying he would oppose the measure, Councilman John Inks described it as a "double dip" into taxpayers' pocketbooks. One public speaker alleged the Santa Clara Valley Water District was spending millions of dollars to help pass the measure, but there was no sign of this in the campaign-finance filings. The Yes on Measure AA has raised more than \$1.3 million as of its April 23 campaign statement, with large, six-figure donations coming from Facebook, Chevron, PG&E, The Nature Conservancy and the Save the Bay Fund.

According to the Mountain View's city attorney, Showalter does not have a conflict of interest in endorsing the measure, despite the fact that she works for Santa Clara Valley Water District. City Attorney Jannie Quinn said that the Political Reform Act specifically excluded government salaries from its potential conflicts for elected officials.

The council voted 6-1 to endorse Measure AA. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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Roundtable on Mountain View's metamorphosis

Perhaps more than any other Bay Area burg, Mountain View has been transformed in the zeitgeist of Silicon Valley. What began as a farm town and stagecoach stop is bursting at the seams with modern urban challenges, including gentrification, intense housing demand and inadequate transportation infrastructure.

On Wednesday, May 18, a panel of experts will convene

for a public discussion on the many changes affecting Mountain View — its past, present and future. The discussion is a part of the city's regular Civility Roundtable series organized by the Human Relations Commission. The topic was influenced by recent events, said Commissioner Aila Malik, including accounts of an exodus of low-income families and some new residents with limited ties to the

community at large.

"This is a broad topic by design," she said. "The thought here is to talk about the impacts we're seeing to find out how we can build a sense of community."

The guest speakers scheduled to participate are: Mountain View Whisman School District Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph, who will discuss how local schools are accommodating with this transition; Liron

Shapira, co-founder of Quixey, will talk about the perspective of tech start-ups and why Mountain View became a hotbed for innovation; local resident John Keen will talk about his own experiences as both a tech worker and as a tenant struggling to stay in Mountain View; and William Armaline, director of San Jose State University's Human Rights Program, will provide context for how other

communities have navigated high-level changes.

The panel discussion will be moderated by Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian.

The Civility Roundtable, "The Changing Face of Mountain View: A City in Transition," is scheduled from 6:30-8:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, at the city Senior Center at 266 Escuela Ave. ▀

—Mark Noack

■ COUNCIL BRIEF

City to fly pride flag in June

A proposal to fly the LGBT pride flag in downtown Mountain View in June received the City Council's blessing, but not without some push-back from opponents who argued it would unfairly promote a political agenda.

In a proposal brought to the City Council on May 3, Councilman Chris Clark asked his colleagues to allow the rainbow flag — a symbol of gay pride for nearly 40 years — to be flown outside City Hall for about two weeks in June. That month is LGBT Pride Month, and Clark also asked the council to issue a proclamation marking the event.

The idea drew a backlash from public speakers as well as Councilman John Inks. While avoiding the politics surrounding gay rights, critics argued that displaying the flag meant Mountain View was taking a stance on a political issue. If the city allowed this, then other political groups would surely want their own flags flown in the Civic Center Plaza, according to their arguments.

"What if a group wanted to celebrate heterosexual marriage and family values? Is that appropriate to put on a flagpole?" Inks said. "Why raise a flag for this? It's kind of divisive, as you heard from some speakers tonight."

The debate was nothing new for Mountain View. Similar concerns were aired in 2014, when then-mayor Clark, the city's first openly gay City Council member, made a similar proposal. At the time, the council voted 5-1 to allow the pride flag to be flown for a similar period in June.

After a lapse in 2015, Clark returned on Tuesday to ask his council colleagues to fly the flag a second time. He and other supporters argued the flag represents values the city should uphold.

"This flag symbolizes diversity and inclusivity," Clark said, pointing out his request was nothing different than what the council had approved two years earlier.

The council approved flying the pride flag in a 6-1 vote, with Inks opposed. ▀

—Mark Noack

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

LOS ALTOS CAR THEFT

Two 20-year-old men were arrested last week for allegedly stealing two cars from a Los Altos home, police said.

San Jose residents Cruz Cipriano Vargas and Aaron Guzman were arrested Thursday, May 5, on suspicion of auto theft, possession of a stolen vehicle and conspiracy

to commit a felony, police said.

Shortly before 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of two cars stolen from a home on Sioux Lane during the overnight hours, according to police.

The owners discovered the two vehicles, a Land Rover and a Cadillac Escalade, were missing from their driveway when they stepped outside that morning, police said.

Officers also found a Lexus reported stolen to Santa Clara police on Sunday near the Sioux

Lane home, according to police.

Officers informed the Santa Clara County Regional Auto Theft Task Force of their investigation into the incident, police said.

A task force member found the two stolen cars with the suspects inside in East San Jose, according to police.

The suspects were arrested and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail in San Jose, police said.

—Bay City News Service

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'PEAR SLICES' FESTIVAL CELEBRATES SHORT PLAYS
BY LOCAL WRITERS

By Karla Kane

Thirteen is a lucky number for the Pear Theatre. This month, the Mountain View company presents its 13th annual Pear Slices festival, featuring a fresh crop of 14 one-act plays written by members of its Pear Playwright Guild. "Pear Slices 2016" will be performed in two slates of seven plays each, happening on alternating evenings (patrons can buy tickets for one slate or both).

The expanded production will be the first Slices festival for the company in its new, bigger space on La Avenida Street., around the corner from its original Pear Avenue home.

Woodside resident Elyce Melmon has been with the Pear since 2003, when the company produced one of her full-length plays. She said she's been involved with the Pear Slices festival most years since then. This year, she's contributed a two-character drama, "It Begins with Goodbye," about a widower

whose daughter convinces him go to grief counseling.

"At first he insists he doesn't need it; his wife was a nag, now he can sleep better and drink his martinis," Melmon said. "But as he speaks of her, we learn he really loved her very much. It's basically a glimpse into the loss of an unconventional marriage and some of the faces that grief wears."

Melmon said she enjoys exploring social issues.

"I wrote one about a man who was just getting out of prison having been mistakenly punished for a crime he did not commit. The one I did last year was about surrogate motherhood. There's one about genetic engineering and the survivor of suicide," she said.

A retired English teacher, Melmon has been writing plays for a long time, including writing her master's thesis in the form of a play.

"When I retired, that was part of the intent, to spend more time writing," she said. "I like to write plays because of the wonderful



RAY RENATI

Stephanie Crowley and Ray Renati perform in the romantic comedy "Birders," by Barbara Anderson.

collaboration, to have something you've had in your head come to life right in front of you. The actors and directors really make a difference. They bring their experiences to your emotional output," she said.

"... There's something about an empty, dark theater that's really romantic to me," she added. "I've always loved it."

Melmon said one of her favorite plays in this year's festival is "Birders," a birdwatching-based romantic comedy by Barbara

Anderson.

As a longtime member of the Pear's Playwright Guild, Melmon said she continues to find value in the group of around 20 members, which meets once or twice a month to share work and get feedback.

"It's a very supportive group. Their critiques are very honest, sometimes tough, and extremely helpful," she said. "I feel honored (to be involved). I'm kind of at the top of the heap as one of the older members," she said. "We have

some wonderful young people."

E. Kokkila Schumacher is one of Melmon's younger fellow guild members. His supernatural-tinged play, "Not All That Glimmers is Gold," made it into this year's Slices festival. This is his second year contributing to the Slices program.

Schumacher said that while he often tends toward comedy, this year he decided to challenge himself and try his hand at a

► See **PEAR SLICES**, page 18

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HOUSING

► Continued from page 1

muting 46 minutes or more to get to work. And nearly a quarter of those surveyed said they expect to leave the district in the next three years. The main reasons included “insufficient” salaries and the inability to find affordable housing in a good location.

Board President Ellen Wheeler said she was “100 percent” in favor of a teacher housing project, and that finding ways to support teachers in an explosive housing market has been the center of discussion for school districts all over the county and the Bay Area. The survey, she said, underscores the need to take teacher housing more seriously.

“I’m very happy that we can do this for our teachers,” Wheeler said. “We see the interest from our teachers; it just makes perfect sense to me.”

Board member Greg Coladonato said attracting and retaining teachers is a top priority for the district, and having some kind of affordable housing option available could act as an incentive for teachers to work there.

“I would imagine that if

we were able to find a way to make housing available at a more affordable rate that it would attract more teachers,” Coladonato said. “It could only increase the attractiveness.”

While teacher housing projects in the Bay Area are few and far between, board members showed interest in mimicking something like Santa Clara Unified School District’s “Casa Del Maestro” project, which includes 70 units for teachers ranging from \$880 to \$1,400 a month. Canada College’s housing development for faculty and staff, Canada Vista, also has 60 units available for rents ranging from \$875 to \$1,700.

Board member Bill Lambert gave his support for exploring teacher housing, but said he still needs to be convinced that the plan would be a financially sound investment for the district. He said it’s possible that there are more prudent ways to increase retention and satisfaction among school staff, and that jumping into the business of real estate ownership ought to be done with solid information on whether it’s actually feasible.

“It should be driven by data, not just warm and fuzzy feelings,” Lambert said. ▀

SHUFFLE

► Continued from page 5

and Theuerkauf over the next three years, which are designed to raise performance at schools with the highest concentration of low-income students and English learners. At the same time, the district has re-applied for Title I funding, prompting a boost of about \$143,000 annually for each of the two schools.

While it may sound jarring to switch from Huff — one of the highest performing schools in the district — to overseeing over a thousand of Mountain View’s most needy students, Smith said she is prepared. Before moving over to Huff, Smith was principal at Northern Parkway School in New York, a school where 81 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced lunch (the most common method for determining a student’s socioeconomic status) and minority students make up 99 percent of the student body.

When she joined Northern Parkway, Smith said morale was pretty low due to frequent turnover at the administrative level. But by the time she had left, the school had made strides towards improving student achievement, and was

rated “highly effective” by U.S. Secretary of Education John King, who was New York’s commissioner of education at the time.

Smith will be leaving Huff at a similar high point. Huff was recently recognized as a California Distinguished School, and last year received the National Blue Ribbon School award for its high performance. Shortly after, Smith was one of seven principals in the nation to receive the Terrel H. Bell award — which recognizes principals for playing a “vital role” in student achievement, even under frequently challenging circumstances, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph, who asked Smith to take on the new position in the Mountain View Whisman School District, called her a “collaborative leader” who has the experience needed to raise student achievement at the lowest performing schools.

“Her expertise and experience will be invaluable in supporting our collective goal of closing the achievement gap for all schools, and assisting the turnaround efforts currently underway at Castro and Theuerkauf,” Rudolph said in a statement.

Huff’s new principal

As part of the internal staffing shuffle, Crittenden Principal Geoff Chang will be stepping in as the new principal at Huff Elementary to replace Smith. Chang called the new position an exciting new opportunity for him, and that he looks forward to learning more about the school community south of El Camino Real.

Chang was a teacher and assistant principal at multiple schools in New York before moving back to the Bay Area in 2012 to take the job as principal at Crittenden. He said he is very proud of the progress the school has made in the last four years, and said Crittenden staff have “pushed the envelope” by introducing an array of new programs and adopting project-based learning in the classroom. Parent participation has also exploded, Chang said, with events like the walkathon pulling in more than twice the money for school programs as in previous years.

“Over the last four years we’ve really built on the staff and student culture,” Chang said. “All of us have really learned from each other, the students, teachers and parents. It’s a tight-knit community that I’m sad to leave

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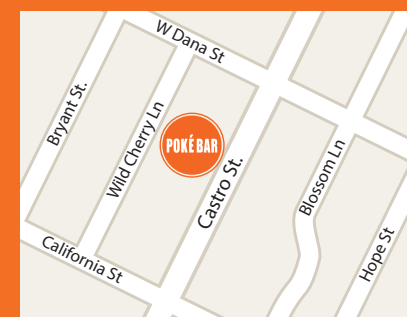


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It hasn't always been smooth sailing at Crittenden. Because of volatile teacher retention rates throughout the district, the school had 13 new teachers this year — more than a third of the entire teaching staff — including seven who were brand new to teaching. According to the district audit, Chang made it a top priority to monitor the quality of teaching for all the teachers new to the school, and that he provided constructive feedback with clear goals for improvement.

As of May 10, a new principal for Crittenden has yet to be identified. With the latest round of staffing changes, seven of the district's 10 principals have been hired in the past two years, due to a combination of retirements, resignations and promotions to the district office. ■

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CITY BUDGET

► Continued from page 1

byproduct of the drought — more ammonia has been appearing in the wastewater stream, forcing the utility to purchase more purging chemicals. The treatment plant also need to repair and replace its aging infrastructure, including pipes that were originally installed in the 1950s.

At the budget study session last month, city Finance Director Patty Kong pointed out that with the higher rates, Mountain View would still have sewer rates that were on par with neighboring cities, but she acknowledged the increase was coming as a sudden blow to ratepayers. Public Works officials say their original budget projections from the Palo Alto treatment plant failed to provide information on permitting and enforcement over the last two fiscal years that would have allowed the city to better plan for this increase.

“We react to what we're given and we review that, but this has alerted us to the potential of some pretty big errors,” said Public Works Director Mike Fuller. “We're trying to avoid this in the future.”

For the average single-family household in Mountain View, these higher fees amount to a \$6.65 monthly increase in an

water bill and a \$5.50 increase per month for sewer charges.

A good year for city finances

The study session on April 26 lays the groundwork for Mountain View officials to prepare the budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year that begins July 1. City officials are optimistically projecting a total of \$118.7 million in revenues — a 10.8 percent increase over the current year. In his opening remarks, City Manager Dan Rich said it was looking to be a good year, but he warned City Council members not to go overboard.

“This is my 11th year as city manager and this is the strongest financial condition we've been in in my career,” he said. “But there are perils of prosperity as well.”

Rich warned council members to be cautious in pitching new projects for the city to undertake. Given the grim years following the 2008 recession, Mountain View needed to carefully control its spending in case another financial hit was around the corner, he said. The city's financial team planned out its new budget to prepare for a possible economic downturn in the next five years.

“It could be sooner; it could be later. My crystal ball isn't certain at this time,” said Finance Direc-

tor Kong.

Nevertheless, city officials said they would look to restore City Hall's workforce by adding what amounts to 20 new full-time positions, at a cost of about \$4.4 million. Rich noted these new hires would bring back some of the 70 positions that Mountain View had lost over the last 15 years. He pointed out the city's employees have been strained by too much work.

The biggest increase in positions would go to the Public Works Department, which would hire seven new employees, mostly engineers, on a limited-term basis to accommodate the increased workload. Most other departments would each get one or two full-time equivalent positions. More than three-quarters of the new positions would be not be permanent hires, but on a limited-term basis, he said.

Going over the budget numbers, City Council members traded ideas of what to do with the city's extra money. If the revenue projections are accurate, Mountain View will have \$6.8 million to spend beyond what has already been allocated. Councilman Ken Rosenberg suggested some of this money should go as a bonus to the city's hardworking employees. He said that about \$400,000 to \$500,000 could be

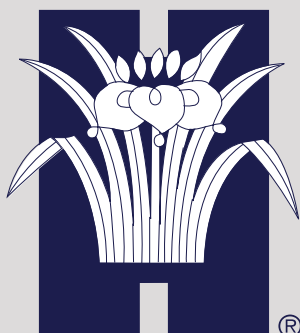
evenly split between the workers.

“My proposal is a relatively small thank you for every employee,” he said. “This should not be an expectation that every time there's surpluses there should be bonuses.”

But that idea quickly met some competition from other proposals. Councilman Lenny Siegel suggested the city might do well to add one or two extra positions to further reduce the overall workload for departments. Meanwhile, boosting early education was also pitched by Councilman John McAlister, who suggested the city could provide scholarships for preschools and after-school activities for low-income families.

Showing a photo of public-art display in Portland, Ore., Councilman Chris Clark suggested his own ideas to beautify the downtown Civic Center Plaza. As the potential price of these pet projects began to stack up, the council's most vocal fiscal conservative, John Inks, spoke up. He suggested that if the city was going to spend money it might as well pay down the increase to residents' utility bills.

City Manager Rich said that the city staff couldn't do all these proposals, but he said staff would investigate them and come back with more information in June for the next budget review meeting. ■



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DROUGHT

► Continued from page 5

ity as of this month, and both of Mountain View's water suppliers — the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Santa Clara Valley Water District — are reporting significant increases in water supplies for this year.

Although the mandatory water use restrictions set last year may be going away, Brown announced in an executive order on Monday that some of the drought provisions will become permanent. Wasteful water usage, including hosing off sidewalks and driveways, washing vehicles using a hose without a shut-off nozzle, and watering lawns within 48 hours of rainfall will all be permanently prohibited, according to the executive order.

Since the restrictions were put in place in 2014, the state has made significant strides towards reducing water use.

Between June 2015 and March 2016, California's water use plunged by nearly 24 percent compared to 2013, falling just shy of the governor's call to reduce water usage by 25 percent last year. The reduction saved California enough water to provide an estimated 6.5 million Californians with water for an entire year, according to the executive order.

But Brown said that ongoing drought conditions in some parts of the state, along with climate change predictions that could deplete the state's mountain snowpack, are key indicators that Californians need to turn some of these short-term emergency measures into long-term conservation plans.

"Californians stepped up during this drought and saved more water than ever before," Brown said in a statement Monday. "But now we know that drought is becoming a regular occurrence and water conservation must be a part of our everyday life."

The executive order calls on the state water board to develop a "permanent framework" of water use reduction requirements, to be based on a state-wide goal to reduce urban water usage by 20 percent by 2020. Although water retailers are allowed to create their own conservation targets, the executive order calls on urban water suppliers to issue monthly reports on water usage, conservation goals and enforcement efforts.

Mountain View is currently asking city residents to reduce water usage by 16 percent from 2013 levels, and last year adopted water use regulations that restricted landscape irrigation to two times per week. New state regulations could change Mountain View's conservation policies, but it's still too early to say, according to Elizabeth Flegel, Mountain View's water conservation coordinator.

Since the adoption of the

drought measures starting in 2014, Mountain View's water use has plummeted. According to the city, residents have saved nearly 2 billion gallons of water, and consumed 35 percent less water in April compared to April of 2013.

The increased supply of water in the Bay Area prompted some officials at the Santa Clara Valley Water District to consider dropping its call for 30 percent water use reduction across the county last month. Projected groundwater storage at the end of the year suggested that only a 15 percent water conservation target compared to 2013 would be needed to stay stable. But board members nixed the idea, saying that they ought to wait for state regulators to act first, and noted that the 15 percent reduction target would be below many of the state-mandated requirements for cities in the South Bay. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at
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TRANSIT

► Continued from page 1

hub Mountain View's equivalent of New York's Grand Central Station; it is a complicated intersection of various mass-transit lines as well as a scrum of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Anyone trying to cross the tracks now must wait every four minutes for a train to go by, which often results in a logjam of cars clogging nearby streets. That delay is expected to double in frequency in the coming years, making it sen-

sible to do something now, said Adam Dankberg, a consultant with the traffic engineering firm Kimley-Horn.

"The genesis of why we need to look at these options is the plans with Caltrain and the high-speed rail," he said. "We think the number of trains going back and forth and crossing with vehicle traffic will double in about five to 10 years."

For this location, Mountain View City Council members directed staff to investigate what is known as grade separa-

tion, a term referring to bringing Castro Street either over or under the train tracks. In March, city staff brought back a variety of options, but they indicated that many of the ideas that would leave Castro mostly untouched were infeasible.

For example, modifying the elevation of the Caltrain tracks to go under the roadway would be enormously expensive, they reported. This is in part due to the train agency's requirement that the rails have no more than a 1-percent grade. This gradual slope for the tracks would need

to run for miles in each direction, potentially stretching all the way into Sunnyvale. The council ultimately decided to eliminate this idea along with a few other expensive proposals.

Nevertheless, the remaining options could hardly be called cheap. The city's proposal to keep Castro Street open would require digging the road about 20 feet down to go under the train line, Central Expressway and Evelyn Avenue. A separate bike-pedestrian path would be built to make a similar crossing.

Building this underpass would require closing down Castro Street for up to 2.5 years at a cost of up to \$120 million. During that construction closure, drivers would divert to other roads, but their actual travel time would be faster than if they waited to cross along Castro, Dankberg said.

"That intersection is so bad today that actually the total delay would go down as people find alternate ways to cross," he said.

At a cheaper \$45 million price, the city could simply close off Castro Street, making it no longer an entrance to downtown. That idea seemed to be favored by some council members at their last discussion in March. Much of the cost for this option would come from building out Evelyn Avenue to connect with Shoreline Boulevard to handle additional traffic.

The idea of cutting off Castro Street has raised concerns among residents and nearby businesses at a previous city meeting. But losing Castro as

an access to downtown might not be quite as life-changing as some might think, Dankberg said. Pointing to maps showing traffic, he noted that the number of peak-hour drivers on Castro Street has dropped by about one-third in the last decade. Traffic studies showed only a minority of drivers, about 15 percent, were actually coming into downtown from Castro/Moffett Boulevard, he said. The majority were coming from Shoreline Boulevard and El Camino Real.

What was clear was that the current tangle of traffic at the Castro crossing was unsustainable, said Cliff Chambers, a Mountain View resident and transportation planner. Before the meeting, he watched the crossing for about a half-hour just to see how people navigated the spot.

"It's just a mess, and if you double the number of trains, it'll be a double mess," he said. "Something has to be done."

Chambers said he was leaning toward closing off Castro Street because digging an underpass could change the character of downtown. But he still had concerns how other streets would accommodate the diversion.

The council is expected to decide on an option at its June 28 meeting. The timing is important, said city transportation manager Linda Forsberg, because in the following weeks the city will need to proceed to a related project on redesigning the downtown transit center. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECT – MEASURE G

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRE-QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES AND OPEN DATES FOR ANNUAL PRE-QUALIFICATION

Notice is hereby given that the Mountain View Whisman School District has determined that prospective bidders on Mountain View Whisman School District Measure G construction projects must be pre-qualified prior to submitting bids.

To be considered for pre-qualification for Measure G projects, bidders must hold either a valid "A", "B", "C-4", "C-7", "C-10", "C-16", "C-20", "C-34", "C-36", "C-38", "C-42", "C-43" or "C-46" California Contractors License. California State Contractors Licenses: A or B. Pre-qualification is not a guarantee that contractors will be allowed to bid the projects. Certain projects may impose additional experience requirements. No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid on a project as a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid.

Pre-qualification applications may be submitted twice a year: **(1) from November 1 through November 10 and (2) from May 15 through May 20. If the ending date falls on a Sunday, packages will be due the next day no later than 12 noon.**

Contractors who submit a complete pre-qualification package will be notified by first class mail of their qualification status, such notice to be mailed no later than twenty business days after the final deadline date of each submission period. The Mountain View Whisman School District's decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria. Pre-qualification approval will remain valid for one (1) calendar year from the date of notice of qualification, except that the Mountain View Whisman School District reserves the right during that calendar year to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the pre-qualification ratings based on subsequently learned information and after giving notice of the proposed action to the Contractor and an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a pre-qualification determination.

Pre-qualification packets are available at the District's Construction Managers, Greystone West Co., website: <http://www.greystonewest.com/current-projects/mountain-view-whisman-school-district/open-bids-rfq-rfp>

Pre-qualification packages should be submitted in a sealed envelope and marked "CONFIDENTIAL" to Mary Ann Duggan, Director Capital Projects, Mountain View Whisman School District, 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, CA 94043.

The pre-qualification packages (questionnaire answers and financial statements) submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for pre-qualification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the Mountain View Whisman School District and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury. Mountain View Whisman School District reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the pre-qualification application submitted, to make all final determinations, and to determine at any time that the pre-qualification procedures will not be applied to a future public works project.

A contractor who has submitted a completed application form, and who receives a rating of "not qualified" from Mountain View Whisman School District may appeal that determination. There is no appeal from a finding that a contractor is not pre-qualified because of a failure to submit required information, but re-application during the designated time period is permitted.

Note: A contractor may be found not pre-qualified for bidding on a specific public works contract to be let by Mountain View Whisman School District, or on all contracts to be let by Mountain View Whisman School District until the contractor meets Mountain View Whisman School District's requirements. In addition, a contractor may be found not pre-qualified for either:

- (1) Omission of requested information or
- (2) Falsification of information

Publication Date: (1) May 13, 2016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PUBLIC HEARING 2016-17

Local Control and Accountability Plan & Budget

As required by Education Codes 42103, 42127, and 52062, the governing board of the **Mountain View Whisman School District** will hold a public hearing to solicit public comment on the 2016-17 Local Control and Accountability Plan and proposed Budget of the District, prior to final adoption. The public hearing will be held on June 2, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

The public hearing will be held at:
Mountain View Whisman School District Board Room
750-A San Pierre Way,
Mountain View, CA 94043
The Local Control and Accountability Plan and Budget can be inspected by the public beginning May 27, 2016, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at:
Mountain View Whisman School District
750-A San Pierre Way,
Mountain View, CA 94043
5/13/16
CNS-2878132#

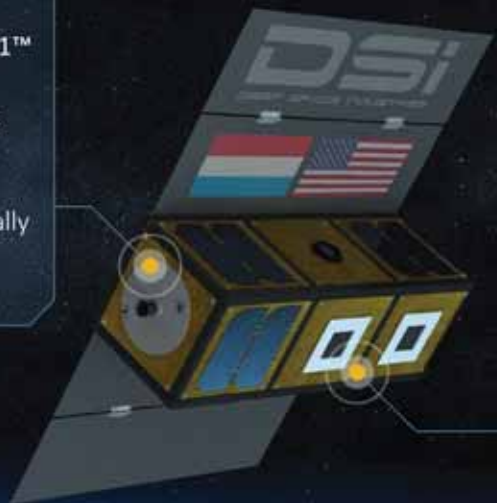
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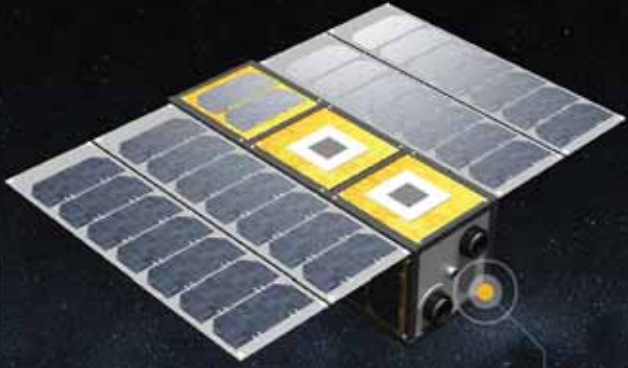
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OPTICAL NAVIGATION

A two-camera optical navigation system enables proximity operations at asteroids or at close range to other targets. This vision system is developed jointly between Deep Space and the University of Luxembourg's SnT.

Deep Space Industries' prototype for its toaster-sized spacecraft would test out technology for assessing asteroids

COURTESY OF BY DEEP SPACE INDUSTRIES

DEEP SPACE
► Continued from page 5

minerals from space remains conceptual. In a related project, NASA Ames engineers are currently developing a rover that could be sent to the moon in 2020 to analyze its mineral deposits.

Under the new partnership, Deep Space Industries and the Luxembourg government are splitting the cost of research and development for testing out pro-

totypes for assessing asteroids in Earth's orbit. Their inaugural project will be a toaster-sized spacecraft dubbed Prospector-X that can scout out nearby asteroids.

Deep Space Industries recently set up a satellite office in Lux-

embourg to work with the county's university. On a website set up for its new space venture, Luxembourg officials note they want to be at the forefront of setting up a legal framework for space mining. The small nation

explains that its interest in mining dates back to the 19th century when Luxembourg was among the top producers of iron ore in the world. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

PEAR SLICES

► Continued from page 8

drama.

Understandably reluctant to spoil a major plot twist in "All That Glimmers," he described the play as being about "a guy who has the ability to see things that others cannot" and has a

run in with a woman that will prove fateful. The play explores assumptions and how the power of knowledge can change things.

"I get a lot of weird ideas," he said. "Sometimes I don't think there is enough sci-fi in theater, or horror. I'm always looking for what I haven't seen before, what can be done on stage," he said.

Schumacher, who moved to the Bay Area four years ago, has acted in Pear productions, too. He recently performed in "The Beard of Avon."

At this year's festival, Schumacher said he is especially glad to see David Schreiber's "Transcontinental" come to life. The one-act play is billed as a sweet encounter in an 1870s San Francisco chocolate shop.

"I was so touched and heartbroken by it. It's very wonderful play. I heard that one (at a guild meeting) almost six months ago, and it stuck with me. There are some stories that just need to be told," he said.

The creative process is never too far from Schumacher's mind, even at his day job working for Google's help center.

"I'm always working on something, always thinking of different stories. I'm writing lots ... even if it is help articles," he said with a grin.

Diane Gribschaw works full time at NASA's Earth Science

Division but said she's always been interested in writing. She has been playwriting for the past seven years since becoming inspired by a course at Foothill College, which taught her not only the basics of how to structure a play and fine-tune the story, but also the value of physically talking and walking through new pieces.

"I don't think I can overstate the importance of that class. It was such a catalyst for me as a person and as a writer," the Redwood City resident said. She said she's found similar inspiration working with the Pear.

"As far as I know, I think the Pear is unusual on the Peninsula in having a dedicated playwrights guild," she said. And because she particularly enjoys writing short plays (generally around 20 minutes in length), she treasures the annual Pear Slices event even more. This year, her third with Slices, she's contributing "Double or Nothing," about the relationship between a gambling addict and a love addict.

"I decided that I wanted to do a piece about addiction because it's such a prevalent struggle in our society and so many people are touched by it, but I felt like drug addiction was a little bit overused. Gambling addiction

can go on for a very long time but people aren't always aware of it," she said.

She described her plays as exploring "core emotional issues" and said she strives to use gender-neutral pronouns and names to open up the acting possibilities and focus more on the universality

of the experiences being explored.

"I feel like if my plays have made people look at something in a different way than they otherwise would have, then it's a success," she said.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com.

■ INFORMATION

What: "Pear Slices 2016"

Where: Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St. Mountain View.

When: Slates A and B alternate evenings, with both slates running on May 21. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m. (special Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. on May 21) through May 29.

Cost: Tickets are \$30 admission/\$25 for students and seniors. Discount available for patrons who wish to reserve tickets for both "Pear Slices" slates.

Info: For more information, including a guide to which plays are in which slates, go to thepear.org or call 650-329-0891.

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NEW HEAD OF CHAC

The Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC) board of directors unanimously chose Marsha Deslauriers to be the acting executive director of CHAC last month. Deslauriers, who was previously the director of administration at CHAC, will lead the agency while the board conducts a search for a permanent executive director later this year.

Deslauriers was recently hired by former Executive Director Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, who abruptly resigned in March. Despite her short time at CHAC, she has a strong presence within the organization and was a clear pick for the position, according to Sandy Bergan, CHAC's board president.

"She turned out to be amazing," Bergan said. "She's got the respect of the staff, the board and everybody."

Bergan said the board plans to do a full search for candidates to permanently fill the position, but it will likely be delayed until after the end of the fiscal year. For now, she said Deslauriers will do a good job representing CHAC in the community and maintaining the organization's partnerships in the interim.

"It is an honor to assume this position," Deslauriers said in a statement. "We have a unique structure of partnering with the local schools and cities. We enable teachers to identify students for counseling which ultimately enhances the education experience for all students and their teachers."

—Kevin Forestieri

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Mountain View, CA 94042-0405

Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6528

EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Veenker for District 24 Assembly seat

As one might expect for an open legislative seat, the race to replace termed-out state Assemblyman Rich Gordon has attracted a large field of eight candidates.

In California's new open primary system for state legislative offices, the names of all eight will appear on all ballots, and the top two vote-getters regardless of party affiliation will face off in the general election in November.

While the eight candidates would each bring unique qualities and experience to the job, we believe three Democratic attorneys — Mike Kasperzak, Marc Berman and Vicki Veenker—are the clear standouts.

Measured only by the depth and breadth of political and governmental experience, 14-year Mountain View City Council veteran Mike Kasperzak, 62, would be the hands-down choice. He has been a dedicated and hard-working council member and is respected at both the regional and state level. An attorney who specialized in mediation, his orientation is toward problem-solving and building consensus, and he has devoted most of his adult life to public service. While we haven't always agreed with him on local issues, such as his position favoring the VTA's express lane proposal for El Camino Real, his values and priorities have been sound.

Marc Berman, 36, finishing up his first four-year term on the Palo Alto City Council, has been active in politics since college and has built strong connections with the local Democratic party. Uninspired by corporate law practice, he shifted gears two years ago and has been the development director for the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, a resource and advocacy group seeking innovation in public education, especially in STEM fields.

Vicki Veenker, 53, is a respected Silicon Valley intellectual property attorney, mediator and Palo Alto resident who has never held public office. She has chosen to focus her public service on advocating for the legal rights of low-income and other vulnerable local residents through the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, where she has served on the board of directors for 13 years and as board president for one term. She also helped start the first professional

women's soccer league, reflecting her commitment to expanding opportunities for women.

All three have similar traditional Democratic political views, although the nuances of their positions on policy issues will likely come into greater focus when only two are vying in the fall.

With the exception of high-speed rail, which Kasperzak still supports but Berman and Veenker do not, all three identify increases in education funding at all levels, universal preschool, transportation infrastructure spending, climate change, affordable housing and transportation as priorities. They each support the legalization of recreational marijuana use (assuming appropriate state regulations) and increased state funding of affordable housing through tax incentives and bond measures.

Kasperzak and Berman are classic local elected officials seeking higher office. There are many Bermans and Kasperzaks in Sacramento, appropriately so.

But we believe Veenker is the rare candidate whose lack of experience as an elected official is outweighed by a unique combination of a strong legal background in a highly technical field, well-oiled advocacy and negotiating skills and a passion for public policy and social justice.

Without the visibility or limelight of elective office she has devoted much time and energy to the Law Foundation, a legislative-reform advocacy group that provides pro bono legal services to individuals facing housing and other forms of discrimination, and obstacles to obtaining access to health care and mental health services.

We also strongly believe in the importance of electing more women to state and federal offices. Women currently make up just one-quarter of the state Legislature in California, barely above the national average and much lower than in Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Arizona. That's shameful in a state like California.

We look forward to the campaign narrowing to two candidates and a sharpened debate on the issues in the fall, and we recommend Vicki Veenker as a uniquely qualified candidate who would bring a fresh and important perspective to Sacramento. ▀

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

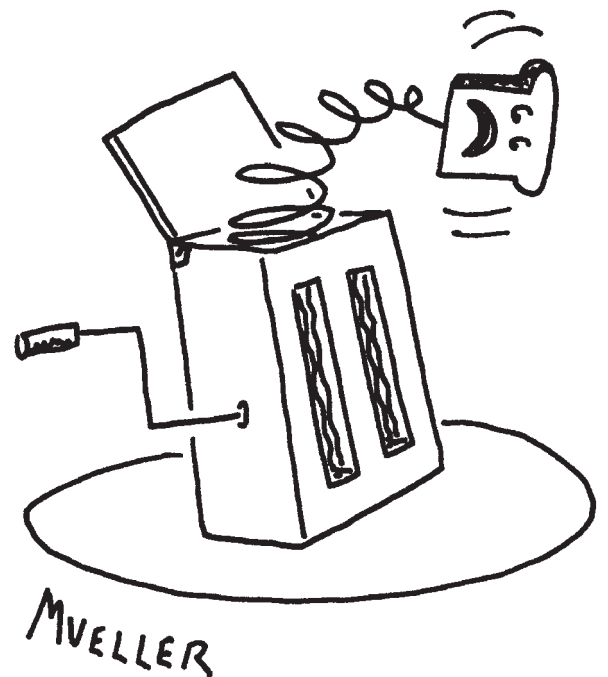
SUPPORT MEASURE TO PROTECT RENTERS

I couldn't be happier that the Mountain View Tenants Coalition is trying to put rent control and just-cause eviction on the ballot! We need this measure to help keep Mountain View a place where everyone can afford to live. The Coalition is working hard day and night to collect the signatures necessary to get a renter-protection amendment on the ballot this November and I'm encouraging everyone who cares about our community to sign it and get involved.

Mountain View renters have seen rents go up astronomically over the past several years, with

no end in sight. Landlords have the right to make money, but these rent hikes (some as high as 20 percent or even more) are outrageous. We in Mountain View have to stick together in bad times and in good times, and make sure that the good times are not just good times for a few. Some people's "good times" shouldn't come at the expense of the community.

I have had the opportunity to talk with many community members about their views on the amendment, and it's been a pleasure to hear from so many of them about how much they want to keep our community diverse and vibrant, with all different kinds of people. I've



Viewpoint

heard from landlords who were excited to support the petition, from teachers who are tired of seeing their students leave in the middle of the year because their parents got rent hikes, and from people of all sorts of political perspectives who want Mountain View to have the chance to vote on this issue.

Many people ask me what they can do to get involved. If you are a resident of Mountain View and you're worried about rising rents and evictions of people who can't afford them, please consider signing the petition. The MVTC has a special drive-through signing location: every Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph's Church parking lot. Easy parking, and it only takes a minute. Look for the banner at the corner of Church and Castro.

Mary Arnone
Middlefield Road

CITY NEEDS STRONGER TREE-PROTECTION RULES

The incident on Mariposa Street in which a developer tore down two heritage trees and damaged another could have been avoided altogether if Mountain View had a stronger tree-protection policy.

In Palo Alto, trees within a construction zone must have their trunks wrapped in protective mesh and the drip-zone fenced off with sturdy cyclone fencing. An arborist from the city must sign off that the protection is installed properly before any work can begin on the site. Cutting of roots larger than 4 inches must be approved, too. This is done for both commercial and residential construction.

In Mountain View, little if any protection seems to be required. A beautiful, mature Japanese maple died at a residential site a year or so ago, I believe due to lack of any protection from heavy equipment nicking its limbs and trunk, and materials being stored in its root zone. A large bush/small tree was all that was planted in its place.

Joseph Pinheiro
Dierick Drive

DON'T TRY THIS AT YOUR HOME

While it's not surprising that a big operation like Prometheus can come up with schemes to get rid of the pesky heritage trees on its project at Mariposa and El Camino Real, it's sad to see the trivial response of the city to this, where I would guess that Prometheus will get to pay fines of a few hundred dollars for taking down trees whose value is enormous.

There aren't many of the large

incense cedars left in Mountain View, but Prometheus found a simple way to get rid of one via a "mistake" by a subcontractor, as well as some other heritage trees through other "mistakes" by subcontractors.

The city's response, through Community Development, is apt to be something completely negligible to a big operation like Prometheus, which can even deduct the fines as a business expense.

Try cutting down your own heritage tree on a residential property, where the city arborist gets involved, to see a very different response.

Carol Lewis
Oak Street

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY COUNCIL

Urban Water Management Plan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tuesday, the 24th day of May 2016, at the hour of 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, has been set as the time and place for a public hearing on the following item:

Revisions to the City of Mountain View's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The UWMP evaluates Mountain View's water supply and demand, and provides a blueprint for meeting the community's long-term water supply objectives. Mountain View's UWMP was last updated in 2011. The proposed updated UWMP is available for review online at www.mountainview.gov/uwmp and in person at the Mountain View Public Library (585 Franklin Street) and the Public Works Department (500 Castro Street).

Please call 650-903-6774 if you have any questions about the UWMP update process.

Interested parties may appear and be heard. Written statements may be submitted to the City Clerk, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, California, 94039-7540. Legal challenges may be limited to those issues or objections raised at the public hearing orally or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Dated this 13th day of May 2016.

Lorrie Brewer, MMC
City Clerk

LB/MH/7/CLK
405-05-13-16F007-E

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PUBLIC HEARING 2016-17

Local Control and Accountability Plan & Budget

As required by Education Codes 42103, 42127, and 52062, the governing board of Mountain View Los Altos High School District will hold a public hearing to solicit public comment on the 2016-17 Local Control and Accountability Plan and proposed Budget of the District, prior to final adoption. The public hearing will be held on June 13, 2016, at 12:00 PM.

The public hearing will be held at:

District Office Board Room
1299 Bryant Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

The Local Control and Accountability Plan and Budget can be inspected by the public beginning June 10, 2016, during the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, at:

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Michael Repka
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Discover nature this summer at Explore! & Girls In Science summer day camps with the Environmental Volunteers in Palo Alto! Field trips, live animals, and hands-on science activities will bring nature alive to kids in grades 1-6. Register and learn more.
www.EVols.org/Explore **650.493.8000**

GetEdu Teen Innovation Camp **Stanford**
Designed for teen innovators and young entrepreneurs ages 11 to 18. At this two-week, overnight camp located on the Stanford campus, students from global countries form teams, learn hands-on product design, meet startup cofounders, and pitch business plans to top executives and angel investors. Limited openings. Early bird discount until 5/31/2016 or subject to availability.
www.GetEdu.net/product_summertimecamp **650.260.8999**

Pacific Art League **Palo Alto**
Dive into creativity this summer with 20 fun art camps! Animation, Digital Art, Photography, Book Arts, Ceramics, Painting and more! Half- or full-day. Ages 9-17. Have fun, meet friends and make art!
www.pacificartleague.org **(650) 321-3891**

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) **Palo Alto**
PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of fun opportunities! We are excited to introduce two new camps to our lineup this year: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.) and PACCC Special Interest Units (S.I.U.). Returning favorites include F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports and Operation: Chef! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps! Open to campers from all communities! Come join the fun in Palo Alto! Register online.
www.paccc.org **650.493.2361**

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research **Stanford**
EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford! Stanford EXPLORE offers high schoolers the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineProgramering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.
explore.stanford.edu **explore-series@stanford.edu**

Stanford Jazz Workshop **Stanford University**
Week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (starts July 13), high school (July 19 and July 26), and college, as well as adults (August 2). All instruments and vocals.
stanfordjazz.org

TheatreWorks Summer Camps **Palo Alto**
In these entertaining camps for grades K-5, students enjoy juggling, clowning, puppetry, playwriting, acting, improvisation, music, dance — and present their own original pieces at the end of each session.
www.theatreworks.org/learn/youth/summercamps

Athletics

Hi-Five Sports Summer Camp **Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, CA**
Children enjoy up to 8 different team sports a week of outdoor fun and fundamentals. With over 25 years of experience and we are the best provider of youth recreational sports in the nation!
www.hifivesportsclubs.com/ **650.362.4975**
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J-Camp at the Oshman Family JCC **Palo Alto**
Adventure awaits at J-Camp! With options for grades K-12 that fit every schedule and interest, you can mix and match camps to meet your family's needs. Are you looking for well-rounded camp sessions that focus on variety and building friendships? We've got you covered. Does your child have specific talents you'd like them to explore in depth? Send them our way. We're looking forward to our best summer ever and want your family to be part of the experience!
www.ofjcc-jcamp.com **650.223.8622**

Menlo School Sports Camps **Atherton**
Menlo camps are designed for boys and girls grades 4–12 to learn from Knights coaches and staff. Join us this summer to develop skills, foster athleticism and promote sportsmanship in camps covering a range of sports — baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer and water polo.
www.menloschool.org **650.330.2001 ext. 2758**

Nike Tennis Camps **Stanford University**
Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men's Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women's Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men's and Women's Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!
www.USSportsCamps.com **1.800.NIKE.CAMP (645.3226)**

Stanford Baseball Camps **Stanford Campus**
Stanford Baseball Camps have gained national recognition as the some of the finest in the country. These camps are designed to be valuable and beneficial for a wide range of age groups and skill sets. From the novice 7 year-old, to the Division 1, professionally skilled high school player, you will find a camp that fulfills your needs.
www.Stanfordbaseballcamp.com **650.723.4528**

Stanford Water Polo **Stanford**
Ages 7 and up. New to sport or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or fully day option for boys and girls. All the camps offer fundamental skill work, scrimmages and games.
www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com **650.725.9016**

Academics

Alexa Café **Palo Alto High School**
Girls ages 10-15 discover technology in a unique environment that celebrates creativity, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship. Girls learn engineering principles, code games, design websites, model and print 3D objects, and much more.
www.iDTech.com **1.844.788.1858**

Bay Area Pathways Academy (BAPA) **College of San Mateo**
The Bay Area Pathways Academy(tm) (BAPA) is an enhanced new summer for students entering grades 6 to 9 which offers an exciting array of grade-appropriate academic classes, engaging enrichment classes and fun fitness and aquatics classes, including the opportunity to register for up to 3 two-week sessions.
www.BayAreaPathwaysAcademy.org **650.574.6149**

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls **Palo Alto**
Casti Camp offers girls a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips.
www.castilleja.org/summercamp **650.328.3160**

Academics

Galileo Summer Quest **8+ South Bay Area Locations**
Twelve innovative majors to explore. 5th–8th graders dive into a subject that inspires you. Design video games, engineer catapults, build go-karts, paint with electricity, create a delectable dish. Every week is a new opportunity to realize your personal vision.
www.galileo-camps.com **1.800.854.3684**

Harker Summer Programs **San Jose**
Harker summer programs for preschool–grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment.
www.summer.harker.org **408.553.5737**

iD Tech Camps **Stanford**
Students ages 7–17 can learn to code, design video games, mod Minecraft, engineer robots, model 3D characters, build websites, print 3D models, and more. Campers meet new friends, learn awesome STEM skills, and gain self-confidence.
www.iDTech.com **1.844.788.1858**

iD Tech Mini **Palo Alto**
At Palo Alto High School. Kids ages 6-9 can discover programming, game design, robotics, or graphic design. And with an emphasis on creativity, friendship, and exploration, every camper becomes a maker of fun. We've packed every half-day camp session with tons of tech awesomeness.
www.iDTech.com **1.844.788.1858**

iD Programming Academy **Stanford**
At this two-week, overnight academy, students ages 13-18 explore advanced topics in programming, app development, electrical engineering, and robotics. Create an awesome portfolio, get industry insights, and gain a competitive advantage for college and future careers.
www.iDTech.com **1.844.788.1858**

iD Game Design and Development Academy **Stanford**
At this two-week, overnight academy, students ages 13-18 explore advanced topics in 3D modeling and printing, video game design, programming, and level design. Create an awesome portfolio, get industry insights, and gain a competitive advantage for college and future careers.
www.iDTech.com **1.844.788.1858**

Mid-Peninsula High School Summer Session **Menlo Park**
Mid-Pen's Summer Session provides innovative, one-week courses that go beyond traditional high school curriculum. Our program offers students courses for summer enrichment and make up high school credits. We have designed creative courses in math, science, English, and Spanish, with options including Physics of Flight and Rocketry, History of the Reagan Years, College Essay Workshop, Creative Writing, Introduction to the Digital Arts, and Drama. Basketball and volleyball clinics suitable for beginning to advanced players. All high school students are welcome to attend. Dates are June 20th to July 21st. Classes are held from 9:30am–2:30pm. Visit our website for full class listings.
www.mid-pen.org **650.321.1991**

Write Now! Summer Writing Camps **Palo Alto / Pleasanton**
Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing, and Presentation Techniques. Visit our website for more information.
www.headsup.org **Emerson: 650.424.1267**
Hacienda: 925.485.5750

YMCA Summer Camps Throughout Silicon Valley
At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps at 30+ locations plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that's right for your family. Financial assistance is available.
www.ymcasv.org/summer **408.351.5473**

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