

# Mountain View VOICE

MAY 20, 2016 VOLUME 24, NO. 17

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MOVIES | 28



**Cascal  
stays hot**  
WEEKEND | 25



MICHELLE LE

**Tommy Cruz**, a junior on the Mountain View High School varsity baseball team, has the most runs in the league this season.

## MVHS baseball on the upswing

MOUNTAIN VIEW VARSITY TEAM MAKES IT TO CCS PLAYOFFS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2010

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View High School varsity baseball team appears to have hit its stride. After a disappointing season last year, and a great deal of turnover in coaching staff,

the Spartans have made major improvements and will be playing in the regional CCS playoffs for the first time since 2010.

Last week, the varsity team nailed a 6-2 victory against Monta Vista High School, guaranteeing a home game to kick

off the playoffs on Wednesday, May 18. The win ended an already-positive season on a high note — the team finished 18-8-1. That's quite an improvement over its last season record

► See **BASEBALL**, page 11

## No criminal charges in alleged MVHS sexual assault

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER ARTICLE PROMPTS CONCERNS OVER HIGH SCHOOL LOCKER ROOM INCIDENT

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View police say that no arrests have been made following a sexual assault investigation at Mountain View High School last month. The investigation was prompted by an article in the school's newspaper.

The story, titled "Locker room

misconduct raises questions," ran in the April 4 issue of the Oracle student newspaper and explored bullying and hazing within the school's football and lacrosse teams. With names redacted, the story included first-hand student accounts of bullying, including one football player's description of a sexual assault in the locker room.

The incident allegedly occurred about 18 months ago, during the 2014-15 football season.

The Oracle story reports that a football player described being "stabbed in the rear end" with the handle of a hammer by fellow team members. An unnamed witness in the story

► See **LOCKER ROOM**, page 15

## House fire victim searching for missing dog

MAN INJURED IN BLAZE SAYS HE IS HOMELESS FOLLOWING LAST FRIDAY'S TWO-ALARM GARAGE FIRE

By Kevin Forestieri

A two-alarm fire tore through the garage of a Sylvan Park home last Friday, injuring a man who said he lost all of his belongings in the blaze and is distraught because he cannot find his dog.

The fire broke out at around 1:35 p.m. on May 13, when nearby residents reported heavy smoke coming out of the one-story home on the 700 block of Alice Avenue. When fire crews arrived at 1:41 p.m., the garage had erupted in flames. While firefighters worked to contain the blaze, they located one person in the backyard of the home who had escaped the fire with non-life threatening injuries, according to a press release from the Mountain View Fire Department.

The fire victim, Luke Touchesky, contacted the *Voice* from the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, and said he had suffered injuries to his shoulders, head, hands, arms, inside his throat and his right eye. Overall, he said he had burns on about 10 percent of his body.

Touchesky told the *Voice* that he had lit a candle in the garage and accidentally knocked it over. The fire was out of control before he could even attempt to put it out, he said.

"It happened so fast," Touchesky said. "By the time I grabbed the fire extinguisher, the fire had spread all around me."

The blaze caused significant damage to the garage of the home, and spread to the interior of the house as well, according

► See **FIRE**, page 10



MICHELLE LE

A candle sparked a blaze at a home on **Alice Avenue** on Friday, putting its resident in the hospital with burns. His pet dog has been missing since the fire broke out.

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COURTESY OF MID-PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL

Student **Ajay Patel's** work is part of Mid-Peninsula High School's annual celebration of the arts.

**"NIGHT OF THE ARTS"**

Mid-Peninsula High School will hold its annual "Night of the Arts," featuring two-dimensional and installation work, ceramics and sculptures, "cross-disciplinary math artwork," musical performances, and dramatic set-pieces, on Friday, May 20, 5-8 p.m. The entire campus, located at 1340 Willow Road in Menlo Park will be open to visitors as it serves as art gallery and performance space for the evening. For more information, contact Randy Johnson at randy@mid-pen.org or go to mid-pen.org.



SAM HUIE

**California Pops Orchestra** performs on Sunday at Foothill College.

**"THE BEST OF THE POPS"**

The California Pops Orchestra, which bills itself as the country's only all-request orchestra, will perform its season finale on Sunday, May 22, at 3 p.m. at Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Tickets are \$20-\$55. The concert will include popular favorites from Broadway musicals, classic Hollywood films, and the Big Band era. Go to calpops.org.

**DINOSAURS ON THE AIR**

Feeling Jurassic? Tune in to Foothill College's radio station,

KFJC (89.7 FM) on Friday, May 20, from 7-10 p.m., to hear DJs JC Clone and Phineas Narco's "musical audio collage" devoted to all things dinosaur, from the realm of the raptor to Barney. The show is part of the station's annual "Month of Mayhem," in which a variety of special programming is offered throughout May. Go to [kfjc.org/mayhem](http://kfjc.org/mayhem).

**ART MUSEUM DAY**

Cantor Arts Center is celebrating Art Museum Day on Sunday, May 22, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. The community is invited to stroll through the Rodin Sculpture Garden and take in the museum's 24 galleries and 14 special exhibitions. Sketch pads and crayons are available at the front desk for visitors who'd like to try their hands at making some art of their own. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/ArtDaySU>.

**DUB WARRIORS**

Dub Warriors, a five-piece roots-reggae band, will play at Angelica's, 863 Main St., Redwood City, on Wed., May 25, starting at 7:30 p.m. The multicultural group, based in San Jose, performs original songs with a variety of legendary reggae influences. Admission to the show is \$14 online/\$20 at the door, plus \$18 per person bar/dining tab minimum. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/DubAngelica>.

**"ROALD DAHL CARNIVAL"**

Charlie Bucket needed a golden ticket to enter the chocolate factory, but everyone's invited to Palo Alto's Roald Dahl Carnival. With a fond nod toward Willy Wonka, Oompa Loompas, "James and the Giant Peach," and his many other creations, Friends of the Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents a carnival celebrating the 100th birthday of beloved author Roald Dahl on Sunday, May 22, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Palo Alto Children's Theatre Secret Garden and Magic Castle Stage, 1305 Middlefield Road. Admission to this annual fundraiser (\$30 per person) includes refreshments, games and prizes, a costume contest, imaginative photos, and a special musical performance. Go to [dahl.brownpapertickets.com](http://dahl.brownpapertickets.com).

—Karla Kane

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### CRIME BRIEFS

#### BANK ROBBERY SUSPECT ARRESTED

A man who allegedly robbed a bank in downtown Mountain View on Tuesday was arrested after bank employees and witnesses were able to help officers track down the suspect.

Police received reports at 4:13 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, that a bank robbery had just occurred on the 500 block of Castro Street. The suspect, whom police identified as 53-year-old Timothy Walker, had already fled by the bank by the time officers arrived, according to police.

Officers were able to locate and detain Walker near View Street and Fairmont Avenue after gathering a detailed description of the suspect from bank employees and witnesses, police said. Walker was allegedly found carrying cash from the bank that he was carrying in a backpack.

Walker was arrested on suspicion of robbery and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail without bail.

#### PROWLING SUSPECT ARRESTED

Police arrested a 29-year-old transient man last week after he was allegedly found prowling on San Luis Avenue with a baton and wearing a tactical vest.

Residents in the area told police that the man, whom Mountain View police identified as Melecio Macawile Jr., was seen looking into cars on the 2000 block of San Luis Avenue at around 9:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 12. Macawile attempted to leave the area when officers arrived, but was detained, according to police.

Macawile was found to be wearing a tactical vest with a baton attached, as well as possessing drug paraphernalia and "numerous" burglary tools, police said.

Macawile was arrested on several charges including prowling, possession of a baton, possession of burglary tools and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

#### TWO PROWLING ARRESTS

Two men allegedly seen loitering and looking into cars in downtown Mountain View were arrested on prowling charges last week, according to police.

Around 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, officers noticed that two suspects were driving up and down the parking structure at the 800 block of California Street, allegedly loitering and looking into parked cars, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Officers later stopped the suspects, whom police later identified as 32-year-old Robert Powell of Daly City and 32-year-old Donald Jackson of San Francisco, at the 700 block of El Camino Real, and found several pieces of broken glass inside the car, Nelson said.

Both men were arrested on suspicion of prowling and conspiracy to commit prowling.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

### POLICE LOG

#### ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

Cuesta Dr. & Grant Rd., 5/11

#### AUTO BURGLARY

1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/11  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/11  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/11  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/12  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/12  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/12  
1 block W. El Camino Real, 5/13

#### COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

700 block W. Evelyn Av., 5/12  
2000 block Montecito Av., 5/17

#### GRAND THEFT

200 block Bryant St., 5/12  
1 block W. El Camino Real, 5/13  
2100 block Crittenden Ln., 5/15  
3500 block Truman Av., 5/16

#### RESISTING A PUBLIC OFFICER

1900 block Latham St., 5/11

#### PEEPING TOM

800 block California St., 5/11

#### TERRORIST THREATS

1300 block Mercy St., 5/15

#### VANDALISM

2300 block W. El Camino Real, 5/13  
300 block Pettis Av., 5/16

### CORRECTION

The story on Google Fiber's planned expansion into Mountain View in the May 6 issue used incorrect information on its pricing plans from a Mountain View staff report. The 1-gigabit plan would cost \$70 per month, according to a Google representative.



VOICE FILE PHOTO BY MICHELLE LE

*The Bay Area Bike Share docking station at City Hall in downtown Mountain View*

## Kicking the tires

COUNCIL DEBATES BIKE SHARE'S FUTURE AMID LOW RIDERSHIP, NEW COSTS

By Mark Noack

With outside grants set to expire, the cost of the Bike Share self-service bicycle-rental program will have to be shouldered by Mountain View if it continues. But in reviewing the system's numbers on Tuesday night, City Council members voiced serious concerns, especially after they learned the system's underwhelming ridership meant the city would essentially be spending \$19.50 for each bike trip.

Launched in Mountain View about three years ago, Bike

Share offers an easy-to-use system renting out bicycles to ride between the seven stations scattered throughout town. Riders can check out a loaner bike at a cost of a \$88 yearlong membership or a \$9 one-day pass.

More than 840,000 bike trips have been logged in the system since it first debuted in the Bay Area in 2013, but the whopping majority has been in San Francisco. Other Bay Area cities that signed up for the program saw disappointing participation numbers. On an average day, only about one-third of Mountain View's Bike Share fleet are rented out for a single

ride. It's even worse in Redwood City, where fewer than one in 10 bikes are ridden each day.

Exactly why the program failed to draw more riders is unknown, but city officials offered some possibilities. With only seven docking stations within city limits, riders have limited options for where they could travel. In Mountain View, many commuters at the city's largest tech firms likely had little reason to pay for a bike rental when their companies provide complementary bicycles to ride around town —

► See **BIKE SHARE**, page 8

## Abe-Koga joins City Council race

RACE FOR FOUR SEATS GETS COMPETITIVE WITH FIVE DECLARED CANDIDATES

By Mark Noack

Perhaps only in local government could eight years seem like not enough time, but that's exactly how Margaret Abe-Koga describes her two terms on the Mountain View City Council.

Abe-Koga, who served from 2006 to 2014 (and as mayor in 2009), looks back on her run as a marathon of long-planned strategies, precise plans and land-use

policies that are finally bearing fruit for Mountain View. She describes those years as laying out the road-map for the interesting trip the city is now embarking on.

"When I was termed out, one of my regrets was that I didn't have the opportunity to



Margaret Abe-Koga

help implement those plans," Abe-Koga said. "Especially as the community has growing challenges, it's important to have people with experience to navigate through these challenges."

After what will be a two-year hiatus, Abe-Koga says she's ready to re-enter Mountain View politics. This week, she announced her candidacy for the City Council. The brings the

► See **ABE-KOGA**, page 21

## Mountain View's achievement gap is one of the largest in U.S.

NEW STANFORD REPORT SAYS BAY AREA MINORITY STUDENTS FALL BEHIND IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By Kevin Forestieri

Officials at the Mountain View Whisman School District have long acknowledged the achievement gap, a gulf in student performance divided by race and family income. But recent studies by Stanford University show that the disparity between white and Latino student achievement in Mountain View is unusual — it's bigger than in almost any other school district in the country.

project director Sean Reardon, take a stab at what might be causing the gulf between groups of students.

Income strongly correlates with student achievement. One study from the research team notes that "half of the variance" in local achievement gaps comes from socioeconomic differences that closely align with race. White students, on average, come from families with a higher income than Latino families, who in turn have a higher income than black families.

*'It will take more than 'tossing money' at a school to equalize the effects of segregation, as represented through race and poverty.'*

SUPERINTENDENT AYINDE RUDOLPH

A team of Stanford University researchers released the Stanford Education Data Archive last month, a massive database aggregating test scores from roughly 200 million exams from 40 million students between third and eighth grade between 2009 and 2012. From the overwhelming magnitude of data, researchers found that just about every school district in the United States is grappling with a racial achievement gap. On average, the gap in performance shows that white students are performing roughly 1.5 to two full grade levels above their Hispanic and black peers, according to the study.

The achievement gap is worse in many cities in the Bay Area. Researchers pointed to Mountain View, Berkeley and San Rafael as locations where the achievement gap between white and Hispanic students is the largest. In these school districts, white students are performing several grade levels above their Latino peers, according to the study.

The database itself acts as an open invitation for policy makers to get detailed information about public schools, and to help researchers try to find the best practices for closing the gap. But the subsequent reports published by the research team, including

Families with enough money can afford to spend more time reading to their children, and give them greater access to tutoring services, computers and libraries.

"All of these experiences are affected by family socioeconomic status," the study states. "High-income and highly educated parents have, on average, more resources to foster and support their children's academic skills outside of school"

But it's not the only factor. In many places in the country where white and Latino students, or white and black students, come from similar socioeconomic backgrounds, the racial and ethnic achievement gaps continue to persist — sometimes by wide margins.

That could be due to an array of different factors, but chief among them is segregation. The study found that black and Latino students being funneled into higher poverty schools tends to magnify the achievement gap. The study makes a case that if low-income students were spread equally across all campuses, it would even out the magnitude of the achievement gap within a district.

"In the presence of segregation, however, if school racial compo-

► See **ACHIEVEMENT GAP**, page 20

# Assembly candidate submits murky donor reports

LATE FILINGS, LARGE DONORS MARK BARRY CHANG'S CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING

By Mark Noack

**D**inged in the past for failing to report political contributions, Cupertino Mayor Barry Chang could be facing another set of election troubles in an eight-way primary race for the District 24 state Assembly seat.

In recent campaign contribution filings, Chang reported dozens of large donations made nearly a year ago that were supposed to be disclosed much earlier. About two weeks ago, his campaign submitted an omnibus late contribution report that listed \$289,000 in donations, the bulk of his war chest.

The donations are comprised almost entirely of \$4,200 payments, the maximum amount allowed under state elections rules for Assembly candidates. Nearly 70 payments were made in that maximum amount, but



Barry Chang

many contributors actually gave more. In almost every single instance, these large contributors made two \$4,200 donations on the same day to Chang's campaign.

Candidates are allowed to collect separate donations for the primary and general elections. The maximum \$4,200 amount is enforced only for each election, according to rules by the Fair Political Practices Commission.

But for Chang's campaign, the rub is that donors writing two checks totaling \$8,400 to his campaign on the same day trigger the need to disclose the payments almost immediately upon receipt. According to state elections rules, candidates for state office are supposed to file a special disclosure form within 10 days after receiving any cumulative contributions from a single donor that surpass \$5,000.

Speaking to the *Voice* on Monday, Chang explained that he had made an extra effort this campaign cycle to adhere to elections rules, which he

described as "complicated." He pointed out that these large donations had been included in his committee's standard campaign-finance report submitted last month.

According to Chang, he retained a Sacramento accounting firm about three months ago to serve as treasurer and handle his campaign filings. Around that time, his treasurer notified him he needed to file extra paperwork for his large donations.

"I'm glad I had (my accountant) because she's the expert," Chang said. "To the best of my knowledge I filed them, and I filed them correctly. But she said we had to file them again."

Some other problems also emerged after his accountant prepared his campaign filings. In April, Chang's campaign returned \$8,400 in donations to Welkin International Industrial, a Saratoga-based development firm, after it was discovered the company had months earlier given almost \$17,000. A total of about \$26,000 in contributions had to be returned,

Chang said.

Chang did not respond to additional questions about the returned donations by the *Voice's* Wednesday press deadline.

Some of Chang's large donations came from an associated group of people involved in the same business. For example, Chang received a string of donations last year totaling \$42,000 from the Campbell firm South Bay Construction, as well as three of the company's partners and a consultant.

Under certain conditions, these donations coming from an affiliated group may be required to be bundled and treated as one lump donation, said Jay Wierenga, a spokesman for the Fair Political Practices Commission, the California agency that enforces campaign rules. If any single partner controlled a majority of South Bay Construction, for example, then the company's donation would be treated the same as his or her own personal donation. Companies are expressly forbidden from requiring their employees

to make political contributions or "laundering" contributions by reimbursing workers for making independent payments to a campaign.

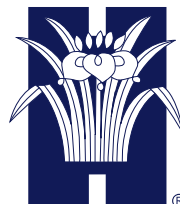
"Generally speaking, people can give because everyone has a right to participate in an election," Wierenga said via email. "The instructions given to committee treasurers is to question contributions that may raise concerns, such as numerous contributions from one firm."

Wierenga said that he couldn't speak to the specifics of Chang's campaign, but could discuss campaign regulations. The agency can't comment on individual political campaigns because it could be seen as prejudicial to any future investigation, he said.

## FPPC fines

In March, the FPPC penalized Chang for problems associated with his 2014 campaign for the Cupertino City Council. The agency found that Chang had

► See **CHANG**, page 11



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# Upsetting sacred cows to solve housing crisis?

OVERRULING LOCAL LAND-USE RULES, REVISING PROP. 13 ON THE TABLE AT HOUSING SUMMIT

By Mark Noack

Is Silicon Valley's housing crisis reaching the point where dire action is needed?

At a housing summit last week, a panel of experts and policymakers discussed the need for sacrificing some "sacred cows" to address the South Bay's lack of housing and skyrocketing prices. Among the ideas, speakers suggested repealing Proposition 13's property-tax protections, rescinding cities' independent authority to reject affordable housing development and passing a countywide \$750-million bond in November to help fund subsidized housing.

The suggestions came at the start of a housing summit in Mountain View on Friday, May 13, organized by the new housing-focused nonprofit, SV@Home. Coming at the start of Santa Clara County's Affordable Housing Week, the event served to promote the new advocacy nonprofit as well as its road-map of suggested actions to alleviate the area's housing shortfall.

Year to year, Santa Clara County is seeing a widening housing gap — tens of thousands of new jobs are being created each year, but there's not nearly enough housing for those workers. Just last year, the South Bay added 64,000 new jobs, but only 5,000 new housing units, according to Joint Venture Silicon Valley, a regional think tank. To fully meet the area's demand by 2022, about 93,700 new low-income and moderate-income units would need to be built, according to the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Some of these suggestions

might not seem particularly novel or new. At the top of the SV@Home's list is to build more housing, pretty much in any way possible. Their strategy boiled down to "land, money and changing the conversation on housing," said SV@Home Executive Director Leslye Corsiglia.

"This really is the need to deal with a lack of housing supply for all people, whether they live on the street or work for our highest-paying employers," she said.

Described as the South Bay's first advocacy group focused solely on housing, SV@Home is joining the political discussion at a particularly challenging time. With a transportation tax already expected for the November ballot, county supervisors are also investigating bringing a \$750 million bond measure to voters to pay for a spree of new affordable housing. Corsiglia said her new advocacy group could serve a powerful role by helping push that measure as well as encouraging the various South Bay cities to also do their part.

## Mountain View praised

Mountain View was picked to host the SV@Home event, which was held at Microsoft's La Avenida campus. Showing a map of North Bayshore, Corsiglia touted the city's long-term vision to create about 10,000 new housing units in the office-heavy neighborhood. She said her group is encouraging Valley Transportation Authority officials to guarantee that when it redevelops its North Bayshore bus yard, it will be some type of housing.

Mountain View received a string of praise from housing

## WHAT RENT CAN SILICON VALLEY WORKERS AFFORD?

\$475

Blue-collar contract worker (\$19,000 average income)

\$695

Retail worker (\$27,812 average income)

\$1,037

Medical assistant (\$41,500 average income)

\$1,330

White-collar contract industry worker (\$54,200 average income)

\$1,700

Teacher (\$68,000 average income)

\$2,832

Tech employee (\$113,300 average income)

\$2,850

Median market rate rental (2 bedroom)

Rent rates calculated based on 30% income standard

SOURCES: Working Partnership Source, the California Housing Partnership Corporation, and Santa Clara County Office of Education

The South Bay's mounting **housing crisis** is impacting people in many professional fields, not just those in low-wage jobs. Even some tech workers earning six-figure salaries still don't make enough to meet the 30-percent federal threshold for what constitutes an affordable rent.

advocates for the city's recent turn toward promoting housing growth. Invited to speak at the start of the day, Mayor Pat Showalter pointed out the city had built 1,200 below-market rate units since a local ordinance was passed in 1999, and she promised that plenty more are on the way.

"The people who have these units have been given the dignity to live within their means," Showalter said. "That's so important to the quality of their life and the quality of our life, to still have them in the community."

As many speakers pointed out, this pro-housing outlook wasn't shared by many other South Bay communities. In a panel discussion, several experts blasted the mindset of some of the region's affluent cities for buckling to local property owners demands and rejecting affordable housing projects.

Gabriel Metcalf, president of SPUR, a Bay Area urban-planning nonprofit, called for

a "culture change" in local governance. City leaders should be pressured — or compelled — to address regional needs in their decision-making, he said. To gasps from the audience, Metcalf suggested cities should be restricted in their land-use powers if they flouted the area's housing needs.

"It's fine if you feel that you don't want to be inconvenienced by a new building or new housing, but it should be shameful to be like that as a citizen," he said. "It's not acceptable to say other people don't have a chance to be part of (your area)."

Some influential policymakers seem to agree. As part of his proposed state budget, Gov. Jerry Brown recently unveiled a proposal to make housing developments with 20-percent affordable units automatically be approved for construction permits, as long as they meet local general plan and zoning requirements.

Every city has its own history of housing developments being

shot down due to the complaints of neighboring homeowners. But at the housing summit, the city of Santa Clara earned special opprobrium for its February decision to gut a proposed 450-home apartment project across from a Caltrain station due, in part, to neighbors' concerns over a lack of parking.

In the short term, some experts suggested the best way to speedily provide more affordable housing would be to encourage cities to facilitate homeowners in building so-called granny units — smaller, secondary homes on their properties. If just 10 percent of Santa Clara County's homeowners built secondary units, that would provide 50,000 new units without the need for the drawn-out public review needed for an apartment project, said Matt Regan, senior vice president with the Bay Area Council. It wasn't a perfect solution, but it was a quick and easy fix, he said.

► See **HOUSING**, page 10

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## BIKE SHARE

▶ Continued from page 5

think of the ubiquitous Google bike.

In total, Mountain View has 350 annual Bike Share members.

In its short history, the Bay Area Bike Share program has already had a bumpy ride. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District originally started the service as a \$7 million pilot program in Mountain View, but that responsibility was handed off last year to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Meanwhile, Bixi, the Montreal-based company that built and managed most of the Bike Share systems across North America, declared bankruptcy in 2014. A second private company — New York-based Motivate International — took over operations and reorganized its supply chain.

Around the time it took control, Motivate touted plans to grow the number of Bike Share bicycles by tenfold in the Bay Area by 2017. But that expansion included only San Francisco, San Jose and the Oakland area. By late last year, Mountain View city staff members say they learned that MTC and its corporate partners would no longer continue funding the service. If Mountain View wanted to keep the program, it now had to pay for it or else Motivate would begin removing all the stations and the bike fleet by July, said transportation manager Linda Forsberg.

On Tuesday night, the Mountain View City Council was presented with “stopgap” plans to keep the Bike Share service going while a longer-term agreement could be negotiated. As part of this deal, Motivate officials agreed to work with Mountain View on an extension through November. After that, the city would have to negotiate a new Bike Share contract with Motivate that would extend through June of 2017. At a cost of \$13,300 per month, city staff estimated Mountain View would need \$160,000 to keep the Bike Share system going for this period.

During that time, city staffers said they would work on ways to retool the service, perhaps in cooperation with nearby cities, in the hopes of finding a superior system that would attract more riders.

“Quite bluntly, we see this as stopgap — we believe in the value of Bike Share, but we don’t believe the current configuration makes sense,” said City Manager Dan Rich. “It’s my expectation that one year from now it’s unlikely we’ll have a continuation of the same system.”

But the idea of subsidizing an underused program clearly miffed council members. Doing some simple division, city staff said the cost would break down to \$19.50 per rider. At that price, it almost makes sense for Mountain View to just buy a fleet of bikes and dole them out to people, some council members suggested. A nice bike could be bought for just \$500, said Mayor Pat Showalter. But she said it ultimately made sense to keep Bike Share going if the system could be fine-tuned into a viable transit option.

“While that’s a steep number, I think what we’re trying to do here is bring about social change,” she said. “It’d be much more powerful system if you could ride to Caltrain, ride up to Redwood City and ride out to Facebook.”

But was that line of thinking just throwing good money after bad? Councilman John McAlister suggested his colleagues were being foolhardy if they thought a proven failure could now be revitalized. Even bike-friendly Palo Alto was seeing dismal ridership numbers for its Bike Share, he pointed out.

“One company went bankrupt; MTC wants to pull the plug; and now we’re on our third lifespan with this program,” he said. “I don’t see how this operation will change between now and (next) July.”

The city would still receive some aid in paying to continue Bike Share. The local Transportation Management Association, a nonprofit consortium of the city’s tech firms and developers, announced it would contribute \$60,000 toward keeping Bike Share alive and upgrading the system for the future. Speaking for the group, Tom Harrington of Intuit said city officials were essentially free to use the money as they saw fit.

The Bike Share decision came to a tight vote. Councilman John Inks was firmly opposed to continuing the program, but McAlister’s stance was more nuanced. He supported allowing staff to continue negotiations with Motivate to retain and upgrade the Bike Share system, but he couldn’t support the city paying \$160,000 for it. With Councilman Mike Kasperzak absent for the meeting, that resulted in a 4-2 split, just short of the five votes needed for the council to allocate money.

After approving all the other staff recommendations, the council agreed to reconsider paying for the Bike Share service at an upcoming meeting when all seven members will be present. ▀

Email Mark Noack at [mnoack@mv-voice.com](mailto:mnoack@mv-voice.com)

■ OBITUARY

**H. Richard Hollow**

Humphrey Richard Hollow, a Mountain View resident, died of complications from Parkinson's disease on April 23. He was 85.

Born in the United Kingdom on Nov. 27, 1930, he graduated from college as an engineer and worked in the oil fields of Iraq, where he lost part of his right hand in a blasting accident.

After relocating to California, he worked at NASA Ames and Syre in Mountain View for about 20 years, and retired in 1996. He loved his work as an experimental engineer where he designed parts for the space shuttle training vehicles, according to his friend Carol Godsave. He enjoyed hunting,



H. Richard Hollow

fishing and flying the occasional colorful kite. After a successful day of fishing, he enjoyed preparing tasty fish dinners, she said. He contracted Parkinson's disease about 10 years ago, which slowed down his physical activities as the years progressed.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Tony; all of whom lived in the Isles of Scilly. His local family included his best friends Jerrold and Claudia Wycoff of Grants Pass, Ore., and their daughter-in-law, Kim, and grandson, Joey, of San Jose.

According to his wishes, his ashes will be scattered over one of his favorite fishing spots on the Rogue River in Oregon.

Memorial donations may be made to his favorite charities, the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (Isles of Scilly) and the Guide Dogs of America.

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION RAISES OVER \$1.5M**

The Mountain View-Los Altos High School Foundation announced last week that it is be granting the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District a record-breaking \$1.575 million for school programs.

At an annual dinner last month, foundation Executive Directors Laura Roberts and Margaret Gong presented the grant money to Superintendent Jeff Harding and the school board, which will help to pay for academic programs at both Mountain View and Los Altos high schools.

The extra money will help fund the district's "innovation learning" grants, which allow students to take on projects including TED talks and acting workshops, and pay for science equipment and projects including stratospheric balloon launches. The money also goes towards wellness programs, including panels on student wellness, staff support for stress management and extended counseling hours.

The foundation broke its previous record of \$1.5 million, which was set last year and helped to pay for reduced class sizes and tech upgrades in the classroom.

**NEW SHUTTLE PROGRAM LAUNCHED FOR HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES**

El Camino Hospital and Stanford Children's Health are teaming up on a new transit service to help get employees from the downtown Mountain View transit station to the El Camino Hospital campus and the new Stanford Children's Health facility in Sunnyvale.

In a ribbon-cutting event on Wednesday, May 18, both organizations announced the launch of a new shuttle service, which will provide a transit link for hospital employees and staff looking to travel from the Caltrain and VTA lightrail stations in downtown Mountain View. The shuttle will operate Monday through Friday during the morning and evening commute hours. The shuttles are equipped with bike racks and free WiFi.

The shuttle is part of a long-term effort to reduce the demand for parking on the El Camino Hospital campus, and reducing the number of employees traveling to work in single-occupancy vehicles, according to hospital spokeswoman Jennifer Thrift.

—Kevin Forestieri

**VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

The deadline to register to vote is the fifteenth day before the election. For California's June 7 primary election, that deadline is the end of the day on Monday, May 23.

For more information, or to register to vote, go to [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov).

—Mountain View Voice staff

**VTA'S SUMMER YOUTH PASSES**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority is offering a special, low-fare pass for teens and kids during the summer months, starting Tuesday, May 17.

The Summer Youth Pass will allow unlimited rides all summer long on VTA light rail trains and buses for just \$75 for people 18 and under, VTA officials said.

The price of the summer pass is \$60 less than three monthly passes, according to VTA officials.

The passes can be used on all VTA buses and light rail trains throughout Santa Clara County, between June 1 and August 31, VTA officials said. The passes are optimal for teens headed to summer jobs at local malls, Raging Waters, Paramount's Great America and other places throughout the county, according to VTA officials.

Teens and kids can purchase the pass at [vta.org/syp](http://vta.org/syp) through July 15.

—Bay City News Service

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**CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority**

**San Francisco to San Jose Project Section PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) have released a Notice of Preparation (NOP) indicating that they intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the San Francisco to San Jose Section of the California High-Speed Rail Project. There will be a series of **Scoping Meetings** to solicit input from agencies and the public on the scope of topics and alternatives to be evaluated. The NOP can be found here: [http://hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Statewide\\_Rail\\_Modernization/Project\\_Sections/sanfran\\_sanjose.html](http://hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Statewide_Rail_Modernization/Project_Sections/sanfran_sanjose.html).

**MEETINGS WILL INCLUDE A PRESENTATION AT 6:00 P.M.**

SAN FRANCISCO	SAN MATEO	MOUNTAIN VIEW
Monday, May 23, 2016	Tuesday, May 24, 2016	Wednesday, May 25, 2016
UCSF Mission Bay 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.	San Mateo Marriott 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.	SFV Lodge 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.
1500 Owens St. San Francisco, CA 94158	1770 S. Amphlett Blvd. San Mateo, CA 94402	361 Villa St. Mountain View, CA 94041

For more information, please call (800) 435-8670 or the Authority's TTY/TTD number at (916) 403-6943, email the Authority at [san.francisco\\_san.jose@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:san.francisco_san.jose@hsr.ca.gov), or visit [www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov).



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

**MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY SHUTTLE PILOT PROGRAM FEEDBACK SURVEY**

The City of Mountain View wants to hear from you regarding your use of and satisfaction with the shuttle service and if there are changes or improvements you'd like to recommend.

Take the survey on-line at:  
[MountainView.gov/ShuttleSurvey](http://MountainView.gov/ShuttleSurvey).

Paper copies of the survey are available at the Mountain View City Hall, Community Center, Senior Center, Teen Center and Library.

**Survey responses will be collected through June 3, 2016.**

Additional information is available at [MVCommunityShuttle.com](http://MVCommunityShuttle.com) or by calling (855) 730-7433.



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## NOTICE TO PREQUALIFY AND INVITATION TO BID

1. Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Mt. View Whisman School District ("District") will receive sealed bids for the following project, ("Project" or "Contract"): **Mariano Castro Elementary School and Gabriela Mistral Elementary School Phase 1 Modernization.** The Project consists of the construction of on-site relocation of 11 existing portable classrooms and installation of 9 leased portable classrooms to create a temporary campus, site improvements as required to provide accessibility and emergency vehicle access, demolition of existing construction and site improvements to provide an area for future construction, and installation of a complete fire line loop with new hydrants.
2. The Board has adopted a pre-qualification system which requires all bidders to be pre-qualified to bid on the Project by completing the Measure G Contractor's Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and receiving a passing score.
3. Sealed Bids will be received until **3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 2, 2016**, at the District Office, located at 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, California, 94043, at or after which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with section 5100 et seq. of the Public Contract Code. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be non-responsive and returned to the bidder.
4. All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.
5. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California Contractor Licenses: **A or B.** The Bidder's license(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the bid opening and must remain so throughout the term of the Contract.
6. As security for its Bid, each bidder shall provide with its Bid form a bid bond issued by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District, cash, or a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. This bid security shall be a guarantee that the Bidder shall, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.
7. The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100 % Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the contract for the Project.
8. The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of section 22300 of the Public Contract Code.
9. The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall pay all workers on the Project not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to sections 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are available from the District or on the Internet at: <<http://www.dir.ca.gov>>. Bidders and Bidders' subcontractors shall comply with the registration and qualification requirements pursuant to sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 of the California Labor Code.
10. A **mandatory** pre-bid conference and site visit will be held at **3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 26, 2016** at Mariano Castro Elementary School, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040. All participants are required to sign in at the Administration Building. The Site Visit is expected to take approximately 1 hour. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.
11. Prequalification questionnaires and Contract Documents are available on **Wednesday, May 18, 2016**, for review at the District Facilities Office, or from the District's Construction Managers, Greystone West Co., 621 W Spain Street, Sonoma CA 95476, 707-933-0624. Contract Documents are also available for purchase for two hundred dollars (\$200.00) at the District's Construction Managers Office, Greystone West Company. You can contact them by phone at (707) 933-0624 or by email at [courtney@greystonewest.com](mailto:courtney@greystonewest.com). This fee is refundable if the Contract Documents are returned in clean condition to Greystone West Company no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of the bid opening. A list of builders' exchanges who have the project documents is available at Greystone West Company.
12. The District's Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.
13. The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.

MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: Dr. Robert Clark

Associate Superintendent/Chief Business Officer

Publication Dates: (1) Friday, May 13, 2016 (2) Friday, May 20, 2016

### FIRE

► Continued from page 1

to fire department spokesman Lynn Brown. The home has been deemed uninhabitable and utilities to the home were shut off, Brown said. A subsequent investigation by the fire department confirmed that the blaze was caused by a candle that had been knocked over, and was deemed accidental in nature, Brown said.

Although Touchessky was able to escape the fire, he said he was concerned about the welfare of his dog, a 10-year-old Boston terrier named Decina, who was living with him in the garage at the time the fire started.

"I went outside and I called her, but she didn't respond. She always comes when I call her, so I don't know if she got out," Touchessky said. "I was so upset about my dog, I didn't realize I was hurt."

Brown said fire crews were unable to locate a dog in the garage, indicating that it may have escaped the structure before it burned down.

The fire was devastating to

Touchessky, who said he lost all of his belongings, and that he has no place to live once he gets out of the hospital. The home had a for-sale sign in front of the property at the time of the fire, and had been listed on real estate websites for \$1.6 million. As of Tuesday, they were updated with a \$1.3 million price tag for the "lot value only."

Touchessky said he had been keeping the house clean and getting it ready for open house visits while he had taken up residence in the garage. The owners' real estate agent declined to answer questions about Touchessky's living situation, and said the owners have received numerous press inquiries and would not speak about either the fire or Touchessky.

Brown said that accidental fires are often caused by candles, and that it's important not to leave them unattended. Candles and open flames in the house are dangerous, he said, and it's important to have a wide, heavy base for candles to keep them from tipping over. ■

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

### HOUSING

► Continued from page 7

"This is not a silver bullet; it's a piece of silver buckshot," he said.

#### Proposition 13

For the long-term, Regan and other speakers suggested remedies that could prove hard to swallow. Proposition 13, the 1979 ballot measure that capped taxes for property owners, has created an unfair system where long-term residents and commercial property owners are leaving it up to new home-buyers to shoulder the tax burden, Metcalf said. He and other speakers suggested repealing or amending it, even though such efforts in the past haven't succeeded.

"Some of these sacred cows, about local control and making new people pay for government and not the long-time residents, we have to question that at this point," Metcalf said.

Other relief could be coming at the state level, pointed out Aime

Fishman, executive director of the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California. Current state legislation being considered would allow cities that previously had redevelopment agencies to reclaim their lost property taxes for affordable housing projects. A separate state Assembly bill would help empower cities to require developers to add affordable housing to larger housing projects rather than pay an in-lieu fee.

The experts were asked whether Silicon Valley's non-stop jobs growth was beginning to seem more a burden than a boon. In some ways, Regan said, it felt that way, with service workers, teachers and even many tech workers finding the area unaffordable.

"Growth without any objective is the ideology of a cancer cell," he said. "Right now we've got a lot of people at the top and a lot at the bottom, and we've chopped off social mobility." ■

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### COMMUNITY BRIEF

► Continued from page 4

#### ROAD RAGE COLLISION

Police are looking into reports of an assault with a deadly weapon last week, after an angry driver allegedly collided with another vehicle on the road after not being allowed to change lanes.

According to police, the victim was driving at the intersection of

Cuesta and Grant roads when the suspect, described only as a man, became upset that other vehicles on the road were not allowing him to switch lanes. The man allegedly inched forward and struck the victim's vehicle before driving off, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The suspect was gone by the time officers arrived, and the investigation is still ongoing, Nelson said.

—Kevin Forestieri

**CHANG**

▶ Continued from page 6

failed to report 160 contributions totaling \$24,280. His campaign report also failed to disclose dozens of his contributors' occupations and employers, which were listed only as "TBD." In a settlement agreement, Chang agreed to pay \$3,500 in fines.

Chang has said the errors in his last election were due to his committee's volunteer treasurer, who lost his full-time job midway through the campaign and neglected to file the paperwork properly. That experience became a "headache" of sifting through old contacts and emails trying to track down old donors' information, Chang said. It was the reason that, for this 2016 election, he said he decided to hire professional help.

Nevertheless, the Chang campaign's latest filings show some of the same problems as before. One large contributor's occupation and employer are still listed as "TBD." This column is left blank or only partly filled in for other individuals' entries, as well.

With the June 7 primary election just weeks away, Chang has a sizable cash advantage over his rivals, who include Palo Alto Councilman Mark Berman, attorney Vicki Veenker and Mountain View council members Mike Kasperzak and John Inks. Yet the 65-year-old Cupertino mayor is also facing a revolt in his hometown, with a coalition of residents recently filing papers to recall him from office in the November election. Among their complaints, his opponents have pointed to Chang's knack for fundraising as a sign he has been too cozy with developers and other special interests.

Asked about this, Chang said his fundraising base is driven primarily by small donors giving whatever they can spare, not big contributors. His average donation is just \$75, he said. He described the need to solicit campaign donations as a necessary evil, but he said he would greatly prefer it if political contests were publicly funded.

"It's always hard when you ask people for money. Anybody who says politics is easy, I tell them: 'Try it yourself,'" he said.

Was Chang worried that he could face more penalties from the FPCC?

"It could be because I didn't understand the law," he said. "But I know I haven't done any wrongdoing at all, so I'm not worried." ■

Email Mark Noack at [mnoack@mv-voice.com](mailto:mnoack@mv-voice.com)

**BASEBALL**

▶ Continued from page 1

of 5-24-1.

Some of the credit for this season's success goes to the top. Last year, the athletic department hired Kris Mims as the interim coach for the varsity baseball team. His position became permanent around mid-March. Mims's arrival comes at the tail-end of a several rocky years for the Spartans, fraught with major turnover — the team has had four coaches over the last four years.

Mims said the coach turnover

has been tough for the team, and that it's a lot easier to improve when the coaching staff sticks around.

"You need some stability at the top," Mims said.

The strategy this season has been to work on defense and pitching, Mims said, and so far it seems to be working. The players have better team chemistry, Mims said, and have the lowest number of errors in the league.

Mims pointed out that many of the players on the varsity team — and even the junior varsity team — play well together because they've been playing

baseball together for years in the Los Altos-Mountain View Pony baseball league.

Team chemistry is helped when you have some of the top performers in the league. Junior Jacob Orlov has the highest RBI (runs batted in) in the six-team league, which ranks him among the top CCS players. Tommy Cruz, also a junior, takes the top spot in the league for 25 runs this season, according to the high school sports website MaxPreps.

Senior Steve Schynert, a pitcher, has helped lead the team, and said his goal each game is to give play-

ers as much of an opportunity as possible to make plays while he's on the mound. He said he's been playing with many of the team members for a long time, and that the boost in performance this year has been astounding.

"It's been insane, the difference in the level of play," Schynert said.

The CCS playoffs game against San Mateo High School was set to be played at Mountain View High School at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, after the *Voice's* press deadline. ■

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



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# — Coming Soon —

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## A TWO-WHEELED COMMUTE

Bike to Work day on May 12 brought out bicyclists on the Stevens Creek trail bridge over Evelyn Avenue. Mountain View Voice reader Andrew Yee, who took this photo, said it was great to see so many people riding along the trail.

## LOCKER ROOM

► Continued from page 1

said the student had been tied down to a table with straps when he was allegedly assaulted with the hammer.

The interviews by the student reporters were enough to prompt an investigation by school and Mountain View-Los Altos High School District administrators — and then the Mountain View Police Department — prior to the story going to print.

When the story ran in early April, high school district officials kept quiet about the investigation, prompting parental concerns that an alleged sexual assault incident had gone unreported.

Some parents voiced concerns that school and athletic staff may not have done their due diligence in reporting the assault, and were nonchalant in their response. Athletic Director Shelley Smith is quoted in the story as saying he did not investigate the incident further after “conversations with players and parents,” and that the alleged victim told school administrators he was fine, and that the incident was a “joke.”

In a letter addressed to Smith, Principal Dave Grissom and Superintendent Jeff Harding, Kris Peterson, a parent, wrote that

there is no excuse for the apparent “abdication of responsibility” to report the incident to police immediately.

Requirements for reporting child abuse and neglect are contained in both the California Education Code and the penal code. Almost any campus staff member is a “mandated reporter,” and has an obligation to make a report to the local police department or sheriff’s office if there’s a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect. The report must be made within 24 hours.

Superintendent Jeff Harding defended the district’s response, and told the *Voice* that a juvenile officer got involved immediately once administrators caught wind of the student interviews. He said the district notified the Mountain View Police Department soon after hearing the interview recordings.

“Police were involved within hours of us having any knowledge of what had happened 18 months before,” Harding said.

The subsequent Mountain View Police Department investigation started in late March, but police were not able to provide an exact date. Police have since concluded the investigation and did not make any arrests, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Harding said he believes the claims in the story that ran in the Oracle were mostly unfounded,

based on the student interviews he reviewed, and that the police investigation affirmed that. He added that bringing attention to the allegations with a school or district-wide statement would have been unnecessary.

“I think these two (reporters) got it in their mind that it happened in a way that was not reflective of what the boys on the football team described,” Harding said. “There just wasn’t any suggestion that that’s what happened.”

Peterson, who is a marriage and family therapist at El Camino Hospital, told the *Voice* in an email that the district should have used the alleged incident as an opportunity to “clearly articulate to the student body that sexual assault will be addressed swiftly and aggressively by administration.” By burying the investigation, she said, the seniors this year will be heading into college with the message that sexual assault is both minimized and dismissed by school officials.

“The theme of the Mountain View High School winter formal this year was ‘consent,’ but the impact of this message has been summarily extinguished if the student body is not informed that this incident was, in fact, responded to thoroughly and appropriately,” Peterson said. ▀

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

# Tales from the realm of Suzanne Vega

SINGER-SONGWRITER PERFORMS IN PALO ALTO MAY 22

By Karla Kane

As the Suzanne Vega song says, “You’ve got to find the way to say what you say/and get it down on the page/ or the stage. It’s the cage for that tiger rage/that you can’t contain.” Vega, who’s been expressing herself through music for more than three decades, will bring her distinctive brand of insightful, folk-inflected songs to Palo Alto on Sunday, May 22.

Casual pop fans may know her best for the observational song “Tom’s Diner” (especially its infectious “dat dat dada, dat dat dada” motif), the 1987 hit “Luka,” or perhaps “Left of Center,” from the soundtrack of the film “Pretty in Pink.” But Vega’s extensive discography (consisting of eight studio albums, the four acoustic albums in her “Close-Up” series, plus several best-of and live collections) offers listeners a trove of evocative storytelling, intelligent lyrics, and Vega’s trademark understated vocal delivery.

Her Palo Alto show, a solo performance, is a chance for West Coast fans to catch the

New York-based musician before she sets off on a summer tour of Europe. A Silicon Valley appearance seems appropriate for someone dubbed the “Mother of the MP3” for her inadvertent role in its creation (the inventor of the music-compression algorithm apparently used “Tom’s Diner” as his test file).

She said her set will include songs best suited to her sparse, vocals-and-acoustic-guitar setup, and those that are particularly beloved by fans.

“It’ll be kind of a grab bag of sounds that people have gravitated toward,” she said. “There are always a couple of songs from each album.”

From her self-titled debut, released in 1985, to her most recent album, 2014’s “Tales From the Realm of the Queen of Pentacles,” Vega offers a mix of wry observations, personal reflections and literary references in her lyrics.

“It starts with an image, or a feeling, and then I think, ‘how can I put this into words?’” she said, of her writing process. Her songs are a blend of “things I feel, things I know to be true, and things that I imagine,” she said.

“It’s never enough just to put down what you know, just the facts; you have to give listeners more, and that involves a certain amount of fantasy.”

“Tales From the Realm of the Queen of Pentacles” ended up, as the title suggests, being influenced by the imagery and practice of reading tarot cards.

“As I’ve gotten older, I’ve been thinking about spirituality of different kinds. With tarot, you can do a reading and figure out where you are in your life,” Vega said. All the songs on that record involve “some kind of interaction between the spirit world and the material world,” she added.

The song “I Never Wear White” exemplifies the way in which Vega melds reality with poetic license.

“I wear a lot of black, and a lot of people have asked me about that over the years, so I thought, ‘I’ll just put it out there: I never wear white and here’s why,’” she said of the track, which contains such lines as, “White is for virgins/children in summer/brides in the park ... Black is for secrets/outlaws and dancers/for the poet of the dark.” It’s part direct honesty, part playful exaggeration.

“It’s more or less how I actually feel, but I’ve had young girls coming up to me asking, ‘Is it true that you’ve never worn white?’” she said, laughing. “I mean, I’ve been married twice.”

Last year, she invited fans to submit clips of themselves singing along and compiled them into a music video for the track.

Though best known as a solo artist, Vega has collaborated with many musicians, including Philip Glass and Joe Jackson. She’s currently working with Duncan Sheik on a stage show based on the life of one of her favorite authors, Carson McCullers. The pair debuted the project several years earlier but have now dramatically revised the piece. A soundtrack from the play, “Lover, Beloved: Songs from An Evening with Carson McCullers,” is due out this autumn.

Vega’s relationship with the music industry has shifted over the years. After being dropped from her last record label, she formed her own, Amanuensis Productions, in 2008.

“For a while I really did miss the old business. It was fun having a team, a budget, great producers, that was all terrific,” she said. “The downside was the anxiety that one day you’d be dropped, which happened. Twice.” After seven years on her own, she’s starting to turn a profit.

“As long as I make wise deci-



GEORGE HOLZ

**Suzanne Vega**, who’s been recording and performing thoughtful, distinctive alt-folk music for more than three decades, will play a solo concert in Palo Alto on May 22.

sions and don’t spend more than I have, this is going to work out,” she said.

After forming her label, Vega needed a new way to market her music and reach more listeners.

“I thought, ‘I’ll develop my Facebook page and Twitter feed and re-record my back catalog,’” she explained. The result was her “Close-Up” series, with songs organized by theme (the four volumes include “Love Songs,” “People & Places,” “States of Being,” and “Songs of Family”).

“I thought fans would really like it and it would be fun for them to hear the songs without the production of the ‘80s and ‘90s. And a lot of people missed out on what I did (later), so I thought if I released it by theme they could catch up.”

A special edition was put out as a six-disc box set, including photographs from her “This is Where I Am” collection, which she posts on Facebook.

“I had the naive impression that each Facebook fan would buy a CD and that didn’t happen, but it all worked out pretty well,”

she said.

She often shares glimpses into her daily life (including snapshots of her three pets, and occasionally her husband and daughter) on social media.

“I’m kind of a visual person. I just really enjoy it,” she said. “I have my introverted days, but most of the time, I love it.”

Arts & Entertainment Editor  
Karla Kane can be reached at  
kkane@paweekly.com.

## ■ INFORMATION

**What:** Suzanne Vega in concert

**Where:** Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto

**When:** Sunday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$80 for concert only/\$180 for concert and reception

**Info:** paloaltojcc.org/Events/arts-bravura-benefit-concert-featuring-suzanne-vega

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## NOTICE TO PREQUALIFY AND INVITATION TO BID

1. Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Mt. View Whisman School District ("District") will receive sealed bids for the following project, ("Project" or "Contract"): **Crittenden Middle School Track and Field and Permanente Trail Extension**. The Project consists of a new track and field, and Permanente Creek Trail extension.
2. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to have been prequalified by the District specifically for this project. In addition, all subcontractors with the following license classifications that intend to bid as a first-tier subcontractor to a general contractor (prime contractor) that is bidding directly to the District are required to have been prequalified by the District: A, B, C-4, C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-34, C-36, C-38, C-42, C-43, and/or C-46. All prequalification questionnaires will be received until **11:00 a.m., Monday, May 23, 2016**, at the District Office, located at 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, California, 94043.
3. Sealed Bids will be received until **1:00 p.m., Thursday, June 2, 2016**, at the District Office, located at 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, California, 94043, at or after which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with section 5100 et seq. of the Public Contract Code. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be non-responsive and returned to the bidder.
4. All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.
5. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California Contractor Licenses: **A**. The Bidder's license(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the bid opening and must remain so throughout the term of the Contract.
6. As security for its Bid, each bidder shall provide with its Bid form a bid bond issued by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District, cash, or a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. This bid security shall be a guarantee that the Bidder shall, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.
7. The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100 % Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the contract for the Project.
8. The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of section 22300 of the Public Contract Code.
9. The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall pay all workers on the Project not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to sections 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are available from the District or on the Internet at: <<http://www.dir.ca.gov>>. Bidders and Bidders' subcontractors shall comply with the registration and qualification requirements pursuant to sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 of the California Labor Code.
10. A **mandatory** pre-bid conference and site visit will be held at **11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2016** at Crittenden Middle School, 1701 Rock St., Mountain View, CA 94043. All participants are required to sign in at the Administration Building. The Site Visit is expected to take approximately 1 hour. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.
11. Prequalification questionnaires and Contract Documents are available on **Wednesday, May 18, 2016**, for review at the District Facilities Office, or from the District's Construction Managers, Greystone West Co., 621 W Spain Street, Sonoma CA 95476, 707-933-0624. Contract Documents are also available for purchase for two hundred dollars (\$200.00) at the District's Construction Managers Office, Greystone West Company. You can contact them by phone at (707) 933-0624 or by email at [courtney@greystonewest.com](mailto:courtney@greystonewest.com). This fee is refundable if the Contract Documents are returned in clean condition to Greystone West Company no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of the bid opening. A list of builders' exchanges who have the project documents is available at Greystone West Company.
12. The District's Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.
13. The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.

MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
By: Dr. Robert Clark  
Associate Superintendent/Chief Business Officer

Publication Dates: (1) Friday, May 13, 2016 (2) Friday, May 20, 2016

### ACHIEVEMENT GAP

► Continued from page 5

sition is correlated with school resources ... then black and Hispanic students will, on average, experience fewer opportunities for learning than their white peers," according to the study.

The study points out that many districts in the Bay Area are home to some of the largest gaps in socioeconomic status between white and Hispanic families and some of the greatest levels of segregation in local schools, including in Mountain View, San Rafael, Cabrillo Unified in Half Moon Bay and Berkeley.

#### The problem of segregation

Segregation itself is not the key problem, the problem is the socioeconomic imbalances that can come with it, according to Kenneth Shores, a researcher at Stanford who has worked on the education database project for years. He said schools where minority students and white students are heavily stratified don't necessarily see a large achievement gap, provided both schools are working with the same amount of resources each year.

"But in places with the same level of segregation, schools with a high number of minority students that have a lot more poor students tend to be the ones with really big academic achievement gaps," Shores said.

In the Mountain View Whisman School District, Castro and Theuerkauf Elementary have the lowest test scores and the highest concentration of low-income and Latino students. When the school board last year considered splitting Castro Elementary into its own school and removing the Dual Immersion language program to create its own school, some parents cried foul and told the board that the move amounted to segregation. Former Superintendent Craig Goldman, along with the Castro restructuring task force, insisted that isolating the district's lowest-performing students was the best way to narrow the achievement gap.

In an message to board members regarding the Stanford study, Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph told trustees that now is the time to consider whether the district has a student placement policy that is strong enough to eliminate segregation in Mountain View's public schools.

"In essence, Reardon is reiterating that a separate but equal approach, as argued through (Supreme Court case) Plessy v. Ferguson, is not enough to eliminate the achievement gap," Rudolph said. "Moreover, it will take more than 'tossing money'

at a school to equalize the effects of segregation, as represented through race and poverty."

#### No silver bullet

The responsibility mostly falls on school districts to improve test scores for lower-achieving students. School districts have autonomy over curriculum adoption, teacher assignment policies and resource distribution across schools. State-level initiatives don't appear to be a "dominant force in shaping patterns of racial (and) ethnic academic achievement gaps," according to one of the studies.

So far, no one seems to have found a silver bullet for closing the achievement gap. Reardon noted in one study that one of the take-home messages from the data analysis is that educators do not appear to know how to provide "adequate educational opportunities" for children growing up in low-income communities. The only places in the country where the achievement gap is near zero are in places where all the students are performing badly — like Detroit and Clayton County, Ga.

"This does not appear, at least in the case of Detroit, to be the kind of equity we would like to reproduce," Reardon said in the study.

"In other words, there is no school district in the U.S. that serves a moderately large number of black or Hispanic students where achievement is high and achievement gaps are near zero."

Shores, who co-authored the study, said it may sound pretty bleak knowing that no one has managed to close the achievement in the United States, but he said it can also serve as a call to action for policy makers to find a solution.

"It's grim, but it's also a kind of kick in the pants as well," Shores said. "To me, it kind of motivates research and action and recognizing that the situation is dire."

This vexing problem came up at a Mountain View-Los Altos High School District board meeting in October, when Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf reviewed test scores that showed Latino, English-learner and economically disadvantaged students were struggling to meet state standards.

There are examples of school districts raising test scores for these under-performing student groups, but Sarraf told the board that all these districts have a mostly homogeneous pool of students — something along the lines of a student body where 80 percent of the population is Latino and economically disadvantaged. In a district where there's a big number of both high-achieving and low-achieving students, however, Sarraf said no district appears to be making any significant progress in closing the achievement gap. ■

**ABE-KOGA**

► Continued from page 5

total to five people, including two incumbents, vying for four open seats, making the council race into a true competition.

For her credentials, the 45-year-old Abe-Koga can point to an diverse background as manager of her own fitness gym and a staffer in U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo's office. She currently works as a government-affairs consultant for the tech company Synopsys.

Abe-Koga's family first came to Mountain View 18 years ago, and her entrance into politics came not long afterward. In 2002, she joined the Santa Clara County Board of Education. In 2004, she ran for the Mountain View City Council, but lost in a six-way race. When she tried again two years later, she won handily as the top vote-getter.

Abe-Koga describes her two terms on the City Council as an educational experience, learning how Mountain View fits into the larger Silicon Valley checkerboard and how one city politician can bring about greater change. In a Wednesday morning interview with the *Voice* she tested out what will surely become a campaign theme, plugging herself as the most experienced candidate in the race.

"We have a council that's pretty young in their tenure. During my time, I learned that experience does matter," she said. "One of the downsides of the term limit is ... you end up missing out just as you're starting to hit your stride and figure out how to get things done."

Her time off the council has been busy. Abe-Koga helped lead a campaign across South Bay cities, including Mountain View, to pass a timetable for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage. Mountain View and Sunnyvale have both approved plans to gradually notch up hourly base wages to \$15 by 2018 while other several other cities are still mulling options. Abe-Koga points to the minimum-wage as one example of an issue in which Mountain View has taken the lead.

Yet she doesn't count herself as a proponent for some of the other policies being promoted by local activists. Abe-Koga says she opposes the city rent-control measure being advanced for the November election, describing it as a "flawed" plan that could end up hurting those struggling for housing more than it helps. Due to state law, only apartments built prior to 1995 would be eligible for rent-increase restrictions, which would mean any rent-control measure would create a two-tiered system. She said that a more balanced approach

could be conceived.

"I have strong concerns that it will end up restricting the supply of affordable housing," she said. "There's been good conversations of different ways to stabilize rents, but I'm not convinced that we've had the conversations with all the stakeholders around the table."

Even though Abe-Koga has been off the council for only about 18 months, much has changed in that time. Perhaps the biggest development from the Mountain View's changing of the guard in the 2014 election

was the new council majority swiftly changed course on the contentious issue of adding housing to the North Bayshore tech hub. The new council directed staff to dramatically revise the neighborhood's precise plan to add zoning for thousands of homes. Before she left office, Abe-Koga had opposed residential growth in the area.

Asked about this, Abe-Koga said the the city's new direction toward North Bayshore meant city staff had to draw resources away from other neighborhoods slated for housing, particularly

the East Whisman area.

"That was an area we thought would have been great for housing, and that's now been delayed due to the North Bayshore plan," she said. "There could have been opportunities if we stuck with that plan."

In addition to Abe-Koga, Parks & Recreation Commissioner Thida Cornes, Human Relations Commissioner Lucas Ramirez and first-term council incumbents John McAlister and Chris Clark have declared their intent to run for the four seats on the November ballot. ▀



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**MVTenantsCoalition.org for more info**

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### 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.

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Mail to: Editor Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405 Mountain View, CA 94042-0405

Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6528

### EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

## Teacher housing: a sound investment for district

There's probably no single explanation of the Mountain View Whisman School District's high turnover rate for teachers, a situation that has forced the district to spend an increasing amount of precious time and energy on recruitment and training in the last few years. But it's safe to bet that the high cost of housing within a reasonable distance from district schools is near or at the top of the list of reasons many teachers decline jobs here, or leave after a short time.

In an encouraging development, the school board has signaled a strong interest in taking a step that several other Bay Area school districts have embarked on in recent times: Creating below-market-rate rental housing for teachers on district-owned property.

Staff has explored interest among district teachers in such housing and — no surprise — interest is extremely high. At its May 5 meeting, several board members indicated that the time was right for making use of available district property for housing. "It just makes perfect sense to me," said board President Ellen Wheeler.

It does to us as well. There is a growing teacher shortage felt across the nation, but here in Silicon Valley, traditionally low teacher pay collides with staggeringly high housing costs, laying an "Unwelcome" mat at the gates of our communities to greet all but higher-wage workers. Moderate-wage workers, if they're lucky enough to find rental housing that's affordable at all, often pay an unsustainably high proportion of their income for it.

Many teachers are forced to commute great distances, sapping energy they'd rather devote to their students, and eventually pushing them to look elsewhere, closer to home, for work.

In the Mountain View Whisman district, a recent survey shows that nearly 17.5 percent of teachers pay 41 to 50 percent of their income on housing; 24 percent pay 31 to 40 percent. Of the nearly 20 percent of teachers who said they planned to work for the district only three or fewer years, nearly 66.5 percent said the "inability to find/afford housing in (a) desirable location" was a primary reason.

The district is in a good position to move ahead on a teacher housing project. Not only does it have land to accommodate the housing, it has nearby examples of how such a project can be successful.

The area pioneer is the Santa Clara Unified School District, which in 2002 built Casa Del Maestro. Expanded in 2009, it has 70 below-market-rate rental units that teachers can live in for up to seven years. According to a December 2015 report by the public radio station KALW, the project pays for itself and is managed by an outside foundation.

Last December, the Cupertino Union School District revealed its intent to build more than 200 units of below-market-rate rental housing on district land for teachers and other staff members.

At the board meeting earlier this month, trustee Bill Lambert said that, while he supports exploring options for teacher housing, he wants to be convinced that such a project would be a financially sound investment for the district. That's a reasonable attitude, but it appears that the district can tap into the expertise of at least one neighboring district, and won't have to reinvent the wheel to create a housing project that can be financially self-sustaining while investing in the future of the district by stabilizing its workforce. ■

### LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### NOT A FAN OF CANDIDATE MIKE KASPERZAK

In your May 13 editorial recommending Palo Alto patent attorney Vicki Veenker for state Assembly, you say some nice things about Palo Alto council member Marc Berman and Mountain View council member Michael Kasperzak, although you note that you have not always agreed with Kasperzak's actions — including his support of the VTA plan to take the left lanes on El Camino Real for its new "rapid transit" buses only.

The editorial says nothing positive about Mountain View council member John Inks who, as a Libertarian, at least stands for something.

Kasperzak, in contrast, simply switched political parties 10 years ago to possibly run for Assembly then, and he has often voted not on any principle but just to advance his own political aspirations.

Indeed, in 1996, when Kasperzak first ran for City Council, he was among the candidates "open to" NASA's plan for thunderous pre-dawn commercial air cargo at Moffet Field. Kasperzak lost and so claimed when running again in 1998 that he would be an "advocate" against air cargo. This time Kasperzak got on the City Council. NASA eventually backed off its plan — but no thanks to Kasperzak.

► Continued on next page



# June ballot includes important state and local races — so vote

Katie Zoglin

The primary race in the rest of the country has been anything but boring. While California voters may not determine who will be the nominees for president, there are a number of important state and local races and initiatives on our June 7 ballot.

## Guest Opinion

What do voters need to do to prepare for the elections this year? First make sure you, your friends, and your family members are registered to vote. There is still time. You have until this Monday, May 23, to sign up. Information about how to register can be found at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters website: [sccvote.org](http://sccvote.org).

By now, registered voters should have their "Official Voter Information Guide" from the California secretary of state, and vote-by-mail ballots from the registrar of voters are on the way, for those who have requested them.

The next challenge is finding good information about the ballot measures and candidates for all the offices. Voter's Edge is a good one-stop-shop source of information at [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca). It is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and Maplight. Log onto the website, enter your zip code and address to find consolidated

information about all the races and candidates that will be on your ballot.

Voting is the cornerstone of American democracy and far too many voters have become apathetic and disenfranchised in recent years. If the majority of eligible voters fail to vote, then the minority of voters who do vote will determine the outcome of important elections.

It is easier than ever to cast your vote. You can vote on election day, by mail, or by early voting. Early voting takes place at designated centers throughout the county and began on May 9. The most convenient early voting center for Mountain View residents is the Los Altos Public Library, where you can vote during the weekends of May 28-29 and June 4-5, from noon to 5 p.m.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. Check our Los Altos-Mountain View Area League website for information about membership and upcoming events at [lwvlamv.org](http://lwvlamv.org).

*Mountain View resident Katie Zoglin is president of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area League of Women Voters.*

► Continued from previous page

And just recently, Kasperzak pushed passage of a landlord-tenant mediation ordinance supported by landlords that permits and so encourages the pre-emptive eviction of tenants.

Gary Wesley  
Continental Circle

## CONSIDER FUNDING WHEN VOTING

We have a bunch of folks running for state Assembly in District 24. If you want some ideas about how to pick from this bunch, here are some thoughts.

For some like Vicki Veenker, who has been running TV ads, and Jay Cabrera, you'll have to make a guess, as there is really no record to go on, though the *Voice* has a recent editorial about Veenker, with some information about her record, as well as a bit about Berman.

For others like Mike Kasperzak, Marc Berman, Barry Chang, Peter Ohtaki and John Inks, you might want to look at their track record in their local government offices, as suggested by Mike Kasperzak in his ballot piece. If you like the way John Inks or Mike Kasperzak, for example, has voted on the

Mountain View City Council, you might want to support him for state Assembly.

The other thing I would encourage voters to consider is who is funding the campaigns of these candidates. Marc Berman just put out a mailer paid for by the California Association of Realtors and another funded by the California Dental Association, Vicki Veenker is spending a lot of money on TV ads funded by somebody, Mike Kasperzak has been putting out robocalls paid for by somebody else.

I'm sure, as the primary draws near, and later, as two of these candidates compete in the general election, we'll see a lot more of the outside support for these candidates that you might want to consider in deciding whom to vote for.

David Lewis  
Oak Street

## HOLD DEVELOPERS MORE ACCOUNTABLE

Shame on the city and shame on Prometheus for not protecting our heritage trees, (a situation) made all the worse in these times when we are already losing many mature trees to the drought.

The loss of these trees can-

not even be measured. They are valuable ecosystems. Newly planted trees are nice, but do not truly replace the trees that are lost.

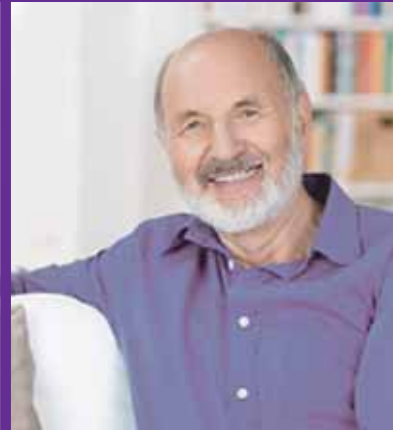
I am saddened and appalled at the article appearing in the May 6 *Voice*. It seems that Prometheus gets away with a lot in our city. A fine of \$500 is not enough to replace a large mature heritage tree. It is obviously not a deterrent, either.

Why are these trees not addressed early on in the planning process, and why are these trees not *actively* protected? In the article Prometheus blames a subcontractor for some of the damage. However, the responsible parties are Prometheus and the city — it should fall to them to protect these assets. Apologizing and pointing fingers at others is not respectable, and not enough.

Lindsay Hagan, Mountain View associate planner, is quoted as saying "... there was the feeling that our trust was broken ..." by Prometheus. As a resident of Mountain View, I feel that our trust has been broken many times already, and I hope that the city will hold these folks and all developers more accountable in the immediate future.

Nancy Stuhr  
Velarde Street

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

## Council Neighborhoods Committee SAN ANTONIO/RENGSTORFF/DEL MEDIO Neighborhood Meeting

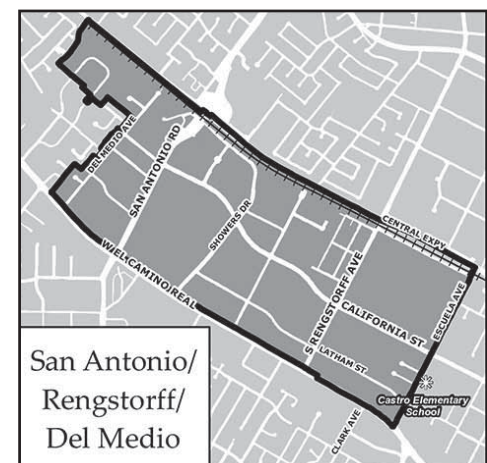
**Mariano Castro Elementary School**  
505 Escuela Avenue  
May 26, 2015  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The City of Mountain View Council Neighborhoods Committee will be meeting with residents in the San Antonio/Rengstorff/Del Medio area (see map below) on May 26, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.. Residents are encouraged to participate in a forum to discuss:

- What would you like to see changed in your neighborhood?
- How can the City work with your neighborhood to make it a better place to live?

This is an opportunity to make a difference in the future of your neighborhood and express your thoughts about ways to improve city services.

For further information, please call the City's Neighborhood Division at (650) 903-6379.

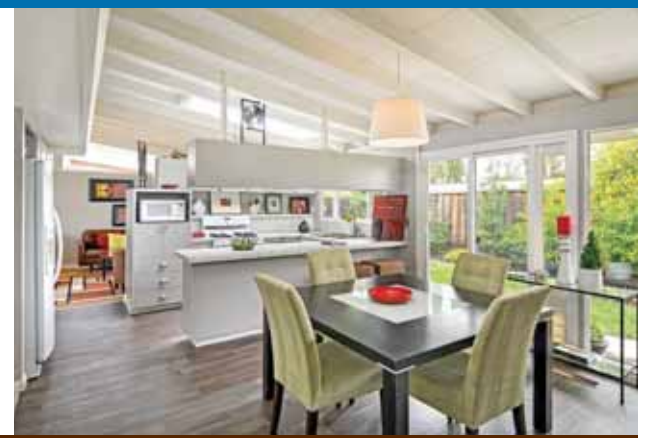


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