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MOVIES | 24



INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE

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## Housing incentives could increase office space

COUNCIL CONCERNED ABOUT TRAFFIC CAPS, DEVELOPMENT DEMANDS IN NORTH BAYSHORE

By Mark Noack

In their quest to rapidly inject housing into the North Bayshore business park, Mountain View City Council members wavered on some incentives for developers, based on new fears that they could be unintentionally unleashing a spree of new office growth.

At a two-hour study session on May 24, the City Council considered a variety of proverbial carrots to encourage private developers to bring about 10,000 new homes to the area. As one incentive, property owners would be able to rebuild offices elsewhere if they were demolished to

construct housing. The new housing would receive significant density bonuses — meaning new apartment complexes could be tightly packed and up to 15 stories high — but only if developers agree to set aside 20 percent as affordable housing.

But the discussion hit a bump over a long-simmering idea to grant clearance for extra office construction if developers could prove their new housing was reducing traffic, especially at North Bayshore's clogged entryways. City planners admitted they hadn't figured out a good yardstick to measure these so-

called "trip credits" for new development. But they acknowledged that traffic along area's three arteries has long been the main barrier to further growth, and even some green-lighted office projects were currently stalled as a result.

The idea of tech workers living in North Bayshore, and thus having a negligible impact on — or creating a reduction in — congestion has already generated sizable interest among

the area's biggest tech firms. At Tuesday's meeting, those companies gave a clear signal they would seek to develop more offices.

John Igoe, Google's real estate director, pointed out that a swift push to

build the city's goal of 10,000 new homes would cost a gargantuan sum — something in the area of \$6 billion. It went without saying that much of that investment would come from Google. Emphasizing his company's stake in the city's vision, Igoe urged the city to use its current planning process to consider 2 to 3 million additional square feet of office space in the area.

"When you look at the impact of the residential development, I think you're

► See **NORTH BAYSHORE**, page 7

**'Housing access and affordability is a serious issue that impacts all of us.'**

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JAMES MORGENSEN



MICHELLE LE

### THE BIRDS OF WAR

Once a year, Moffett Field looks a little like it must have in its heyday, as the Wings of Freedom tour's World War II aircraft fly into Mountain View for a weeklong stay. The story and more photos are on page 21.

## Uncertainty ahead for MV Whisman school district's budget

TEACHER SALARY NEGOTIATIONS STALL AMID BLEAK FISCAL OUTLOOK

By Kevin Forestieri

Dozens of teachers working in Mountain View Whisman School District poured into the May 19 school board meeting to show solidarity for better teacher pay, following troubled negotiations between district officials and teacher union representatives that have come to a halt in recent weeks.

And while district staff members have made it clear they want negotiations to wrap up by the end of the school year, there's little indication that either side is going to see eye-to-eye by June. The majority of teachers polled believe teacher pay needs to increase by at least 7 percent this year to catch up with neighboring districts, while the district's finance department is forecasting a bleak and unpredictable

budget that couldn't handle the sizable salary bump.

Graham Middle School teacher Derek Mulkey told the board that teachers are giving it their all every day in the classroom, and that an increase in compensation would play an important role in keeping teachers in the district. Teacher retention has been a significant problem for

► See **TEACHER PAY**, page 8

INSIDE

Rethinking 'Madama Butterfly' WEEKEND | 22

VIEWPOINT 17 | GOINGS ON 27 | MARKETPLACE 28 | REAL ESTATE 30



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casual eating area overlooks the front landscape and opens to the family room. Outside, the privacy of the rear yard is perfect for entertaining and recreation in this scenic setting with large covered patio, expansive lawn area, and mature landscaping including a variety of citrus and fruit trees. Adding to the appeal is the home's excellent location that puts the fine amenities of Rancho Shopping Center and the Village within easy reach, as well as access to top-rated Los Altos schools.

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BARBARA BUTKUS

**The New Esterházy Quartet** will perform the music of Czech composers in Palo Alto.

**'FROM BOHEMIA'S FIELDS AND GROVES'**

The New Esterházy Quartet will perform a concert of music by Czech composers Antonin Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana on Sunday, May 29, at 4 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. According to the program notes, Dvořák and Smetana shared "an awareness of the Czech nationalism that was struggling with Austrian political and cultural hegemony in the latter 19th century." Tickets are \$10 student/\$20 senior/\$25 general admission. Go to [newesterhazy.org](http://newesterhazy.org).

**'BAT BOY: THE MUSICAL'**

The tabloid-inspired story of a half-bat, half-human creature trying to fit in with civilized life (set to a rock music score), "Bat Boy: The Musical," presented by the Los Altos Stage Company, opens this week and continues through June 25. Performances take place Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and on Sundays at 3 p.m. (no show May 29) at the Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Tickets are \$18 for students, \$30 for adults. Go to [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org).

**'TEXTURE + FLOW'**

An exhibition of Kathleen Mitchell's intensely colorful acrylic paintings of landscapes both real and imagined will open on Tuesday, May 31, and continue through June 26 at Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos, with an artist's reception on Friday, June 3. The gallery is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun-

day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Go to [viewpointsgallery.com](http://viewpointsgallery.com).

**'SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD'**

A collaboration between Stanford University's music department and the student-theater company At the Fountain Theatricals, "Songs for a New World" is a gospel- and folk-music influenced musical tapestry of stories, composed by Broadway's Jason Robert Brown. The free show will be performed at Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford, on Friday, May 27, and Saturday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. plus a special matinee/talk-back performance on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Go to [arts.stanford.edu/event/songs-for-a-new-world/](http://arts.stanford.edu/event/songs-for-a-new-world/).

**'AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH'**

Murder, she wrote! Agatha Christie's beloved mustachioed sleuth Hercule Poirot takes the stage in Foothill College's adaptation of this story of murder among tourists in the Holy Land, in celebration of Christie's 125th birthday. Performances run through June 10, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m. (no show on May 29). Tickets are \$10-\$20. Go to [foothill.edu/theatre/current.php](http://foothill.edu/theatre/current.php).

**EAST PALO ALTO ARTS & MUSIC FEST**

The fifth-annual East Palo Alto Arts & Music Fest, featuring art and graffiti workshops, a t-shirt station, interactive booths, a skate competition, multicultural food, and live music (including a performance by Soji & Edgardo), will be held Saturday, May 28, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Bell Street Park, East Palo Alto. The free, family-friendly event is sponsored by The East Palo Alto Youth Arts and Music Center Project, Live In Peace, Inc, YAMC's Youth Action Team, a variety of local artists, and the City of East Palo Alto, with the goal of fostering civic pride and community spirit. For more information, visit [tinyurl.com/EPAarts2016](http://tinyurl.com/EPAarts2016) or email [isaiah.phillips2@gmail.com](mailto:isaiah.phillips2@gmail.com).

—Karla Kane

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### CRIME BRIEFS

#### POLICE DETAIN ASSAULT SUSPECT

A Mountain View man was detained by police last week after he allegedly pulled a knife at Alibi Bar, struck a victim with his motorcycle, and refused to pull over when officers followed him home.

Officers were flagged down in front of the bar at 1313 West El Camino Real shortly after midnight on May 17. Witnesses told police that the suspect had been drinking, and allegedly brandished a knife as he attempted to leave the bar on his motorcycle, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson. Witnesses told police they were concerned that the man was going to get on his motorcycle and drive while he was possibly intoxicated, and they tried to prevent him from leaving, Nelson said.

The suspect, who was gone when officers arrived, allegedly hit a bystander, who was knocked to the ground as he was trying to leave. The victim suffered minor injuries, Nelson said.

The man refused to pull over when officers tried to stop him as he headed northbound on Rengstorff Avenue, instead driving directly to his home at the 1900 block of Hackett Avenue, Nelson said. Officers detained the suspect, and later transported him to the Mountain View Police Department.

While at the department, the suspect complained of pain from an unspecified, pre-existing medical condition, Nelson said, and he was transported to the hospital for treatment.

As of the *Voice's* Wednesday deadline, police declined to disclose the identity of the suspect, or say on what criminal charges he was arrested. Nelson said the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office was handling the case, but was unable to provide the name of the suspect or the docket number.

#### GOOGLE CAR, BUILDING BURNED

A Google Earth car and a nearby building on the Google campus were both damaged by an incendiary device last Thursday night, according to Mountain View police.

Officers, along with Mountain View firefighters, responded to initial reports of a fire at the 1500 block of Salado Drive at around 10:52 p.m. on May 19. Officers found a small section of the ground and a building had been singed, and a Google Earth car parked in front of the building had "minor superficial damage," according to police.

It's being treated as a crime scene, said Lynn Brown, spokesman for the Mountain View Fire Department, who called it "a very small fire." During the investigation, police said two incendiary devices were found, which have been sent to a lab for testing.

Police are not releasing any additional details, citing the ongoing investigation.

—Kevin Forestieri

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

### POLICE LOG

#### AUTO BURGLARY

400 block Moffett Blvd., 5/19  
San Antonio Rd. & Terminal Blvd., 5/21  
2400 block Grant Rd., 5/23  
100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/24

#### BATTERY

100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/20  
200 block Castro St., 5/21  
100 block E. El Camino Real, 5/21  
500 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/23

#### COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

1000 block Grant Rd., 5/18  
100 block E. El Camino Real, 5/21  
400 block Moffett Blvd., 5/22

200 block San Antonio Rd., 5/22

#### GRAND THEFT

200 block Castro St., 5/24  
600 block W. Evelyn Av., 5/24

#### NARCOTICS POSSESSION FOR SALE

W. Evelyn Av. & N. Mary Av., 5/20

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

900 block Trophy Dr., 5/19

#### VANDALISM

2200 block Latham St., 5/19  
200 block Higdon Av., 5/22

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MICHELLE LE

The resurfaced Bay Trail between Mountain View's Stevens Creek Trail and the Sunnyvale border was opened with fanfare on May 20 and promptly closed again, from May 23 to June 4, to complete a few additional improvements.

## Fixed-up Bay Trail links MV, Sunnyvale

TRAIL UPGRADES, PAID FOR BY GOOGLE, WILL CONTINUE INTO NEXT YEAR

By Kevin Forestieri

Getting around Mountain View's bayshore just got a lot easier. Last week, local politicians and top brass from Google gathered near the windy wetlands to celebrate a new stretch of resurfaced trails, designed to help improve access to the Baylands north of Moffett Field.

The resurfacing project, paid for by Google to the tune of about \$2 million, marks the latest improvement in a

decades-long effort to link the San Francisco Bay's trail system between Mountain View and Sunnyvale. The smooth, even surface extends about 4 miles, from Stevens Creek Trail to Carl Road in Sunnyvale, skirting closely alongside properties owned by NASA Ames, Lockheed Martin and the U.S. military.

At a ribbon-cutting event on Friday, May 20, Rep. Anna Eshoo told attendees that it took an enormous amount of hard work and dedication to

complete the trail, which finally links the "two most important cities in the area" together. While plenty of agencies played a role in pulling the project together, Eshoo commended former Sunnyvale Mayor Julia Miller for spearheading the effort to build the contiguous trail 19 years ago.

"This is a gift for future generations," she said.

Opening the trail was a Herculean effort involving more

► See **BAY TRAIL**, page 9

## Google's clean-up plan for Hangar One to get a test run

By Mark Noack

Roughly one year after taking control of Moffett Federal Airfield, Google is set to start testing methods of purging toxic contaminants from the massive steel framework of Hangar One. But while the Mountain View tech giant is committing itself to a multi-million-dollar effort to restore the iconic hangar, the company is staying tight-lipped about its future plans for the structure.

On Friday, May 20, representatives from Google's space-research arm Planetary Ventures submitted a final report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, laying out a two-week schedule for testing out blasting technologies to remove toxic chemicals including lead paint, asbestos

and a variety of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) products.

In a semi-annual meeting of the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board earlier this month, Google spokesman Andrew Meade said it would likely be a two-year process to fully remove the hazardous materials from the site. At this stage, the company will be testing out a variety of blasting media, including water, steam and copper slag, he said.

"There's a lot of things we're trying to optimize — it's a whole lot of steel to abate so we need an efficient system," he said. "The

bottom line is it's a better building for everyone to use if we don't have those contaminants."

At the May 12 meeting, Meade noted that the company would be opening Hangar One's massive doorway to investigate its condition — given its size, it should be visible from miles away. In related news, he said the company was conducting repair and abatement work on the smaller hangars at Moffett Field. About six months ago, the roof of Hangar Three began to sag about two feet, making it impossible to open the door. The company received emergency approval to repair the damage, which is currently underway, he said.

The clean-up efforts are a major piece of Google's 60-year lease deal signed with NASA last year. As part of that arrangement, Google agreed to

pay more than \$1.16 billion over the length of the lease, including an estimated \$40 million to rehabilitate Hangar One.

The reason for Google's strong interest in the site remains a bit of a mystery. In its application at the time, the company indicated it would use Hangars One, Two and Three for "research, testing, assembly and development" of technology related to space, aviation, rovers and robotics.

Starting in 2007, Google's top officials have leased Hanger 211 at the airfield to house their fleet

► See **HANGAR ONE**, page 6

***'It's a better building for everyone to use if we don't have those contaminants.'***

GOOGLE SPOKESMAN  
ANDREW MEADE

## New homework policy aims to ease student stress

MOUNTAIN VIEW-LOS ALTOS BOARD OKS NEW LIMITS ON HIGH SCHOOL HOMEWORK

By Kevin Forestieri

It took 18 months and plenty of feedback from parents, students and teachers, but the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District finally has a new homework policy in place to prevent students from getting overloaded by a deluge of school work.

Last year, the school board gave the go-ahead for district staff to draft a new policy for homework

that can give students designated periods of reprieve from assignments, allowing them more time to relax and spend with family and friends. At the time, board members said that student wellness ought to be a top priority for the district, and managing teen anxiety and stress means getting a better handle on just how much homework is being assigned.

The policy, which was revealed at the May 23 board meeting,

makes it clear just how much homework is too much. Students are expected to have two to three hours of homework per class per week for college preparatory classes, and four to five hours per week for each Advanced Placement (AP) class. Long-term projects also roll into the total time spent on assignments outside of school hours.

The time limits mean that a student enrolled in several AP classes could still easily spend

more than 20 hours a week working on homework. The policy states that parents and students need to understand the rigors and demands that come with an AP classes, which "by their very nature" have curriculum requirements outside of the control of the district, according to the new policy.

Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf said it's taken 18 months of hard work for school staff at both Mountain View and

Los Altos High School to draft a policy that everyone could agree on, and record feedback from thousands of students and parents in order to "bring some sanity" to the homework question. Sarraf said the new administrative restrictions on homework reflect a greater mindfulness on the subject of student wellness.

"Stress from the students comes from feeling overburdened by

► See **HOMEWORK**, page 10

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## Former school board member to lead Monta Loma

STAFFING SHUFFLE CONTINUES AMONG  
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

By Kevin Forestieri

Teacher and former Mountain View Whisman school board member Gloria Higgins will be the new principal of Monta Loma. Higgins, a long-time Mountain View resident, will take over for current principal Angela Lyon starting July 1.

Higgins has taken a circuitous path through the local education system over the last decade. She ran for the school board unopposed in 2002 to fill a vacancy, and was re-elected in 2004. She retired from the board in 2008 in order to take up teaching, and decided to do it right in her own back yard, working at Landels and Monta Loma. She currently works as an instructional coach at Huff Elementary.



Gloria Higgins

Higgins told the *Voice* that her goal was always to be a teacher, and that she was working on her teaching credentials prior to leaving her position on the board. She joked that her journey from the board room to the classroom, and now the principal's office, keeps landing her in smaller and smaller rooms.

"I always should have been a teacher, but it took me a while to come to that decision," Higgins said.

Higgins said she grew up in a military family, living in 14 places — including overseas locales like Italy — before settling down in Mountain View in 1993. She hasn't left the area since. She said the "grit and perseverance" students and families have in Mountain View are what keeps her here.

At the announcement on May 19, Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph said Higgins is a perfect fit for Monta Loma, in part because of her military background. Roughly 125 students in the district are from military families living in Mountain

View, many of whom attend Monta Loma, Rudolph said.

During her tenure on the board, parents described Higgins as steadfast, keeping a cool head even when tensions flared over hard decisions — an important asset during those tumultuous years. During her second term, Higgins and the rest of the board faced tough decisions on whether to close Castro or Slater Elementary, ultimately deciding to shut down Slater in 2006.

Higgins takes on a leadership role at Monta Loma at a time when the ink has barely dried on the district's new five-year strategic plan, which aims to close the achievement gap and improve test scores among the district's students who are English learners and economically disadvantaged. Roughly a third of the students at Monta Loma are not fluent in English, and 45 percent qualify for free and reduced lunch, the common yardstick for measuring socioeconomic status. While new academic initiatives are likely on the way, Higgins said she's not too concerned about the timing of her promotion.

"In all the years that I've been involved, every year is a critical juncture," Higgins said.

Lyon, who has been the principal at Monta Loma since 2012, will be moving into the district office this year as the new Educational Services Coordinator, as part of the district's continuing administrative musical chairs. Earlier this month, Huff Principal Heidi Smith was selected to become the new director of English-language learner programs for the district. Crittenden Principal Geoff Chang will be taking Smith's position as principal at Huff, and the replacement for Chang has yet to be announced.

All but two of the schools in the district, Castro Elementary and Graham Middle School, have gotten a new principal in the last two years. ▀

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

## HANGAR ONE

► Continued from page 5

of private jets. The arrangement generated some controversy, especially after a 2011 Consumer Watchdog report alleged that NASA was giving Google favorable treatment over other private companies and nonprofits. Google executives were using the private jets for vacations and business travel, and NASA offi-

cials asserted at the time that the planes were part of a scientific program to collect atmospheric data and combat wildfires.

Google officials declined to specify their future plans for Hangar One. In an email to the *Voice* a spokesperson pledged that the company would continue to work with NASA and the Restoration Advisory Board on its clean-up strategy for the hangar. ▀

# Tenant advocates push back against looming deadline

CITY SAYS ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT TO COLLECT SIGNATURES FOR RENT CONTROL MEASURE

By Mark Noack

Each and every day will count in the race against time for the Mountain View Tenants' Coalition to gather signatures for a ballot measure to cap the city's rent increases. But exactly how much time remains to collect these signatures remains up in the air due to a brewing disagreement between lawyers from the tenants' group and the city over how election rules should be interpreted.

The question could be crucial as tenant advocates hurry to collect the needed 4,761 signatures to put the proposed measure on the November ballot. As of this week, the group reported it had collected more than half that number, although it couldn't provide an exact figure.

City Attorney Jannie Quinn said she notified the tenant group's leaders several weeks ago that they would need to deliver the signatures by the week of June 6, giving the group just two more weeks to collect roughly 2,000 or more signatures. But tenants advocates are pushing back against this schedule: The state elections code, according to their reading of it, gives them

until mid-June to submit the paperwork.

Officials at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters have reportedly informed cities that they will need no fewer than 30 business days to verify the petition signatures to ensure enough are valid. County elections officials have set Aug. 12 as the deadline for when cities must submit any local measures for the November ballot. But before that, the Mountain View City Council must certify the signatures at a public meeting, which would likely be on Aug. 9.

Doing the calendar math, supporters of the rent-control measure say going 30 days back should mean they have until the last or next-to-last week of June to submit their signatures. But Quinn says city officials will also need extra time to do a raw count of the signatures, prepare a staff report and perhaps do other processing work.

"What we've told them is your best chance of success is to get it in by the week of June 6," Quinn said. "Otherwise, I'm concerned that we may not be able to get the work done. We need a cushion with the county. We can't turn a staff report around in a day."

In any case, members of the tenant coalition are confident they will make the cut regardless of where on the calendar the deadline falls, said spokesman Evan Ortiz. But the uncertainty has created a renewed "sense of urgency" for the volunteers canvassing Mountain View to collect signatures, he admitted.

**'We really don't want to create an environment (with the city) that is adversarial.'**

JULIET BRODIE, DIRECTOR OF THE STANFORD LAW CLINIC

Originally the group set a goal to collect 8,000 signatures for the ballot to provide a sizable cushion for any invalid names. Given the timing, that goal has now been notched down to 6,500 signatures, Ortiz said.

"I don't want to give the impression there's confusion; it's just that we're trying to work on firming up the deadline," Ortiz said. "We really earnestly are feeling good

about everything — we're getting a lot of positive response from the community."

Serving as an advisory attorney for the tenants' coalition, Juliet Brodie, director of the Stanford Law Clinic, said she would be meeting this week with Quinn in hopes of reaching a compromise on the ballot measure scheduling.

"Everyone's looking hard at just how far in advance of that Aug. 9 date the coalition needs to file its petition," she said. "We really don't want to create an environment (with the city) that is adversarial."

If placed on the ballot, the proposed measure from the tenant's coalition is certain to generate a charged debate in Mountain View. The measure — titled the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Charter Amendment — comes in response to what many describe as a crisis in Mountain View's rental housing market.

In recent months, scores of renters have pleaded before the City Council for relief from large rent increases that they say would displace them from their homes. The tenants' coalition decided to draft a ballot measure after the majority of council members showed

they would not support any hard price restrictions on the local rental market.

The coalition's proposed measure would create a system of rent control, restricting rent increases to a minimum of 2 percent and a maximum of 5 percent. For the most part, the measure would have annual rent increases adhere to the Consumer Price Index for the Bay Area. The measure would also put in place just-cause eviction protections and create a new rental-housing committee that would oversee rent-increase and other regulations.

The rules would apply to Mountain View apartments and rental complexes of three or more units built before 1995 due to state restrictions. Single-family homes, condominiums, duplexes and granny units would be exempted from the measure.

The Mountain View Tenants' Coalition is regularly collecting signatures at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at Rengstorff Park near the tennis courts, as well as from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays in the St. Joseph's Church parking lot at 582 Hope St. ■

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## NORTH BAYSHORE

► Continued from page 1

going to find you have more capacity in North Bayshore," Igoe said. "Now that you're in the (environmental-impact report phase) it'd be of value that you take this opportunity to study additional commercial space."

Other tech firms caught the scent of opportunity in the air. LinkedIn officials, who have long resisted the idea of adding housing to their proposed future headquarters, have had a change of heart. In a letter to the city, LinkedIn Vice President James Morgensen asked the city to add his company's 1400 Shoreline Blvd. parcel to the areas under consideration for future housing.

"It has become increasingly clear how critical the addition of housing is to the community as a whole and to city leaders," he wrote. "Housing access and affordability is a serious issue that impacts all of us."

One year earlier, Morgensen told city officials that hous-

ing on his company's parcel was essentially impossible due to toxic contaminants in the groundwater.

### Council hesitates

But City Council members were more reluctant to embrace the idea of trip credits. Mountain View, like other Silicon Valley cities, is struggling with a severe jobs-housing imbalance, said Councilman John McAlister. If adding housing was only a tool to provide more offices, then the city would be doing little to solve this problem, he said.

"I'm not in the favor of (trip credits) — if we're trying to increase balance, then this negates it," he said.

The idea could be problematic in other ways. Council members have previously pressured Google and other would-be residential developers to pledge that the new housing not be reserved for their own stable of employees. But if there were incentives based on reducing traffic, then wouldn't North

Bayshore companies have a significant interest in housing only North Bayshore workers, asked Councilman Ken Rosenberg.

"People who don't work in North Bayshore will be not selected for one of the units because it wouldn't be in the company's interest," he said. "How do we police that? What if we said we need to have housing for certain amount of teachers?"

That shouldn't be a significant problem, said principal planner Martin Alkire. He explained that city staff is studying a "preferential plan" for housing North Bayshore workers in the future housing. In their research of similar areas, he said only 20 to 30 percent of the future homes would be occupied by local workers.

Councilman Lenny Siegel pointed out that it would take years to figure out whether new housing was actually solving the area's traffic woes. He suggested a better idea would be to allow developers to build their stalled office projects in

tandem with their housing as an incentive to rapidly move projects forward.

City staff hastened to explain that the concept of trip caps was only conceptual at this point.

"We're outlining an opening-of-the-door to consider additional office footage," said Community Development Director Randy Tsuda. "If a developer wants to make use of that credit, they'd still have to go through the (environmental review) process."

In the end, city staff recommended tabling the discussion over trip caps for a future meeting.

Council members emphasized flexibility as they quickly went through a list of other questions at the study session. In regard to housing-density bonuses, elected leaders urged staff to include a "menu" of options to help developers include as much affordable housing as possible.

The council also backed a proposal to create an expedited review process for future housing projects that follow the

city's master plan for the area. Such projects could have their permit-processing time cut in half by avoiding the need for public hearings by the zoning administrator and City Council.

City staff reported that the updated North Bayshore precise plan and its associated environmental impact report would take longer than initially planned — it would likely be complete by spring of 2017, Alkire reported.

It was clear at the meeting that regional leaders beyond Mountain View are closely watching the city's North Bayshore planning. Speaking as a member of the public, San Francisco Planning Director John Rahaim gave a "thank you" to Mountain View leaders for prioritizing housing to help solve a regional crisis.

"I applaud you for moving ahead like this — these sites are challenging to develop," he said. "I have come to believe that large sites like this are really important for all of us to consider." ■

## TEACHER PAY

► Continued from page 1

the Mountain View Whisman School District, which has had to hire roughly 170 teachers in the last four years to keep up with the exodus.

“It’s been tough on me, seeing colleague after colleague after colleague leave,” Mulkey said. “We’re trying to keep the best and brightest, but how do we do that when we’re the bottom ... in terms of compensation?”

Mulkey pointed to the district’s sizable reserve fund, which is expected to grow to nearly \$29 million by the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year. Over \$18.6 million of that money is unrestricted, and could be tapped for salary increases. The district’s current annual budget is approximately \$59.5 million. Mulkey said there are different ways to parse the money, but that the reserve fund seemed “exorbitant” and indicative that the district is not putting its resources to good use.

Jonathan Pharazyn, president of the Mountain View Educators Association, said 199 teachers participated in a poll that shows that only 11 percent support the district’s proposed pay raise of 4 percent. Twenty-seven percent of survey respondents said a 9 percent raise — the highest amount in the survey — was the appropriate increase, and nearly two-thirds of the teachers said they were only willing to accept a pay raise of 7 percent or higher.

Mulkey said negotiations have had a marked effect on teacher morale in the district. District staff have been communicating the results of each bargaining meeting through a “Negotiation News” publication, which Mulkey said is telling the community that teachers are seeking to bankrupt the school district and are “not doing what’s best for the students.” The latest newsletter from the May 5 bargaining meeting states that the teacher union proposal would “eliminate the district’s entire reserve within three years.”

Could the district afford the big increase in pay? The district’s financial forecast has generally low-balled increases in revenue from property taxes, which grew by 12.9 percent this year. The district had that projected it would increase by just 2 percent.

Chief business officer Robert Clark and the rest of the district’s finance department have conceded that the projections ought to be higher, and are now predicting an 8 percent increase for next year,



**Derek Mulkey**, a teacher at Graham Middle School, makes the case for increasing teacher salaries at the May 19 Mountain View Whisman board meeting.

NATALIA NAZAROVA

followed by 7 percent and 5 percent in the subsequent years. The city of Mountain View, by comparison, is forecasting a 10 percent increase in property tax revenue.

Even with the adjustment, however, Clark said a teacher pay increase of 4 percent — with an additional one-time boost of 2 percent off of the salary schedule — would plunge the district’s reserve fund down to 6.3 percent of the total budget by the 2018-19 school year. Clark said he would be uneasy

### **Teacher retention has been a significant problem for the Mountain View Whisman School District.**

accepting new expenditures that would bring the reserve level any lower.

Adding to the anxiety was Gov. Jerry Brown’s revised state budget, released this month, which underlines that a recession is likely imminent in the coming years. The revised budget notes that California’s economy has been on the upswing for seven years, which is two years longer than the average recovery before the economy takes another nosedive.

The last two major recessions have come on hard and fast, triggering state budget deficits exceeding \$10 billion in both the 2002-03 and the 2008-09 fiscal years. Changes in property tax revenue generally take a few years to catch up with the economic downturn, Clark said, meaning the district does have some time to plan ahead. But the feeling that it’s time to start scrimping and saving did not fall on deaf ears.

“The fact that (Brown) actually said out loud during his press conference several times that the recession is coming and don’t spend on new programs ... he was making a real strong comment,” Clark said.

Adding to the feeling of budget insecurity, the grim news from the governor’s office comes at a time when Proposition 30, a temporary tax increase to offset education funding cuts, expires in June 2018, a \$1 million annual loss to Mountain View Whisman. Plus, the Measure C parcel tax expires in June 2017 (\$2.8 million annually), Google’s preschool leases at Slater and Theuerkauf are set to expire in June 2018 (\$2 million) and negotiations with the teachers’ union are ongoing. On top of that, Clark said the district will need to pay millions more into the state’s teacher and employee retirement funds.

“That could be potentially pretty detrimental to the district as a whole,” Clark said.

“The parcel tax goes away in June 2017, losing \$3 million in revenue, then the very next year losing essentially another \$3 million in revenue out of a \$60 million budget.”

Pharazyn said the back-and-forth on teacher compensation will not see a resolution prior to the summer break, and that both sides have agreed to push

back negotiations until the next school year.

“As other districts settle, hopefully we can agree on what will make the Mountain View Whisman School District a more competitive and attractive place for teachers,” Pharazyn said. ▣

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## ■ COUNCIL BRIEF

### COUNCIL OKS FUNDING FOR BIKE SHARE

The Mountain View City Council approved spending \$160,000 as a subsidy for the city’s Bike Share service, despite acknowledgment that the bicycle-rental program has been struggling to attract riders.

Earlier this month, city officials learned that after three years, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission would no longer pay for Bike Share service in Mountain View and other Peninsula cities. Outside of San Francisco, the service has struggled to find enough riders to counter its costs.

The Mountain View council majority found that the service still had value if it could be retooled into a system that better served local demand. Councilmen John

McAlister and John Inks, who were opposed, said the \$160,000 could be better spent elsewhere.

“This money could go a long way for after-school program or rent relief or the (Community Services Agency),” McAlister said. “To spend this for much for (Bike Share), that’s shameful.”

At a May 18 meeting, the council reached an 4-2 impasse over subsidizing the Bike Share service, with five votes needed to approve a budget allocation. Councilman Mike Kasperzak was absent for the meeting.

The council returned to the issue on May 24, this time with all seven council members in attendance (Mayor Pat Showalter attended via phone). The \$160,000 for Bike Share was approved in a 5-2 vote.

—Mark Noack

## BAY TRAIL

► Continued from page 5

than a dozen agencies, including the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NASA Ames, the 129th Air Rescue Wing and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Several private companies besides Google were involved in the creation of the trail, including PG&E, Cargill Salt and Lockheed Martin.

Miller, who now serves as a member of the El Camino Healthcare District, told the *Voice* that she made it a top priority to build out the trail and bridge the “Moffett gap” that prevented commuters and residents from traveling into Sunnyvale from Mountain View along the Bay Trail. The effort hit an unusual snag, Miller said, when a munitions bunker maintained by the 129th Air Rescue Wing was located too close to the trail and had to be moved for safety reasons.

In 2010, the multi-agency effort finally hit a breakthrough and was able to bridge the Moffett gap, resulting in 25 miles of contiguous trails from East Palo Alto to San Jose — the



MICHELLE LE

**Above:** Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (center) cut the ribbon at the Bay Trail’s opening ceremony on May 20. **Below:** Google funded the \$2 resurfacing of the Bay Trail segment that connects Sunnyvale to Mountain View.

longest stretch in the entire Bay Area, according to Laura Thompson, project manager for the San Francisco Bay Trail.

Taking bolt cutters to the

fence that once blocked the trail was just the first step. The bayside pathway connecting Mountain View and Sunnyvale was contiguous but hardly a smooth ride. Miller described the trail as an uneven dirt path with potholes and overgrown vegetation. As the trail saw more use by bicyclists, Thompson said, it became increasingly difficult to traverse — particularly during the wet winter season.

Resurfacing the roughly 4 miles of Bay Trail was no easy feat, and took years to accomplish. Thompson said the improvements required extensive collaboration with the nearby property owners to squeeze in a trail through some of the tightest spots along the path.

“Lockheed (Martin) actually moved a fence inward to make room,” Thompson said.

“There’s not a lot of right-of-way to work with there.”

### Linking the network

The new and improved Bay Trail bordering Mountain View and Sunnyvale is part of a larger effort to build, connect and improve a 500-mile trail system spanning the entirety of the San Francisco Bay. The Bay Trail Plan, which was adopted by ABAG in 1989, has been humming along for the past few decades, with 350 miles of trail now built.

The only trouble is that all of the proverbial low-hanging fruit is gone. ABAG President Julie Pierce explained at the ribbon-cutting ceremony that the last 150 miles include some of the hardest and most expensive segments, similar to the Moffett gap. The recent resurfacing project by Google, Pierce said,

will serve as a good example of what a public-private partnership can achieve along the most challenging parts of the shoreline.

Anyone who would like to test the newly improved trail is going to have to wait a while. The 4-mile stretch will be closed from May 23 to June 4 in order to finish improvements on the last 1,000 feet leading to Stevens Creek Trail. When the trail does reopen, residents can get on the trail through the entrance points near Crittenden Lane in Mountain View, or Carl Road in Sunnyvale.

The next step, after fixing the link with Stevens Creek Trail, will be to head further south, improving the next 2 miles of Bay Trail to the border of Santa Clara, Thompson said. ▣

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## City parks receive national recognition

MOUNTAIN VIEW'S RECREATION FACILITIES SELECTED AS NATIONAL CONTEST FINALIST

By Mark Noack

The city of Mountain View's recreation team — and its 14 community facilities, 42 sports fields and 1,000 acres of parkland — may be getting some big recognition from some outside experts.

In a big deal for the local parks department, Mountain View has been singled out for a nationwide parks and recreation award. Local officials say the prize, the Gold Medal award from the National Recreation and Park Association, is sort of like the municipal parks version of winning Best Picture in the Academy Awards. And just like the Oscars, an awards committee has announced four finalists — Mountain View and three other communities — that will now be competing for the grand prize.

"I would say this is arguably the top honor in our field," said Brady Ruebusch, senior management analyst for the city's Community Services Department. "It's parks and recreation; it's nationwide; and it's put on by the most prominent recreation organi-

zation in the county."

The Gold Medal contest has been held since 1965, but it's been decades since a local city has won the top prize. The last Bay Area city selected to win was San Jose, back in 1978.

Mountain View falls into the category of cities with a population between 75,000 and 150,000. That puts the city in competition with Arlington Heights, Ill., Allen, Texas, and Roswell, Ga.

Mountain View has applied for the award sporadically in the past, Ruebusch said. For this year's application, he touted the city's unique facilities such as Shoreline Amphitheatre, golf course and — obviously — the town's many parks and sports leagues.

As a finalist, the Mountain View parks department last week began producing a short video to showcase the city's programs. The video will eventually be made available on the city's website.

The Mountain View Community Services Department operates on a \$20.1 million budget and has a workforce of 127 employees. ■

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## Mountain View taxi company ordered to pay \$175K in back wages

The owner of a Silicon Valley taxi and limousine company has been ordered to pay \$175,000 in back wages to dozens of drivers misclassified as independent contractors rather than full-time employees, the U.S. Department of Labor announced May 25.

Drivers with the Mountain View-based Yellow Cab Taxi Co. and AAA Legacy Limousine Service were required to work 12-hour shifts six days per week but were paid only a percentage of their fares and not ensured a minimum wage, according to the Department of Labor.

By classifying the drivers as independent contractors, the business owner, Sayed Abbas, avoided paying unemployment insurance and workers' compensation.

The awards for the 37 drivers range from \$552 to more than \$25,000, according to the order by U.S. District Judge Edward Davila.

The case dragged on for years as Abbas fought the allegations. The Department of Labor contended he interfered with the investigation and retaliated against drivers who cooperated.

"We see far too many (employers) misclassifying employees as independent contractors to avoid their obligation to pay the minimum wage and comply with worker protection and tax laws," Department of Labor western region solicitor Janet Herold said in a statement released on May 25.

"Employers like Sayed Abbas take advantage of vulnerable workers by making them sign sham independent contractor agreements that mask actual working conditions," Herold said.

—Bay City News Service

## HOMEWORK

► Continued from page 5

homework they were asked to complete on a daily basis into the summer, over breaks, and over weekends," Sarraf said.

While the new homework policy has some wiggle room, it states in no uncertain terms that assigning homework over vacations is no longer allowed. Thanksgiving weekend, winter break, and the week-long vacations in February and April will all be homework-free, and no big tests can be assigned on the Monday after a break. Homework assigned over the weekend should not exceed a single night's worth of work.

Superintendent Jeff Harding said that the district is breaking new ground with the homework policy, which he said does not borrow from existing policies in other school districts and had to be adopted from scratch. At the board meeting Monday, Harding said he believed the district had reached a "real milestone in educational leadership" by adopting a comprehensive homework policy for the first time.

Harding later told the *Voice* that the new policy marks a big shift in accountability, and

that assigning homework has always been the purview of teachers with mostly no direction from administration.

"This is a significant shift from the traditional model," Harding said.

Board member Debbie Torok commended the district staff for spending months taking in feedback from parents as well

**'This is a significant shift from the traditional model.'**

SUPERINTENDENT JEFF HARDING

as students, and said it will be interesting to watch how homework assignments and student wellness changes at Mountain View and Los Altos high schools.

"I'm hopeful that we're setting some kind of foundation (and) making some kind of statement that other schools will pick up on," Torok said. "It was a major task, and I'm looking forward to seeing what the results are next year."

Samantha Rubenstein, the student trustee for Mountain View High School, said it's important to make sure the

new homework policy is available to students so they can see it. Not knowing what the actual guidelines are can be stressful in itself, Rubenstein said. The homework policy — Administrative Regulation 6154 — was posted Wednesday on the district website at [tinyurl.com/z9gfpfy](http://tinyurl.com/z9gfpfy).

Knowing the new homework policies is going to be critical for students. The regulations leave it up to students to notify teachers when concurrent deadlines across multiple classes are going to coincide and exceed the homework limits. Rather than force teachers to coordinate deadlines, the policy states that students must approach teachers about crushing deadlines and ask for an extension or an opportunity for test corrections or retests.

Administrators at both high schools will be in charge of ensuring that teachers comply with the rest of the new restrictions on homework, as well as providing professional development on assigning homework and providing support programs to make sure students have all the resources they need to complete homework assignments. ■

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## CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

### LOS ALTOS MAN IN FATAL CRASH

A 25-year-old man who died when his SUV crashed into a tree on Skyline Boulevard south of Portola Valley in San Mateo County last week has been identified as James Henry

Power, according to the San Mateo Coroner's Office.

Power was a resident of Los Altos, according to the coroner's office. California Highway Patrol initially identified Power as a Stanford resident.

The crash was reported at 3:58 a.m. Thursday, May 19, on Skyline Boulevard, also known as state Highway 35, south of Page Mill Road near the county border with Santa Clara

County, California Highway Patrol officials said.

Investigators determined a silver 2005 Nissan SUV traveling south went off the roadway and struck a tree. Power was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation. Any witnesses are asked to call Officer J. Wakeman at 650-369-6261.

—Bay City News Service



Council Neighborhoods Committee

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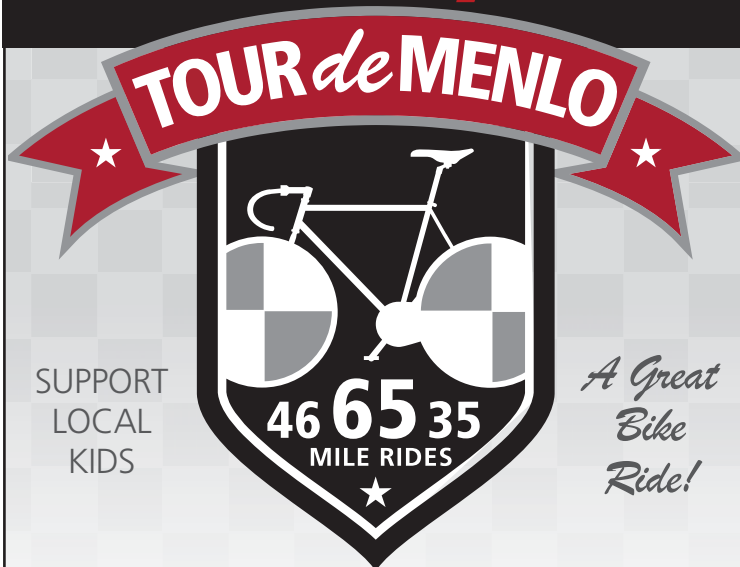
- Neighborhood Cleanups
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- Youth Activities and Events
- Association Recruitment Activities
- Assistance for New Associations



The Council Neighborhoods Committee would like to encourage your neighborhood group to apply. Applications and grant guidelines may be picked-up in the Community Development Department, City Hall, 500 Castro Street, and are available on the City's web page at [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov) under News. Please call (650) 903-6379 if you would like an application mailed to you or have questions.

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### 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 Walk In Cooler/Freezer Box Replacement.**
2. Sealed Bids will be received until **1:00 p.m., Thursday, June 9, 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.
3. 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.
4. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California Contractor Licenses: **B or C38**. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. A **mandatory** pre-bid conference and site visit will be held at **1:00 p.m., Monday, June 6, 2016** at Crittenden Middle School, 1701 Rock Street, 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.
10. Contract Documents are available electronically on **Friday, May 27, 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. You can contact them by phone at (707) 933-0624 or by email at [theresa@greystonewest.com](mailto:theresa@greystonewest.com). A list of builders' exchanges who have the project documents is available at Greystone West Company.
11. 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.
12. 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: Mary Ann Duggan, Director of Capital Projects  
Publication Dates: (1) May 27, 2016 (2) June 3, 2016

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# Independent groups pump cash into Assembly campaign

By Gennady Sheyner

With the crowded race to succeed Assemblyman Rich Gordon in the 24th District heading into the final stretch, independent political action committees are throwing hundreds of thousands of dollars into the contest in hopes of influencing the outcome.

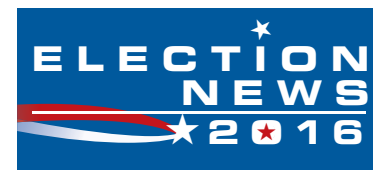
Palo Alto City Councilman Marc Berman has been the chief beneficiary of these political action committees, with groups funded by dentists, Realtors, car dealers, poultry farmers and pawnbrokers collectively contributing thousands of dollars to his campaign in the month leading up to the June 7 primary.

Berman, an attorney who until last fall worked as development director at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, benefited from huge infusion of cash from EdVoice Independent Expenditure Committee, the political arm of the Sacramento-based education-policy nonprofit. Last week, the committee made a series of expenditures totaling \$368,291 to support Berman's bid for the Assembly.

The group paid for several fliers, one touting Berman as "one of our region's innovative leaders"



Marc Berman



and crediting him for "(leading) the charge to transition Palo Alto toward cleaner energy" and for helping to close the achievement gap in public schools.

Berman said the EdVoice expenditures were made completely independently from his campaign.

"We had no coordination with (EdVoice) whatsoever," Berman said.

The California Real Estate Independent Expenditure Committee, based in Los Angeles, is also backing Berman with fliers and contributions. Last week, the group issued several fliers urging voters to support Berman, one touting his "proven record of fighting for us" and another referring to him as a "progressive focused on fiscal responsibility."

Meanwhile, another independent group, Californians Allied For Patient Protection Independent Expenditure Account, paid for an ad that takes a swing at Vicki Veenker, who is also vying for the Assembly seat. The flier criticizes Veenker for not having held an elected office and for having "never been seen at council meetings." In an obvious allusion to Donald Trump, the flier states that Veenker "sounds like someone we know running for

President, doesn't it."

The attack ad drew an immediate rebuke from the California chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus of California, which has endorsed Veenker. Angelica Ramos, president of the group's local chapter, issued a statement that blasted the ad for implying to Peninsula women and girls that "despite all the hard work they do behind the scenes, like Vicki, they are unqualified for advancement as well."

"This is the kind of institutional sexism that discourages other qualified women from running for office, and it shows," the statement read.

Berman told the *Voice's* sister paper, the Palo Alto Weekly, that his campaign had nothing to do with the mailer and that negative attacks have no place in the race.

Veenker is also backed by numerous political action committees, though she lags far behind Berman in contributions from these groups. Last week she received one \$4,200 contribution from the Women's Political Committee and another \$4,200 contribution from the Women In Power Political Action Committee. And last month, she received \$8,500 from the California Nurses Association Political Action Committee; \$2,500 from the Mountain View Professional Firefighters Political Action Committee; and \$1,000 from

► See **INDEPENDENT**, page 14

## Measure A to extend funding for Santa Clara county parks

Santa Clara County voters will decide whether they want to prolong a park preservation fund on the June 7 ballot.

Measure A would extend the county's park charter fund by taking .015 cents for every \$100 of assessed property value for 15 years starting July 1, 2017, if it is approved by a majority vote.

The money would help protect parks, enhance access to park spaces, continue operations and maintain clean restrooms and facilities.

The Park Charter Fund, which was established in 1972 and has been renewed six times since then, helps improve more than 50,000 acres of open space in the county, the measure's proponents said.

The most recent renewal was in 2006, when 71 percent of voters approved a similar measure



to continue the fund for 12 years beginning in 2009.

Measure A would continue the fund through June 30, 2032, past its current 2021 expiration date, according to an impartial analysis on the measure written by San Francisco Deputy City Attorney Joshua White.

If the measure passes, Santa Clara County must use a minimum 10 percent of the money for park development and use the rest for park operations, White said.

The measure's supporters include Santa Clara County board president Dave Cortese and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, in

addition to numerous organizations including the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

In an opposition argument against the measure, Milpitas resident W. Dito questioned how the money is being used and how many people go to county parks in a year.

In a rebuttal argument to the opposition, measure supporters said about 3 million people visit county parks annually and the fund is the only secured local source of money to help county parks without increasing taxes.

"Our community has supported and protected local parks for many years. We need to continue this commitment for ourselves, and future generations," measure supporters said.

—Bay City News Service

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## INDEPENDENT

▶ Continued from page 13

D.R.I.V.E., a political action committee of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Earlier this year, Veenker also benefited from an \$8,500 contribution from the California Teachers Association, one of her top backers.

Veenker is also the only candidate in California who is being directly opposed by the Californians Allied For Patient Protection Independent Expenditure Account. The group has raised money to support numerous candidates for the state Assembly, including Joaquin Arambula in District 31; Matt Dababbeh in District 45; Bill Dodd in District 3; and Raul Bocanegra in District 39. It has also raised \$32,501 specifically to oppose Veenker, according to its campaign statement.

Political action committees have largely refrained from contributing to the campaigns of Mountain View council members Mike Kasperzak and John Inks; or to Menlo Park Councilman Peter Ohtaki, the sole Republican in the race. And Cupertino Mayor Barry Chang, who has raised close to

\$300,000, did so largely by relying on contributions from individuals and area companies (the sole exception was the \$2,250 that Chang received from the Associated Builders and Contractors Northern California Chapter PAC).

In a campaign statement filed earlier this month, Chang listed dozens of major contributions that collectively totaled \$289,000. Many of these contributions were in the form of \$4,200 and \$8,500 checks from companies that are based outside the district and that gave more than once. Tropicana Russell, Inc., based in San Mateo, contributed a pair of \$4,200 checks. So did Tiptoe Properties, LLC; Marina Brothers, Inc.; and Bayca Inc. — all companies based in San Jose. According to Chang's statement, he received two more \$4,200 contributions from Caixing Xie, owner of Bayca. Similarly, Chang received donations totaling \$42,000 from Campbell-based firm South Bay Construction, in addition to separate contributions from the company's partners.

Chang's tendency of getting separate contributions from a business and from its owners is unusual, given that the city's campaign finance laws treat

donations from a firm's controlling partner as an individual donation and that many of his donors had already made the maximum allowed contribution in their capacity as individuals. And while Chang only reported these contributions in his "late contributions" filing earlier this month, many of them were made last year — in some cases, going back to last July.

When asked about this irregularity by the Mountain View Voice, 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.

Chang, who was sanctioned by the Federal Political Practice Commission for his failing to disclose 160 contributions to his 2014 campaign for the City Council, also told the Voice that he had recently retained a Sacramento accounting firm to serve as his treasurer. He was notified only then that he should file additional paperwork for the large donations.

"I'm glad I had (my accountant) because she's the expert,"

## AT&T announces plan to expand fiber-optic network

By Mark Noack

Facing a future threat by Google Fiber, AT&T has announced its own strategy to dramatically expand its ultra-high speed internet in Mountain View.

Earlier this month, the telecommunication giant announced it would triple the size of its own fiber-optic network in the Bay Area, including in Mountain View. In a press release last week, a company representative said that "tens of thousands" of households are currently eligible for its premium internet service with download speed of up to 1-gigabit per second.

The announcement came just days after Mountain

View City Council members approved plans for Google Fiber to gradually build its own internet service in town over the next two years. The news was seen as a challenge to established internet service providers. Nevertheless, the new competitors will cooperating by sharing some utility poles throughout the city.

AT&T offers a basic plan for its ultra-speed internet at \$70 per month. Current cities with Google Fiber offer comparable service rates.

Interested customers may see if they are eligible for the service by checking the AT&T website at [att.com/shop/u-verse/gigapower.html](http://att.com/shop/u-verse/gigapower.html)

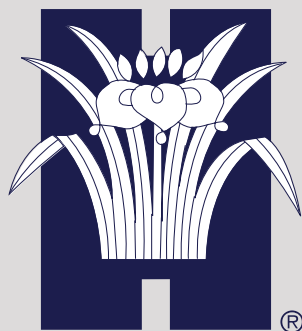
Email Mark Noack at [mnoack@mv-voice.com](mailto:mnoack@mv-voice.com)

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."

The two remaining candidates, retired engineer Seelam Reddy and community activist

Jay Cabrera, are running low-budget campaigns and have not formed committees for their respective Assembly bids.

—Mountain View Voice staff writer Mark Noack contributed to this report.



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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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

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## ■ EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

# Bay restoration tax promises bang for the buck

What can be done with a mere \$12 paid annually by each property owner in the region surrounding San Francisco Bay? When the region in question comprises nine counties and the cumulative payments equal \$500 million over 20 years, the answer is obvious: a whole lot.

Voters in those nine counties — including Santa Clara County — are being asked to approve Measure AA on the June 7 ballot, a \$12-per-parcel tax to raise money to pay for vital work: the restoration of San Francisco Bay shorelines to functioning tidal marshes. The projects planned by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority would do more than improve public access to the Bay for enhanced recreational purposes; they would also fortify and expand wildlife habitat and create an effective flood protection system — an urgent need given the perils of sea-level rise predicted in coming decades.

The measure needs approval by two-thirds of the voters for passage. If passed, the tax would raise about \$25 million per year for 20 years. The counties would be divided into four regions, and funding would be allocated based on popula-

tion, with half of the \$500 million divvied up among the four regions. The other half of the tax revenues would fund high-priority projects identified by the Authority's governing board.

A significant selling point for the measure is that the Authority and regional administrators will be able to leverage tax revenue to generate matching funds from the state and the federal government, ensuring a bigger bang for the buck to fund the many projects needed to restore the health of the Bay.

In addition to measures that would benefit wildlife habitat and provide flood protection, planned projects include tackling longstanding trash- and toxin-pollution problems in the Bay and restoring wetlands, which provide natural filters that continually remove pollution from the water.

This tax measure makes sense. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority has worked since 2008 to identify solutions to the complicated network of problems facing the Bay and the communities surrounding it. Property owners are being asked to contribute only \$12 a year to pay for remedies to those problems. We will pay a far higher price in the future if we choose not to pay a nominal tax now. ■

## ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### 'UNFAIR AND INVALID' CRITICISM OF VEENKER

Californians Allied for Patient Protection (CAPP), a Sacramento-based interest group committed to keeping a cap on how much patients can receive for non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases and largely funded by insurance companies, opposes the candidacy of Vicki Veenker for the state Assembly in District 24, the seat being vacated by Rich Gordon. In opposition mailers funded by its political action committee, CAPP alleges Veenker lacks the experience needed to represent the district in Sacramento, an unfair and invalid accusation.

Sure, having local government experience is valuable, but that's not the only way to become familiar with the issues our state Legislature needs to address or with the process of developing laws and public policy.

In Veenker's case, she has spent years as a volunteer and on the board of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, a nonprofit public interest legal group that provides both legal representation for the poor and advocacy on pressing social issues. That includes work on fair housing, health legal services, representation of children and youth, and mental health

advocacy.

As an attorney she also has vast experience working on intellectual property issues, experience that will be important to employers in our district and rare in the Legislature.

Finally, working on contentious patent issues that sometimes involved multiple universities and other stakeholders has made Veenker a skilled negotiator and expert at conflict resolution.

Here is the reason this mailer was mailed out as I understand it. At a meeting with CAPP, she answered "never say never" when asked if she was in favor of keeping the cap on malpractice compensation where it is now — and where it's been for more than a decade. So even though she isn't proposing to change the MICRA legislation that is so sacrosanct to CAPP, that's not good enough for the group. It wants her to adopt a rigid position against any changes to the cap. I, for one, wouldn't want a representative who gave in to that sort of pressure.

*Claire Noonan*  
Los Altos

### STUDENT SAFETY IS 'OUR TOP PRIORITY'

For the staff at the Mountain View/Los Altos High School Dis-

trict, the safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We've created a caring culture at our schools over many years by diligent adherence to this fundamental tenet. So, of course I was alarmed to learn of an alleged sexual assault in the boys' locker room, as reported recently by the school newspaper and later in the *Voice*.

Within hours of the original report of alleged criminal behavior, police officers were interviewing students to determine the facts. We wanted to know exactly what happened in the locker room back in 2014, and to hold students accountable for any offenses. The MVPD detectives have since completed their investigation and have concluded that no crime was committed. Consequently, no police action was taken against any students. Although the locker room behavior was not criminal, it was clearly an act of hazing and unacceptable on our campuses.

As the father of four student athletes, I know how it feels to send your student to school to compete in athletic competitions. Student athletes must feel safe during competitions and in the locker room. As school leaders, we have the obligation to eliminate the boys-will-be-boys attitude that leads to hazing behavior

common when I played football in high school back in the 1970s.

Our administrative team has taken active steps to combat any culture of hazing within the athletics program. Even before this student report came to our attention, our staff implemented the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) philosophy to improve the behavior of our student athletes. While we can't observe every student at all times, we've made changes in the locker room to improve supervision by our staff. I'm confident that this culture shift is already evident to our student athletes and I expect continued improvements in the coming seasons.

The safety of our students remains the foundation for our successful program. Our school leaders will continue to promptly investigate any allegations of misconduct, as they did in this case. With the support of our community, our students will continue to benefit from interscholastic competition.

If you have any questions or comments about student athletics or our efforts to combat hazing on campus, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jeff.harding@mvla.net](mailto:jeff.harding@mvla.net).

*Jeff Harding, superintendent*  
Mountain View/Los Altos High School District



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## Measure AA is a bold, needed step for the Bay

By Pat Showalter  
and Gary Kremen

San Francisco Bay is a part of all our lives — whether we live or work along the Bay, visit parks along its shores or simply appreciate it as we drive over a bridge. The Bay attracts tourists, supports commercial fisheries and attracts diverse businesses that bring our region jobs — all of which help keep our economy strong.

But pollution and other problems have put the health of the Bay at serious risk. Many of the Bay's wetlands have been paved over or diked off, and shoreline communities such as Mountain View face increasing flood risks from extreme storms and sea-level rise.

The Shoreline Regional Park Community is subject to coastal flooding from the Bay and surrounding creeks. Generally bounded by Highway 101 to the south, Stevens Creek to the east, San Francisco Bay to the north and San Antonio Road to the west, this area is home to several large high-technology corporate campuses and suburban-type office parks, recreational facilities, closed landfills, and habitat mitigation sites.

Now for the first time in our history the entire Bay Area has an opportunity to come together in support of San Francisco Bay to make it healthier and safer for future generations. Measure AA, on the June 7 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties, is a small parcel tax that brings huge benefits. For only \$12 annually per parcel, Measure AA raises \$500 million over 20 years to restore Bay wetlands that will provide habitat for fish and wildlife. These wetlands also provide a natural barrier against flooding and provide urban recreational open space.

Mountain View's shoreline will directly benefit from Measure AA funds. In addition to providing flood protection, it will reduce pollution and harmful toxins, allowing accelerated restoration of wetlands, including retired salt ponds that now sit barren for lack of funds to improve them. By passing Measure AA to create a regional pool of Bay funding, we also can leverage more matching funds from Washington, D.C., and Sacramento for Bay projects.

Measure AA is endorsed by the most diverse coalition the Bay Area has ever seen, from local and national environmental organizations and leading businesses to organized labor, mayors and other elected officials, including Gov. Jerry Brown, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Reps. Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier — more than 600 groups and individuals in all. The Mountain View City Council took an important step when it endorsed Measure AA on May 3.

The measure includes important fiscal accountability protections. All funds must stay in the Bay Area to be used only on local habitat restoration and wildlife protection projects. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, created by legislation introduced by Mountain View's own Sally Lieber, would provide grant funds for restoration projects and would be overseen by a board of elected representatives from around the Bay, including from Santa Clara County.

Measure AA is a bold step to join together as a region to help the Bay we all love, but too often take for granted. Let's make the Bay healthier for future generations by voting yes on Measure AA.

Pat Showalter is the mayor of Mountain View and is on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority board. Gary Kremen is a director on the Santa Clara Valley Water District board.

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## What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email Renee Batti at [rbatti@mv-voice.com](mailto:rbatti@mv-voice.com), or call 650-223-6528.



## Blue skies and bombers

Photos by Michelle Le

It's like the History Channel come to life at Moffett Field this week. The Wings of Freedom tour landed in Mountain View last Friday, and will stick around until 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 28. Then the fleet of lovingly restored World War II-era airplanes will take to the skies once again, heading to the next stop in Livermore. Now in its 27th year, the Collings Foundation's annual "Wings of Freedom Tour" travels to about 110 cities across the country.

For those with deep desire to experience history, and deep pockets to match, a 60-minute training run on the P-51C will set you back \$3,200. Slightly less extravagant is a 30-minute flight on a B-17 or B-24 for \$450, or \$400 for a ride on a B-25.

Walk-through tours are available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, costing \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. For information, go to [collingsfoundation.org](http://collingsfoundation.org) and click on the Wings of Freedom tour schedule. Call 978-562-9182 for flight reservations.



**Above:** Pilot Fred Bower steps out of a P-51 Mustang after landing at Moffett Field on May 24. It's one of the vintage World War II airplanes in the Wings of Freedom tour on public display until 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 28.  
**Top:** Cloud-scattered skies are visible from the cockpit of a B-17 Flying Fortress.



OTAK JUMP

Olga Chernisheva stars as the doomed Cio Cio San (nicknamed Butterfly) in the Puccini classic.

## Rethinking 'Madama Butterfly'

WEST BAY OPERA INJECTS NUANCE AND RELEVANCE FOR MODERN AUDIENCES

By Mort Levine

### Theater Review

In wrapping up its 60th season with the most performed opera in the world's repertory, it would have been easy to replay one of West Bay Opera's

nine previous productions of "Madama Butterfly."

Instead, the always inventive Palo Alto company chose

to inject some new ways to understand the story, making it more compelling. It also brought together a strong, experienced foursome of principal singers, produced a surprisingly lush orchestral sound with only

23 players, utilized some of Silicon Valley's cleverest computer-generated video and still imagery and allowed its director to insert some well-acted silent pantomime to give a nuanced personality to a protagonist normally considered one of the most shameless cads in all opera.

Audiences may come for some of greatest tunes composer Giacomo Puccini ever wrote but, they'll quickly be engaged by the dramatic tension crafted by stage director Eugene Brancoveanu.

Written in the first years of the 20th century, when America was beginning to flex its imperialist muscles in the Pacific, "Madama Butterfly" tells the story of a U.S. Navy officer stationed in Nagasaki, Japan. Lt. Pinkerton is oblivious to his callow, swaggering racism. His raging passion for 15-year-old Cio Cio San (nicknamed Butterfly) leads him to lease a house for 999 years and marry her "until he can wed a real American wife." The American consul, Sharpless, warns Pinkerton that the young geisha is totally committed to him. By the second act, three years later, the abandoned Butterfly (now with a 3-year-old boy she calls Sorrow), is destitute. Sharpless comes to say he has had a letter implying that Pinkerton was getting married and not likely to return. However, he cannot persuade Butterfly to marry a rich prince who wants her. Instead she tells Sharpless to relay that Pinkerton has a son.

Pinkerton and his new wife,

Kate, come to take the boy back. Butterfly, in her anguish, chooses to "die with honor rather than live in shame" by stabbing herself just as Pinkerton returns.

The splendid cast features Russian-trained Olga Chernisheva, whose big, warm coloratura tones excelled in the big arias like "Un bel di vedremo" (One fine day, we'll see) and the wrenching, beautiful final duet with Pinkerton. Veteran tenor Paul Gustafson has a strong, expressive vocal instrument that blends perfectly with Chernisheva. Both have sung these roles several times together at other venues.

Suzuki, Butterfly's long-suffering maid, is sung by Kristin Choi, who possesses a powerful mezzo voice. She'll reprise Suzuki next year with Washington National Opera. Baritone Igor Vieira brings compassion and wisdom to the role of Sharpless, with resonant tone and stage presence.

Tenor Michael Desnoyers sings Goro, the marriage broker and real estate operator. Kiril Havezov's strong bass baritone captured the role of Butterfly's angry Uncle Bonzo, who banishes her from Japanese society. Ryan Bradford looked the role of handsome Prince Yamadori but his voice needed a bit more heft.

Kate Pinkerton is sung by soprano Carolyn Bacon. This role was substantially augmented by the director's decision to turn the normally static, off-stage chorus intermezzo before

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the third act into a dramatic pantomime. In a well-acted flashback showing the receipt by Pinkerton of Sharpless' letter revealing the existence of the child, Kate learns for the first time about her husband's first "family." The self-indulgent, arrogant Pinkerton dissolves in regret for what he has done, even to reaching for his service revolver perhaps to do himself in. Kate runs through a series of emotions, ultimately deciding to have them both go to Japan and adopt the boy.

In the opera's final moments, traditional staging usually has Butterfly stab herself before Pinkerton's arrival. In this production, the actual stabbing takes place in his presence. While Pinkerton attempts unsuccessfully to restrain her, Butterfly reaches for his gun holster, removing the gun as the final crescendo of the opera is heard, and the curtain falls. This last directorial touch seems like an awkward overreach, but most of Brancoveanu's other interventions worked well.

The creative team is led by general director and conductor Jose Luis Moscovich. The set staging is by Peter Compton, who had a triumph with West Bay's recent "Evgeny Onegin."

His color palette suggests the flat tones of Japanese woodcut master Hiroshige. Frederic Boulay, projection designer, took some of the latest video software from Adobe to make a ship sail into the harbor, creating ripples on the water with ever-changing cloud patterns. It even permitted the falling leaves to descend with the pace of the music. Lighting designs by Edward Hunter also reflected the musical score's range of moods.

Pinkerton's shaggy orange-blond wig didn't look like something a spit-and-polish Navy would permit. But it was echoed in the hairpiece worn by his 3-year-old offspring. This lad is strikingly portrayed with a confident panache by a 7-year-old girl, Zoe G. Lai.

Like several of Puccini's other tragic heroines, "Madama Butterfly" manages to bring out handkerchiefs to dab away the tears. Despite its sadness, it remains a work of great beauty and dramatic verity. Along with Mozart's "Abduction from the Seraglio" and Tchaikovsky's "Onegin," it completes a resoundingly memorable season for West Bay Opera. ▣

*Email freelance writer  
Mort Levine at mortlevine123@gmail.com*

**INFORMATION**

**What:** West Bay Opera presents Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," sung in Italian with English supertitles.

**When:** Saturday, May 28 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, May 29 at 2 p.m.

**Where:** Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

**Cost:** \$45-\$83

**Info:** Visit westbayopera.org or call 650-424-9999.

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## MOVIE TIMES

**A Bigger Splash (R)** Century 20: 10:15 a.m., 1:20, 4:20, 7:25 & 10:25 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1, 4 & 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 9:50 p.m.

**Alice Through the Looking Glass (PG)** Century 16: 9:15 a.m., noon, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11 & midnight. In 3-D at 8:20 & 11:05 a.m., 1:50, 4:35, 7:20 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 10:45 a.m., 12:35, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 8:50 & 9:45 p.m. In 3-D at 11:40 a.m., 2:25, 3:20, 5:10, 6, 7:55 & 10:45 p.m. In DBOX at 11:40 a.m., 2:25, 5:10, 7:55 & 10:45 p.m.

**The Angry Birds Movie (PG) ★★**

Century 16: 9 & 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30 & 10:45 p.m. In 3-D at 10:15 a.m., 12:45, 3:15 & 5:45 p.m. Fri. 8:15 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 8:20 p.m.

Century 20: 10:20 a.m., noon, 12:50, 2:35, 3:20, 5, 5:50, 7:30, 8:20 & 10 p.m. In 3-D at 11:10 a.m., 1:40, 4:10 & 6:40 p.m.

**Captain America: Civil War (PG-13) ★★1/2**

Century 16: 8:30 a.m., 12:05, 3:30, 7 & 10:40 p.m. In 3-D at 10:25 a.m., 1:45, 5:15 & 8:45 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 4, 7:20 & 10:35 p.m. In 3-D at 11 a.m., 2:20, 5:40 & 9 p.m.

**The Heiress (1949) (Not Rated)**

Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 3:25 p.m.

**The Jungle Book (PG) ★★★**

Century 16: 10:20 a.m., 1:05, 4:05, 7:05 & 9:50 p.m.

Century 20: 10:55 a.m., 1:40, 4:25, 7:40 & 10:20 p.m.

**The Lobster (R) ★★★1/2** Aquarius Theatre: 2:35, 4:20, 7 & 10 p.m.

**Love & Friendship (PG)** Century 20: 10:10 a.m., 12:35, 3, 5:25, 7:50 & 10:15 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 2:30, 4:50 & 7:20 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 9:45 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 12:10 p.m.

**The Man Who Knew Infinity (PG-13) ★★**

Guild Theatre: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

**The Meddler (PG-13) ★★★** Aquarius Theatre: 2, 5:25, 7:45 & 9:30 p.m. Century 20: 9:10 p.m.

**Money Monster (R)** Century 16: 5:25, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m. Fri. 8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Sat. & Sun. 9:40 a.m., 12:15 & 2:55 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m.

**Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising (R)**

Century 16: 9, 10 & 11:25 a.m., 12:30, 1:55, 3, 4:20, 5:35, 6:50, 8, 9:20, 10:25 & 11:45 p.m. Century 20: 10:05 & 11:20 a.m., 12:25, 1:45, 2:50, 4:10, 5:20, 6:35, 8, 9:05 & 10:35 p.m.

**The Nice Guys (R)**

Century 16: 10:10 a.m., 4:20, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m. Fri. 1:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 1 p.m. Century 20: 11 a.m., 2, 4:55, 7:45 & 10:40 p.m.

**The Snake Pit (1949) (Not Rated)**

Stanford Theatre: 5:30 & 9:35 p.m.

**X-Men: Apocalypse (PG-13) ★★1/2**

Century 16: 9:10 a.m., 12:50, 4:30, 7:30, 8:10, 11:15 & 11:50 p.m. Fri. 1:45 p.m. In 3-D at 8:15, 10:05 & 11:55 a.m., 3:35, 5:25, 6:20, 7:15, 9:05, 10 & midnight. Fri. 10:30 a.m. Fri. & Sat. 10:55 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 11 a.m., 1:45 & 2:40 p.m. Sun. 11 p.m. Century 20: 10:10 & 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:50, 6:15, 8:10 & 9:50 p.m. In 3-D at 10:55 a.m., 2:10, 2:55, 4:05, 5:30, 7:40 & 9 p.m. In XD 3-D at 12:20 and 7:10 p.m. In XD at 3:40 & 10:30 p.m. In DBOX at 10:10 a.m., 1:30, 4:50 & 8:10 p.m.

**Zootopia (PG) ★★★** Century 16: Fri. 8:15 & 10:50 a.m. Sat. & Sun. 8:25 & 11:10 a.m., 1:50 & 4:25 p.m. Century 20: 10:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m.

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## MOVIE OPENINGS



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

Oscar Isaac plays 'Apocalypse,' the first and most powerful mutant in 'X-Men: Apocalypse'.

## 'Apocalypse' pow

BUT THE 'X-MEN' ARE SLOWING DOWN IN THEIR OLD AGE

★★ 1/2 (Century 16 and 20)

Has the superhero bubble at last popped? The "X-Men" franchise, at least when in the hands of original director Bryan Singer, has tended to be a reliably smart and thrilling universe with a dynamic cast of characters played grandly by top-tier talent. "X-Men: Apocalypse" sees Singer return for his fourth go-round, and although he and his team have X-Men storytelling down to something of a science, that experience can also translate to something very like complacency.

Singer has billed "X-Men: Apocalypse" as "the true birth of the X-Men," but the truth is that there's hardly a character beat in it that we haven't already seen played out in some way in this series. The earlier "X-Men" from 2000 had fresh and exciting storytelling and thematic imperatives as Singer and company established the universe and its social allegory. Five films later (not counting two "Wolverine" spinoffs and "Deadpool"), the franchise still has Singer's style, spectacle to spare, and a cool toy box for playdates — though Patrick Stewart's version of Professor X and Ian McKellen's version of Magneto aren't invited this time. Their inheritors, however, are back: James McAvoy as X and Michael Fassbender as Magneto.

They're joined by a sprawling cast of heroes and villains (which,

at 16, by my count, ties "Captain America: Civil War," but who's counting?) for what should be the equivalent of a page-turning comic-book adventure. To be fair, it comes mighty close. The story concerns the first and most powerful mutant, En Sabah Nur, aka "Apocalypse," setting out to wipe out lesser humanity unless friendlier mutants can stop him. We meet the power-amplifying Apocalypse (Oscar Isaac) in 3600 BCE, enabling Singer to get his ancient-epic groove on (and composer John Ottman to fire up a vigorous choir) for the film's pre-credits action. Once awoken five and a half centuries later, the super-mutant broods, "The weak have taken the Earth" and promptly recruits "Four Horsemen" — Magneto, Storm (Alexandra Shipp, inheriting Halle Berry's franchise role), Psylocke (Olivia Munn) and Angel (Ben Hardy) — to wage civil war against a crop of good-guy mutants.

These include returning players Mystique and Beast (Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence and Nicholas Hoult, only occasionally overtaken by hair and makeup), as well as Lucas Till's Havok, and Rose Byrne's CIA agent (and Professor X love interest) Moira MacTaggart. New, but distinctly familiar, recruits include the teenage versions of Cyclops (Iye Sheridan), Jean

Grey (Sophie Turner of "Game of Thrones"), and Nightcrawler (Kodi Smit-McPhee).

Singer has shown a knack for elevating this kind of pop-culture material, but "X-Men: Apocalypse" noticeably strains to convince us of its import as it unfolds in 1983 with the superficial political resonance of a "nuclear scare" motif. Worse, screenwriter Simon Kinberg fumbles some nonsensical character motivations and plot points that tie logic in knots, and Singer doesn't drive "Apocalypse" with the same dispatch that saved predecessor "Days of Future Past" from such real-time scrutiny.

For all its failings, including the crime of not being exhilarating, "X-Men: Apocalypse" remains a competent sci-fi action flick. And there's no denying the film's dazzling superpowers and global-scale spectacle.

Superhero junkies probably won't feel they've wasted their time, and "X-Men: Apocalypse" dutifully meets the minimum requirement of keeping the franchise afloat while introducing new characters and reintroducing others.

*Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence, action and destruction, brief strong language and some suggestive images. Two hours, 24 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

## MOVIE REVIEWS

## THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE

★★ 1/2

Adults will likely see "The Angry Birds Movie" as an answer to a question no one asked: How do you make a movie out of

"Angry Birds?" Where the filmmakers win is by convincing people — by way of voice talent, wit, a nimble score and vertiginous 3D action — that you can hate, or be indifferent to, the video game and like this movie. On Bird Island, flightless birds live mostly in harmony. Ever-ticked-off Red (Jason Sudeikis) winds up in an anger-management class populated by hulking Terence (Sean Penn), speedy Chuck (Josh

Gad) and volatile Bomb (Danny McBride). But when hungry green pigs steal the birds' eggs, necessitating a frantic extended-climax rescue, the film starts to legitimize Red's anger. It's unfortunate that females are so marginalized here, but as long as people are going to waste time on "Angry Birds," they may just as well do it this way. *Rated PG for rude humor and action. One hour, 37 minutes.* — P.C.

## THE MAN WHO KNEW INFINITY ★★

In "The Man Who Knew Infinity," writer-director Matthew Brown sets out with the arresting true story of extraordinary mathematician Srinavasa Ramanujan. With gaping earnestness, Dev Patel plays the autodidact whose persistence won him a passage from East Indian obscurity to the University of Cambridge in 1913.

Ramanujan soon meets his mentor, G.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons), who helps to push forward the student's work as the befuddled Cambridge dons dismiss it out of racism or because of Ramanujan's habit of not showing work in proofs. Ramanujan's faith proffers a mystical contrast to Hardy's avowed atheism, but by reducing them to familiar archetypes, Brown relies on Irons'

► Continued on next page

■ MOVIE OPENINGS



COURTESY OF A24 FILMS

Rachel Weisz and Colin Farrell in 'The Lobster,' an absurdist romantic comedy.

## The mating game

'THE LOBSTER' WILL SINK ITS ABSURD CLAWS IN YOU

★★★ 1/2 (Aquarius)

It's a dog-eat-dog world, so they say—a veritable jungle out there. And dating often stokes the "thrill of the chase," or, in other words, the hunt. We may be at the top of the food chain, but that doesn't mean we're not animals, a notion filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos playfully employs in his absurdist romantic comedy "The Lobster."

Die-hard cineastes may know Lanthimos already, from his Greek-language stunner "Dogtooth" (or perhaps even his follow-up "Alps"), but this time, Lanthimos has international movie stars for his English-language debut. The film's publicity materials describe the setting as a "dystopian near future," but I'm not sure Lanthimos and co-writer Efthymis Filippou would say the same. After all, no noticeable difference in fashion or technology tips the story to a future setting. It's more of an absurdist alternate universe allegorizing how we live now, without any need for futuristic trappings.

At any rate, in this world, single people get shipped to a resort hotel where they have 45 days to find a mate (talk about your speed dating). If they fail, they get turned into the animals of their choice. For schlumpy David (Colin Farrell, wearing a few extra pounds), that'd be a lobster, for reasons he's given considerable thought. The early

scenes establish a pitiless process: "guests" must register as heterosexual or homosexual, get literally stripped of their dignity, and are issued a tranquilizer gun and darts for daily "Most Dangerous Game"-style hunts of "Loner" refugees living in "The Woods".

Those who think they've found their match, or at least insist they have, get a honeymoon on a yacht before relocation to "The City". If they encounter relationship troubles, they are "assigned children... to get past the fighting and arguing." As you might imagine, there are some flaws in this world's logic, but regular propaganda sessions (contrasting playlets "Man Eats Alone" and "Man Eats With Woman," for example) reinforce the mating-game parameters and how to win at life. Through it all, Lanthimos applies an amusing indirect sarcasm to his implicit critique of the real-world societal pressure on single people to pair up on the clock.

With suspense-film scoring and a skin-crawlingly deliberate

pace, Lanthimos wrings every bit of dull horror from his allegory, pitting his pathologically numb sad souls—with their prevailing autistic, if not robotic, manners—against each other more often than not. David nominally befriends same-boat characters played by John C. Reilly and Ben Whishaw (both as terrific as we've come to expect), but the relationships inevitably sour under the circumstances, and David eventually finds an apparent soulmate (Rachel Weisz, who also provides the acidic, novelistic narration).

With deadpan modern-art precision, "The Lobster" investigates the nature of our need for a partner (who else will apply that pain-relief cream to the small of your back?), how we cling to superficial similarities to justify our matches, and our denial, at our peril, of our animal nature.

*R for sexual content including dialogue, and some violence. One hour, 58 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

► Continued from previous page

nuance and Patel's lack thereof to fill in the gaps. A more complex meeting of minds and souls and a deeper dive into the mathematics might have been much more interesting than the dully inspirational "The Man Who Knew Infinity." *Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements and smoking. One hour, 48 minutes.* — P.C.



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## The 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular with the San Francisco Symphony

Monday, July 4, 2016  
Shoreline Amphitheatre

Tickets are on Sale beginning May 6, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

**2,000 Free Resident Tickets!\***  
(while supplies last - must bring this coupon)

- Two thousand free lawn tickets are available to Mountain View residents (4 tickets per family limit) courtesy of Shoreline Amphitheatre and the City of Mountain View.
- Mountain View residents may also purchase discounted lawn and upper reserve tickets for \$13.50 (4 tickets per family limit). Discounted tickets are also courtesy of Shoreline Amphitheatre and the City of Mountain View.
- \*To obtain your free or discounted tickets: BRING THIS COUPON, proof of residency (a driver's license AND current utility bill with a Mountain View address) or a 2016 Shoreline Resident Ticket ID card with valid ID to the Amphitheatre Box Office.
- Shoreline Amphitheatre Box Office Hours: Monday - Friday 12 noon to 5:00 p.m., Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Box office can be reached at (650) 967-4040.**
- Doors open at 5:00 p.m with games and activities for family fun.
- Get your free tickets by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 20 unless sold out prior to this date.
- Discounted tickets can be purchased up to and including the day of the event.
- An additional \$10.00 parking fee will be collected the night of the event.

**Helpful Tips to get to Shoreline Amphitheatre**

- Easy access to the Amphitheatre is available from the Stevens Creek Trail and Permanente Creek Trail.
- Shoreline Amphitheatre will provide supervised bike parking for this event.
- Trail hours will be extended to allow public access after the event to walk or ride home.



13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# HEALTH FAIR

AT THE FORUM

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 4**

10:00 a.m.  
to 2:00 p.m.

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# Goings On

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

## COMEDIANS AT RED ROCK!

Bay Area comedian Kevin Wong will host a comedy showcase at Red Rock Coffee, where the lineup will include Ray Connolly, Nathan Habib, Joe Nguyen and Jeff Applebaum. Starting in June, this comedy event will be held on the third Saturday of each month through January 2017. May 28, 8-10 p.m. Free admission. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. [kevinwongcomedy.com/red-rock/](http://kevinwongcomedy.com/red-rock/)

## THEATRE

**A Theatre Near U: 'A Beautiful Glass'** A Theatre Near U will present a production called "A Beautiful Glass," a musical that explores the problem of recent teen suicides from youth, cultural and historical perspectives — and seeks to inspire respect for the modern teen and hope for the future. June 10, 11, 18, 23, 24 and 25, 7:30 p.m.; June 19, 2 p.m. \$22 adult; \$20 educator; \$17 senior, student. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [atheatrenearu.org](http://atheatrenearu.org)

**'Bat Boy: The Musical'** The Los Altos Stage Company's 20th season will come to a close with the production of "Bat Boy: The Musical," a comedy/horror show about a half boy-half bat creature discovered in a cave near Hope Falls, West Virginia. There will be no show on May 29 or June 1. May 26-June 25, Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. \$30 adult; \$18 youth, student. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. [losaltosstage.org/bat-boy-the-musical/](http://losaltosstage.org/bat-boy-the-musical/)

**Palo Alto Players: 'Vanya and Masha and Sonia and Spike'** Palo Alto Players will stage comedy master Christopher Durang's "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," a play about family that melds indulgent melancholy, classic Chekhov themes and comic mayhem. The June 10 performance is a preview. Visit the website for specific prices and discount details. June 10-26, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$32-\$46. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [www.palplayers.org](http://www.palplayers.org)

**'Pear Slices 2016'** Pear Theatre will present "Pear Slices," its 13th annual celebration of short plays by local playwrights. This year's expanded program will offer two alternating evenings, each with seven plays. Each performance "slate" is independent; audiences can see one or both. A cast of seven will play all the roles. See the website for specific dates and times. May 11-21. \$10 preview; discounts for seniors and students. Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. [thepear.org/pear-slices-2016](http://thepear.org/pear-slices-2016)

**TheatreWorks: 'The Velocity of Autumn'** TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will wrap up its 2015-16 season with the new dramatic comedy "The Velocity of Autumn" by Eric Coble. The production follows an elderly artist who — during a conflict with family over where she will live out her days — decides to barricade herself with Molotov cocktails. Visit the website for specific dates and times. June 1-22. \$19-\$80. Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.theatreworks.org/shows/1516-season/the-velocity-of-autumn/](http://www.theatreworks.org/shows/1516-season/the-velocity-of-autumn/)

**West Bay Opera: 'Madama Butterfly'** As part of its 60th season, West Bay Opera will put on one of its favorites "Madama Butterfly," Giacomo Puccini's tragic opera about a young Japanese woman who marries an American naval officer, only to be left by him when he returns to the U.S. The production includes lavish costumes and sets, a chorus and an orchestra. May 20 and 28, 8 p.m.; May 22 and 29, 2 p.m.; May 25, 7 p.m. \$45-\$83. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [www.wbopera.org](http://www.wbopera.org)

## CONCERTS

**Arts Razzle-Dazzle** Los Altos Stage Company will shine a spotlight on performing arts in the community with Arts Razzle Dazzle. The event will include performances by Julia Rogers, the 2015 South Bay Teen Idol Winner, and many others. Admission includes pre- and post-show receptions. May 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$45. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. [www.losaltosstage.org](http://www.losaltosstage.org)

**Concerts on the Plaza** Community members are invited to come to the Civic Center Plaza to enjoy a musical performance during each Concerts on the Plaza series event. There will also be food trucks, a "Pop Up Park" area for children, and beer and wine for adults. The June 3 event will feature Dolce Musica. First Friday of the month, May 6-Sept. 2, 6-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Mountain View Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.mountainview.gov/plazaevents](http://www.mountainview.gov/plazaevents)

## San Jose International Piano Competition Recital

Sabrina Chen and Anna Boonyanit, two award-winning young California pianists, will present an afternoon of piano music for all ages. Attendees will also learn about the San Jose International Piano Competition. June 4, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. [mountainview.gov/library/calendar](http://mountainview.gov/library/calendar)

## Zac Brown Band: 'Black Out the Sun' Tour

Zac Brown Band, an acclaimed country and folk music group, will make a stop on their sixth headlining United States tour, entitled "Black Out the Sun," at Mountain View's Shoreline Amphitheatre. They will be joined Drake White & The Big Fire. Visit the website for specific ticket prices. June 3, 7-9 p.m. Prices vary. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. [zacbrownbandtourtickets.com](http://zacbrownbandtourtickets.com)

## TALKS & LECTURES

### 'Are we Alone? TESS and Kepler Telescopes are "Looking" for the Answer'

This program will discuss the challenge of finding terrestrial planets — particularly ones in the habitable zones of their stars where there may be liquid water and forms of life. The talk will also explore the use of deep space telescopes and how they are altering humanity's view of the cosmos. June 9, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. [mountainview.gov/library/calendar](http://mountainview.gov/library/calendar)

**Free college admissions seminar** Flex College Prep will offer a seminar that aims to provide behind-the-scenes info about the college admissions process. The event will draw from the expertise of former college admissions officers from various institutions. The keynote speaker will be Daniel Edeza, a former admissions officer from Yale University. June 4, 2-4 p.m. Free. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. [www.flexcollegeprep.com/infobanks/](http://www.flexcollegeprep.com/infobanks/)

## FUNDRAISERS

**Crittenden Rummage and Bake Sale** The ACT Club at Crittenden Middle School will sponsor a rummage and bake sale to raise funds for local causes and to help construct a school in Sierra Leone. Items for sale will include clothes, toys, books, kitchen goods, plants and more. May 27, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. Crittenden Middle School, 1701 Rock St., Mountain View. [crittenden.mvwsd.org](http://crittenden.mvwsd.org)

## FAMILY

**Kids Day at Mountain View Farmers' Market** To celebrate 22 years of families and farming, the Mountain View Farmers' Market will hold a Kids Day, during which children and families can take a tour of the market, participate in an interactive scavenger hunt, taste seasonal fruits and vegetables from six family farms, and learn about farm life. June 5, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Mountain View Farmers' Market, 600 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. [www.cafarmersmkt.com/events/kids-day-at-mountain-view-farmers-market](http://www.cafarmersmkt.com/events/kids-day-at-mountain-view-farmers-market)

**Kids Yoga Summer Camp** Offered by Be You Yoga and Mindfulness, the Kids Yoga Summer Camp will teach children ages 6 to 12 the useful practices of yoga and meditation through stories, games, music, art and play. June 6-10, 8:30-4:30 p.m. \$70 one day; \$350 one week; \$300 sibling rate. Yoga Belly Studio, 455 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.beyouyogakids.com/be-you-summer-camp.html](http://www.beyouyogakids.com/be-you-summer-camp.html)

## MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

**Paintings by Valerie Patten in 'Reclusive Child'** An exhibit of paintings by Valerie Patten called "Reclusive Child" will be on display at the Community School of Music and Arts's Mohr Gallery during June and July. On June 3, 6-8 p.m., there will be an opening reception with the artist. May 27-July 10, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA), Mohr Gallery, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. [www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm](http://www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm)

## GALLERIES

**Artist's reception with Mark Vantress and live music** This event at Sono Strings will highlight the paintings of self-taught artist Mark Vantress. Sono Strings faculty members

will supplement the artwork by playing solo and chamber music works. May 28, 6-8 p.m. Free. Sono Strings, 171 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View. [www.sonostringsinc.com](http://www.sonostringsinc.com)

**Gallery 9: Gene Zukowsky and Tony Coluzzi** Throughout the month of June, Gallery 9 in Los Altos will bring together the work of two veteran artists, oil landscapes of Northern California scenes by Gene Zukowsky and the black and white infrared photography of Tony Coluzzi. On June 3, 5-8 p.m., there will be an artists' reception. May 31-June 26, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. [gallery9losaltos.com](http://gallery9losaltos.com)

**Gallery 9: 'Knot Your Gramma's Lace'** Gallery 9 is holding an exhibit called "Knot Your Gramma's Lace!" — a collection of Pam Moore's contemporary art made from hand-knitted lace. Works capture physical and spiritual landscapes through rich colors, textures and forms. May 3-29, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. [gallery9losaltos.com](http://gallery9losaltos.com)

**'Texture + Flow - Contemporary Landscapes'** During the month of June, Viewpoints Gallery will have on display "Texture + Flow - Contemporary Landscapes," an exhibition showcasing the work of Kathleen Mitchell. On June 3, 5-8 p.m., there will be a reception. May 31-June 26, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Mountain View. [www.viewpointsgallery.com](http://www.viewpointsgallery.com)

## DANCE

**Foothill Repertory Dance Company: 'Blessings' concert** The Foothill Repertory Dance Company will present "Blessings," its annual showcase of student choreography and dance. Tickets can be purchased by phone (650-949-7354). June 3 and 4, 7-9 p.m. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; \$3 parking. Foothill College, Smithwick Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. [foothill.edu](http://foothill.edu)

## FILM

**Mountain View Documentary Film Club: 'Tapped'** There will be a screening of "Tapped," a documentary film that examines the role of the bottled water industry and its effects on health and climate change, courtesy of the Mountain View Documentary Film Club. May 31, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View.

**Movie Night: 'Where to Invade Next'** The Peninsula Peace and Justice Center will offer a free screening of "Where to Invade Next," the latest provocative comedy by Academy Award-winning director Michael Moore, in which he looks elsewhere for solutions to the problems facing America today. Seating is limited; reservations are required. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. [www.peaceandjustice.org](http://www.peaceandjustice.org)

## LESSONS & CLASSES

**Exercise Your Mind: Meditate for Peace and Clarity** At this program led by meditation teacher Vickie Martin, community members will learn simple breathing and awareness practices that can help train the brain to be more calm, present and attentive. Registration is required. June 6, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. [goo.gl/Xki8Jp](http://goo.gl/Xki8Jp)

**Foothill College Summer Sessions Registration** The Foothill College summer class schedule is now available. Summer registration will run from May 4 through June 5. Foothill offers two six-week sessions which run from June 6 to July 17 and June 27 to Aug. 6. Those interested can review the schedule and find registration instructions on the website. May 4-June 5. \$31 per unit for California residents (plus basic fees). Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. [foothill.edu/schedule/schedule.php](http://foothill.edu/schedule/schedule.php)

**Health care programs orientation** The Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School will hold workshops for those interested in health care careers, providing information on the certified nursing assistant and medical assistant paths

and the programs offered by the school. Online registration is requested. June 3 and 10, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. [www.mvlaae.net](http://www.mvlaae.net)

## Adult School Summer Classes

**Registration** Registration for Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School Summer classes is underway. The summer session will run from June 13 to July 29. Visit the website or call for more information. May 13-June 17. Course registration fees vary. Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. [www.mvlaae.net](http://www.mvlaae.net)

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Bellydancing Fitness for All** Taught by a native professional, this class will teach the ancient and beautiful art of Egyptian bellydancing. All ages, genders, skill levels and body types are welcome. Students should wear comfortable exercise clothes and bring a hip wrap or large scarf. June 6, 20 and 27, July 25, Aug. 8, 15, 22 and 29, noon-1 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. [www.scd.org/losaltos](http://www.scd.org/losaltos)

**Hatha Yoga Thursday Evenings** Led by Patricia Joy Becker, these classes focus on proper alignment to balance the body. Each session offers a new sequence of poses that stretch and strengthen different body areas. Breathing practices and short meditations are often included. See website for specific pricing. May 5-June 2, 7:15-8:30 p.m. \$10-\$18; new student discounts and packages available. Yoga is Youthfulness, 590 Castro St., Mountain View. [yogaisyouth.com](http://yogaisyouth.com)

## SPORTS

**Mountain View Open Tennis Tournament** The 48th Mountain View Open, a popular USTA open tournament in Northern California, will draw around 200 players on Memorial Day weekend. John Togasaki will return as tournament director. The event is open and free for spectators. May 27-30, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Free admission. Cuesta Tennis Center, 685 Cuesta Drive, Mountain View. [www.mvopen.com](http://www.mvopen.com)

## SENIORS

**Pickleball for Seniors** The Mountain View Senior Center will offer weekly lessons for seniors

ages 55 and older in pickleball, a growing sport that is social, low impact and easy on the joints. No experience is necessary, and all equipment is provided. Players should wear court shoes. Wednesdays, May 18-Sept. 21, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Rengstorff Park, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. [mountainview.gov/seniors](http://mountainview.gov/seniors)

**Yoga for Seniors** Certified instructor Lauren Palladino will teach a weekly yoga class specifically for seniors, focusing on gentle movements to improve strength and mobility through standing or seated yoga poses. All levels of health and fitness are welcome. Bring your mat and props. Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. [www.scd.org/losaltos](http://www.scd.org/losaltos)

## RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

**Meditation and Self-Development with Paul Sibcy** Offered by Pathways to Self Healing, this weekly class is appropriate for both beginning and more experienced meditators. Thursdays, May 5-July 7, 7-8 p.m. Donations accepted. The Healing Center, 2495 Old Middlefield Road, Mountain View. [psh.org](http://psh.org)

**Sunday Mornings for Spiritual Health with Paul Sibcy** Offered by Pathways to Self Healing, these morning sessions offer an opportunity to practice methods for cultivating inner peace, love and compassion in a non-denominational community. Each Sunday includes a morning meditation and service, followed by refreshments. On the third Sunday of the month, the event will be held at 59 Paul Ave., Mountain View. Sundays, May 8-July 10, 9 a.m.-noon. Donations accepted. The Healing Center, 2495 Old Middlefield Road, Mountain View. [psh.org](http://psh.org)

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

**Rent stabilization effort in Mountain View** Mountain View Tenants Coalition is collecting signatures until early June (nearly 8,000 needed) to place a law on November's ballot that would regulate rent increases in Mountain View. Visit the website to learn more, volunteer, or find times and locations to sign the petition. April 30-May 28, Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Rengstorff Park); Saturday, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. St. Joseph Church, parking lot, corner of Castro and Church streets, Mountain View. [mvtenantscoalition.org](http://mvtenantscoalition.org)

# Inspirations

a guide to the spiritual community

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**Saturday Services: Worship 10:45 a.m.**

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Pastor Kenny Fraser, B.A.M. DIV

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### INDEX

- BULLETIN BOARD 100-199
- FOR SALE 200-299
- KIDS STUFF 330-399
- MIND & BODY 400-499
- JOBS 500-599
- BUSINESS SERVICES 600-699
- HOME SERVICES 700-799
- FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE 800-899
- PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICES 995-997

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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Private Lessons in Songwriting

### 135 Group Activities

Anna Christie by Eugene O'Neill

### 145 Non-Profits Needs

DONATE BOOKS TO SUPPORT LIBRARY

WISH LIST FRIENDS OF PA LIBRARY

### 150 Volunteers

ASSIST IN FRIENDS' BOOKSTORE

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### 203 Bicycles

Diamondback Mountain Bike - \$50.00

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

Mountain View, 310 Easy St., May 28, 9am - 2pm

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

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Classic 1960's Disneyland Banner - \$25.00

Cool Small Heineken Beer Sign - \$15.00

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### Computer/IT

Laserlike, Inc. in Mountain View, CA seeks **Software Engineer** to complete the following job duties: (1) Process a large amount of internet scale data, including web pages, news, social feeds, and other private data sources; (2) Implement high performance real time predictive analytics systems; (3) System design, implementation, documentation, testing and tuning of the systems; and (4) Build systems taking into account all industry best practices for security and privacy. Education requirements: Masters degree in Computer Science. 3 years of experience in a Software Engineer Occupation. Special skills required: 3 years of experience in the following: (1) Machine learning, applied to information retrieval problems; (2) Mining large data sets; and (3) Information extraction and ranking from web data. Worksite Location: 888 Villa St, Suite 200, Mountain View, CA 94041. Multiple Positions Available. Resumes can be sent to: jobs@laserlike.com.

### Dry Cleaners

Full time position for exp. spotter/ presser (can train presser), and counter person in Palo Alto. Paid holidays and PTO. Call: (650) 329-3998 for more info.

### Engineering

Informatica LLC has the following employment opportunities in Redwood City, CA:

**Lead Technical Support Engineer (LTSE-CA).** Diagnosing and resolving Fortune 500 customer inquiries related to operating Informatica software products in customer's environment.

**Senior Consultant (SC06-CA).** Ensure customers are successful in deploying Informatica data integration and analytic platforms. Position may require travel to various, unanticipated locations.

Please submit resumes by mail (reference job title and job code) to Informatica LLC, ATTN: Global Mobility, 2100 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. No phone calls please. Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

### Newspaper Delivery Routes

**Immediate Opening.** Routes available to deliver the Palo Alto Weekly, an award-winning community newspaper, to homes in Palo Alto on Fridays. From approx. 650 to 950 papers, 10.25 cents per paper. Additional bonus following successful 13 week introductory period. Must be at least 18 y/o. Valid CDL, reliable vehicle and current auto insurance req'd. Please email your experience and qualifications to jon3silver@yahoo.com with "Newspaper Delivery Routes" in the subject line. Or (best) call Jon Silver, 650-868-4310

### Teachers

Teachers sought by Pacific East Qlty Ed, in Mountain View, CA. BS in Ed or rldt fld. Know of princpl and strtyg of tchg Chinese as scnd lang. Prfct in tradtnl and simplfd Chinese charctr. Know of the strctur of Chinese lang, includng grmar and wrtng systm. Know of rltshp btwn Chinese lang and Chinese cltr, Know of studnt centrd tchg aprch, pronunciation and tones, org, contnt dlrvy, lerng activities, communcnctn w/ studnt, giving direct, error corctn and fedbck, attntn to whole class, and clsrn mgmnt. Know of wrd prcsng, db, prsntantn, Videos, interactive white-brds, productivity applcmt, and web-based solutn. Sucesful app mst pass a princpl asesmnt demonstn class shwng understndg of and avlty to teach above req know and skil. PERM US wrk auth. Aply @ www.jobpostingtoday.com 21915.

### 560 Employment Information

**CDL Drivers - Avg. \$60k+/yr** \$2k Sign-On Bonus. Voted Best Fleet 2016. Love Your Job and Your Truck. CDL-A Req - (877) 258-8782 drive4melton.com (Cal-SCAN)

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### 620 Domestic Help Offered

**Structured Settlement?** Sell your structured settlement or annuity payments for CASH NOW. You don't have to wait for your future payments any longer! Call 1-800-673-5926 (Cal-SCAN)

### 624 Financial

**BIG trouble with the IRS?** Are you in BIG trouble with the IRS? Stop wage and bank levies, liens and audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, and resolve tax debt FAST. Call 844-753-1317 (AAN CAN)

**Owe Over \$10K to IRS?** Do you owe over \$10,000 to the IRS or State in back taxes? Our firm works to reduce the tax bill or zero it out completely FAST. Call now 855-993-5796

**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY** benefits. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! WIN or Pay Nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates 1-800-966-1904 to start your application today! (Cal-SCAN)



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7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email [cecilia@cnpa.com](mailto:cecilia@cnpa.com) (Cal-SCAN)

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Lowest Prices. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 888-989-4807. (CalSCAN)

### 640 Legal Services

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Have you had complications due to internal bleeding (after January 2012)? If so, you MAY be due financial compensation. If you don't have an attorney, CALL Injuryfone today!  
1-800-425-4701. (Cal-SCAN)

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or The Mountain View Voice  
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### 648 Horses- Boarding/Training

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has a story to tell! Get your message out with California's PRMedia Release – the only Press Release Service operated by the press to get press! For more info contact Cecelia @ 916-288-6011 or <http://prmediarelease.com/california> (Cal-SCAN)

**Home  
Services**

### 715 Cleaning Services

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House, condo, apt., office. Move in/out. Good refs. "Serving Entire Bay Area."  
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We don't cut corners, we clean them!  
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### 748 Gardening/ Landscaping

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\*Weekly or every other week  
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Drought tolerant native landscapes and succulent gardens. Demos, installations, maint. Free est. 650/468-8859

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**A NOTICE TO READERS:**  
It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

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**AAA HANDYMAN & MORE**  
Since 1985  
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### 759 Hauling

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### 771 Painting/ Wallpaper

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Full service interior/ext. Insured. Lic. 903303. 650/388-8577

### 775 Asphalt/ Concrete

**Roe General Engineering**  
Asphalt, concrete, pavers, tiles, sealing, artificial turf. 36 yrs exp. No job too small. Lic #663703. 650/814-5572

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**Attic Clean-Up & Rodent Removal**  
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### 787 Pressure Washing

**Professional Pressure Washing**  
\*Patios and bricks  
\*Homes and driveways  
\*650/468-8859

**Real  
Estate**

### 801 Apartments/ Condos/Studios

Downtown Palo Alto, Johnson Park, 2 BR/1 BA - \$3650/mo

Palo Alto, 1 BR/1 BA - \$2,795

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$3795

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/1.5 BA - \$2,995

### 809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

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Lonely? Bored? Broke? Find the perfect roommate to complement your personality and lifestyle at Roommates.com!  
(AAN CAN)

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10.5x10.5 sf w/extended space for big closet and vanity and shared BA. \$1,100 mo., min. 1 year. Refs. 650/695-5141, lv mssg

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To place a Classified ad in The Mountain View Voice call 326-8216 or visit us at [fogster.com](http://fogster.com)

# Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

**BAY VALLEY ELECTRIC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 617243

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Bay Valley Electric, located at 2550 Wyandotte St., #C, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: A Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
EZRA ENTERPRISES, INC.  
2550 Wyandotte St. #C  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5-9-16.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on May 9, 2016.  
(MVV May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2016)

**SUNNYVALE ELECTRIC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 617244

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Sunnyvale Electric, located at 2550 Wyandotte St., #C, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: A Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
EZRA ENTERPRISES, INC.  
2550 Wyandotte St. #C  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5-9-2016.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on May 9, 2016.  
(MVV May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2016)

**GET SET FITNESS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 617634

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Get Set Fitness, located at 980 San Pierre Way, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: An Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
RACHEL TAYLOR  
980 San Pierre Way  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on May 19, 2016.  
(MVV May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2016)

**SRASA KITCHEN  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 617398  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Srasa Kitchen, located at 292 Castro St., Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: A Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
EXPRESS7  
292 Castro St.  
Mountain View, CA 94041  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on May 13, 2016.  
(MVV May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2016)

**AXCELIO  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No.: 617693  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Axcelio, located at 1050 Crestview Drive, Apt. 326, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: An Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
AXCELIO  
1050 Crestview Drive, Apt. 326  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on May 20, 2016.  
(MVV May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2016)

### 997 All Other Legals

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
ZENON MICHAL SZALATA** also known as ZENON MICHAEL SZALATA  
Case No.: 1-16-PR-178768  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ZENON MICHAL SZALATA, also known as ZENON

MICHAEL SZALATA.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: JENNIFER SZALATA in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that: JENNIFER SZALATA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 6, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 10 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Robert A. Gorini, Esq.  
1666 The Alameda  
San Jose, CA 95126  
(408)286-6314  
(MVV May 13, 20, 27, 2016)

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
ZENON M. SZALATA**  
Case No.: 1-16-PR-178768  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ZENON M. SZALATA (aka ZENON MICHAL SZALATA) (aka ZENON MICHAEL SZALATA).  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: MIRIAM SCHUSSLER in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: MIRIAM SCHUSSLER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be

granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 10 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.  
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form

DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Jeffrey R. Loew, Esq.  
1650 Borel Place, Suite 104  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
(650)461-4526  
(MVV May 20, 27, June 3, 2016)

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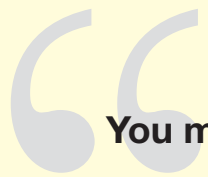
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# Thank you to those who have served. Memorial Day 2016



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**An extraordinary North Palo Alto location** is just one of the many outstanding features of this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home of approx. 2,600 sq. ft. (per plans), including attached garage, that was completed in 2016 on a lot of 6,270 sq. ft. (per county). Luxurious details and designer fixtures add refinement, and the interior boasts open, versatile spaces. Inviting outdoor areas overlook this tree-shaded property. Stroll to local shopping, fine parks, and exceptional schools like Duveneck Elementary (API 956) and Jordan Middle (API 934) (buyer to verify eligibility).



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3 Bedrooms, 2 ½ bathrooms

Rare cul-de-sac location - close to Cuesta Park, YMCA

Updated, meticulously maintained, smart energy efficient home. Solar electric system

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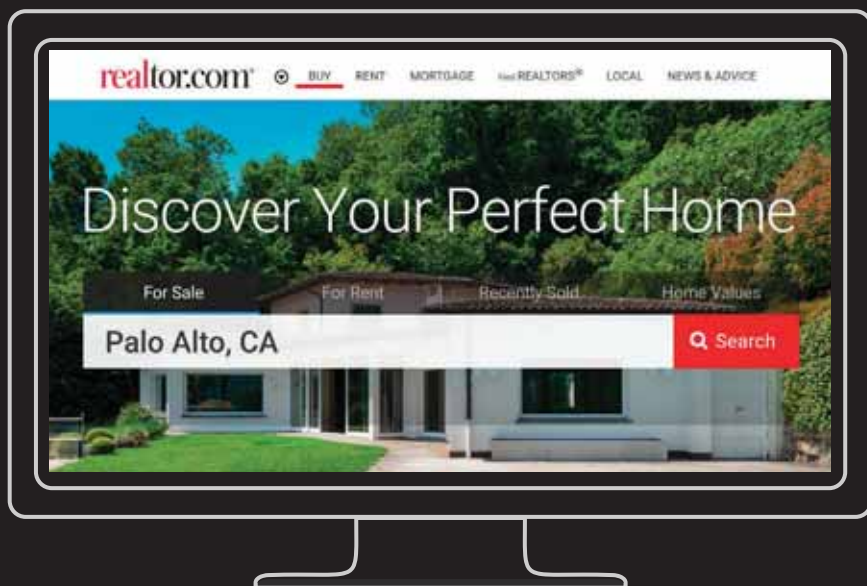
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550 Sleeper Avenue \$2,650,000

**SOLD! 11% Over Asking in 7 Days!**



1737 Priscilla Court \$1,780,000

**SOLD! 12% Over Asking in 8 Days!**



250 Thompson Avenue \$1,460,000

**SOLD! 4% Over Asking in 14 Days!**



1642 Fordham Way \$2,025,000

**SOLD! 14% Over Asking in 8 Days!**



775 San Carlos Avenue \$1,365,000

**SOLD! 18% Over Asking in 6 Days!**



1983 San Luis Avenue #23 \$1,060,000

**SOLD! 15% Over Asking in 6 Days!**



532 Tyrella Avenue #57 \$800,000

**PENDING SALE in 6 Days!**



220 Pine Way Offered at \$1,260,000

Partial list of David's 2016 Mountain View Sales; sale prices shown.



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**OPEN HOUSE**  
**SAT & SUN 1-5**



**693 McCARTY AVE • MOUNTAIN VIEW**



*Stunningly renovated one level Downtown  
Mountain View Home on Peaceful cul-de-sac*

No feature was overlooked by local designer/builder....starting with open floor plan that features all new chef's kitchen with Stainless appliances, Carrera countertops & island. All three bathrooms remodeled with style. Backyard has large deck for outdoor dining, drought resistant plants & mature trees for privacy. Excellent downtown location brings exciting lifestyle of dining, farmer's market, train, Stevens Creek Trail and a short stroll to Landels Elementary School. Close to commute routes.

**ALL NEW:** roof, dual pane windows, plumbing, electrical, hardwood flooring, interior & exterior paint, tankless water heater, interior & exterior doors and sliders, garage door, furnace, landscape & decking.

**Offered at \$1,738,000**

3D Floor Plan & Virtual Tour: **693McCarty.com**



**Shelly Potvin**

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CaIBRE#01236885

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**# 1 Listing Agent** CB Los Altos, 2014, 2015  
**# 2 Buyer Representation** CB Los Altos, 2014, 2015