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JUNE 10, 2016 VOLUME 24, NO. 20

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## Resiliency shines at Alta Vista

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016 DOESN'T GIVE IN TO ADVERSITY

By Kevin Forestieri

Sayra Barrera-Guzman, a graduating senior at Alta Vista High School, had just started her freshman year at Los Altos High School when life threw her a curveball. She remembers seeing an FBI car outside of her home and warning her father to stay inside, but he didn't listen. Her father was deported, for the third time, and once again her family — and her chance of having a normal teen's life — had been broken.

But Barrera-Guzman, the keynote student speaker at

Wednesday's graduation ceremony, said she was able to bounce back, finding new friends and supportive teachers at the small, tight-knit alternative high school. She was able to thrive and join the 20 other Alta Vista seniors who made it through high school despite the odds.

"Many have said we would not make it, and we're here to prove them wrong," she said.

Alta Vista Principal Bill Pierce emphasized at the ceremony how resilient the class of 2016 has been, working hard despite adversity. Three of the students graduating this year are teen mothers,

Our graduation coverage of Mountain View, Los Altos and Alta Vista high schools starts on page 14.

handling the stress of child-rearing on top of classes, while others recent came to the country and had to learn English as well as the regular curriculum. Other students, Pierce later told the *Voice*, were simply not a good fit for traditional schools and needed an alternative learning environment.

► See **ALTA VISTA**, page 15



MICHELLE LE

**Sayra Barrera-Guzman**, who delivered the keynote speech at Alta Vista High School's graduation on June 1, is congratulated by teacher Alicia Triana after the ceremony.

## Mountain View election results

VOTERS BACK KASPERZAK, APPROVE MEASURES A AND AA, PROP. 50

By Kevin Forestieri

A majority of Mountain View residents across all city-wide precincts voted in favor of Measure A and Measure AA, according to votes tallied as of Wednesday at noon. Attorney General Kamala Harris won the lion's share of

the local votes cast for the U.S. Senate seat, and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian won a commanding lead over challenger John Mumy.

City residents split votes in favor of Palo Alto Councilman Marc Berman (21 percent), Mountain View Councilman Mike Kasperzak (24 percent)



and attorney Vicki Veenker (21 percent) for the 24th Assembly District race. Despite falling significantly behind Berman

and Veenker in the total vote tally for the Assembly district, Kasperzak won over the most voters in communities south of El Camino Real and east of Highway 85 in Mountain View. Veenker came out on top among voters in Old Mountain View.

Consistent with the rest of the county, presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton swept nearly all of the Mountain View precincts, with landslide victories in Cuesta Park, Waverly Park and the western edge of

the Monta Loma neighborhood. Senator Bernie Sanders won a slim majority in a few precincts, including the southern end of Shoreline West as well as the neighborhoods around Rengstorff park south of Central Expressway. Overall, Mountain View voted 59 percent to 41 percent in favor of Clinton.

With no opponents still in the race, real estate developer Donald Trump took the lead

► See **ELECTION RESULTS**, page 9

## Downtown businesses balk at closing Castro Street

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFERS ALTERNATIVE TO CITY'S OPTIONS FOR CROSSING AT TRAIN TRACKS

By Mark Noack

Mountain View's downtown business community finds itself in a dilemma about a crucial decision on the busy Caltrain crossing at Castro Street. In a choice between two equally unpalatable options, business leaders are making a push for Mountain

View officials to hit the brakes before undertaking a potentially disruptive project to close downtown's main artery to vehicle traffic.

The city's two main options call for either tunneling Castro Street under the train crossing or making it into a dead-end for car traffic. Either option being studied by the city pres-

ents a scary proposition for the dozens of shops and restaurants lining the city's key downtown street, said Tony Siress, CEO of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce.

"These are the golden blocks of downtown, and they would be decimated," he said. "This would close a main thoroughfare that has been here since the

start of Mountain View."

The spot has long been considered a safety hazard due to the large numbers of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians who converge to cross the train tracks. At peak hours, the vehicle traffic waiting for passing trains can easily back up and spill onto surrounding streets. Those problems are only expect-

ed to worsen as Caltrain prepares to electrify the tracks and run twice as many train trips. Further compounding to these concerns, the California High Speed Rail project also will use the same train corridor for its bullet trains.

With those developments on

► See **CASTRO STREET**, page 6

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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Anna Laman

*What's your favorite place to beat the heat in Mountain View?*



"My favorite place is the library, it has great air flow. A perfect place to chill out."

**Mary Yang**, Mountain View



"The beautiful Mountain View parks, where you can just relax and rewind."

**Heather Haehl**, Redwood City



"Anywhere with air conditioning, like a local coffee shop or the library, where I can code."

**Rudolph Prez**, Sunnyvale



"The Essence Salon here in Mountain View. I love getting my hair dyed, it's relaxing. I also love the parks."

**Jennifer Lei**, Mountain View



"I'm from Australia, so anywhere with nature is great."

**Jacque Bodner**, San Jose

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**CRIME BRIEFS**

**GIFT CARD THEFT**

Police are asking for the public's help in finding a suspect who fraudulently purchased \$1,000 in gift cards from three local Massage Envy stores last month.

The suspect, who reportedly used the names "Ricky Williams" or "Ricardo Williams" in each purchase, used a victim's credit card to buy roughly \$1,000 in gift cards from the massage business' locations in Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara. The suspect is described as a black man, 5-foot-8-inches tall with black hair, a ponytail and a thin beard around his jawline.

He was last seen wearing a plaid blue shirt and white pants, according to police, and was "talkative" with clerks during each transaction.

Anyone with information on the identity of the suspect is asked to contact Mountain View Officer Scott Nelson at [scott.nelson@mountainview.gov](mailto:scott.nelson@mountainview.gov).

**BIKE COLLISION INJURY**

A cyclist suffered injuries and was transported to a hospital Monday after a driver opened a car door into the bike lane, causing a collision.

A witness told the *Voice* that the bicyclist was heading down Southbound Rengstorff Avenue just south of Junction Avenue just before 7 p.m. on June 6 when he struck the car door. Mountain View fire crews arrived at the scene to treat the man's injuries before an ambulance arrived.

The Mountain View Police Department is not releasing any information on the case, and could not confirm any of the information provided to the *Voice* as of Wednesday morning.

**PARKING LOT BRAWL**

A 27-year-old Mountain View man was arrested over the weekend after an argument in a Sprouts parking lot allegedly escalated into a fight that caused injuries.

The two men involved in the altercation had allegedly gotten into an argument while driving in the parking lot of the grocery store in the 600 block of San Antonio Road at around 8:22 p.m. on Saturday, June 4. The confrontation escalated into a fight, which had ended when officers arrived, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

► See *CRIME BRIEFS*, page 19

**POLICE LOG**

<p><b>ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON</b> 600 block San Antonio Rd., 6/4</p> <p><b>AUTO BURGLARY</b> 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 6/1 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 6/1 2400 block Charleston Rd., 6/2 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 6/3 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 6/3 100 block Villa Nueva Ct., 6/4 2300 block Charleston Rd., 6/6 100 block Calderon Av., 6/6 300 block Escuela Av., 6/6</p> <p><b>BATTERY</b> W. Middlefield Rd. &amp; Sierra Vista Av., 6/1 600 block Showers Dr., 6/1 2500 block Grant Rd., 6/6</p> <p><b>COMMERCIAL BURGLARY</b> 2300 block W. El Camino Real, 6/2 500 block Ellis St., 6/3 1 block W. El Camino Real, 6/3</p>	<p>200 block South Dr., 6/6</p> <p><b>NARCOTICS POSSESSION FOR SALE</b> W. Middlefield Rd. &amp; N. Shoreline Blvd., 2/25</p> <p><b>RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY</b> 700 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 6/4</p> <p><b>STOLEN VEHICLE</b> 600 block Leong Dr., 6/1 Leong Dr. &amp; Walker Dr., 6/2 800 block E. El Camino Real, 6/2</p> <p><b>THREATENING A POLICE OFFICER</b> 700 block Winston Pl., 6/6</p> <p><b>VANDALISM</b> 700 block E. Middlefield Rd., 6/1 1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 6/4 200 block View St., 6/5 600 block Cuesta Dr., 6/6 100 block N. Whisman Rd., 6/7</p>
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**The Mountain View Voice** (USPS 2560) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306 (650) 964-6300. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto CA and additional mailing offices. The Mountain View Voice is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Mountain View. Subscription rate of \$60 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mountain View Voice, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



VERONICA WEBER

**Marc Berman** greets supporter **Barbara Christiani** as he enters the Palo Alto Art Center where he hosted an election night campaign party.

## Berman, Veenker lead the pack in the 24th Assembly District race

By Gennady Sheyner

**P**alo Alto Councilman Marc Berman cruised to a first-place finish in the race to succeed Rich Gordon in the 24th Assembly District, while attorney Vicki Veenker was holding on to a slim edge over Menlo Park Councilman Peter Ohtaki for second place on Wednesday morning, according to the Santa Clara and San Mateo County registrars.

The contest between Veenker and Ohtaki were in a virtual dead heat when results from the mail-in ballots were released at 8 p.m., with each winning about 20 percent of the vote in the two counties, well behind Berman's 28 percent. While



Berman retained his significant edge at the front of the pack as the ballots were tallied, Veenker and Ohtaki remained neck-and-neck throughout the night, with Veenker gradually expanding her narrow lead as more ballots were counted.

As of 1 a.m., Veenker had received 670 more votes than Ohtaki, with most precincts counted in both counties. By the time all precincts were counted in both counties Wednesday morning, her lead had expanded to 1,223 votes.

Trailing them in the field were Mountain View Councilman Mike Kasperzak, who received 11.3 percent, and Cupertino Mayor Barry Chang, who received 10.7 percent.

Also in the race were Mountain View Councilman John Inks, who received 4 percent; and Palo Alto residents Sea Reddy and Jay Cabrera, who each received 2 percent.

For Berman, the election was a drama-free affair, as early results showed him enjoying a sizable lead over his seven opponents. With 40 percent of the precincts counted and his support level at 28 percent, Berman told the Palo Alto Weekly

► See **ASSEMBLY**, page 8

## A magic bullet for the housing crisis?

LOOSENED RULES COULD ALLOW 7,600 NEW COMPANION UNITS IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Mark Noack

**L**acking the thousands of homes needed for the growing local workforce, Mountain View officials are calling on an unlikely group to come to the rescue — the city's suburban homeowners. As a quick-fix for the housing crisis, Mountain View is following a trend among South Bay cities by loosening the rules for homeowners to build "granny cottages" or companion units, in hopes of spurring thousands of new backyard residences free of the intense scrutiny required for dense apartment projects.

If every eligible home under the new rules built a companion unit, about 7,600 new homes could be added to Mountain View, according to staff estimates. The Mountain View City Council unanimously approved the new companion-unit rules at their Tuesday, June 7 meeting.

Also known as in-law or granny units, companion units are basically secondary residences built behind or alongside existing homes. These units, equipped with their own bathrooms and kitchens, are typically a cheaper form of rental housing as well as an easy income source for homeowners.

These companion units are nothing new for Mountain View, but city officials say their guidelines have clearly made it unrealistic for most homeowners to build them legally. The city's former rules set prohibitive stan-

dards for a parcel size for a companion unit, making nearly 90 percent of the city's single-family homes ineligible. Since the city's companion unit rules were first created in the 1980s, city building officials have granted only about 30 permits.

But that's not to say that homeowners haven't been building these units anyway. Assistant Planner Diana Pancholi said city officials are well aware there were households that had constructed unauthorized secondary units in garages and backyards. Exactly how many, she couldn't say. The City Council didn't have much interest in performing a city-wide survey to get a count. For now, the city is only enforcing these rules on a complaint basis or when homeowners need city approval for other upgrades.

As part of the new rules, the City Council agreed to no longer mandate the lots be a minimum size in order to build a companion unit. The council also loosened rules on parking requirements for these secondary units, an issue that previously presented some concerns that some neighborhoods could see an excess of cars parking along the street. Earlier rules mandated that new housing units must have one parking spot per bedroom; but the city's new standards only require one space per companion unit.

The issue that generated the most debate for the City Council

► See **HOUSING CRISIS**, page 9

## VTA board OKs new sales tax measure for highway, transit projects

\$6.5 BILLION MEASURE TO GO BEFORE VOTERS IN NOVEMBER

By Mark Noack and Kevin Forestieri

**A** long-planned sales tax measure is set to go on the November ballot now that the Valley Transportation Authority board of directors gave it the green light. The half-cent, 30-year tax is expected to raise up to \$6.5 billion to fund a BART extension to San Jose, as well as a host of other transit upgrades throughout the

South Bay.

Among the listed projects, the measure would provide \$700 million for Caltrain grade-separation projects throughout Santa Clara County. These costly projects will become crucial in the coming years as the rail corridor is electrified and upgraded to accommodate trains from the California High Speed Rail project. The proposed measure would also fund \$314 million for increased Caltrain service, sta-

tion improvements and extended station platforms.

About \$350 million from the measure would go toward creating two express lanes on Highway 85, one in each direction, and opening up the 46-foot median that spans the West Valley for a new transit lane. Meanwhile, county expressways would also get \$750 million in upgrades designed to improve congestion and safety.

The largest single project list-

ed in the measure is the BART extension from the Berryessa Station in San Jose to Santa Clara. The project is expected to cost \$1.5 billion and will include stations at San Jose Diridon and downtown San Jose. Unlike other expenditures listed in the resolution, funding for the BART extension is capped at 25 percent of the sales tax revenue. Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, who is not on the VTA board, originally proposed the cap last year, calling it an important step to making

sure sales tax money provides meaningful congestion relief throughout the county.

At the June 2 board meeting, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo clarified that the cap does not prevent VTA from finishing the BART extension project, and that it's his goal to make sure the transit line makes it all the way to Santa Clara.

"I will be adamant in my advocacy that we build all four stations from Alum Rock all

► See **TAX MEASURE**, page 19

## CASTRO STREET

► Continued from page 1

the horizon, city officials say it will become impractical, if not also unsafe, to continue with the status quo. As far back as 2010, Mountain View officials commissioned traffic experts to study ways to construct a so-called grade separation to split Castro Street from the tracks.

In March, the City Council began discussing the options in earnest, and members zeroed in on two starkly divergent plans for further study. On the one

hand, they signaled interest in an intensive \$120 million project to dig Castro Street underneath the Caltrain tracks, which would require heavy construction and road closures over the course of two years and would end up altering at least three city blocks. Alternatively, they also favored studying a simpler \$45 million proposal to close off Castro Street at the train tracks and upgrade other roads to handle the traffic diversion. The City Council is expected to make a decision at a special June 22 meeting.

For business leaders, either proposal would threaten the walkable promenade dotted with outdoor dining that Mountain View has cultivated over the years, Siress said. He worries that the city is creating a “rush to judgment” for the Castro Street crossing since officials are also working on a related project to upgrade the nearby transit center. Losing access at Castro Street could create a series of new unintended problems, he said, such as limiting how delivery trucks and shuttle buses can access the downtown core.

“This whole plan seems to have been done in a bubble without understanding how downtown works,” he said. “It’s literally mind-boggling that no one has looked at all the effects this would have.”

While city officials and consultants have acknowledged either plan would bring real impacts, they say commercial activity downtown shouldn’t experience a major hit. They point to traffic studies showing that drivers would easily find new ways to access downtown. Only about 15 percent of drivers come into downtown from Castro Street, they reported, whereas the majority are coming from Shoreline Boulevard and El Camino Real.

Wanting to be sensitive to the downtown merchants’ concerns, city officials commissioned a \$30,000 study from the Berkeley firm Strategic Economics to investigate the potential business impacts from both Castro Street options. That study, which is set to be complete by the City Council’s June 22 meeting, should provide suggestions on how to minimize the business impacts and preserve the character of downtown, said Linda Forsberg, the city’s transportation manager.

Nevertheless, the Chamber of Commerce and the Mountain View Central Business Association say they want to put forward their own counter-proposals to the city. They propose building a bike and pedestrian overpass but keeping the current road crossing open. If the city needs to limit car traffic, they recommend an automated sign system that would prohibit the road crossing during peak commute times.

Representatives readily admit their proposal would need further study, but they say it is just one example of how other ideas

need to be considered. City officials said they hadn’t heard anything about the business groups’ counter-proposal until the *Voice* asked for their response to it on Monday.

The business groups’ counter-proposal wouldn’t bring many of the improvements of a larger project, such as road improvements along Evelyn Avenue and the transit center upgrades, said Councilman Lenny Siegel. He said he wasn’t convinced that businesses would actually see fewer customers. He pointed out that both options being considered would still create a new crossing for cyclists and pedestrians to access downtown.

“It doesn’t help businesses to have people stuck in traffic,” he said. “Downtown business is threatened by high rents and a lack of way-finding for parking, not by street closure.”

But the idea of changing downtown’s main gateway presents too much uncertainty for many business owners. Speaking from his cafe right across the street from the Caltrain station, Galip Vural said the city’s plans could damage the unique character of downtown Mountain View as well as its success as a commercial “goldmine.” As the owner of Olympus Cafe and Bakery and the restaurant Ephesus, he said he was already bracing for a hit from a temporary loss in parking due to a nearby hotel project that will occupy two city-owned lots. But if city officials also decided to cut off Castro Street — whether temporarily or permanently — he was certain that would be a fatal blow for some businesses.

“If you close Castro, I’m sure that some businesses would end up closing down,” Vural said. “Closing Castro would be the worst decision the City Council could ever make.”

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

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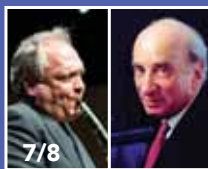
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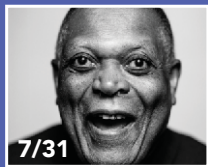
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### COMMUNITY BRIEF

#### CITY MEDIATION PROGRAM STARTS

A new, beefed-up mediation program meant to help alleviate the Mountain View’s rental crisis will take full effect starting this month. The new initiative, dubbed the Rental Housing Dispute Resolution Program, is designed to help settle dispute between landlords and tenants, particularly those involving high rent increases and evictions.

Starting later this month, the city will begin holding informational workshops for tenants and landlords to help explain how the program works. Landlords who operate apartments with three or more units are required to register each apartment with the city.

Workshops to explain the mediation program for tenants are scheduled in English for 6 p.m. on June 23 and in Spanish at 6 p.m. on July 14. Both will be held at the Senior Center at 266 Escuela Ave.

Workshops for landlords are scheduled at 10 a.m. on June 9 at the Council Chambers at 500 Castro St., and at 10 a.m. on July 7 at the Adobe Building at 157 Moffett Blvd.

—Mark Noack



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# School district could use general fund money for construction

By Kevin Forestieri

In an ongoing effort to balance a volatile construction budget, administrators at the Mountain View Whisman School District are looking to millions of dollars in general fund money as a way to pay off cost overruns at several schools, including Stevenson and Theuerkauf.

At the June 2 board meeting, Robert Clark, the district's chief business officer, laid out the situation: five schematic designs for school construction with cost estimates that are all over budget. The schools are Huff, Bubb, Landels, Stevenson and Theuerkauf. Combined, Huff, Bubb and Landels are about \$3 million over the budgeted amount.

Theuerkauf and Stevenson could cost anywhere from \$4

million to \$9 million over the original \$26 million price tag, depending on whether the school board votes to rebuild Stevenson at the current location of the district office located next door.

The costly projects do not bode well for the district's construction budget. The \$198 million in Measure G general obligation bonds, supplemented by other funding sources, including deferred maintenance and developer fees, currently has a \$3 million ending balance and would not be enough to cover the overruns. Rather than look toward cost-cutting measures, Clark suggested that the board could use the increases in lease money over the next three years to fund the difference.

The district current leases land at the former Whisman Elementary campus to the German International School of Silicon

Valley, at Slater and Theuerkauf Elementary to Google, and a portion of its Cooper Park land to Action Day Primary Plus. Rent is expected to increase dramatically for Google and the German school next year, and increases in rent from all three sources is expected to total \$5 million over the next four years. Clark said that money, which is slated for the district's general fund, could be diverted toward building new facilities.

Board president Ellen Wheeler said she was "satisfied" with the proposed finance methods, and that the board knew full well that the projects were going to come in over the preliminary budget. She said she preferred the option that swaps the location of Stevenson and the district office, which she said allows Stevenson to stretch out on a larger footprint while also giving district staff an

improved, renovated home at the former school site.

"One of the things I like the most is being able to utilize the space of the district office to go towards Stevenson and finally giving our district office staff buildings to work in that are safer, more healthy and more pleasant to work in," Wheeler said. "That goes a long way with me."

The board eventually postponed the decision until the next board meeting, but some trustees made it clear they were uneasy with using general fund dollars to plug the gaps in funding. Board member Greg Coladonato said the board needs to consider cuts to the scope of projects — like ditching plans to expand the multipurpose room at Theuerkauf — so that money slated to fund student programs remains untouched in the com-

ing years.

"All that money can be spent on students directly, and I strongly prefer it to be spent on adding programs," Coladonato said. "(Rather) than just blindly building to a district standard so no one's feelings get hurt."

Board Member Steve Nelson said he objected to using increases in lease revenue from the German school, which the board voted last year to earmark for opening a new school at Slater Elementary. He said the board committed to reserve that money for the northeast residents of Mountain View who have been fighting for a new school in the neighborhood for years.

"If we say we are talking all that money away until after 2019 ... I think we're making a

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## ASSEMBLY

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he is feeling optimistic.

"It's a good start," Berman said during his campaign party at the Palo Alto Art Center, where he was surrounded by a few dozen friends and supporters. "I'm fairly confident that we're moving on to November."

While Berman and Veenker, both Palo Alto residents, were the top vote-getters in Santa Clara County, Ohtaki did well in his San Mateo County, which has about 30 percent of the district's votes. With 104 of 109 precincts counted, Ohtaki had received support from 26.4 percent of his home county, trailing only Berman (31.2 percent) and well ahead of Veenker (19.8 percent). With all precincts counted early Wednesday, Ohtaki had received 4,090 votes to Veenker's 3,074.

Veenker made up for it in Santa Clara County, where she held a consistent second-place position throughout election night and where she led Ohtaki 12,220 votes to 9,981, with all precincts reporting.

She also benefited greatly from San Mateo County voters who cast their ballots on Election Day. While Ohtaki held a large advantage over Veenker in mail-in ballots in San Mateo County (2,700 to 1,569), more people who went to the polls in the county on Tuesday voted for Veenker than for Ohtaki (1,451 to 1,350).

Though by 9:30 p.m. the race for second place was too close to call,

Veenker said she was feeling optimistic as she addressed a crowd of supporters at the Mitchell Park Community Center.

"We have gotten our message out about how to build a brighter future, how to bring a fresh perspective to Sacramento and how we can work together to get it done," she told the crowd.

Her lead grew in next few hours — going from 385 votes at 11 to 464 votes by midnight (when 84 out of 109 precincts in San Mateo County and 156 out of 166 precincts in Santa Clara County were reporting). It then continued to grow as the count progressed throughout the night.

During her campaign party, Veenker said she is very proud of her campaign and thankful for her volunteers who helped her.

"I'm hopeful, and time will tell," she said.

Ohtaki, the lone Republican candidate in the heavily Democratic district, spent his election night at Menlo Park City Hall, where the city council was reviewing the budget for the coming fiscal year. He told the Almanac he was "very pleased" with the early results, "given that my budget was a fraction of the other candidates."

Ohtaki, who was one of the last candidates to join the race, raised about \$25,000 for his bid, less than 10 percent of what was raised and spent by his two main rivals in the race for a November showdown.

In addition to the financial disadvantage, Ohtaki noted that the Republican turnout was probably lower than it would have been if there had been competition for the party's presidential nominee. Conversely, the Democratic turnout was probably stronger because of the contest between Bernie

Sanders and Hillary Clinton.

Ohtaki said he had expected the race to be tight between himself and Veenker, based on his own spreadsheet modeling.

"I can't afford to do any polling," he said.

Instead of having an election party, he planned to celebrate his wife's and daughter's birthday after the council meeting.

Other candidates were less sanguine about the election results. Kasperzak and Inks both recognized fairly early Tuesday night that things aren't going in their favor.

"Well, let the chips fall where they may," Kasperzak told the *Mountain View Voice*. "My congratulations to Marc Berman, if he is the nominee, and whoever else joins him."

Inks, the lone Libertarian in the race, observed the race result was roughly on par with typical performances by third-party candidates.

"That's pretty much rock bottom," Inks said, looking at the results. "I wouldn't have been surprised by anything with how this race could have turned out."

Final election results are expected to be released on Friday, after the *Voice's* Wednesday press deadline.

The two top vote-winners will head into the Nov. 8 general election to square off for Gordon's seat in the district, which includes Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Sunnyvale Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Sunnyvale, a part of Cupertino and the San Mateo County coastside. ▀

— *Voice* Staff Writer Mark Noack and *Almanac* Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw contributed to this report.



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## HOUSING CRISIS

► Continued from page 5

was the question of development fees, particularly for city park lands. Current rules require anyone building a companion unit to pay park fees based on a complicated formula that considers the housing density and property value. In general, this meant most companion units had to pay between \$15,000 and \$30,000, which served as a major disincentive, city staff noted.

Council members expressed interest in lowering the fee to encourage new home construction, but they were split on

whether to completely write it off. Councilman John McAlister warned that the city shouldn't sacrifice its parks to solve the housing troubles.

"We're trying to develop Mountain View for the long-term," he said. "(If we eliminate this fee) we're going to solve one problem, but we'll make another one worse."

Mayor Pat Showalter pitched an idea to make the fees cheaper for early adopters. What if the first 200 companion units built in Mountain View faced no fees, but then subsequent ones would have to pay a smaller amount, she proposed. The city attorney hast-

ily warned this could verge on a fairness problem, so Showalter dropped the idea. In the end, city officials decided to split the difference and lower the fee by about 80 percent.

Notably absent from the city's discussion Tuesday was any mention of Airbnb or related services. In previous discussions, City Council members expressed concern that loosening companion-unit rules could backfire by encouraging homeowners to use the units as short-term vacation rentals, which could potentially ratchet up local rents.

In their report, staff members noted that trying to craft regula-

tions on Airbnb and its competitors would be a time-intensive process. Other South Bay cities were also exploring this issue, and city staff recommended waiting until later this year when more information is made available.

Even though thousands of homeowners will now be eligible to build new companion units, there are some indications that it won't create a huge surge of new housing. A recent study by the UC Berkeley Center for Community Innovation found less than 10 percent of East Bay homeowners didn't build secondary units due to financial

or regulatory barriers similar to those addressed by Mountain View's actions. Meanwhile, the East Bay study found that more than 70 percent of the surveyed homeowners simply didn't want or hadn't considered a second household on their property.

Nevertheless, many regional groups, including SV@Home and the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association, have singled out companion units as the best short-term fix to address the widening housing imbalance afflicting Silicon Valley. ■

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## CONSTRUCTION

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big mistake," Nelson said. "It's not free money from heaven, it comes with very drastic consequences to one of our communities."

District parent Steve Bell urged board members to stand by their vote last year, and said it would reflect poorly on the board if it reneged on the decision to commit money towards a new school. He said parents fighting for a school at Slater supported the extension of the lease with the German school to 2045 — essentially locking up the Whisman campus — under the assumption that the district would put money away and make sure a school would be opened at Slater.

"If you're thinking about re-allocating that money, that would send a bad signal to all the people who were there that night and were in favor of a 30-year lease on the condition that those funds would be set aside for that neighborhood," Bell said.

This isn't the first time the board has made the uneasy decision to use money for construction overruns that could have been spent on new academic programs and technology. The school district has spent years

stockpiling money from the Shoreline Regional Park Community special tax district — property tax revenue north of Highway 101 in Mountain View — and in two years drained the entire \$7.5 million account to pay for new facilities.

According to an agreement between the district and the city of Mountain View, the Shoreline money was earmarked for technology upgrades and "enhancing" educational programs at the school to better prepare students to join the local technology workforce. Under a broad interpretation of the Joint Powers Authority agreement, the district has used the money to build new facilities at Crittenden and Graham Middle School.

Nelson later told the *Voice* he believes the district needs to spend money based on the constraints of the original \$198 million bond, and that the community would be clamoring for a new bond measure if they felt more needed to be spent on school facilities.

"Diverting more money from programs to buildings is shorting the kids from programs and extra teaching that they need now," Nelson said.

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## ELECTION RESULTS

► Continued from page 1

for the Republican primary in Mountain View over competitors, at 56 percent, taking the largest majorities in the Whisman area. Ohio Gov. John Kasich, despite calling off his bid for the White House in early May, managed to split votes with Trump in a few precincts, including the Blossom Valley neighborhood and among residents north of El Camino between Highway 85 and Calderon Avenue. Overall, Kasich took nearly 28 percent of Mountain View's Republican primary voters.

As of Wednesday morning, June 8, the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters reported that 286,492 ballots had been cast out of 788,063 registered voters, a 36.35 percent turnout. Ballots were still being counted when the *Voice* went to press on Wednesday afternoon. With the Vote By Mail option, the Registrar's office said it will be receiving and counting mailed ballots through Friday, when official results will be announced.

**PASSED: Measure A (Extension of county parks fund)** Requires majority to pass

■ Santa Clara County: Yes, 77%; No, 23%

**PASSED: Measure AA (Parcel tax for Bay restoration)** Requires two-thirds of votes to pass

■ Santa Clara County: Yes, 69%; No, 31%

■ San Mateo County: Yes, 71%; No, 28%

■ Alameda County: Yes, 74%; No, 26%

■ Contra Costa County: Yes, 65%; No, 35%

■ Solano County: Yes, 53%; No, 47%

■ Sonoma County: Yes, 63%; No, 37%

■ Marin County: Yes, 72%; No, 28%

■ Napa County: 57%; No, 43%

■ San Francisco County: Yes, 77%; No, 23%

■ Total nine counties: Yes, 69%; No, 31%

**PASSED: Proposition 50 (Suspension of Legislators)** Requires simple majority to pass

■ Statewide: Yes, 75%; No, 25%

■ Santa Clara County: Yes, 83%; No, 17%

**Supervisor, District 5, Santa Clara County**

B Joe Simitian: 89%

John Mummy: 11%

**State Assembly District 24**

■ Marc Berman (DEM): 28.2%

Vicki Veenker (DEM): 21.8%

Peter Ohtaki (REP): 20.0%

**State Senate District 13**

Jerry Hill (DEM): 75%

Rick Ciardella (REP): 19%

John H. Webster (LIB): 6%

**U.S. House of Representatives**

Anna G. Eshoo (DEM): 68%

Bob Harlow (DEM): 7%

Richard B. Fox (REP): 25%

**U.S. Senate**

(leading three candidates)

Kamala Harris (DEM): 40%

Loretta Sanchez (DEM) 19%

Duf Sundheim (REP) 8%

**U.S. President**

(leading two in Democratic and Republican parties)

■ Santa Clara County results:

Bernie Sanders (DEM): 39%

Hillary Clinton (DEM): 60%

Donald Trump (REP): 64%

John R. Kasich (REP): 20%

All of the latest Santa Clara County election results at [online.sccvote.org](http://online.sccvote.org), and state election results are at [vote.sos.ca.gov](http://vote.sos.ca.gov). ■

—Palo Alto Weekly staff contributed to this report.

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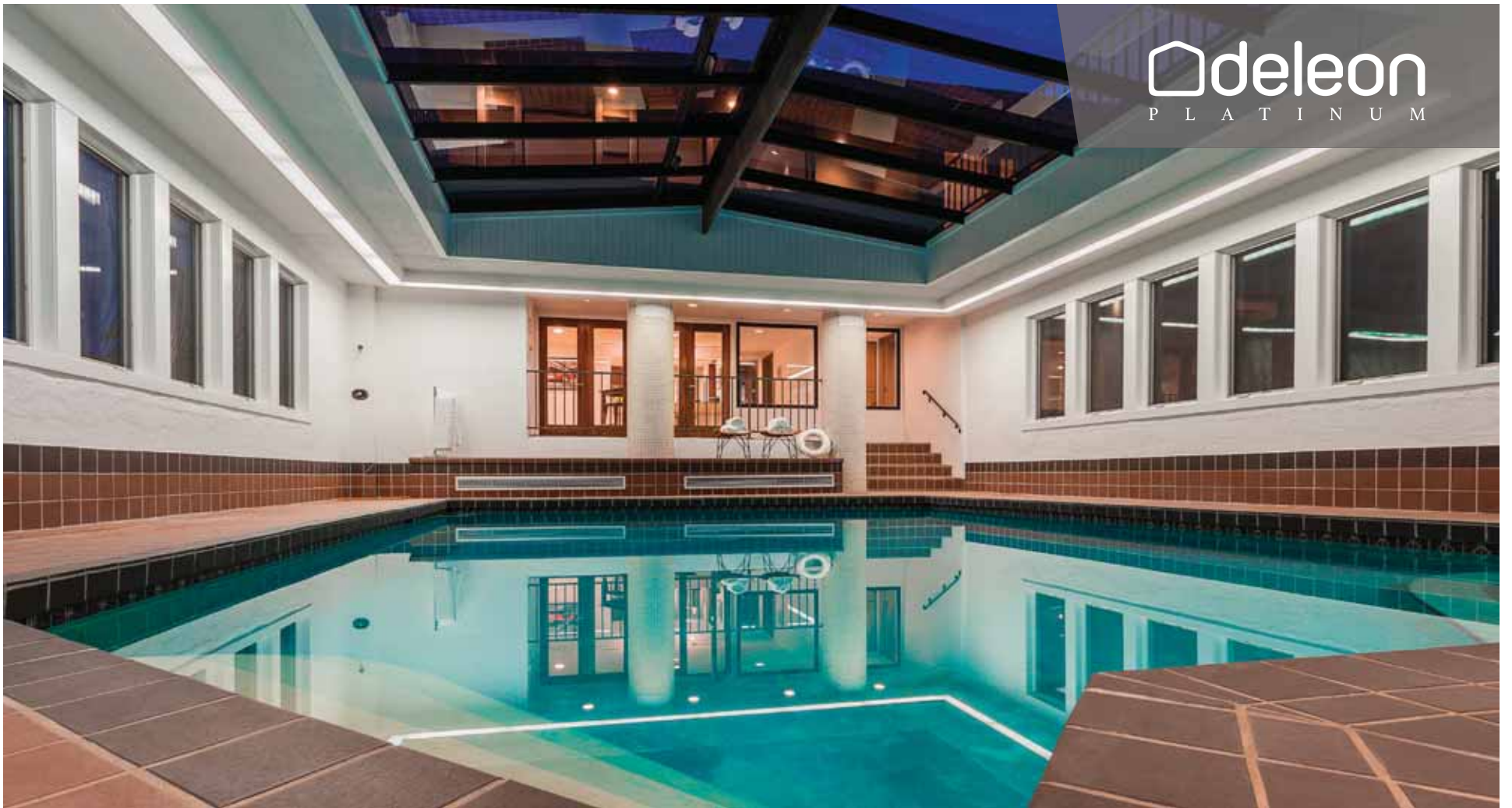


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# Kindness is key for MVHS grads

By Kevin Forestieri

Members of Mountain View High School class of 2016 will be heading off to prestigious colleges all over the nation, thanks to their steady rise in academic performance over the past four years. But above all, the graduating seniors this year have shown exceptional compassion and kindness, turning the high school into a warm and welcoming environment, school officials said.

Principal Dave Grissom told the hundreds of parents, friends and family members at the graduation ceremony on Friday, June 3, that words like “welcoming” and “kindness” are hardly the first thing that comes to mind when talking about a group of teenagers. The class of 2016, however, has turned that stereotype on its head, Grissom said, and is truly a “special group of students” who care about one another.

“This group of seniors that we have could be some of the nicest students I have ever encountered,” Grissom said.

Grissom told the *Voice* that the kindness on campus goes beyond just a good vibe, and has turned into real action. The senior class has spearheaded the Mountain View Ambassadors Club, which helps new students — freshman or otherwise — learn their way around the campus, get acclimated and meet new friends through events like potlucks and parent information nights. The club was started a few years ago by students who are now heading off to college this year, Grissom said.

The graduating seniors also showed strong compassion



MICHELLE LE

**Ziana Camilia Deen** accepts her diploma from board President Debbie Torok at Mountain View High School's commencement ceremony on June 3.

through the Spartan Buddies club, where students from the traditional high school program pair up with students with disabilities in special education, building friendships and bridging the gap between two otherwise isolated groups of students. The club attracts dozens of students each year.

The class of 2016 continued several trends that show academic achievement is on the rise at Mountain View High School. Despite the slightly smaller class this year, a whopping 54 students had a weighted 4.5 GPA or higher across seven semesters — up from 45 last year, and 35 the year before. The graduates are also more bilingual than ever, with 152 sporting the statewide “seal of biliteracy” that shows students are fluent in both English and another language.

Students who had an unweighted 4.0 GPA or a weighted 4.5 GPA or higher over the last four years were recognized as “academic scholars” at the ceremony, and sat with the rest of their peers during the ceremony. Grissom said the designation is in lieu naming valedictorians, which he said the school has ditched since about 2010 in favor of the broader recognition.

Many of the graduating seniors also participated in the wildly successful Spartan Robotics team, which built complex robots that could grab, fling and manipulate objects on a dime. The team made it to the grand finals in St. Louis two times in the last three years to complete against teams across the globe. ▣

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Oscar Garcia  
Pavel Garcia  
Willem Geier  
Joyce Ann German  
Jaspaul Ghumman  
Elaine Giles  
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Henry Gonzalez Lorenzo  
Ethan Goolish  
Jenna Goosen  
Chadwick Gorme  
Jason Gravett  
Celeste Greaves  
Jason Greenberg  
Samuel Grillo  
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Ayesha Guha  
Alexandra Gumila  
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## Mountain View High School

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Nathan Adams  
Gabriel Aguiar  
Seema Ahmed  
Zipporah Alcaraz  
Salvador Alcazar-Garcia  
Connor Allison  
Jett Altenhofen  
Ashley Ambrisko  
Em Andreas  
Ezer Angeles  
Tricia Austin  
Zahid Ayala  
Kayli Bailey  
Ysabel Baluyot  
Victoria Baney  
Jack Banks  
Alexander Barnes  
Auzuraya Barreda  
Keyla Barrios Reyes  
Devon Bartlett  
Kevin Beedle  
Andrea Benavides  
Amrita Bhat  
Michael Bialczak

Cailin Bice  
Emma Blockhus  
Gloria Boadwee  
Julio Bolanos  
Jacob Boots  
Daniel Bowers  
Brian Bracy  
Natalie Brown  
IanRiz Buenaventura  
Nick Butters  
Alisa Caccamo  
Corey Cantu  
Carlos Carbajal  
Marissa Carico  
Mica Carroll-Munoz  
Savannah Carroll-Munoz  
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Madeleine Clark  
Kaitlin Coad  
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Cameron Conway  
Kiana Cook  
Madison Correia  
Lea Crase  
Kasey Cruz  
Pedro Cruz Cruz  
Lauren Dagan  
Elizabeth Dally  
Jenne Audrey Dancel  
Darren Dawson  
Isabel De Armas Barboza  
Kelsie De La Ossa  
Jocelyn Deanda Badillo  
Garrett DeAngelis  
Ziana Camila Deen  
Shayda Dehnnow  
Galilea Delgado  
Daisy Diaz Ortega  
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Natalia Frumkin  
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Shengyu Gao  
David Garcia



MICHELLE LE

**Graduates** of Mountain View High School celebrate at the end of the commencement ceremony.

Ingrid Nunn  
 Ruby Ochoa Castaneda  
 Morgan Ohara  
 Anders Olson  
 Ciara O'Neill  
 Josue Ortiz  
 Julia Ostrowski  
 Isabel Owen  
 Jasmin Padaong  
 Rohit Padmakumar  
 Kristin Pampeyan  
 Andrew Pan  
 Adam Pann  
 Alyssa Parr  
 Nikoo Parsizadeh  
 John Patterson  
 Hunter Paulson  
 Kiley Payne  
 Anthony Pelayo  
 Grace Pelella  
 Andrea Pena  
 Christopher Pena-Prado  
 Seth Perasic  
 Annalisa Perez  
 Jared Perryman  
 Ryan Persons  
 Christine Peters  
 Kyle Petersen  
 Meghan Philp  
 Allison Pires  
 Kai Hin Poon  
 Karen Ann Quero  
 Tatum Rademacher  
 Farzana Rahman  
 Rajay Raman  
 Diana Ramirez  
 Ria Rana  
 Arula Ratnakar  
 Carl Recine  
 Gabriel Reed  
 Irwin Rempola  
 Alejandra Reyes  
 Daniel Reyna  
 Sarah Rich  
 Paige Riola  
 Randy Rivas  
 Felipe Rivera  
 Solomon Rivkin  
 Benjamin Roberts  
 Christian Rodriguez  
 Peregrine Rolland  
 Whitney Ross  
 Athanassious Rowe  
 Samantha Rubinstein

Erin Rucker  
 Nolan Rudolph  
 Daniel Ruiz  
 Nicholas Runke  
 Samantha Runke  
 Edgar Saadi  
 Maria Salas-Torres  
 Ava Salehi  
 Elise Sandland  
 Eriko Sasaki  
 Isabella Scheier  
 Isabella Schneider  
 Steven Schynert  
 Kylie Scott  
 Cristian Scotti  
 Christina Segar  
 Nicolas Seigneret  
 Joseph Serna  
 Thomas Serna  
 Dylan Shaddock  
 Alaisha Sharma  
 William Shearer  
 Stephanie Sheridan  
 Tenzing Sherpa  
 Joelle Shieh  
 Aaliyah Sibug  
 Hailey Sieber  
 Jessica Sillman  
 Felipe Silveira  
 Elaine Silverman  
 Cristian Singh  
 Avni Singhal  
 Ravi Singhal  
 Kyana Smith  
 Sarafina Smith  
 Serena Smith  
 Colin Snyder  
 Zohet Soberanis  
 Mitchell Solder  
 Edward Sotelo Primitivo  
 Paulo Sousa  
 Chloe Stabinsky  
 Alexander Starr  
 Colton Stearns  
 Peter Steiner  
 Sheila Steiner  
 Linnea Stoll  
 Ryan Sturges  
 Christopher Suarez  
 Liam Hieu Sullivan  
 Young Jae Sung  
 Rachel Tahmassebi  
 Sola Takahashi  
 Grace Tankersley

Ryan Tawbi  
 Radha Thakore  
 Mason Thomas  
 Jesus Tinoco  
 Lucas Torres  
 Silvia Torres  
 Nam Tran  
 Thao Tran  
 Tommy Tran  
 Faith Tsang  
 Brandon Tse  
 Cameron Turner  
 Jesus Valdivia  
 Kevyn Vallejo  
 Blake Van Dyke  
 William Van Syoc  
 Irving Vargas Ramirez  
 Sumukh Vaze  
 Luis Vazquez  
 Anthony Villarreal  
 Adele Viviani  
 Rachel Waldman  
 Thomas Walter  
 Jiale Wan  
 Charleen Wang  
 Tiange Wang  
 Jessica Welden  
 Emily White  
 Lukas Wiborg  
 Alexandra Wilburn  
 Katherine Williams  
 Julianne Wilson  
 Ilana Winawer  
 Stephanie Winick  
 Elizabeth Wong  
 Kelvin Wong  
 Kelyn Wood  
 Cameron Woods  
 Rebecca Wright  
 Sally Wu  
 Forrest Wunderman  
 Justin Yanagawa  
 Yvonne Yeh  
 Sarah Yim  
 Elizabeth Yoon  
 Alexander Young  
 Anthne Young  
 Christopher Young  
 Chelsea-Mae Yuipco  
 Linnea Zdepski  
 Jingyi Zhang  
 Junsong Zhang  
 Justin Zhao  
 Mary Zhen

## ALTA VISTA

► Continued from page 1

For some graduates, it was all about rolling with the punches. Barrera-Guzman explained that her father had only just gotten out of jail two weeks prior to being deported, and that she had only recently gotten over her depression from middle school. Freshman year was supposed to be a year for mending, she said, but her home life had suddenly become more unstable than ever.

After being transferred to Terra Bella Academy, Barrera-Guzman decided to try moving to Mexico with her father. But it ended up being a dead end for her — she stopped going to school, couldn't find a job, and wasn't even able to spend much time with her dad, who was always working. She said she knew she had to come back.

"If I wanted to move on with my life, I had to leave my father behind," she said.

Transferring back to Terra Bella, and eventually to Alta Vista, was a difficult transition, she said, because of the stigma associated with attending a continuation school where the "bad kids go." But her experience at Alta Vista marked a big transition in her life. She said she met her best friends at the school, and many of her teachers went above and beyond to support her, making sure she stayed after school if she got low scores on assignments.

Barrera-Guzman said she plans to pursue a career in the military, and will leave for boot camp in about two months. Although she took a significant step in preparing for her career by attending Grizzly Youth Academy in San Luis Obispo, she said she wanted to come back to Alta Vista to graduate with the school community that helped turn her life around.

"I chose to return to Alta Vista and walk this stage," Barrera-Guzman said. "It was here where I learned so much, and here where the best teachers are. If it wasn't for them, this

school would not function."

Students and teachers tend to build strong relationships with one another at Alta Vista, Pierce said, and by senior year the graduating class always has a list of important staff members they want to thank on their way out. Unlike the traditional high school model, teachers at Alta Vista serve multiple roles, acting as advisors and counselors to students. Teachers like Alicia Triana and Marciano Gutierrez are often the first faces students see, so it's no surprise many of the students felt the need to give both a shout-out Wednesday night, Pierce said.

"That's part of the blessing of being a small campus. Every teacher here does more than teach," he said.

Although Pierce knew a lot about Barrera-Guzman, her story on how deportation tore her family apart was news to him and many of the staff members at the school. He said it's the stories students tell at graduation that remind him how much adversity so many of the students at Alta Vista face, and yet they still manage to make it up on the stage when they reach the end of senior year.

"It's stories like Sayra's that show these students have every reason in the world to quit, but they don't," he said.

Almost all of the graduates said they had plans for higher education — many starting off at Foothill or De Anza College — and many already had a good idea of what career they wanted to pursue after high school. Barrera-Guzman, speaking to her classmates, told them they deserve something great for all the time and effort they poured into school over the last four years, and not to get bogged down in the sacrifices they had to make along the way.

"Life comes with many sacrifices, and sometimes its the biggest sacrifices that are the most rewarding later on," she said. ▣

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



MICHELLE LE

**Alta Vista** graduates turn their tassels at the end of the commencement ceremony on June 1.

## Alta Vista High School

Isaias Alas  
 Sayra Barrera-Guzman  
 Juan Carbajal  
 Kyle Cazares  
 Vanessa Colin Cucano  
 Lauren Cunha  
 Diana Florea

Emilio Garcia  
 Taelor Griffey  
 Rachael Hsiao  
 Jena Knight  
 Giselle Martinez  
 Dillan Noel

Diego Palma Trujillo  
 Daniel Reil  
 Jocelyn Serrano  
 Katie Sincerbox  
 Eliud Soto  
 Alexa St. John  
 Alaya Wolf  
 Madeleine Zib

# Los Altos grads are anything but ordinary

By Kevin Forestieri

Graduating senior Keith Bohrer took center stage at the Los Altos High School to welcome friends and family, introduce the class of 2016, and smack down a common misconception about the school.

The Urban Dictionary states that Los Altos High School is altogether forgettable, Bohrer told the crowd at the ceremony Friday, a “very typical rich school in a very typical rich town with a very typical rich kids.” But looking back on the last four years, he said the graduating seniors this year are rich in passion, spirit and character, and have always pushed the envelope to achieve everything they can — never backing down “even in the moments when the odds are against us.”

“This is what sets us apart from every other graduating class in America,” Bohrer said.

Despite the sweltering heat and limited shade, hundreds of people crowded onto the Los Altos High School field bearing balloons, signs and air horns to see off the

471 graduating seniors on June 3. Principal Wynne Satterwhite said it would be easy to extol all the achievements and contributions of individual students, but as a whole the class of 2016 has shown “outstanding” scholarship and ambitious plans for the future.

Over the last four years, she said the students have always taken the initiative to do greater things outside of the classroom, from running student leadership groups and The Talon school newspaper to starting their own businesses and charitable foundations. The students have had a strong presence in the community, she said, and lead by example.

“They represent the kind of service through leadership that is at once modest and inspiring.”

Graduating senior Evelyn Crisanto, in an emotional speech in both English and Spanish, said it felt like high school flew by, and it was only yesterday that they were all “foolish freshman” trying to figure out the new school environment. She said the students remained resilient, handling the highs and lows of high school in

order to reach the “incredible milestone” of graduation.

“We fell, but we got back up,” Crisanto said.

While some of the seniors will be heading off to college and others will be heading straight into the workforce, Crisanto encouraged her peers to stay strong in the face of adversity, and strive to go above and beyond.

“Don’t just get by in life,” she said. “We must challenge ourselves to reach our full potential. Keep moving forward and never look back.”

Dozens of students leaving Los Altos this year were able to maintain high scores and near-perfect GPAs since freshman year, but still manage to side-step strictly academic accolades in favor of more colorful achievements. Senior William Alexander pointed out that students have won major sporting events across the state, and recently took home a championship in a poetry slam competition.

“Our peers haven’t been content to just passively live their lives,” Alexander said. “For the past four years they have worked hard with what they’ve been given.”

Leaving high school, Bohrer said the graduating class will be heading out into the unknown, with a big question mark over what will come next in all of their lives. He said there’s no easy answer — none that you can find on Google, anyway — on what to do, and that can be pretty scary.

“We’re actually going to have to experience what lies ahead, and that’s terrifying,” he said. “But it’s the fact that it’s terrifying, that we’re nervous ... that makes it so exciting.”

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



VERONICA WEBER

Keith Bohrer delivers his commencement address at Los Altos High School on June 3.

## Los Altos High School

Talya Abkowitz  
Antonia Acevedo Perez  
Patrick Aceves  
Gregory Adams  
Katherine Shantal Aguilar  
Zajari Aguilera Zapata  
Kaya Agustin  
William Alexander  
Maia Allo  
Adera Alvarado Ahern  
Maryjane Alvarez  
Jesus Amador Zetina  
Emma Ambler  
Krishna Ammini  
Kevin Anawalt  
Townsend Anderson  
Anna Antonio  
Daniel Anufriev  
Marcel Arista  
Daughy Arora  
Lizbeth Avendano  
Brenda Ayala Ornelas  
Alexander Baer  
Claire Bai  
Sean Baker  
Cassidy Barcelona

Michael Bassett  
William Bassett  
Amanda Bauer  
Kimberly Baum  
Ismael Bautista Hernandez  
Leo Baykin  
Madeleine Beagle  
Harrison Beck  
Carly Bednarski  
Jack Bertrand  
Rebecca Bettinger  
Elizabeth Beutter  
Nicholas Biggerstaff  
Sam Binesh  
Chase Bishop  
Donna Blockhus  
Keith Bohrer  
Jeremy Bonte  
Cole Botsford  
Mikhail Boulgakov  
Meghan Bray  
Samantha Buhr  
Carina Burdick  
Duncan Burrridge  
Varun Butaney  
Benjamin Byrne

Mary Grace Cabanayan  
Sebastian Cabrol  
Garrett Caddes  
Dongjian Cai  
Sarah Callan  
Paola Campos  
Alec Cappelletti  
Gredys Carbajal Aguilar  
Frida Cardenas-Salazar  
Matthew Carroll  
Teresa Casillas Rocha  
Ana Laura Castillo Morales  
Cristian Castillo-Musante  
Cynthia Cervantes  
Bianca Champenois  
Christian Chan  
Audrey Chang  
Chaz Chang  
Claire Chang  
Alexander Chavez  
Juan Chavez  
Karna Chelluri  
Claire Cheng  
Raphael Chevallier  
Helena Chi  
Alina Chin  
Jennifer Chin  
Josh Chispa  
Dasom Chung

Rigoberto Cigarrero  
Selena Cipres  
Danniella Cipres-Perea  
Andrew Coan  
Eli Colbert  
Adam Colman  
David Cooper  
Haley Costa  
Evelyn Crisanto  
Eduardo Cuellar  
Cole Cummins  
Nathaniel Cuson  
Caitlin Cyron  
Alice Dai  
Ellen Dai  
Humbeline Daney de  
Marcillac  
Darya Darvish  
Angelica D’Augusta  
Julia Davila  
Patricia Davila  
Zack Davis  
Rebekah Dawson-Bowman  
Jacob DeBacker  
Scott Delamare  
Kathy Deng  
Paul Dennig, Jr.  
Caden Denton  
Marie DeShetler

Jack Dexter  
Karina Diaz  
Randy Diaz  
Maribelle Dickins  
Katherine Dillon  
Isaiah Dolce  
Josue Dominguez-Ochoa  
Amy Doria  
Chad Dowdell  
Lane Drasbek  
Helena Drzysga  
Jason Ryan Durana  
Devyash Dutt Singkh  
Paul Duvillier  
Luke Dzwonczyk  
Maira Elizalde Alcantar  
Samantha Ellis  
Kayla Engle  
David Enriquez  
Margaret Enthoven  
Enrique Espinoza Farias  
Kristian Esquibel  
Siena Evard  
Alexander Fache  
Carl Faust  
Addison Feldman  
Audrey Fisher  
Patrick Fong  
Stephen Foulke  
David Fredriksson  
Sara Friend  
Callan Garber  
Cristian Garcia  
Matthew Garcia  
Guadalupe Garcia Gatica  
Fernando Garduno  
Andrew Garvey  
Inbar Gavra  
Megan Gee  
Stephanie Gee  
Rachel Geng  
Andrew Gentile  
Tatiana Gibson  
Bryan Giron Velazquez  
Rachel Glein  
Andreas Godderis  
Daniela Gomez  
Ivonne Gomez  
Lorena Gomez  
Mateo Gomez  
Ana Gomez Martinez  
Emiliano Gonzalez  
Jesus Gonzalez  
Alex Gose  
Emily Goto  
Kyle Gounod  
Hitesh Govani  
Aaron Green  
Sean Grosvenor  
Isabel Guerrero Lubarsky  
James Guesman  
Sung-Yaa Guo  
Albert Gwo  
Francis Hackett  
Brittany Haley  
Michael Hall  
Kenneth Hamel  
Andresen Hamlin  
Cole Hanson  
Kanishka Hareb  
Lauren Harry  
Sophia Hartenbaum  
Matthew Heintzen  
Trevor Heinzmann  
Jesus Hernandez  
Kevin Herrera-Ramos  
Katherine Ho  
Daniel Hollenbaugh  
James Hollingworth  
Kieran Hood  
Tal Horovitz  
Jessica Houdek  
Hayley Howell  
Amber Huang  
Annie Huang  
Kylie Huch

Charles Hung  
Lauren Jacob  
Olivia Jain  
Olivia Jerram  
Tiffany Johnson  
William Jow  
Shruti Juneja  
Danny Kabakibo  
Aleksis Kanerva  
Sarah Katsev  
Alec Kawaguchi  
Cosmo Kay  
Gina Kermode  
Sierra Kerr  
Julia Khan  
Keana Khodadad  
Jin Woo Kim  
Joshua Kirshenbaum  
Louisa Kishton  
Kyra Kliman  
Graham Knight  
Sonja Koblas  
Isabelle Kokona-Dussau  
Alexander Kolstad  
Shashwath Koppisetty  
George Korpontinos  
Eva Koujikov  
Stephanie Kouvelas  
Ashwin Krishna  
Thomas Ktitareff  
Joseph Kull  
Ryan Kull  
Shaneel Kumar  
Jeffrey Kuo  
Nils Kuper  
Oscar Landaverde  
Nathan Larson  
Kristen Lau  
Connor Leak  
Simon Leak  
Karla Margarita Leal  
Hernandez  
Keila Lebakos  
Amanda Ledingham  
Liam Lee  
Nathan Lee  
Nikolas Lee  
Stephanie Lee  
Oscar Leon  
Alicia Leong  
Yuxi Lin  
Kelly Little  
Jarod Long  
Mariana Lopez  
Luis Lopez Melchor  
Pedro Lugo Jr.  
Lauren Lunsford  
Max Lussier  
Kimberly Lynch  
Miguel Maciel Carbajal  
Rory Maclean  
Allegra Maeso  
Lizbeth Magana  
Liam Mahoney  
Jessica Makower  
Alexis Malgesini  
Kasey Mantiply  
Vanessa Mark  
Juliette Martin  
Emely Martinez  
John Martinez  
Verilinn Martinez Cibrian  
Mariano Martinez-Cerna  
Rachel Matthews  
Travis Mayer  
Janelle McAfee  
Cassandra McCarthy  
Nicholas McConnell  
Sacha McDermott  
Megan McKinney  
Danielle McMahan  
Bradley McMillan  
Aaron Mehan  
Amanda Mell  
Julian Meza Mercado  
Analisa Milkey



VERONICA WEBER

Members of the **Los Altos High School** class of 2016 celebrate graduation on June 3.

Harrison Miller  
 Angelica Minor  
 Daron Mitchner  
 Nicole Mohajer  
 Joceline Montebello Millan  
 Aldo Montes Sanchez  
 Geralyn Moore  
 Kenan Moos  
 Jose Mora  
 Edgar Morales Vernet  
 Kelsey Moran  
 Samuel Morimoto  
 Tre Morris  
 Caitlin Mueller  
 Spencer Muenchow  
 Marilyn Munoz  
 Kathleen Munro  
 Megan Murphy  
 Ilya Myastkovetsky  
 Brennan Myers  
 Paul Myers  
 Varun Nagpal  
 Sasha Narain  
 James Naumovski  
 Paula Navarro Ulriksen  
 Jessica Nelson  
 Devon Nemelka  
 Anne Nero  
 Paige Newman  
 Anson Nguyen  
 Chieh En Ni  
 Michael Nichols  
 Sydney Niermann  
 Ryan Norton  
 Alejandra Ochoa  
 Julia Ogrodnik  
 Monica Ogrodnik  
 Sean O'Hara  
 Kalie Oku  
 Kimberly Oleson  
 Daniela Orozco-Tejada  
 Rafaela Ortiz  
 Zachary Ottoes  
 Erika Ozawa  
 Leyla Padilla  
 Sienna Pagett  
 Emma Paige  
 Lourdes Palma Hernandez  
 Nathaniel Palmer  
 Sheryl Palting  
 Christina Pao  
 Jane Park  
 Yoon Park  
 Amin Parvizi  
 Forrest Pasturel  
 Avery Paulick  
 Daniel Pedraza  
 Jose Perez  
 Meghan Perna  
 Isabelle Phan  
 Sonnet Phelps  
 Alexandre Philippe  
 Adara Pineda  
 Eric Ping

Alessandra Pingol  
 Rosemary Poling  
 Brendon Pon  
 Serena Poon  
 Dylan Potts  
 Travis Prater  
 Gabrielle Pristavok  
 Kavi Ramamurthy  
 Ryan Ratner  
 Evan Rattner  
 Naveen Reddy  
 Christopher Reelfs  
 Natalie Renfrew  
 Samir Rexha  
 Vanessa Reyes Lopez  
 Jennifer Reyes Morales  
 Jisel Rivera  
 Benjamin Roach  
 Aaliyah Rodriguez  
 Alexei Rodriguez  
 Lorena Rodriguez Ayala  
 Trevor Rogers  
 Alexis Rojas  
 Ellen Roper  
 Diana Rosales Velazquez  
 Krystal Rossi  
 Kassandra Saldana  
 Salvador Salgado Cruz  
 Diego Sanchez Tellez  
 Juan Sandoval  
 Chelsea Santos  
 Arlene Santos Valdez  
 Alice Sartori  
 Evelyn Schachter  
 Jonathan Scher  
 Jennifer Schlansker  
 Megan Schmiesing  
 Gabriel Schoppet  
 Wesley Schultz  
 Duane Scott  
 Marshall Scott  
 Riya Sehgal  
 Tanvi Sehgal  
 Kamen Shah  
 Gabrielle Shapiro  
 Annabelle Shih  
 Parteek Singh  
 Audrey Small  
 Colin Small  
 Nathan Smith  
 Angel Soto  
 Nathan Spencley  
 Adam Spielman  
 Amy Spruill  
 Kelly Stangl  
 Caroline Steffens  
 David Stein  
 Madisen Stitt  
 Julia Suh  
 James Sun  
 Selynna Sun  
 Genevieve Surry  
 Ann Suzuki  
 Andy Tapia Cortina

Cristobal Tejada-Siordia  
 Emily Terada  
 Nicolas Terradas de Vicente-Tutor  
 William Thabit  
 Bailey Thayer  
 Eric Thiem  
 Jace Tippett  
 George Tomkins  
 Andrea Torres  
 Sierra Townsend  
 Miana Trainor  
 Sarah Tritschler  
 Donna Trott  
 Gabriel Trujillo  
 Alexander Tseng  
 Jens Tuyls  
 Azad Unlu  
 Sonia Uppal  
 Ankith Uppunda  
 Nathan Van Eck  
 Jose Varela  
 Samantha Varelas  
 Patrick Vargas  
 Juan Velazquez Ocegueda  
 Jocelyne Vera  
 Robert Verity  
 Ankit Verma  
 Kevin Vieyra  
 Karen Villa Yopez  
 Isabel Virga  
 Aditya Vohra  
 Leonardo Wai  
 Rachael Waldman Kiselev  
 Samantha Waln  
 Brian Wang  
 Julia Wang  
 Maxwell Weber  
 Kyra Welsh  
 Selena Weltz  
 Nicholas Wemyss  
 Carrie Wendelken  
 Tess Wendelken  
 Kaitlyn Wheatley  
 Caitlin White  
 Jennifer White  
 Natalia Whitney  
 Dylan Wilber  
 Megan Wilhelm  
 Ashley Williams  
 Elias Wilson  
 Kira Wingate  
 Charles Winter  
 Tsun Hei Jason Wong  
 Zachary Wong  
 Katherine Xia  
 Wei Xiong  
 Katherine Yen  
 Kevin Yen  
 Keith Young  
 Benjamin Zaeske  
 Grace Zhang  
 Kyrylo Zubarev  
 Nusly Zuniga

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a guide to the spiritual community

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**TAX MEASURE**

► Continued from page 5

the way to Santa Clara, or this BART project will not be a success," Liccardo said.

Business leaders showed up in full force at the Thursday board meeting to show their support. Carl Guardino, CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, along with representatives from Apple, Lockheed Martin, Silicon Valley Bank and a myriad of other South Bay companies said they whole-heartedly supported the proposed sales tax.

Former Mountain View City Council member Margaret Abe-Koga, speaking on behalf of Synopsys, commended VTA for its extensive outreach and "collaborative style" for coming up with a comprehensive plan for spending the money, and for listening to the concerns of residents throughout the county.

"We'd like to thank you for listening to the cities in the north and west parts of the county," Abe-Koga said.

The measure also calls for \$250 million to go towards bike and pedestrian improvements, including filling gaps in existing bike and pedestrian networks, and making safety improvements. Additionally, many of the planned expenditures to highways and local streets and roads explicitly state that the projects will meet Complete Streets requirements in order to maximize bike and pedestrian access. Colin Heyne, the deputy director for the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coal-

tion, told the board that the proposed measure will provide a way to "mend" the transportation system in Santa Clara County.

Not everyone was thrilled with the language of the resolution. David Coale, a member of Carbon Free Palo Alto, said the measure doesn't do enough to curb greenhouse gas emissions, and the tax measure is "out of step" with the goals of cities, Santa Clara County and California.

**'We'd like to thank you for listening to the cities in the north and west parts of the county.'**

MARGARET ABE-KOGA,  
FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

"We can hardly afford to have a 30-year tax plan that does not address greenhouse gas reductions as front and center," Coale said.

VTA board member Johnny Khamis, who is a city council member in San Jose, voted for the resolution, but not before voicing his concerns that the project breakdown doesn't do enough to fix and maintain existing roadways. He said the board had to authorize an extra \$1 million at the same meeting to replace vehicle parts on buses that are wearing out faster than

expected because the roads are "dilapidated," and the existing gas tax revenue is dwindling too fast to be reliable. Despite the concerns, Khamis said he would vote in favor of the measure rather than trying to alter the language so late in the game and risk losing the near-unanimous support.

"If we start messing with the language up here, trying to make sausage, we could fall apart," he said.

The idea of a new ballot measure for transportation improvement has been discussed by county leaders for more than a year, and it generated a fair share of controversy. North County officials, including Simitian, publicly warned VTA board members that they would not support the tax measure if it primarily was used to fund a BART extension to benefit San Jose. Late last year, Mountain View, Palo Alto and a coalition of West Valley and North County cities presented VTA with their own proposal on how to spend the money.

The county currently has two transportation-linked taxes that are active. The half-cent Measure A, which benefits a wide array of transit projects, is due to end in 2036. Meanwhile the one-eighth-cent Measure B, which funds BART extensions and operations, is set to run through 2042. ▣

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

**CRIME BRIEFS**

► Continued from page 4

Witnesses told officers that one of the two men, later identified by police as 27-year-old Matthew Foxton, had allegedly started the fight. The other man had suffered cuts and swelling to his face, and was treated at the scene, Nelson said.

Foxton was arrested on charges of assault causing great bodily injury, Nelson said.

**DELIVERY TRUCK CRASH**

The driver of a delivery truck was taken to a nearby hospital Wednesday after he reportedly crashed his vehicle into a building.

Police received reports that the delivery truck had collided with a building on Ellis Street in Mountain View at around 6:30 a.m. June 8. The driver had exited from northbound Highway 101 onto the street when he accidentally accelerated instead of braking, and drove into the wall of a business on the 600 block of Ellis

Street.

The man suffered moderate injuries and was taken to a hospital for treatment, police said. The building reportedly suffered "slight" damage, including a broken window.

—Kevin Forestieri

**ALLEGED SEX OFFENDER ARRESTED**

Mountain View police arrested a 57-year-old man on suspicion of molesting a child over several years, police said Wednesday.

Sex registrant Mark Vandenburg of Mountain View was detained and brought to the police department early in the afternoon on May 22 and arrested after being interviewed by police.

Police received a report of the allegations against Vandenburg on May 20.

The person who made the allegations said Vandenburg may be having an affair with a relative and that the relationship may have started before the relative

was an adult, police said.

Officers interviewed both Vandenburg and the female victim.

Police then arrested Vandenburg on suspicion of aggravated sexual assault on a child under 14 years old, multiple offenses of lewd acts on a minor, continuous sexual abuse and two offenses of sexual penetration with a foreign object, according to police.

Vandenburg is being held in the county jail. Police said they are concerned that there may be other victims because Vandenburg worked as a truck driver for Suburban Propane in San Jose.

Any other victims or anyone who knows of other victims is being asked to call Detective Marco Garcia at (650) 903-6356.

—Bay City News Service



**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET  
ON JUNE 21, 2016**

City of Mountain View

Notice of joint public hearing of the following governmental agencies to review the **Fiscal Year 2016-17 Proposed Annual Budgets, Proposed Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Trash and Recycling rates and various City fees:**

- City Council of the City of Mountain View
- Board of Directors of the Mountain View Shoreline Regional Park Community
- Board of Directors of the City of Mountain View Capital Improvements Financing Authority

Notice is hereby given that Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Council Chamber, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, has been set as the time and place for a public hearing to receive citizen input and written protests from owners or tenants of property located within the City regarding the proposed increases to water, wastewater and solid waste trash and recycling rates. Utility customers objecting to the proposed utility rates may file a written protest with the City Clerk to be received on or before the close of the public hearing on June 21, 2016, which will be tabulated at the public hearing. No utility rate protests submitted by e-mail will be accepted. Council will take action to adopt the above after the public hearing. Notice of this public hearing was previously provided in accordance with Article XIII(D) Section 6 of the California State Constitution. The notice of public hearing and proposed utility rates can be found at: <http://www.mountainview.gov/depts/fasd/revenue/utilities/default.asp>

Notice is also given that Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at the hour of 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Council Chamber, has been set as the time and place for a public hearing to receive citizen input on the use of funds for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Proposed Budget; on the use of funds for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Capital Improvement Program; and on various proposed City fees. Council will take action to adopt the above after the public hearing. If you are unable to attend the budget public hearing but would like the City Council, Boards and staff to know your views, please send a letter to the City Council, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, California 94039, or an e-mail to [city\\_clerk@mountainview.gov](mailto:city_clerk@mountainview.gov) by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 21, 2016.

The budget document, including fees, will be available on Tuesday, June 7th, 2016 on the City's website at: <http://www.mountainview.gov/depts/fasd/budget/current.asp> Copies of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Proposed Budget, supporting documentation for proposed water, wastewater and solid waste trash and recycling rates and various City fees will be available for review by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2016 at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd Floor, Mountain View during normal business hours and during public hours at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View. The June 21st agenda report will be available Friday, June 17, 2016 on the City website at: <https://mountainview.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Dated this 24th day of May, 2016

Patty J. Kong  
Finance and Administrative  
Services Director

MountainView  
**ONLINE**

**LET'S DISCUSS:**

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



## Tax Issues Relating to Real Property

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Thursday, June 23, 2016  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Please join DeLeon Realty at our June Seminar. Gain insight into tax issues relating to real estate from Michael Repka, the managing broker and general counsel of DeLeon Realty. Also, hear the latest market updates from Ken DeLeon, the most successful real estate broker in Silicon Valley, along with his team of talented area specialists, who focus on specific neighborhoods throughout the area.

To RSVP, please contact **Kimberly Vigil** at 650.543.8500  
or by email at [RSVP@deleonrealty.com](mailto:RSVP@deleonrealty.com)

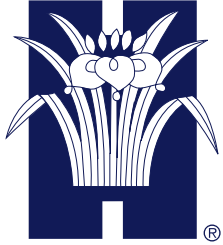
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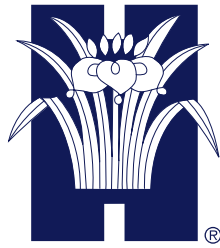
Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club,  
Grand Ballroom  
3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto

Seminar is for prospective clients only, no outside real estate professionals permitted.

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# Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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Karla Kane (223-6517)

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The Voice is published weekly by Embarcadero Media Co. and distributed free to residences and businesses in Mountain View. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 964-6300. Subscriptions for \$60 per year, \$100 per 2 years are welcome.

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Member, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce



### ■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

#### Town Square forum

Post your views on Town Square at [MountainViewOnline.com](http://MountainViewOnline.com)

Email your views to [letters@MV-Voice.com](mailto:letters@MV-Voice.com). Indicate if letter is to be published.

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

Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6528

### ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### GRADS AND MENTORS, TAKE A BOW

Last night I was so fortunate to be in the audience at Alta Vista High School, as they graduated 21 seniors! Looking so handsome and attractive in cap and gown, they seemed like any high school graduating class proudly walking the stage.

But, these youngsters had extra reasons to be proud. Most of them had overcome personal and family problems that we never dreamed of, in our suburban settings. They spoke of pushing on to graduation through trying, trying, trying again.

Several graduates mentioned thanks to their mentors who stood with them through the years. That was my second big swelling of admiration — for the mentors! A student struggles, a caring adult befriends her, shows her what she can be and both lives are changed. Well done, community friends and volunteers from the Mentor Tutor Connection! The students are so lucky to have you in their corner.

Best of luck to our newest graduates!

*Margie Edwards  
Los Altos Hills*

residential housing and there is nothing to stop music and other amplified sound from carrying through the open air to neighbors blocks away.

Mr. Clark went on to say that this situation is really no different than your neighbor playing music from his third-floor patio. But it is different: none of my neighbors has a patio that high; if they did, it would usually be empty; and if I were disturbed I would much rather negotiate with my neighbor than with a corporation — the relationship is more reciprocal.

Council members McAlister and Kasperzak followed Mr. Clark's lead: they also spoke in support of amplified noise on the rooftop deck.

When voting for City Council members, it can be difficult to know how they will balance the interests of businesses and residents. Council members Clark, McAllister and Kasperzak, all of whose terms end in January 2017, have — at least for this project — turned the council away from a sensible precedent that protects residents.

As this and future commercial rooftop decks are approved, as they surely will be, the council's position on

amplified noise in open air at elevation will affect the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

*Robert Holbrook  
View Street*

#### FIXED-INCOME RESIDENTS THREATENED

The article "Upsetting sacred cows..." on page 7 of the May 20 issue of the *Voice* should be of great concern to homeowners on fixed incomes. If some catastrophic event damaged their retirement finances and forced them to downsize, they might find the rents in Mountain View beyond their means, forcing an exodus from Mountain View and maybe the Bay Area.

Homeowners on fixed incomes might want to sign the petition for the rent stabilization initiative, proposed by the Mountain View Tenants Coalition after the disappointing decisions by the Mountain View City Council to keep the status quo — rapidly rising rents and the possibility of unjustified evictions. Visit the website at [mvtenantscoalition.org](http://mvtenantscoalition.org).

*Paul Edwards  
Pacchetti Way*

## 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.

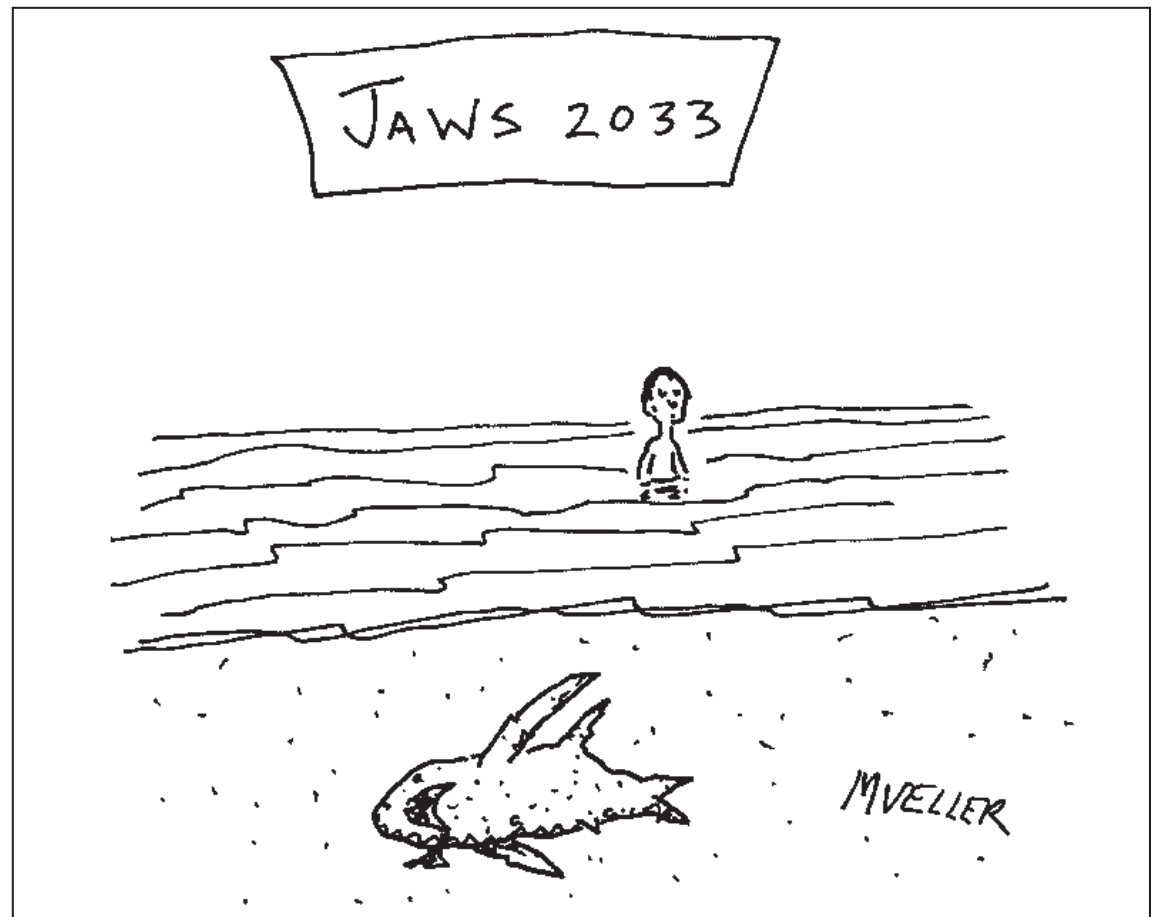
## SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Join today:  
[SupportLocalJournalism.org](http://SupportLocalJournalism.org)

#### BAD CALL ON AMPLIFIED NOISE

The Mountain City Council did not serve the residents of Old Mountain View well at their May 24 meeting. Turning against the proposal of city staff and the zoning administration, they voted to allow amplified noise on a third-floor rooftop deck that will be built for the redevelopment surrounding St. Joseph's Church.

In calling to remove the ban on amplified noise proposed by city staff, council member Clark affirmed that it can be appropriate for the city to ban amplified noise for rooftop decks on new commercial property developments, just as it has in recent years. Why he feels this rooftop deck is different from other decks to which the ban applies is unclear to me: the deck will be three stories up; it is close to





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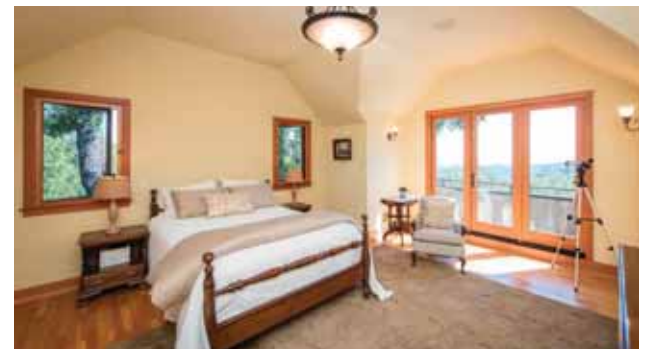
Blending luxury, tranquility, and natural beauty, this well-crafted 4 bedroom, 4.5 bathroom home of 5,008 sq. ft. (per plans) rests on 10 acres (per county), forming the perfect escape from Silicon Valley's bustle. This dreamy custom residence spreads across three levels and offers a different view from every window, in addition to a highly functional floorplan, a three-car garage, a library, and an array of high-tech amenities. Fall in love with the sights and sounds of this rustic setting, and enjoy easy access to local trails.

For more information, please contact:

**Michael Repka**  
650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

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