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MOVIES | 26



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WEEKEND | 21



MICHELLE LE

Mountain View High School teacher **Jamaica Kreps** said students in her U.S. history class did better than ever on the AP test last year, despite a huge decrease in homework assignments.

Long nights of homework are history

AP TEST SCORES IMPROVE AFTER MVHS TEACHER SLASHES HOMEWORK

By Kevin Forestieri

Teachers at both of Mountain View's high schools are looking at ways to cut back on homework assignments, following a new district-wide initiative

aimed at promoting wellness and easing stress among teens. But some teachers are serving as trailblazers for the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, paring down weekly assignments without short-changing stu-

dents on what they need to learn.

Mountain View High School history teacher Jamaica Kreps took a leap of faith last year when she

► See **HOMEWORK**, page 8

USGS to leave Menlo Park, move to Moffet Field

By Mark Noack

Officials with the U.S. Geological Survey told the *Voice* that they intend to shut down their West Coast science center in Menlo Park over the coming years and plan to relocate to the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View.

The first phase of the transition is expected to occur over the next year with about 175 employees

— approximately one-third of its Menlo Park staff — moving to Mountain View.

The full transition is expected to take up to five years, and involves moving the office's full workforce to Mountain View, along with an array of complex scientific gear installed at the Menlo Park center.

The reason behind the move is primarily financial, said Colin Williams, a USGS science center director who is part of the transi-

tion team. The USGS campus off Middlefield Road is owned by the General Services Administration, the government agency that serves as a property manager for federal office buildings. The GSA is obligated under federal law to charge market-rate rent for its properties, even in pricey Bay Area locales where office space goes for a premium.

The USGS is currently paying about \$7.5 million a year for its Menlo Park space. With a 10-year lease on the facility set to expire late next year, USGS officials expect to see a

► See **USGS**, page 15

Rent control opponents collect \$520K to fight measures

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BLASTS TENANT-BACKED MEASURE V, STAYS NEUTRAL ON MEASURE W

By Mark Noack

With just three weeks remaining before mail-in ballots go out for the November election, the political battle is intensifying over Mountain View's proposed rent-control measures.

In recent days, landlord and business groups have mounted an aggressive campaign against Measure V, the citizen-backed measure being spearheaded by the Mountain View Tenants Coalition. In contrast, these groups are showing a lukewarm response to Measure W, the council's milder rent-stabilization alternative.

The chief opposition group, the California Apartment Association, in recent days disclosed in campaign filings it had collected more than \$520,000 from various landlords and interest groups across to state to help oppose Measure V, as well as similar Bay Area rent-control proposals in Alameda, Burlingame,

Richmond and San Mateo.

In the same filings, CAA officials reported they would spend \$95,000 on polling, television advertising and mailers in Mountain View to help defeat Measure V. Large donors helping the CAA in its campaign include Prometheus Real Estate Group and development firms scattered across the state. The campaign also received \$40,000 from the Mountain View Housing Council, a local political action committee that dates back to at least 2008, according to city records.

The apartment association did not report any expenditures or fund-raising directed toward opposing Measure W.

Mountain View voters will have a choice between two ballot measures designed to curb rising apartment rents. Measure V, put forward by the Mountain View Tenants Coalition, would amend the city charter to prohibit no-cause

► See **RENT CONTROL**, page 8



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The U.S. Geological Survey's West Coast science center is on Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. The USGS has been based there since 1954.



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- State-of-the-art appliances include:
- Sub zero 36" refrigerator with cold water dispenser
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- Wolf built-in oven with microwave
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Sanjana Garg

What new fall fashion trend would you want to see?



"I would have to say the giant sunglasses, because they're really awesome and I love sunglasses."

Manju Mohan, Mountain View



"I'd say hats. Like the suede hats with the bows on (them)."

Ani Mohan, Mountain View



"I'd bring back my navy pea coat. It's three-quarters length. I've seen a couple coming back. Sailors in the '30s used to wear those."

Tom Horan, Mountain View



"I am 76. I lived in France and I lived in many countries, so I want something with colors and a nice shirt where you don't show half your body."

Marie Calegari, Mountain View



"I would go with shirts with pretty, leafy colors you don't see here."

Steve Woyach, Mountain View



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- Sunday, October 2, 7:30 PM Evening Service
- Monday, October 3, 9:30 AM 1st Day Morning Service
9:45 AM Children's Service

Yom Kippur

- Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 PM Kol Nidrey (and food drive)
- Wednesday, October 12, 9:15 AM Morning Service (note earlier start time)
9:45 AM Children's Service
5:00 PM Mincha, Yizkor, Ne'ilah

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CRIME BRIEFS

SUSPECT SOUGHT IN CAR BURGLARY

Mountain View police are seeking the public's help in identifying a suspect involved in a smash-and-grab burglary outside of a Starbucks on Pear Avenue on Monday.

Video surveillance footage, posted on the Mountain View Police Department's blog, shows the suspect walking up to the victim's vehicle, a red Nissan Leaf, and smashing through the rear windshield on Monday, Sept. 19, at around 9:55 a.m., police said.

The man is seen pulling a backpack out of the Nissan, which contained the victim's laptop, and entering a nearby vehicle that is later seen driving off, police said. The vehicle is described as a newer model Hyundai Sonata.

The suspect is described as a black man in his early 20s, and was seen in the video wearing gray pants, a gray sweatshirt and white tennis shoes. Anyone with information on the suspect or the suspect's vehicle is asked to call Officer Doerres at 650-903-6344.

KOHL'S BURGLARY THWARTED

Police arrested a 35-year-old Milpitas man after he was allegedly caught bagging close to \$1,000 in goods while walking through the store, then attempting to flee when officers were called to investigate.

On Friday, Sept. 16, at about 11 p.m., security staff at the Kohl's on the 300 block of Showers Drive called police of a possible theft in progress after the suspect, identified as Anthony Davis, was seen acting "nervous" in the store with several electronics and clothing items in a bag, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

When officers arrived at the store, Davis was seen running across the parking lot and was detained. Officers later discovered that Davis had ditched the bag inside the store before

▶ See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 12

POLICE LOG

<p>AUTO BURGLARY 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 9/14 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 9/19 1300 block Pear Av., 9/19</p> <p>BATTERY Amphitheatre Pkwy. & N. Shoreline Blvd., 9/16 Hwy 101 & N. Rengstorff Av., 9/17 1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 9/17</p> <p>GRAND THEFT 1000 block Wright Av., 9/14 2400 block W. El Camino Real, 9/14</p>	<p>300 block Showers Dr., 9/16</p> <p>RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY 1600 block Villa St., 9/15 1100 block Boranda Av., 9/16 300 block Lavender Dr., 9/18</p> <p>STOLEN VEHICLE 800 block Leong Dr., 9/18</p> <p>VANDALISM 22500 block Sleeper Av., 9/15 Easy St. & E. Middlefield Rd., 9/18 2200 block Latham St., 9/19</p>
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EXITING HOSPITAL CEO GETS BONUS

The El Camino Hospital board of directors agreed last week to give hospital President and CEO Tomi Ryba nearly a quarter-million dollars in bonus "incentive" pay, just weeks after voting unanimously not to renew her contract.

The executive compensation structure for the hospital includes both a salary and pay increases of up to 45 percent of the annual base pay. In addition to Ryba's \$800,300 annual salary for the 2015-16 fiscal year, the board voted 7-0 at the Sept. 14 board meeting, with board members Jeffrey Davis and Ryba abstaining, to approve an incentive pay bonus of \$223,673. Board members did not discuss the reasons for the increase during the open session meeting.

▶ See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 6

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COURTESY OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

A rare undeveloped parcel on **Ortega Avenue** will be the site of a new apartment complex. The project was unanimously approved by the Mountain View City Council on Tuesday.

Council approves 144-unit apartment project on Ortega Avenue

NEIGHBORS WORRY ABOUT PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

By Mark Noack

Despite quarrels over parking and student safety, the Mountain View City Council on Tuesday night gave unanimous approval to a 144-unit apartment project along Ortega Avenue. While the project includes five below-market-rate homes, this time, affordable housing concerns were sidelined by other conflicts.

The project by Anton Development Company would make use of one of the city's rare undeveloped parcels — a 2-acre site sandwiched in between the

Target store and Klein Park, just a short walk from San Antonio shopping center. Building out the site with a two-level underground garage and three stories of apartments would require the removal of about two-dozen trees, as well as a single-family home and a barn left from the site's former agricultural days.

But the potential loss that spurred many local residents to speak out at the City Council meeting was the project's likely impact on neighborhood parking. The apartment project includes a garage with 190 parking spaces — more than the city would normally require

— but those spaces would be “unbundled,” meaning that tenants could opt out of paying for garage parking spaces. Several neighbors in the area warned this would effectively encourage tenants to park on the street and worsen what they described as an already terrible situation.

Those concerns were compounded by other improvements attached to the project: a set of bike lanes, crosswalks, curb bulb-outs and other safety upgrades that would be built along Escuela Avenue around

► See **ORTEGA**, page 12

Teacher shortage still a big problem

NEW STANFORD STUDIES REVEAL THE UPHILL BATTLE DISTRICTS FACE IN FINDING TEACHING STAFF

By Kevin Forestieri

School has been back in session for more than a month, but the dust hasn't quite settled in the ongoing struggle to get a teacher in every classroom. High teacher turnover rates and a shortage of new teachers entering the workforce have worsened in recent years, and the effects are felt keenly in Mountain View: the city's two elementary school districts had to hire more than 80 teachers this year, and some positions are still unfilled.

Across the country, school districts have been dealing with the increasingly challenging job of finding qualified teachers at the start of each school year. Fewer people are heading into the teaching profession at the same time attrition has increased, creating a competitive landscape that has districts embarking on months-long hiring sprees that start earlier each year.

A new set of reports by Stanford's Learning Policy Institute, released last week, shows just how bad the problem has gotten, and what local school districts can do to reverse the trend.

The three reports by the institute are long on bad news and short on optimism. Across the United States, research models show that there was estimated national shortage of about 64,000 teachers during the last school year, and that the problem is only going to get worse. An estimated 300,000 additional teachers will

be needed to fill all the available positions by the year 2020, according to one report.

In California, the teacher shortage has already had some immediate impacts. The number of teachers hired with incomplete teaching credentials has tripled over the last three years, meaning districts are turning to under-prepared candidates as the pool of fully credentialed teachers shrinks. The problem is particularly acute in special education, mathematics and science, as well as school serving low-income and minority students.

Data from the reports shows that there's been a steady decrease in people entering teacher training programs over the last decade, with a 35 percent reduction in enrollment between 2009 and 2014.

One 2014 survey found that of the students taking the ACT college entrance exam, only 5 percent said they were interested in pursuing a career in education — a 29 percent decrease from 2010. At the same time, plenty of teachers are reportedly leaving the profession, citing dissatisfaction with salaries, working conditions and conflicts with school administrators.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education reveals that two-thirds of the annual demand for new teachers is due to teachers leaving for reasons unrelated to retirement, according to the study.

► See **TEACHERS**, page 14

Another stab at drawing new school boundaries

MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN TASK FORCE AIMS TO EASE OVERCROWDING AT SOME SCHOOLS

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District kicked off a new effort to change attendance boundaries, marking the second attempt by district officials in recent years to re-draw a map that has some schools overwhelmed with students. But whether these new boundaries will win over the community — and a majority of the school board — remains an

open question.

Attempts to re-draw boundaries fell flat last year for a whole host of reasons that district staff, under the leadership of Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph, are hoping to avoid this time around. Last year, the Boundary Advisory Task Force recommended that the board not open a new school at Slater Elementary after finding that no iteration of boundary maps could support a ninth school without draining

enrollment from a neighboring school. Such a drop in enrollment could create a situation where a school like Monta Loma could be forced to close.

At the same time, residents in the Whisman area of the city made a strong showing at board meetings, arguing that it was high time the district support re-opening a school in the northeast end of the city. Families in the area have not had a neighborhood school since Slater closed

in 2006, forcing them to commute to schools across town. The board ultimately rejected the task force's recommendations and supported re-opening a school at Slater.

The ground rules are different for the district's new Student Attendance Areas Task Force (SAATF), which is operating under a whole lot of assumptions and restrictions. Rudolph explained to task force members at the Sept. 14 meeting that it's

a built-in assumption that a new school will be opened at Slater, and that no school will face closure even if enrollment dwindles well below the ideal number of 450 students. Boundaries are to be drawn in order to avoid having students cross the major thoroughfares of Central Expressway and El Camino Real, he said, but anything else is fair game.

► See **BOUNDARIES**, page 6

BOUNDARIES▶ *Continued from page 5*

While the public won't be seeing the results of the workshops until November, the guidelines shine some light on where boundaries are likely to change. The Whisman area is currently fragmented, with small areas zoned for Huff, Landels and Theuerkauf Elementary — all of which are all likely to be re-zoned for the new school at Slater. Other major outliers include a portion of the Monta Loma Elementary boundary that extends south of Central Expressway into Castro City, and Shoreline West, a neighborhood north of El Camino Real but zoned for Bubb Elementary, which is on the other side of El Camino.

Opening the new school at Slater should be enough to offset the predicted modest increases in enrollment through the year 2020 — particularly from new homes planned in the South Whisman area — but there's a lot of unpredictability after that. City planners are in the early stages of re-zoning parts of the office-heavy East Whisman area for housing, and as many as 10,250 new homes could be added to North Bayshore in the coming years. The staggering amount of expected

growth won't be addressed in this round of boundary changes, but Rudolph said that magnitude of housing could require two new elementary schools and a middle school to accommodate it.

For now, task force members will not be making a verdict on some of the more touchy subjects, like whether to allow grandfathering for siblings of current students, and whether to limit the district's student transfer policy. Rudolph clarified at the Sept. 15 board meeting that task force members were told not to worry about the socioeconomic and ethnic diversity in each school that results from the new boundaries they submit to district staff.

"There's a large conversation about placement, how we place students, and (enrollment) priorities, but that is not their job," Rudolph said. "My goal was to help the task force by taking the political element out of it."

Board member Steve Nelson said he was concerned that the task force was not taking on the issue of segregation in the school district, which he has described several times as the "elephant in the room." Data from the school district last year showed that there is a disproportionate number of low-income and minority students at several schools,

including Castro and Theuerkauf elementaries, which is reflected in big differences in school performance on standardized tests.

The current timeline calls for task force members to finish drawing four potential boundary maps by Nov. 9, which will be sent to the demographic firm DecisionInsite. The boundaries are then set to be presented to the board on Nov. 17 for feedback, followed by five community meetings throughout the city during December. These maps will not include middle schools, which are expected to have close-to-balanced enrollment once new development is completed in South Whisman and other areas of the city.

While the current board will be responsible for winnowing down the list of boundary maps from four to just two, it will ultimately be the responsibility of the newly-elected board members following the November election to decide on the final map. Board president Ellen Wheeler said she agreed with the decision not to leave it up to the lame duck candidates on the board.

"I think the community would like to see most of the action from the new board and not the last gasp of the old board," she said. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS▶ *Continued from page 4*

Late last month, board members met at a closed-door special meeting over the weekend and decided not to renew the five-year CEO contract with Ryba. Board members and Ryba declined to comment on the decision.

The hospital has since kicked off a process to hire both an interim CEO and plans a nation-wide search for Ryba's successor. Board members agreed at the Sept. 14 meeting to set a CEO salary range of \$775,200 to \$1,162,800 for the 2016-17 fiscal year, voting 7-1 in favor of the range. Board member John Zoglin, who attended the meeting by phone, opposed the salary range.

—Kevin Forestieri

PROTEST BY REHAB CLINIC STAFF

Caregivers picketed a Mountain View rehab clinic last Thursday morning over complaints they were receiving meager pay and benefits that are out of line with the owner's profits.

The picket line, which was organized by the Service Employees International Union, Local 2015, was held at the Cuesta Sub-Acute and Rehab Center off Grant Road on Sept. 15.

The facility is owned by Covenant Care, an Orange County-based healthcare group that controls about 60 centers nationwide, most centered in California and the Midwest. SEIU picket lines were scheduled on the same day at other Covenant Care facilities in Sacramento and Gilroy.

Union organizers say their event is meant to highlight the low wages being paid to caregivers, some of whom are paid only minimum wage, they said in a statement. Covenant Care's workers receive poor health coverage with high deductibles that effectively force employees to forgo their own well-being, the statement said.

Covenant Care has been singled out for criticism for cutting staffing levels even as the company took \$15 million in state subsidies meant to hire more caregivers and boost wages, according to a 2010 California Watch investigation.

—Mark Noack

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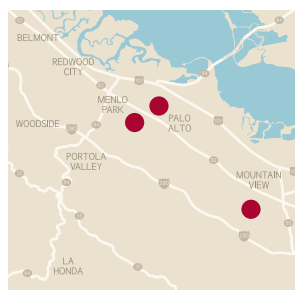


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HOMework

► Continued from page 1

reduced the homework in her Advanced Placement U.S. History class by about 60 percent. The intimidating number of reading assignments each night had been cut — from 50 pages of reading each week to between 12 and 20.

If any class needed to be pared back, it was probably U.S. history. Kreps said the Advanced Placement (AP) class had a reputation on campus for being both difficult and time-consuming, which is troubling for students trying to balance their schedules during their busy junior year. The class covers the first two semesters of a college-level course, and goes through everything, from pre-history to the arrival of Europeans, right through to the current day. The textbook is over 1,200 pages long.

“The class is kind of a beast in that it includes all U.S. history,” she said. “The content load is huge.”

Between shrinking enrollment in the class and the district’s new focus on wellness and reducing stress at home, last year Kreps said she took a hard look at ways to bring down the work load. Working with one of her colleges, former Mountain View high teacher Ben Fleischman, the reading assignments were re-worked to include the essential parts of the textbook, she said. The pressure is now on her to maximize class time and offer both context and a narrative arc so students don’t miss out on anything.

“I have to make sure students are seeing the big picture and seeing the whole story, because they may not be getting that at home now,” she said.

Many teachers may be following suit. The district’s

school board approved a new homework policy in May that limits on how much homework can be assigned each week. Students are expected to have between four and five hours of homework each week for an AP class, with limits on additional homework over the weekend and a ban on homework over

wellness, and it’s certainly its been a discussion at the school,” Kreps said. “The question is, how do we continue to have rigorous and excellent courses but keep student wellness front and center?”

The big question was whether students bombed on the Advanced Placement test in the spring because of the reduced homework load. Surprisingly, test results from The College Board released in July showed that performance actually improved among students enrolled in Kreps’ class.

Of the 68 students who took the test, 97 percent passed with a passing score of 3 or higher, and 60 percent of the test-takers aced the exam with a perfect score of 5. The average score across all 68 students was a 4.40, making student performance on the U.S. history test higher than any other Advanced Placement class at Mountain View High School. By comparison, the average score the previous year was 3.9, with 88 percent of students passing the test.

The results were a big relief to Kreps, who said the responsibility falls to her to make sure students are prepared and have the skills they need to pass the

test. While it’s a small data set — just one year of test results — she said it’s clear that she hadn’t made a huge mistake.

“I was definitely a little concerned that maybe we had cut too much,” she said. “It’s good to know we didn’t do something horrible to the class.”

It can be tough to find the sweet spot for homework assignments when there’s so much content to cover, Kreps said, but other teachers in the history department have since followed suit by cutting back on homework. With the big shift towards STEM classes at the school, she said it’s important to keep students both interested and enrolled in the humanities, and it’s on the teachers to figure out what to include in the course.

“That’s the beautiful thing about history,” she said. “There’s a lot you have to choose to teach and leave out.”

Since the reduction in homework, she said enrollment in Advanced Placement U.S. history doubled this year, showing promising signs that the class will remain a popular choice among students. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

Performance actually improved among students enrolled in Kreps’ U.S. history class.

most vacation periods.

The new policy was spurred, in part, by concern about student anxiety and stress by parents, school board members and district staff. Besides limiting homework, the district hired a new clinical services coordinator, two student services coordinators and mental health therapists who work with students on the campus.

“Mountain View High School has focused a lot on student

RENT CONTROL

► Continued from page 1

evictions and tie rent increases to the rise in the regional Consumer Price Index. When Measure V supporters gathered enough signatures to put it on the ballot, the City Council drafted Measure W as an alternative. Measure W would create a binding-arbitration system to settle disputes between landlords and tenants, as well as create a package of financial disincentives to discourage evictions.

In recent days, the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce has come out strongly against Measure V. In a newsletter sent out earlier this week, the business association strongly urged its members to vote against the Tenants Coalition’s measure, describing it as an “ineffective” policy that would ultimately reduce the rental housing stock in Mountain View.

The Chamber’s board of directors had met repeatedly over recent weeks to deliberate over which local election issues to support, including

the rent-control proposals, said Chamber CEO Tony Siress. The response to the Measure V charter amendment was unequivocal — all 17 board members voted to oppose it. Meanwhile, the Chamber’s reaction to the city’s Measure

rent-control would effectively encourage property owners to forgo maintenance and exit the Mountain View market, he warned.

“A charter amendment to enforce rent control defies the basic core of economics,” he said. “The goal of rent control is never resolved and in time the problem gets worse and bigger.”

The Tenants Coalition doesn’t agree with that assessment of its ballot measure. When shown the Chamber’s newsletter by the *Voice*, the group’s spokesman Daniel DeBolt described the wording as misleading, verging on “fear-mongering”.

“The Chamber’s opposition to Measure V is unfortunate because extreme rent increases are making it hard for local businesses to hire and retain experienced employees,” he said “Experienced employees, nurses, paramedics, caregivers, teachers and hard-working families can’t afford skyrocketing rents.” ▣

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California Apartment Association officials reported they would spend \$95,000 in Mountain View to help defeat Measure V.

W was basically a tie, meaning the group won’t take any position on it, Siress said.

Summing up his group’s stance, Siress said Measure V would make rent-control a permanent policy of Mountain View even though the current housing crisis is a temporary situation. As a policy,

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MountainView ONLINE

LET’S DISCUSS:

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For video tour & more photos, please visit:

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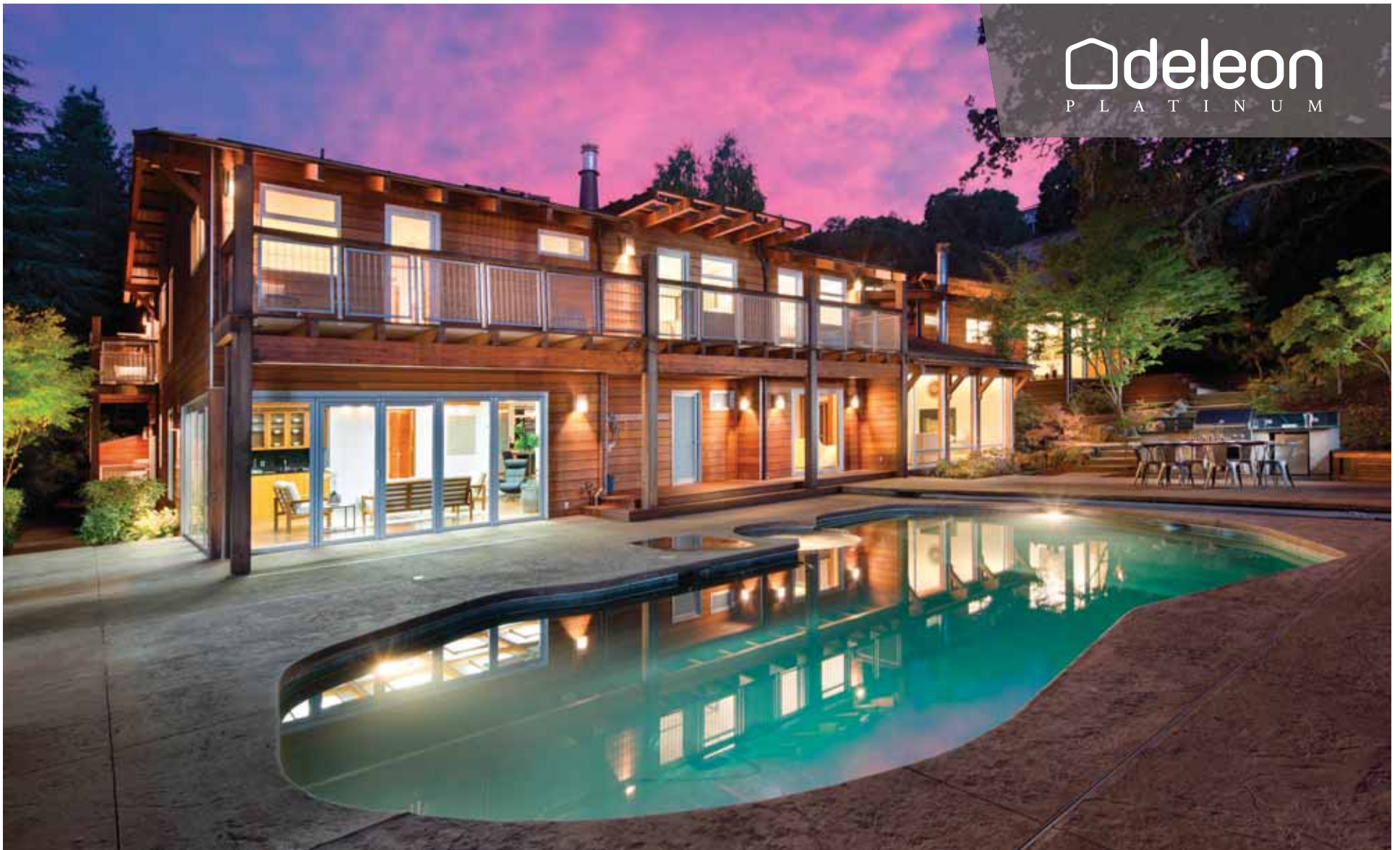
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Saturday & Sunday

1:00 - 5:00

Jazz

ORTEGA

► Continued from page 5

Castro and Gabriela Mistral elementary schools. City planners have flagged those safety improvements as a top priority for the city, and they saw an opportunity to use about \$700,000 in community-benefit funding provided by the Ortega project developer.

But in the weeks leading up to the Tuesday meeting, several neighbors warned that adding bike lanes would remove space for about 17 vehicles to park along the street. At the council meeting, those complaints were matched by a strong showing from school parents, who said that student safety should be a higher priority for the city.

Shelly Kozak, a Mistral Elementary parent who attended the meeting with her daughter, urged the city to make use of the opportunity to install bike lanes, as the school sites were already undergoing renovation projects. Kozak's daughter presented the council with her construction-paper drawings of bike lanes, sidewalks and crosswalks.

"It would be a terrible shame to lose this opportunity to make bike and pedestrian improvements to Escuela," Kozak said. "We shouldn't think about a couple missed parking spots; we should be thinking about the children."

It quickly became clear the City Council was eager to approve the project, but the dilemma over parking spurred a long discussion. Echoing the concerns of nearby residents, Councilman Lenny Siegel spoke against

unbundled parking for the Ortega project, saying it didn't make sense so long as street parking remained free.

"I don't see much benefit of unbundled parking, but there's the risk, which will be hard to reverse, of people parking in the street," Siegel said. "In that case, you'll end up with thoroughly over-parked streets."

He proposed a compromise in which future apartment owners would be required to pay for one parking spot, but a second space would be optional. But in a straw vote, his idea failed in a 3-4 split.

Andrew Baker, a vice president with the Anton Development Company, gave assurances to the City Council that bundled parking could be fine-tuned for residents. Taking him at his word, the council agreed to leave the parking system to the private developer's discretion.

Based on staff recommendations, the council decided to delay any decision on the school-safety improvements. Public Works Director Mike Fuller advised the council members that they didn't need to make any final decision at the meeting. In fact, he suggested that any project along Escuela would need more study on its potential impacts.

Going along with that plan, the council agreed to accept the \$700,000 in community benefit money with the idea to revisit the Escuela project as part of the city's upcoming capital-improvement list. ■

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COURTESY OF ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY

Ohlone Day highlights at Deer Hollow Farm, held this year on Saturday, Oct. 1, include a demonstration of Native American fire-starting techniques (top) and a chance to play traditional games (above).

Ohlone Day at Deer Hollow

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm's annual Ohlone Day Living History Festival will be held from noon to 3 p.m. on Oct. 31.

Highlights include the chance to tour the farm's replica Ohlone village and hands-on activities such as acorn grinding, rope making, face painting and making Ohlone tools. There will also be fire-starting and archery demonstrations.

Ohlone Day is ideal for elementary school children who study Native American cultures as part of their core curriculum, and Boy or Girl Scouts looking to earn merit badges, according to Elizabeth Montgomery, of the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm.

The event is a fundraiser hosted by the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. Tickets are \$7 for everyone over the age of 1.

Deer Hollow is located at Rancho San Antonio County



Park on Cristo Rey Drive off of Foothill Boulevard in Santa Clara County. Parking is limited, and there's about a 1-mile walk from the entrance to Deer

Hollow. For more information, go to deerhollowfarmfriends.org or search Friends of Deer Hollow Farm on Facebook.

—Sanjana Garg

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

fleeing, Nelson said.

Officers arrested Davis on suspicion of attempted grand theft.

—Kevin Forestieri

CALTRANS DEBRIS KILLS MOUNTAIN VIEW MAN

An 82-year-old man who died while driving his car on U.S. Highway 101 in Menlo Park last Friday was likely struck by debris that came off

a state-owned truck, a Caltrans spokesman said.

The man, identified by the San Mateo County coroner's office as Louis Schaefer of Mountain View, died Sept. 16 after being struck in the neck by what appears to be a large metal screw-on nozzle cap that came off the back of a Caltrans water truck, Caltrans spokesman Myeast McCauley said.

It seems the nozzle cap came off the truck, which was traveling south in the far right lane near Willow Road, flew across several lanes of traffic and broke through Schaefer's windshield as he was driving

in the northbound fast lane, McCauley said.

These kinds of caps are usually secured by a metal chain, McCauley said, and it's unclear how it got loose.

After being struck, Schaefer struck the center divider before eventually coming to a stop. No other vehicles were involved.

"Caltrans offers its deepest condolences to Mr. Schaefer's family and friends," McCauley said.

The CHP investigation into the death is still underway, McCauley said.

—Bay City News Service

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www.girlsms.org
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Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 1-4 pm

SCOTT (skoht) n

- 1.) MALE.
- 2.) HUSBAND, FATHER, MOUNTED PATROLMAN.
- 3.) A MAN WHO REFUSES TO BE DEFINED BY STAGE 4 COLON CANCER.

El Camino Hospital is redefining the role of a community hospital with an extraordinarily high level of expertise in cancer care, and doctors who battle as hard as our patients do. Five years after his diagnosis and many treatments later, Scott is still here. We like to think it's because we're here. This is exceptional cancer care, delivered to Scott in the most personal way possible.

TEACHERS

► Continued from page 5

These last two years have posed a tough task for human resources staff at the Mountain View Whisman School District, tasked with looking locally and nationally to hire teachers by the first day of school in August.

"It's been harder to find teachers this year," said Assistant Superintendent Karen Robinson. "A lot of hard work was put into making sure

we had someone in every classroom."

Overall, the district has hired 51 teachers this year — roughly 20 percent of the district's entire teaching staff — and expects to hire three more teachers to fill the remaining vacancies in the coming weeks. One of those positions is a kindergarten position at Theuerkauf, which is currently being filled by a substitute teacher. Finding teachers for special education positions has been extra challenging, Rob-

inson said, so the district has sweetened the deal by offering a signing bonus.

The problem is less pronounced at the Los Altos School District, which had to hire 36 teachers this year, according to Marlene Revelo, human resources specialist for the district. The number of teachers the district hires year-to-year has remained steady for the last five years, Revelo said, but the teacher shortage has made it more challenging.

One prominent reason why teachers are exiting the profession is a familiar one here in the Bay Area — the career doesn't pay well enough to keep up with the cost of living. The studies found that two-thirds of teachers who left the profession in 2012 said a salary increase ranked either "extremely" or "very" important in their decision to return to teaching. Teachers in high-demand fields like science and math are even more likely to ditch teaching for a better-paying job, considering the salaries they can find in the private sector.

free and reduced lunches and government-subsidized health insurance, according to the report.

"Increasingly, a teacher's salary in much of the United States is too low to support a middle-class existence," the report states.

So many teachers are relying on supplemental income now that ride-sharing service Uber recently launched a series of blog posts praising the high number of educators who drive for the company, and encouraging more teachers to moonlight to make extra cash.

Robinson said the school district works closely with local universities as well as national job-posting websites to get the word out. But trying to recruit people from all over the country hits a major hurdle when they discover how much it costs to live here, and how much time they would have to spend commuting to work, she said.

"We tell them the cost of living and they go, 'Oh, I don't think I can do that,'" Robinson said.

Potential solutions to the crisis

Amid the grim message about teacher shortages and high attrition rates, researchers at the Learning Policy Institute say there are a lot of solutions that, when used in tandem, can create a stable workforce for school districts. Anne Podolsky, the lead author of a report titled "Solving the Teacher Shortage," told the *Voice* that there's plenty of ways to offer incentives to teachers other than increasing salaries.

"Teachers don't go into teaching for the money," Podolsky said. "There's other factors related to working conditions that are important."

Because teachers are more likely to ditch a school district during the first few years on the job, Podolsky said school districts could prioritize strong induction and support programs for novice teachers, giving them more opportunities for teacher-training sessions, retreats and seminars. The report found that teachers who get this increased level of support early on in their career are twice as likely to stay in the profession, although it said very few teachers receive this level of support.

In areas where the cost of living is high, some school districts have cut right to the heart of the problem by offering housing subsidies to teachers, but it's not clear

just how well these programs work. Podolsky said districts in states like North Carolina, New Jersey and New York have experimented with rental assistance programs and help with down payments. Other school districts, including Santa Clara Unified, have opted to build a teacher housing project and rent it out to teachers at a below-market rates.

Podolsky said the high cost of housing is in everyone's minds here in the Bay Area, particularly on the Peninsula, and researchers at the Learning Policy Institute are interested to see whether these subsidies effectively attract and retain teachers. For now, it's still an open question.

"Unfortunately, none of them collected any kind of data to measure whether these kinds of programs are effective," Podolsky said.

Regardless, there's plenty of action at the state level to streamline teacher housing projects. A new bill dubbed the Teacher Housing Act of 2016 passed the state Legislature last month, and would authorize school districts to build housing on district-owned property for teachers and school employees. While some school districts have moved forward with teacher housing projects, the bill provides clear authorization to school districts to implement these kinds of programs.

Another possible solution to teacher retention problems is for school districts to team up with local teacher-training institutions to form a teacher-residency program. Similar to the residency programs typically associated with medical school and training doctors, prospective teachers can work alongside seasoned veterans in a real classroom environment, allowing them to better prepare for a career in teaching.

San Francisco Unified School District began its teacher residency program in 2010, and so far the results are promising: 80 percent of the program's graduates continue to teach in the district after five years, compared to 38 percent of beginning teachers who did not participate.

These residency programs aren't too common, but are gaining traction, given just how well they're working, Podolsky said.

"It's something that people are talking about, given how effective it is at addressing so many of the different components in terms of compensation," she said. ▀

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 2016, for Mountain View citizens wishing to serve on one of the following City board, commissions, or committees:

- LIBRARY BOARD (1 position)
(Meets on the third Monday evening of the month)
- ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMISSION (1 position)*+
(Meets on the first and third Wednesday evening of the month)
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (3 positions)
(Meets on the first Thursday evening of the month)
- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (2 positions)
(Meets on the second Wednesday evening of the month)
- BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3 positions)
(Meets on the last Wednesday evening of the month)
- DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE
 - Downtown Property and Business Owner Category (3 positions)
 - Business-at-Large Category (3 positions)
 - Community-at-Large Category (1 position)
 (Meets as needed on a Tuesday morning)
- PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE (2 positions)
(Meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month)
- SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1 position)
(Meets on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month)
- VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE (4 positions)
(Meets on the second Wednesday evening of the month)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY:

* **Supplemental Questionnaire (Preinterview Application):** Candidates are required to submit, along with their City application form, a typewritten response, limited to 350 words, to the following questions:

1. What qualifies you for this position?
2. What do you think are the major issues for land use planning in the City of Mountain View?
3. Give some Mountain View examples of successes and failures in planning.

* If appointed, a Statement of Economic Interests Form 700 will need to be completed annually.

There may be incumbents who wish to be reappointed.

The board, commissions, and committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council.

Appointments are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Call the City Clerk's Office at 650-903-6304 for further information and an application. An application can be downloaded at:

<http://www.mountainview.gov/civica/filebank/blobload.asp?BlobID=2346>

Local school boards weigh in on state ballot measures

By Kevin Forestieri

As the November election approaches, schools district officials in Mountain View have started to throw their support behind ballot measures impacting funding for local schools. Two measures in particular, Proposition 51 and Proposition 55, could offer a big boost to school construction and prevent budget cuts in the coming years.

Last week, Mountain View Whisman School District board members voted 4-0, with one abstention, on a resolution supporting Proposition 55. If passed, the measure would extend the temporary sales and income tax increases from Proposition 30, which voters approved in 2012. Proposition 30 was originally passed as an emergency measure to stop deep cuts to public school funding caused by the 2008 financial meltdown and the recession that followed. It will continue to pump an extra \$1 million into the Mountain View Whisman School District annually until it is phased out in 2018.

The measure has been somewhat divisive at the state capital. Governor Jerry Brown, who

fought hard to pass Proposition 30, has abstained from supporting or opposing the measure, which was intended to be temporary measure. But many school districts have since rolled that money into core academic programs, making it difficult to lose.

A staff report by the district argued that the funding is still badly needed by school districts, and that the per-pupil funding in California still ranks near the bottom, at 42 out of the 50 states. California's schools are also more crowded, and provide fewer ancillary staff members like guidance counselors and librarians, according to the staff report.

"Unless Californians extend the Proposition 30 temporary tax increases, the state's schools most likely will receive relatively fewer dollars in the years ahead, raising the prospect that California's school spending will fall even further behind the nation," according to the report.

Board member Greg Coladonato, who abstained from the vote, said he wanted to take a similar route by voting neither for or against Proposition 55, and recalling that the measure was sold to voters in 2012 as a temporary tax.

The Los Altos School District also threw its support behind a

state funding measure last week, when board members unanimously voted for a resolution in favor of Proposition 51. Dubbed the "Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016," Proposition 51 would allow the state to issue \$9 billion in bonds to fund school facilities projects in school districts and community colleges across the state. Roughly a third would be reserved for construction of new school buildings, a third will be set aside for modernization, and \$500 million would be reserved for building school facilities for charter schools.

District staff say that the Los Altos School District has facility needs that would cost a total of \$400 million to finance, but currently has only \$150 million available through Measure N, a bond measure that passed in 2014. The school district could leverage these state funds to help pay for construction costs. So far, the district has yet to allocate portions of Measure N for land acquisition, the creation of a new school or general facilities improvements across the existing campuses. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

USGS

► Continued from page 1

significant rent increase if they remain, Williams said.

"Like everyone else, we're dealing with the added costs for being in the Bay Area," he said. "We're hoping that relocating to the (NASA) campus will give us an opportunity to reduce those costs."

USGS officials say they've been discussing the move to Moffett Field with their counterparts at NASA over the last three years. No final lease agreement has been signed yet, but that should be finished in the next couple months, Williams said. He emphasized that NASA officials have been very supportive of the plans.

Williams couldn't specify what the USGS would be paying for its new space, but he said it should be "significantly cheaper" than the agency's current Menlo Park campus. He pointed out that relocating to the NASA campus would bring huge opportunities to strengthen scientific collaboration between the two federal research arms on projects such as studying Earth's gravity and atmosphere. Any money saved on rent will free up more funding for research, he said.

"I do want to emphasize we're not doing this solely for financial reasons; it's also for science," he said. "We need to strengthen our technology side and being near NASA will help that. We bring capabilities that complement theirs."

This is not the first time USGS has proposed moving out of Menlo Park, where it has been based since 1954. In late 1999, USGS administrators ordered the Menlo Park facility to close and relocate out of the Bay Area, but a groundswell of opposition from residents, led by Rep. Anna Eshoo, pressured the agency to scuttle those plans. Ironically, the talk of relocating from Menlo Park came just a few years after USGS had spent \$42 million on its Middlefield Road building. In recent years, the USGS has downsized its presence at the Menlo Park campus, and a variety of other federal agencies have leased out space there.

Moving out of the Menlo Park facility will cause some disruptions for the agency, Williams conceded. Gear to monitor seismic activity will need to be reinstalled at Moffett Field without any lapse in measuring any earthquake activity, he said. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Carbon-cutting plan approved by council

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS AIM TO CUT CITY'S GREENHOUSE GASES BY 80 PERCENT

By Mark Noack

Last week the Mountain View City Council approved a list of new actions to curb greenhouse gases, with the goal of eventually reducing the city's carbon emissions by 80 percent.

In a 5-1 vote, with Councilman John Inks dissenting, council members approved a new environmental sustainability action plan consisting of more than 70 initiatives designed to lessen the city's carbon footprint.

City Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Steve Attinger said the actions he was recommending focus on transforming the local power grid to carbon-free energy and converting the city's buildings and transportation to become more sustainable. Altogether, the new initiatives could reduce 191,000 metric tons of carbon emissions created by the city, he said.

Among the top priorities in the coming year, Mountain View staff will investigate installing

new solar arrays and electric-vehicle chargers at city buildings. The city will also equip its vehicle fleet with so-called telematics systems designed to collect data with the goal of reducing inefficiency.

The major piece of the city's greenhouse-gas reduction strategy relies on the completion of a long-running effort to create a South Bay clean-energy alternative. That proposed utility, dubbed the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority, was officially formed in April but it is still in the process of hiring staff and signing purchase deals on the energy market. City staff anticipates that the utility should have most contracts signed by the end of the year and should be able to begin operations around spring of 2017.

At the city meeting last week, council members were asked to approve up to \$700,000 in loans as start-up capital to help the nascent utility begin operations. Last month, Sunnyvale City Council members approved up to \$1.3 million in similar funds.

City staff reported that Gilroy and Santa Clara County officials may also decide to contribute money, which would reduce the amount Mountain View would need to provide.

City Manager Dan Rich gave assurances that this money from Mountain View would eventually be reimbursed.

As part of the new environmental sustainability plan, Mountain View officials intend to spend up to \$65,000 on "outreach and engagement" of local ratepayers to promote the new power utility. When fully implemented, the renewable energy provided by the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority would reduce the city's carbon footprint by more than 150,000 metric tons within the next two years, according to Attinger's estimates.

The lone dissenter on the council, Inks, said he was skeptical of staff's carbon-reduction estimates, and he opposed the city spending money to promote the program. Councilman John McAlister was absent. ▣

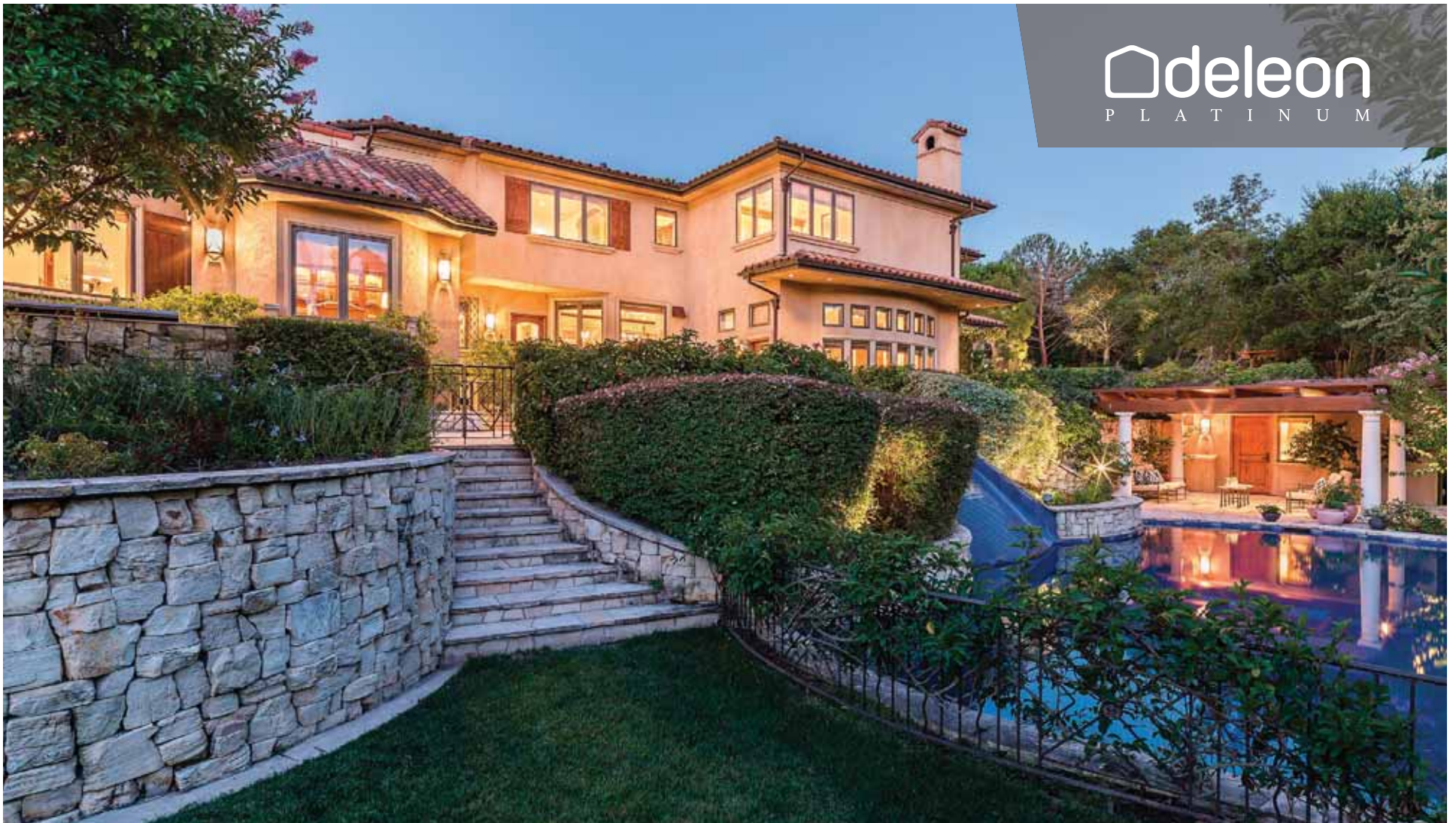


CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Water System Flushing

The City of Mountain View will begin flushing the water system north of Cuesta Drive on August 15, 2016. Flushing helps to maintain water quality by removing accumulated sand and sediment from water lines. Signs and barricades will be posted in neighborhoods the day before flushing begins. Flushing north of Cuesta Drive is anticipated to be complete by the end of November 2016.

If you would like more information about the City's water system flushing program or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood, please contact the Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329 or visit the City's website at www.mountainview.gov.



28500 Matadero Creek Lane, Los Altos Hills

Dreamy Tuscan Estate

Custom-built on a stunning gated property of 4.4 acres (per county), this 6 bedroom estate of approx. 6,400 sq. ft. (per county) provides 6 full and 3 half bathrooms and a charming cabana. Blending Italianate beauty with modern luxuries, this welcoming villa offers outstanding living spaces. The enchanting grounds provide a designer play fort, an infinity pool, and a hilltop parcel with scenic bay views, awaiting further development. Palo Alto Hills Country Club and top Palo Alto schools are easily accessible (buyer to verify eligibility).

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1:30 - 4:30

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A versatile atrium centralizes the residence, which has been freshly updated and includes a stylish kitchen, sun-lit rooms, and a newly landscaped backyard with fruit trees. Within steps of Cuesta Park, also stroll to local shopping centers and Bubb Elementary (API 920) (buyer to verify eligibility).



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■ A + E BRIEFS



COURTESY CITY OF REDWOOD CITY

Redwood City's 9th annual **Salsa Festival** returns on Saturday, Sept. 24, with live music, dancing, a salsa-making competition and more.



COURTESY OF IAN MAK SIN

Russian cellist **Ian Maksin** will bring his one-of-a-kind eclectic rock, R&B and pop arrangements to Mountain View on Sept. 23.

CONTEMPORARY CELEBRATION

ZiRu Dance is celebrating the diversity of artistic viewpoints in the West Coast's contemporary dance scene at its inaugural Silicon Valley Dance Festival: Across the Current Now at Menlo Atherton Performing Arts Center on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24-25. Audiences will be treated to innovative dance pieces by a host of acclaimed choreographers, all of whom will be presenting Silicon Valley premieres.

Curated by founding members Philein Wang and Emily Withenbury, Across the Current Now showcases work from ZiRu Dance artistic director Philein Wang and resident company choreographers Babatunji (Alonzo King LINES Ballet), Elizabeth Chitty, and Michele Wong (formerly of Guangdong Modern Dance Company); Christian Burns of burnsWORK (San Francisco); Winifred R. Harris, independent choreographer (Denver); and Holly Johnston/Ledges and Bones (Los Angeles).

The festival will feature performances from an all-star cast, including Alonzo King LINES Ballet dancer Babatunji Johnson, Oakland Ballet Dancer Alysia Chang and Robert Moses Kin dancer Vincent Chavez. The event starts at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 25, at the Menlo Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. General admission is \$15. Go to brownpapertickets.com and search for Silicon Valley Dance Festival: Across the Current Now.

MANY COMMUNITIES, MANY VOICES

"We were the token gay couple." "We moved to Los Altos to be part of a community." These are some of the phrases featured in a new exhibit curated by Kristin Morris at the Los Altos History Museum. The exhibit, which draws on the museum's Oral History Collection, explores the diverse communities — and the people who created them. The narratives delve into what it means to be part of a community and reflect on the present and future, as well as ask "how we can contribute to the change we want to see in our community." The exhibit is free and runs through Oct. 2, noon-4 p.m. The Los Altos History Museum is located at 51 S. San Antonio Road. Go to losaltoshistory.org.

PEACE THROUGH MUSIC

Artists and activists will come together on Sunday, Sept. 25, for the 2016 Concert Across America to End Gun Violence with a nationwide series of live concerts, including a free show at Backyard Coffee Co. in Redwood City, featuring Redwood City-based band The Corner Laughers, Peninsula jam-band Greensmyth and San Francisco singer/songwriter Pete Kronowitz. The concert will start at 4 p.m. Backyard Coffee is located at 965 Brewster Ave. Go to concertacrossamerica.org.

BRINGING THE HEAT

Redwood City's Courthouse Square is going to sizzle on Saturday, Sept. 24, when the 9th



COURTESY LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

The **Los Altos History Museum's** new exhibit draws on the museum's Oral History Collection and explores the diverse communities.

annual Salsa Festival returns with live music, dancing, a salsa-making competition, tequila and microbrew tastings and more. Salsa, Latin jazz and reggae music will play at three different stages. Taste some savory salsa from amateur and professional salsa makers, who will compete for prizes and, more importantly, bragging rights. Public tasting will take place noon-5 p.m. Don't like salsa? Nosh on delicious fare from local restaurants. The festival is free and starts at noon. Courthouse Square is located at 2200 Broadway St. Go to redwoodcity.org.

CELEBRATING FALL

Filoli is kicking off the fall harvest season with its Autumn at Filoli Festival on Sept. 24. The celebration is a once-a-

year opportunity for guests to explore the 654-acre historic country estate and sample a variety of heirloom fruits as well as other treats — including apple cider and pear butter — grown in its heritage orchard, which contains the largest heirloom fruit tree collection in the United States. The Gentleman's Orchard contains more than 650 heirloom fruit trees. There also will be a special floral demonstration with displays from the property's 16 acres of formal gardens. Docents will be on hand to answer questions about the house and gardens and to conduct orchard tours. Other highlights include live music and activities for children, including performing parrots, old-fashioned relay races and centennial games, a puppet show, a magician, and a pumpkin patch.

Autumn at Filoli Festival is from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24. Admission is \$25 (adult non-member), \$20 (members), \$10 (ages 5-17) and \$5 (ages 3-4). This event is popular and may sell out. Check filoli.org for information before you go.

ONE-OF-A-KIND SHOW

Ian Maksin, the Russian cellist/composer known worldwide for his eclectic, one-of-a-kind classical, pop, R&B and rock arrangements that take the cello well outside its conventional scope, will be in Mountain View with Serbian guitarist Goran Ivanovic on Friday, Sept. 23. Maksin is scheduled to perform a solo set before Ivanovic joins him to play a blend of Balkan, jazz, Arabic, flamenco and classic music. Maksin first gained international acclaim as a leading classical musician. He has since gone on to perform with a diverse group of artists ranging from P. Diddy and Snoop Dogg to Sting and Andrea Bocelli. Cost is \$25. Maksin will perform at 7:30 p.m. at Samovar Hall, 1077 Independence Ave. Go to samovar.ticketleap.com.

—Palo Alto Weekly staff

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