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MICHELLE LE

**Emily Champion** checks on her second-grade students during a problem-solving exercise at Bubb Elementary School in Mountain View. Champion was named a Teacher of the Year.

## Local teachers leave no child behind

TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNERS FIGHT TO SUPPORT ALL STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View's schools are home to thousands of students from all walks of life, and it's become a point of pride to embrace their economic and

ethnic diversity. But teaching in a diverse classroom, offering extra support for students who need it without boring the over-achieving kids, can be a tough endeavor.

In the endless battle to close the achievement gap, some

teachers have risen above and beyond the call of duty to make sure no students fall through the cracks. This year, Bubb Elementary teacher Emily Champion and Mountain View High

► See **TEACHERS**, page 12

## Council approves huge, 583-unit complex

HIGH-DENSITY APARTMENTS TO GO ACROSS FROM SAN ANTONIO SHOPPING CENTER

By Mark Noack

At the Sept. 27 meeting, the Mountain View City Council unanimously gave the green light for one of the city's largest apartment projects to be built directly across the street from the rapidly expanding San Antonio shopping center. The project at 400 San Antonio Road would construct two, five-story apartment buildings and a seven-story building that would bring a combined 583 new housing units into one of the city's

bustling commercial areas.

The project by Prometheus Real Estate Group was warmly received by council members, who lauded the development's significant community-benefit funding and its efforts to create minimal traffic.

"This is exactly the kind of development we need in Mountain View," said Councilman Lenny Siegel.

The project has been in the city's development pipeline for about three years as a so-called gatekeeper project that needed

special exemptions from the city's precise plan for the neighborhood. City planners pointed out that the exemptions needed for this project were minimal, including bonus height and floor-area, which they recommended granting.

"We've worked diligently with staff to make sure we stay with the vision of the San Antonio Precise Plan," said Nate Tuttle, Prometheus vice president. "It wasn't easy with a development

► See **APARTMENTS**, page 8

## Council opts to leave holes in Measure W

DELAYING CHANGES TO TENANT RELOCATION LAW LEAVES AMBIGUITY IN RENT-CONTROL MEASURE ON NOV. 8 BALLOT

By Mark Noack

In a setback for Measure W, the Mountain View City Council's alternative to rent-control, council members voted narrowly on Tuesday to table a closely intertwined discussion on the city's tenant-relocation ordinance until after the November election. In effect, the delay means the city-sponsored Measure W will go before voters with ambiguity over how aggressively it will regulate the local rental housing market.

In a tense turnaround that drew gasps from the audience, the council majority that had supported Measure W fell apart in a 4-3 vote to put off a planned update of

city's Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance, with Mayor Pat Showalter, John McAlister and Chris Clark opposed.

The ordinance, which has been in effect since 2010, is referenced numerous times in Measure W to set the rules for how landlords could circumvent eviction protections by paying a fine to ousted low-income tenants.

The dilemma that played out on Tuesday night came about as a result of the hasty efforts by the council majority to draft an alternative to Measure V, a citizen-backed rent control initiative they criticized for being too inflexible and costly. In their desire to craft a milder version of rent control, the council majority took the eviction-protection language in Measure V and included a loophole that would allow landlords to pay a one-time displacement fee to tenants who were being evicted without "just cause."

The swing vote of the night was Councilman Mike Kasperzak, a Measure W supporter who nonetheless sided with the measure's opponents. Kasperzak explained that he was concerned that making hurried changes to a city program would create unknown ramifications even if both ballot initiatives failed.

"This is a large expansion of the program which I'm not prepared for," he said. "I want the voters who favor rent control to have two options, but this isn't my choice."

***'This is a large expansion of the program which I'm not prepared for.'***

COUNCILMAN  
MIKE KASPERZAK

Other council supporters were clearly distraught that Measure W would go before voters with some major policy holes in its language.

Measure W points to the Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance to set the rules for the penalty landlords must pay tenants being evicted without just cause, but City Attorney Jannie Quinn pointed out to council members that the policy needed a significant overhaul in order to work in tandem with W. The city last updated that program in 2014, and it currently affects landlords only if they displace four or more households within a year. Households are eligible only if they earn less than 80 percent of the local median income (currently about \$85,000 for a family of four).

In her staff report, Quinn laid out a series of questions the council needed to answer to determine which tenants and apartments would be eligible for the displacement fee. The city's Environmental Planning

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# Voices

AROUND TOWN

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

*If you got a book-publishing deal, what would you write about?*



“If someone were to publish my book, I would hope it would be something on a social issue. I would hope that by me writing it, people would open their eyes to this issue.”

**Yvonne Bellido**, Mountain View



“If I were to write a book, I would write a comic book because I like to crack jokes and I think it would be really funny.”

**Eliana Marks**, San Jose



“I would create a world with a fearless and strong female character that doesn't back down because I would like others to read this book and see the same kind of inspiration I look up to.”

**Frinneth Rueda**, Santa Clara



“If I wrote a book, it would either be something like in the genre of satire. I just like it because everyone needs to take life less seriously. If not that, I would make it a dystopian book.”

**Audrey Ramirez**, San Jose



“I'd write a self-help book, but not the kinds that are super cliché and fluffy. It would be really honest, funny, and a little sarcastic at times. The main point I'd be trying to get across is that we're also just trying to survive life the best we can, so hang in there.”

**Swati Swaminathan**, Mountain View



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## 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](http://www.mountainview.gov).

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### CRIME BRIEFS

#### VANDALISM ARREST AT KAISER

A San Francisco woman was arrested in Mountain View last week after she allegedly broke a security gate at the Mountain View Public Library before causing a disturbance at the Kaiser medical facility in downtown Mountain View.

Employees at the library told police they saw a woman, later identified by police as 46-year-old Shannon Gaines, breaking the security gate at the entrance of the library before leaving in her car at around 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22. While officers were investigating the incident, police received another call that a woman in the Kaiser pharmacy yelling and pushing over displays and office equipment, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Officers detained Gaines, and library employees confirmed that Gaines was the same person who had allegedly broken the security gate, Nelson said. Gaines was arrested and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail on vandalism charges.

#### HOME RANSACKED

Police say that a suspect burglarized a home in Mountain View last week, ransacking the residence and stealing items worth thousands of dollars.

The homeowner told police that he left for work in the morning on Friday, Sept. 23. When he returned to his home in the 600

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 16

### POLICE LOG

#### ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

500 block Showers Dr., 9/24

#### AUTO BURGLARY

1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 9/23  
400 block E. Middlefield Rd., 9/26  
400 block E. Middlefield Rd., 9/26  
1000 block Grant Rd., 9/26

#### BATTERY

200 block Hamilton Av., 9/21  
100 block W. El Camino Real, 9/22

#### GRAND THEFT

500 block Piazza Dr., 9/21

#### RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

500 block Minton Ln., 9/23  
600 block Lola Ln., 9/23  
100 block Whelan Ct., 9/24

#### STOLEN VEHICLE

500 block Showers Dr., 9/21  
2500 block California St., 9/27

#### VANDALISM

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400 block Del Medio Av., 9/21  
500 block Franklin St., 9/22

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### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### HOSPITAL NAMES INTERIM CEO

After more than an hour and a half in closed session Tuesday night, El Camino Hospital board members voted 7-0 to select Donald C. Sibery as the hospital's interim CEO.

The decision comes a month after board members agreed not to renew the five-year contract with current hospital president and CEO Tomi Ryba, who will be stepping down at the end of October. Board members declined to comment on the decision, but a statement by the hospital noted that Ryba was "in agreement" with the vote not to renew her contract.

Board member Peter Fung, as well as Ryba, who serves on the board of directors, were absent for the vote Tuesday night, Sept. 27.

Sibery hails from Traverse City, Mich., and is a long-time executive at health care organizations and consultant groups. He currently serves as senior advisor for Patina Solutions and president of Decisive Consulting Solutions, and states in his LinkedIn

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 13

**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.



MICHELLE LE

**Seth Shostak**, an astronomer at SETI in Mountain View, talks about the search for intelligent extraterrestrial life.

## The search continues at SETI

QUEST FOR E.T. DRAWS NEW ATTENTION TO MOUNTAIN VIEW NONPROFIT

By Mark Noack

Man-**M**ankind is as lonely as ever in the universe, but the search for neighbors goes on.

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), the Mountain View-based nonprofit dedicated to scanning the stars for any signs of life.

It all started on Aug. 27, when a National Geographic writer emailed Seth Shostak a one-line message. “Is this legit?” it said. Astronomer Shostak, a 25-year SETI veteran who often serves

as the group’s public face, was given a link to an astronomy blog describing some abnormal radio signals detected by a Russian observatory last year. It was first of a plethora of media questions Shostak would field about the signal over the coming weeks.

The signal in question had come from HD-164595, a solar system located about 94 light-years from Earth. For some, this seemed like the real deal — the first signs of life that may have surpassed human intelligence. At that distance, the amount of power needed to send out the radio signal

would be enormous. Even in the unlikely case that this signal was being beamed directly at Earth, it would still require more than a trillion watts, or more than our planet’s entire energy consumption.

Over the course of the next week, the phone lines at SETI’s Mountain View’s office were ringing non-stop with reporters asking for comment. The media calls would start around 6 a.m., mainly from overseas European news outlets, and they would continue until midnight. In his log for the week, Shostak

► See **SETI**, page 8

## Housing, transportation issues dominate council candidate forum

By Mark Noack

In a candidate forum held last Wednesday afternoon, eight candidates competing for a seat on the Mountain View City Council were largely in agreement that the city’s top challenges are meeting housing and transportation needs.

But in many ways, the similarities ended there, as the can-

didates laid out their visions for solving these and other problems. The returning candidates, incumbent councilmen John McAlister and Chris Clark, along with former councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga, urged voters to elect them so they could see their long-term plans mature for the city.

Newcomer candidates, including Human Relations Commis-

sioner Lucas Ramirez, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Thida Cornes and Environmental Planner Commissioner Lisa Matchak, presented themselves as just as qualified to address the city’s demands as the old guard -- if not more so. On the outer edges of the spectrum were Mountain View Whisman School District

► See **CANDIDATE FORUM**, page 6

## Traffic could put limits on North Bayshore housing

CITY’S DATA SHOWS JAMMED ROADS COULD NOT HANDLE TRAFFIC FROM 10,000 NEW APARTMENTS

By Kevin Forestieri

**A**spirational plans by Mountain View City Council members to allow up to 10,000 new housing units in North Bayshore may hit a snag, after an early traffic analysis by the city shows that injecting that much housing into the office-heavy area would bring traffic to a standstill.

Early last year, council members agreed to revise the North Bayshore Precise Plan to include housing. Adding a residential neighborhood to North Bayshore, an office park primarily owned and occupied by Google, is part of a larger strategy to boost residential growth in the city. Although the number has fluctuated since Jan. 2015, the current goal is to add up to 9,850 housing units in the area.

But the big concern at the Sept. 27 City Council study session was whether the roadways into North Bayshore — Shoreline Boulevard, Rengstorff Avenue and San Antonio Road — could handle the kind of traffic generated by so many new residents. A preliminary traffic analysis indicated that vehicle trips associated with adding 9,850 units would far exceed the roadway capacity, and would fall well short of being compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The three roads have a combined “gateway” capacity of 8,100 vehicle trips during the morning commute into North Bayshore, and 7,940 during the evening commute out of the area.

Depending on the size of the units and the amount of parking allowed, 9,850 units could increase morning commute traffic, currently estimated at about 6,640 morning trips, by between 44 percent and 81 percent. For the evening commute, currently at 6,250 trips, that increase is even higher — between a 81 and 99 percent increase in vehicles traveling in and out of North Bayshore.

The report estimates that between 1,300 and 3,200 units could be added to North Bayshore before reaching gateway capacity — well below what

council members were hoping to add.

“These results came in at a far different place than we originally anticipated,” said Community Development Director Randy Tsuda. “It’s pointing to the complexities of really trying to pull off a transition of this magnitude.”

City Manager Dan Rich told council members the traffic study should be seen as an “early heads-up” based on the current data, and that city staff members fully intend to explore a range of options and policy tools to achieve the council’s goals for North Bayshore.

“We don’t think 3,000 (units) is going to be the final number, but we can’t tell you today with a straight face that 10,000 will be the final number either,” he said. “It needs to be based off data and analysis.”

Throughout the Tuesday study session, council members picked and prodded at the analysis, questioning whether the assumptions may have overestimated the effect of residential development on traffic. One of the big sticking points was that the traffic study lumped both inbound and outbound vehicle trips together to determine “gateway capacity,” and that the big increase in morning commute traffic, for example, is really attributable to people traveling out of North Bayshore, not entering it.

It goes without saying that adding 9,850 units — a 20-fold increase in the population of North Bayshore — is going to increase traffic along the major access roads. But some council members were perplexed by the idea that residents leaving North Bayshore in the counter-commute direction would make a big difference in traffic flows into the office-heavy area.

Council member Lenny Siegel said he found it hard to believe that outbound traffic in the morning is going to bump up against the limit for gateway capacity when it’s only one-sixth the number of cars heading into North Bayshore. Although staff suggested that drivers leaving

► See **NORTH BAYSHORE**, page 12

CANDIDATE FORUM

► Continued from page 5

trustee Greg Coladonato and Cisco Systems manager Kacey Carpenter.

The event, held Sept. 21 at the Googleplex campus before an audience of more than 100, was the second political forum for Mountain View City Council candidates. Organized by the Los Altos-Mountain View chapter of the League of Women Voters, the format forced candidates to give short, 60-second answers to the complicated topics that consume countless hours at City Hall.

The setting was apt, since much of Mountain View's growth will be centered just a matter of blocks from the Google headquarter in North Bayshore. Asked about the plan to bring residential development through thousands of new apartments, candidates largely agreed that North Bayshore offered a tremendous opportunity to be a model for a sustainable mix of dense office and residential growth. Cornes and McAlister both emphasized that the city should temper the push for housing by ensuring that parks and wildlife were preserved in the area.

Clark and Abe-Koga used the



MICHELLE LE

Mountain View City Council candidates take turns introducing themselves at the League of Women Voters forum held at Google campus on Sept. 21.

opportunity to point to their experience working on the North Bayshore precise plan. Matchak and Ramirez talked about the potential benefits of having a large number of homes in a walkable community, and Carpenter

pointed out that North Bayshore presented a great opportunity for public-private partnerships.

Taking a different approach, Coladonato expressed bafflement as to why the city was so intricately involved in planning the area. He pointed out that city officials have blocked past attempts by Google to build housing in the area, and he suggested a better plan would be to give tech companies more power to control their own local growth.

"I think it's strange that the city should decide what's on every parcel of land," Coladonato said.

"I'd rather let Google decide what their new headquarters is going to be like."

The forum touched on rent-control, the planned Castro Street closure at the train tracks, and a bevy of other topics. But not all candidates got a chance to chime in on every issue; moderator Julie Cates switched to a new question after three or four candidates answered it, leaving some candidates visibly frustrated at the lost chance to opine on key issues.

Only a subset of the candidates were given an opportunity to comment on rent control, the

hot-button issue of this November's election. In previous commentary, Carpenter has come out in support of the citizen-backed Measure V, while McAlister, Clark, Abe-Koga and Matchak have stated support for Measure W, the council's alternative measure. Ramirez has stated he will endorse both measures while Coladonato is opposing both. Cornes says that she is remaining neutral on both measures.

In a line he repeated a few times, Carpenter said Mountain View is at an "inflection point" when good leadership is necessary. He warned that the city needs to protect its diversity and ensure that everyone has an opportunity.

Asked about the Castro Street closure, Cornes took aim at the City Council, saying the members lost an opportunity to tunnel the Caltrain tracks and Central Expressway for an underpass. This could have opened up an opportunity to build a new swath of valuable property over the roadway, she said. Clark defended the council's decision, saying it would have cost far more money and caused more disruption to the business community if the city tried to keep Castro Street open.

Some candidates were asked to list their top infrastructure priorities, and many zeroed in on transportation as their No. 1 goal. Abe-Koga added in that saving the city's BikeShare program was also important. Getting broadband internet throughout the city is also vital, added McAlister. Along with transit improvements, Cornes named recycled water as a priority.

"We're still in a drought and we'll be there for many years," she said while admitting that reclaimed water wasn't exactly a "sexy" building project to rally behind.

Playing to the crowd at Google, candidates were repeatedly asked about Mountain View's relationship with the high-tech community. Ramirez pointed out that many of the city's large companies have acted as good corporate citizens who share many of the same concerns and priorities as local residents. Google, Microsoft and other companies needed room to expand and the city should be aiding them to sustainably grow, he said. Matchak pointed to the recently completed Charleston retention basin as a good example of how Google had addressed local environmental concerns.

The full video of the candidates forum is available at the League of Women Voters website, [lwvlamv.org](http://lwvlamv.org).

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# Bicyclist collides with city shuttle

GRAHAM STUDENT SUFFERS SERIOUS INJURIES

By Kevin Forestieri

A Graham Middle School student on a bicycle was taken to the hospital with serious injuries Friday afternoon after he collided with a Mountain View Community Shuttle on Castro Street.

The injured boy was taken to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto and is expected to recover, according to an email from school official Lisset Tellez.

Police received reports of a bicyclist lying in the roadway around 3:15 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23, near the intersection of El Camino Real and Castro, not far from Graham school. The boy was reportedly riding alongside the shuttle for some time before colliding with the vehicle, according to Mountain View police spokeswoman Katie

Nelson. It appears he lost control of his bicycle before colliding with the shuttle, she said.

The bicyclist was the only person injured in the accident, Nelson said.

In her message to Graham families, Tellez said counselors from the Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC) would be available this week to talk to students upset by the incident. The school will also be hosting bicycle safety assemblies during its upcoming conference week, she said in the email. Parents were asked to address any questions to Principal Kim Thompson.

Drugs and alcohol did not appear to be a factor in the collision, and the shuttle was driving at a normal speed, Nelson said. ▣

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

## APARTMENTS

► Continued from page 1

this large.”

Prometheus' development would be built at a 5.7-acre space formerly occupied by low-density commercial, office and industrial buildings with large parking lots. One former tenant, Masa Sushi, would be welcome to reopen at the new site's ground floor commercial space, Tuttle said, pointing out that lease terms were still being negotiated.

Music to the ears of council members, the apartment project would include 48 below-market homes, which would be offered for about \$1,000 a month for a one-bedroom or \$1,200 for a two-bedroom unit. Prometheus' project also would provide more than \$24 million in parkland dedication fees and \$5 million in public benefit funding.

Even before voting on the project, city officials traded some ideas for how that community benefit money could best be used. City planners urged the council to set aside \$500,000 to go to the Community Services Agency to help provide homeless aid. That issue is particularly

germane for the San Antonio neighborhood because a large number of car-campers regularly park just a few blocks away, near Latham Street.

Superintendent Jeff Baier of the Los Altos School District urged the council to direct some of that money toward a new site for a future school campus. Over recent months, Baier has repeatedly warned Mountain View

Baier told council members the district currently had two “active” sites under consideration with a third property that was “potential.”

While council members signaled support for the school district, some expressed caution on committing funding to a project that could remain a long way off. Mountain View could be devoting this money immediately toward improving safer routes to schools or solving other problems, said Councilman Chris Clark.

Councilman John Inks went further, saying the city didn't have an obligation to help the school district, where 27 percent of the enrollment is Mountain View residents.

“Not to spite the school district, but the voters approved a bond, and the school district is coming back to voters for (a parcel tax),” he said. “We're being generous to the school district if we (give money) when the taxpayers are already paying for it.”

The council approved the project in a 7-0 vote. ▣

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

***‘This is exactly the kind of development we need in Mountain View.’***

COUNCILMAN LENNY SIEGEL

officials that the city's push for new housing is creating a growing enrollment problem for the district. Thanks to a 2014 general-obligation bond, the LASD school district is holding about \$150 million intended for a new school, but the district is still in the process of working to acquire a suitable property.

## SETI

► Continued from page 5

recorded that he participated in about 70 interviews.

“I'd be talking to one reporter and the phone would be picking up messages from two others,” he said. “This was the biggest story we've ever had in terms of media attention, and it ended up being a non-story.”

Shostak couldn't hold back his doubts. Basically, he told reporters it was all bogus hype.

Speaking to the *Voice*, he listed off reasons why the HD-164595 radio signals were dubious. The signal was an anomaly that no other observatory was able to detect. In fact, the Russian astronomers who originally noticed the signal tried 38 times to relocate it without success. They never alerted the astronomy community, and their discovery likely would have been ignored if it wasn't highlighted by an Italian astronomer about a year later. A few days after the news blew up, the Russian Academy of Sciences even put out a statement noting that the signal was of “terrestrial origin” in all likelihood.

It was hardly the first time the international community had gotten a false reading of alien life. Shostak remembers a similar letdown in 1997 when a SETI software malfunction led to a European research satellite being misread as a suspicious signal. Much like today, news agencies

were calling long before the scientists had figured out what happened.

It goes without saying that for anyone at SETI, any hint of alien life, especially intelligent life, would be the story of the year, if not the century. Shostak muses that every SETI observation site probably has a champagne bottle at hand for when proof emerges of some extraterrestrial civilization. That in itself presents a dicey question: when exactly should the science teams pop the cork? He points out that verifying a signal is tricky and time-consuming even though SETI has devised a metric they call the Rio Scale for grading a signal's credibility.

From SETI's perspective, the public's interest in finding definitive proof has only ratcheted up in recent years. Recent polls show that slightly more than half of Americans believe in the existence of extraterrestrial intelligent life. In fact, nearly one-third of citizens believe aliens have already contacted Earth, but it's been kept secret as part of a government cover-up.

Part of this wider acceptance of alien existence is surely due to popular science-fiction, but Shostak has some other theories. In recent years, NASA's Kepler spacecraft has detected thousands of planets beyond our solar system, some of which have shown signs they could be suitable for life. More recently, astronomers have debated the strange light fluctuations of KIC-

8462852, known as Tabby's star, and some have posited that it could be signs of extraterrestrial astro-engineering. The public is primed to think a big announcement is imminent that humans aren't alone, Shostak said.

***‘Planets are as common as cheap motels. And if there's an enormous amount of real estate, it can't all be sterile.’***

SETH SHOSTAK, SETI ASTRONOMER

“The public at some level is aware of this — they know that planets are as common as cheap motels,” Shostak said. “And if there's an enormous amount of real estate, it can't all be sterile.”

Despite the surging public interest, SETI's extraterrestrial-search team is a fraction of its former size. After many years as a loose astronomy project, SETI received formal government support and funding about 40 years ago, and the NASA Ames Research Center became its headquarters. At the time, about 50 scientists were collaborating on the project, Shostak said.

But it wasn't long after its inception that SETI's \$12-million annual budget was derided as a waste of taxpayer money. Those criticisms culminated in the early 1990s, when the U.S. Senate voted to kill the program.

After that setback, SETI reorganized into its current form as a private nonprofit. SETI remained in Mountain View although the group has bounced around to various offices throughout the city. Today the organization is housed at a Central Expressway building that it shares with a web-design firm and a marketing software start-up.

At first glance, the SETI headquarters looks like any typical corporate office, filled with cubicles and conference rooms. What's different is the huge amount of geek memorabilia: sci-fi posters, space charts and framed autographed photos of Leonard Nimoy, Jodie Foster and Carl Sagan. Shostak said he worked as a consultant on a dozen different films, all of which he described as flops, with the exception of “Contact,” starring Foster.

NASA still regularly works with SETI on a contract basis, primarily on astrobiology, the study of how life could exist outside of Earth's atmosphere. During a quick tour through the offices, Shostak introduced Lori Fenton, a research scientist who was preparing to travel to the Bolivian Andes. Her destination was a lake at the Licancabur

volcano, a site that has the world's highest detected levels of ultraviolet radiation. Off and on for the last 15 years, Fenton had been studying the location to learn how micro-organisms could survive there without DNA damage, a question that also hangs over any possibility of life on Mars.

While SETI has a staff numbering around 140 people, only about four scientists are directly involved in the group's founding mission to scout for alien life. But the group still has an impressive array of equipment for that task. The organization's main tool for scanning the stars is the Allen Telescope Array, a collection of 350 radio dishes located about 70 miles east of Redding that they would like to expand someday, said Bill Diamond, SETI's CEO.

Asked about SETI's fruitless efforts for the past 40 years, Diamond gave an analogy that what they are attempting was a bit like dipping a cup into the ocean to prove the presence of fish. Along with radio signals, they also are attempting to find alien intelligence through flashing lasers or detecting possible signs of engineering. For them, it wasn't a question of whether extraterrestrial life existed, but rather how they could locate it.

“I'll bet anyone a cup of coffee that in 20 years we'll find E.T. — I'm sure there's life out there,” Shostak said. ▣

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



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Unlike most real estate agents, Michael holds two law degrees and has years of experience as a real estate attorney, giving his clients a unique advantage as most other brokerages do not provide an in-house attorney to help clients. In addition, the expertise and marketing available through the team at DeLeon Realty are the very best in the business. Meet with Michael to discuss any preliminary questions about selling your home and let him tell you more about what makes DeLeon Realty's innovative approach to real estate so successful. There is no cost or obligation for this consultation. However, Homeowners that have a current listing contract with another agent are excluded.



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## NORTH BAYSHORE

▶ Continued from page 5

North Bayshore will inevitably cause delays for the employees traveling into the area, Siegel pointed out that most people heading southbound are going to be headed straight, and likely won't be blocking any intersections until they hit Middlefield Road.

Siegel, along with Mayor Pat Showalter, also questioned whether the analysis low-balled the number of people who will both work and live in North Bayshore, making their commute "internal" to North Bayshore. City estimates predicted that between 10 and 20 percent of people living in North Bayshore will also work in the area. Siegel said he believes that number should be closer to 75 percent.

"The key variable in the analysis is the internalization rate,

and I think the assumption that you're making is way off base," he said. "This is not Mission Bay, this is North Bayshore. It's clear that people are willing to pay a premium to live near the workplace."

City staff were quick to clarify that the traffic analysis doesn't preclude building more than 3,200 units of housing in North Bayshore, but another traffic analysis will ultimately determine what kind of residential development will be allowed, given the constraints of the roadway infrastructure into the area.

"This is likely how the analysis will have to be put together to be CEQA compliant," Tsuda said. "You can't put your aspirational goals into the CEQA analysis, they are, by their very nature, conservative." ■

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

## TEACHERS

▶ Continued from page 1

School teacher Nicole Kopels received the Teacher of the Year award from the Santa Clara County Office of Education for finding creative ways to make sure every student succeeds.

Every year, about 30 teachers are selected to receive the award from a pool of over 12,000 public school teachers in Santa Clara County, in school districts from Gilroy to Mountain View. The designation goes to teachers who show a commitment to try new things, evolve their lessons each year and continually look for better ways to teach.

Other local educators to receive this year's award include Santa Rita Elementary School teacher Victoria Lombardi and Bullis Charter School teacher Qinglin Yang.

## Emily Campion

Things are constantly changing in Emily Campion's second-grade class at Bubb Elementary, which has turned into the school's hot-spot for new teaching techniques. In recent years, Campion said she has tried a myriad of new ways to break students out into groups so kids struggling with new concepts can get the help that they need, while students who excel will still get the challenge they need — all under the guidance of one teacher. In Campion's class, the goal is to leave no child left bored out of his or her mind.

"Is there anything worse than sitting in a lesson that you already know?" Campion said. "It's extremely boring."

Starting last year, Campion has led the way in a school-wide effort to adopt a "blended learning" model, where technology plays an increasingly important role in the classroom. Bubb Principal Cyndee Nguyen described how one of Campion's endeavors included creating instructional math videos that were based on what students did or didn't understand from the day before. Some of the kids would watch the videos, while others worked directly with Campion, effectively allowing her to teach in two places at one time.

Campion said this style of differentiated learning is critical in her classroom because she has kids at different levels of proficiency, and she didn't want to overlook anybody. When she sees students struggling, she said it's important for her to sit down with those kids during class time and re-teach lessons until they figure it out.

Cathy Patterson, an instructional coach at Bubb Elementary, worked with Campion when they introduced the blended learning

model in math last year, and said she nominated Campion for the award after seeing her determination to meet the needs of her students.

"Emily stands out, not only in her instruction and willingness to try new things, but also in her humbleness about her craft. Her students are very lucky to have her," Patterson said.

Campion has been a public school teacher for two decades, moving from Southern California to Arlington, Va., and finally to the Bay Area where she taught at Landels Elementary and Bubb. Despite her long tenure, Nguyen said that Campion is still constantly trying new things, and has a reputation for innovation in the classroom.

"She really puts kids first, and is always willing to try whatever it takes to get the job done," Nguyen said. "Teachers will say 'Oh, Emily tried it, so it must be worth doing.'"

Bubb PTA president Amy Fazio, who had a child in Campion's class two years ago, praised her teaching style and her ability to teach concepts with projects that wrap art and creative thinking into science and math lessons. Campion is down-to-earth and fun, Fazio told the *Voice* in an email.

Campion said she will continue to experiment and challenge herself to be a more effective teacher. She said Bubb Elementary gives her all the support she needs to go with her unscripted teaching style.

"I am constantly in flux, I don't like to stay too stagnant," she said. "You have to constantly question the efficacy of your practice. If you aren't looking at the results of what you're doing, you can't find ways to improve it."

## Nicole Kopels

Mountain View High School Teacher Nicole Kopels wears a lot of hats each day. She teaches algebra, U.S. history, world studies, all levels of English, Advanced Placement Calculus, trigonometry and Spanish. She is the school's special education teacher, juggling Independent Education Programs (IEPs) for 28 students each year, and she is one of the first people students approach when they've got a social or emotional problem.

Kopels is kicking off her 12th year at Mountain View High School as a resource teacher for students with special needs. Every day, she teaches students with learning differences such as autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), medical conditions including cancer, and emotionally disturbed students. One-on-one lessons with students are tailored to fit their needs, and her work is

hardly done when they head out the door each day.

"I make sure that all the accommodations and modifications in their IEPs are upheld in their general education classrooms," Kopels said. "I follow about 36 teachers and 48 classes, and I watch their grades."

Keeping a close watch on all of these students already seems like a full-time job, but when they are in her room, she makes a concerted effort to offer one-on-one help with whatever classes they are enrolled in. That means Kopels needs a level of mastery and understanding of every subject taught at the school. She's got a handle on pretty much everything, she said, with the exception of French.

"There are days where one kid needs geometry and one kid needs something else, like reading a science textbook or an excerpt on history. And then I have to run back and help with geometry," she said.

Mountain View High School Teacher Allison Pearl said Kopels is on top of teaching lessons to students each day, making sure students can organize their classwork and handle big assignments and projects. While some of the work is remedial, Pearl said Kopels has high expectations for her students, and has a reputation for being the "school mom" on campus.

Kopels' hard work in the classroom hasn't gone unnoticed. Mountain View High School Principal Dave Grissom told the *Voice* that it seems to be her calling to teach these high-needs students, and that there are very few people who could take on the position of a sort of meta-teacher. The white board on the back of her room, he said, is covered from top to bottom with every upcoming assignment for almost every teacher that her students have.

"You walk into the classroom and get a really good sense of what an incredible instructor she really is," Grissom said. "Nobody has a better finger on the pulse for what's going on in the classrooms across the school than her."

While most high school teachers build relationships with their students for a year before seeing them off in June, Kopels works with special needs students for all four years of high school, allowing her to build close relationships. She's heard a fair few break-up stories, and has been invited to a few weddings from former students. She asked a few attend her own wedding as well.

"We grow very close in the four years that we work together. It's about letting them know that I'm there for them at all times, for everything." ■

## 13th Annual Avenidas Caregiver Conference

## From Crisis to Confidence



Saturday, October 22

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COURTESY OF ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY

## OHLONE DAY THIS SATURDAY

The annual Ohlone Day at Deer Hollow Farm is set for this Saturday, Oct. 1, from noon to 3 p.m. The family-friendly event takes place in the replica Ohlone Village, which is usually closed to the public, and features displays, live demonstrations and hands-on activities that teach about the local Native American community. In last week's issue of the Voice, the wrong date for the event was listed in the story. More information is at [deerhollowfarmfriends.org/ohlone-day](http://deerhollowfarmfriends.org/ohlone-day).

## MEASURE W

► Continued from page 1

Commission reviewed the update earlier this month and recommended making all tenants eligible for displacement payments, even if only one household is evicted.

Such changes would represent a significant expansion of the program, and Quinn said the city wouldn't know how much the program would cost until early 2017. Any expansion would likely require more staffing to enforce its provisions, she said. The costs would depend upon the council's decision, but she said city staff were planning to recoup those expenses by putting a surcharge on any relocation fees paid by landlords.

The complexity of the questions they were being asked came as a surprise to council members, who said they had thought it would be relatively simple to align the relocation fees with the language of Measure W.

Kasperzak said he felt he was being forced into a corner, asked to rewrite the tenant-relocation rules on the shaky possibility that Measure W would pass. In agreement, Councilman Ken Rosenberg quizzed his colleagues on whether Measure W actually stood a chance of being approved by voters.

"Are you going to actively campaign for this?" Rosenberg said. "I think Measure V might have a chance, but I think Measure W does not."

In response, Councilman Chris Clark began describing his efforts to advocate for Measure W, but he was quickly cut off by City Manager Dan Rich, who reminded the council they were prohibited

from discussing political campaigns at a public meeting.

Quinn suggested the council could make the expansion of the tenant relocation ordinance contingent on Measure W passing, but this idea found little support among the council. It became clear the council members had little enthusiasm for rejiggering a complex policy, and Quinn tried to remind them that Measure W contained various blanks that needed to be filled. Until the council updated the tenant relocation ordinance, Measure W would essentially have the same just-cause eviction protections as Measure V, she said.

Over warnings from other council members, Rosenberg made a motion to table the discussion until after the election, explaining that they needed more time to discuss any changes.

The council's main supporters of Measure W — Clark, McAlister and Showalter — were emphatic that the city needed to give voters specifics on what their initiative would do. Clark proposed going forward with the ordinance changes, but timing the second reading for after the election.

All three voted against tabling the measure, but they ultimately came up short.

"I'm disappointed ... we wanted to do something fair as an alternative," McAlister said. "We made a commitment, but now it doesn't look like we're going to do it."

Following the meeting, the Mountain View Tenants Coalition, the main proponents of competing Measure V, seized on the council's inaction as evidence that city's alternative was never fully thought through.

"When the City Council put

Measure W on the ballot, they acknowledged that it was half-baked, and promised to finish the job before the election," said Juliet Brodie, co-author of Measure V. "It's honestly a mess, and I don't know how they can ask voters to support Measure W when they are essentially promising to change its meaning immediately after the election."

If Measure W passes, Quinn said the City Council could take up a new discussion to update the Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance before the end of the year. ▀

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

profile that he "will entertain interim CEO and COO replacements." Sibery recently served as interim CEO of Renown Health, located in Reno, Nev.

The board also approved the interim CEO contractual terms "in concept," and will be hammering out the details of the contract in the coming weeks. The board agreed to delegate authority to board members Lanhee Chen and Neal Cohen to negotiate the terms of the final contract.

Hospital officials would not release information on the tentative terms of the contract, including salary, compensation and start date. That information will be released once there is a formal, signed agreement between the hospital and Sibery, said hospital spokeswoman Kelsey Martinez.

—Kevin Forestieri

temperatures would drop significantly.

"There is relief in sight," Peterson said on Sunday. "It's just a couple of days out."

The cooler temperatures will last through the weekend, Peterson said.

## CLIPPER CARD READERS FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Caltrain stations will soon feature new devices to help passengers with visual impairments locate Clipper card readers, according to transportation officials.

The Clipper card readers already emit a tone when passengers press the payment cards onto the sensor pads. Starting Sept. 30, the new devices will emit lower-frequency tones at regular intervals so that people who are either blind or whose eyesight is seriously impaired can locate the reader machines more easily.

The locator tone will sound every 15 seconds throughout the day at most Caltrain stations, however at some stations between San Jose and Gilroy, the tone will only sound during weekday morning and evening commutes, according to Caltrain.

At the Broadway and Atherton stations, the tone will only sound during the weekends, as those stations have no weekday service.

The devices are designed to emit a tone that can be heard up to 20 feet away.

—Bay City News Service

## HEAT SETS RECORD

Clear skies and westerly winds brought record-breaking heat to Mountain View on Sunday, according to official data from the National Weather Service.

At Moffett Field near Mountain View the high temperature on Sept. 25 was 96 degrees, breaking the old record of 91 degrees set in 1978. On Monday, Mountain View tied the record with a high temperature of 95 degrees.

National Weather Service meteorologist Drew Peterson said that by Wednesday,

## Citizens Watchdog Committee Report to the Public

### 2000 Measure A Sales Tax Activities Fiscal Year 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15)

Measure A, approved by Santa Clara County voters in 2000, is a 30-year half cent sales tax dedicated to enhancing the county's public transit system. Although revenue collection did not begin until 2006, upon expiration of a previous measure, numerous Measure A Program accomplishments have been achieved during the first nine years, all significantly benefitting county residents and commuters.

A few key Fiscal Year 2015 accomplishments are:

- **Extending BART to the Silicon Valley** cities of Milpitas and San Jose, which will provide more transportation options and reduce congestion. The extension to the Berryessa section of San Jose is ahead of schedule and under budget. Service is projected to start late 2017.
- **Extending and improving light rail service** with projects such as the Mountain View Double-Track and Tasman Drive Pocket Track projects enabling enhanced service to the new Levi's Stadium, Sunnyvale and Mountain View.
- Completion of environmental and planning to **increase Caltrain service and electrify the system** from Palo Alto to Gilroy.

Santa Clara County voters entrusted the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC), comprised of fellow community members, with overseeing Measure A expenditures to ensure your sales tax dollars are spent as intended by the ballot. After thorough and careful consideration:

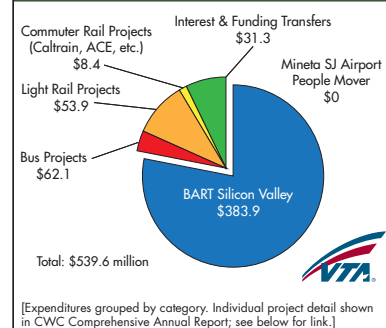
**It is the conclusion of the CWC that, for the period of FY 2015, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.**

Additional Measure A information is available on VTA's website ([www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/Programs/2000-Measure-A-Citizens-Watchdog-Committee](http://www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/Programs/2000-Measure-A-Citizens-Watchdog-Committee)) including:

- CWC Measure A FY 2015 Benefits & Key Achievements Report.
- CWC Comprehensive Annual Report on FY 2015, which provides a detailed description and status on all Measure A projects and the CWC's responsibilities.

Printed copies of select Measure A and CWC reports are available at libraries and other public buildings throughout the county, and at the VTA offices at 3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA, in the Building B Lobby.

### 2000 Measure A Expenditure - FY15 (in millions)



[Expenditures grouped by category. Individual project detail shown in CWC Comprehensive Annual Report; see below for link.]





## 965 Berkeley Avenue, Menlo Park Offered at \$2,998,000

### Thrilling Property in Menlo Oaks

Immense gardens surround this spacious, flexible 5 bedroom, 5 bathroom home of approx. 4,000 sq. ft. (per project data) occupying a gated property of approx. 0.46 acres (per project data) along a sought-after street. Sized for everyday living, this clever design includes a flexible den, updated colors, and a fully functional addition, perfect for in-laws or extended-stay guests. Abundant trees shade the sprawling rear gardens, and the property also offers a private well and a potential MFA of approx. 6,000 sq. ft. Stroll to Flood Park and quickly access Highway 101, Facebook, and exceptional schools like Laurel Elementary (API 927), Hillview Middle (API 950), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:  
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## 1131 Parkinson Avenue, Palo Alto Offered at \$2,998,000

### Atrium-Style Home Full of Character

Privately arranged in a sought-after neighborhood, this updated 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home of nearly 2,000 sq. ft. (per county) occupies a lot of over 6,800 sq. ft. (per city). An open-air atrium leads into a sun-lit interior offering radiant floor heating and open, window-lined gathering areas. Versatile private retreats include a home office and a lofted bedroom. Highlights like cathedral ceilings, a fireplace, a private solarium, and abundant access to the private outdoor paradise create a breezy, comfortable design suffused with quiet drama. Just one mile from University Avenue, you can stroll to popular parks and Lucie Stern Community Center, and easily access top-rated schools.



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## ■ OBITUARY

### GREGORY A. FOWLER

Gregory A. Fowler, a Mountain View resident since 1981, died on Sept. 25 following a heart attack. He was 64.

Born in Fremont, Mich. in July 1952, he was the oldest of Nelson E. and Virginia M. (Anderson) Fowler's three children. Greg lost his entire optic system in surgeries following his diagnosis at age 1 of bilateral retinal blastoma. His parents guided him through a normal childhood, complete with raised-letter alphabet blocks and, family tradition says, dismantling and reassembling his tricycle, doubtlessly inspired by his mechanic father. The family relocated to Wyoming, Mich. west of Grand Rapids, so that he could take advantage of a unique county-based instructional option for children who were blind.

He took "normal" classes at Wyoming High school, and after graduation attended Grand Valley State University to start his college-level education. He transferred to Michigan State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering, with a substantial dose of computer science. He was an electrical engineering graduate student at Stanford University starting in 1976, finishing with a degree in engineering in 1981.

A distinguished career as a soft-

ware engineer at a number of well-known Silicon Valley companies followed, his family said. After retiring in 2003, Greg devoted countless hours, and his formidable technical and critical-thinking skills, to the benefit of local organizations, notably the Mountain View Educational Foundation and the League of Women Voters, serving terms on the boards of directors as well as being a volunteer. He also became a member of the board of the National Braille Press in Boston. He was a founding member of the Silicon Valley Council of the Blind in 1987, and graduated from Leadership Mountain View in its class of 2005.

His passions were the furtherance of educational opportunities for blind students, and the natural environment and its denizens, on both land and in the sea, said his wife, Julie Lovins. His local outdoors activity centered on walks around Old Mountain View with his wife.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Susan Berryhill of Morley, Mich. and Marlene Wolters of Jenison, Mich.; four nieces and nephews; and two brothers-in-law.

No services are planned. The family prefers memorial gifts be made to National Braille Press, [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org).

## CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

block of Lola Lane, just south of Bubb Elementary, at around 4:30 p.m., he noticed that the door in the garage leading into the house had been opened, and found that his home had been ransacked, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Video surveillance footage from the resident shows that a light blue or gray Sedan pulled up to his home and a tall, young man wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans got out of the car and disappeared from view near the victim's home, Nelson said. A better description, including the ethnicity of the man, is not available based on the footage.

Officers say that the suspect appears to have entered through a window, which was left slightly open, and gained entrance to the home through the garage, Nelson said. The total loss from the burglary is estimated to be several thousand dollars.

### RED-LIGHT RUNNER HITS GOOGLE CAR

One of Google's self-driving cars was involved in a collision last week after a driver ran a red light, slamming into the autonomous vehicle as it passed through a busy intersection in Mountain View.

Police confirmed that the accident happened around 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23, at the intersection of Phyllis Avenue and El Camino Real. Nobody was hurt in

the accident, police said.

A statement released by Google said that the company's self-driving car was heading northbound on Phyllis Avenue and entered the intersection at El Camino Real, where it was struck from the right side by a vehicle traveling westbound. The light had been green for six seconds prior to the Google car entering the intersection, according to the statement.

Police could not provide a description of the vehicle that had collided with the autonomous vehicle.

Google's self-driving cars have been involved in more than a dozen accidents, and all but one appears to be the fault of human error rather than flaws in the autonomous vehicle technology. In February, one of Google's self-driving cars appeared to be responsible for a crash when it was side-swiped by a bus trying to merge into a traffic lane.

Google's monthly report on the self-driving car project for August showed that the most recent previous accident in Mountain View was on Aug. 8. The company's vehicle was stopped on eastbound California Street, waiting for pedestrians to cross at Rengstorff Avenue, when another vehicle approached from behind and rear-ended the self-driving car at about 4 miles per hour, according to the report.

Google's fleet of 58 self-driving cars traveled a total of just under 2 million miles in "autonomous mode" as of last month, according to the report.

—Kevin Forestieri

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Published every Friday at

450 Cambridge Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94306

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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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### 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

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## School district on a sound course; more to be done

by Ayindé Rudolph

Mountain View is a city in transition. More and more people, like myself, are moving here and finding it a great place to call home. As I reflect on my first year in Mountain View, I cannot believe all of the amazing things that are happening at the Mountain View Whisman School District.

Day in and day out, I get the opportunity to witness, work, laugh and be inspired by educators, administrators, trustees, staff members and parents who have been working tirelessly, and quietly, for the good of kids and families in our community.

As a member of the community, I think you should know that your return on the investment you make in our district is high.

**Remarkable gains in student achievement:** Our students showed both remarkable and consistent gains on this year's state (CAASPP) tests. We showed a 6 percentage-point increase in the number of students meeting or exceeding standards in math and English Language Arts. Some schools and grade levels even made double-digit gains.

**Strong academics:** Many people have heard of Common Core, but may not realize that our district is ahead in creating frameworks and adopting curriculum to

meet new California state standards. We will continue to collaborate and use data-driven instructional decisions to ensure that students are learning what they need to know to be successful in high school and beyond.

**Strategic Plan 2021 to guide the work:** *More than 3,000 people were involved in creating Strategic Plan 2021, which clearly describes what we want our kids to know and be able to do by the end of eighth grade. We are already working on the goals outlined in this plan that will guide us in meeting the needs of all of our students.*

**School construction and repair:** Measure G, the voter-funded effort to repair and upgrade our schools, is in the news a lot. What you might not have heard is that this year we developed a clear process and timeline to touch every school with improvements and renovations within budget. We are creating the schools our community expects, while saving money whenever possible. This year, the district saved taxpayers \$2 million through elimination of future fees and refinancing of existing bonds by issuing all the construction bonds now. District staff also saved \$300,000 on Castro construction by rebidding projects and adjusting timelines.

**Overwhelmingly-supported labor agreements:** Our teachers passed the district-Mountain View Educators Association (MVEA) agreement overwhelmingly. Our contract with classified staff raised salaries, as well as restored employees' benefits for our non-teaching staff members. We will continue to invest in teachers, lead-

ers and staff to ensure that we are the place talented educators choose to work.

**Increased communication:** In the course of this year, the level of district communication has increased tenfold. Parents have told me that they feel better informed. We are on the right path, and we'll continue to work to communicate consistently and in a timely way.

While we celebrate these successes, there is still more to do. As outlined in Strategic Plan 2021 ([tinyurl.com/MVWSD-SP](http://tinyurl.com/MVWSD-SP)), our district will continue to set goals and execute strategies that target these areas of improvement.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools. We have set a new course for our students and our district, and I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

*Dr. Ayindé Rudolph has been superintendent of the Mountain View Whisman School District since July 2015.*

### Guest Opinion

### LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### SUPPORT MEASURES FOR STABLE COMMUNITY

The lead story in this week's *Voice* (Sept. 23) states that "Mountain View voters will have a choice between two ballot measures designed to curb rising apartment rents." Actually we will be able to vote for both of these measures, which propose different actions to try to contain or curtail the damage being caused by out-of-control increases in apartment rents.

Measure V takes the direct approach of limiting the rate of increase, though landlords might be allowed individual hardship claims.

Measure W is a collection of less direct approaches, favored by a majority of current council members.

Section 1717(b) of Measure V explains what will happen if both measures pass, and I for one hope they both do.

It is indeed unfortunate that our local Chamber of Commerce, which aims to promote the vitality of local businesses and our local economy, has masochistically chosen to align with the California Apartment

Association's war on tenants. Our local businesses face not only rising rents, in many cases, but the inability to hire and retain employees who can live reasonably close to their jobs.

Apartment rent stabilization will be the first of many steps needed to stabilize and make sustainable our entire community.

*Julie Lovins  
California Street*

#### NO CONFIDENCE IN VTA SPENDING

I received a "Yes on Measure B" flier from some ad hoc campaign committee with a San Francisco address. Plainly, the special interests lined up to profit from the VTA's proposed \$6 billion sales tax increase are numerous and widespread.

In Mountain View, many of us distrust the VTA because of its refusal to stop the plan to take away from other traffic the left-hand lanes on El Camino Real for some of its buses only. That plan has been delayed only because of the desire to slip Measure B past voters.

It does not matter whether the VTA would use Measure B money for bus-only lanes.

The agency already has a half-billion-dollar annual operating budget and spends another half-billion dollars every year on capital projects. Passage of Measure B would give the VTA the green light to do whatever it likes.

The VTA wastes enough money already running its half-empty buses and light rail vehicles. Let's undertake new transportation projects using a more responsible and accountable agency such as the county

government. Meanwhile, vote NO on B.

*Valerie Harris  
View Street*

#### DISAPPOINTED IN FORUM, COUNCIL CANDIDATE

It's vital to hear every candidate's stand on every issue — and the League of Women Voters' forum for the Mountain View City Council candidates failed miserably in this. The moderator would ask only three or four selected candidates to

► Continued on next page



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**LETTERS**

▶ Continued from page 17

answer each question — with the others not allowed to participate. How do we know who aligns with our personal viewpoint if we aren't allowed to hear from each candidate?

Chris Clark (incumbent) — one chosen by the League to answer the VTA question during the forum — dodged it by saying he lives within proximity to El Camino so would not be allowed to vote on this on the council (conflict of interest). John McAlister (an incumbent who has the same restriction from voting on this) was also chosen to give his viewpoint. McAlister, fully understanding there was no restriction from stating his stand to constituents, did so clearly and concisely.

After the forum, I did speak personally with the candidates who weren't permitted to speak on the VTA's desire to dedicate two lanes on El Camino to buses. I also asked Clark, privately in person, for his opinion on the VTA lane grab. He again refused to say. I explained conflict of interest (his proximity to El Camino) held sway in a council vote, but not in telling constituents his view. He still refused.

I feel this was cowardly and disingenuous of him. If a candidate refuses to tell a constituent how s/he would vote, they don't deserve public office.

Clark may think he can manipulate the public by not disclosing his stand on an issue, but he's wrong. If you refuse to tell voters your platform, you do not have my vote.

This forum didn't show where each candidate stood on each issue. It only did half the job.

*Shari Emling  
 Sussex Square*

**LOOKING SKYWARD FOR HOUSING SOLUTION**

The solution to scarce housing in Mountain View is obvious: high-rises. Build a bunch of 20-story apartment complexes downtown, and the housing shortage will go away.

Yes, we will have to make them earthquake-proof, and

yes, the character of the city will change. Let us get past these facts and proceed.

We will end up with fewer views but a more diverse community that can support a stronger arts environment and a growing economy both. If Mountain View has become a city, let us embrace the idea of urbanity and make it work for residents.

*Alison Chaiken  
 Middlefield Road*

**IN SUPPORT OF EL CAMINO NURSES**

As a daughter of an amazingly devoted and beloved-by-all oncology nurse, known in the community as the "Angel in White" (those were the days when the nurses wore a nice white crisp-ironed white uniform), I have tremendous respect, gratitude and admiration for this profession.

In my recent encounter with the doctors and the nursing staff at El Camino Hospital, where my husband was hospitalized twice in very serious condition and treated by the superb staff of this hospital, I wholeheartedly support the nurses' request for better working conditions, better pay and a respectful consideration for their maternity and vacation leave.

Yes, El Camino Hospital's modern building is stunning and the facilities are well-equipped and superbly comfortable, with great selection of food (which defeats the old-fashioned opinion of "bad hospital food"), but it is the hospital's diligent staff that brings treatment, relief, warmth and care to their suffering patients and hope to their deeply concerned families.

The doctors and the nurses at El Camino Hospital provide high touch in the land of high tech 24/7. There is no way to measure the extent of their enormous contribution to the well-being of their patients and I truly hope that the nurses will be rewarded with their and our expectations for the better evaluation of their incredible services and the productive working environment.

*Lina Broydo  
 Los Altos Hills*

**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. Or snail-mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

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