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MOVIES | 26



**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**

Holiday Spirit



MICHELLE LE

Marilu Delgado and Evan Ortiz, leaders of the Mountain View Tenants Coalition, embrace at an election night party for Measure V supporters at the Mountain View Day Workers Center.

City gets to work on new rent control rules

By Mark Noack

In a vote that has huge implications for the local housing market, Mountain View voters last week passed Measure V, introducing rent control to the city. City officials are now embarking on the significant task of implementing that mandate, which calls for redrawing the rules governing

about 15,000 apartments and possibly creating a new branch of City Hall to enforce it.

The voter initiative emerged with a thin lead on election night that only continued to grow. As of Wednesday, the measure held a 52.91 percent majority, ahead by 1,573 votes.

"This is a victory," said Maria Marroquín, executive director of the Day Worker Center

and a leading proponent of the measure. "This is our time, this is our campaign."

Measure V calls for creating a new five-person rental-housing committee, appointed by the City Council, that would be in charge of setting allowable rents, making new apartment regulations or ruling on tenant-

► See **RENT CONTROL**, page 16

Big majority of MV voters back pot legalization

PROPOSITION 64'S PASSAGE CREATES BIG QUESTIONS FOR LOCAL POLICE, CITY COUNCIL

By Kevin Forestieri

Proponents of legal recreational marijuana scored a big victory last week after California voters approved Proposition 64, dubbed the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), by a significant margin. As votes continue to trickle in, about 5.4 million voters, or 56 percent, voted in favor of the proposition, paving the way for adults ages 21 and over to legally smoke, possess, cultivate, and eventually sell, recreational pot.

Here in Mountain View, voter support for Proposition 64 was even stronger. Just over 17,000 city residents — about two-thirds of the total ballots cast — voted in favor of Proposition 64, and every single city precinct held at least a simple majority in favor of pot legalization.

Despite the strong support, big questions remain about what legal recreational marijuana will look like in Mountain View. It will be up to city officials whether to welcome marijuana retailers into the city, or to to crack down on outdoor cultivation. Other cities are grappling

with the same questions, making it difficult to determine just how much city and state tax revenue will be generated by the measure.

What's more, local law enforcement officers fear teen drug use will continue to rise in the city, and that legally permissible weed will make it increasingly difficult to explain the dangers and harm associated with illicit teen drug use. Murky guidelines for when someone is "too stoned" to drive also poses a challenge to traffic officers who need to enforce DUI laws before clear standards are even written.

Much of Proposition 64 took effect on Nov. 9, immediately after the election, making it legal for adults ages 21 years and older to possess, process, transport, purchase and give away up to an ounce of marijuana. Within these constraints, marijuana itself is no longer considered contraband and can't get a person in trouble with the law, and the smell of pot can no longer be used by law enforcement as probable cause.

There are still fairly strict

► See **POT LEGALIZATION**, page 6

Teacher returns to classroom after dust-up over Trump comments

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View High School teacher Frank Navarro returned to the classroom Monday after school administrators put him on paid administrative leave last week over what he says were unfounded complaints that he compared President-elect Donald Trump with Hitler.

The move prompted a nationwide outcry over the censorship of teachers in the classroom,

as well as a petition seeking to reverse Principal Dave Grissom's decision that has picked up tens of thousands of signatures.

Navarro was originally put on paid administrative leave on Thursday, Nov. 10, after the parent of a student in Navarro's world studies class sent an email to Associate Superintendent Eric Goddard claiming that Navarro made statements that equated Trump with Hitler, according to Mountain View High School's student newspaper the Oracle,

which broke the story. Navarro was originally placed on administrative leave through Nov. 15, pending an investigation of the parent's claim, but the district lifted the suspension over the weekend. Superintendent Jeff Harding released a statement saying that Navarro was reinstated as soon as district officials were "confident the environment was safe for students."

Harding did not include specific details about the student complaint — saying that it was

a personnel matter — but he denied that suspending Navarro had anything to do with teaching lessons that compared Trump to Hitler. He said the public's reaction is understandable, and that the "headlines around this issue are stoking some of our worst fears about censorship following the recent election."

Harding told the *Voice* Monday, Nov. 14, that Navarro had "inaccurately" told the student newspaper and other publications what the parent complaint

was about, and that it's been the district's policy to encourage open dialogue about the election. Even making comparisons between this year's election and 1930s Germany could be acceptable in the classroom, Harding said, provided it's an objective, fact-driven discussion.

Navarro, a longtime teacher at Mountain View High School, told the Oracle that his goal was to convey facts about today's

► See **TRUMP**, page 8

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT **18** | WEEKEND **21** | A + E **27** | GOINGS ON **28** | MARKETPLACE **30** | REAL ESTATE **32**



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Dress up as your favorite character for Star Wars Night.

STAR WARS NIGHT AT THE COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM

Grab your lightsabers, hop in your X-wing and head for Mountain View: The Computer History Museum will host "Star Wars Night" on Friday, Nov. 18, 5-9 p.m. Themed drinks will be served at the "Mos Eisley Cantina" while participants take part in costume contest (costumed visitors also get 10 percent off at the museum store), explore film locations and take photos. The museum will also be hosting its usual Friday night activities, which include food trucks from Off the Grid and evening museum admission at 50 percent off. The museum is located at 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Go to computerhistory.org.

HOPEFUL HIGH SCHOOL POETRY CONTEST

Calling all high school poets and lyricists: Schola Cantorum is seeking entries for its annual poetry contest. Students living in Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and Cupertino are invited to enter up to three poems each. The contest will be judged by Schola Cantorum's directors and local arts and media professionals. The winning poem will be set to music and performed by the choir; first, second and third-place contestants also win a financial award. The deadline for entries is Dec. 2 and the theme is "hope." For complete rules and submission instructions go to scholacantorum.org/poetrycontest.

PENINSULA SYMPHONY WITH STANFORD SYMPHONIC CHORUS

The Peninsula Symphony and the Stanford Symphonic Chorus join forces on Friday, Oct.

18, at 7:30 p.m. for a concert including works by Ravel, Faure, Duruflé and Dukas. Craig Jessop, longtime conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, will serve as guest conductor, with Mindy Ella Chu and Nathaniel Menifield featured as soloists. The concert will be held at Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Tickets are \$20 general/\$15 seniors/\$10 students/free to Stanford students with ID. Go to events.stanford.edu/618/61873/.

'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST'

A tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme, "Beauty and the Beast" — the musical based on the Disney film based on the classic fairy tale about the woman abducted by a prince-turned-monster, will be performed by Broadway By the Bay at the Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City, on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. (with ASL interpreter) and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. ("autism-friendly" performance). Tickets are \$47-\$69. Go to broadwaybythebay.org.



Michael Shemchuk's mixed media art exhibition "Random Access"

"RANDOM ACCESS" AT BRYANT STREET GALLERY

Michael Shemchuk's mixed-media art is featured at Bryant Street Gallery this month and next, with an exhibition titled "Random Access." Shemchuk layers paper bags, pages from books, tissue paper and technical manuals, along with his son's name written on every piece. With influences including West African and Pacific Northwestern Native American art, his work is meant to "evoke a modern tribal experience," according to the gallery's press release. The exhibition runs through Dec. 23 at Bryant Street Gallery, 532 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Go to bryantstreet.com.

—Karla Kane

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

ATTEMPTED BIKE THEFT

Police arrested a Mountain View man after he allegedly tried to steal a bike outside of a home early Saturday morning, but failed to unlock the bike before awaking the residents inside.

The 21-year-old man, later identified as Jacob Shilson, allegedly entered the property at the 900 block of High School Way at around 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, by unlatching a gate leading to the enclosed back porch of the property. While on the porch, Shilson tried to take a bicycle that was locked against a wall, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The residents told officers that they awoke when they heard the noise outside, and spotted Shilson leaving the property before calling police, Nelson said.

Shilson reportedly ran away from the home towards the downtown area, and was discovered by officers at the intersection of Castro Street and Yosemite Avenue. Shilson was arrested on charges of residential burglary as well as an outstanding warrant for petty theft in Mountain View.

—Kevin Forestieri

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

600 block San Antonio Rd., 11/10
800 block Wake Forest 11/10
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 11/12
500 block Franklin St., 11/14

BATTERY

400 block Tyrella Av., 11/9
Fayette Dr. & San Antonio Rd., 11/11
400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 11/13

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

400 block W. Evelyn Av., 11/13

GRAND THEFT

300 block Showers Dr., 11/11
Castro St. & W. Dana St., 11/14
2400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 11/14

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

900 block High School Way, 11/12

1100 block Nilda Av., 11/12
1 block Devonshire Av., 11/12
1 block Devonshire Av., 11/12

ROBBERY

1000 block Grant Rd., 11/10

STOLEN VEHICLE

Central Av. & Moffett Blvd., 11/9
900 block Bonita Av., 11/9
1000 block Bonita Av., 11/9
100 block Mercy St., 11/9
1200 block Montecito Av., 11/9
200 block E. Dana St., 11/11

VANDALISM

900 block W. El Camino Real, 11/9
800 block Villa St., 11/12
200 block W. El Camino Real, 11/12

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Students at Castro and Mistral schools in Mountain View got a demonstration of acceptance and compassion after the presidential election rattled nerves, said Diana Wegbreit. “The rumors going around the school, especially things I was hearing from younger students, were making kids afraid that they, or one of their friends, could be taken or harmed at any time. I wanted the kids at school to know that although things might be scary or worrisome, our community has not changed,” she said. So she put out the word to other parents, who made signs and greeted children as they went home from school last week. Among the demonstrators were, from left, Mistral third-grader Thomas Zorich, Dana Palmer, Mistral second-grader Rohan Jobanputra, Shilpa Jobanputra and Eliza Zorich, a first-grader at Mistral.

LASD ditches plans for El Camino school site

PARENTS SAY THE SITE IS TOO SMALL AND TOO DANGEROUS FOR NEW CAMPUS

By Kevin Forestieri

It’s back to the drawing board for the Los Altos School District. After seven months of closed session meetings to consider buying a three-story office building on El Camino Real to develop as a new school campus, board members agreed Monday night that the proposed land purchase is “dead on arrival” over concerns about

costs and traffic safety.

Board members unanimously agreed to abandon plans to buy property at 5150 El Camino Real in Los Altos, across the street from the Mountain View border. The 3.79-acre site would be much smaller than that of other schools in the district, necessitating a higher density, multi-story design. The cost was set at \$39 million, and the district would have been responsible for relocat-

ing all 25 tenants currently on the property.

Although district staff said the site has the “potential for an innovative 21st century multi-story school,” parents and district residents weren’t sold on the idea, and packed the board room Monday night, Nov. 14, demanding that the school board reject the offer. Chief among

► See **SCHOOL SITE**, page 13

New school board members vow to bring civility to district

By Kevin Forestieri

If one thing was for certain going into election night, it’s that 2017 was guaranteed bring fresh new leadership and new perspectives to both of Mountain View’s elementary school districts. With many incumbents sitting out the local school board races this year, it

will be up to the city’s newly elected school board members to keep the peace and navigate through controversial decisions facing the Mountain View Whisman and Los Altos school districts.

Mountain View Whisman

For the Mountain View Whisman School District, election

results as of Nov. 16 show that Huff parent Tamara Wilson won the strongest support with 11,632 votes (27.1 percent), followed by district parent Laura Blakely at 11,011 (25.7 percent) and incumbent Jose Gutierrez at 10,981 (25.6 percent). Darrah trailed beyond the pack with

► See **SCHOOL BOARDS**, page 15

Veteran politicians win the day in council race

MIXED MESSAGES FROM VOTERS ON CITY PRIORITIES

By Mark Noack

Political experience and government credentials seemed to be liabilities in the presidential election. But a world away in Mountain View, voters had an entirely different message for what they wanted in their leaders.

Experience and incumbency appeared to be key assets for voters in the City Council race — and seem to have been the deciding factor in election 2016.

“This tells us that experience is important and that the issues we identified are important for voters,” said Lisa Matichak, who after seven years as a planning commissioner emerged as the top candidate for a City Council seat with 11,830 votes as of Wednesday morning.

Matichak was trailed for the remaining three seats by three veteran local politicians. Coming in second with 11,685 votes was Margaret Abe-Koga, a two-term councilwoman who will now be returning for a third stint after taking a break due to the Mountain View’s term limits.

The incumbents came in next: Councilman Chris Clark was re-elected with 10,839 votes while Councilman John McAlister kept his seat with 10,637 votes.

McAlister admitted he was surprised he trailed among the winners, which he chalked up as a byproduct of some of the council’s controversial actions over the last two years on topics such as office growth and rent control. Nevertheless, he said he and his fellow electoral victors were fairly similar in political background and platforms.

“People wanted council members with experience — that was obvious. The people without experience didn’t get voted for,” McAlister said.

At least two of the other four candidates running for the council might scoff at being called inexperienced. Human Relations Commissioner Lucas Ramirez and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Thida Cornes — both of who have been involved in local civics for years — received 9,916 and 9,211 voters respectively. Both now appear to be taking a page from Matichak’s

playbook. Following the election, both council hopefuls are applying for seats on the city Environmental Planning Commission, which could prove helpful for a future council run.

At the back of the pack were Mountain View Whisman School board member Greg Coladonato and Cisco Systems manager Ken “Kacey” Carpenter with 5,846 and 4,646 votes respectively.

Yet while experience appears to have won the day, the election also delivered plenty of mixed messages for Mountain View. The city’s dominant politicians were delivered a smack-down over the dueling rent-control propositions as voters backed the citizens’ initiative, Measure V, despite dire warnings from most council members and candidates that it was a recipe for problems. Meanwhile, voters rejected the council’s favored alternative, Measure W.

Perhaps the starkest mixed message for the new council will be balancing the local elections with the national tilt toward a fiercely conservative mindset. With Donald Trump’s election, the U.S. will have a climate-change denying, race-baiting, immigration-fighting administration that seems almost antithetical to the values of the Bay Area, Abe-Koga said.

“How is this going to change the map? There’s going to be some game-changing possibilities that we need to work on,” she said. “I ran on experience, and I really believe, especially with this new administration, that’s going to be much more critical.”

Locally, the council election has huge stakes as the city prepares to review dozens of ambitious housing and office projects. More than 70 large projects are currently in the queue for review by city planners and these development proposals will likely be decided on by the new City Council.

Among the significant projects ahead, the new council will play a major role in shaping how the North Bayshore tech community is transformed into a dense new residential neighborhood. The

► See **CITY COUNCIL**, page 8

POT LEGALIZATION

► Continued from page 1

limits on where people can smoke marijuana. The new law prohibits smoking in public areas, or areas that are visible from a public place, and retailers and businesses can only allow marijuana consumption in areas restricted to people ages 21 and older. Smoking pot in a public area is still an infraction with fines up to \$100, though the fine increases and comes with community service if the infraction occurs at or near a school, day care center or youth center.

What didn't go live last Wednesday, however, was the ability for businesses to sell recreational marijuana. California's legislature still has to create a sizable regulatory and licensing infrastructure that would govern marijuana retailers, which is not expected to be completed until the start of 2018. The delay means cities won't have to scramble to create moratoriums or restrictions on marijuana businesses in the near term, but it also leaves uncertainty over what kind of local regulatory hurdles will be put in place.

Other aspects of the new law prompted immediate action. Just days before election night, the Mountain View City Council

members voted to put a 45-day ban on outdoor marijuana cultivation, which is permissible under Proposition 64, until the city can draft ordinances regulating the practice. The council is scheduled to consider next month whether to turn that lengthen that ban into a one or two-year moratorium.

At the Nov. 1 meeting, council member Mike Kasperzak said he supported the 45-day urgency ordinance, but was not in favor of dragging out the moratorium on outdoor cultivation longer than necessary to draft city regulatory ordinances — particularly if the city's voters largely support Proposition 64. Following the election results, Kasperzak told the *Voice* he's inclined to follow the will of the voters and allow the urgency ordinance to expire sooner rather than later.

"I'm really not in favor of saying let's wait two years to deal with this," Kasperzak said.

The city hasn't been the most pot-friendly town in Silicon Valley. In 2011, the Mountain View City Council voted on a narrow margin to ban medical marijuana dispensaries in the city indefinitely. Former council member Margaret Abe-Koga, who won another four-year on the council in the November election last week, was one of four council

members who voted to keep medical marijuana prohibition. Mountain View Police Chief Max Bosel, who was a captain at the time, also voiced concerns about allowing medical marijuana dispensaries in the city.

The local and state regulatory uncertainty makes it tough to determine what kind of sales and excise tax revenue Proposition 64 will bring to the state,

DUI laws related to drug intoxication didn't change under Proposition 64, so it will still be illegal to drive while under the influence.

and whether it can deliver on the increased tax revenue promised by the measure's supporters. A report by California's Legislative Analyst Office found that the proposition could generate upwards of \$1 billion in new annual revenue, but conceded that there's "significant uncertainty" in the overall fiscal effects. Criminal justice costs are expected to decrease as the number of marijuana-related criminal cases are reduced, though there will likely be an initial rise in costs when people with marijuana-related convictions head back to court for resentencing and changing or expunging their criminal records.

New costs associated with regulating the budding marijuana industry, as well as an anticipated

increase in costs for publicly funded substance abuse treatment programs, are expected to also take a bite out of the new revenue, according to the report.

DUI laws related to drug intoxication didn't change under Proposition 64, so it will still be illegal to drive while under the influence of marijuana or any other controlled substance, according to Mountain View police spokeswoman Katie Nelson. Anyone found guilty of DUI because they are stoned will be arrested, put on probation and face county jail time, fines and possible driver's license suspension.

The trouble is that there still isn't a widely accepted, universal method for determining intoxication levels for marijuana consumption, and there's no simple roadside test similar to a breathalyzer test. The proposition sets aside an annual \$3 million annually for the California Highway Patrol to "establish and adopt protocols" to determine whether a driver is impaired by the use of marijuana or marijuana products, but that money doesn't even begin to flow to the CHP until the 2018-19 fiscal year. Nelson said the department isn't expecting any policy changes on traffic enforcement as it relates to marijuana consumption, at least until the state legislature is back in session.

"This remains a big issue," Nelson said. "This is something that is going to have to be addressed eventually."

In 2013, the Colorado legislature passed a bill that made driving with 5 nanograms of THC in a milliliter of blood the legal limit for driving under the influence of marijuana, though that measure has been scrutinized. Critics

say the law fails to account for frequent marijuana users who would test positive even while driving sober.

Beyond DUIs, the Mountain View Police Department is unlikely to ratchet up enforcement of marijuana laws under Proposition 64. Lt. Frank St. Claire told the *Voice* last week that weed remains a low-priority crime in California, and that the department intends to do complaint-driven enforcement rather than cracking down on marijuana-related crimes.

"It's low priority in the sense that we don't put any special investigative effort in this crime," St. Claire said.

Although the text of Proposition 64 claims that it will "incapacitate" the black market for marijuana, St. Claire said he believes the measure may have the opposite effect by making it harder to figure out what's legal marijuana and what's not. Prior to medical marijuana, officers had no trouble determining whether marijuana possession was illegal and a crime. After the introduction of medical marijuana, it became harder for police to determine whether pot was legally permissible or contraband, and recreational marijuana will only add one more layer of confusion.

"It further insulates the black market in the sense that it puts barriers into the investigation into that particular contraband," St. Claire said.

The department will still educate students on the dangers associated with drug use, including marijuana, the same way it has prior to Proposition 64, but St. Claire said he worries that the message might get muddled when the rest of society is saying that it's recreational and safe. But above all, he said the biggest issue he has with Proposition 64 is that any juvenile can sell marijuana illegally to another juvenile, regardless of age, with minimal consequences.

"If you are under 18, anything you do with marijuana — grow it, process it, sell it — it's all a \$100 fine and a four-hour class," he said. ▀

■ CORRECTION

In last week's issue of the *Voice*, the story "Crittenden to add creek trail, track to campus" erroneously stated that the proposed project at Crittenden Middle School had cleared its environmental review. The draft version of the document, called a negative declaration, is currently available for public review, and is expected to be approved by the school board next month.



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Mountain View Voice

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Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to seven nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 150 Voice readers and the Wakerly, Packard and Hewlett foundations contributed a total of \$98,000. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

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This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

Day Worker Center

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages and work conditions. It serves an average of 70 workers a day with job placements, English lessons, job skills workshops and guidance.

Mentor Tutor Connection

Mentor Tutor Connection matches adult volunteers who serve either as mentors with under-served youth in high school or as tutors to students in elementary and middle schools in Mountain View and Los Altos school districts.

Community School of Music and Arts

The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Thirty percent of the students are socio-economically disadvantaged, and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

MayView Community Health Center

The MayView Community Health Center in Mountain View offers primary care services to low-income and uninsured patients in northern Santa Clara County. No patient is turned away for inability to pay for services, which include prenatal and pediatric care, cancer screenings and chronic disease management.

YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence

This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

Community Services Agency

CSA is the community's safety-net providing critical support services for low-income individuals and families, the homeless and seniors in northern Santa Clara County, including Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Community Health Awareness Council

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based counseling and programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors.

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CITY COUNCIL

► Continued from page 5

city's largest corporate denizen — Google — is preparing to begin construction on its new showpiece headquarters, a move that could put worldwide attention on Mountain View.

Yet the City Council race was surprising in that all eight candidates largely framed their campaigns around the same set of issues. Across the board, the candidates agreed the race boiled down to Mountain View's severe problems surrounding housing and transportation.

It was indisputable among candidates that Mountain View needs to pursue housing growth.

The question is how strongly the city should press on this priority, and at what sacrifice. Ramirez emphasized building homes as quickly as possible, but other candidates couched their support for new housing with some caveats. Clark, Abe-Koga and Cornes warned that new housing had to come with new services or possibly environmental mitigation. McAlister warned that housing shouldn't impact other residents' quality of life.

Reflecting concern over housing, the most controversial items on the Mountain View ballot were the two rent-control initiatives. Carpenter and Ramirez were the only candidates to back charter amendment Measure V.

McAlister, Clark, Matichak and Abe-Koga signaled their preference for Measure W, and Coladonato and Cornes were opposed to both measures.

The transportation issue was far more complicated and the candidates' stances reflected that. Pretty much across the board, candidates backed new bike lanes and alternatives to solo driving. McAlister and Cornes both highlighted the need for road safety, especially for children on school routes. Coladonato urged the city to give more latitude to allow companies to solve the transit problems on their own. About the only consensus on the issue was that it is a big problem. ■

TRUMP

► Continued from page 1

election and parallels between past and current events. Although he did make "connections" between Trump and Hitler, he said, he never equated the two in his lessons. Despite Harding's claims that the paid leave had nothing to do with his election-related comments, Navarro said the comparisons to Trump and Hitler were the only real substance of the complaint.

Navarro could not be reached for comment by the *Voice's* press deadline.

The suspension of Navarro sparked outrage not within the school community but among people all over the country unsettled by the idea that a school district is cracking down on teachers for election-related comments in the classroom.

Navarro's supporters launched a Change.org petition demanding that Grissom reverse the administrative leave, which had gathered over 32,350 supporters as of Monday.

Cody Foster, a historian at the University of Kentucky, sent a scathing letter to Grissom warning that the district sent a "dangerous" message to students that it's OK to punish those who actively practice their First Amendment rights, and that facts and other people's viewpoints can be discarded if they don't fit a particular narrative. Foster went on to defend Navarro's comparisons between Trump and Hitler, calling it appropriate in light of Trump's "reckless actions and inflamed rhetoric of the past year," particularly in regard to minorities, the LGBTQ community, the disabled, non-Christians and women.

"Your students now know that you, a leader in the school, are a coward who fearfully retreated from an opportunity to defend the students, the teachers, and education in general from the onslaught of attack," Foster said in the letter.

A former Mountain View High School teacher, who asked to have his name withheld, told the *Voice* that it's a "real tragedy" that the district responded to the allegations by putting Navarro on administrative leave. He said he believes there are plenty of fair parallels to make between Trump and Nazi politicians like Joseph Goebbels.

"Goebbels said if you keep telling a lie often enough, people will believe it," he said. "When you read the things that Goebbels was saying, it was right from Donald Trump's playbook."

In response to the controversy, Grissom sent out a letter saying that he is "profoundly sensitive" to the heightened emotional environment following the presidential election, and that students across the campus are showing signs of emotional stress, regardless of their political affiliations. He said he has personally invited teachers to lead discussions about the election results and talk about its implications, and alerted counselors on campus to offer support for students who are still grappling with the results.

At the same time, however, Grissom said the district has an obligation to make sure the school remains an emotionally safe environment for all students, and that they have clear protocols for investigating complaints.

"As our school leadership attempts to balance the rights of all staff and students, I ask that you trust our process to promote a healthy school environment, as we get through this emotionally heightened time," Grissom said in the letter. ■

City of Mountain View

EAST WHISMAN PRECISE PLAN
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
at the German International School (310 Easy Street)

The City is developing a new Precise Plan for the East Whisman area to implement the 2030 General Plan vision. This includes studying the addition of residential land uses and creating new standards for future development in the area (e.g. building height, streetscape improvements, open space, etc).



The City welcomes your participation in the second East Whisman Precise Plan Community Workshop. The workshop will include an overview of the East Whisman Precise Plan process and input received to date from the community and decision makers. Workshop participants will discuss the preferred locations and intensity of new development, the preferred character of several locations in the Plan area, and ideas for community benefits.

A meeting agenda and workshop materials will be available on the City's website by 5 p.m. on Monday November 28, 2016 at <http://www.mountainview.gov/eastwhisman>.

Additional East Whisman Precise Plan public meetings will be held by the Environmental Planning Commission and City Council in early 2017.

For any questions, please contact Lindsay Hagan of the City of Mountain View Community Development Department at 650-903-6306 or via email at lindsay.hagan@mountainview.gov

THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTCDBG and HOME Funding Available
Fiscal Year 2017-18
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The City of Mountain View is currently accepting applications for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) funds. General Fund support for certain public service programs will also be available, subject to City Council discretion. The funds will be awarded around April 2017 and distributed during Fiscal Year 2017-18 (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018).

Estimated Public Service Funding
CDBG - \$90,000
General Fund - \$217,220

Estimated Capital Project Funding
CDBG - \$390,000
HOME - \$180,000

Eligible Activities: Public service programs and affordable housing and community projects benefitting low-income individuals, households, and areas.

Application Period: November 10, 2016 - December 22, 2016

Where to Obtain an Application:

- Download it at the City's website at <http://www.mountainview.gov>, under the Community Development-Neighborhoods and Housing - CDBG and HOME Programs links; or
- Call the City's Neighborhoods Division at (650) 903-6379.

Applications are due December 22, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

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GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECT – MEASURE G

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRE-QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES AND OPEN DATES FOR SEMI-ANNUAL PRE-QUALIFICATION

Notice is hereby given that the Mountain View Whisman School District has determined that prospective bidders on Mountain View Whisman School District Measure G construction projects must be pre-qualified prior to submitting bids.

To be considered for pre-qualification for Measure G projects, bidders must hold either a valid “A”, “B”, “C-4”, “C-7”, “C-10”, “C-16”, “C-20”, “C-34”, “C-36”, “C-38”, “C-42”, “C-43” or “C-46” California State Contractors License. Pre-qualification is not a guarantee that contractors will be allowed to bid the projects. Certain projects may impose additional experience requirements. No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid on a project as a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid.

Pre-qualification applications may be submitted twice a year: **(1) from December 1 through December 10 and (2) from June 15 through June 20. If the ending date falls on a Sunday, packages will be due the next day no later than 12 noon.**

Contractors who submit a complete pre-qualification package will be notified by first class mail of their qualification status, such notice to be mailed no later than twenty business days after the final deadline date of each submission period. The Mountain View Whisman School District's decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria. Pre-qualification approval will remain valid for one (1) calendar year from the date of notice of qualification, except that the Mountain View Whisman School District reserves the right during that calendar year to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the pre-qualification ratings based on subsequently learned information and after giving notice of the proposed action to the Contractor and an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a pre-qualification determination.

Pre-qualification packets are available at the District's Construction Manager's, Greystone West Co., website: <http://www.greystonewest.com/current-projects/mountain-view-whisman-school-district/open-bids-rfq-rfp>

Pre-qualification packages should be submitted in a sealed envelope and marked “CONFIDENTIAL” to Mountain View Whisman School District, Attn: Mary Ann Duggan, Director of Capital Projects, 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, California 94043.

The pre-qualification packages (questionnaire answers and financial statements) submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for pre-qualification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the Mountain View Whisman School District and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury. Mountain View Whisman School District reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the pre-qualification application submitted, to make all final determinations, and to determine at any time that the pre-qualification procedures will not be applied to a future public works project.

A contractor who has submitted a completed application form, and who receives a rating of “not qualified” from Mountain View Whisman School District may appeal that determination. There is no appeal from a finding that a contractor is not pre-qualified because of a failure to submit required information, but re-application during the designated time period is permitted.

Note: A contractor may be found not pre-qualified for bidding on a specific public works contract to be let by Mountain View Whisman School District, or on all contracts to be let by Mountain View Whisman School District until the contractor meets Mountain View Whisman School District's requirements. In addition, a contractor may be found not pre-qualified for either:

- (1) Omission of requested information or
- (2) Falsification of information

Publication Date: (1) November 18, 2016

Measure B wins by a large margin; Measure A squeaks by

By Sue Dremman and
Kevin Forestieri

Two big-money Santa Clara County tax measures intended to address the county's transportation and housing needs have been approved by voters. Both required a two-thirds vote to win.

Measure A, the \$950 million affordable housing bond measure, received 67.3 percent approval with all 1,063 precincts reporting as of Wednesday morning.

Measure A will provide funding to acquire or improve an estimated 5,000 affordable-housing units and give assistance to 1,000 first-time home buyers, according to the county. During the campaign, proponents called it groundbreaking for its inclusion of low- and moderate-income individuals and families who might not qualify for aid under other housing programs. Up to \$150 million of the total funding may be used to provide housing for moderate-income families and individuals, with not more than \$50 million for first-time home buyers.

Transportation tax Measure B won by a larger margin. It has garnered 71.2 percent of the vote as of Wednesday afternoon with all precincts reporting. It will impose a half-cent sales tax to fund an estimated \$6.5 billion in transit upgrades through the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), which will administer the monies county-wide. About \$1.5 billion would be dedicated to a BART extension to San Jose; about \$900 million would be spent by Caltrain for the “grade separation” of roads from the railway; \$1.2 billion would go to expressway, bicycle and pedestrian improvements and local street upgrades.

The Mountain View City Council supported the tax measure despite early concerns that funding might favor the southern end of the county, which has usually received the lion's share of transportation bond funds, most notably for BART. But this time around the North County is expected to receive a chunk of the funding through the “local streets and roads” portion by which local cities use the money for their own transportation needs.

The city would also benefit from the Caltrain grade separations, a long-wished-for project that would improve safety.

Carl Guardino, CEO of Silicon Valley Leadership Group, which helped spearhead the measure, was pleased with the results.

“A win of this magnitude truly reflects the vision of voters in Silicon Valley that we don't whine about our traffic problems as much as we find winning solutions to tackle those problems,” he said.

Support for both county-wide measures was slightly higher in Mountain View than the county average, with 12,550 out of 17,829 city residents voting in favor of Measure A (70.3 percent) as of Wednesday morning. Castro City residents voted heavily in favor of Measure A, with 546 residents voting in favor of the measure and 147 voting against (78.8 percent). Other areas where voters were big supporters of the affordable housing bond include Shoreline West (78 percent), Santiago Villa residents (76.8 percent) and residents on the northeastern side of Old Mountain View (75.8 percent).

The weakest support came primarily from residents in the southern end of Mountain View. Among precincts in the Waverly Park neighborhood, 743 residents voted in favor of Measure A while 505 opposed the measure, adding up to just under 60 percent approval. Blossom Valley residents showed similar tepid support for the measure, with 576 voting in favor and 364 voting against the measure (61.3 percent).

Mirroring the results of Measure A, residents in Mountain View also showed stronger support for Measure B than the rest of the county. The vote count as of noon Wednesday shows that 13,399 out of 18,150 voters in Mountain View supported the sales tax, adding up to 73.8 percent of the vote.

Shoreline West residents again showed the strongest support for the county-wide measure. Precincts in the neighborhood show that 681 residents voted “Yes” on the Measure B, compared to 143 who opposed the measure (82.6 percent). Other major supporters include voters in Castro City (81.9 percent), Slater (77 percent), The Crossings (75.9 percent) and Old Mountain View residents abutting Central Expressway and Highway 85 (76.4 percent).

Like Measure A, Waverly Park residents showed the least support for the VTA tax, voting 784 to 441 on Measure B (64 percent). Other neighborhoods least in support of Measure B include Cuesta Park (68.3 percent) and Rex Manor (69.6 percent). ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com and Sue Dremann at sdremann@mv-voice.com

SCHOOL SITE

► Continued from page 5

their concerns was that land acquisition was going to eat up a huge portion of the \$150 million in Measure N funds, and that a school located right on El Camino Real would pose major traffic and safety problems.

District resident Charles Fine told the district not to buy the property, and said that El Camino Real will only become more densely traveled and more dangerous as more developments come online along the corridor. There's a reason no other school districts have put a school on El Camino, he said.

Ann Waterman Roy, a Bullis Charter School board member, said she opposed the land purchase as both a resident and a parent because of the site's small footprint. She said the district will likely struggle to fit any school at the location — let alone Bullis Charter School, which is expected to grow to 900 students — and still meet guidelines from the California Department of Education. She said the \$40 million would be better spent on improving facilities at schools across the district.

One of the goals of Measure N, when it was passed by voters in 2014, was to find some kind of permanent facilities solution for Bullis Charter School, which currently operates out of portables at Egan Junior High and Blach Intermediate School. While the district has never made it explicitly clear if the proposed site at 5150 El Camino Real would be occupied by Bullis Charter School or a new district-run school, Bullis school officials and parents felt compelled to voice significant opposition to the purchase.

John Phelps, chairman of BCS's board of directors, said the board called a special meeting prior to Monday night's LASD meeting to draft a letter to the district with their concerns. Between 40,000 and 50,000 vehicles travel down the busy road every day, Phelps said, which hardly makes it a good location for a school. And although the initial property cost is just under \$40 million, it's possible that environmental, legal and other issues could consume much of the \$150 million bond before building a single classroom.

"We don't know what you're thinking, but it doesn't make sense to us," Phelps said. "I need you to make the right decision tonight."

Other parents demanded that the district look at land acquisition as a last resort,

and consider better ways to use the existing 115 acres of district-owned land to reduce costs. Parent Caroline Bedard said she believes the district should avoid paying for "prime commercial real estate" when there's plenty of land already owned by the district that could be used for a new school. She said there's a great deal of resistance to using one of the district's largest campuses, Covington Elementary, for a new school because the local community doesn't want to have more traffic going through the area.

Board members agreed to nix the deal at the meeting, but appeared largely unmoved by the arguments that the school was too small or that the pick-up and drop-off would cause a traffic nightmare on El Camino. Board member Sangeeth Peruri said building a new school on existing district-owned land is not guaranteed to save the district tons of money, and that repurposing a current school site to support two schools could end up being expensive in the long run. Peruri said that putting a large school like BCS in one location is going to cause congestion and traffic safety problems regardless of where it ends up, and he doubts traffic would be worse at 5150 El Camino Real than at a shared campus.

Board member Steve Taglio said he rejected the land purchase opportunity because he wanted to further consider property north of El Camino Real for a new school site, which is the epicenter of the district's

future enrollment growth. He said the passage of Proposition 51 last week, which provides school districts matching funds for new school construction, could also open up new opportunities for the district.

A site in Mountain View also opens up the opportunity for the district to work with the city of Mountain View, which could chip in on a land purchase in exchange for shared-use park. The Mountain View City Council agreed in July last year to work with the school district on a future land purchase, and find ways to contribute community benefit and park land dedication funds for the purchase of playground and field space. The San Antonio area of Mountain View has one of the lowest ratios of open space in the city.

At the board meeting Monday night, Mountain View City Council member Lenny Siegel told board members that there are plenty of opportunities for the school district and the city to work together on finding a site for a new school in Mountain View. He said there are creative ways the district could incorporate a school into land development in the area, including a potential mixed use housing and school development.

"I would urge that we establish, at the elected level, some kind of discussion between our two bodies come January, because the kids are from Mountain View and Los Altos, they're both of our (cities') kids and we need to serve them," Siegel said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

Mountain View Whisman School District



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SCHOOL BOARDS

► Continued from page 5

9,295 votes at 21.7 percent. The top three vote-getters win a seat on the board.

The projected winners announced their victories early on election night, when results just after showed clear winners. At an election event at the Tied House in downtown Mountain View, Gutierrez and Blakely spoke openly about their plans to take on tough issues while maintaining civility and rebuilding the community's trust in the school district. While campaigning, both candidates made clear that the current board roster has led to dysfunctional governance and fragmented school communities that need to be re-unified.

Blakely told the crowd that she is thrilled with the opportunity to serve on the school board, and that she was grateful for all the support she received. She assured the crowd that the new board will be looking out for all the kids in the district.

"It's going to be a great four years — at least locally," Blakely said, alluding to the presidential election results.

In an emotional speech, Gutierrez said that the election marks a pivotal point to re-establish respect and trust on the school board, and that the community wants, needs and deserves strong leadership. He said the district is at a crossroads, with lots of programs, construction plans and academic initiatives all kicking off in the coming years.

Darrah, who admitted that he didn't have the votes to pull ahead in the election, said he was confident that all four candidates in the field could do a good job and turn the district around after four difficult years.

"I lost tonight, but I don't think it matters that much," Darrah said.

Wilson, a Wagon Wheel neighborhood resident, attended a separate election event earlier in the night. In a phone call immediately following the election results, Wilson said she was surprised to see such an incredible amount of support from friends, neighbors and strangers who all helped promote her campaign. She said she's optimistic for the future of the district.

"It's not like anything I've experienced before," Wilson said. "I'm really excited for the future, and as I've said throughout the campaign, I think the stars have all aligned for the district."

Wilson, and Blakely will join the board — and Gutierrez will retain his seat — as the district launches into a major construction phase, building new classrooms and facilities at every single school campus using funds from the \$198 million Measure G

bond. The district is also in the early planning stages for opening a new campus at Slater Elementary, in the northeast area of the city.

The new and returning board members will also have the final say on revised school boundaries, which will be designed to accommodate Slater and re-balance enrollment at some of the district's most crowded schools — Huff, Bubb and Landels elementaries. A half-year effort to re-draw attendance boundaries fell flat last year when the board outright rejected the district's Boundary Advisory Task Force recommendations, which said that the district didn't have the enrollment or the money necessary to support a ninth elementary school.

The school district is also launching several simultaneous efforts to close the achievement gap among the more than 1,000 students in the district who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, English learners and students with disabilities. These initiatives include a new committee of community members called the Specific Learner Task Force, which is aimed at improving the curricula for English learners and special education students, and which will be meeting through May.

These efforts to close the achievement gap come after a district-commissioned audit report found that the district's English language development (ELD) programs were failing to meet the needs of students and could be outright counterproductive, and that the quality of special education across the school district varied significantly from one campus to another.

Los Altos School District

Early election results Tuesday night had Crossings resident Tanya Raschke in the lead for the Los Altos School District by a slim margin, but North Los Altos resident Bryan Johnson pulled ahead as the night went on, and has since solidified his lead. As of Wednesday, Johnson received 8,788 votes (51.8 percent), while Raschke received 8,162 votes (48.2 percent).

Johnson told the *Voice* he was honored to be elected to the board, and that he appreciated that the same set of voters approved the \$223 Measure GG parcel tax by a big margin in the same election. He said he looks forward to working with the rest of the board on how to put parcel tax money, as well as funds from the \$150 million Measure N bond, to good use.

Johnson will be joining the board for a two-year term to finish out the term of former board member Tamara Logan,

who announced that she will be resigning before her term ends.

Two other board members, Pablo Luther and Steve Taglio, both had terms that expired in 2016, but the race for their seats went uncontested. Luther decided not to run for re-election, so incumbent Taglio and Covington parent Jessica Speiser will both be appointed to the board later this year.

Raschke told the *Voice* in an email that she is thankful for all the support she received from residents and families who worked hard to campaign for her during the election season. She said it was clear throughout the campaign that city leaders and local news outlets are seeking a "fresh perspective" on the board, with representation from the Mountain View area in the Los Altos School District.

While walking the precincts, Raschke said voters repeatedly told her that they want the district to spend taxpayer dollars wisely, put the \$150 million Measure N funds to good use and build a strong relationship with neighboring districts and cities.

"I plan to remain active and engaged, working with the board as they tackle these complex issues," Raschke said in the email.

Johnson will be joining the school board a time when the district is at a critical juncture. The district has yet to decide on how to spend the Measure N bond funds, which is expected to go towards the construction of a new school and act as a relief valve for fast-growing enrollment in the district. Most of the growth comes from active development in the San Antonio area of Mountain View, which is part of the Los Altos School District and anticipates several new massive housing developments. Nearly 700 students in the district come from Mountain View, and new developments could increase enrollment by about 600 students in the coming decades, according to one district-commissioned study.

Perhaps the biggest question looming over the board is where to put the new campus: on an existing school site, or on a newly purchased property somewhere in Mountain View or Los Altos. District staff have conceded that the latter option could be prohibitively expensive, with land acquisition costs as high as \$15 million per acre. On Monday, Los Altos School District board members unanimously agreed to kill negotiations to purchase property at 5150 El Camino Real.

The board has also not made explicitly clear whether the new school would be for Bullis Charter School, or whether Bullis will remain a split campus operating out of both Egan Junior High

School and Blach Intermediate School sites.

Throughout the campaign, Raschke said she had an open mind about what to do with Measure N funds, but stressed that the district ought to consider all options in terms of using the existing 116 acres of district-owned land to site a school. Johnson, similarly, has supported looking at every option available, but above all wants to make sure the money is spent in a way that makes a big impact at the classroom level.

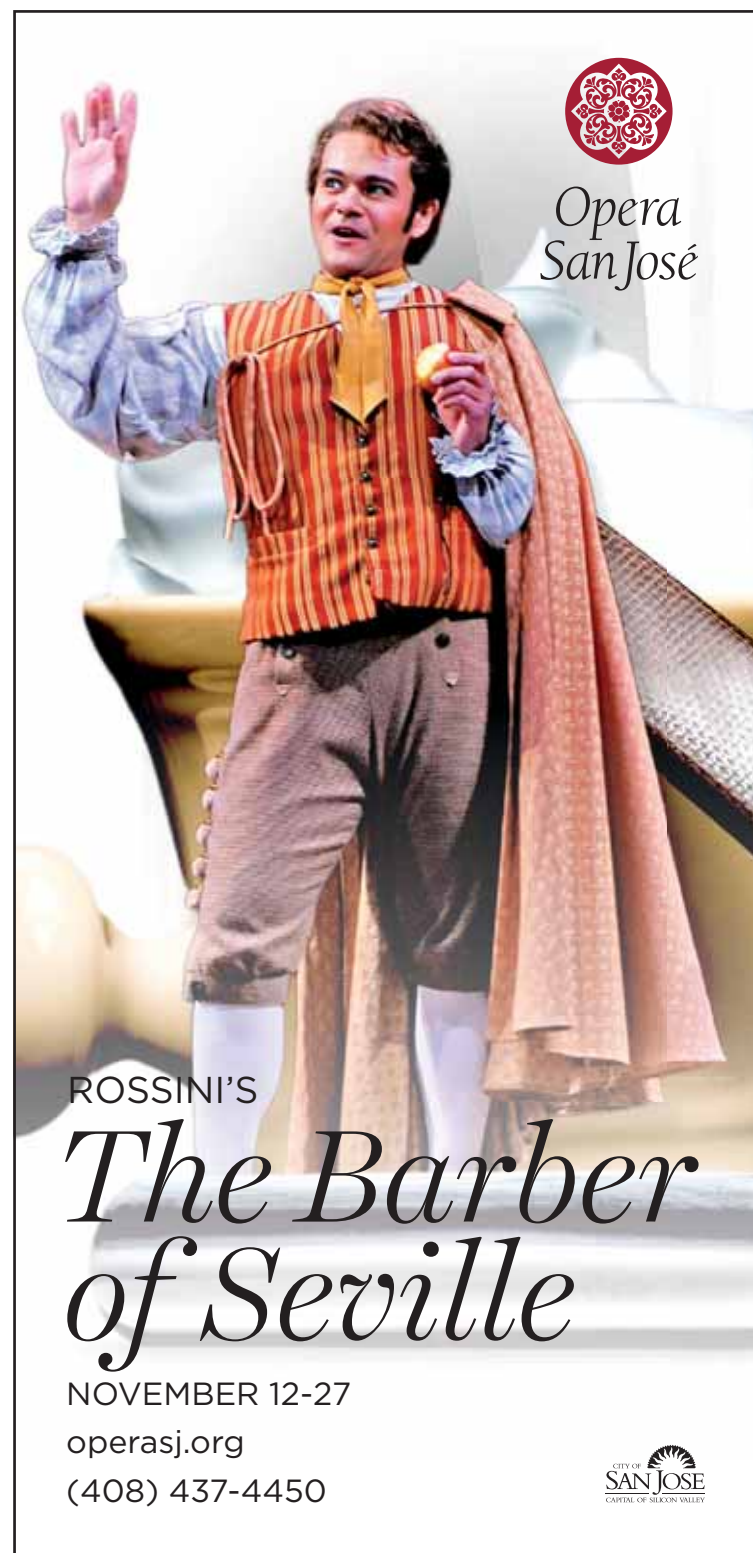
Johnson told board members that his biggest concern about buying the 5150 El Camino Real property was that the district would be hard-pressed to collaborate with the community during the 60-day "feasibility" period prior to the purchase, given the holiday season and the "compressed time frame" to close out the deal.

Also on the horizon are big

questions on how to support teachers in the district who are grappling with the high cost of living and, on average, are paid well below the area median income for Santa Clara County. Teachers were up in arms earlier this year when district staff re-opened a three-year contract with the teachers' union over concerns that the district may not be able to pay for a 3 percent salary increase this year. The district ultimately agreed to the pay increase, but both parties will be heading right back into negotiations for the next three-year contract.

Johnson said he vows to create a better dialogue with school districts and cities in the region to find a solution to the teacher shortage and the high cost of living driving teachers out of the area. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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RENT CONTROL

► Continued from page 1

landlord disputes. The policy stipulates that rent increases should adhere to the Consumer Price Index of the Bay Area, at a minimum of 2 percent and no more than 5 percent in any year.

"This means that a majority of the population that rents in Mountain View can finally breathe a sign of relief," said Daniel DeBolt, spokesman for the Mountain View Tenants Coalition. "We always expected this race to be super close."

A city-sponsored counter-proposal to rent control, Measure W, failed, and garnered only 48.2 percent of voters in support.

Rush to stop evictions

The city's first order of business came on Tuesday, Nov. 15 as the City Council called a special meeting to discuss a reported wave of evictions in reaction to Measure V. Just last month, 14 evictions were reported throughout Mountain View, and there were likely many more that were never brought to the city's attention, city staff reported.

After learning about the evictions from the Mountain View *Voice* story, Mayor Pat Showalter said she asked city staff to hold the Nov. 15 meeting to prevent more households from being displaced. Her recommendation was to immediately adopt the eviction protections set out in Measure V.

That put the City Council in an awkward situation on Tuesday morning — they were being asked to approve significant portions of a rent-control measure most of them had aggressively and repeatedly opposed. Councilman Ken Rosenberg said there hasn't been one version of rent-control that he's liked, although he said he wanted to be sympathetic to tenants at risk of being evicted.

"Measure V passed in spite of my efforts and others' efforts and a lot of money that went (against) it," he said. "But I cannot sit here while more and more people get evicted from their houses for no fault of their own."

These just-cause eviction protections the council was asked to approve would essentially forbid landlords from evicting tenants except under specific conditions, such as failure to pay rent or criminal activity. Just-cause rules have long been sought by tenant advocates, but council members previously expressed concerns that they would cause landlords to become excessively picky in accepting new tenants, and end up gentrifying the city. The council approved what City Attorney Jannie Quinn described as a "stop-gap" measure to protect tenants until Dec. 23, when Measure V is expected

to be certified and formally adopted. The urgency ordinance, which required a super-majority of five to pass, was approved on a 6-1 vote with John Inks opposed.

Independent legal aid groups indicated that 30 or 60-day no-cause eviction notices given to tenants could already be considered illegal under Measure V. Nevertheless, Kara Brodfuehrer, an attorney with the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, urged the Mountain View City Council to approve the just-cause protections anyway as a way to give "clarity" in the interim.

The recent turmoil in Mountain View's rental market was on full display before the council. A local renter speaking before the council, Vera Szepesi described how she and at least three neighbors at the Pamela Drive apartments were handed eviction notices in recent days. Their property owner made clear they were being evicted because of Measure V, and he hinted he would rescind the evictions if the law didn't pass.

"These evictions are clearly an attempt to circumvent the rent control measure that just passed," Szepesi said to the council. "If I have to move because of the cost of increased rent, I'm not sure I'll be able to stay in Mountain View."

Her landlord, Kerry Mainini, followed her at the meeting and faulted the city for forcing him to oust his tenants. Saying he stood to lose "35 percent" of his retirement, he said his attorneys advised him his only recourse to protect his investment was to evict tenants. He left the podium cursing the council and saying he wished their pensions would get stolen "as you're doing to mine."

Joshua Howard, a spokesman with the California Apartment Association, warned that the unanswered legal questions surrounding Measure V showed its many flaws. He said "a legal challenge was imminent" against the measure. Asked after the meeting what he meant, Howard would say only that many landlords were mulling their options.

"We will be conferring with our legal counsel to evaluate options and actions," he said via an email to the *Voice*.

Many City Council members expressed deep reservations about rent control, but they said voters had spoken and they intended to protect current residents. Clearly frustrated with the situation, Councilman Mike Kasperzak said the city was being asked to defend an inflexible measure.

"The council is now being asked to bail out the first of many deficiencies of this charter amendment which cannot be modified, amended or corrected except by a vote of the people," he said.

In the other corner was Councilman Lenny Siegel, who

applauded the measure for being well-written, but said the just-cause protections were needed now more than ever. Even with new protections, many tenants would be afraid to defend themselves, he said.

"We have a large number of tenants who fear their rights have been destroyed in the national election — they'll be afraid to defend anything for fear of deportation," he said. "These laws are designed to protect people and they will help people."

Plenty of work ahead

In a memo sent out last week, City Manager Dan Rich said that staff are preparing a comprehensive plan to implement the rest of Measure V by next month. Mountain View's Housing Division staff members are taking the lead to investigate what will be needed to launch a new enforcement system and education program.

City officials are currently examining other rent-control cities for insight in how they could fashion a local program, said Wayne Chen, Mountain View's Housing and Neighborhood Services Manager, who is just three months on the job. A robust program, like the one in Santa Monica, would require one staff person for about every 1,000 apartment units, while a lighter system, like those in San Jose or San Francisco, calls for one staffer for every 5,000 units, he said.

Mountain View has approximately 15,000 apartment units that would be affected by rent control.

"There's a lot of work to be done to implement this," Chen said. "It's a whole new structure and program, and whether this is done in-house or if we choose to partner with external organizations, that's still in flux."

The most important piece to implement will be forming the city's new Rental Housing Committee. City staff expect to begin accepting applications for the committee by the end of November. Current plans are for the rental committee to convene its first meeting by early next year.

One the bigger questions hanging over Measure V are provisions calling for the rollback of apartment rents to October 2015 rates. Mountain View does not keep a database of individual apartment rents, and Chen said it would likely be up to tenants to independently petition to have their rents reset to earlier rates.

This provision in particular is also being closely watched by Measure V's opponents. Howard of the CAA noted to the *Voice* that this rent rollback could be the basis for a lawsuit for allegedly violating property owners' constitutional rights. ■

ELECTION RESULTS

MEASURE GG

District and charter school families in the Los Altos School District are rejoicing together after election results show Measure GG, a \$223 parcel tax, is expected to meet the two-thirds majority needed to pass. The measure not only extends existing parcel tax revenue for the district, but also provides close to \$300,000 in annual revenue for Bullis Charter School.

The vote count as of Wednesday morning showed that 14,396 district residents (70.9 percent) voted "Yes" on Measure GG, compared to 5,899 (29.1 percent) voting no on the measure. The measure met the two-thirds majority needed to pass in the early hours of election night by a razor-thin margin, but that margin has grown as more ballots are counted.

Measure GG campaign co-chair Shali Sirkay told the *Voice* on election night that she is "relieved" by the results following an exhaustive campaign over the last three months.

"The public is showing a lot of faith in our schools," Sirkay said.

Measure GG effectively replaces the \$193 Measure E parcel tax, which district voters approved back in May 2011. Measure E is set to expire in June 2017, and the school board sought to preserve the school funding through a new parcel tax measure in the November election. The parcel tax goes towards funding core school services, and was originally seen as a stop-gap measure during the 2008 recession.

The additional \$30 tacked onto the original amount will go towards funding programs at Bullis Charter School, which is charted out of Santa Clara County but operates within district boundaries.

—Kevin Forestieri

BERMAN WINS ASSEMBLY SEAT

In a tight race that split the region's Democratic establishment, Councilman Marc Berman has edged out attorney Vicki Veenker to represent Assembly District 24 in Sacramento.

The race pitted two moderate Democratic attorneys against each other and split Peninsula's political establishment. But Berman was on the verge of victory ever since the earliest results came out, showing him with a lead of 53 to 47 percent in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The percentages held up, ensuring his election in a district that includes Palo Alto, East Palo

Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Sunnyvale, a part of Cupertino and the San Mateo County coastside.

Berman said national election put a pall over his victory party.

"I think, given the national situation, California's importance to the country and the world has only increased," Berman said. "We were already a leader on issues like climate change and now we'll have to double those efforts as the president-elect says he'll pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Accords and other things."

With election night drawing to a close, Veenker said she was proud of the results, given how much money outside interests contributed to Berman through independent expenditures.

The Tuesday vote was a culmination of a campaign that split the Peninsula's Democratic establishment and created tough choices for the region's progressive nonprofits and advocacy groups. Berman and Veenker had amassed more than \$500,000 in contributions to their respective campaigns, with Berman also receiving more than \$1 million in independent expenditures from EdVoice, an organization that advocates for educational reform, and several other political action committees.

—Gennady Sheyner

FOOTHILL-DE ANZA TRUSTEES

Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees incumbent Laura Casas and challengers Peter Landsberger and Gilbert Wong secured three open seats on the board, according to unofficial election results from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

Casas, the sole incumbent in the race, led with 22.3 percent of the vote, or 61,035, as of 10 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Landsberger, a Los Altos resident and member of the Foothill-De Anza Foundation board, trailed Casas Wednesday morning with 20.3 percent of the vote, or 55,538 votes.

Wong, a Cupertino councilman, held a tight lead over former De Anza College student and student-trustee Patrick Ahrens throughout early results, but has since solidified his lead. As of Wednesday morning, Wong had 52,738 votes, nearly 3,000 more than Ahrens did.

—Elena Kadvany and Kevin Forestieri

MV voters display liberal streak

By Kevin Forestieri

As the final votes from the presidential election continue to trickle in, there are clear signs that Mountain View voters are generally more liberal and more supportive of new taxes when compared to the rest of Santa Clara County, and the state as a whole.

President-elect Donald Trump may have scored an upset victory in the electoral college, but Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton trounced Trump locally, according to election results from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters. As of Monday, Clinton had won support from 61 percent of Californians, 73.3 percent of Santa Clara County residents and 80.4 percent of Mountain View residents, making it a larger Democratic blowout than in both the 2012 and 2008 elections.

On education, more than two-thirds of Mountain View residents supported extending a temporary sales and income tax to fund public schools — higher than the rest of the county and the state — and a majority of city voters favored Proposition 51, which would generate \$9 billion in state bonds for new school construction. Conversely, a majority of Santa Clara County residents

opposed the state bonds.

Efforts to repeal the death penalty in California fell short for the second time in four years, after Proposition 62 failed to reach a majority, but Mountain View residents overwhelmingly favored ending capital punishment. About 67.3 percent of city voters voted “Yes” on Proposition 62. In the same vein, Proposition 66 — which would speed up the lengthy decades-long death row process — was largely rejected by Mountain View voters despite winning over a slim majority of state voters.

Mountain View voters also rejected changes to the plastic bag ban under Proposition 65, which was put forward by the plastic bag industry, with only 46.1 percent of city voters supporting the measure, and instead strongly favored Proposition 67 — which upholds existing plastic bag bans — with a solid 72 percent of voters.

City residents supported the cigarette tax proposed under Proposition 56, regulations on ammunition sales under Proposition 63 and marijuana legalization under Proposition 64. A very slim majority of Mountain View voters turned down Proposition 61, which would limit prescription drug prices purchased by state agencies by tying it to the amount paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. ▣

How Mountain View voted

		California	Santa Clara County	Mountain View
President	Hillary Clinton Donald Trump	61% 33.1%	73.3% 21.3%	80.4% 13.7%
Proposition 51	\$9B in school bonds	53.9%	46.3%	53.8%
Proposition 52	Medi-Cal hospital fees	69.6%	71.7%	74.5%
Proposition 53	Vote for projects over \$2 billion	48.5%	46.3%	36.1%
Proposition 54	72-hour public display of bills	64.4%	66.7%	65.5%
Proposition 55	Education tax extension	62.1%	66.25%	67.9%
Proposition 56	Cigarette tax	63.1%	73%	77.7%
Proposition 58	Multilingual education	72.5%	74.8%	77.9%
Proposition 59	Oppose Citizens United	52.5%	61.4%	67.8%
Proposition 60	Condoms in adult films	46%	44.3%	35.2%
Proposition 61	State-bought prescription drug prices	46.2%	50.1%	49.6%
Proposition 62	Repeal death penalty	46.1%	54.1%	67.3%
Proposition 63	Ammunition regulations	62.7%	74.3%	78.8%
Proposition 64	Marijuana legalization	56.1%	57.8%	67.7%
Proposition 65	Changes to plastic bag ban	44.7%	51.1%	46.1%
Proposition 66	Streamline death penalty process	50.9%	47.6%	36.5%
Proposition 67	Uphold plastic bag ban	52.1%	65.4%	72%

Source: Santa Clara County Elections Office and California Secretary of State

Public hearing notice

2016 Groundwater Management Plan



- Topic:** 2016 Groundwater Management Plan
- Who:** Santa Clara Valley Water District (District)
- What:** Public Hearing to Consider Comments on the 2016 Groundwater Management Plan
- When:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
- Where:** Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Room
5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

The District has sustainably managed groundwater in Santa Clara County for many decades through programs to protect and augment water supplies. In accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) such as the District must manage groundwater to avoid certain undesirable results, and must adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan or prescribed Alternative.

The District intends to update its comprehensive Groundwater Management Plan and submit it as an Alternative to the California Department of Water Resources by the statutory deadline of January 1, 2017. The District wishes to encourage active public involvement by holding a public hearing prior to adoption of this plan.

The District’s 2016 Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) documents important information on the Santa Clara and Llagas subbasins, District groundwater management objectives and strategies, programs and activities to sustain groundwater, and outcome measures to gauge performance. The 2016 GWMP updates and supersedes all previous District Groundwater Management Plans.

For more information about this hearing or this topic, please visit our website at <http://www.valleywater.org/groundwatermanagement> or contact **Vanessa De La Piedra** at (408) 630-2788.

Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend this public hearing. For additional information on attending this hearing, including requesting accommodations for disabilities or interpreter assistance, please contact the **Office of the Clerk of the Board** at (408) 630-2277 at least three business days prior to the hearing.

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

School district's trigger-happy response inappropriate

‘Shoot first, ask questions later.’ A catchy phrase for 1960s TV Westerns, but bad policy when dealing with sticky problems that inevitably arise in public institutions.

Unfortunately, Mountain View-Los Altos High School District administrators followed that bad policy last week when they responded to a complaint about a history teacher by suspending him before taking the time to find answers to key questions.

In an incident that has gotten worldwide attention, the district on Nov. 10 placed Mountain View High School teacher Frank Navarro on paid leave after reportedly receiving a complaint from a parent that Navarro, in a world studies class, had pointed out parallels between Donald Trump's rise to power and Hitler's. News of Navarro's suspension sparked an outcry from near and far, and although the suspension was to have been effective through Nov. 15, the district invited him back to the classroom two days earlier, presumably after investigating the complaint's validity and finding it lacking.

While there may be certain types of complaints and accusations that would warrant a school district's immediate removal of a teacher from the classroom while an investigation takes place, this was not one of them. Frank Navarro is a teacher with four decades of experience and is a respected Holocaust expert, according to news reports (the *Voice* was unable to reach Navarro before press time). In an article published by the student newspaper, the Oracle, Navarro explained his goal in pointing out connections between

Trump and Hitler from a factual historical perspective. It quotes him saying, “I feel strongly about this: to stand quiet in the face of bigotry and to turn your eyes away from it is to back up the bigotry, and that's not what I, or any history teacher, should be doing in our work.”

It's likely that the district's quick-triggered response to the complaint about Navarro's classroom lesson was the result of the raw emotions and fears provoked by last week's presidential election. Superintendent Jeff Harding, who wouldn't give details about the complaint, issued a cryptic statement announcing that Navarro had been allowed back into his classroom after the district was “confident the environment was safe for students.”

But the district has a duty to ensure that students have not only a “safe environment” but are offered a rigorous education grounded in reason and fact — and that means ensuring a “safe environment” for academic freedom. Sadly, academic freedom took a hit last week at Mountain View High School.

In a letter to principal Dave Grissom, academic historian Cody Foster warned about the consequences of Navarro's suspension, such as inspiring fear in students, leading them to avoid making “accusations based on factual evidence.” He wrote, “Your decision to suspend Mr. Navarro suppresses a historian's duty to expose (students) to the many dangers that this world can offer in hopes that the next generation might avoid our present mistakes.”

Foster urged the district to apologize to Navarro. And so do we. ■

We must confront Trump's agenda on sustainability and human rights issues

by Lenny Siegel

Listening to commentators discuss the presidential election, one might think that Donald Trump had won by a landslide. In fact, he won no mandate! Hillary Clinton seems to have won the popular vote by a substantial margin. Trump won less than a third of the presidential votes in California. Republicans held on to the their slim lead in the U.S. Senate largely because of their dominance of sparsely populated states. Few House seats changed hands because those who draw district boundaries, in both parties, have created a system that undermines competition.

The media and pundits are reacting to the fact that most of them underestimated Trump's ability to mobilize his base in key states. Clearly he benefited from working-class reaction to the deindustrialization of the Midwest as well as the demographic insecurity of many European-Americans faced with a future in which they will become just one more minority group.

But I fathom something deeper. The conventional one-dimensional right-left division no longer explains American vot-

ing behavior, particularly in presidential elections, if it ever did. People vote based upon a wide range of domestic and foreign issues, personal identity, party loyalty, and candidates' personalities. How else does one understand that many people in the Rust Belt appear to have voted for leftist Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primaries and then Donald Trump in November?

Even if Trump and the Republicans had won in a landslide, those of us who espouse *progressive* change would not only be justified, but we would be obligated to continue to work for our own principles. That's what conservatives have done when they've lost elections.

On many issues, we don't know what Trump will propose as president. There are areas where we can work with him, but there will be times to confront his message. I'm going to focus on two important examples: sustainability and human rights.

Trump says he doesn't believe fossil fuels are causing climate change, and he promises to unleash the fossil fuel industry. I doubt that coal will ever again be

king, but unregulated fracking, pipeline expansion, and more offshore oil drilling may lie ahead.

We must battle in the courts, state and local governments, and even the streets —

note the Dakota Access Pipeline campaign — to limit fossil fuel expansion, but we should also be promoting renewable

power through state and local policies as well as our personal investments. In expanding solar and wind power, we will find many allies among Trump voters as well as traditional Republicans. Here in the Bay Area, where most of the major employers — the engines of both local and global economic growth — have joined the fight against climate change, we can demonstrate that sustainability is good for the economy.

The fight for human and civil rights never ended during the administration of our first black president, and Trump's campaign rhetoric will undoubtedly lead to heightened prejudice and institutionally racist practices

Guest Opinion

► Continued on next page

► Continued from previous page

in law enforcement, immigration, and elsewhere. We've never eliminated those problems here in the Bay Area, but most of our communities treasure and benefit economically and culturally from our diversity.

We must act quickly to quash racist outbursts by people who think Trump's victory has legitimized prejudice. We must insist that law enforcement act in a way that recognizes that black lives, along with all others, matter. We must show Muslims and undocumented immigrants that we value their contributions to our communities, that their children have

the same right to education as anyone else, and that "family values" means that we don't break up families. We reject the normalization of sexual assault and any effort to force LGBTQ people back into closets.

As we strive locally to protect our quality of life, expand housing opportunities, and improve traffic, we must engage at every political level to preserve hard-won progress and lay out our own practical, compassionate, and forward-looking vision for a greater America.

Mountain View City Council member Lenny Siegel was a Bernie Sanders delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

MILK PAIL MARKET IS A JEWEL

For over 40 years the Milk Pail Market has been providing the community with fresh, local, quality produce at affordable prices. It is a jewel in an area where housing security is scarce.

With the boom in giant technology companies, developers who are building new consumer outlets wanted Steve Rasmussen, owner of the Milk Pail, to move to a new property with no customer parking.

This business has second and third generations shopping and working there. One employee says that her grandparents would shop at the Milk Pail, and she loved it so much that she decided to work there. This is a rare story in an area where house prices are driving out the locals. The Milk Pail is also unique because it has over 300 different cheeses, not to mention exotic produce, like dragon fruit and lychees.

Why do the developers want the Milk Pail? They want to tear it down and use the valuable land for development. However, Rasmussen, for the benefit of the community, refuses to sell. He says that the rent on the land is very low, so his store can sell products at an affordable price. Many people say that the Milk Pail would be sorely missed precisely for this reason.

*Keshav Jain Dhir
Palo Alto eighth-grader*

JOINT PROGRAM FOR BIKES COULD WORK

While the City Council is deliberating what to do about rental bikes in Mountain View, it should discuss the topic with Google, LinkedIn, and other companies in the city. I have just called in my latest stray Google bike to Google security,

and even the Mountain View Voice described the Google bikes as ubiquitous.

Perhaps the city can work out something with Google and other companies to create a joint program that will encourage employees and others to return the bikes to proper locations while also providing bikes for other users around town. Google's and other companies' employees could just use their badges to swipe when renting a bike to go somewhere, and other people could use a credit card or phone to check bikes in and out.

*Sara Woodhull
Benjamin Drive*

IMPOSING CONTROLS DURING 'SILENT WAR'

There is a silent war occurring — one between property owners and those who must rent for their shelter needs. Just as during World War II, it is justifiable to impose controls during a war. Then, defense contractors were held to a limited profit level; so must today's landlords be restrained from Shkreli-like profiteering lest they kill the diversity that cities and communities need to thrive.

I hope rent control has succeeded when you see this. It's for the good of all, not just the wealthy few.

*Ed Taub
Devoto Street*

What's on your mind?

Tell us your thoughts on matters of interest to the community 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.



NOTICE TO PREQUALIFY AND INVITATION TO BID

1. Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Mountain View Whisman School District ("District") will receive sealed bids for the following project, ("Project" or "Contract"): **Mariano Castro Elementary School Demolition and Earthwork Project**. The Project consists of the demolition of existing classroom wing, portable classroom buildings and surrounding site demolition. Site grading and construction of building pads for new work.
2. Sealed Bids will be received until **11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 30, 2016**, at the District Office, located at 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, California, 94043, at or after which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with section 5100 et seq. of the Public Contract Code. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be non-responsive and returned to the bidder.
3. All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders. Copies of the Contract Documents are available for examination at the office of the Construction Management Firm, Greystone West Company, County of Sonoma, California, and may be obtained by contacting them at 707-933-0624.
4. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California Contractor Licenses: **A - General Engineering License**. The Bidder's license(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the bid opening and must remain so throughout the term of the Contract.
5. As security for its Bid, each bidder shall provide with its Bid form a bid bond issued by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District, cash, or a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. This bid security shall be a guarantee that the Bidder shall, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.
6. The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100 % Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the contract for the Project.
7. The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of section 22300 of the Public Contract Code.
8. The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall pay all workers on the Project not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to sections 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are available from the District or on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>. Bidders and Bidders' subcontractors shall comply with the registration and qualification requirements pursuant to sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 of the California Labor Code.
9. A **non-mandatory** pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on **Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.** at 505 Escuela Avenue, Mountain View, California 94040. All participants are required to sign in with the project manager hosting the visit. The Site Visit is expected to take approximately 1 hour.
10. The District's Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.
11. The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.

By: Mary Ann Duggan, Director of Capital Projects

Publication Dates: (1) November 18, 2016 (2) November 25, 2016

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