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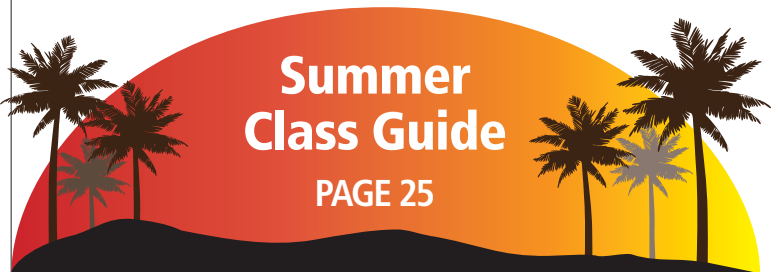
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**Summer
Class Guide**

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MICHELLE LE

Tenants at apartments owned by Zell Associates received notice that their landlord refuses to abide by the rent rollback that takes effect in Mountain View this month.

New rent committee gets an earful

FIRST MEETING DRAWS CROWD, PREVIEWS FUTURE BATTLES

By Mark Noack

At its first meeting, Mountain View's new Rental Housing Committee dipped its toes into a torrent of controversy surrounding the city's push to control local apartment rents. The three-hour meeting on Mon-

day, May 8, remained largely polite and procedural, but it set the stage for plenty of difficult decisions to come.

The intense interest in the new committee among landlord- and tenant-advocates alike was clear from the standing-room-only crowd packed into a city hall conference

room. While no major policy decisions were on the agenda, stakeholders attended to see newly appointed committee members interact for the first time, and perhaps gain some insight into how future hot-button issues would play out.

► See **RENTAL COMMITTEE**, page 8

CAA drops lawsuit against city's rent control law

LANDLORD GROUP CLAIMS RENT PROTECTIONS ARE 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL'

By Mark Noack

The California Apartment Association has announced it is dropping its legal challenges to rent control measures in Mountain View and Richmond.

The decision was posted late Friday to CAA's website.

In suspending the lawsuits, CAA officials emphasized that they remained wholeheartedly opposed to rent control. But the decision to abandon the legal challenges was described as a strategic move to take the fight elsewhere.

"We firmly believe that (rent control measures) are

unconstitutional, so withdrawing these legal challenges was anything but easy," said Tom Bannon, chief executive officer at CAA. "We are taking this opportunity to explore new challenges to the measures while continuing our

► See **LAWSUIT**, page 17

Trustees OK big pay raises for teachers

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AGREE TO SALARY BOOST DESPITE PENSION COSTS

By Kevin Forestieri

With the local economy humming along and property tax revenue pushing double-digit increases, two of Mountain View's local school districts agreed last week to put some of that economic prosperity in the hands of its teachers and school staff.

Board members of the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District and the Los Altos School District both agreed on contract negotiations with their respective teachers unions on Monday, May 8, granting teachers a pay increase of at least 5 percent across the board for the current school year. The increases, according to state finance data, means high school teachers in the Mountain View-Los Altos district remain the most well-compensated teachers in California.

The high school district's salary adjustment includes a 5.75 percent increase in the salary schedule for the District Teachers' Association, which grants teachers compensation based on their years served and level of college education. The new annual salary schedule now ranges from \$79,162 for the lowest-paid teacher up to \$149,584, with additional stipends available for employees with a master's or doctoral degree.

The district has been among the top in the state for teacher compensation, and this year looks to be no different. The California Department of Education reported that the average pay for Mountain View-Los Altos teachers was \$120,814 for the 2015-16 school year, putting it well above the average salary in the Mountain View Whisman

School District (\$73,652) and the Los Altos School District (\$81,124).

The high school district pays teachers close to 33 percent more than the average salary of high school teachers in Santa Clara County, and is one of only a handful of school districts in the state to offer an average salary above six figures. The report compares 800 school districts and other publicly funded education agencies, and averages are based on the total cost of salaries to the district divided by the number of teachers.

"We have a long history of attracting and retaining the very best teachers and school leaders," said Superintendent Jeff Harding. "Given the cost of living in our area, competitive salaries helps us attract the most talented staff."

The 5.75 percent raise amounts to a cost increase of nearly \$2.2 million annually for the district, and comes at a time when the state is requiring school districts to pay more into the teacher retirement fund, known as the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS). School districts will have to pay 12.6 percent of teacher pay in pension contributions in the 2016-17 school year, which will continue to eat up a larger portion of district budgets through the 2020-21 school year.

District officials are confident that the increased costs won't be a problem. Multi-year budget projections show the district will be able to keep a stable reserve fund and can afford the salary increase for at least the next three years, according to Associate Superintendent Mike Mathiesen.

► See **TEACHERS**, page 13

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Tess Middlebrook and Ariel Aronica play a mother and daughter in conflict in "Stella Wind," part of this year's "Pear Slices."

'PEAR SLICES'

Mountain View's Pear Theatre presents each year its "Pear Slices," a collection of very short plays (eight, this time) in one evening, written by members of its playwrights guild. The plays vary in topic and style, ranging from pure comedy to somber drama to supernatural story, but all share members of the same seven-actor cast, who switch to different characters from one act to another with great aplomb. This year's "Slices" includes a spooky tale set in 1946 New Mexico, a hilarious noir-detective spoof and a moving look at the experience of adoptees from a variety of backgrounds. "Pear Slices" runs through May 28, Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m., at the Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. Tickets are \$28-\$32. Go to thepear.org.

intertwined lives of several characters in early 20th-century New York, including an aristocratic woman, a Jewish immigrant from Eastern Europe and a black musician from Harlem, all pursuing their version of the American Dream. "Ragtime" explores themes of police brutality, segregation, privilege, cultural appropriation, classism, immigration, gender roles, among many others that don't often get featured on stages, both on Stanford campus and beyond," Ganem said. Performances are free and open to the public, and will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Go to facebook.com/StanfordBLACKstage.

'ART IN THE PARK'

The Los Altos Rotary's annual Fine Art in the Park festival, involving around 150 artists displaying works in a variety of media; live music on two stages; food and drink, family-friendly activities and more, will be held May 20-21 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lincoln Park, 199 University Ave., near downtown Los Altos. Local artists involved include Palo Alto potter Joy Imai, Los Altos sculptor Anne Klocko, Menlo Park jewelry maker Soni Bergman and Los Altos painter Stephanie MacLean, among many others. The event kicks off after the annual Los Altos Kiwanis Club Pet Parade, and proceeds go to community-agencies and international-development programs. Free parking is available at Los Altos High School and other locations with shuttle service to and from the park. Go to rotaryartshow.com.

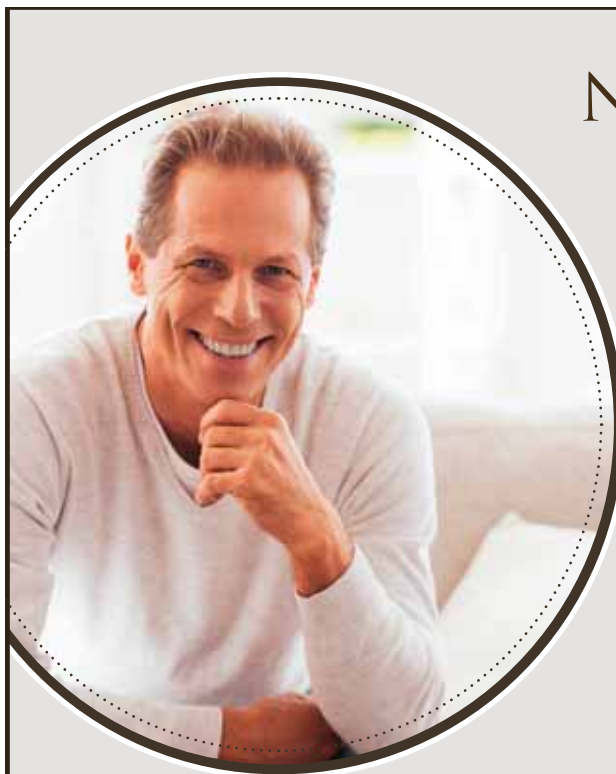
—Karla Kane

'RAGTIME'

Stanford University's BLACKstage theater company, which aims to present creative and performance opportunities for people of color as well as tell stories about communities under-represented in traditional theater, is staging the musical "Ragtime" May 12-14 at Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford.

"We chose Ragtime because of how pertinent it is to our current political climate," BLACKstage's Vice President Adriana Ganem said. "Ragtime" is a reminder that no one should sit silent in the face of injustice. This story was dying to be told a year ago and it is now more pertinent than ever in the wake of the 2016 election." The show depicts the

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

MAN PUNCHES COP

Police arrested a Stockton man in Old Mountain View last week following reports that he allegedly tried to strangle a woman, and later punched a police officer in the head.

Police received reports of a fight that broke out around 2:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3, in the 1100 block of Church Street. An officer found the suspect, later identified as 29-year-old Richard Nunez, talking to a woman. The woman ran to the officer and told him that Nunez tried to strangle her, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Police later found that the two had gotten into an argument over driving home after a night of drinking, and that the argument turned physical, Nelson said. Nunez denied trying to strangle the woman, but remained aggressive towards officers.

When officers approached Nunez to question him, Nunez was belligerent, began shouting, and punched an officer when police tried to detain him, Nelson said.

Nunez was arrested on charges of domestic battery, battery on a peace officer and threats to an officer. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail with a bail set at \$100,000.

ARMED ROBBERY AT 7-ELEVEN

A Mountain View woman told police last week that she was robbed at gunpoint at a 7-Eleven, but the suspect fled before police arrived.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 17

■ POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE

Hope St. & Villa St., 5/6

AUTO BURGLARY

600 block Showers Dr., 5/4

500 block S. Shoreline Blvd., 5/9

BATTERY

Church St. & S. Shoreline Blvd., 5/3

1800 block Higdon Av., 5/5

200 block Castro St., 5/5

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

500 block Central Av., 5/3

1800 block California St., 5/3

1900 block Latham St., 5/8

ROBBERY

500 block Escuela Av., 5/5

STOLEN VEHICLE

1100 block Maude Av., 5/4

2200 block Latham St., 5/4

Escuela Av. & Latham St., 5/6

1400 block Latham St., 5/8

500 block Showers Dr., 5/9

2000 block California St., 5/9

2200 block California St., 5/9

TRESPASSING

1500 block W. El Camino Real, 5/4

VANDALISM

200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 5/3

2000 block San Ramon Av., 5/5

1700 block Miramonte Av., 5/5

200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 5/6

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MONTA LOMA LAPTOP DRIVE FOR NEEDY STUDENTS

A tech-centric club that teaches coding at Monta Loma Elementary launched a used laptop drive this week, aimed at bringing at least 21 laptops for students who don't have access to portable computers at home.

The Computer Engineers of the Next Generation (CENG) club, which hosts a seven-week, after-school program to teach students how to use the basic coding language Scratch, is hosting the laptop drive from May 8 to May 26. Donors can drop off laptops at the front office on the Monta Loma campus.

Donated laptops are required to work and must have the log-in password disabled. The laptops will be refurbished and distributed to students at Monta Loma, with priority given to students in higher grades. Additional laptops beyond the 21-computer goal

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 16

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MICHELLE LE

The Moffett Field Museum is run by veterans and holds a treasure-trove of local military paraphernalia. It recently reopened after being closed for building improvements.

A march down memory lane

LOCAL MILITARY HISTORY BACK ON DISPLAY AS MOFFETT FIELD MUSEUM REOPENS

By Mark Noack

The Moffett Field Historical Society and Museum is truly an under-appreciated gem of the Mountain View area. It's fair to say that it lacks the polish and budget of larger museums, but the museum and its circle of veteran-volunteers make up for that with their dedication and heart.

This week, the museum is reopening after being closed for most of 2017 for building improvements. A sorely needed heating and air-conditioning system was installed in the museum, housed in a

NASA-owned building. Those improvements are a welcome relief, said Tom Spink, the museum's public relations director. During hot summer days, it would often feel like it was cooking inside under the building's tin roof, he said.

Like many volunteers, Spink can't help but regale visitors with stories as he leads them around the exhibits. More than anything else, Spink said, the museum seeks to tell the human stories behind Moffett Field's former days as a military base.

He eagerly goes into detail on the inner-workings of a World

War II flight simulator or how tiny Sparrowhawk biplanes could fly off and reattach to a giant dirigible like the U.S.S. Macon, which was housed in Hangar One. Over the years, the Moffett museum has accumulated dozens of old aircraft and probably enough old military gear to outfit a battalion. In fact, the museum is now facing the problem of having too much stuff, making it nearly impossible to rotate the exhibits.

"We're bulging at the seams," Spink said. "As more and more veterans pass away, we get boxes

► See **MUSEUM**, page 13

Wrestling returns to Mountain View High

NEW TEAM WILL HAVE OFF-SITE PRACTICES AT LOS ALTOS HIGH

By Kevin Forestieri

After years of being known as the only high school in Santa Clara County without a wrestling program, Mountain View High School officials announced they plan to bring back the sport after dropping it decades ago.

The school announced that varsity wrestling will be added to the list of 2017-18 winter sports,

and is actively searching for a coach. Meets will take place at Mountain View High, but practices will have to take place off-campus because of challenging space constraints that, up until now, had kept wrestling from making its overdue return to the school.

Blach parent Nhiem Nguyen, who spearheaded the effort to bring back wrestling, said he started his campaign through an

online petition in late December last year. The petition took a defensive stance, Nguyen said, arguing that it was unfair that students who wrestle at Graham and Blach had to essentially give up the sport when they hit freshman year simply because of the school they attended. Los Altos High School does offer wrestling, raising questions of fairness and

► See **WRESTLING**, page 14

School district weighs \$2.7M plan to close achievement gap

SOBRATO FOUNDATION OFFERS PILOT CURRICULUM TO BOOST YOUNG ENGLISH LEARNERS

By Kevin Forestieri

Each year, the Mountain View Whisman School District faces a mountain of a challenge: helping close to 1,300 students succeed in school when they haven't yet mastered English. Fewer than one in seven children in California learning English can meet state standards in English language arts and math, and that number only gets worse as students reach middle and high school.

Test scores among English learners in Mountain View are only slightly less grim than the statewide scores, and represent a tremendous gap in achievement among Mountain View Whisman students. In a bid to alleviate this chronic achievement gap, district officials are considering a partnership with the Sobrato Family Foundation that would bring sweeping changes to early childhood education programs at the city's lowest-performing schools.

What those changes will mean for the existing curriculum and teacher-led instruction in the classroom, however, remains a mystery as the details of the program are hashed out between Sobrato and the district.

At a meeting last week, school board members considered a partnership with the foundation to adopt the Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL) program — a comprehensive, multi-year program aimed at helping English learners thrive in preschool through third grade, and prevent them from falling behind simply because they have to learn a new language. SEAL is currently used in 87 schools in 16 school districts, and is expected to expand to 100 schools by this fall, according to Anya Hurwitz, deputy director of the program.

"The Sobrato family is interested in designing something to bring to Silicon Valley that impacts young immigrant

students and families" Hurwitz said. "As the valley gains in success and wealth, there's still this population of the community that's certainly struggling."

The main tenets of the program are that students need to develop and retain fluency in their native language while learning English, and that teaching in the native language plays an important role in preventing children from falling behind during their earliest school years. Part of the reason for the achievement gap among English learners is that students begin picking up and preferring English, but at the cost of their native language skills, Hurwitz said. Students who are still learning English after elementary school often end up in a difficult position where they don't have the capacity for English but they've lost the speaking skills of the language spoken at home.

Parent participation in their children's education as well as preschool and transitional kindergarten also play an integral part

in the roll-out of SEAL, according to a 34-page report by the Sobrato Family Foundation.

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph revealed in March that the district was considering piloting SEAL and conducting site visits to schools that have adopted the program. He said he was impressed by how well the language-focused program integrates reading and writing skills into all subjects, including science and social studies, which fits well with California's new Common Core curriculum standards.

Castro, Theuerkauf, Mistral and Monta Loma elementary schools all have enough English learners to qualify for the program, and implementation of SEAL at the four schools would cost an estimated \$2.7 million over the first three years,

► See **ACHIEVEMENT GAP**, page 6

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Artwork (top l-r): detail from *Suzanne at Her Easel* by Suzanne Etienne; *CT-14* by Richard Starks; detail from *The Releasing of the Sorrows* by Paul Bond; *Thistles on Orange* by Erin Hanson. Bottom: *A Boy, A Dog, and A Boat* and *Mendocino Breeze* by Anne Klocko. Poster design: Alexander Atkins Design, Inc.

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ACHIEVEMENT GAP

► Continued from page 5

according to a district staff report. The district is in planning mode and weighing whether to buy into the program, and a special pilot committee made up of school staff and community members will review SEAL for possible introduction by the 2018-19 school year.

Many unknowns

The program proposes major changes to the curriculum across multiple subjects for children in preschool through third grade, but it's still not clear what that evolution will look like on campus. Though marketing material for the program espouses the importance of students learning in their native language, it remains an open question whether any or all of the schools would need to adopt some type of dual language model through third grade. Rudolph told the *Voice* on Tuesday that these are details that still need to be hammered out.

Hurwitz said there hasn't been a hard-and-fast rule on whether dual immersion, Spanish instruction or English instruction is required under the SEAL program, and that it will depend on the individual schools. A campus full of Spanish-speaking English learners like Castro, for example, may want to adopt a program where 90 percent of instruction is in Spanish and 10 percent is in English the first year, with a goal of gradually reaching a 50-50 balance in language instruction. Classes focused on native languages are preferred, she said, but there's an emphasis on letting parents decide.

"SEAL works across all language models," she said. "We're believers in the research, but we don't require it of our schools."

The program also raises questions about the future of preschool and transitional kindergarten in the district. The program emphasizes starting language development before students reach kindergarten, which will require teacher training and professional development in the districtwide preschool program. But there could be a mismatch on who will receive the instruction and who will need it: Not all students attending the four SEAL-eligible schools circulate through the district's pre-kindergarten programs, and not all the students in the district's preschool program are going to attend a school participating in SEAL.

Rudolph said questions about possible changes to preschool and dual-language programs should all be answered over the next year, as the district drafts a pilot committee to consider the program. The committee is part of the district's new pilot

adoption process, which allows community members to create a timeline and decide the duration of the pilot and metrics for success, and design a review process and strategies for communicating with the community. The new committee process was developed after concerns by parents that the district's past pilot programs, such as Teach to One, weren't thoroughly vetted or openly discussed with the public.

"We need to engage a larger group of individuals at the schools that are eligible and make sure everyone is aware of the changes," Rudolph said. "The good thing is we still have a year before we jump in."

Some aspects of the program are not negotiable. At least three schools need to participate for at least three years, schools can't run any other pilot programs or initiatives that "compete" with SEAL, the district will need to hire new instructional coaches for each SEAL school, and teachers have to be granted between 10 and 12 "release days" in order to build the new curriculum.

Most of the estimated costs of the program are associated with professional development and hiring new staff.

There's also a line item in the staff report for a projected cost of \$350,000 to pay the "SEAL partnership" fee, but Hurwitz said she does not know where the estimate comes from. The foundation asks districts to pay for a portion of the organization's staff time, but she said that the Sobrato Family Foundation subsidizes the true cost of the SEAL program. These costs are spread out over the course of three years, and can total \$250,000, she said.

District's English learner program 'counterproductive'

Raising academic performance among English learners is one of the district's top priorities, and has a prominent spot in the district's five-year strategic plan. The goal is to reduce the number of "long-term English language learners," or students who have been in the country for at least six years and are no longer making their way towards English fluency. English learners in the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District are far less likely to meet state standards in English language arts and math, and perform at the bottom of all student subgroups.

In November 2015, the Mountain View Whisman district received a harsh critique of its English-language development program by an outside consultant, who found provisions of the program were implemented ineffectively and unevenly from one school to the next, and were "in many ways counterproductive."

What's more, the report stated that district officials knew about the ineffective language programs, but had no clear plan to fix it.

One of the potential advantages of SEAL, according to Hurwitz, is that the program is streamlined at all participating schools, and avoids the problem of having "misaligned programs that don't have a lot of coherence" that bounce students from one intervention program to another.

At the May 4 board meeting, trustees and school staff gave resounding praise to SEAL when they saw the program in action at schools like Hoover Elementary in Redwood City, though they were concerned about whether it would translate into stronger test scores. Hoover has piloted the program since 2008, but the school received the lowest rating for "English learner progress" under California's new "dashboard" rating system for schools. Students still learning English at Hoover also performed below the students learning English at Castro Elementary.

"I don't understand," board member Greg Coladonato said. "Even the eighth-graders (at Hoover) have had it for almost their whole time there; I just don't get it. I want Castro to do better, but I'm not certain this is the way to do it."

Board member Laura Blakely wondered whether SEAL, and its emphasis on holistic learning and integrating different subjects into daily lessons, may not be well-reflected in standardized test scores. In other words, SEAL may be a great program, but it may not be teaching to the test.

"I'm wondering whether the standardized tests are designed to really show the mastery that students have gained in the classes," she said.

Hurwitz told the *Voice* that Hoover's test scores are not the ideal way to judge the program's success, as it adopted SEAL during its very early stages. The so-called "replication sites" using the refined version of the program started only in the 2014-15 school year, and early results show students are already making major improvements year-over-year on California's English language development test.

District parents will be able to weigh in on the SEAL program in the district's Specific Learner Needs Task Force, as well as the lengthy pilot committee process that's expected to begin soon. Involving parents is important, and nobody should be caught off guard if the district decides to go live with the program in fall 2018, said Heidi Smith, the director of the district's English language learner programs.

"There should be no secrets about the intentions of the district," Smith said. ▀



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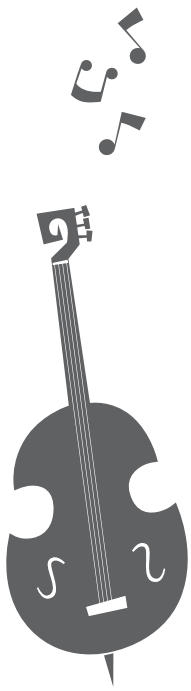
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RENTAL COMMITTEE

► Continued from page 1

The only debate of the night was over who should be chairperson and lead the meetings. The committee's alternate member Julian Pardo de Zela nominated former Councilman Tom Means, praising his experience in policy-making. But other speakers were quick to remind that Means had publicly opposed the Measure V rent control initiative in last year's election. Committee member Emily Ramos nominated her colleague, Evan Ortiz, pointing out he had close knowledge of the measure and spoke Spanish. But critics pointed out Ortiz had campaigned to pass the rent control measure. Neither of them could secure a majority; both were criticized for being too partisan to fairly take on a leadership role.

What could have been a quick vote instead became the Rental Housing Committee's first argument.

"I didn't foresee this as being such a big issue," admitted committee member Matt Grunewald. "But I do see how perception is important. If we're trying to be unbiased, then the choices of Ortiz and Means might not be good."

Instead the chair position went to Vanessa Honey, whose background as both a renter and property manager seemed to satisfy almost everyone. She was approved 4-1 for the position, lacking only Ortiz's support. Ortiz was approved for the vice-chair position, a role that serves as a replacement for

when the chairperson is absent.

The rest of the meeting mostly focused on planning ahead for the big decisions to come. After a quick tutorial on the basics of the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act, they approved a schedule for the crucial issues awaiting them, such as hiring an enforcement team, defining what a "fair rate of return" should be for apartment owners and setting the allowable increase for next year's rents.

Many landlords used the public meeting to air their grievances with the new rent control policies.

Landlord Jeff Zell told tenants he was "willfully choosing" not to comply with the rent rollback.

"There's going to be a point where we can't afford to pay our bills because Mountain View is balancing this on the backs of us," said Elizabeth Lindsay, owner of 300 apartment units in the city. "I've been doing this for 30 years, and now I won't be able to maintain a pride of ownership like I have in the past."

Many of her colleagues focused their complaints on the rollback mandate, which took effect this month and requires all qualifying apartment tenants to have their rents revert to what they were paying in October 2015. A few property managers described it as a logistical

nightmare trying to rewind their rates to two years ago.

Prior to the meeting, some landlords announced they would not to follow the new law as an act of civil disobedience. Zell Associates of San Jose, which manages more than 190 apartments in Mountain View, notified just under half of its tenants they would face eviction if they didn't pay the full rent, and returned payments from anyone who tried to pay the 2015 rates. Owner Jeff Zell explained in the letter to tenants he was "willfully choosing" not to comply with the rollback.

Reached by email, Zell said his company had little choice but to resist, saying he risked losing \$67,000 annually in rent as well as about \$1 million in property value.

"We decided to take a stand because Measure V sets a dangerous precedent — people voting benefits for themselves at the direct expense of others," he wrote. "What's to stop the next vote from rolling back rents to 1995 or even 1975?"

Speaking to the *Voice*, tenants at Zell properties say they were told by staff at the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley that their best option was to pay the higher rent for now. Attorneys warned that if tenants refused to pay the full amount, they would likely wind up in unlawful detainer court facing eviction proceedings.

Last week, the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley sent a cease-and-desist letter to Zell Associates warning they need to immediately comply with the new law. Law Foundation attorney Nadia Aziz said that tenants would be eligible to recoup three times their damages from any willful violation of Measure V.

"That you disagree with the public policy choice that the people of Mountain View made by voting to enact (rent control) does not insulate you from liability," she wrote. "If you continue to refuse to comply, we will consider legal action against you."

Zell acknowledged that he was in danger of facing penalties from the new rental housing committee. But he expressed confidence that the rent control law would eventually be found unconstitutional in court.

The California Apartment Association, which filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn Mountain View's rent control law on the same grounds, announced over the weekend that it was dropping its legal action after a judge refused to grant the restraining order preventing Measure V's enactment while the case made its way through the courts. ▀

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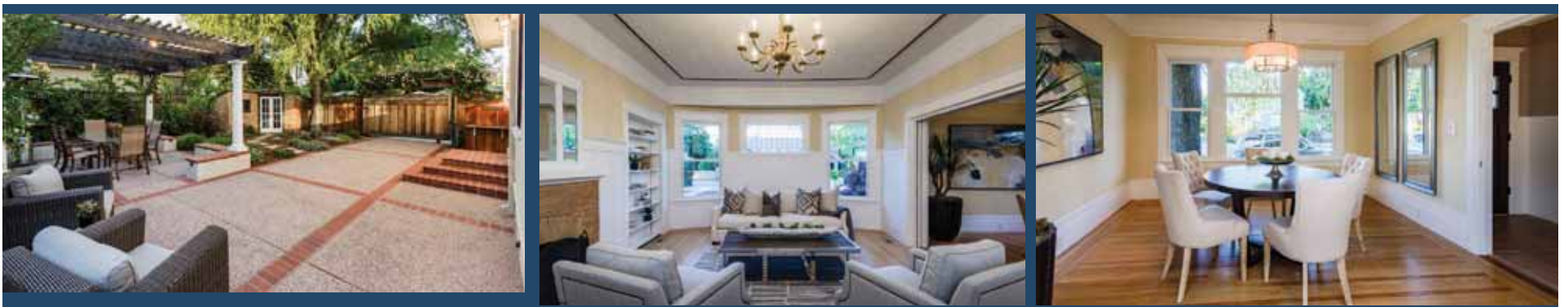


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TEACHERS

► Continued from page 1

At the same meeting, Mountain View-Los Altos board members approved identical pay raises for its classified employees as well as executive staff. Although the agreement comes at the tail-end of the 2016-17 school year, the negotiations are for the current school year and will be retroactive to July 1, 2016 — meaning school staff are going to see a hefty paycheck later this month.

Los Altos teachers get 5 percent

Monday night also marked a victory for Los Altos School District teachers, after board members approved a contract with the Los Altos Teachers Association that adds up to about a 5 percent increase in pay for the 2016-17 school year.

The tentative agreement, which won approval from the board in a 4-1 vote with trustee Sangeeth Peruri opposed, calls for a 4 percent increase in the entire salary schedule, granting all teachers a sizable increase in pay regardless of tenure and college education. The agreement also kicks in a flat \$802 annual pay increase across the board, and a \$400 increase for teachers on the lowest rungs of the pay

schedule. The agreement comes with a price tag of \$1.25 million annually.

The Los Altos School District has had a somewhat shaky economic outlook in recent years, and last year opened negotiations with its teachers' association to reconsider a 3 percent salary increase for the 2015-16 school year. Since then, the district

'Given how expensive it is to live here, I don't think it's fair.'

SANGEETH PERURI, LASD TRUSTEE

passed its \$223 parcel tax, Measure GG, in November, and continues to see sizable increases in property tax growth each year.

Peruri told the *Voice* that he firmly supports the 5 percent increase in overall compensation, but had lingering concerns that the approved contract does not go far enough to help younger teachers who are struggling to pay for the high cost of living in the area — particularly those on the lower end of the salary schedule. Teacher pay in the district, under the newly approved

contract, goes as low as \$54,000, which is considered very low income for a family of four in Santa Clara County.

"Given how expensive it is to live here, I don't think it's fair," Peruri said in an email. "The contract does have some features that help younger teachers, but in my opinion not nearly enough."

Among school districts in Mountain View, the biggest increase in teacher pay came in August last year, when the Mountain View Whisman School District agreed to an 8 percent salary increase for the 2016-17 school year. The decision came after a protracted negotiation process that at times appeared "dead in the water" according to union representatives in April 2016.

County-wide data shows that among the over 10,000 teachers that work in Santa Clara County, elementary school teachers received pay of about \$80,461 for the 2015-16 school year, putting them below high school teachers (\$91,110) and unified school district teachers (\$82,720). All three categories fall below the Area Median Income in Santa Clara County for 2016, which is \$107,100, according to the California Department of Housing and Community Development. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



MICHELLE LE

Donations of memorabilia from veterans have been pouring in to the museum, volunteers say.

MUSEUM

► Continued from page 5

and boxes of stuff donated to us."

The museum's docents, who clearly all love aviation, have accrued dozens of historic aircraft for display, such a U2 spy plane, an F/A-18 Hornet jet and a P-3 surveillance plane.

The Moffett Field Historical Society and Museum is right in front of the iconic Hangar One.

Visitors are advised to enter the Ellis Street gate since Moffett Field's main entrance is currently closed through July. Visitors will need to bring a driver's license to show to the entrance guards.

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WRESTLING

► Continued from page 5

equity among wrestling students.

The discrepancy came down to a lack of available facilities on the cramped campus. Parents at Mountain View High fought for years to bring wrestling back to the school, but the consistent argument from school and district administrators was that there was simply no space and no flexible schedule that could fit the program. Parents from past efforts said they even considered unusual options like hosting wrestling in the cafeteria, but it was deemed a poor choice because students could careen through the building's large glass windows.

After gathering more than 300 signatures, Nguyen rebooted the effort to revive the wrestling program, working with Superintendent Jeff Harding to go building by building to look at options.

"We methodically walked through every single facility in the district, starting at Mountain View High School, with a diagram of all the buildings," Nguyen said. "We went through why we couldn't have (wrestling) in each facility for one reason or another, but we tried to be objective about it."

The district then tried to strike

a deal for facilities outside the district, both of which appeared promising but eventually fizzled out. The first was a shared-use agreement at Blach Intermediate, and the second was an attempt to lock in evening hours at the Mountain View Sports Pavilion. The assumption was that wrestling could share the sports pavilion with a local cheerleading team in the same time slot, Nguyen said, but that turned out to be a non-starter.

The district ultimately settled on a compromise: the new Mountain View High School wrestling team will have to practice on the Los Altos High School campus between 6 and 8 p.m., after the Los Altos team has wrapped up its own afternoon practice. Nguyen said he was happy with the decision, but he put a condition on administrators that meets had to take place at Mountain View High.

"Having meets at the home school promotes the program and gives the wrestlers the recognition that they have a sports team at their own school," he said.

Placing the school in the regional wrestling league, hiring a coach and setting aside time for meets should be no problem in the coming months, said Mountain View High

School principal Dave Grissom.

Mountain View High School parent Bob Capriles, who fought to bring wrestling to the school in 2014, said it's "definitely worth it" to hold late practices at another school if that's what it takes to bring back the sport. Students don't have a whole lot of options for winter sports, he said, and there's more than enough interest at Blach, Graham and Mountain View High School to build a strong team.

"Wrestling is a great sport because you're competing against someone who is physically about the same size as you," Capriles said. "That's what neat about wrestling — it gives kids with varying levels of physical strength a chance to participate."

Although Harding called the revival of the wrestling program a "collaborative" effort that relied heavily on parent support, Nguyen said the superintendent deserves credit for committing to a months-long effort to bring back wrestling even the facilities search looked bleak.

"Jeff (Harding) was super supportive and patient in hearing out what needed to be done to enable this program," Nguyen said.

The next big challenge for the team is raising close to \$15,000 to get the wrestling program off

NASA seeks coders for ultimate challenge

For a programmer, this is a challenge equivalent to climbing Mount Everest. Officials at the NASA Ames Research Center announced last week that they are seeking talented code wizards to help tap the full potential of the massive Pleiades supercomputer.

Considered one of the fastest supercomputers in the world, Pleiades and its 210,000 processors still can't handle the near-insatiable demand for data-crunching among researchers. At any given time, 300 or more research projects are simultaneously running on the machine and hundreds more are waiting for a turn. NASA engineers have designed their own software dubbed FUN3D to allocate this computational

power, but they believe this code could be streamlined to make it much faster.

Taking a cue from other successful crowdsourcing campaigns, NASA officials are now inviting independent programmers to take a stab at boosting Pleiades' performance. They note that even an algorithm tweak that shaves off a few milliseconds could be dramatic, especially if that code is cycled through millions of times.

NASA and its private partners are offering a prize purse of \$55,000, split between the top programmers in two categories. The deadline to enter is June 29. More information on the challenge can be found at herox.com/HPFCC.

—Mark Noack

the ground, Nguyen said. A big chunk of the costs — an estimated \$10,000 — will go toward buying the wrestling mat.

A meet-and-greet barbeque event for families interested in joining the Mountain View High School wrestling team is

scheduled for Sunday, May 21, at Cuesta Park from 4 to 7 p.m. Anyone interested in attending or volunteering at the event may email stephanie.spaid@gmail.com for more information. ▀

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LAWSUIT

► Continued from page 1

aggressive campaigns against rent control.”

The announcement comes just as Mountain View implements its rent-control program called the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act, which was passed by voters in November as Measure V. Starting this month, thousands of apartment tenants in the city are expected to see their rents roll back to October 2015 rates.

On Monday, May 8, the city’s newly established rental housing committee convened its first meeting to begin creating policies for enforcing the new law.

A trade group for apartment landlords and owners, the CAA has been the chief opponent against citizen-led efforts to curb the rising cost of rental housing in Bay Area cities through price restrictions. The organization contributed more than \$1.18 million to oppose ballot measures for rent control in last year’s election. That spending helped defeat measures in San Mateo and Burlingame, but a majority of voters backed rent control in

Mountain View, Richmond and Alameda.

Following the election, the CAA made good on its promise to take cities that passed rent control to court. Both Mountain View and Richmond were sued in similar lawsuits just before the cities’ measures were scheduled to take effect.

In its legal complaints, CAA attorneys made various arguments, but their main theme was that rent control represented an unconstitutional taking of private property. In Mountain View, the lawsuit ended up blocking Measure V from taking effect for about four months, after city officials declined to defend against the initial temporary restraining order.

But the CAA’s suits against Mountain View and Richmond both fell flat as they came up for their first major court hearings. Lawyers representing tenants could point to several California cities that already had rent control policies in effect that had withstood similar legal challenges. Mountain View defended its rent control measure against an injunction request that would have blocked rent control for the

duration of the legal challenge, and a Santa Clara County Superior Court judge sided with the city and declined the CAA’s request.

“Without the protections afforded by the measure, some residents of Mountain View face excessive rents and arbitrary evictions,” Judge William Elfving wrote. “In contrast, the landlords are allowed a fair and reasonable return on their investment.”

The judges in the Richmond case also rejected the CAA legal team’s arguments that

rent control could not go forward.

After reviewing the judges’ decisions, CAA officials said they decided pressing the cases would likely prove futile. In changing their strategy, CAA officials say will monitor the cities rollout of rent-control to oppose “onerous” policies and possibly wage future lawsuits. Until then, the association is urging landlords to comply with the cities’ new rent-control laws.

Although the CAA is dropping out, the lawsuit against

Mountain View’s rent control program could still continue. Judge Elfving previously approved a request to allow an independent landlord group to intervene on behalf of the CAA. Those landlords and their attorney, Dori Yob of the firm Hopkins and Conley, could now take the lead role in litigating the case.

Yob did not immediately respond to the Voice’s requests for comment. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

The woman, 48, told officers that she left her home on Friday, May 5, around 4:40 a.m. when a man confronted her at the 7-Eleven on the corner of Latham Street and Escuela Avenue, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson. The woman said the man pointed a gun at her and demanded money, and that she told him she had no money on her. The suspect reportedly ran away without taking anything.

The woman did not give police a detailed description of the suspect, but did say the man wore a hoodie and spoke English.

—Kevin Forestieri

MAN ARRESTED FOR SHOTS FIRED

An East Bay man was arrested Sunday in connection with a shooting that occurred the night before in Mountain View.

Ellis McMahan, 26, turned

himself into police Sunday evening and was subsequently arrested on suspicion of attempted homicide, then booked into the Santa Clara County Jail.

According to police, on Saturday around 10 p.m., officers responded to reports of shots fired near the intersection of Hope and Villa streets. No one was hit by gunfire, but officers did find at least one round in the area.

An investigation concluded that McMahan shot at least once at another man during an argument, then drove away from the scene before officers arrived. The argument appears to have stemmed from comments McMahan made to the victim’s girlfriend after they had gone out drinking together, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

On Sunday, officers also recovered a gun they believe McMahan used in the crime, police said.

The case remains under investigation.

—Bay City News Service



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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

A sound option for helping the community's hungry

If you're like many people, walking past a man or woman on the street who asks for money, holding a sign — "Hungry," or "Homeless, or "Out of work, need food" — sets in motion an internal tug-of-war: Should I reach into my wallet and be generous? But how do I know this person is really hungry, or homeless, or otherwise in need, and not just playing me for a fool? Then there's the problem of the sheer number of people today appealing for help. What can individuals do to address such an immense problem?

Those who struggle with those questions but nevertheless want to help ease the day-to-day hardships suffered by those living in poverty or with disabilities have an appealing option: Hope's Corner, which serves free meals to hundreds of residents in need, is seeking donations to upgrade its woefully inadequate kitchen.

An independent nonprofit founded in 2011 in downtown Mountain View, Hope's Corner began as a joint ministry of Mountain View Trinity and Los Altos United Methodist churches, according to its website. Volunteers, including members of other service organizations, church members, and members of the community at large, do their part to minimize

the costs of providing the compassionate services offered there.

The nonprofit provides free breakfast on Saturdays to anyone who shows up, and the number of people served has more than tripled since 2013. But the enterprise has built-in challenges, given the existing kitchen's lack of a stove and a commercial-grade oven — shortcomings that require the food served at Hope's Corner to be prepared, cooked and chilled at a Los Altos site, then transported to the nonprofit's Mountain View site.

In launching its capital campaign, Hope's Corner aims to dramatically improve the kitchen's efficiency and capacity to enable volunteers to serve meals more than once a week and be better able to accommodate the growing numbers of people in need of food.

The capital campaign ends May 15 — in just a few days. But it's safe to assume that donations made after that date will not be turned away. Not when the need is so great. So if you're inclined to open your wallet to help, Hope's Corner will welcome your contribution, as will the hundreds of people in our community who rely on its services. To donate, go to hopes-corner.org/donate or email info@hopes-corner.org. ■

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

INCREASING CROSSWALK'S VISIBILITY IMPORTANT

This is in response to the letter by David Hong (Feb. 17). I would like to remind Mr. Hong that there is already a crosswalk at Marich and El Monte.

The current city proposal simply increases the visibility of the existing crosswalk by adding flashing yellow lights. And the fact that a resident of the neighborhood (Jardin Drive) apparently does not realize that there is a crosswalk there is precisely the reason why this is so important.

K. Shankari

S. Shoreline Boulevard

to social justice.

There were other speakers as well, all with messages of hope. I was encouraged, inspired and moved by all their words and extremely grateful to be a part of this community.

Thank you, Mountain View community, for your courageous and heartfelt support for the march on May Day 2017.

Marilyn Delgado

Azalea Way

President, Mountain View Community in Action Team.

REGARDING THE NORTH BAYSHORE PLAN

Members of the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning strongly support the vision of the draft North Bayshore Precise Plan. It provides the framework for walkable and bikeable mixed-use development including up to 9,850 housing units.

The Transportation Impact Analysis does point to the challenge of building all 9,850 housing units and staying within the three gateway traffic limits. In order to maximize the amount of housing in North Bayshore, MVCSP asks City Council members to support the following:

■ Increase the internalization rate — that is, the number of trips with origins and destinations in North Bayshore — from 27 percent to 35 percent. Future development applicants should have the incentive to maximize housing by adopting policies to increase the number of individuals who live and work in North Bayshore.

■ Approve the current average of 0.6 parking space per housing unit in the draft Precise Plan. In order to have a car-light North Bayshore, the transportation analysis points to the strong correlation of parking standards and vehicle trip generation. We are supportive of a phased approach where the first 1,500 housing units have a higher parking standard, but the total average should be 0.6 parking spaces per unit

■ Adopt a performance standard for residential single-occupant vehicles leaving North Bayshore of 60 percent. The current analysis assumes that 77 percent of trips leaving North Bayshore are single-occupant vehicles. A reduction from 77 percent to 60 percent would reduce the amount of traffic generated.

MVCSP members would like to ensure that there is a minimum of 7,000 housing units in the adopted North Bayshore Precise Plan. The three family-oriented

neighborhoods proposed in the draft North Bayshore Precise Plan are extremely important, and we support the current mix of housing unit sizes from micro-units to three-bedroom units. There is an important need to have sufficient housing to support a park, retail services, and, ideally, a grocery store.

In order to maximize housing in North Bayshore, MVCSP asks the City Council to approve a policy that supports a bridge-crossing across Stevens Creek at Charleston. The EIR confirms that this can be accomplished with less-than-significant environmental impacts, and it provides the opportunity for improved circulation and increased housing.

Finally, the mix of strategies and policies that would maximize housing in North Bayshore is very complex and cannot be simplified to the binary choice presented in the staff report (Table 3). We encourage council members to discuss policies and strategies that can maximize housing in North Bayshore and then settle on the maximum number of housing units that they feel is justified by the analysis.

Cliff Chambers
Midrock Corners
(On behalf of MVCSP)



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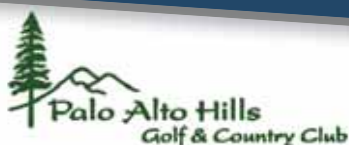
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