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MICHELLE LE

Local students use Google Expeditions to explore planets in virtual reality at Google's I/O Youth event on May 16.

Kids dive into tech at Google's I/O developer conference

LOW-INCOME STUDENTS CHECK OUT THE COMPANY'S LATEST IN ED-TECH

By Kevin Forestieri

Google staff were still working on the finishing touches of the sprawling I/O tech conference Monday morning, but some 150 students from Castro Ele-

mentary and other local schools got early access. By 10 a.m., the kids were already knee-deep in projects like building with circuits, coding and conducting science experiments using the company's education technology — some of which hadn't

even been announced to the public yet.

For four years now, Google's annual three-day developer conferences have been accompanied by a smaller-scale "I/O

► See **GOOGLE**, page 13

Navy seeks to disband Moffett Field RAB

PUBLIC PANEL TRACKS MOFFETT'S ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

By Mark Noack

The Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) — the lone watchdog panel that monitors pollution and the restoration of Hangar One — is set to be disbanded after a surprise move made on Thursday night by U.S. Navy officials.

At start of the group's first meeting of the year, Navy officials announced they were beginning the process for "adjournment,"

an action that would culminate in the group being dissolved. Navy spokesman James Sullivan said his office would seek public input over the next 30 days, after which they would make a final decision on whether to disband the group.

Sullivan made it clear that he believed the RAB had served its purpose and was no longer needed.

"This doesn't reflect on all the good work that's been done, but rather it represents an evolution

and fitting the context for which the RAB was established," he said. "We believe that we need to adjourn the Navy RAB."

The RAB originally formed in 1994 to monitor the cleanup of toxic groundwater contaminants left after the Navy exited Moffett Field as part of the base closure. Over the years, the group expanded its scope to preserving Hangar One and development proposed by Planetary Ventures,

► See **MOFFETT FIELD**, page 6

Google relaunches Bay View project

1.1 MILLION SQUARE FEET, UNDER CANOPIED DOMES, PLANNED FOR MOFFETT FIELD SITE

By Mark Noack

As Google embarks on its ambitious plans to create a signature headquarters, the company's building spree is now stretching into Moffett Field. In recent weeks, the tech giant has started preparations to build a new 1.1 million square foot facility on the western side of Moffett Field, in what will be the company's largest construction project reported so far.

But specifics on what the tech giant intends for the 42-acre site known as Bay View remain scarce. While Google and NASA officials confirmed the project's size and amenities, they initially declined to give much in the way of specifics on the design.

Despite their reticence, detailed architecture drawings from last year of Google's plans for Bay View were posted to NASA's website. The plans show Bay View developed with three canopied dome-buildings that closely match the futuristic design Google is pursuing at its Charleston East site in Mountain View.

On Wednesday, a Google spokesman confirmed to the *Voice* that the plans were for Bay View, but he said aspects of the design have been modified since they were submitted. Updated plans for the site would be available in the coming weeks, he said.

Much like the company's plans for North Bayshore, Google officials have been developing a strategy for building out Bay View site for quite a while. The company first inked a tentative deal with NASA for the mostly vacant, L-shaped parcel in 2005.

Three years later, the national space agency awarded a

long-term lease for the 42-acre site to Google's subsidiary, Planetary Ventures. The lease stipulates a 40-year lifespan that could be extended through 2098. Google agreed to pay about \$3.65 million per year, which will be adjusted with inflation and an occasional reappraisals.

Speaking on Tuesday, NASA Ames Associate Director Deborah Feng hailed the future Bay View campus as an example of a well-executed partnership that would mutually benefit both NASA and Google.

"Planetary Ventures has been a great partner for us," she said. "The great story here is that we've found a way to do an innovative public-private partnership for technology and research advancement."

The Bay View lease was given to Google after the company emerged as the top applicant after the opportunity was posted publicly, Feng said. She could not immediately say whether there were any other applicants.

Written into the 2008 lease, is an agreement between Google and NASA to cooperate on projects on data management, distribute computing, develop the private space industry and "bio-info-nano convergence." As part of the deal, Google agreed to take on six infrastructure projects to improve the Ames campus, including widening R.T. Jones Road, the main access route to Bay View, building two fire-suppression water storage tanks, adding a cooling tower for the Ames Supercomputer facility and building a new recreational park for NASA employees.

Originally, Google officials

► See **BAY VIEW PROJECT**, page 17



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- Top-rated Los Altos schools

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Shauli Bar-On.

What band would you most want to see perform at Shoreline?



"I think I'd like to see Fleet Foxes. I really like the indie-folk style that they got."

Riley Bauer, Mountain View



"Linkin Park. I've been listening to them since 2007 and I like the metal songs."

Jinish Shah, Mountain View



"Blink 182, because I've never seen them before."

Suman Paul, Santa Clara



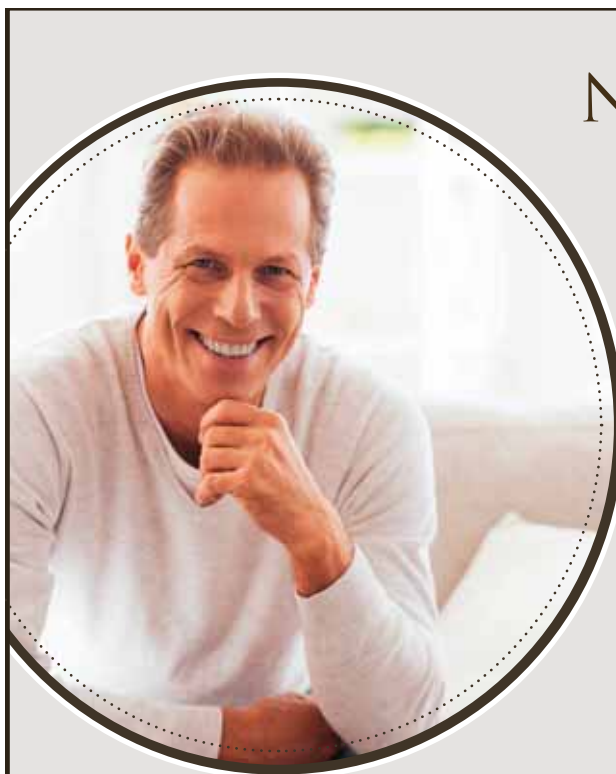
"Foo Fighters, because I really like their drummer."

Amit Kumarsingh, Santa Clara



"Pink Floyd, because Shoreline is nice and outside, and their music will flow nicely."

Pradipta Kumar, Santa Clara



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

INSPIRE MV AWARDS \$525K TO IMPROVE CITY

Inspire Mountain View, a new tech-funded grant program launched this year, has picked its winners in a citywide contest for ideas on how to boost the local community. The program, first announced in February, challenged local nonprofits and civic groups to think up ideas to make Mountain View “a more compassionate and equitable community.”

Contest organizers say they were able to triple the number of grant awards initially offered, thanks to more funding provided by Google. Other benefactors include LinkedIn, Symantec and Synopsys.

Where before they planned on awarding just three grants, Inspire Mountain View representatives now said they had enough funding to give out nine awards.

Here’s a list of the winning submissions:

\$25,000 grants

- The Avenidas Generations Lab will provide seniors with technology to improve their health and aid with independent living.
- The Community School of Music and Arts will host a first-ever three-day electronic music festival including performances, workshops and panel discussions. This event is tentatively planned for April 2018.
- Mindful Education will host a four-week series of workshops on “compassion, mindfulness and altruism.”

\$50,000 grants

- Mountain View Act for Good will use performing arts to build social skills and empathy between the different groups in the community.
- Canopy and Living Classrooms will construct “eco-schoolyards” at two campuses in the Mountain View Whisman School District. These eco-schoolyards is geared to foster environmental awareness and healthy living among students.
- Olimpico Learning will launch “Build Your Vision”, a 3D-printing workshop at Alta Vista High School for manufacturing low-cost prescription glasses frames.

\$100,000 grants

- Mountain View Working Scholars will expand its effort to provide no-cost online classes for local residents and employees to attain a bachelor’s degree.
- Soulforce Leadership will train up to 50 local teens and community leaders to “take action on local issues using mindfulness, compassion and nonviolence.”
- The Community Services Agency will provide nutritious meals for up to 350 low-income families through lunch programs at local elementary schools.

—Mark Noack

STEVENSON PACT CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Families from the popular parent-participation school Stevenson PACT gathered last week to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the program, bringing back alumni from its 1996 inaugural year in Mountain View.

The “Parent, child, teacher” — or PACT — program is a choice

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 8

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MICHELLE LE

Emily Le-Ewing and husband **Ralph Ewing** tour the **MicroPad** modular apartment on display in downtown Mountain View on Tuesday.

Many ideas, little consensus on housing crisis

HOUSING PANELS REVEAL COMPLEX ISSUES AT HEART OF HOUSING SHORTAGE

By **Mark Noack**

Everyone seems to agree that the housing situation in the Bay Area has reached a crisis — but what to do about it remains as polarizing as ever.

This week wrapped up the nonprofit SV@Home's second "Affordable Housing Week," a series of panels and events to address one of Silicon Valley's — and the state's — most intractable problems.

For the South Bay, this might seem like a golden time to be aggressive about rapid housing growth. Santa Clara County is gearing up to use \$950 million made possible through the voter-approved Measure A tax to boost low-income housing.

Meanwhile, cities across the area are seeing increasing public pressure to be part of the solution.

Data shows that the problem won't be solved anytime soon, as it has been brewing for decades. Just between 2010 and 2016, Santa Clara County added 166,800 new jobs, but only 25,440 new housing units, according to the state Department of Finance.

Many state lawmakers say cities can't be allowed to ignore this problem any longer, and many are pledging to take a hardline approach. This year there are more than 130 housing bills in the state legislature, many to compel cities to sanction more housing growth.

"We need accountability for

housing across all income levels; it's no longer tenable to believe each city exists in a vacuum," said state Sen. Scott Wiener. "Local control should be about how you're meeting housing goals, not whether."

Wiener was speaking last week as part of a panel organized by SV@Home that ended up demonstrating the challenges inherent in trying to mandate more housing. Wiener's own bill, SB 35, would obligate cities, especially those that have long resisted residential growth, to streamline approvals for housing that otherwise meets local standards.

But sitting right next to him at the panel was one of the bill's

► See **HOUSING CRISIS**, page 6

North Bayshore could be a boomtown for cheaper housing — if it gets built

CITY TRIES TO BALANCE AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS WITH DEVELOPER INCENTIVES FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL AREA

By **Mark Noack**

With the potential to more than double the city's affordable housing stock, Mountain View's goal to transform North Bayshore into a new residential neighborhood would be a game-changer for Silicon Valley's housing crunch.

But Mountain View faces a true dilemma as it fine-tunes its master plan for building about 10,000 new apartments in the tech campus that's home to Google. Could the city's road map ultimately be completely ignored?

That fear played a predominant role in Tuesday night's discussion as City Council members

attempted to strike the right balance between extracting hefty affordable-housing concessions from private developers without going too far and causing developers to walk away. Underpinning the talks, council members repeatedly acknowledged that

► See **NORTH BAYSHORE**, page 14

El Camino Hospital's board set to expand

DECISION COMES IN SPITE OF PUBLIC SCRUTINY OVER KEEPING COMMUNITY CONTROL

By **Kevin Forestieri**

Despite public opposition, the El Camino Healthcare District's board of directors agreed Monday night to expand the nonprofit hospital's governance board from nine members to 11 members.

The decision would add health care experts to guide the hospital's major decisions and \$800 million annual budget, but dilutes the influence local residents have over the hospital's operations by having five appointees and five elected board members.

Last month, the El Camino Healthcare District — a special tax district encompassing Mountain View and several neighboring cities — announced it was considering a governance shake-up for El Camino Hospital. The argument, according to hospital staff, is that the hospital is struggling to survive as an independent community hospital in a changing health care environment. Not only is competition fierce in the South Bay and the Peninsula, but changes in health care laws could threaten how much money El Camino Hospital receives from insurance companies and the federal government for services.

The remedy, according to hospital staff and the firm Nygren Consulting, is to add more people to the hospital's board of directors who have a strong background in health care — whether it be the insurance industry, finance or clinical experience — who can guide the hospital through uncertain times.

Though the hospital paints a bleak picture of its economic future, financial reports show the hospital's operating income through early 2017 was \$33.5 million more than budgeted, and budgets going back to 2014 show the hospital has been able to stow away tens of millions of dollars in profits each year.

The El Camino Healthcare District is a separate entity from El Camino Hospital, and was created in the 1950s to finance the hospital's construction. Voters elect five members to the district's board of directors, who continue to wield significant sway over the hospital's operations because they

also serve as members of the El Camino Hospital board.

The health care district's board has the power to decide the hospital's board structure, and oversees the district, which owns the land under the hospital's Mountain View campus and leases it to the hospital.

Since the board was expanded in 2012, the hospital has been run by nine board members. All five of the El Camino Healthcare District board members serve on the hospital's governance board, as well as three appointed members and El Camino Hospital's CEO. One proposal Monday night suggested simply appointing two more health care experts to the hospital board, while another suggested leaving the board at nine members but swapping out two district board members for appointed directors.

The majority of the public speakers, and most of the 115 public comments received over the last month, opposed stripping away voter-elected membership from the hospital's board, seeing it as a loss of public control over a community hospital that district residents helped finance with their taxes over the last 60 years. Changing the composition of the board to allow subject-area experts to overrule elected members as a voting bloc amounts to a "slow-motion giveaway" of the hospital, argued Los Altos resident Bill James, who previously ran for a seat on the health care district's board.

"This hospital and everything about it is owned by the people, and that's what's wonderful about it," James said. "In both these (proposed) models, the (hospital) board could override a unanimous vote from the district board."

Some speakers compared the proposed changes to a decision by the El Camino Healthcare District in 1992 that separated the district from the hospital entirely, ceding complete control of El Camino to another nonprofit entity. Sometimes referred to as the "privatization experiment," the district board voted three years later to file a lawsuit in order

► See **EL CAMINO**, page 14

MOFFETT FIELD

► Continued from page 1

a Google subsidiary that has leased out huge swaths of the former airfields. For many residents in nearby cities, the group has served as a crucial liaison with Moffett's various federal agencies

By most accounts, the Navy's program to pump and treat the groundwater has been successful in significantly reducing the hazardous contaminants in the aquifers. Pointing to that progress, Navy officials have long made it clear they wanted to bring their involvement to a close. Recently they began signing over responsibility for their treatment systems to NASA.

Thursday's sudden push to disband the group came as a shock to RAB members, many of whom have been watching Moffett Field's transformation from its days as a military airfield. Board members unanimously urged the Navy to hold off on shutting down the group until some kind of new successor

panel could be formed.

"The first rule of wing-walking is you don't let go until you grab onto something else," said RAB chair Greg Unangst. "We need to figure out how we're going to (transition) and how we're going to move into the future."

In a straw vote, RAB members requested that the Navy wait six months before disbanding the group. Sullivan said he could not make any promises that the Navy would wait that long.

On Tuesday night, the Mountain View City Council said they would send a letter outlining their concerns over dissolving the RAB.

Public comments should be addressed to: BRAC Environmental Coordinator Mr. James B. Sullivan Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office, West 33000 Nixie Way, Building 50, Suite 207, San Diego, CA, 92147-5116 or by emailing james.b.sullivan2@navy.mil. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

HOUSING CRISIS

► Continued from page 5

chief opponents, Carolyn Coleman of the League of California Cities. Echoing the concerns of many of her member cities, she said the state shouldn't be putting all responsibility for solving the housing crisis on cities, especially when the state helped create the problem. Instead, she backed SB 2 and SB 3, bills that would raise money for affordable housing by levying a new \$75 real-estate transaction fee and floating a new \$3 billion state bond.

"Accountability is great, but accountability without resources leaves our communities holding an empty bag," Coleman said. "These local cities are doing what they think is the will of their people and their communities."

She wasn't alone. Representing private developers, Paul Nieto of the Building Industry Association said many legislators' favorite tools for fixing the housing crisis were actually making it worse. He took aim at a litany of fees and inclusionary housing rules — which mandate that a certain percentage of new housing be set aside for low-income households. Those rules resulted in less housing, he said, since it became so

cost-prohibitive to build.

"We tax housing, and we think we're going to get more of it — that's simply not a good policy," he said. "We've spent 40 years digging this hole, and as developers, we don't have a monopoly on land or capital."

Taking the example of San Francisco, Nieta estimated it would cost about \$50 billion to meet that city's Regional Housing Needs Allocation quota to build around 1,000 homes. Other Bay Area cities were more or less the same, he said.

Nieta agreed with the state lawmakers on the panel that many cities routinely abused their land-use powers to curb unpopular development. Parking restrictions and the California Environmental Quality Act were often invoked as a pretext to halt housing projects, they said.

Modular mini-units

The policy discussion was just the beginning of a week of events focused on the housing crisis. On Tuesday, Mountain View played host to another discussion centered on the lack of housing for the "missing middle" — moderate income households that earn too much to get subsidized housing but

not enough to buy a home.

Speakers on the Tuesday panel blamed the shortage of mid-market housing on a mix of issues, including outdated zoning rules, financing hurdles, land costs and consumer demand.

Sitting right outside the Civic Center was one prototype for the future of dense housing in the Bay Area. The San Francisco firm Panoramic Interests set up a modular "MicroPAD" at the corner of Mercy and Castro streets. Interested visitors squeezed inside the tight confines of the tiny 8-foot by 20-foot domicile that could easily be stacked up with other units up to 12 stories high.

If built in large quantities — say, 100 units or more — the Panoramic mini-apartments could be leased out at a cost of just \$1,000 a month, said Panoramic spokesman Patrick Kennedy. The biggest hurdle is getting cooperation from a city and a stretch of land to give it a try, he said.

"We want to give people something easy to understand and easy to budget for," Kennedy said. "Many cities are interested, but they're taking a wait-and-see approach." ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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City's crime rate dips down in 2016

THEFTS, BURGLARIES AND VIOLENT CRIME ALL DECREASED LAST YEAR

By Kevin Forestieri

It's almost all sunshine and good news in the Mountain View Police Department's annual crime tally for 2016. The report, released last week, shows that a broad range of violent and property crime-related incidents took a plunge in Mountain View compared to 2015, while traffic data shows the city's streets were safer and free of fatalities.

The results are summed up on the front page of the 25-page report, illustrated with a rainbow sprouting from the top of a police cruiser. Reported cases of violent crime in 2016 decreased by 17.5 percent compared to the 2015, and property crime was down by 12.7 percent. Both categories encompass a majority of the city's crimes including robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and theft.

When it comes to drugs and alcohol-related crime, reported incidents of public intoxication and DUI were down 11 percent and 29 percent from 2015, respectively. Reported drug abuse sank to the lowest number of incidents since 2007, and vandalism is the lowest it's been in at least a decade.

Crimes that climbed in 2016 include an increase in weapons possession, which doubled from

23 reports in 2015 to 50 in 2016, as well as smaller increases in forgery, fraud and "simple assaults," which accounts for most misdemeanor assaults.

The website CrimeReports, which reports and maps out incidents in the city, shows that there were 36 reported assaults in downtown, 30 in the San Antonio Shopping Center and 20 at Shoreline Amphitheatre. Residential burglaries were scattered all over the city, with slightly higher rates in Old Mountain View (22), Cuernavaca (16) and Cuesta Park (12). Reports of auto burglaries decreased from 475 in 2015 to 351 in 2016, but the break-ins were highly concentrated in a few parking lots. Nearly one out of every six auto burglaries in Mountain View occurred in the tiny In-N-Out Burger parking lot on Rengstorff Avenue.

Though the comparison to the prior year mostly shows improvement across the board, the bright news has a whole lot to do with 2015 being a particularly bad year. Spanning the last four years, 2015 was an outlier with unusually high reports of residential and commercial burglaries, and a whopping 81 percent increase in car burglaries in which more than \$400 in property was reportedly stolen,

when compared to 2014.

Rather than hail the overall reduction from last year, Police Chief Max Bosel wrote in the report's preamble that crime data only shows a snapshot of what happened over the course of 2016, and that trends and changes from year to year can be "complex and difficult to define." Police spokeswoman Katie Nelson told the *Voice* that there are many variables that affect the ebb and flow of criminal activity in Mountain View, but the hope is that proactive efforts by the department are making the city more safe.

Officers at the department frequently cite Proposition 47 — a state law passed by voters in 2014 that reclassified non-serious drug and theft offenses from felonies to misdemeanors — as the primary reason for statewide increases in property crime. The law resulted in thousands of California prison inmates being released, resentenced or granted parole.

Although the city's increase in burglaries and thefts are striking in the year immediately following the passage of Proposition 47, it's hard to say whether the state law is to blame. FBI statistics show violent and property crimes rose by about 7.5 percent across the state, but studies are inconclusive as to whether Proposition 47 is to

blame. A report by the Public Policy Institute of California found no clear correlation between decreases in county jail population and increases in crime.

Proposition 47 also doesn't explain why residential and commercial burglaries had already risen by 78 between 2012 and 2013 — from 167 reports to 297 — and has remained at about the same level since then. Auto burglaries and thefts increased in the same year by a more modest amount, from 1,022 reports to 1,277, and also remain high through 2016.

Traffic safety followed a similar trend: 2015 was the deadliest year in the last decade with six traffic fatalities and 36 total bike and pedestrian collisions, according to quarterly reports from the department. By comparison, there were 27 collisions in 2016, none resulting in a fatality and only five resulting in severe injuries.

The Mountain View Police Department ramped up traffic education and enforcement in 2016 in response to traffic safety becoming a "top community concern" in the city, which means citations across a broad range of violations, which had been going down in recent years, rebounded in 2016. Tickets for speeding, disregarding stop signs and traffic signals, failing to yield and driving on the wrong side of the road all increased from 2015.

The same isn't true for parking violations. Citations for parking too long in time-limited spaces took a dive from 2,810 tickets in 2015 to 1,817 in 2016. Both mark a big decline from 2014, when the city cracked down on parking violations and dished out 9,700 tickets — 4,900 of which were for timed parking.

One metric that's consistently improved since 2010 is use of force by officers, which encompasses nearly a dozen ways officers can control a dangerous or out-of-control suspect, including controlled holds, carotid restraint, pepper spray and use of a K-9. Officers used force on 16 people in 2016, most of which fell under

the category of "uncontrolled takedown." Only one use of force — ramming with a vehicle — resulted in a moderate injury. Nelson said the department makes it a priority to train officers on what's called de-escalation tactics in order to avoid use of force whenever possible. Officers are also encouraged to get certified in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which helps police identify people with mental illnesses and better handle situations with those suffering from a mental health emergency.

The department's annual reports also keep track of the ethnicity of victims, witnesses and suspects that officers contact throughout the year. Those statistics show that black and Latino or Hispanic people are disproportionately suspected of and arrested for committing crimes. Black people make up close to 2 percent of the city's population and 2.4 percent of Santa Clara County's population in 2015, but make up 19.2 percent of suspects and 11 percent of arrests. Similarly, Latino or Hispanic residents make up 20 percent of the population in Mountain View and 26 percent of the county's population, but make up 36 percent of the suspects and nearly half of the department's arrests.

The disproportionate numbers are roughly consistent with what the Mountain View Police Department presented to the public at a 2015 Civility Roundtable event, sensationally titled "How Can We Prevent Ferguson from Happening in Mountain View?" Panel members at the event suggested that the department to talk openly about "implicit bias" that could be happening unconsciously.

Nelson said the department tracks the racial breakdown of police contacts each year is part of standardized reporting, and that racial profiling would be the antithesis of the department's adopted law enforcement policies, training and procedures. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

Hangar One restoration to take until 2025

By Mark Noack

Google's pledge to restore and reskin Moffett Field's iconic Hangar One is going to take longer than originally anticipated. The tech firm is now reporting the job likely won't be done until 2025.

The news came out during a report by Google's subsidiary Planetary Ventures last week at the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board meeting. Planetary Ventures project manager Anthony LaMarca said the company had just finished testing out different methods to remove lead paint from the steel structure. Right now the company is investigating how to build scaffolding to replace the skin that had covered the huge steel framework.

"We're looking to be as efficient as possible, but it's hard to say (when we'll be done). All our schedules are subject to change," LaMarca told the advisory board. "By the time we get through all these steps,



MICHELLE LE

Hangar One, the landmark structure at Moffett Field, was stripped down to its steel skeleton. Google subsidiary Planetary Ventures agreed to restore Hangar One as part of a lease deal with NASA for operation of Moffett's runways.

the skin will be done by 2025. That's quite a ways out."

Other problems have emerged for the smaller hangars Two and Three. Planetary Ventures is working to repair the door of Hangar Two. Meanwhile, structural engineers are trying to figure out how to reinforce the wooden framework of Hangar Three, which has deteriorated and is

sagging in areas. Both hangars also reportedly have significant trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene contamination in the soil.

LaMarca reported that Planetary Ventures is planning to install an underground depressurization system at Hangar Two to mitigate the pollution. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

school in the Mountain View Whisman School District that encourages parents, teachers and students collaborating in the classroom, and for years has been a highly popular draw for families in Mountain View. The school previously was housed on the Castro Elementary campus, but was moved to its current home at Stevenson in 2009.

The school prides itself on creating a holistic, balanced education with its progressive model, and is committed to "incorporating the intellectual,

creative, social, physical and emotional growth" of students, according to a statement event organizers.

"Across the board, everyone is working towards the same goal that the kids are learning and are happy," said Stevenson principal Rebecca Westover. "When you are a part of Stevenson, you are part of a larger family."

The celebration was hosted at the school on Thursday, May 11, where current and former PACT families gathered for events including a potluck, soccer games, a tree memorial and a "memory wall."

—Kevin Forestieri



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GOOGLE

► Continued from page 1

Youth” event, where local kids are invited to check out the latest and greatest in ed-tech initiatives that Google had at least a hand in developing. And it didn’t take much to get the students to jump right in.

At one station, fifth-graders from Castro used kits designed by the startup company little-Bits to create basic blocks of code, run them through a circuit and turn them into animated light displays with sound. The Lego-style design of the pieces meant kids could use their imagination to make creative visuals without having to solder hardware together. The hardest part, for company representatives, was peeling kids away from their creations long enough to give directions.

At another station, kids jumped into Google’s “Quick-Draw” application, where students were asked to draw a picture of something and see if a computer could detect what it’s supposed to be — essentially playing a game of Pictionary against artificial intelligence. Ryan Burke, a producer at Google’s Creative Lab, was



MICHELLE LE

Castro Elementary students use code to create animated light displays at a special preview of new education technology at the start of Google’s annual I/O developer conference.

standing by to help a girl who had just drawn a tornado on a touch screen and wasn’t having much luck.

“It asked you to draw a hurricane, so maybe draw an eye in the center,” he suggested.

Although QuickDraw is at its core a drawing game, Burke said it also gives kids a fun and accessible way to learn about the complicated nature

of machine learning. The game has slowly accrued a library of over 100,000 images that it uses to create a conceptual model of how people draw various objects. Each new drawing only improves the accuracy and interpreting skills of Quick-Draw, he said.

Kids also got to test-drive new augmented reality lessons created by Google, which went

unannounced until Wednesday and are set to be released in fall this year. Using a smart phone attached at the end of a selfie stick, students carefully examined scaled-down versions of planets and moons — all of which appear to be floating in the middle of the room. Teachers can plop down pins on the virtual surfaces to point out specific craters and features, or carve out a section of the celestial bodies to show what the core looks like.

The announcement comes two years after Google launched its “Expeditions” virtual reality project two years ago — which uses a smart phone and a low-cost cardboard head mount to send kids on virtual tours through places like the Great Barrier Reef, the Roman Colosseum or even outer space.

Yoky Matsuoka, the CTO of Nest, kicked off the event by walking through her own career building robots and artificial intelligence, and how her work was always done through the lens of what could be done to improve peoples’ lives. Prosthetic limbs with built-in AI, she told students, can complete complex tasks like tying shoes, effectively bringing back motor function to someone who

suffered a serious injury.

“With robotics and artificial intelligence, we can bring that (movement) back to them,” Matsuoka said.

Amid the bustling fanfare and media buzz surrounding Google’s annual tech conferences, it’s important set aside time for kids to learn and explore with technology, said Pavi Diwanji, vice president of engineering at the company. Schools invited to stop by include Castro as well as Aspire East Palo Alto Charter School and East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy — all of which have a high number of students from low-income families. Schools were specifically invited from cities with Google offices, Diwanji said.

Like QuickDraw and little-Bits, she said all of the activities aim to encourage kids to learn through hands-on activities, and encourage curiosity and inquiry — whether that means a creative story-telling project or tearing something apart to see how it works.

“We want to empower kids with technology for the future,” she said. “We try to enable their creativity.”

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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EL CAMINO

► Continued from page 5

to claw back control of El Camino Hospital. The health care district regained oversight of the hospital in 1997.

Los Altos Hills resident Jim Abraham said the suggested changes to the board stink of an attempt to steal the hospital away from the people who continue to pay taxes to support it.

“The idea that you can pack the board with people who don’t live in the area and are not elected just absolutely blows me away. It’s just so wrong,” Abraham said. “Take this turkey, bury it and don’t come back to it. We’ve been here before — let’s not do it again.”

Kary Lynch, a 40-year hospital employee working in the behavioral health department, wondered whether appointed health care experts would make decisions in the best interest of the public or the best interest from the perspective of the hospital’s financial health. The existing

board agreed to invest in a new behavioral health building, but plenty of private hospitals have sought to slash money-losing services in the name of economic solvency.

Despite the public’s pleas to leave the hospital board alone, three of the five board members remained unfazed. Board member David Reeder said his work in the local tech industry pales in comparison to the complex, challenging world of the health care market. To depend on five democratically elected board members to manage the hospital with so many changes and challenges on the horizon, he argued, would not bode well for the hospital’s future. That’s why so few independent local hospitals are left in the Bay Area.

“The board of directors that are elected by the people aren’t always qualified to operate the hospital,” Reeder said.

Board member John Zoglin, who voted against retaining the status quo, said residents

shouldn’t be alarmed over the prospect that appointed members will take over the hospital’s operations, if only because he couldn’t recall a single vote that pitted all five district board members against the three appointed members. What’s more, the El Camino Healthcare District reserves the right to remove any appointed member from the board, giving the district ultimate power over what happens at the hospital.

Board member Dennis Chiu and Julia Miller voted in favor of leaving the hospital’s board as-is, but the vote failed 2-3 with board members Peter Fung, Zoglin and Reeder opposed. Reeder then made a motion for “Option C,” which called for swapping out district board members for appointed members, but it also went down in a 2-3 vote. Miller said she was “disappointed” that her colleagues were even considering Option C, given the public support to retain the power of elected officials over the hospital.

Reeder, responding to Miller’s

comments, said that he has to represent the entire community and not just those who weighed in through public comment. One public speaker questioned why the health care district asked for public comment, if board members were going to disregard it as a narrow band of broader public opinion.

Fung said that the opposition may stem from a misunderstanding, and that the public failed to understand that the El Camino Healthcare District board still maintains its power to appoint and remove hospital directors.

“Have we not done a good enough job?” Fung asked. “I think we did the best we could to explain to the public, both in the PowerPoint and the publication, that the district board still has reserved powers.”

Board members eventually gave a reluctant but unanimous vote on a compromise that would add two appointed directors to the hospital’s board but retain all five district board members,

expanding the board to a total of 11 members. In an amendment proposed by Miller, district board members also agreed to strip the voting power of the CEO, leaving 10 voting board members. The amendment ensured that non-elected members would not have a majority vote over hospital decisions.

The de facto tie-breaking vote was Zoglin, who voted against both Option C and the existing board structure, and prompted the vote for the board expansion. He explained that he was proud of the existing governance structure and what it’s accomplished so far, but acknowledged that the hospital was going to need more experienced leadership in order to remain a “jewel of an institution” and avoid “selling out to change” like Sutter Health.

“It’s not, ‘If it’s working now, don’t fix it,’ but what do we need to do to make sure it’s fixed in five years,” he said. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

NORTH BAYSHORE

► Continued from page 5

their vision depends on satisfying just one big player — Google, which owns most of North Bayshore. The tech giant was conspicuously absent from the meeting.

For months, city officials have said 20 percent of the new housing of the densest new apartments built in the area should be affordable units. But at the meeting, many speakers encouraged city leaders to go much further.

“You should set a goal of building 30 percent affordable housing for North Bayshore,” suggested Bob Emmett, speaking for the service-workers group Silicon Valley Rising. “Our workers do not earn enough to be able to afford the rising cost of housing locally, even with two workers in a household.”

Emmett was just one in a line of speakers who argued that

Mountain View should seek more from one of the world’s wealthiest companies. That idea of maximizing affordable housing gained some support on the council. Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga, who previously opposed residential growth in North Bayshore, became the night’s leading advocate for demanding more below-market units. At minimum, she said the city should seek 25 percent affordable units.

“Can we be a little more creative and ambitious here and really answer to the needs of our area?” Abe-Koga said. “Maybe it’s time to look at inclusionary zoning policies and higher percentages because I see there’s a way to get more (below-market) units.”

But the idea spurred nervousness among other council members. Mayor Rosenberg warned the city could hear a chorus of “crickets” if the rules went too

far. Other council members pointed to San Francisco, where onerous affordable housing rules can serve as a convenient pretext to sink new housing projects. The 20 percent level ended up remaining in place.

Of that 20 percent, the new subsidized units would be split between those affordable to people with very low, low, and moderate incomes. As an incentive to encourage for-sale housing, city officials agreed to allow developers to instead set aside as much as 5 percent of their affordable housing obligation for market-rate ownership units.

The council took a series of straw votes on small changes to affordable housing guidelines, tweaking the density bonuses, the mix of pricing for various income levels and the length of time that any new housing would have to remain subsidized.

Councilmembers John

McAlister and Lenny Siegel both urged city staff to figure out a way to make new office space contingent on developers building new housing. Council members also expressed support for allowing developers to dedicate land instead of building affordable-housing units — an idea that staff suggested could result in more housing being built.

“If we end up building these 9,800 units in North Bayshore, we’ll end up with more low-income housing than we’ve ever built in Mountain View,” Siegel said. “No matter what we do, we’re able here to serve a lot of people.”

Google officials sent a letter to the city in advance of the council meeting, but the company commented only on the length of time they would be required to keep new housing affordable. City staff had proposed a percentage of new housing in North Bayshore should be kept at

below-market rates in perpetuity.

John Igoe, Google’s real estate director, suggested a term of 55 years, saying that was consistent with state law. He warned that prolonging this obligation would put a burden on the usage, financing and transferability of property. Discussing these concerns, council members indicated they were willing to negotiate.

Closing the talks, the council touched on one of the biggest housing questions of all — Who should get to live in these new apartments? Among the ideas proposed, elected leaders suggested limiting it to North Bayshore employees or possibly those working within a 3-mile radius. But city staff warned this could create a legal quagmire.

Without making any final decisions, council members suggested that people who work or currently live in Mountain View should get priority. ▣

Join the conversation about school boundaries

MVWSD is in the midst of a community-wide process to make adjustments to elementary school boundaries intended to relieve overcrowding at some schools and provide for the opening of Slater Elementary in 2019-20.

The District wants to hear your ideas about Boundary Options A and B. Community input will be used to inform the final boundaries choice on June 15.

To view boundary options and participate in the conversation:
www.MVWSD.org/Boundaries

Community Session: Monday, May 22
6:30 p.m. at Crittenden Middle School





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Mountain View Whisman hires new director of special ed

FORMER MARINE, AN ADMINISTRATOR IN MONTEREY COUNTY, TO LEAD THE DEPARTMENT

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District announced that Gary Johnson, an administrator in charge of special education in Monterey County, has been tapped to lead the district's special education program. Multiple staff changes at the district office that meant the program's current director, Carmen Ghysels, will be leaving her post at the end of June.

Johnson, who starts July 1, currently serves as the director of special education at Alisal Union School District, and worked in a similar role for Soledad Unified School District from 2009 to 2012. Johnson previously served

five years in the Marine Corps, including operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in 1991 jumped into his first teaching gig as a substitute teacher in Southern California.

While working on his teaching credentials and his master's degree in educational leadership, Johnson told the *Voice* in an email that he enjoyed working closely with parents and students attending Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings — an essential part of special education that sets benchmarks for assessing student



Gary Johnson

performance. To him, overseeing special education means ensuring that the most needy children in the community have their needs met by the school district.

As the leader of special education for two districts, Johnson said he put an emphasis on increased staffing, regular meetings with all members of the special education department, and "building out" programs for students with moderate and severe disabilities. He said he also put measures in place to make sure district-wide policies were followed at all of the school sites. Johnson will be joining the district two years after Mountain View Whisman's special education program was roundly

criticized in a performance review by the outside firm Cambridge Education. It found that students with disabilities fell behind their peers and perform below grade level, and that the district office didn't have the staff needed to handle the workload. Communication with parents of students with disabilities also left plenty to be desired, and varied from one school to the next.

The teacher shortage is also taking a toll on special education programs throughout California, as school districts struggle to find and retain qualified special education teachers and teaching assistants. Johnson said he's more than familiar with the problem, and

that an acute shortage of psychologists, speech therapists and other related professionals makes building a "successful, stable program in any district a challenge."

In what has become a tradition over the last three years, multiple people will be changing roles at the district office for the 2017-18 school year. Assistant Superintendent Karen Robinson, who heads administrative and human resources for the district, will be retiring sometime during the coming school year. Ghysels will be replacing her as the new assistant superintendent, creating the vacancy for director of special education. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

BAY VIEW PROJECT

► Continued from page 1

envisioned a nine-building office campus at Bay View that would be finished around 2015. But that plan ran into snags as the company approached the city of Mountain View with proposals to build up to three bridges across Stevens Creek to allow workers to more easily access Moffett Field. The plans sparked an outcry as environmentalists complained the bridge crossings could end up harming the wildlife habitat along the creek.

In 2013, as city officials seemed poised to reject the bridge proposal, Google officials announced they were pulling back the entire Bay View project to retool its design. Since then, Google officials evidently incorporated elements of the eye-catching design they were pursuing in North Bayshore into the Bay View project.

Last month, as the Mountain View City Council discussed transportation management in North Bayshore, Google officials confirmed that they were launching construction of the Bay View project. During that discussion, City Council members expressed support for the allowing Google to build a bridge for transit and service vehicles across Stevens Creek either at Charleston Road or La Avenida Street.

As many as 5,000 new employees are expected to occupy the new Bay View buildings, which should be complete by 2020, according to NASA officials. For now, the construction workers are grading the site with plans to begin construction in June. Google has been heavily involved in widening R.T. Jones Road from two lanes to four lanes and adding traffic signals to the

intersection at Moffett Boulevard. Google officials said workers at the new campus would be heavily encouraged to take alternate forms of transportation.

The Bay View plans from last year call for three office buildings of 53,900, 202,500 and

360,000 square feet in size. On the eastern side of the site, the company is proposing to build a parking lot and garage as well as a short-term corporate housing of an unspecified size. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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Special Sections Editor

Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

Staff Writers

Kevin Forestieri (223-6535)

Mark Noack (223-6536)

Intern

Shauli Bar-On

Photographer

Michelle Le (223-6530)

Contributors

Dale Bentson, Peter Canavese, Alyssa Merksamer, Ruth Schecter

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Marketing and Creative Director

Shannon Corey (223-6560)

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers

Linda Atilano, Rosanna Kuruppu, Paul Llewellyn, Talia Nakhjiri, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing

Tom Zahralis (223-6570)

Advertising Representative

V.K. Moudgalya (223-6586)

Real Estate Account Executive

Rosemary Lewkowicz (223-6585)

Published every Friday at

450 Cambridge Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94306

(650) 964-6300 fax (650) 964-0294

Email news and photos to:

editor@MV-Voice.com

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

School district's open process raises hope

One of the Mountain View Whisman School District's top priorities, as reflected by district leaders and the district's five-year strategic plan, is raising the academic performance of children who are not native English speakers. It's an important mission that requires innovative thinking and effective new classroom programs.

A consultant in late 2015 criticized the district's English-language development program, citing aspects that were ineffectively and unevenly implemented among the schools. And, the consultant noted, the district had no clear plan to fix the problems identified, despite the sobering fact that 1,300 students enrolled in its schools haven't mastered English.

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph recently revealed that the district is considering a pilot program for preschool through third-grade kids that would be partially funded by the foundation that sponsors it, the Sobrato Family Foundation. The program, Sobrato Early Academic Language — or SEAL — aims to not only teach English language skills to non-native speakers but to help the students retain fluency in their own language while learning English.

Although many of the details have yet to be worked out for a possible trial run of the program, the district is approaching the question of forming a partnership with the Sobrato foundation through an open and sensible process, involving staff, teachers and parents.

This is an encouraging development, coming on the heels of the Teach to One fiasco that unfolded early in this school year. In that instance, the district had launched a sixth-grade digital

math program with no signed contract, no community outreach and no board approval. There had been no vetting of the pilot program beyond the district office, and although Teach to One had been used by a handful of school districts elsewhere, it had little if any history in school districts comparable to Mountain View Whisman.

There are a number of questions about the SEAL program yet to be answered, but it's early in the process. Rudolph's goal, he says, is to address those questions over the coming year. And if the district decides to adopt SEAL in the schools with high numbers of English language learners — a minimum of three schools, according to a program requirement — he hopes to have it in place by the 2018-19 school year.

To explore those questions and help work out the logistics of implementing SEAL in the classroom if it is adopted, the district is turning to a new committee made up of staff and community members. And school officials have made site visits to at least two schools that have adopted the program to see firsthand how it works.

An open process that includes a range of school community participants raises hope that an effective strategy to help close the district's sizable achievement gap between English speakers and English learners will be found and put in place. Even if it turns out that SEAL is not the right course for MVWSD schools, the ball is now in motion to find a program that is suitable and effective. And with strong staff and school board leadership — and an open approach — the district is on its way. ▀

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

RECOGNIZING SUPPORTERS OF MEASURE B

Mountain View families are fortunate to live in a community that honors and supports quality education for all. Unlike Los Gatos Union School District, whose recent parcel tax was unsuccessful, Mountain View Whisman's Measure B passed with 72 percent support from voters.

Measure B funding will provide academic support for all students and finance programs focused on 21st-century skills like science, engineering and computer science as well as hands-on learning and outdoor education programs for the next eight years. We the Measure B organizers thank our countless volunteers, the Chamber and all of the local officials whose endorsements helped promote Measure B, and Measure B's many financial supporters,

including numerous individuals and the following organizations and businesses working in Mountain View:

464 Ellis Street Associates; AlphaVista Services, Inc.; ATD (formerly Deems Lewis McKinley Architecture); BHM Construction, Inc.; Bubb PTA; Building Trades Council; Castro PTA; Cleary Consultants, Inc.; Crittenden PTA;

Dannis, Woliver & Kelley; Dreiling Terrones Architecture; Fortbay; Graham PTA; Grassetto Environmental; Greystar; Greystone West Company; Hibser Yamauchi Architects, Inc.; Huff PTA;

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 332; Keygent Advisors; Keenan Lovewell Ventures; Landels PTA; Mistral PTA; Monta Loma PTA; Mountain View Educational Foundation;

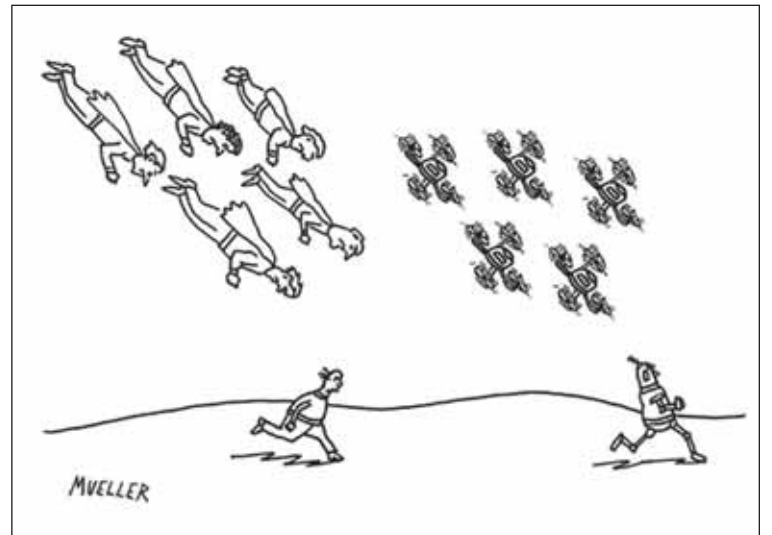
Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association; Orbach, Huff,

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RBC Capital Markets; Sheet Metal Workers Association #104; Stevenson PACT Foundation; Summerhill; Testing Engineers, Inc.; The Sobrato Organization;

Theuerkauf PTA; Underwood & Rosenblum Inc.; WHM, Inc.

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4. Home to the #1 real estate team in Silicon Valley
5. Brokerage wholly owned & run by attorneys
6. 75% of agents hold at least a law degree or an MBA



	deleon	Brokerage "X"	Brokerage "Y"	Brokerage "Z"
1. Experienced, knowledgeable real estate agents	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. Absolute ban against having the same individual agent on both sides of any transaction	Yes	No	No	No
3. Waive 100% of the buyer-side commission if the brokerage represents both sides of the transaction	Yes	No	No	No
4. Home to the #1 real estate team in Silicon Valley	Yes	No	No	No
5. Brokerage wholly owned & run by attorneys	Yes	No	No	No
6. 75% of agents hold at least a law degree or an MBA	Yes	No	No	No

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7. Custom website specific to each property
8. Online marketing, including paid Google® & Facebook® ads
9. Advertisement in a minimum of 3 newspapers
10. Featured marketing on 2 Chinese radio shows
11. Hosted broker tours & open houses
12. Extended open house hours with refreshments

	deleon	Brokerage "X"	Brokerage "Y"	Brokerage "Z"
1. Professional photography	Yes	No	No	No
2. Customized, informative, non-templated ads	Yes	No	No	No
3. Narrated, professionally produced videos	Yes	No	No	No
4. TV commercials (the #1 Comcast® advertiser in South Peninsula)	Yes	No	No	No
5. 3-D home tours	Yes	No	No	No
6. Full-color, 12-page or 32-page brochures	Yes	No	No	No
7. Custom website specific to each property	Yes	No	No	No
8. Online marketing, including paid Google® & Facebook® ads	Yes	No	No	No
9. Advertisement in a minimum of 3 newspapers	Yes	No	No	No
10. Featured marketing on 2 Chinese radio shows	Yes	No	No	No
11. Hosted broker tours & open houses	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12. Extended open house hours with refreshments	Yes	No	No	No

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1. Cooperation with outside agents to sell and buy homes
2. In-house tax & legal advice at no extra charge
3. Paid property & pest inspections
4. Paid staging (including the first month of furniture rental)
5. Complimentary handyman services
6. 3-year home maintenance plan by HomeSmiles, Inc.

	deleon	Brokerage "X"	Brokerage "Y"	Brokerage "Z"
1. Cooperation with outside agents to sell and buy homes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. In-house tax & legal advice at no extra charge	Yes	No	No	No
3. Paid property & pest inspections	Yes	No	No	No
4. Paid staging (including the first month of furniture rental)	Yes	No	No	No
5. Complimentary handyman services	Yes	No	No	No
6. 3-year home maintenance plan by HomeSmiles, Inc.	Yes	No	No	No

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1. Salaried wages, not commissioned
2. Healthcare & retirement benefits
3. Paid time-off
4. Paid opportunities for public service volunteering

	deleon	Brokerage "X"	Brokerage "Y"	Brokerage "Z"
1. Salaried wages, not commissioned	Yes	No	No	No
2. Healthcare & retirement benefits	Yes	No	No	No
3. Paid time-off	Yes	No	No	No
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