

Mountain View VOICE



APRIL 20, 2018 VOLUME 26, NO. 13

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MOVIES | 29



Layers
of flavors
WEEKEND | 25



JAMES TENSUAN

A man runs along the marshes at Shoreline Park in Mountain View on Friday, April 13. A new grant will fund flood protection and habitat restoration projects in the area.

Authority funds Mountain View baylands restoration

By Mark Noack

Restoring Mountain View's shoreline will be one of the first projects funded by a \$500 million Bay Area bond package approved by voters in 2016.

Earlier this month, board members for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

approved about \$33 million in grants for projects intended to rehabilitate about 15,100 acres of baylands in the South Bay's marshes.

As part of these initial projects, the Restoration Authority will begin projects to improve habitat, flood protection and recreation at the baylands directly north of Shoreline Park.

Much of the Bay Area's marshes were converted to evaporation ponds in the last century as a way to extract salts. This practice resulted in the removal of about 85 percent of the bay's tidal marshes, causing considerable habitat loss for a variety of fish, shorebirds and other

► See **BAY RESTORATION**, page 17

Waymo 'ghost cars' headed for city streets

COMPANY WANTS TO TEST 52 MINIVANS IN MV, SUNNYVALE, PALO ALTO AND LOS ALTOS

By Mark Noack

What once seemed a futuristic pipe dream for self-driving cars has now moved one big step closer to reality.

Google's offshoot Waymo filed an application last week to begin testing its self-driving cars without any humans sitting behind the wheel. If approved by state regulators, the request would result in up to 52 unmanned "ghost cars" driving around Mountain View and its surrounding cities.

Self-driving cars have been navigating local streets for years, but up to this point they have been required to always have someone sitting in the driver's seat to take control if the autopilot system were to fail.

That rule changed this month. Starting on April 2, the California Department of Motor Vehicles began a new testing phase for companies to operate their autonomous vehicles independently. These cars would still need to be tracked remotely, but a human would no longer need to be physically sitting in the driver's seat.

Waymo confirmed last week they have applied for this new round of driverless testing. A copy of the company's submitted application was provided to the *Voice* on Tuesday, April 17.

During this new testing phase, Waymo officials said they may allow regular citizens to take a free ride in their self-driving vehicles. But they gave no specifics on how this service would function or how interested riders could sign up.

As the technology matures, autonomous vehicles are expected to have huge ramifications for public transportation, safety and municipal planning. For better or worse, the city of Mountain View seems to be destined to serve as the main proving grounds for these impacts, city officials say.

There are over 50 companies registered in California to develop self-driving technology, 19 of which are based in Mountain View. Of those firms, Waymo is generally considered to be at the forefront of bringing autonomous vehicles to the consumer market. After nearly a decade of testing,

► See **WAYMO**, page 17

Council embraces 447-unit East Whisman housing project

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View City Council members rolled out the welcome mat for the first of many high-density housing projects expected to transform the city's East Whisman tech park into a mixed-use neighborhood with thousands of new homes.

And although some council members expressed uneasiness about its massing, height and an attempt by the developer to pay lower park fees, few at the April

17 meeting objected to the fact that the project had nearly doubled in size since the last time it was presented to the council.

Mountain View City Council gave the green light for the SummerHill Homes proposal in January last year, making it the first housing development project for the East Whisman region of the city, according to a city staff report. Council members are still hammering out the details of the East Whisman Precise Plan, a template for high-density housing in the

region, but SummerHill is wasting no time entering the housing market.

The project is also significant because SummerHill proposes building beyond what's currently allowed through a Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs), making a deal with the Los Altos School District to essentially "buy" increased density from property in another part of the city.

In a Letter of Intent signed by SummerHill Homes last year, the developer agreed to

purchase 10,000 square feet of additional density rights for its East Whisman area site on East Middlefield Road for \$1.3 million.

The project proposed Tuesday night, April 17, was substantially different from what SummerHill showed council members in January. The developer originally proposed building 250 residential units on the 6-acre property, but then said it was infeasible due to the high cost of construction. Now SummerHill is proposing a 447-unit

development of four- and seven-story buildings, with 265 apartments, 134 condominiums and 48 flats, boosting the density to about 75 units per acre. The current height limit in the area is six stories.

Katia Kamangar of SummerHill Homes framed the increased density as giving more relief to residents struggling with the regional housing shortage and the high cost of living by providing much-needed homes,

► See **EAST WHISMAN**, page 6

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Mountain View's Spring Parade is a family-friendly annual event set for Saturday, April 21.

SPRING FAMILY PARADE

The 40th annual downtown spring family parade will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, starting on Castro Street at Villa Street in Mountain View and continuing into Pioneer Park for post-parade activities.

Activities following the parade will include crafts provided by Community School of Music and Arts, games, live music by Pop Fiction, and a car show featuring 1970s cars. Food trucks and carts will also be on site selling food.

Participants are encouraged to don their best 1970s threads in light of this year's theme "Can you dig it? 40 years of movin' and groovin'."

To sign up a group to walk in the parade or register a 1970s vehicle in the car show, visit mountainview.gov/parade or call (650) 903-6331.

—Julia Brown

'TASTE OF SCIENCE' PENINSULA

The annual 'taste of science' Peninsula festival (an offshoot of nationwide and worldwide events that present scientific information by experts in a fun, engaging way for the general public) will be held again April 22-28. Most of the events are kid-friendly, and children under 6 are free (general admission is \$7 per person, per event).

On Sunday, April 22, at 2:30 p.m., participants can meet at Freewheel Brewing Company (3736 Florence St. Redwood City) to build a Foldscope paper microscope, then gather at Bedwell Bayfront Park to explore nature on a micro level. At 6 p.m., return to Freewheel to share and identify the afternoon's discoveries.

On Monday, April 23, at 7 p.m.,

participants (21+) can visit a scientist at work at Stanford University's Felsher lab (meeting place TBD). Art Ventures Gallery (888 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park) will host a discussion featuring neuroscientists Don Vaughn and Elizabeth Seckel at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, with light refreshments. Make Your Own Damn Sandwich, a local improv-comedy group, will put together a show of science-themed improv based on audience suggestions on Wednesday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at Freewheel. Gallery House in Palo Alto (320 California Ave.) will host an art-meets-science event at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 27, where participants can meet scientists who are also artists, as well as try their hands at making some scientific art of their own (microbial art, bio-ink, knitting lessons and making science-themed hats are on the agenda).

Wrapping up the week will be "The Grand Experiment," held at Art Ventures on Saturday, April 28, at 3 p.m. Scientists from a variety of fields will be on hand to help participants do hands-on experiments including extracting DNA, watching plants breath, using virtual reality and learn techniques to create an out-of-body experience. Go to tasteofscience.org/peninsula/.

—Karla Kane

SPRING GARDEN TOURS

Visitors on this year's "California Dreaming" Gamble Garden Spring Tour, on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, will have a chance to see lush plantings and more in Palo Alto.

In addition to touring the gardens, guests on the spring tour may want to check out the free activities at Gamble Garden, including the Over the Garden Fence market (gently used garden furniture, antiques, home decor, china and linens), plant sale, vendor marketplace, live music and a silent auction. Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gamble Garden is located at 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. \$35 general admission, \$30 for members and volunteers; pre-ordered (by April 21) lunch tickets are \$18. Register online at gamblegarden.org or call 650-329-1356.

—Carol Blitzer

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LocalNews

CRIME BRIEFS

SUSPECT ARRESTED AFTER GRABBING TASER

A 36-year-old Mountain View man was arrested Monday after he tried to run from police and later managed to grab an officer's Taser during a tussle in a parking lot in the Willowgate neighborhood.

Shortly after 2 p.m. on Monday, April 16, a Mountain View officer stopped on the 500 block of Cypress Point to investigate whether a silver BMW may have been stolen because the license plates on the front and back of the car did not match.

While the officer was checking the plates, the man approached and explained that he was in the process of fixing the car and had yet to register it under his name, according to a statement released by the Mountain View Police Department on Tuesday.

As the officer inquired about the ownership status of the car, the suspect became "increasingly agitated" and began walking toward a second car nearby despite commands to stay where he was. When police asked the suspect to sit down, he allegedly turned and ran from officers through a parking lot, police said.

During a physical attempt to detain the suspect, the man allegedly was able to roll on top of and pin one of the officers, grabbing the officer's Taser and then running away.

Police say the man eventually stopped running from police, sat down on his knees and threw the Taser to the side. No one was injured during the incident, police said.

The man was arrested and booked into Santa Clara County jail on charges of resisting arrest with force or violence, committing a felony while on bail and disarming an officer. He is also facing vehicle registration violations.

The man is currently being held on \$86,000 bail, police said.

BUSINESS BREAK-IN ARRESTS

Two men and one juvenile were arrested last week after they were seen forcibly entering a East Whisman business twice during early morning hours, according to police.

A Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) mechanic witnessed the three suspects forcing open a door of a commercial building on the 600 block of Fairchild Drive around 1:35 a.m. on Monday, April 9. But once the door was open, they did not enter the building and left, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Police say the three suspects returned to the business about 20 minutes later and this time entered the building. An officer stopped the trio as they were driving away and detained all three, Nelson said. Police did not provide information on what was taken.

All three suspects were arrested on burglary charges. The two men were booked into Santa Clara County jail and the juvenile was booked into juvenile hall.

TEEN ARRESTED ON CARJACKING CHARGES

A 16-year-old teenager was arrested in the Santiago Villa mobile home park after reports that he allegedly tried to steal a car during a brawl.

Police were called to the 1000 block of Space Park Way for

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 17

POLICE LOG

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

Castro St. & W. Dana St., 4/10

AUTO BURGLARY

500 block San Antonio Rd., 4/10
100 block College Av., 4/10
100 block College Av., 4/10
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/10
2000 block Old Middlefield Way, 4/10
2400 block W. El Camino Real, 4/15

BATTERY

1900 block California St., 4/10
700 block W. Middlefield Rd., 4/14

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

2400 block W. El Camino Real, 4/10
2500 block California St., 4/11
300 block N. Bernardo Av., 4/13

CRIMINAL THREATS

1900 block Latham St., 4/10

INDECENT EXPOSURE

400 block Moffett Blvd., 4/12

STOLEN VEHICLE

200 block Hope St., 4/13

VANDALISM

1900 block Crisanto Av., 4/13

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MICHELLE LE

The *Voice's* coverage of underwater rugby team the San Francisco Giant Seabass was honored at this year's California Journalism Awards in Sonoma, along with awards for public service journalism, business and education reporting, and general excellence.

Voice wins 'General Excellence' at California Journalism Awards

By Andrea Gemmet

The *Mountain View Voice* won the top award for print journalism at this year's California Journalism Awards, held in Sonoma on Saturday, April 14.

In their comments that accompanied the award announcement, contest judges praised the *Voice's* clean design, good mix of local news and entertainment coverage, and stories that "make you care about the topic."

Besides receiving the "General Excellence" award for weekly newspapers in its circulation category, *Voice* reporters took

first place for their coverage of education and business news, best profile story and for public service reporting. In total, the *Voice* was honored with nine first- and second-place awards, and took third place in the land-use reporting and photo essay categories.

Reporter Kevin Forestieri's investigative series of stories about the Mountain View Whisman School District's problematic handling of Teach to One, "Digital math program's flaws hidden from school board, community," accompanied by editorials by then-Associate Editor Renee Batti, won both

the public service award and took first place for education coverage. Judges' comments praised Forestieri's tenacity, with one saying that his clear, engaging presentation of the facts "had me looking forward to each subsequent story. That's a tough feat to accomplish when writing about school district finances."

Forestieri also took second place for education coverage with his story on the district's struggles to retain special education staff.

Reporter Mark Noack won

► See **AWARDS**, page 8

Planned Parenthood finds new MV home

COUNTY SEEKS TO TEAM UP WITH CLINIC TO OFFER ADDITIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ON SITE

By Kevin Forestieri

Despite a competitive real estate market and pending redevelopment nipping at their heels, officials at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte have staked out a permanent home for a new Mountain View clinic just a short hop from its current location.

Planned Parenthood has operated its clinic on San Antonio Road for more than two decades, but last year faced the possibility of having to leave the city. The property owners had switched Planned Parenthood to month-to-month leases in May in anticipation of a new housing development on the site, leaving the nonprofit scrambling to find a new home.

Through a stroke of good luck, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte was able to close a deal for a new property at the corner of California Street and Showers Drive, purchasing a commercial building that was formerly home to Aruna Spa, which closed its doors on March 11. The building still has the Kumon Learning Center and Manpower, an employment agency, leasing the property.

The Silicon Valley Business Journal reported that Planned Parenthood purchased the roughly 8,000-square-foot property for \$6.7 million late last month.

Proponents for the clinic, including Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, rallied

to keep Planned Parenthood operating in Mountain View in February last year, offering county resources to help the nonprofit find a suitable spot to relocate ahead of being evicted. Mountain View city staff also aided in the real estate search.

Losing the Mountain View clinic, advocates argued, would have left a void for pregnancy and sexual health services for woman and girls in the North County area. The clinic also serves thousands of lower-income residents who are on the county-operated Valley Health Plan and rely on Planned Parenthood as a close and convenient location for primary care.

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte officials are excited for the move, which will mean more space for clinical services a stone's throw from the current location, said Lupe Rodriguez, public affairs director for the organization. Renovations are expected to begin "very soon," she said, with plans to fully relocate by next year.

"Hopefully we'll be able to open and continue operations by 2019," she said. "We don't expect to lose our current lease ... so we're hoping that we can move without any gaps."

With more room to grow, Planned Parenthood has tentatively agreed to partner with county health officials to share the new building and allow patients to tap into county

► See **PLANNED PARENTHOOD**, page 6

Police release body cam footage of YouTube campus shooter

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Police Department released body camera footage last Friday morning showing officers' interaction with suspected YouTube shooter Nasim Aghdam roughly 10 hours before she opened fire at YouTube's headquarters in San Bruno earlier this month, wounding three people.

Officers located Aghdam, a

38-year-old Southern California woman, and spoke to her around 1:40 a.m. on April 3 in a San Antonio Shopping Center parking lot, and left after concluding she was not a threat to herself or others. Witnesses said she opened fire with a handgun at the YouTube campus around noon the same day, injuring three people before shooting and killing herself.

Mountain View police maintain that the department's response

was appropriate, given that she showed no threats of violence and came up negative on several firearm background checks.

"Based on our officers' interaction with Aghdam, including the fact that she had answered all of our questions cooperatively and thoroughly, there was no legal reason for us to remain on scene questioning her," police said in a

► See **YOUTUBE SHOOTER**, page 11



COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mountain View police released officer-worn camera video of an interaction with Nasim Aghdam on April 3, hours before she opened fire at YouTube's headquarters in San Bruno, wounding three people and killing herself.

EAST WHISMAN

▶ *Continued from page 1*

particularly ownership units.

“Our proposal offers an opportunity for 447 new housing units within a quarter mile of transit, for rent and for sale,” she said.

Councilman Ken Rosenberg said he felt a little bit of pressure over the SummerHill proposal, which he described as potentially setting the tempo for the rest of the housing projects in the area. He said the East Whisman Precise Plan’s vision, changing a light industrial region into a

space,” he said. “And this particular project may grease the skids for other projects to come down the road.”

City Council members largely praised the mix of ownership and rental units, and showed an interest in trying to set aside some of the project’s affordable housing units for middle-income households. Although the project could provide 15 percent of the apartments as low-income units — the minimum requirement set by the city — Kamangar said SummerHill Homes is willing to try different models. One of the options, for example, sets aside 20 percent of the apartments at a reduced rental rate for moderate-income families.

Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga said she wanted to find some way to earmark the moderate-income units for specific professionals, like teachers, who are part of the community but don’t make enough to live in the area.

A conceptual site plan for the project shows that it would provide 614 parking spaces, which breaks down to about 1.37 spaces per unit. A significant number of units, 217 in total, are either two-bedrooms or larger.

School district reliant on TDR sales

SummerHill Homes is one of six projects going through the city’s planning process that increases density through development rights purchased from the Los Altos School District.

Last year, district officials proposed buying land in the San Antonio area of Mountain View for a new school campus. In order to pay for it, City Council members agreed to allow the district to build a school well below the maximum density allowed on the property and sell the “excess” density rights to developers elsewhere in the city.

District officials are planning to sell off 610,000 square feet of development rights to developers — most of which will turn into higher-density office construction throughout Mountain View — to the tune of \$79.3 million, which will go towards the purchase of land at the corner of San Antonio Road and California Street.

Whether the school district can secure the property, given that the current owners have publicly expressed opposition to any sale, is unknown. The school district may seek to take the property through eminent domain. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

‘This particular project may grease the skids for other projects to come.’

COUNCILMAN KEN ROSENBERG

Council members Lisa Matichak and John McAlister both pointed out that the project is nearly twice the size as it was in January, almost making it an entirely new proposal, and raised concerns that the architecture is a massive, tall box without anything stepped-back.

residential neighborhood, feels like a long-term conversion that could take decades, but high-density projects like the SummerHill housing proposal could accelerate that process.

“Here we are, before the Precise Plan is done, putting in more than we thought in a



NATALIA NAZAROVA

BATTLE OVER RENT CONTROL

Supporters of Mountain View’s Measure V rent control program were met with a smaller contingent of pro-landlord demonstrators Tuesday night at the City Council Chambers. Calling itself Measure V Too Costly, the group is gearing up to collect signatures for a ballot measure to effectively gut the provisions of Measure V, although it’s billed as a “reform” of the city’s rent control law. The Mountain View Tenants Coalition rally drew about 60 people who held signs warning voters of what they’ve dubbed the “sneaky repeal.”

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

▶ *Continued from page 5*

health services. Although details still need to be hammered out, the plan is to carve out a 1,500-square-foot portion of the new clinic space for county health services to operate within the same building, filling health needs like specialty care that Planned Parenthood can’t provide.

Simitian, who points out that his supervisorial district is the only one without a county health clinic, said the thousands of patients who rely on the Planned Parenthood clinic in Mountain View would benefit from specialty care services that are in high demand, particularly things like orthopedics, ophthalmology and dermatology.

Initially, Simitian had sought to have Santa Clara County find and secure a property in Mountain View that it could operate as a clinic, whereby it could sublease to Planned Parenthood and keep the non-profit in town. At one point, the county was considering acquiring a bank property on San Antonio road adjacent to the San Antonio Shopping Center.

Simitian told the *Voice* that it was Planned Parenthood Mar Monte that was able to successfully find a new property on its own, and now county officials are seeking to sublease the

property. The model he sought to use still works, Simitian said, albeit completely flipped. “Sometimes in life things work out exactly as you’ve planned, only the total opposite. And that’s exactly what’s happened,” he said.

Last month, city zoning staff signed off on a provisional use permit requested by Planned Parenthood to use the property as a medical office, allowing the clinic to operate with 28 parking spaces instead of the 31 spaces typically required for the use. The exemption was granted, in part, because of the clinic’s close proximity to transit and a survey showing 12 percent of the clients either walked or took public transportation to get to Planned Parenthood.

Rodriguez encouraged city staff at the March 14 administrative zoning hearing to approve the permit, and said Planned Parenthood looks forward to continuing its long track record of providing reproductive health services and primary care for Medi-Cal recipients in Mountain View.

“We have been in the community for over 20 years serving Mountain View and face having to move to another location, and we would love to be able to serve this community and the more than 9,000 patients here,” she said. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



Free Composting Classes

Mountain View Senior Center
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“I am completely taken care of at Stanford by a team, all working together for my overall benefit.”

— Jessica

Breast Cancer Diagnosis Saves More Than One Life

When Jessica chose Stanford for her breast cancer treatment and surgery, she didn't just save her own life. The medical team at Stanford discovered that her cancer was caused by a genetic mutation and they found the same genetic risk for early cancer in Jessica's brother.

For Jessica, getting a breast cancer diagnosis in her thirties came as a shock. Her doctor recommended a local surgeon, but Jessica chose Stanford. She did extensive research, looking at the background and education of multiple breast cancer surgeons in the Bay Area.

“I initially decided I was going to Stanford because of Dr. Frederick Dirbas, a breast cancer surgeon,” she said. “But I knew that it wasn't just a surgeon, but a team of doctors.” So she extended her research to all of the doctors in Stanford's breast cancer program. “I wanted to make sure that I was in good hands for all of my care.”



Her first appointment at the Stanford Cancer Center confirmed her choice. “It felt like I was home,” she said. “They made it very warm and welcoming, everyone was very kind. They just go above and beyond to take care of their patients.”

A Team of Care

Like all patients who are seen in the Stanford Cancer Center, Jessica was treated by a multidisciplinary team of specialists that included a breast cancer surgeon, an oncologist, a radiation oncologist, a radiologist, and a licensed therapist for emotional support. In Jessica's case, a genetic

counselor also became an integral part of her medical team.

Because of her young age and the nature of her cancer, her medical team suspected she might have an inherited form of the disease. They referred her to the Stanford Cancer Genetics Program for specialized testing and counseling. There, she met with a genetic counselor, who explained which tests were recommended and what the outcomes would mean for Jessica and her extended family.

“Genetic counselors are interpreters of genetic information,” said Kerry Kingham, MS, a licensed genetic counselor. “We draw a three-generation family history, because these things are usually inherited from a parent. That means it's more than just your children and siblings and parents who could be at risk. It's grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and even more-distant relatives.”

After Jessica tested positive for the BRCA gene mutation, which is a known cause for breast cancer, Kingham supported her in reaching out to her extended family to be tested. While she was most worried about her sisters, and other female relatives, her brother was found to carry the same mutation. Having this knowledge allowed Jessica's medical team to develop a plan to help prevent him from developing cancer.

“Knowing has been a blessing, because it's not just for me, it's for my family as well,” said Jessica. “It gives everyone a better sense of awareness of what they need to look out for in their own health. It will affect generations to come.”

Her oncologist agrees. “It's wonderful that Jessica sees it as an opportunity to save a life,”

said Allison Kurian, MD, who specializes in identifying patients at higher risk of developing breast and gynecologic cancers. “It's an opportunity to protect your relatives from something that otherwise could be a problem. Ultimately, it can give tremendous meaning to a person's own diagnosis when they use it to learn something that protects their family.”

Cancer Genetics are a Family Affair

“Testing family members who haven't had cancer is the key to saving lives on a large scale,” said Kurian, Director of the Stanford Women's Clinical Cancer Genetics Program. “Cancer genetics is one of the few areas of medicine that really treats the entire family, not just the patient.”

Genetic testing is initially conducted to provide valuable information to help guide the treatment of the patient with cancer and prevent secondary cancers in the future. But its untapped potential lies in its ability to test unaffected family members. Patients seen in the Stanford Cancer Genetics Program benefit from a team of scientists who home in on risk factors to determine the presence of a genetic link to cancers.

“More and more, we're able to apply this genetic test to personalize and understand the genetic makeup of an individual's cancer,” Kurian adds. “Sometimes, that leads to very specific treatments, sometimes treatments we never would have even considered for that kind of cancer, but are relevant for that person.”

“I always felt I was completely taken care of at Stanford by a team, all working together for my overall benefit,” said Jessica. “Stanford definitely helped guide me through every single step of the way.”

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City projects to be studied under 'human rights lens'

PILOT APPROVED TO EXAMINE SOCIAL IMPACTS OF PROJECTS

By Mark Noack

Mountain View officials will begin looking at the human rights impacts of various city projects — but there's still some confusion as to exactly what that means.

In a new pilot program approved by the City Council earlier this month, city staff will start assessing the human rights issues attached to a handful of upcoming policies and plans. Depending on the project, this could mean determining if residents are being displaced, minorities are disproportionately affected or

small businesses that would be harmed, explained Christina Gilmore, assistant to the city manager.

"Part of this pilot is to understand how available this information currently is," she said. "Is there a different way to analyze this data that will inform our decision making?"

In recent years, Mountain View has experienced a political push to make the advancement of human rights issues into the city's guiding principle. In 2016, the council agreed to formally declare Mountain View a human rights city.

Advocates wanted to make that action more than a

symbolic gesture. In the following months, Councilman Ken Rosenberg championed the idea of creating a new framework for human rights to analyze city projects, sort of like how the city routinely tracks fiscal impacts.

At the April 3 meeting, Mountain View officials brought back their plans for a pilot to test out this framework on a trio of upcoming projects. This would include the city's plans to regulate short-term rentals such as Airbnb, the East Whisman precise plan and the Vision Zero project to eliminate all traffic-related fatalities.

Some on the council expressed skepticism. The city already tracks most of the impacts that would fall under human rights, said Councilman John McAlister. He was concerned the extra analysis could end up causing delays for projects.

"I'm proud of what Mountain View does already," he said. "Everything we do is transparent in how we approach it. We already value people and their ability to live and thrive in Mountain View."

Councilwoman Lisa Matichak agreed, saying she couldn't support the project because it seemed redundant.

Rosenberg insisted that applying a "human rights lens" to the city would be useful, possibly even transformative, for the city. He is currently working to launch an "International Institute of Human Rights Learning" in Mountain View.

McAlister challenged him to give an example of a recent city project that fell short on human rights issues.

In response, Rosenberg pointed to the hundreds of people who rallied at city meetings in 2015 and 2016, demanding some kind of action to prevent escalating rents and mass displacement. The city dithered on addressing the problem in part because human rights weren't on the radar, he said.

"If we had some policy framework or human rights analysis during that debate, I believe we would have come up with a quicker, better solution," he said. "I believe we would have had a different result that would have prevented Measure V from happening at all."

The City Council voted 6-1 to approve the pilot project, with Matichak dissenting. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

RHC member accused of bias for being a tenant

CITY ATTORNEY SAYS COMPLAINT HAS "NO MERIT"

By Mark Noack

Mountain View landlord is seeking the resignation of Rental Housing Committee member Emily Ramos based on concerns that her role as a tenant creates a conflict of interest. City attorneys have dismissed the concerns as unfounded.

In a letter sent to the city last week, lawyers for AvalonBay Communities allege they will be treated unfairly by the city's rental committee because Ramos is a tenant in one of their Mountain View apartments.

In February, Avalon submitted a petition to increase rents beyond the normal limit at an apartment complex at 1600 Villa St. If approved, Ramos' rent would increase by \$1,000 a month, the lawyers note. Thus, they argue that she has an "unavoidable conflict of interest" in her role on the rental committee.

Avalon attorneys allege that Ramos asked Project Sentinel to give out her email contact to affected tenants at an informational meeting earlier in April. Project Sentinel helps administer the city's rent-control program, including hiring and training hearing officers who adjudicate rent petitions.

"Even if Ms. Ramos has no further involvement concerning

Avalon's Petition, her position on the Rental Housing Committee threatens to influence the decisions and actions of the Hearing Officer," wrote attorney Thomas Gibbs. "At the very least this creates an appearance of conflict and bias."

Those claims were factually incorrect said the Rental Housing Committee's attorney, Karen Tiedemann. Ramos never contacted Project Sentinel regarding the rent petition or tried to give out her contact information to other tenants, Tiedemann said.

In any case, city attorneys say the idea that Ramos should be disqualified for being a tenant "had no merit." Ramos has no control over contracts with individual hearing officers, Tiedemann said, adding that job is outsourced to Project Sentinel.

"It would be absurd for anyone to draw the conclusion that a hearing officer ... would be tempted not to be scrupulously fair in rendering a decision because an RHC member is impacted by the decision," she wrote.

Tiedemann did point out that Ramos would need to recuse herself if Avalon's petition is brought before the Rental Housing Committee. ■

Ramos did not respond to a request for comment.

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

AWARDS

► Continued from page 5

first prize for his profile story "The philanthropist pauper" about a withdrawn homeless veteran who used an end-of-life windfall to endow a scholarship. Judges called it "well-written and hard not to love." Noack was awarded another first prize for his coverage of business news in the story "Brouhaha continues over city's business licenses."

Noack took second-place honors for the sports feature story "Rugby H2O: unusual underwater contact sport finds a home in Mountain View's city pools," which also won second place in the artistic photo category for Voice photographer Michelle Le. Noack was a finalist for his in-depth reporting story "Animal clinic facing new complaints."

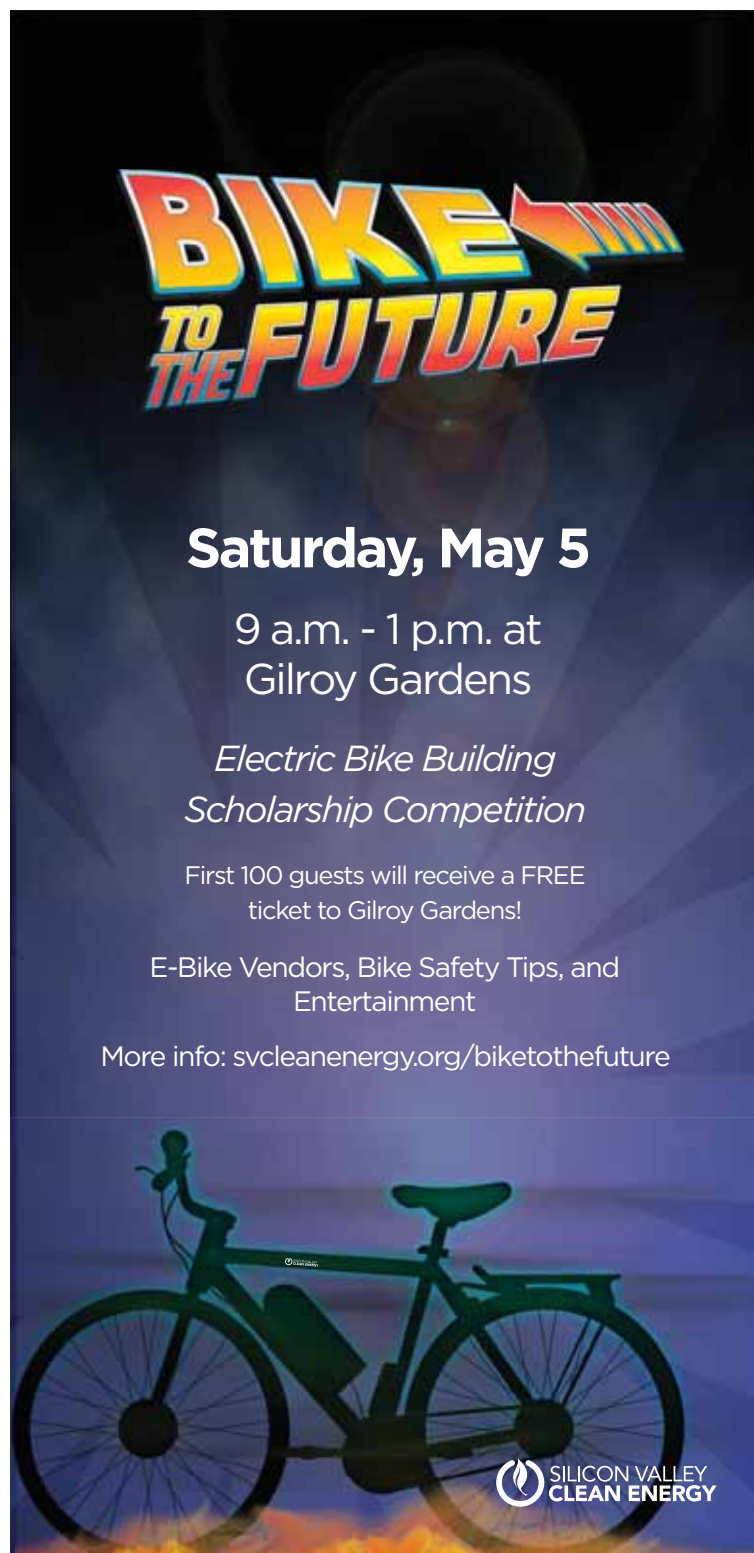
Le, along with her photo intern Ana Sofia Amieva-Wang, secured second place for the Voice in the new photojournalism category. Le took third

place for her photo essay that accompanied Noack's story on RVs being towed from Crisanto Avenue, which was a finalist in the breaking news category. Le was also a finalist in the feature photo category.

The Voice's website, MV-Voice.com, was a finalist in the online general excellence category. The Voice won first place for online general excellence last year and first place for general excellence in 2016.

"I'm lucky to have such a hard-working and dedicated team of journalists covering Mountain View," said Voice Editor Andrea Gemmet. "We truly appreciate this recognition for our efforts to cover our community."

The California Journalism Awards, formerly known as the Better Newspapers Contest, is sponsored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association and covers work published during 2017. Winners are selected by an expert panel of out-of-state journalists. ■



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Federal safety agency drops Tesla from crash investigation

NTSB CLAIMS TESLA VIOLATED AGREEMENT BY RELEASING 'INCOMPLETE' INFORMATION

By Kevin Forestieri

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) announced last Thursday that it is dropping Tesla as a party in the agency's investigation into the fatal car crash in Mountain View last month, accusing the company of releasing "incomplete" information that speculated on the cause of the crash.

investigative information related to the crash.

The letter goes on to say that on Wednesday, April 11, Tesla ran afoul of the agreement by issuing a statement — without consulting NTSB or giving the agency a heads-up — with information that the agency found "incomplete, analytical in nature, and speculated as to the cause of the March 23, 2018 crash.

that vehicle logs from Huang's Model X showed he had enabled the vehicle's Autopilot function before the crash and did not put his hands back on the steering wheel in the seconds before the crash despite "several visual and one audible hands-on warning." NTSB officials indicated they were unhappy with the release of that information shortly after the blog was posted.

The April 11 statement by Tesla, released to media outlets including ABC7 News, came in response to plans by Huang's family to file a wrongful death lawsuit against the automaker. The statement strongly suggests that Huang was at fault for the crash, and that he was "not paying attention to the road" and had plenty of warnings and several hundred feet of visibility before hitting the barrier.

The statement goes on to say that there is a "false impression" that the Autopilot system designed by the company is unsafe, despite data showing the contrary, and that it results in fewer crashes on the road.

Following NTSB's announcement Thursday, Tesla released a statement to media outlets including the San Francisco Chronicle saying that the company had decided Tuesday to withdraw from the party agreement. Tesla again emphasized the safety of its cars and said the company would be making an official complaint to Congress over its dealings with NTSB.

"It's been clear in our conversations with the NTSB that they're more concerned with press headlines than actually promoting safety," according to the statement issued to media outlets Thursday. "Among other things, they repeatedly released partial bits of incomplete information to the media in violation of their own rules, at the same time that they were trying to prevent us from telling all the facts."

An NTSB spokesman declined to comment on Tesla's allegations, telling the *Voice* that the April 12 press release is an accurate recount of events this week.

Revoking the party status of companies in NTSB investigations is rare, but not unheard of. The agency's press release notes that the safety board dropped the National Air Traffic Controllers Association in 2009 during an investigation into a midair collision over the Hudson River, and in 2014 revoked the party status of United Parcel Service (UPS) and the Independent Pilots Association over a flight crash investigation in Birmingham, Alabama.

Participation in the NTSB's party system "allows the sharing of investigative information with all parties that agree to the terms of the party agreement during the early fact-gathering phase of an investigation," NTSB officials said.

"This sharing ensures that a party to an investigation has

sufficient information to take any immediate actions necessary to ensure safety," the agency said.

Although NTSB investigations are thorough and take between one and two years to complete, safety board officials said the process is transparent and includes the public release of reports and information, and does not hinder quick action to improve transportation safety.

"There is nothing in the party agreement that prevents a company from enacting swift and effective measures to counter a threat to public safety," Sumwalt said in the statement.

The action by the NTSB does not revoke Tesla's party status in other ongoing investigations into crashes in California, including a Tesla Model X crash in Lake Forest last year, as well as a Jan. 22 Tesla Model S crash in Culver City. NTSB also noted that it expects Tesla's future cooperation with data requests related to the Mountain View investigation. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

'Uncoordinated releases of incomplete information do not further transportation safety or serve the public interest.'

ROBERT SUMWALT, NTSB CHAIRMAN

San Mateo resident Walter Huang suffered major injuries and later died at the hospital after his Tesla Model X crashed into a cement divider on southbound Highway 101 on March 23. Tesla officials later stated that Huang had the vehicle's Autopilot system on at the time of the crash, and claimed that he had failed to respond to multiple warnings to take the wheel and avert the crash.

Four days after the accident, the NTSB announced it was opening an investigation into the crash, and invited Palo Alto-based Tesla to cooperate through a formal agreement with the agency. But on April 12, NTSB officials said that Tesla was removed from the investigation after violating the agreement by releasing "incomplete information" in statements to the public that had neither been vetted nor confirmed by NTSB, leading to speculation and incorrect assumptions about the cause of the crash and doing a "disservice" to the investigative process and the public.

"It is unfortunate that Tesla, by its actions, did not abide by the party agreement," NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt said in the statement. "While we understand the demand for information that parties face during an NTSB investigation, uncoordinated releases of incomplete information do not further transportation safety or serve the public interest."

In a letter addressed to Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Sumwalt wrote that Musk was briefed in a phone conversation on April 6 about the NTSB party system, and that Tesla officials had agreed to refrain from releasing

"Only appropriate NTSB personnel are authorized to publicly disclose investigative findings; even then, the release will be limited to verified factual information identified during the course of the investigation," Sumwalt wrote.

Since the fatal crash in March, Tesla officials have actively updated the public on what the company has uncovered about the accident. On March 27, the company released a blog post with an early analysis of the crash site, the damage to the vehicle and the subsequent battery fire. Another blog post came out three days later claiming



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Two men arrested in armed kidnapping attempt downtown

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View police arrested two men early Saturday morning after they allegedly tried to push a woman into a car and threatening her friends with a handgun when they tried to intervene.

Police say that the two suspects reportedly approached the victim while she was walking behind a restaurant in the 200 block of Castro Street around 2 a.m. April 14 and tried to push her into a nearby vehicle, according to a statement released by the Mountain View Police Department on Sunday.

A struggle ensued between the woman and the two suspects, and two men identified as friends of the woman tried to intervene, police said. One of the suspects allegedly retrieved

a handgun from the car during the altercation and pointed it at one of the woman's friends.

Both suspects then got back into the vehicle and drove away, reportedly firing off several gunshots, police said. A nearby officer spotted the suspects as they were driving away and stopped the vehicle. The two suspects were not initially cooperative, but complied when backup officers arrived, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Police arrested the two men, identified as 29-year-old Guillermo Perez and 19-year-old Walter Ramirez, and found the handgun that was allegedly used during the incident. Both men are facing a long list of charges including kidnapping, conspiracy to commit a crime, possession of a "short-barrel

shotgun," carrying a loaded firearm in public, brandishing a firearm and making criminal threats.

Perez is also facing additional charges for discharging a firearm with gross negligence, as well as possessing a firearm and ammunition as a convicted felon, which is illegal under California law. Ramirez faces an additional criminal charge for enabling Perez to fire a gun from the car. Both men were booked into Santa Clara County jail. Perez is being held without bail and bail was set at \$315,000 for Ramirez.

Detectives obtained a search warrant for the suspects' home in Menlo Park and found several rounds of ammunition and a Taser, police said.

Police say the investigation into the incident is ongoing, and that detectives are determining whether there was a relationship between the victim and the two suspects. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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Walter Ramirez

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YOUTUBE SHOOTER

► Continued from page 5

statement.

On April 13, police released body cam footage from two officers who spoke to Aghdam, along with audio from police dispatch, totaling about 14 minutes of footage that included a conversation between officers and Aghdam.

The footage shows that police were checking license plates in the parking lot, and found that Aghdam's license plate was registered to someone reporting missing out of San Diego County late last month and "at risk." One of the officers explained to Aghdam that this is a routine practice to identify stolen vehicles occasionally found in the parking lot late at night. The officers can be seen approaching Aghdam's vehicle and knocking on the window, waking her up.

During the conversation, Aghdam told officers that she came to Mountain View about two days ago from San Diego, and that she had left because of an unspecified conflict with family members. She said she had no intent of going back and wanted to start a new life in the Bay Area, saying she had left her cell-phone at home and did not want to be contacted by her family.

A police dispatcher confirmed, shortly before the interaction, that Aghdam was considered at risk only because it was unusual

for her to disappear.

In a statement accompanying the body cam footage, Mountain View police officials said officers made the correct call to drop the interaction, and that continuing to "unnecessarily question or delay" a person could amount to unwarranted detention.

'The tragedy of the incident at YouTube weighs heavily on our hearts but we support and stand by the actions taken by our officers.'

CHIEF MAX BOSEL

Not shown in the video is that the police department had conducted a thorough background check on Aghdam, including use of the so-called "Armed and Prohibited Hands System" to reference handgun purchases and "registered assault weapons" against a database of people who are prohibited from owning firearms, police said.

"We have confirmed all systems checks (a total of seven) regarding Aghdam came back negative," according to the statement.

Also not included in the video is a subsequent call by Mountain View police to Aghdam's father, Ismail Aghdam, who confirmed that his daughter had not been getting along with the family, thanked police for the update on where she was and hung up. Aghdam called police back an hour later to say that Nasim was "upset" about recent actions YouTube took that affected the vegan-related videos she produced, which might be one of the reasons she was in the area. The call however, was not enough to indicate she planned to carry out a violent attack later that day, police said.

"At no point in either of our conversations did the family bring up any concerns about their daughter's behavior, any potential violence she may carry out, or any likelihood that she could be a danger to herself or others," police said.

Police Chief Max Bosel, in a statement, said the department's internal review found both officers correctly followed police procedures and protocol, and that the welfare check on Nasim Aghdam showed no signs she might be a threat to herself and others.

"The tragedy of the incident at YouTube weighs heavily on our hearts but we support and stand by the actions taken by our officers in their contact with Ms. Aghdam," Bosel said. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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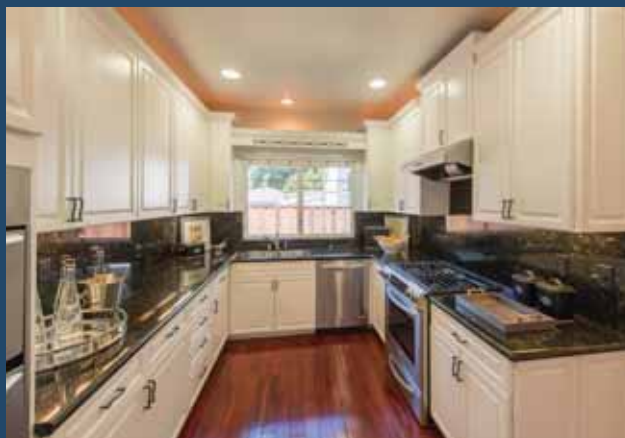
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Former Councilman Mike Kasperzak (left front) shakes hands with representatives of the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, as Mountain View Mayor Lenny Siegel, Dublin Mayor David Haubert and Menlo Park Councilwoman Kirsten Keith look on.



COURTESY OF KIRSTEN KEITH VIA TWITTER

Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition

Notice is hereby given by persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate a petition within the City of Mountain View for the purpose of amending the City Charter to reform the Charter's rent control and good cause for eviction provisions to address unexpected, negative consequences of the adoption of those provisions. A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

The Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act, adopted by the voters of the City of Mountain View in 2016 as an amendment to the City's Charter (hereafter "Act"), has proven to have a number of unintended, negative consequences for the City that warrant reforms. The purpose of this Initiative is to enact reforms to the Act to:

- Place common sense limits on the unelected Rental Housing Commission, including a prohibition on paying themselves a salary;
- Prohibit the Commission from making funding demands on the General Fund of the City of Mountain View, which provides funding for critical city services such as public safety, road and infrastructure maintenance, parks, libraries and elder care services, without City Council approval;
- Require the Commission to be transparent and accountable to the citizens of Mountain View;
- Encourage property-owners to keep rental properties on the market and available for renters, rather than to mothball units or convert those units to condominiums;
- Encourage property-owners to maintain and improve residential rental properties;
- Increase public safety by allowing timely eviction of tenants who commit criminal acts;
- Allow landlords to quickly evict tenants who engage in disruptive behavior to fellow renters or other tenants who cause willful property damage or dangers; and
- Ensure that middle and lower income Mountain View residents have access to safe, clean, stable, and affordable housing, without subsidizing wealthy residents;
- All while continuing to protect low-income and elderly renters from unfair rent increases and evictions and confirming that the Act is not intended to reach single-family homes.

/S/

Bryan Danforth

/S/

John M. Inks

Ballot Title: An initiative measure to amend certain provisions within the City Charter that regulate rents, establish just cause eviction protections, require relocation assistance, and allow decontrol.

Summary:

The Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act ("CSFRA") in the City Charter regulates rents and requires just cause to evict tenants in rental units subject to the CSFRA. The proposed initiative would amend the CSFRA as follows:

Rent regulations would no longer apply to all rental units subject to the CSFRA and would only apply when: (1) a tenant files an annual application with the Rental Housing Committee ("Committee") establishing the household income does not exceed 100% of median household income or (2) the rental housing agreement fails to contain the required notice informing the tenant of the rent regulations.

If the average annual vacancy rate of rental units in the City equals or exceeds 3%, the Committee would be required to suspend the just cause for eviction protections, rent regulations, and other CSFRA provisions found in City Charter Sections 1705 through 1717. The Committee would also be suspended.

During any suspension, a Rental Housing Dispute Resolution Program ("RHDRP") would become effective. This program would be available to landlords and tenants and provides a procedure for conciliation and mediation to resolve disputes related to rent increases over 7%, security deposits, notices to vacate, maintenance or repairs, service reductions, and a tenant's termination of a lease prior to the end of a lease term. Disputes involving rent increases and service reductions would also be subject to nonbinding arbitration. The arbitrator's decision would be advisory.

Landlords would be required to notify tenants of the RHDRP in the rent increase notice, register their rental units with the City, and pay a registration fee during the RHDRP.

If the annual average vacancy rate falls below 3% for six consecutive months after suspension of the CSFRA, Sections 1705 through 1717 (the just cause for eviction protections, rent regulation, and other provisions) would be reimposed.

The income eligibility for tenant relocation assistance in cases of eviction due to necessary and substantial repairs requiring temporary vacancy, owner move-in, permanent withdrawal of a unit from the rental market, and demolition would be reduced from 120% to 100% of median household income.

A landlord could evict a tenant who has been so disorderly as to destroy the peace, quiet, comfort, or safety of the landlord or other tenants without first serving a written notice to cease to the tenant.

A hearing officer could consider costs of planned and completed capital improvements to the rental unit as a factor to determine if the landlord is receiving a fair rate of return regardless of whether the capital improvements are necessary to bring the property into compliance with health and safety codes.

A majority of the City Council would be required to authorize the Committee to receive any funding from the City's general fund.

Committee members could not receive any compensation or pension benefits for their service.

A maximum Rental Housing Fee of \$100 per rental unit would be established in 2019. The Committee could adjust the fee annually by the consumer price index.

What happened in China?

FORMER MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNCILMAN'S JUNKET
RAISES QUESTIONS IN MENLO PARK

By Kate Bradshaw

On March 27, the same day that the Menlo Park City Council held a study session on the largest proposed development in the city's history — Facebook's "Willow Village" — Menlo Park Councilwoman Kirsten Keith was in China. There, she attended a "signing ceremony" that may have solidified a business deal for former Mountain View council member Mike Kasperzak, CEO of HIM Holdings, and the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone.

According to certified translations of Chinese news reports obtained by the *Voice's* sister paper, *The Almanac*, from Menlo Park resident George Fisher, the document signed was a memorandum of understanding between HIM Holdings, the Chengdu industrial development zone, and what is called the "Silicon Valley City Group" — a name given to represent three Bay Area elected officials in attendance: Keith, Mountain View Mayor Lenny Siegel, and Dublin Mayor David Haubert. Chinese news reports say that Haubert signed the agreement on behalf of Keith and Siegel.

The agreement, according to Chinese reports, indicated that HIM Holdings would help establish a tech incubator or accelerator and "finance center" in Mountain View.

Fisher, the Menlo Park attorney who paid to have the press reports translated, said that he found the matter troubling, and subsequently initiated his own search for answers because he believed Keith's actions could have represented a city commitment to abide by whatever the terms of that agreement might be. "I believe that even though (Keith) wasn't authorized to do what she did on behalf of Menlo Park, by going over there and participating in confirming the signing of the MOU, she ... is acting as an ostensible agent," he said. "Those people have no reason to think she's not authorized."

He said he thinks the city of Menlo Park should "renounce or disavow whatever may have been agreed to on their behalf, or at the minimum, investigate and vet what she did to see if it's appropriate."

Keith said in an email that she did not sign any documents, and does not know if Haubert signed a document. "This was purely a ceremonial event," she

said in an email.

Why she was there, whether she represented the city in an unauthorized diplomatic role, and what the implications for the city could be are questions to which *The Almanac* has tried find answers. Many questions still remain.

Why was she there?

Keith said she was invited to attend the trip by Mike Kasperzak, the former Mountain View councilman. Mr. Kasperzak is on the board of the U.S. Asia Innovation Gateway, which, according to its website, is a nonprofit corporation that promotes economic opportunity and investment in the U.S. and Asia, and funds trips for local elected officials to travel to China.

Keith said she plans to have her travel expenses reimbursed by the U.S. Asia Innovation Gateway and will publicly disclose the information on her required "statement of economic interests" form.

Kasperzak said it was his understanding that the trip would be funded by the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, which he described as an office park that is run as a government agency in China.

The Palo Alto-based U.S. Asia Innovation Gateway declined to comment for this story.

Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre told *The Almanac* that all he knew about the trip before it happened was that Keith was going on vacation with her daughter somewhere in Asia.

"Only lately have people suggested the trip was more," he said. "I don't know anything about that."

"She was not there on city business," he added.

According to Mountain View Councilman Siegel, who wrote about the trip in a blog post, the trip lasted three days and included a number of cultural events, including a visit to the zoo, meals, and meetings during which both he and Keith spoke publicly in support of international cooperation and collaboration with the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Region.

Siegel said he offered to set up meetings with Mountain View's economic development office, as he would do, he said, "for everybody."

Keith was reported in the Chinese press as saying, "We will help Chengdu businesses find partners in Silicon Valley."

When asked whether she said

► See *CHINA*, page 17

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Getting to the heart of Islam

SPEAKER SERIES KICKOFF EVENT DRAWS HUNDREDS OF CURIOUS RESIDENTS TO MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Kevin Forestieri

For hundreds of residents, Monday night was a crash course in the world's second-most popular religion.

Overlaps with the Judeo-Christian religions, headscarves, daily prayers, post-9/11 fears and Islamophobia — nothing was off the table during the first of three events dubbed “Understanding Islam.” Santa Clara County Joe Simitian launched the series this month as a means to shine a light on an oft-misunderstood religion, even in diverse communities like Santa Clara County.

“Our goal tonight is really very simple,” Simitian said. “It’s to create a better understanding of Islam among the general public.”

The evening event, which drew close to 500 people who packed the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, ranged from Islam 101 and the basics for practicing the faith to thorny topics like terrorist acts carried out by people claiming their violent attacks were rooted in religious conviction.

Panelists frequently pushed

back against the idea that Islam is somehow separate and vastly different from Judeo-Christian traditions, or that the religion and all of its myriad sects are inherently incompatible with democracy and Western cultural values.

Like Christianity and Judaism, some small groups of Muslims may follow a set of beliefs that clash with democracy, women’s rights and acceptance of other religions, but that hardly represents the majority, said Anita Husen, associate dean and director of the Markaz Resource Center at Stanford University. She challenged the use of the term Judeo-Christian as a semantic way of pushing Islam out of mainstream Western religions, turning it into the “other” as somehow fundamentally different.

“Judeo-Christian as a phrase doesn’t really serve much of a purpose,” she said. “Most religions share more in common than they have differences.”

Jihad Turk, president of the Bayan Claremont graduate school, argued that conflicts between Muslim sects, particularly Sunni and Shia, are often

misunderstood as divisions based on religious differences. He said it really comes down to tribalism and fights over national identity throughout the Middle East, and that there’s a rich history of Sunnis and Shiites getting along and intermarrying absent any political strife.

“It really is about nationalism,” he said.

Although hot-button political topics, including surveillance and immigration bans from Muslim-majority countries, are slated for a future panel discussion later this month, it was impossible to keep it from bubbling up during the Monday discussion. Maha Elgenaidi, executive director of Islamic Networks Group, encouraged residents to be cognizant of a troubling rise in hate crimes, mosques being vandalized and Muslim children being bullied or harassed in school.

“Islamophobia, as well as anti-Semitism, is growing in this country, particularly after this last presidential election,” she said.

The trends are concerning, but Elgenaidi said she was encouraged to see people of all faiths

showing up in droves at airports when the travel ban was imposed last year, and stand in solidarity against the idea of creating a Muslim registry.

Turk called for open lines of dialogue between the Muslim community other religious groups, and said that his experience being born and raised in the U.S. is that Americans are more curious about the religion than fearful or hateful. He said his first name — Jihad — often sparks conversations, but he said it hasn’t led to discrimination or hostility or gotten him pulled aside at an airport.

“I reaffirmed my Americanism, or my positivity towards what it means to be American, because almost everyone I meet who asks me (about the name) is interested and wants to know more,” he said.

Simitian told the *Voice* that he launched the Mountain View series after a similar three-part discussion on Islam sparked huge public interest in Palo Alto last year — so much so that would-be attendees had to be turned away. He said he was expecting the Monday event to be popular, and that it was great to see so many people show up interested to learn.

“My hunch was that we would

have significant interest, and I was delighted to see 500 folks make their way there,” he said. “I think it speaks well of our community that so many folks want to take the time to understand.”

Simitian said the extraordinary interest in Palo Alto and in Mountain View is a sign that residents in the community want to know more about a small but significant minority in Santa Clara County that has been “thrust” into the public’s consciousness, particularly following the 2016 presidential election. Getting that kind of information in a way that’s easy to absorb can be difficult, and he said the panelists did a good job sharing the fundamental elements of their faith and how they show it in their daily lives.

When he brings it up with people outside the county, Simitian said the response is often disbelief — that 500 or more people are drawn to events on cerebral topics like understanding religion.

“That’s the district that I’m privileged to represent,” he said.

The next event in the series will focus on women and Islam on Monday, April 23. The final event, on U.S. policies and fear of Sharia and terrorism, is scheduled for April 30. Both are scheduled to run from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the MVCPA. ■

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CHINA

► Continued from page 14

that and what she might have meant, she responded in an email, “The quote that you ask about is not something that I recognize and translations can be inaccurate.”

According to the certified translations of Chinese news stories, she also reportedly said: “Menlo Park has a wealth of technology and financial resources to tap into. I believe that we will play a key role through our cooperation in this project.”

Keith said she did not recognize that translation. “I talked about what makes Menlo Park a great place to live and work and invited their delegation to visit,” she later added.

Mayor Keith?

According to photos posted on at least two Chinese news sites, Keith was shown wearing a Menlo Park city pin that appears to say “mayor” beneath her name, although her term as mayor ended in December.

Chinese media also described her as mayor of Menlo Park.

When asked via email whether she wore a mayor pin, Ms. Keith initially responded, “I’ve been Mayor of Menlo Park twice and

have visited China while both mayor and former mayor.”

In a subsequent email, she added, “I was always very clear about my status as Council member, as noted by Mayor Lennie(sic) Siegel. I always identified myself as Kirsten Keith, Councilmember from Menlo Park and rarely wore a name badge and don’t recall a designation.”

When presented with the photo in the Chinese press, and asked again whether she wore the pin, she responded by email: “If the name badge I had was three months old, it was an inadvertent mistake on my part.”

Kasperzak, Haubert and Siegel said that Keith did not represent herself as mayor.

“I don’t recall even seeing Kirsten’s name badge, but I do specifically recall her introducing herself as Councilmember,” Mr. Haubert said.

“But the people who introduced her repeatedly made that mistake, perhaps deliberately,” noted Siegel.

“Kirsten and I were window-dressing,” Siegel said. “All we did was have our pictures taken.” He added that they also gave brief speeches calling for cooperation between Chengdu and Silicon Valley.

Kasperzak said it was “not at all surprising to me that Chinese media would miss the fact that Kirsten Keith is the former mayor,” he said, noting, “At no point did Kirsten hold herself out as mayor of Menlo Park.”

At least once, he said, she corrected someone who introduced her as mayor to indicate she was a former mayor. The difference between mayor and council person is more relevant in China, he said, because mayors there have executive power over their jurisdictions.

The memorandum

In recorded video comments, Kasperzak describes HIM Holdings as a “bridge” to connect the Chinese industrial development zone and Silicon Valley.

“We all know that startups need financial resources to grow, to develop their products, and to develop their markets. It also turns out that many of your sister provinces have established accelerators in Silicon Valley, and we don’t want Sichuan Province and CDHT to get left behind,” he said. “So HIM Holdings can be that bridge to help with funding of startups, hosting delegations, furthering the exchange between Silicon Valley and Chengdu and making what

we all want to happen happen.”

Kasperzak said he was told he was being named CEO of HIM Holdings only upon his arrival in China.

“I do suspect that the job is fairly titular in nature,” he said.

So far, he said, he has not signed any contracts or been compensated by HIM Holdings, but intends to negotiate in the future with the group’s founder, Michael Reen, probably around the end of the month. He added that he has had previous conversations with people in China expressing interest in working with individuals and organizations to help launch a tech accelerator in Mountain View.

He emphasized that Menlo Park, Dublin and Mountain View are “not on the hook for anything.”

Kasperzak, who said he has some familiarity with such business practices in China, said that signing ceremonies and photo ceremonies are “really big deals, even though they may mean nothing.”

“At the most,” he said of the agreement, the document indicates personal support for the tech accelerator from the individuals who signed the document.

Keith says, and Menlo Park officials confirm, that she did

not sign an agreement on behalf of the city. But translated Chinese news reports say that Keith, “Mayor of Menlo Park,” was part of a “Silicon Valley City Group” or “cluster” (depending on the translation) that Haubert may have signed the memorandum on behalf of. Keith was shown posing with Councilman Siegel, Chinese officials, Kasperzak and Haubert during the signing ceremony.

Haubert told The Almanac that he “certainly did not and would not sign anything binding Dublin or any city to anything. ... The purpose of our visit was to introduce our cities and welcome them to visit us. The pictures were purely ceremonial and to memorialize our visit.”

He said that the document he signed, “simply acknowledged the meeting, thanked them for showing us their city and welcomed them to visit me in Dublin.”

Siegel said the first time he saw “Silicon Valley City Group” referenced was during the signing ceremony. “No one asked me to join it,” he said, referring to the group. “No one asked me if I was a member.”

The Almanac has not yet been able to track down the memorandum signed at the event.

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

BAY RESTORATION

► Continued from page 1

species.

Two of the marsh ponds north of Mountain View near the Charleston slough were included in the new package of approved projects. The proposed improvements will include raising the height of the nearby levees, and moving dirt to create about 20 acres of new habitat for wetland species.

As part of the new funding, about \$1.2 million will go toward scientific monitoring to better understand the interplay between various species in the area.

Representatives of the city of Mountain View and the Santa Clara Valley Water District have said they will each contribute \$2.5 million toward baylands restoration projects. ■

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

reports that a group of teenagers were fighting in the area around 4:45 p.m. on Monday, April 9. One of the teens involved in the fight allegedly broke off and unsuccessfully attempted to steal a car, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The teen was arrested on carjacking charges as well as violating his juvenile probation.

—Kevin Forestieri

WAYMO

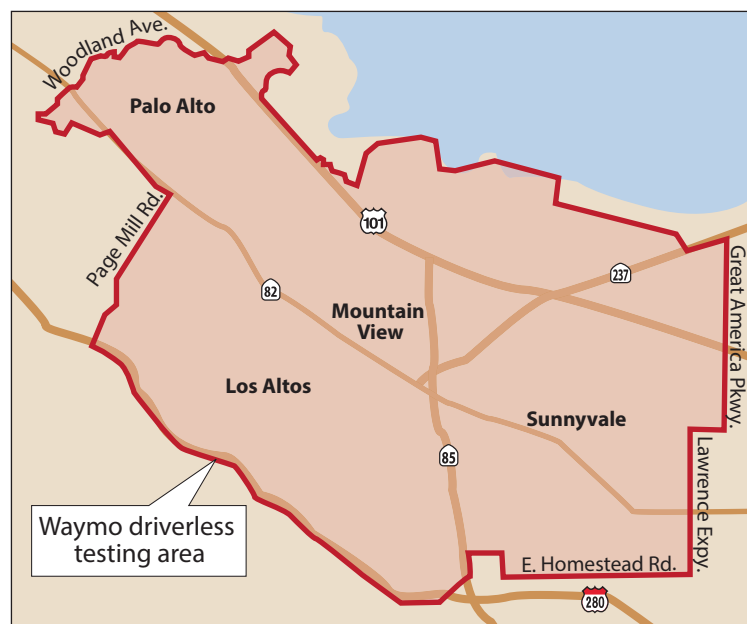
► Continued from page 1

the company has logged more than 5 million miles, which has provided a huge trove of data. In their materials, Waymo officials boast that anything they learn from one vehicle trip can quickly be applied to their entire fleet.

Given the stakes for local residents, city officials have been making a concerted effort to learn more about Waymo’s plans. A city delegation visited Waymo’s headquarters off Mayfield Avenue earlier this month, and the company’s representatives pledged they would engage the community, City Manager Dan Rich said. Waymo officials told the *Voice* they would schedule some type of public meeting in the near future to discuss their program and hear any community concerns.

“We emphasized to them that it’s important to be transparent and to have the community involved in the process,” Rich said. “That’s what I intend to hold them accountable to.”

Yet, Rich acknowledged the city doesn’t have much formal authority to regulate self-driving cars since that is controlled by the DMV. Mountain View city officials could file a complaint if things got really bad, but couldn’t prohibit self-driving cars from operating on



Waymo is seeking DMV permission to send a fleet of remotely monitored driverless Chrysler Pacifica minivans on test drives in Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos, and Sunnyvale.

public streets, he said.

The application says the company plans to roll out 52 Chrysler Pacifica minivans in this new round of driverless testing. Each vehicle will be insured for up to \$10 million in personal injury claims.

These vehicles will be “geofenced” to travel only within the boundaries of Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and Los Altos. Passengers would be blocked from selecting any destination outside of this area.

Each vehicle will be remotely monitored by two separate teams of Waymo technicians at all times, the application says.

During this test phase, the vehicles’ speed will be capped at 65 miles per hour, depending on the posted speed limit. The cars will be allowed to drive on pretty much any public road, including freeways and parking lots.

According to its filings, Waymo is requesting to operate its vehicles 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Bad weather may be the

only limiting factor for putting the vehicles on the road — Waymo officials said they would not send out their vehicles in heavy rain or other bad conditions.

Driverless testing is a big step for California, but other states are already allowing it on public streets. Waymo currently operates fully driverless testing in Arizona using a similar geofence system that controls where the vehicles can travel.

It remains unclear when exactly the new testing phase would begin. DMV officials are in the middle of a 10-day review period to check Waymo’s application for completeness. If the request is approved, the company can start whenever its team sees fit.

The company will also need to provide a procedure plan for how local police can interact with the vehicles. Waymo indicated it would provide those details in a future addendum.

Based on his meeting with Waymo, Mayor Lenny Siegel said it was his impression that driverless testing would begin in the next several months.

Waymo is now the second company to apply for permission in California to test autonomous vehicles without drivers present. DMV officials received one prior application from an unidentified company, but deemed it incomplete.



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■ GUEST OPINIONS

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■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

I graduated from Stanford in 2013, where I was an active leader in Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and Stanford Greek life more broadly. As such, I'm intimately familiar with the cycle of recklessness and impunity that characterizes Stanford frat life. It is a cultural world that through various institutional and interpersonal means frequently signals to impressionable young men that they can do anything they want. Year after year, I watched these young men test what their privileges can allow them to get away with. And I've seen how these testing of limits are often carried out to the detriment of women, with reliably meager consequences.

When we vote to recall the judge in the Stanford swimmer case this June, we will do what Judge Persky has repeatedly failed to do, but is so desperately needed: signal to elite men that there are consequences for their actions.

*Dane Bratz
San Francisco*

ON MEASURE E

While the school board put forth a compelling argument in support of Measure E ("Proponents rally behind Measure E

bond," April 13), they failed to address many issues facing the Mountain View (High School) site. As part of Measure A they were supposed to address the traffic issues at the corner of Truman and Fremont. As of this date, no action has been taken.

In addition, the traffic around the school with the current school population level is completely untenable. It is just a matter of time before a student or bicyclist is hit and killed.

It is impossible to imagine what traffic will be like with more students, an ever-increasing number of large buses and construction vehicles. Careful thought must happen before the site is expanded.

*Susan M. Jordan
Ivan Way*

LANDLORDS PAY FOR RENT CONTROL

In a recent letter to the editor, Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga was complimented for her honesty and hard work. She is a good person.

However, just to avoid any confusion I would like to point out to the writer and to the readers that the Rent Control Program is paid for by a fee on landlords calculated per unit rented. That is, "it pays for itself."

There is no cost to the city and there is no cost to homeowners and renters.

The messaging from those who are supporting the charter amendment to seriously cripple the rent control program implies there is a cost to the city and to homeowners and renters. Not true.

As for the ratio of cost and benefits, many, many renters, who are struggling to keep their families in our city, have already benefited from the program. And the cost to landlords is reasonable given how they have benefited from rising rents over the years.

*Michael Fischetti
View Street*

BIKE CARS ON CALTRAIN

I have been bike and train commuting on Caltrain for the last nine years from Palo Alto to San Francisco. The trains are packed these days, and it really makes a difference to have seating in the bike car near my bike.

In 2015, the board unanimously approved an 8:1 ratio of seats-to-bikes for electrified trains with the expectation that there would be (a) more bike capacity than today, (b) no fewer seats than today, and (c) one more train per hour.

I am disappointed that the proposed six-car electrified trains have less bike capacity and significantly fewer seats than today. While the six-car trains meet the 8:1 ratio, that alone is meaningless (the 8:1 ratio can be met with 8 seats and one bike space per train,

or 16 seats and two bike spaces per train, and so on).

I thank Caltrain for applying for funding to launch electrified service with eight-car trains instead of six-car. I am excited that eight-car electrified trains with 96 bike spaces per train will meet the 8:1 ratio with more bike capacity and more seats per train than today, completely fulfilling the board's expectations.

*Donna Weber
Palo Alto*

ACKNOWLEDGING A LOCAL GROUP

I have lived in Los Altos for 18 years. Recently we lost our mom, Susan Schumann, a longtime Mountain View resident. I just wanted to share info on a group that she joined a dozen years ago that made an epic impact on her quality of life, so much so that she made a nice contribution to their programs in her will in gratitude.

It's the Mid-Peninsula Widows and Widowers (Association). She made many friends there, including meeting a wonderful "boyfriend" Ed, without whom the last 11 years would have been a shadow of what they were.

They have so many activities, travel, speakers and just plain companionship.

As the Peninsula becomes "younger" due to demographics, I hope groups like this can continue to be acknowledged, celebrated and promoted so that their numbers don't dwindle.

*Marc Rogers
Los Altos*



What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Voice aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@MV-Voice.com. Or snail-mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

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A well-acted 'Distracted'

LOS ALTOS STAGE COMPANY OFFERS FUNNY, SMART SHOW ABOUT MODERN PARENTHOOD

By Karla Kane

Theater Review

Nine-year-old Jesse is creative, loving, funny and bright. He's also defiant, anxious, unable to focus and impulsive. Is he showing symptoms of bipolar disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or autism, as some of the adults around him argue? Or is he simply an energetic boy showing, as his father insists, "symptoms of childhood"?

Jesse's loving, worried mother isn't sure what to do with or how to best help her struggling son. "Distracted," written by Lisa Loomer and expertly presented by the Los Altos Stage Company, is the story of her efforts to figure it out.

Mama (Dana Cordelia Morgan) is willing to try anything to help Jesse (CJ Aaronson) better fit in and succeed in his third-grade class, where he's been singled out as a troublemaker. If his disruptive behavior doesn't change soon, the teacher threatens, she'll have him moved to a special education class, despite the fact that testing has shown that he has no learning disabilities.

"My entire class is learning disabled when he's there," the fed-up educator retorts. Though many of his woes are school-centered, including a lack of peer friendships, he has issues at home, too, with difficulties getting ready, making choices and exploding in anger.

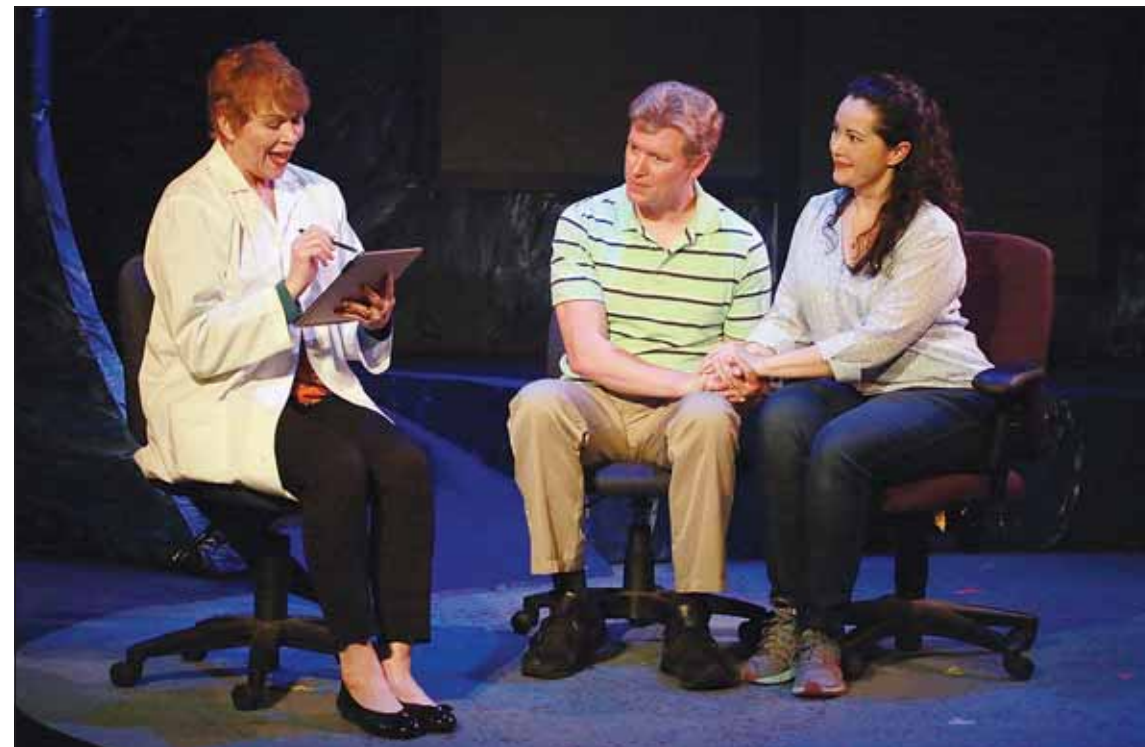
Mama, an interior designer who recently decided to cut back on work hours to spend more time caring for Jesse, dutifully

does her research. She takes him to pediatricians, homeopaths, psychologists, neurologists and psychiatrists, buying every parenting book she can and considering the well-meaning advice of friends and neighbors. Jesse is subjected to biofeedback machines, a gluten/dairy/preservative/dye/allergen-free diet, behavioral reward charts and more.

Dad (Jeff Clarke) believes that the problem lies not with his son, who reminds him of himself as a child, but an educational system that rewards docile children who will sit still, shut up and become test-taking automatons. He is especially wary of the drugs — Ritalin, Adderall and other medications — that are commonly prescribed for ADHD, which Jesse is eventually diagnosed with.

Everyone, it seems, has a different opinion on what's best. The family's physician (John Stephen King) is also a believer in alternative medicine and points out that the scope of what can be considered ADHD symptoms has been widened in recent years, which has led to more and more drug prescriptions given out to children. Who pays for the lavish conferences at which the medical community decides what constitutes ADHD? Why, the drug companies, of course. On the other hand, the medication has worked wonders for many, and is recommended by numerous professionals.

And who is to blame for Jesse's condition? Pondering a potential



COURTESY OF RICHARD MAYER

Judith Miller, Jeff Clarke and Dana Cordelia Morgan in Los Altos Stage Company's "Distracted."

hereditary link, Mama and Dad argue over which side of the family is responsible. As the play unfolds, we begin to notice "symptoms" everywhere. Dad is constantly fidgeting, staring at his phone, flipping TV channels and displaying irritability. Mama is perpetually worrying, unable to focus on her one remaining freelance client or achieve her morning meditation goals, her mind wandering. Their neighbors are all heavily medicated, it seems: Xanax, Prozac, Zoloft and more. And the very set itself, adorned with projections by Gary Landis (who also directs) bombards us from the get-go with blaring screens offering over-stimulating sounds and sights, giving us a sense of how Jesse may feel.

Parents, especially those of a similar privileged background to the family in "Distracted," will empathize with Mama's obsessive desire to do right by her child, whether or not they've experienced these particular challenges. And thought the topic is a serious one, Loomer has created a clever and funny show and Los Altos Stage Company does a fantastic job of presenting it. The year is young, but "Distracted" is certainly a likely contender for my list of best-of-2018 picks when the time comes.

With the excellent Morgan

(and the adorable Aaronson, mostly heard via voiceover) at the story's heart, and Clarke bringing just enough vulnerability to frustrated, blustery Dad, the rest of the nine-person cast gets to take the many quirky character roles, such as kooky neighbor/frenemy Vera (Caitie Clancey), whose signature conversation ender — "OK, bye" — varies wildly in tone depending on the context. Judith Miller portrays a doctor distracted by her own personal issues, the cranky teacher and a nurse at an alternative treatment center. Leslie Ivy plays Mama's therapist, a waitress who pays little attention to her customers, and a mother who claims her daughter developed autism after receiving her MMR vaccine. Vanessa Alvarez is a single mother whose own kids, including Annika Diekgers as teen Natalie, have many troubles of their own. The hilarious King, probably the show's MVP, plays a total of three different doctors, plus a version of himself as an Adderall-taking actor playing those doctors.

Yes, it's a play that frequently breaks the fourth wall, with Mama often addressing the audience directly, as well as imagining aloud what the other characters are thinking, and all the actors breaking character as they question their stage directions,

begrudgingly move scenery and change props. They, too, become easily distracted by the information and stimulus overload of modern life.

"Distracted" could run the risk of misrepresenting the struggles of children and families grappling with ADHD, but to my (non-expert) eyes it offers a heartfelt, thoughtful and humorous representation. By keeping Jesse offstage until the play's conclusion, it helps reinforce the fact that while it's ostensibly his issues at the center of the play, he himself, as a genuine, real individual, has actually been minimized until the end. The play doesn't offer a definitive solution for its family but it does make the important reminder that radical acceptance, purposeful connection — and, yes, attention — are essential for all healthy relationships. No, it's not a magical cure, but it sure is an important start. ▣

Email Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com.

■ INFORMATION

What: "Distracted"
Where: Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos
When: Through May 6; Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m.
Cost: \$20 student/\$38 general
Info: Go to losaltosstage.org



COURTESY OF RICHARD MAYER

CJ Aaronson plays Jesse, a struggling third-grader at the heart of the action in "Distracted."



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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW



Shredded pork with pea sprouts is one of the signature dishes on the long menu at Taste in Palo Alto.

LAYERS OF FLAVORS

PALO ALTO'S TASTE EXPANDS THE BOUNDARIES OF SICHUAN-AMERICAN CUISINE

Story by Dale F. Bentson | Photos by Natalia Nazarova

Let's hope the fourth time is the charm.

Taste is the fourth restaurant in the past three years to occupy the space at 423 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Café Taxim, which closed in 2015, was quickly followed by Crawfish Fusion, Les Bizous and since last December, Taste, a Sichuan restaurant.

Owner Sandy Liu has never run a restaurant before. Though she worked in the financial services business for 10 years, that is not say she was naive. Her father was a chef in China and she grew up with the

calling in her bones.

She found a prime location in downtown Palo Alto, then took over an existing restaurant, saving her a fortune on a new kitchen and other renovations. Finally, she brought in an experienced Chinese chef to carry out her vision. The menu is staggering, with 132 choices plus an additional 51 lunch specials. Everything I ordered was appetizing, with layers of flavors, large portions and decent prices.

Taste just might stick around awhile.

There were dishes that I

recognized, like twice-cooked bacon, salt-and-pepper calamari and eggplant in garlic sauce. Then there was the more exotic: numbing spicy entrails, brown braised pork trotter and spicy burst pork intestine. Delicious, no doubt, and appreciated by Taste's clientele, who seemed to be mostly Chinese — a reassuring sign of authenticity.

Liu said she wanted to introduce "new elements" into the Chinese restaurant scene, unique dishes that don't often appear on local menus. While most of the dishes originated

in Sichuan, the menu does stray to regional cuisines of Beijing, Shandon, Chongqing and Hunan.

Sichuan cooking methods include stir-frying, steaming, braising, baking and the most popular, fast-frying. At Taste, the kitchen has not only mastered but is proficient in the techniques, cooking a broad array of dishes and quickly getting them on diners' tables. We didn't wait 10 minutes for food to arrive even when the restaurant was packed.

We started one meal with the spicy fish fillet with pickled

vegetables (\$18), which was served in a tureen. The loads of white fish — plenty for two — came with shreds of greens in a soupy broth with a hint of vinegar. The griddled chicken (\$16), served in a wok-like hotpot with a flame beneath it, was brimful of red bell peppers, onions, cauliflower, pea pods, mushrooms, broccoli, pieces of chicken breast, chilies and a half-dozen more ingredients. It was a colorful presentation and slightly spicy but not hot — comfort food, Sichuan style.

► See **TASTE**, page 26

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Mountain View City Council has scheduled a **Budget Study Session for Tuesday, May 1, 2018** to consider the Fiscal Year 2018-19 recommended budgets for the General Operating, Development Services, Shoreline Golf Links, Shoreline Regional Park Community, Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Management Funds, including recommended utility rate adjustments, City Reserves and related fee recommendations. The study session is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like the City Council and staff to know your views, please send a letter to the City Council at P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, CA 94039 or an e-mail to city.clerk@mountainview.gov by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

The report will be available on Thursday, April 26, 2018 on the City's website at www.mountainview.gov/depts/fasd/budget/current.asp

Copies of the report will be available for review by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27, 2018 at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd floor, Mountain View during normal business hours, and during public hours at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View.

The City of Mountain View Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Schedule remaining (tentative) is as follows:

- April 24 Public Hearing for CDBG/HOME Funding and Action Plan Adoption
- May 1 Study Session: Proposed FY2018-19, Planned FY2019-20 through FY 2022-23 Capital Improvement Program
- May 1 Study Session: Fiscal Year 2018-19 Narrative Budget Report – General Operating Fund, Other General, Special and Utility Enterprise Funds, Reserves, and General Operating Fund Forecast
- June 12 Public Hearing: Proposed Budget
- June 19 Public Hearings: Proposition 218 rate hearing, CIP Adoption and Budget Adoption



Dishes at Taste include, clockwise from top, griddled beef, shredded pork with pea sprouts and spicy fish fillet.



Taste, a new Sichuan restaurant, takes over the downtown Palo Alto space last occupied by Les Bizous.

TASTE

► Continued from page 25

The griddled beef (\$18) was presented similarly with many ingredients but tasted bolder, with more Sichuan peppers that left a tang on the tongue.

Possibly my favorite dish was the twice-cooked bacon (\$16). Bursting with bacon flavor, the dish also had Sichuan peppers, green peppers, onions, scallions, black bean sauce, sugar and soy sauce.

I also loved the eggplant in garlic (\$13), sautéed in a rich, thick, mahogany-colored sauce with a multitude of accompanying



Sandy Liu, the owner of Taste, left her career in financial services to start the restaurant.

vegetables. Stir-fried pea sprouts (\$15) with sliced garlic was a perfect accompaniment.

I couldn't wait to eat the spicy vermicelli, made with glass noodles and tossed with bits of pork, peanuts and garlic. The dry-braised Szechuan shrimp (\$18), salt and pepper calamari (\$16) General Tso chicken (\$14) and the vegetable fried rice (\$13) were equally delicious.

Next month, Taste will introduce a hybrid happy hour/high tea time. High mountain teas will be flown in from specialty growers in Taiwan and offered with pastries unique to our area.

Liu's vision of introducing "new elements" is gaining momentum. Reasonable prices, generous portions and the Asian community embraces its authenticity. Check, check and check. ▣

DINING NOTES

Taste

423 University Ave., Palo Alto
650-323-6488
<https://tinyurl.com/Taste-PA>
Hours: Wednesday – Monday
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.
Closed Tuesday

- Credit cards
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www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com
(650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

Kim Grant Tennis Academy **Palo Alto**
Summer Camps **Monterey Bay**
Fun and specialized junior camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and sleep-away camps at Meadowbrook Swim and Tennis.
www.KimGrantTennis.com (650) 752-8061

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www.mountainviewtennis.net (650) 967-5955

Nike Tennis Camps **Bay Area**
Junior overnight and day tennis camps for boys and girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult weekend clinics available June and Aug. Camps directed by head men's coach, Paul Goldstein, head women's coach, Lele Forood, and associate men's and women's coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Join the fun and get better at tennis this summer.
www.ussportscamps.com (800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps **Palo Alto/La Honda**
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www.runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview
(650) 823-5167

Spartans Sports Camp **Mountain View**
Spartans Sports Camp offers multi-sport, week-long sessions for boys and girls in grades 1-7, sport-specific sessions for grades 2-9, color guard camp for grades 3-9, and cheerleading camp for grades pre-K – 8. We also offer a hip hop dance camp for grades 1-7. Camp dates are June 4 through July 27 at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available.
www.spartanssportscamp.com (650) 479-5906

Stanford Baseball Camps **Stanford**
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www.stanfordbaseballcamp.com (650) 725-2054

Stanford Water Polo Camps **Stanford**
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www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com (650) 725-9016

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wheelkids.com/palo-alto (650) 646-5435

YMCA of Silicon Valley **Silicon Valley**
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ACADEMICS

Harker Summer Programs **San Jose**
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www.harker.org/summer (408) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School **Palo Alto**
i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.
www.castilleja.org/i2camp (650) 470-7833

iD Tech Camps Campbell **Stanford/Bay Area**
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iDTechCamps.com (844) 788-1858

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bit.ly/kcisummerncamp (650) 949-7614

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on Biomedical Research
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explore.stanford.edu explore-series@stanford.edu

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www.sandhillschool.org (650) 688-3605

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lets gocrafting.wordpress.com (650) 814-4183

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www.paccc.org (650) 493-2361

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Kids can have fun, be a character, and learn lifelong performance skills at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's Theatre Camps. Spring Break and Summer camps for K-6.
theatreworks.org/youth-programs/for-youth (650) 463-7146

■ MOVIE OPENINGS



PHOTO BY SCOTT PATRICK GREEN COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

Charlie Plummer plays a teen working for a horse trainer who bonds with a fading racehorse in "Lean on Pete."

A boy and his horse

'LEAN ON PETE' MAKES FOR A COMPELLING COMING-OF-AGE TALE

★★★1/2 (Palo Alto Square)

"You can't get attached to the horse." This sober advice, spoken to 15-year-old Charley Thompson (Charlie Plummer), immediately registers as "famous last words." The horse in question: a 5-year-old quarterhorse named Lean on Pete. And in fine literary and cinematic tradition, Charley's a goner for the majestic beast — just like the audience of Andrew Haigh's new film "Lean on Pete."

Haigh has proven himself a keen observer of human behavior with his films "45 Years" and "Weekend," as well as the HBO series "Looking." Bringing these skills to an incisive adaptation of Willy Vlautin's novel, Haigh powerfully unfurls a coming-of-age story. Charley lives with his single dad Ray (Travis Fimmel) in Portland, Oregon following a recent move from Spokane, Washington that helps to explain the boy's rootlessness. Friendless and having lost track of the sympathetic aunt he longs for, the coltish Charley is distinctly prone to the unconditional love on offer from a majestic beast like Lean on Pete.

On a morning run, Charley discovers the aging racehorse at the Portland Downs racetrack, where gruff, profane trainer Del (Steve Buscemi) offers the boy employment. Del and Pete's jockey Bonnie (Chloë Sevigny) make up a casually unethical couple of convenience that imparts life lessons to Charley both intentionally and unintentionally. There's a touch of Dickens to the characters Charley

meets on his picaresque journey and our dawning realization that he cannot rely on any adult in this treacherous world. What begins as a "boy and his horse" movie changes gears more than once, principally to a road movie that sends the human-equine pair on a search for security.

Haigh is a master of the quietly affecting drama, and he finds another terrific collaborator in Plummer, a subtle young actor nevertheless possessed of a highly expressive face. Plummer has that invaluable gift of conveying the unspoken inner life, and he's able to carry the picture through stretches where the only characters on screen are Charley and Pete, the former occasionally monologuing to the latter.

"Lean on Pete" recalls pictures like "Kes" and "The Black Stallion" in that it can be taken literally as a story of an animal-child relationship, but more importantly, the animal holds a mirror up to the human protagonist. In this case, we see how prone youth can be on the cusp of adulthood, how reckless when desperate or threatened, how vulnerably pure. It's a telling detail that the 15-year-old tells one character he's 16 and another that he's 18, graduating himself to the situation and others' perceptions to get by in the world.

"Lean on Pete" gets richer as it goes along, as well any film should. That partly owes to its novelistic origins, and partly to Haigh's immersion in the modern American landscape (which, in practical terms, cinematographer Magnus Joenck beautifully

renders). Without judgment, Haigh checks in with patriotic veterans and soup-kitchen patrons, the less privileged denizens of our species' animal kingdom. In our own ways, we're all trying to survive out here, and we all need acknowledgment. We all need connection. We all need love. So go ahead. Get attached to the horse.

Rated R for language and brief violence. Two hours, 1 minute.

— Peter Canavese



■ MOVIE REVIEWS

YOU WERE NEVER REALLY HERE ★★★1/2

In the often grisly "You Were Never Really Here," the protagonist's weapon of choice is a ball-peen hammer. In many ways, Lynne Ramsay's adaptation of Jonathan Ames' novel functions like that hammer, a blunt instrument used to righteous ends. The film tends to the lurid and horrifying, the brutal and harrowing, and yet Ramsay's limber direction and another phenomenal leading performance by Joaquin Phoenix lend the material an aching sensitivity and an arrhythmic but persistent heartbeat. Phoenix plays Joe, whose contract work for a private detective (John Doman) has a specialty: extracting children from sex slavery. Joe's life of trauma — from childhood abuse to a Marine stint in the Persian Gulf to FBI investigations of sex traffickers — uniquely motivate him, but the spiders in his mind and his emotional baggage also make him vulnerable. On his latest mission to save the 13-year-old daughter of a state senator, Joe runs into escalating trouble that plays out in a series of plot twists. The film is, as they say, not for the faint of heart, but cineastes will find its disturbing journey well worth taking in the good company of Ramsay and Phoenix, who is a thoroughbred actor exceptionally well-qualified to convey trauma, grief, guilt, sadness and rage.

Rated R for strong violence, disturbing and grisly images, language, and brief nudity. One hour, 30 minutes.

— P.C.

A QUIET PLACE ★★★

There's plenty in the new science-fiction thriller "A Quiet Place" that doesn't hold up to scrutiny and even more that feels conspicuously derivative. But tell that to your pants as you pee them. Director John Krasinski takes a successful turn into horror territory with his third feature, thoughtfully crafted to work your last nerve.

Krasinski and his real-life wife, Emily Blunt, play Lee and Evelyn Abbott, parents to Regan (Millicent Simmonds of "Wonderstruck"), Marcus (Noah Jupe of "Wonder"), and Beau (Cade Woodward). Three months into what amounts to an alien invasion by giant, chittering, spindly blind beasts that hunt by sound, the Abbotts trudge barefoot through upstate New York. The family gathers supplies and inches hopefully away from danger, communicating only in American Sign Language and the lowest of whispers. But accidents will happen, and a year later, the Abbotts are doubly traumatized by what's happened to their world. The pin-drop tension of this much quiet and the mortal threat that comes with making a sound dramatize a life of repression and fear. Krasinski keeps the narrative tight and involving, played on the actors' enormously expressive faces. In getting the job done as a high-tension family fright film, "A Quiet Place" doesn't tiptoe. *Rated PG-13 for terror and some bloody images. One hour, 30 minutes.* — P.C.

ADMIT ONE

MOVIE REVIEWS

Find more movie reviews online at mv-voice.com/movies

■ NOW SHOWING

A Quiet Place (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

A Wrinkle in Time (PG) ★★ Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Beirut (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Bharat Ane Nenu (Telugu with English Subtitles) (Not Rated) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Black Panther (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Blockers (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Bride of Frankenstein (1935) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

The Cat Returns (G) Century 16: Sunday
Century 20: Sunday

Chappaquiddick (PG-13) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Death of Stalin (R) ★★★1/2 Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Frankenstein (1931) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Game Night (R) ★★★1/2 Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

I Feel Pretty (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Isle of Dogs (PG-13) Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Lean on Pete (R) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Love, Simon (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Miracle Season (PG) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Pacific Rim Uprising (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Rampage (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Ready Player One (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero (PG) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Sherlock Gnomes (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Super Troopers 2 (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Tomb Raider (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Traffic (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa
Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16
Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20
CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For information: 493-0128) tinyurl.com/Pasquare
Guild: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (For recorded listings: 566-8367) tinyurl.com/Guildmp
Stanford Theatre: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) Stanfordtheatre.org



★ Skip it ★★ Some redeeming qualities ★★★ A good bet ★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



PEAR IMPROV TROUPE SHOW

The improv show will showcase three different long forms done by The Pear Improv Troupe (The Red Balloon, Show Me That and the 1-Act). April 21, 8-10 p.m. \$10. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida, Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

THEATER

'Distracted' "Distracted" offers a close look at the challenges of modern family life. As we follow Jesse's mom through meetings with psychologists, homeopaths and environmental physicians, both actors and audience members are forced to grapple with the question: Are we so tuned in to our 24/7 information-rich world that we've tuned out what really matters? April 22, 3 p.m. \$18-\$22. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org/distracted

'Unicorns' Naatak UpClose presents "Unicorns," a play in English written and directed by Anush Moorthy. The play is a satire on modern-day startups and traces an engineer's journey as he rises through the upper positions of management at Oberherr, the highest valued startup in the history of startups. April 22, 4-5:40 p.m. \$17. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Ram's Head Presents: CHICAGO The musical "Chicago" follows budding star Roxie Hart and veteran performer Velma Kelly as they vie for the spotlight in search of fame, fortune and acquittal from their death-row convictions. Ongoing until April 21, 8 p.m. \$10-\$25. 551 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

'The Bridges of Madison County' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents the Tony Award-winning musical "The Bridges of

Madison County," based on the 1992 best-selling novel by Robert James Waller about love both lost and found. It will be directed by TheatreWorks artistic director and founder Robert Kelley. Ongoing until April 29, times vary. \$40-\$100. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

CONCERTS

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale: The Judas Passion The orchestra pays tribute to perhaps the best known of the Baroque composers, Arcangelo Corelli, who influenced not only his generation of composers but the next. Organist Richard Egarr conducts and also solos in the Handel Organ Concerto No. 15 in D Minor, HWV 304. Also benefiting from PBO's expert musicianship and period instruments are concerti grossi by Corelli and Handel and a Georg Muffat sonata. April 25, 7:30-10 p.m. \$15-\$95. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

The Complete Piano Sonatas of Beethoven, Part 2 Axel Schmitt (CSMA faculty, piano) takes on the task of performing the complete piano sonatas of Beethoven. This is the second in a series of concerts leading up to the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 2020. April 21, 7:30 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org/events

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra Under the baton of conductor Keith Lockhart, the Boston Pops orchestra performs the music of American film composer John Williams — the man behind the soundtracks for E.T., Star Wars, Harry Potter and more. April 20, 8 p.m. \$20-\$180. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Handel in Rome Director Paul Flight leads California Bach Society in three psalms from Handel's 1707 Carmelite Vespers: Nisi Dominus, Laudate Pueri Dominum, and Dixit Dominus. The chamber chorus will be joined by soloists and a Baroque ensemble of oboes, strings and organ. April 21, 8 p.m. \$35 with discounts for advance, seniors, students/under 30. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. calbach.org

MUSIC

Dwight Yoakam Grammy winner Dwight Yoakam has sold more than 25 million albums worldwide and will perform country and bluegrass. April 21, 7:30 p.m. \$40-\$99. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. foxrwc.showare.com

Keith Moon: The Real Me Mick Berry performs the musical story of the rise and fall of Keith Moon, The Who's original drummer and poster child of rock 'n' roll bad boys, explores the mind of Moon the Loon, arguably one of the greatest drummers in rock history. April 20-22, 8 p.m. \$20. The Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City. Search brownpapertickets.com/event for more info.

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

Fine Arts Festival, 36th Annual The Menlo Park Sidewalk Spring Art Stroll features the handcrafted works of more than 90 artists who create fine jewelry, photography, ceramics, paintings, turned woodwork and more. April 20 and 21, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and April 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Downtown Menlo Park, Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. business.menloparkchamber.com/events

Kusamura Bonsai Club 58th Annual Show The annual show celebrating miniature bonsai trees will feature a demonstration on Saturday of satsuki azalea bonsai techniques and on Sunday of how to create the bonsai landscapes called saikei. Sales of trees and children's activities. April 21 and 22, noon-5 p.m. Free. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, East Palo Alto. kusamurabonsai.org

TALKS & LECTURES

Anna Yen and Jon M. Chu with Michael Whalen Documentary filmmaker, Michael Whalen moderates an exclusive conversation between Anna Yen, author of "Sophia of Silicon Valley" and director of "Crazy Rich Asians" (the movie adaptation of the bestselling book) Jon M. Chu on the cut-throat and inventive cultures of the technology and entertainment industries. April 26, 7:30-9 p.m. \$15-\$50. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Evening Seminar: Lincoln in the Bardo "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders will be the subject of this 90-minute discussion and lecture. The book is included in the price of the seminar and should be read prior to the event. April 23, 7-8:30 p.m. \$48. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Least Restrictive Environment and Inclusion Explore and discuss the concept of LRE (Least Restrictive Environment) and its connection to inclusion. April 24, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Free. Alta Vista High School, 1325 Bryant Ave., Mountain View. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Understanding Islam: Woman and Islam Presented by Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian and the Mountain View Human Relations Commission this three-part speaker series held at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, will include a panel discussion, moderated by Simitian, featuring experts and activists from the Islamic community. April 23, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

ODYSSEY The art exhibit "Odyssey" by Bay Area artist Judy Gittelsohn will be on display at Los Altos Hills Town Hall through September 2018. Free. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltoshills.ca.gov

'City Life' Doron Noyman's solo exhibition of his artwork will be open to the public. Noyman's art is inspired by the city life in the Bay Area. Ongoing until April 23; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, noon-1 p.m. Free. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. mountainview.gov

Over Here: Americans at Home in World War I The Los Altos History Museum will host a special exhibition created by the National Archives during the centennial observation of U.S. involvement in World War I. April 22, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org/exhibits

Gallery 9 April Exhibition "Still Off Center" is a showcase of oil paintings by Steve Curtiss. His favorite subjects include the local landscape, animals and art history. April 22, noon. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. gallery9losaltos.com

Lin Fischer Exhibition 'Recent Paintings' at Bryant Street Gallery California artist Lin Fischer, nurtured and inspired by the Bay Area Figurative Movement, creates classic yet fresh impasto scenes. Her exhibition is on display through April 30, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily. Free. Bryant Street Gallery, 532 Bryant St., Palo Alto. bryantstreet.com/recent-paintings-lin-fischer

The Matter of Photography in the Americas The exhibit highlights groundbreaking works by artists from Latin America, the Caribbean and Latino communities in the United States who cast a critical eye on photography as both an artistic medium and as a means of communication. April 25, noon-12:30 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu

LESSONS & CLASSES

Creative Writing Course This course's focus is to enhance creative writing skills by discussing such tools as setting, imagery, characterization, plot and dialogue. Participants will share their work and comment on the literary components of each other's presented pieces. Ages 50+. April 25, 10 a.m.-noon. \$150. Avenidas, 4000 Middlefield Road, Building I-2, Palo Alto.

Living the Life of a Service Dog Learn about the differences between service dogs, therapy dogs and emotional support animals. The class will cover origin and history of service dogs, different models of training and types of service dogs, access rights, etiquette and more about these uniquely trained animals. Kathy Waddell from Operation

Freedom Paws in San Martin will present along with her service dog Crystal. April 26, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Search nextdoor.com for more info.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Stroke Awareness This workshop will teach signs and symptoms of a stroke, and give directions on what to do if someone experiences a stroke. April 24, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View.

Wednesday Night: Free Guided Meditation & Intro to the Happiness Program Join the Art of Living Center for some light chair yoga and experience a meditation. Explore how the breath has the power to transform the state of the mind. While this is a free event, registration is recommended. This is an introduction to the Happiness Program by the Art of Living. April 25, 7-8:15 p.m. Free. Art of Living Center, Cubberley Community Center, Studio D7, Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Workshop: Foundations of Qigong: Eastern Wisdom for Western Mind Qigong engages the whole body, breathing and posture. This workshop is appropriate for novices and seasoned practitioners. April 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$40. East West Bookshop, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Specialty Hikes and Tours These 90-minute specialty hikes and tours will run through May 20. Experience the beauty and tranquility of Filoli's Nature Preserve, tour Filoli's historic greenhouses with a Filoli docent or discover how the families used the Estate and Nature Preserve. Specialty tours will focus on a variety of components of the Filoli property. \$10. Filoli Gardens, 86 Old Canada Road, Woodside. filoli.org

Art Hiking Class The class combines fitness and creative activities and provides an introduction to sketching. The first lesson is free. April 18, 9:30-11 p.m. Free. Shoreline Lake Boathouse, 3160 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

SPORTS

Bill Thorness at Books Inc. Palo Alto Author and editor Bill Thorness shares his latest travel guide, "Cycling the Pacific Coast: The Complete Guide from Canada to Mexico." April 26, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Palo Alto, 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. booksinc.net/event

SENIORS

Senior Tech Event Seniors can attend to get connected and empowered with technology at a digital tech workshop. Open to all local seniors. Bring your own device to learn new skills from experts. Free lunch included for those who have registered. April 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. The Highway Community, 2050 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. sipproject.org

HOME & GARDEN

Spruce Up Your Garden With Rhododendrons De Anza Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will have a plant sale where visitors will be able to purchase choice rhododendrons. April 21, 9 a.m. Free. Los Altos Masonic Lodge, 146 Main St., Los Altos Hills. Search facebook.com for more info.

Notice of Availability

FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT and DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE SGT JAMES WITKOWSKI ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER

2017 AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

A Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) has been prepared by the Army Reserve for the activities and operations outlined in the 2017 Area Development Plan (ADP) for the Sergeant James Witkowski Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Mountain View, CA. The ADP DEA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA. The DEA analyzes the environmental impact resulting from the implementation of the 2017 ADP. The ADP update was designed to ensure that the 63d Readiness Division (DIV (R)) is prepared to support current and future mission requirements at the Witkowski AFRC. The Proposed Action is to implement the ADP and its associated development. The Proposed Action considers Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and the No-action Alternative.

The Proposed Action will allow the 63d DIV (R) to utilize a modern development planning approach for the Witkowski AFRC that would leverage the region's role as a center of excellence for technological innovation to provide increased opportunities for public and private partnerships.

The DEA is available on the Army Reserve website at <https://sustainableusar.com/witkowski-adp-ea> and at the following location:

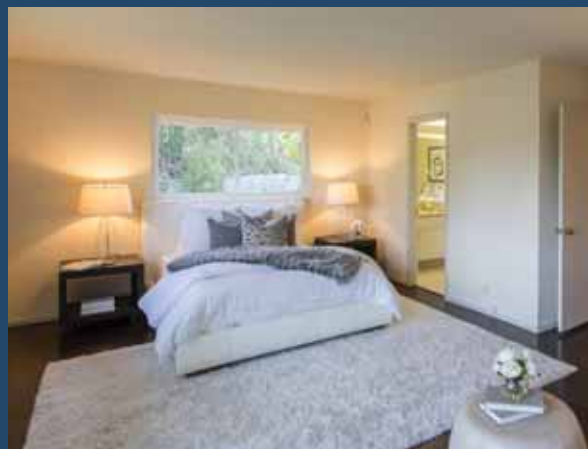
Mountainview Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View, CA 94041

Public comments on the DEA will be accepted from April 20, 2018 through May 21, 2018. You are invited to submit comments and questions by mail to Daniel Brooks, Project Manager, KFS LLC, 303 Williams Avenue, Suite 116, Huntsville, AL 35801, or email comments@kfs-llc.com.



Listed by **Michael Repka** of the DeLeon Team

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It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

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801 Apartments/ Condos/Studios

Palo Alto Downtown, 2 BR/1 BA - \$3695

805 Homes for Rent

Redwood City, 3 BR/3.5 BA - \$4950.00/m

809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

Redwood City, 4 BR/2 BA - \$1200/mont

825 Homes/Condos for Sale



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\$1299000, 650-544-4663

830 Commercial/ Income Property

Professional Office Space

845 Out of Area

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\$231 MONTH - Quiet very secluded 37 acre off grid ranch bordering 640 acres of uninhabited State Trust land at cool clear 6,100' elevation. No urban noise & dark sky nights amid pure air & AZ's very best year-round climate. Blend of evergreen woodlands & grassy wild flower covered meadows with sweeping views across scenic wilderness mountains and valleys. Abundant clean groundwater at shallow depths, free well access, loam garden soil, maintained road access. Camping and RV use ok. Near historic pioneer town & fishing / boating lake. \$26,800, \$2,680 down, with no qualifying seller financing. Free brochure with photos, additional property descriptions, prices, terrain map, lake info, weather chart/area info: 1st United Realty 800.966.6690. (Cal-SCAN)

855 Real Estate Services

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

ADMISSIONS AND THE MIND
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN640358
The following person (persons) is (are)
doing business as:
Admissions and The Mind, located at
1992 Silverwood Ave., Mountain View,
CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An
Individual.
The name and residence address of the
registrant(s) is(are):
GRETCHEN H. WILLIAMS
1992 Silverwood Ave.
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant began transacting business
under the fictitious business name(s)
listed above on 03/23/2018.
This statement was filed with the
County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara
County on March 23, 2018.
(MVV Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2018)

SLIME OF THE DAY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN640595
The following person (persons) is (are)
doing business as:
Slime Of The Day, located at 1647
Morgan Street, Mountain View, CA
94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Limited
Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the
registrant(s) is(are):
HANDS ON PARENTING LLC
1647 Morgan Street
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant has not yet begun to transact
business under the fictitious business
name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the
County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara
County on April 2, 2018.
(MVV Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2018)

Filing your Fictitious Business Name
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Do You Know?

- The Mountain View Voice is adjudicated to publish in the County of Santa Clara.
- Our adjudication includes the Mid-Peninsula communities of Palo Alto, Stanford, Los Altos and Mountain View.
- The Mountain View Voice publishes every Friday.

Deadline: 5 p.m. the previous Friday

To assist you with your legal advertising needs
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E-mail: asantillan@pawebly.com

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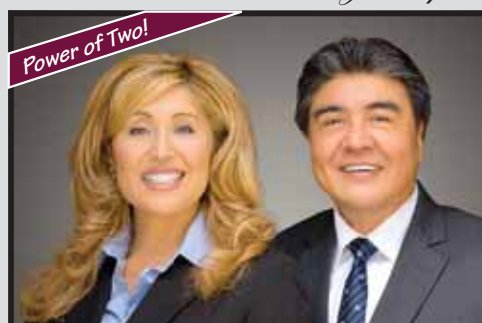
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Cell (408) 888-7748
jgonzalez@interorealestate.com
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496 First St. Suite 200
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This home offers the perfect blend of *move-in* ready ambiance with new paint inside and outside, open floor plan, soaring vaulted ceiling, wood floors, a central court yard, bright and airy atmosphere, windows galore, a unique upstairs loft (perfect for a spare guest room, home office or child play area) with fireplace, updated baths and a large two car garage! Yet, still offers ample opportunity to add your own special touches and improvements as you see fit or desire!

Don't miss this opportunity to live in a superb neighborhood and great location minutes from Downtown Sunnyvale, Commute Routes, Major Employers and shopping!

Asking \$1,198,000




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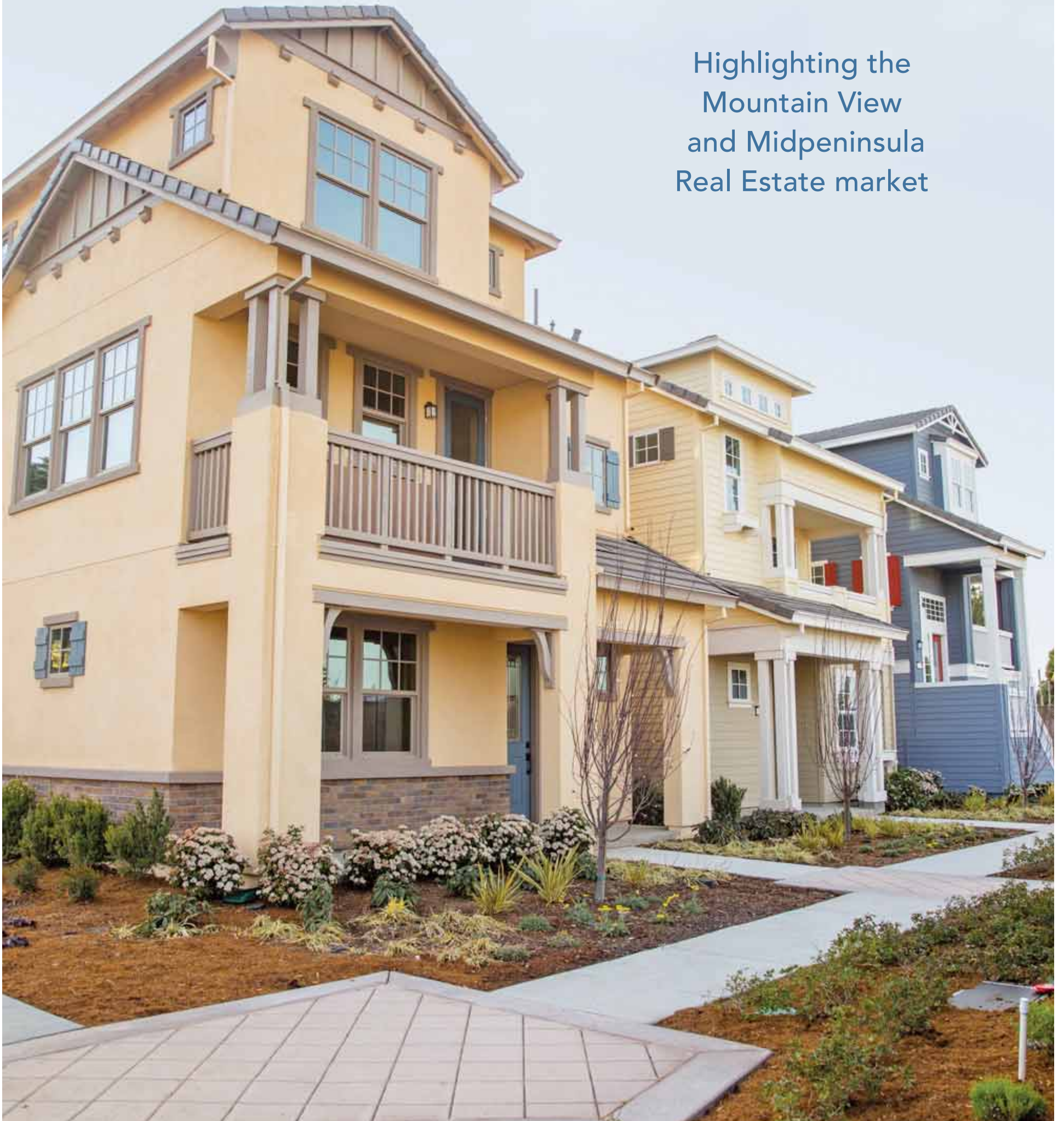
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BRE# 01255661

•**Jeff Gonzalez**•
Direct (650) 947-4698
Cell (408) 888-7748
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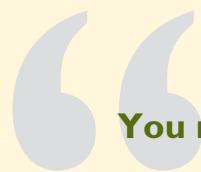
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WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?



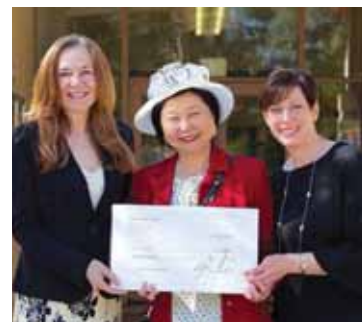
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Mountain View Neighborhood Specialist

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Supporting Our Communities



Juliana Lee Education Foundation

OUR MISSION

The Juliana Lee Education Foundation was created to support local schools and believes education has the power to expand opportunities and transform lives. We hope to inspire others to get involved and support our communities.

Since 2013, the Foundation has provided grants to the following programs / projects

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- Hoover Elementary School
- Terman Middle School
- Ohlone Elementary School
- Gunn High School
- JLS Middle School
- Palo Alto Chinese School
- Palo Alto High School
- East Palo Alto Kids Foundation
- Barron Elementary School
- Palo Verde Elementary School
- Palo Alto Art Center Foundation
- Rotary Club 5170
- New Hope Chinese Cancer Care Foundation
- Palo Alto High SportsBoosters
- Tzu Chi Foundation
- Keller Williams care
- Logos Baptist Church
- Alta Vista Home and School Club
- iSing
- Menlo Park Atherton Education Foundation
- Mountain View Los Altos Education Foundation

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP AND MAKE A DONATION

Please make checks payable to: **Juliana Lee Foundation**

Send to: **Juliana Lee Foundation - 505 Hamilton Ave, Ste 100, Palo Alto, CA 94301**

For more information please email: JulianaLeeFoundation@gmail.com

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Derk Brill's success in the Mid-Peninsula real estate market is no secret. Having raised his family in Waverly Park, he has been a Mountain View resident for 20+ years, with a thorough and intimate knowledge of the community, and the personalities that shape it. His experience and expertise have enabled Derk to attain the status of top producing agent in the Alain Pinel office, as well as being among the elite agents in the United States.

Derk's philosophy of client service differs significantly from most top producing agents. He offers a hands-on, personal approach to the sale of a home. This extends from the preparation process through the close of escrow. Rather than handing a client off to a series of assistants, Derk manages every aspect of the sale including property prep, marketing, open houses, negotiation, and closing. This provides a seamless transaction from beginning to end.

Alain Pinel Realtors' partnership with Luxury Portfolio International ensures that in addition to local and national marketing, Derk's clients benefit from extensive international exposure through a large network of brokerages throughout the world.

If you are considering selling or buying a home in the mid-peninsula, contact Derk to leverage the expertise of a true local.

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Tuesday, April 24, 2018
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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Buying the right home will be one of the largest financial decisions of your life. Shouldn't you work with the very best?

*Per rankings released by Wall Street Journal/REAL Trends in 2012



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HOW HE CAN MAKE
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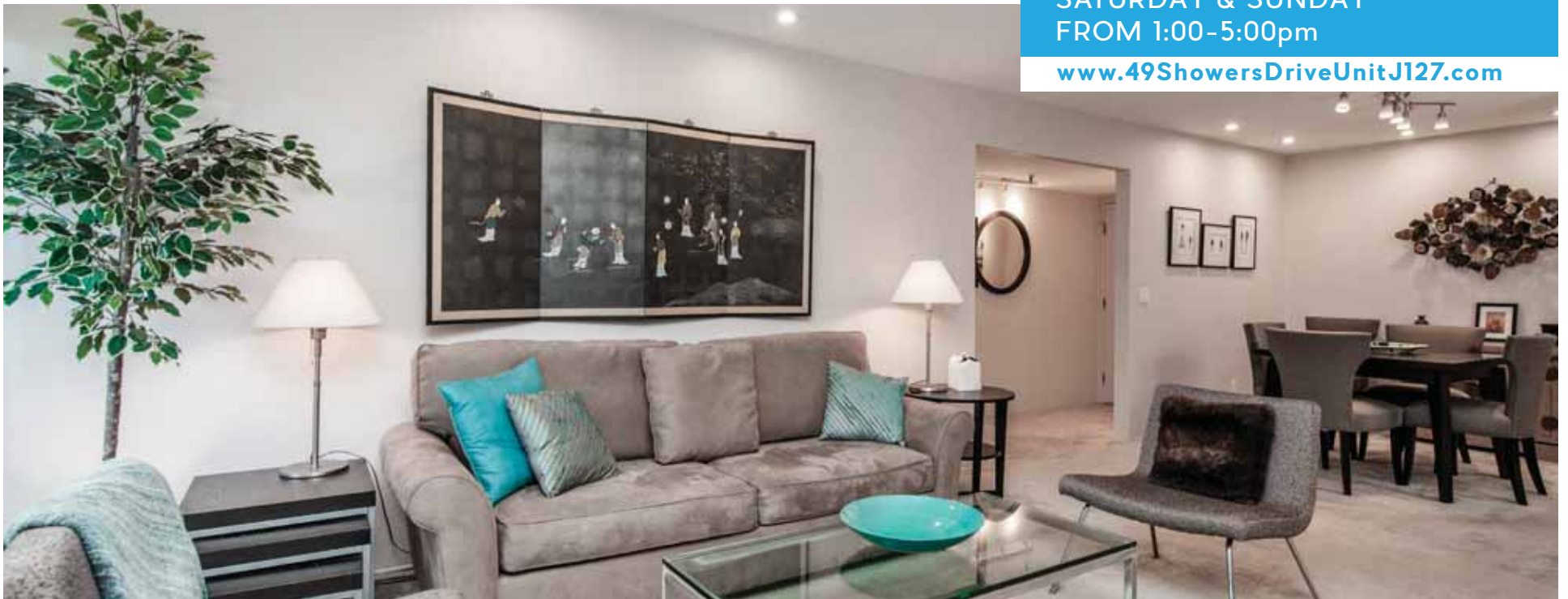
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- Beautifully updated 2 bed, 2 bath condo of over 1,200 sq. ft. (per county) located in the desirable Old Mill community with excellent Los Altos schools. The modern design and flexible floor plan features a stunning kitchen with granite countertops, stylish white cabinets, porcelain tile backsplash, and stainless steel appliances.
- Discover abundant community comforts in two private pools, a children's play area, and a clubhouse, perfect for gatherings. Nestled within a convenient and central location, this home resides within an easy stroll of Klein Park, Google, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Milk Pail, San Antonio Shopping Center, and Caltrain. Children may attend excellent schools like Covington Elementary, Egan Junior High, and Los Altos High (#9 High School in California) (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Open Saturday & Sunday from 1:30-4:30 PM

Gorgeous single-family home built in 2007 with 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. 1,612 square feet of living space and an attached 2-car garage. Sought after location close to Google, Downtown Mountain View, the Steven's Creek Trail, and local commute arteries. Convenient to Mountain View Schools: Huff Elementary, Crittenden Middle, and Mountain View High School.

Offered at \$1,395,000

Jim Nappo
Alain Pinel Realtors - Los Altos
Cell - 650-906-5775
email: jim@nappo.com
website: www.nappo.com



Jimmy Nappo
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INTERO

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BRE #00893793

3166 La Mesa Drive, San Carlos

Stunning Remodeled Executive Home in San Carlos Hills!



COMING SOON



Nestled in the coveted San Carlos hills, this gorgeous re-modeled executive home with exquisite taste and vaulted ceilings has an open floor plan (2,700 sf+/-), which includes 5 spacious bedrooms, 2 generous master suites including one downstairs and 3 designer baths on this huge (7,318 +/- sf) lot. The large living and dining room along with separate family room with 2 warm fireplaces is ideal for entertaining guests!

Enjoy cooking in the gourmet chef's kitchen with updated granite countertops, high end stainless steel built-in appliances, abundant solid Brazilian cherry cabinetry, separate pantry, warming oven & open dining area with views of the beautiful patio and pool. The huge upstairs master suite boasts large walk-in closet, views of the hills and master bath features jetted tub, custom walk in shower and dual sinks with designer vanity.

Recent upgrades include energy efficient solar panels, gleaming Brazilian cherry hardwood flooring, plantation shutters, abundant storage, AC, paint inside and out & beautiful mature and new landscaping! The sparkling pool with deck and patio area features views of the foothills. This home is located close to top San Carlos schools & all easy commutes. Perfect for a growing or extended family!

Top rated schools: Heather Elementary, Tierra Linda Middle & Carlmont High!

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1818 Bryant Street, Palo Alto

European Allure in Old Palo Alto

Resting on a centrally located corner property of 8,600 sq. ft. (per county), this gorgeous tri-level home of over 4,400 sq. ft. (per plans) touts 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, and an office. Constructed in 2006 by Christopher Terry, this home features alluring European style beamed ceilings, dramatic archways, and travertine floors. Enticing retreats include the rear patio, where you can chat with guests by the courtyard fireplace, or relax in the pool. Located within prestigious Old Palo Alto, this home is just moments of parks, Stanford University, University Avenue, the bike tunnel to the fine shops and restaurants along California Avenue, and excellent schools like Walter Hays Elementary (#5 Elementary School in California), Jordan Middle (#4 Middle School in California), and Palo Alto High (#5 High School in California) (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.1818Bryant.com

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Central Palo Alto | 3/2 | \$3,898,000 | **Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30** 927 Guinda St
3 bed, 2 baths w/ a touch of modernity. Minutes from downtown. Original hardwood flooring.

Seline Eline 650.941.7040
CalRE #01267015



Ortega Park | **Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30** 1599 Finch Way
www.1599Finch.com Remodeled home, updated baths, great schools; hrdwd flrs, extra parking.

Francis C. Rolland 650.224.4817
CalRE #00896319



South of El Monte | 3/2.5 | \$2,898,000 | **Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30** 1189 S Springer Rd
3 Bed 2 Bath + bonus room & 1/2 bath Nearly 1/3 acres in great Los Altos school district!

Terri Couture 650.941.7040
CalRE #01090940



North Los Altos | 3/2 | \$1,958,000
3 bed 2 bath renovated, 1 level & private. Southwestern exposure. Easy access to elevator.

Terri Couture 650.941.7040
CalRE #01090940



Redwood City | 3/3 | \$1,649,000 | **Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30** 270 Alameda del las Pulgas
Westside charmer with hardwood flooring and large rooms ready for your finishing touches.

Colleen Cooley & Kathryn Nicosia 650.325.6161
CalRE #01269455/01219308



Sharon Heights / Stanford Hills | 3/2 | \$1,288,000
Gorgeous Condo Remodel in Upscale Sharon Heights; Spacious 1411 SqFt, 3/2, new kitchen

Margaret Williams 650.941.7040
CalRE #00554210



Fremont | 3/2 | \$998,000 | **Sat/Sun 1 - 4** 36034 Pizzaro Drive
One Story Ranch Style Home. Sun-filled rooms. 10 mile drive to Facebook HQ.

Gil Orah 650.325.6161
CalRE #01355157



Sunnyvale | 2/1 | \$789,000
Desirable Mayfair Community. Bright top floor unit. Remodeled bathrm & plantation shutters

Yasemin Richardson 650.941.7040
CalRE #01358033



Avila Beach | 2/2 | \$749,000 | **Sat 2 - 4** 6423 Fiddleneck Ln
Pelican Point end unit w/ upgrades like maple wood floors, kitchen w/ granite counter tops

Cindy Mattison 650.941.7040
CalRE #01052018



Santa Teresa | 3/2.5 | \$698,000
Spacious & #64258;oor plan, upgrades, private rear patio, 2 car garage, & so much more!

Jim Galli 650.941.7040
CalRE #00944554



Central San Jose | 1/1 | \$519,000
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