

# Mountain View VOICE



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MOVIES | 26



COURTESY OF DOTTI CICHON

*Photographs of National Parks, including this image of Antelope Canyon by Dotti Cichon, will be among the works shown by 13 artists during Silicon Valley Open Studios.*

## Local artists open their doors

SILICON VALLEY OPEN STUDIOS GIVES GLIMPSES OF ARTISTS AT WORK

By Karla Kane

Springtime means new blossoms, baby animals and, in the Peninsula fine art world, the return of Silicon Valley Open Studios (SVOS). The annual free festival offers art lovers the chance to

visit more than 375 artists in many media at work and get an up-close glimpse at their headquarters.

The event runs for the first three weekends in May, covering studios from South San Francisco down to Gilroy and in towns from the Pacific coast

to the San Francisco Bay. Artist studios in Palo Alto, Mountain View and many neighboring communities will be open May 5-6 and 12-13.

Palo Alto Studios, located at 4030 Transport St., is one of

► See **OPEN STUDIOS**, page 9

## MVLA teachers condemn comments about minority students

BOARD MEMBER SUGGESTS DIVERSITY EFFORTS STAND IN THE WAY OF ACADEMIC RIGOR

By Kevin Forestieri

A board member for the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District suggested last week that encouraging more minority students to take Advanced Placement (AP) classes would reduce academic rigor and attract students who are not “serious”

about doing well in school.

The comments, made by trustee Sanjay Dave, run contrary to district goals and performance data, and teachers have since called Dave’s statements “dangerously flawed.”

Dave made the comments at the April 16 board meeting during a presentation by the science departments at Mountain View

and Los Altos high schools, which made it a top priority to get more minority students to enroll in AP science classes. Dave said he “struggled” with the goal, stating that AP classes are meant for the “most serious students” and is not meant for kids who are under-prepared or

► See **STUDENTS**, page 12

## Foundation facing calls for new leadership

CEO OF \$13 BILLION SVCF UNDER FIRE FOR ALLOWING ‘TOXIC’ CULTURE

By Mark Noack

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation is reeling from a crisis of leadership following allegations last week that the organization had allowed a toxic workplace culture to fester for years.

Last week, more than a dozen former employees of the Mountain View-based nonprofit went public with complaints against Mari Ellen Reynolds Loijens, the foundation’s No. 2 executive and star fundraiser, alleging that she was an abusive manager who frequently berated her subordinates and made sexually inappropriate remarks.

Loijens tendered her resignation late last week; however, the influential nonprofit is still facing criticism that its top leadership had essentially condoned her behavior for years. Many former employees are now calling for CEO Emmett D. Carson to step down, saying he was complicit in the oppressive workplace.

“Emmett Carson needs to go, they have to bring in a new CEO with a different style of management,” said Sarah Lorraine Goodman, the nonprofit’s former digital marketing lead. “The longer he stays, the more damage it’ll do to SVCF as a brand.”

The foundation wields a great deal of clout. SVCF’s 150-person staff is headquartered in a Latham Street office building, but its role is global. Considered the largest organization of its kind, the community foundation has grown to be a vital funding source for hundreds of nonprofits, NGOs and other organizations. In roughly a decade, SVCF has seen meteoric growth, most recently reporting more than \$13 billion in assets, much of it coming from donors from the tech sector.

Goodman joined SVCF in March of 2014 with the task of redesigning the organization’s social media strategy, a job that put her a couple levels beneath Loijens. From her first day, she got the distinct impression that Loijens didn’t like her. Drafts of her work proposals came back from Loijens’s desk covered in disparaging comments, like “This is stupid” and “This is a waste of my time.” Loijens never seemed to hold back in giving her a verbal dressing-down, almost always doing it publicly, to maximize the embarrassment, Goodman said.

Goodman remembers the big day, after a few months on the job, when she was supposed to present her marketing plan to some of the foundation’s executives. She didn’t get through the first presentation slide before Loijens cut her off and called it a failure. She then berated Goodman for botching simple instructions.

Other directors at the meeting rose to Goodman’s defense, saying she had explicitly followed Loijens own directions, according to Goodman. They even pointed to her own emails as proof.

In the end, it didn’t matter. Loijens was undeterred and her harassment continued, Goodman said. That’s when it was clear her days were numbered at SVCF. Soon after, she was meeting weekly with human resources staff to figure out some way to continue her job. It was abundantly clear that staying at the nonprofit meant she was the one who was supposed to adjust to Loijens behavior, Goodman said.

“One HR person told me: ‘You need to realize that Mari Ellen isn’t going anywhere; she’s staying here. Either you figure out

► See **SVCF**, page 15

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COURTESY OF ADAM PARDEE

**Above:** Stephanie Crowley, Stephanie Whigham and Diana Roman rehearse a scene from "Homo Ex Machina" in Palo Alto on April 23. **Top:** Director and playwright Karola Kreitmair works out a scene with Whigham and Jake Goldstein.

**'HOMO EX MACHINA'**

A new play exploring existentialism and medical ethics will make its world premiere next week at Stanford University's Prosser Studio (in Memorial Auditorium, 551 Serra Mall). "Homo Ex Machina," by Stanford clinical ethicist and philosopher Karola Kreitmair, tells the story of a scientist who's struck down in her prime by a neurodegenerative disease. She's given an experimental treatment that relieves her of her symptoms but also comes with surprising personality and behavior changes, much to her wife's chagrin. Though the play is a work of fiction, Kreitmair called it a "thinly veiled reference" to Parkinson's disease and deep brain stimulation, a widely-used treatment that functions much as it does in the drama, including the side effects.

"I think medicine isn't always equipped to handle these kinds of issues, which is why ethicists like me are so interested," she said.

"Homo Ex Machina" was funded by a grant from Stanford's Medicine and the Muse program, which this year is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Like in "Frankenstein," the characters in Kreitmair's play must consider both the wonders and the potential drawbacks of science and technology. "Homo Ex Machina" will be performed at

8 p.m. on Thursday-Sunday, May 3-6, as well as at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 6. Go to [homoexmachina.brownpapertickets.com](http://homoexmachina.brownpapertickets.com).

**INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE DAY**

Local indie bookstores Books Inc. and Kepler's Books will be hosting special events featuring exclusive literary items at their shops on Saturday, April 28, in celebration of Independent Bookstore Day. The nationwide event first launched in book shops across California in 2014 to recognize the importance of independent bookstores as community gathering places.

Kepler's will be offering limited-edition books and other items as part of the celebration.

At Books Inc. in Palo Alto and Mountain View, customers with librofmr audio book memberships will receive free audiobooks. Releases include "Tangerine," by Christine Mangan; "The Paris Secret," by Karen Swan; "Brain Rules for Aging Well: 10 Principles for Staying Vital, Happy, and Sharpby," by John Medina; "Strange the Dreamer," by Laini Taylor; and "The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body," read by Polly Adams, Cassandra Morris and a cast of kids. For more information, go to [booksinc.net](http://booksinc.net) or [Keplers.com](http://Keplers.com).

—Karla Kane

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**CRIME BRIEFS**

**MAN BEATEN UNCONSCIOUS**

Two men were arrested early Monday morning after they allegedly punched and kicked a Sunnyvale resident unconscious in downtown Mountain View, and reportedly struck several more patrons before security staff intervened.

Police say the assault occurred at the Opal night club on the 200 block of Castro Street around 1 a.m., when the two suspects allegedly “took offense” when the Sunnyvale man put his hand on one of the suspect’s chairs, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The two men reportedly kicked and punched the victim until he was unconscious, and also struck two of the victims’ friends as well as two other patrons during the attack, Nelson said. The Sunnyvale man, 26, was treated at the scene and did not need to be transported to a hospital.

The suspects were finally stopped when a large group of security guards from another business across the street intervened, Nelson said.

The two suspects, identified as 29-year-old Mountain View resident Jade Rhodes and 23-year-old Palo Alto resident Marco

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 12

**POLICE LOG**

**AUTO BURGLARY**

- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/17
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/17
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/17
- 400 block Hope St., 4/17
- 200 block View St., 4/17
- 200 block View St., 4/17
- 200 block View St., 4/17
- 500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 4/18
- 400 block Stierlin Rd., 4/18
- 100 block W. Evelyn Av., 4/18
- Hope St. & Villa St., 4/19
- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/19
- 500 block Church St., 4/19
- 2500 block W. El Camino Real, 4/22

**BATTERY**

- Latham St. & Showers Dr., 4/16
- 300 block Chiquita Av., 4/16
- 300 block Escuela Av., 4/17
- 500 block Showers Dr., 4/20
- 600 block Fairmont Av., 4/21
- 200 block Castro St., 4/22

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

- 2100 block Landings Dr., 4/22

**GRAND THEFT**

- 2400 block Bayshore Pkwy., 4/17
- 300 block Showers Dr., 4/22
- 700 Continental Cir., 4/23

**INDECENT EXPOSURE**

- 600 block Church St., 4/19

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

- 100 block Moffett Blvd., 4/15
- 400 block Sierra Vista Av., 4/15
- 700 block Hope St., 4/16
- 1400 block Ernestine Ln., 4/17
- 800 block E. El Camino Real, 4/18
- 1600 block W. El Camino Real, 4/21
- 22400 block Sleeper Av., 4/22

**ROBBERY**

- 500 block Showers Dr., 4/15
- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 4/18

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

- 100 block E. El Camino Real, 4/16
- 300 block Sierra Vista Av., 4/17

**THREATENING AN OFFICER**

- 500 block Cypress Point Dr., 4/16

**VANDALISM**

- 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 4/17
- 1800 block Marich Way, 4/20
- 200 block Castro St., 4/20

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**MAYVIEW GETS EMERGENCY FUNDING**

In the face of a staffing shortage, MayView Community Health Center will receive emergency funding from Santa Clara County, the office of Supervisor Joe Simitian announced Tuesday, April 24.

The county will transfer \$375,000 for the health center to hire a full-time physician and a part-time nurse practitioner for OB-GYN services at the health center, which serves low-income families and individuals. MayView, which runs clinics in Palo Alto, Mountain View and Sunnyvale, has seen staff leave due to “unexpected changes in market conditions,” according to a county staff report.

“Salaries for medical professionals have spiked and neighboring

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 6


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COURTESY OF AURIS HEALTH

**The Monarch Platform** is a robotic tool for taking samples of suspicious lung nodules in order to diagnose lung cancer. Its first procedure on a live patient took place at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View.

## New tech aids fight against lung cancer

ROBOTS CALLED A GAME-CHANGER FOR DIAGNOSING DISEASED LUNG TISSUE

By Kevin Forestieri

Doctors at El Camino Hospital broke new ground in the fight against cancer last month, debuting a new robot-guided procedure designed to find and diagnose one of the deadliest diseases in the United States.

Lung cancer claims the lives of more than 155,000 Americans annually, with a mortality rate exceeding those of prostate, colon and breast cancers combined. But the tools for detecting and diagnosing malignant tissue in the lungs are unreliable and difficult to use, depending on technology that hasn't changed much since the mid-20th century.

That could change soon. A clinical trial taking place at El Camino is ditching old bronchoscopy techniques in favor of an advanced robotic system called the Monarch Platform, which can guide a slender camera through the narrowest regions of the lungs and take tissue samples of suspicious "nodules" that could be malignant. The first procedure on a live patient — and the first of its kind in the U.S. — took place on March 30 without a hitch.

The device, created by the med-tech company Auris Health, marks a much-needed "paradigm shift" in the way physicians diagnose lung disease, said Dr. Ganesh Krishna, who performed the procedure

last month. He said using a conventional bronchoscope is subject to human error, challenging to maneuver, and is too large to fit in the smallest branches of the lungs, which poses a serious challenge in diagnosing potentially cancerous nodules in the lungs.

"It can only go so far," Krishna said. "Periphery access has always been the Holy Grail."

Newer techniques relied on image-guided bronchoscopy using CT scans as a means for guiding the procedure, but a virtual layout of the lungs is hardly the same as peering directly into the lungs using a camera, he said.

► See **LUNG CANCER**, page 9

## Preparing for the worst

LOCAL POLICE, SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS WEIGH IN ON SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

By Kevin Forestieri

If an armed suspect walked onto a school campus in Mountain View prepared to open fire, would the city be ready?

That's the question that hung over a panel of school officials, police and mental health counselors during a town hall on school safety last Wednesday evening.

Panelists advocated for a careful balance of safety drills and security measures — without traumatizing youngsters in the process — that could make school campuses safe havens for children. District officials

also suggested they could look into metal detectors, fences, cameras and other means to safeguard kids.

The panel emphasized the importance of preventative measures and weighed whether mental health counselors, school staff and parents could do more to prevent bullying and isolation.

The Mountain View Whisman School District hosted the April 18 town hall in the wake of the February school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, which has triggered local and national protests calling for greater gun control regulation. Some argued mental health was the root cause that must be addressed, while President Donald Trump floated the idea of arming teachers as a means to deter violence at school.

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph said school districts like Mountain View Whisman have an obligation to keep children safe in the event of a shooting, and regularly train school staff on how to best respond to an active shooter on campus. The district follows a strategy developed by the Santa Clara County Police Officers Association called Run, Hide, Defend, which calls for evacuation as a first resort and fighting an active shooter who manages to break into a barricaded classroom.

The district's emergency response guide suggests that teachers "disrupt the intruder" by discharging a fire extinguisher at the shooter and "having students throw things." Students and staff are warned not to evacuate based on fire alarms or what they hear over the PA system, and to remain in lockdown until an officer enters the room.

But taking it a step further and preparing kids themselves for an active shooter through drills may not be the best approach, Rudolph said, particularly at elementary schools where children are as young as 5 years old. He said middle school students might want to go

through some kind of training, and that district officials would consider it as an option.

"I sort of view it, unfortunately, as what we have to do for fire drills and earthquake preparedness," he said.

It's important to extensively train adults on campus, but that kind of preparation could prove harmful for many students, said Marsha Deslauriers, executive director of the Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC). She said schools are going to have to strike a careful balance between the realities of school safety and the full range of students who would be affected.

"Some children actually do want to participate in a drill, and there are a whole lot of other children who are going to be triggered and traumatized by this," she said.

As far as safety upgrades, Rudolph said district officials have considered how much it would cost to install fences around school campuses, as well as automatic locks and security cameras. The district could also take the additional step of using metal detectors, similar to what some Southern California schools have done, as a means to stop or deter shooters. On the other hand, fences close

► See **SCHOOL SAFETY**, page 14

**'There are a whole lot of ... children who are going to be triggered and traumatized by this.'**

MARSHA DESLAURIERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS COUNCIL

## Ortiz to head Rental Housing Committee

PLAN FOR EXPEDITED PETITIONS FOR RENT INCREASES WINS APPROVAL

By Mark Noack

Eván Ortiz, who helped lead the Mountain View campaign for rent control, will now be taking the helm of the city's Rental Housing Committee. At the meeting on Monday, April 23, the committee voted unanimously to appoint

Ortiz its new chairman.

The chairman position does not wield any extra authority for policymaking, but whoever holds it is in charge of convening meetings and setting the order for discussion on issues. Committee member Vanessa Honey previously served in the role, and Ortiz was the vice chairman.

The decision to appoint Ortiz was made relatively quickly, with minimal discussion. Committee member Tom Means initially proposed giving Honey a second year as chair because the position took time to learn and she was now experienced

► See **RHC**, page 14

## James H. Gaderlund

June 8, 1946 – April 14, 2018

The Reverend James Gaderlund passed away April 14th in Mountain View. Jim was pastor of Foothill Covenant Church of Los Altos from 1992 until his retirement in 2010. He also served churches in Glen Ellyn (Illinois), Portland, (Oregon), and Eugene, (Oregon). In retirement he was involved in spiritual direction and instrumental in the establishment of the C. John Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction at North Park Seminary in Chicago.



Jim was also involved with several community groups including tutoring with Just Read, Teen Challenge Team, and the Santa Clara County Child Death Review Committee.

He is survived by his wife Pamela, sons Erik and Blake, daughter-in-law Jenni, and three beloved grandchildren

A service will be held at 2:00 p.m on May 27th, at the Foothill Covenant Church of Los Altos.

PAID OBITUARY

## Affordable housing project has steep price

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSED BETWEEN NONPROFIT, PROMETHEUS TO FUND 71-UNIT PROJECT

By Mark Noack

A new five-story affordable housing project that would replace a downtown Taco Bell received enthusiastic support from a City Council subcommittee last Thursday. The project at 950 W. El Camino Real would create 71 badly needed affordable apartments, but it could require the largest city subsidy to date for a project of its kind.

In total, the project by the nonprofit Palo Alto Housing is expected to cost about \$41 million to build. That hefty price is due to the familiar factors of the frenzied real estate market, said Danny Ross, Palo Alto Housing development manager.

“Land costs are at an all-time high; construction costs are at an all-time high,” he explained to the city committee. “The per-door costs are going up across the board for us.”

Mountain View would need to pay about half that price, \$22.7 million, which would deplete most of the city’s affordable housing fund. But city housing

staff suggested they could raise this amount from market-rate projects that are currently under planning review.

A good market-rate project for this, they suggested, would be a proposal by Prometheus Real Estate to build 471 apartments at the former Flower Mart property on the 500 block of E. Evelyn Avenue. Prometheus representatives offered to “prefund” the fees they would eventually have to pay for affordable housing.

City leaders have been receptive to this prefunding idea for other recent projects, pointing out that it can provide millions of dollars upfront that can immediately go toward affordable housing. By taking the money, city officials emphasize they are not agreeing to a quid pro quo to approve a developer’s project. Under this agreement, if Prometheus’ project was denied, the city would need to repay any money that was prefunded.

“This is one of the creative things the private sector is bringing forward,” said Mayor Lenny Siegel. “This is a great location

for a project like this.”

Nearly all of the 71 affordable housing units proposed by Palo Alto Housing would be priced for households earning less than 60 percent of the median income. One quarter of the units would be reserved for developmentally disabled individuals.

The council committee supported several exemptions for the Palo Alto Housing project, allowing the building to be constructed taller and denser than normally allowed. They also gave conditional support to a minimal parking ratio that would provide a dedicated parking space for approximately one out of three residents.

The city’s “Notice of Funding Availability” committee supported the Palo Alto Housing proposal in a 3-0 vote. The project is expected to go before the full council next month.

Palo Alto Housing is also planning two other large projects that will be coming up soon for review. Those projects include a 70-unit development and a 101-unit studio project, both located on Terra Bella Avenue. ▣

### Public Meeting Notice

#### FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT and DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER 2017 PROPOSED AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

A Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) has been prepared for the proposed activities and operations outlined in the 2017 Area Development Plan (ADP) for the 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; 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508, and 32 CFR Part 651 Environmental Analysis of Army Actions. The DEA analyzes the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed 2017 ADP.

The DEA is available on the project website at [www.sustainableusar.com](http://www.sustainableusar.com) and at the following location:

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

**A public meeting will be held May 16th, 4-6pm. Location is the Mountain View Historic Adobe Building, 157 Moffett Blvd, Mountain View, CA 94043**

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 **Laura Caballero, 63d Readiness Division, Environmental Chief, 230 R.T. Jones Road, Mountain View, CA 94043, or email [nepa@specprosvcs.com](mailto:nepa@specprosvcs.com)**

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

health care providers have attracted away physicians and nursing staff from MayView,” the report states.

The Sunnyvale location has been operating on reduced hours in recent months. The funding will allow the county to run normal business hours without impacting patient care, according to Simitian’s office.

“The Fifth Supervisorial District (which includes cities in the North County and West Valley), is the only district without a county health clinic,” Board President Simitian said in a press release. “That means that we rely on a network of community health clinics and non-profits to

provide these essential services.”

The transfer was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors at its April 17 meeting under its consent calendar, which includes a number of items the board can choose to approve without discussion.

—Palo Alto Weekly staff

### MEDIAN HOUSING PRICES HIT RECORD

Housing prices in the Bay Area jumped 14.7 percent from 2017 and hit a new peak of \$820,000 in March 2018, according to data released today by housing research firm CoreLogic.

San Mateo County had the highest median sale price at \$1.3 million, followed closely by San Francisco, Santa Clara and Marin

counties, according to CoreLogic.

Solano County had the lowest median price at \$425,000, and Sonoma and Contra Costa counties both stayed below \$600,000.

Santa Clara County is currently seeing the highest rate of change in year-over-year estimates, according to CoreLogic. Median home prices jumped 33.6 percent from \$898,000 in March 2017 to \$1.2 million in March 2018.

Researchers said “jumbo loans,” which allow more expensive loans in high-cost areas, helped finance 62.6 percent of all home purchases in March 2018.

In the last 30 years, the organization says home prices in the Bay Area have gone up by 39.8 percent. A total of 7,122 homes were sold in the Bay Area in March alone.

—Bay City News Service

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## New Whisman school needs a name

WITH SLATER OFF THE TABLE, DISTRICT OFFICIALS NARROW OPTIONS TO SIX

By Kevin Forestieri

Residents in the northeastern region of Mountain View are less than 18 months away from having a local school to call their own, but they're going to have to ditch its old moniker for something new.

The Mountain View Whisman School District has been fixing to construct a new campus at the former site of Slater Elementary since late 2015, bringing a campus to a fragmented neighborhood where residents are currently split between three elementary schools. Ground-breaking for the new school buildings is set for Thursday, April 26, and construction is expected to be completed in time for the 2019-20 school year.

But the new school can't be called Slater Elementary when it finally open its doors next year, Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph told board members at a meeting last week. Although the campus is entirely new, he said the old Slater Elementary still technically exists in the state's County-District-School (CDS) code system.

The old school campus is currently being leased out to Google for the company's day care facility, and district officials have been hesitant to kick out the tech giant and lose more than \$2 million in lease revenue each year. Not only is the district heavily reliant on that lease money to build Slater in the first place, but district staff said it would cost a fortune to renovate and modernize the existing buildings for use as a new elementary school.

District officials instead opted to construct a compact, two-story campus on field space adjacent to the old campus located at 220 N. Whisman Road.

"The reason why Stevenson (Elementary School) keeps its existing name is that we razed Stevenson and are placing it right in the same footprint," Rudolph said. "In this case with the new school on North Whisman, Slater still exists as a set of buildings leased out to Google."

The school district recently concluded an online feedback

session on potential names with 320 participants, 43 percent of whom reportedly live in the Whisman region of the city. Rudolph said the results show residents want the new school to have a name that reflects "significant success" in education as well as diversity, inclusion and compassion. District officials rejected geographic location names as potential options, as well as some of the heavy hitters in tech that — despite being successful and a source for inspiration — may not be the best role models for kids.

"Many of the big names in technology are drop-outs. For elementary schools, we should pick a namesake who actually values and encourages education," Rudolph said. "Not going to knock the value of dropping out of Harvard, it's obviously made a couple people billionaires, but I think that's an important thing."

The list, presented to the board on April 19, included both the former president and first lady, Barack and Michelle Obama; Bay Area philanthropist Ruth Clouse Chance; former school board member Gail Urban Moore; computer scientist and U.S. Navy admiral Grace Hopper; and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, a graduate of Mountain View High School.

Board member Tamara Wilson, who suggested including Vargas back in September last year, told the *Voice* she felt the process had plenty of public involvement, and that she was happy with the list of potential names and the backgrounds they represent.

"It's a really good representation," she said. "It's got local people, for the most part, and then you have these national figures like the Obamas."

The district is not accepting additional suggestions from the public at this point, according to district spokeswoman Shelly Hausman.

Rudolph said the next step is to put together a focus group to vet the names, rank them and come back to the board with recommendations for the

top two. The goal is to have a decision by mid-June. The second- and third-options could be used to name the district's two preschool locations, depending on the board's decision later this year.

Construction at the school was planned to start last month, and is expected to continue all the way through the summer of 2019. Conceptual plans for the school include two, two-story classroom wings and a one-story classroom building for younger children, with the multi-purpose room and administrative building facing North Whisman Road.

District officials are working with the city of Mountain View on potential traffic improvements along North Whisman Road, including a traffic signal at Pacific Drive, crosswalks and bike lanes, according to the district website.

Under new school attendance boundaries set to take effect the same year, all families north of Central Expressway and east of Highway 85 in Mountain View will be zoned for the new North Whisman school. The region of the city includes the so-called East Whisman Precise Plan, which city officials are planning to zone for more than 5,000 homes in the coming years.

Wilson, who lives in the Wagon Wheel area currently zoned for Huff Elementary School, said the accelerated housing growth in the city was a critical reason for her involvement in public schools back in 2014, and that the city and school districts need to collaborate with one another and plan for jumps in enrollment. She said it's not clear at this point how snug the new school will be when it opens up, but her neighbors are showing plenty of interest in adopting the North Whisman school as their own.

"Even the people I see at Huff are really excited," she said. "It's a new school, it's a new opportunity and it's a new start."

The groundbreaking event was scheduled for Thursday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m. at 220 N. Whisman Road. ▣

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

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## OPEN STUDIOS

► Continued from page 1

the many locations that will be opening their doors to the public. The former printing warehouse is home to 26 artists, including painters, printmakers, sculptors, jewelers, photographers and more. Thirteen will be participating in SVOS, including Mountain View resident Dotti Cichon, who specializes in environmental photography; Russian-born Maria Kazanskaya, who paints, among other things, the landscapes of coastal California (including incorporating genuine ocean water into the work); Palo Alto resident Laura Jacobson, whose work is inspired by biology and by the human brain in particular;

and Ireland native Gertie Mellon, who creates abstract and figurative paintings influenced by the urban landscape.

"It's my first year participating so it's a big adventure for me," said Maria Pazos, a Cuban-American artist (and former *Voice* graphic designer) who uses the medium of alcohol ink. "I think the community benefits, especially in our digital world, to have the public see artists at work and what it takes to create art that does not use a computer. I think it's particularly good for kids to see a real studio, see the work. It's very educational."

Downtown Palo Alto's Pacific Art League (668 Ramona St.) will host three SVOS artists:

Stephanie Han, watercolorist Dasha Jakobson, who will also exhibit in Menlo Park and Los Gatos, and photographer Michael Marlow, whose artist statement cheekily boasts, "I've never won any prizes and my work has never been displayed anywhere else in the past."

Other local organizations participating in SVOS include Abilities United, The Cubberley Artist Studio Program (CASP), Gallery House and many others, including studios in Menlo Park, Redwood City, Stanford, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

For a complete list of artists, studios, locations and schedules, go to [svos.org](http://svos.org). ▀

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## LUNG CANCER

► Continued from page 5

The Monarch Platform is composed of two parts — the robot-guided bronchoscopy tool itself and a cabinet holding a video feed from the camera and a controlling device used by the physician. The device's sleek white plastic frames and glowing blue LED lights stood out in the operating room inside El Camino's old main hospital building, appearing downright futuristic next to a dimly lit hallway full of older medical devices.

The frustrating reality is that old-school bronchoscopy techniques are often ineffective at reaching suspect lung tissue and retrieving conclusive biopsy results, which leaves many patients in suspense about whether or not they have cancer. A 2015 study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that half of the 500,000 bronchoscopy exams done each year in the U.S. are for suspected lung cancer, of which 43 percent come back "nondiagnostic." In other words, more testing needed to be done to figure out if the patient has cancer, which could include more invasive procedures like transthoracic needle biopsies and surgical lung biopsies.

The study found that 35 percent of patients with benign lesions underwent invasive procedures following inconclusive results.

Having an early, accurate diagnosis is valuable to both the health and mental well-being of the patient, Krishna said. Patients who detect early stage lung cancer have upwards of a 60 percent chance to survive five years after diagnosis, but that number plummets to between 12 and 15 percent for stage 4 lung cancer. An estimated 90 percent of people with lung cancer die from the disease.

With so much emphasis on early detection — and such a high rate of inconclusive results

— patients could be stuck doing a series of follow-up scans and procedures that could span from three months to two years, causing them huge levels of anxiety, Krishna said. A large majority of suspect lung nodules are not cancerous, but that's hardly enough to give patients peace of mind.

"Even though, statistically, 90 percent are not cancer, that's still going to interrupt your sleep," he said.

Auris Health, based in Redwood City, has been working on the new lung tech for the last six years, quietly amassing \$500 million in funding and expanding to 200 employees, according to Eric Davidson, the company's VP of sales and marketing. He said he still calls Auris a startup venture, but it's clearly outgrown the designation.

The Monarch Platform is the company's first product to receive FDA clearance, and while it debuted in the U.S. for the first time in March, the company aims to make a country-wide launch after wrapping up the clinical trial at El Camino in the coming months.

Davidson said the company has sought to replace the standard bronchoscope, which he said is essentially a tube and a camera outfitted with a needle for biopsies. Aside from improvements in camera imaging, the technology really hasn't changed much over the last 70 years, he said, and there's a big unmet need to overcome the "technical and clinical limitations of the status quo."

"You're basically using a flexible tube that looks like a wet noodle and trying to navigate it in the lung," he said.

Instead of holding the bronchoscope and hand-feeding a fiberoptic tube into the patient, the Monarch Platform has the physician controlling the whole process using analog sticks on something that looks suspiciously familiar to an Xbox controller. That's because

the earliest prototypes used by physicians, Davidson said, were literally equipped with Xbox controllers, and it worked so well that the design never really strayed far from the same ergonomic video-gaming design.

"We had a whole user-centric design process with 20 variations," Davidson said. "We kept coming back to a very similar design."

One of the buttons on the controller can essentially "park" the bronchoscope in one spot, stabilizing the device and making it significantly easier to do a biopsy. Krishna said being able to keep the bronchoscope steady is a huge deal in an organ that's constantly moving, adding much-needed precision to a procedure that can have serious health risks if the lung is inadvertently punctured.

Despite the high death toll, federal funding for cancer and other lung diseases has historically taken a backseat to other diseases. One 2006 study found that the "disease burden" of lung cancer, which includes death rates, years of life lost and years spent living with the disease, outstrips the amount of research funding the National Institute of Health provides each year — a trend that hasn't shifted course since the 1990s.

Davidson said lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are health problems that need to be addressed on a global scale, particularly in regions with poor air quality and high smoking rates. He said the hope is that the technology Auris is working on can make a big difference in regions like China, but so far the company has stuck to domestic testing grounds.

"Our first geography we're tempted to tackle is in the U.S., where lung cancer kills more than the next three cancers combined," he said. ▀

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**CRIME BRIEFS**

► Continued from page 4

Lopez, were both arrested on felony battery charges.

**ROBBERY ARREST**

A Mountain View man was arrested earlier this month after he allegedly stole earbuds and wine from Target and threatened to hurt an employee who tried to stop him, according to police.

The 25-year-old suspect was seen entering the store on the 500 block of Showers Drive around 3 p.m. on Sunday, April

15, when he allegedly grabbed multiple sets of earbuds and bottles of wine before trying to leave through the front of the store, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

When confronted by an employee on the way out, the suspect allegedly threatened to physically harm the employee before running away, Nelson said.

Officers found the man a short distance away on Ortega Avenue and arrested him on robbery charges as well as violating his probation.

—Kevin Forestieri

**STUDENTS**

► Continued from page 1

have poor study habits.

Dave went on to say that AP classes are not necessary for being successful in college, and implied that teachers would have to sacrifice rigor and lower standards in enrolling more minority students.



Sanjay Dave

“How do you change your AP courses,” Dave asked, “to make sure that then you adapt to having more minority students enrolled in AP courses?”

Sarah Hawthorne, science department chair at Mountain View High, told Dave that nothing in the goal implies lowering expectations or standards, and that imbalanced racial demographics in tough AP science classes should not be chalked up to a lack of preparedness. She compared it to having an AP Physics course with significantly fewer girls in the class, which would indicate “something is off” because she knows plenty of female students who would be successful.

It could be, Hawthorne said, that minority students are discouraged from taking AP classes because they would feel isolated, possibly because their friends and students who look like them aren’t signing up, or that they aren’t enrolling in harder classes because their family came from another country and isn’t familiar with the U.S. education system.

“It’s certainly not lowering expectations,” she said. “It’s about creating a culture and the supports, including supervised study periods ... where students who we know could be successful have the opportunity then to be successful.”

District teachers have since strongly come out against Dave’s comments, arguing that they reflect neither the district’s goals nor the views of the teaching staff. In a statement to the *Voice* last Thursday night, District Teacher Association (DTA) president Dave Campbell wrote that Mountain View-Los Altos teachers have a responsibility and a “moral imperative” to promote achievement for all students regardless of ethnic, economic or academic background.

Campbell wrote that teachers are “concerned” about the comments made at the meeting, calling them incongruent with goals laid out by the school board regarding increasing underrepresented students in AP and honors classes. Dave’s comments “reflect an

assumption, when taken in context, that those very same students do not come to these advanced courses as ‘serious’ students capable of success,” Campbell said.

“This view is not only inaccurate, but it is dangerously flawed,” he said.

In an email to the *Voice*, Dave apologized for his comments, stating that he did not articulate his statements and questions to staff very well. His intent, he said, was to better understand the goals of the science department, particularly in light of parent concerns that students felt pressured to take AP classes as a means to be competitive for college applications.

He said his comments were not meant to convey that he somehow thought less of any of the district’s students, which he said is not the case.

“I reviewed the transcript and see that my line of questioning was poorly phrased and didn’t reflect my heartfelt belief that we have an obligation to support the success of every student we serve,” he said in the email. “I ran for this board to do just that.”

The high school district has sought for years to encourage more minority students to enroll in Advanced Placement and honors classes, putting them in a better position for college and academic success. The problem, according to current and former district officials, was that minority students and students from low-income or non-English-speaking backgrounds have the work ethic and the desire to do well in school, but decide against signing up for rigorous classes for one reason or another.

In 2015, the district won recognition from the Santa Clara County Office of Education for reflecting the school’s diversity in its AP and honors class enrollment at Mountain View High School — something former Superintendent Barry Groves called “one of the most incredible accomplishments” of his career. Data at the time showed a huge increase in low-income Latino students enrolling in at least one AP class, and there was no decrease in class performance or percentage of students taking the AP test.

Increases in minority student enrollment don’t appear to have an adverse effect on test scores. Data provided by the district shows Latino students in the district took a total of 302 AP tests in 2015, and 58.6 percent of the exams had a passing score of 3 or higher. The next year, Latino enrollment increased to 337 — about 12 percent growth — and the passing rate increased to 60.8 percent.

Former Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf told the *Voice* that reaching parity in AP classes — meaning the percentage of Latino and other underrepresented minority students in AP classes matched the rest of the school — was a proud achievement for the district, particularly given that AP test results remained equally strong.

Instead of lowering standards, Sarraf said, district staff prioritized supporting students with what she called “targeted support” to strengthen study habits and fill any knowledge and skills gaps that students may have.

“Our minority students proved to be equally capable of doing well in AP as their majority counterparts,” Sarraf wrote in an email last Friday. “By no means did the presence of more minority students in our classes reduce the rigor of the program.”

**‘Our minority students proved to be equally capable of doing well in AP as their majority counterparts.’**

BRIGITTE SARRAF

Sarraf said that, as far as she knows, the district hasn’t changed course since then. She said AP classes prepare students for success in college and future careers, and that all students should have access to the opportunity to challenge themselves and pursue “excellent, high quality education.”

The school went on to receive national recognition, along with 42 schools and districts across the country, for its progress in encouraging low-income students to take AP classes.

Campbell said in the statement that teachers stand behind the comments made by Hawthorne and Los Altos High School science department chair Darren Dressen at the April 16 meeting in response to Dave, and that the DTA expects the board and district administrators to continue supporting success of each student in the district.

“It is our hope that the MVLA board will work to ensure that there is a cohesive vision for the educational experiences and desired outcomes for every student entrusted in our care,” Campbell said. ▣

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## SCHOOL SAFETY

► Continued from page 5

off campuses to the public and could create potentially dangerous bottlenecks at school exits, he said.

No one on the panel had any appetite for arming teachers with guns. Mountain View police Capt. Jessica Nowaski described the suggestion as an emotional, knee-jerk reaction that she could not support, either personally or professionally. She said teachers she has talked to are focused on education and have enough on their plates already, and asking them to carry firearms and go through training with it would be burdensome and “incredibly distracting.”

“The last thing that I would want to do is put that responsibility, that additional, very huge responsibility, on my children’s teachers,” she said.

The town hall largely focused on the role parents and school staff have in preventing and speaking out against bullying, on and off campus, and creating a safe environment where children are comfortable talking about social problems at school instead of feeling increasingly isolated and upset. School Resource Officer Rodshetta Smith said parents

and teachers ought to keep an eye out for indicators that something is off — like sudden, unexpected truancy — and that the Mountain View Police Department hosts presentations on school and online bullying for kids as young as third-graders.

“Our students are good at reporting when they’re starting to feel like something has gotten out of hand or gotten out of control,” Smith said.

Deslauriers said safety on campus means adopting a culture of inclusion and acceptance, and said adults on campus need to identify bullying and other poor behavior at schools and identify it in a way that kids can understand.

“It’s up to us as the adults to create the boundaries and the clear expectations about what we tolerate and what we don’t tolerate,” she said.

School boards for all three districts serving Mountain View have approved resolutions condemning gun violence and calling for legislation aimed at curbing violence on school campuses. Mountain View-Los Altos High School District board members passed a resolution last month calling for mental health support, anti-bullying tactics and for lawmakers to “reduce the risk and severity of gun violence

on school campuses and repeal the prohibition against data collection and research on gun violence.”

Mountain View Whisman, as well as the Los Altos School District, passed resolutions with stronger language, calling for state and federal lawmakers to reinstate “the assault weapon ban” and adopt stricter controls for the sale and manufacturing of all firearms, dangerous weapons and ammunition. The resolutions also call for an outright ban on semi-automatic firearms, high-capacity magazines, armor-piercing ammunition and accessories like bump stocks that allow guns to fire at a near-automatic rate.

Rudolph told board members last month that he chose the resolution with the more “punchy” language, which he felt reflected the community’s feelings about school shootings. The Los Altos School District’s resolution also specifically called for the removal of the Dickey Amendment, which prevents the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from using funds to study gun violence and the potential of injury prevention through gun control measures. ▣

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

## RHC

► Continued from page 5

in the role. But the idea did not generate much discussion.

Committee Emily Ramos made a motion to appoint Ortiz as chair, and the decision was made in a 5-0 vote. Committee member Matthew Grunewald was voted in as the new vice chair.

The new leadership at the committee was among the quickest of the decisions at a lengthy meeting. In a discussion that proved more controversial, the committee backed plans to grant an additional 2.6 percent rent increase for landlords.

This idea has been promoted by the committee majority as a way to balance out a lapse caused a citywide rent rollback. Some committee members say landlords are due an extra increase for a period of 318 days following October 2015 when their rents were effectively frozen with no increase to adjust for inflation.

But granting this increase

could be treading into a legal quagmire, and city attorneys have urged caution in to avoid a future lawsuit.

At the Monday meeting, Grunewald proposed trying to package the 2.6 percent rent increase into the program’s petition process, which he suggested could make it more legally defensible. Landlords have complained that filing petitions to raise rents is too burdensome of a process, so Grunewald suggested the city should create a simplified version of it for this increase.

He recommended the city should aim to create a one-page petition form that would be legally “ironclad.” City staffers warned that could be difficult, but they promised to try their best. Details would come back at the future meeting for the committee’s approval.

The Rental Housing Committee approved the plan in a 3-1 vote, with Ortiz opposed. Honey abstained. ▣

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## SVCF

► Continued from page 1

how to work with her, or you have to leave,” she said.

After nine months, Goodman was asked to resign. HR workers advised her to tell her co-workers she was going back to graduate school, rather than being terminated.

Goodman met with Carson for an exit interview, and she laid out all her troubles with Loijens’ bullying. Before shaking her hand, Carson told her he would look into it.

Four years later, following an exposé about Loijens in the Chronicle of Philanthropy, Carson and SVCF are in damage control mode as more stories of workplace abuse have emerged. On his Twitter feed, Carson emphasized a zero-tolerance policy toward inappropriate conduct, and he pledged to take “whatever actions are necessary” to move forward.

Carson and SVCF did not respond to questions submitted by the *Voice*. Loijens also did not respond to calls seeking comment.

As the allegations surfaced last week, Foundation officials announced that an independent law firm would be retained to investigate employees’ concerns.

Privately, in a letter to the SVCF donors, Carson disputed some aspects of the complaints, saying they were focused on selective information. Most employees were content, he said, pointing to surveys showing that 85 percent of the SVCF staff felt respected by their supervisors. In 2017, the staff turnover rate was 26 percent, higher than average, he admitted.

“The allegations are serious and of great concern to me,” he wrote. “We will continue to focus on improving our workplace and building the culture so we continue to make a positive impact in our communities.”

Multiple employees told the *Voice* that annual turnover for Loijens’s department was actually as high as 40 percent. They also disputed the survey statistics that Carson cited, pointing out he declined to mention that the same report showed only 33 percent of staffers felt they could give honest feedback without consequences.

The new revelations of staff disapproval have apparently sparked some concern that donors could revolt. On Monday, Los Altos Hills entrepreneur Steve Kirsch wrote an open letter in the San Jose Mercury News expressing disbelief that workplace abuse had continued for 11 years with no knowledge by top leaders. He threatened to take his future donations elsewhere unless the “failure of leadership” was corrected.



MICHELLE LE

**Emmett Carson**, the CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, is under fire for allegedly allowing an abusive workplace fostered by his second-in-command, Mari Ellen Reynolds Loijens.

After a Monday board meeting, the nonprofit announced it was widening its investigation into the workplace abuse by hiring a second law firm to assist.

On Wednesday, April 25, an anonymous letter claiming to be from 65 current SVCF employees was sent to the nonprofit’s board. The letter called for Carson and Vice President Daiva Natochy to be immediately suspended, and for the investigation to be expanded to include their role in the alleged abuse. Soon afterward, the board received a second letter signed by 25 former employees calling for Carson’s immediate termination.

Several former SVCF staffers told the *Voice* that they didn’t find Carson to be credible, saying he seemed to allow Loijens’ dysfunctional behavior as long as she continued to attract substantial donors.

Internally at the foundation, around 2013 Loijens was reportedly credited for landing two colossal donations of Facebook stock from Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan. Today, those stock donations are valued at about \$5.76 billion. In 2014, she also reportedly took credit for a \$500 million contribution from GoPro founder Nick Woodman.

With those immense deals attached to her name, Loijens seemed practically “untouchable” at the organization, Goodman said.

“Everybody was flabbergasted and amazed that she could score this huge fish,” Goodman said. “As long as she was able to bring in that level of money, it was clear that Emmett Carson was never going to get rid of her.”

But would those donations have come in without Loijens? Some former coworkers believe Loijens’ golden touch was a myth. As more tech companies began going public after the mid-2000s, there was a flood of newly-minted tycoons looking to do something with their windfall.

SVCF’s predecessor, the Community Foundation Silicon Valley, made it a practice to tailor its

donor outreach for tech leaders, especially those who would be interested in a large tax write-off for a charitable cause. Many donors came forward without much coaxing, said Sue Covey, who served as Community Foundation Silicon Valley director of planned giving.

“The big gifts that came into the organization had nothing to do with Loijens, but because of her position, she got the credit for it,” Covey said. “She took credit for everything that came in, even though a lot of it didn’t initiate with her.”

Loijens joined the Community Foundation in 2004, making her Covey’s direct superior. Even back then, she showed similar behavior to what is described in the new allegations, Covey said. To donors and her superiors, Loijens could turn on the charm, but to anyone in a subordinate position, she held them “completely in disdain,” she said. Other described her erratic behavior as like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

Covey resigned in 2005, a decision she attributes “100 percent” to Loijens’ behavior. Like other former employees who were interviewed, Covey said she began warning others in the nonprofit field against working with Loijens or SVCF.

### A difficult merger

In 2006, talks began for a merger between the San Jose-based Community Foundation Silicon Valley and the San Mateo Peninsula Community Foundation, a deal promoted as a way to expand philanthropic reach and donor base. Carson was picked to head the newly formed Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and even before the merger was finalized he selected Loijens as his No. 2, naming her his chief of staff. Some employees believe Carson found Loijens to be useful as an enforcer, the bad cop to his good cop.

It was a difficult transition, said Patti Pace, SVCF’s former corporate philanthropy manager. All the staff were stripped of

their titles and had to reapply for their jobs. Many senior professionals were ousted and replaced with younger rookies.

Pace recalls an all-staff meeting at the Mountain View office that Carson called around 2007 to address the early complaints being leveled at Loijens. It was an uncomfortable meeting, and Carson signaled that Loijens was operating with his full support. Pace will never forget what he told the staff: “When Mari Ellen speaks, I speak.”

Former employees who had worked under Loijens, going back more than a decade, say that her bullying was an open secret among nonprofit professionals, but no one wanted to speak out because it seemed like career suicide.

“It was obvious she was abusing her power, but then everyone knew that you do not complain about Mari Ellen,” Pace said. “What resulted is the SVCF lost a lot of really forward-thinking, innovative people who could have made major contributions.”

At least one complaint did reverberate outside of SVCF’s walls. In 2014, Loijens’s former executive assistant Rui Zhou filed a lawsuit alleging she was unfairly terminated.

In her allegations, Zhou said she had years of “glowing” performance reviews from Loijens up until she went on maternity leave. Two days after returning to work, she immediately received her first negative evaluation from Loijens. Two more bad reviews followed, each giving little explanation for the poor marks except for Zhou’s “calendar management” skills, according to court records.

SVCF later settled the lawsuit for an undisclosed sum. Zhou and her attorney did not respond to requests for comment.

Just weeks before the lawsuit, a complaint was made to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, alleging Loijens had a pattern of discrimination against female employees who became mothers, and she had

forced them out of their jobs.

Pace and other former employees say there were at least two other lawsuits against Loijens for harassment, but these cases could not be located in the Santa Clara County Court records system. Past records are available only three years back at the state Fair Employment and Housing Department.

Loijens’s division, the development department, reportedly became like a revolving door as people quickly burned out after working with her. Pace remembers a young administrator being brought to tears on her first day of work after being rebuked by Loijens.

Internally, much of the staff made it a practice to try and avoid Loijens’ attention. A code word, “muskrat” was used to signal when she was verging on sexually inappropriate comments, according to a source who declined to be named. The development director position became particularly notorious, and new hires would routinely resign after less than a year in the job.

One recruiter told Pace that he could only hire people from out of town who didn’t know Loijens. Over the years, the nonprofit’s Glassdoor page filled with warnings to job seekers that SVCF wasn’t worth the hardship.

Several employees who were interviewed for this story say they suffered health and mental issues as a result of their experience at SVCF. Goodman, who worked only nine months at the nonprofit, says she needed therapy and couldn’t work for more than two years afterward. One former SVCF employee described having post-traumatic stress disorder for years after she left.

“It was a very toxic environment and the worst employment situation I’ve ever had in my career,” she said. The former employee declined to be named because she said she had signed a non-disparagement agreement. ▣

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

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE**

**NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN AT  
SHORELINE BOULEVARD AND LATHAM STREET  
PROJECT 17-44**

A conceptual plan has been developed for a new community garden at the southwest corner of Shoreline Boulevard and Latham Street. Staff will be presenting the conceptual plan to the City Council for their review and approval on:

**TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018 — 6:30 P.M.**  
**(or as soon thereafter as the item can be heard)**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY HALL — 500 CASTRO STREET**

If you have any questions, please contact the project manager, Anne Marie Starr, at [annemarie\\_starr@mountainview.gov](mailto:annemarie_starr@mountainview.gov) or 650-903-6311. A site location map and copy of the conceptual plan can be found on the City’s website at [www.mountainview.gov/depts/pw/projects/highlights.asp](http://www.mountainview.gov/depts/pw/projects/highlights.asp).



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■ YOUR LETTERS

■ GUEST OPINIONS

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### ■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, [www.MountainViewOnline.com](http://www.MountainViewOnline.com), and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

#### Town Square forum

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### ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### FALSE PRETENSES

It's fair to have Mountain View voters reconsider rent control. It's not fair to do it under false pretenses.

Today paid signature gathers are blanketing our city collecting signatures to "amend rent control." They are being paid \$6 for every signature gathered. Do not sign this petition.

On Saturday morning I was serving free breakfast to the homeless. A paid signature gatherer came in and set up a table to collect signatures on a petition to "put rent control" on the November ballot. She was fully convinced she was collecting signatures in support of rent control. Her handmade sign read, "Vote 2018 Rent Control Mountain View." This is calculated, dishonest fraud. She had no idea that she was being used to by the apartment industry to stop rent control.

Here are the facts:

1) Measure V is paid for by the landlords. It is not paid for by the city or us taxpayers. \$13/unit/month covers the total cost of operating rent control including paying the city back for start-up funding. Do not believe that city coffers are being raided.

2) Measure V requires that if the vacancy rate goes above 5 percent, the rental housing commission can suspend the program. The apartment industry wants to put into law a mandatory suspension of rent control when the vacancy rate goes above 3 percent. The vacancy rate historically does not go below 3 percent. If this measure were to pass, rent control would be immediately turned off for the foreseeable future. Do not believe this is simply an amendment to rent control.

Do not sign this petition. Let's protect Mountain View for the residents.

*Dave Arnone  
Middlefield Road*

#### MEASURE V TOO COSTLY SIGNATURE GATHERING

Careful — best not to sign the new Measure V (Measure V Too Costly petition) now circulating. These are Gold Rush times. The vacancy rate in Mountain View is always (over) 3 percent. The proposed charter says "all renter protections suspended when vacancy rates exceed 3 percent."

*Barbara Goodwin  
Middlefield Road*

#### TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The city's Environmental Sustainability Task Force has been working hard since September 2017 to create recommendations to help the city meet its greenhouse gas emission targets. The City Council views sustainability as one of the city's four key focus areas and the task force, made up of 30 citizen volunteers, has prepared recommendations to make Mountain View a model for sustainability and our city a better place to live for generations to come.

All of us have been proud of the work we do to create a more sustainable place for all of us. We have met with hundreds of members of the public at a variety of events, collaborated with our counterparts all over the region, and benchmarked best practices from around the world to create a series of recommendations covering transportation, buildings, land use, waste reduction, and public outreach.

But the most important part of our work lies ahead. On April 30 at 7 p.m. at the Historic Adobe Building, we are giving a first look at our recommendations to the public, and using your feedback to improve and finalize our work. Your feedback is the most important, final step in our work. Please join us. Please RSVP and get more information here: [mountainview.gov/TaskForceForum](http://mountainview.gov/TaskForceForum).

The future, and I, thank you!

*IdaRose Sylvester,  
Environmental Sustainability  
Task Force member*

#### ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING DOWNTOWN

The latest incident with the shooting and attempted kidnapping in downtown Mountain View ("Two men arrested in armed kidnapping attempt downtown," April 20) is an indication to me that we as a community need to reach out to the police department and find out how we can try and make sure something like this does not happen again. I understand that the suspects were arrested but we still don't have answers as to what really happened that night.

Did the victim of the attempted kidnapping know her attackers? Was this a random act of violence or is there more to this story that there are answers to,

but the police are not releasing information because they are still "investigating the incident."

As a community I do think we have the right to ask questions and I think that's what we should be doing.

*Muriel Sivyver-Lee  
Velarde Street*

#### MISSING FRONT LICENSE PLATES

According to California Code, Vehicle Code, when two license plates are issued by the department for use upon a vehicle, they shall be attached to the vehicle for which they were issued, one in the front and the other in the rear. For cars, two license plates are mandatory. License plates are issued for identifying purposes.

The number of cars with a missing front license plate has skyrocketed lately. It seems that the front license plate is missing from high-end cars in particular. Say, an Amber alert has been issued, and an oncoming car does not have a license plate. No chance of reporting the wanted vehicle.

Enforcing the California Vehicle Code section 5201 would be easy, especially in parking lots by parking enforcement officers. In addition to reminding the car owners that they should follow the law, the fines would help our struggling cities' bottom lines.

*Kaj Rekola  
Laura Lane*

#### SENDING A MESSAGE

The San Jose Mercury News interviewed Judge Persky and reported that "(Persky) supports the movement to improve how sexual assault victims are treated by the criminal justice system but that ousting him does not help that cause." I disagree, and so do nearly 100,000 voters in this county who signed the petition to put his recall on the June ballot.

Ousting Judge Persky sends a critical, nationally impactful message to would-be perpetrators that sexual assault and violence against women are unacceptable. And, in cases where powerful men such as Judge Persky enable those criminal actions by treating them as trivial, we will hold those enablers accountable, too. And, importantly, it sends a message that women who are victimized no longer must live in the shadows of their aggressors — that their voices will be heard.

Please join me in voting yes to recall Persky this June.

*Julie McDonald  
Campbell*

#### YES ON PERSKY RECALL

I want to live in a community that takes violence against women seriously and that is why I will vote to recall Judge Aaron Persky on June 5.

I am proud of the many survivors of sexual violence that have found their voices this year and think our justice system should be a place that actually means justice for them.

Persky's light sentence of Stanford swimmer Brock Turner was just one of many in a history of bias for male athletes. It's time that victims who are often re-victimized in trial know the justice system will be there for them.

Please join me in voting yes on Persky's recall this June.

*Teresa Everett Fiss  
San Jose*

#### ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

I will be voting yes to recall Judge Persky on June 5. He is an elected official who has done a bad job when it comes to sentencing in cases of domestic and sexual abuse. He made headlines for giving Stanford swimmer Brock Turner just six months in county jail, but he also gave a Sunnyvale man caught with felony child pornography just four days in jail and also allowed another student athlete to slip away with minimal sentencing for domestic violence. That athlete was arrested for domestic violence again just months later.

Enough is enough. We should care more about victims and the potential of offenders to harm again. We must recall Persky.

*Effy Brambila  
San Jose*

### What's on your mind?

Tell us your thoughts on matters of interest to the community by sending your letters to [letters@MV-Voice.com](mailto:letters@MV-Voice.com). Or snail-mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

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