

# Mountain View VOICE



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THIS ISSUE

Our  
Neighborhoods

DECEMBER 21, 2018 VOLUME 26, NO. 48

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## City seeks to remodel aging police station

COUNCIL WEIGHS IN ON PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY NEEDS  
FOR THIRD TIME SINCE 2013

By Kevin Forestieri

The city of Mountain View is rebooting efforts to remodel — or completely rebuild — its downtown public safety building following a yearslong delay over how to fund the project.

City Council members voted 6-0 at the Dec. 11 council meeting to authorize work to design additions and upgrades to the police and fire administrative building at 1000 Villa St., currently described as old, awkwardly designed and not ideal for current public safety needs. Given the inherent flaws in the existing building, the city will also look into constructing an entirely new public safety building, which could be located at a public parking lot across the street.

The building had a unique and “interesting” design when it opened in 1980, with its skylights, sloped windows and maximized daylight, but it’s been the source of a whole lot of problems over the years, according to Public Works Director Mike Fuller. Leaks, glare and heat are ongoing challenges, and the building’s durable concrete construction makes the interior inflexible and expensive to modify.

Police standards have also changed over the last 38 years, with a greater need for a juvenile holding area and more space for processing evidence, particularly a secure area for vehicles under investigation. As a safety measure, police officials are also seeking to move the department’s armory — which holds explosive materials — out of the middle of the basement and into its own building outside.

All told, city staffers are seeking a design that would bring 13,000 square feet of extra space and about 53 additional parking spaces, for a total of \$55 million.

Councilwoman Lisa Matichak said the idea of remodeling and adding to a facility with so many flaws felt like the wrong course of action, amounting to building around a problem. Starting from scratch with a new building might be a better approach, she said, even if it is more expensive.

“Public safety is a huge important service that the city provides, and I’d like to make sure that we have the appropriate space, as well as tools and technology, to evolve as policing has evolved,” Matichak said. “And I’m not sure

► See **POLICE STATION**, page 11



MAGALI GAUTHIER

### ALL ABOARD!

Alex Devine smiles as he watches one of Ernie’s trains go by. Since 1985, the Bianco family’s model train display at 2387 Adele Ave. has been a Mountain View tradition. John Bianco took over after his father Ernie died, and every year he faithfully constructs the elaborate indoor-outdoor route, which runs from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, from Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve. See more photos on page 17.

## With record demand, food bank funds fall short

SECOND HARVEST SAYS DONATIONS DROPPED \$1.1M FROM LAST YEAR

By Kevin Forestieri

It’s turning into an annual problem — despite the booming local economy, Bay Area food banks are again dealing with the double whammy of too many hungry mouths to feed and not enough money to help them all.

Last week, officials from Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties reported that donations are down \$1.1 million compared to the same time last year, which is a bad sign. Not only was the benchmark from last year already low, but the food bank leans heavily on holiday season donations for

its year-round budget. Nearly half of the fundraising occurs between October and January, which means lower donations will have lasting effects into the spring and summer months.

The lackluster donations come at a time when the food bank

► See **FOOD BANK**, page 7

## Rent increases denied again for Del Medio apartments

By Mark Noack

For the second time, a city-appointed hearing officer is rejecting a request for series of rent increases on dozens of tenants at the Del Medio Manor apartments. In her decision issued earlier this month, city

hearing officer Jil Dalesandro cited a sweeping lack of evidence to support the rent increases, alleging the landlord’s bookkeeping in support of the petition was so flawed that it amounted to “hearsay” and was impossible to verify.

Located at 141 Del Medio

Ave., the apartment property has become a closely watched test case for the city’s rent control program, particularly its complicated process for granting landlords special additional rent increases if they meet certain criteria.

Del Medio Manor owner

Elizabeth Lindsay originally filed her petition more than a year ago, seeking permission to raise rents on about two-thirds of the 105 apartment units owned by her family. Initially, she sought rent increases ranging from \$125 to \$900 extra a month. She later lowered that request to \$100 to

\$500 a month on about half of her units.

A coalition of tenants organized to protest the increases, and attorneys with the Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto took up their cause.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TEAMLAB

**teamLab is back** at Pace Gallery in Palo Alto with six new monitor works as part of the exhibition "Continuous Life and Death at the Now of Eternity."

**TEAMLAB EXPLORES THE 'NOW OF ETERNITY'**

Continuous Life and Death at the Now of Eternity marks a second appearance by the Japanese conglomerate teamLab at Pace Gallery's Palo Alto branch, with six new monitor works on view until Jan. 13.

For those who don't remember the first exhibition, it was a massive effort, staged in a pop-up space (a former car dealership) in Menlo Park. Twenty interactive, immersive exhibits were situated throughout the building in a museum-type installation, with none of the objects for sale. During the course of its 10-month run, over 200,000 entry tickets were sold, which is probably one reason the gallery has invited the group back for a smaller, more intimate show where all the works are available for purchase.

"Digital" is the key word in understanding the basis of teamLab's working method. All of their art is made by computer using complex graphic algorithms. Some pieces also include recorded video.

"Everything we do is digital," teamLab founder Toshiyuki Inoko said, "and everything is the latest technology, so it is natural for us to explore and experiment."

Most of the pieces displayed at Pace have facets of nature (water, flowers, birds, etc.) as subject matter.

"We want to always explore the relationship between humans and nature, and also the boundaries between humans and nature,"

Inoko explained.

The way the teamLab artists explore this relationship may use ultra-modern technology, but the imagery reflects a very traditional approach and one that is uniquely Asian, the use of "ultrasubjective space." Collective member Kazumasa Nonaka explained that, unlike Western art, which relies upon various uses of perspective to achieve depth and space, the teamLab artist strives to give the viewer the feeling of being one with the art. He cited "Waves of Light" (2018), a piece that involves a continuous series of calligraphic lines that look like waves ebbing and flowing in the ocean.

"This piece was not rendered in perspective because that separates us from the world," he said. "We want the viewer to get inside the frame."

"Our work is all about continuity," noted Inoko. "It is about the flow of life, of time, of water — the rhythm of life."

That sense of continuity is sometimes presented in a very literal way, as in the "Fleeting Flower Series, Chrysanthemum Tiger (2017)." In this single-channel work, thousands of colorful flowers bloom, flow, float and eventually form a large peacock that slowly moves his head. Stay a while longer and the flowers morph into a tiger.

There are two works that take a more abstract approach: "Enso" and "Impermanent Life" (both 2017). These pieces operate on a continuous loop and depict swooping black brush strokes against a gray background. The strokes change and move in a circular manner, influenced by the Zen paintings made by monks for thousands of years.

As with the "Waves of Light," watching the strokes flow and reform across the nine monitors is mesmerizing; one can imagine sitting in a living room and enjoying a meditative session of quiet reflection while gazing at the continuously changing scene.

If you can't pop into the gallery, stop by and look into the front windows. All of the pieces will be running, with several changing ("Waves of Light" will transition from gold leaf to a black background) after dark — very appropriate for an exhibition that addresses the contrasting concepts of continuity and impermanence. The exhibition runs through Jan. 13 at 229 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Go to [pacegallery.com](http://pacegallery.com).

—Sheryl Nonnenberg

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## The Ethics of Technological Disruption: A Conversation with Silicon Valley Leaders and Beyond

Have technologists given enough thought to the world they're making, to the dislocations they're enabling, and to the lives and livelihoods they are often unknowingly changing, both here at home and across the world? This quarter, three senior award-winning Stanford faculty (a computer scientist, a political scientist, and a philosopher) have joined forces with invited entrepreneurs, engineers, policy-makers, and investors throughout the tech community to explore some of the profound ethical questions posed by the rapidly expanding and unpredictably evolving technology sector.

**Guest speakers include:** **Brian Acton** (Co-founder, WhatsApp), **Avril Haines** (Former White House Deputy National Security Advisor; Former Deputy Director, CIA), **Alex Stamos** (Former Chief Security Officer, Facebook; William J. Perry Fellow, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford), and **Nicole Wong** (Former Deputy Chief Technology Officer of the United States; Former Legal Director of Products, Twitter; Former Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Google), among others. **For full guest list, please visit [csp.stanford.edu/ethics](http://csp.stanford.edu/ethics).**

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■ **CRIME BRIEFS**

**MAN FOUND DEAD IN CAR**

A man found dead in a vehicle in a McDonald's parking lot last Friday has been identified as 28-year-old Tracy resident William Opet. Opet was believed to be sleeping in his car while working in the area.

The Santa Clara County Medical Examiner's Office has not disclosed the manner of his death as of the *Voice's* Wednesday press deadline.

Opet was found at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 14 in the 900 block of El Monte Avenue. Police immediately gave assurances that there was no threat to public safety.

Opet's family has reportedly been notified of his death.

Following reports of the death, Mountain View Mayor Lenny Siegel told the *Voice* that Opet was living out of his vehicle on weekdays while working in Los Altos. Siegel said this information came from Police Chief Max Bosel.

Police officials declined to confirm Siegel's information.

—Mark Noack

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 11

■ **POLICE LOG**

**ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON**

800 block Jackson St., 12/10

**AUTO BURGLARY**

1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/10  
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/11  
1100 block La Avenida St., 12/11  
100 Moffett Blvd., 12/11  
1500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 12/11  
1700 block Rock St., 12/11  
Bryant St. & Mercy St. 12/11  
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/11  
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/11  
Bryant St. & California St., 12/11  
1000 block Independence Av., 12/11  
2400 block Charleston Rd., 12/11  
1400 block Plymouth St., 12/11  
500 block San Antonio Rd., 12/12  
2400 block Charleston Rd., 12/12  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/12  
800 block E. El Camino Real, 12/12  
2400 block Charleston Rd., 12/12  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/13  
800 block California St., 12/14  
800 block California St., 12/14  
800 block California St., 12/14  
800 block California St., 12/16  
600 block National Av., 12/17  
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/17

800 block California St., 12/17  
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/17  
800 block California St., 12/17

**BATTERY**

2200 block California St., 12/14  
1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/16  
500 block Showers Dr., 12/16

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

1 block S. Rengstorff Av., 12/11  
500 block San Antonio Rd., 12/13

**CRIMINAL THREATS**

1300 block Grant Rd., 12/14

**GRAND THEFT**

1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/10  
California St. & S. Rengstorff Av., 12/11

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

1 block Annie Laurie Av., 12/11  
800 block E. El Camino Real, 12/11  
300 block Escuela Av., 12/12  
500 block San Antonio Rd., 12/12  
100 block Cuesta Dr., 12/13

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

1000 block Crestview Dr., 12/11

**VANDALISM**

900 block Clark Av., 12/10  
500 block San Antonio Rd., 12/12  
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/13

■ **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE SET TO EXPAND**

In response to rising ridership, Mountain View's community shuttle program, MVgo, is set to grow in 2019. Five new shuttles are being added to the free transit system, which should increase the frequency of its stops along routes around the city.

Since MVgo first launched in 2015, its ridership has increased by more than 35 percent, according to officials. The system's ridership is expected to surpass 130,000 by the end of this year.

With the expansion, the transit service will now have a total of seven shuttles. The five new shuttles will be larger, capable of taking

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 16

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Residents of 2005 Rock St. gather with supporters in the carport to discuss the development project that will raze their building and replace it with rowhouses selling for over \$1 million.

## A rocky road ahead for redevelopment

MORE RESISTANCE EXPECTED FOR PROJECTS TO REPLACE APARTMENTS WITH FEWER HOMES

By Mark Noack

In past years, a project in Mountain View to redevelop older, low-rent apartments into rowhouses probably wouldn't have garnered much attention — or controversy, for that matter.

But the push by city leaders to foster more for-sale homes in Mountain View appears to have awakened a new political force — tenants fiercely resistant to gentrification. That new coalition flexed its muscles last week by bringing out crowds of speakers and activists to oppose a relatively small project to replace the 20 apartments at 2005 Rock St. The tenants' complaints about being displaced and priced out of Mountain View didn't prevent the City Council from approving the project in a 4-3

vote, but it raised the stakes. The huge outcry surrounding the 2005 Rock St. project is leading many to believe it won't be the exception — instead, it could be the new normal as several similar development proposals move forward.

In the coming months, Mountain View city leaders could be seeing similar pushback as several more projects come forward that would require demolishing older apartments. The city currently has 16 development projects that are awaiting City Council approval that would require relocating tenants and razing older apartment buildings, according to city records.

Many of these projects share the same flaw that was heavily criticized in the 2005 Rock St. project — they would actually

decrease the total amount of housing in the city. In the case of 2005 Rock St., 20 apartments will be replaced by 15 rowhouses. For a nearby project proposed at 2310 Rock St., 59 apartments would be razed to build 55 condominiums. At 2010 San Ramon Ave., nine apartments would be redeveloped into seven condominiums.

While a bare majority of City Council members approved the 2005 Rock St. project, they pledged to investigate some kind of future policy to prohibit projects that would result in a net loss of housing. That proposal would need to be brought up next year at the council's goal-setting session, and it would likely take several more months to draft and consider.

► See **ROCK STREET**, page 14

## More victims come forward in child molestation case

FORMER MOUNTAIN VIEW RESIDENT ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED ABUSE OF NEIGHBOR IN EARLY 2000S

By Kevin Forestieri

Two more victims have come forward, saying they were abused by the Sunnyvale man arrested last week on suspicion of repeatedly molesting and sexually assaulting a young neighbor in the early 2000s, according to the Mountain View Police Department.

Police say that the victim, now an adult, came forward and reported that she had been repeatedly assaulted by the suspect, identified as 43-year-old Jose Vicente Contreras, while she was a child under the age of 10 living in Mountain View. Contreras was the victim's neighbor on the 1000 block of Rich Avenue at the time of the alleged assaults, police said.



Jose Contreras

Detectives located Contreras, now living in Sunnyvale, and arrested him on Dec. 13 without incident.

The former neighbor told police that Contreras — known by people in the area as Chente — waited in the area outside her apartment and molested her “dozens” of times when she would take the trash out for her family, police said. Contreras would reportedly grab the victim and prevent her from escaping.

Contreras was also arrested in 2002 after he was suspected of sexually assaulting another child. The prior case is part of the current investigation, police said. That case was eventually dropped.

Since releasing information on the arrest last week, police

reported Wednesday over social media that additional victims have come forward to report allegations against Contreras. One of them — who was a victim in the 2002 case — told police that Contreras had preyed on her and sexually assaulted her repeatedly while she was a young girl, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The third person who came forward with allegations was being interviewed by investigators, but as of the *Voice's* press deadline Wednesday, it was unclear if any additional charges would result, Nelson said.

Police credited the first victim for reporting the incidents, which served as the basis for the arrest.

“The victim's heroism in coming forward regarding these incidents cannot be overstated,” Sgt. Dan Vicencio said in a statement. “We are proud of her, and we will work to ensure that justice will prevail in this case.”

Contreras is suspected of a long list of charges including multiple counts of lewd acts on a child with force; digital penetration of a minor; aggravated sexual assault; sexual battery; and a sex crime resulting in great bodily injury. He is also charged with kidnapping and indecent exposure.

Contreras was booked into Santa Clara County's Elmwood Correctional Facility without bail.

Anyone who is a victim or believes they know a victim is asked to contact Detective Temo Gonzalez at [temo.gonzalez@mountainview.gov](mailto:temo.gonzalez@mountainview.gov). Any past or current neighbors of Contreras are also asked to come forward with information that might assist in the investigation. ■

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

## Waymo hosts meeting on testing driverless cars

NO CLEAR DATE ON WHEN PUBLIC PILOT IS EXPECTED TO LAUNCH IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Mark Noack

On the verge of wider public testing, the self-driving car company Waymo is touring Midpeninsula cities to showcase its technology. On Dec. 13, the Waymo delegation came home to Mountain

View, meeting with a packed crowd anxious to learn more about the company's driverless vehicles. Attendees heard from company officials and got a chance to look at one of its cars.

The big question on everyone's mind was: “When will these be available to ride in?”

But that wasn't something the Waymo team would answer. George Ivanov, Waymo public policy manager, could only say it would be “a while” before the self-driving cars will be available to the public in California. He pointed out that just days earlier, Waymo launched its

free “Waymo One” pilot for the public in the Phoenix area and said the company is watching how that program proceeds.

Since October, Waymo has been authorized by state regulators to send its vehicles out onto public streets with no human drivers on board. As

the technology is being tested, California regulators are allowing autonomous car companies such as Waymo to offer the public rides in its vehicles so long as it doesn't charge for the privilege.

► See **WAYMO**, page 6

## Another top staffer leaves city

WAVE OF RETIREMENTS SIGNALS A GENERATIONAL SHIFT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

By Mark Noack

Changing of the guard is playing out at City Hall as several of Mountain View's top government employees have left their positions in recent months. The turnover is the latest example of a mounting staffing challenge for regional government agencies as longtime public servants from the baby-boom generation reach retirement age.

In 2018, the city has reportedly lost 24 staffers, including three department heads, due to retirements. The most recent of those departures is city Finance Director Patty Kong, who announced her retirement from a 28-year career in Mountain View. In the early 1990s, Kong was recruited by the city when she was working as a public-services accountant for the firm KPMG.

Speaking at a public meeting

earlier this month, Kong recalled how her first manager urged her to stick around for at least one year.

"Now here it is 28 years later, and there's never been a dull moment," she mused. "Mountain View is small enough to do a lot of things, but big enough to still have a lot to do."

Kong had reportedly been planning her retirement since at least the spring, which gave the city enough time to find a replacement. On Dec. 7, city officials announced they had hired Jesse Takahashi to serve as the city's new finance director.

Since 2006, Takahashi has served as finance director for the city of Campbell. In that role, he worked under Mountain View City Manager Dan Rich, who previously held the top city

▶ See **STAFF**, page 17

## WAYMO

▶ Continued from page 5

Waymo officials said they were finished drafting an interaction plan for law enforcement agencies. Mountain View police officials say that Waymo has offered to hold training sessions for officers.

A main theme at the Dec. 13 Waymo meeting was safety and the untapped potential for autonomous vehicles to reduce U.S. traffic deaths. Each self-driving car is equipped with an array of sensors that can detect potential hazards quicker than the human eye, Waymo officials said. In some cases, that could lead a Waymo car to drive extra cautiously, to the frustration of any human drivers following behind. Often, the Waymo car is detecting potential hazards that a human driver would completely miss, Waymo officials said.

Yet there are times when even a self-driving car programmed to abide by the Department of Motor Vehicles driver handbook must break the rules. Waymo cars are designed to



PHOTO BY MAGALI GAUTHIER

Waymo officials held a meeting in Mountain View on Thursday, Dec. 13, where they talked about the company's driverless technology.

improvise in certain situations, such as driving with the flow of traffic or veering out of a lane to avoid construction zones.

"For safety reasons, we sometimes break the rules. There are times when following the rules actually might impact safety," Ivanov said.

For the time being, Waymo intends to maintain ownership of all vehicles equipped with its technology. There are no plans to sell self-driving cars

to individual consumers, as that could present problems for ongoing maintenance, said Ellie Casson, Waymo local policy head. The company's plan for now is to operate as a ride-sharing service like Lyft or Uber.

"For now, we'll take you from point A to point B, but you won't be able to buy a Waymo vehicle," Casson said. "But in the future, who knows?"

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

## Here come the Holidays

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**FOOD BANK**

► Continued from page 1

is serving more people than ever, feeding a total of 267,000 people each month — or about 1 in 10 people residing in the two counties. More and more families, particularly ones that have never needed food assistance before, have come to rely on food bank services because of the high cost of housing in the area, said Cat Cvengros, Second Harvest's vice president of marketing.

"The trend this year has been growth from last year," Cvengros said. "Families that are working two or three jobs maybe wouldn't have needed the food bank in the past, but the crunch on housing is forcing them to seek help."

Last year, the food bank conducted a study that found 27 percent of residents in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties struggled with "food insecurity," meaning that the high cost of rent, health care and other expenses put them at risk of going hungry. That amounts to about 720,000 people across the two counties, meaning Second Harvest still isn't reaching hundreds of thousands of needy families.

Hunger is a struggle that often goes unseen, Cvengros said. People don't generally broadcast that they are not eating well or that their children are missing meals, and the strong economy and low unemployment rate obscure the growing problem. She said the number of seniors seeking food from Second Harvest is rising fast, which is tough — many of the clients haven't relied on the food bank before and are reluctant to ask for help even as they're losing weight.

One of the big goals of Second Harvest is to make an end run around that stigma and reach families where they are comfortable picking up food — at schools, libraries or health centers. Cvengros said that the food bank launched 19 food programs at schools throughout the area, which has helped Second Harvest reach families who have never sought food assistance before. The next stop, she said, is more distribution at affordable housing complexes.

"We're looking at where our clients are," she said. "Then people don't have to worry about taking two buses and carrying all those groceries."

Second Harvest officials have

been hesitant to pin the lower donations on any one particular cause, but said the lower contributions from major donors may have been fueled by federal tax law changes enacted in 2017. The shortfall experienced by the network of food banks throughout the Bay Area has also been compounded by the destruction caused by the Camp Fire in Butte County last month, which has diverted both staff and truckloads of food to families that lost their homes in the fire.

The other major concern on the horizon is that the high need for food services comes at a time when the economy is doing great, which doesn't bode well for when the economy eventually sinks. Cvengros said Second Harvest has recently worked to increase its warehouse space to store as much food as possible, knowing full well that an economic downturn could boost demand for food to record-high levels.

"If the economy goes downhill we will see an increase in need, and that's a big concern of ours because so many people already come to us," she said.

To learn more or to donate to Second Harvest, go to [shfb.org](http://shfb.org).

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

# Marketplace

The Mountain View Voice offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

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Mountain View Voice

# Holiday Fund

## How to Give Your gift helps children and families in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to seven nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 170 Voice readers and the Wakerly, Packard and Hewlett foundations contributed a total of \$105,000. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

**Donate online at**  
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mvv-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/mvv-holiday-fund)

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

#### Day Worker Center

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

#### Mentor Tutor Connection

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

#### Community School of Music and Arts

The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District.

#### MayView Community Health Center

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

#### YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence

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

#### Community Services Agency

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

#### Community Health Awareness Council

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

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The Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



# Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

As of Dec. 12, 60 donors  
have contributed \$20,590 to the  
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MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Students at Gabriela Mistral Elementary School** learn how to use a compass and stencil during an art class led by Cristina Velazquez, an instructor from the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA). The nonprofit, which provides music and art lessons in local schools, benefits from donations to the Voice's Holiday Fund.

## Providing a creative outlet in a tech world

CSMA PROVIDES LIFELINE FOR ARTS EDUCATION IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

By Mark Noack

On a recent Thursday morning, about 25 third-graders at Mistral Elementary School gathered around instructor Cristina Velazquez as she began the day's art lesson. The instruction centered on Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, focusing on her colorful series of mushroom paintings.

The lesson was about how to make simple drawings, showing how shapes and contours can be represented by drawing simple lines. After some brief tutorials, the students started sketching their own mushrooms using stencils.

Velazquez is sort of a roaming arts instructor, employed by the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) to visit a circuit of schools across the Peninsula. While her classes often vary, the situation is usually the same: She's providing art classes that the students might not otherwise have.

When it comes to public education, music and the arts typically get the short end of the stick. The emphasis for schools is often on technical skills that hold the promise of higher test scores and a future career for students. This is the mantra behind the STEM education (that's science, technology, engineering and math) that seeks to funnel students into the Silicon Valley workforce.

CSMA instructors are quick to defend the value of an arts education as a crucial source of empathy and critical-thinking



skills. Even in a practical sense in the job market, an arts training complements many of the technical skills being promoted by educators. Statistically, students with more than three years of arts training score about 15 percent higher in creativity, 10.2 percent higher in compassion, and 7.2 percent higher in integrating skills and knowledge, according to research by California State University, San Marcos.

"An arts education helps students to synthesize and express themselves," said CSMA arts program manager Jennifer Mineer. "The whole point is to give them a diverse set of talents to express themselves with."

CSMA is one of seven nonprofit organizations serving Mountain View residents that benefit from the Voice's annual Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among the nonprofits and are administered by the Silicon Valley Community

Foundation at no cost, with 100 percent of contributions going to the recipients.

CSMA is helping provide music and art instruction at about 45 schools spread across 12 districts throughout the Peninsula. For more than 30 years, this instruction has provided a critical lifeline for an artistic education that might otherwise be eliminated from public schools.

Students participating in the CSMA program receive weekly art and music classes from kindergarten through fourth grade. Upon reaching fifth grade, each student chooses whether to further pursue music or art.

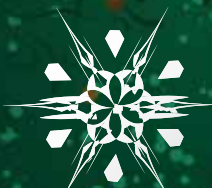
The actual amount of instruction time provided through CSMA varies at each school. Some schools sign up for weekly lessons, while others go for the minimum of 12 weeks. ■

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2018

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## New clinic opens in Monta Loma Plaza

WALK-IN CENTERS LAUNCHED BY SUTTER PROMISE FAST SERVICE FOR BASIC HEALTH CARE

By Kevin Forestieri

A Monta Loma storefront saw a big change in use last week when Sutter Health opened the doors to its latest Bay Area walk-in care center, replacing Ernie's Wines & Liquor and marking the latest turnover in the changing plaza.

The clinic, located at 580 N. Rengstorff Ave. adjacent to the recently opened Safeway, opened on Tuesday, Dec. 11, adding to a regional effort by Sutter to create a step-down from urgent and emergency care. Walk-in centers are intended for everyday health needs, including treatment for colds and the flu, screenings and vaccinations, giving patients an alternative to showing up in emergency rooms.

The health network has opened nine of these walk-in clinics in the Bay Area since last year. The Mountain View clinic is the latest addition and is the only location between San Jose and San Francisco along the Peninsula.

"We want to reserve emergency departments for complex and life-threatening illnesses, rather than having people with minor medical problems going there because they have no other option," Carolin Delker, Sutter's walk-in care clinical director, said in a statement. "At the same time, allowing patients to receive non-urgent care and vaccinations quickly, near where they live or work, should help free up doctor office visits for those with more serious issues."

As suggested by the name, appointments are not needed and patients are encouraged to drop in whenever is convenient for them. The clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., allowing people with inflexible job schedules to drop in before or after work. Although the storefront in the Monta Loma Plaza is pretty small, Sutter officials say all the clinics are equally staffed with nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

The clinic isn't well-suited for more serious illnesses, broken

bones and severe cuts and burns — that's still handled by urgent care clinics and emergency departments — but the hope is that an extra step-down option means fewer patients are putting off vaccinations, physical exams and less intensive treatments.

Other limitations include insurance — most insurance plans are accepted but it's still up to the patient to figure that out, and the flat out-of-pocket rate is \$129 per visit — and age. Parents of children under the age of 18 months are recommended to seek health care services from a pediatrician instead.

The change in tenants from Ernie's Liquors to the new Sutter clinic is the latest evolution for the plaza, where a relatively small Safeway opened up last year. Safeway replaced the former Fresh & Easy, which was only open for three years before the grocery store chain collapsed and shuttered its hundreds of locations. ▀

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

## POLICE STATION

► Continued from page 1

our current building allows us to do that."

While council members agreed to explore the idea of a total re-do of the police and fire building, Mayor Lenny Siegel said he had reservations of scrapping the old building entirely. Not only would it cost more, but it would disrupt the operations of essential city services without a clear alternative location to house them during construction.

"At this point I'm only interested in renovation or an addition," he said.

Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga said she was "very disappointed" that the city was moving so slowly to upgrade the public safety headquarters, noting that this was the third time since 2013 that she had been asked to weigh in on the design of the building with no real sense of progress since then. Regardless of whether it ends up

being a new building or a renovation, she said the city needs to pick up the pace and tap into whatever discretionary funds it needs to in order to finance the project.

The last time the council visited the plans was in April 2014, when Abe-Koga — eight months from being termed out of office — said she looked forward to seeing the project get built "as a citizen" rather than a council member. Abe-Koga was re-elected to the council in 2016.

City Manager Dan Rich told the *Voice* in an email that the council had picked an option to remodel the building back in 2014, but there was no clear source of funding at the time. The city had explored a sales tax or hotel tax to fund the construction, but it didn't poll well and wasn't guaranteed to clinch the required supermajority. Since then, Rich said the city's expected revenue from the Moffett Gateway hotel project has been

earmarked as a way to finance the public safety upgrades.

Given the need to continue police and fire services during construction, Rich suggested at the Dec. 11 meeting that the city may want to study building a new facility in other locations, like one of the city's downtown parking lots.

"Not to say there's another site that would work, but I think we should at least have that on the table," Rich said.

Running concurrently with the design of the future building, the Mountain View Police Department is scheduled in the coming months to do a "staffing study" to better pinpoint how many officers and other police personnel are needed amid the city's high growth projections. This information will help determine how the remodeled or reconstructed headquarters would best suit the department in future years. ▀

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

## CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

### PEDESTRIAN SERIOUSLY HURT IN HIT-AND-RUN

Mountain View police are searching for a suspect who fled the scene after hitting and seriously injuring a pedestrian last Thursday night, police said in a

press release Monday.

The driver hit the 52-year-old man at about 9:30 p.m. Dec. 13 in the area of Bryant Avenue and Shady Spring Lane, according to police. The victim was "possibly running in the area" when he was hit, police said.

The suspect had already left the scene by the time emergency responders arrived to find the

victim lying in the roadway with serious injuries.

Police are asking anyone with video, photos or additional information to contact Officer Mike Magana at [mike.magana@mountainview.gov](mailto:mike.magana@mountainview.gov) or 650-903-6344. Reference case number 18-07934.

—Bay City News Service

## Changes are coming!

- New Fares
- Clipper Cards Now Available at Ticket Vending Machines
- Two-Hour Fares



### New Adult and Youth Fares

Youth fares will now be \$1.25 and Adult fares will be \$2.50 for a single-ride on local bus and light rail.

Effective January 1, 2019

Single-Ride / Two-Hour Fares	SENIOR/ DISABLED/ MEDICARE		
	ADULT	YOUTH	
Bus, Light Rail	\$2.50	\$1.25	\$1
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Day Pass ◆	\$7.50	\$3.75	\$3
Express Day Pass	\$15	\$3.75	\$3
8-Hour Excursion Pass	\$5	\$2.50	\$2
Monthly Pass	\$90	\$35	\$30
Express Monthly Pass	\$180	—	—
Annual Pass Subscription	\$990	\$385	\$330
Express Annual Pass Sub.	\$1980	—	—

### Clipper Cards Available for Purchase in All Ticket Vending Machines

For your convenience, all Ticket Vending Machines will be able to dispense Adult Clipper cards by January 2019.

### Two-Hour Fares

Two-Hour fares are available to customers using a Clipper card or VTA's mobile fare app, EZfare. For two hours after the first tag on Clipper, or upon activating a Single Ride fare on EZfare, customers can transfer for free across VTA bus and light rail service (except express bus\*).

\*Express bus fare required for any trips that include express service.



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MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Raul Perez**, a resident of 2005 Rock St., adjusts a doily on the arm of his sofa.



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Adriana Tapia** stands on the balcony of her apartment at 2005 Rock St. She helped organize fellow residents of the building in protesting the loss of affordable rental housing in Mountain View.



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**The older apartments** at 2005 Rock St. are set to be redeveloped as for-sale rowhouses.

### ROCK STREET

► Continued from page 5

Despite the decision, tenant advocates are still hailing the meeting last week as a “wake-up call” for how the city considers redevelopment impacts.

Previously, city officials would essentially rubber-stamp developments that complied with zoning and building rules, but now they are pledging to look more at the human impact, said Daniel Saver, an attorney with Community Legal Services in

East Palo Alto.


“This has changed the nature of the debate,” he said. “For the first time in like six years, the council is starting to grapple with the impact of these demolitions on tenants.”

The question is whether the angry crowds that dominated last week’s council meeting will dissipate, or if that energy will shift to other city projects.

Jacqueline Cashen, a resident at the 2310 Rock St. apartments, said she fully expects the same kind of resistance when the council considers the project to redevelop her neighborhood. Developers should be expected to offset the hardship on displacing residents, she said.

“People are no longer going to just leave. Now we’re going to say, ‘OK, what are you going to give us in return?’” Cashen said. “The important outcome is now there’s a human face on all this demolition, and there’s a recognition on what’s happening to the character of the city.”

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



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

## 2018 Annual Water System Flushing

The City of Mountain View Public Services Division will begin its annual water system flushing program in October. Flushing will occur throughout the City and should be complete by approximately March 1, 2019.

Water main flushing is a process used to clear water lines of sand and sediment that may have accumulated during the last year and helps us provide high quality water. Signs and barricades will be posted in neighborhoods the day before flushing to alert residents. The flushing process accounts for approximately 0.1% of all water use in the City.

If you would like more information about the City’s water main flushing program or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood, please contact the Public Services Division at 650-903-6329.



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February 12



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LET'S DISCUSS:

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**DEL MEDIO**

► Continued from page 1

Under the city's rent control program, rents are normally allowed to increase by only the cost of inflation except in special circumstances. Those cases require landlords to prove that the routine costs of running their properties are lowering their profit margins.

In a hearing held in May, both Lindsay and her tenants presented their cases before Dalesandro in a meeting designed to resemble a court hearing. In her decision, Dalesandro rejected nearly all the claims made by Lindsay and her partners, saying they relied on faulty accounting and inflated expenses.

In August, Lindsay appealed the case to the city's Rental Housing Committee, which appeared to be more sympathetic to her complaints. The committee decided to bounce the decision back to Dalesandro, urging her to modify her ruling or provide more evidence to back up her decision. Ever since then, the case has been in a holding pattern as all sides waited to hear from Dalesandro.

In her new decision, Dalesandro doubled down, lambasting the Del Medio owners for failing to provide evidence to back up their claims. Listed expenses that they cited to justify higher rents, such as repaving a parking lot or elevator maintenance, were not supported by any financial records they provided, she wrote.

Lindsay did provide hundreds of pages of her own typewritten summaries of her expenses, but she did not provide any of the original documentation, such as checks or invoices, to back up her claims, Dalesandro wrote. She also disputed how the landlord calculated their management expenses, pointing out that about 20 percent of the property's revenues were being listed under this expense. The city's rent control policies allow only 6 percent to go toward management fees.

The Del Medio apartment owners have until next week to appeal the decision.

While the new decision is a victory for tenants, it also reinforces a frequent complaint made by critics that the rent control program's petition process is too slow and burdensome for landlords to use. In her public comments, Lindsay has complained that her rent increases sought for 2016 weren't processed for a decision until late 2018. City housing officials have been working on a simplified petition for landlords to use. ▣

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

# Peninsula Christmas Services



**Christmas Service**  
Sun, Dec 23, 9 & 11 AM

**Christmas Eve Service**  
Mon, Dec 24, 5 PM

Peninsula Bible Church  
3505 Middlefield Rd.  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
[pbc.org/christmas](http://pbc.org/christmas)



# Family Christmas Eve Service

**SANCTUARY**  
**7:00 PM**



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5:00 PM WITH PRELUDE CONCERT  
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10:00 AM – A sweet wonderful celebration of the day  
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[www.LosAltosLutheran.org](http://www.LosAltosLutheran.org)

## Christmas Eve Services at Stanford Memorial Church

Monday, December 24  
Free and open to the public.

### Christmas Family Service, 4:00 pm

Doors open at 3:00 pm and will close when church reaches capacity. Christian Interdenominational service. Children's sermon by the Rev. Dr. Libby Boatwright. The service also includes a Carol-sing and musical offerings by University Organist, Dr. Robert Huw Morgan. **Please bring new, unwrapped gifts of toys or clothing, which will be distributed to children in need.** Due to the popularity of this service, we ask that attendees arrive early and together with their group. Saving seats will not be allowed.

### Christmas Festival Communion, 8:00 pm

Doors open at 7:00 pm and will close when church reaches capacity. Christian Interdenominational service. Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Joanne Sanders, Associate Dean for Religious Life. An elegant Christmas Eve service glowing with candlelight and beautiful holiday music from The Choral Project, a community choir based in San Jose, and University Organist Dr. Robert Huw Morgan! Due to the popularity of this service, we ask that attendees arrive early and together with their group. Saving seats will not be allowed.

Both services will be broadcast live on KZSU 90.1 FM and online at [kzsu.live.stanford.edu](http://kzsu.live.stanford.edu).

Stanford | Office for Religious Life

[religiousoffice.stanford.edu](http://religiousoffice.stanford.edu)

# Christmas Services

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## LocalNews

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

up to 30 riders, to better meet demand during peak periods.

In another improvement, MVGo is launching a new mobile app, RIDEMVGO, to allow riders to track where each shuttle is along its route. Previously, this feature was only available for desktop users through the website mvcommunityshuttle.com.

Starting sometime early next year, the shuttle service will also be launching a new partnership with Lyft and Uber. The ride-sharing companies will offer discounted rates starting or ending in Mountain View from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Organizers are also looking at similar partnerships for carpooling with Scoop and WazePool.

The MVGo shuttle system is funded by Google and a coalition of other local companies through the Mountain View Transportation Management Association.

—Mark Noack

### HEALTH CARE DIRECTORS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

El Camino Healthcare District board members Gary Kalbach and George Ting took the oath of office last week, officially joining the district's board of directors and, by extension, taking a leadership role overseeing El Camino Hospital.

Board member Peter Fung was sworn in for his second four-year term.

Fung and Ting, both physicians, won handily in the election for the health care board last month, each holding a huge lead over former Mountain View City Council member Mike Kasperzak and former Sunnyvale City Council member Jim Davis.

Kalbach ran unopposed for a seat left vacant by former board member Neysa Fligor, who was appointed in 2017 and did not seek re-election in the November election. He was sworn in for a shorter two-year term.

Ting has a long history with El Camino, working as a nephrologist at the hospital for 40 years and specializing in treating patients in critical condition and in need of dialysis and transplants, according to a statement by the district. Kalbach, a Los Altos resident with a background in business and finance, has been involved in the hospital's committees since 2012.

Board members oversee the El Camino Healthcare District, which comprises Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, as well as parts of Sunnyvale, Palo Alto and Cupertino. It's a separate entity from the hospital corporation, and it receives tax dollars from district residents.

Despite the separation, health care district board members have the option — and always take the opportunity — to serve on the hospital's board as well. Ting was added to the hospital board's roster on Dec. 7, while Kalbach was previously appointed to the hospital board as an unelected member earlier this year.

### MONTA LOMA DIVES INTO CODING

Hundreds of students at Monta Loma Elementary recently participated in the annual Hour of Code event, getting early exposure to the world of computer science.

A local group of tech-minded teens, called Computer Engineers of the Next Generation (CENG), hosted coding sessions at Monta Loma on Dec. 5. While a couple of classrooms at the school have participated in the event in the past, this was the first year that the hour of code reached all of the school's 423 students, according to Alice Lee, a parent who helped organize the event.

Students participated in games that incorporated basic elements of coding through “drag-and-drop” commands, mimicking elements of popular games like Angry Birds and Plants vs. Zombies.

CENG club members, which include 15 Los Altos High School students, used the event and other initiatives — including free after-school coding classes throughout the year — as a way of encouraging underrepresented minorities to participate in coding.

Twenty-six Monta Loma students who have attended CENG classes acted as “junior mentors” for the Hour of Code event, teaching younger students about the event and assisting young children with the coding-style games.

—Kevin Forestieri

### NEW HEAD OF COUNTY PARKS

The Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation promoted its interim director to director on Dec. 11, the county reported.

Don Rocha, a Gilroy resident, joined the department as a park ranger 30 years ago and began serving as interim director after Robb Courtney's retirement in June.

Rocha has operated the park system and its programs, worked on implementation of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan and created the system's capital project budget plan.

“I'm looking forward to the future as we move toward accomplishing goals related to the recently approved strategic

plan,” Rocha said in a statement, describing his goal of bettering the parks system for a diverse county.

Rocha studied wildlife management at Humboldt State University, is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association, The Wildlife Society and many other environmental organizations.

—Bay City News Service

### PAMF SUED OVER FALSE MEDICARE CLAIMS

The U.S. Attorney's Office has joined a lawsuit against Sutter Health and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation accusing the health care providers of knowingly submitting wrong or inaccurate diagnosis codes for some Medicare payments, the U.S. Justice Department announced on Dec. 11.

The lawsuit alleges that Sutter and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation violated the federal False Claims Act by submitting inaccurate codes that inflated the “risk scores” of patients on the Medicare Advantage program, and enabled Sutter to reap greater reimbursements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees the Medicare program. The lawsuit also alleges that when the Palo Alto Medical Foundation became aware of these inaccurate diagnosis codes, it failed to identify and delete additional potentially inaccurate codes that would result in a higher payment to Sutter.

PAMF's locations include the Mountain View Internal Medicine Center at 701 E. El Camino Real in Mountain View.

Medicare beneficiaries have the option of enrolling in managed health care insurance plans called Medicare Advantage, also known as Medicare Part C. The plans are owned and operated by private Medicare Advantage organizations or MAOs. Medicare Advantage plans are paid a “per-person” amount to provide Medicare-covered benefits to the beneficiaries.

The Centers for Medicare adjusts the amount of the payment based on demographic information and the health status of each patient in the plan. A patient with more severe diagnoses has a higher adjusted amount, or “risk score.” The government makes a larger payment to the Medicare Advantage plan for that patient, according to the Justice Department. Sutter allegedly submitted the inaccurate diagnoses codes for their patients to the insurers, who then submitted the codes to Centers for Medicare.

As a contracted provider to the insurer, Sutter receives a share of

► Continued on next page

# On track for the holidays

Photos by Magali Gauthier



**Clockwise from top left:** John Bianco gave his father Ernie a model train starter kit in 1980, kicking off a collection that grew to over 100 train cars; a train passes through the house; decorations around the train tracks include figurines from Bianco family relatives in Des Moines; Dana Movshovitz-Attias and daughter Maya watch the trains at the annual holiday display at 2387 Adele Ave. in Mountain View on Dec. 18. The trains run Tuesday-Sunday from 6-9 p.m. through Christmas Eve.



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 16

the payments to the insurers from Centers for Medicare.

The lawsuit was filed under the qui tam, or whistleblower, provisions of the False Claims Act, by Kathleen Ormsby, a former employee of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation. The False Claims Act permits private parties to sue on behalf of the government for false claims and to receive a share of any recovery.

U.S. Attorney Alex G. Tse said in a statement that the government's participation in the lawsuit illustrates a commitment to protect the integrity of the Medicare Advantage program.

Jody Hunt, assistant attorney general of the Department of Justice's Civil Division, said, "Today's action sends a clear message that we will seek to hold healthcare providers responsible if they fail to ensure that the information they submit is truthful."

In an emailed statement from Sutter Health, company officials said, "Sutter Health and PAMF are aware of the matter and take the issues raised in the complaint seriously. The lawsuit involves an area of law that is currently unsettled and the subject of ongoing litigation in multiple jurisdictions. We intend to vigorously defend ourselves against the allegations in the complaint."

—Sue Dremann

## STAFF

► Continued from page 6

staff position in Campbell. Like Kong, he also previously worked as a KPMG accountant.

While the finance department is having a relatively smooth transition, other departures at City Hall lack replacements to immediately fill the vacancies.

Such an absence is being felt by the city's economic development team following last month's departure of its director, Alex Andrade, who had been with the city for five years. Last month, Andrade accepted a job as economic development director for Milpitas.

Similar turnover of leadership

is playing out at the city's Planning Department, which provides oversight and review of the city's red-hot development market. In October, Randy Tsuda, who headed the city's Planning Department for 10 years, announced he was leaving to join the nonprofit Palo Alto Housing.

Earlier this year, the city clerk and librarian stepped down, both of whom have already been replaced.

Assistant City Manager Audrey Ramberg, who leads human resources for the city, described the departures as a growing issue for cities across the region. Many senior city executives are reaching retirement

age simultaneously, and in some cases cities are scrambling to find qualified, younger candidates to replace them.

"This is becoming a real challenge for local governments as the baby-boomer generation works its way through the professional pipeline," she said. "A lot of people entered the workforce around the same time and now they're entering the end of their careers."

Santa Clara and San Mateo counties have partnered to form a "Next Generation Committee" to encourage more students and prospective candidates to seek government jobs. ■

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

# Viewpoint

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■ YOUR LETTERS

■ GUEST OPINIONS

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## Not just technology of the past

LOOK TO EUROPE FOR PROOF THAT URBAN RAIL IS RELEVANT

By *James Kempf*

With respect to Mountain View Councilman John McAlister's comment in your article this week on express lanes — in which he said rail is the “technology of the past” (“Express lanes will extend into North County starting next year,” Dec. 14) — I recommend he try Googling “S Bahn” or “Pendeltag.” These are urban rail systems in Europe — the S Bahn in German cities and the Pendeltag in Stockholm — that move hundreds of thousands of commuters a day in comfort.

The trains are fast and run frequently on limited access rights of way, but stop less frequently than light rail so they get to their destinations much more quickly. The stations are strategically located near industrial parks and other areas where lots of people work and live. Stockholm in 2017

completed an upgrade of its urban rail system that remodeled some stations in the urban core, and Germany also continues to invest in its urban rail systems. Sometimes, the tracks run underground through the densely built parts of the city, but just as often they run above ground outside the urban core in the suburbs. The trains run on standard gauge track and use stock equipment — not like BART, which requires expensive, custom-built equipment and a wider gauge track.

In other words, they are much like Caltrain.

So why does the Highway 85 policy advisory board only consider light rail or car-pool lanes as options for the median strip? Here's another suggestion: Run a Caltrain line up the median from just south of the Blossom Hill station, where Caltrain crosses under 85, to Mountain View. Build the stations like BART stations with large parking

garages, but terminate the line at the North Bayshore industrial park, and run a branch from the San Jose to San Francisco line there too. Caltrain has been the poor stepchild of the Bay Area public transportation scene for far too long. It's about time transportation policymakers wake up and realize how valuable it could be if there was only some decent investment in it.

McAlister and the Highway 85 policy advisory board are just using the disappointing performance of light rail in San Jose as an excuse to continue doing nothing, hoping at some point that either the public caves in and they get to put in toll lanes, or that podcars, self-driving cars or Elon Musk's Hyperloop show up and rescue the Valley from perpetual gridlock. But no technology moves more people more quickly than urban rail, and waiting another 30 years for some magic solution to appear is no plan.

*James Kempf lives on Foxborough Drive in Mountain View.*

## Guest Opinion

## ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### ROCK STREET APARTMENTS

I can't understand why the City Council wouldn't demand for higher density (and change parking requirements), given our housing crisis and this location's proximity to Google (“City approves razing Rock Street apartments,” Dec. 14). Asking for higher density wouldn't hurt developer profits, but would make the displacement of existing residents less repugnant.

Kicking out existing poorer MV residents to build even fewer homes for richer future residents. Sad — there exists a more innovative solution than this.

*Christopher Chiang  
Space Park Way*

### TAKE ACTION

In the past, humans have had a tendency to focus on ourselves, but here in the Silicon Valley, we need to make a change and remember the roots we came from to protect our environment. I have had the amazing opportunity to complete a stewardship program with an organization based here in the Silicon Valley called Grassroots Ecology. Grassroots Ecology is a nonprofit involved in habitat restoration. They utilize the power of passionate volunteers to create healthy lands across Silicon Valley. The main focus

is to restore native plants to open spaces while educating the volunteers on our ecosystems.

Furthermore, Silicon Valley provides a habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, but at the same time there are over 3 million people living here as well. Because of this, there are some challenges: increased flood and fire risk, degraded and fragmented habitat, contaminants in our soil and waterways, and the proliferation of invasive species at the expense of biodiversity.

I support Grassroots Ecology because I strongly believe that humans have a responsibility to take care of the environment we have inhabited. In the past, not everyone has understood this, but if us humans destroy the environment and habitats of the environment that were here before us, we are destroying the homes of thousands of helpless plant and animal species. I believe that you should support this cause, because although Grassroots Ecology has a good number of volunteers every year, just imagine the changes and improvements we could make if the people of Mountain View could rise together and protect our home, the home we share with thousands of species.

*Rachel Clark, Mountain View High School sophomore, Los Altos*

### LANGUAGE MATTERS

Your article entitled “Dozing Tesla driver arrested for suspected DUI” (Dec. 7) paints a radically different picture than the facts described in your article. As you report, three CHP vehicles were required to surround the Tesla in order to get the car to stop, as police were unable to attract the driver's attention with patrol car lights and sirens. You report that the driver was “unresponsive” during these attempts, and that “it took them awhile to wake him up.” You further report that the driver failed a field sobriety test and was arrested. The last three paragraphs of your story highlight the superlative social qualifications of the driver: Los Altos residency, planning commissioner, co-founder of a luxury hotel chain, and principal of a real estate investment firm.

This is an individual who endangered the lives of others by getting behind the wheel of a car while intoxicated and then passing out while the car was on the road. “Dozing” feels like a qualification reserved for the stories about the protected strata of our society, namely those wealthy enough to pass out drunk in their Tesla Model S cars.

I wonder how the language in your story might have changed

had the driver been black, brown, or an immigrant?

And I wonder how this individual will fare in our court systems relative to similar offenses committed by those driving older-model Hondas?

Language matters and I am angered by the misleading and skewed attributions in this article.

*Lisa Rogan  
Begen Avenue*

### BIKE CAR SEATING

I think it's awesome Caltrain is electrifying and buying more cars to increase planned capacity, but I hope Caltrain considers improving the rail car design beforehand to have seating within view of bikes.

I never sit out of view of my bike when on Caltrain because it is so easy to steal a bike from the train. Many of my fellow commuters feel the same and so the result of the current rail car design will be congestion within the train from people standing by their bikes, which I believe they are entitled to do. Either that or people will start locking their bikes, which will slow everything down when it comes to getting on and off. I would be one of those people standing near my bike.

*Sarah Edwards  
San Mateo*

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Happy camper

CHEF-DRIVEN CAMPER BRIGHTENS THE MENLO PARK DINING SCENE

Story by Dale F. Bentson | Photos by Veronica Weber

In case you haven't heard, no insect repellent is needed at Camper restaurant in Menlo Park. They don't serve s'mores or roasted weenies and patrons need not arrive in Airstreams.

It's not that kind of camper. In this case, Camper is a homonym for "happy camper" — the convergence of experience and skill and making diners happy. That's the restaurant's goal, according to chef-partner Greg Kuzia-Carmel and managing partner Logan Levant. On each of my visits, I left a happy camper.

Camper is the latest incarnation of 898 Santa Cruz Ave. LB Steak preceded it and Marché before that — all good restaurants but a bit too formal and pricey for everyday consideration. Camper isn't inexpensive but it is in step with today's prices for casual-upscale dining and has a neighborly vibe.

The idea for Camper germinated at a mutual friend's

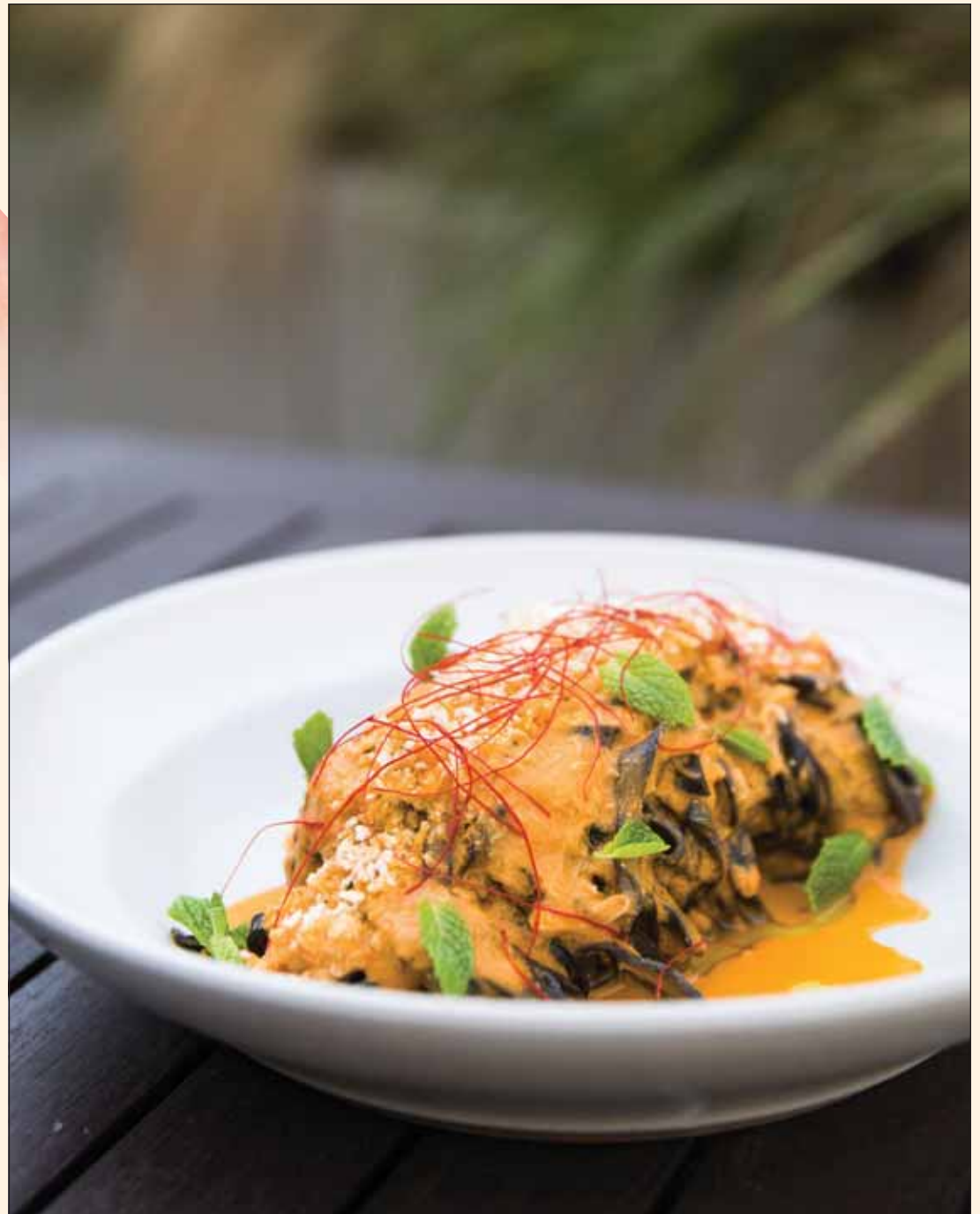
dinner party where Levant and Kuzia-Carmel met. Add Roland Passot of the Left Bank restaurants and La Folie in San Francisco as a silent partner, who had an interest in the departed LB Steak, and the enterprise was born.

Kuzia-Carmel, who grew up in upstate New York, started cooking to earn some extra money while in high school. He discovered his calling and has since cooked in Michelin-starred restaurants in Spain, Per Se in Manhattan and Quince in San Francisco.

Levant's background was in public relations, but for over 10 years she owned and operated the acclaimed Buttercake Bakery in Los Angeles. She also co-authored the cookbook "The Kitchen Decoded."

They overhauled the 4,000-square-foot space into an efficient contemporary

► See **CAMPER**, page 20



The housemade squid ink tagliatelle at Camper in Menlo Park is served with Dungeness crab and a tomato cream sauce.



Greg Kuzia-Carmel, partner and executive chef, and Logan Levant, managing partner, sit in the main dining room.



Camper sits on the corner of a key downtown Menlo Park intersection that recently was home to LB Steak.



*Eggplant is served with babaganoush, quinoa and mojo de ajo.*



*The dining room decor is spare but not spartan.*

## CAMPER

► Continued from page 19

restaurant with 72 indoor seats, about 100 on a patio and a private dining room that seats up to 50. Spare but not spartan, industrial hard surfaces of wood, metal, and quartz were softened with pillows, pendant lanterns, a colorful backlit bar and outdoorsy artwork on the walls. Camper is inviting, a glowing gem box on the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue

and University Drive.

For starters, the chicken and dumpling soup (\$11) featured floating gnocchi, dill, carrots, celery and Cipollini onions. The broth was flavorful, the gnocchi yielding and luxurious.

The creamy burrata (\$17) from family owned Di Stefano Cheese was surrounded with braised artichokes, sunchokes, dried chicories and speckled lettuce.

Pork and duck terrine (\$9) with toasted pistachios was a



*The burrata is drizzled with saba and served with artichokes and bitter greens.*

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Camper offers a full bar.

nice balance of fatty and meaty, served with toast, coarse mustard and pickled vegetables.

La Quercia acorn-fed jamon (\$12) was a handsome plank of the best Iowa ham, possibly the best in the U.S. Not quite Iberian quality, but Menlo Park is much closer than Barcelona.

Chef-driven restaurants are obsessed with finding the best

quality ingredients. Kuzia Carmel has used his relationships with specialty growers in Northern California to source the freshest and finest, and because of that, his menu is ever evolving.

Of the main dishes, I loved the suckling pig (\$37) with butter beans, fava beans, Cipollini onions, dandelion greens and



The Tuscan-style short rib is smoked and stewed, then served over a bed of creamy polenta.

pear. The pork was fork tender and the beans mimicked the creamy texture of the meat.

The skewered Rosa Bianca eggplant (a rosy-lavender Italian heirloom globe-shaped eggplant) was accompanied with babaganoush on a bed of quinoa and flavored with mojo de ajo za'atar — like a salsa verde with more herbs (\$22).

The homemade squid ink tagliatelle (\$24) with Dungeness crab, ginger, chili and tomato cream was a luxurious layering of earthy and elastic, silky and savory.

The overnight braised and smoked Tuscan-style short rib (\$40) with creamy red corn polenta, spring onions and carrots was bit chewier than I expected but succulent, and the polenta was dreamy good.

No toasted marshmallows but Camper's desserts were worth saving room for. The brûlée sweet corn grits with roasted fruit and sweet cream gelato (\$9) was a tad too grits-y for my companion but she loved the fruit and ice cream.

The caramelized milk jam pudding with chantilly cream and pecans (\$9) was so good I considered ordering a second. The apple crisp (\$9) with oat crumble and sweet cream gelato was a delight. Black walnut and chocolate gelatos (\$10) were dense and buttery.

In all, Camper offers a focused menu that still allows for plenty of choices for vegetarian and gluten-free diners.

DINING NOTES

Camper

898 Santa Cruz Ave.,  
Menlo Park  
650-321-8980  
campermp.com

Hours: Lunch: Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Dinner: Monday-Saturday, 5-10 p.m. Closed Sunday.

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While there were several cabernet sauvignons, the wine list tilted toward less ponderous varietals such as pinot noir, sangiovese, zinfandel, merlot and Rhone blends that pair well with the chef's fare.

Service was excellent on my visits. I commend the restaurant for its strong staff in these days when staffing is a major issue in restaurants everywhere.

Camper is another welcome, chef-driven, high-quality addition to the local restaurant scene. It is easy to foresee Menlo Park and environs filled with happy campers. ▣



The caramelized milk jam pudding is served with pecans and a dollop of chantilly.

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a guide to the spiritual community

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MOVIE OPENINGS



COURTESY OF ANNAPURNA PICTURES

Christian Bale and Amy Adams portray former Vice President and Second Lady Dick and Lynne Cheney in "Vice."

## Cheney day blues

'VICE' DISSECTS GEORGE W'S SHADOWY V.P.

★★★1/2

(Century 16 and Century 20 starting Tuesday)

At one of many turning points in the historical drama "Vice," Lynne Cheney protests to her husband, Dick, not to pursue a job offer. "The Vice President is a nothing job," she says. "Hmm," he replies.

"Vice," written and directed by Adam McKay, proceeds to lay out the true story of how former Vice President Dick Cheney wrote his own ticket as V.P. under President George W. Bush, wreaking havoc around the globe in pursuit of power, profit and patriotism.

With a well-researched, legally vetted original screenplay, "Vice" proves as strikingly original in form as Oliver Stone's "JFK." McKay embraces his background in sketch-comedy as an essential component of his voice, boldly committing to a handful

of satirical sketches that play out across the otherwise dramatic narrative of Cheney's life story and political career.

More importantly, McKay enlists his "Big Short" star Christian Bale to play Cheney. Bale's canny and uncanny performance nails Cheney's speech pattern and facial expressions but also holds the complex humanity of a loving husband and father capable of compartmentalizing to the nth degree. Aided by a 45-pound weight gain and prosthetics designed by Oscar-winner Greg Cannom, the 44-year-old Bale astonishingly embodies Cheney from age 22 to age 71.

We first see Cheney drunk driving home after a bar brawl in 1963 Wyoming; jailed for his second DUI, the Yale dropout subsequently faces the music from fiancée Lynne (a fiery eyed Amy Adams). At this first

turning point, Cheney promises to shape up before Lynne ships out. Five years later, Congressional intern Dick finds a mentor in Donald "Rummy" Rumsfeld (Steve Carell), who laughs off Cheney's sincere query "What do we believe in?"

McKay tracks Cheney through his appointment as the youngest chief of staff in U.S. history (for Gerald Ford), his stint as a congressman for his home state (highlighting his ultra-conservative voting record), and his fateful tenure as vice president under George W. Bush, essentially skipping past Cheney's time as Secretary of Defense under George H. W. Bush and as CEO of Halliburton.

In the film, 9/11 sets the stage for Cheney's masterpiece of power-grabbing. McKay contemplates how horrible things happen to innocents half a world away based on decisions discussed casually in a "squat, little ugly building" while an overworked and underpaid, easily distracted, if not disinterested, citizenry largely fails to question the gathering storm of the Iraq War or to notice the attendant civil and human rights violations of the War on Terror, from warrantless surveillance to "enhanced interrogation" torture.

If democracy dies in darkness, McKay's heavy-handed symbolism feels like a direct gambit to shine a light on his fact-sourced account for the benefit of a broad audience. "Beware the quiet man..." goes the anonymous epigraph, and McKay returns consistently to the image of Cheney the fly fisherman, patiently standing alone in a lake as he reels in fish after fish to feed his family, and perhaps his ego, using his hard-won skills. The final

climax constitutes a montage of Cheney's "heartless" decisions juxtaposed to the moment when he was literally heartless in an operating room.

Recent Oscar-winner Sam Rockwell makes a fine George W., but Carell is even better with a squinty, smiling, slimy Rumsfeld so spot on as to elicit an iota of sympathy along with our antipathy.

All in all, "Vice" offers Hollywood history that's equal parts funny and horrifying in its high-stakes political gamesmanship, with so many souls (including

those of the Cheney family) in the balance. Although the basic facts are unassailable, political perspectives will disagree on McKay's conclusions. Either way, McKay dares what no one else has with a wide-release Hollywood film: put in the glaring spotlight the top-notch political operative and tenacious survivor that is Dick Cheney, along with the unfortunately still-relevant unitary executive theory that was his most dangerous tool. *Rated R for language and some violent images. Two hours, 12 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

NOW SHOWING

- A Star is Born (R) ★★1/2** Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
  - Aquaman (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Ben is Back (R) ★★1/2** Guild Theatre: Fri.-Sun.
  - Bohemian Rhapsody (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Bumblebee (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (2018) (PG)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
  - Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (PG-13)**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
  - The Favourite (R)** Century 20: Fri.-Sun. Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.
  - Free Solo (PG-13)** ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Green Book (PG-13) ★★1/2** Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
  - Instant Family (PG-13) ★** Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
  - Mary Poppins Returns (PG)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Mary Queen of Scots (R)** Aquarius Theatre: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
  - Meet Me in St. Louis (1944) (Not Rated)** Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.
  - Mortal Engines (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - The Mule (R)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Once Upon a Deadpool (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) ★★★** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Second Act (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - The Shop Around the Corner (1940) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.
  - Spider-man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
  - Welcome to Marwen (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.
- Aquarius:** 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) [tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa](http://tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa)
- Century Cinema 16:** 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View [tinyurl.com/Century16](http://tinyurl.com/Century16)
- Century 20 Downtown:** 825 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City [tinyurl.com/Century20](http://tinyurl.com/Century20)
- CineArts at Palo Alto Square:** 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For information: 493-0128) [tinyurl.com/Pasquare](http://tinyurl.com/Pasquare)
- Guild:** 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (For recorded listings: 566-8367) [tinyurl.com/Guildmp](http://tinyurl.com/Guildmp)
- ShowPlace Icon:** 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View [tinyurl.com/iconMountainView](http://tinyurl.com/iconMountainView)
- Stanford Theatre:** 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) [Stanfordtheatre.org](http://Stanfordtheatre.org)

# Employment

### Corporate Strategy Manager

Coursera, Inc. has following opportunities in Mountain View, CA: Corporate Strategy Manager: Monetizing strategy, product strategy, financial planning, and guidance of new business model development. At least 20% travel required: domestic and international.

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

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit [www.mv-voice.com](http://www.mv-voice.com) and click on movies.



# GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

## HIGHLIGHT

### THEATREWORKS SILICON VALLEY PRESENTS 'THE SANTALAND DIARIES'

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents the holiday-themed "The Santaland Diaries." Written by David Sedaris, directed by Jeffrey Lo and starring Max Tachis, this show will have a limited three-week run. Through Dec. 23, times vary. \$45, discounts available for students and subscribers. Lohman Theatre, 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. theatreworks.org

## THEATER

**'Into the Woods'** Los Altos Stage Company presents "Into the Woods," a musical that combines the stories of several fairy-tale characters to show what happened after their "happily ever after" storybook tales ended. Through Dec. 23, times vary. \$20-\$41. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org/into-the-woods

**TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Presents 'Tuck Everlasting'** TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents a showing of "Tuck Everlasting." The play tells the story of a young girl who meets a family who has found immortality and must decide between returning to her life or choosing immortality as well. Through Dec. 30, times vary. \$40-\$100. Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

## MUSIC

**Open Mic Music Wednesdays** Musicians and poets can share material appropriate for all ages. Performers must be 21 or older. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos Tasting Room, 366 Main St., Los Altos.

## FESTIVALS & FAIRS

**Winter Solstice Night Bike Ride** GreenTown Los Altos will host an 8-mile winter solstice night bike ride. The ride will start at Peet's in Los Altos, make its way to "Christmas Tree Lane" in Palo Alto for a view of the lights, and return to Los Altos with a stop for hot chocolate on the way back. Dec. 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Peet's Coffee, 367 State St., Los Altos. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

## MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

**'Blackboard'** "Blackboard" brings together works that imitate, resemble or feature a blackboard, to consider the relationship between art and education. The "blackboards" on view interrogate schooling, authority, literacy, form and color. Through Jan. 27. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**The Dancing Soweï: Performing Beauty in Sierra Leone** This exhibition focuses on one spectacular work in the Cantor's collection — a soweï mask, used by the women-only Sande Society that is unique to Sierra Leone. Ongoing until December; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays-Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursdays 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**Do Ho Suh: The Spaces in Between** In this exhibition, artist Do Ho Suh uses a chandelier, wallpaper and a decorative screen to focus attention on issues of migration and transnational identity. Through Feb. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**Kahlil Joseph: 'BLKNWS'** Kahlil Joseph, a visiting artist in the new Presidential Residencies on the Future of the Arts program, is presenting his work "BLKNWS," a two-channel video projection that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship and cultural critique. Through June 16, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**'Painting Nature in the American Gilded Age'** The Cantor Arts Center's exhibition considers how nature was depicted by American artists from the 1880s to 1910, an era of unprecedented industrialization and urban development. Through landscapes, portraits and still lifes, the exhibition delves into the importance of nature for artists and the public. Through Aug. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**'Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!'** The museum presents a variety of antique toys that belonged to children in the past. This exhibition covers the origins of playtime, toy factories, toy trains, builder toys and more, and aims to evoke childhood memories over the decades. Through Feb. 17, times vary. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

**Anderson Collection Public Tour** The collection hosts docent-led public tours five times a week. Ongoing until December 30; Wednesdays 12:30 p.m., Saturdays 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. and Sundays 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Free. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

**BayLUG's 15th Annual Holiday Show** BayLUG's 15th Annual Holiday Show will be showcasing holiday scenes in a miniature LEGO city. This event is family friendly. Through Jan. 13, Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$3. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto.

**Christmas Gifts from Yesteryear on Display in Historic Home** The Los Altos History Museum opens a holiday-themed exhibit, "Presents from the Past: A Look Back at Christmas Gift-Giving," featuring a collection of vintage toys, shaving mugs, children's books and other items. On display in the historic J. Gilbert Smith House, trimmed in 1930s holiday decor. Through Jan. 6, Thursdays-Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org/events/presents-from-the-past

**Juana Briones** Juana Briones was a 19th century woman who overcame personal, economic and political struggles to become a successful entrepreneur, healer, advocate and landowner. The Los Altos History Museum brings her story to awareness in its bilingual exhibit "Inspired by Juana: La Doña de la Frontera." Through March 31, Thursdays-Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

**Gallery 9 Holiday Show** An extended all-gallery show will feature unique and affordable fine art paintings, jewelry, photography, woodwork, mixed media, sculptures and ceramics. Through Dec. 23, times vary. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. gallery9losaltos.com

## DANCE

**'It's a Wonderful Nutcracker'** Menlowe Ballet presents "It's a Wonderful Nutcracker." Set in the 1940s, this ballet combines "The Nutcracker" and "It's a Wonderful Life" into one show. Dec. 21-23, times vary. \$29-\$62.

Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. menloweballet.org

## FILM

**Film Screening: 'Herb & Dorothy 50 x 50'** Anderson Collection at Stanford University will host a screening of "Herb & Dorothy 50 x 50." The film follows art collectors Herb and Dorothy Vogel, who made one of the largest gifts in the history of American art by giving a total of 2,500 artworks to museums in all 50 states. Dec. 27, 6 p.m. Free. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

## SPORTS

**Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis: Free and Fun Exercise** The Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis Club invites seniors 55 and older to bring a racket and pair of tennis shoes to play table tennis. Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free, suggested \$1 donation. Cubberley Community Center, Gym B, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

## RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

**Christmas Eve Family Service** Memorial Church will hold a Christian interdenominational service with a children's sermon. The service also includes carol singing and musical offerings by university organist Robert Huw Morgan. Attendees should bring new, unwrapped gifts of toys or clothing and arrive early to get seats. Doors open at 3 p.m. and close when space is full. Dec. 24, 4 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

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