

# Mountain View VOICE



JANUARY 18, 2019 VOLUME 26, NO. 52

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**A reviewer's  
farewell**  
WEEKEND | 17



MAGALI GAUTHIER

## LET A LAPTOP BE YOUR UMBRELLA

*It wasn't a good week to leave home without rain gear, but for one man walking downtown on Castro Street on Tuesday, Jan. 15, a MacBook Pro got the job done. If only he'd been on a hoverboard, the moment would have achieved maximum Silicon Valley.*

## Two newcomers picked to join rent control committee

PARDO DE ZELA APPOINTED TO FULL TERM

By Mark Noack

The Rental Housing Committee, which administers the city's complex rent control program, will be getting two new members. At its Jan. 15 meeting, the Mountain View City Council picked Susyn Almond, a business consultant, as the rental committee's newest full member.

Another addition to the committee will be Nicole Haines-Livesay, a compliance manager with Merrill Lynch, who was selected to fill the committee's alternate seat. Meanwhile, Julian Pardo de Zela, an employment law attorney who previously served as the committee's

alternate and was appointed to fill Tom Means' vacated seat in September, was appointed to a full term.

Those selections were made after the City Council conducted about two hours of interviews to vet the pool of candidates.

Of the seven applicants, Almond in particular impressed the council with her knowledge of the city's rent control law, known as the Community Fair Rent and Stabilization Act (CSFRA).

"I believe in a thoughtful and caring implementation of the CSFRA; the Rental Housing Committee has to serve the entire community, including its stakeholders," Almond said.

"Because of my varied housing experience, I have compassion for the plight of tenants and housing providers. I get along with diverse personalities and remain calm under pressure."

Asked what she would change if appointed, Almond pointed to the committee's approved standards to guarantee that apartment owners can still earn a fair rate of return under rent control. She indicated that this standard shouldn't be based on inflation and should be reconsidered. The petition process meant to address exceptional cases also needed to be revisited, she said, pointing out that it had a reputation for

► See **COMMITTEE**, page 14

## NASA employees brace for prolonged shutdown

By Mark Noack

For the 1,200 federal employees at NASA Ames, the full brunt of the federal shutdown hit home last week.

Last Friday, Jan. 11 was payday — or more precisely, it would have been payday if not for the mandatory furloughs for its non-essential federal workers. For the first time since the partial government shut down last month, the civil servants at Ames missed out on their usual paycheck, and that spells bad news for NASA's talent pool.

Plenty of workers must now pay their mortgages, student loans or routine bills without their usual income streams. And those debts will quickly start compounding, said Janette Rocha, a NASA accountant who also serves as chief

steward for the Ames Federal Employee Union.

Describing her own situation, Rocha said she is the main provider for her family, which includes two grandchildren with special-needs, and her husband, who can't work due to a pulmonary disease. But financially, she counts herself as fortunate when compared to the hardships faced by her colleagues.

"We have workers who can't feed their kids, and it could be a month or two months before we get paid," Rocha said. "We're being held hostage for a border wall that won't work."

The federal shutdown began on Dec. 21 due to a political impasse over a spending bill to fund most government operations. President Donald Trump

► See **NASA**, page 13

## Auto burglaries, car thefts on the rise

CRIME DATA FOR 2018 SHOWS  
DIP IN RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY REPORTS

By Kevin Forestieri

Reports of stolen vehicles and car break-ins rose in Mountain View in 2018 while residential burglaries took a dip, according to preliminary data released by the Mountain View Police Department.

The mixed property crime trends for the city come amid a small increase in reports of some violent crimes, police said, including robbery and a range of assault charges.

While the numbers are still subject to change as final police reports roll in from December, the department's tally shows

622 auto burglaries occurred in Mountain View in 2018, a 12 percent increase over last year and the highest number in at least a decade. As in the past few years, car burglaries are increasingly concentrated in specific parking lots and areas of the city.

The Century Cinema 16 parking lots in North Bayshore are one example. About one in six of the reported burglaries in the entire city, 102 cases in total, took place in the theater's parking lots in 2018, according to crime tracking website CrimeReports. This includes a burglary

► See **CRIME**, page 12

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*Judy & Cindy*

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## THE BOGARD-TANIGAMI TEAM



# Voices

AROUND TOWN

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Angie Wang

Have you or a loved one experienced the effects of the government shutdown?



“As of right now, the primary concern is tax returns. I know there’s been some concerns of tax returns not coming back on time.”

**Max Mattich**, Mountain View



“No. I work for the city, and there’s nothing that really affects me.”

**Daniel Chang**, San Jose



“Indirectly, because my father is a veteran, and he gets his medical care through the VA.”

**Karin Jeffery**, Mountain View



“I don’t have any family here. Everybody’s at home in India. This government shutdown hasn’t affected me ... as yet, but I’m wondering (if) it might.”

**Rahul Patle**, Mountain View



“My family went on an international trip in the past two weeks, and we had a lot of troubles with the airports and the different airlines that we flew on.”

**Ronni Kurzion**, Mountain View

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**CRIME BRIEFS**

**FIRING INTO OCCUPIED APARTMENT**

A Mountain View man suspected of firing a handgun in an occupied apartment and crashing his truck in an attempt to flee has been arrested, according to police.

The 34-year-old man reportedly got into an argument with a relative in a home in the 100 block of Calderon Avenue around 10:20 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 14, when he fired a handgun, police said. No one was injured, but the man's wife and child were inside the apartment at the time, the Mountain View Police Department said in a statement Wednesday.

Shortly after the incident, the man reportedly left the Old Mountain View complex in a white Ford truck, which he then crashed a short distance away near the intersection of Pioneer Way and Dana Street. Police say the man ran back to the apartment, where he was detained by officers.

Officers found the gun, which he reportedly discarded along a wall near a creek running adjacent to the apartment complex, according to police.

The suspect was arrested on suspicion of shooting in an inhabited dwelling, battery, assault with a firearm, child endangerment and carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

**ATTEMPTED HOME INVASION**

A Mountain View man suspected of inappropriately touching women in downtown Mountain View was arrested Wednesday, Jan. 9, after he reportedly tried to barge through the door of a woman's home, police said in a statement.

The victim told police that she had heard a loud pounding on the door of her home, located on the 500 block of Central Avenue, around 5:20 p.m. and couldn't see who was outside because the

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 14

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## Maggie Nelson

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Photo by Tom Atwood

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- 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/8
- 800 block California St., 1/9
- 200 block View St., 1/9
- 600 block W. Dana St., 1/9
- 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/10
- 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/10
- 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/10
- 100 block E. El Camino Real, 1/11
- Castro St. & W. Dana St., 1/11
- 1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/11

900 block W. Middlefield Rd., 1/12

**CRIMINAL THREATS**

700 block Mercy St., 1/11

**GRAND THEFT**

1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/9

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

- 500 block Central Av., 1/9
- 2700 block Diercx Dr., 1/11
- 500 block S. Rengstorff Av., 1/12

**ROBBERY**

600 block Showers Dr., 1/10

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/11
- 800 block San Simeon Dr., 1/12

**BATTERY**

- 1300 block Grant Rd., 1/9
- 500 block Central Av., 1/9
- 200 block Castro St., 1/12

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

- 200 block Ravendale Dr., 1/12
- 900 block W. Middlefield Rd., 1/12

**VANDALISM**

- 900 block San Leandro Av., 1/8
- 2600 block California St., 1/12

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**LOCAL CHARITIES EXPAND HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE**

An newly expanded gift drive by local charity organizations provided presents for nearly 800 local children over the holidays. The drive was part of a new collaboration between the Community Services Agency (CSA) and Hope's Corner to help provide their clients with extra services during they holiday season.

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 8



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**The Mountain View Voice** (USPS 2560) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto CA 94306 (650) 964-6300. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto CA and additional mailing offices. The Mountain View Voice is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Mountain View. Subscription rate of \$60 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mountain View Voice, 450 Cambridge Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



MAGALI GAUTHIER

*Lisa Matichak will serve as Mountain View's mayor this year.*

## Matichak takes the reins

NEW MAYOR PLEDGES TO PROTECT QUALITY OF LIFE, LOCAL CONTROL

By Mark Noack

Mountain View is a city stuck in a paradox — never before has the city seen such prosperity, yet rarely has it seen such poverty. Amid large city budget surpluses, soaring corporate profits and rising property values, anyone walking down Mountain View's streets can easily find signs of hardship: homelessness, struggling small businesses, and housing prices that seem to defy logic. The schizophrenic side of Silicon Valley is right at home in Mountain View.

This is the situation Lisa

Matichak is stepping into as she takes the reins as Mountain View's new mayor. For 2019, she knows that her chief challenge will be striking the right balance on issues including housing, transportation and homelessness.

Soft-spoken, smart and always smiling, Matichak, 62, sees her role as tempering the city's progressive ambitions, ensuring that Mountain View's politics and growth don't compromise what makes it special. She said she wants to maintain the city's "quality of life," admittedly a catch-all term with many shades of meaning. For her, this

includes a sweeping range of priorities: preserving the historic downtown and its urban tree canopy; providing ample parks and open space; and preventing the disruption of traffic, noise and squalor.

Matichak explained that it comes down to a simple rule of thumb.

"Day to day, is it easier or harder to live in Mountain View?" she said. "People felt that the City Council hasn't been listening to their residents, and I would say that's on a variety of different topics."

► See **MATICHAK**, page 8

## Seven arrested following string of apartment mail thefts

SUSPECTS LOOTED ENTIRE MAILBOX BANKS LATE AT NIGHT WITH COUNTERFEIT KEYS

By Kevin Forestieri

A lengthy investigation into a major mail theft operation led to the arrest of seven South Bay suspects in recent months, some of whom are connected with the looting of entire mailbox banks in apartment complexes in Mountain View.

The investigation stems from a series of burglaries last year, where thieves struck four apartment complexes — two on El

Camino Real, one on San Antonio Road and another on Castro Street — in the early morning hours, according to a Monday statement by the Mountain View Police Department. The suspects reportedly used counterfeit U.S. Postal Service "master keys" in order to open locked mailbox banks and steal the contents, stuffing it into empty duffel bags.

When asked whether the string of mail thefts were part of a coordinated effort, police

spokeswoman Katie Nelson said the suspects knew one another, and called the people who stole the mail "prolific" thieves.

Arrests in connection to the mail thefts took place over the course of several months, and were not made exclusively by the Mountain View Police Department. On Oct. 27, Santa Cruz County sheriff's deputies arrested a 25-year-old San Jose woman

► See **MAIL THEFTS**, page 12

## Volatile market eats into El Camino Hospital budget

HOSPITAL'S INVESTMENTS TOTAL NEARLY \$1BILLION

By Kevin Forestieri

Massive fluctuations in the stock market are taking a toll on El Camino Hospital's finances, a sign that the record-breaking years of investment earnings may be coming to an end.

But despite the latest budget documents showing the local Mountain View hospital lost money on its nearly \$1 billion portfolio, El Camino is still turning a profit. And hospital officials say they're inclined to take a conservative approach, and don't expect to pull out of investments right before a predicted recession or market correction.

The hospital's financial report for October — the latest to date — paints a pretty bleak picture. The hospital's operating income turned a \$8.7 million profit for the month, but was wiped out by a \$34.3 million loss in "non-operating income," referring to the hospital's investments.

That's because El Camino Hospital, a nonprofit corporation, invests large sums of "surplus cash" into an investment portfolio that earns — or in this case, loses — money each year. This pool of invested money has grown dramatically over the last five years, from about \$500 million to nearly \$945 million as of Sept. 30 last year. That means fluctuations in the market are going to have a big influence on the hospital.

Not surprisingly, the bad news in October tracks alongside significant drops in the major stock market indices, which shed anywhere from 5 to 7 percent in value. Future reports released by the hospital are unlikely to look a whole lot better: Despite several big swings, the market has declined overall since Nov. 1, and a plunge in December is going to look grim on the hospital's December budget sheets.

Iftikhar Hussain, El Camino's chief financial officer, said it's true that the hospital's investments took a big hit last year, but that

it's important to take a long-term view rather than get hung up on any one period's performance. It's worth remembering, he said, that the 2017-18 and 2018-19 fiscal years both returned \$60 million each to the hospital's earnings.

"Keep in mind that we're having a bad year this year, but a bigger point really here is, over the long term, you're getting a greater return," Hussain told the Voice. "It's only an issue if you're immediately trying to get money out, and if you start timing the market you are taking a really speculative position."

Pavilion Advisory Group, hired to monitor El Camino's investments, does note several factors that could take a toll on the hospital's portfolio. Global economic growth is slowing down, "emerging markets" are facing turmoil tensions over trade and tit-for-tat style tariffs on goods are among the factors that could drive down the market, according to the consultant's November report.

Hussain said he believes the hospital's investments are in good hands, and that El Camino has a "very sophisticated" roster

of members on its investment committee that is monitoring what changes, if any, need to be made in order to adjust to the new market landscape.

El Camino has a board policy on the books for what to do with its so-called surplus cash, which states it ought to be "prudently invested with a focus on preserving the liquidity and principal necessary to meet known and reasonably unforeseen operational and capital needs." In other words, invest the money until it's needed to upgrade facilities or offset red ink. It's then up to the investment committee to review the risk tolerance for investing that money, with an overall goal of being "sufficiently diversified in order to reduce volatility."

Hussain acknowledged that nearly \$1 billion in surplus

► See **EL CAMINO**, page 13

# The generational feud behind the housing crisis

NEW BOOK QUESTIONS BOOMERS' ROLE IN RESTRICTING HOUSING

By Mark Noack

If you're looking to point fingers, the Bay Area's housing crisis has plenty of blame to go around.

There are the neighbors who fiercely oppose low-income apartments. And then there are the cities that cling to a halcyon past of suburbia. There are the developers who create new housing only for the highest earners. Even journalists are guilty for sometimes blowing petty grievances out of proportion, ignoring the larger housing shortage. Throw in feckless politicians, government funding cuts and poor legislation, and you now have a full cast of villains.

But what if the real story of the housing crisis actually comes down to a conflict playing out

between generations? Author Randy Shaw makes the case that the severe housing shortage playing out in California and a host of other U.S. cities can be pinned squarely on the baby boomer generation.

In his new book, "Generation Priced Out: Who Gets to Live in the New Urban America," Shaw argues that boomer homeowners have severely restricted secure housing for younger generations, particularly for millennials. He believes this generational divide hangs over the housing scarcity in countless municipalities throughout the country, but it is particularly pronounced in large



Randy Shaw

left-leaning cities along the coast. "When did it become acceptable for America's politically progressive and culturally diverse cities to price out the non-rich?" he writes.

In contrast to many other post-mortem accounts of the Bay Area's housing woes, Shaw does not agree that gentrification and steep rent increases are inevitable outcomes. He presents a variety of measures that cities could have taken to preserve their working and middle-class populations.

Shaw, who lives in Berkeley, has been involved in Bay Area housing politics for nearly 40 years and co-founded the Tenderloin Housing Clinic and the San Francisco news site Beyond Chron. He will be speaking about his new book at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24, at Mountain View's Books Inc.

The following Q&A interview of Shaw was lightly edited for style and clarity.

**What led you to pursue this book?**

"It was really the Ghost Ship fire where 36 people died. I was stunned. Oakland used to be the affordable alternative to San Francisco, but now Oakland has even priced out the bohemians and artists. The fact that so many people were living in an unsafe situation said to me that there's something seriously wrong with how our progressive, blue cities are dealing with their housing policies. The same problem could be said for San Francisco, Los Angeles, Austin or Portland."

**Why are rents spiking across the Bay Area and across the U.S.?**

"All these cities have similar exclusionary zoning policies. What I mean is in most of these cities, you can't get an apartment building built in many if not most neighborhoods. And if you can't build apartments, then you can't build housing for the working or middle-class.

"All these cities artificially restrict their housing supply. This drives up rents and home prices. Neighborhood groups in most of the over dozen progressive cities I write about in the book fight vigorously to prevent new housing from getting built. And they have long been successful at the expense of pricing out a new generation."

**You describe the Bay Area's housing crisis as largely being a generational struggle between the boomers and millennials. How did you come to this conclusion?**

"In virtually every city I write about, it's the boomer homeowners who bought homes when it was cheaper who now want to

prevent new renters from living there. A lot of these neighborhoods now have this incredible anti-renter bias. The irony is that apartments were built in these neighborhoods prior to zoning changes starting in the 1960s, and it wasn't perceived that they were hurting the neighborhood character.

"Today, a millennial in San Francisco has to pay \$3,500 for one-bedroom apartment, and that's on top of their student-loan debt. So it's really become a generational conflict, and it's true for almost every city I came across."

**Why do you believe boomers resist new housing development?**

"Boomers are looking out for their self-interest. They don't want more cars parking on the street or more people. They engage in this make-believe thinking that if they prevent people from living in their neighborhood then they don't have to be concerned with where those priced out end up living. Even if that means a long daily car commute to their jobs.

"That's the hypocrisy, especially in cities like Berkeley. Most residents consider themselves environmentalists but they don't account for the long car commutes they are causing by denying infill housing. One hundred-twenty thousand people commute daily from Sacramento to the Bay Area, as they have moved 90 minutes away from their jobs in search of housing they can afford. Yet many boomer environmentalists do not account for these anti-green impacts of opposing infill housing; they feel that as long as they drive a Prius they are doing their part."

**How did it happen that U.S. cities in the 1970s almost simultaneously began restricting new housing?**

"There's two reasons. Many neighborhoods created zoning barriers to non-white families after strict racial restrictions were struck down by courts in the 1960s. For example, Austin changed zoning to limit development to large lot sizes so that African-Americans couldn't use their G.I bill to buy property there.

"The second reason was a backlash to the urban renewal projects that bulldozed neighborhoods in the 1950s and '60s. It led activists to demand a say in what happened in their neighborhoods, which as I describe in the book was a very good thing at the time. Looking back now, in Berkeley, which passed the nation's first Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance in 1973, residents said they didn't want "ticky-tacky apartments." Today, neighborhood "input" is

used to prevent any apartments from being built."

**There's a number of new top-down remedies to the housing crisis being proposed by the state — the CASA Compact or mandatory approval for housing near transit — what's your take?**

"Localities have failed to alter the exclusionary zoning laws that are so destructive to the younger generation. Given that situation, I would say the state has no choice but to come in. When I hear localities complain about losing local control, my response is that this local control is worsening our housing and homelessness crisis.

"In Silicon Valley, you have many cities that approve very little housing while still adding thousands of jobs. They're not making any effort to prepare for where these workers are going to live, and its caused housing prices to rise in San Francisco and Oakland. When cities continually export their housing demand to other cities, the state has to step in."

**What role do you see for development fees, zoning restrictions and environmental rules in restricting housing construction?**

"I wrote an op-ed for the San Francisco Chronicle ([tinyurl.com/mvvgen18](http://tinyurl.com/mvvgen18)) about how the city's housing approval process delays and even kills many projects. The process takes years and subjects builders to multiple public approval hearings before very political bodies. Any member of the public can pay \$617 to delay a project for discretionary review, and they don't have to even have to live nearby. In Seattle, projects do not require Planning Commission or City Council approval; it gets projects approved twice as fast and Seattle builds twice as much housing."

**But don't these fees and regulations make housing more expensive to build?**

"Anytime you set financial exaction without a proper study, it could be a wrong number. And changing economic times can require an increase or decrease in exaction amounts. Some believe inclusionary housing — which mandates a percentage of affordable units in private developments — discourages housing. But as noted above, the approval process and rising construction costs are far more impactful. I promote inclusionary housing in "Generation Priced Out" because such laws give the working and middle-class their only chance to live in high-opportunity, already gentrified neighborhoods. This promotes diversity and inclusion, which progressive cities say they support."

► See **HOUSING CRISIS**, page 10

Mountain View Whisman School District

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# Housing plan splits elected leaders

CASA COMPACT AIMS TO PROMOTE NEW HOUSING, OVERRIDE LOCAL AUTHORITY

By Gennady Sheyner

A sweeping package of proposals to preserve and expand the Bay Area's housing stock by passing new renter protections, loosening zoning restrictions and expediting the approval process for residential developments is making its way to the state Legislature despite a flurry of opposition from local leaders, many of whom decry the proposed policies as unfair, anti-democratic and potentially counterproductive.

Known as the "Casa Compact," the plan was hashed out over an 18-month period by a committee created by the regional agencies Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which focus on housing and transportation policies. The Casa Steering Committee, whose roster includes area council members, developers, planners, union leaders and representatives from large employers such as Google, Facebook and Genentech, voted unanimously on Dec. 12 to approve the new document. The MTC

board followed suit with its own approval, by an 11-4 vote, on Dec. 19. The ABAG executive board is expected to follow suit shortly.

Proponents of the plan are describing it as a 15-year "emergency policy package" for confronting the Bay Area's housing crisis. The preamble to the document notes that since 2010, the Bay Area has added 722,000 jobs but constructed only 106,000 housing units, a discrepancy that has caused housing prices to go through the roof, spurred more homelessness and exacerbated the transportation crisis by forcing more employees to commute from other regions.

The Casa Compact includes 10 elements that aim to address these challenges but that, in doing so, would impose policies that have already proven to be highly contentious or unpopular at the local level. These include a policy requiring landlords to cite "just causes" for eviction and to provide relocation assistance to tenants who experience no-fault evictions, such as when the property owner wants to move in, the unit is deemed unsafe or it is removed from the rental market.

Another element calls for capping annual rent increases at 5 percent plus the consumer price index. A third would guarantee free legal counsel and emergency rent assistance to low-income tenants.

Other elements focus on new housing. One calls for requiring automatic approval of accessory-dwelling units (also known as in-law or granny units) in all residential zones. Another would institute "minimum zoning" within a quarter mile of rail stations and ferry terminals, which would allow residential developments up to 55 feet tall (or 75 feet tall if they obtain density bonuses). In areas within a half mile of bus stops, the new law would allow for residential buildings up to 36 feet tall. In both cases, the element makes an exception for "sensitive communities," those made up predominantly of low-income residents who face a greater threat of displacement from the up-zoning policies. These communities would be granted a three-year deferral period so that they can plan for the proposed growth.

The compact also calls for an expedited approval process for housing projects that comply with

zoning, with exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act and a limit of one year and three hearings before approval.

Steve Heminger, executive director of MTC and ABAG, told the Casa Steering Committee last month that these policies are "trying to tune up the housing-production delivery machine, which I think it's fair to say is leaking plenty of oil these days and is not producing with sufficient speed, with sufficient certainty, the kind of new housing stock that we need."

The compact also includes two elements pertaining to funding, one calling for \$1.5 billion in annual revenues to support the Casa Compact through some combination of contributions from taxpayers, developers, employers, property owners and local governments. (It does not proscribe a particular financing method but creates a menu of options.) Another would establish a new entity called the Regional Housing Enterprise to levy fees, pursue new taxes, disburse funds and oversee new housing programs.

The compact does not, in itself, establish these policies. But by approving it, members of the Casa Committee hope the state Legislature would take the document and pass legislation that

implements some, if not all, of its suggestions.

In voting to approve the compact on Dec. 12, Steering Committee members characterized it as a necessary, if imperfect, compromise. Michael Covarrubias, president of TMG and one of the chairs of the Casa committee, said the elements in the compact reflect proposals that, for the most part, had already been proposed but that failed to advance in the past year.

An effort to strengthen rent control fizzled when voters opted in November not to repeal Costa-Hawkins, the state law that limits cities' powers to impose rent control. Legislation pertaining to just-cause evictions and accessory-dwelling units similarly failed to advance in the last session, while Scott Wiener's proposed Senate Bill 827 got "beat up."

"All these children have been waylaid by the side of the road," Covarrubias said. "So what we said was, 'If we'd put them all together and we don't let them break apart and we give them to the Legislature, which is the body that will take it down the freeway, there is a shot.'"

Several committee members expressed reservations about particular elements, though none

► See **HOUSING PLAN**, page 10



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## MATICHAK

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Matichak could be in store for a year of walking the political tightrope, as many ongoing issues appear to be reaching a crescendo. Like her colleagues, she voices support for housing growth in the city while also sending signals that other Peninsula cities need to step up and do more. However, she is extremely wary of a variety of statewide proposals that would impose compulsory policies, forcing cities to mutually address the housing shortage. She said she expects protecting local control to be a top priority for 2019.

What scares Matichak most is the so-called “Casa Compact,” a Bay Area-tailored package of emergency housing and transportation policies that is poised to head to the state Legislature in the coming weeks. Among its policy proposals, the compact would require approval of denser, taller apartment buildings near transit hubs. Accessory or “granny” units would be automatically approved in residential zones, and cities would be required to swiftly approve compliant housing projects. Some elements of rent control and just-cause eviction protections could also be implemented across the region.

Matichak and other City Council members believe these policies would amount to a double punishment for Mountain View. Since Mountain View has already made sacrifices to promote housing growth, these state proposals would result in the city having to lower its standards, demanding fewer concessions from developers.

“We’ve done a good job of balancing development with improving our infrastructure, and I don’t want to lose that,” Matichak said. “Our city revenues could be negatively impacted because we won’t be able to work with property owners and developers when they want to go above and beyond.”

Another political balancing act for Matichak will be her approach toward the city’s homeless population, particularly the hundreds of inhabited vehicles parked on public streets. Matichak has gone several times on police ride-alongs to interact with people living out of their cars, and her takeaway is that the city should step up its enforcement and parking restrictions. She supports the idea of creating more safe parking sites, but she does not believe the city needs to wait for this before restricting vehicle dwellers from parking. Other cities need to share the burden, she said, pointing out that under the current system

neighboring cities are essentially offloading their homeless onto Mountain View.

City staff is currently working on a menu of options for tighter parking restrictions, such as stricter time limits and vehicle height limits.

“At this point, I don’t know what works best,” she said. “It is important that we have an alternative. I’m under the impression that we’ll be able to accommodate more RVs (in safe parking lots) in the not-too-distant future.”

In her professional life, Matichak cut her teeth as a business analyst for McKinsey & Company, where she worked for more than a decade. She later transitioned to a variety of managerial roles at tech firms, including Hewlett Packard, Symantec and Bromium. Most recently as of 2016, she began working as a marketing consultant for Amazon.

In tandem with her career, she became heavily involved in Mountain View civic life. Her involvement began around 2007 with joining her neighborhood association in the Wagon Wheel district. At the time, the association was focused on residents’ concerns about a 64-unit housing project at 450 N. Whisman Ave. She later was appointed to the city’s planning commission, and her tenure was marked by similar concern toward the disruption caused by aggressive housing growth.

Matichak has maintained that she is not opposed to housing per se, but rather that any development must not detract from the well-being of current residents. She credits that approach to ultimately producing better developments that jibe with the city’s character.

In 2014, she made an unsuccessful bid for City Council, running on a platform of improving city services, particularly public safety, transportation and parkland. But she opposed sanctioning new housing development in the North Bayshore area, a stance that likely led to her being penalized by voters at the ballot box, she later acknowledged.

She shifted her position two years later, pledging she would help implement the residential growth in balance with a suite of new services. In that 2016 election, she emerged as the leading candidate, winning the most votes out of a field of seven candidates, including three incumbent City Council members.

In recent months, her political life has eclipsed her professional one. Last year, she decided to take a sabbatical from her consulting work to focus on her role in city government. An early riser, she wakes up before dawn on most mornings to begin the

day with a hike at Rancho San Antonio Park south of Los Altos, she said.

Matichak’s colleagues from both her professional and civic life tout her capability and knack for getting things done.

“Lisa is a team player who establishes great relationships with her colleagues ... she paints a vision for her team and gives them the freedom to do their jobs,” said Brent Remai, the chief marketing officer for Amazon Web Services, who has worked with Matichak for about 10 years. “She’s a problem-solver who overcomes obstacles to get the job done. I’m sure she will do great things for Mountain View as mayor.”

The Matichak trifecta of priorities comes down to intelligence, no nonsense, and a focus on residents, said Robert Cox, her former colleague on the Planning Commission.

“She cuts through deceptive and misleading aspects of proposals to get to the bottom of their true effect,” he said. “She is a fierce advocate for the residents of our city, putting their interests above those of big money and other lobbyists for special interests.”

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

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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On a weekend last month, the two nonprofits hosted a giveaway event, inviting local families to come by for a variety of crafts and refreshments. Parents could browse a selection of toys to pick out gifts for their children. Families were also provided with a holiday bag filled with groceries.

About 320 families reportedly participated in the festivities.

—Mark Noack

## SIMITIAN VOTED PRESIDENT OF COUNTY SUPES AGAIN

Supervisor Joe Simitian was re-elected Tuesday to head the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors as its president.

The Board voted unanimously for Simitian’s second term, also reelecting Vice President Cindy Chavez. Simitian and Chavez were the only supervisors nominated for the roles in December.

Simitian will continue being in charge of assigning supervisors to committees and approving agendas, while also heading the county’s Health and Hospital committee and the Federal Affairs Advocacy Task Force.

—Bay City News Service



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## HOUSING PLAN

▶ Continued from page 7

actually opposed the compact. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf suggested that “sensitive areas” (including large parts of Oakland) be given more time and resources to plan adequately. Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese said he was concerned about the prospect of “revenue displacement,” the flow of local revenues to regional sources. He was less concerned about the issue of local regulatory control, which he called “pretty minor.”

Dave Regan, president of SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West, went a step further and made a case for more top-down regulation.

“The housing situation in California is a massive public policy failure,” Regan said at the Dec. 12 meeting. “All of these comments about how we need more ‘democracy’ — that’s what provided this problem. And saying we need years more of this is going to make it more intractable, not less intractable, because every day there are more people in tents.”

The compact has won the support of some elected leaders, including Schaaf, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and San Francisco

Mayor London Breed (all three sat on the Casa Steering Committee). Yet the push for more state regulations has also galvanized pockets of oppositions, with many mayors of smaller cities and towns submitting letters that bemoan their own lack of involvement in the discussion. By imposing these policies, critics maintain, the package of laws threatens to upend existing efforts by cities to promote housing.

Palo Alto Councilwoman Liz Kniss, a vocal housing advocate who served as mayor in 2018, was among those who urged the MTC not to endorse the Casa Compact.

“Unfortunately, adhering to a Casa Compact, created without our city’s involvement, would circumvent this public, community process,” Kniss’ letter states. “Additionally, the compact does not appear to take into consideration the local land use laws of each Bay Area city, the plans each city has in place to meet its housing needs in the near future, or the housing needs of the residents in each city.”

She is hardly alone. In a letter, Sunnyvale Mayor Glenn Hendricks slammed the compact’s “one size fits all policy” and took issue with the document’s proposed funding strategies,

particularly its call for diverting 20 percent of property tax growth across the region, a policy that he argued would “result in significant cuts to core services in every Bay Area city.” A letter from Cupertino complained about “minimal outreach to local governments” and “pre-emption of local control over zoning regulations, inclusionary requirements and design review.”

In Los Altos, the council took a stand against the compact, arguing that its funding strategies are “not feasible” and that it “overstates the benefits of transit-oriented development and the ability of transit systems to truly accommodate the increased density.”

Anita Enander, a member of the Los Altos City Council, spoke out against the compact at the Dec. 12 meeting of the Casa Steering Committee. She called the package of proposals a “massive Band-Aid that doesn’t address root causes” and an affront to local control.

“If you think local governments will welcome being relieved of having to deal with housing proposals, if you think we want a mandated ministerial approval process with setbacks and height limits and incentives mandated by law, you are wrong,” Enander said. “The people elected us to

make that decision. It’s our job.”

Jeannie Bruins, a Los Altos councilwoman who represents north Santa Clara County cities on the MTC, was part of the dissenting minority. The biggest concerns that she’s been hearing from the cities, she said, pertained to insufficient outreach and funding. Many believe money will flow from their governments to the three largest Bay Area cities, she said.

She also noted that some of the policies that the Steering Committee had embraced are proving less popular at the local level, as evidenced by the 2018 election in which several council members who supported aggressive pro-housing policies (including Lenny Siegel in Mountain View and Cory Wolbach in Palo Alto) were voted out.

“We all want to be part of the solution, but what we ended up with was that anybody who had any inkling for supporting housing or for supporting trying to deal with and addressing homelessness ... those are incumbents who lost their seats,” Bruins said. “The time to engage the cities is today, while you still have people sitting on councils who really want to be part of the solution, before you have those people replaced by people who are more in line with the NIMBYs.”

## HOUSING CRISIS

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## Why is this issue important for you?

“As a boomer who supports more infill housing, I’m in the minority. Unfortunately, many boomers that were able to afford cities now deny similar opportunities to a new generation. There’s something really wrong when teachers cannot afford to live in the cities where they teach, and where working people must commute long hours because they are priced out of cities with the best jobs. We have given homeowners way too much power to control what happens in their neighborhoods. My hope is that boomers increasingly realize they can’t say ‘not in my backyard’ without very negative environmental implications; many are also realizing that banning housing prevents their children and grandchildren from living nearby.

“I wrote ‘Generation Priced Out’ because I feel that cities are failing young people by maintaining elitist zoning policies that reduce rather than expand housing affordability. Cities can open up housing opportunities for the working and middle-class — it is a question of political will.”

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## Bullis Charter may be spread across three LASD campuses

By Kevin Forestieri

In just a few short weeks, the Los Altos School District will need to figure where to put 200 students already enrolled in Bullis Charter School and in need of classroom space by August.

The exact details are still to come, but school board members generally agreed at a board meeting Monday that the children will likely need to be housed in portable classrooms at an elementary school somewhere in the district. The charter school is already divided across two campuses, and this would split it into three separate locations as it continues to expand.

In November, Bullis Charter School officials announced they intended to increase enrollment to 1,200 students over the next three years, which means the current arrangement may no longer be sustainable. The charter school's 915 students currently are housed on portions of the Egan and Blach junior high school campuses, but the campus is already pretty cramped at both sites. Making matters worse, Blach is within a floodplain and requires a significant investment to put down even temporary portable classrooms, according to Assistant Superintendent Randy Kenyon.

Bullis' enrollment growth is spelled out in a formal request for facilities filed in November through the Proposition 39 process, which requires school districts to provide "reasonably equivalent" facilities to charter school students who reside within the district's boundaries. The Los Altos School District is obligated to find a classrooms to house 1,058 of the 1,105 students enrolled for the 2019-20 school year.

The district has to make an offer to the charter school by Feb. 1, leaving district officials less than three weeks to draft a detailed plan, Kenyon said.

Some board members used the meeting as an opportunity to vent about the short timeline and what they described as a unilateral decision by Bullis to grow at a fast and unpredictable rate. Board member Bryan Johnson said dropping portables at another school site seems like the only immediate-term solution to the charter school's growing enrollment, a Band-Aid fix that no one is going to be happy with. Board member Steve Taglio took the triage approach and said that the district should put Bullis' additional classrooms at a school

site that would place the least burden on any district school or community.

Traffic mitigation came to the fore as a prime concern for both board members and parents who spoke at the meeting. Given that the charter school draws students from all over the district who are more likely to be driven to school, any elementary school that accommodates Bullis Charter School could see a traffic snarl during pickup and drop-off times. Parent Alison Biggs said she lives close to Santa Rita Elementary School, but traffic is already too dangerous around her house near Egan for her children to walk to school.

Oak Elementary parent Sara Payne said a huge number of kids at her school — close to a quarter of the student body — bike to school, and that a huge increase in cars would make it difficult for those students to safely walk and bike.

"We have a lot of kids on the road," she said. "The more traffic you bring into the neighborhood roads, the more dangerous you make it for the kids trying to get to and from school."

Another parent suggested that Bullis could agree, as a part of the facilities negotiations, that the school require charter school students to take a bus.

Board members showed little appetite for Bullis' request for the "exclusive use" of all 20 acres of the Egan Junior High campus. Johnson said the charter school could have asked for something more reasonable, and that the school district can't move 600 displaced junior high school students to an "imaginary" site that doesn't exist by fall.

Board member Vladimir Ivanovic said Bullis Charter School has reached a point of "uncontrolled growth" by deciding to increase enrollment to 1,200 students without consulting with anyone, and that it's unclear if it will stop there, speculating that it could increase to 1,800 students or beyond. Ivanovic said he felt Bullis will always demand more from the district, making it all the more important not to cede any ground.

At the same time, Ivanovic said that Bullis' leadership has fought against increasing the district's available facilities through the acquisition of a 10th school site in the San Antonio neighborhood of Mountain View. He implied it was a vindictive act in response to the district's decision to close Bullis-Purissima School in Los Altos Hills in 2003, which sparked the creation of Bullis

Charter School, and that charter school officials won't be satisfied until the district is forced to shutter a school to accommodate Bullis.

"It's my belief that BCS will not be satisfied with any solution that does not include the closing of an LASD school," Ivanovic said. "I think BCS wants their pound of flesh from us."

A 10th school site could end up being a long-term solution, but certainly won't help anytime soon. Kenyon said the earliest the district could open the doors on a new school in Mountain View is the 2023-24 school year. And even then its usefulness may be limited: School board members agreed last month that Bullis could only be moved to the San Antonio school if it offered enrollment preference to students in the surrounding neighborhood — Mountain View residents who live within LASD boundaries.

The staff report for the Jan. 14 board meeting states Bullis had not agreed to placement at the 10th site with a neighborhood preference. Bullis board president Joe Hurd said the statement is inaccurate, and that the charter school's board of directors has not taken a formal stance on the issue. He said the district has yet to reach out to the charter school's leaders to even solicit their opinion.

The lack of communication appears to go both ways — Johnson said the charter school has not put forward a proposal for its growth plans and could have attended the Jan. 14 board meeting.

In order to solicit community feedback, the district planned to hold a "public input" session on Wednesday evening. Board members emphasized that they are seeking suggestions from the public on how to accommodate Bullis Charter School's projected enrollment growth, which will likely require a minimum of 12 classrooms by the 2021-22 school year.

Additionally, an outside group called Creative Facilities Solutions met on Tuesday in the social hall at Hillview Community Center in Los Altos. The group is not associated with the district, but had an architect available to talk about the district's ability to "maximizing existing land." Over the last year and a half, the group has sought to come up with alternatives to buying a 10th school site in Mountain View. ▣

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## CRIME

► Continued from page 1

spree in November where thieves smashed the windows of 18 vehicles on a Friday night, stealing everything from clothes to laptops.

The number of reported auto burglaries in the downtown area, specifically the two closest blocks to Castro Street, also rose sharply last year, more than doubling from 147 from 60 last year, according to the website. Though dispersed throughout the downtown corridor, the highest concentration in any one spot was the public parking lot in the 800 block of Bryant Street.

The small In-N-Out Burger parking lot on N. Rengstorff Avenue, frequently a target due to its close proximity to Highway 101, had 72 reported burglaries in 2018. Last month was far



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**The public parking lot in the 800 block of Bryant Street was a popular target for auto burglars in 2018, according to Mountain View Police Department data.**

and away the worst month for auto burglaries in recent years, exceeding 100 reported thefts.

Perhaps the starkest change from last year is the rise in stolen vehicle or attempted stolen vehicle reports, which shot up by nearly 62 percent from 105 in 2017 to 170. Vehicle thefts were generally reported from

residential areas north of El Camino Real and were far less likely to occur in commercial or retail centers.

The number of residential burglaries decreased in 2018 by 12.7 percent, from 180 cases to 157, while the number of commercial burglaries increased slightly, from 118 cases to 125.

CrimeReports shows the neighboring Palo Alto Police Department received reports of 95 residential burglaries and 137 commercial burglaries over the same year, though the comparison isn't perfect — Palo Alto has thousands fewer housing units than Mountain View.

In terms of violent crime, robberies and attempted robberies were up compared to 2017, from 46 reported cases to 55, and a mix of assault charges — ranging from battery to assault with a deadly weapon — increased from 283 reported incidents to 298, according to police.

Arrests for drug sales or possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell were down in 2018 and primarily took place at Shoreline Amphitheatre. Arrests for sale of a controlled substance halved from 10 cases in 2017 to five last year, while cases of

possession with intent to sell dipped from 17 to 14 cases.

While local law enforcement officials have been hesitant to attribute crime trends to any one particular cause, a police report published last year noted that Mountain View is not immune from broad Bay Area crime trends, and that the city — like other jurisdictions — is facing an increase in property crimes like auto burglaries.

“Suspects who quickly target unattended valuables make it difficult to suppress these crimes, but there has been some success with arresting offenders, to include the prosecution of sophisticated gang members,” according to the 2017 annual report. “Preventing these crimes has also been a priority for our community engagement strategy.”

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## MAIL THEFTS

► Continued from page 5

following a vehicle pursuit, and found her in possession of mail from a complex on the 800 block of W. El Camino Real in Mountain View, along with a counterfeit master key.

The next arrest came more than two months later on New Year's Eve, when a 39-year-old San Jose woman was arrested by Mountain View police for trying to buy gift cards with a stolen credit card at the CVS near the San Antonio Shopping Center. She was accompanied by a San Jose man, also 39, and both were allegedly in possession of more than 100 pieces of stolen mail from a complex

at the 500 block of San Antonio Road. The pair was found in possession of over half a pound of methamphetamine and several counterfeit driver's licenses, police said.

Three days later, a 31-year-old Milpitas man was found skulking around an underground parking garage on the 2200 block of Showers Drive peeking into parked vehicles. Officers detained the man, and said he had mail from the same San Antonio apartment complex.

The latest arrests in the investigation came on Saturday, Jan. 12, when officers spotted a gold Mercedes that matched the description of a vehicle connected to a mail theft at an

apartment complex on the 1600 block of W. El Camino Real. Officers pulled over the 41-year-old San Jose suspect, and found she had counterfeit mailbox keys, “shaved” keys and a significant amount of stolen mail and credit cards.

The United States Postal Inspection Service, the postal service's law enforcement division, has filed multiple charges against several of the arrested suspects, police said. Postal Inspector Jeff Fitch told the *Voice* that information on specific charges and the division's involvement in the case is not being released because the investigation is ongoing. More broadly, Fitch said California has seen a statewide increase in mail

thefts over the last several years.

During the Saturday arrest, police ended up making two incidental arrests. The first came after officers noticed the 41-year-old suspect was receiving multiple calls on her phone from a 34-year-old San Jose man police that police recognized as a wanted suspect connected to multiple residential burglaries, police said. Officers set up a perimeter in the area and later found the man walking on a footpath near Mariposa Avenue and detained him.

Nelson said those two suspects are related to the larger mail theft case, but did not provide further details explaining the connection.

While apprehending the

residential burglary suspect, police noticed a “suspicious” vehicle, a black Chevrolet Tahoe, easing past on El Camino Real. Officers pulled the driver over and found she was suspected of vehicle theft and had a felony warrant out for her arrest. She was arrested, and a search of her car turned up methamphetamine, methamphetamine pipes and “several” items indicating she may have committed identity theft, police said.

Nelson said the department is not disclosing certain details in the active investigation, including how the suspects got a hold of counterfeit postal service master keys and the specific apartment complexes that were targeted. The specific dates of the mail thefts were also not immediately available.

Suspects were arrested on suspicion of a broad range of theft and drug-related charges including identity theft, burglary, possession of stolen property, impersonation and conspiracy to commit a crime. The suspects found with a half-pound of methamphetamine face charges of sale of a controlled substance and possession with intent to sell.

Police are still searching for additional mail theft suspects, and are urging residents to pick up their mail daily and be vigilant about suspicious people loitering near mailboxes. Anyone who believes mail has been stolen can report it to police by calling the department's main number, 650-903-6344.

Residents can also report stolen mail to the Postal Inspection Service's 24-hour hotline at 1-877-876-2455.

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

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NASA

► Continued from page 1

has refused to sign the bill because he insists it must include \$5.7 billion for a wall on the Mexico border.

On Thursday, Jan. 10, the Ames union set up a temporary relief station out of a hotel room near Moffett Field. Through the day, furloughed workers streamed in to pick up \$100 checks to help pay for groceries, gas or other expenses. Essentially, the union was giving back the employees some of their dues. It wasn't much, but every little bit helped, Rocha said.

For members who need extra help, the union had also organized a no-interest loan program through the Menlo Survey Credit Union. Other organizations, including the Community Services Agency, are urging federal employees who are struggling to sign up for social services, including free groceries or rental assistance.

Regardless of the aid, a prolonged shutdown causes a huge hit to morale, potentially pushing some Ames workers to seek new employment. In past furloughs, NASA Ames reportedly lost some of its researchers and engineers after they were poached by local tech companies.

Rocha recalled the 16-day government shutdown in 2013. During that pay lapse, she remembers



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Brenden Sanborn** a furloughed manager at NASA Ames, accepts a \$100 refund of union fees from the Ames Federal Employees Union on Jan. 10.

losing a highly talented cybersecurity expert who worked in NASA's supercomputer division. He opted to join Google, which offered him nearly double the salary. It was just one example of the "brain drain" that can result at NASA from the shutdown, she said.

Among the employees seeking aid on Thursday was Brenden Sanborn, who said missing a paycheck will make it hard for him to support his wife and two daughters.

"I have a lot of colleagues, including myself, who, if this goes on for even another week or two, we're going to have to find another career outside the government," Sanborn said.

Joel Lachter, a computer scientist in NASA's human systems integration division, said was relatively secure as a Mountain View homeowner. He was using the furlough time to learn the ukelele and piano. But it still represented a huge setback for his various work projects, he said.

"I'm most worried about the contractors who aren't going to get back pay, or the younger employees who don't have savings," he said. "For me, it's just annoying. You're a professional, and all your work and everything just has to stop."

Ames union members joined other federal workers last week for a protest rally at the EPA headquarters in San Francisco. ▣

EL CAMINO

► Continued from page 5

money is "fairly high," but said that the hospital is going to need \$560 million to build new facilities at the Mountain View campus, including a parking garage expansion, upgrades to the Women's Hospital building and a brand-new seven-story medical office building.

Larger hospital institutions like Kaiser Permanente or Sutter Health have a pool of cash that's available for these kinds of big

upgrades, Hussain said, but for smaller organizations like El Camino, it helps to bank money that it can dip into for campus upgrades.

"If you're a standalone facility, you need a higher volume of cash," he said.

The large sum of cash also helped boost the hospital to a top-tier "AA" rating with Standard & Poor's, which was upgraded last year based on the hospital's "superior and improving financial performance and exceptional days' cash on hand." ▣

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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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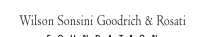
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**COMMITTEE**

► Continued from page 1

being slow and cumbersome.

Similarly, Haines-Livesay also positioned herself as a middle-of-the-road pick. As a former manager for a private equity real estate firm, she said that property investment needed to stay profitable, but she insisted a residential neighborhood had other types of non-monetary value that deserved protection.

"I was pleased when I saw rent control pass because I saw it as a good way to balance these two opposing forces," she said. "In my personal view, the value of the Rental Housing Committee is to ensure we're being as balanced as possible."

Nearly all the candidates echoed similar themes, pledging they were committed to fairness, providing balance and listening to both sides. The candidates made it a point to avoid taking any explicit sides in the landlord-tenant feuding that has overshadowed the committee up to this point.

Pardo de Zela was no exception — he was largely able to lean on his experience as a sitting Rental Housing Committee member to prove his qualifications, but that also carried some baggage. At the recommendation of Councilman Lucas Ramirez, all candidates were asked if they would ever go against their attorney's legal advice.

This question carried greater weight

for Pardo de Zela. He had previously voted with a majority of the committee to go against the advice of legal counsel on the effective start date of rent control. Tenants advocates successfully sought a court order that forced the committee to reverse itself and follow the attorney's original advice.

However, the opinion of the rental committee's attorneys hasn't always prevailed in court. The committee's legal team opined that mobile homes should be covered under the CSFRA, a recommendation that the Rental Housing Committee rejected. A judge later upheld the committee's decision after mobile home residents took the matter to court.

Pardo de Zela said he would only part ways with legal advice on matters that were a "close call."

"When you're in a gray area and reasonable people could disagree, that's where the Rental Housing Committee has leeway," he said.

Councilman Ramirez raised some concerns about Pardo de Zela, but eventually backed him when it became clear the incumbent had support from the rest of the council. As they discussed the candidates, the City Council members quickly went through their top picks and it became clear that Almond and Haines-Livesay had wide support. They were appointed in a unanimous vote to serve four-year terms. ▀

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

**Police arrest man suspected of intimidating victim, witness**

By Kevin Forestieri

Police said a 43-year-old man was arrested for allegedly intimidating a victim in a human trafficking case and attempting to dissuade witnesses from talking to police, the Mountain View Police Department announced Tuesday.

Police arrested the suspect, identified as Abel Estuardo Franco Garcia, on Saturday, Jan. 12, after he allegedly threatened the victim of a human trafficking scheme the police department has been investigating since October.

Last month, police arrested 33-year-old Carlos Garza after he was suspected of illegally bringing Guatemalan residents to Mountain View and, once they arrived in the city, demanded repayment and forced the recent arrivals into fearful and oppressive living conditions. He allegedly sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl from Guatemala and forced her to have sex with other men for money. His sister, Evelia De Maria Galvez, was arrested on suspicion of aiding Garza in

bringing immigrants to the country and intimidating victims.

During interviews with witnesses on Jan. 10, detectives were told that Franco Garcia was not only threatening one of the victims, but had also attempted to dissuade one of them from talking to police. The next day, police received a "frantic" phone call from one of the witnesses stating that Franco Garcia had used his vehicle to "nearly hit them" before driving off at high speed, according to the statement.

Police officers found Franco Garcia the next day and arrested him on suspicion of two counts of intimidating a witness or victim, police said.

Police are urging any victims or witnesses in the case to come forward with information, and assuring them that anyone who works with detectives will be kept safe.

"This type of behavior is unacceptable, and it prevents victims from being able to be cared for and to receive the services to which they are entitled," police said in a statement.

Anyone who is a victim, or knows someone who is a victim, is asked to contact Detective Marco Garcia at [marco.garcia@mountainview.gov](mailto:marco.garcia@mountainview.gov). ▀



Abel Estuardo Franco Garcia

**CRIME BRIEFS**

► Continued from page 4

peephole was covered. When she cracked open the door to see who was outside, the suspect allegedly tried to push his way inside.

The woman was able to close the door and call police, who said they found a man matching the description one block away.

Officers recognized the 52-year-old suspect as the same man who had allegedly "inappropriately touched" at least two women on Castro Street the night before between 5:30 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. Police say he grabbed the women and then continued walking in both incidents.

The man was arrested on suspicion of burglary, sexual battery and assault with intent to commit a felony.

Police suspect that the man may have committed sexual battery on or tried to force his way into the homes of other victims, and are encouraging anyone who may have been a victim to contact Sgt. Dan Vicencio at

[dan.vicencio@mountainview.gov](mailto:dan.vicencio@mountainview.gov).

—Kevin Forestieri

**SUSPECTED DUI CRASH**

A 19-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of DUI on Wednesday, Jan. 9, after crashing a vehicle into a tree and abandoning a passenger who suffered major injuries near Felton in unincorporated Santa Cruz County, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The victim, a 22-year-old Mountain View man, was transported to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

CHP officials said the crash was reported at 8:39 a.m. on Mount Herson Road just east of Graham Hill Road. The driver, a Monterey resident, fled the scene after the crash and was later seen by witnesses behind a CVS store changing his clothes.

Officers who arrived to speak to the driver noted signs of drug impairment and took him into custody.

—Bay City News Service

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- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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**VOICE**

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## ■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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## ■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

# Needless shutdown hits home

The accounts have come in by the thousands from all over the country, collected on Twitter under the hashtag #ShutdownStories. There's the single mother struggling to make ends meet who has taken up a second job at Denny's to pay for gas to get to her federal government job, where she continues to work without pay. There's the furloughed contractor whose spouse has cancer and fears she won't get back pay.

And here in Mountain View, nearly 1,200 federal employees at NASA Ames Research Center are without work and pay while the longest federal government shutdown in United States history drags on without a clear end in sight.

The partial government shutdown began on Dec. 21 due to a political impasse over a spending bill to fund most government operations. President Donald Trump has so far refused to sign a spending bill because he insists that it include \$5.7 billion for a wall on the Mexico border.

As a result, about 380,000 federal employees have been furloughed without pay and roughly 420,000 are working without pay, according to the Washington Post. The impacts of the shutdown have been significant and widespread, ranging from inconveniences — closed national monuments and longer airport security checkpoint lines — to alarming lapses in routine food inspections and serious concerns over whether low-income families will continue to receive food stamps.

Then there's the yet to be determined toll on the economy. The

2013 shutdown, which lasted 16 days, took \$24 billion out of the U.S. economy, according to an estimate from Standard & Poor's. With the current shutdown set to surpass a month, Trump administration economists have doubled projections of how much economic growth is being lost each week the shutdown persists, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

While local residents and agencies have banded together to offer assistance to impacted workers and their families, the situation is only getting more dire as the shutdown continues. Earlier this month, the Ames Federal Employee Union went so far as to issue \$100 union fee refunds to members, a payment that was procedural at the time and now represents a lifeline for people struggling to afford basic necessities. The chief steward of the union, NASA accountant Janette Rocha, told the *Voice* there are "workers who can't feed their kids, and it could be a month or two months before we get paid." Another NASA employee said he'll have to find a career outside the government if the shutdown lasts much longer. The impact on scientific research and the potential for a "brain drain" of highly skilled professionals to the public sector is unknown, but likely to be significant.

This impasse has upended lives and anguished federal employees and their families around the country, and the fallout from the shutdown is likely to continue long after it ends. Whatever your opinion is on our country's border security policies, we should all agree that civil servants should not be pawns in the president's ploy to fulfill a campaign promise. ■

## ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### LOWER EMISSIONS WITH PARKING FEES

I recently read with concern that Mountain View's greenhouse gas emissions are going up when they need to be going down, and quickly ("City scrambles to salvage sustainability goals," Dec. 28).

This is an epic fail. It is no surprise that the chief cause of rising emissions is vehicle use. Every credible economist will point out that the reason why pollution and traffic congestion continue to rise is that those who cause it do so without paying the cost, which is instead foisted on society as a whole, particularly future generations where it concerns climate change. A fix to both pollution and congestion problems is obvious: Make vehicle parking as expensive as necessary to meet pollution and congestion reduction goals.

There is fortunately an opportunity for our leadership to attack this problem head on, but this won't happen without a long view. The *Voice* quoted former Mayor Lenny Siegel as saying parking fees would fall on low-income residents the most; I think this view is shortsighted since shifting to transportation alternatives will benefit most

those who struggle to afford vehicle ownership. An across-the-board policy affecting both employers and the parking they provide for their employees — as well as users of public parking areas — will ensure that motor vehicle use becomes more economically rational and that the societal costs of pollution and congestion are incurred more equally. If parking fees go up until greenhouse gas emission targets are met, Mountain View will be the leader in applying rational economics to shift behavior off fossil fuels, and will also collect the revenues needed to fund the zero-carbon alternatives that are badly needed.

Dave Fork  
San Rafael Avenue

### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Mountain View has committed itself to climate change, at least as far as its own efforts are concerned. Adding 10,000 housing units north of Highway 101 cannot occur without increasing Mountain View greenhouse gas emissions. No actions can possibly mitigate the effect of the huge

population increase that is intended.

On a larger scale, say statewide, we have reduced per-capita emissions by 33 percent since 1990, while open border policies and economic development have increased our population by 32 percent. So California still produces an unsustainable rate of total emissions. Physics limits future efficiency gains while nothing limits population growth. The state is committed to overproduce greenhouse gases.

Raymond R. White, Ph.D.  
Whitney Drive

### BURNING DOWN OUR FUTURE

Mario Savio of Free Speech Movement fame said you had to "throw yourself on the gears of the machine" to stop the progress of a war that was ruining millions of lives.

Today, the fossil fuel industry (Exxon, Shell, BP et al) is throwing itself on the gears of the war to prevent climate change from destroying billions of lives.

While Mario's objective was saving lives and stopping the destruction, fossil fuel flunkies

are cruelly undermining the base on which our civilization rests, a climate that supports food for our children and keeps alive the wildlife that today is rushing toward extinction.

Support HR 7173 - Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018, a bill in Congress that will put a price on carbon (and return that price to the citizens), make evident the real cost of burning down our future and so end our shameful reliance on cheap nonrenewable fossil fuels in favor of renewable energy and greater energy efficiency.

Ed Taub  
Devoto Street

## What's on your mind?

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## ENTERING THE DRAGON

THEATER COMPANY'S NEW LEADERS FORESEE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

By Karla Kane

Since its beginnings two decades ago, through its first permanent home on Alma Street in Palo Alto to its current home in downtown Redwood City, Dragon Productions Theatre Company has been under the steady leadership of founding Artistic Director Meredith Hagedorn. With Hagedorn having stepped down at the end of 2018, this year the scrappy theater company will be led by the husband-and-wife team of Bora “Max” Koknar and Alika Spencer-Koknar.

“I’m so excited about their youth and energy to be willing to try anything to take Dragon to the next level of sustainability,” Hagedorn said. “I’m thrilled that they believe in the mission that we have fostered creating more opportunities for more people and to help burgeoning artists and designers explore their ideas and push the limits of their creativity in our intimate space.”

Koknar and Spencer-Koknar are quite familiar with the Dragon community already, having served as its education director and company manager, respectively, as well as teaching, acting and directing in productions there.

“I always wanted to be an actor. I never thought I’d run things. But it’s funny, because on every project I’ve worked on I’ve always been the kind of artist who had opinions on how we should do stuff. I guess running a company is the best way to do that,” Koknar mused.

Both Koknar and Spencer-Koknar studied theater in college and eventually gained experience in many theater techniques and traditions, as well as in behind-the-scenes roles such as set building and running a box office.

The pair has been working as a team, both professionally and personally, for a while, starting when Turkish-born Koknar (he moved to the U.S. during middle school) met Californian Spencer-Koknar during a production of “A

Clockwork Orange.”

“We were fight partners and I almost killed her during one performance because we did the fight choreography a little incorrectly,” Koknar said, turning to Spencer-Koknar with a laugh. “I screwed up and then I saved you.”

It was love at first fight, it seems.

“The show was OK but I was very happy to meet him,” Spencer-Koknar said.

They’ve worked together on a number of creative projects and for a number of theater companies, including founding their own. They’ve also worked various non-theater day jobs, including Koknar’s stint doing administrative work at Stanford University Medical Center and Spencer-Koknar’s decade as a

barista (they got married — giving their parents a week’s notice — in order to take advantage of Spencer-Koknar’s insurance through Starbucks after Koknar quit his Stanford gig).

How do Koknar and Spencer-Koknar balance the stresses of sharing a job while also maintaining a personal relationship?

“Well, obviously he’s the talker,” Spencer-Koknar laughed. “She’s the doer!” Koknar retorted.

“We work well together. We’ve discovered, being performers together, we don’t have much actor egos that get in the way,” Spencer-Koknar said.

The Dragon, Koknar said, has always seemed to be there for him at critical moments in his theater career, from his first Bay Area audition to Hagedorn offering him the space to produce a 24-hour-theater experience at the old Palo Alto location, to eventually giving both him and Spencer-Koknar their most recent positions with the company itself. When Hagedorn decided to step down, the two seemed to be her natural successors.

“Meredith was always so freakin’ supportive. She really made it an artistic home for us. She started the company because she wanted opportunities she couldn’t find

anywhere else and that’s something that we really connected with,” Koknar said.

“I love the Dragon’s mission: producing uncommon works and also making it accessible to artists and the community,” Spencer-Koknar added.

Over the years, the Dragon has evolved beyond traditional theater into a venue for music, stand-up comedy and more. In addition to its main-stage productions and its theater classes for youth and adults, it offers the Second Stage mentorship program, Monday Night Play Space (which lets local artists use the space for whatever project they’d like, with a donations-based entry system), Dragon Late Nights and the Circus Arts Series; serves as the host for the radio show “In Deep with Angie Coiro” and has a new open-stage series, “Enter the Dragon,” with the hopes that artists from all genres might come together and find common ground for exposure and collaboration.

“What it does is create opportunities for these instant communities to form around whatever’s happening, that’s the magic thing about it, the ability to experience something live with a group of people. To experience stories,” Koknar said.

Koknar and Spencer-Koknar plan to continue to nurture these branches of programming, not only because of their value to the local artistic community but also as a source of support and revenue. While December has traditionally been dark at the Dragon, last month the theater hosted a successful “The Making of the Star Wars Holiday Special: Live!” and a New Year’s Eve show.

Running an artistic venture in the Bay Area isn’t cheap and since its start, Hagedorn and her husband have been a large source of financial support for Dragon (including Hagedorn not drawing a salary as artistic director).

“It stopped being about the art awhile ago for me and was mainly about struggling to pay the bills. My husband has been Dragon’s biggest angel and bail-out for some time now and I felt as if Dragon couldn’t really find its own way financially until I, and my husband, stepped away,” Hagedorn said.



KARLA KANE

Alika Spencer-Koknar and Bora “Max” Koknar are taking over leadership of Dragon Productions Theatre Company in Redwood City.

“It’s honestly terrifying. So, this is a year to see if Dragon can survive without that. It’s also one of the large impetuses behind starting all of this other programming,” Koknar said, estimating that it costs around \$15,000 a month in rent and utility costs to keep the theater running.

The team is looking into grants “constantly” and has received a small amount of support from the Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission and the San Mateo County Arts Commission as well as from other sponsors. It also hopes to form deeper collaborations with other local arts organizations, including Broadway By the Bay, which is located right across the street.

“What are the ways we can combine forces to create more opportunities for the community to participate in the arts?” Koknar said. “It’s so expensive here; it’s so tough to survive here. Collaboration’s the only way to really support each other in ways that we can.”

Dragon’s post-Hagedorn era will most critically rely on the continued interest and support of local arts patrons.

“It’s going to take the Redwood City community and the

Peninsula community at large actually stepping up and going, ‘Yeah, we want to keep this place alive.’ Otherwise it’s going to be really tough going,” Koknar said. “We hope, with the strategy being multicultural and multidisciplinary, there’s something to do for everyone. So far, so good.”

“I always hear people say, ‘I walk by and think about going in,’” Spencer-Koknar said. “Well, you should! Come in! Now’s the time!”

As for Hagedorn, she hasn’t left the Dragon behind altogether. She’ll be playing Marie-Antoinette in the Dragon’s first main-stage production of the year, the comedy “The Revolutionists,” which opens Jan. 18. After that, her plans are uncertain.

“I have been trying to think about what my life would be like without Dragon for years now and after 19 years, it’s extremely hard to come up with anything that could compare. ... I am looking forward to volunteering in my community in many different and important aspects,” she said. “I will also definitely enjoy supporting my friends in the theater community from the audience while I explore my next adventure.”

Email Karla Kane at [kkane@paweekly.com](mailto:kkane@paweekly.com)

FOOD FEATURE



MAGALI GAUTHIER

# A FAREWELL TO FORKS

Story by Dale F. Bentson

AFTER 1,000 MEALS, LONGTIME RESTAURANT REVIEWER  
RETIRES HIS PROFESSIONAL UTENSILS

As Virginia Woolf wrote, “One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

It has been my good fortune to write restaurant reviews and related articles for the Palo Alto Weekly and *Mountain View Voice* for the past 18 years. I’ve probably eaten over a thousand meals in the line of gastronomical duty. Now, my wife and I are at a point in our lives when it is time to move closer to family — our son, daughter-in-law and young grandsons — in Boston. We don’t want to miss out. Time has become a precious commodity.

I have worked with several editors over the years but none finer than the *Voice’s* Andrea Gemmet and the Weekly’s Peninsula Foodist, Elena Kadvany. To them I extend my deepest gratitude. I also want to thank the Weekly’s former Arts and Entertainment editor, Rebecca Wallace, who gave me the freedom to do what I wanted and to publisher Bill Johnson, who stood unwaveringly behind my submissions.

The Midpeninsula might be on the cusp of a golden age of fine dining. Sleepy for too long, the

► See **FAREWELL**, page 18

**FAREWELL**

► Continued from page 17

recent infusion of chef-driven restaurants in the area is encouraging. Over the years, readers have written me asking for specific recommendations for birthdays,

receptions, office gatherings, reunions and other assemblages. Alas, too often the suggestions I offered were limited to one or two restaurants. That is not the case any longer.

In my years of reviewing, my restaurant visits were never

announced until after I had concluded the dining part of the assignment. I operated anonymously and never met a chef or an owner face-to-face. After concluding my visits, I telephoned for background information and secured permission for a staff



VERONICA WEBER



MICHELLE LE

**The Striped Pig, Dec. 21, 2017:**

The small plates menu was compact, but dishes were well-conceived and perfectly executed. The apple-based dry rub barbecue wings (\$8), pieces of crisp chicken wings served in a mesh basket with a piquant dipping sauce, were spiced just right. The sauce left a lingering kiss on the lips.

**Chez TJ, Jan. 9, 2014:** *Not all the talent is in the kitchen. It takes a singular love, dedication, sacrifice and courage to operate a restaurant the size of Chez TJ. (George) Aviet has a unique eye for the up-and-comers, the chefs de cuisine, the sous chefs waiting to be discovered.*

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photographer to take photos. As a courtesy, I let owners and managers know what criticisms I was going to mention in the review to give them a chance to comment. I never accepted a free meal.

I am a freelance writer, meaning, I am not a salaried employee

of Embarcadero Media. I have another life, my day job, as they say. For some years, I have been a director and chairman of the board of Hog Island Oyster Company (five restaurants and two oyster farms), a position I will also relinquish in a few months.

I have logged over four decades in the Bay Area wine and food industry and have been directly involved with restaurateurs, caterers, wineries, farmers and food producers.

Over the course of my career it was a rare privilege to share

tables with Luciano Pavarotti, Julia Child, Charles Chevalier (legendary winemaker of Chateau Lafite Rothschild), White House chef Rene Verdon, famed Basque chef Juan Mari Arzak, legendary California winemakers Joe Swan, Dick Graff, Josh Jensen, and other luminaries. It wasn't because of my importance, rather, my involvement with people and places who were important at the time.

Yet, my fondest dining memories were the simple dinners with friends and family, at restaurants, or at home where I might grill

salmon on a cedar plank over mesquite and serve it with my version of Caesar salad with crispy romaine and garlicky croutons, or slow-roasted achiote pork wrapped in banana leaves and served over Spanish white beans and rice. Desserts, usually homemade ice cream (fig, peach, cinnamon, or strawberry), or possibly a plum tart, poached fruit or some spur of the moment creation.

Yes, Virginia, I have dined well. It's been a pleasure. Thank you, and bon appétit. ▣

Email Dale Bentson at [dfbentson@gmail.com](mailto:dfbentson@gmail.com)



MATALIA NAZAROVA

**Protege, Aug. 17, 2018:** My meal in the lounge started with plump ricotta dumplings (\$18) surrounded with curls of summer squash, tiny mushrooms and sprinkles of Parmesan cheese. It looked like an artist's palette and tasted heavenly.

## Marketplace

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

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email [digitalads@pawekly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawekly.com).

# Make a resolution in 2019: SEE THE LIGHT AT MONTALVO

Witness the beauty, joy, and wonder of an internationally known artist's West Coast public debut, *Bruce Munro at Montalvo: Stories in Light*. Come view 10 illuminated installations, each inspired by C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*, all on view outdoors and at night—and get enlightened!

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■ MOVIE OPENINGS

## Brushstroke of genius

'AT ETERNITY'S GATE' UNLOCKS THE MIND OF VAN GOGH

★★★★ (The Guild)

Few artists have held a greater fascination for dramatists than Vincent Van Gogh. He's been played on film by Kirk Douglas, John Hurt, Tim Roth and Martin Scorsese, and he's palled around with the Doctor on "Doctor Who."

At this late date, there would seem to be little new to dramatize — or stylize — about a man so often scrutinized on screen. But Julien Schnabel's "At Eternity's Gate" finds a filmmaker (and, not incidentally, a painter) in kinship with his subject. Add a deeply resonant performance by Willem Dafoe, and everything old feels new again.

Named after a late-period Van Gogh painting, "At Eternity's Gate" takes what might be called a post-impressionist tack in telling the story of the greatest post-impressionistic painter. Where 2017's "Loving Vincent" did so

visually, Schnabel's film finds its analogues both visual and dramatic. The casting of Dafoe challenges the literal-minded, given that the actor is in his early 60s and Van Gogh died in his late 30s, while the very fine screenplay by Schnabel, Louise Kugelberg and Jean-Claude Carrière (no slouch: he co-wrote "The Tin Drum," "The Unbearable Lightness of Being," and several Luis Bunuel classics) plants the roots for Schnabel's dreamy drift through Van Gogh's latter days by shuffling artistic ecstasies, self-dissecting conversations and confusions, and existential torments.

On a surface level, "At Eternity's Gate" beguiles by shooting at Van Gogh's old haunting grounds, conveying the sun-dappled beauty of the French countryside in a manner that introduces the reality of the landscape to the vision of the artist (by goosing beautiful cinematography with just-so



COURTESY OF CBS FILMS

Willem Dafoe stars as Vincent Van Gogh in "At Eternity's Gate."

color-correction, photographic frames magically evoke Van Gogh's canvases). As impressive as these reveries can be, when they arrive to meditatively check out of the film's already relaxed narrative momentum, the film's most memorable moments come from its series of penetrating philosophical conversations.

Taking Vincent's loving bond with brother Theo (Rupert

Friend) as a given, "At Eternity's Gate" delves deeper in its duets between the artist and his typically baffled friends and acquaintances. Van Gogh develops a co-dependent friendship with one of the few men who might understand him, fellow painter Paul Gauguin (Oscar Isaac). When he consoles the unappreciated Van Gogh, Gauguin speaks for Schnabel: "You're surrounded by stupid, wicked, ignorant people."

Feeling he's an "exile" whenever he faces others, Van Gogh confesses to a priest (Mads Mikkelsen), "Sometimes I feel so far away from everything."

Their discussion in an asylum courtyard rests somewhere on a spectrum of confession, therapy and civilized theological debate. While painting the portrait of Dr. Paul Gachet (Mathieu Amalric), Van Gogh muses, "I stop

thinking, and I feel that I'm a part of everything outside and inside of me" and "sometimes they say I'm mad, but a grain of madness is the best of art."

Even as Van Gogh's struggles with mental illness play out, his imagined tête-à-têtes with doctors and priests here allow Schnabel to grant his ill health while still challenging the skewed perceptions that constantly limit the artist. When his detractors paint him with the broad brush of madness, the painter only slips deeper into madness, seeing his clear-headed artistic genius (and his entirely reasonable frustrations) dismissed as crazy. Though Van Gogh's brushstrokes of genius were thick, the line between genius and madman has ever been thin. *Rated PG-13 for some thematic content. One hour, 51 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

socially conscious themes. *Rated R for language and some sexual content. One hour, 59 minutes.* — P.C.

■ NOW SHOWING

**A Dog's Way Home (PG)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

**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.

**At Eternity's Gate (PG-13)**  
Aquarius Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

**Bohemian Rhapsody (PG-13)**  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

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

**Charulata (1964) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

**Dragon Ball Super: Broly (PG)**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

**Escape Room (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

**The Favourite (R)** Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

**Glass (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

**Green Book (PG-13) ★★1/2** Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

**If Beale Street Could Talk (R) ★★★**  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
Guild Theatre: Fri.-Sun. Guild Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

**Mahanagar (1963) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: 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.

**The Mule (R)** Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

**On the Basis of Sex (PG-13)** Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

**Perfectos Desconocidos (English subtitles)**  
(Not Rated) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

**Petta (Not Rated)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

**Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) ★★★**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

**Replicas (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

**Second Act (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

**Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG)**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

**Teen Kanya (Three Daughters, 1955) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

**The Upside (PG-13)** Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

**Uri: The Surgical Strike (Not Rated)**  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

**Vice (R) ★★★1/2** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: 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)

★ 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.

**'SPENDING THE END OF THE WORLD ON OKCUPID'**

In this play, a modern-day prophet predicts the disappearance of half the world's population and warns those remaining that they are the next to go. With 12 hours to live, some spend the end of the world on OkCupid, a dating website. Through Feb. 17, times vary. \$15-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org



COURTESY KEVIN BEINE/THEATREWORKS

**THEATREWORKS SILICON VALLEY PRESENTS 'FROST/NIXON'**

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley kicks off the new year with the Tony- and Olivier Award-nominated drama "Frost/Nixon." TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's play is directed by Leslie Martinson. Through Feb. 10, times vary. \$40-\$100. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org/201819-season

**THEATER**

**Palo Alto Players Presents:**

**'Shakespeare in Love'** Adapted from the Academy Award-winning film, "Shakespeare in Love" is a witty romance filled with music. In this fictional story, young playwright William Shakespeare is in love with a woman who pretends to be a man in order to perform onstage. Directed by Lee Ann Payne. Jan. 18-Feb. 3, times vary. \$42-\$52. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. paplayers.org

**'American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose'** Los Altos Stage Company rings in the new year with "American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose," a provocative mix of past and present, stereotype and truth. Through Feb. 17, times vary. \$20-\$38. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org

**'The Cat in the Hat'** Dr. Seuss' classic comes to life in this stage performance by the Peninsula Youth Theatre. This performance is 45 minutes long with no intermission and is appropriate for all ages. Jan. 18, 9:30-10:15 a.m. and Jan. 19, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

**Children's Theater: The story of Indian Independence** A short play by schoolchildren walks the audience through the story of Indian independence, as seen by a child growing up in the Bay Area. Tea and refreshments are served before the play begins. Jan. 20, 2-4 p.m. \$15. Cubberley Auditorium, 4000 Middlefield Road, Suite T2, Palo Alto. Search brownpapertickets.com for more info.

**CONCERTS**

**Fred Hersch Trio** A select member of jazz's piano pantheon, Fred Hersch is a musician who has been active for over three decades as an improviser, composer, educator, band leader, collaborator and recording artist. Jan. 18, 7 and 9 p.m. \$55-\$80. Stanford University's Bing Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

**Music of the Americas with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra** Music of the Americas features Latin American music with a performance by the San Francisco Chamber

Orchestra with Quinteto Latino. Jan. 20, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Free. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. theSFCO.org

**Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration** First United Methodist Church hosts a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life with a guest speaker, choir performance and more. Jan. 20, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto.

**JACK Quartet** The JACK Quartet is focused on the spread of new string quartet music. The quartet's members are violinists Christopher Otto and Austin Wulliman, violist John Pickford Richards and cellist Jay Campbell. Jan. 19, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org/events/jack-quartet

**Voices of Music: Virtuoso Baroque Concertos** San Francisco's Voice of Music has over 30 million YouTube fans worldwide. Interpreting works by masters ranging from Vivaldi to Bach, this group of musicians performs music from different eras. Jan. 25, 8 p.m. \$5-\$47. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto.

**RELIGION**

**Compline: An Evening Service of Song** A 30-minute service of hymns, anthems and chants sung by Stanford and local choral ensembles in the candlelit ambiance of Memorial Church. All are welcome. Sundays, 9-9:30 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

**TALKS & LECTURES**

**Randy Shaw at Books Inc. Mountain View** Randy Shaw, director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, discusses his new book, "Generation Priced Out: Who Gets to Live in the New Urban America." The book discusses skyrocketing rents and home values in relation to working and middle classes of urban America. Jan. 24, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Mountain View, 317 Castro St., Mountain View. booksinc.net/event

**'Free Public Talk on Black Holes, Exploding Stars, and the Runaway Universe'** Dr. Alex Filippenko, selected nine times as UC Berkeley's best professor, will give a free, non-technical talk on "Black Holes, Exploding Stars, and the Runaway Universe."

Part of the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series, now in its 19th year. Jan. 23, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Foothill College, Smithwick Theater, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills.

**46th Anniversary Celebration of Roe v. Wade Pro-Choice Decision** Local women's organizations convene to celebrate the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The meeting also addresses continuing concerns about women's access to health care. Featured speakers include Dr. Emily Guh, Dr. Sophia Yen and a performance with the Raging Grannies. Jan. 22, noon-1 p.m. \$5. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

**Documentary: 'LIKE'** "LIKE" is a documentary that explores the impact of social media and the effects of technology on the brain. St. Nicholas School hosts a screening of the film, followed by a panel discussion. Jan. 22, 7 p.m. Free. St. Nicholas School, 12816 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. RSVP to likethemovie.eventbrite.com

**'Remodeling in Mountain View'** Mountain View Building Department staff visit the library to talk residents through the process of remodeling and to answer questions about what residents need a permit for, when a permit is not required and the basic fee estimate for building permits in the city of Mountain View. Jan. 23, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View.

**FAMILY**

**Evelyn Skye in conversation with Dana Elmendorf** Kepler's Books hosts a launch party of the book, "Circle of Shadows," Evelyn Skye's new fantasy series full of magic, adventure and betrayal. Skye will be in conversation with Dana Elmendorf, author of "South of Sunshine." Jan. 20, 3-4:30 p.m. Free, RSVP requested. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

**'Mothers and Sons: Raising Boys into Men' (Preschool/Elementary)** Parents' Place hosts a session for mothers to explore relationships with their sons. The discussion focuses on how mothers can foster long-lasting relationships with their sons and improve communication. Jan. 22, 7-9 p.m. \$30-\$45. Parents' Place, 200

Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

**Navigating School District Services for Children with Special Needs (All Ages)** This workshop is intended for parents who have children with any type of special needs or suspected special needs. Learn about how and when a child would qualify for special education services in the public school system. Jan. 15-22, 7-9 p.m. \$60-\$90. Parents' Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

**MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS**

**Alphabete: The World Through the Eyes of Frederic Bruly Bouabre** The Cantor Arts Center displays Frederic Bruly Bouabre's artwork. The exhibit shows Bouabre's original pictographic alphabet and brightly colored postcard-size illustrations. Through Feb. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**'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

**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, presents 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

**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.

**Volunteer Open House** At this event, residents can learn how to become a part of local history at Los Altos History Museum's volunteer open house reception. Whether it's caring for artifacts, maintaining the gardens or leading tours in the historic J. Gilbert Smith House, there are volunteer opportunities to match various interests. Jan. 23, 3-5 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

**Gallery 9 Los Altos January Exhibition: 'Out and About' by watercolor artist Suej McCall** Suej McCall deviates from the guidelines of traditional watercolor artists, creating original and colorful pieces. Her images are of Europe, the U.S. and Cuba. Through Jan. 27; Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. gallery9losaltos.com

**Michael Richards: 'Winged'** On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Michael Richards was working in his studio on the 92nd floor of the World Trade Center, Tower One, when the first plane struck, taking his life along with thousands of others. At the time of his passing, Richards was an emerging artist. The Department of Art and Art History presents "Michael Richards: Winged," curated by Alex Fialho and Melissa Levin. Through March 24; Tuesdays-Sundays, noon-6 p.m. Free. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. arts.stanford.edu/event/80334

**GOVERNMENT**

**Community Coffee with Assemblymember Marc Berman** Assemblymember Marc Berman hosts a coffee session so residents can share their thoughts on community and legislative matters. Jan. 25, 8-9:30 a.m. Free. Cafe Borrone, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**Kids: Nature Hike and Crafts** Hidden Villa hosts a kids-only hike along Hidden Villa's creek trail. Each child makes a unique craft such as a hanging mobile or a dream catcher to take home. Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-noon. \$15. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

## Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

MAYK LANDSCAPING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN649731  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Mayk Landscaping, located at 2260 California St. Apt. 20, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
MAYK EDUARDO JUEGO JUAREZ  
2260 California St. Apt. 20  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/21/2018.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 27, 2018.  
(MVV Jan. 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 2019)

**Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawekly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.**



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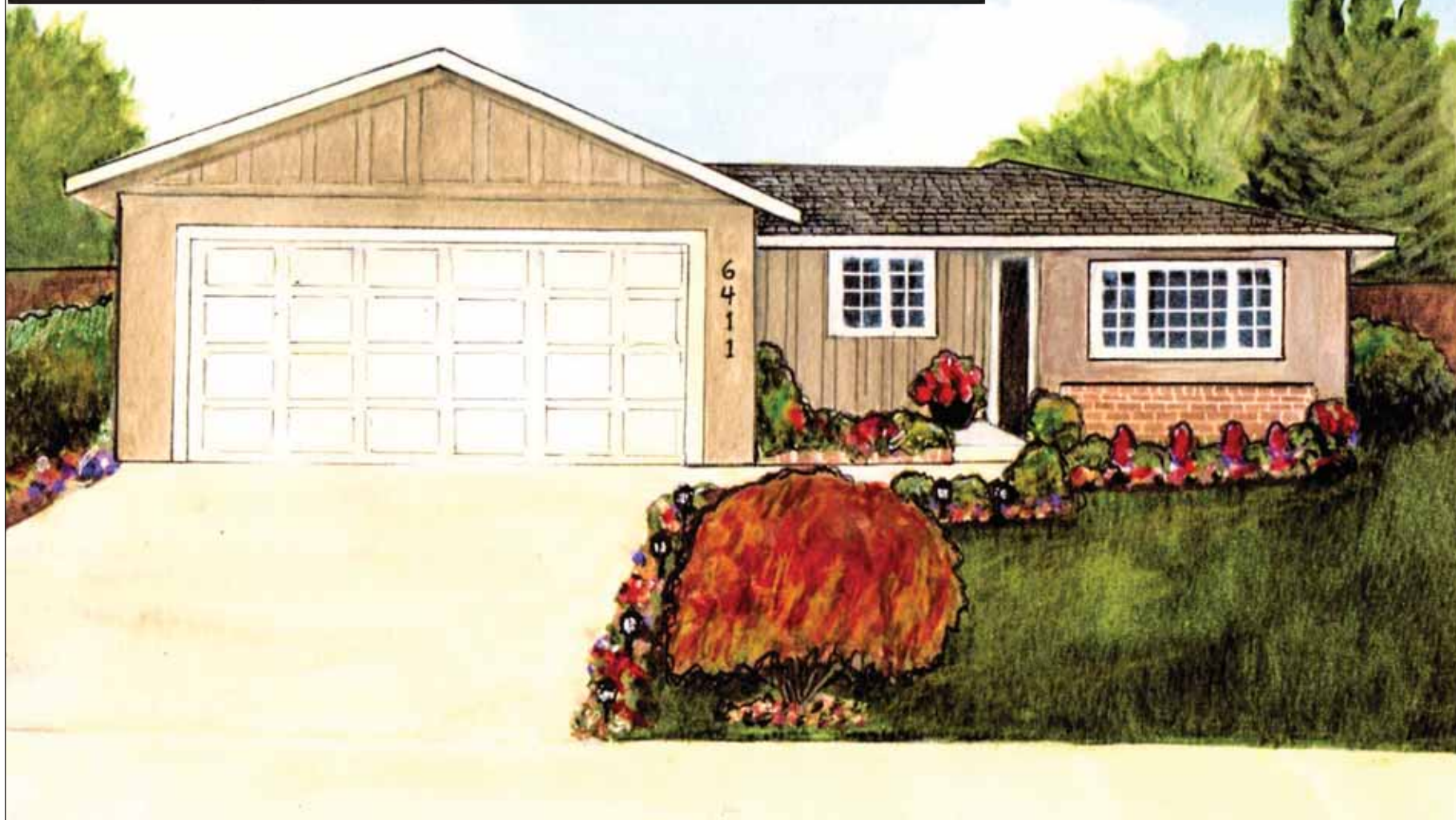
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Enjoy cooking in the bright custom kitchen with newer appliances, abundant oak solid cabinetry & open dining area & family room with views of the beautiful patio and newly landscaped yard. Ideal for entertaining!

Recent upgrades include gleaming hardwood flooring, paint inside and out, newer roof & gutters, finished garage & new door, sun tube lighting, and beautiful mature & new landscaping! The home is located close to top Cupertino schools, Apple campus & all easy commutes. Perfect for a growing family or couple downsizing!  
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