

# Mountain View VOICE



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THIS ISSUE

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## Teacher housing idea moves forward

MVLA AGREES TO JOIN PARTNERSHIP

By Kevin Forestieri

With five North County school districts now offering support and funds, Santa Clara County officials are seeking a developer to build a teacher housing complex in Palo Alto.

The county issued what's called a Request for Proposals (RFP) on Thursday, Feb. 14, seeking a developer to build a housing project with no less than 60 units at 231 Grant Ave. in Palo Alto, currently home to county courthouse facilities. The units would be exclusively available to five local school districts for teacher housing.

The RFP comes after a monthslong effort by Supervisor Joe Simitian to collect support — and money — for the housing proposal, which is still conceptual and could include anywhere from 60 to 120 units. Since August 2018, a total of five districts agreed to partner with the county and tentatively agreed to pitch in \$600,000 each for an equal stake in the units built.

Partner districts include the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, the Mountain View Whisman School District, the Palo Alto Unified School District and the Los Altos

School District. Trustees of the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, the final holdout, agreed on Feb. 4 to join in on the partnership, albeit with strings attached.

In an email, Mountain View-Los Altos board president Phil Faillace told the *Voice* that the district would put forward the \$600,000 in funding only if the project could guarantee “full and unconstrained control” over the terms and conditions of the district's share of the units, and that the costs would eventually be paid back to the district in full. The vote passed 4-0, with Sanjay Dave absent.

Simitian has talked about using the “underutilized” site adjacent to the North County courthouse for housing since early 2017, later announcing his intent to use the property for teacher housing. The estimated \$36 million in required funding to build the project will come from a myriad of sources, including the county's affordable housing fund (\$6 million), the city of Palo Alto (\$3 million) and \$600,000 from each of the five school districts (\$3 million). That leaves \$24 million in low- or no-interest loans that could be paid off with rental income from

► See **TEACHER HOUSING**, page 6



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Clinic workers and fellow union members attended the El Camino Hospital board meeting on Feb. 13 to ask the board of directors to retain the roughly 180 employees who work in Verity's Santa Clara County clinics.

## Hospital board votes to buy five South Bay clinics

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL DOESN'T PLAN TO RETAIN CURRENT EMPLOYEES

By Kevin Forestieri

El Camino Hospital's board of directors agreed Feb. 13 to buy five clinics in the South Bay — stretching from San Jose to Gilroy

— without assurances to keep existing employees, putting clinic workers out of a job as soon as next month.

The future of the clinics has been in limbo since August, when Verity Health System

filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The nonprofit owns six hospitals and a network of clinics — nine in Santa Clara County — and companies and

► See **CLINICS**, page 10

## Mixed city budget: Property taxes soar while other funds drop

By Mark Noack

It was a mixed bag financially for Mountain View as elected officials reviewed the city's midyear budget last week. While

local property values and tax revenues continue their ascent to all-time highs, most of the city's other revenue sources seem to be going in the opposite direction.

For three consecutive years, the

city's tax revenues on retail sales have experienced either a plateau or a significant drop. The last fiscal year saw a 6.5 percent decline in sales receipts in Mountain View, which is being attributed

to more shoppers going online and fewer purchases at the city's brick-and-mortar shops. That trend appears to be continuing into 2019, as city financial staff is estimating a 5.2 percent drop-off.

Meanwhile, the value of Mountain View real estate continues to climb steadily, with no drop-off expected for at least a decade. As

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PHOTO BY HENRIK KAM/COURTESY OF THE MICHAEL RICHARDS ESTATE.

"Michael Richards: Winged" is currently on view at the Stanford Art Gallery.

**STANFORD PRESENTS  
'MICHAEL RICHARDS:  
WINGED'**

Michael Richards: "Winged" is a somber tribute to a young artist whose life ended too soon but who left behind a powerful and important body of work that is as relevant today as it was in 2001.

At that time, Richards (born in 1963) was an emerging artist, just on the cusp of being discovered by the all-important New York art scene. He was working in the LMCC World Views Studio on the 92nd floor of the World Trade Center when the planes struck on Sept. 11. He, along with thousands of others, perished that day.

Though his life and career was cut short, the current exhibition at Stanford Art Gallery ensures his work will not be soon forgotten.

On view in the center of the gallery is his best-known sculpture, Tar Baby vs. St. Sebastian (1999). Cast from his own body, the gold resin figure is clad in the uniform of a Tuskegee Airman. The simple read on the piece might be that the artist was honoring the famed African-American pilots who fought so valiantly in World War II. But the figure is under attack, pierced by small airplanes, a reference to the martyrdom of the arrow-pierced St. Sebastian and the fact that, although the black airmen were recognized for their bravery in the air, once back on land they faced exclusion and segregation.

In a statement about his work, Richards wrote that his art, "allows for an examination of the psychic conflict which results from the desire to belong to and resist a society which denies

blackness even as it affirms."

Needless to say, the piece also conjures up feelings of eeriness, given the circumstances of the artist's death.

A religious reference is also found in Air Fall I (His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he is watching me) from 1998. A large circular disc installed on the ceiling is the base for 50 small, suspended airplanes that nosedive toward the floor. The disc and planes are covered in black hair, a material often used by Richards as a metaphor for the standard of "how people judge me for my hair." While it might, at first, be perceived as dark symbolism of death and destruction, a circular mirror on the floor reflects the planes and their flight path back upward. Just as in the familiar hymn, there is faith and hope in a greater, redemptive power.

While the idea of flight is dominant in his sculptural work, Richards' drawings reveal his interest in the idea of transcending the bonds and boundaries of life. Gathered from various museum collections, the series "Escape Plan" reveals that the artist was a careful draftsman and a poet. Images of burning buildings and parachutes are accompanied by thoughtful handwritten notations that address feelings of anxiety and dread. The last in the series, however, reflects the artist's sense of humor, as he drew the ultimate escape plan, a (winning) lottery ticket.

The exhibition runs through March 24 at the Stanford Art Gallery, 419 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Go to [tinyurl.com/stanfordwinged](http://tinyurl.com/stanfordwinged) for more information.

—Sheryl Nonnenberg

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**NEW PRESIDENT FOR ST. FRANCIS HIGH**

Jason Curtis has been named the next president of St. Francis High School, effective July 1, according to an announcement from school officials.

Former president Simon Chiu announced his resignation in February 2018. Faculty member Tony Mancuso has been serving as interim president.

Last spring, the school's board of directors formed a Presidential Search Committee, which consisted of board members, past and present administrators, faculty and representatives of Brothers of the Holy Cross. This group worked with an educational search firm from the summer through fall and unanimously selected Curtis to become president.

Curtis is currently the head of school at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, North Carolina, a co-ed Catholic high school with approximately 1,500 students. He began teaching there in 2000 and has been president for the past 12 years.

Curtis graduated from Santa Clara University with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in political science. After that, he attended law school at University of California, Hastings and later worked at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose as a teacher, social studies department chair and coach. He later earned his master's degree in Catholic school leadership at Marymount University.

■ **POLICE LOG**

**AUTO BURGLARY**

- 200 block View St., 2/11
- W. Dana St. & View St., 2/11
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 2/11
- 1900 block W. El Camino Real, 2/12
- 300 block Bryant St., 2/12
- 800 block California St., 2/12
- 400 block Bryant St., 2/12
- 400 block Bryant St., 2/12
- 1000 block El Monte Av., 2/12
- 100 block Hope St., 2/12
- 300 block Hope St., 2/12
- 400 block Bryant St., 2/13
- 1000 block El Monte Av., 2/13
- 600 block W. Dana St., 2/13
- 300 block Hope St., 2/13
- 300 block Hope St., 2/13
- 200 block View St., 2/13
- 400 block Bryant St., 2/14
- 200 block Hope St., 2/14
- W. Dana St. & View St., 2/16
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 2/16
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 2/16
- 200 block Hope St., 2/18

- 200 block Hope St., 2/18
- 100 block Hope St., 2/18

**BATTERY**

- Cypress Point Dr., 2/14
- 1300 block San Domar Dr., 2/16

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

- 400 block Moffett Blvd., 2/16

**CRIMINAL THREATS**

- 2700 block Del Medio Ct., 2/17

**GRAND THEFT**

- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 2/17

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

- 200 block Bryant St., 2/11
- 400 block Sylvan Av., 2/12
- 400 block Sylvan Av., 2/12

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

- 1200 block Gretel Ln., 2/12
- 500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 2/13

**VANDALISM**

- 1 block Showers Dr., 2/14
- 1700 block Crane Av., 2/17

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

**A worker** assembles furniture in the main lobby of the new Mountain View Community Center. The building will reopen on Saturday following a five-year effort to expand and update the space.

## City unveils new community center

RENGSTORFF CENTER EXPANDS SPACE, PROGRAMS

By Mark Noack

This weekend, a motley crew of local dignitaries, dance troupes and social clubs will gather at Rengstorff Park to cut the ribbon on the city's new community space. The Mountain View Community Center reopens this Saturday, Feb. 23, following a five-year effort to expand and update the aging building for the 21st century.

As the city's primary public space for civic groups, the 60-year-old building has consistently been a popular space that is regularly booked to

capacity by an assortment of local social groups, including Girl Scouts, nonprofits and fitness classes. But in recent years, the old building has been showing its age with a growing list of maintenance problems that led the city to decide it was time for a remodel.

Starting in 2014, city officials began working on upgrading the center, a project that required about \$23.5 million and nearly 18 months of construction. For Recreation Manager Kristine Crosby, it was well worth it.

Leading an early tour of the newly renovated community

center, Crosby could hardly contain her excitement as she waltzed through the building. It was still a construction scene, with workers bustling around and unpacked boxes and dangling wires along the hallways. Along with providing a new home for various clubs and classes, the new community center will also serve as the headquarters for the city's recreation staff. Crosby expected her team to be working late into the night to have the building ready for its grand opening.

"We expect this space is

► See **COMMUNITY CENTER**, page 7

## Plea deal in attempted downtown kidnapping

By Kevin Forestieri

Two men pleaded guilty to kidnapping, assault and weapons charges after they allegedly grabbed a woman leaving a downtown Mountain View nightclub last year, brandished guns when people tried to intervene and fired two rounds out of a vehicle as they drove away.

A judge is expected later this month to sentence Guillermo Perez-Sanchez, 30, to 12 years in state prison and Walter Ramirez-Martinez, 20, to nine years and four months in state prison on charges of assault with a firearm, possession of a firearm and false imprisonment. Perez is also accused of discharging a firearm in a grossly negligent manner.

Police arrested the two men 10 months ago following reports that they had attempted to kidnap a woman on the 200 block of Castro Street and, when confronted, pulled out a firearm. As they left the parking lot in a blue Infiniti G35, one of the men fired two rounds out of the window, according to the police report.

Shortly after, Mountain View police officers found the car traveling up Moffett Boulevard

and confronted the suspects in a driveway at 845 Central Ave., arresting the men and recovering two guns from the vehicle after a tense armed standoff, according to court documents.

The victim told police that she had come alone to the city's downtown parking lot behind the 200 block of Castro Street and went to the Monte Carlo nightclub. She had returned to her car around 2 a.m. on Saturday, April 14, to retrieve her wallet when she was approached by men in a vehicle.

She said the men began catcalling her, asking her where she was going and asking her to come with them. One of the two men, Perez-Sanchez, then grabbed her arm and pulled her about 10 feet toward the car, according to the witness statement to police.

The victim said her friends intervened and an argument ensued, and the two men returned to their vehicle. She said she saw Ramirez-Martinez loading a handgun and Perez-Sanchez pulling out a "long gun" while yelling "F— off" and "She is coming with us."

The long gun was later determined to be a short-barreled shotgun 16 inches in length, which is illegal in California. The other gun recovered by police was a Smith and Wesson 357-caliber revolver, which appeared to have been used twice — consistent with witness reports that two shots were fired.

One witness account stated that one of the two men had pointed the gun so that the barrel

► See **PLEA DEAL**, page 7



Guillermo Perez-Sanchez



Walter Ramirez-Martinez

## Caltrain projects still a go despite high-speed rail reversal

LOCAL OFFICIALS SAY GRADE SEPARATION, ELECTRIFICATION WILL MOVE FORWARD

By Mark Noack

It has been a rough month for California's decadelong effort to build a high-speed rail line between its major population centers. Last week Gov. Gavin Newsom signaled he wanted to scale back the bullet train project, and federal transportation officials have apparently seized on the opportunity.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Transportation

announced it was terminating a \$929 million grant for the high-speed rail project while also pushing to force California to repay \$2.5 billion in federal funds already spent on the train line.

While this doesn't bode well for the future of high-speed rail, it should have minimal impact on a suite of train corridor projects along the Peninsula — at least in the near term.

Caltrain officials said that

funding remains secure for a \$2 billion project to upgrade the rail line to an electrified system. Meanwhile, Mountain View officials say local grade separation projects to separate the train line from road crossings should proceed with all financing intact.

With regard to Caltrain electrification, the state's high-speed rail project is obligated to provide \$713 million toward the cost of the upgrades. That funding remains intact, and the

state recently awarded an additional \$165 million to the project to purchase electric trains, said Caltrain spokesman Dan Lieberman.

Yet he acknowledged that the shift in high-speed rail could change scenarios for Caltrain in the long term. Exactly what this means will be investigated by the rail agency in the coming months as it drafts its business plan, he said.

"As far as electrification, I

would say there's no major change," Lieberman said. "As far as the big picture, our business plan looks at a lot of potential outcomes in the future for how California and Caltrain develop. This change will be taken into account."

Over the years, the California high-speed rail project to connect Los Angeles to San Francisco has faced cost overruns, delays

► See **CALTRAIN**, page 14

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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

## 2018 Annual Water System Flushing

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

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

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

## MVLA on the hunt for a new supe

By Kevin Forestieri

With Mountain View-Los Altos High School District Superintendent Jeff Harding retiring at the end of June, the district is seeking feedback on what residents want to see in a future leader of public schools.

The district hired the search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates earlier this month to conduct a survey, along with focus groups and interviews with students and current and former school staff, for information on what kind of superintendent would best fit the needs of Mountain View-Los Altos. The nationwide search will be conducted through early March, followed by candidate interviews and a final selection in the spring.

"A very important early step in the recruitment process is to identify the characteristics the Board of Trustees will be seeking in our new superintendent," board president Phil Faillace said in a statement last week.

The online survey, which can

be completed at [ecrasurvey.com/mvlahdsupt](http://ecrasurvey.com/mvlahdsupt) through Wednesday, Feb. 27, asks a range of questions about the state of the district including quality of education, student readiness for college and careers and whether the district has a strong vision for the future. The survey asks what kinds of qualifications the future superintendent ought to have, and then point-blank asks respondents to give suggestions on who would be a good candidate.

A search firm representative will hold a community meeting on Monday, Feb. 25, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the district's boardroom at 1299 Bryant Ave. to gather in-person feedback.

The district's agreement with the search firm includes \$26,700 in estimated costs, mostly for consulting fees and advertisements for the position focused on candidates residing in California. The costs could increase rapidly through a myriad of additional charges, ranging from \$5,000 for customized surveys to \$1,000 for each additional day of interviews,

focus groups and town hall meetings.

The firm is expected to bring back a "slate" of five to six candidates for the position, with dates tentatively set for mid-March to interview the finalists.

Harding, who was hired by the district in 2015, announced in November that he planned to step down after what he described as a fortunate three-and-a-half year stint leading Mountain View-Los Altos. In a statement, the district touts that it improved test scores, bolstered programs for students and staff wellness and succeeded in passing a \$295 million facilities bond during his tenure. Harding is expected to continue a part-time career in leadership coaching for school administrators.

Harding's length of tenure is shorter than his predecessors, former superintendents Barry Groves and Rich Fischer, who each led the district for more than eight years. ■

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

## TEACHER HOUSING

► Continued from page 1

school employees.

The teacher housing idea comes at a time when Peninsula teachers are struggling to keep up with the high cost of living, with rent and mortgages far exceeding what's affordable on a teacher's salary. Surveys show many teachers live far from where they work, with lengthy commutes of 45 minutes to an hour each way.

Teachers often fall under what's called the "missing middle," households that make too much to qualify for most subsidized housing but not enough

to afford market-rate housing. Cities report few, if any, new housing units being built or approved for people making between 80 and 120 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) each year, currently at about \$125,000 in Santa Clara County for a family of four.

"It's better for everyone — folks trying to avoid traffic, kids getting an education, school districts trying to hire and retain the very best teachers for our schools, and of course our teachers themselves — when our teachers can live in or close to the communities where they teach," Simitian said in a statement

Friday, Feb. 15.

The RFP will accept submissions from developers through May 13, with a date to award the contract tentatively set for Aug. 13. The RFP asks developers to "strive to optimize the unit count (not less than 60 units) ... and the design should take into account the legitimate concerns of the neighborhood and be consistent with the character of the community." The mix of units, ranging from lofts and studios to one- and two-bedroom units, will be tailored for the needs of district teachers.

The RFP also calls on developers to assist future teacher residents in securing "new housing opportunities" at the end of their tenure at the site, including savings plans, homeownership counseling and "financial literacy."

The county is also hoping to hang on to the existing commercial space on the property, amounting to approximately 8,000 square feet, as well as include some open space at the location.

The project would add to another major teacher housing milestone reached last year, when the city of Mountain View and the Mountain View Whisman School District unveiled plans to build a 716-unit apartment complex with 144 units set aside for teachers, school staff and city employees. ■

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



ELENA KADVANY

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian has proposed building affordable housing for local teachers at this county-owned site at 231 Grant Ave. in Palo Alto.

# State officials skeptical of low homeless reporting

2,700 CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS CLAIM NO STUDENTS LACK SHELTER

By Mark Noack

**R**ich or poor, all children are required by law to go to school. And for that reason, the public education system has long been considered a window for revealing the extent of youth poverty and homelessness.

Under the federal McKinney-Vento law, more than 10,000 schools in California are required to track student homelessness as well as provide various aid services so that poverty doesn't erase any chance for an education.

California, particularly its largest cities, is currently facing the worst homelessness crisis in recent memory, yet hundreds

of the state's school districts are reporting they have no students who lack stable housing.

The Mountain View Whisman School District reports that no homeless students attend Huff or Stevenson elementary schools. Palo Alto Unified School District reports there are no homeless students at half of its 16 elementary and middle school campuses. Most striking, the Los Altos Elementary School District claims there are no homeless students at any of its seven elementary schools.

Now more than ever, these claims are straining credibility, said Assemblyman David Chiu, who represents San Francisco. School districts are supposed to use a broad definition of

homelessness, which counts students who are couch surfing, doubling up in bedrooms in someone else's home, or living out of vehicles. About 400 school districts in California claim none of their students, at any point in the school year, fit this profile.

"It's hard to believe that over one-quarter of the school districts have zero homeless students. That just doesn't make sense, and that's why we're asking for a deeper dive," Chiu said. "I certainly hope this isn't deliberate underreporting. In any case, we're worried that schools aren't focused on this."

Chiu is among a handful of state legislators now calling for a statewide audit to determine if schools are underreporting

student homelessness. If the answer is yes, then he said he wants to figure out why.

Schools that identify homeless students are required by law to provide various services to help put all children on an equal playing field. Unhoused students are entitled to receive free transportation to school, meals and other aid. Segregation of students based on homelessness or income level is illegal under federal law.

In this regard, charter schools face the same requirements as regular public schools. Of the 67 charter schools registered in Santa Clara County, 26 report having no homeless students. This includes Bullis Charter School in Los Altos.

School officials say there are a number of reasons for low reporting of homeless students. Mountain View-Los Altos High School District officials previously told the *Voice* that the state's broad definition of student homelessness sometimes incorrectly counts exchange students, or children whose families are temporarily subleasing homes. Experts say the state's requirement for tracking homeless students is basically an unfunded mandate, often throwing another extra responsibility onto overworked school administrators.

Chiu said he expects the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to formally request an investigation next month. If approved, then State Auditor Elaine Howle would begin conducting a study and prepare a report. ▣

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## PLEA DEAL

► Continued from page 5

had pressed against the witness' stomach, according to police reports.

An account from the Mountain View police officer who stopped the vehicle on Central Avenue stated that he had to conduct the high-risk traffic stop alone while other officers were en route, and that the suspects, reportedly armed, did not initially comply with his commands. One of the men, Perez-Sanchez, held up his hands as directed but lowered them again

after five seconds and, when asked, refused to lie down on the ground.

"In total, from the time the vehicle had stopped to the time Sgt. Beraha first arrived, was approximately 50 seconds that I had no backup and gave Ramirez and Perez several lawful orders," according to the account.

Later, four officers arrived, two of whom were armed with their AR-15 assault rifles, and issued commands in both Spanish and English. Perez-Sanchez and Ramirez-Martinez were eventually detained and

arrested, and were booked into Santa Clara County jail where they remain in custody.

In an interview with police, Ramirez-Martinez said he had purchased the shotgun and revolver off of Craigslist a few months prior, claiming it was for protection against people who had killed his brother in El Salvador. He said he planned to ditch the guns, in part because he had a child on the way, and that he put the weapons in the vehicle on Friday, April 13, intending to somehow get rid of them.

Ramirez-Martinez said he and his roommate, Perez-Sanchez,

had worked that Friday cleaning a building in Woodside before going to Monte Carlo, where he claimed he was allowed in despite being underage at the time, according to police reports. He suggested that Perez-Sanchez began "talking" to the victim and the situation escalated. He claimed that they were confronted by a van with an "additional 10 people," adding that brandishing a gun wasn't very effective at deterring them.

Court documents state that Perez-Sanchez was on probation at the time following a case in

San Mateo County that found he violated child endangerment laws.

After the arrest, police searched the suspects' home in Menlo Park and found several rounds of ammunition and a Taser, according to the Mountain View Police Department.

Both the prosecutor and the defense agreed on the plea deal that was reached last month, and the judge is not expected to reject the sentences put forward, according to Deputy District Attorney Joanna Lee. ▣

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## COMMUNITY CENTER

► Continued from page 5

going to be very well used," she said. "We're feeling really proud of this. Our mentality is: If you build it, people will come."

The new upgrades include a 7,000-square-foot expansion and remodel of the building, but the "bones" of the original structure are still there, Crosby said. The expansion includes two new fitness and dance rooms and four multipurpose rooms, which are intended mainly for use by outside groups. At the back of the center is a new classroom for the city's preschool programs. Each room smelled factory-fresh with new furniture, audio-video equipment and other features. Throughout the building, a variety of new murals and art commissioned by the city are also on display.

The centerpiece of the new design is the "Redwood Room," a social hall with space for 250 people and an adjoining kitchen and a patio overlooking the park lawn. Crosby explained the social hall is intended for large



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Visitors walk past unboxed furniture and toys in the preschool room in the new Mountain View Community Center.

events like weddings, banquets or corporate retreats. Even before its opening, the space is already booked for upcoming weekends, she said.

The new Mountain View

Community Center is just one in a series of planned upgrades to the park. Along Rengstorff Avenue, the city completed a new traffic signal at Stanford Avenue to improve safety and provide

an easier way for drivers to turn into the park. Meanwhile, a new Magical Bridge playground intended for children with disabilities is being planned at the rear of Rengstorff Park, near the

### See the new center this Saturday

The new Mountain View Community Center will have its grand opening from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23. More information about the event can be found at [mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov).

tennis courts. Magical Bridge supporters are currently working to raise the \$4.5 million needed to design and build the playground.

On the north side of the park, city officials also expect to remodel the aquatics center. That building is even older than the community center, and city recreation staffers say it is requiring more and more maintenance with each passing year.

The city has already convened three community meetings on redesigning the aquatics center, and formal plans for a new building are expected to be finished later this year. ▣

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## NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given for the purpose of pre-qualification; sealed Responsibility Questionnaires will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Mountain View Los Altos High School District up until the close of business on the date indicated below for:

### Project Description:

Mountain View High School New Classroom Building.

**Pre-Qualification Packages Due Date and Time:** Friday, March 1, 2019 at 3 :00pm at Kramer Project Development Company, Inc., attention: Omid Azizi, 4020 Moorpark Avenue, #220, San Jose, CA 95117.

### Pre-Qualification of Trade Contractors

To receive plans and bid, Trade Contractors must possess a current and active license to perform the work listed, submit and certify the required Responsibility Questionnaire information, and be pre-qualified by the District.

A. General Trades	A or B	License Required
B. Earthwork and Paving Trades	A or C-12	License Required
C. Underground Utility Trades	A or C-34	License Required
D. Electrical and Low Voltage Trades	C-7 or C-10	License Required
E. Plumbing Trades	C-36	License Required
F. HVAC Trades	C-20	License Required
G. Fire Protection Trades	C-16	License Required
H. Painting Trades	C-33	License Required
I. Flooring Trades	C-15	License Required
J. Cabinet and Millwork Trades	C-6	License Required
K. Site Concrete Trades	C-8	License Required
L. Landscaping Trades	C-27	License Required

**Only Pre-Qualified Contractors will be permitted to bid.** Pre-Qualified Contractors will be required to attend a mandatory Pre-bid Conference **tentatively** scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the Mountain View Los Altos High School District Office, 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040. Opening of the sealed bids submitted by pre-qualified bidders is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 2:00 PM at the Mountain View Los Altos High School District Office, 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040. Pre-qualified contractors are advised to verify dates and times of the mandatory pre-bid conference and bid opening prior to the above listed dates. Responsibility Questionnaires and instructions for submission can be obtained by calling Omid Azizi at (669) 231-4260 or by email [omid@kramerpdc.com](mailto:omid@kramerpdc.com). Contracts will require a 100% Performance Bond, a 100% Labor and Materials Bond and a Bid Security in the amount of 10% of the submitted bid. The project is subject to the State Labor Code. Labor Code 1720-1861 regarding DIR registration, the payment of prevailing wages and submission of certified payroll statements will be enforced. No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 [with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)]. No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5. This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. Contractors are allowed, according to PCC sec. 22300, to submit securities in lieu of retention. Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise, in accordance with Education Code Section 17076.11, the Mountain View Los Altos High School District has "a participation goal of at least 3% per year of the overall dollar amount expended each year by the school district for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise". Thus, all contractors bidding on this project are required to make a good faith effort to achieve this 3% participation goal. Requirements for demonstrating that this good faith effort has been made are included in the Project Manual.

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District is calling on community members to apply for a leadership position overseeing Bullis Mountain View (BMV), a newly approved charter school set to open this fall.

In December, the district's board of trustees approved BMV's petition to open an independently operated 320-student campus in Mountain View. Despite the autonomy, the district holds a number of oversight powers as the chartering authority, including the ability to appoint someone to the charter school's board of directors.

District board members are planning to exercise that power, and agreed earlier this month to hold an application process soliciting members of the public interested in the leadership role. Details are still hazy on the timeline, but board members are expected to review the application template prior to its distribution.

The at-large application process was an easy decision. The school board expressed little appetite for having a district trustee join BMV's board of directors, and Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph cautioned against appointing a district staff member to the roster.

District employees are already pretty busy, he said, and may face a number of uneasy conflicts of interest overseeing BMV's business.

"If it was me in their (BMV's) position, I would say that staff is privy to information and could also share that information with the intent of getting an outcome that's favorable to them," Rudolph said. "I don't want to put ourselves in that position."

The composition of BMV's board of directors has changed since the school submitted its petition in November. The school website now touts that half the roster is made up of Mountain View residents — Bertha Alarcon, Greg Brauner and Jordan Hwang. Also sitting on the board is Clara Roa and David Jaques, who serve on the board of directors for Bullis Charter School in Los Altos, and Patrick Walsh, a regional director for the California Charter Schools Association.

Biographical information on the members is not available on BMV's website, and it's unclear if the charter school has any meetings scheduled. The school's website does not have any agendas posted, and representatives from the school were not available to comment on the board's activities prior to the *Voice's* press deadline.

Mountain View Whisman's school board will rely on the appointed member to monitor the charter school's actions and could frequently request reports and updates from the appointee, Rudolph said. Other oversight functions, like reviewing BMV's budget and planned spending under the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), would skip over that process and come directly to the board.

The appointment of a board member is one of several moving parts as the charter school prepares for its debut in Mountain View this year. BMV is required to respond to the district's offer of facilities — the old Stevenson Elementary School campus on Montecito Avenue — by March 1, and the charter school's enrollment lottery is set to take place early next month.

Following BMV's enrollment process, district officials are expected to make hasty revisions to their own student counts and plan for potential staffing cuts and facilities changes at the affected schools. Past projections from BMV suggest the largest decline in enrollment caused by the charter school will be at Landels Elementary School. ▀

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## District seeks applicants for charter school board

## A nature oasis opens in Google's backyard

CHARLESTON BASIN TOUTED AS CRUCIAL WETLAND HABITAT, INCLUDES NEW NATURE TRAIL

By Mark Noack

Mountain View officials are celebrating the completion of what might be called an oasis of nature tucked into the city's tech center.

The Charleston Retention Basin, a 6-acre marsh and nature trail just east of Shoreline Boulevard, is the culmination of an unlikely alliance between Google and a hodgepodge of environmental groups.

First proposed about four years ago, the project restores a swath of wetland habitat for native flora and fauna right in between corporate offices and parking lots. The area was once

a stormwater ditch connecting to Stevens Creek, but over time that ditch morphed into a home for a variety of sensitive bird species.

Google efforts helped complete that transformation. As part of the project, Google's hired environmental team removed more than 130 parking spaces as well as about 120 trees, including dozens of redwoods. Much like the nearby Charleston East project, Google officials explained that the redwoods needed to go because they were not native to the climate zone and drought intolerant. In their stead, the company planted nearly 1,900 new shrubs and trees, including cottonwoods, willows and oaks.

The habitat restoration has

been mostly cheered on by local nature groups, including the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society. Environmental groups credit Google officials for preserving more land than expected.

For visitors, the main attraction along the retention basin is a new trail system with foot bridges encompassing the natural habitat.

Google planned to host a public celebration to mark the completion of the retention basin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21. The retention basin is located east of Shoreline Boulevard and north of Charleston Road. ▀

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## Rose International Market reopens in Mountain View

By Elena Kadwany

Rose International Market is back. The longtime Persian market reopened on Monday, Feb. 18, in Mountain View, an employee confirmed.

The market closed temporarily in 2015 while a four-story apartment complex was built at the corner of Castro Street and El Camino Real in Mountain View. After community backlash, the developer agreed to sign affordable long-term leases for several small businesses at the site, including Rose Market, so they could remain in the ground floor of the new building once it opened.

The renovated Rose International Market carries the same specialty grocery items, fresh produce and prepared foods that have made it a local favorite for decades. With “coming soon” notes posted on the windows in recent weeks, customers have been eagerly peering in for a glimpse of the renovated space.

Saied Mehranfar, a native of Iran, opened the original Rose International Market with his brothers on Castro Street 31



Inside the new and improved **Rose International Market** in Mountain View.

PHOTO BY VERONICA WEBER

years ago. He eventually moved to the larger location at the corner of Castro and El Camino and later opened additional markets in Cupertino and Saratoga. He proudly claims to serve the “best kebab in the Bay Area.”

The new Rose International

Market is updated and larger but longtime customers will recognize many of the same Middle Eastern products, from imported Persian candies and pickled everything to massive tubs of tahini and blocks of fresh feta cheese. The market

makes its own yogurt and jams. The market also now stocks Indian items like lentils and Italian pestos and dried pasta.

The kitchen, led by Rose Market’s longtime Iranian chef, is again churning out kebabs,

koubideh, khoresh (stews), tahdig (crispy-bottomed rice), wraps, salads and other dishes. Rose International Market will now serve chicken koubideh, a kebab made from ground chicken, onion and spices, which customers had often requested at the old store, according to staff.

You can order kebabs with lavash bread, on top of white basmati rice or as a “super sandwich,” wrapped with vegetables, onion and tomato. All meats are halal.

The produce section includes both standard and specialty produce, such as Persian cucumbers, sour cherries (when in season) and green almonds.

The new development offers plenty of outdoor seating — and, crucially, parking. There’s a handful of one-hour parking spots behind the market, off Castro Street, as well as an underground garage.

Rose International Market’s hours are Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. The grill opens at 11 a.m. and closes one hour before the store does. ▣

Email Elena Kadwany at [ekadwany@pawekly.com](mailto:ekadwany@pawekly.com)



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**Union members of SEIU-UHW** rallied at El Camino Hospital in a bid to keep their jobs at five Santa Clara County clinics.

MAGALI GAUTHIER

## CLINICS

► Continued from page 1

public agencies alike have been vying in recent months to purchase the health care facilities to keep them from closing.

The roughly 180 employees who work in Verity's Santa Clara County clinics were given notice in January that they would be laid off between March 31 and April 13 unless the clinics are purchased and the purchase agreement includes the direct transfer of existing jobs. Employees facing layoffs range from medical assistants, technicians and technologists to clerical staff and housekeepers, according to a statement by the local health care workers' union SEIU-UHW.

Union employees working at the clinics were given a glimmer of hope when Silicon Valley Medical Development (SVMD), a wholly owned subsidiary of El Camino Hospital, announced it was seeking to buy five of the clinics. The proposed agreement between Verity and SVMD includes only the "tangible assets, leases and certain contracts," and does not include the transfer of employees, but SEIU representatives and local members of Congress urged the hospital board to reconsider and retain the jobs.

Three San Jose elected officials — Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese and San Jose City Council members Sergio Jimenez and Magdalena Carrasco — sent similar letters asking the hospital board to preserve

existing clinic staff positions, rather than having those staffers reapply for their jobs when the clinics are reopened.

More than a dozen of those employees told El Camino Hospital board members at the Feb. 13 meeting that they've been stuck in an uneasy position since January, wondering what's going to happen to their jobs. Rena Schwartzberg, a patient service representative at Good Samaritan Clinic in San Jose, said patients and employees alike are anxious to know whether the clinics are going to close and, if not, whether the physicians and support staff are going to be fired.

"It's a scary time for me and my coworkers," she said. "We have so many questions but so few answers. How will we provide for our families? Will we have to move to find our next job? Will that job pay at least the same amount?"

Other employees said they have families to support and want to continue working in Santa Clara County and serve the same



MAGALI GAUTHIER

**Rena Schwartzberg**, a patient service representative at Good Samaritan Clinic, told El Camino Hospital board members that clinic staff and patients alike face an uncertain future amid the bankruptcy of Verity Health System last year.

patients they've worked with for years, but the lack of clarity on what El Camino Hospital plans to do with the clinics has left only a rumor mill among employees.

"Not only am I worried about losing our jobs, and we have homes and kids in college, but the continued care of patients is a big deal for us," said one Morgan Hill clinical staff member. "We have a lot of patients in Morgan Hill."

After a lengthy closed session in the middle of the meeting, the board unanimously voted on a resolution supporting SVMD's \$1.27 million purchase agreement, which proposes buying clinics located at 625 Lincoln Ave., 2585 Samaritan Drive and 227 North Jackson Ave., all in San Jose; 18550 DePaul Drive in Morgan Hill; and 9360 No Name Uno, #125 in Gilroy.

Board members did not discuss the resolution before the vote, and did not request any modifications to the agreement.

In a statement Feb. 14, SVMD president Bruce Harrison said the agreement still must be approved by a bankruptcy court, but the goal is to move quickly and hire physicians through the San Jose Medical Group at all five clinics.

"It is our goal to open new clinics in a timely manner to provide patients with continuity of high-quality of care from physicians they know and trust with as little of disruption as possible," Harrison said in the statement.

The board's vote Feb. 13 wasn't a direct purchase of the clinics, but rather a resolution that authorizes SVMD to submit the offer to buy the assets of the clinics. Those assets include facilities, furniture, equipment and the electronic medical records at all five sites. In a brief statement, El Camino Hospital board chair Lanhee Chen said the hospital is committed to expanding access to health care outside of the hospital setting, and that the board appreciates the "comments and concerns expressed by community members" on the proposed sale agreement.

"We are hopeful that the SVMD bid is accepted through the bankruptcy proceedings, and its plans can be implemented," Chen said in the statement.

Hospital officials declined to further comment on the decision not to retain existing employees as part of the purchase offer.

In a statement responding to the decision, SEIU-UHW spokesman Sean Wherley criticized the board's decision, and said taxpayers in the El Camino Healthcare District don't want to see caregivers "thrown out of their jobs" after dedicating their careers to the Silicon Valley clinics. All five of the El Camino Healthcare District board members have direct oversight of the hospital and its operations, and all serve on the nonprofit hospital's board of directors.

"We're calling on the El Camino Board to conduct this expansion in a way that will make the district proud," Wherley said. "So far, it seems embarrassingly callous and greedy." ■

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**FREE!**

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# Report: Inequality on the rise in Silicon Valley

INDEX OF REGION HIGHLIGHTS SPIKING HOUSING COSTS, INCOME GAP

By Gennady Sheyner

Despite a sizzling economy and an influx of wealth, Silicon Valley remains a bastion of inequality, with more residents now struggling to afford the growing costs of housing, child care and transportation, according to a newly released snapshot of the regional economy.

The 2019 Silicon Valley Index, which was released last week by Joint Venture Silicon Valley, paints a troubling picture of a region where home prices continue to skyrocket, where tech giants are voraciously gobbling up startups and where more people are leaving than coming in.

These trends are casting a shadow over the region's continuous economic expansion, with \$50 billion in venture capital flowing to area companies and average annual earnings reaching \$140,000, more than double the national average.

In his introduction of the annual report, Joint Venture President and CEO Russell Hancock called this year's report a "Rorschach test," with plenty to both cheer and worry about. Hancock noted that some of the challenges, including transportation's woes, sky-high housing costs, and a "yawning income divide," remain troubling but are, in a sense, "old news."

More disquieting, he wrote, are indicators that the region's "fundamentals" — which have driven the area's economic vitality — could be changing.

Among the factors, he wrote, large companies are "acquiring smaller ones at a pace we've never seen, changing the messy way innovation has typically happened here, perhaps even stifling it."

"Fewer startups are getting their seed funding," Hancock wrote. "Our high costs (including salaries) are causing innovative companies to look elsewhere."

For the third year in a row, Silicon Valley has seen more people move out than move in, the report states. Between July 2017 and July 2018, Santa Clara County had a net "out migration" of domestic residents of about 15,000, trailing only Los Angeles and Orange counties. Strikingly, foreign immigrants are also leaving in greater numbers than coming in. Between July 2015 and July 2018, the region gained 61,977 foreign immigrants but lost 64,318 to other parts of California and the United States.

"The influx of foreign immigrants into the region is more

than fully offset by the number of Silicon Valley residents moving to other parts of the state and nation; those who choose to stay within California are heading to regions such as the Sacramento and Stockton/Tracy areas where housing costs are significant lower," the report states.

The report also takes note of the region's slowing population growth, which is due primarily to the region's slow and declining birth rate.

At the same time, Silicon Valley remains a diverse region. The report showed that in 2017, Asian residents made up 34 percent of the population, marking the first time that they have represented the largest share of the region's population (in 2007 they accounted for 28 percent of the population). The percentage of white residents has decreased from 40.4 percent in 2007 to 33.5 percent in 2017, the report states.

The report also underscores the region's failures, despite recent statewide and local efforts, to increase residential development and lower housing costs. Median home prices in Silicon Valley skyrocketed in 2018, going up by a whopping 21 percent and reaching \$1.18 million, the report states. And while rental rates in the San Francisco and San Jose metro areas remained steady in 2018, they were significantly higher than in any other metro area in the nation (in these two areas, rental rates are \$3.42 and \$3.20 per square foot, respectively; New York is a distant third at \$2.67 per square foot).

Housing supply has not come anywhere close to keeping up with demand: While the region has produced close to 18,000 new units over the past two years, the new projects have not come close to making up for insufficient building over the prior decade, according to the report. The Index estimates that between 2007 and 2016, Silicon Valley created a housing shortage of about 38,000 units, which would be needed to accommodate the region's growing population.

Furthermore, new buildings are generally priced for the wealthy. Only 8 percent of newly approved residential units in Silicon Valley are affordable to residents who earn less than 80 percent of the area median income. For most potential first-time homebuyers, local prices remain far out of reach. The report shows that only 22 percent of potential first-time homebuyers in San Mateo County — and 30 percent in Santa Clara County — can afford a median-priced home.

The lack of affordable housing,

the report notes, "results in longer commutes, diminished productivity, curtailment of family time, and increased traffic congestion."

"It also restricts the ability of crucial service providers — such as teachers, registered nurses, and police officers — to live near the communities they work," the report states. "Additionally, high housing costs can limit families' ability to pay for basic needs, such as food, health care, transportation, child care and clothing. They can push residents to live with one another for economic reasons and can increase homelessness."

Despite a recent push by traditionally growth-averse cities like Palo Alto to encourage more housing, the pace of construction remains sluggish. The number of residential units that were permitted in Silicon Valley in 2018 — 8,400 — was actually lower than in 2017, when more than 9,000 units received the green light.

The report underscores the region's growing income gap, with the number of high-income households (earning \$150,000 or more) in Silicon Valley and San Francisco rising by 35 percent in the past four years and 2 percent of households claiming 27 percent of the wealth. Furthermore, more than a quarter of Silicon Valley households have household incomes above \$200,000, compared to 11 percent statewide and 7 percent nationally.

But for those at the lower end of the income scale, affording a living has become considerably more difficult. One of the more eye-popping statistics in the new report is the rising cost of child care, which has gone up by 52 percent since 2012 and now stands at about \$20,900 annually for infants. The cost of transportation needs for a family of four has gone up by 18 percent since 2014 and is now about \$6,300.

The report points to income disparities that persist between "residents of various races and ethnicities, and between men and women at the same level of educational attainment." The tech industry continues to be dominated by men. Only 18 percent of highly educated women between the ages of 24 and 44 worked in technical occupations in 2017, compared to 43 percent of their male counterparts.

The report also showed that women made up just 28 percent of the workforce at Silicon Valley's largest tech companies in 2017, and a mere 19 percent of technical roles and leadership positions.

One finding that is unlikely to surprise readers is the

growing commute times. Even though the average number of miles driven by Silicon Valley residents has declined for three consecutive years (reaching 22 miles in 2017), solo commuting remains the most popular option — one chosen by 72 percent of Silicon Valley workers (down from 75 percent a decade ago). The report notes that the average commute time has gone up by 20 percent over the past decade, adding an additional 43 hours of driving time per commuter annually. In 2017, 6.5 percent of employees spent more than three hours on their daily work commutes.

Likely driven by traffic congestion, the share of commuters taking public transportation rose, from 4.9 percent in 2011 to 6.5 percent in 2016. Ridership

on Caltrain, a popular commute option on the Peninsula, rose between 2010 and 2018 by 45 percent.

The cost of transportation needs in Silicon Valley went up by 4 percent over the past four years, the report found, even as it decreased statewide by 12 percent over the same period.

"Changing transportation costs affect our residents' ability to get around and still afford their other basic needs," the report states. "And the amount of time wasted due to long commutes and traffic delays affects the everyday lives of our residents — taking time away from work, participating in the community, or being with family and friends." ■

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## Employment

### Coursera, Inc.

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## Ludwig's German Table moving into former Bierhaus spot

By Elena Kadwany

The owners of Ludwig's German Table in San Jose are bringing their traditional German restaurant and biergarten concept to downtown Mountain View, taking over the former Bierhaus space on Castro Street.

Co-owners Nicole Jacobi and Ben Bate plan to open their second location this summer at 383 Castro St. Bierhaus closed in September after a messy dispute between the owner and landlord. Bierhaus eventually reopened in Oakland.

Jacobi and Bate opened Ludwig's in San Jose's historic Germania Hall three years ago, serving up traditional German beer and food. Jacobi hails from Hamburg, Germany, and Bate from England. Jacobi worked

at hotels in Germany, Switzerland and London and operated two restaurants in Germany before moving to California for her husband's startup. Here, she ran a catering business and operated the FoodShed cafe at the Children's Discovery Museum in San Jose.

The owners have used the 2,000-square-foot restaurant in San Jose to host classic German events, including Oktoberfest, Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas market) and next month, their first Karneval.

The Mountain View location will be more casual than the San Jose location, "focused on an authentic German beer garden," Jacobi said. Along with drinks, there will be food that draws on Jacobi's roots and family recipes: imported

pretzels, sausage salad and German meats and cheeses. Social media posts hint at Mountain View menu items, like a riff on baked brie with lingonberries, red beet gnocchi with gorgonzola cream and frikadellen, pan-fried meatballs that are served cold.

"It's not fancy and it shouldn't be," Jacobi said of the food. "It's more rustic."

The space and menu will have a "European vibe," Bate said. "We haven't tried to put an American twist on it."

They hope to be open in May or June. Ludwig's will join a well-established beer market in the neighborhood, with Steins Beer Garden and Tied House just blocks away. ▣

Elena Kadwany can be reached at [ekadwany@paweekly.com](mailto:ekadwany@paweekly.com)



MAGALI GAUTHIER

A German restaurant will replace Bierhaus in downtown Mountain View.

## CALTRAIN

► Continued from page 5

and withering criticism from local municipalities throughout the state, including Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Atherton. In recent years, Mountain View officials have been mostly lukewarm on the project, expressing

skepticism as the project languished but stopping short of outright opposition.

Mountain View Councilman John McAlister, who sits on the VTA board of directors, expressed confidence that the recent setback for high-speed rail would not curtail the city's plan to separate the local train crossings.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Castro Street is slated to be closed off at the Caltrain tracks in downtown Mountain View.

Those projects include a \$60 million plan to close off Castro Street to traffic and a \$120 million project to tunnel Rengstorff Avenue under the train tracks.

Those expensive infrastructure projects already have funding secured, primarily from the 2016 Santa Clara County Measure B sales tax, which allocated \$750 million toward grade-separation efforts, McAlister said.

"The dying of high-speed rail will not affect our projects," he said. "Right now, as I see it, there's no negative effect."

Yet the news that California leaders are looking to pull the plug on bullet trains is hardly something to celebrate, McAlister said. The regional housing woes and land costs made it very sensible to pursue some kind of speedy transit line, he said.

"We still need to do something down the road," he said. ▣

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

## BUDGET

► Continued from page 1

of this month, the city is expecting to receive \$52.9 million in property taxes this fiscal year, making it the city's single largest revenue source.

This year's estimated property tax revenue would be a 4.5 percent increase over last fiscal year; however, that rise is modest compared to the last several years when the city's property values were routinely going up by 10 percent or more annually. The recent increases are believed to stem from property sales, development and inflation. Looking far into the future, city accountants are forecasting that property tax revenues will continue to increase by about 50 percent over the next 10 years.

Other city revenue sources aren't looking so rosy. Profits from hotel and utility taxes are both trending downward, decreasing this year by about 2.2 percent and 4 percent, respectively. The reason for this, according to the city staff report, is hotel lodgings are slightly down, and more residents are going off landline phone service, reducing utility fees.

In the big picture, Mountain View is running under budget, spending about \$122 million, or \$3.2 million less than what the city budgeted for this fiscal year. Jesse Takahashi, the city's finance director, explained that this was mainly due to about 30 unfilled positions at City Hall.

These numbers were reviewed by the City Council at its Feb. 12 meeting as part of the midyear budget update. While delivering

the update, city staff also made a variety of requests for money. They recommended putting \$2 million of the excess money in the city's "Strategic Properties Acquisition Fund," which is used for quickly buying up needed properties for larger projects. The city staff didn't have any specific land purchases in mind, Assistant City Manager Audrey Ramberg explained, but she said it would be wise to have money ready if that opportunity came up.

The city also contributed \$1 million toward paying off the unfunded pension balance for city employees. These appropriations were approved by the council in a 7-0 vote.

"For context, I want to point out how well-managed and how good our predecessors have been over the years," said Councilman Chris Clark. "The national debt just passed \$22 trillion. We've been very responsible over the years, and I'm glad we're continuing that. We have very fiscally minded council members." ▣

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

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# Arts & Events

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

## West Bay creates magic with Verdi's 'Foscari'

By Renee Batti

Giuseppe Verdi was the most popular opera composer of his time, and perhaps beyond, responsible for enshrining the dramatic “grand” in Italian grand opera. His fans don’t have to look far to find live performances or hear recordings of what is widely regarded as his greatest music, including “Rigoletto,” “Otello,” “Macbeth,” “La Traviata” and “Aida.”

But the prolific composer also wrote what are thought to be minor works, particularly early in his career, and those operas are rarely if ever brought to the stage. So when West Bay Opera announced the staging of “I due Foscari,” which premiered in Rome in 1844 and preceded almost all of his most famous works, Verdi lovers had reason to be gleeful.

West Bay opened its production of the rarely performed three-act opera on Feb. 15, and though the opera itself can comfortably remain in the “minor work” category, this staging — with all its glorious singing, its forceful orchestration, and its revelations of the early steps the composer took on the path toward his major works — is truly a gift to opera and classical music lovers.

The “minor” categorization has little if anything to do with the quality of the music heard in this opera, but rather with the plot: Unlike Verdi’s later works depicting grandiose human tragedies in all their twisting and turning complexities — some literally Shakespearean at their core — “Foscari” is a simple story. Father is the doge; son is accused of



Nathan Granner as Jacopo Foscari and Christina Major as Lucrezia Contarini.

murder and treason. The Venetian Council of 10 vote to exile son. Wife of son rages and weeps and prays and rages some more. Son is put on a slow boat for a land beyond. And dies. The doge dies of grief. End of story.

But if the plot is uninspired, this production is anything but. West Bay’s general manager and conductor Jose Luis Moscovich noted before the opening that he was “pulling all the stops to present this work” within the small company’s modest means, and he meant it. In addition to bravura singing that kept listeners at the edge of their seats throughout the night, the dazzling sets depicting Venice of the 1450s and the expanded chorus of strong-voiced singers amplified the excitement of the dynamic

live performance in Palo Alto’s Lucie Stern Theatre.

A ballet duo — Hien Huynh and Nathaniel Moore — also added to the dynamism of the performance, nimbly and with great comedic skill portraying in acrobatic dance two rivals about to compete in a gondola race, their movements fluid like the water they will launch their boats on.

But the biggest thrills of all are the lead singers’ stunning performances.

The dramatic coloratura soprano Christina Major has the voice and depth of expression to rage, weep and rage again with the best. As West Bay’s lead singer in “Norma” in 2017, she demonstrated the range, clarity and forcefulness of the *bel canto* form. In the current opera, which is early enough in Verdi’s career to represent a straddling between *bel canto* and the dramatic form of his later work, she demonstrates impeccable vocal control, and world-class talent.

As Lucrezia Contarini, the doge’s daughter-in-law whose husband is facing exile, she also displays an acting range that convincingly flows from tenderness to fury, to near-derangement to dignity.

Tenor Nathan Granner is a magnificent and heart-breaking Jacopo Foscari, the doge’s son. In his first appearance on stage, he is already shackled and awaiting a hearing before the Council of 10. When he first sings, it is

a love song to Venice, which he delivers movingly and with pure vocal clarity. This was a relatively serene moment for the hapless Jacopo, whose next solo scene is in a dungeon, where he has been tortured and is now in the throws of momentary madness, seeing ghosts.

Granner was heard earlier this season as Rodolfo in “La Boheme,” and it’s no mystery why he was brought back to help pillar “Foscari.” His is an expressive voice that easily navigates passages moving from forcefulness to lyricism.

Baritone Benjamin Brady delivers a compelling Loredano, Jacopo’s sworn enemy and a member of the Council of 10 that condemns the doge’s son. His performance is authoritative, both in his singing and his stage presence.

The opening night performance was marked by an unusual event that could have proven to be a blow of operatic proportion to the audience and to the performers ready to enchant us. It was obvious early in lead baritone Jason Duika’s first scene as the doge, Francesco Foscari, that something was wrong. He appeared ill and feeble, and I probably wasn’t the only one feeling relieved that he wasn’t flat out on the stage floor by the end of the scene, which drew the curtain on Act I.

Just before Act II began, Moscovich appeared from

behind the curtain to speak to the audience. A forceful advocate for live performance because of the magic it can deliver, not in small part because of possible unexpected moments enlivening things, Moscovich announced that Duika, a fine singer, had suffered a severe allergy attack, and was unable to sing up to his ability. In this instance, the unexpected did not deliver the magic he had in mind, he suggested.

But magic comes in different forms, and it was felt nonetheless that night. Because of West Bay’s limited resources, there was no understudy to take Duika’s place. But the suffering baritone, who has demonstrated his singing talent in opera productions across the country and at West Bay — as Marcello in last fall’s “La Boheme” — agreed to continue in diminished capacity, and the show went on, with the orchestra and his fellow singers accommodating his inability to project his voice as his role called for. It was a development of grand opera proportion.

Under Moscovich’s baton, the orchestra offers solid support for the singers and actors on stage in this production. “I due Foscari” presents to listeners familiar with Verdi’s later works a chance to experience a point of his development at which he was exploring the possibilities of harmonic expression and dramatic force in his orchestration. And Moscovich and the pros in the pit were effective guides for that endeavor.

The mighty behind-the-scenes talent in this production includes stage director Richard Harrell, set designer Peter Crompton, costume designer Callie Floor, lighting designer Steve Mannshardt, projections designer Frederic O. Boulay, chorus master Bruce Olsstad, and choreographer Daiane Lopes da Silva.

### If you go

There are two more performances of “I due Foscari”: Saturday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m. at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

Tickets are \$35 to \$85, with group, senior and student discounts available. They can be reserved at 650-424-9999 (preferred) or at WBOpera.org. More information at WBOpera.org. ■

Email Renee Batti at [rbatti@almanacnews.com](mailto:rbatti@almanacnews.com)



In foreground from left: Carmello Tringali (in sleeveless cape) as Barbarigo, Christina Major as Lucrezia, Jason Duika as Francesco Foscari, and Benjamin Brady as Loredano.

# Viewpoint

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## Building a complete community

CITY SHOULD APPROVE GOOGLE'S NORTH BAYSHORE PROPOSAL

By Carl Guardino

Complete neighborhoods are the communities where we all want to live, where jobs and leisure activities, work and play, and goods and services are all within walking distance.

The Bay Area lacks many of these complete neighborhoods, often prioritizing housing far away from jobs, creating both mounting housing prices and bumper-to-bumper traffic on our freeways. However, a rare opportunity and a willing partner to create a complete neighborhood is coming to the city of Mountain View.

The proposed plans by Google to create a complete neighborhood in the North Bayshore area — bringing innovation, sustainability, needed housing, and a sense of community — are very exciting to our region. Google's proposal is our best option to not only fulfill the North Bayshore precise plan that was passed by the Mountain View City Council

in 2017, but to bring much-needed housing online and to the community.

With the density of jobs already within North Bayshore, the opportunity to bring appropriately dense housing should not be missed. When the North Bayshore precise plan was approved in 2017, the city committed to and planned for up to 9,850 homes to be built in the area. With Google's North Bayshore framework proposal, the city's vision for the area has a chance to come to fruition, including providing a significant amount of new affordable homes. Google's proposal calls for 20 percent of the homes in the plan to be affordable, with 70 percent rental and 30 percent for sale. This new, high-quality housing would double the amount of affordable housing within the city of Mountain View and again provide the opportunity for the city to be a leader in our region.

Housing at a range of levels ensures that we are housing all of our workforce and creating

diverse communities. With housing near jobs, people are getting out of their cars, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and alleviating our worsening traffic. The proposed 200,000 to 300,000 square feet of retail would allow for everything from restaurants and cafes, to a grocery store, to mom-and-pop shops to open up and serve future residents and the surrounding community. There's currently a lack of services in the area for existing North Bayshore residents, and this proposed framework gives those residents the goods and services they need in their backyard.

Extensive community feedback was given to Google regarding the baylands, trails, and open space in North Bayshore. Google listened, using this opportunity to provide immense community benefit in the form of parks, open protected spaces, and an urban ecology center. These added benefits safeguard the wildlife that is in the area and even give an opportunity to grow the diversity of the wildlife.

Google's proposed framework

for North Bayshore plans not just for today, but for the needs of tomorrow. Economic vitality within both Mountain View and the greater Silicon Valley is dependent on job growth and creation. However, lack of available housing at all levels heavily impedes a business's ability to acquire and retain talented workers, and ultimately to grow. The plan proposed has the opportunity to be a model for other communities looking to bring jobs and housing together to create complete communities. We urge Mountain View to approve Google's proposed plan and welcome a complete neighborhood into the North Bayshore area not just for today, but also for tomorrow.

*Carl Guardino is CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a public policy trade association of more than 360 companies. Together, these companies account for nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley. Visit [svlg.org](http://svlg.org) for more information.*

## Guest Opinion

## ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### MVWSD BUDGET CUTS

Re: "Big cuts coming for Mountain View schools" (Feb. 1), while Bullis does make this more challenging, blaming Bullis does not address the underlying governance mistakes at the root of this problem that were seen back in 2017 (see MV Voice July 29, 2017, "More deficit spending").

The challenge is the board didn't demand the district follow standard fiscal practices. Teachers needed higher pay and most certainly deserved their health care restored, but that should be sought by making a case to the community via increasing the parcel tax or via other cuts, not through one-time reserve spending. Fine to spend down reserves on one-time bonuses, but to increase ongoing salaries and benefits on the back of reserves was shortsighted.

Though the biggest hole isn't salaries but the funding for new school construction, by not using bond funds and refunneling lease funds, that took \$2 million out of the general fund. While Bullis

does make this more challenging, blaming Bullis does not address the underlying governance mistakes at the root of this problem. The conventional approach would have been to go get another bond by this point in time rather than loan out general revenue. Measure G was seven years ago, and other districts would have started their second bond by now — Mountain View Whisman School District should too. The district can begin making its case to the voters by reducing its reliance on outside contracts and owning its past mistakes.

*Christopher Chiang  
Space Park Way*

### JOBS AND HOUSING

"They're back" warned the girl staring at the white noise on the TV screen early in "Poltergeist II" (1986). And yes they are.

As I predicted in statewide ballot arguments in the November 2018 voter information guide, the CEOs looking for new and cheaper housing near their job sites for still more new workers

have already directed their representatives in the state Legislature to re-introduce last year's Senate Bill (SB) 827 as this year's SB 50. The bill would not only authorize developers to build residential high-rises (condos and apartments) in any residential neighborhood near bus lines or other mass transit — without even on-site parking beyond 0.5 spaces per housing unit — but also to build them more generally across "job rich" cities such as Mountain View.

Housing is needed and is best near jobs. But the better answer — beyond appropriate infill and reconstruction — is to restrict new job centers to areas with room for additional nearby housing, such as south Santa Clara County. SB 50 could well gain the approval of enough politicians in Sacramento to pass and even get Gov. Newsom's signature, leaving Californians with only the statewide referendum petition process to save their neighborhoods.

*Gary Wesley  
Continental Circle*

### PUT AMERICA FIRST

We are a great power, but we have foolishly spent our power bullying countries and enforcing inequality at home and abroad.

Imagine if we had spent the money used to overthrow the governments of Iraq and Afghanistan instead on actually improving our nation and its people. We could have used the trillions wasted in killing impoverished foreign tribespeople on educating our children, funding health care and training workers for the jobs of the future.

We can't undo the past, but we seem to have a new generation of leaders arriving who want to put our people to work, get them a modern national health system and reverse the reckless climate-destroying carbonization that Trump is insanely pursuing.

Perhaps it's time to really put America first and stop pursuing those foreign entanglements that a real president named Washington warned us about.

*Ed Taub  
Devoto Street*

FOOD FEATURE

## How a beloved family recipe inspired Ladera Foods



Caesar Aguilar puts uncooked granola onto baking sheets at the company's headquarters in Redwood City.

Story by Kate Bradshaw  
Photos by Magali Gauthier

The roots for one of the Midpeninsula's most popular granola brands and a growing local business can be traced back to when Brian Tetrud, the CEO of Ladera Foods, was a kid growing up in the community of Ladera.

He was one of three children and the son of two doctors. His health-conscious mother, Karen Butterfield, an internist at Palo Alto Medical Foundation, decided to create her own granola recipe after a local brand raised its prices. After some experimentation, Butterfield arrived at a concoction that quickly became popular with family and friends, Tetrud said. "It was clear we had a winner."

After graduating from Menlo-Atherton High School, Tetrud attended Ithaca College



The company sells almond pecan granola, cocoa almond granola and vanilla quinoa granola.

► See **LADERA**, page 18



**Granola on baking sheets** before being baked at the company's headquarters in Redwood City. The granola is currently sold in 1,500 stores and through Amazon.



**Ian Roper** adds a mixture of spices and wet ingredients to a tub of whole grain oats, pecans and almonds.

# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

THE RESOLVE GROUP  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN650475

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: The Resolve Group, located at 361 Lytton Ave Suite 200, Palo Alto, CA 94301 Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): The AW Team, LLC 361 Lytton Ave Suite 200, Palo Alto, CA 94301  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 23, 2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 23, 2019.  
(MVV Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 2019)

LEISURE FOOT MASSAGE SPA  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN650759

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Leisure Foot Massage Spa, located at 108 S. Sunnyvale Ave., #B, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

BO DING  
1224 Pecos Way  
Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/29/2018.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 29, 2019.  
(MVV Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2019)

MOUNTAIN VIEW WELLNESS AND OUTFITTER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN650949

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The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

KATHLEEN M. MCCABE  
741 Sunshine Court  
Los Altos, CA 94024

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

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(MVV Feb. 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 2019)

RAMOS MOBILE AUTO REPAIR  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN650512

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VICENTE RAMOS  
1050 Borregas Ave. Spc. 153  
Sunnyvale, CA 94089

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 23, 2019.

(MVV Feb. 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 2019)

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Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/31/2018.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 13, 2019.

(MVV Feb. 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15, 2019)

## LADERA

► Continued from page 17

and then worked in renewable energy. He was in Washington, D.C. in 2010, when his mom came to visit and in passing suggested starting a business with their family granola recipe.

Tetrud decided to give it a shot. He spent about a year gathering feedback and learning how to build a food business. He talked to Kevin Bianchini, owner of Bianchini's Market in Ladera, to figure out how to package the product and sought guidance from the founders of other granola companies, including Southern California-based Bear Naked. He obtained the necessary permits and approvals, and with the help of a lawyer

incorporated the business.

Tetrud had about \$100,000 to invest in the company, his mother provided a loan and he took out other loans. He also raised money from friends and family.

Finally, in July 2011, he launched the granola at Bianchini's Market. Manufacturing started in Redwood City, later moved to San Mateo and is now back in Redwood City, off of Seaport Boulevard.

"It started out as a one-man show," said Tetrud, now 30. He started doing just about everything himself — demonstrations, food production, deliveries, sales and accounting. "It helped me understand every aspect of the business."

However, to expand the business, he had to enlist the help of

people in the community, he said. He's kept things local, hiring fellow M-A grads Dylan Torres as director of sales and John Eberli as marketing manager and social media guru. Now, about a dozen people are involved in the operation, the equivalent of about seven full-time employees. A number of the employees are also from Ladera.

The business has evolved and now generates revenue from three sources: retail, catering and co-packing (packaging other companies' products). On the retail front, Ladera Foods' granola is sold in 1,500 stores and through Amazon. The company also supplies local corporate catering entities that feed employees at Stanford University, Twitter and PayPal, among others.



**Brian Tetrud**, the chief operating officer of Ladera, adds cooked granola to a machine that then weighs it into individual bags. His mother perfected the granola recipe.

**Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578  
or email [asantillan@pawekly.com](mailto:asantillan@pawekly.com)  
for assistance with your legal advertising needs.**



Ian Roper seals packages of granola at the company's headquarters in Redwood City.

Setting up shop in Silicon Valley brings with it pros and cons — on the positive side, Tetrud said, there have been a number of investors and supporters who have provided helpful business advice. However, retaining talent has been a challenge due to competition in the job market.

Over the years, the company has expanded to sell three types of granola: the original nine-ingredient recipe, which contains cinnamon and cardamom; cocoa almond, which Tetrud describes as a healthier version of "Cocoa Puffs"; and a nut-free vanilla-quinoa granola, which contains seeds instead of nuts for protein.

Despite the variations, Tetrud said "it's the same product we grew up with."

The recipes, he said, are simple, and the granola contains less sugar than other brands.

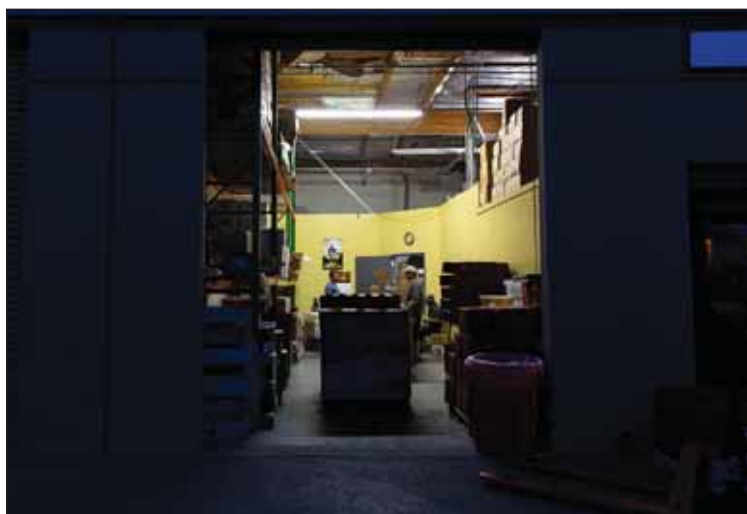
"It's just made of stuff you'd find in your pantry," he said. "That is something we've stuck to our guns about."

Eberli, 28, says that granola is surprisingly versatile. Tasked with marketing a crunchy snack most people associate with breakfast or camping, he said he tries to attract customers who don't already eat it. "Don't think about it as a cereal," he said. Instead, he suggests, think about it as a topping — add it to yogurt, salads, fruit or oatmeal, or as a supplement for a baking project.

"It is a premium granola, but we like it that way," Tetrud said. "We want it to be the best."

For recipes and serving suggestions, see Ladera Foods' Instagram at @laderafoods. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw@almanacnews.com](mailto:kbradshaw@almanacnews.com)



Granola is stuffed into bags and packed into boxes at the company's headquarters in Redwood City on Nov. 20.

## We're Hiring Full-Time News Reporter

The Almanac, an award-winning community newspaper and online news source that covers the towns of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, is looking for an enterprising full-time news reporter with a passion for local journalism.

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Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 6:30 PM  
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Superintendent Dr. Ayindé Rudolph will speak about the past year's successes and challenges in our schools, and what can be expected in the future. The event will feature student performances. Spanish interpretation will be provided.

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## MOVIE OPENINGS

## Cyborg revival

'ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL' A MIXED BAG OF SCI-FI SPARE PARTS

★★1/2 (Century 16 &amp; 20, Icon)

When was the last time you heard an enthusiastic “Hi-yah!” in a movie not starring Miss Piggy? The martial-arts exclamation is just one indication of how unpretentious the new cyberpunk action film “Alita: Battle Angel” is.

James Cameron long planned to direct the script he co-wrote with Laeta Kalogridis (“Shutter Island”), but after 16 years of on-and-off development, “Alita” finally arrives from director Robert Rodriguez (“Sin City,” “Spy Kids”). The resulting film retains a lot of Cameron-esque DNA — especially the skillful application of 3D, worth the upgrade at the box office.

Alita’s role as a “battle angel” literally comes together in the film’s first scenes, as cyborg scientist Dr. Dyson Ido (Christoph Waltz) of Iron City scavenges the refuse dropped from Zalem (last of the great sky cities) and

discovers “a total replacement cyborg” with a “miraculously intact” human brain. This is Alita, soon to be the sensation of post-war 2563. As portrayed by Rosa Salazar in a motion-capture performance rendered over with CGI, Alita has pep, heart and a Tim Burton-esque whimsy about her — at least at first. Soon enough her big-eyed patchwork-doll design goes to work kicking butt, first as a Motorball player and then as a Hunter-Warrior.

“Alita: Battle Angel” resembles Dr. Ido in its repurposing of spare parts. The filmmakers do a fine job of evoking manga and anime in their pop-culture mashup style and lush romanticism (Alita falls into a tragic romance with Keanu Reeves’ cute boy Hugo), but it’s also hard not to think of “Robocop,” “Rollerball,” and “The Hunger Games.” There’s a dash of Jack



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Rosa Salazar and Keanu Reeves star in “Alita: Battle Angel.”

the Ripper here, a dose of Tim Burton’s “Big Eyes” there on Alita’s face. Add a supporting cast that includes Jennifer Connelly, Mahershala Ali, Ed Skrein, Jackie Earle Haley and Jeff Fahey, and “Alita” works hard to make boredom an impossibility.

The film’s world is indeed richly realized, with highly detailed photo-realistic CGI backgrounds and elaborate, colorful set pieces.

The plot may be silly, but “Alita” is big dumb fun. And if there’s something a bit fetishistic about this doe-eyed killer, at least Alita’s character arc takes her from naive and passively happy to powerful and fiercely concerned with justice, for herself and her broken peers.

“Alita” sets up sequels that may never arrive — the hugely

expensive production may well fail to break even — but I wouldn’t mind seeing more from the battle angel who can hold her own in a fight and offer you the heart out of her own chest.

*Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi violence and action, and for some language. Two hours, 2 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

## NOW SHOWING

A Star is Born (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Alita: Battle Angel (PG-13) ★★1/2  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.Black Legion (1937) (Not Rated)  
Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.Black Panther (PG-13) ★★1/2  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

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

Cold Pursuit (R) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Cold War (R) ★★1/2 ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Everybody Knows (English subtitles) (R)  
Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.

The Favourite (R) Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.

Fighting With My Family (PG-13)  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.Glass (PG-13)  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.Green Book (PG-13) ★★1/2  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.Gully Boy (English subtitles) (Not Rated)  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun.Happy Death Day 2U (PG-13)  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (PG)  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.Isn't it Romantic (PG-13) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part (PG) ★★1/2  
Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Mary Poppins Returns (PG) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Miss Bala (PG-13) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Oscar Nominated Shorts - Live Action (Not Rated)  
Guild Theatre: Fri.-Sun.Oscar-nominated Shorts - Animation (Not Rated)  
Guild Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

The Prodigy (R) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

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

Stan &amp; Ollie (PG) ★★1/2 Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

They Shall Not Grow Old (R) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Total Dhamall (Hindi with English subtitles)  
(Not Rated) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948)  
(Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

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

Vice (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: Fri.-Sun.  
Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.What Men Want (R) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.  
Century 20: Fri.-Sun.Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) [tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa](http://tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa)Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View [tinyurl.com/Century16](http://tinyurl.com/Century16)Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City [tinyurl.com/Century20](http://tinyurl.com/Century20)CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For information: 493-0128) [tinyurl.com/Pasquare](http://tinyurl.com/Pasquare)Guild: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (For recorded listings: 566-8367) [tinyurl.com/Guildmp](http://tinyurl.com/Guildmp)ShowPlace Icon: 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View [tinyurl.com/iconMountainView](http://tinyurl.com/iconMountainView)Stanford Theatre: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) [Stanfordtheatre.org](http://Stanfordtheatre.org)

★ 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.

## MOVIE REVIEWS

## ARCTIC ★★ 1/2

Few films have ever kept it simpler — in terms of plot and character — than “Arctic,” a calling card from Brazilian YouTube sensation and first-time feature filmmaker Joe Penna. The film includes almost no dialogue in its single-minded focus on a man’s trek toward survival. Mads Mikkelsen plays Overgard, a man whose plane has crashed in the Arctic, leaving him stranded in the bitter cold. He takes shelter in the downed plane and keeps just ahead of starvation by fishing and rationing. Matters take a yet more alarming turn after a failed rescue mission leaves Overgard in the company of an unconscious young woman (Maria Thelma Smaradottir). Miles from an outpost, Overgard assesses his limited resources, calculates his limited time and decides to trek toward rescue instead of waiting around for more disaster. To do so, he must load the young woman on a makeshift sled and haul her, no small task. *Rated PG-13 for language and some bloody images. One hour, 37 minutes.* — P.C.

THE LEGO MOVIE 2:  
THE SECOND PART ★★1/2

If you have a kid who loved “The Lego Movie,” it’s certain they’ll like “The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part.” Care has gone into making this sequel a worthy direct follow-up to the 2014 film that kicked off Lego as a film franchise. Creators Phil Lord and Christopher Miller return as producers and screenwriters (with a story assist from Matthew Fogel), and their ingenuity and witty DNA goes a long way to establishing a stylish continuity for this sequel. Chris Pratt continues to humorously undercut

traditional heroism as loveably dopey Master Builder Emmet Brickowski, while Elizabeth Banks’ Master Builder Lucy (a.k.a. “dark goth rebel” Wyldestyle) tries to keep him focused on reality. As far as Emmett and Lucy know, Bricksburg has taken a bad turn to Apocalypseburg ever since “adorably destructive” DUPLO blocks arrived from outer space and began warring with the Lego people, wrecking everything faster than they can rebuild. *Rated PG for some rude humor. One hour, 46 minutes.* — P.C.

## STAN &amp; OLLIE ★★1/2

“Stan & Ollie” focuses on the classic comedy team (Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy) and their tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland in the early 1950s during a time when their fame is in decline. Jeff Pope’s script wisely begins by introducing beanpole Laurel (Steve Coogan) and portly Hardy (John C. Reilly) in their prime, on the set of 1937’s “Way Out West.” Friendly banter about their social lives and their contract negotiations with Hal Roach (Danny Huston) carry the pair in front of the cameras, where they knock out a celebrated dance routine with professional aplomb. It’s a precipitous drop to 1953, which finds the team playing live to dispiritingly small houses as Laurel attempts to will into existence another film project (a Robin Hood parody). Primarily, “Stan & Ollie” will appeal to comedy nerds, especially those with at least a passing familiarity with Laurel & Hardy (perhaps best known today for starring in 1934’s “March of the Wooden Soldiers”). Coogan and Reilly convincingly channel their comedy counterparts. The recreated routines are a joy to behold, but the actors also evince a soulful connection to their forebears when not under the lights. *Rated PG for some language, and for smoking. One hour, 37 minutes.* — P.C.

## MERIT SCHOLAR HONORS CONCERT

Young musicians present solo works by Beethoven, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Heberle, Chopin, Joan Tower and Shchedrin in Community School of Music and Arts's first Merit Scholar Honors Concert. Feb. 23, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. [arts4all.org/events/merit-scholar-honors-concert](http://arts4all.org/events/merit-scholar-honors-concert)

## THEATER

**'Bullets Over Broadway, the Musical'** Foothill Music Theatre presents the Tony Award-nominated musical written by Woody Allen about a young playwright whose first Broadway play is financed by a gangster. Thursdays through Sundays, Feb. 28-March 17, times vary. \$12-\$36. Lohman Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. [foothill.edu/theatre/bullets.html](http://foothill.edu/theatre/bullets.html)

**Verdi's 'I due Foscari'** West Bay Opera presents a fully-staged production of Verdi's early masterpiece "I due Foscari" featuring Venetian carnival ballet, period costumes, orchestra and a chorus. Feb. 23-24, times vary. \$35-\$85; senior, student and group discounts available. Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [wboopera.org/Foscari](http://wboopera.org/Foscari)

**'Hal: States'** Salima Bhimani presents "Hal: States," a play following the journeys of three women. For ages 12 and older. Feb. 22, 8-9:30 p.m. and Feb. 23, 2:30-4 p.m. \$22. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [tickets.mvcpa.com/](http://tickets.mvcpa.com/)

**'A Midsummer Night's Dream'** Stanford Shakespeare Company presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in which one rebellious fairy leads these Athenians on a magical and whimsical adventure, blurring the lines of power, romance, and reality itself. Free tickets may be reserved online. Feb. 21-23, times vary. Free. Elliot Program Center, 589 Governor's Ave., Stanford. [search.events.stanford.edu](http://search.events.stanford.edu) for more info.

## MUSIC

**Muller Chamber Choir Concert** The 30-voice Taiwanese male Muller Chamber Choir performs commissioned and other works under artistic director and conductor Meng-Hsien Peng. Feb. 25, 7:30-9 p.m. Free, but RSVP requested. Stanford University Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. [search.events.stanford.edu](http://search.events.stanford.edu) for more info.

**All-Night Vigil** Paul Flight leads a 35-member chamber choir, with soloists Gabriela Estefanie Solis and Mark Bonney, in Sergei Rachmaninoff's monumental All-Night Vigil; nine of the vigil's 15 movements are based on Orthodox chant. March 2; pre-concert lecture at 7:15 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. \$10-\$35, with discounts for advance, senior, and under 30 tickets. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. [calbach.org/season/#rachmaninoff](http://calbach.org/season/#rachmaninoff)

### 17th Century German Masters — The Wild West of Western Music

The Stanford Baroque Soloists, under the direction of Anthony Martin, present a winter program of music for strings by Biber, Schmeltzer, Weichlein, Scheidt and Buxtehude. Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. [search.events.stanford.edu](http://search.events.stanford.edu) for more info.

**Stanford Symphony Orchestra and Stanford Symphonic Chorus** The Stanford Symphonic Chorus performs Vaughan Williams's "A Sea Symphony" with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, featuring soprano soloist Marnie Breckenridge and baritone soloist Kenneth Goodson. Conductor Paul Phillips presents the California premiere of his own

composition, "Wave," and 2018 Concerto Competition winner Nnamdi Oditia-Honnah is the flute soloist for Jacques Ibert's "Flute Concerto." March 1, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. [search.events.stanford.edu](http://search.events.stanford.edu) for more info.

**Compline: An Evening Service of Song** A reflective, contemplative 30-minute service of hymns, anthems and chants sung by Stanford and local choral ensembles. Feb. 24, 9 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. [search.events.stanford.edu](http://search.events.stanford.edu) for more info.

**Masterworks Young Artist Series A** concert by Nova Vista Symphony featuring performances of Antonin Dvorak's "Carnival Overture," Erich Wolfgang Korngold's "Violin Concerto" and Claude Debussy's Premiere Rhapsody for Clarinet. Saturday, March 2, pre-show talk at 7 p.m., performance at 7:30 p.m. \$17-\$27; free for ages 12 and under. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St, Mountain View. [novavista.org](http://novavista.org)

**Musikwest Chamber Music Concert** Musikwest performs a program of works by female composers. Featuring John Novacek on piano, Miho Saegusa on violin, Ayane Kozasa on viola, Anthony Manzo on bass and Michelle Djokic on cello. Feb. 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Adults, \$15; seniors, \$10; Children, free. Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [musikwest.org](http://musikwest.org)

**Open Mic @ Red Rock Coffee** Open Mic Mondays at Red Rock Coffee gives people the chance to sing in front of a supportive audience, meet fellow musicians and performers or simply listen to live music.

Sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m., but arrive early to secure a spot. Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St, Mountain View. [redrockcoffee.org/open-mic/](http://redrockcoffee.org/open-mic/)

**Trio Continental Concert** Flutist Dawn Walker, pianist Aileen Chanco and violist Elizabeth Prior perform works by famous women composers including Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann and Lili Boulanger in celebration of Women's History Month. March 2, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts - Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. [arts4all.org/events/trio-continental](http://arts4all.org/events/trio-continental)

**Two Parts of Me — Flamenco Event** Flamenco guitarist Antonio Rey presents his latest release, "Two Parts of Me," along with singer and dancer Mara Rey. Showcases dancer Bianca Rodriguez and percussionist Marlon Aldana. March 1, 7:30-9 p.m. \$39. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [theflamentosociety.org/id23.html](http://theflamentosociety.org/id23.html)

## FESTIVALS & FAIRS

**USA Gap Year Fair 2019** Attendees learn about gap-year programs from all around the world. Feb. 26, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. [search.eventbrite.com](http://search.eventbrite.com) for more info.

## TALKS & LECTURES

**Jill Abramson** "This is Now" host Angie Coiro talks with former executive editor of The New York Times and Harvard University lecturer Jill Abramson about critical

information battlegrounds: old media vs. new, documented veracity vs. clickbait. Feb. 27, 7:30-9 p.m. \$15-\$45. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [search.eventbrite.com](http://search.eventbrite.com) for more info.

**Charlie Jane Anders** Author Charlie Jane Anders talks about her latest novel, "The City in the Middle of the Night," and signs books. Feb. 26, 7:30-9 p.m. Free, but RSVPs requested. Kepler's Books, 1047 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [search.eventbrite.com](http://search.eventbrite.com) for more info.

**Blake J. Harris** Blake J. Harris, author and regular guest on the "How Did This Get Made?" podcast, discusses "The History of the Future: Oculus, Facebook, and the Revolution That Swept Virtual Reality," the true story behind the founding of Oculus and its quest for virtual reality. Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Mountain View, 317 Castro St., Mountain View. [booksinc.net/event/blake-j-harris-books-inc-mountain-view](http://booksinc.net/event/blake-j-harris-books-inc-mountain-view)

**Caves on Earth, Mars, and Beyond** Penelope Boston from NASA Ames Research Center gives an illustrated, non-technical talk on "The Worlds Under Our Feet: Caves from Earth to Mars and Beyond." Feb. 27, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Smithwick Theater, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. [search.foothill.edu/events](http://search.foothill.edu/events) for more info.

**Josiah McElheny** "Island Universe" artist Josiah McElheny talks with David Weinberg, chair of the department of astronomy at Ohio State University. March 2, 2-4 p.m. Free. Oshman Hall, McMurry Building, 355 Roth Way, Stanford. [search.events.stanford.edu](http://search.events.stanford.edu) for more info.

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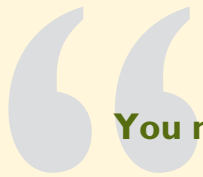
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# MODERN LIVING



### SMART HOME

**NEW  
TWO STORY  
CRAFTSMAN  
HOME**



**Shahin Manavi**  
Alliance Bay.Realty  
650-906-0966  
CALBRE#01375260



3 BED/3BATH  
DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN VIEW

**OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:00-5PM**

OFFERED AT \$1,999,000  
www.227oakstreet.com

## 1623 Ben Roe Drive, Los Altos 94024

Stunning Remodeled Executive Los Altos Home & Close to Top Schools!

Nestled on a quiet tree-lined street in coveted South Los Altos, this gorgeous (2,367 +/- sf) home has an open floor plan with custom finishes in exquisite detail! It features 4 spacious bedrooms, which includes a huge master suite with walk-in closet, an office and 2.5 designer baths with room to expand on this huge lovely 9,944 +/- sf lot.

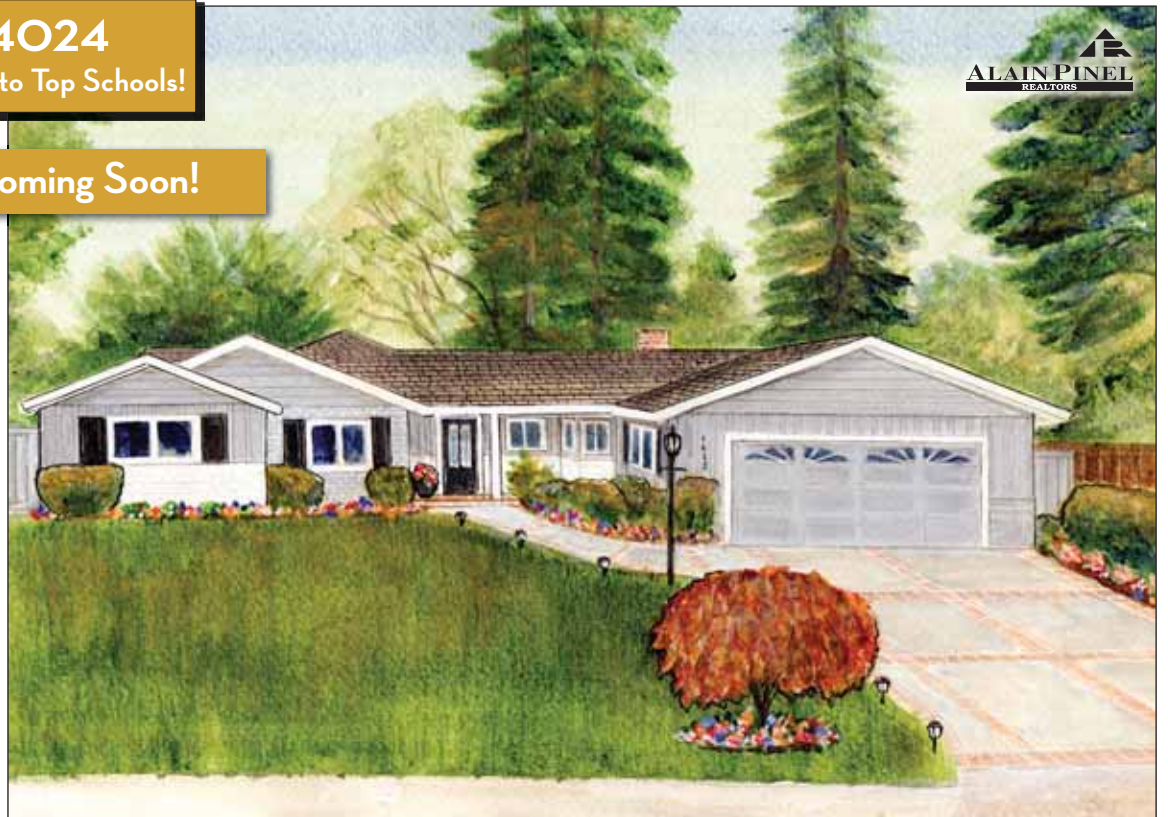
Enjoy cooking in the new chef's custom kitchen with updated quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, abundant new Shaker solid white cabinetry, recessed lighting & open dining area, which connects to the large family room with views of the beautiful patio and yard. Ideal for entertaining!

Recent upgrades include new interior doors, sun tube lighting, gleaming hardwood flooring, dual pane windows and doors, finished garage, paint inside and out, new carpet & beautiful mature and new landscaping! This home is located close to top Cupertino schools & all easy commutes! Perfect for a growing family!

Top rated schools: Montclair Elementary, Cupertino Middle & Homestead High!

**Offered at \$2,698,000**

**Coming Soon!**



### Your Neighborhood Specialist

Serving the neighborhoods  
of Mountain View and Los Altos.

Providing a 30-year Tradition  
of Experience and Superior  
Customer Service.

# LYNN NORTH



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# EXPERIENCE A TROYER TRANSFORMATION™



Your home is where our heart is



**WE ALWAYS SAY,** how you live in your home and how it should be presented for sale are very different. Prospective buyers need to be able to see themselves living there. To create this environment, most homes need to be de-cluttered, cleaned, and staged. Some homes need to be refreshed with paint, new carpeting, and refinished floors, while others benefit from more major updates.

**IT'S ALL ABOUT RETURN ON INVESTMENT.** If a seller invests in these changes, it can mean a substantial increase in the sale price. We would be happy to tell you how these changes might impact your home sale! The home above sold in 10 days for over the list price.

To see more Troyer Transformation™ Before & After photos, visit [davidtroyer.com](http://davidtroyer.com)



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**INTERO**  
A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate



**Foster City** | \$1,068,000

Enjoy stunning sunsets, water and treetop views in this sought-after top-floor 2br/2ba luxury condo with two separate, private master suites.

Andrea Hafner Lynn  
650.400.4209  
andrea@andrealynn.com  
CalRE #01042424



**Atherton** | \$6,495,000

Extensive remodel in 2018 with top-quality finishes, offering an open floor plan with chef's kitchen & FR/DR accessing the private yard. Steps from DT. MP Schools.

Karin Riley  
650.465.6210  
karin.riley@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #01725481



**Menlo Park** | \$1,299,000

Secure single-level, 2br/2ba condo with a fireplace overlooking the pool and lush vegetation.

Michelle Glaubert  
650.722.1193  
glaubert@pacbell.net  
CalRE #00646669



## YOUR HOME CAN BE A SUPERSTAR!

Don't miss this chance to showcase your home on the hottest real estate show around. *At Home in Northern California* is a weekly Coldwell Banker® TV program featuring fabulous local properties for sale.

Check it out on **Sundays at 4 pm on ABC7.**

Find out how to shine a spotlight on your home. Contact your local Coldwell Banker office today for details.

**ColdwellBankerHomes.com**