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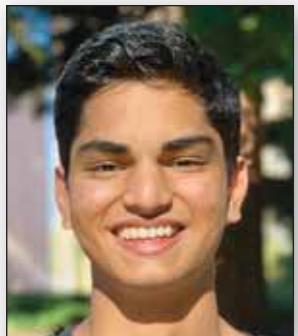
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Voices

AROUND TOWN

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Nisha Malley

What band or artist do you wish you could see in concert?



“Zedd or KYGO or Illenium.”
Arjun Patrawala, Los Altos

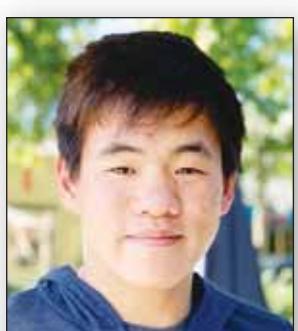


“Lady Gaga. I think she's really cool because she's unique and willing to put herself out there. When I was little I looked up to her a lot but I've never been to one of her concerts.”

Angelina Lue, Mountain View

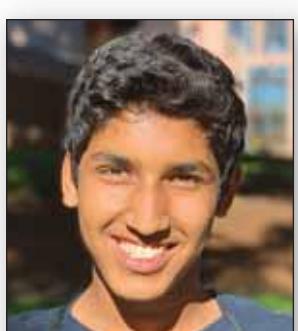


“Prince would've been fun. I'm from Minnesota.”
Jodie Mouratis, Mountain View



“Black Keys. I've been listening to new music and that's something a friend introduced to me recently.”

Ryan Mei, Mountain View



“Shawn Mendes (or) Charlie Puth. I've been listening to Charlie Puth for many years and I really appreciate how he produces his own music.”

*Gaurav Chakravaty,
Mountain View*

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LocalNews

■ CRIME BRIEF

ARREST FOR CONCERT DRUG SALES

Three people were arrested for allegedly selling drugs over the weekend during the two-day Audiotistic music festival at Shoreline Amphitheatre.

The first of the three arrests occurred around 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, at the concert venue when a 24-year-old Woodside man was reportedly caught selling MDMA, or ecstasy, near the main stage, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

On day two of the festival, officers patrolling the event arrested a 31-year-old San Jose man around 3 p.m. after he was allegedly seen selling ecstasy in "Lot A," a large dirt parking lot across the street from Shoreline Boulevard.

Police arrested a third person, a 21-year-old man from Lake Elsinore, California, around 6:30 p.m. the same day after he was allegedly seen selling ecstasy inside the venue near one of the stages.

All three men were arrested on suspicion of possession and sale of a controlled substance.

—Kevin Forestieri

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

2400 block Charleston Rd., 7/8
500 block San Antonio Rd., 7/8
500 block San Antonio Rd., 7/8
300 block Escuela Av., 7/9
700 block Sylvan Av., 7/9
600 block Alamo Ct., 7/9
200 block Loreto St., 7/10
300 block Gladys Av., 7/10
2400 block Charleston Rd., 7/10
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/12
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/12

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

600 block Clyde Av., 7/12
1 block W. El Camino Real, 7/13

GRAND THEFT

3500 block Truman Av., 7/9
600 block W. Evelyn Av., 7/9
2100 block Showers Dr., 7/11
1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/15

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

500 block Del Medio Av., 7/14

STOLEN VEHICLE

1900 block Old Middlefield Way, 7/11

■ COMMUNITY BRIEF

VTA SEARCHES FOR NEW TRANSIT TECH

After abandoning plans for a new light rail line on Highway 85, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority is hunting for new transit ideas for the northern parts of the county.

A request put out by VTA this month calls for new transit technologies that could connect San Jose International Airport and the cities of Cupertino and Santa Clara. Unlike building light rail, which costs up to \$500 million per mile, VTA officials are emphasizing that they want a new transit system that could be built above the road and on the cheap.

The search for an innovative transit system might seem familiar to Mountain View residents. For about three years, city officials have been trying to find a transportation line connecting downtown Mountain View and North Bayshore. For that project, city staff is looking at a grade-separated project that avoids the costly land acquisition needed for a surface-level railway.

In a similar vein, VTA has also demurred on expanding light rail in Mountain View. In a report last year that was supposed to study bringing light rail to North Bayshore, VTA officials instead endorsed autonomous vehicles.

Last month, VTA was lambasted in a Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury report that found that it is among the most inefficient transit agencies in the U.S. The report said that the lightly used light rail system is the main factor in the agency's cost overruns.

—Mark Noack

■ CORRECTION

The July 12 item in A&E briefs on Cage the Elephant spelled band member Brad Shultz's last name incorrectly.

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Lenore Cohen and fellow protesters read aloud the verse that's inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ..." at the Lights for Liberty demonstration downtown on July 12.

Hundreds attend downtown vigil protesting border detention camps

By Ray Levy-Uyeda

Over 300 people gathered at the corner of El Camino Real and Castro Street on July 12 in a vigil protesting the incarceration and detention of asylum-seekers at the United States' southern border.

The vigil, organized by Together We Will of Palo Alto and Mountain View, was one of 780 Lights for Liberty vigils held around the world that day.

Christine Case-Lo, a Together We Will member, said that the

demonstration was humanitarian in nature, not political. "There are kids who are dying," she said.

It would only take a shift in policy to allow the government to monitor those seeking asylum without separating families or keeping people in cages without access to beds, pillows, water, or showers, Case-Lo said.

"I don't care who started it, (it's) now an enormous manufactured problem," she said.

The crowd stood along the sidewalks at all four corners of the intersection and reached its

peak around 8:30 p.m. Protesters held signs that said "Keep families together" and "Never again is now." There was not a quiet moment during the event, which started at 7:30 p.m., from the chants of "Show me what democracy looks like," to the passing drivers honking their horns in support. Some cars drove down the same stretch of El Camino multiple times, honking and waving at protesters.

Most vigil attendees

► See **VIGIL**, page 14

Police grapple with huge rise in auto burglaries

By Kevin Forestieri

Last year, the city of Mountain View reported the highest number of thefts from vehicles in at least a decade. This year is much worse — so far in 2019, the number of auto burglary cases is likely to surpass last year total in just a few weeks.

The problem isn't unique to Mountain View, with the neighboring cities of Sunnyvale and Palo Alto also showing a stark increase in smash-and-grab thefts. Police officials say they

are trying to suppress the growing problem, but say the cases are often remarkably difficult to investigate and prosecute.

As of July 11, the Mountain View Police Department reported 562 cases of auto burglary, about 86% higher than around the same time last year. And 2018 was already an outlier, with a grand total of 622 reported auto burglaries, higher than every year going back to 2010. What's getting stolen is also more valuable: Auto burglaries in which personal belongings worth more

than \$400 were stolen increased 30% in 2018.

Unless caught in the act, auto burglary is difficult to prove.

POLICE CHIEF MAX BOSEL

Thieves primarily target downtown Mountain View, movie theaters and other commercial areas, though the numbers

fluctuate from one month to the next. The Century Cinema 16 in North Bayshore was a hot spot for reported burglaries in the winter months, but saw a precipitous decline in thefts starting in April. The new Showplace Icon Theatres was quickly targeted and has been the site of 19 burglaries since May, according to the website CrimeReports.

Downtown Mountain View's street parking and public parking lots have taken the brunt of the increase, with 65 auto burglaries cases reported on and adjacent

to Bryant Street alone. The In-N-Out Burger parking lot on North Rengstorff Avenue near Highway 101, which had held the infamous title of most-burglarized spot in the city, has 41 reported thefts from vehicles so far this year.

Burglaries have spiked in Palo Alto, with 488 reported cases so far this year, according to Palo Alto Police Department officials, roughly double what was reported around the same time in 2018. Sunnyvale's online

► See **AUTO BURGLARIES**, page 11

Homelessness surges in Mountain View

SUNNYVALE, LOS ALTOS ALSO POST BIG INCREASES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S POINT IN TIME CENSUS

By Mark Noack

In a sign of bad things getting worse, hundreds more newly homeless individuals are living in Mountain View and several other cities, according to the results of a new Santa Clara County homeless census. The new data, compiled as part of the biennial Point in Time count, paints a picture of desperation, showing that two-thirds of Santa Clara County's homeless are living on the streets because they can't afford housing.

As reported previously, more than 9,700 homeless individuals were counted across Santa Clara County, a 31% increase in just the last two years. But the rise is even more pronounced in Mountain View and several cities in the affluent North County. Since 2017, Mountain View's homeless population jumped from 416 up to 606, a 46% increase. The city now hosts the fourth-largest homeless population in the county.

The new numbers are even more jarring for other South Bay cities. Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, Milpitas and Los Altos — cities blamed for driving their homeless populations off to other areas — all are reporting their own significant increases. Homelessness increased by 41 people in Palo Alto (13%) and by 59 in Milpitas (89%).

The numbers skyrocketed for Los Altos, jumping from just two homeless people in 2017 up to 76

this year. The increase is even larger for Sunnyvale: 371 more homeless, a 147% spike in the past two years.

Even Los Altos Hills, among the wealthiest towns in the country, reported its first-ever homeless population: two individuals. The tiny town of Monte Sereno now appears to be the only community in Santa Clara County still reporting zero homeless people.

Conducted every two years, the Point in Time census is performed by sending out dozens of volunteers to canvass every street in the county to count as many homeless individuals as they can find. This year's count was conducted in January, and county officials have spent the last six months finalizing the results.

By nature, the count's methodology is imprecise, and experts say that any results should be interpreted as a drastic undercount compared to the true number of homeless. For example, the street-by-street survey data may include people camping in parks or living in vehicles, but there is no way it can capture homeless individuals who are couch surfing or squatting in nonresidential buildings.

The Santa Clara County increases mirror dire homeless numbers being reported in other Bay Area counties. Compared with 2017, homelessness increased by 30% in

► See **HOMELESS**, page 11

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Local News



SADIE STINSON

Soft-story apartment buildings in Mountain View face a mandatory retrofitting program to make them safer in the event of a strong earthquake. The cost of retrofit programs is an obstacle, so San Francisco is allowing the open ground floors to be converted into housing units.

Retrofit program could create more housing in Mountain View

By Kevin Forestieri

The city of Mountain View is poised to launch an ambitious six-year plan requiring landlords to retrofit homes at risk of collapsing in an earthquake. And while the upgrade requirement could be an expensive burden on property owners, it could also be an opportunity to add more housing units and offset the costs.

The Mountain View City Council agreed last year to pursue a mandatory retrofit program for residential buildings with a "soft story" design, which have partially open and structurally weak ground floors that put them at risk of collapse in a strong earthquake. A survey found that 488 buildings containing more than 5,000 housing units in Mountain View appear to have the faulty design.

Cost estimates for complying with the retrofit program range from \$6,000 to \$20,000 per unit or \$25,000 to \$100,000 per building, according to city staff, and it's unclear how far grants and loan assistance will go.

One way to soften the financial hit is to allow property owners to build more housing: Rather than just retrofit the ground floor for earthquake safety, landlords could convert what's often tucked-under parking and storage space into new housing units, bringing the building into compliance while adding to their rental revenue.

In 2015, the city of San Francisco passed legislation to accomplish just that, peeling away regulatory constraints to allow property owners doing

mandatory seismic retrofit work to build Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) within the existing structure. The ordinance offers significant exceptions for the newly added units, which can exceed residential density limits, have fewer parking spaces and less private open space. The city has received hundreds of applications to add ADUs during retrofit work.

The reasons for the law are two-fold. It adds a financial incentive for property owners to retrofit apartment buildings by allowing units to be built within the soft story, and the additional rent could help offset the cost of retrofitting and constructing the new units. Building an ADU adds about \$50,000 when part of a soft story upgrade, according to San Francisco staff reports from 2015.

At the same time, the law also encourages housing to be built that is affordable by design — ADUs are typically rented out below the market rate — without any public subsidies, making it an easy way to add homes to a region grappling with a housing crisis.

Nearly all of the soft-story buildings identified in Mountain View were built between 1950 and 1980 and have parking on the ground floor, leaving one or more sides open and without a shear wall for stability. Absent a retrofit, the lateral back-and-forth motion of an earthquake puts these structures at risk of "pancaking" if the first floor collapses.

Conversion of a building's soft story into residential units should have no problems complying with the city's building and fire codes, because doing so would eliminate the vulnerable

conditions of the soft story, said Shellie Woodworth, the city's chief building official. The real hurdles, she said, will be with city planning staff, who determine whether a proposal complies with parking requirements and higher intensity use of the property.

It's unclear how rent control would affect these newly added units, which would be within the existing "envelope" of older apartment buildings subject to the city's Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA). The state exempts apartments first occupied after February 1995 from local rent control measures, but the units are being added to buildings that are subject to rent control.

In San Francisco, this is dealt with through a special regulatory agreement. If ADUs are constructed in a rent-controlled building and need waivers from the city's planning code and exceptions for things like density and parking, the property owner and the city could sign an agreement subjecting the new units to rent control.

Though the CSFRA exempts so-called companion units from its provisions, this specifically refers to ADUs added in single-family residential zoning district, said Emily Hislop, senior case manager with Project Sentinel. She said she does not believe an ADU constructed on the same parcel as a multi-family building falls in that category, and therefore would not be exempt from the city's rent control law. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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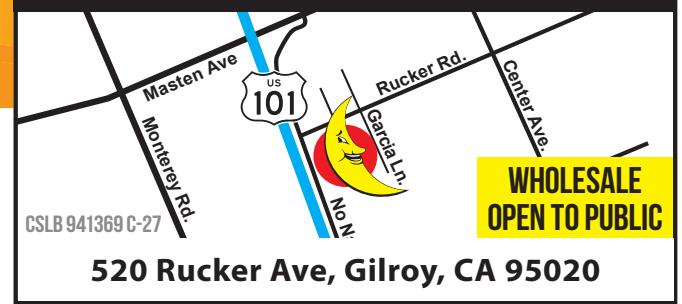
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Local News

Despite threats, no major weekend immigration raids reported

BAY AREA IMMIGRANT ADVOCATES SAY ICE HAS VIOLATED LEGAL RIGHTS OF DETAINEES

By Kevin Forestieri

No raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were reported in the Bay Area over the weekend, despite the threat of heightened enforcement aimed at deporting thousands of immigrants suspected of being in the country illegally.

Fears of a possible immigration sweep in major U.S. metropolitan areas took hold last week, when the New York Times reported that ICE agents were planning to target at least 2,000 immigrants who had been ordered to be deported in "at least 10 major cities." But in a tweet Sunday afternoon, the nonprofit advocacy group Pangea Legal Services reported that the coast was clear — they had received no reports of verified ICE activity through its emergency hotlines, attorneys or the ICE field offices.

The Santa Clara County Rapid Response Network, which relies on hundreds of volunteers to report and monitor immigration enforcement activities in the South Bay, did not hear of any confirmed ICE activity either. There was plenty of anxiety, however, with rumors of ICE spottings throughout the county, according to Eunice Hernandez, a community organizer with Sacred Heart Community Service.

"There were a lot of rumors going around on Facebook and it spread like wildfire," she said.

The network has at least 800 volunteers throughout the county, including numerous North County residents. Local volunteers said they did not receive notifications for confirmed or unconfirmed ICE activity in Mountain View.

A spokesman for the local ICE field office in San Francisco did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In the days leading up to the planned immigration raids, Santa Clara County leaders released a statement on their commitment to not cooperate with ICE. An estimated 130,000 undocumented immigrants reside in Santa Clara County.

"In light of the threat of federal immigration raids we reaffirm our commitment to providing legal assistance to all who need it and due process to every person residing on Santa Clara County soil," county Supervisor Dave Cortese said in the statement.

The Rapid Response Network receives more than \$500,000 from the county to monitor ICE activity and, if people are arrested, dispatches an attorney to track down their location and provide them with legal services. But the network, along with other immigrant advocacy groups, have reported repeated instances where ICE agents have denied access to detainees, running afoul with the constitutional rights to an attorney.

On Friday, July 12, the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California filed a federal complaint on behalf of Pangea seeking an injunction preventing ICE from blocking groups from providing legal services to those picked up in ICE raids. U.S. District Judge James Donato ruled in a decision Saturday that ICE agents must allow attorneys access to those who are arrested, and that the court "expects that a noncitizen will not be removed unless and until a reasonable opportunity to talk with an attorney has been provided."

In a July 11 letter to ICE Acting Field Officer Erik Bonnar, Pangea and other groups raised concerns that the federal agency was processing arrested individuals at its building on 630 Sansome St. in San Francisco on Sunday, when the building is supposed to be closed. When attorneys tried to get in, they were denied at the door and told it was closed for the day. The letter also claims to have documented, repeated instances where attorneys were blocked at the ICE processing center in Stockton.

Hernandez said this has been an ongoing challenge for the Rapid Response Network as well, with ICE agents bringing detainees to the Morgan Hill field office last winter — which is not a processing center

— and then denying attorneys access because there is no "secure space" to talk to clients. She recalled one instance where a man was held in a van for four hours while agents went back and forth from the field office in a bid to get him to sign his own deportation order before he could speak to an attorney. Only after that was he sent to a processing center.

"This isn't something new, this is something ICE is notorious for — violating constitutional rights," she said.

Hernandez said she believes the judge's ruling threw a wrench in the plans for ICE raids over the weekend, which is why there were no reports of confirmed activity. In a similar announcement that fizzled out, President Donald Trump threatened that there would be ICE raids in a tweet on June 17, but later walked back the claim on June 22, stating the enforcement would be delayed pending a bipartisan agreement on a solution to the "Asylum and Loophole" problems at the Southern Border.

Last month, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors reaffirmed its policy of not working with ICE under virtually any circumstances, creating sanctuary policies that prevent the county jail system from providing ICE the date, time and location of the release of inmates suspected of being in the country illegally. At the time, board President Joe Simitian — who represents North County — described ICE as an agency that's "institutionally racist."

The investment in the Rapid Response Network is part of a larger \$5.5 million commitment by Santa Clara County to fund "know your rights" education campaigns and other services aimed at supporting immigrants in the county, which has been a priority since the 2016 election.

Residents are encouraged to report ICE activity by calling the Rapid Response Network hotline at 408-290-1144. ▀

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After experiencing harassment, owner of Zareen's restaurants speaks out about Islamophobia, racism

By Elena Kadvany

Zareen Khan, owner of the popular Palo Alto and Mountain View Pakistani-Indian restaurants Zareen's, will be donating a portion of her business' proceeds to protect immigrant rights after experiencing what she described as Islamophobia in a local restaurant.

Khan was in a Sunnyvale restaurant on Friday, July 12, when a man approached her, started talking to her and followed her to the bathroom, she said. When she came out, he asked her where she is from.

"I said, 'I'm from Pakistan.' He said, 'Are you Muslim?'

"I said, 'Yes,'" she recounted in an interview on Sunday.

He then called Khan a "terrorist" several times, she said. She told the restaurant staff that she felt uncomfortable and he was told they would ask him to leave if he continued.

"There is no artful way to put it: being attacked like this — in my town where I always have felt safe — it hurt," she wrote in an Instagram post over



VERONICA WEBER

Zareen Khan stands in the dining room of her eponymous Palo Alto restaurant.

the weekend. In the post, she announced that she will now be donating a portion of her restaurants' sales to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Khan debated whether she should participate in a news story about what she experienced, worrying that the visibility could threaten the safety of herself

or her family. She mentioned the man who drove a car into a crowd of pedestrians in Sunnyvale in April, allegedly based on some of the victims' race and his belief that they were Muslim.

Ultimately, though, it felt too important, Khan said — on the same weekend federal ICE raids were scheduled to target

undocumented immigrants around the country — to speak out about what she sees as a rise in Islamophobia and racism in the Bay Area.

"It's important to recognize that Islamophobia is not solely experienced in confrontational events like this one. It has woven itself into the daily lives of every Muslim," said Khan, who grew up in Karachi, Pakistan, and came to the U.S. to study economics at Northeastern University. "For example, in the morning I have to decide if I will wear a traditional outfit or a safer, more conventionally American outfit. When I get into an Uber and am asked where I am from, is it safe to tell the truth?"

She said that Muslim family members and friends have experienced discrimination and even violence in the Bay Area.

"Mine is not the only story," Khan said. "You want to assimilate in a community. We want to feel like we're American citizens. There should not be discrimination ... based on who you are."

She said she empathizes with some of the discrimination that undocumented immigrants face

in the United States today, including "being viewed by society as a problem."

"Having this experience and then learning about the unfairness of the upcoming ICE raids prompted me to help in anyway I can," she said. "This country was built and continues to be built by immigrants. We deserve and demand respect."

Khan opened her first eponymous restaurant in Mountain View in 2014 and expanded to Palo Alto's California Avenue two years later. Her contemporary Pakistani/Indian food regularly draws crowds at both locations.

She said she plans to donate at least \$5,000 in proceeds to the ACLU over the course of the year.

On Saturday, the ACLU filed an emergency temporary restraining order on behalf of Pangea Legal Services, a Bay Area nonprofit that provides legal services to immigrants, particularly related to deportation defense, in response to the planned ICE raids. ▀

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweb.com

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AUTO BURGLARIES

► Continued from page 5

“Community Crime Map” shows a 67% increase in auto burglary cases through early July compared to last year.

In an email, Mountain View Police Chief Max Bosel told the *Voice* that the department is taking several steps to control the growing problem, including a mix of surveillance, cross-agency investigations and public information and crime prevention tips. The Park Smart campaign, launched in March, encourages residents to be vigilant when parking at shopping centers, restaurants, movie theaters and parking garages, and to take all valuable belongings out of the vehicle.

The department is also analyzing crime trends, Bosel said, and deploying foot and bicycle patrols in areas that could benefit from a visible police presence.

But actually clearing the cases — that is, arresting someone and charging them with a crime — is difficult for law enforcement agencies. FBI statistics show that for cities of Mountain View’s size, the clearance rate for burglaries ranges from 11.3% to 14.9% depending on the nature of the theft, significantly lower than the clearance rates of all types of rape,

robbery and aggravated assault. Auto burglaries typically happen fast, with thieves targeting multiple vehicles in a matter of minutes without being seen by witnesses, Bosel said. There is often no evidence left behind to prove someone committed a crime, and when they are caught in the act, it often involves one or more suspects fleeing in a vehicle at high speeds.

In a lengthy investigation that led to the arrest of three suspected auto burglars last month, detectives found the alleged thieves had used a rotation of rental cars and false license plates in order to throw off police pursuing the case. Using corroborating evidence from several law enforcement agencies, the Mountain View Police Department tracked down and arrested the three men in connection with 11 auto burglaries in Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and San Jose.

“Prosecuting a defendant requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Unless caught in the act, auto burglary is difficult to prove,” Bosel said. “That doesn’t mean we won’t make every effort to bring some justice to those who have been impacted by this.”

Although Mountain View and nearby cities are grappling with a rise in auto burglaries, other cities have seen a decline. San

Francisco, which had a peak of 31,000 thefts from motor vehicles in 2017, saw a decrease in 2018 that has continued into 2019. As of the end of May, the city had 9,174 thefts, a 13% decrease compared with the same time in 2018.

On a per-capita basis, however, San Francisco remains heads and shoulders above Mountain View. Through May of this year, San Francisco averaged nearly 11 auto burglaries per 1,000 residents, compared with 5.8 in Mountain View.

Though the root cause of the increase in property crime remains a hotly debated topic, law enforcement agencies frequently cite criminal justice reform bills and voter initiatives — specifically Proposition 47, Proposition 57 and AB 109 — which have reduced the sentences for low-level drug and theft crimes in order to bring down the prison population in the state of California.

An analysis by the Los Angeles Times and the Marshall Project found that crime did increase in 2012, the year immediately following AB 109, and again in 2015, the year following the passage of Proposition 47. In both cases, the media outlet reported increases in statewide property crimes, particularly theft from motor vehicles. A voter initiative which has qualified for the 2020

ballot proposes rolling back the reforms imposed by Proposition 47 and Proposition 57.

A report released in June last year by the Public Policy Institute of California found some evidence that Proposition 47 has contributed to a roughly 9% increase in larceny thefts, driven mostly by thefts from motor vehicles. The study found no evidence that violent crime increased as a result of Proposition 47.

While Bosel said he would not speak for other law enforcement agencies, he said state

and regionwide sentiment is that criminal justice reform in recent years has made it more difficult to deter property crimes, particularly the lack of meaningful consequences criminals face if arrested for a theft.

“Repeat offenders and even hardened criminals are not deterred to commit these crimes,” Bosel said. “Arrested suspects have told officers, ‘Property crime, do no time.’” □

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communities that “have been hiding their heads in the sand,” he said.

“The number of our homeless clients has also increased dramatically in the last two years, and these new numbers bear that out,” he said. “This is due to the lack of affordable housing. We need housing for those who aren’t making a ton of money.”

The number of our homeless clients has also increased dramatically in the last two years.

TOM MYERS,
CSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mayor Lisa Maticak said that the city has not ignored the issue of homelessness. In the long-term, the city is working to build more affordable housing, and in the interim, the city is doing its best to partner with nonprofits and other municipalities.

“Homelessness is an extremely challenging issue. Mountain View has committed nearly

\$2 million over two years to help address this,” Maticak said. “While building more residential units takes a while, all cities need to increase the amount of housing, including affordable housing.”

The new report indicates that Mountain View’s struggles could be seen as a microcosm for the South Bay as a whole. Across Santa Clara County, the number of people living out of vehicles has more than doubled in the last two years, increasing by more than 1,600 people.

Four out of five individuals who were surveyed say they lived in Santa Clara County prior to losing their housing. One-third of the survey respondents say this was their first experience of being homeless, and just under half say they could have stayed in their homes if they had some kind of basic rental assistance.

That data should be instructional for future aid programs, Myers said. It is far easier and cheaper to provide aid to struggling tenants so they can afford their rent or utilities, especially when compared with the huge costs taxpayers will face if that person becomes homeless. □

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Cleaner water through pedal power

By Ray Levy-Uyeda

Clean, accessible water may be something most Bay Area residents take for granted, but not Matt LoGrasso. LoGrasso, a recent graduate of Santa Clara University and St. Francis High School in Mountain View, worked with three other mechanical engineering students on the yearlong project to devise a bicycle-powered system to produce potable water, called Pedal for Purification.

They spent months planning and sketching, and then building component parts in Santa Clara University's machine shop.

The device, which uses an adult-sized bicycle for the main function, consists of five subsystems. Each member of the team worked on a different subsystem and produced multiple iterations before settling on the final

design. The total cost of building the product is \$576, which is much cheaper — 91.27%, to be exact — than the market rate for a comparable product, LoGrasso said.

After considering places in the United States that may have served as a potential testing location for their pump, the group set its sights on international issues of water accessibility, LoGrasso said. A professor familiar with the Guatemalan-based organization Maya Pedal recommended the country for testing the prototype.

LoGrasso said that the team was committed to building a prototype that would impact real people. They established project goals for the level of water purification, the time it took to purify water, the universality of the design and the overall cost.

In April, they traveled to San

Andres Itzapa, Guatemala, where they spent 10 days completing the construction of the bicycle device with the assistance of Maya Pedal employees and local volunteers.

"Don't try to reinvent the wheel," LoGrasso said, noting the tendency many Americans have to provide new products and services to communities with systems in place that could simply be improved upon, which was the case with Maya Pedal.

Pedro Hernandez-Ramos, a Santa Clara University professor who chaperoned the students in Guatemala, said that Maya Pedal representatives were "appreciative of the fact that these students who had no connection to Guatemala were creative enough and had enough goodwill to think about offering their services."

Maya Pedal, which outfits bikes to perform a number of everyday duties, such as grinding or threshing grains and corn, powering a blender, shelling nuts and depulping coffee beans, is an offshoot of the Canada-based PEDAL, according to its website.

The device was tested in Patzun, located near San Andres Itzapa, and the group could see



COURTESY OF SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Students from Santa Clara University's Pedal for Purification team demonstrate their water filtration system at a presentation on campus. The group, which includes a St. Francis High School alum, put the design to the test on a trip to Guatemala.

that their product had an immediate impact on the typically murky-brown water.

LoGrasso said that when the group first arrived to Patzun and asked for a glass of water, their hosts offered them Coke, which is synonymous with water. The soda is cheaper and more accessible than water, and tastes better than water from available water systems. It's reported that 54% of the water supply in Guatemala is "at high and imminent risk for human health," according to

the World Bank.

Hernandez-Ramos said that Americans are used to getting clean water from the tap and that it may seem inconceivable that anyone would lack access to such a foundational resource.

Guatemala, which is the most populous country in Central America, has a poverty rate over 50%, according to the World Bank. Of its 16.9 million citizens, 40% do not have access to clean

► See **PEDAL POWER**, page 14

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Los Altos charity seeks bigger role in Mountain View community

By Mark Noack

Its name notwithstanding, the Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF) is looking to make some headway into Mountain View. The local nonprofit is looking to broaden its role by making a concerted effort to take on more charitable projects — and fundraising — in Los Altos' next-door neighbor.

"It's a shift we're making to more fully emphasize Mountain View," said Community Foundation Executive Director Joe Eyre. "We're going to be more present in Mountain View and participating more in the discussion."

LACF originally launched in 1991 as a way for residents to help preserve the city's historic buildings amid fears of redevelopment. Over the years, the nonprofit has grown and adapted with the times, assuming a wide range of roles. Today, it provides funding for scholarships, community gardens and a variety of social services, among other things. Over its history, more than \$10 million has been doled out to a variety of causes.

Eyre is quick to point out that Mountain View has often benefited from his group's charitable giving. The Immigrant House, Day Worker Center and

Community Services Agency have all received help from LACF over the years. Two years ago, LACF launched "Inspire Mountain View," a \$500,000 grant program funded by tech companies to support civic groups. Public school districts that cut across both Mountain View and Los Altos have also been regular beneficiaries.

'We're going to be more present in Mountain View.'

JOE EYRE, LACF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eyre said it was time to officially make Mountain View part of the nonprofit's stated mission. Earlier this year, the LACF trustees voted to include Mountain View in the organization's five-year strategic plan, which calls for greater coordination to address regional needs.

"The feedback that we've been hearing is that there's a lot of opportunity for us to play more of a role," he said. "For the most part, we're a vehicle with a lot of services to help people become more philanthropic."

LACF members point out that

Mountain View lacks its own nonprofit that fills the role of a community foundation. This type of nonprofit is extremely flexible: It can take on a variety of donors and volunteers, and it directs those resources to different needs.

One of the world's largest nonprofits of this kind, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, is located in Mountain View, but Eyre said that organization tends to focus on larger regional projects that go beyond the scope of its immediate community.

For LACF, it remains a little unclear what the actual impact will be from this new focus on Mountain View. Eyre said his organization would coordinate more closely with Mountain View nonprofits and civic leaders on different priorities, such as housing, homelessness and immigrant rights. LACF would likely play a support role by providing grants or volunteers.

With the new push into Mountain View, Eyre hinted that his foundation could modify its name in the coming months to better represent the region encompassing Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. □

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Tech festival plugs Mountain View innovation

By Mark Noack

Now in its fifth year, the annual Technology Showcase returned to Mountain View Tuesday with a panoply of gizmos and gadgetry from the city's tech firms, both big and small, new and old. With 30 exhibits from Mountain View's bustling tech sector, the city's Civic Center Plaza was transformed for one afternoon into an expo of robots, virtual reality displays and autonomous vehicles.

"Our goal here is to highlight Mountain View's tech giants but also the smaller guys who are up and coming," said city business development specialist Tiffany Chew, who co-organized the event. "We have such a vibrant community here."

While the tech sector may be prominent, the industry can still be removed from many residents. No regular citizen can just waltz into a tech firm to see what they're working on, and in turn many tech employees don't have a strong sense of connection to the city.

At its best, the city's Technology Showcase has been one



PHOTOS BY SADIE STINSON

Jay Singh, from the Technology Transfer Program at NASA Ames, talks with a visitor at the Mountain View Technology Showcase on July 16.

way to bridge that disconnect and foster a better relationship between the tech firms and their hometown, Chew said.

Many of the familiar tech powerhouses were on display including Google, Facebook and LinkedIn. NASA Ames occupied a series of booths devoted to its various research projects, including drones designed for Mars and techniques to extract DNA samples. A clear point of pride, the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11

mission to the moon, was being promoted by the NASA team with free swag.

But there were also a handful of newcomers who saw the event as a chance to make a splash. Architect Christian Pomodoro, who just recently relocated his firm to Mountain View, set up a display to showcase his skill with virtual reality. Thanks to some clever design software and a VR headset, his customers could get a simulated walk-through of any home or



Christina tries out a virtual reality experience at the Mountain View Technology Showcase.

building being drafted.

"It's just the sense of scale that 3D technology offers," Pomodoro said. "You can get the experience of walking through the space, see how the sunlight comes in, or how the shadows interplay."

Another larger newcomer was Nuro, one of the latest companies to join the self-driving car industry. Started by a pair of ex-Waymo employees, Nuro is focusing its efforts on adapting autonomous-driving technology

for deliveries. Like some of its rivals, Nuro is already testing its driverless vehicles in Arizona but holding off on a testing debut in California.

Speaking to the crowd, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce CEO Bruce Humphrey said he was immensely proud of the tech talent on display.

"This is what Mountain View is all about: our technology and innovation," he said. ▀

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Mountain View inventor helps students get in the game

BOARD-GAME CREATOR JUSTIN LEONG SHOWS KIDS HOW TO MAKE THEIR OWN GAMES

By Christian Trujano

The days of dreading summer school are in the past for rising fourth-graders at Ohlone Elementary School in Palo Alto as a new alternative-learning program using board games to sharpen their math and language-arts skills has brought fun into the classroom.

Ohlone co-teachers Michelle Yee and Cathy Harkness understood the importance of stepping away from traditional methods of teaching summer school so that the students learn different subjects through hands-on applications.

"Summer school can be such a drag unless you do something fun," Harkness said.

Using the Palo Alto Unified School District's new STEAM-based learning system, which teaches students science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, Harkness and Yee sought to develop their students' inquiry, dialogue and critical-thinking skills.

The initial idea to make board games came from Harkness' husband, who used a similar activity when he taught an after-school program. Harkness then took to NextDoor.com, a social-networking service

for neighborhoods, where she found 23-year-old board-game maker and Mountain View resident Justin Leong.

Harkness and Yee asked Leong to help their students create their own board games so they could apply the various STEAM subjects in a fun way.

"The goal here is for them (students) to go back to their regular school year loving school," Yee said.

Leong's childhood dream of making his own game came true with the creation of Rushin' Roulette, a high-stakes card game similar to poker in which players must bluff their way into being the last person standing. Players are dealt three character cards and each takes a turn "pulling a revolver's trigger" to take out opponents, according to its description on Kickstarter, a crowdfunding platform Leong used to raise funds for the project. Leong now sells the game on his website, playrushinroulette.com.

Leong said he wished he'd had a support system to inspire his creativity and dreams early on.

"I didn't have someone to tell me that I could do it," Leong said. "If someone like me had come and showed me the ropes like this at a much earlier age,

I think I would have been inspired a lot more."

This hindsight is what prompted him to respond to Harkness and Yee's request.

Leong first visited the school last month and spoke to the kids about the various stages of creating a game, including identifying resources for the game and coming up with the rules. The students absorbed his information and spent a week collecting game tokens, spinners, cards and boards from donated games in order to make their own.

Through creating the games, the students were able to learn multiplication by having to deal with scores and play money and practice their language arts skills by writing out the rules for their games and reading them to their peers, among other lessons.

Genesis Suarez and classmate Mireya Reyes created "MoonUno," a spin-off of the classic card game "Uno." Both said they learned a lot about effort and trying their best when creating the game.

"He inspired me to try and make games," Suarez said of Leong. She added that she hopes to see her creation sold at Walmart one day.



SINEAD CHANG

Justin Leong of Mountain View helps summer school students create their own board games.

On June 21, Leong returned to "play test" the students' games — and the kids came prepared.

Mayte Sanchez-Bazan and Andrea Magana-Magana created a combination of Monopoly and Scrabble, in which each player rolls the dice and lands on a square that has a letter on it. The player collects all of the letters he or she lands on and uses them to spell out a word. For every word spelled, the player wins Monopoly money, and the person with the most money at the end wins.

Leong said he was blown away

by the kids' imaginations. After playing their games, he told both classes that he wasn't as creative as them when he was a kid.

"These kids wanting to go to school and wanting to create something, it's such a positive thing," he said.

He added that he would like to see similar initiatives at other schools.

Yee agreed, noting that she hopes to introduce alternative teaching programs like this one to her own third-grade class during the regular school year. □

VIGIL

► Continued from page 5

advocated for ending the separation of families, the

dehumanization of immigrants and inhumane conditions within the detention centers.

Mountain View resident Kathleen Miller said she

attended the protest to exercise her First Amendment right of free speech and to document her outrage with how people are being treated by ICE and the U.S. Border Patrol. "As a white person, understanding that our fellow human beings who are brown and black are being treated horribly," Miller said. "We have a problem with racism in America."

Many held signs that said "We are all immigrants" and several people spoke of the United States' history of restricting immigration or increasing deportation measures. Protesters said that the current anti-immigration policy is

inherently racist.

Social worker Heliana Ramirez traveled to detention centers in Clint, Texas, and Eloy, Arizona, and said that she is particularly concerned about how the trauma is affecting adolescent brains. She said that methodology to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is not adequate for the severe and continuous trauma children face while detained.

Ramirez said that most of the language around immigration is coded racist language, and that white immigrants are not the targets of ICE raids. "White folks who are here without papers do not have to worry."

The event culminated in a candlelight reading of poet Emma Lazarus' verse that's inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Case-Lo said she recognized that not everyone could attend an organized event, but that lighting a candle on your front porch would be a way to let others know that you do not tolerate the current treatment of immigrants. □

Organization, the Guatemalan government provides little support when it comes to maintaining water retrieval systems and providing sustained access to water for those living in rural communities, which account for 49% of the country's population.

"(It was) a beautiful thing to see how this system would positively influence this community's lives," said Hernandez-Ramos. Because the students chose to donate their intellectual capital for free, LoGrasso and

his team members recently were awarded Santa Clara University's 2019 Humanitarian Award for their work, Hernandez-Ramos said.

LoGrasso said that he learned the significance of building technology that aims to tackle social problems and that can potentially make a difference in someone's day-to-day life.

"When making products in the future, it's important to keep in mind (the) people who will use the product," LoGrasso said. □

Inspirations

a guide to the spiritual community

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PEDAL POWER

► Continued from page 12

drinking water in their homes, according to Water for People, an organization whose mission is to ensure that every person in the world has access to clean drinking water.

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MEET THE WINNERS



If you don't know where to go, ask someone you trust. That's what we do every year, when we give Mountain View Voice readers the chance to weigh in on the best places to shop, eat, get services or have some fun. We've tallied up the votes, and this year's list of winners includes some familiar favorites as well as some new places we're anxious to explore. From hamburgers and happy hours to fitness classes and nail salons to bookstores and bakeries, here's your crowd-sourced guide to the very best of Mountain View.

FOOD & DRINK

BAGEL

House of Bagels

Open for breakfast and lunch, **House of Bagels** serves fresh, New York-style bagels that are boiled and then baked in custom-designed brick ovens. House of Bagels offers catering and delivery services and now offers a gluten-free option.

1712 Miramonte Ave.; houseofbagelsonline.com; 650-694-4888



BAKERY

Alexander's Patisserie

Popular for its London Fog tea, **Alexander's Patisserie** serves up coffee drinks and modern versions of classic French desserts from its location in downtown Mountain View. The bakery also crafts custom wedding cakes and confections.

209 Castro St.; alexanderspatisserie.com; 650-864-9999

BAR

St. Stephen's Green

St. Stephen's Green, an Irish-themed pub, lists 36 draft beers, from local craft brews to imports like Guinness. The menu also features its popular pub-style chicken curry, served with rice and fries for dipping.

223 Castro St.; ststephensgreen.com; 650-964-9151



BBQ

Armadillo Willy's

Currently in its 32nd year of business, repeat winner **Armadillo Willy's** offers barbecue plates, sandwiches, burgers and a wide range of craft beers. Its most popular item, the Texas-style barbecue brisket, is cooked fresh every day.

1031 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos; armadillowillys.com; 650-941-2922

BURGER

In-N-Out Burger

Founded in 1948, the coastal fast-food chain **In-N-Out Burger** serves variations of its hamburger, as well as fries, shakes and beverages. According to the company, all ingredients are delivered fresh to its locations without freezing, microwaving or pre-packaging.

53 W. El Camino Real and 1159 N. Rengstorff Ave.; in-n-out.com; 800-786-1000



BURRITO

La Costeña

La Costeña, known for its self-serve burrito bar and catering, offers burritos and traditional Mexican staples at affordable prices, including its \$7 special of the day. The restaurant is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, except on Christmas Day.

235 E. Middlefield Road; costena.com; 650-967-0507



DELI/SANDWICH

Dittmer's Gourmet Meats & Wurst-Haus

Dittmer's Gourmet Meats & Wurst-Haus, a fixture of the Mountain View area since its 1978 opening, offers over 40 types of homemade sausages in addition to its deli and smoked meats. It also serves 10 kinds of sandwiches, including its Reuben and turkey pastrami with chipotle pesto, and offers a build-your-own sandwich option.

4540 El Camino Real, Los Altos; dittmers.com; 650-941-3800

ICE CREAM/FROZEN YOGURT

Gelato Classico

Located in downtown Mountain View, **Gelato Classico** sells traditional Italian ice cream and sorbet. The menu lists over 20 flavors, from Bavarian mint to strawberry fresca and its 93% fat-free banana walnut light.

241 Castro St.; 650-969-2900

NOODLE PLACE

Maru Ichi

Maru Ichi, a Japanese noodle house, is best known for its kuro and tonkotsu ramen. It offers a variety of udon, soba, ramen and cold noodles, and recently added chili curry noodles to its summer menu.

368 Castro St.; 650-564-9931



PEARL TEA

Tea Era

Tea Era offers over 80 varieties of teas, smoothies and juices, with a company focus on providing more healthy options to its customers. This summer, the cafe introduced "Tendering Lemon," wintermelon chrysanthemum and pu'er milk teas.

273 Castro St.; 650-969-2899



PIZZA

Blue Line Pizza

Blue Line Pizza, the sister restaurant chain of Little Star Pizza in San Francisco, accommodates a wide variety of palates and dietary restrictions, with its thin-crust and deep-dish pizzas, as well as its vegan-, gluten-, dairy-, soy- and nut-free options. This summer, the restaurant added a roasted asparagus pizza and a rotation of craft beers to its menu.

146 Castro St.; bluelinepizza.com; 650-938-7888

PRODUCE

Mountain View Farmers Market

Open on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the **Mountain View Farmers Market** is the place to find local produce, meats, bread and prepared foods offered by its many vendors.

650 W. Evelyn Ave.; cafarmersmkt.com; 800-806-3276

► Continued on page 17

BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

FOOD & DRINK

BAGEL

House of Bagels
1712 Miramonte Ave.;
houseofbagelonline.com;
650-694-4888

BAKERY

Alexander's Patisserie
209 Castro St.;
alexanderspatisserie.com;
650-864-9999

BAR

St. Stephens Green
223 Castro St.;
ststephensgreen.com;
650-964-9151

BBQ

Armadillo Willy's
1031 N. San Antonio Road.,
Los Altos;
armadillowillys.com;
650-941-2922

BURGER

In-N-Out Burger
53 W. El Camino Real and
1159 N. Rengstorff Ave.;
in-n-out.com;
800-786-1000

BURRITO

La Costeña
235 E. Middlefield Road,
costena.com;
650-967-0507

DELI/SANDWICH

Dittmer's Gourmet Meats & Wurst-Haus
4540 El Camino Real,
Los Altos;
dittmers.com;
650-941-3800

ICE CREAM/FROZEN YOGURT

Gelato Classico
241 Castro St.;
650-969-2900

NOODLE PLACE

Maru Ichi
368 Castro St.;
650-564-9931

PEARL TEA

Tea Era
273 Castro St.;
650-969-2899

PIZZA

Blue Line Pizza
146 Castro St.;
bluelinepizza.com;
650-938-7888

PRODUCE

Mountain View Farmers Market
650 W. Evelyn Ave.;
cafarmersmkts.com;
800-806-3276

SMALL (NON-CHAIN) GROCERY STORE

Ava's Downtown Market and Deli
340 Castro St.;
650-961-5652

TAKE-OUT

SAJJ Mediterranean
2580 W. El Camino Real;
sajjstreeteats.com;
650-941-7255

RESTAURANTS

BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

Hobee's Restaurant
2312 Central Expressway;
hobees.com;
650-968-6050

CHINESE RESTAURANT

Chef Chu's
1067 N. San Antonio Road,
Los Altos;
chefchu.com;
650-948-2696

COFFEE HOUSE (Independent)

Red Rock Coffee Company
201 Castro St.,
redrockcoffee.org;
650-967-4473

FINE DINING RESTAURANT

Cascal
400 Castro St.;
cascalrestaurant.com;
650-940-9500

FUSION RESTAURANT

Xanh Restaurant
110 Castro St.;
xanhrestaurant.com;
650-964-1888

INDIAN RESTAURANT

Amber India
4926 El Camino Real;
amber-india.com;
650-968-7511

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Doppio Zero
160 Castro St.;
dzpizzeria.com;
650-938-4147

MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

Cascal
(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Vive Sol
2020 W. El Camino Real;
vivesolmv.com;
650-938-2020

MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

Oren's Hummus
126 Castro St.;
orenshummus.com;
650-938-6738

NEW RESTAURANT

The Midwife and The Baker
846 Independence Ave.;
themidwifeandthebaker.com

PATIO/OUTDOOR DINING

Cascal

(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)

PLACE FOR A BUSINESS LUNCH

Cascal

(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)

SEAFOOD

Pacific Catch
545 San Antonio Road, Suite 34;
pacificcatch.com;
650-941-1810

SUSHI/JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Sushi Tomi
635 W. Dana St.;
sushitomi.com;
650-968-3227

THAI RESTAURANT

Amarin Thai
174 Castro St.;
amarinthaicuisine.com;
650-988-9323

VEGETARIAN CUISINE

Garden Fresh
1245 W. El Camino Real;
gardenfresh.us;
650-254-1688

VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

Xanh Restaurant
(See Fusion Restaurant)

SERVICES

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Caliber Collision Company
177 E. Evelyn Ave.,
650-965-1440;
2029 Old Middlefield Way;
650-964-1047;
calibercollision.com

AUTO REPAIR

Kevin's Auto Repair
1968 Leghorn St.;
kevinsautorepairinc.com;
650-965-7112

CHIROPRACTOR

Chiropractic Performance Center
694 W. Dana St., Suite A;
drlucyosgood.com;
650-798-9050

DANCE STUDIO

Western Ballet
914 N. Rengstorff Ave.;
westernballet.org;
650-968-4455

PLASTIC SURGEON

California Skin Institute

525 South Drive, Suite 115;
californiaskininstitute.com;

650-969-5600

PET CARE

Adobe Animal Hospital
4470 El Camino Real,
Los Altos;
adobe-animal.com;
650-948-9661

PLASTIC SURGEON

California Skin Institute

525 South Drive, Suite 115;
californiaskininstitute.com;

650-969-5600

PLACE TO TAKE A VISITOR

Shoreline Park

3160 N. Shoreline Blvd.;
shorelinelake.com;

650-965-7474

PLACE FOR A DATE

Shoreline Lake Boathouse & American Bistro

3160 N. Shoreline Blvd.;
shorelinelake.com;

650-965-7474

PLACE FOR LIVE MUSIC

Shoreline Amphitheatre

1 Amphitheater Parkway;
livenation.com;

650-967-4040

HAPPY HOUR

Cascal

(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)

PLACE FOR A DATE

Shoreline Lake Boathouse & American Bistro

3160 N. Shoreline Blvd.;
shorelinelake.com;

650-965-7474

SHOE REPAIR

Model Shoe Repair

621 W. Dana St.;
650-961-8389

YOGA

El Camino YMCA

(See Fitness Classes)

RETAIL

STORE FOR UNUSUAL GIFTS

East West Bookshop

324 Castro St.;
eastwestbooks.org;
650-988-9800

BIKE SHOP

Cognition Cyclery

903 Castro St.;
cognitioncyclery.com;
650-386-1955

BOOKSTORE

Books Inc.

317 Castro St.;
booksinc.net;
650-428-1234

BOUTIQUE

Therapy

250 Castro St.;
therapystores.com;
650-691-1186

FLORIST

Fleur de Lis

811 Castro St.;
fdflowers.com;
650-968-0220

HARDWARE STORE

Blossom

True Value Hardware
1297 W. El Camino Real;
truevalue.com;
650-964-7871

ENTERTAINMENT

HAPPY HOUR

Cascal

(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)

BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

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SMALL (NON-CHAIN) GROCERY STORE

Ava's Downtown Market and Deli

Ava's Downtown Market and Deli offers local produce, deli and grocery items, with a focus on providing organic and sustainable products. Inside the

market is the recently opened Hey-O-Eats, a plant-based vegan restaurant.

340 Castro St.;
650-961-5652

TAKEOUT

SAJJ Mediterranean

At SAJJ Mediterranean, customers can create custom wraps, pita sandwiches, and salad and

rice bowls and add hummus, sauces and toppings. The restaurant also offers family meals to feed a group of four, plus student discounts and vegan and gluten-free options.

2580 W. El Camino Real;
sajjstreeteats.com;
650-941-7255

RESTAURANTS

FINE DINING RESTAURANT

Cascal

Cascal, a lively Mediterranean restaurant in downtown Mountain View, specializes in Spanish and Latin American cuisine, including tapas, paellas and ceviche. The menu features a wide selection of wines and spirits, and happy hour bites and drinks are available at the bar weekdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Besides winning for fine dining, Cascal also took top honors in the Mediterranean, Patio/Outdoor Dining, Business Lunch and Happy Hour categories.

400 Castro St.;
cascalrestaurant.com;
650-940-9500



VERONICA WEBER

Cascal restaurant, a multiple-award winner, specializes in Latin American and Spanish dishes, like this paella with chicken, pork, chorizo, shrimp, mussels and clams.

► Continued on page 18



Ava's Downtown Market & Deli

LOCAL FOOD FOR LOCAL FOLKS



Thank you for
voting us

Best Small Grocery Store
Ava's Downtown Market & Deli



Spend \$25 and get
a free basket of
organic strawberries

1 lb. basket only. Alcohol purchases are excluded. Offer may not apply for all products. Restrictions apply. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 8/31/2019.

- We work with local vendors
- Local and organic seasonal fruits and vegetables
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- Wild caught and sustainable fish
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- International gourmet products
- Local, craft and imported beers
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Mountain View residents
deserve the best!

340 Castro St, Mountain View
650.961.5652 | avasdowntownmarket.com

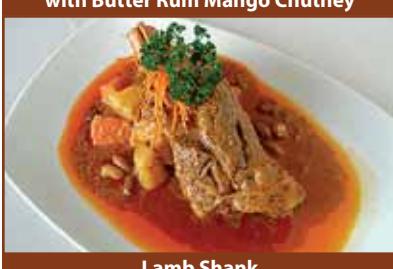
HOURS: SUN-THURS: 8:30AM - 8:30PM, FRI-SAT: 8:30AM - 9:00PM

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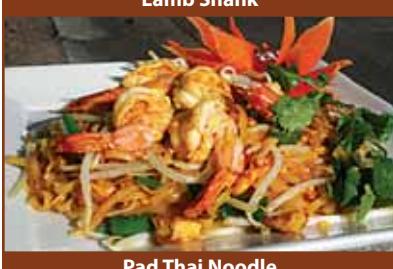
Mountain View's Favorite Thai Restaurant Winner



Crisped Mango Ice Cream
with Butter Rum Mango Chutney



Lamb Shank



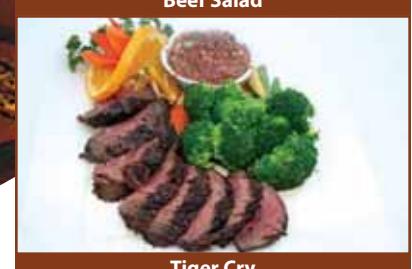
Pad Thai Noodle



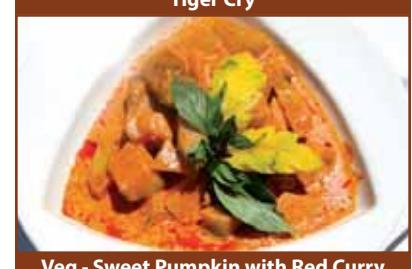
AMARIN
Thai Cuisine



Beef Salad



Tiger Cry



Veg - Sweet Pumpkin with Red Curry

Amarin Thai would like to
thank all our loyal customers for
voting us Mountain View's Favorite.

Lunch: Mon-Fri • 11-2 | Sat • Closed | Sun • 12-2:30

Dinner: Mon-Thurs • 5-9:15 | Friday • 5-10:15

Saturday • 4:30-10:15 | Sunday • 4:30-9:15

New Dishes

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We offer both catering to convention centers or get-togethers at the house, we offer simple delivery options to full set up and serve options.

174-176 Castro Street, Mountain View • Tel. 650-988-9323 • www.amarinthaicuisine.com

BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

► Continued from page 17

BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

Hobee's Restaurant

The casual restaurant chain **Hobee's**, best known for its blueberry coffee cake with streusel topping, serves breakfast and lunch at its Mountain View location. This year, the restaurant is adapting its menu to include more whole grain and veggie breakfast options, as well as promoting meatless Beyond Burgers.

2312 Central Expressway;
hobees.com; 650-968-6050

CHINESE RESTAURANT

Chef Chu's

Chef Chu's, a landmark family restaurant that will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020, offers a large menu. Its signature traditional dish, the classic Beijing duck, is slowly barbecued in an iron-cast Chinese oven.

1067 N. San Antonio Road,
Los Altos; chefchu.com;
650-948-2696

COFFEE HOUSE (INDEPENDENT)

Red Rock Coffee Company

Red Rock Coffee, a community nonprofit cafe, serves coffee, Italian-style cappuccino and snacks and hosts work by artists

and live performances. It recently partnered with Devout Coffee, Mountain View-based The Midwife and the Baker, and The Sandwich Monkey to offer new drinks, pastries and breakfast burritos, respectively.

201 Castro St.;
redrockcoffee.org; 650-967-4473

FUSION RESTAURANT

Xanh Restaurant

Voted best fusion restaurant, **Xanh** serves high-end, modern Vietnamese food with many Asian fusion dishes. Customers can try the buffet-style lunch Tuesdays through Fridays or its specialty dishes, the shaking beef, Vietnamese tacos and Xanh banana leaf sea bass.

110 Castro St.;
xanhrestaurant.com;
650-964-1888

INDIAN RESTAURANT

Amber India

One of five locations, **Amber India** in Mountain View serves Indian street food, traditional fare and contemporary takes on classic dishes. The butter chicken, lamb rack kabob and daal tukhara rema are perennially popular.

4926 El Camino Real;
amber-india.com; 650-968-7511

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Doppio Zero

Currently in its sixth year of business, **Doppio Zero** serves Italian food, including pizzas and pastas, all of which is made from scratch in-house. The Maregiado and Doppio Zero pizzas are customer favorites, according to the restaurant.

160 Castro St.;
dzpizzeria.com; 650-938-4147

MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

Cascal

(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)



MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Vive Sol

Vive Sol serves traditional, authentic Mexican staples and margaritas in a colorful environment with outdoor patio seating. The menu includes sopas and ensaladas, burritos, enchiladas and several house specialties.

2020 W. El Camino Real;
vivesolmv.com; 650-938-2020

► Continued on page 21



VERONICA WEBER

Butter chicken is one of the signature dishes at **Amber India**.



**Thank you, Mountain View,
for voting us BEST CHIROPRACTOR 3 times!**



Our patients are assured of receiving only the finest quality care through the use of traditional hands-on therapy combined with modern chiropractic equipment and technology. Dr. Lucy Majerle Osgood and the staff have a genuine concern for your well-being! We understand that each patient's healthcare needs are different, so we offer a no-charge consultation to see if we are a good match for you. Just mention this offer when you schedule your first appointment.

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1840 Embarcadero



HARBORSIDE

SAN JOSE
1365 North 10 St.

LIC# A10-17-0000041, A10-17-0000023



Thank you for voting us

Best
Mexican
Restaurant

THE VOICE



2020 W El Camino Real, Mountain View
650.938.2020

BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

► Continued from page 18

MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

Oren's Hummus

Oren's Hummus serves authentic Middle Eastern food using chickpeas, tahini and spices imported from Israel. Popular items include its hummus bowls and marinated chicken skewer plates. The restaurant also offers gluten-free pita.

126 Castro St.;
orenshummus.com;
650-938-6738



NEW RESTAURANT The Midwife and The Baker (Wholesale Bakery)

Run by a husband and wife team, The Midwife and The Baker produces breads and pastries using California-sourced whole grains and freshly milled flour. Customers can also find the bakery's products at the Mountain



The Midwife and the Baker, which makes breads and pastries with flour milled on site, was voted the best new restaurant.

View Farmers Market, Red Rock Coffee or Ava's Downtown Market and Deli.

846 Independence Ave.;
themidwifeandthebaker.com

PATIO/OUTDOOR DINING Cascal

(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)

PLACE FOR A BUSINESS LUNCH Cascal

(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)

HAPPY HOUR Cascal

(See Best Fine Dining Restaurant)

SEAFOOD Pacific Catch

The West Coast fish house chain Pacific Catch serves sustainably sourced seafood, including sushi rolls, bowls, and grilled and pan-seared fish entrees. The restaurant has partnered with the Surfrider Foundation and Monterey Bay Aquarium to commit to reducing its plastic footprint and to use wild caught and responsibly raised seafood.

545 San Antonio Road, Suite 34;
pacificcatch.com; 650-941-1810

► Continued on page 22

a Mountain View tradition since 1973

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PROJECT IS A
TrueValue

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Best Hardware
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1297 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View
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650-964-7871



Voted Best
Plastic Surgeon

Dr. Jane Weston

HIGHLY RESPECTED LEADER IN PLASTIC SURGERY

"THANK YOU FOR THE HONOR!"



JANE S. WESTON, MD, FACS is a board-certified plastic and restorative surgeon specializing in aesthetic surgery of the face, breasts and body that aims to enhance confidence and well-being through natural and aesthetically pleasing results.

Dr. Weston is delighted to introduce you to **Entre Nous Aesthetics**, where she and her team offer a wide array of non-surgical and minimally invasive facial rejuvenation and body contouring treatments.

As a thank you to readers, **enjoy a \$50 credit** when you schedule your next or first appointment and present this message of thanks by October 1, 2019.

Call 650.363.0300 www.enaesthetics.com



1047 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

650.363.0300

janewestonmd.com

BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

► Continued from page 21

SUSHI/JAPANESE RESTAURANT **Sushi Tomi**

Popular for its sushi and sashimi, **Sushi Tomi** offers authentic and unique Japanese menu items with vegan and vegetarian options.

635 W. Dana St.;
sushitomi.com; 650-968-3227

THAI RESTAURANT **Amarin Thai**

Winner of Best Thai Restaurant in Mountain View every year since 1999, **Amarin Thai** aims to provide an authentic Thai experience through the wide variety of dishes offered on the menu. The restaurant also accommodates dietary restrictions, with over 20 vegetarian dishes.

174 Castro St.;
amarinthaicuisine.com;
650-988-9323

VEGETARIAN CUISINE **Garden Fresh**

With two locations in Palo Alto and Mountain View, **Garden Fresh** serves Chinese vegan cuisine with the aim of pleasing vegans, vegetarians and meat-eaters alike. The business has

also partnered with the Palo Alto Humane Society and is certified by Humane Planet.

1245 W. El Camino Real;
gardenfresh.us; 650-254-1688

VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

Xanh Restaurant

(See *Fusion Restaurant*)

SERVICES

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Caliber Collision Company

Auto repair company **Caliber Collision** provides online estimates, paint, glass and dent repair, on-site car rentals and diagnostic scanning among its many services.

177 E. Evelyn Ave., 650-965-1440; 2029 Old Middlefield Way, 650-964-1047;
calibercollision.com

AUTO REPAIR

Kevin's Auto Repair

With over 15 years in Mountain View, **Kevin's Auto Repair** provides all-around auto repair and maintenance services, from oil changes, fuel system and brakes to steering and suspension, transmission and water

pumps and radiators.

1968 Leghorn St.;
kevinsautorepairinc.com;
650-965-7112

CHIROPRACTOR

Chiropractic Performance

Center

The **Chiropractic Performance Center** helps clients recover from sports injuries, auto accidents, and back pain, or those seeking health improvement through corrective exercises, wellness care and chiropractic adjustments. Dr. Lucy Osgood, the center's practitioner, is certified as a Distinguished Fellow of Chiropractic Bio-Physics.

694 W. Dana St., Suite A;
drlucyosgood.com; 650-798-9050

DANCE STUDIO

Western Ballet

As a nonprofit school and company, **Western Ballet** teaches dance through its extensive youth program, open to students ages 3 to 18, and adult classes, with the aim of making classical ballet performances and education accessible and affordable.

914 N. Rengstorff Ave.;
westernballet.org;
650-968-4455

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VERONICA WEBER

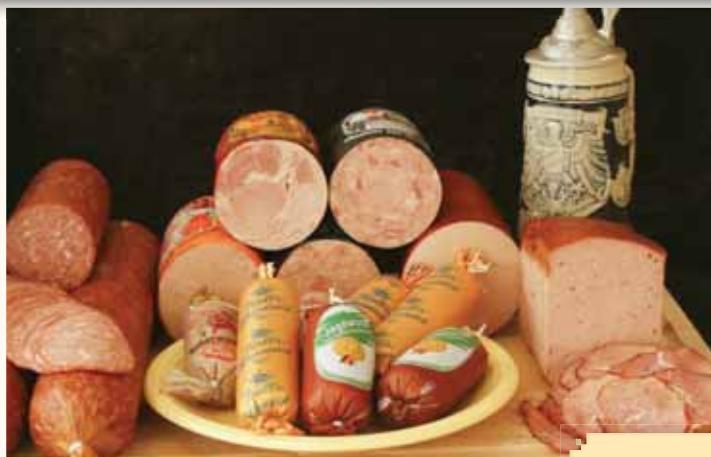
Supawan Pimsakul is the owner of **Amarin Thai Cuisine**, winner for best Thai restaurant.



COURTESY OF WESTERN BALLET

Western Ballet offers dance classes for children and adults.

OLD-FASHIONED BUTCHER SHOP, DELI AND SPECIALTY GROCERY STORE





Dittmer's

Gourmet Meats & Wurst-Haus
Serving the San Francisco Bay Area Since 1978

Experience old-fashioned quality and service at your local butcher shop

FRESH AND SMOKED MEATS
SAUSAGES • 100+ SPECIALTY ITEMS

Taste why Dittmer's was voted Best Deli!

Best of MOUNTAIN VIEW 2019



(650) 941-3800

4540 El Camino Real, Los Altos

dittmers.com



Easy access to the care you need when you need it



For treatment of colds, flu, minor injuries, and other common conditions, rely on Stanford Express Care and the Stanford Walk-In Clinic.

With extended hours and multiple locations, they give you easy access to precisely the right care at the right time in the right place.

Stanford Express Care Palo Alto

Same-day appointments

211 Quarry Road, Suite 102
Palo Alto, CA 94304

call: 650.736.5211

visit: 7 days/week
9:00am–9:00pm

Stanford Express Care San Jose

Same-day appointments

52 Skytop Street, Suite 10
San Jose, CA 95134

call: 669.294.8888

visit: 7 days/week
9:00am–9:00pm

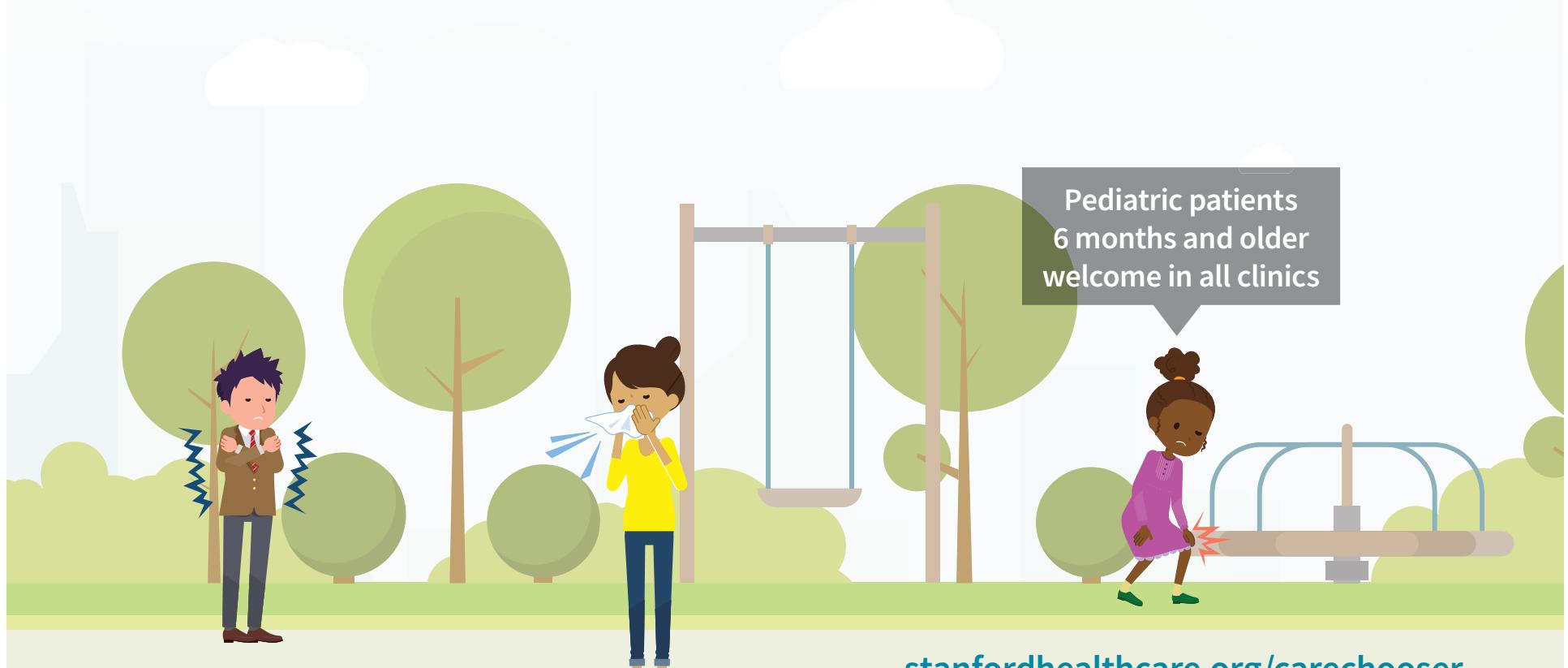
Stanford Walk-In Clinic

No appointment needed

211 Quarry Road, Suite 402
Palo Alto, CA 94304

call: 650.497.3940

visit: Monday–Friday
3:30pm–11:00pm



stanfordhealthcare.org/carechooser



507 Entrada Way, Menlo Park

Executive Living in Menlo Oaks

On a peaceful cul-de-sac and flanked by towering trees, this expanded home of 4,030 sq. ft. (per county) rests on property of 21,100 sq. ft. (per county). Spacious and comfortable living spaces radiate from the foyer on hardwood and smartly tiled floors. Large skylights brighten the thoroughly updated kitchen that opens to a great room with access to the backyard. Bedrooms, office, and other spaces on both levels offer flexibility. A private backyard featuring a pool and spa, pergola covered patio, and outdoor grilling station provides endless entertainment opportunities. You'll be just moments away from downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, Stanford Shopping Center, and can be commuting along U.S. 101 in minutes. Children may attend Laurel Elementary, Hillview Middle, or Menlo-Atherton High with its many college prep classes (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.507EntradaWay.com

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BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

► Continued from page 22

DENTIST

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756 California St., Suite B;
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595 Escuela Ave.;
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650-967-3954

FITNESS CLASSES

El Camino YMCA

Part of the national nonprofit, the **El Camino YMCA** offers health and fitness classes, child-care programs, youth sports and camps, and education and leadership activities to its members. The company's mission statement emphasizes its focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Readers also voted it the best gym and place for yoga classes in Mountain View.

2400 Grant Road; ymcasv.org;
650-969-9622

GYM

El Camino YMCA

(See Fitness Classes)

HAIR SALON

Essence Salon

With stylists trained through the salon and in Los Angeles and London, **Essence Salon** offers haircuts and coloring and prescribes customers homecare products and techniques. This year, it introduced the Oribe hair care product line to its store.

826 W. Dana St.;
essencesalon.com; 650-988-8822

► Continued on page 29



COURTESY OF ESSENCE SALON

Essence Salon staff strike a pose after winning for best hair salon.



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BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

► Continued from page 26

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840 E. El Camino Real;
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650 Castro St. #175;
650-968-9901

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858 Villa St.;
happyfeetfootspa.com,
650-969-7600

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At the car service company Jiffy Lube, trained technicians provide clients with quick oil changes, tire rotations, and light vehicle repairs. The company also performs auto inspections and can service vehicle fleets.

1141 W. El Camino Real;
jiffylube.com; 650-965-2582

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2535 California St., 650-935-9064; 550 Showers Drive.; 650-941-2268; 24hourfitness.com

PET CARE

Adobe Animal Hospital

Since 1964, Adobe Animal Hospital has served the area with its animal hospital and veterinary marketplace. The facility often allows clients to remain in the room with their pets for basic procedures, such as vaccines, blood draws and diagnostics. It also plans to enable clients to video chat with an Adobe doctor starting this month.

4470 El Camino Real;
Los Altos; adobe-animal.com;
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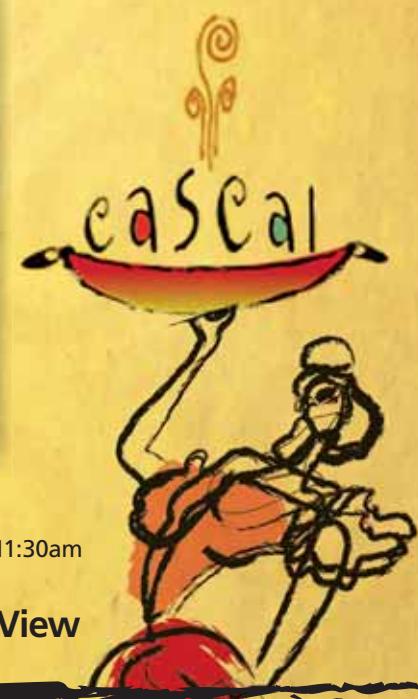


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► Continued from page 29

SHOE REPAIR

Model Shoe Repair

Receiving much of its business through word-of-mouth, the **Model Shoe Repair** company in Mountain View restores and repairs shoes for durability. 621 W. Dana St.; 650-961-8389

YOGA

El Camino YMCA

(See Fitness Classes)

RETAIL

STORE FOR UNUSUAL GIFTS

East West Bookshop

East West Bookshop is designed to be a place for “self-exploration, expansion of understanding and self-awareness in an uplifting environment,” according to the store manager, who said it stocks unique gift items with that philosophy in mind. The bookshop has also hosted several famous speakers through its seminars and musical events, including



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BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW



SADIE STINSON

Briana Averwater leads a yoga class at the **El Camino YMCA**, winner for best gym, fitness and yoga classes.

► Continued from page 30

Deepak Chopra, Dr. Andrew Weil and Marianne Williamson.

324 Castro St.; eastwestbooks.org;
650-988-9800

BIKE SHOP

Cognition Cyclery

A full-service bicycle shop for sales, repairs and bicycle fittings, **Cognition Cyclery** offers a wide stock of commute-style and high-end road bikes to accessories and bike rentals. The business also hosts a weekly group bike ride at the Arastradero Preserve.

903 Castro St.; cognitioncyclery.com;
650-386-1955



BOOKSTORE

Books Inc.

Currently in its 18th year in Mountain View, independent bookseller **Books Inc.** stocks nonfiction, fiction and kids' novels, in addition to cards, games and gift items. Books Inc. hosts author events bimonthly and community fundraising nights in December, during which it donates 25% of sales to local schools.

317 Castro St.; booksinc.net;
650-428-1234

**BOUTIQUE
Therapy**

The chain boutique store **Therapy** sells clothing, home goods, vintage furniture, jewelry and unusual trinkets. The company also donates 1% of all sales to community organizations, including food banks, wildfire relief funds and charities.

250 Castro St.; therapystores.com;
650-691-1186



FLORIST

Fleur de Lis

The neighborhood flower shop **Fleur de Lis** sells floral arrangements for weddings, birthdays, holidays, funerals and corporate events. The store also offers a selection of gifts, fruit baskets and plants.

811 Castro St.; fdflowers.com;
650-968-0220

HARDWARE STORE

Blossom True Value Hardware

Started in 1973, **Blossom True Value Hardware** sells items for plumbing, gardening and electrical work, in addition to housewares and other small appliances. The hardware store also provides a key- and glass-cutting service for customers.

1297 W. El Camino Real; truevalue.com;
650-964-7871

► Continued on page 34



COURTESY OF SHORELINE LAKE BOATHOUSE & AMERICAN BISTRO

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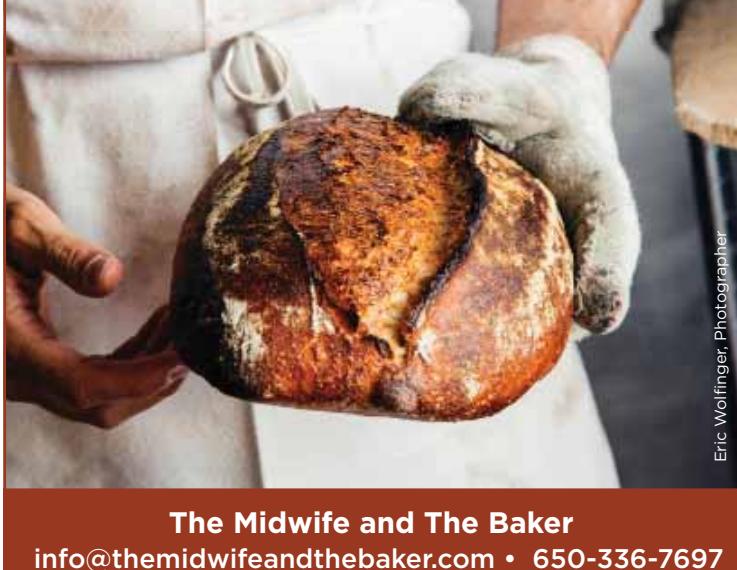
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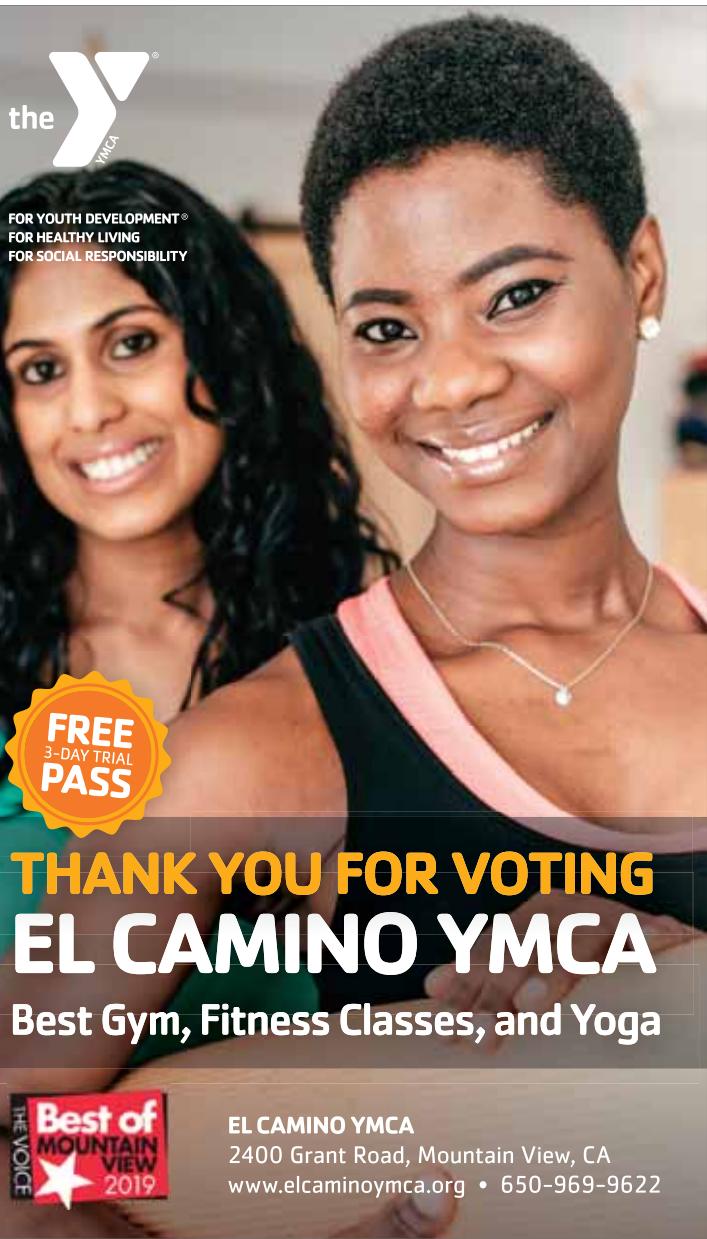
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BEST OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

► Continued from page 32

ENTERTAINMENT

PLACE FOR A DATE

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3160 N. Shoreline Blvd.;
shorelinelake.com; 650-965-7474



PLACE FOR LIVE MUSIC

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1 Amphitheater Parkway;
livenation.com; 650-967-4040

PLACE TO TAKE A VISITOR

Shoreline Park

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EDITORIAL

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Let's all be lights for liberty

WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST MISTREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS

On Friday, July 12, over 300 people attended a vigil at the corners of El Camino Real and Castro Street in Mountain View to protest the shocking and inhumane treatment of asylum-seeking immigrants at the U.S. border. The demonstration, organized by a coalition called Lights for Liberty, was among more than 700 planned in cities around the world.

Over the weekend, footage from Vice President Mike Pence's visit to two migrant detention centers in Texas July 12 — showing Pence staring down his nose at immigrant men in overcrowded cages, some of whom shouted that they "had been there for more than 40 days, were hungry and could not brush their teeth," according to the New York Times — went viral. Pence later downplayed the conditions he saw at the centers, even referring to Border Patrol agents as "compassionate," according to the Times. His visit came 10 days after the Department of Homeland Security's independent watchdog arm published a report detailing overcrowded and unsanitary conditions at border detention centers, including standing-room-only cells, children without hot meals and showers, and migrants pressing notes up to windows begging for help. More than a dozen adult detainees have died while in custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement since the beginning of last year, according to the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and children have died as well.

The weekend was capped off by a string of racist tweets from President Donald Trump on Sunday morning — in which he said Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Rashida

Tlaib and Ayanna S. Pressley should 'go back' to the countries they came from (three of the four were born in the United States). It also was expected to see planned ICE raids targeting noncitizens in cities across the country, though no raids reportedly occurred in the Bay Area on Sunday.

No matter your views on immigration, we should all be horrified by the mistreatment of immigrants perpetrated by ICE and the Border Patrol, and at the unabashedly racist rhetoric from our commander-in-chief. Many of us are from families that came to this country seeking life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, many of which fled situations similar to those that have recently prompted immigrants to seek asylum. Many of us have friends or relatives that suffered in Japanese internment camps or Nazi concentration camps. To see history repeating itself, with immigrants legally seeking asylum being deprived of basic human rights at the hands of our government, is appalling and frightening.

While it was powerful to see so many people come together July 12 to speak out against the inhumane treatment of migrants at the border, we need to continue to do our part to combat the mistreatment of immigrants in our country. If you see something, say something. Speak out if you encounter someone hurling racist remarks. Report ICE activity in Santa Clara County to the rapid response network at (408) 290-1144, or learn how to get involved with the network at tinyurl.com/rapidresponsescc. Do what you can to shine a little light in these dark times. □

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

CLIMATE CRISIS

Regarding: "Voices around town: What issues should be discussed in the next presidential candidate debate?" (p. 3, July 5): Is it a coincidence that three out of the five interviewed Bay Area residents listed climate change as the topic they wanted discussed at the next presidential debate? Absolutely not!

Although the candidates unanimously agree that the climate crisis is a problem, I'd like to see them demonstrate their determination and audacity by delineating their plans to tackle the most pressing geopolitical threat we face today. The amount of time dedicated to this topic did not serve justice to its importance.

From consistent drought to recurring wildfires, this area is no stranger to the whims of our increasingly mercurial environment, and this will only worsen with inaction. I'd encourage all Bay Area residents to hold climate change as the preeminent issue before we hit the point of no return, and I call on politicians to treat the climate crisis with the severity that it deserves.

SOLAR POWER

Here's a suggestion for preventing wildfires and protecting more people from power outages — help more people make and store solar energy on their property.

First, there is less burden on the grid, so they don't have to maintain power lines as much in wildfire risk areas. Second, people can keep their power on during an outage. Third, people also reduce their electricity bills. Finally, we increase everyone's personal freedom and self-reliance (while also being a part of the solution).

You'd think the government and utilities would be tripping over themselves to make it as easy as possible for more people to install solar. But the opposite is true. The utilities do everything possible to attack solar with red tape and fees. The government just looks the other way, while also talking about spending billions more in public dollars fighting wildfires.

How about while they're talking about spending all this money, they also make a "Solar Bill of Rights" to stop the utility attacks on solar?

CALTRAIN DOESN'T CARE

It is sad to me that Caltrain spent so much time holding meetings and soliciting input on electric trains, and then ignored what the vast majority of bicyclists said: that we want more bike capacity and, most importantly, the ability to sit with our bikes. It really doesn't seem like Caltrain cares about riders who bring bikes on the train.

Bike thefts are common on Caltrain, and we need to be able to sit where we can watch our bikes. I am incredibly disappointed that Caltrain chose a car design that does not include adequate seating within view of bikes.

Telling us that security will "explore possible improvements"

is hardly reassuring. Surely Caltrain would be able to give us details of what these improvements would entail if there was actually any kind of concrete plan. Why haven't the details already been determined in the years of meetings that Caltrain has been holding?

Seven seats per bike car is far fewer seats than there are in each bike car that is currently in use, and this will greatly increase the risk of bike theft. Does Caltrain have plans to allow bikers to lock bikes on the new cars?

I strongly urge Caltrain to reconsider this new design and use a design that provides at least a 1:1 bike-to-seat ratio in bike cars.

Jesse Miller

San Francisco

What's on your mind?

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

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

MountainView
VOICE

Weekend

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ FOOD FEATURE

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■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



Lisa Spencer prepares a batch of "vampire butter" by mixing in garlic and herbs, which she sells through her family's business, Savor Seasoning Blends.



Myles Spencer fills jars with the "Brown Sugar Baby" rub, the first spice blend his parents created.

Spice up your life

EAST PALO ALTO FAMILY STARTS
A HOMEMADE SEASONING BLEND BUSINESS

Story by Daniel Li | Photos by Sinead Chang

Vampire Salt, Brown Sugar Baby, Honey it's BBQ and You Jerk! are just several of the quirky, fun names the Spencer family plasters on little containers filled with their homemade spice blends.

For the past four years, East Palo Alto residents Dulani and Lisa Spencer and their son Myles have been running Savor Seasoning Blends, which specializes in salts, rubs and other seasonings.

"All of our products have really

ridiculous names but people love it," Lisa Spencer said. "For instance, the garlic salt is called 'vampire salt' because vampires are known to be afraid of garlic. I call myself the chief creative officer. My son does a lot of the packaging and my husband does some of the making of blends."

It all started with a book called "Food in Jars," which Lisa gave to her husband as a Christmas present in 2014. Soon after, he made his own rosemary salt; tasting it inspired her to make her own



Lisa, Myles and Dulani Spencer run Savor Seasoning Blends from their home kitchen in East Palo Alto.

garlic salt. She started to create more unique blends in her home kitchen, giving them away to friends and family.

"During that first month, that damn book turned our tiny kitchen into a crazy mess of salts, bowls and pans," she said. "I had no recipe and I cannot follow recipes because I always end up putting too much or

too little. Every once in a while, when we sold a jar, it was the most exciting thing. We probably sold four jars in 2015. The friends who we sold stuff to would come back for more, but nobody else really knew about it."

That changed in December 2016, when she sold her blends at a craft festival at the Peninsula

School in Menlo Park. So many people loved it, she said, that she came back the following year.

They now sell their creations online — there are 17 different flavors, from rosemary salt to Jamaican jerk seasoning — and at The Market at Edgewood in Palo Alto and Delucchi's Market in Redwood City.

For the past two years, Lisa has also been attending local pop-up shops. It was at one of these events at the Tulip Jones Women's Center in East Palo Alto in February where she invented what she calls "vampire butter," which caused Savor Seasoning Blends to gain popularity.

"I decided to take the vampire salt, stir it up with some butter and put it on sourdough bread," she said. "One hundred people came through and asked where the butter was. I told them I sold the salt but I just mixed it with the butter to enhance the flavor. One of my friends yelled and said, 'Just make the damn

► See **SAVOR**, page 38



Dulani Spencer prepares to grind herbs, spices and sugar for a spice rub.

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Feature Photo

"Providing a creative outlet in high-tech world" by Magali Gauthier

Photo Story/Essay

"Google walkout" by Natalia Nazarova

Feature Photo

"Hell's bells! Neighborhood outcry over church's mishap" by Magali Gauthier

Online General Excellence

In-Depth Reporting

"Nowhere to turn for kids in crisis; Struggling to meet 'overwhelming' need" by Kevin Forestieri

Public Service Journalism

"Fight brewing over rent control petition" by Mark Noack

News Photo

"Hundreds walk out of Google's MV HQ" by Natalia Nazarova

Print General Excellence

Writing

"Patients go nuts over new allergy therapy" by Kevin Forestieri

Feature Photo

"A colorful Dasara display" by Natalia Nazarova

In-Depth Reporting

"Young, homeless and sick" by Mark Noack

Coverage of Business News

"Conflicts over profits and pricing at Del Medio apartments" by Mark Noack



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Coverage of Business News

"Firm behind local ADA lawsuits is being sued" by Mark Noack

Feature Story

"Mushroom houses on Mars" by Mark Noack

Editorial Comment

"A dishonest debate over rent control" by Andrea Gemmet

Inside Page Layout & Design

"The startup winery" by Talia Nakhjiri

Photojournalism

by Magali Gauthier, Natalia Nazarova and Michelle Le

News Photo

"Fire's smoky haze disrupts life on Midpeninsula" by Magali Gauthier

Feature Photo

"A perfectly glorious summer day" by Natalia Nazarova

Photo Essay

"Protesters to Trump: Keep families together" by Natalia Nazarova



According to *Lisa Spencer*, "All our products have really ridiculous names but people love it."

SAVOR

► Continued from page 37

butter.' People lost their mind; they kept talking about the vampire butter and posting it on Facebook."

Afterward, Lisa said, people would knock on her door and ask for a container of vampire butter. By the end of February, she had sold 300 containers of the butter. She also adds garlic, sea salt, parsley and basil to the butter.

She emphasized that she does not follow any recipes and instead relies on experimentation and intuition to "throw something together."

"My mom is from the South and most people who are from the South do not follow recipes well because we were never taught by recipe," Lisa said. "My mom had a cookbook and every

once in a while she looked at something that looked good but she never followed the recipe. We call it 'just throwing something together.' What I will write down is what I put in it."

She has no aspirations for Savor Seasoning Blends to be sold in bigger grocery stores such as Whole Foods Market or Trader Joe's; instead, she hopes to get the blends into smaller, more boutique stores. In the future, her goal is to perfect the recipes and sell them to a corporation.

Her favorite part of the experience has been coming up with new blends with her family.

"I love creativity and Savor Seasoning Blends satisfies that," she said. "Seeing what I am able to make from scratch is always really exciting."

More information can be found online at savorblends.com. ▀



Savor Seasoning Blends are sold online but can be found in a few local stores.

■ MOVIE OPENINGS

'Stuber' is as 'Stuber' does

DUMB ACTION COMEDY SPINS ITS WHEELS

★ (Century 16 & 20, Icon)

There's a famous lesson all improv-comedy performers learn: Play to the top of your intelligence. The idea is for one's character not to make choices or say things that are dumber than the character ought to be based on his experience. The new action-comedy "Stuber" breaks this rule with protagonists that constantly act more stupid than they should.

"Stuber" stars Kumail Nanjiani as part-time Uber driver Stu. At Stu's other job selling sporting goods, his douchebro boss (Jimmy Tatro) tauntingly dubs him "Stuber," but Stu has a much bigger concern: his dwindling star rating on the ride-hailing app. Enter brawny cop Vic Manning (Dave Bautista), whose morning LASIK surgery has rendered him temporarily visually impaired just as he gets a major break in a drug case that six months earlier took down his partner (Karen Gillan). Unable to drive, Vic orders up Stu's Uber, and away they go on

a not-so-merry chase after drug dealer Oka Tedjo (Indonesian martial artist Iko Uwais).

Tripper Clancy's screenplay repeatedly tries and fails to justify the premise Stu sums up as "blind cop kidnaps an Uber driver." Vic has no current or retired cop friends he trusts to help him? Stu is so invested in boosting his star rating that he keeps waiting around for Vic? These are not characters played to the top of their intelligence.

The terribly under-cooked plot purports to bond Vic and Stu based on little to nothing we've seen happen between them and, worse, then stages an extended physical fight between them when they're supposed to be working together to bring down the bad guy. Why? Because some screenwriting coach taught Clancy to raise the emotional stakes — just not how to do it in any realistic way.

The movie's throwback buddy action-comedy offers unexciting



COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES

Dave Bautista, left, and Kumail Nanjiani star in the comedy "Stuber."

action and unfunny comedy. The fight sequences are ineptly shot and edited, and the jokes fall flat far more often than not (Nanjiani occasionally lands a funny line, perhaps by riffing off-script). It's the kind of movie that makes you feel bad for the actors. Bautista and Nanjiani have star power and could've made a buddy comedy work, but not with this script.

Rated R for violence and language throughout, some sexual references and brief graphic nudity. One hour, 34 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

■ NOW SHOWING

Aladdin (PG) ★★

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Annabelle Comes Home (R)

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Avengers: Endgame (PG-13) ★★★1/2

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Bethany Hamilton: Unstoppable (PG)

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Citizen Kane (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Sat.-Sun.

Come September (1961) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Friday

Crawl (R)

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Echo in the Canyon (PG-13)

Palo Alto Square: Friday

Frisky (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Friday

John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (R)

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

The Last Black Man in San Francisco (R)

Century 20: Fri.-Sun. Palo Alto Square: Friday

Late Night (R) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa
Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16

Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20

CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For information: 493-0128) tinyurl.com/Pasquare

Guild: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (For recorded listings: 566-8367) tinyurl.com/Guildmp

ShowPlace Icon: 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View tinyurl.com/iconMountainView

Stanford Theatre: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) Stanfordtheatre.org



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

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



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ONLINE

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MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

GoingsOn

THEATER

'The Language Archive' A quirky, comic drama about communication — its potential and its limits — this modern romantic parable features a linguist at a loss for words, especially the vocabulary of the heart. Through Aug. 4; times vary. \$25-\$60; discounts available, pricing subject to change. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

'Aladdin, Jr.' The blockbuster Disney movie comes to life, featuring new songs from the Broadway musical. July 25-28; times vary. \$17; discounts available. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

'Beat Bugs' "Beat Bugs," a new musical adaptation based on the Netflix animated series, inspired by the music of the Beatles, centers around five pals who explore the world and learn life lessons. Through Aug. 4, 6:30-8 p.m. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org/childrenstheatre

'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels' Two types of con men team up to fleece wealthy heiresses on the French Riviera. Whichever one of them can get \$50,000 from toothpaste heiress Christine Colgate will win their bet, but a mysterious con man known as "The Jackal" tries to ruin the game. July 18-19, 7:30-10 p.m. \$26; discount for students, seniors. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. pytnet.org

Foothill Music Theatre presents 'Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella' Foothill Music Theatre presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," the Tony-winning Broadway musical. This contemporary take on the classic tale features Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved songs, including "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible" and "Ten Minutes Ago." Through Aug. 4; times vary. \$36; discounts for students, seniors. Smithwick Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. tickets.vendini.com

Pocket Opera Presents Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" Pocket Opera and Cinnabar Theater present their first co-production. Only the clever barber can help Rosina outwit her guardian, Bartolo, to wind up in the arms of her true love, Almaviva. July 21, 5-6:30 p.m. \$45; discounts available. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org

'Polar Bears, Black Boys, and Prairie Fringed Orchids' A new play by Los Angeles playwright Vincent Terrell Durham, "Polar Bears" dramatizes the explosive collision when a well-meaning liberal couple host Black Lives Matter activists at a cocktail party. July 18-28; times vary. \$15; discount for students, seniors. Stanford Nitery Theater, 514 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. stanfordreptheater.com

Zohar Performance Series 4: The Summer Festival The Summer Festival showcases choreographers from the Bay Area and beyond, featuring dynamic performances that allow the audience to get up close and personal. July 20, 8-10 p.m. \$25; discounts for children, students, seniors. Zohar Studio Theater, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

CONCERTS

Lisa Fischer and Taylor Eigsti It was at the Stanford Jazz Festival in 2017 that Lisa Fischer and pianist Taylor Eigsti first played as a duo. They've returned to craft an entire evening of music. July 20, 8-9:30 p.m. \$62; discount for students. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Mandy Harvey "America's Got Talent" finalist Mandy Harvey will sing and share her story at this fundraiser for the Pacific Hearing Connection. July 24, 7-9 p.m. \$75; discount for students. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. pacifichearingconnection.org

'Music is Magic' Concert Series In partnership with the city of Palo Alto, the Magical Bridge Foundation presents a summer concert series, featuring local artists and musicians. All concerts are family friendly and sensory friendly. Every Friday through Aug. 30, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Magical Bridge Playground - Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Music@Menlo Concert: 'Classical Twilight' The third program in Music@Menlo's "Incredible Decades" summer chamber music festival presents the music of Beethoven's final string quartet and Schubert's epic "Winterreise." July 21, 6-8 p.m. \$84; discounts available. The Center for Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. musicatmenlo.org

Music@Menlo Concert: Juhu Pohjonen Nine years after making his Music@Menlo debut with a solo recital, pianist Juhu Pohjonen returns for the "Incredible Decades" season's second Carte Blanche Concert. July 20, 6-8 p.m. \$84; discounts available. Stent Family Hall, Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. musicatmenlo.org

Vans 'Warped' Tour Presented By Journeys Featuring artists like the All-American Rejects and Travie McCoy of Gym Class Heroes, this two-day event also includes a skate ramp, wrestling and a Warped Museum. July 20-21, noon. \$71 for single-day ticket; \$141 for two-day ticket. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. concerts1.livenation.com

Prelude Performances Prelude Performances feature young artists from the Chamber Music Institute. Representing a cornerstone of the festival's educational mission, these concerts offer both veteran concertgoers and new listeners of all ages an opportunity to discover great music. July 19, 21; times vary. Free; ticket required. The Center for Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. musicatmenlo.org

MUSIC

KidStock featuring Andy Z & the Andyland Band KidStock features live children's music from Bay Area performers, games, arts and crafts, and more. July 20, 10 a.m.-noon. Mountain View City Hall, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Open Mic @ Red Rock Coffee Performers sing in front of a supportive audience and meet fellow musicians and artists during Open Mic Mondays at Red Rock Coffee. Sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org

'If I Were You' Preview Lecture A 90-minute exploration of the music and development of the new full-length opera, "If I Were You," led by opera experts. July 22, 2-4 p.m. Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto. merola.org

Sing & Play Along Ukulele Beginners and ukulele enthusiasts are invited to sing and play music on the fourth Monday of every month. July 22, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

Sing with a 'Drop-in' Choir Attendees sing along to choral masterworks as part of Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley's Summer Sings Program. July 22, 7:30 p.m. \$17; free

HIGHLIGHT

MOUNTAIN VIEW OBON FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR

The festival will feature performances from two taiko drumming groups, live jazz music and both traditional and Maui-style Bon Odori dancing. Traditional and modern Japanese food will be served, along with carnival games, crafts and culture. July 20-21; times vary. Mountain View Buddhist Temple, 575 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. mbuddhisttemple.org

for students under 25. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. scholacantorum.org/

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

39th San Francisco Jewish Film Festival The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival presents more than 65 films and 135 screenings, performances and events. July 20-25; times vary. \$12-\$425. CineArts, 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. jfi.org

Eid Festival This festival honors how Muslims celebrate their holidays. July 21, 5:30-9 p.m. First Congregational Church, 1985 Louis Road (at Embarcadero), Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Farmers Market The downtown Los Altos Farmers Market, where shoppers can find fresh vegetables and fine foods, continues every Thursday through Sept. 26, 4-8 p.m. Free. Located on State Street between 2nd and 4th streets, Los Altos Hills. losaltoschamber.org

FAMILY

129th Rescue Wing 'Kids Day Out' "Kids Day Out" is an event just for military kids to acknowledge the responsibilities they bear for being part of a National Guard family. July 20, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Moffett Air National Guard Base, 680 Macon Road, Mountain View. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

Josiah McElheny: 'Island Universe' Josiah McElheny's "Island Universe" examines both cutting-edge art and physics. The monumental installation of five hanging chandeliers is a visual response to recent theories of the multiverse, an elaboration of the Big Bang theory. Through Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'The Medium Is the Message: Art since 1950' Using works created since 1950, this exhibition explores the relationship between subject, content and the materials that informed each object's production. Through Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household' Los Altos History Museum presents "Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household," an exhibit that looks at gadgets and where they originated, on display at the J. Gilbert Smith House. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

'Transformation' by Tinna Dinesen Viewpoints Gallery presents "Transformation," by its new artist Tinna Dinesen. Through July 30, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. viewpointsgallery.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Meeting with the Mayor Mayor Roger Spreen will meet with Los Altos Hills residents to listen to their concerns on an appointment-only basis. Please call ahead to the city clerk, Deborah Padovan, at 650-941-7222 to check his availability and make an appointment. Through Sept. 17, 9-10 a.m. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltos.hills.ca.gov

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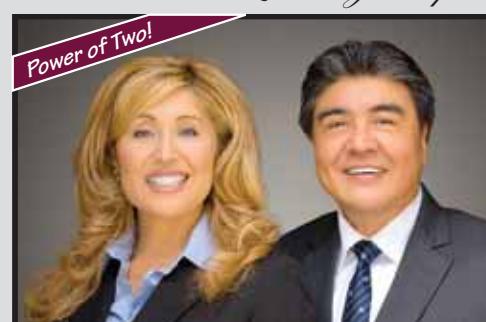
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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in the Nation.*

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: **www.105Scenic.com**

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Saturday & Sunday
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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park

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697 Pettis Avenue, Mountain View

Offered at \$1,988,000

Desirably situated and showing wonderful curb appeal, this 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, home of 1,284 sq. ft. (per county) rests on a corner lot of 7,500 sq. ft. (per county) in the Shoreline West neighborhood. Hardwood floors in gathering spaces that enjoy a fireplace and plenty of light through abundant windows lead to the doors that open to the side yard. You'll appreciate the bright, eat-in kitchen, master bedroom with backyard access, and rooms with ample windows. The spacious backyard includes a large patio. This home is just a stroll away from vibrant downtown Mountain View, parks, the library, and a short drive to U.S. 101 and Google headquarters. Children may attend fine schools including Bubb Elementary, Graham Middle, and Los Altos High (rated the #10 high school in California) (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Complimentary
Refreshments

Listed by the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in the Nation.*

*As ranked by REAL Trends 2019 Team Volume list. Published in the *Wall Street Journal* in June 2019.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: **www.697Pettis.com**

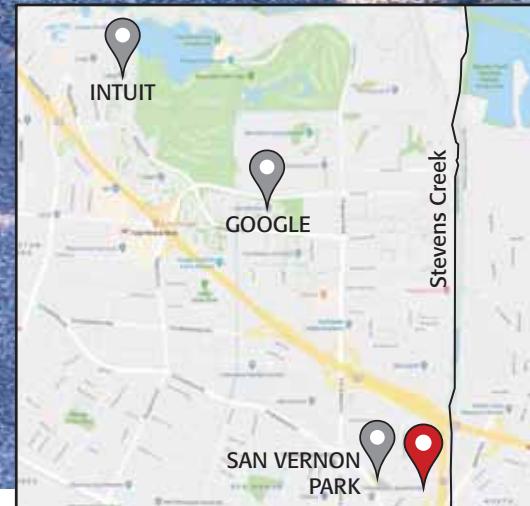
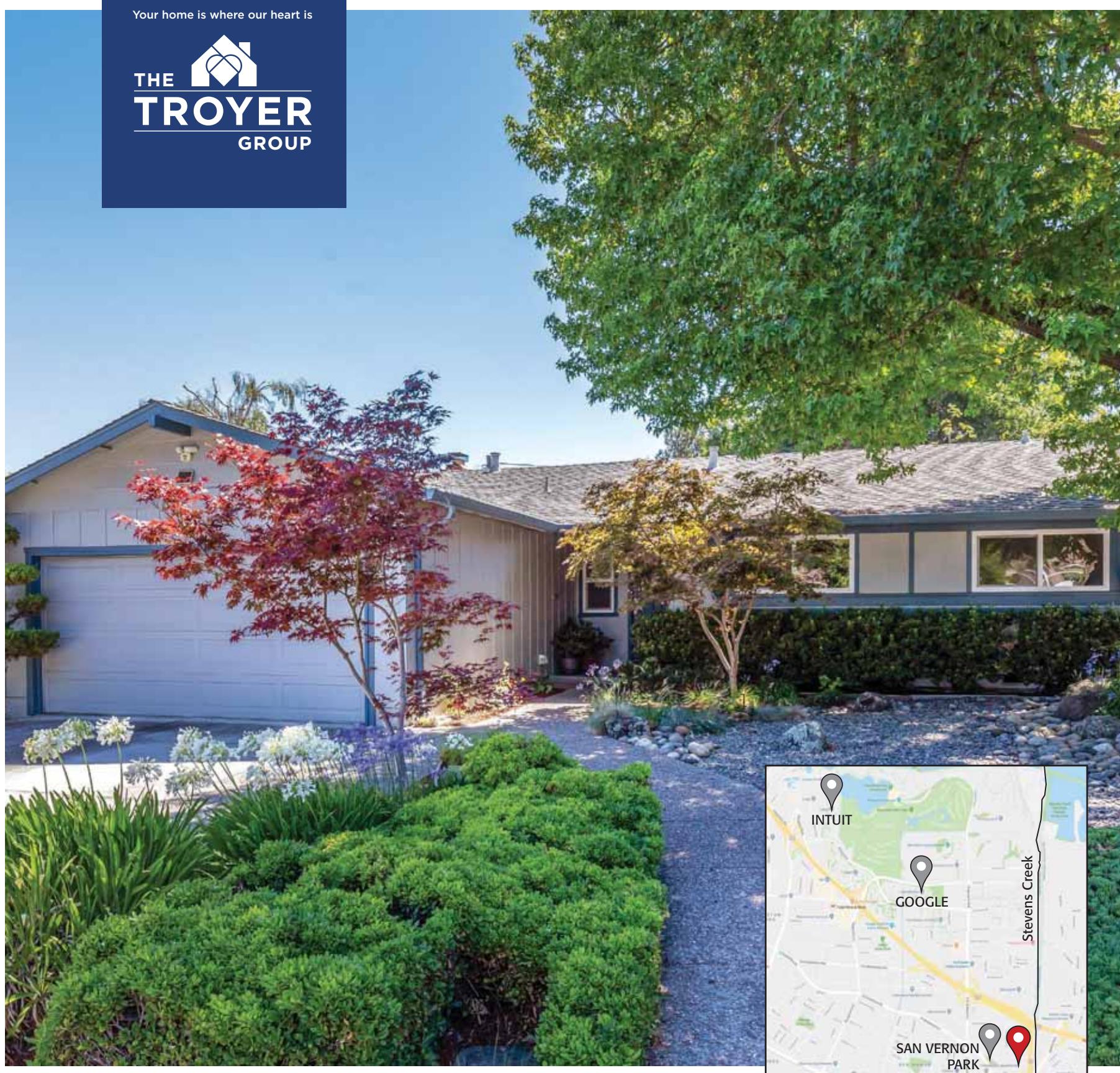
For more information contact: Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team

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