

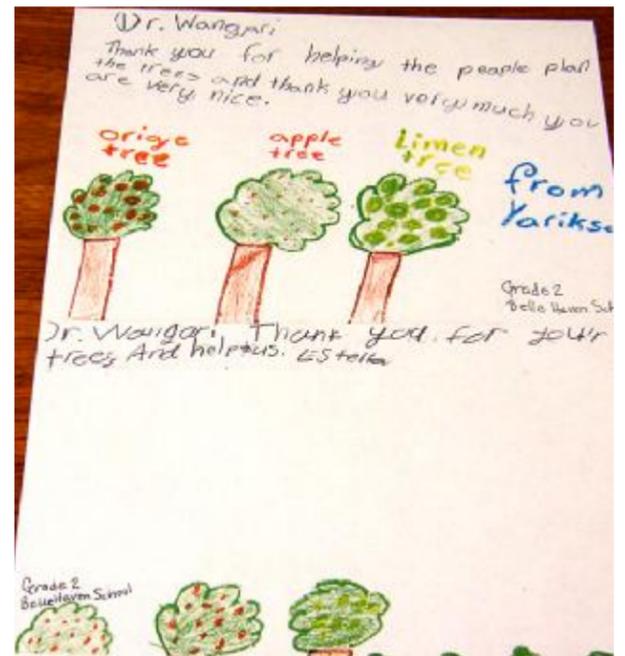
East Palo Alto Youth Welcomed Dr. Wangari Maathai



East Palo Alto children drew and painted pictures to both welcome and thank Dr. Wangari Maathai who came to East Palo Alto on Sunday, April 30, 2006. Dr. Maathai, a Nobel Peace laureate, founder of the Green Belt Movement, and member of Kenya's parliament, was invited to perform a "ceremonial tree planting" to celebrate CANOPY's 10th anniversary and the launching of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative.

CANOPY is a non-profit organization that is located in Palo Alto. It works to spread knowledge about the benefits of the urban forest.

CANOPY worked with the City of East Palo Alto to create the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative, which will also work to educate residents about the urban forest and to plant 1,000 trees in the city by 2010. During the ceremony, Dr. Maathai choose several children who attended the event to help her plant the trees.



Community Leaders Come Together to Launch the Richard May Foundation

Community leaders and area residents attended an event at the Four Seasons Hotel last month to launch the Richard May Foundation in honor of East Palo Alto Police Officer Richard May who was killed earlier this year. The foundation will work with Friends for Youth, a local nonprofit agency, to pair young people with mentors. "There is nothing better that we can do except to help kids become better people," Richard May, Sr. said when he spoke at the event. The following pictures show some of the event's attendees.



Menlo Park City Council member Kelly Ferguson and East Palo Alto City Council member David Woods.



Jackie Garcia sits with her mentor Robbi Coleman



East Palo Alto Police Chief Ron Davis with Freda Johnson



East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica addresses the attendees.



Pastor Paul Bains chats with one of the attendees.



Lee Hawkins, the Director of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District talks with Meda Okelo, the Dir. of Community Services in East Palo Alto

Betsy Yanez walks with council member David Woods.



Rev. Goody stands with East Palo Alto Council members Pat Foster and Ruben Abrica.

Jobs for East Palo Alto Youth

By Allan Johnson
EPA Today Contributor

Last week Adriana Lopez interviewed for a job at the Ravenswood Community Health Center. The Center needs a person who is eighteen or older, a person with skills, a person who is bilingual. Ms. Lopez is all of these things. Ms. Lopez is also a graduate of the Sponsored Employment Project, an East Palo Alto partnership created in 2005 to find thirty summer jobs for EPA youth with barriers to employment like no previous work experience, past involvement in the juvenile justice system, or documentation difficulties. Ms. Lopez is a single mother who had not had a "real job" before last summer.

The Sponsored Employment Project changed all that—she got a paid internship at Stanford University, she subsequently addressed a community meeting at EPA City Hall about her experience,

Lopez graduated from the project, and now she has a very good chance to get a job, a real job, that will allow her to show her skills and serve her community. She feels good about her chances.

She's grown up a lot. She's seen what it means to work, to deal with workplace issues, to be depended upon. She's ready.

The Sponsored Employment



Adriana Lopez

Program—no longer just a project—is this year's response to the ongoing need of EPA youth for meaningful employment. Implemented by a growing consortium of community partners and utilizing many of the resources available in the community—institutions, people, energy, ideas—the SEP is a program that seeks to create and sustain a web of support for youth who are aching to learn how to achieve their goals, from humble ones like trying to stay busy to grand ones like trying to help their families pay bills.

The program is happening as I write these words—the program will be happening when you read these words—the program should continue and grow and become a part of the community that youth can rely upon. East Palo Alto is more than ready.

The original project came about because of a relatively simple answer to a question directed to EPA youth: what do you think would help you to avoid the violence that occasionally flares up in mod-

ern communities?

The answer was jobs, get us jobs, so One East Palo Alto lead a team of partners, primarily OICW and El Concilio of San Mateo County, and with funding from the Hewlett Foundation the Sponsored Employment Project was born.

It brought area non-profits and other institutions like Stanford and the City of East Palo Alto together with community mentors, one for each youth, to create a web of opportunity and support that didn't really surprise anyone in EPA when it was a complete success.

Twenty nine of thirty youth completed the project by working twenty hours a week for four weeks and getting paid nine dollars an hour—the thirtieth would have been successful, but her family moved to the Central Valley before she could finish.

This year's program operates on last year's model, only it's bigger and consequently involves more community members as it seeks to meet the needs of more youth. It's hard to find an organization that isn't working with program partners OICW, One EPA, and El Concilio to find employment for one hundred youth—this time for thirty hours a week for six weeks—but it's equally hard not to ask the community to continue to look for support and assis-

tance in each area of the program.

More than three hundred youth applied for the positions, fifty of which were to be paid by funding from the Hewlett Foundation. A team of community volunteers interviewed young people for more than eight hours trying to determine who would receive the available internships.

Selected youth were brought together in pre-employment workshops to talk about what it takes to be successful in the workplace. Mentors were sought and secured. Last week, many of the internships began. Youth and mentors and employer sponsors are working together right now—the third day of the program—to make sure that questions are answered and young people are productively engaged.

Yet the program's sustainability and success depend on the continued efforts of those working to see it happen and those who can be brought into the program as employer sponsors, mentors, or financial supporters. Each of the primary partners—OICW, One EPA, and El Concilio—can answer any questions you might have regarding how you can participate and assist the program.

The energy around the program is hard to describe, but imagine a hundred young people like Adriana Lopez—or

two hundred, or three hundred, if you like—amazing themselves at their prowess, surprising themselves and their families by how quickly they learn valuable lessons, eagerly awaiting the pay or the other tangible gifts of character growth offered by productive and responsible labor on behalf of others.

Then imagine yourself a part of this wonderful picture. Perhaps in the Sponsored Employment Program, East Palo Alto can teach other communities an important lesson in how to meet the needs of their youth. Those other communities are already calling and asking how they might be able to start a program like SEP.

Congratulations are in order for every single member of this community who has labored on behalf of EPA youth, and don't forget to salute the youth themselves. They were the ones who told us what we should have already understood.

Allan Johnson
Director of Youth Services,
OICW

Contact Lizz Moala at OICW for information regarding a box including important institutions and individuals and how to help.

Juneteenth 2006

By Jaribu Bostic

One week later, what can I say! It was good good in the Hood on Juneteenth/ Father's Day.

We celebrated the past, we talked about the future and maybe just the next day, but right now on Sunday/ June 18Th, 2006: Juneteenth, JUST ONE DAY

Now that makes me wonder what is it about living in the day and not thinking about what should be, what might be, what could be, but just being in the day: Full force, full E., full of love, full of promises, full of dreams, my dreams, my babies dreams, my babies mamma's dreams, my babies families dreams, my neighbor's dreams, and my God, what a perfect Day in the village, in the Hood, in East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Did you feel that cool breeze come into town, right around 5 O'clock PM, off the bay and breakdown the heat as we expected on a

Sum-mer Day. We expected it to happen, and sure it did, as black folks and some brown folks and some Island folks gathered to say, it sure feels good in E.P.A. today.

Did you hear and see Hood Stars do what they do on stage, did you here them take the show from all that came to Hip/hop or Rap, or just plain out sing?

Did you think you could sing, dance, or rap, make no mistake, if your from this hood, you most certainly can, but dame, maybe your main thing is becoming a Doctor, Lawyer, or some kind of Chief.

Do not worry, because today you are starting to become whatever you want to be. Just like the babies, the children, the teens, the young adults, the old G's and their lady friends, the old folks, this is now and not yesterday. when you were getting busy with your business by yourself, but then realized that you were not by yourself.

It seemed like all E.P.A. was pulling together/ proudtogether/ Harambee, Harambee, Har-ambree. "Let me share a word or two, about the philosophy of transition and reform. The whole history of us as a people of progress and human liberty/and dignity shows that all concessions made or yet made to our claims as Blacks in America, have been born of earnest struggle... Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the mighty roar of its many waters.... They want a cool breeze without a bay or bridge to cross.....

But Today in E.P.A. we all are loving, peaceful and free. God bless Juneteenth, and God bless me.

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Heart disease killing more women

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States. It is not just a man's problem as we used to think: 8 million American women are currently living with a damaged heart. Heart attacks kill six times as many women as breast cancer.



Margaret Allen

More women are developing heart disease than ever before. What is going on? Women are getting older for a start. There are 45 million women over 50 in the US, and they are at greatest risk for heart disease.

And many women are uninsured. Compared with Caucasian women, African American women are twice as likely, and Hispanic women are nearly three times as likely, to be uninsured. With no insurance, and no access to good medical care, the chances of heart disease going untreated increase.

Along with age and lack of insurance, it is a sad fact that women are more overweight

now than ever before. With this extra padding comes diabetes, and women with this disease are two to three times more likely to have heart attacks.

And while most people are giving up smoking, this is unfortunately not true for minority women. Those who continue to smoke, or who start smoking, are likely to have a heart attack almost 20 years younger than women who don't smoke. Cigarettes are a hard drug to quit, and unfortunately some women don't take advantage of the many anti-smoking aids, such as support groups, patches, or medications, which can help.

Even young women in their teens and 20s can be damaging their hearts without knowing it. Going to the gym or playing sports is great for keeping the weight off and looking good. However, eating a poor, greasy diet that is

low in fruits and vegetables can cause fat to begin to settle in the blood vessels, damaging them slowly but surely. Over time, their hearts too begin to suffer.

African-American and Hispanic women face the highest risk of death from heart disease and stroke, but they have the lowest awareness of any racial or ethnic group, according to an American Heart Association survey. To screen for these dangerous diseases, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute recommends women age 20-45 be tested for cholesterol disorders if they have any of these risk factors:

- Death from heart disease in a close relative younger than 50 years old
- Tobacco use
- High cholesterol
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Being overweight

Women need to take active steps to protect their hearts.

Many are willing to go to the health center to get check ups for cancer of the breast or cervix, but are often reluctant to talk about any worries they may have concerning their heart health. It is important to mention symptoms such as chest pain, numbness in the left arm or jaw, or shortness of breath to the health care provider - and make sure the symptoms are taken seriously! Women can usually tell when something is wrong - call 911 if you don't get the attention you need. It is better to be safe than sorry.

One of the best things women can do to protect their heart health is to stay away from fast food restaurants. Home-cooked meals don't have to take a long time to prepare or be very expensive. Rice and beans, baked chicken or fish, greens, lentils, baked potatoes, lots of fruit and vegetables, whole grain cereal with low fat milk, a few nuts, and a big salad dressed with just tasty olive oil and lemon juice will keep the fami-

ly healthy and looking good. Chili flakes, lime, parsley and chives - they are great ways to bring out the taste of simple food. For exercise, women might like to form a soccer team, start a walking club with their friends, or go dancing - anything so long as there is lots of movement.

Although the American Heart Association says that more research is needed on the role stress plays in heart disease risk among women, it is clear that women who enjoy themselves have healthier hearts. A happy woman usually eats less, moves more, and takes pleasure in all the wonderful things she is doing for her health and the health of her family. Watch the basics, try to relax, have fun often - and your heart will beat away reliably for many healthy years.

Margaret Allen
Ravenswood Family Health Center

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Recycle

in East Palo Alto reduce his or her consumption of resources? A good example is our response to the questions often asked by baggers at grocery stores. We have all been asked the question "Paper or Plastic?" and each time we have chosen either and ended up with a whole bunch of plastic and paper bags at our residences, bags that often times have ended up in our trash piles. I recently had to discard several hundred plastic bags because they were taking up too much space in my storage room and also because mice had found them a convenient home. The bags, mostly plastic, ended up in my trash bin destined to landfill that I am sure already has similar products, products that are generally acknowledged as not being degradable even after years if not centuries of being buried under the earth.

How then could we "reduce", "reuse", and or "recycle" our consumption of paper or plastic? We could do that in several ways, one, we can "reuse" the

plastics and paper bags each time we go to the store, it would simply require remembering to carry them back to the store each time we go shopping and thereby "reduce" our use of 'plastic' or 'paper'. If everybody did that, we may even have a significant reduction in our grocery bill. Even better, we can purchase cloth bags or baskets made out of natural material and use them repeatedly, practically forever. My mother had several such baskets and each time she went to the market or sent us to the store, we would carry them with us to bag our groceries.

Can you imagine sharing the basket with others so that several families can shop on different days using the same basket? This is not beyond the realm of reality, my mother and our neighbors shared baskets, after all they come in different sizes and one may need a fairly large one on certain occasions. Another practical example of this concept is carpooling to grocery shop. Especially during these times when gas prices are as

high as they are it would make sense that we "reduce" the use of individual cars for trips that may be common to all of us.

As far as recycling is concerned, the paper bags could be recycled to produce other paper products and the plastic bags could be reprocessed into a whole variety of other products. Recycling obviously presumes that the items would be collected by companies such as BFI and shipped to other companies that would process them into other manufactured products. Residents, in addition to "recycling" their plastic and paper could support the recycling effort by purchasing the products made from recycled raw materials.

There are communities and businesses that encourage the principles of "reduce", "reuse" and "recycle". For instance stores such as "Whole Foods" provide five cents credits for each bag used to people that "reduce" by bringing their own grocery bags. I would have saved approximately \$25.00 if I

had reduced bag use in three years.

Cities throughout California are promoting citywide garage sales to encourage their residents to have personal items "reused" by others, after all one persons trash is another's treasure. Items not sold at such garage sales are usually donated to such used-item-outlets as the Ecumenical Hunger Program, Goodwill, the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul.

Additionally, cities such as East Palo Alto, to combat rampant dumping problems throughout the city has established a free recycling program that permits residents to bring their debris both useable and unusable to its corporate yard for appropriate disposal. Such programs save the cities tens of thousands of dollars in time and resources spent collecting debris from dumpsites.

While I do not wish to be described as a "prophet of doom" I must confess to believing that the world has finite

resources and that at the pace at which we have become consumer societies, we are faced with the inevitable reality that the world will run out of critical life sustaining resources sooner rather than later. The oil crisis that we are currently experiencing, according to some observers represents the tip of the iceberg in terms of the challenges that the world community will be facing in the next few decades.

As the Nobel Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, has observed, lack of and the non equitable distribution of resources has been the root cause of some major human conflicts in history. The Rwanda massacre that allegedly led to the killing of one million people has been regarded by some as such a conflict. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycling takes on a whole different meaning when human conflict looms as an inevitable backdrop.

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Juneteenth 2006

The history of Juneteenth:

Historians contend that it was not until June 1865, two years and five months after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, that enslaved Africans were able

to celebrate in earnest their liberation.

Juneteenth takes its name from June 19, 1865, the day federal troops (including blacks) arrived in Galveston, Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

Plantation owners refused

to inform enslaved Africans of their freedom until "one more crop" had been planted and harvested.

In Texas and Oklahoma, and now California (not a state holiday) Juneteenth (June 19) is a holiday.

In East Palo Alto you can

meet people, see people and come back and see them again, and strike up relationships that last a lifetime.

The transition is Today in East Palo Alto. We are Free of both Physical and Mental Slavery in the hood, the vil- lage, and in East Palo Alto.

What about outside, next time!

Jaribu Bostic is a former member of the East Palo Alto City Council. Several years ago, he retired from his job at Foothill College.

Sanitary District working on agreement with City

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District is working together with the City of East Palo Alto to coordinate capital project activities within the city.

Lee Hawkins, the executive Director of the Sanitary District said that cooperative efforts with the city were

important now more than ever.

"Given the current economic climate coupled with limited revenue sources, an agreement to coordinate capital project expenditures is a critical step to ensure that funding is available for major infra-

structure projects," he said.

In fact, the need to develop funding strategies for major infrastructure efforts is a driving force toward development of any agreements that the East Palo Sanitary District would make with the City.

Hawkins said that he was

sure that other public agencies across the bay area are feeling the crunch of the current economic down turn with the rise in fuel prices and obvious increase in the cost of operations.

He said that the financial challenge facing East Palo

Alto is not unique to the City. "This agreement when completed will help both the City and the District to control and in some cases reduce the overall cost of operations," Hawkins said.

Proposed Job Cuts

revenue and its income.

While stating that the city's deficit problem is not new, James said, "What is new is the fact that sources that have been available to assist the City in maintaining desired service levels, such as grants ... to support service programs or revenue from Redevelopment Agency loan sources, are no longer large enough to overcome "the gap between available revenue and Council authorized expenditure commitments."

Some residents applaud the city for coming to grips with the issue. Lee Hawkins, the executive director of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District said, "There are just no

easy decisions, and ...[the city doesn't] have the luxury to keep putting things off."

"You can't keep maintaining services without the revenues. All of the past deficits have just been accumulating," he said.

In their attempts to close the deficit, City officials did take several actions in the past. The City Council placed a measure on the November 2005 ballot that would amend the City's sales tax categories to include a new Hazardous Waste Facility category (Measure R). "Although the measure was approved by the voters, revenue has yet to materialize," James said.

The City Council also authorized two additional ballot measures: Measures J (Removal of the sunset provision of the Utility Users Tax) and K (Youth and Crime Prevention). Measure J passed but K failed.

"The passage of Measure J meant that the City would not lose an additional \$1 million dollars from the General Fund with the expiration of the Utility Users Tax (UUT). Measure K, however, among other things, would have potentially provided significant new revenue to support targeted public safety programs, many of which would have been implemented by the Police Department.

James said the deficit started in 2001, when as a result of a successful class action lawsuit, the City was required to initiate a repayment program to return to community residents about \$1 million dollars in additional revenues the city collected via an excise tax. James said that the excise tax enabled the City to bring its expenses and revenues into balance from 1990 to 1996, in all but one year (1992).

The excise tax repayment obligation was a key factor in the General Fund deficit problem since "it not only represented a loss of a significant source of revenue, starting in 2001, but also a

new expenditure obligation for the following seven year period," James said.

Operating budget workshops, which are open to the public, started May 31 with the City's Manager's message to the city council and the unveiling of the proposed multi year financial plan.

City departments budget presentations were held over the past three weeks at City Hall with department heads presenting alternate proposals. The council has held at least one additional meeting to get public input. Union leaders are urging that it do everything it can to avoid layoffs.

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Health Commitment

is 200% or below the federal poverty level. Their access is mostly limited to the county system and the emergency hospitals. Often patients wait months to get appointments and then the appointment is seldom with the same doctor, making preventative care nearly impossible. Residents were outraged that the current program authorizes the county to put a lien on a patient's home in order to pay the county back for outstanding medical treatment previously paid for by the

county. "I live in homeless shelter and was admitted to Peninsula Hospital with bacterial pneumonia. 25 days later I was discharged. When I got to the shelter I received bill for \$158,000. How can I get my life back on track and deal with medical bills?" explained Elizabeth Breen,

member of Chalice Christian Church in San Carlos, "We need the supervisors to take action and expand adult health insurance now!"

At the meeting, Supervisor Hill agreed to PIA's five step plan that will lead the county board to expand adult health insurance in San Mateo County within three years. As part of the plan, Supervisor Hill committed to recommend that the board of supervisors authorize a feasibility study to transfer the administration of the current WELL program to the San Mateo Health Plan (SMHP), once SB 458 is passed in the state legislature. He will expand the current healthcare working group,

currently staffed by 2 county supervisors, to a task force that will include community members. To ensure county funding, he agreed to work with a consultant to study revenue sources that will fund the health plan's expansion and evaluate the current healthcare system in the district including the possibility of creating a third party insurance component to the health plan. "The current health plan is broken" said Supervisor Hill. He will review the piloted WELL program's eligibility require-

ments in the next 6 months and consider needed adjustments. "As people from diverse faith backgrounds, we are all called to protect the most vulnerable among us. PIA will not rest until every resident on our peninsula has access to affordable health insurance," says Barbara Erbacher of Good Shepard Church in Pacifica. Hill will present PIA's research report to the board of supervisors and continue to meet with PIA to ensure the process that will lead to adult health care is carried out.

For more information, call (650) 592-9181 or visit www.piapico.org.

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Supervisor Jerry Hill



Gloria Flores

Romic

guards were in place to protect the public. She said that Romic would have had a harsher type of enforcement handed down had they not agreed to comply with the order.

After the June 5th discharge, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a release stating that the organic compounds in the discharge evaporated so quickly that the chemicals had no effect on nearby neighborhoods or residents.

At a press conference held to discuss the incident on Monday, June 12, Alvin James, East Palo Alto's City Manager said that the City did not agree with the agency's findings. "The City is not prepared to embrace the conclusions that the community is safe. There has been a history of violations by the company. Romic's application is

still pending before the DTSC. We would like to see Romic go. It would be great if they could move to some other location."

The City manager's statement seemed to take Chris Stampolis, Romic representative who was at the press conference by surprise. He said that James statement was the first time he had heard any city officials say that the city wanted Romic to leave East Palo Alto.

One resident, Lorraine Holmes, who lives four blocks from the Romic plant disputed the EPA's findings that the chemicals released during the discharge were harmless. She said that she was in her yard, turning off a hose when the discharge occurred. She said that she first heard a rumbling; then about 30 seconds later she saw a white smoke. "I tasted it," she

said. "It was thick and low."

Holmes said that she went to her doctor because her nose and her throat were burning and her eyes were bothering her. A week after the event, she said that she still felt the effects of the discharge. "My doctor told me that there were remnants of acetone on my clothes."

The tanker releasing the discharge was known to contain approximately 4,000 gallons of used mixed solvents which consisted of volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including hydroxylamine, monoethanolamine, toluene and acetonitrile.

At the time of the incident, Holmes said that she knew there was something terrible that happened, but she didn't know what it was and did not

find out about the discharge until the next evening. "Where is our warning system?" she asked.

During his press conference James said that police in patrol cars went through the affected section of the city - the Garden area - shortly after the incident and used their megaphones to notify people to stay in their homes. He also said that a shelter was put in place for residents, but it was determined that the shelter wasn't necessary.

Holmes said that she did not hear the warnings in her neighborhood. One person, who did hear the warning said it was in Spanish, which he didn't speak, so he didn't understand what the police were saying. James said that the warnings were presented in both English and

in Spanish.

"The City is doing a post-mortem of its own operations to see what worked and what didn't work well," James said. In the meantime, other state and federal agencies, like the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Department of the Interior are also continuing their investigations into the discharge.

When asked whether Romic faced any fines or penalties for the June 5th discharge, Blanchette, the DTSC's spokesperson said, "This is still to be determined. The investigation is on going. An evaluation will be made when it is over. There is a possibility that additional enforcement action will be taken against Romic."

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La Ciudad

El Concilio de la Ciudad también autorizó dos medidas adicionales en la boleta electoral: la Medida J (El retiro de la provisión que daba culminación a la medida sobre el Impuesto a los Usuarios de Utilidades) y la Medida K (Juventud y Prevención del Crimen).

La medida J fue aprobada, mientras que la Medida K no fue aprobada. "El pasaje de la Medida J significa que la Ciudad no perdería \$1 millón de dólares adicionales del

Fondo General con la expiración del Impuesto a los Usuarios de las Utilidades (UUT).

La Medida K, sin embargo, entre otras cosas, habría potencialmente proporcionado un ingreso significativo nuevo para apoyar los programas dirigidos a la seguridad pública; muchos de los cuales hubieran sido implementados por el Departamento de Policía.

El Sr. James dijo que el déficit presupuestario comen-

zó en el año 2001, cuando la Ciudad, como resultado de una demanda colectiva exitosa, fue ordenada a iniciar un programa de retribución monetaria de alrededor de \$1 millón de dólares de fondos adicionales que la Ciudad había colectado a través del impuesto excesivo.

El Sr. James dijo que los fondos de este impuesto excesivo habían balanceado los gastos y fondos de la Ciudad de 1990 a 1996, con la excepción de un año

(1992).

La retribución obligatoria de los fondos de este impuesto excesivo, fue un factor clave en el déficit del Fondo General, debido a que, "esto no solo representó el fin de esta entrada significativa de fondos, iniciando el 2001, sino un gasto obligatorio nuevo por los 7 años siguientes", dijo James.

Los talleres para administrar el presupuesto, los cuales están abiertos al público, iniciaron el 31 de mayo con el

viene de pag. 2

Mensaje del Administrador de la Ciudad a los miembros del Concilio de la Ciudad y la presentación de la propuesta de un plan financiero multianual. Las presentaciones del Departamento de Presupuesto de la Ciudad se realizaron los miércoles 7 y 14 de junio en la sala de reuniones de la ciudad, de 6:00 a 8:00 p.m. La Ciudad podría reacomodar este horario según considere apropiado.

LIDERES DE PIA

cambie los requisitos para inscribirse para que las familias como la de Alejandra no sufran más," dijo Sonja Spencer de la Iglesia Fe Bautista de East Palo Alto.

La junta comunitaria organizada por la Organización Acción Inter-religiosa en la Península, una federación de 31 iglesias que representan 19,000 familias en la península. En el Condado de San Mateo, el programa WELL provee seguro medico para las personas quien ganan menos de 200% del nivel de pobreza federal. Estas personas solo pueden usar las clínicas públicas y los salones de emergencia. Normalmente, los

pacientes tienen que esperar meses para conseguir una cita. Además cada cita puede ser con un doctor diferente. Así que el cuidado no es constante y la calidad esta reducida. Los residentes están enojados porque el programa actual autoriza al condado que ponga un embargo en las casas de pacientes para pagar el condado por servicios médicos que el condado pago antes. "Vivo en un shelter y no tenía donde vivir cuando me admitió el Hospital Peninsula con pneumonia bacteriana por 25 días. Cuando regrese al shelter, recibí la cuenta por \$158,000. Como voy a poder superar mi situación y pagar

esta cuenta?" preguntó Elizabeth Breen, miembro de la Iglesia Cristiana Chalice en San Carlos, "Necesitamos que los supervisores tomen acción ahora y amplíen el seguro medico para adultos!"

En la junta, el Supervisor Hill se acordó al plan de PIA, compuesto de 5 pasos que guía la mesa directiva del condado de San Mateo, por los próximos tres años. Como parte del plan, Supervisor Hill se comprometió a recomendar a la mesa de supervisores que el programa de WELL sea transferida al cargo del plan de salud de San Mateo (SMHP), en cuanto el SB 458 sea aprobado en el congreso

estatal. Expandirá el Comité de Cuidado Medico que consiste de dos supervisores del condado para incluir miembros de la comunidad. Para asegurar los fondos necesitados para realizar el plan, se comprometió hacer un estudio en las fuentes ingresos que podría utilizar para la expansión. "El plan de seguro medico esta roto," dijo supervisor Hill. Además, El va reevaluar los requisitos para el programa WELL entre los próximos 6 meses y hacer los cambios necesarios. "Como gente con una fe profunda, Dios nos llama para proteger los personas mas vulnerables entre nosotros. PIA no va a

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parar hasta que todos los residentes en nuestra península tenga acceso a un seguro medico económico," dijo Barbara Erbacher de la iglesia de Good Shepard en Pacifica. Hill presentará el reporte de PIA frente a la mesa de supervisores y continuara a reunir con PIA para asegurar que este plan camina hasta que el seguro medico para todos sea una realidad.

Para más información llama al (650) 592-9181 o visita su sitio de Internet www.piapico.org.

La descarga de Romic

materiales tóxicos y reserva el derecho del Estado en imponer multas y penaltis en el futuro.

La orden tiene efecto inmediatamente y no provee a Romic la oportunidad de apelar.

Antes de que la ordenanza fuera sometida, Romic voluntariamente para la efusión de materiales tóxicos hasta que se investigara cual fue la cause de la fuga.

Angela Blanchette la delegada de la agencia DTSC explico que su agencia ha puesto esta ordenanza para proteger al público. También menciono que Romic podrá tener una ordenanza más severa si ellos no cumplen con la orden arriba mencionada.

Después de la fuga del 5 de Junio la Agencia de Protección del Ambiente (EPA sus siglas el Ingles) puso un comunicado diciendo que los compuestos orgánicos de la fuga se evaporaron tan rápidamente que los químicos no habían tenido efecto alguno en los residentes del área.

En una conferencia de

prensa para hablar sobre el incidente el día 12 de Junio, Alvin James, el Manejador de la Ciudad de East Palo Alto dijo que la ciudad no estaba de acuerdo con el comunicado del EPA.

"La Ciudad no esta preparada para tomar las conclusiones que la comunidad esta segura" dijo el señor James "Hay una historia de violaciones de la compañía y la aplicación de Romic con el DTSC esta aun pendiente. Queremos que los de Romic se muevan y sería un triunfo si ellos se movieran a otra localidad" también indico el señor James.

Las Declaraciones del Manejador de la Ciudad tomaron a Chris Stampolis representante de Romic que estaba participando el la conferencia de prensa por sorpresa. El nos indico que las declaraciones del señor James eran las primeras que oía de un oficial de la ciudad al expresarse que quería que Romic se moviera de East Palo Alto.

Una Residente la señora Lorraine Holmes que vive a

cuatro cuerdas de la planta de Romic también pone en disputa el comunicado del EPA que los químicos que se fugaron no tendrían efecto alguno.

Ella indico que al momento del incidente ella estaba en su jardín cuando primero escucho un fuerte resonar; treinta segundos después ella vio la nube de humo blanca "Yo lo respire afirmo la Sr. Holmes la nueva estaba baja y espesa.

Nos indico la Sr. Holmes que ella busco atención medica por sintió que su nariz y garganta las tenia quemadas y que sus ojos le molestaban. Una semana después de la fuga todavía siento los efectos y el Doctor dijo que tenia restos de acetona en mi ropa nos comento la señora Holmes.

El tanque que ocasiono la fuga, se supo que contenía aproximadamente 4,000 galones de solventes mixtos usados que consistía en compuestos volátiles y semi volátiles (VOCs sus siglas en Ingles) incluyendo hydroxylamine, monoethanolamine, toluene

y acetonitrile.

Al tiempo del incidente la señora Holmes comento que supuso que algo terrible había pasado pero ella no se entero de la fuga hasta la siguiente noche. "Donde esta nuestro sistema de emergencias" pregunto.

Durante su conferencia de prensa el señor James dijo que la policía el sus carros de patrulla fueron a la sección afectada el área de la Garden un corto tiempo después del incidente para notificar a los residentes en sus casas. También dijo que se había puesto un refugio temporal para los residentes pero luego se determino que el refugio no era necesario.

La señora Holmes dijo que ella no escucho los avisos en el vecindario. Una persona dijo que si escucho los avisos en español que el no habla, así que no entendió lo que la policía decía. El señor James dijo que los avisos se habían hecho en ingles y español.

"La Ciudad esta efectuando una revisión de sus operaciones para ver que trabajo y que no trabajo" por

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ahora otras agencias del estado y federales como el Departamento de pesca y caza y el departamento del interior también están efectuando investigaciones.

Cuando se les pregunto si le iban a imponer multas o cargos a la Romic por el incidente del día 5 de junio la señora Blanchette del departamento del DTSC dijo que estaban por determinarlo.

La investigación continúa. Tendremos que tener una evaluación cuando esto finalicé. Pero hay una posibilidad que acciones adicionales se tomen en contra de Romic.

This article was translated into Spanish by Julio Garcia, who works for One East Palo Alto.

Este articulo fue interpretado por Julio Garcia que trabaja para One East Palo Alto.

East Palo Alto Today receives an award



East Palo Alto Today was selected as one of 10 recipients of the "PR Media Recognition Award."

Henrietta J. Burroughs, East Palo Alto Today's

editor, received the award at a morning breakfast which was held at the Santa Clara Marriott in Santa Clara.

The award was given by Rotary District 5170.

This year marks the first year the Rotary District has given the award.

Rotary District 5170 includes the 60 clubs in the Silicon Valley area

from Palo Alto to Gilroy and up to Oakland on both sides of the Bay.

The award was given for professional excellence and service in the field of media and media relations.

Several Bay Area publishers and a local TV host were among the awardees. The selections were made "based on a standard of excellence and a reflection in the work of 'Service Above Self.'"

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East Palo Alto

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