



**Bob Hoover**

A life of service

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Talking with  
the Police

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# East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

July - August 2006

Vol. 1 No. 5

## Renters Threatened on Ballot

By **Johanna Sophie Santos Bassetti**

**EPA Today**

A privately-funded ballot initiative aimed at amending East Palo Alto's rent-control laws is considered by many

community members to be a threat to affordable, secure housing.

Current rent-control legislation protects the City's residents from arbitrary rent

increases and unjustified evictions. Without these protections, some city residents believe, the majority of East Palo Alto residents could not afford to stay in their homes.

(or Some residents believe that these protections make it possible for the majority of East Palo Alto residents to afford to stay in their homes.) East Palo Alto's location within

the heart of Silicon Valley makes it a prime target for gentrification, with developers interested in catering to a more affluent demographic.

If passed in the upcoming See **"Renters"** on page 15

### Inside

- Editorial
- Opinions
- Youth News
- In Memory
- Sports
- TV Listings

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Budget Update

EPA city officials disclose plan to close city's \$1.6 million budget gap. See **"Budget"** on page 3

#### ML Gordon

An investigation is being made into a complaint filed by EPA Assistant City Manager M.L. Gordon against Vice Mayor Peter Evans. See **ML Gordon** on page 6.

#### Child Abuse

An East Palo Alto woman working as a nanny in Redwood Shores received the jury's verdict. To read more see **"Nanny"** on page 6.

#### Foundation Merger

Two of the Peninsula's largest charity foundations merged on July 12th to form the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. See page 6 for more on **"Merger."**

#### Apali

Mayors met to promote political participation. See page 6 for more details on **"Apali"** and for more news briefs.

## Joined in Mourning



Local Pacific Islander woman at a temporary memorial on Hwy 101 North just before the Marsh Road exit. The memorial was moved to a church in Redwood City.

### Sudden Deaths in Tongan Royal Family

By **Eseta Tuakihekolo**  
**EPA Today High School Intern**

**T**ongan families throughout the US gathered over the past few weeks to mourn the deaths of the Tongan Prince Tu'ipelehake, his wife Princess Kaimana, and their driver Vinisia Hefa. The three were on their way to San Francisco when their SUV was hit by another car which caused their vehicle to

roll over several times. Edith Delgado, the Redwood City teenager, who hit the royal couple's vehicle was charged with vehicular manslaughter and booked into the San Mateo County jail. Delgado's bail was originally set at \$300,000 and was raised to 3 million on July 7. The request to drop her bail to \$100,000 was denied on July

See **"Mourning"** on page 5

## City Council Votes on Anti Violence Measure

By **Natalie Rios**  
**EPA Today**

On July 25th, the East Palo Alto City Council approved the motion to include a proposed parcel tax on the ballot for the November 9, 2006 elections.

The measure would

increase funding for crime and violence prevention programs. If voters approve the parcel tax measure, 50% of the tax collected would go toward funding religious and non-profit organizations with programs for youth violence prevention, while the other 50% would fund programs for

the police department.

With the exception of seniors and disabled citizens, the proposed measure would cost property owners \$100 a year. It would be in place for a suggested 10 year period.

Members of Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) experienced a bittersweet victory,

since the measure they had lobbied for will now appear before voters. But they were disappointed that their request that 70% of the funds be allotted to youth programs and 30% to the police department was amended to a 50/50 split.

Please see **"Tax Measure"** on page 14

### COMMUNITY

#### Sentencing Postponed

Penisoni's wait continues

By **Bonnie Swift**

**EPA Today**

Local residents Kolotina and Sione Penisoni have endured several tragedies in the past years, but this month might have been especially difficult.

In 1997, Tina and Sione Penisoni lost their twelve year-old son, John Mafi Penisoni, when he was electrocuted at the top of a 75 foot high PG & E transmission tower in the East Palo Alto Baylands. Following the catastrophe, a group of East Palo Alto citizens lobbied PG & E to put seven feet of razor wire around each tower's base.

On July 5th of this year, Tina Penisoni's niece, Venisia, was killed along with Tongan Prince Tu'ipelehake, 56, and Princess Kaimana, 46, in a car crash. Edith Delgado, a Redwood City teenager slammed into their Ford Explorer on Highway 101 in Menlo Park, causing it to roll several times.

Venisia had been the royal couple's secretary in Tonga, and served as their driver when they visited the United States. Tina Penisoni was interviewed on one television news shows speaking of her

See **"Penisoni's Sentencing Postponed"** on page 11

# Alquiler Peligra en las Elecciones

**Johanna Sophie Santos Bassetti**  
EPA Today

Una iniciativa, de financiamiento privado, dirigida hacia las leyes de control del alquiler en East Palo Alto es considerada como una amenaza al alojamiento seguro y económico, por muchos miembros de la comunidad.

La legislación actual del control del alquiler protege a residentes de la ciudad contra aumentos arbitrarios del alquiler y desahucios injustificados. Sin estas protecciones, algunos residentes de la ciudad creen, la mayoría de los residentes de East Palo

Alto no podrían permanecer en sus hogares. La localización de East Palo Alto, en el corazón de Silicon Valley, la hace un blanco para los diseñadores interesados en atraer a un demográfico más afluente.

Si la iniciativa propuesta, llamada La Medida de East Palo Alto para Hogares Libres de Violencia y Droga, pasa en las elecciones próximas de noviembre, modificaría substancialmente las leyes existentes de control del alquiler, permitiendo que un propietario desahucie a un inquilino sobre "cualquier base permitida por el contrato de alquiler del propietario con el arren-

datario y leyes aplicables del estado."

Se incorpora en la enmienda una disposición para evitar que propietarios simplemente desahucien a arrendatarios para traer a personas que puedan pagar un alquiler mas alto. Después del desahucio, el propietario tendría que notificar al Consejo de la Estabilización de Rentas del acontecimiento, y no podría aumentar el alquiler para el arrendatario siguiente por 12 meses después de lo sucedido.

Sin embargo, otra disposición de la ley del estado de California anula esta disposición local: el acto del Alquiler

de Costa-Hawkins de 1995 indica que cuando desahucian a un arrendatario, cuyo alquiler se ha aumentado gradualmente bajo control de alquileres, el propietario puede cobrar cualquier cantidad que él o ella desee al arrendatario siguiente. La iniciativa propuesta haría más fácil que los propietarios desahucien a arrendatarios y la ley del estado les permitiría sustituirlos con inquilinos que puedan pagar mas.

Los partidarios de la iniciativa dicen que su propósito es facilitar la desahución de traficantes y otros criminales de unidades de alquiler. Sin embargo, los opositores creen

que ataca directamente a la política "buena causa para el desahucio" de la ciudad, una de las provisiones de fundación fundamentales de la ciudad que pasó por la elección general en 1984, poco después de la incorporación de la ciudad en 1983.

Los opositores precisan que la ley actual proporciona las medidas con las cuales los traficantes pueden ser desahuciados, y que, por lo tanto, no hay necesidad de una enmienda. Ellos dicen que los conductores de la iniciativa están utilizando la etiqueta de "medida contra la

Por favor, vea "Alquiler" en la pagina 7

## Dentro

- Editorial
- Opiniones
- Juventud
- En Memoria
- Deportes
- Tele-Listado

## NOTAS INFORMATIVA

### Resumen Presupuestario

Los funcionarios de la ciudad de EPA divulgan un plan para cerrar el déficit presupuestario de \$1.6 millones.

Por favor, vea "Budget" en la pagina 6

### ML Gordon

Una investigación sobre una queja hecha por el encargado auxiliar M.L. Gordon, de la ciudad de EPA, contra el vice alcalde Peter Evans.

Por favor, vea "ML Gordon" en la pagina 6

### Abuso Infantil

Una mujer de East Palo Alto que trabajaba como niñera en Redwood Shores recibió el veredicto del jurado.

Por favor, vea "Nanny" en la pagina 6

### Fundaciones se Juntan

Dos de las fundaciones de caridad más grandes de la península se juntaron el 12 de julio para formar la fundación de la comunidad de Silicon Valley.

Por favor, vea "Merger" en la pagina 6

### APALI

Los alcaldes de varias ciudades se juntaron para promover la participación política.

Por favor, vea "APALI" en la pagina 6 y para más noticias breves.

## Juntos de Luto



Mujer de las Islas Pacificas en el vigilio anteriormente situado en la 101 a la altura de la salida de Marsh Road.

### Muertes en la Familia Real Tongonesa

By Eseta Tuakihekolo  
EPA Today High School Intern

Las Familias de Tonga en todos los Estados Unidos han estado unidas estas las ultimas semanas compartiendo el luto por las muertes de el Príncipe de Tonga Tu'ipelehake, su esposa la Princesa Kaimana, y su chofer Venisia Hefa. Los tres iban en camino a San Francisco

cuando su vehículo SUV fue golpeado por otro vehículo a lo que condujo que su SUV rodara varias veces ocasionándoles la muerte.

Edith Delgado una joven de Redwood City, quien fue la causante de la colisión del vehiculo de la pareja real fue acusada de homicidio involuntario y fue fichada en la cárcel del condado de San Mateo.

La fianza de Delgado fue puesta original-

Por favor, vea "Luto" en la pagina 10

## COMMUNIDAD

### Sentencia Retrasada La espera familiar continua

Los residentes de East Palo Alto, Kolotina y Sione Penisoni han vivido varias tragedias en los últimos años, pero este mes pudo haber sido especialmente difícil.

En 1997, Tina y Sione Penisoni perdieron a su hijo de doce años, Juan Mafi Penisoni, cuando él murió electrocutado en la tapa de una torre de transmisión de PG&E de 75 pies de altura en East Palo Alto. Después de la catástrofe, un grupo de ciudadanos de East Palo Alto le exigieron a PG&E que pusiera siete pies de alambre alrededor de la base de cada torre.

El 5 de julio de este año, murió la sobrina de Tina Penisoni, Venisia, junto con el príncipe Túipelehake, 56, y la princesa Kaimana, 46, de Tonga, en un accidente. Edith Delgado, una joven de Redwood City, se estrelló contra el Ford Explorer en el que viajaban el príncipe y la princesa, en la carretera 101 en Menlo Park, haciéndolo rodar varias veces.

Venisia había sido la secretaria de la pareja real en Tonga, y trabajaba como su conductor cuando visitaban a los Estados Unidos. Tina Penisoni fue entrevistada en

Por favor, vea "Penisoni" en la pagina 14

## Aumenta de Impuestos Recibe el "OK"

Natalie Rios  
EPA Today

El 25 de Julio, los miembros del concejo de East Palo Alto aprobaron incluir una medida que propone un aumento de impuestos en la boleta para las elecciones del 9 de noviembre, 2006.

Si es aprobada por dos tercios de los votantes, la medida aumentará los fondos para

programas de prevención de violencia y crimen. El 50% de los impuestos pagados serían asignados a organizaciones religiosas y no lucrativas con programas de prevención para jovenes, mientras el otro 50% financiaría programas para el departamento de policia.

Con la excepción de los ancianos y ciudadanos licitados, la medida propuesta le

costaría \$100 cada año a los propietarios. La propuesta estaría en efecto por un maximo de diez años.

Miembros de Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) obtuvieron una victoria a medias, ya que la medida que tanto apoyan tendrá la oportunidad de aparecer frente a los votantes, pero se desilusionaron al escuchar que su petición que el 70% de los fondos

sean para programas para jovenes, y solo el 30% para el departamento de policia, fue enmendada a una division de 50/50.

Mas de 15 miembros de la comunidad aparecieron frente al alcalde Ruben Abrica y los miembros del consejo de la ciudad Donna Rutherford y David Woods, Pat Foster no estuvo

Por favor, vea "Aumenta De Impuestos" en la pagina 6

# East Palo Alto Avoids Staff Layoffs

By Bonnie Swift  
EPA Today

The city council has faced a complex dilemma in the past weeks. In an effort to close a \$1.6 million gap between the City of East Palo Alto's income and expenses, all city employees will receive up to 12 unpaid days of vacation during the fiscal year of 2006-2007, which the city refers to as "furlough days."

An earlier proposal had planned to eliminate 21 jobs, 14 of which are currently vacant. The new plan still eliminates those 14 positions, but the remaining 7 that are filled will remain on staff under the new plan.

The cost of financing the "position retention" is a reduction in services across the board, said city manager Alvin James.

On the 12 days each year when city employees will not be working, parks and medians will not be maintained, and permit offices and libraries will be closed-- resulting in reduced salaries for workers and lower level of services available to the public.

Public safety employees and police officers will not have any additional furlough days.

City managers also agreed to a 20% reduction in overtime pay, to which public safety officials will also be

subject.

The elimination of the 14 vacant positions will save the city \$900,000 of the \$1.6 million budget gap, and the new furlough days and reduction in overtime pay will save the remaining \$700,000 annually, said Mr. James.

Alternative measures have been taken so that all city employees shoulder the budget losses equally, rather than a small group of workers losing their means of living.

It is part of long-term strategy to reduce the gap between the city's available revenue and its expenditure commitments.

# Decision is in on chemical spill

By Bonnie Swift  
EPA Today

The recent chemical spill at Romic's East Palo Alto facility on Bay Road did not have any harmful effect and it did not pose a

health threat to the community, according to a report published this month by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Romic plant on Bay Road in East Palo Alto

The June 5th chemical release from one of Romic's tanker trucks raised alarm throughout the East Palo Alto community. The fume of white smoke the tanker released spewed into the air and settled over several East Palo Alto streets, a section of the wetlands, a school garden, parts of Bay Rd, and the Romic facility itself.

The release occurred after 4,000 gallons of used mixed solvents began reacting inside the tanker. The solvents were composed of harmful volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOC's), such as hydroxylamine, monoethanolamine, toluene, and acetonitrile, that easily turn into vapor and dissipate quickly into the air.

When asked about the possible toxic risk posed by these chemicals to the community, Chris Stampoli, Romic's spokesman, said "the first round of tests show that the general scope of material is not toxic and that there was no impact to residential property."

The recently released impact assessment of the affected areas apparently confirm Stampoli's statement.

The assessment was a joint effort of the Environmental

Protection Agency, San Mateo County, and Romic. After analyzing over 50 samples, federal officials of the EPA stated in their July 11 report that the toxicity levels were "below the levels that

are used to set cleanup goals."

"All sampling data was reviewed by both EPA and California Department of Health Services toxicologists," the statement explained.

"They are in agreement that the compounds identified would not have caused health effects in school children, staff or the neighboring community even if ingested."

In regards to the wetland, the statement specified that the large number of samples taken showed there "was no impact from chemicals associated with the release." Tests done on the school vegetable garden showed that "none of the materials associated with the release were present in either the vegetables or the soil."

What happens next? The EPA is not the only environmental agency addressing Romic's June violation. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has also taken action against the company. Following the discharge, the DTSC issued an enforcement order restraining the company's operations.

The June 15th order puts limits on the blending of hazardous waste to make fuel, one of Romic's main activities. It also prohibits Romic from "blending anything that comes from offsite", said Ron Baker, DTSC spokesperson. The order additionally prohibits

Romic's use of bio-sludge and hydroxylamine, and it requires the company to determine the cause of the incident and submit a "comprehensive, detailed report" within 60-days to DTSC.

The incident may have long lasting repercussions for Romic, since Romic's permit renewal is still pending. As stipulated in the DTSC enforcement order "all circumstances pertaining to the incident will be considered as part of the administrative record during DTSC's deliberations on Romic's proposed permit renewal."

The June 5th release is not the first occurrence of contamination by the company leading to federal investigation. Since Romic started operating in the City of East Palo Alto in 1963, "there has been a history of violations by the company."

During a June 12th press conference held to discuss the incident. City Manager Alvin James said the city wanted to "see Romic go". In response to James' statement, Stampolis said that Romic intended "to continue operating and providing services to the Bay Area and ... the State."

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# EPA Welcomes Credit Union

By Natalie Rios  
EPA Today

Efforts to open East Palo Alto's first community credit union are well under way. The bank is expected to open its doors to the public by 2007, pending federal approval.

The process began when the Northern California Urban Development Corporation (NCUDC), who is heading the project in East Palo Alto, submitted an application to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the United States agency that supervises and charters federal credit unions.

The credit union's application consists of a charter application, comprehensive business plan, and list of candidates for its Board of Directors. The application is still undergoing review and the NCUDC will have to wait and see if the application is approved, or if changes will have to be made to the current plan. Still, the application is "80-90% done," according to John Liotti, CEO of the NCUDC.

Liotti, who has been living in East Palo Alto for about five years, created the NCUDC in order to be able to offer financial services and opportunities to citizens of the city.

The community credit union will be available to all members of the East Palo Alto community but is specifically geared towards those people who do not have access to a

bank and to help residents avoid becoming victims of predatory lending.

In an effort to reach all of the underserved citizens of East Palo Alto, the NCUDC is attempting to offer all of their services in Spanish.

"We really see Latinos as important in what we're doing," said Liotti. "Our goal is to have all employees speak Spanish."

Liotti emphasizes that, because the credit union is non-profit, it will also be entirely community organized and run. In a credit union, the members of the union are also the owners and only members can be shareholders.

"A credit union is a non-profit, so all profits go back to the people," said Liotti. "This is opposed to a commercial bank who comes in with other people and all profits are siphoned off to others."

In addition to having shareholders and investors from outside the company, traditional banks also hire their board members from other companies and agencies. In a community credit union, all board members are chosen from within the membership. Community members are eligible so long as they meet the government criteria for becoming credit union board members, the specifications vary depending on the credit union.

The current initiative was modeled after similar, successful, projects carried out in Modesto, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Those projects were

headed by Joe Duran, CEO of Community Trust Credit Union, whom Liotti accredits as being the inspiration for his efforts with the East Palo Alto CU.

"I've known Joe for years and his work at Community Trust was the spark that got this thing going," Liotti recently told the Credit Union Digest.

The efforts to create East Palo Alto's credit union have received support from several different sponsors including the Golden Bay CU, Patelco CU, Stanford FCU, and the Technology CU. The Stanford FCU will be leading a financial mentoring program for community leaders.

"We know that many people are 'unbanked' and lack access to money for purchasing a home or car," John Davis, CEO of Stanford FCU told the Credit Union Digest. "People who live in a cash society cannot get credit and they often pay outrageous fees just to cash paychecks."

NCUDC has also received support from the city officials but the most important support group will be the citizens themselves.

"It's been a lot of work, it's been a challenge and we need the community to get behind this," said Liotti. "When the doors open, we need deposits. There's an amazing amount of opportunity for this community to get out of this situation, when people are given the opportunity to rise above poverty."

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# Mourning

continued from page 1

13. Delgado is scheduled to appear in court again on September 20.

The royal couple had just arrived in California a few hours before their car collided with Delgado's. They were visiting California to meet with the local Tongan community to discuss political reforms in Tonga. The Prince and his wife had just returned from the 88th birthday celebration in Tonga of his uncle, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, the king of Tonga.

Some of the mourners who came to pay their respect to the royal couple, gathered at services which were held at the Hillsborough mansion owned by King Tupou IV. Mourners came in black clothes with their bodies respectfully wrapped in a Tauvala, a Tongan traditional mat that is made out of pounded Mule Berry and worn on special occasions as a sign of respect.

East Palo Alto residents Fatani Uhila and his daughter Tofe accompanied the royal couple's bodies back to Tonga, where a huge funeral is planned in Lapaha, Tonga at the Royal Cemetery.

Uhila said he was the last person to be called by Princess Kaimana an hour and a half before the accident. "I've been the one in charge of taking the Prince and Princess Kaimana around for the last five years," he said. Uhila's aunt Vaiolulu Vaiolupe Mo e Fala e Tuipelehake Uhila Fuata said "It's a big loss in the island of Tonga, even in the Tongan communities in the US. It touched Tongan's

heart.... it's like a bomb hit us." Fuata is a distant relative of Prince Tu'ipelehake and grew up with him in Pelehake, a village in Tonga.

On the very day the bodies of the prince and princess were flown back to Tonga, the East Palo Alto City Council issued a proclamation celebrating their lives. The proclamation was presented to Lavenia Fusitua, the late Princess' aunt, who lives in Oregon.

During his presentation of the proclamation, East Palo Alto's Mayor Ruben Abrica said that even though the Prince was very busy when he was visited the United States, "he never passed on an opportunity to visit East Palo Alto... He was instrumental in bringing democratic reforms to the kingdom of Tonga."

On Sunday, July 9, local Tongan residents gathered for a service that was held at a United Methodist Church in San Carlos to hear the Prince's sister honor her brother and his wife.

East Palo Alto resident William Webster said that he was profoundly moved when he attended the memorial service for the royal couple at the East Palo Alto Senior Center. Webster said that the service brought together peoples of the Pacific Islander community and emphasized the connection between the East Palo Alto community and the kingdom of Tonga.

Siosifa Moala, a 14 year old male who moved to California in 2004 from



## PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO CELEBRATES THE LIVES OF AND DECLARES TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006 AS HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS TU'IPELEHAKE, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS KAIMANA AND STAFF MEMBER VINISIA ALOSE HEFA DAY IN THE CITY

WHEREAS, The City of East Palo Alto celebrates the lives and memories of the City's Tongan community's beloved royalty, His Royal Highness, Prince Tu'ipelehake, (nephew of the King of Tonga, His Royal Highness King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV); Her Royal Highness Kaimana and loyal staff member Vinisia Alosa Hefa; and

WHEREAS, though he was Tongan born and Tonga was he principal residence, His Royal Highness, Prince Tu'ipelehake's love of this community made him a twelve year resident of East Palo Alto and Her Royal Highness Kaimana was often a visitor here and loved this community and its residents. Staff member, (Official Secretary for the Royal Family), Vinisia Alosa Hefa was a five year resident of the City and provided dedicated and loyal service to the family and the Tongan community; and

WHEREAS, His Royal Highness, Prince Tu'ipelehake visited often, speaking at the various churches throughout the United States and though he had a very busy traveling schedule he never passed on an opportunity to visit East Palo Alto. He tried to keep a connection with all the Tongan people in America where he was "much beloved and respected". His Royal Highness was instrumental in attempting democratic reform in his own country of Tonga where he served as chairman of the National Committee of the Kingdom of Tonga on political reform; and

WHEREAS, Her Royal Highness, Princess Kaimana traveled with her husband and supported him in his pursuits and was a loyal, dedicated, loving wife and mother who loved her Tongan culture and church; and

WHEREAS, Vinisia Alosa Hefa was a familiar and well known part of the Tongan community here in the City and will be dearly missed by loving family and community members.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council and Residents of the City of East Palo Alto celebrates the lives and memories of His Royal Highness Prince Tu'ipelehake, Her Royal Highness Princess Kaimana and royal staff member/city resident Vinisia Alosa Hefa; and extend heartfelt condolences to the royal family, the country of Tonga and the East Palo Alto Tongan community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED THAT, Tuesday, July 18, 2006 be declared His Royal Highness Prince Tu'ipelehake, Her Royal Highness Princess Kaimana and royal staff member/city resident Vinisia Alosa Hefa Day in the City of East Palo Alto.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I, Ruben Abrica, Mayor of the City of East Palo Alto have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of East Palo Alto to be affixed this 18th day of July 2006.

Ruben Abrica, Mayor

Vava'u, Tonga, said, "It's so sad. I feel sympathetic for the Royal's loss. He was a good, nice, and caring prince." Moala was also one of the many mourners who helped build the original memorial site off of

Highway 101. He was one of the many that helped build the original memorial site.

Tevita and Latanoa Hufanga, members of Penieli, the First Free Tongan Wesleyan church in

East Palo Alto, showed their sympathy by also taking flowers to the memorial. "We feel sorry for him because he's a nice guy. He and his wife helped the Tongans in East Palo Alto.

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# City, County & State Government Meetings & Contacts

<p><b>East Palo Alto City Council</b> The City of Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers, East Palo Alto City Hall, 2415 University Avenue; (650) 853-3100 or Fax: (650) 853-3115. Website: <a href="http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us">www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us</a></p>	<p><b>East Palo Alto Boards, Commissions, Committees</b></p> <p><u>Planning Commission</u> Second and Fourth Monday</p> <p><u>Rent Stabilization Board</u> Second and Fourth Wednesday</p>	<p>agendas and minutes by e-mail when they are published. An agenda is posted in advance of the weekly meeting, and past agendas and minutes are filed by the date they were held. If you have questions about an agenda please call the City Clerk at 650.330.6620.</p>	<p><b>Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees</b></p> <p>Arts Commission Bicycle Commission Environmental Quality Commission Housing Commission Las Pulgas Committee Library Commission Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Commission Transportation Commission</p>	<p>at: 8a.m. 9a.m. Regular &amp; Consent Agenda Items.</p> <p><b>State Officials</b></p> <p><b>Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger</b> State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-445-2841 Fax: 916-445-4633 Email: <a href="mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov">governor@governor.ca.gov</a></p>
<p><b>East Palo Alto City Council Members</b></p> <p><b>Ruben Abrica - Mayor</b> (650) 321-4001</p> <p><b>A. Peter Evans - Vice Mayor</b> (650) 321-1009</p> <p><b>Patricia Foster</b> (650) 328-3944</p> <p><b>Donna Rutherford</b> (650) 327-7926</p> <p><b>David E. Woods</b> (650) 853-1907</p>	<p><u>Public Works &amp; Transportation Commission</u> First and Third Wednesday</p> <p><u>Youth Advisory Committee</u> First Thursday of each month</p> <p><u>Senior Advisory Committee</u> Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month - 6:30p.m. - City Hall.</p> <p><b>Menlo Park City Council</b> The Menlo Park City Council holds meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers located at 801 Laurel Street. You can subscribe to receive the</p>	<p><b>Menlo Park City Council Members</b></p> <p>Nicholas P. Jellins - Mayor (650) 329-1300</p> <p>Kelly J. Fergusson - Vice Mayor (650) 327-4533</p> <p>Andrew M. Cohen (650) 327-5332</p> <p>Lee B. Duboc (650) 322-3651</p> <p>Mickie Winkler (650) 473-9722</p>	<p><b>San Mateo County Bd. of Supervisors</b></p> <p><b>Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, Fourth District</b></p> <p>The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meets on February 7, 28 March 7, 14, 28, 2006 in the County Government Center: Hall of Justice &amp; Records 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. Roll call</p>	<p><b>Assembly Member Ira Ruskin</b> District Address 5050 El Camino Real Ste.117 Los Altos, CA 94022 650 691-2121</p> <p><b>Senator Joseph S. Simitian</b> District Address 160 Town &amp; Country Village Palo Alto, CA 94301 (650) 688-6384</p>

## News Briefs Continued

### ML Gordon

The East Palo Alto city council has decided to spend between \$10,000 and \$30,000 on the investigation of a complaint filed by Assistant City Manager, M.L. Gordon against Vice Mayor Peter Evans.

According to the city attorney Michael Lawson, the sum will be taken from the city's General Fund, and will be spent on the legal advice of San Francisco attorney, Cynthia O'Neill. O'Neill might also use the funds to hire a private investigator.

M.L. Gordon wrote a letter dated June 9 complaining that Council member Evans' behavior was creating a hostile working environment for certain employees of the city of East Palo Alto.

Given that the city has been forced to make major budget cuts in order to reduce its deficit, some find it difficult to understand how quarrels within the administration could take financial priority over maintaining basic services provided to the public by the city.

### Nanny Convicted

An East Palo Alto resident working as a nanny in Redwood Shores was convicted of child abuse on Thursday, July 13th. The jury found her guilty of violently shaking a 2 1/2 month old baby boy and causing skull fractures and brain hemorrhages, but acquitted her of intentionally injuring the child, according to the Associated Press.

She was arrested on March 17th when police officers responded to her 911 call and found the baby unconscious when they arrived. The nanny told investigators that he had fallen off the couch, but later examinations revealed that he was violently shaken.

The baby was released from the hospital after a week and was in good condition, but it could be years before doctors can determine whether or not he suffered permanent brain damage.

The nanny remains in custody in lieu of \$1 million bail. She will be sentenced on Sept. 29.

### Foundation Merger

Two of the Peninsula's largest charity foundations merged on July 12th to form the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Their total budget now exceeds \$1.5 Billion, which includes stocks from many companies. Patricia Breese, spokesperson for the foundation, said that the intention of the merger is to pull from the "best practices" of each foundation in order to operate at "at even higher level of excellence."

The foundation will issue grants to many types of non-profits, funding projects in the arts and programs aimed at increasing child literacy rates. One of their innovative programs provides technical assistance grants of up to \$5000 to help organizations improve their administrative effectiveness.

The next information meet-

ing for grant-seekers is scheduled on August 8th in their current Downtown San Jose Office. For more information see their website at [www.cfsv.org](http://www.cfsv.org).

### Mayors Promote Political Participation

EPA Mayor Ruben Abrica and former mayor of Cupertino, Michael Chang, are collaborating on a program called the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute (APALI). The program aims to increase political participation among the Peninsula's Asian and Latino youth.

Mayors Abrica and Chang are immigrants themselves--from Jalisco, and Hong Kong respectively--and both are faculty members at De Anza College, where the program is based. Their next conference will be held next January 10th.

"What's innovative and cutting edge is nurturing Asian-American and Latino leaders together to prepare them for leading very diverse populations, Chang was quoted in a recent Mercury News article, "It goes to the heart of a multicultural democracy."

### East Palo Alto Explorers

Last month, East Palo Alto's Police Explorer team took third place in a national competition in Flagstaff, AZ. The eight-member EPA team beat about 5000 Police Explorer competitors from



14 year old EPA Explorer Gilberto Soria

around the country.

The teams competed in several rounds of mock emergencies, and were judged on their ability to respond to such situations as a domestic violence call, a burglary, a bomb threat and hostage negotiations.

The aim of the Police Explorer program is to provide 14-21 year olds with basic law enforcement training and to allow them to ride along with local officers. According to their website, the aim to inspire young people to pursue careers in law enforcement,

### Grant for Free At Last

David Lewis, the executive director of Free at Last, announced to East Palo Alto Today that his organization has received funding to provide access to Health Care Services for East Palo Alto's homeless, Pacific Islanders and the Latino residents of East Palo Alto.

Lewis said, "A team of outreach workers will be strategically located throughout the community to implement this very important growing initia-

tive." For more information see the Free At Last job announcement in this issue of EPA Today's classified advertising section.

### Phoenix Academy

The Ravenswood City School Board held a special meeting on July 20 and decided to revoke the charter of the Phoenix Academy, a private East Palo charter school.

The Phoenix Academy served 53 students in grades K through 8. Some of the students lived in East Palo Alto; others came from Menlo Park, Sunnyvale, Fremont, San Jose and Milpitas.

Elaine Bryant, the school's co-founder and its Director of Finance Administration, said "It was a surprise that the district scheduled a special meeting and we had 48 hours to respond.

"It all appeared to be very orchestrated," she said.

The Phoenix Academy was in its second year. It had formerly been called The School of Wisdom and Knowledge, which had been founded by Nobantu Ankoanda, a longtime East Palo Alto resident who moved to Georgia.

Bryant said, "The Phoenix Academy will be working with its attorney to decide on future steps."

## Aumenta De Impuestos

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presente, para dar voz a sus preocupaciones y sugerencias. El vice alcalde, Peter Evans, tampoco estuvo presente durante la junta.

El alcalde Abrica estaba de acuerdo con la division de 70/30 de los fondos pero tuvo que llegar a un acuerdo de 50/50 cuando los otros miembros del consejo se opusieron a la primera sugerencia.

Jose García, un miembro de PIA, fue una de bastantes personas que estuvieron presentes durante la junta para apoyar a la medida. García usó una pequeña etiqueta púrpura que usaron todos los miembros e invitados de PIA. Escuchaba en silencio, con su hija de cuatro años en brazos, mientras el consejo de la ciudad hizo los ultimos cambios a la propuesta antes de aprobarla.

"Estamos pidiendo a la ciudad que traigan mas programas para los jovenes para que baje la criminalidad y pueda mejorar toda la ciudad," dijo García.

García vive en East Palo Alto desde hace 16 años con

su esposa y cuatro hijos. Dos de sus hijos tienen 15 y 14 años, y fue su preocupación por ellos que lo trajo a la reunion como un partidario de la propuesta y de la asignación 70/30 de los fondos.

García se sintio feliz al escuchar que la medida aparecerá en la boleta pero él quería que la mayoría de los fondos fueran hacia los programas para la juventud.

"No estamos pidiendo mas de lo que necesita la comunidad," dijo García.

Carolina Cervantes, una joven de 18 años y voluntaria de PIA esta de acuerdo con García.

"¡El 50% de nuestros jovenes estan dejando la secundaria antes de graduarse! La comunidad quiere una solución, nosotros somos votantes, pagamos impuestos y sabemos lo que queremos," les dijo Cervantes al alcalde y a los miembros del consejo mientras otros residentes aplaudían sus palabras.

Cervantes estuvo presente con otros adolescentes que apoyan a PIA y a la medida.

Varios de los muchachos llevaban muestras que tenían "Mas Programas Comunitarios" escrito en un lado y la fracción "70/30" escrita en el otro.

"Yo soy madre, y tuve que buscar los programas que necesitaban mis hijos fuera de esta ciudad," dijo Bunnie Finley, una residente de la ciudad. Ella también habló acerca de la necesidad que tiene la ciudad de programas para prevención de violencia juvenil.

"La semana pasada, vi cuando unos muchachos se prebaraban para balasearse," dijo Finley. "Queremos que nuestros hijos regresen a nosotros, no queremos que las calles los controlen. ¡Solamente pedimos \$2 a la semana!"

Algunos residentes, sin embargo, no estuvieron molestos con la fractura de 50/50. Al contrario, a ellos les enfado que la medida aparecerá en la boleta de cualquier modo.

"Yo siento que los impuestos ya son demasiados y muy altos para que nosotros podamos seguir cuidando a nuestros hijos," dijo Rigoberto Zamora, quien ha vivido en la ciudad por mas de 25 años.

"Yo no estoy de acuerdo con el impuesto que se puede introducir a la ciudad...como familias de bajos ingresos, necesitamos que todo el dinero que se pueda de nuestros cheques sea para nuestras familias."

La residente Luella Parker, de la Garden Block Club, dijo que a ella no le importaría un aumento de impuestos si esto mejorara la situación en la ciudad, pero ella confesó que no se "siente bien con esta situación."

"No necesito a PIA para ayudarme a tomar una decisión," ella dijo. "Me gusta la juventud pero no quiero que aumenten mis impuestos para estas otras organizaciones...tenemos [a funcionarios de la ciudad] calificados para hacer programas, no necesitamos a PIA."

R.B. Jones también desaprobó la cantidad de financiamiento que recibirían las organizaciones si la medida pasa.

Él preguntó, ¿"Qué puede hacer cualquiera de esta gente más allá de ofrecer a nuestros niños un trabajo de verano?" Él se refería a las organizaciones no lucrativas y religiosas que recibirían la financiación por el impuesto.

"Sugiero una medida que daría todos los fondos al departamento de policía ... ustedes estan garantizando el fracaso para ambos [programas] poniendolos en la misma medida," dijo él.

Votantes rechazaron a la medida K, una medida que también propuso aumentar impuestos para financiar programas de prevención de crimen, durante las elecciones del año pasado. Ahora, los residentes de East Palo Alto tendrán hasta el 9 de noviembre para tomar su postura final en la nueva medida y echar sus votos a favor de, o en contra de, el impuesto.

"Estos niños necesitan amor y necesitamos darselo de su propia ciudad," dijo Finley, que cerró los ojos y bajo la cabeza cuando el consejo de la ciudad decidió disminuir el porcentaje de los fondos que financiarían a programas para jovenes si la medida pasa. El pastor Baines de la iglesia de San Samuel de Dios en Cristo, que está situada en East Bayshore, esta de acuerdo con Finley.

"Oigo a la gente decir que los niños son nuestro futuro, pero yo creo que son nuestro presente," dijo Baines. "Si no cuidamos a nuestros niños