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East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

Summer - Fall 2013

Vol. 8 No.32

David Woods resigns from the city council

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

David Woods put an end to the rumors and concerns about himself that had been floating through the East Palo Alto community for more than a month.

Giving support to the concerns was the fact that he had missed at least three consecutive city council meetings.

On October 1, Woods sent an email to three of his council colleagues in which he announced his intent to resign from the East

Palo Alto City Council.

The email, which had the words "Thank You" in the subject line, was sent to Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier, Larry Moody and Laura Martinez.

In the email, Woods thanked his three colleagues for the opportunity he had to serve with them

and he said: "Due to health and personal reasons I can no longer commit the time required to serve on the council. Therefore I will be resigning. I will be working out the logistics with the Mayor and city manager. I will attempt [to] speak to you all individually by tomorrow." It was an announcement that

came as a surprise to several of them. It was even a surprise for Mayor Ruben Abrica, whom Woods had contacted two days before he sent the email to his other council colleagues.

"I knew David was going

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Inside News



Seasonal flu vaccine available Page 4



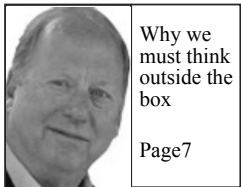
Freedom rings in Palo Alto Page 5

Building a new school playground



Photo courtesy of Adam Freidin

This photo shows some of the parents and volunteers who worked to build a playground at the Cesar Chavez Academy in East Palo Alto on Thursday, October 24, 2013. The school partnered with Adobe and SAP and organizers from KaBOOM! and residents of the East Palo Alto community to build the playground in six hours.



Why we must think outside the box Page 7



Woodland Avenue has grand re-opening. Page 11

East Palo Alto will lose its chief of police

By Traci Moore
East Palo Alto Today

East Palo Alto will soon be looking for another chief of police. It was announced on Friday that the city's Police Chief, Ron Davis, resigned his position and will be leaving the city as of November 8 to start a new job as the Director of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

According to the COPS website, the agency is "the of-



Chief Ron Davis

fice of the U.S. Department of Justice that advances the practice of community policing in America's state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. COPS does its work principally by sharing information and making grants to police

departments around the United States."

East Palo Alto's City Manager, Magda González said, "An interim police chief is expected to be announced next week, after which decisions will be made regarding a permanent replacement."

In the release announcing his resignation as East Palo Alto's Police Chief and his new position, Davis said, "Being selected to serve in this position and in the Obama administration is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, yet leaving East

Palo Alto is bittersweet.

"It's been an honor serving the residents of this great City, and a privilege to have worked with the outstanding professionals in the police department and throughout the City," Davis said. "I'm proud of the partnerships we've forged, and the innovative community policing strategies we've implemented that have reduced crime and violence and strengthened our community. I leave knowing that the future

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One of East Palo Alto's first employees is fired

Elizabeth Vargas
East Palo Alto Today

This year, the 30th anniversary of East Palo Alto will not only be remembered by the parade or festival organized by the community, but by the layoff of Russell Averhart.

Averhart received his MBA in Business Administration and was hired by East Palo Alto as a management analyst on April 7, 1982. He was known as one of the first city employees hired in East Palo Alto.

In writing to another local city resident, Rye Druzin, left a

comment under an article about the 30th anniversary of East Palo Alto in which he mentioned the layoff of Russell Averhart.

He said, "Recently, Russell Averhart the first employee of the city, 30 years of esteemed service to the city was

terminated after the city council saved his job from the cut list. An outstanding employee, well-known in the community and recognized at the 20th anniversary for holding down the city as the interim city manager 7+ times," Druzin said.

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Inside

- Editorial
- News Briefs
- Opinions
- TV Listings
- Youth News

City unveils flood site and adopts new standards

By Brent A. Butler
East Palo Alto Today

The City posted information about what to do before, during and after a major flood. The City also established new floodplain provisions in response to sea level rise projections.

Where do I get flood information? BE PREPARED. The City webpage devoted to flood information tells you what to do before, during and after a flood. The goal is to reduce loss of life or damage to property. The City recommends that you go to the flood page and sign up for the San Mateo County Alert system. Read the information on the flood information page, which is acces-



Above photo is a copy of a FEMA flood map of East Palo Alto

sible at:
<http://www.cityofepa.org/index.aspx?NID=478>

What do the new regulations say? On October 1, 2013, the City of East Palo Alto City Council revised the Municipal

Code provisions governing development in the regulatory floodplain. The new regulations apply to you if own a home, office, or structure in the regulatory floodplain (areas subject to flooding every hundred years). In these

areas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires any federally insured mortgage to have flood insurance, which is not typically included in a regular homeowners insurance policy.

If you build or remodel a structure in an amount that exceeds 50% of its value, it needs to be elevated at least eighteen inches (18") above the height of flood waters expected once every hundred years.

This new standard will increase the likelihood that structures will survive the next major flood event, and is designed in response to the mid-century sea level rise projection of sixteen inches (16") adopted by the State

of California. The code now references FEMA's newly adopted October 2012 flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) for the City of East Palo Alto, and also designates the Community Development Director as the City's Floodplain Manager.

These provisions are codified in Chapter 15.52 on the City's Municipal Code on the website at <http://www.cityofepa.org/index.aspx?nid=459>.

The Community Development Department is also willing to answer floodplain questions, and can be contacted at 650 853-3189 or planning@cityofepa.org.

Brent A. Butler is the planning manager for the City of East Palo Alto.

Startup finds home helping homeless

By Traci Moore
East Palo Alto Today

When co-founders Evelyn Homg and Frank Tadman left their jobs 3 years ago, they set out to build a socially responsible startup, one that encouraged people to reuse items within safe, trusted networks.

The idea spawned out of Homg's recent experience as a new mother, where she was surprised by the amount of baby products her son went through in his first 6 months. "I felt bad about

the waste," Homg said. "Both in terms of discarded items going to landfill, and the cost of items getting bought that didn't need to be."

As Homg and Tadman tested their website with a few local groups, they found it difficult convincing people to try something new. So instead, they decided to leverage their technology for related problems. They started investigating challenges nonprofits



Evelyn Homg

have with finding the right donations for their needs.

Although the original vision for Roonga vision didn't materialize, Homg hung on to the desire to create a for-profit venture benefiting social causes. Today, Roonga is a startup that partners with nonprofits to get the supplies they need to fulfill their missions. Roonga's team sits down with nonprofit staff to understand their material needs and helps develop a donation strategy, usually through a combination of

drives and corporate donations.

Homg has a soft spot for communities in greater need. "I cherry pick projects related to education and homelessness in these communities," she said. For the next few months, Roonga is helping local shelters prepare for the winter.

For the Palo Alto community, Roonga has partnered with Project weHOPE to help them transition from an emergency shelter to a year-round shelter. In anticipation of the grand opening of their year-round shelter next month, Roonga is hosting a Thanksgiving shelter

supply drive for items such as blankets, towels, and laundry detergent. A complete list of Project weHOPE's needs can be found at www.roonga.com/wehopeshelter-drive. Donations can be dropped off at Project weHOPE's office (1854 Bay Road in East Palo Alto), or purchased through the Roonga website.

For more information about Roonga, or for nonprofits interested in getting help on their in-kind needs, contact Evelyn Homg at ehomg@roonga.com.






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Community News Briefs

Interim police chief selected

East Palo Alto's City Manager, Magda González, announced the appointment of Capt. Federico Rocha as the city's interim police chief. Rocha will replace Davis who is retiring from the position on November 8, 2013.

Rocha served as the interim police chief when Davis served as East Palo Alto's acting city manager from February 2012 to October 2012.

City gets new lawyer

On September 3, 2013, the East Palo Alto City Council appointed John Nagel as East Palo Alto's new city attorney. Nagel officially replaces Kathleen Kane, who resigned on March 22, 2013 to become the city attorney in Burlingame. Valerie J. Armento has served



John Nagel

as the city's interim city attorney since July 2, 2013.

When Kane resigned, city officials decided to approach their previous list of six top candidates from their prior recruitment list, from which they had chosen Kane.

This list was narrowed to two finalists and Nagel was selected as the top choice. Prior to his appointment as the city's attorney, Nagel was the assistant city attorney with the City of Vallejo for nearly 15 years. He has served as a deputy city attorney with the

City of Sacramento and with the City of Oakland.

In addition to his legal experience, Nagel has worked in a variety of non-profit and for-profit organizations. He has worked as the executive director of a community-based, residential treatment program for ex-prisoners in Oakland and as the executive director for a property management company managing housing projects for low income seniors and families in San Francisco and Oakland. Nagel has also provided property and facility management services to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the United States General Services Administration and numerous individual property owners.

The Cesar Chavez Academy is in the news

The school gets an award: On October 25, Cesar Chavez

& Green Oaks Academy (Cesar Chavez) received an award for being a Family Friendly Employer. The award was presented at the 10th Annual Dads Count Breakfast and Family Friendly Employer Awards Ceremony.

Cesar Chavez) was nominated and selected as a Family Friendly Employer because the school has demonstrated "outstanding advocacy for and support of family involvement and well-being in the lives of children."

The school was lauded for also promoting family education through creative and engaging family activities promote and encourage family camaraderie that increases the chances of success for children and overall family stability and well-being.

Parents and volunteers build a new playground



Photo by Charles Ivan King Adobe volunteers, Megan Dale, left, and Muge Copland stand Cesar Chavez with two children in the playground.

In addition to the award the Cesar Chavez Academy received on October 25, the school also received a new playground.

So, it's been a big two days for the school.

The playground resulted from the efforts of KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit organization that partners with corporate and community organizations to build chil-

continued on page 3

Adding to Cooley Landing Park

By Peter Geraghty
East Palo Alto Today

In September, East Palo Alto signed contracts with O. C. Jones to construct Phase II and with California Environmental Services to provide biological monitoring at the site. One of the first pieces of work to be completed was a fence to keep the salt marsh harvest mice, which normally live in the marsh, safely out of the construction site. The fence is made out of black plastic and is buried a little way into the ground to prevent the mice digging beneath it. While the fence is being installed, the biological monitor watches out to make sure no harm comes to any of the wildlife at the park.

Other work at the site in-

cluded mowing all the grass so that when the contractor comes back to do the seeding, the seeds are in contact with the ground and not hung up in the grass. The seeding has to be done in the next few weeks to take advantage of the winter rains. Additionally, work began on clearing out the burnt material of the old boathouse. There was an effort to save the overhead crane and while the metal of the crane structure survived the fire, it had been so twisted by the heat that it would no longer function and instead is being recycled.

Also in September there was a push to get a plan in place for storm water protection. The idea is that during construction activities the Bay needs to be protected against

runoff from rainfall which might carry harmful sediments into the Bay. This is done by using bags of straw to filter the runoff before it gets to the Bay.

Work on Phase III, the design and construction of the Education Center is also moving forward. The architects, Fog Studio, have begun their work. Their first task is to look at energy conservation and sustainability with a view to finding a balance between the initial costs of energy conservation in the construction of the new building and the kinds of savings that there will be with maintenance and energy expenses in the future. We all want to do the right thing - to make the building sustainable - but we also want to make sure that the City's investment produces real results. On Oc-

tober 21 from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm in the Community Room at City Hall there will be a meeting to discuss the architects' work. This is the first of a series of

monthly meetings. Among the topics at this first meeting will be the use of solar energy, opportunities for water conservation and the possibility of a roof covered with plants to provide habitat and insulation. There will be decisions that need to be made and the people who attend the meeting will have a

continued on page 15

A new website is born

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

The East Palo Alto General Plan Update process was officially launched this spring. With its launch, the City of East Palo Alto is now undertaking a multi-year effort to obtain ideas from the city's residents regarding their vision for the city's future.

This week a key piece of the process, vista2035epa.org, a new website, went online. This new website gives city residents an opportunity to learn more about the update process and to keep up with important city documents.

The new website was designed specifically to provide information about the city's general plan and it supplements



East Palo Alto's official website which can be seen at <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/>

Vista2035epa.org is the work of Raimi+Associates, the Berkeley consulting firm that the city engaged in March of this year to oversee the development of the new general plan. When it hired the firm, city officials

also signed an agreement with the State of California to update the General Plan within 36 months of its signed agreement.

This means that the effort to update the city's General Plan is expected to take two and a half to three years.

The city's current General Plan was adopted in 1986 and updated in 1999. Under state

law, the city is required to adopt a long-range plan that lays out the city's policies regarding the use and development of city land, affordable housing, employment and other city issues. The plan is intended to reduce conflict and to ensure proper city growth and development that will accommodate the city's growing population.

In order to obtain the participation of as many of the city's residents as possible, Raimi+Associates plans to conduct a "multi-faceted public outreach program" that will involve citizen advisory committees, public town hall meetings, focus groups, and other outreach efforts, including the use of the vista2035epa.org website.

The intended result will be a

2015 General Plan that will address seven defined areas: land use, circulation, housing, noise, safety, open space and conservation.

The 2015 General Plan will also include a chapter on health and a Westside Area Plan that will cover the city's residents who live in the area west of Highway 101, which encompasses Woodland, Willows and University Circle.

Notice of advisory committee meetings and other public meetings connected to the General Plan will be given soon. To get involved in the East Palo Alto General Plan Update process, go to <http://vista2035epa.org/get-involved/>.



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Seasonal flu vaccine now widely available in San Mateo Co.

By Robin Thaw
East Palo Alto Today

The San Mateo County Health System recommends all residents ages 6 months and older get vaccinated

Flu season is here and San Mateo County Health officials urge everyone ages six months and older to get a flu shot. Flu vaccine is now widely available throughout the County, and the Health Officer recommends that residents visit their healthcare providers early in the flu season to get vaccinated.

The influenza virus mutates from year to year, which is why it is important for peo-

ple to get vaccinated every year. "The flu vaccine is our best defense against the flu," said Dr. Scott Morrow, San Mateo County Health Officer. "Flu vaccine is safe and can prevent flu related illness, hospitalization, and even death. With the vaccine widely and easily available, there is no reason to wait to get vaccinated."

People are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider to get their flu shot. Vaccine is also available at pharmacies, retail stores, and offered by some employers. For people who do not have a healthcare provider or insurance, the Health System and



Photo courtesy of www.smchealth.org/flu

community organizations offer free flu vaccine at clinics throughout the County. No appointment is necessary for these clinics, and no I.D. is required. For more information on where to get your flu shot visit www.smchealth.org/flu.

Flu season in California generally begins in October and peaks in late December through March. The timing and spread of the disease are un-

predictable, and it takes about two weeks to gain protection after receiving a flu vaccination. For this reason, health officials urge getting vaccinated as early in the season as possible.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), five to twenty percent of the population gets the flu each year, resulting in more than 200,000 hospitalizations. Thousands of people die each year from flu complications. Flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting yourself, and those around you, against this potentially serious illness.

It is especially important

that certain groups be vaccinated, such as pregnant women, children younger than five, adults 50 years and older, people of any age with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease or diabetes, and people who live with or care for those at high-risk for complications from the flu.

For more information about the flu, and for a schedule of community vaccine clinics in San Mateo County, visit www.smchealth.org/flu, or call the flu hotline at (650) 573-3927.

Robin Thaw is with the public information department for the San Mateo County Health System.

Mayor holds reception for local students



Photo by East Palo Alto Today

Mayor Ruben Abrica is shown speaking during a 'Welcoming Reception' for local community college students that was held in East Palo Alto on October 5, 2013.

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

How do you support local community college students? East Palo Alto's Mayor, Ruben Abrica, posed that question last Saturday during a 'Welcoming Reception' he held for city students attending local

community colleges. The evening reception took place in the community room at the Municipal Building in East Palo Alto and it was open to students who attend such schools as DeAnza, Foothill, Cañada, Chabot, Laney, Evergreen, Skyline, San Jose City College and the

College of San Mateo.

A core group of students, who seemed passionate about the subject, showed up for the informal reception, which provided pizza and soft drinks.

Abrica started his presentation to the students by explaining why he was holding the reception. He told the students that he got the idea for it a few years ago when he was invited to speak to the Multicultural Association at DeAnza College in Cupertino.

One of the students at the DeAnza meeting mentioned that there wasn't enough

support for students at the college or for community college students in general. Abrica said the remark started him thinking about how he could change the situation.

The students at the mayor's reception agreed that

the lack of services for community college students was a serious problem. Sela Jimenez, who attended West Valley College and now works as the library monitor at the

continued on page

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Some good jobs do not require a college degree

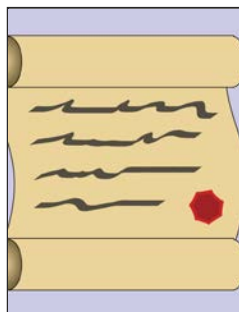
By Jamauri Bowles
East Palo Alto Today

While college graduates are more likely to obtain jobs than non-college graduates, there are still opportunities out there for the people without college degrees.

According to a recent report released by Jonathan Rothwell, titled "The Hidden STEM Economy," a university degree is not required for 27.5 percent of jobs in the San Jose area, and 36 percent of jobs in San Francisco and the East Bay.

As of 2011, 26 million jobs in the United States, which is 20 percent of all jobs, require a high level of knowledge in any STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) field.

Half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without



the need of a four-year college degree, which pay \$53,000 on average.

JobTrain is an educational and training institution that offers job placement services for its graduates. The organization's purpose is to "improve the lives of people" in the community through services.

"Our mission is to help

those in need to succeed," said Alonzo Emery, the Director of Program Operations at JobTrain.

At JobTrain, there is a 73 percent overall placement rate in jobs, and a completion rate of about 80 percent.

JobTrain features a STEM class that started on June 24 and continued for seven weeks.

The class is for high school students seeking high school credit, and it is free of charge. In this class, students learn how to take apart and assemble computers.

PeninsulaWorks, of the County of San Mateo, aims to help "job seekers and laid off workers" by connecting them to the workforce and finding them the right jobs through workshops and training.

The organization includes

a workgroup that prepares youth and young adults in the San Mateo County for careers in STEM fields, helps students develop skills associated with those fields, and addresses "the growing demand for a strong STEM workforce in the Bay Area."

At Foothill College, a STEM internship program is offered and allows students to gain real world experience working in laboratories, to do research in different science fields.

Students must complete an online application and have a letter of recommendation to apply for the internship.

In addition, Foothill students must have at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA in STEM classes and maintain that GPA throughout the duration of the program, be enrolled in at

least one STEM class during the internship program, and spend at least 10 to 15 hours per week during the academic year (excluding finals week and holidays) conducting research or participating in the internship.

Lastly, they must provide their own transportation to the program.

With different programs to be involved with, things are looking up for non-college graduates in searching for jobs in Silicon Valley, especially STEM jobs.

Jamauri Bowles worked as an intern at the East Palo Alto Today newspaper this summer. He is now a freshman at Haverford College in Haverford, PA.

State official tours two East Palo Alto schools

By **Henrietta J. Burroughs**
East Palo Alto Today

The big sign attached to the front gate of the Belle Haven Community School said, "Welcome Betty Yee." It almost looked like a festive occasion was about to take place, given the large welcome sign at the school's entrance.

Yee, who is a member of the California Board of Equalization, was scheduled to tour three schools in the Ravenswood City School District on Tuesday, October 1. The Belle Haven Community School on Ivy Drive was the first school on her tour. It is one of two schools in the district that is located in Menlo Park.

Yee is one of 5 board members on the California Board of Equalization, and she represents



Betty Yee stands in from a class in the Belle Haven Community School during her visit there on Tuesday, October 1.

District 1, which includes 21 counties in northern and central California. San Mateo County is one of the counties in Yee's district.

According to its website: "The California State Board of Equalization is the only elected tax commission in the nation.... The Board collects taxes and fees that provide nearly 34 percent of the annual revenue for state government

and essential funding for counties, cities, and special districts."

Along with the other board members, Yee is responsible for "oversee[ing] the agency's 4,300 employees in California, New York, Chicago, and Houston to ensure tax and fee laws are interpreted and applied correctly."

So, why was Yee visiting the Ravenswood City School District?

Yee said that she was touring the district at the invitation of the district's superintendent, Dr. Gloria Hernandez.

"When I received the invitation from Superintendent Dr. Hernandez," Yee said, "I really jumped at the opportunity, because the Ravenswood City School District is one of these remarkable school districts where we have such incredible diversity and really also some economic challenges, and yet it is ... surrounded by the tech community and to me this is really a place that could show some tremendous promise in terms of how we deal with some of our basic inequalities and inequities in our schools and certainly in our economy...."

Yee said, "I have some of our biggest taxpayers...right here in Silicon Valley and in our high tech

community and so I was very, very interested in seeing how the surrounding business community and the Ravenswood District are collaborating on dealing with the challenges of the school district."

Yee was met at the Belle Haven Community School by the school's principal, Rosanna Palomo and was accompanied on the tour by one of her aides who took photos, by Dr. Hernandez and Angelica Tellechea, the community school coordinator for the Ravenswood City School District.

Throughout her tour of the school, which serves 590 children from kindergarten to sixth grade, Yee was enthusiastic and her en-

Please see the rest of this article online at http://epatoday.org/news/2013/october_2013/tax_board_member_gets_warm_welcome_2108.html

Freedom Rings in Palo Alto



Photo courtesy of Prof. Clayborne Carson

In this photo, Bay Area jazz singer Kim Nalley, center, performs at the Freedom Rings event on August 26, with singers September Penn, left, and Aleta Hays

Dr. **Clayborne Carson**
East Palo Alto Today

On Monday, August 26, the City of Palo Alto and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research & Education Institute at Stanford University collaborated to host a multimedia celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Palo Alto Mayor Greg Schaff began the event by reading a proclamation passed by the City Council.

September Penn, Kim Nalley, and Aleta Hayes perform at King Institute/Palo Alto's "Let Freedom Ring" commemoration of 50th anniversary of March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

The unique commemoration featured a speech by civil-rights activist Dolores Huerta, a heroic figure of the farm workers movement who in 2012 was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama. After special tributes to Joan Baez and Clarence Jones

Bay Area jazz singer Kim Nalley receiving strong vocal support from Bryan Dyer along with "Passages in Palestine" singers September Penn and Aleta Hays. The singers were backed by musicians Tammy Hall, Marcus Shelby, and Kent Bryson. For the finale, the Santa Clara University Gospel

Choir also lent their voices to stirring versions of "Free at Last" and "This Little Light of Mine."

The evening also features a spirited reading by Tyee Tilghman of the militant speech that SNCC activist (and now Congressman) John Lewis was forced to tone down for delivery at the 1963 march, and Aldo Billingslea ably performed King's reflections on his "I Have a Dream" oration. Even after the wonderful performances, however, the highlight of the evening was the replaying of a video recording of King's entire speech.

Palo Alto Weekly publicized and covered the commemoration (posting a video on YouTube). Palo Alto Online estimated that "thousands to people linked arms" to sing "We Shall Overcome" and participate in the event, which "brought together people of all races." Mercury News Media Center and India Education Diary.com also covered one of Palo Alto's largest public commemorations.

During Dolores Huerta's speech, she urged the crowd to continue King's work and noted that "when we look around and reflect, we do see that we have so much work still to do if we are going to make Dr. King's legacy a live legacy." Urging the audience

to continue King's work, she said, "Justice is the public face of love. Injustice is the public face of hate."

In remarks at the event and at the preceding dinner at the Garden Court Hotel, I mentioned that long-standing ties between local residents and movements inspired by King's ideas. King spoke on the Stanford campus on at least two occasions, and King Center founder Coretta Scott King later chose me to edit her late husband's papers. The King Institute that I founded on the Stanford campus is the world's most extensive source of information about King.

I believe that Silicon Valley can and should play a major role in passing on King's ideas to future generations by disseminating the visionary ideas associated with King. We can feel justifying pride in being the site of history's greatest revolution in communications technology, but we would be even more proud to use our unique technological resources to disseminate the concepts of nonviolence associated with one of history's greatest freedom struggles.

At least for one magical evening, the bells of freedom rang in Silicon Valley. As a resident of the Palo Alto for more than three decades, I've never been more proud of the place I call home than I was when local residents came together to celebrate King's Dream and the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Dr. **Clayborne Carson** is the Executive Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research & Education Institute at Stanford University.

The above article was reprinted with permission from the September 2013 issue of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research & Education Institute Newsletter and it can be found in its entirety at <http://claybornec.wordpress.com/2013/08/30/let-freedom-ring-2/>.

ON ELECTION DAY - November 5th

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Treasured Memories

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go online to:

www.epatoday.org/treasured_memories/index.html

From the Editor's Desk

Finding the Washington, D.C. of One's Dreams

East Palo Alto's Police Chief, Ron Davis, will soon start a new position working as the Director of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), in the Obama administration.

Interestingly, Davis' new position holds a lesson for all of us, in its own way. In 2010, Davis ap-

plied to be the police chief of New Orleans, next the police chief of Seattle and, then, the police chief of Oakland. In all of these efforts he came in second.

Last year, he served as East Palo Alto's interim city manager for eight months, succeeding, ML Gordon, who resigned to become the general manager of Mountain House.

When Magda González was chosen as East Palo Alto's city manager, Davis returned to his position as the city's chief of police.

In applying for different jobs, Davis got interviewing experience and exposure, but you can bet he suffered much disappointment along the way.

However, is it true that when one door closes another one opens? This could be true if the person on whom it closes is looking for the next open door. But, how many times, do people have the door close on their dreams, then feel defeated and rejected and just give up. Davis certainly didn't give up.

Perhaps, the trick is to feel that the closed door indicates that there is even something better waiting in the wings. Maybe, it's wise to feel the defeat, lick the open wounds and then, look for the open door of opportunity, while one keeps stretching, keeps preparing, and keeps doing the inner and the outer work.

Ask Chief Davis, if you have the chance before he leaves his current position on November 8, if he felt that there was something better for him waiting in the wings after he came in second in New Orleans, in Seattle and in Oakland, and when he decided not to submit his application to be East Palo Alto's city manager.

He might have looked at his second place showings as painful defeats. He might have had some difficult days. It would be interesting to hear how he'd answer that question. But, in spite of whatever he might say, Davis obviously, didn't give up on his ambition or on his dreams, and do you know what? Washington, D.C. was waiting in the wings.

Davis' experience shows that

none of us should ever give up either. Rejection is only temporary. Defeat is never final unless we let it be. Getting a "No" and the door shut in our face can just be a test to see what we're made of. It can be a test of our resolve and determination, of our stamina and perseverance and of our ability to go the distance.



Henrietta J. Burroughs

Getting a "No" can really be just another important step in one's personal journey and, if one hangs in there, it could lead to the Washington, D.C. of one's dreams.

There are key lessons to take away from Davis' new position. But the one that looms large is that we should continue to "give it our all" before we give up, because our own Washington, D.C. could be waiting and the dream we're seeking could also be seeking us. So, let's all set lofty personal goals, work towards them and keep going forward.

Congratulations Chief Davis. Congratulations on your refusal to be defeated. Congratulations on your resolve, resilience and perseverance. Congratulations on reaching another milestone in your own personal journey. Congratulations on reaching another one of your goals!

May you find much success in Washington, D.C. (my hometown), and may you find the support and the resources to achieve the goals for which you were hired.

Just, please remember East Palo Alto and carry us all in your heart, because we'll be monitoring your progress. You see, in addition to the legacy that you've left in fighting crime in the city, you've allowed all of us to get some insight into the paths that dreams can take and where they can lead.

You set the bar high and you've blazed the path for many to follow. You've shown why we should reach for the moon, because we might get a star along the way.

How exciting it is to realize that a member of the East Palo Alto family will soon be working in Washington in President Obama's administration. That is news to shout about.

May we all shout in unison and then make way for the next East Palo Alto police chief, who will have big shoes to fill in continuing the goal of making East Palo Alto one of the safest American cities in which to live.

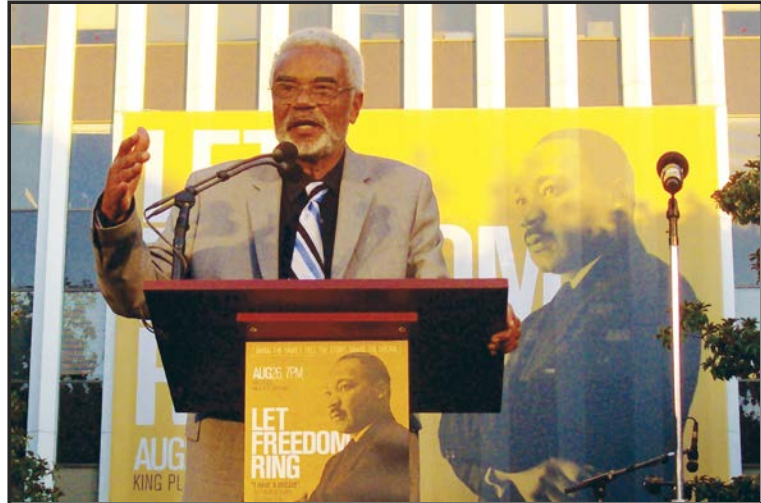


Photo by H. J. Burroughs for East Palo Alto Today

In this photo, Dr. Clayborne Carson is shown speaking in Palo Alto on August 26, 2013 at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the 1963 March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. The celebration was called Let Freedom Ring.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

The Tsunami Sirens Test?
Dear Editor

I am a resident of East Palo Alto, when I received the announcement that there would be a test of the Tsunami Sirens I was extremely pleased that East Palo Alto was being included in an extremely important test, I was disappointed however when that test did not happen here.

It just so happened that at 10:00am this morning I ran into a couple of Menlo Park firemen, whom I preceded to ask what happen to the Tsunami sirens? One did not know anything about the test and the other fireman informed me that it was not being tested here but over in Palo Alto. He then jokingly said "you would have thought it would have been in this area since we are at the lowest elevation on the bay". I quickly agreed!

In the likely event of a tsunami, East Palo Alto would be effected just as Palo Alto. So what happened? I believe this community deserves to be informed in the event that an emergency takes place, espe-

cially on the scale of a tsunami, Japan taught us that.

Residents in this community would like to know where the emergency sirens are located in East Palo Alto? A group of residents at the gym were talking about the test this morning, only to notice later the siren was gone. It appears the temporary one attached on the corner of Bell and University Ave is no longer there, I noticed it was missing this morning before the test was to begin.

People really understand the importance of this test at this time, I also do and would like to voice my concerns and call attention regarding the cancellation of the East Palo Alto Tsunami test today.

If you would please address the following: Why was it decided that East Palo Alto be excluded from the test today? Will there be a future test to include East Palo Alto this year? What are the location of Tsunami sirens in East Palo Alto?

Thank you,
Glenda Savage

Dear Editor Followup

In an attempt to create transparency I am sending you the response to the letter I sent to Mr. Jeff Norris.

I do not agree with his conclusion, and will be following up with a request for my questions to be answered.

I believe this to be an important issue and as a resident of East Palo Alto believe our community needs to have our voices heard.

Thank you again,
Glenda Savage

Good afternoon Ms. Savage,

Thank you for your concern, however I can with absolute certainty inform you that East Palo Alto is at no risk from any tsunami.

A tsunami would have to enter the bay through the gap of the Golden Gate. This significantly limits the amount of water that could surge in the bay. The energy would continue through the bay potentially causing damage in the

EPA Today's Policies & Principles

In order to better serve the communities of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven, East Palo Alto Today has made the commitment to operate with high professional standards and to adhere to a strict code of ethical conduct.

The principles and policies stated herein serve as an agreement with our readers, advertisers and all others

within our service area.

East Palo Alto Today is dedicated to conscientious journalism. We maintain this commitment by seeking and reporting the truth, acting with integrity, and serving the public interest. We will report the news thoroughly and accurately and include multiple perspectives without favoring one over the other.

We will hold ourselves accountable to common standards of decency, treating our colleagues, news sources, and the public with respect.

We are committed to maintaining our independence by avoiding partnerships, investments or business relationships that would compromise the integrity of our news reports.

East Palo Alto Today

**Publisher: East Palo Alto
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www.epatoday.org and www.epamedia.org

Opinion

The ideas expressed on this page are solely the views of the individual authors who do not represent East Palo Alto Today's board or staff

Why we must think outside the box

Supervisor Warren Slocum
East Palo Alto Today



Warren Slocum

Imagine how you would feel if you and your family lost everything in a fire and you couldn't find a new place to live? Now imagine your home was one of the very few affordable places to live in one of the most expensive areas of the country.

With one-bedroom units in Redwood City commanding an average of \$2,053 per month (an increase of 8.2 percent over last year), the victims of the July 7 six-alarm fire at the Hallmark House Apartment building on Woodside Road are in desperate straits to duplicate the rare living arrangements they had. Eighty people

(out of 97) have not been able to find a place to live in San Mateo County that they can afford. After moving from a temporary shelter at the National Guard Armory to local motels, the fire victims are facing yet another challenge: they have to vacate the motels in 30-

days. They, along with so many others, must vie for a limited affordable housing market.

County motels have provided accommodations to the fire victims up to now. However, motels are not permanent housing solutions. They have done their part in dealing with emergency housing. We thank them.

We are now asking San Mateo County apartment building owners for help. We ask that you consider offering one vacant unit in your building to a fire victim. We realize this is a unique request; these people have lost their housing because of a fire and not through any fault of their own.

For those people with vacant in-law units, motels with living units

and home-share opportunities, we ask that you

We're not asking that the unit be free – we're asking that it be affordable. We're not asking that it be forever – we're asking that it be for as long as the tenant wants to call it home. We're not asking for multiple units – we're asking for a single unit.

If enough housing rental units aren't found in the next couple of weeks for these people, the 80 fire victims will be forced to look for housing in places like Modesto, Fresno or Galt—communities that are not known, not "home."

Can't we do better as a community? Can't we find a way to accommodate the victims of this tragedy?

These fire victims are fellow

Peninsula residents; some are veterans, seniors, families with children and people with disabilities. This could have happened to any of us.

We ask the apartment building community in Redwood City, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and San Carlos for their compassion and action.

Help just one individual, couple or family who are fire victims to stay in our county, stay connected to their friends, doctors, dentists, schools, favorite parks, stores and familiar places. Help them keep what's left of what they know as "home."

Just one unit. That's what we're asking.

The New Black Philanthropy: Looking Back to Move Forward

Dr. Jacqueline Copeland-Carson
East Palo Alto Today



Dr. Jacqueline Copeland-Carson

One of the major contributions of today's African immigrants is their philanthropy. The World Bank and other multi-lateral agencies estimate that Africans in the worldwide diaspora gave at least \$40 billion to their home countries in 2011 alone. US African immigrants gave an astounding \$11 billion to Africa in 2011.

This essay provides a user-friendly introduction to African immigrant giving for the public as well as philanthropy advocates and non-profit sector professionals devoted to embracing the rich diversity of contemporary America.

The past is prologue when it comes to African diaspora giving. African giving practices are part of

the country's founding and all its social movements. Black philanthropy in the United States, as well as Black American culture in general, has always developed within a global context with cultural influences from various parts of Africa as well as the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia and Europe. Many of the values, structures and processes considered part of contemporary Black American and diaspora philanthropy are adapted from African col-

lective giving practices brought during American slavery and now through contemporary immigration.

Most African cultures espouse some version of a philosophy found in the Bantu languages of East and Southern Africa called Ubuntu, emphasizing common humanity, interdependence and mutual responsibility for others. Thus, although an exact translation for "philanthropy" does not exist in most indigenous African languages, the concept of love for humanity certainly does, but in a culturally distinctive way.

There are 10 basic African immigrant giving structures, and endless hybrids of them, operating in America today – from giving circles with ancient roots to social enterprises and digital philanthropy that build on traditions towards

an exciting new future for the Black Philanthropy.

Important challenges face African immigrant givers and policymakers worldwide. One is to encourage giving that not only uplifts families – even very extended ones – but also develops entire communities. There are a variety of new initiatives to provide incentives and better oversight of the NGO sector to encourage more giving through local African organizations that impact community development.

Although no US philanthropy studies adequately document African immigrant giving to US causes, there is clear case study evidence that it is occurring as new African communities form US-based professional, mutual aid and community associations. One challenge facing African immigrant domestic

and international donors is that the ethic of giving is so strong that they often forgo or are sometimes not even aware of the tax benefits of giving through a charitable organization. African immigrant philanthropists, especially those of average means, can be under great financial pressure as they balance the giving obligations to family and the various social ties of hometowns, associations and alma maters. For America's very philanthropic African immigrant community, finding ways to give sustainably using tax deductions and planned giving is another key challenge.

Six key principles can help African philanthropy organizations of all backgrounds embrace the diversity of contemporary Black

continued on page 14

Two high schools are now gone

By J. Samuel Diaz
East Palo Alto Today

With today's K-12 schools overcrowded and bond money borrowed to resolve budgetary problems, it is hard to believe that, at one time, San Mateo County had two other fully functional high schools. Both were part of the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) and both are now gone.

Ravenswood High School was the first to go. It opened in 1958 and was located in East Palo Alto. At a time when California's schools were struggling with how to grant equal access to public education, this high school was already at the forefront in

providing a unique community experience. Ravenswood H.S. also held up its part of the bargain in bussing many of its black students to the district's other high schools as a way to

accelerate the process of desegregation.

Yet it soon became apparent that desegregation through bussing simply provided a means by which to transfer poor and colored students to wealthier, formerly segregated schools, where they then got



J. Samuel Diaz

segregated by classroom and educational track and no longer by denial of access to any specific school, per se. As a consequence, those formerly segregated schools could now enroll more students and get funding that went along with that, whereas high schools like Ravenswood H.S. lost out.

The Sequoia Union High School District Board closed Ravenswood High School in 1976 due to its decreasing enrollment, budgetary woes and its supposed inability to diversify; according to whose stan-

dards, it is not entirely known. This sadly forced the dismantling of its positive community experience and began the long-term policy of bussing its students to other district high schools, where they came to be viewed as outsiders inside of a now desegregated educational system.

With its community heart-beat ripped out of it, East Palo Alto could expect to suffer from crime waves that it had never really had problems with before. That changed soon afterwards. Not surprisingly, truancy remains pegged at 20% for students bussed to other high schools. With such chronically dismal statistics, it seems easier to point the blame elsewhere than to pur-

sue the underlying causes. Because talents and skills can be downgraded with the stroke of a pen, some East Palo Alto parents decide to send their children to alternative high schools too!

After Ravenswood High School closed, no builders rushed in and its facilities were not kept up. Soon, nostalgic memories faded and got replaced with the burdensome eyesore it had become, with many questioning why a fully functional high school with its own swimming pool would have been allowed to collapse. Why not repurpose it as a junior high school or as a community college campus? Instead, it joined the long list of formerly prosperous African

Lifecycles

Jobtrain hires a new executive director

After serving as JobTrain's executive director for 39 years (most of the time when the agency was known as OICW), Sharon Williams introduced her successor, Nora Sobolov at a luncheon attended by a small group of community representatives. The luncheon was held at JobTrain on August 22

In symbolically handing over the reins of her position, Williams said, "On September 3rd when she walks into that office and stands behind that desk, JobTrain will have a new, capable and dynamic leader. As JobTrain embarks on a new era, we're going to be positioned to do more than

ever before."

Williams told the audience, "Now raise your right hand, we're counting on your continued help and partnership, o k a y . . . T h a t was your pledge. When you meet her, you will Nora Sobolov know why we know that we found the absolutely right person to lead JobTrain forward."

In speaking to the audience, Sobokov said, "I am so honored to follow in Sharon's footsteps and to join a community with so many exceptional leaders.



Nora Sobolov

Sobokov said, "I knew from my first contact that so many people and so many groups feel a strong sense of ownership and this really is kind of a community trust and I'll be counting on all of the trustees in this room who put of their hands to help ensure that JobTrain continues to thrive and to grow and to be the vital community resource and partner that it has been for so many years under Sharon's watchful eye."

Prior to joining JobTrain, Sobolov was a co-founder, and the president and CEO of

the Community Forward Fund (CFF), a first of its kind investment fund that provides loans and financial coaching to nonprofits. Sobolov was president and CEO of the Canadian Lung Association," where she led the creation of a national action plan on lung health, which attracted over 500 consultation partners and several million dollars in government and private sector financing."

She also served as the CEO of the Canadian Cooperative Association (the umbrella organization of business and nonprofit cooperatives in Canada) and vice-president of the national credit union system.

Sobolov began her career

as a founder and as executive director of Housing Help, a one-stop resource and support program for homeless families and individuals. She has a Master of Laws degree, a Master of Social Work (specialty in nonprofit management and policy) and a BA in Sociology and Urban Planning.

In ending her remarks to the group, Sobolov said, "I'm thrilled to be here, I'm really looking forward to working with all of you. It couldn't be a more important and essential time and I know together, we're going to do great things. So many, many thanks for the warm welcome."

	Celebrating A Decade of Service	Celebrando Una Década de Servicio
	<p>Primary health care for residents of East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and Redwood City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary medical care • Dental care for adults and children • Behavioral health counseling • Chronic disease care • Prenatal care and Family Planning • Immunizations and school physicals <p>To enroll as a new patient 650.330.7416 For medical appointments 650.330.7400 For dental appointments 650.289.7700</p> <p>* Children (18 and under) can receive dental care without being enrolled as a medical patient.</p>	<p>Cuidado médico primario para los residentes de East Palo Alto, Belle Haven y Redwood City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servicios médicos primarios • Cuidado dental para adultos y niños • Asesoramiento de la salud mental • Tratamiento para las enfermedades crónicas • Cuidado prenatal y planificación familiar • Vacunas y exámenes físicos <p>Para inscribirse como nuevo paciente Para una cita médica Para una cita dental</p> <p>* Niños menores de 18 años pueden recibir tratamiento dental sin estar registrados como paciente médico.</p>
<p>10 Years of Service to The Community</p> <p>Ravenswood Family Health Center 1798A Bay Road, East Palo Alto</p>	<p>Ravenswood Family Dentistry 1807 Bay Road, East Palo Alto</p>	<p>Belle Haven Clinic 100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park</p>



By: Alex Arroyo
East Palo Alto Today

Many residents in the city think there should be more activities for the youth.

According to a website sportsvite.com there are ten categories: Team sports, Games/Entertainment, Action sports, Water sports, Winter sports, Fitness, Outdoor activities, Playgrounds/gym, Grass/Field sports, Olympic sports, under these cate-

gories there are 137 different kinds of sports.

According to a new local website eastpaloaltoinformation.com, there are eight community youth sports: Ravenswood youth soccer club, Ravenswood youth athletic association, East Palo Alto greyhounds, East Palo Alto junior giants program, East Palo Alto t-ball pitching, Ravenswood little league, Ravenswood soccer club. So, one really has to ask whether, as some believe, East Palo Alto youngsters have a shortage of sports activities in their community?

Cesar Chavez continued from page 3

dren's playgrounds.

Through a collaboration with SAP, Adobe and neighborhood parents, 300 volunteers came together to build an all metal playground at the Cesar Chavez school site.

While the playground was built in six hours, the preparations for it started last April. Then in late July meetings were held every Friday morning at SAP to discuss the scope of the project and to do the planning.

After intense planning sessions, which included the school's pupils selecting their favorite playground colors and designs, all of the building materials were delivered to the school.

Roger Quinlan, who is a senior vice president at SAP, and a long-time supporter of the KaBoom! program has assisted in the building of eight playgrounds, including the one at Chavez. Quinlan described the whole project as energizing.

He said it allowed the 100 to 140 employees who participated from SAP an opportunity to give back, to have a team building experience with a positive outcome and to do something fun with the company's cor-



Photo by Danelle Brock
Cesar Chavez principal Amika Maria Maran Guillaume is shown with Adobe funders project manager Brenna Hull.

porate partner Adobe.

Community residents provided the food for all of the volunteers who worked on the six hour project.

Although the playground, with the accompanying fencing and landscaping was completed within the time allotted, the concrete that was used in the playground's construction needed 72 hours to dry and the playground needed to be thoroughly inspected for the students to use their play equipment.

All schools and nonprofits interested in having a similar playground constructed should go to the KaBOOM website at

There couldn't be a better time to re-examine your accounts.

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Lifecycles

Tired of being tired for no reason?

Dr. Virginia Thomas
East Palo Alto Today

Many factors cause fatigue, but we are now more aware of a growing concern for a condition called, Sleep Apnea. Basically, it is the inability to get enough oxygen at night to sleep well leading to incomplete rest. Over long periods of time, damage to your body can occur from low levels of oxygen linked to High blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, depression, worsening of ADHD, among other health problems still in discovery.

Adults and children may be afflicted with this condition, although it is more common in men over 40. Many people show symptoms of snoring, low energy or falling asleep during the day. In addition, untreated sleep apnea may be responsible for poor performance in everyday activities, such as at work and school, motor vehicle crashes, and academic underachievement in children and

adolescents.

The two types of Sleep Apnea are Central and Obstructive. The central type is when the brain actually misfires and causes one to stop breathing for a short period of time. This disorder is very rare and must be diagnosed and treated by a physician. The more common type is from obstruction, usually the tongue and the soft palate partially or fully block the airway. Sleep apnea can be managed by losing weight, wearing an appliance at night to bring the jaw forward, but sometimes surgery is necessary. Often a physician will recommend a C-pap in which forced air is supplied during sleep. Removing large tonsils may help as well.

In a dental office, Sleep apnea is diagnosed by not only by a questionnaire or history, but also by oral signs commonly associated with this disease. As dentists, we look for signs of obstruction, excessive wear of the teeth or grinding, and cavities on the roots of the teeth from stomach acid

which is forced up from positive pressure due to tongue placement. Once a referral is made to the physician, a definitive test can be done. Usually that consists of

wearing a pulse oximeter at night to evaluate the oxygen level in the blood. Dentists work with physicians to diagnose and treat this ailment. **Dr. Humphrey Thomas** is

now available and scheduling patients at 6 to 9 Dental's East Palo Alto office at 1765 East Bayshore Road, #11.

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Opening doors for our youth



Photo courtesy of Edmund Harris

This photo shows Edmund Harris counseling a student.

By Edmund Harris
East Palo Alto Today

When I was growing up in East Menlo Park the only gym we had to play in was a small multi-purpose room at Belle Haven School. There was no swimming pools in our area. Flood Park was in West Menlo Park, Ravenswood Rec was in East Palo Alto, and Burgess which is also in West Menlo Park was off limits at the time.

Fortunately our parents changed that, they built the Boy's club, and then pushed the city to build a gym and pool at Kelley Park. After it was built we felt like we were in heaven.

It was very empowering, we had glass backboards, bleachers, and the whole works. This created a sense of pride and because of that sense of pride a lot of us went on to college and had successful careers.

Now all of that was great, but what happened to the community that our parents and elders made good for us? It is time for our generation to take accountability and responsibility for our community, moving it forward. I came back to the area to help to do just that.

Now ask yourself what is

the difference between those prospering and not prospering? That answer is education and the wisdom that comes with it.

I've been very blessed I've had successful careers in multiple professions, my family is doing good, and my son is doing very well also. We talk about social media and the changes it has caused in our world. Somethings are good about social media and something's are sad.

One thing that demonstrates both attributes of it being both positive and unsettling, is the story about a kid in Florida who went to church looking for a family to adopt him. He obviously wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Whoever your God is he didn't make any junk, every human being deserves a chance to fulfill his dreams.

Through education dreams can be fulfilled. With the proper infrastructure and services we can open doors for our youth. I've had great teachers from this community who empowered me with education.

Again because of education, I have been able to travel and gain knowledge from others as well. Now it's time to

give back.

"A man", as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "should be measured by the content of his character rather than the color of his skin or national origin."

There needs to be more compassion for everyone. So, let's create a satellite community college for the East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and Fair Oaks community.

Now, creating a school will take a lot of work and due diligence, but we have the skill set and people to accomplish our goal. This will leave an empowering legacy.

Colleagues, both old and new, with the help of our elders, will be reaching out to the San Mateo Community College District to form a task force to develop a plan to facilitate a local campus.

We are looking for individuals and groups with an interest common to ours. You never know where the next great idea or plan of action will come from.

Our Task Force plans are to include stakeholders from: parents and families, students, teachers, support service providers, para professionals, administrators, policy makers, higher education, community groups, businesses, religious communities

Please contact me (Edmund Harris) at edmund@preparingforyourfuture.com if you would like to work with the team. Thank you for your support.

Edmund J. Harris is the CEO BABA Educational Services 3723 Haven Avenue Suite 135, Menlo Park, CA 94025, www.preparingforyourfuture.com

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Saturday, Nov. 16, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Fair Oaks Community Center
2600 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City
(Foothills and Bayfront Region focus)

For more information and to RSVP, visit www.openspace.org/imagine.

Profiles of East Palo Alto Today's Summer Interns

Editor's Note: It was a memorable experience working with this newspaper's summer interns, as it is always a memorable experience working with interns. Throughout this issue, readers will find the profiles the interns wrote about themselves along with many of their articles. Enjoy!

By Miguel Zamora



Alexis Arroyo

Alexis Arroyo is 15 years old. He was born on March 2, 1998 and he lives in East Palo Alto. Alexis goes to Menlo Atherton High School. His dream is to be a professional boxer. Alexis goes to the East Palo Alto Boxing Club. In his free time he likes to hang out with his friends and also likes to train for boxing.

What Alexis thinks about his community is that it's not very safe because of all of the violence. He likes to spend a lot of time with his family. Alexis doesn't give up until he reaches his goal. He also likes to work and have fun at the same time.

By Liz Vargas



Jamauri Bowles

Determined, passionate and understanding: These three words best describe 18 year old **Jamauri Bowles**.

Bowles attended Eastside College Preparatory High School where he was the copy editor for the newspaper "The Panther." Bowles received an honorable mention award from the Peninsula Press Club for his feature story on Greg Avis.

"My eyes got big when they called my name," said Jamauri, "I was just like 'What?' I was surprised because I had no idea I was going to receive an award."

In the fall, Bowles will attend Haverford College in Pennsylvania

and plans to major in English. Despite the fact that Bowles' least favorite subject is English, he wants to major in this field because he believes that he needs to "[take] the bull by the horns" and embrace the challenges and opportunities of the English language.

Bowles has continued with his interest in writing and is currently interning in the East Palo Alto Today newspaper.

By Jamauri Bowles



Liz Vargas

Elizabeth "Liz" Vargas, an East Palo Alto resident, is a second-year student at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California. During her second year, she plans to declare her major in sociology and minor in either global studies or journalism.

In her freshman year at Sonoma

State University, Vargas tutored for a youth club, participated in a Mexican folk dance club, and was a member of MEChA.

"You feel really prepared for college," she said. "There's a reason why Eastside does what it does."

At Eastside, Vargas was a staff member of the school's newspaper, The Eastside Panther, for all four years of high school.

In her last year on the staff, she received a First Place award from the San Francisco Peninsula Press Club for a news photo.

Vargas is ardent toward the work she does in journalism, and constantly makes goals to become a better journalist.

"It's something that will always be one of my passions," Vargas said, "and something that I will always enjoy doing."

By Alexis Arroyo

Miguel Zamora is 15 years old. He was born on February 7, 1998. Miguel goes to Everest High School. He was born and raised in East Palo Alto.

His interest and his hobbies are hanging out with his friends and playing all sports. His goal after high school is to become a rap artist.

Miguel has six brothers and



Miguel Zamora

four sisters. He is the third oldest in his family.

Miguel thinks that East Palo Alto is a safe city, but people make the wrong decisions: People act as bullies. They judge people wrongly, and they get involved in gang affiliated crimes and drugs.

Although Miguel attends the East Palo Alto Boxing Club, located on Pulgas Ave, he tries to stay off the streets of East Palo Alto to avoid the shootings, gangs, drugs, and all types of trouble so he can focus on becoming a rap artist.

Basically becoming a rap artist is not all he wants to do, he also plans to even have his own family.

Parents' concerns school's responsibility?

By Liz Vargas

East Palo Alto Today

A group of parents met this past June 4th to protest in front of the Ronald McNair Middle School in East Palo Alto. They were demanding more attention from the Principal, Jocelyn Lee, and the school district, because of the bullying that they said was occurring in the school.

A mother with a child at McNair talking about the bully-



Photo courtesy of the Ravenswood City District website Ronald McNair Middle School

ing, she said, "We let the principal know what was going on with our children, but she said she couldn't do anything about

it because it is impossible with 300 students."

Some parents said that they had gone to the police

and the police told them "the only way we could report the bullying is if a member of the school board or if the principal filed the report."

According to antibullying.net, a website that gives information about bullying, the legal system rarely gets involved in bullying in schools. The website advises that it is better for the schools to deal with bullying within the school.

Officer Veronica Barries who is with the East Palo Alto

Police Department said, "The police department works in partnership with the school district to address issues within the schools. In most cases, the police department is not part of the school disciplinary process; however, if the issue rises to the level of a crime, the police department will investigate and send the case to the district attorney for prosecution."

continued on page 13

Two community agencies honor national health center week

By Jamauri Bowles

East Palo Alto Today

On a sunny, August afternoon, city residents and their friends gathered at 1798 Bay Road to watch an event that was literally filled with surprises, twists and turns, and a strong community spirit.

Perhaps all, who had gathered in the parking lot on August 10, had come to see the "You've Got Talent" show that was presented by the Ravenswood Family Health Center and the Ecumenical Hunger Project to celebrate National Health Center Week. This special week is always observed during the second

week of August to "recognize the service and contributions of health centers in providing [all patients] access to affordable, high quality, cost-effective health care regardless of their ability to pay."

The "You've Got Talent" event that attracted all of the attention showed the talents of neighborhood residents and displayed the thrilling moments of skill and dedication they presented during their performances. The judges of the talent show were Henrietta J. Burroughs, the editor-in-chief of the East Palo Alto Today newspaper, and Ryan Atkins, a physics teacher at the local Eastside College



Photo by Jamauri Bowles. In this photo, the judges at the You've Got Talent of the event are shown with some of the event's participants

Preparatory School.

The judges and the crowd saw singing, rapping, and dancing, which included a tribute to the late pop singer Michael Jackson. The performers varied in age, ranging

from young children to adults, and they showed various levels of emotion, ranging from excitement to passion.

The talent show event was not only about talent, but also about support and recog-

nition.

Luisa Buada, the chief executive officer of the Ravenswood Family Health Center, announced that the center's staff hopes to obtain construction permits for a new health center in the fall, and begin construction in the spring. She thanked East Palo Alto's City Council for supporting the health center's relocation.

East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica and Council

continued on page 15

Woodland Avenue has grand re-opening

By **Jamauri Bowles** and **Elizabeth Vargas**
EPA Today

While some families in East Palo Alto were celebrating a jolly holiday season in the comfort of their homes last Christmas Eve December 23rd, others were evacuated to the East Palo Alto Family YMCA.

The evacuations occurred because the San Francisquito Creek had over flowed it banks. This past June, East Palo Alto city officials held ribbon-cutting ceremony which took place on Woodland Avenue in East Palo Alto to commemorate the completion of the city's project to repair this portion the San Francisquito Creek bank.



Photo by Jamauri Bowles
Mayor Ruben Abrica, City Council member Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier and City Manager Magda González cut the ribbon to reopen a portion of Woodland Avenue, as several several city staff members watch.

During the ceremony, Mayor Ruben Abrica said "now it is safe to walk around here; I am very

concerned still, obviously as we all are, for any future flooding, but this will at least make sure that this road is secure and safe," said Abrica, "eventually, Joint Powers authority, is working on a longer term fix, that will take a couple years, but its important that we understand that this work by now will get us through some temperate storms and we hope that mother nature will be kind to us over the next few years."

Shortly after the creek flooding which left thousands of dollars of damage to the city's levees, city officials declared a Proclamation of a Local Emergency On Jan. 2, which was ratified by the East Palo Alto City Council the following day.

This proclamation of emergency was continued several times until the city's request for funding to help for the banks repairs, it was acknowledge by Cal-

ifornia's governor Jerry Brown.

The city has five areas to be repaired; the Woodland Avenue was one of them. The repairs made along Woodland Avenue included the installation of sandbags to increase strength and elevation of the levee adjacent to Verbera Drive and Daphne Way, and a metal beam guardrail, asphalt concrete dike and resurfacing of Woodland Avenue. Construction was completed by Engineered Soil Repairs, Inc., and the final construction cast was under \$165,127.

With the repairs, families should once again feel a sense of happiness that was once washed away by the storm.

East Palo Alto residents celebrate festive events

Jamauri Bowles
East Palo Alto Today

East Palo Alto's roots can go back to 1983, when it finally became a city in the San Mateo County. Today, the city has grown in front of the eyes of residents.

On June 29, residents of the East Palo Alto community commemorated its 30th anniversary with a celebration.

The celebration began with a parade in the morning at Costaño School, which included a float, and people marching and riding in cars behind the float.

The parade traveled all the way down to Bell Street Park, as the excitement of the anniversary continued.

At Bell Street Park, East Palo Alto Council members spoke out about how much the history of the city means to them.

Council member Lisa

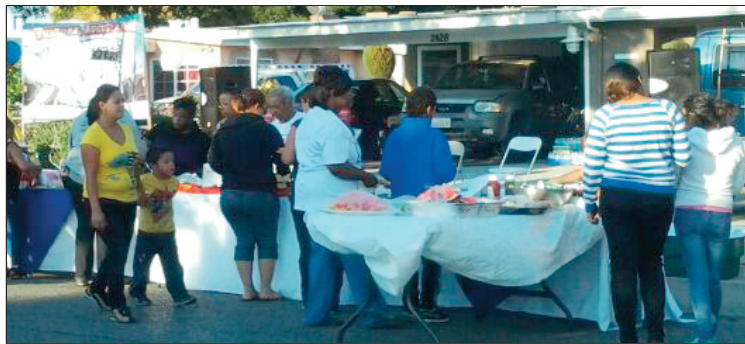


Photo by Jamauri Bowles
East Palo Alto residents attended festive city events during the summer of 2013. In addition to their city's 30th anniversary celebration, residents also attended National Night Out events. This photo shows the residents enjoying a neighborhood cookout on Illinois Street, during East Palo Alto's National Night out observance on August 6, 2013.

Yarbrough-Gauthier expressed gratitude for the people who started East Palo Alto.

"I am so excited for the future of this city," Yarbrough-Gauthier said. "We couldn't be anywhere or do anything with-

out thanking those that came before us and made it possible for us to be a city today."

Council member Larry Moody echoed Yarbrough-Gauthier's sentiments about the city.

"It took a lot of people to bring us to this place," Moody said.

Council member Laura Martinez said that the celebration was "30 years in the making," and she "[looks] forward

to a great future."

In addition, it was announced that, thanks to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, a United States flag over the U.S. Congress in honor of East Palo Alto's 30th anniversary.

The celebration ended with explosive, popping sounds from the display of fireworks that took place at Cesar Chavez Academy. One could even see the fireworks from nearby cities like Mountain View.

After having an event that celebrated 30 years of their city, residents are in anticipation for what the next 30 years will have in store for East Palo Alto.

Jamauri Bowles is a student at Haverford in Pennsylvania. He had a summer internship this past summer at East Palo Alto Today.

Mayor holds reception

continued from page 4

East Palo Alto Library, said attending college can be hard for this generation of students. She said that she knew several students who wanted to be independent and were working and trying to go to school, too.

"They were struggling," Jimenez said. "More people I know would go to college if they had more support. They would be more motivated."

Ana Torres agreed. Torres, who attends Foothill College in Los Altos also works for the City of East Palo Alto in the city manager's office and for the city's finance department. "If people had more support, it would help them stick with school," Torres said.

The students and Abrica discussed other challenges community college students

face. They pointed out that many students did not have their family's encouragement. They did not have adequate or affordable day care. They didn't know the right classes they should take or even how the college system works.

Angelica Torres, who also goes to Foothill College, said that she had not thought about going to college until she was a senior in high school. So, she recommended that high schools invite representatives from local community colleges to visit the schools to tell students about their colleges.

The students and the mayor discussed the possibility of forming a nonprofit organization that would set up a scholarship fund to provide students with financial assis-

tance.

They agreed to hold future meetings to which college alumni, teachers and counselors would be invited to speak to the students about the resources that are available to them, and they discussed how they could reach out to more students to invite them to their meetings.

The group plans to meet again on Friday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building at 2415 University Ave. in East Palo Alto. All East Palo Alto residents and those living nearby, who attend local community colleges, are invited to attend the November meeting. Those seeking more information can contact Mayor Abrica at (650) 380-4987 or send an email to

Breakfast

Our Fresh Selection of
IZZY'S BROOKLYN BAGELS
and CREAM CHEESES

IZZY'S BREAKFAST WRAP (v)

M&M (Mediterranean/Mexican) OMELETA (v)

CHEESE QUESADILLA (v)



Lunch

SABICH (v)

Sabich is an eastern Mediterranean dish served in our fresh baked Pita bread, containing a heavenly assortment of the following veggie delights:

Hummus, Israeli Salad, Tehina Sauce, Grilled Eggplant, Zucchini, Red & Green Peppers and Onion.

Plus your choice of the following:

Hard Boiled Egg, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Cole Slaw, Health Salad, Cilantro, Parsely, Salsas(Hot & Mild), Cabbage, Fresh Cooked Pinto Beans and Garbanzo Beans, Turnips, Pickles, jalapenos, Peppercinini, Spicy Green Olives and more.



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FRESH SQUEEZED OJ



Our Selection of Home-Made Cookies



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Going back to school brings hope to many

By Ayanna Anderson
East Palo Alto Today



Ayanna Anderson

Backpacks have replaced sunscreen as everyone shifts into full-on "Back to School" mode. At the California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN), another school year means the opportunity to bring a powerful message of hope to high school students throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Who doesn't remember one of the most significant rites of passage of the high school ex-

perience: getting a driver's license? What some high school students don't know, however, is that they will also be asked at the Department of Motor Vehicles

(DMV) to decide whether or not they would like to register as potential organ and tissue donors.

With this in mind, CTDN partners with area high schools to deliver presentations designed to educate students about organ and tissue donation. We bring to light the latest donation statistics, including the fact, for instance, that right here in San Mateo county, nearly 650 local residents are in need of life-saving organ transplants. For many students, these presentations offer them the unique op-

portunity to meet a parent who talks about what it means to them to have a son or daughter who became a donor, or a person whose life was saved by a transplant.

As we close each presentation, we ask that students return home and share what they've learned with their family members.

So, goodbye summer, hello another school year. High school students will learn lots of lessons this year, and we are happy to help inform them that

giving life and hope through organ and tissue donations is one of the most important things to know.

Ayanna Anderson, the author of this article is the community development liaison for the California Transplant Donor Network.

She can be contacted at aanderson@ctdn.org or by phone at (510) 251-7003 for more information on organ/tissue donation, or to request a presentation at a local high school.

Tackling the issue of garage conversions

By Jamauri Bowles and Elizabeth Vargas
East Palo Alto Today

For more than six years, garage conversions have been an issue for the East Palo Alto community. City officials have responded to the complaints made by community residents and inspected the homes that were addressed by the surrounding neighbors.

Last July, the city council members met with concerned residents at the St. Francis of Assisi Church to discuss the issue regarding parking and the legalization of garage con-

versions.

Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) leaders are representing the residents of East Palo Alto in seeking to legalize the garage conversions. Mayor Abrica, City Manager Magda Gonzalez, Council member Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier and other city officials were also present in the PIA meeting.

After four months of meetings and investigations, the City council and community members agreed to go through with a process that includes a study from the planning department on the impact of modifications to city codes to make the legalization of



garage conversions possible.

The issue of garage conversions has affected many low income families. At the meeting, two community members, Ed Burns and Alicia Moran, shared their individual strug-

gles to survive as low income families.

Focusing on the problems concerning garage conversions, council member Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier said that she "[wants] to make sure

there's a solution for the community."

In commenting on the meeting itself, PIA Community Organizer, Angel Santuario, said that the meeting was successful and had a great turn out.

He said that he hopes that in the upcoming weeks, the study happens and the city can figure out what the best solution is.

"It ended on a good, happy note," said Santuario. "This is the beginning of the work."

The next meeting was scheduled for September.

[Editor's note: EPA Today will provide an update to the garage conversion meetings in the next edition.]

Two high schools

continued from page 7
American neighborhoods that rapidly declined under policies of redlining and purposeful neglect. Two decades into its collapse, the city of East Palo Alto helped repurpose this manmade blight into the Gateway 101 shopping area, which opened in 1996. While its proponents marketed it as an economic turnaround for the hard-hit area, the 200 families displaced by it would say it changed their lives too, but for different reasons.

That was the story of Ravenswood High School, a school that had offered diversity inside of San Mateo County's otherwise fairly uniform standard of education. The second fully functional high school to suffer a similar fate was San Carlos High School, which opened in 1960 on the 2500 block of Melendy Drive in San Carlos. Its mascot was the regal Don, a symbol of California's chivalrous past and its locals packed in football games to support their Dons.

Sadly, as if still oblivious to how their decisions were adversely impacting communities, the Sequoia Union High School District Board decided

to close San Carlos High School in 1982, under the supposition that it did not have sufficient enrollment. Some still dispute the reasons leading up to its closing, since it sat atop a hill with a lovely vista. Its facilities got demolished a few years later in 1988 and replaced with homes that brought in top dollar, while its playing fields were converted into Highlands Park and added amenity value to the new neighborhood.

Ultimately, in the case of both high schools, real estate builders seem to have been the ones who profited from poor decisions made at the high school district level and we, the county's residents, lost two lovely, fully functional high schools; schools that had been built with taxpayer money and that offered positive community experiences for their surrounding residents. Poor policy led to relocating students who then lost friends in the shuffle. For parents, it meant attending fewer school events and less time to spend with their growing youngsters. For the teachers who lost their jobs, it meant finding jobs else-

where.

Today's residents ought to ask: What led those high school district board members in 1976 and 1982 to close fully functional high schools? And how can we participate so that it doesn't happen again? For that shortsighted policymaking has impacted many lives and left educational and community voids that other organizations eventually filled.

Some might say it changes nothing to reflect on the past; that the past is the past and that it's better to for-

get about it and any remedies that might come from studying it. Yet it is for that very reason that we need to study it even more and learn from past errors, whether purposely or ignorantly made, so that we learn to forge a future built out of a solid and well-built present ... and not one construed out of more mistakes.

REFERENCES:


1. Video documenting the end of Ravenswood HighSchool: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLoc1ritOfs>
2. Online news article re-

posted, talks about Ravenswood High School: http://www.sequoiaalumni.net/schools/ravenswood/rwhs_story.html


3. Online information about San Carlos High School & its team mascot: http://www.sequoiaalumni.net/schools/san_carlos/index.html

J. Jaime Diaz is a candidate in this November's election for the San Mateo County Community College District.

Shape the future of your community!



VISTA 2035
EAST PALO ALTO GENERAL PLAN UPDATE



The City is preparing two long range planning processes for East Palo Alto residents - a citywide General Plan and a focused plan for the Westside area.

Be sure your voice is heard by attending one of the upcoming Town Hall meetings. Come help develop a vision for the City and your neighborhood and identify solutions for issues facing the City.

Future Town Hall meetings will occur in 2014!

FREE REFRESHMENTS, CHILDCARE AND KIDS ACTIVITIES AT BOTH EVENTS

WESTSIDE AREA PLAN TOWN HALL

Saturday, November 2, 2013
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(registration 9:30 a.m.; workshop begins 10:00 a.m.)

Four Seasons Hotel
2050 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

CITYWIDE GENERAL PLAN TOWN HALL

Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of this event. Different activities will be happening throughout the day.

Saturday, November 23, 2013
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(on-going registration, exhibits and activities)

Costaño Elementary School
2695 Fordham Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

MORE INFORMATION Visit The Project Website: www.vista2035epa.org

Seeing 2013 Grammy award winner Arturo Sandoval

By Cedric Thomas
East Palo Alto Today



Arturo Sandoval

I recently had an opportunity to enjoy the technically flawless artistry of the 2013 Grammy award winner for "Best Large Jazz Ensemble," Arturo Sandoval.

By 15, the Cuban born trumpeter was already enrolled in the Cuban National Schools of the Arts. Fast forward to the 1970's and the groundbreaking Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna, (of which Sandoval was a founding member) was evolving into the Afro-Cuban/rock influenced band, "Irakere."

During this time he still maintained a residence in Cuba where the Castro regime would occasionally allow him to play at inter-

national jazz festivals and concerts.

It was during this period that Sandoval met his idol and subsequent mentor, John Berks Gillespie, or "Dizzy." Not only had Gillespie played with Sandoval during concerts in both Europe and Cuba, but he later featured Sandoval in his "United Nations

Orchestra." Sandoval then recorded ("Havana/New York") with the noted author, composer, and pioneer of jazz on the French horn David Amram.

It was shortly after this and some "high profile" Irakere recordings (for Columbia) that Sandoval left Irakere to tour with his own band. Although his touring with this new band was limited by the Castro government, Sandoval was simply looking for the "right moment" (to get his son and wife out of Cuba).

It was 1990 during an extended European tour that he was able to ask for asylum while in France. During that same year he not only settled in Florida, but he also signed with GRP records. His first release in America had the fit-

ting title of "Flight to Freedom" allowing this trumpet "standard bearer" to really display his "chops." "Flight" was followed by "Americana" and the critically acclaimed "L.A. Meetings" in the spring of 2001. In 2003 he recorded his "Trumpet Evolution," performing compositions from his most revered trumpet influences.

He subsequently released "Live at the Blue Note", (2005) followed by "Arturo Sandoval & the Latin Jazz Orchestra" and "Rumba Palace" both in 2007. He then turned his attention to a collection of ballads entitled, "Time for Love", (2010). Later, he recorded "Sandoval & the WDR Big Band's Mambo Nights,(2011). Most recently Sandoval's previously mentioned Dear Diz (Every

Day I think of You), is his grammy winning tribute to the late Dizzy Gillespie,(2012).

Sandoval's impeccable repertoire of material, his on-stage persona, and his level of sheer virtuosity make him an artist to be heard and seen.

This summer, he performed at Yoshi's Japanese Restaurant and Jazz House. I'd like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the staff and management at Yoshi's Jazz House and Restaurant in Oakland for their hospitality.

Cedric Thomas contributes feature articles to EPA Today on local cultural events.

Parents concerns

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According to the antibullying.net, police departments, in general, suggest that if any child is being bullied, he or she should bring the problem to the attention of a school official.

A Ravenswood City School District meeting was held on April 11th 2013. In this meeting Ms. Michelle O'Neil, a consultant, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Bullying Prevention and Intervention. During her presentation she highlighted important facts about bullying and some ways to help prevent it from happening in schools.

Maria de la Vega, who recently retired as the school district superintendent, said just before she left the district, "We do everything we can to make the children feel safe"

Changes that have been made in order to prevent bullying in the school include having a staff member monitor the kids during lunch as well as the bathrooms. The school has also come up with an anonymous tip line where students can report any bullying that is occurring.

De la Vega advises the parents to also monitor their children: the language

they use as well as when they play rough and to resolve it right away. She brought the idea that social media can have a bad influence on children nowadays and it is the responsibility of the parents to monitor what their children are watching.

De La Vega said, "Everyone is working on it, we need parents to work on it too."

Liz Vargas wrote this article while serving as a summer intern at East Palo Alto Today. She is currently enrolled as a full time student at Sonoma State University.

Letters

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Fort Baker area of Marin County and along the Marina District of San Francisco County. The energy would then start to be dispersed as it reached the widening waterway of the main area of the bay. There is potential for damage in Emeryville and Oakland, and possibly as far north as Richmond. However, the vast majority of the energy would be expended there.

Very little energy would make it around the curve of San Francisco, and much of that energy would be lost as the surge passed around Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island.

All of the modeling indicates that there would be so little energy left by the time that a major tsunami reached the bay side of San Mateo County that it would be less

significant than the swell that is whipped up on a very windy day.

I would be pleased to discuss this topic with you. Please feel free to call my office at 650-599-1296.

Thank you for your concern for the safety of the residents and visitors to San Mateo County and the City of East Palo Alto.

Sincerely
Jeff L. Norris
District Coordinator
San Mateo County Sheriff's Homeland Security Division and Office of Emergency Service, 555 County Center, Suite 413, Redwood City CA, 94063
Phone: (650) 599-1296
Fax: (650) 363-1868
jnorris@smcgov.org

Chief of police

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is bright for East Palo Alto."

Davis has served as East Palo Alto's police chief since 2005 and, according to González, he is credited with implementing such innovative and progressive community policing programs as Prisoner Reentry, FIT Zone, Graffiti Arts Project (GAP), Beat Meetings, and Chats with the Chief.

Davis also lists among his accomplishments his efforts to enhance the capacity of the police department with the use of such technology as ShotSpotter, license plate readers, in-car video cameras and crime analysis software.

Before serving in East Palo Alto, Davis worked for 20 years with the Oakland Police Department in various posi-

tions including captain, police academy director, criminal investigations commander and inspector general.

During Davis' tenure with the East Palo Alto Police Department, he has stressed on-going training and employee development, has revamped the Department's organizational structure and processes to improve efficiency, and has garnered over \$10 million in grants to enhance police services.

González said that Davis' key accomplishment in East Palo Alto was his role in strengthening positive relations between the police and the public, which has dramatically reduced crime and violence.

"Chief Davis has accomplished so much for East Palo Alto during his time here, and he'll be greatly missed," González said. "His leadership, innovation, and genuine affection for this community have made the East Palo Alto Police Department one of the most progressive police agencies in the United States."

In a September 27, 2014 press release, the COPS office announced that it had given \$8.5 million in grants to sponsor projects to promote community policing, innovative problem solving and stronger partnerships. Such projects ranged from homeland security training, work in communities of color, to homicide reduction and the protection of

drug-endangered children. COPS Acting Director Joshua Ederheimer said, "...the grantees selected have an opportunity to shape their local success story into a national model that assists public safety on the broadest level."

Having sleep problems?

If you are 60 years or older, you may be eligible to participate in a study of Non-Drug Treatments for Insomnia sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, and conducted at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Participants will receive extensive sleep evaluation and individual treatment. For more information, please call Stephanie at (650) 493-5000 ext. 69255. (For general information about participant rights, contact 866-680-2906.)




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City's first employee

continued from page 1

"On the eve of the City's 30th anniversary community members heard the horrible administration zipped past the sleeping city council and took out Mr. Averhart. Get this; they held a special process of putting two names in a hat/bowl?"

Sean Charpentier, city Re-development Agency (RDA) Project Coordinator, spoke at the city council meeting, which was held on July 2nd 2013. Charpentier, who represented local SEIN, expressed his thoughts regarding Averhart's

lay off.

He said that he was disappointed about the way the first city employee was laid off and was not moved into one of the city's newly created positions.

Charpentier said he hoped that every effort would have

been made to move him into one of the city's open positions since he did, in fact, work for the community for 30 years.

Charpentier expressed how it was not fair that the affected officials or representatives from the SEIU Union or

the staff were not even present when the decision made and the name of the person to be dismissed was drawn. He also regretted that Averhart was notified via cell phone on the eve of the 30th anniversary of East Palo Alto that he was fired.

The new Black Philanthropy

continued from page 7

Philanthropy, including better knowledge of black diaspora history and culture; overcoming stereotypes; coalition-building; inclusion of women and youth; as well as diversifying staff and governance.

The African Women's De-

velopment Fund USA (AWDF USA) stands ready to be your partner as you chart your journey to fully embrace the diversity of today's Black Philanthropy

Dr. Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, the executive director of the African Women's Develop-

ment Fund USA, wrote this article with the assistance of Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome, Ph.D., who is the senior research advisor for the African Women's Development. Fund USA

AWDF USA is a US-based public charity created by Africa's

first Pan-African foundation. The organization raises US awareness and support for African issues with a focus on women.

This essay was written to commemorate Black Philanthropy Month, founded by AWDF USA in 2011, and the 50th Year

Anniversary of Martin Luther King's historic March on Washington and "I Have a Dream Speech." Contact the authors at 408-634-4837 and visit usawdf.org for info.

Local non-profit graduate wins prestigious small business award

By **Jennifer Witte**
East Palo Alto Today



Photo by Kimberly Chase, Little Spark Media
Don Polvorón

Jorge Flores was working as a phone distributor when his brother Oscar proposed the idea of starting a family business. In 2006, the brothers opened *Don Polvorón Panadería y Pastelería*, a bakery which now offers various traditional Latin American dishes in addition to delicious baked goods.

Having always worked for someone else, Flores found that the biggest challenge in opening his own business was knowing what had to be done and how to do it. With his clientele expanding and orders pouring in, Flores realized he needed guidance and expertise to embrace the growth and ensure business success. He signed up for Business Planning Class at Renaissance Mid-Peninsula in East Palo Alto and worked with long-time Renaissance business con-

sultant, Carlina Davila, to develop a business strategy.

Renaissance helped me organize my business, set goals and create a plan to reach the goals," Flores said, in commenting on his training experience.

Now a successful business owner, Flores credits his ability to identify and respond to his customers' needs to the training and advice he received at Renaissance. In true entrepreneurial spirit Flores said, "Special things that you can do

for people is what makes it better. It's easy to say no, but that is not how you gain customers." Valuing customer service led Flores and his company to build and successfully transport a cake in the form of a life-sized gown to match the birthday girl and turn around a quinceañera cake for 300 people in less than two days for a customer whose original cake-make flaked.

Flores manages his bakery by sticking to one simple philosophy; to give customers what they want. This attitude has helped the business grow from a corner bakery to a café with a staff of seven, welcoming customers from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. seven days a week. His efforts to accommodate clients' tastes and dietary restrictions have created a dedicated following. And, for those with an extra sweet tooth, Flores hosts a weekly "Cake Tast-

ing Day" open to the public.

His attitude and success in running his business and involvement in his community were noticed and in June the California Association of Micro Enterprise Opportunity announced that along with *iResult* from Monterey, *Don Polvorón Bakery* was the recipient of the third annual CAMEO Face of Entrepreneurship Awards. Recognizing his business as two small businesses that created jobs in a less than ideal economic climate, Claudia Viek, C.E.O. of CAMEO explained that "CAMEO initiated the Faces award to celebrate the true job creators, - the small businesses that build sustainable communities. These micro-businesses will be the growth engine of the 21st century economy."

Grateful for the economic stability he's created for himself and his family, Flores feels

that the best part of being an entrepreneur is always arriving at work excited about the new challenges each day brings. "Now I get to decide what to do, how to solve a problem and how I want my business to develop," said Flores. "Success means that you like what you do and dedicate yourself to it."

Visit *Don Polvorón Panadería y Pastelería* at 669 W Tennyson Rd. in Hayward to try his tasty treats and for more information about the entrepreneurship trainings and small business development opportunities through Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center by visiting their offices at 1848 Bay Road in East Palo Alto, calling their offices at (650) 321-2193 or visiting their website at www.rencenter.org. **Jennifer Witte** is the program coordinator at Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center - Mid Peninsula in East Palo Alto.

Graduado de organización local gana prestigioso premio para pequeñas empresas

Por **Jennifer Witte**
East Palo Alto Today

Jorge Flores trabajaba como distribuidor de teléfono cuando su hermano Oscar propuso la idea de iniciar un negocio de la familia. En 2006, los hermanos abrieron *Don Polvorón Panadería y Pastelería*, una panadería que ahora ofrece diversos platos tradicionales de América Latina, además de deliciosos productos homeados.

Después de haber trabajado siempre para alguien más, Flores encontró que el mayor desafío en la apertura de su propio negocio era saber lo que tenía que hacer y cómo hacerlo. Con su clientela en expansión y una avalancha de nuevas órdenes,

Flores se dio cuenta de que necesitaba orientación y apoyo para abarcar el crecimiento y garantizar el éxito de su negocio. Se inscribió en la clase Planificación de Negocios en Renaissance Mid-Peninsula en East Palo Alto y

trabajó con la consultora de negocios, Carlina Dávila, para desarrollar una estrategia de negocio.

"Renaissance me ayudó a organizar mi negocio, establecer metas y crear un plan para alcanzar las metas", dijo Flores, al comentar su experiencia en el entrenamiento.

Ahora un empresario exitoso, Flores acredita su capacidad para identificar y responder a las necesidades de sus clientes a la formación y el asesoramiento que recibió en Renaissance. En cierto espíritu emprendedor Flores dijo, "las cosas especiales que se puede hacer para la gente son las que hacen que el negocio sea mejor. Es fácil decir no, pero eso no es la forma de ganar clientes." Porque valora el servicio al cliente, Flores y su empresa construyó y transportó con éxito un pastel en forma de un vestido de tamaño real parecido al vestido de la cumpleañera y cumplió un pedido para un pastel

de quinceañera para 300 personas en menos de dos días para un cliente cuyo panadero

original falló de cumplir.

Flores logra su panadería por seguir un simple filosofía:

dar a los clientes lo que quieren. Esta actitud ha ayudado a crecer el negocio de una pa-

¡Prepare el futuro de su comunidad!



VISTA 2035
EAST PALO ALTO GENERAL PLAN UPDATE



FORO PÚBLICO PARA EL ÁREA OESTE
Sábado, Noviembre 2, del 2013
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 (Registación: 9:30 am, taller comienza: 10:00 am)
 Hotel Four Seasons
 2050 University Avenue
 East Palo Alto, CA 94303

FORO PÚBLICO PARA EL PLAN GENERAL DE TODA LA CIUDAD
 Todos están invitados a asistir a todo, o parte de este evento. Habrá diferentes actividades durante el día.
Sábado, Noviembre 23, del 2013
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 (Registación, exposiciones y actividades continuas)
 Escuela Elemental Costaño
 2695 Fordham Street
 East Palo Alto, CA 94303

MÁS INFORMACIÓN Visite la página web del proyecto: www.vista2035epa.org

Community Calendar

Talking with Henrietta

The Affordable Care Act: Where Is It Working?



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta. Seated from left, Denise Boland, Henrietta J. Burroughs and Lorna Strachan sit on the set of the Talking with Henrietta show after their television discussion on Wednesday, October 30, 2013.

Since its debut, the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, has been criticized by those on the left as well as by those on the right.

On this show, two guests discuss how, where they work, the Affordable Care Act rollout is going well.

My guests are Denise Boland, who is the Director of Employment and Benefit Services for the Social Services Agency for the County of Santa Clara, and Lorna Strachan, who is a human services manager for the County of San Mateo Human

Services Department.

This show can be viewed on Channel 27 on the Midpeninsula and on the Internet from Sunday, November 3 through Saturday, it can be seen

Sundays@5 p.m., Tuesdays@8 p.m., Wednesday @ 2 a.m. and 11 am, Thursdays@ 8 p.m., Fridays at 3 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Follow Talking with Henrietta on Facebook and on Twitter.

See video excerpts of shows on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Henrietta818>

Thursday, November 7, 2013
Office Hours with Assemblyman Rich Gordon in East Palo Alto
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
East Palo Alto City Hall, Community Room, 2415 University Ave., East Palo Alto, CA

Friday, November 8, 2013
Second Mayor's Welcoming Reception for community college informational

outreach 6pm- 8pm
EPA YMCA Community Room
550 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, CA. For more information contact Mayor Abrica at rubenabrica@gmail.com. Or, contact Ana Torres at atorres.jobs@gmail.com.

Services at 12 noon at the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints at Middlefield Road in Palo Alto, CA

See more community calendar events at the website for the East Palo Alto Today newspaper www.epatoday.org

Two community agencies cont. from page 10

Member Lisa Yarbrough-Gautier made brief appearances at the event to offer their support for the center and for the day's celebration, as well.

Stanford Hospital and Clinics received a recognition award, for playing a "pivotal role in sustaining the lives and well-being of thousands of residents of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven," said Buada, who presented the award to Sharon Keating Beaugard, the executive director of Stanford's Community Partnerships and Andy Coe, the government and community relations officer for Stanford Hospital & Clinics.

Another recipient for a recognition award was Burroughs. It was an unexpected surprise for her,

since she had no prior knowledge that the award would be given.

As she presented the award to Burroughs, Buada said, "We are grateful for your amazing courage and determination in making us all aware of what's going on in East Palo Alto."

In addition, Burroughs received recognition from Congresswoman Jackie Speier for her "courageous journalism and public service."

"As a publisher and producer and as a member of a marvelous community, you shine a bright light on East Palo Alto and create a sense of community spirit," wrote Speier.

The event ended with a line dance, and a raffle drawing for

prizes. Kimberly Ibañez and Anabel Razo, summer interns for the Ravenswood Family Health Center, enjoyed the event and the diligent effort that was put into it.

"It was a success," said Ibañez, "and it wouldn't have been a success if it weren't for all the talent. They all had positive messages, and supported the community."

Razo added that this talent show helped reject "negatives and misconceptions" about East Palo Alto.

"Seeing all this greatness shows that we have the mind and resources in our community," she said.

Cooley Landing continued from page 3

big role in shaping those decisions.

A few years ago there were many public meetings about the kinds of activities that the Education Center could be expected to house. The architects will be looking at the conclusions recorded at those meetings but there is an opportunity now to refine those conclusions. If anyone wishes to contribute to that work, please get in touch with me at 415 515 8202 or peterjerg-aghty@gmail.com.

Graduado de organización

continua de pagina 14

nadería de la esquina a un café con una plantilla de siete, abriendo sus puertas para los clientes desde las 5:00 a.m. hasta las 09:00 pm, los siete días de la semana. Sus esfuerzos para dar cabida a los gustos de sus clientes y las restricciones dietéticas han creado un siguiente dedicado. Para aquellos con un gusto por lo dulce extra, Flores ofrece un "Día de Degustación de Torta" cada semana abierto al público.

Su actitud y el éxito en la gestión de su negocio y la participación en su comunidad se dio cuenta y en junio el California Association of Micro Enterprise Opportunity anunció que junto con *iResult* de Monterrey, *Don Polvo-*

rón Panadería fue el ganador de la tercera premio anual de CAMEO Face of Entrepreneurship Awards. Reconociendo su negocio como uno de las dos pequeñas empresas que crean puestos de trabajo en un clima económico menos que ideal, Claudia Viek, CEO de CAMEO explicó que "CAMEO inició el premio Faces para celebrar los verdaderos creadores de empleo, - las pequeñas empresas que construyen comunidades sostenibles. Estos microempresas serán el motor de crecimiento de la economía del siglo 21."

Agradecido por la estabilidad económica que ha creado para su familia, Flores considera la mejor parte de ser un empresario es siempre llegar al tra-

bajo entusiasmo con los nuevos retos que cada día trae. "Ahora tengo la oportunidad de decidir qué hacer, cómo resolver un problema y cómo quiero desarrollar mi negocio," dijo Flores. "El éxito significa que te guste lo que haces y te dedicas a él."

Visita *Don Polvorón Panadería y Pastelería* en el 669 W Tennyson Rd. en Hayward para probar sus delicias, y para más información acerca de los cursos de formación empresarial y oportunidades de desarrollo de pequeñas empresas por el Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center visite sus oficinas en 1848 Bay Road en East Palo Alto, llama a sus oficinas al (650) 321 a 2193 o visita su sitio web en www.ren-center.org.

Are you pregnant? Do you know someone who is pregnant?

Prenatal Advantage Black Infant Health Project
provides services to help African American women improve birth outcomes.

FREE classes starting now!

- ✘ **Prenatal Group (Sessions 1-10)**
Health education and group discussion regarding pregnancy, labor and delivery, women's health, community resources, and infant care. Activities include personal goal setting, stress management and hospital tour (tentative).
- ✘ **Postpartum Group (Sessions 11-20)**
Information and group discussion on postpartum care. Parenting information on infant health, stages of development, SIDS prevention, discipline, and healthy family relationships. Activities include personal goal setting and development of a life plan.



Our Prenatal and Postpartum Classes provide lots of information, fun and energizing activities, incentives, nutritional refreshments, and peer support.



- ✘ **Social Service Referrals**
- ✘ **Public Health Nursing Support**
- ✘ **Incentives**
Stork's Boutique Shopping points, gifts cards at graduation, First Five Kits, Touchpoint & Raising a Reader Bags.

Who is eligible? African American women ages 18 and older who are pregnant or postpartum with a child age 0-3 months.

Where: Prenatal Advantage Offices — East Palo Alto and Daly City
When: For exact class schedule and location, call the Prenatal Advantage Office at (650) 363-7850

Prenatal Advantage Black Infant Health Project
2415 University Avenue, 2nd Floor, East Palo Alto, CA
Email: prenataladvantage@smcqh.org
Website: www.smchealth.org/bih



Services funded by San Mateo County Health System/Family Health Services, First 5 San Mateo County & California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program

HISTORY...

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District is a Special District responsible for maintaining the sanitary sewers in portions of the Cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. The collection system carries wastewater from the District's service area to the Palo Alto Treatment Plant where it is treated and disposed of in a manner which meets federal and state standards.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected by the registered voters residing within the District boundaries. The Board establishes the operating policies of the District; District employees carry out those policies on a day-to-day basis.

Our work is extremely important to the health and welfare of our community. You can greatly assist us in achieving our goal of providing quality service by being proficient in your work by helping us create a friendly and courteous atmosphere for all who work here or have contact with the District or its employees.

We are proud of our employees and the reputation that the District has enjoyed. We are totally committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of quality and service to members of the public and our community. We look forward to including you in our fine tradition.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of the District that employment shall be based on merit, qualifications, and competence and that employment decisions shall be made with out regard to an applicant's or employee's race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, family status, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, physical condition, marital status or disability. This policy governs all areas of employment, including promotion, assignment, and discharge.

The information contained herein is subject to change and does not constitute either an expressed or implied contract.

**FINAL FILING DATE
Until position is filled**

**Apply in person or send
resume to:**

**Kenneth C. Jones, General
Manager**

EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY
DISTRICT
901 Weeks East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Phone: (650)325-9021
Fax: (650)325-5173

**East Palo Alto
Sanitary District**



901 Weeks Street— East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Maintenance Supervisor

Salary Range
Monthly
\$6,747.673 - \$8,853.532

Deadline for submission :

Until position is filled

The Position:

Under the supervision and direction of the General Manager, the Maintenance Field Supervisor, plans organizes and provides direction and oversight to and personally performs skilled-level work in support of all district collection system installation, inspection, preventive and corrective maintenance and repair activities; ensure that all local, state and federal regulatory requirements are met; provides assistance to the District management staff in areas of expertise; and performs related work as assigned.

Examples of duties:

Plans, prioritizes, assigns, supervises and reviews maintenance activities and the work of crews maintaining and repairing such facilities and equipment as main sewer lines, laterals, pumps, valves, electric motors, gas engines and other equipment found in a gravity wastewater collection system.

Assists in developing and directs the implementation of goals, objectives, policies, procedures and work standards for the District; provides input for the Department budget.

Develops and coordinates working relations/partnerships with other special districts, cities and the county to accomplish common projects and goals.

Trains Maintenance staff in work procedures; evaluates work performance; recommends salary/rewards and disciplinary actions, as required.

Experience:

Understanding and proficiency in the principles, practices, tools, equipment and supplies required to maintain and repair a wastewater collection system, including underground sewer lines and laterals.

Techniques for troubleshooting complex equipment problems and for estimating staff time, materials and equipment required for repair.

Competence with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Certification:

Must possess at least a Grade II level Collection System Maintenance certification issued by the California Water Environment Association. Must possess or obtain Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), AED and First Aid certifications within one (1) year of hire by the District.

Benefits and Compensation:

- Salary Range: Monthly 6,747.673 - \$8,853.532
- 11 Paid Holidays Per Year
- Vacation Leave
- Family and Medical Leave
- Health Insurance
- Dental and Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan-CalPERS 2.7% @ 55
- Long Term Disability
- Deferred Compensation Plan – The Hartford 457
- Other Benefits

The Application Process:

The selection process may consist of a qualification appraisal, a written examination, an oral examination, or any combination of selection processes appropriate to the applications received. Candidates are cautioned not to quit or give notice to their present employers until they have qualified, been offered the appointment, and receive notice of acceptance by the General Manager of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District. Permanent appointments are subject to completion of a 3 month probationary period, which is an integral part of the examination process.

If you meet the requirements and believe that you possess the ideal candidate profile, please submit a completed District application form with your resume, and three references (references will not be contacted until mutual interest is determined) to:

Kenneth C. Jones
General Manager
EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT
901 WEEKS STREET
EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303
Phone: 650-325-9021
Fax: 650-325-05173
www.epasd.com