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East Palo Alto Today



Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical

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East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

Summer - Fall 2012

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EPA's mayor stresses accomplishments

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

Public officials and city residents showed up on Thursday, October 25 to hear East Palo Alto Mayor Laura Martinez deliver the State of the City Address. The address was presented in the city council

chambers, where food was in abundance for those who were interested in eating.

The mayor began her remarks by telling her audience, "We have much to celebrate tonight. I'm glad you all could be with us."

Martinez said that the city had made sizeable accomplishments

because, "...we've remained cohesive as a council."

Martinez placed the hiring of two city employees high on her list of accomplishments. She singled out the hiring and appointment of East Palo Alto's new city manager, Magda Gonzalez, who was sworn in at the East Palo Alto City Council

meeting on Tuesday, October 16 and the hiring in December 2011 of the current City Attorney, Kathleen Kane.

Martinez continued by saying, "This council adopted the 2012-2013 budget that overcame a \$1.5 million dollar deficit. This council also adopted a master fee sched-

ule and successfully negotiated \$1 million dollars with Facebook. We also received \$5 million dollars in grant money for our first open space park, Cooley Landing. I thank the council for remaining committed and giving their very

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City residents march for peace



Photo courtesy of Jamilla Rages

Residents of East Palo Alto participating for the EPA Stop the Violence Peace March and Rally at the rear entrance to the Home Depot, which is located in East Palo Alto's Ravenswood 101 Shopping Center.

East Palo Alto has a new city manager

Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

After a long, arduous process, the East Palo Alto City Council appointed Magda Gonzalez as East Palo Alto's new city manager. Her appointment came seven months after ML Gordon, the city's previous city manager, announced his resignation.

The motion for Gonzalez' appointment passed by a 4 to 1 vote at the council's regularly sched-

uled meeting on Tuesday, October 16. Council member Peter Evans cast the "no" vote against the appointment. Gonzalez will begin her duties with the city on October 22.

Gonzalez is the former deputy city manager for Redwood City. She has also served in an executive capacity in the cities of Belmont and San Bruno.

In commenting on Gonzalez' appointment, Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica thanked the city staff and David Nieto, the president of the

recruiting firm, The Nieto Group, which handled the city manager recruitment process.

He said that it had been a long process, that the council deliberated with very qualified candidates and that he was excited that the council had finally accepted someone.

In explaining why he would not vote for Gonzalez' appointment, Council member Evans said that while he had participated in the city manager selection process, he

didn't think that Gonzalez' skill-set reflected the necessary municipal background to qualify her for the city manager position.

"The city will suffer behind this," he said. "She will be temporary and in one to two years, the city will be looking for another city manager." Evans said that the city's choice reflected sloppy work and was

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Building named in honor of Lewis

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

David Lewis spent many years turning his life around, and helping other convicts and ex-cons get their lives on track. The East Palo Alto City Council honored him by naming a social serv-

ice building The David Lewis Reporting Center.

The 54-year-old father of four was murdered in 2011, years after winning parole from San Quentin.

Lewis is best known for his fight against substance abuse when he co-founded Free at Last in East Palo Alto. His role with Free at Last

gave him recognition as a certified master facilitator.

He worked with a variety of people, from substance abusers to former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown to former President Bill Clinton.

Lonnie Morris, a current San Quentin inmate, said he met

Lewis in the early '80s. Lewis was serving a 10-year-to-life sentence.

Morris said he remembers the day Lewis told him how the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake changed his life.

"David and I were standing in the South Block Rotunda," Morris-

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Inside

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EPA TODAY Financial Practices and Services Survey

EPA Today, in conjunction with Secure Future, is conducting a brief five-question survey of financial practices and services used and desired by East Palo Alto residents. Secure Futures is a free Financial Education program designed to help individuals manage their money and increase savings. Secure Future is led collaboratively by three local non-profit agencies: Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto and Nuestra Casa. You may complete the survey anonymously. Information obtained from this survey will be used to help create and improve programs and services to benefit all East Palo Alto residents. Survey results will be published in an upcoming issue of EPA Today and on-line at <http://www.epatoday.org>. Mail this survey to the EPA Today office at 2111 University, #160, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 or drop it off at any one of the above mentioned agencies.



- 1. Within the past twelve months I have (check all that apply):**
- Obtained my credit score from FICO or a free on-line service like Credit Karma.
 - Obtained a free credit report.
 - Tracked my spending.
 - Used a monthly budget.
 - Paid a bill on-line.
 - Received my paycheck via direct deposit.
 - Increased my savings.
 - Paid an overdraft fee.
 - Paid other banking fees and penalties.
 - Taken out a payday loan.
 - Paid a fee to cash a check.
 - Sent money to friends or family abroad.

- 2. I currently use the following financial services (check all that apply):**
- Bank Checking account
 - Bank Savings account
 - Credit Union Checking account
 - Credit Union Savings account
 - Overdraft Protection
 - Money Orders
 - Pre-paid debit card
 - Credit Card
 - Payday Loan (storefront)
 - Payday Loan (on-line)
 - Check Casher
 - Pawn Shop
 - Auto Title Lender
 - Other _____
 - None of the Above

- 3. Of the financial services checked above, I most frequently use (check three):**
- Bank Checking account
 - Bank Savings account
 - Credit Union Checking account
 - Credit Union Savings account
 - Overdraft Protection
 - Money Orders
 - Pre-paid debit card
 - Credit Card
 - Payday Loan (storefront)
 - Payday Loan (on-line)
 - Check Casher
 - Pawn Shop
 - Auto Title Lender
 - Other _____

- 4. I am interested in using or learning about (check all that apply):**
- Free financial education
 - Building savings
 - Tracking my spending
 - Creating a budget
 - Repairing credit
 - Building credit
 - Direct deposit
 - On-line bill pay
 - Free savings account
 - Free checking account
 - Low cost checking account
 - Small personal loans (under \$500)
 - Student loans
 - Credit repair loan products
 - Savings incentive programs
 - Savings for youth/minors
 - Car loans
 - Small business loans
 - Home purchase loans
 - Emergency savings
 - Emergency loans
 - Retirement savings
 - Remittances
 - Money orders

- 5. Of the products and services checked above, I am most interested in learning about (check three):**
- Free financial education
 - Building savings
 - Tracking my spending
 - Creating a budget
 - Repairing credit
 - Building credit
 - Direct deposit
 - On-line bill pay
 - Free savings account
 - Free checking account
 - Low cost checking account
 - Small personal loans (under \$500)
 - Student loans
 - Credit repair loan products
 - Savings incentive programs
 - Savings for youth/minors
 - Car loans
 - Small business loans
 - Home purchase loans
 - Emergency savings
 - Emergency loans
 - Retirement savings
 - Remittances
 - Money orders

Yes, please email me a list of local Financial Education and Money Management resources. I understand that my name and email will not be used for any other purpose than to receive a one-time email from EPA Today:

Name: _____ Email: _____

EPA TODAY Encuesta de Prácticas y Servicios Financieros

EPA Today, junto con Futuros Seguros, esta llevando a cabo una encuesta breve de cinco preguntas acerca de las prácticas y servicios financieros usados y deseados por residentes de East Palo Alto. Futuros Seguros es un programa de educación financiera gratuito diseñado para ayudar a personas manejar su dinero y aumentar sus ahorros. Futuros Seguros es dirigido por las tres organizaciones sin fines de lucro locales: Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto y Nuestra Casa. Usted puede completar esta encuesta de forma anónima. Información obtenida de esta encuesta será utilizada para crear y mejorar programas y servicios que beneficiarán a todos los residentes de East Palo Alto. Los resultados de la encuesta serán publicados en una de las próximas publicaciones de EPA Today y por el sitio de internet: East-<http://www.epatoday.org>. Envíe esta revisión a la oficina EPA Today en 2111 Universidad, #160, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 o déjelo en cualquiera de las agencias arriba mencionadas.

- 1. Durante los últimos 12 meses yo he (marque todo lo que corresponda):**
- Obtenido mi puntaje de crédito de FICO o de un servicio gratuito por internet como Credit Karma.
 - Obtenido un reporte de crédito gratuito.
 - Revisado mis gastos.
 - Utilizado un presupuesto mensual.
 - Pagado una factura por internet.
 - Recibido mi saldo por depósito directo.
 - Aumentado mis ahorros.
 - Pagado un cargo por sobregiro (overdraft)
 - Pagado algún otro cargo de banco.
 - Recibido un préstamo sobre sueldo.
 - Pagado para cambiar un cheque.
 - Mandado dinero a familia en otro país.

- 2. Actualmente utilizo los siguientes servicios financieros (marque todo lo que corresponda):**
- Cuenta de cheques de un Banco.
 - Cuenta de ahorros de un Banco.
 - Banco.
 - Cuenta de cheques de Unión de Crédito.
 - Cuenta de ahorros de Unión de Crédito.
 - Protección contra sobregiro.
 - "Money Orders."
 - Tarjeta de debito pre-pagada.
 - Tarjeta de crédito.
 - Préstamo sobre sueldo (en persona).
 - Préstamo sobre sueldo (internet).
 - Cambiador de cheques.
 - Casas de empeño.
 - Préstamos sobre titulo de auto.
 - Otro _____
 - Ninguno de los anteriores.

- 3. De los servicios que utilizo, los que uso con más frecuencia son (marque tres):**
- Cuenta de cheques de un Banco
 - Cuenta de ahorros de un Banco
 - Cuenta de cheques de Unión de Crédito
 - Cuenta de ahorros de Unión de Crédito
 - Protección contra sobregiro
 - "Money Orders"
 - Tarjeta de debito pre-pagada
 - Tarjeta de crédito
 - Préstamo sobre sueldo (en persona)
 - Préstamo sobre sueldo (internet)
 - Préstamo sobre sueldo (internet)
 - Cambiador de cheques
 - Casas de empeño
 - Préstamos sobre titulo de auto
 - Otro _____

- 4. Me interesa utilizar o aprender mas acerca de como (marque todo lo que corresponda):**
- obtener educación financiera gratuita.
 - aumentar mis ahorros.
 - vigilar mis gastos.
 - crear un presupuesto mensual.
 - reparar mi crédito.
 - crear crédito.
 - utilizar depósito directo.
 - hacer pagos por internet.
 - obtener una cuenta de ahorros gratuita.
 - obtener una cuenta de cheques gratuita.
 - obtener una cuenta de cheques de costo bajo.
 - recibir préstamos pequeños (menos de \$500).
 - obtener préstamo escolares.
 - recibir productos de reparación de crédito.
 - participar en programas de ahorros con incentivos.
 - participar en programas de ahorros para menores de edad.
 - obtener préstamos de auto.
 - obtener préstamos de negocios.
 - obtener préstamos hipotecarios.
 - crear ahorros de emergencia.
 - recibir préstamos de emergencia.
 - crear ahorros para la jubilación.
 - utilizar remesas.
 - "money orders."

- 5. De los productos y servicios seleccionados anteriormente, me interesa aprender más acerca de (marque tres):**
- obtener educación financiera gratuita.
 - aumentar mis ahorros.
 - vigilar mis gastos.
 - crear un presupuesto mensual.
 - reparar mi crédito.
 - crear crédito.
 - utilizar depósito directo.
 - hacer pagos por internet.
 - obtener una cuenta de ahorros gratuita.
 - obtener una cuenta de cheques gratuita.
 - obtener una cuenta de cheques de costo bajo.
 - recibir préstamos pequeños (menos de \$500).
 - obtener préstamos escolares.
 - recibir productos de reparación de crédito.
 - participar en programas de ahorros con incentivos.
 - participar en programas de ahorros para menores de edad.
 - obtener préstamos de auto.
 - obtener préstamos de negocios.
 - obtener préstamos hipotecarios.
 - crear ahorros de emergencia.
 - recibir préstamos de emergencia.
 - crear ahorros para la jubilación.
 - utilizar remesas.
 - "money orders"

Si, por favor mándenme una lista de recursos a mi correo electrónico acerca de recursos locales sobre Educación Financiera y Administración de Dinero. Yo entiendo que mi nombre y mi correo electrónico no serán utilizados para ningún otro propósito después de recibir un correo electrónico de EPA Today:

Nombre: _____
 Correo Electrónico: _____

Community News Briefs

Be prepared for more rain

By Dennis Parker
East Palo Alto Today

The rainy season has arrived in the East Palo Alto area about one month earlier than usual. It's too soon to know if the rainfall this year will be higher than normal, but you plan for the worst and hope for the best. It is too soon to worry about the creek flooding. The risk to East Palo Alto comes from a combination of several days of persistent or constant rain and an extremely high tide at the same time. The extreme high tides occur from about Thanksgiving to the end of January. They are easy to predict, because they are driven by the orbits of the sun and the moon, which meteorologists calculate and publish.

The immediate danger is flooding from the storm drains backing up. Leaves are falling from the trees, and combine with litter to clog up the sidewalk drains in the neighborhoods. There is also pooling in some areas where low spots don't allow water to drain properly. You can contact the Public Works Department at 650-853-5916 and request debris to be removed from a drain, but the department is very under-

staffed. Be a good neighbor and a good citizen by doing it yourself.

Heavy rains loosen the root system of trees, and high winds cause them to fall. Roads can be blocked, and power lines can be broken. Be prepared for power outages and other damage from fallen trees.

While we're thinking about natural disasters, remember that this is earthquake country, and earthquakes strike without warning. The East Palo Alto city web site has lots of information on how to prepare for the full range of natural and manmade disasters (<http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/police/oes.html>).

In case of heavy rains or threat of flooding, you can obtain free sandbags, go to the East Palo Alto Corporation Yard at 150 Tara Road, EPA, CA 94303

You will need to go inside and bag the sand yourself. Call 650-853-5916 if you have questions

EPASD board member is censored

By Jamilla Rages
East Palo Alto Today

The board members on the East Palo Alto Sanitary District voted unanimously to censure one of its own board members,



EPASD Board members Goro Mitchell, Dennis Scherzer and Joan Sykes-Miessi are shown during their board discussion in August regarding Scherzer's censure.

Dennis Scherzer, at a special hearing held on September 27. The meeting which was held at the sanitary district headquarters included all five board members: Joan Sykes-Miessi, Betsey Yanez, Goro Mitchell, Dennis Scherzer and Glenda Savage, who participated in the meeting from South Africa via Skype.

Lee Hawkins, the board's general manager, and Malathy Subramanian, its legal counsel, also attended the meeting, although they could not vote. Since he was the subject of the censure, Scherzer was also unable to vote on the censure motion.

With its vote to censure Scherzer, the board also considered sanctions that would: 1) take away any seniority Scherzer has on the board, 2) take him off of all board commit-

tees, 3) restrict his business related travel and limit the opportunities he had to attend special board training sessions. Sykes - Miessi approved the sanctions but, the other board members voted against them. Mitchell said the board really wanted Scherzer to change his behavior.

Before the board voted to censure Scherzer, board president, Joan Sykes-Miessi, started the special censure hearing by presenting some of the history of the EPASD in order to show how far the district had come. She mentioned problems the board previously faced, including its failure to complete an audit report for 2000-2001 on time and she cited various problems that led to the district's bankruptcy in 2003. Sykes-Miessi also mentioned steps the district took to improve restoring stability including reducing staff hours, investing in better equipment to address capital projects and their recent collaboration with the San Francisquito creek

project which will benefit East Palo Alto and Palo Alto writers.

See complete article at http://epatoday.org/news/2012/october_2012/board_votes_to_censure_colleague_2004.html

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ML Gordon is terminated from his new job

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

ML Gordon, who was East Palo Alto's former city manager, was terminated from his new job as the city manager of Mountain House, CA on August 24. When Gordon announced his resignation from and left as East Palo Alto's city manager in March 2012, Gordon had already been hired on February 13 as the city manager of Mountain House, which is located near Tracy.

Gordon, who had a home in Mountain House, had been one of 65 applicants vying to be that city's general manager. According to the Tracy Press, the applicant pool for the position was reduced from 19 applicants to 15, which was then reduced to 10. Finally, the pool was reduced to five finalists.

When he was selected for his new position, Gordon was the unanimous choice of the city's board of directors. According to one news report, Gordon assumed his position in March 2012 for a salary of \$240,000.

When he was terminated in August, it was, reportedly, because he had been on a 12-week leave of absence prior to his termination. According to one report, Gordon was first on an administrative leave before he took the medical leave of absence.

In an article titled, ML Gordon's Departure, which appeared in the



in the Mountain House Reporter on September 8, the editor, John McDonald, wrote:

A couple of things to watch for if ML Gordon is being removed. Will MHCS D have a non-disclosure clause in any ML Gordon agreement that prevents ML Gordon from discussing what led to his departure? Will ML Gordon get any payment above and beyond his ORIGINAL contract? We need to demand that ML Gordon has complete freedom to discuss his thoughts, actions, and ideas about MHCS D and that our tax dollars are not used to keep us in the dark.

As a community, if we do not get good answers as to why a highly respected GM gets bounced out of MH so fast, then it is time for MH residents to call for a complete audit to restore confidence in our service district and our decreasing cash reserve. This would be in addition to the annual audit.

ML Gordon get well soon. We

are sorry about your poor experience in Mountain House. We are doing our best to make a difference!

Written by someone not wishing to become a target."

In an October 9 article in the same publication, the author stated: "MH Reporter can confirm that ML Gordon's attorney has sent a letter to MHCS D outlining the injustice of his termination - we are working on getting a copy. This problem could cost the taxpayers of Mountain House dearly. Anyone dealing with HR issues in the State of California knows that you don't terminate a sick person without proper communication and accommodation.

We have already confirmed that ML Gordon was on administrative leave which was not associated with his illness. To date MHCS D has not commented on the administrative leave of ML Gordon as to why he was put on administrative leave, when it started, and when it ended. There are many possible reasons for an administrative leave.

There is an unconfirmed rumor that one board member was likely involved in the termination of ML Gordon and that two and possibly three board members were kept in the dark.



RUTHERFORD FOR CITY COUNCIL 2012

- I will work hard to ensure that our community has safe neighborhoods, parks and streets that residents expect.
- I will monitor the budget and support an Economic Development Plan for the cities Financial Stability.
- I promise to be available for residents by setting up scheduled time and dates to hear their concerns.
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EPA residents march

By Jamilla Rages
East Palo Alto Today



the march.

It was perfect, clear weather for a march in East Palo Alto on Sunday, October 14. Many city residents came out to protest the recent shootings that happened on Azalia Drive and on Terra Villa Ave. a week before when two young men, Chris Baker, 21, and Lonnie Brown, 24, lost their lives in separate shooting incidents.

During the march, protesters chanted "No more drugs, no more violence." They indicated that they were tired of seeing their city being torn apart by criminal behavior. The marchers assembled in the Home Depot parking lot in East Palo Alto around 1:45 p.m. and with a police escort, they proceeded to Jack Farrell Park. Some, who attended the march, felt there was a low turnout of young males for whom violence is a crucial issue, because of the San Francisco 49ers game which was televised at the same time as

When the marchers arrived at the rally in the park, they heard various speakers address the crowd about issues affecting the community. Not only did leaders like, Mayor Laura Martinez and the Interim City Manager, Ron Davis, speak to the group, but local ministers, grandmothers, city activists, and community members who lost close friends to gun violence also shared what was on their minds as well.

Martinez, who was raised in East Palo Alto, told the crowd, "In East Palo Alto we want families to feel safe....Violence prevention is important to me and I know that together we can overcome our chal-

lenges."

It seemed apparent from the speeches and discussions in the park that both the march and rally reflected the community's search for solutions and the expressed hope that the day's events would deter future criminal activity from happening.

During the rally, unemployment among East Palo Alto's younger generation was described as a key factor in the city's struggles against violence. In responding to this issue, Martinez shared information about an upcoming job fair for formerly incarcerated job ready applicants. She said that the job fair would take place November 8 from 9 a.m. to noon at 555 Marshall Street in Redwood City. Ikea, Mi Pueblo, Recology and Goodwill are expected to be among some of the employers that will be there.

Bob Hoover, a long time community activist, addressed the crowd about the violence he's witnessed in East Palo Alto for so many years. Hoover mentioned a

recent trip he took to Los Angeles with Martinez and Davis to look at a youth program called Homeboys Industries. He said that Homeboys Industries is a good model for a new youth program in East Palo Alto. "We need something [that is] consistent, long term, and speak[s] ...directly to the young people involved."

One of the event's organizers, Ebonni Black, talked about her experiences losing dear friends to violence. She told the crowd, "I don't think there is anything that serious where you would have to take somebody's life. That is God's job."

Black, who grew up in East Palo Alto, said that she finds it necessary to take an active role in the community. She currently runs a family reading time session at the East Palo Alto Library every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

In a private interview, Black stressed the importance of having a march against violence and de-

scribed the rally as "sort of breaking the ice" for people to come out and show their opposition to violence and their support for peace in the city. "We want to let the families of the victim's know we are taking this seriously,"she said.

Black lost a good friend, Charles Perry, in February to domestic violence. She described him as a warm spirit whose death served as motivation for her to be part of the solution.

Many families chowed down on fries, hot dogs, and tacos sold from a food truck run by A Salma K Indo European Cuisine. Dr. Fasi Khurram took orders from the truck and gave out free samples of the company's European style burritos. Khurram said that the event's organizer Morian Walker contacted several local food companies about the rally.

Jamilla Rages is an intern at East Palo Alto Today.

Are you in danger of being evicted?

By Carol Lamont
East Palo Alto Today

East Palo Alto has rent control and eviction protections. If you are a tenant living in East Palo Alto, it helps to know your rights to protect your home and your wallet. Under the City's Rent Stabilization and Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance, landlords who seek to evict tenants must do so in compliance with the requirements of the Ordinance. Tenants receiving 3-day notices to quit or unlawful detainer notices from their landlord must respond promptly to protect their home.

To avoid eviction: Pay your rent in full on time, usually by the first of each month.

For help paying rent, contact El Concilio at (650) 330-7432; or go

to 1798-B Bay Road, EPA.

Free legal services are available to tenants at risk of eviction: For legal advice or representation you may contact Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County for an appointment at (650) 517-8911; or Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto at (650) 326-6440; or go to 2117 University Ave. # B, East Palo Alto.

For assistance or questions about the Ordinance: Email: rent-program@cityofepa.org

Website: <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/manager/rent.html>. Call: (650) 853-3114; or come to the office at the East Palo Alto Government Center at 2415 University Avenue, 2nd floor

Protections Against Evictions Without Just Cause

Evictions are only permitted for the specific reasons cited in the

Ordinance. Evictions not meeting these requirements can be contested in any action to recover possession of a rental unit in court.

1) Landlords must specify at least one of the permitted grounds for eviction listed in the Ordinance in a notice of termination of tenancy or an unlawful detainer action filed with the court. Permitted grounds for eviction include failing to pay rent, violating the lease, or engaging in disorderly or destructive conduct, among other reasons.

2) Tenants should pay rent on time and in full and get a receipt for payment. The failure to pay rent on time and in full is grounds for an eviction, but tenants may have a defense to an unlawful detainer action or complaint for possession if they are being charged more rent than the Maximum Allowable

Rent in the certificate issued by the Rent Board for their unit.

3) Tenants may have a defense to an eviction filed in court if the rental property is not in compliance with warranty of habitability requirements, including:

Waterproofing and weather protection of roof and walls, including unbroken windows and doors;

Plumbing or gas facilities maintained in good working order;

Hot and cold running water furnished to appropriate fixtures and connected to an approved sewage disposal system;

Heating facilities maintained in good working order;

Electrical lighting, with wiring and electrical equipment that conformed with applicable law at the time of installation, and is maintained in good working order;

Building grounds that are kept in

every part clean, sanitary, and free from all accumulations of debris, filth, rubbish, garbage, rodents, and vermin; an adequate number of appropriate receptacles for garbage and rubbish in clean condition and good repair; and

Floors, stairways, and railings maintained in good repair.

4) Tenants may have a defense to an eviction filed in court if their landlord does not meet requirements for limiting rent increases only to allowed Annual General Adjustments, and with East Palo Alto rent registration requirements. Landlord must file with the Rent Board a copy of any eviction notice within five calendar days after the tenant has been served with such a notice.

Carol Lamont is the rent stabilization program administrator for the City of East Palo Alto.



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go online to:

www.epatoday.org/treasured_memories/index.html

City gets new flood maps



Map courtesy of the City of East Palo Alto

By Brent Butler
East Palo Alto Today

The City of East Palo Alto received news from the Federal government's Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, that it has completed new maps that show where flooding is expected in the city during a major storm, and the elevation of the flood waters in the various areas, commonly called Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA).

About 49% of the City of East Palo Alto is in a SFHA. Four new maps, called the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), cover the entire City of East Palo Alto, and replace the one map for all of East Palo Alto that

was issued in August 1999.

These maps originate from engineering studies and past flooding information that is explained in the newly published Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for San Mateo County. The FIS describes the historical flood events, their causes, locations, and impacts dating as far back as February 1940.

What does this mean?

If you live in the City of East Palo Alto or in the City of Menlo Park's Belle Haven or Willows neighborhoods, you might be at risk for flooding in a hundred year storm event that homeowners insurance does not cover.

Lenders require home-

owners with secured mortgage loans regulated, supervised and insured by the federal government to have supplemental flood insurance because the National Flood Reform Act of 1994 makes the purchase of flood insurance mandatory for federally backed mortgages on buildings located in the SFHA.

You also need to know what to do in the event of a flood. Do not attempt to wade, swim or enter flood waters three feet or greater, it is dangerous. The City of East Palo Alto's flood page provides some information. Please go to: <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/flood>.

html

What are the changes?

Major changes to the new maps for the City of East Palo Alto include: 1) Thirty (30) to twenty-five (25) feet estimated flood elevation for a thin sliver of the Willows neighborhood that borders Menlo Park (higher elevations are projected in the City of Menlo Park); 2) Twenty-one (21) to fourteen (14) feet flood elevation in the Palo Alto Park neighborhood closest to Willow Road; 3) Eleven (11) feet flood elevation for areas of the Ravenswood, Weeks and Gardens neighborhoods.

While this summarizes some of the changes, we encourage you to contact the Community Development Department for more information at (650) 853-3189 or planning@city-ofepa.org

I am proud to represent the East Palo Alto community in the State Assembly, and I look forward to serving you in the new 24th Assembly District. Please remember to vote on November 6th.



EAST PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL
ELECT
LARRY MOODY
LEADERSHIP FOR TODAY'S EAST PALO ALTO

Will Holsinger
HARBOR DISTRICT

¿Usted esta en peligro de un desalojo?

Por Carol Lamont
East Palo Alto Today

East Palo Alto tiene control de renta y protección contra el desalojo. Si usted es inquilino viviendo en East Palo Alto, ayuda saber sus derechos y proteger su hogar y su cartera.

Bajo la Ordenanza de Estabilización de Rentas y Causa Justa de Desalojo, los arrendadores que quieren desalojar a inquilinos lo deben de hacer conforme con los requisitos de la Ordenanza.

Los inquilinos que han recibido avisos de desalojo o una notificación de Retención Ilícita de Inmueble (Desalojo) de los arrendadores deben de responder sin demora para proteger sus hogares

Para evitar desalojo: Pague su renta completa a tiempo, generalmente en el primer día de casa mes. Para ayuda en pagar la renta, contacte: El Concilio en (650) 330-7432 o vaya al 1798-B Bay Road, EPA.

Servicios Legales Gratuitos están disponibles a los inquilinos a riesgo de desalojo: Para conseguir asesoramiento legal o representación, Ud. puede contactar Apoyo Legal (Legal

Aid Society) del Condado de San Mateo para una cita en (650) 517-8911; o Servicios Legales Comunitarios de East Palo Alto (CLSEPA) en (650) 326-6440 o vaya al 2117 University Ave. # B, East Palo Alto.

Para apoyo o preguntas sobre la Ordenanza: Correo Electrónico: rentprogram@city-ofepa.org

Sitio de Web: <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/manager/rent.html>
Teléfono: (650) 853-3114; Acercarse a la oficina del Programa de Alquiler en el Centro de Gobierno 2415 University Ave.

Protecciones Contra Los Desalojos sin Causa Justa

Los desalojos solamente se permiten con justificaciones mencionados en la Ordenanza. Se puede refutar los desalojos que no llenan esos requisitos durante cualquier acción en la corte para recuperar posesión de la unidad (el apartamento o casa).

En un aviso de desalojo o de Retención Ilícita de Inmueble (Desalojo) archivada en la corte, los arrendadores tienen que especificar por lo menos una de las justificaciones para

desalojo permitidas que esta mencionada en la Ordenanza. Justificaciones permitidas de desalojo incluyen, entre otras, incumplimiento en pagar la renta, incumplimiento del contrato de renta, y alteración del orden público o conducta destructiva.

Los inquilinos deben de pagar la renta completa a tiempo y conseguir un recibo por tal pago. Incumplimiento en pagar la renta completa y a tiempo es un causal de desalojo.

Sin embargo, los inquilinos pueden tener una defensa contra una acción de desalojo si el arrendador este cobrando más renta que lo permitido en el Certificado de Renta Máxima Permitida emitido por el Programa de Renta por la unidad rentada.

Los inquilinos pueden tener una defensa en la acción de desalojo archivada en la corte si la propiedad rentada no esté en cumplimiento con los requisitos de la garantía de

habitabilidad, incluyendo:

Impermeabilización de los techos y paredes, incluyendo ventanas y puertas no rotas;

Fontanería y instalaciones de gas mantenidas en buen estado;

Agua caliente y fría proveído con aparatos apropiados y conectados a un sistema aprobado de aguas negras;

Instalaciones de calefacción mantenidas en buen estado;

Alumbramiento eléctrico, con cables y equipo eléctrico conforme a la ley aplicable en la época de instalación, y mantenidos en buen estado;

Cada parte del recinto mantenida en estado limpio, sanitario, y libre de acumulaciones de desechos, mugre, basura, roedores, y bichos; un número adecuado de recipientes de basura y desechos en buena condición y en bien man-

tenidos; y

Pisos, escaleras, y pasamanos mantenidos en buen estado.

Los inquilinos puedan tener una defensa a un desalojo archivado en la corte por un arrendador si el arrendador no llene los requisitos en limitar los aumentos de renta a lo permitido de los Ajustes Generales Anuales, y con los requisitos de inscripción de renta de East Palo Alto.

El arrendador debe de archivar con el Programa de Renta una copia de cualquier notificación de Retención Ilícita de Inmueble (Desalojo) dentro de cinco días calendario después de notificación de posible desalojo al inquilino.

Carol Lamont es la rent stabilization program administrator para el Ciudad de East Palo Alto.

From the Editor's Desk

Moving forward to make great gains

In the State of the City address that she delivered on Thursday, October 25, East Palo Alto's Mayor Laura Martinez said that the residents of the city had a lot of which to be proud.

"I am confident that moving forward, we will continue to make great gains," Martinez said.

Certainly, East Palo Alto has made great strides over the past three decades since it was incorporated as a city.

With the November 6 election coming up soon, East Palo Alto residents will have an opportunity to choose

elected officials who will be in a position to either further the forward strides the city has taken or to decrease the city's forward momentum.

The representatives who are elected will have the opportunity to make wise decisions that are in the best interest of the city and its residents or to make decisions that they feel are in their own best interest. The city has had public officials who have made both kinds of decisions.

Some city officials have been praised for their decisions on behalf of the city, while others have been roundly criticized for the unwise decisions that they've made.

In the election this November, city residents will have a choice at all levels of government: federal, county, city and in other local areas and issues. They will be able to vote for candidates who will make the type of decisions that might result in some really positive changes being made for this city.

For example, city residents will have seven candidates from whom to choose to fill three seats on their five member city council.

In her recent city address, Martinez said that the gains that the city made in the past year could be attributed to the fact that the current council members remained "cohesive as a council." Of course, not all council members could be described as working with their colleagues harmoniously or in a cohesive manner.

City residents will be able to decide if having a council that works harmoniously together should be a priority.

Whatever residents decide, they will should base their decisions on accurate information that they themselves have gleaned from the homework that they have done to inform themselves about each candidate's background, priorities and their goals

for the office to which they want to be elected.

Voting in any election should be taken very seriously.

It has been said that the American public gets the elected officials that they deserve.

But, at any given time, scores of eligible voters do not vote. In fact, the latest statistics show that after increasing for several decades, voter turnout in democratic countries worldwide has been decreasing.

In the last presidential election in 2008, approximately 63% of the eligible voters actually voted. It is estimated that 68% of eligible African American voters cast their ballot, a figure attributed to the fact that Barack Obama was a candidate.

Given the disparities that this country's communities of color face with respect to health care, employment rates, education, housing, income and in other areas, one would think that the members in these communities would be turning out en masse to vote for the candidates who offer them the most possibilities for improving their status.

Certainly, the last election and past elections, like the one in 2004 that led to the election of former President George W. Bush, demonstrate how every vote counts.

At this point in time, it seems generally accepted that the race between President Obama and Gov. George Romney will be close.

More voters turn out in a presidential election than in off year elections.

Nonetheless, all elections should be taken seriously and seen as opportunities to maintain the direction in which government is going or to change the direction in which government is headed.

Like all voters in this country, East Palo Alto voters have some very important choices to make, locally, countywide, statewide and nationally on election day, this November 6.

There is an awful lot at stake and the challenges we face as citizens of this country and as community residents are huge.

If each and every vote counts, then all who are eligible to vote need to make sure that their vote will, at least be cast this election day. All of the candidates are counting on your vote, and you can be very selective.



Henrietta J. Burroughs



Photo courtesy of Nancy Leech

This photo taken, during the ceremony at Cooley Landing Park in July shows the Cooley Landing Project Manager, Shannon Alford, East Palo Alto's current Chief of Police Ron Davis (who was at the time East Palo Alto's interim city manager), and Dempsey Mitchell, who is the driver for the East Palo Alto shuttle for seniors.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

The New Fire Station Two

Dear Editor,

In my previous op ed piece entitled, "Solar Cash Cow or \$15 Million Castle?"

I advocated the installation of solar panels on the roof of the new fire station in East Palo Alto on University Avenue at Runnymede.

Phase One of that construction project is now complete and Phase Two is in progress. During Phase One, both suburban homes behind the station were demolished to enlarge the lot and a new concrete pad was laid down over the lots, including the placement of a diesel fueling station.

In Phase Two, a communications tower was installed and a conveniently tilted and oriented cinder block communications shed was built.

In the next stage of Phase two, the tangled bird's nest of cables and phone wires in the old fire station will be sliced, diced and spliced into the new communications shed and linked with the double wide trailer that will house the firefighters until their new living quarters are completed. As an experienced IBEW Local 617 telecom installer with plenty of

experience wrecking out old mystery cables, this re-cabling project makes me tired just thinking about it. The value of the abandoned and derelict copper wire in the old fire station alone, could make the down payment on a good sized solar PV system.

Anyway, in the final stage of construction, the old brick fire station will be torn down and the new fire station will be built. There is mixed news on that front. The firefighters won't have to hold up traffic on University Avenue during rush hour to put their fire engines back into the garage. They will simply drive around the block, across the pad and pull in to the garage bay. On top of that, the firefighters will have decent recreational facilities, ample storage and secure dorm rooms.

However, despite my best efforts, the citizen's of East Palo Alto will NOT have a warming station and a phone booth to wade over to when the levee fails. Floods are very democratic and everyone is going to have wet feet. Neighbors will be lucky to get into the station on election days.

The good news is that the MPFD Board of Directors has approved solar panels for the roof(s)

of the new fire station. This will ensure that when the grid goes down and East Palo Alto is in darkness, even if the backup generator runs out of fuel or fails to start (according to the strict dictates of Murphy's Law), the fire house will have several hours of autonomy for communications, lights and office machines, if the District invests in battery back up system.

The other four fire stations in the District that are slated for rebuilding and modernization will also be prepared for increases in the cost of energy with solar panels. With a positive cash flow from Day One of Installation, the District should see the financial benefits of solar photovoltaics, in vastly reduced utility bills. A flexible fleet of oil embargo proof vehicles running on a variety of fuels and power sources (including trusty diesel) is sure to follow.

Keep an eye on your local MPFD Fire Station. Great things are on the way.

I'm usually at the East Palo Alto Starbucks by Ikea, in the morning. Your on-line comments and criticisms are welcome.

Steven Kennedy
East Palo Alto
canonbal@earthlink.net

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

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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

The African-American blood donor program needs you

By Fred McFadden
East Palo Alto Today

The Challenge for African-Americans

Nine-year-old Brandon needs a blood transfusion every three weeks. So does 33-year-old Denise. Brandon and Denise will need blood transfusions for the rest of their lives. Yet donated blood might not always be available for them.

Over 90% of people suffering from sickle cell anemia in the United States are African-American. These people – most of whom are children – need to undergo regular blood transfusions. Often, they develop antibodies to the blood they receive, leading to potentially life-threatening transfusion reactions. But if they can receive blood that's more closely matched to their own, that risk is minimized. And the best matches are found among other African-Americans.

In addition, African-Americans face other serious health challenges that may require blood transfusions, including kidney disease, high blood pressure and higher birth rates of



premature babies.

To meet the needs of patients, Blood Centers of the Pacific (BCP) must collect more than 150,000 pints of blood each year. Yet, of those eligible to donate blood, less than 4 percent do. And of those who give, just 3 percent are African-Americans. The numbers just don't add up.

We need more African-Americans to close the gap. We need more African-American blood donors to save lives in the community. We need you.

Donating Blood Is The Answer

Donating blood is safe, simple and it saves lives. Donated blood is precious. And there's no substitute for it. The entire process takes less than an hour and is virtually painless. At your blood donation,

you'll also be given a "mini-physical," where we take your temperature, your blood pressure and test your iron. That way, we ensure giving is safe for you. After your donation, your blood is tested, typed and sent to a patient in need.

You can donate blood at one of our centers or at one of the hundreds of blood drives we run throughout the community. These drives are held at schools, places of worship, businesses and civic organizations and are coordinated by Fred McFadden our Diversity Program Specialist.

About Sickle Cell Anemia

An inherited disorder of the red blood cells, sickle cell disease is the most common genetic disorder in African-Americans. People with sickle cell have red blood

cells that contain an abnormal type of hemoglobin. Instead of their normal round shape, red blood cells are crescent-shaped and have difficulty passing through the body's small blood vessels. This eventually damages vessels and tissues, which can be extremely painful.

One in 500 African-Americans suffer from sickle cell anemia, while one in 12 African-Americans carry the sickle cell trait. Patients with the disease may need 15 to 25 blood transfusions each year. And there's no substitute for this lifesaving gift.

Recognizing our Heroes

Every hero deserves recognition and our blood donors are no exception! When you become a blood donor with BCP, you'll be automatically enrolled in our special "Find the Hero in Me" program. Commit to donating blood at least three times a year and you'll get to select special gifts like movie tickets and ice cream. Reach various donation milestones and you'll earn even more thank-you gifts! And at each donation, you'll also receive a free cholesterol test so you can ensure

your good health.

Who's Eligible to Donate Blood?

Anyone who is in good health, is at least 17-years-old (16, with parental consent), weighs at least 110 pounds, and is not at risk for hepatitis or HIV is eligible to donate blood.

To be tested as a match to donate for patients like Brandon and Denise, or to join the African-American Blood Donor program at BCP, call 1-800-707-8483.

You can also visit us online at <https://www.bloodheroes.com/>. Click on "Donate Blood" and enter your Zip Code to find a Blood Center location or mobile blood drive nearest you.

To set-up a blood drive at your place of worship, business, school, etc., please call Fred McFadden, Diversity Program Specialist, at 415-354-1381. Make that lifesaving call today.

To see an interview with Fred McFadden on the Taking with Henrietta show, go to <http://i1.ytimg.com/vi/TJEmia7zcAM/mqdefault.jpg> to see the episode called, Fighting a Global Disease.

What do your neighbors think about the state of the city and the city's youth?

Three East Palo Alto Today interns -- Dulce Maria Cuevas, TenaJanet Rose Johnson and Cristal Guzman -- interviewed the five East Palo Alto residents featured below and got their responses to the above question.



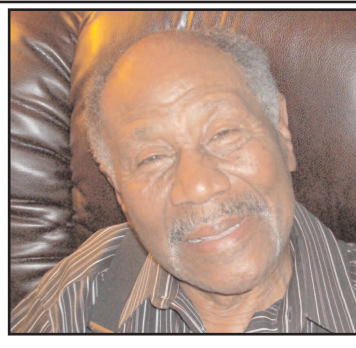
Sirenia Guerrero



Holley Hammond/Williams



Cindy Barquero



William Frank Peoples



Linda Reitzell

The youth of our community are responsible for the problems in our community. All the youth in this city want to do is to party and to use drugs, regardless of the price. There is a great lack of communication between the youth and their parents. At the end of the day, it is their personal morals that will lead them to make the right decisions. As adults we can only hope that we set a good example and that they take our example to heart.

Teenagers today are so out of control because they have no where else to go, but the streets. The police are doing their duty to the city, but with all the crime they can't keep an eye on everything. Our community should have more programs that interest our youth so that we can keep them from breaking the law. The youth should step out of their comfort zones and explore things that could lead them to something that they can feel passionate about.

I grew up in East Palo Alto and I've noticed the lack of unification in the city. If our city were as unified as it claims then we would not need to rely on outsourced programs, such as the Tinsely program. We need to come together, so that as a community, we can move forward to achieve a greater good for all. With few programs in our community we have to get outsourced programs to invest in our community. With our own programs, we could see better results.

The drug use in our city is out of control. With the drug use in our community, we are losing more and more souls to the grip of alcohol and drugs. Having lost most of my brothers and sisters to alcohol, I know firsthand the effects of just what these toxic substances can do.

The young people commit crime here because there are no jobs for them and no where for them to go. Being that this is the murder capitol it makes people not want to go anywhere or leave their house at all. I would say to someone who commits murder, "Turn yourself in and ask God for forgiveness!"

Lifecycles

Saying goodbye to Karen Maxey



Photo courtesy of Meda Okelo
Joan Sykes-Miessi, standing on the left is shown with Karen Maxey on the right.

By Meda Okelo
East Palo Alto Today

Karen Maxey the director of administration for the East Palo Alto Sanitary District retired from the district at on December 30 2011. after 25 years of service.

Ms Maxey joined the East Palo Alto Sanitary District on April 8, 1986. She is the first person to retire from the district, despite the district's long history.

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District is one of the oldest agencies in the City of East Palo Alto, having been established in 1939 as one of two special districts with the responsibility of ensuring that waste flushed from homes and businesses is properly disposed off.

"The district, when I started working for it," Warren observed recently, "had its offices in an old warehouse on Pulgas Avenue."

"A hole in the wall" chimed Troy Maxey her husband of 35 years

Ms. Maxey was then one of the growing numbers of district employees that was hired by the then new District Manager, Vulindlela Wobogo. She served as an administrative assistant in charge of accounts and had the immediate responsibility of ensuring that the district was up to date on its tax obligations. She rose up the ranks becoming the district's administrative manager

in charge of both the district's finances and human resources. In 2003 she served as the interim manager for the district for approximately a year.

"The work then was a challenge," she said during a recent interview, adding that "the district did not have established systems of operations

and she found it exciting and fulfilling to be in a job, unlike any other she had done before where she was at the ground level of creating new operating systems

"I did not know what a sanitary district did," she admitted. "All I knew was that I was going to use my accounting qualifications and experience to help

the district function better.

"Of course," she added, "I soon realized that every time someone flushed the commode, the district sewer pipe system maintained and operated by my employer went to work so that no one worried about where it all went and

continued on page 12



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to The Community



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Lifecycles

Wishing Minette Warren well

By Meda Okelo
East Palo Alto Today

On June 30, Minnie Warren, the city's deputy city clerk, retired from the City of East Palo Alto.

In retiring, she joined eight others who in the city's 29 year old history have also retired: James Carter the former Public Works Maintenance Supervisor was the first to retire, Commander Rahn Sibley; maintenance worker Emmanuel Funches, Captain John Chalmers, Office Manager Tommie Hawkins, former City Managers Alvin James and ML Gordon

At a party hosted at the Com-

munity Development Department Offices on Tate Street recently, she was feted by amongst others, Mayor Martinez, former mayors Myrtle Walker, Sharifa Wilson, and council persons Abrica and Woods.

Interim City Manager Ron Davis presented to her the proverbial retirement clock. Council member Evans whisked through with a personal gift.

Ms Warren joined the employ of the city in August of 1997. Initially hired in the Engineering Department as a secretary, she proceeded to become the office manager for multiple divisions constituting the Community De-



Photo courtesy of Meda Okelo
Minnie Warren

velopment Department. In 2000 she was reassigned and joined the city manager's office as the deputy city clerk. She served in

this position until her retirement.

Previously, Ms Warren worked with the County of San Mateo from 1980-1997 in criminal records management as a Records Supervisor with the County Sheriff's Office.

Reflecting on her experience with the city at a recent interview, she said that her first ten years were truly a "joyride".

"I was at the inception point of the city's redevelopment effort," she said, pointing out that she was working for community development when the Ravenswood Retail Center was "a pile of dirt".

Ms Warren, who is a mem-

ber of the local Kiwanis Club, is also an avid writer who has published one novel, Pale Phoenix Rising. She has two others soon to be published respectively titled: Tears In the Mist over Mendocino and Three Shades of Black.

Ms Warren was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a divorced mother of three, a grandmother to five and a great grandmother to one.

Prior to joining the county, she served both in the U.S. Army and in the Army Reserve for a total of 20 years.

Obituary – Edmund J. Beverly August 8, 1981 to June 24, 2012

By Meda Okelo
East Palo Alto Today

Edmond J. Beverly died under tragic circumstances three days before his sister Ayesha's 28th birthday. "My birthday will never be the same again" she painfully pointed out with a profound sadness that reverberated throughout her mother's living room on Lincoln Street.

Edmond J. Beverly was shot, according to his mother, Maria C. Beverly on Glen Way while walking his dog "Reha" on a quiet Sunday afternoon on June 24.

He would have been 31 on Au-



Edmund Beverly

gust 8. He was born on that day in 1981 in Houston Texas to Maria C.

Beverly and Joe Jones Jr. and was the third oldest of four children an older brother Vaytron Beverly, and two sisters Natasha Beverly and Ayesha Beverly.

He and his family moved to East Palo Alto in 1987 and he attended the Child Development Center, then located on Runnymede, Willow Oaks Elementary School, Belle Haven School as well as Menlo Atherton High School.

"Edmond was sweet, loving and the best child any mother would have wanted" said his mother tearfully a day following her son's funeral services. "Like any

youngster" his mother added "he got into trouble". "From when he was young "she continued "he had a passionate love for cars, particularly Chevy Camaros, dogs and shades".

"Driving without a license and speeding away from cops always got him in trouble" she sadly noted. As a penalty for one of those youthful transgressions he was sent to a Youth Authority Camp in Stockton from whence he received his high school diploma.

According to his family, his love for dogs was simply put, out of the ordinary. He would buy dog food

and anytime he bought a new brand of food would taste if first before serving it to his dog. "if I don't like it, my dog would certainly not like it" he always said.

"He had the sweetest smile, a "Kool Aid" ear to ear kind of smile that I am going to miss" said his mother. "His smile would brighten up any room and as if to adjust to the brightness his eyes would automatically close" added Ms Beverly.

"In his early teen years, Edmond worked with the late Sgt. Carl Miller of the Menlo Park Police, a veteran cop who was well-known and appreciated

Congresswoman Jackie Speier visits JobTrain



Photo courtesy of JobTrain

U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier visited JobTrain this past October 4. In this photo, she is seen with some of the agency's culinary students.

By Kail Lubarsky
East Palo Alto Today

Congresswoman Jackie Speier visited JobTrain to tour the organization and see some of its programs. Speier's new congressional district now includes part of Menlo Park. Speier said she is very supportive of President Obama's platform of stimulating job growth through vocational training programs that will revitalize the U.S. economy and get people back to work. JobTrain, a 501 (c)(3) organization represents some of the change and direction that the country is moving to-

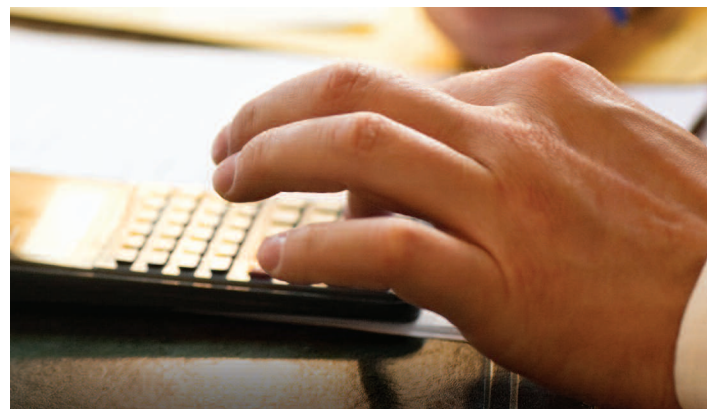
wards by providing FREE vocational training for youth and adults.

Speier said, "I enjoyed tremendously my most recent visit to JobTrain. Its success is now almost two generations long, and it only gets better each year. The culinary class tempted me with delicious dishes and bread to die for, the computer lab was filled with eager students, and the child care center quiet with little ones taking afternoon naps. JobTrain turns dreams into reality by turning students into skilled employees. Bravo JobTrain! You continue to inspire."

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

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A dream come true: Cooley Landing Park

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

For the residents of East Palo Alto, Saturday, July 21 was a momentous day. It marked the grand opening of their city's Cooley Landing Park, an event that was years in the making. It would have been difficult to find a more beautiful day for a park opening. The air was clear. The sky was sunny and there was a gentle breeze blowing in from the bay.

With the opening of Cooley Landing Park as the city's newest park, East Palo Alto added 9 acres of new parkland to the 16 acres it already possessed and also obtained its first bay front park and its first nature park.

As speakers at the grand opening ceremony talked about the new Cooley Landing Park, they recalled Cooley Landing's past, described how the present park came into being and evoked a new vision for both the park and for East Palo Alto's future.

The parks' grand opening celebration started with the presentation of colors by the First responders and the Los Banos Buffalo Soldiers Association, during which the American Flag was placed alongside the flag of the State of California and the flag bearing the seal of the City of East Palo Alto. Following the presentation Troy Lepisi made a moving A Cappella rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

Shannon Alford, the Cooley Landing project manager, was the emcee for the celebration and she



From left, East Palo Alto City Council member Carlos Romero, Nonette Hanko, board member, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica, U.S. Congressmember Anna Eshoo, Mayor Laura Martinez and East Palo Alto Council member David Woods.

the event's featured speaker, also acknowledged East Palo Alto's Interim City Manager, Ron Davis, who was also present. Martinez and Alford separately highlighted Cooley Landing's history. Martinez pointed out that in its early years, Cooley Landing had served as a shipping port and became an important site for commerce. She said that it also supported dairy and poultry operations was a boat repair facility and served as a dumping ground for San Mateo County. In expounding upon the park's history as a dump site, Alford added that between the 1930's to the 60's, "Anything and everything was brought out here and dumped and burned on the prop-

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo,

erty."

Lily Lee, an employee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Cooley Landing's first project manager, said that at Cooley Landing, "humans plundered the earth for its riches, then piled garbage up to 15 feet deep and then burned it and buried it. But, she said, "Like a Phoenix rising from the flames," the people of East Palo Alto and their many partners ... banded together to reclaim [Cooley Landing] as a new place for inspiration.

Restoration begins

Lee said that Cooley Landing's restoration started when Congresswoman Anna Eshoo took a leadership role in bringing the US Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies such as the Housing and Urban Development Department and the De-

partment of Justice together for a summit with the people of East Palo Alto.

Lee said, "We heard not just about the city's challenges, but more importantly, we heard about the city's dreams, its vision and its plan, and its drive to achieve that plan. East Palo Alto was determined to overcome all obstacles and among other things revitalize this Ravenswood neighborhood where we stand today from a contaminated wasteland into a new vibrant city center for everyone to enjoy and to reclaim this former dump for nature

In introducing Congresswoman Eshoo, Lee said that Eshoo's "efforts in East Palo Alto are just one local reflection of her broader efforts on important national issues."

For her part, Eshoo said, "I can't

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Silicon Valley Think Tank Convenes at JobTrain

By **Kail Lubarsky**
East Palo Alto Today

Mobile technology is everywhere! Now there's an opportunity to bring the innovation to our community and to convert consumers to actual app producers. On Friday, September 7, a Mobile Apps Development Center planning group convened at JobTrain.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Google, University of San Francisco, San Jose State University, Canada College, City of East Palo Alto, Sequoia District Adult School, Technovation Challenge, San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board, EPA Today Newspaper, Segacy Professional Coaching Services, Mural Music & Arts (MMAP), Bay Area Video Coalition, City of East Palo Alto and Youth United for Community Action (YUCA). Inspiration and enthusiasm were high as participants strategized ways to advance technological opportunities for the Ravenswood Community.

The collective goal is to establish an educationally rich and open space for community residents to acquire technological savvy that will increase both their interest and opportunity for advanced education and careers in Silicon Valley.



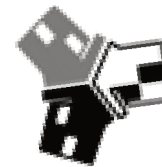
Front row: Alonzo Emery, Raj Lathigara, Sasha Gourevitch, Marcelino Plascencia, Tammeka Bennett, Kail Lubarsky. Middle row: Linda Hayes, AnnaLise Hoopes, David Woods, Nadine Watson, Maria Martinez-Torres, Henrietta Burroughs, Andy Hertzfeld, Sharon Williams, Susan Boiko and Lionel de Maine. Back row: Melvin Gaines, Dr. Janet Stringer, Katherine Saviskas, Marie McKenzie, Demetric Sanders, Olatunde Sobomehin, Robert Burnett, Michael Levin, Dave Wolber, Larry Medlock, Webster Lincoln and Leonard Medlock

Dave Wolber, Professor of Computer Science at USF, popularizes app creation by making app technology accessible and understandable for individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Starting with App Inventor, "students will build interactive apps quickly, gain confidence and motivation, learn programming fundamentals, event-handling, conditionals, iterations and working with URLs," said Wolber. Fellow computer scientist and Silicon

Valley legend Andy Hertzfeld was also present at the meeting and is supportive of creating and mentoring the next generation of programmers.

The brainstorming power and synergy of this dynamic group was undeniable. Future meetings are being planned. We'll keep you connected as we embark upon making this revolutionary technological dream come true.



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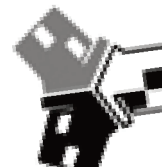
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Six reasons to consider applying for DACA



EDUCATORS FOR FAIR CONSIDERATION

Dear E4FC Friend,

As of October 1st, only 120,000 people had applied for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), far short of the 300,000 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had expected to process by this time (see LA Times article at <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/oct/02/nation/la-na-illegal-kids-20121002>). While we recognize that applying for DACA is a personal decision that should be based on each individual's history and situation, we offer these six reasons why qualified individuals should consider applying.

1. No Matter Who is Elected President, Future Deportation of DACA Beneficiaries is Unlikely

President Obama has vowed

that, if re-elected, he would continue the program and allow beneficiaries to renew every two years.

If Mitt Romney is elected, he is also unlikely to deport DACA beneficiaries. On October 2nd, Romney stated that, if elected, he would not deport or revoke benefits from those approved prior to his inauguration on January 20th, 2013. (Unfortunately, Romney also said he would close the program to new applicants in January.)

Read more about Romney's position: Mitt Romney Would Honor Deportation Exemptions Issued to Young Illegal Immigrants Under President Obama's Executive Action but Would Not Grant New Ones (The Boston Globe) (see article at: [http://articles.boston.com/2012-](http://articles.boston.com/2012-10-02/political-intelligence/34208594_1_deportation-reprieves-young-illegal-immigrants-gabriela-domenzain)

[10-02/political-intelligence/34208594_1_deportation-reprieves-young-illegal-immigrants-gabriela-domenzain](http://articles.boston.com/2012-10-02/political-intelligence/34208594_1_deportation-reprieves-young-illegal-immigrants-gabriela-domenzain))

2. Temporary Immigration Benefits Can Lead to More Permanent Remedies

Temporary benefit programs like DACA have been a gateway for more long-term immigration remedies. For example, in the 1990s, some Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries from El Salvador were initially granted only short-term permits to remain in the U.S. in response to conditions in their country, but later they received lawful permanent residency through the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) enacted by Congress. Participating in TPS was the primary way Salvadorans met one of the essential requirements for NACARA. Those who failed to participate in that program and didn't qualify in other ways weren't able to qualify for NACARA. Read more about NACARA: Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)'s NACARA Manual at: <http://www.ilrc.org/info-on-immigration-law/nacara>. Furthermore, some experts believe that future permanent solutions for undocumented young people (i.e. the federal DREAM Act) may be restricted to DACA beneficiaries who applied during an early win-

dow of time.

3. DACA Beneficiaries Under Age 18 Won't Accrue Unlawful Presence

Undocumented children who are approved for DACA prior to turning 18 won't accrue unlawful presence as long as they participate in the program. **What is unlawful presence?** —Unlawful presence is the time period during which someone is present in the United States without permission. Unlawful presence begins accruing after someone turns 18, and often has severe consequences in immigration law. It can prevent otherwise qualified individuals from gaining lawful permanent residency or being able to return to the United States after traveling abroad.

For example, an immigrant who marries a United States citizen, and who would otherwise be eligible for lawful permanent residency based on that marriage, will instead face certain bars if he/she is unlawfully present in the United States. An immigrant who receives DACA prior to age 18 would be able to avoid these bars connected to unlawful presence.

Similarly, someone who is considered to be unlawfully present will likely have a hard time re-entering the United States if he/she travels abroad, while someone who receives DACA prior to age

18 may avoid such complications. Through careful review with an immigration attorney, and advanced permission from U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), someone who gets DACA before age 18 may be able to travel internationally without complication or concerns.

Learn more about the possible complications resulting from accruing unlawful presence: USCIS' Consolidation of Guidance Concerning Unlawful Presence at: https://docs.google.com/a/epato-day.org/viewer?url=http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/Static_Files/Memoranda/2009/revision_redesign_AFM.PDF.

4. DACA Beneficiaries Aren't a Priority for ICE

Since Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) doesn't have the resources to process everyone whom it has the lawful authority to deport (i.e. there are simply not enough immigration judges, immigration officers, ICE attorneys, or detention centers to process all potential deportation cases nationally), the agency needs to set guidelines and prioritize deportation cases.

ICE's highest priority cases are those with criminal backgrounds or for people seen as threats to the

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Seis razones para considerar aplicar al DACA

A fecha del primero de octubre, tansolo 120,000 personas han aplicado para la Accion Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA), cifra muy lejana de las 300,000 que el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) esperaba haber procesado llegado este punto (leer el artículo de LA Times en: <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/oct/02/nation/la-na-illegal-kids-20121002>).

Aunque reconocemos que aplicar para el DACA es una decisión personal que debe ser tomada en base a la historia y la situación individual de cada uno, ofrecemos estas seis razones por las que aquellos que califiquen para ello deberían considerar aplicar.

1. No importa quien sea elegido Presidente, la deportación de los beneficiarios de la DACA es improbable

El Presidente Obama ha prometido que si sale reelegido continuará con el programa y permitirá a los beneficiarios renovarlo cada dos años.

Si Mitt Romney sale elegido, es improbable que deporte a los beneficiarios de la DACA. El 2 de octubre Romney dijo que, si sale elegido, no deportará o revocará los beneficios de aquellos que hayan sido aprobados antes de su inauguración el 20 de Enero de

2013. (Desafortunadamente, Romney también dijo que en Enero cerrará el programa a nuevos aplicantes)

Lea más sobre la postura de Romney al respecto: Mitt Romney Would Honor Deportation Exemptions Issued to Young Illegal Immigrants Under President Obama's Executive Action but Would Not Grant New Ones (The Boston Globe) (ver artículo en: [http://articles.boston.com/2012-](http://articles.boston.com/2012-10-02/political-intelligence/34208594_1_deportation-reprieves-young-illegal-immigrants-gabriela-domenzain)

[10-02/political-intelligence/34208594_1_deportation-reprieves-young-illegal-immigrants-gabriela-domenzain](http://articles.boston.com/2012-10-02/political-intelligence/34208594_1_deportation-reprieves-young-illegal-immigrants-gabriela-domenzain))

2. Los beneficios de inmigración temporales pueden llevar a remedios más permanentes

Los programas de beneficios temporales como el DACA han sido una puerta de enlace hacia remedios de inmigración a más largo plazo.

En los años 90, por ejemplo, algunos beneficiarios del programa de Estatus Temporales Protegidos (TPS) de El Salvador inicialmente solo obtuvieron permisos para estancias cortas en Estados Unidos en respuesta a las condiciones de su país, pero más tarde recibieron residencia permanente legal a través de la Ley de Alivio Nicaraguense y Centro Americana (NACARA) promulgada en el Congreso. Participar en el TPS fue el primer paso a

través del que los salvadoreños consiguieron uno de los requisitos esenciales para el NACARA. Aquellos que no participaron en ese programa y no calificaron de otras formas no pudieron calificar para el NACARA.

Lea más sobre NACARA: Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)'s NACARA Manual (en: <http://www.ilrc.org/info-on-immigration-law/nacara>)

Por otra parte, algunos expertos creen que las futuras soluciones permanentes para los jóvenes indocumentados (es decir, el DREAM Act federal) pueden estar restringidas a los beneficiarios DACA que hayan aplicado pronto.

3. Los beneficiarios de la DACA menores de 18 no incurrirán en presencia ilegal

Aquellos jóvenes indocumentados que hayan sido aprobados para la DACA antes de cumplir los 18 años no incurrirán en presencia ilegal mientras participen en el programa.

¿Qué es presencia ilegal? Presencia ilegal es el periodo de tiempo durante el que alguien está presente en los Estados Unidos sin permiso. Presencia ilegal empieza a incurrir tras cumplir los 18 años de edad, y normalmente tiene consecuencias severas bajo la ley de inmigración. Puede impedir que individuos calificados puedan obtener residen-

cia legal permanente o puedan regresar a los Estados Unidos tras viajar al extranjero.

Por ejemplo, un inmigrante que se case con un ciudadano estadounidense, y quien entonces sería elegible para obtener la residencia legal permanente a través de ese matrimonio, en lugar de eso se enfrentaría a ciertas barreras si se encuentra de forma ilegal en los Estados Unidos. Un inmigrante que reciba el DACA antes de los 18 años podrá evitar esas barreras relacionadas con la presencia ilegal.

De igual modo, a alguien cuya estancia en el país se considera ilegal, probablemente le costará mucho re-entrar a los Estados Unidos si viaja fuera del país, mientras que alguien que haya recibido el DACA antes de los 18 años podrá evitar esas complicaciones. Tras una cuidadosa revisión con un abogado de inmigración, y con previo permiso del organismo Ciudadanía Estadounidense y Servicios de Inmigración (USCIS), alguien que obtenga el DACA antes de los 18 años puede viajar al extranjero sin complicaciones ni preocupaciones.

Lea más sobre las posibles complicaciones relativas a incurrir en presencia ilegal: USCIS' Consolidation of Guidance Concerning Unlawful

Presence (en: https://docs.google.com/a/epato-day.org/viewer?url=http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/Static_Files/Memoranda/2009/revision_redesign_AFM.PDF.)

4. Los beneficiarios del DACA no son una prioridad para el ICE

Dado que Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) no tiene los recursos para procesar a todos los que tendría autoridad de deportar (simplemente porque no hay suficientes jueces de inmigración, oficiales de inmigración, abogados del ICE o centros de detención, para procesar todos los casos de deportaciones potenciales a escala nacional), la agencia necesita establecer guías y priorizar determinados casos de deportación.

Los casos de máxima prioridad del ICE son aquellas personas con antecedentes criminales o consideradas amenazas para los Estados Unidos. En cambio, los beneficiarios del DACA están entre los casos de deportación menos prioritarios del ICE. Esto significa que los beneficiarios del DACA deberían sentirse razonablemente protegidos de ser deportados, incluso si cambia la administración del país.

Lea más sobre las guías

continúa en la página 13

Response to: six reasons

continued from page 11

United States. Conversely, DACA beneficiaries are among ICE's lowest priority cases for deportation. This means that DACA beneficiaries should feel reasonably protected from deportation, even if there is a change in administration.

Read more about the guidelines that ICE uses in prioritizing cases: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion for the Removal of Individuals at: <https://docs.google.com/a/epato-day.org/viewer?url=http://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure-communities/pdf/prosecutorial-discretion-memo.pdf>

5. There is Power in Large Numbers of DACA Beneficiaries

Like other important policy changes, the DACA program was not the result of an overnight decision; it was the culmination of many years of struggle. DACA is the first and only immigration program of its kind whereby the people who now benefit were instrumental in demanding that a change in immigration policy take

place.

DACA has the potential to bring over one million young people "out of the shadows" and into the light. Every new DACA beneficiary will show how undocumented young people can contribute meaningfully to society and will add momentum to the push for future immigration reform.

Get involved in the DREAM Movement: UnitedWeDream.org & DreamActivist.org.

6. It Might be Easier Than You Think to Apply for DACA

We know that some people who're qualified for DACA are still hesitant to apply because they don't know how to get help, or they're afraid of expensive legal fees. In fact, applying for DACA is not difficult, especially since USCIS has recently clarified the evidence requirements and made it clearer how to apply. Complex cases (i.e. with criminal records, substantial or long-term travel abroad, potential national security threats or fraud, etc.) must be reviewed by an attorney. But many people with more straightforward cases are fully capable of applying on their own, with little or no attorney assistance.



Pro Se ("Do It Yourself") Support: Do you feel confident that you can do most of the DACA application yourself, but still want a little help? If so, We Own the Dream at <http://www.weownthedream.org/> offers an online tool that can help you pre-screen yourself and answer the application questions. They have an avatar-based system, which will walk you through all of the eligibility requirements. In a few weeks, they'll also have a second avatar who can help you answer the questions on the DACA application forms and create a PDF packet with all of the necessary forms.

For additional information, you can also visit the DACA resources E4FC has created, including our Step-by-Step Guide at:

<http://e4fc.org/dacaguide.html> and Frequently Asked Questions at <http://e4fc.org/dacaqa.html>

(created with Curran & Berger LLP). You can also use our updated DREAMer Intake Service at: <http://e4fc.org/legalservices/submittantakeform.html> to get information about your eligibility for DACA and other forms of immigration remedies.

Group Processing & Informational Events: If you want to get live help at a legal clinic, you can also go to We Own the Dream's Events Listings at: <http://www.weownthedream.org/events/> where you'll find times, dates and locations for DACA information sessions and clinics happening around the country. Many events are free or low-cost.

Individual Attention: If you want one-on-one help, you can also search We Own the Dream's Find Legal Help at: <http://www.weownthedream.org/LegalHelp/>. In their national directory of nonprofit agencies, you may be able to find an agency who can offer you a private consultation and/or provide full representation on DACA cases.

In other words, they'll stay with you every step of the way (from pre-screening to application to decision).

Please note that nearly all nonprofits will charge a fee (probably under \$400) for full representation.

You may also find a private immigration attorney to represent you by visiting AILA's Immigration Lawyer Search at: <http://www.ailalawyer.com/> or the National Immigration Project's Referral Directory at: <http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/find.htm>, or by contacting your local, state, or county bar association and asking them to provide you with the name of a private immigration attorney who will charge their regular rate. Private immigration attorneys appear to be charging under \$1,000 for a DACA application.

We hope this information helps you to feel more confident in your decision about when and whether to apply for DACA. We know applying for DACA is a personal decision that requires careful consideration, but we hope we've been able to alleviate some concerns that eligible people may have in applying.

Mari Zellner and Krsna Avila are with the Legal Services Team, Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC).

New city manager

unprofessional and the process would cost the city thousands of dollars.

Council member Carlos Romero turned to Evans and said, "That is your opinion. It is not my opinion." Romero said that the city had gone through a comprehensive and competitive process through which it had selected the best candidate.

Gonzalez was one of 79 candidates who had applied for the job. On June 15 of this year, the East Palo Alto community was invited to meet Gonzalez and three other finalists that the city council selected during a 'Meet the



Magda Gonzalez

Candidates" night.

The finalists were then interviewed individually by the council, a community panel composed of 15 city residents

selected by the council and by a peer panel of city department heads and a city manager panel composed of four city managers from Menlo Park, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Santa Clara.

On August 3, East Palo Alto officials formally announced that Gonzalez was selected from among the four finalists as the council's choice to be the city's new manager. But her appointment was subject to the successful negotiation of her employment contract.

During the council's October 16 meeting, Mayor Laura Martinez stated that she and Vice Mayor Abrica negotiated

Gonzalez' contract, which calls for her to receive an annual compensation of \$185,060 plus \$5,000 in deferred compensation, along with other benefits.

Kathleen Kane, the city's attorney received praise for updating the previous city manager's contract to make things more current.

When ML Gordon resigned as East Palo Alto's city man-

continued from page 1

ager, the city's Chief of Police Ron Davis was appointed as the city's interim city manager. Now, with Gonzalez' appointment, Davis will resume his duties as police chief, replacing Frederico Rocha who has been serving as the acting police chief. Rocha will now resume his previous duties with the department.

Saying goodbye

continued from page 8

what happened to it. This realization, she went on to add, made her appreciate the important work the East Palo Alto Sanitary District was doing as well as the absolute necessity of the work she was doing to make the district run more effectively.

"The district has been through some difficult times" she observed sadly. "The board of trustees in the past took some actions that almost bankrupted the district." The District Manager, a former board member who stepped down to take the position was fired in 2003 and Karen Maxey was asked to serve as interim district manager. "The district had to implement a work furlough and increase rates just to stay afloat, she said.

The district, according to Ms

Maxey, seems to be currently in good hands, and with the financial planning that has occurred in the last few years, the district is on its way to rebuilding its reserves and being at a place where it can accommodate unexpected expenditures without resorting to last minute rate increases and or suspensions of service.


"I would have loved to stay on and continue doing the work," she said, "but at the behest of my family, my husband and I decided that the stress of the job was not good for my health, and at the end of 2009, after two bouts of illness, I informed the district manager that I would retire in 2011."

At the farewell party the district hosted in her honor, Joan Sykes-Miessi, the current president of the board in a

statement echoed by the majority of her colleagues, thanked Maxey for her many years of service and the professionalism with which she approached her duties.

Maxey was also honored by a city proclamation that expressed appreciation for the service she provided to the citizens of the City of East Palo Alto and the ratepayers of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District.

Maxey has 4 children, 3 stepchildren, 20 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family and learning how to fish. She has learnt recently that is one of the things you do in retirement.



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A dream come true

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help but think that 'This is the day the Lord has made.'" Eshoo acknowledged the role that more than 20 organizations made to the development of Cooley Landing Park.

"Today," Eshoo said, " We're celebrating something that is historic and it is also a validation that when people dream they can come together and help made a dream come true. This is a site that is marked by history. The Ohlone caught fish here. The military trained here. The Japanese grew flowers here. There was a fierce dynamo of a woman and

with the help of her community took on literally the powers to be and helped to make this place a city thirty years ago. She would have turned 87 years old last week, and I pay tribute to Barbara Mouton."

Eshoo also paid tribute to East Palo Alto's first mayor, the late Barbara Mouton, the late David Lewis, whom she said "built an organization, the members of Youth United for Community Action (YUCA) for its efforts in getting Romic out of East Palo Alto; the Ravenswood Family Health Center, for its daily efforts in meet-

ing the health needs of the city's residents. All of the work by the individual s and organizations she cited "took tremendous work...vision...and tenacity," similar to what it took to create Cooley Landing Park.

In the end, Eshoo said how proud she was to represent the community. With tears and a quivering voice she added, "This community means everything to me and how proud I am of each and every individual each and every organization that had the vision and the sight and the will to help make it happen, bringing us

together on this spectacular day. So, not only God bless our country....God bless East Palo Alto. God bless the leaders here, the former leaders here and thank you for having me here today. It really is a great, great joy and honor....

Cole Wilbur, the former executive director of the Packard Foundation spoke of the five million dollar grant that the foundation gave for the restoration of Cooley Landing.

He said that the grant was the last one that David Packard gave before dying two weeks

after the grant was made. "This is something where the money has been well spent," Wilbur said.

Other presentations were made by Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica, Council members David Woods and Carlos Romero; Steve Abbors from the Mid-peninsula Region Open Space Disrit; Angelo Anderson from YUCA. Matias Varela introduced the folkloric Dance presentation by and members of the Ohlone Indian Nation offered several chants to honor the occasion.

Edmund Beverly

for his involvement in youth outreach programs and his strong belief in community policing and particularly the aspects of it that strive to improve relationships between the police and the communities they serve.

Sgt. Miller gave Edmond his first job at age 12. The

sergeant would, according to Ms Beverly, have Edmond pick up trash in the neighborhood particularly around the Onetta Harris Community Center and would pay him weekly.

Before his death, Edmond had just started working three days earlier at Stanford

University. "He was beginning to get his life back together" observed his mother shaking her head perplexed as to why anyone would do anything as "horrendously ignorant" as shooting to death her baby boy.

"No" she vehemently asserted in response to a ques-

tion as to what implications the shooting would/should have on residents desiring to walk the city of East Palo Alto Streets, " I am not going to stop walking because of the horrendously unfair thing that happened to Edmond. "I" she added, "refuse to be a prisoner in my own house".

Employed as a crossing guard

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for the Ravenswood City School District, she vowed to continue to walk to O'Connor and Pulgas and to continue helping kids cross the street safely to school.

For Ayesha however, the loss of her brother, so close to her birthday leaves her wondering as to whether she is ever going to be ready to move on.

Seis razones para considerar

que el ICE utiliza para priorizar casos: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion for the Removal of Individuals(en: <https://docs.google.com/a/epa today.org/viewer?url=http://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure-communities/pdf/prosecutorial-discretion-memo.pdf>)

5. Hay poder en un gran número de beneficiarios del DACA

Como otros importantes cambios de políticas, el programa DACA no fue resultado de una decisión repentina; fue la culminación de muchos años de lucha. DACA es el primer y el único programa de inmigración de este tipo en el que las personas que ahora se benefician jugaron un papel decisivo en la exigencia de que se llevara a cabo un cambio en la política de inmigración.

DACA tiene el potencial de sacar a más de un millón de jóvenes de las sombras y hacerlos visibles. Cada nuevo beneficiario del DACA mostrará como los jóvenes indocumentados pueden contribuir de forma significativa a la sociedad y dará impulso a la consecución de una reforma migratoria en el futuro.

Implicate en el Movimiento DREAM: Unitedwedream.org & DreamActivist.org.

6. Aplicar al DACA es más fácil de lo que crees -

Sabemos que algunos de los que califican para el DACA todavía dudan en si aplicar o no porque no saben como obtener ayuda para hacerlo, o temen que se vayan a encontrar con altas tarifas legales. De hecho, aplicar para el DACA no es difícil, especialmente desde que recientemente el USCIS ha aclarado

los requisitos evidentes y ha expuesto más claramente cómo aplicar. Los casos complejos (por ejemplo, si se tienen antecedentes criminales, se ha pasado mucho tiempo de viaje fuera del país, potenciales amenazas de seguridad nacional o fraude, etc.) deben ser revisados por un abogado. Pero aquellos con casos más sencillos son totalmente capaces de aplicar por sí mismos, sin o con poca ayuda legal.

Apoyo Pro Se ("Hágalo usted mismo") :¿Cree que puede realizar la mayor parte de la aplicación al DACA usted mismo pero aun así le gustaría contar con un poco de ayuda? Si es así, We Own the Dream (en: <http://www.weownthedream.org/>) ofrece una herramienta en línea que puede ayudarle a contestar las preguntas de la aplicación. Tienen un sistema con un avatar que le guiará sobre los requisitos de elegibilidad. En pocas semanas también tendrán un segundo avatar que le ayudará a responder las preguntas de la aplicación al DACA y crear un paquete PDF con todos los formularios necesarios.

Para más información visite los recursos para el DACA creados por E4FC, que incluyen nuestra guía-paso-a-paso(en: <http://e4fc.org/dacaguide.html>) y las preguntas frecuentes (<http://e4fc.org/dacafaqs.html>) (creadas con Curran & Berger LLP). También puede usted usar nuestro actualizado DREAMer Intake Service (en: http://e4fc.org/legalservices/su bmitanintakeform._) para obtener información sobre su elegibilidad para la DACA y otros formularios sobre reme-

dios migratorios.

Grupo de procesado y eventos informativos: Si quiere obtener ayuda en directo en una clínica legal, usted puede ir a la lista de eventos (en: <http://www.weownthedream.org/g/events/>)de We Own the Dream's, donde encontrara fechas, horarios y localización de las sesiones informativas sobre el DACA que tienen lugar en todo el país. Muchos de estos eventos son gratuitos o con un coste mínimo.

Atención Individual:

Si lo que quiere es ayuda privada, puede buscar en buscar ayuda legal (en <http://www.weownthedream.org/g/LegalHelp/>) de We Own the Dream's. En su directorio nacional de organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro, usted podrá encontrar agencias que le ofrezcan una consulta privada y/o le puedan proveer de representación completa en casos de DACA. En otras palabras, ellos le guiarán y acompañarán en cada paso del camino (desde la preselección, a la aplicación y a la decisión). Por favor, tenga en cuenta que casi todas las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro le cobrarán una tarifa por representación completa (probablemente hasta \$400).

También puede encontrar un abogado de inmigración privado que le represente visitando el Buscador de abogados de inmigración(en <http://www.aialawyer.com/>)de AILA o el Directorio de referencias (en: <http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/find.htm>)de the National Immigration Project's, o contactando a su asociación local, estatal o del condado y solicitándoles el nombre de un abogado de inmigración privado que cobre la tarifa regular. Los abogados de

inmigración privados cobran hasta \$1,000 por una aplicación al DACA.

Esperamos que esta información le ayude a sentirse más seguro en su decisión sobre cuándo y cómo aplicar al DACA. Sabemos que aplicar al DACA es una de-

viene de la página 11

cisión personal que se tiene que considerar de forma cauta pero esperamos haber conseguido aliviar algunas de las preocupaciones que aquellas personas que son elegibles puedan tener al aplicar al programa.

ROBERT "BOB" GOMEZ

as a Board Member for the

Ravenswood City School District



Bob Gomez has been honored for his work in the City of East Palo Alto by various organizations, including **Nuestra Casa**, by **Peninsula Interfaith Action**, by the **Prenatal Advantage and Black Infant Health Project**, the **Reclaiming Fatherhood Group** and the **East Palo Alto Police Department**.

Bob also received special **U.S. Congressional recognition** from Congresswoman Anna Eshoo for his volunteer service to the East Palo Alto community.

Vote November 6



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Charles A. Jones
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FAX (650) 323-1581

Community Calendar

Books, Movies, and Apps Galore - November 03, 2012 - 11 a.m.

The Menlo Park Library welcomes you to learn more about downloading Media to your iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street. The talk will focus on: * How to find high-quality apps that are inexpensive or free * How to build a library of digital & audio books * Highlights of digital book readers * Tips and

tricks to get the most out of your device.

Home Depot Kids Workshop - November 03, 2012

Saturday Nov.3, 2012 from 9:00am-12:00pm The Home Depot #6603 1781 East Bayshore Rd East Palo Alto, CA. 94303 650-462-6800 A free workshop for kids ages 4 through 12 where they can build a special holiday project. Also, exclusive to the East Palo Alto Home Depot #6603,

the EPA police Department will have demonstration on how they use the Segway on patrol. The county of San Mateo Environmental Health Services Division will also be there to give advice on mold and lead detection and removal from your home.

2012 Universal Sisters Conference: Making Your Health A Priority - December 01, 2012 - 7:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

The African American Com-

munity Health Advisory Committee invites you to attend at the SF Airport Marriott Hotel in Burlingame. Guest speakers Gloria Mayfield-Banks, Elite Executive National Sales Director with Mary Kay, Inc. and Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, Dean UC Davis College of Biological Sciences. Come hear presentations on health related and lifestyle topics, participate in free health screenings, visit resource tables with valuable information, and rejuvenate the

spirit! Breakfast and lunch is included. For ages 18 and up. \$50. Register on-line at www.aachac.org or call 650-696-4378

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

City's mayor

continued from page 1

best on behalf of all of us."

The audience who listened seemed very supportive of the mayor's remarks. However, Bob Gomez, who is a current candidate for the Board of the Ravenswood City School District and a regular attendee at East Palo Alto City Council meetings, said that he thought the mayor's address was inadequate.

"It did not present a plan for the future of the city. It talked about the accomplishments of the past but did not outline anything for the future. We need a new city council," Gomez said.

"We have people there who have been there too long and they have forgotten about the people."

It's notable that, of the city's five council members only one other council member, Vice Mayor, Ruben Abrica, attended the ceremony.

Usually delivered at the beginning of a mayor's terms, Martinez



Photos courtesy of Willie Moore
East Palo Alto Mayor Laura Martinez is shown as she makes the State of the City address in the East Palo Alto City Hall on October 25, 2012.

address marks the second time a mayor of East Palo Alto waited until the end of their mayoral term to address city residents about the state of the city. Former Mayor Carlos Romero, who is a current city council member, delivered the State of the City address last year, on the same day that Martinez was sworn in as mayor.

During her State of the City ad-

dress Thursday, Martinez said that it was an honor to serve in the city in which she grew up and she thanked the community "for trusting me in this leadership position."

Martinez said that overall crime in East Palo Alto is down by 13%, despite the recent shootings in East Palo Alto that have taken the lives of several young men. "This is a remarkable accomplishment for any

city," she said.

Attention was also given to the successor agency board, which was developed to replace the city's redevelopment agency and the funding that the city received through the agency from the State of California. Martinez said the council gave direction to the city staff to work on an economic development plan, which will serve as "a roadmap in strengthening ... [the] city's economic future." She said, that the city's Capital Improvement Plan budget was developed as a result of the economic development plan.

Toward the end of her address, Martinez told the small crowd, "As

a city, we value [the] celebration of our community and we really know how to come together. Whether it's National Night Out, our [city's] anniversary parade and firework show, the ground breaking of our new fire station or a rally against violence. We all come from a variety of different backgrounds and unite as one city.

"Challenges will continue to present themselves: foreclosures, unemployment and traffic concerns. Nevertheless, we will push forward and continue to advance. We gave so much to be proud of. I am confident that moving forward, we will continue to make great gains," Martinez said.



From left, Laura Martinez's mother, Guadalupe A. Martinez, and her grandparents, Carlota Aceves and Guadalupe Aceves

David Rocha plays in EPA

By Sereptha Strong
East Palo Alto Today

Trumpet virtuoso Dave Rocha performed with his jazz band at the East Palo Alto Library on Thursday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the East Palo Alto Community Room. Sponsored by the San-Francisco Friends of Chamber Music, Dave Rocha Jazz played 'straight ahead' jazz music with a variety of swing, bossa nova, ballad, jazz waltz, and blues selections.

According to Wikipedia, "Straight-ahead" jazz is a term used to refer to a widely accepted style of jazz music playing that can be thought of as roughly encompassing the period between bebop and the 1960s styles of Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock.

Dave Rocha has been performing with his jazz group for more than 20 years. He has played in a number of major cities, including New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. His band plays an eclectic mix of jazz stan-



Dave Rocha

dards (by Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, John Coltrane, etc.), "pop" tunes (Cole Porter, Gershwin and Jobim) and original compositions. This covers a wide variety of styles from up-tempo bebop, "modal" tunes, swing and blues, to Latin jazz, ballads and jazz waltz. In addition to his trumpet expertise, Rocha is also an accomplished flugelhorn player. This instrument is similar to the trumpet, but has a larger bell, which gives it a darker, mellower sound. Trumpeter Rocha's band consists of Keith Saunders on keyboard Bryan-Bowman on drums and Aaron Germain on bass, rounding it out to a "straight ahead" jazz quartet.

Dave Rocha plays pieces

such as Nostalgia in Times Square by Charles Mingus, Lazy Afternoon composed by Jerome Moross and played by Winton Marsalis, to name a few. In addition to jazz standards, Dave Rocha Jazz played some original pieces such as Gaza, an original composition with a Middle Eastern feeling, featuring muted trumpet, open trumpet, piano, drums, and bass and Sayonara Tea Time, an original composition with an "Asian" flavor, featuring alto and soprano flutes, muted trumpet, keyboard, drums and bass. Even though there was low attendance at this event with a total of 10 attendees, these music lovers were treated to a unique musical journey on Thursday evening. To learn more about this very accomplished band and talented musicians and to listen to music samples, go to: <http://daverocha-jazz.com/> and <http://daverocha-jazz.com/samples-cd.php>

Sereptha Strong is the public services librarian for the East Palo Alto Library.

Building renamed

cont. from page 1



Photo courtesy of Margie Lewis

In this picture, the sign is seen in front of the building that is dedicated to the David Lewis Community Re-Entry Program

said "We ran out because we thought the air-ducts were going to fall on us."

Morris said the correctional officers went to the upper yard, leaving several inmates in their cells unattended. "I've got to stay out of here," Morris said Lewis told him. "I don't ever want to be in a situation where someone has so much control over my life," Lewis concluded.

Julie Lifshay recalled working with Lewis in a San Quentin self-help program called Breaking Barriers, which teaches participants to change their thinking by using a cognitive reality model.

"He was training us on the Breaking Barriers concept," said Lifshay. She added that the newly named

building "keeps his name and spirit going."

The building at 2277 University Ave. offers ex-convicts assistance in re-entry. Lewis's name will appear on all relevant documents, signs and materials, according to a resolution passed unanimously by the East Palo Alto City Council.

Acting City Manager Ron Davis said Lewis' leadership gave credibility to the program, which provides housing, substance abuse treatment and job training and placement to released prisoners, reported the Palo Alto Daily News.

Gregory Elarms, 59, a childhood friend, is accused of the killing. He was recently found mentally competent to stand trial.

East Palo Alto Today



East Palo Alto Center for Community Media OUR CALL FOR FALL Please Support Our Fall Internship Program and Keep Community Journalism Alive!

This fall, the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media (EPACCM) will provide up to 10 of our local students with communications internships, and we need your help to do it! With schools limiting or eliminating journalism and communications classes, EPACCM can provide our students with the hands-on training, work experience and college prep opportunities that prepare them for the future!

EPACCM is a 501c3 founded in 2003 to produce media outlets serving East Palo Alto and Belle Haven.

The organization provides news, information and community connection through its newspaper (East Palo Alto Today, website (epatoday.org), and the television show (Talking with Henrietta).

East Palo Alto Today is distributed to more than 8,000 residents, businesses, senior and youth centers, houses of

worship and other gathering places.

The website is viewed more than a thousand times per month. Talking with Henrietta, more than 100 episodes strong, features guests who discuss and debate current topics and is broadcast every two weeks on local cable access channels throughout the Peninsula.

We're expecting our fall interns – like our previous 30 interns – to help produce each of these important, community-based vehicles. They will learn or practice skills in new and traditional media. They will conduct research, write, report, interview, design and innovate, developing proficiencies in communication.

The internships will be paid, part-time positions, up to 10 hours per week, depending on the student's schedule and availability. The hands-on experience – not easily acquired

as a student or beginner – has proven to be a stepping stone to college or university and employment for many of our past participants.

Like many non-profits, EPACCM depends on grants and donations to continue its work in the community and fund these internship positions.

A small donation can make a big difference. Please donate before November 20, 2012 to the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, via the enclosed form or the epatoday.org website. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Thank you for making our fall internship program a reality.

Please don't hesitate to contact the East Palo Alto Today office regarding your donation or for more information. Call us at (650) 289-9699.

Talking with Henrietta Protecting the Rights of Voters



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta
From left, Robert Rubin, show host Henrietta J. Burroughs, Robert Barrett and Phyllis Cassel are shown on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their discussion on October 30, 2012. Get more details about the show below.

This edition of the Talking with Henrietta show will air until Saturday, November 10, 2012.

This show can be seen on Sundays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 8 p.m., Wednesdays at 3 a.m. and 11 a.m., Thursdays at

8 p.m., and Fridays at 3 a.m. and 11 a.m. The show streams on the web at the above days and times at www.midpen-media.org and on Channel 27 on Comcast on the Mid-peninsula.

Support the East Palo Alto Today newspaper

The East Palo Alto Today newspaper is published by the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, a nonprofit agency that was formed in January 2003 to create media outlets in East Palo Alto and provide the type of positive, relevant information about the community that is not easily found elsewhere. If you like what you see in East Palo Alto Today, then we ask that you enable us to serve the community better. You can do this by completing the partnership card below and mailing it with your tax deductible donation which will go directly to the center's media efforts. You can read more about the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media online at www.epamedia.org. You can also donate to the center at the EPA Today and the EPA Media websites. Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.



Name: _____ Phone # _____

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Yes, I am interested in becoming a partner with the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media. Please accept my tax-deductible donation as a personal contribution _____ or as a contribution on behalf of my organization _____.

____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$250 ____ \$500 ____ \$1,000 ____ \$2,000

____ \$2001 to \$5,000 ____ \$5,000 and above ____ In-kind _____

____ Please check back with me about becoming a donor.

*The East Palo Alto Center for Community Media is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation.

Mail to:

East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

P.O. Box 50274
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

(650) 289-9699
henrietta@epamedia.org
www.epamedia.org

Please check the appropriate box: if you would like to volunteer at the center, if you would like to advertise in East Palo Alto Today, if you are interested in writing an article, opinion piece or letter to the editor. Also let us know if your agency or business would like to be a distribution site for East Palo Alto Today. Call (650) 289-9699 or send an email to henrietta@epamedia.org

**EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT
PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY FOR ALL FUNDS FY 2012-2013**

Budget Based \$520.00 Rate Per Residential Unit

Revenue For The Fiscal Year 2012-2013

	2545	2541	2542	2544	2546	2547	2548	2549	EPASD
	General	Connection	Rebate	Payroll	Construction	Lateral	Treatment	Rate	All Funds
	Fund	Fee Fund	Fund	Taxes	Replacement	Replacement	Plant	Stabilization	
				W/H Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Total
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 3,382,172	\$ 741,500	\$ 28	\$ 61	\$ 475,560	\$ 130,650	\$ 613,600	\$ 76,160	\$ 5,419,731
Sewer Service Charges	4,057,560	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,057,560
Property taxes	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250,000
Connection Fee	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Interest Income	42,000	7,500	1	2	3,000	150	3,600	160	56,413
Other Revenue	26,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,400
Total Projected Revenue	4,375,960	107,500	1	2	3,000	150	3,600	160	4,490,373
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	600,000	150,000	50,000	-	800,000
Total Available Revenues	\$ 7,758,132	\$ 849,000	\$ 29	\$ 63	\$ 1,078,560	\$ 280,800	\$ 667,200	\$ 76,320	\$ 10,710,104

Expenditure For The Fiscal Year 2012-2013

	2545	2541	2542	2544	2546	2547	2548	2549	EPASD
	General	Connection	Rebate	Payroll	Construction	Lateral	Treatment	Rate	All Funds
	Fund	Fee Fund	Fund	Taxes	Replacement	Replacement	Plant	Stabilization	
				W/H Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Total
Personnel & Other Operating	1,897,192	-	-	-	80,000	-	-	-	1,977,192
Employees' Post Employment Benefits	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
Engineering Services	-	-	-	-	185,000	-	-	-	185,000
Treatment Plant (RWQCP)	1,160,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,160,000
Total Operating Expenditures	3,137,192	-	-	-	265,000	-	-	-	3,402,192
Long Term Debt Service	366,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	366,000
Treatment Plant (UV Project)	140,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140,000
Fixed Assets/Equipment	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
Capital Projects	300,000	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	420,000
Vector Truck Lease	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000
Total Budgeted Expenditures	4,063,192	120,000	-	-	265,000	-	-	-	4,448,192
Interfund Transfers	800,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	800,000
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 2,894,940	\$ 729,000	\$ 29	\$ 63	\$ 813,560	\$ 280,800	\$ 667,200	\$ 76,320	\$ 5,461,912

**EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT
Proposed Budget - General Fund #02545
Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

	Actual Expenses 2010-2011	Approved Budget 2011-2012	Proposed Budget 2012-2013
EXPENDITURES			
CODE SALARIES & EMPLOYEE BENEFIT			
4111 Wages	790,176	785,000	820,000
4192 Directors Fees	46,029	56,500	55,000
4631 Employees Benefits	355,805	509,850	495,000
SUB TOTAL	1,192,010	1,351,350	1,370,000
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE			
5188 Other Operating Supplies	407	5,292	5,292
5193 Office Expenses	20,429	35,000	35,000
5314 Election Expenses	-	16,000	-
5332 Membership	13,452	16,500	15,500
5341 Publication & Legal Notice	11,753	13,500	14,500
5416 Gas, Fuel	10,258	13,000	13,000
5459 Repair & Maintenance	43,311	47,000	45,000
5521 Rents & Leases	10,138	15,000	12,000
5638 Utilities	32,866	41,000	33,000
5721 Travel & Meeting	40,211	54,000	45,000
5731 Training & Education	21,293	25,000	25,000
5817 Contract Sewage Services	902,172	1,160,000	1,160,000
5858 Contractual Services	78,126	90,000	95,000
5861 Engineering Services	10,481	15,000	15,000
5872 Prof & Spec Services	70,800	85,000	92,000
5876 Professional Services	26,839	25,000	25,000
5958 Research & Monitoring	-	400	400
5966 Operating Supplies	2,522	7,500	7,500
5969 Special Expenses	23,826	46,000	40,000
6731 Insurance	44,221	45,000	45,000
6732 Legal Services	43,924	44,000	44,000
6814 Prior Year Expenses	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	1,407,029	1,799,192	1,767,192
CAPITAL & DEBTS			
7211 Gen Fac Financing Corp Bnd	281,265	281,000	281,000
7311 Equipment Expenses	56,824	115,000	80,000
6322 Repay Treatment Plant	56,495	85,000	85,000
SUB TOTAL	394,584	481,000	446,000
OTHER CHARGES			
8810 Contingency	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	-	-	-
TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS			
7541 Construction/Replacement	400,000	150,000	600,000
7541 Treatment Plant Reserve	100,000	100,000	150,000
7541 Rate Stabilization	-	50,000	50,000
SUB TOTAL	500,000	300,000	800,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 3,493,623	\$ 3,931,542	\$ 4,383,192