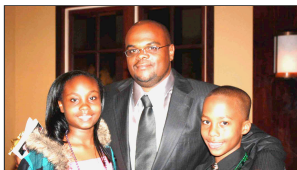




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East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



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East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

March - April 2011

Vol. 6 No.26

City's top manager proposes deep cuts

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

*"This is the first wave of the tsunami." -
ML Gordon, East Palo Alto City Manager*

East Palo Alto's City Manager, ML Gordon, announced a restructuring plan that would bring major changes and staff cuts to city departments in East Palo Alto. The

plan, which was presented during a special city council study session on April 7, would eliminate three city departments and bring major layoffs.

Under the plan, East Palo Alto's seven city departments would be reduced to four departments, leaving the community development, finance, human resources and the

police department. Three departments would be eliminated: community services, housing services and the public works departments.

Gordon's restructuring plan would also eliminate three department heads and a minimum of five clerical support positions. The department cuts will necessitate transferring functions in the senior

services division, the affordable housing division, and functions in engineering and maintenance. These transfers in department functions will impact not only engineering and maintenance, but also building services, finance, human resources, and planning.

It is estimated that the proposed changes will eliminate two million



ML Gordon

dollars in salary costs and decrease the city's three million dollar deficit to between one and two million dollars.

When Gordon started his presentation, he asked that everyone focus only on the structure of the city and not on the individual employees whose positions might be eliminated. He made sure that the council understood that he was acting within his duties and responsibilities as the city manager in deciding on the cuts. He justified his decisions by saying that he was simply following the council's direction in implementing the priorities that the council established for the city, especially, the priority to "increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency."

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Collaborating for high speed rail



Photo taken by Nozipo Wobogo for East Palo Alto Today
This photo shows California State Assemblymember Rich Gordon, California State Senator Joe Simitian and U.S. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo conferring at the Caltrain station in Menlo Park prior to their joint presentation regarding their vision of a high speed rail system on the Peninsula. See article on page 12.

Exciting vision for 4 Corners and RBD

By Sean Charpentier
East Palo Alto Today

In January, the Planning Commission recommended an exciting new land use vision for the Ravenswood Business District and 4 Corners (University Ave. and Bay Rd.). The land use vision is the Community Preferred Alternative (CPA) that is the result

of 13 well attended public meetings over the last 15 months.

The CPA envisions a walkable downtown along Bay Rd. between 4 Corners and the Bay Trail. The downtown will have a mixture of residential, retail, commercial, and community uses that create a pleasant environment with street activity at all times of the day. There will be employment gener-

ating uses in the RBD north of Bay Road. Potential transportation improvements include a Dumbarton Rail Station along University Ave. near the northern edge of town, a rapid bus station, additional pedestrian and bicycle paths, and a loop road that will keep traffic out of the neighborhoods and connect shuttles to the Dumbarton Rail station. The land use vision includes

approximately 1.3 million square feet of new industrial, office, and R&D uses, 112,000 square feet of new retail, 835 new residential units, and potential new parks and community/civic spaces.

The CPA has the potential to create four significant community benefits for the City of East Palo

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Rocketship Education denied approval

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

After an impassioned late night meeting, the Ravenswood City School District's Board of Trustees voted to deny the Rocketship Education organization approval to bring a charter school

to East Palo Alto.

In voting to deny Rocketship's request, the Ravenswood City School District's board accepted the recommendation of the district's staff and it's legal counsel. Before casting its vote during its meeting on March 24, the board heard from a number of the pro-

posed charter school's supporters and opponents.

Those who supported Rocketship cited the high test scores of its students and the fact that many of the school's students went on later to gain college acceptances. Rocketship was founded in 2006 as "a national non-profit elemen-

tary charter school network dedicated to eliminate the achievement gap in high poverty neighborhoods." Currently the Palo Alto based organization serves nearly 1,000 students, who attend classes taught at two

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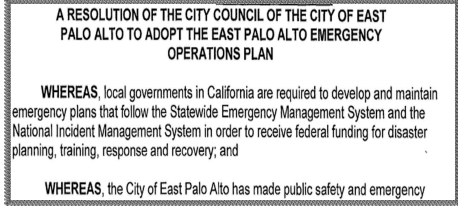
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East Palo Alto has an official emergency plan

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

East Palo Alto now has an emergency preparedness plan in place for the city and its residents. The East Palo Alto City Council adopted the plan by a 3 to 1 vote at its regular council meeting on Tues., April 5.

The plan, officially known as the Emergency Operations Plan, was presented in a council study session by the city's Police Chief Ron Davis, who was accompanied by three people he jokingly described as his emergency team: the East Palo Alto Police's Community Service Officer Elizabeth Lam; Ryan Zollicoffer, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's emergency services coordinator and Jeff Norris, the Office of Emergency Services' district coordinator for the San Mateo County Sheriff. Menlo Park's Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman arrived during the



The above image shows the beginning of the resolution that the East Palo Alto City Council approved at its meeting on April 5, 2011; there- by adopting the East Palo Alto Emergency Operations Plan.

meeting and added to the presentation. In outlining the Emergency Operations Plan, Davis cited the important steps that had already been taken by the city and its residents and the steps the city still needed to take. In mentioning the steps that had already been taken, Davis listed: a city-wide notification system; 10 certified emergency centers in East Palo Alto, a city evacuation plan; 50 residents with Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training and more

than 500 residents who have Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) training, which is a shortened version of the CERT training. Davis also cited the development and distribution of emergency preparedness brochures, flipcharts and informational magnets that community members could use to personally access critical information in the event of a local or wide-spread emergency. The council was told that as part of the Emergency Operations Plan, the city had a mem-

orandum of understanding with the school district and the East Palo Alto Sanitary District for shared responsibilities during a crisis, and it was involved in a multi-jurisdictional collaboration with the Menlo Park Fire Department and with the cities of Atherton and Menlo Park. In 2003, the U. S. Federal Government mandated that all states, cities, municipalities and Tribal Areas adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which establishes new emergency guidelines required under Homeland Security regulations. So, Davis, Norris and Schapelhouman all argued that the city's emergency plan met the requirements and needed to be adopted as soon as possible. As to future improvements, Davis said East Palo Alto still needed to increase the number of participants in the city who were involved in emer-

gency preparedness training. It also needed to increase its collaboration with city agencies like the Ravenswood Family Health Clinic and it needed to do a "block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood push" to get more residents prepared. In the background material the council received, it was stated that by adopting the plan, "the City of East Palo Alto will not only provide a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to emergency incident management, but will maintain the City of East Palo Alto's eligibility for future disaster reimbursement and federal preparedness grant opportunities." When it came time to take a vote on the plan, Council member Peter Evans and several audience members objected. Evans said, "Adopting a document from the study continued on page 14

A call to reduce pesticide risks at California schools

By Paul S. Towers
East Palo Alto Today

Across the state, parents, teachers and environmental organizations are celebrating efforts to make schools healthier places to work and play as part of National Healthy Schools Day. In particular, California groups note that reducing pesticides on school grounds is not only good for children, but also saves schools money in the long run.

"Healthy and green schools are within reach in California," said Paul Towers, director of Pesticide Watch Education Fund. "But we need to take better steps to ensure that schoolchildren and school staff are protected from toxic pesticides." Towers noted that the California legislature is currently reviewing the proposed Healthy Schools Act of 2011, which would give the



Photo courtesy of Californians for Pesticide Reform. The above photo shows a pesticide being applied at a local school.

state's schools some of the nation's strongest protections against pesticide risks. In recent years, California's steps towards healthy pest control have lagged behind. States like New York and Connecticut have passed more aggressive laws that ban the use of some pesticides on school campuses altogether. Cur-

rent California laws, by comparison, only encourage transition away from the worst chemicals without totally eliminating the use of pesticides on school campuses. Unfortunately, toxic pesticides are still regularly used in some California schools. Of the 40 most commonly used pesticides in schools nationally, 28 cause can-

cer, 14 are linked to endocrine disruption, 26 can adversely affect reproduction and 13 can cause birth defects. Scientists increasingly find that, even in very small amounts, pesticides have a profound and serious impact on the health and development of children. According to local physician Dr. Cindy Russell, "Children are especially vulnerable because the

effects of pesticide exposure are amplified during critical windows of continued on page 13

Community News Briefs

In search of a new city attorney

It came as such a matter of fact statement at the East Palo Alto City Council meeting that it didn't generate any public comment.

But it was an important announcement that could impact some of East Palo Alto's future legal decisions.

What was the announcement? ML Gordon, East Palo Alto's city manager reported out of closed session at the East Palo Alto City Council meeting on March 1 that the council had agreed to terminate the contract of Vincent Ewing, who was, at that time, the city attorney.

Ewing, who had served as the city's attorney for two years was fired at the discretion of the city council without

cause.

Why the firing? City officials can't say, because it is an employee matter.

Since the city needs legal counsel on a daily basis, Gordon decided to rehire Valerie Armento, who

previously served as the city's interim attorney before Ewing was hired.

The council ratified Gordon's hiring decision at its March 29 meeting, after which it decided to forego using the services of a search firm and to contact the top two applicants it had interviewed before it had hired Ewing.

The city's Mayor Carlos Romero estimated that it might take the city 60 days to hire

another city attorney.

Officially opening new city offices

On March 31, the city held an open house so that the East Palo Alto community could see its newly renovated administrative offices at the East Palo Alto Municipal Building, lo-



This photo shows the main conference room in the renovated city offices.

ated at 2415 University Avenue.

With the renovation com-

plete, there is now a new office for the city manager, a meeting room for the city council and a shared, private meeting area for council members and San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson.

Although the council appropriated \$224,800 for the renovation at its meeting on December 15, 2009, the work actually started in May 2010 and progressed in three stages.

The total appropriation later came to \$250,000. When the work was completed in November, only an additional \$10,000 of the additional money was actually used.

The funding for the renovation came from bond refinancing and did not come from the city's general fund.



Photos courtesy of EPA Today Visitors are beginning to arrive to see the city's new offices.

Gordon said that he was more than pleased with the renovation. "I am very happy," he said.

"This fits in with the council's third priority - office efficiency. People need a pleasant place to work and East Palo Alto deserves to have a city hall that its citizens can be proud of," Gordon said.

Runnymede Phase II Storm Drain is underway

By Brent Butler
East Palo Alto Today

The City of East Palo Alto is in the process of implementing the Capital Improvement Plan by completing drainage improvements. These improvements will allow the City to remove stormwaters from the urbanized portion of the City for the purpose of providing increased flood protection. This project includes the dredging of the channel which extends from Runnymede southward to the pond at the base of the Friendship Bridge, and the placement of culverts at the road ends where the City's streets end adjacent to the dike. While the final design is not yet available, some of the streets that may also gain improved access to the Bay Trail include Runnymede, Garden, Cypress, and Beech More information about these projects are available on the Planning Division's webpage. Go

to <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/planningdiv/index.html>, and once there scroll to the projects listed as SD-01, SD-02, and SD-03.

The projects are intended to improve the City's storm drain system, which is consistent with the goals and policies of the Land Use Element of the East Palo Alto General Plan regarding the provision of adequate infrastructure. The most critical project within this category is SD-01, which is the completion of a Storm Drain Master Plan. The completion of a comprehensive Master Plan will facilitate the implementation of the other projects listed in this category. Projects in this category are funded from a variety of sources, but the City needs to seek additional monies at the local, state and federal levels to fully fund these projects into the future.



Brent Butler

Bicycle Transportation Plan

On Tuesday, March 29, 2011, the City Council unanimously voted to approve a Bicycle Transportation Plan, which identifies the completion of a new Class I bike path or trail, part of a Hwy 101 pedestrian overcrossing, as the City's number one bicycle transportation priority. Class I bike paths, just as the one on the Bay Trail, are only for bicyclists and pedestrians. Class II bike lanes, which are found on University and

Bay Road must have a minimum 4' width to be installed, which is not possible on most City streets due to their narrow width.

Number two on the list of priority projects for funding is a series of Bicycle Safety Education Classes. As envisioned, these classes will focus on teaching the ABC's of bicycle maintenance, and public education concerning the rules of the road. New end-of-trip bicycle parking at public facilities, such as at City's offices, and public schools, as well as businesses, is also part of the public education component. Acknowledging that cities such as San Francisco are increasing their sales tax by providing bicyclists options to access their business other than by vehicle are all part of the plan. Also recommended are specific improvements to the roadway that accommodate bicycles, such as installing sharrows (shared use pavement markings),

route signage, restriping widened Class II bicycle lanes, such as the one on University Avenue, and using speed humps.

The City's recently adopted Bicycle Technical Guidelines outline the standards by which the city will implement these improvements. These standards identify when a sharrows can be used on narrow streets (typically when the vehicular volume is less than 4,000), and the types of gutters and speed bumps that ease bicycle commuting, and also recommends the type of bicycle detection systems that can be implemented for little or no additional cost to the city. Approved also included investigating the reopening of the subway (underground passage) between Euclid and East Bayshore under Hwy 101 for the dual purpose of emergency preparedness (allowing residents im-

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Technology is fundamental to business

By Oscar Dominguez
East Palo Alto Today

For many business owners, computers are something their children use or worse, something to fear. Every single business person should be using computers in some way to manage or grow his/her operations.

From the people cleaning houses and maintaining our gardens to Fortune 500 CEO's technology is a key business success.

What's that? You're not convinced? Well, let me explain how even service-based, seemingly technology independent businesses like house cleaners and gardeners can benefit and even become multi-million dollar



Oscar Dominguez

operations.

While these businesses may not necessarily find value in social media, they certainly can leverage technology to find and keep clients. Business cards are fundamental to marketing and can be designed and printed on even the most basic computers and

printers.

For more professional looking cards, there are many web-based companies like VistaPrint providing customized business cards for a fraction of a traditional printer.

While the most valuable and well-known web sites are Web 2.0 or user-created sites like the Facebook, good old static or owner-created sites are still very effective and inexpensive way to communicate to prospective and current clients. Building a static web site and conducting an email campaign can be done for a tenth of the cost of printing and mailing 1000 color flyers.

The Internet is also the largest source of information in the history of mankind and savvy

business owners use it to find data on the competition, source suppliers or see what customers are saying about them on sites like Yelp or Chowhound.

Other online tools that service businesses can utilize include PayPal for accepting payments and various calendars from Google and Yahoo for scheduling or rescheduling client visits.

Beyond the Internet, technology can help business owners create accounting systems and make tax time less stressful. QuickBooks or even Excel spreadsheets are both powerful tools for managing finances and staying out of trouble with the IRS.

So how does technology help businesses grow into multi-

million dollar operations? Founded in 1979, Merry Maids was once a tiny, local operation. Today, it is a multi-million dollar nationwide franchise. The turkey systems of a Merry Maid or even McDonald's franchise are all dependent on technology to create and implement.

We at Renaissance Mid-Peninsula understand the importance of technology for business and we are rolling out basic and intermediate computing classes this year. Give us a call at 650-321-2193 to find out more about our services for current and aspiring business owners.

Oscar Dominguez is the executive director of Renaissance MidPeninsula.

A new high school opens in East Palo Alto

By Nozipo Wobogo
East Palo Alto Today



Photo courtesy of Nozipo Wobogo
This photo shows some of the groundbreaking ceremony, which took place on March 1, 2011.

A large audience gathered for the groundbreaking of East Palo Alto's first new public high school campus in 40 years. The new school will be run by the Aspire schools and will be built as the new East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy (EPAPA) High School Campus.

The various stakeholders of the project who were present to witness the momentous occasion included students, teachers, administrators, counselors and parents from EPAPA as well as their partners; builders, funders, government officials and the community-at-large. Appropriately, the ceremonial groundbreaking was held at the construction site at 1039 Garden Street.

Unlike the current East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy, which is located off of Bay Road between Clarke and Pulgas in a converted

industrial building without a recreational area, the new facility will feature a state-of-the-art gymnasium, science labs and an outdoor recreational space. The project will be completed by the fall and is located only a few blocks away from the present location.

"I'm always pleased to see Aspire doing things. This educational environment will help students succeed," said East Palo Alto City Councilmember Ruben Abrica.

Larry Moody, who just fin-

ished his term as a member of the Ravenswood City School District's Board of Trustees, said, "It's exciting and a great demonstration of what the community can do."

The school is not too large, students can walk to it, and parents are engaged. We needed teachers who get results and who raise the bar."

In explaining the history of the Aspire school in East Palo Alto, Moody said, "Some years ago, East Palo Alto parents and concerned residents, who wanted their children to be able to bypass some of the problems with educational issues encountered in the local school district at that time, came together."

He said that the parents knew that academic success for the children would be difficult without strong achievement oriented programs beginning in kindergarten, "so they started the East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS)." Eventually, EPACS became a part of

the Aspire Public schools network and in 2006, EPAPA was born with a 5-year charter from Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD).

Presently the EPAPA is one of 30 schools run by Aspire Public Schools, a non-profit organization which operates charter schools in the state of California. The schools have a reputation of success at getting students to maintain high academic levels with their primary goal being "College for Certain."

EPAPA now serves approximately 150 students in grades 9-12, however, according to the school's principal Thomas Madson, "The Garden Street campus will be able to accommodate almost three times that number when we are fully enrolled."

When it was pointed out how this would still be significantly less than some larger comprehensive high schools with student bodies of one thousand or more, Madson said, "I need to know the names of

every student at my school.

The smaller-sized institution is our model; it's more transformative. A student can get lost at a school with 1,200 kids. We have help from our partners like College Track, the Lords Gym and others. We are blessed to have the support of the community," he said.

In the mid-seventies, Ravenswood High School closed. Over time, the desire for a local high school did not diminish. Cammie Vail, Executive Director of the Palo Alto Community Fund said, "I remember when they closed Ravenswood High School. I'm glad to see a high school returning to the community."

Betsy Gifford, a donor to the project said, "I haven't enough good words for this effort." Gifford's son serves on the board of EPACS.

Cynthia Medina, a student at

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Dealing with a potential foreclosure

By Ken Harris
East Palo Alto Today



Ken Harris

The American housing market is in a recession where foreclosures have affected 56% of households in California and many more across the nation, leaving families in a state of economic despair. Foreclosure is a tragically disruptive legal action that adversely affects families, communities and the nation's housing market.

There are not many investments more sacred to a homeowner than his or her home.

Our office has been assisting clients with all their real estate needs since 1981.

I write with the utmost compassion, particularly, for homeowners who are facing foreclosure

or for those who are in foreclosure.

There are several steps that a homeowner who is facing foreclosure should take. The first action is to confront the problem head on. A homeowner facing foreclosure should contact his or her Lender and get help from a number of local organizations who can help resolve your foreclosure plight. Lender are reaching out to help homeowners. The worst thing a homeowner can do is to avoid the lender. Be proactive and

contact your Lender.

Homeowner(s) have options in dealing with foreclosure: 1) Pay the debt, 2) Negotiate a Modification of your loan's payments and loan terms, 3) Negotiate a Short Sale with your lender and 4) Give your lender your a deed in lieu of foreclosure. Of these four options, a homeowner will have to determine which option is the best for their individual circumstances.

An explanation of the options:

Option 1) Repay the debt, as agreed, when you originally purchased or refinanced your home, this is the best solution. However, many homeowner(s) would not be in this foreclosure situation if they were able to repay their debt. The homeowner must recognize that the lender is collecting their debt and foreclosure is their remedy.

Option 2) Loan modification

can be obtained if the home owner is working and can qualify for the lender offered loan modification terms. When negotiating a loan modification, try to negotiate terms from your Lender that you can afford. A lender will give an initial repayment period. Then once the trial payment period is over and the payments were paid as agreed, long term financing will be offered. This is one of many Lender offered scenarios for modification financing. Loan modification is recommended option, if obtainable.

Option 3) A Short Sale negotiation is where the homeowner sells their home on the open market with the Lender taking less than the homeowner originally borrowed. Should the Lender release the homeowner from all liability from the loan, this can be a practical

remedy for a homeowner. In situations this is a viable option to exercise.

Option 4) Give the lender your deed of trust in lieu of foreclosure. This is where homeowner gives the lender his deed of trust back in place of foreclosure. This is the least recommended of the 4 options.

None of these options is an easy solution for homeowners facing foreclosure. However, with careful thought, planning and negotiation, you can come to a conclusion that best meets your family's needs.

Always seek the advice of a lawyer or a tax professional for legal or tax consequences when negotiating any of the previously stated options.

See Ken Harris' Century 21 ad on page 11.

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.



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Petitioners ask atty. gen. for justice

By Diana Reddy
East Palo Alto Today

With a petition bearing 10,000 signatures calling for justice in the banking industry, a team of 24 homeowners and community leaders met with top officials from the California Attorney General's office in San Francisco on Wednesday, February 23. The group conveyed its demands for a settlement between 50 state Attorney Generals and the major Wall Street banks.

The team represented a coalition of grassroots organizations, including Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA), PICO California, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE).

The coalition demanded that the Attorney Generals hold Wall Street banks accountable for their crimes of the past three years and require those banks to provide restitution to people who have



Photo courtesy of PIA. Protesters holding petitions asking for criminal prosecutions.

been fraudulently deprived of their homes.

The group called upon Attorney General Kamala Harris to provide leadership in pressing for a strong and just settlement with the banks. The team's representatives presented the AG officials with its "Homeowner's Bottom Line," which is a plan outlining requirements to include in the settlement. The "Homeowner's Bottom Line" requirements include principal reductions for underwater homeowners, restitution for home-

owners illegally foreclosed and the criminal prosecution of bank executives responsible for fraud and abuse.

The February 23 meeting also included moving testimony from homeowners who had lost their homes. A San Jose resident told of losing her home due to a phenomenon called "dual tracking." She told the group that while she was in the process of obtaining approval for a loan modification, the bank continued to advance her home through the foreclosure process.

Finally she received word that her loan modification had been approved, and on the very same day, she received word that the bank had sold her home at auction. The home that she could now afford no longer belonged to her. "The right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing, and I lost my home as a result. My family was devastated, and this happens all the time," she said.

While the 50 state Attorney

Generals continue their investigation into foreclosure fraud and mortgage abuse, big banks and their allies are pressing for a quick settlement. Community leaders believe that a quick settlement will let the big banks off the hook for their crimes and will not provide adequate help and compensation for homeowners.

"We want a settlement with teeth," said Alvin Spencer, a PIA board member from Faith Missionary Baptist Church in East Palo Alto. "The banks nearly brought this country to its knees, and we believe they should be held accountable for their crimes."

After the meeting, the team held a press conference where they announced a large public meeting that a coalition of community organizations would host in Oakland on March 19. Thousands of concerned community members from PICO California, SEIU, and ACCE gathered to meet with state officials to document the harm caused by banks,

to suggest ways to hold banks accountable for their crimes and abuses, and to get banks to become better community players. PIA leaders were among those who participated in the event.

At the meeting on March 19, PICO federation Oakland Community Organizations (OCO) and PICO California, together with ACCE, held a large town hall meeting with city and state elected officials in east Oakland, which has been rocked by foreclosures and is now dotted with vacant, bank-owned homes. In addition to building support for the state legislation, community and faith leaders lifted up local strategies that the city and county can take to protect homeowners and hold banks accountable. Watch homeowners giving testimony at <http://youtu.be/HanuQJ81dpl>.

Watch Diana Reddy on the Talking with Henrietta show at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLkbzmVWNBY>

Teachers get funding for school projects

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

Many area teachers are taking advantage of a special website, funded by Microsoft, to fund their classroom projects. The website is called DonorsChoose.org, which grants teachers up to \$2,500 in funding to pursue their ideas to enrich their students' academic training.

Teachers from all over the country use the website to request such things as books, materials, technical equipment and anything else they think will enhance their student's classroom experience. Thus far, the program has been credited with funding nearly 185,000 projects to the tune of \$76 million for over 4.5 million students.

Last March, 150 teachers from both San Mateo County and Santa Clara County met at Microsoft's campus in Mountain View



Photo courtesy of EPA Today. Deanna Lane stands with Ileana de Torre at Microsoft.

to talk about their classroom needs and to get special training on how to use the DonorsChoose.org website.

Eleven of these educators came from East Palo Alto and they requested "everything from binders and books, to projectors to PA systems."

I spoke with two East Palo Alto teachers at the conference: Deanna Lane, who teaches first grade at the Belle Haven Elementary School and

Ileana de la Torre, who teaches science to seventh and eighth graders at the Ronald McNair Academy.

As a first time teacher in the Ravenswood City School District, Torre said that she had a lot of materials for science labs in Oakland, where she taught previously, but she "unfortunately, didn't have a lot in Ravenswood. We have to be very creative in getting materials," she said.

Lane said that she also had a new classroom that didn't have a lot of materials and found out about the DonorsChoose.org program from another teacher in the district.

Both Lane and Torre expressed their gratitude for the program.

Lane said, "In terms of DonorsChoose, I am hoping to get a project funded that will help my students with their reading. I am in dire need of guided reading books that I

can use in the classroom. Although Belle Haven has a bookroom, it would be great to have a wider variety of books that are more readily accessible inside my classroom.

"I plan on sharing these with the other first grade teachers so that we can all benefit from this project. The students have also expressed that if they could get one new thing in the classroom, they would like a new rug where each of them has enough space to sit. I could not agree more with their suggestion.

"So, I am also going to try to get

funding for a new rug that does not have stains and can occupy each of my students comfortably."

During the two hour program at Microsoft, the teachers received raffle prizes, including money for their projects, kits and gift cards, in addition to their training.

For more on the program read Mayor Sid Espinosa's article on the East Palo Alto Today Opinion page in this issue.



Photo courtesy of EPA Today. Teachers stand with the gifts that they received at the DonorsChoose.org program held at Microsoft's Mountain View office.

Treasured Memories

Create a Memorable Legacy for your Family Member or Friend

Creating a remembrance or memory page on the East Palo Alto Today website allows you, your friends and your family members to leave a memorable legacy in honor of a deceased friend or family member. To see the Treasured Memories section on the EPA Today website,

go online to:

www.epatoday.org/treasured_memories/index.html

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From the Editor's Desk

Looking at the Individual: On the horns of a dilemma

East Palo Alto City Manager ML Gordon is poised to make some drastic cuts in the city's departments and in its staff. He has the power under the city's municipal code to do it, with or without the council's consent.

During the presentation of his city restructuring plan to the East Palo Alto City Council, Gordon said some fascinating things that are truly worthy of utmost consideration

His presentation outlined some very clear ethical and moral dilemmas. He emphasized that the council should focus solely at the structure of his plan and not at the individuals who might be involved.

For some people, this perspective might cause considerable concern. When some people and organizations callously overlooked the individual, there were painful, negative consequences. For example, in their headlong pursuit of money, banks, lenders, realtors, investors and all others who stood to gain, didn't care one bit about the millions of individuals who would later be hurt. Ask all of those people who are facing foreclosure and have faced foreclosure whether they feel that their individual circumstances were taken into account.

Isn't that what also happened in the Page Mill Properties fiasco? The owners of the property focused solely on their investment and they didn't care a hoot about the individual tenants. I always cringe when I hear someone say, "This is about business, leave the emotions and all that other stuff out of it." What that means is: Never mind emotional and ethical considerations so long as there is money on the line.

Well, many think as does Gordon that life is about the health and well-being of communities, of people and of individuals. It's also about economic vitality, about civic stability and about all of the things that Gordon outlined in his vision, when he made his presentation to the council.

Is there ever a time when decision makers should stop looking at the individual and the impact that their actions and decisions will have on those around them? When should we ever stop putting a face to the statistics? We know what happened with Bernie Madoff, who only cared about the money, and we're all too aware of the suicides and the personal devastation that happened to so many people, who suffered because of his wholesale quest for

money.

I was personally shocked when I went, a few years ago, to an East Palo Alto Youth Summit, which featured several rappers. I could hardly contain myself as one of the rappers, responded to a question about the impact of his lyrics on the morals of his young

listeners. He said, "This is about how I make my living. This is about my money. Don't mess with my money." I'm sure the people who captured slaves and sold them at slave auctions said that, too.

Who could not feel the words of the former slave Sojourner Truth, when she said, "And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen 'em mos' all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?"

When you take the individual dimension away, you can even justify the wholesale killing of people in wars, because they are "kooks," "chinks," "japs" "redskins" and "ragheads." They can even be seen as "niggers" and "wet-backs." They can be tortured and killed, because they give God a different name and pray in a different way. They can even be a member of the wrong gang, wearing the wrong color. Or, they might have a different tribal marking and a different skin color. Just take away their humanity and make them invisible. Then, it's not necessary to see them as individuals with similar hopes and dreams.

I remember the time that East Palo Alto City Council members took pride in the fact that while other cities were laying off workers, East Palo Alto avoided layoffs. But that time might now be coming to an end.

I have the utmost respect for Gordon who acknowledged that his restructuring plan, if adopted, would bring hardship to some of those who would be affected by it. Some would say that the choices he has made are for the good of the city as a whole and the vision that has been held out for the city cannot be achieved without making some sacrifices in staff jobs and departments.

We all know that there are sacrifices that must be made to achieve most goals. Having said that, I'm a very empathetic per-

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Henrietta J. Burroughs



This photo shows some of the young runners who participated in the Al Julian Track and Field Meet, which was held at the Cesar Chavez Academy on Saturday, April 2, 2011. The track meet was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of East Palo Alto, the City of East Palo Alto's Community Services Department and the Ravenswood City School District.

Photo courtesy of Meda Okelo

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

Dear Editor,

Just when it couldn't get any worse, with millions of foreclosures and layoffs across the country of state workers (many who have mortgages to pay)—now the deficit hawks in Washington propose cutting 750,000 rent subsidies in the Section 8 program.

The government has the means to prevent new homelessness. Department of Justice, put those big banks on notice that you will prosecute for shoddy, toxic mortgages! HUD and regulators, knock their heads together to make them help the victims! Tell banks: Keep people in their homes if they can afford it with lower mortgage payments (Banks foreclose, because it takes less effort. But, unsalable foreclosed houses don't benefit anyone, even banks!).

Federal government, help the states! Cutbacks in state jobs depress the economy further. Unemployed people don't spend, especially if they lose their homes.

For people who don't make a living wage, Section 8 rent subsidy vouchers are a godsend. 750,000 vouchers gone—three-quarters of a million???? Congress, don't cut these. Find cuts elsewhere — in

farm subsidies and weapons research.

New homelessness can be prevented by federal government policies, but we have to demand it. Write to Congress, to the President and to Attorney General Eric Holder.

Gertrude Reagan
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Denial of Rocketship Petition for elementary school

Dear Editor,

I would like to know...as many others are wondering, since the Board did not approve the coming of Rocketship, what are the next steps?

If many of the parents wanted Rocketship to come, what are they (Rocketship leaders) planning to do to support those parents and their children?

Also what will be the difference between Rocketship and the Stanford New School? They came, failed to meet their goals and in only two years, their charter was revoked and they were asked to leave. Many of those students were transferred to other schools throughout the district, and feel displaced. Where would Rocket-

ship be located? How or who contacted Rocketship in the first place and asked them to come to Ravenswood?

Many organizations out there claim that their programs have all the answers to Ravenswood's problems. We have great, "No," excellent teachers working hard everyday to help their students be successful. I feel that parent participation and teacher input is what is missing. If we (Ravenswood) could require parent participation, and allow the teachers to give their advice and treat each class and grade level as there own department of a part of a well run ed company, there would be nothing that Ravenswood could not accomplish. Why invest in something new when we can fix...with training, collaboration, and dedication that the Ravenswood teachers all have shown by their years of service... New is not always better.

I am tired of organizations from the outside always trying to come into Ravenswood to fix it or save our students from the current teachings of Ravenswood. This is my opinion and does not reflect the opinion or opinions of others from RTA, CSCA or others who

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

Local teachers get creative as funding evaporates

By Sid Espinosa
East Palo Alto Today

Our teachers face tough times. Larger class sizes, pressure to teach-to-the-test, potential changes to their benefits – and on top of all of this, their classroom budgets and resources continue to be slashed. In other professions, these hardships would cause workers to run away in frustration, but teachers are tenacious. Here in East Palo Alto, I have watched numerous teachers and everyday citizens take matters into their own hands to get creative about finding funds. It's the best kept secret around, but it shouldn't be.

Let me introduce you to DonorsChoose.org.



Palo Alto Mayor
Sid Espinosa

DonorsChoose.org was created by Charles Best, a social studies teacher in the Bronx who realized that many people in the community wanted to help their schools but did not have an effective way to do so. In true Silicon Valley fashion, he solved this problem by creating a website (DonorsChoose.org) and the results have been absolutely ex-

traordinary.

Here's how it works: Teachers post descriptions of the supplies, technology or other resources that their particular students need, and then individual donors can make contributions towards those gifts. When a project reaches its funding goal, DonorsChoose.org delivers the materials to the school. So far the program has raised more than \$77 million to fund nearly 189,000 projects for more than 4.6 million students. 4.6 million!

A few weeks ago, more than 150 educators from San Mateo and Santa Clara counties – including those from East Palo Alto – came to Microsoft's Silicon Valley Campus to learn about DonorsChoose.org. They shared

project ideas and funding requirements and met with representatives from DonorsChoose.org to understand how to employ the site to support their classroom activities. Their brainstorming and idea-sharing resulted in the disbursement of thousands of dollars to address local classroom needs. While this was an exciting event, there are thousands more local teachers and potential supporters who don't know about DonorsChoose.org.

As the Vice President of the West Region for DonorsChoose.org, Carolina Martin, told me, "The goal for this event was to bring educators from every grade, subject and level of expertise together with DonorsChoose.org so that they

could benefit from each other's experiences. We were thrilled to reach so many inspiring educators in Silicon Valley, and have been amazed by the flood of grateful comments, thoughtful questions and interesting projects posted since the event."

I couldn't agree more. At Microsoft, I'm charged with leading the company's community partnerships in Silicon Valley, so I'm always looking for those organizations that are having the biggest impact. Of course, Microsoft invests millions in educational programs each year – from curriculum development to software and technology donations, including everything from lesson

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211 - a place to turn for help in San Mateo County

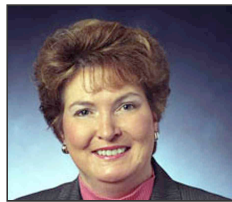
Adrienne J. Tissier and
Anne Wilson
East Palo Alto Today

Sometimes the search for food, shelter and other basic necessities can end in frustration. Navigating the myriad of telephone numbers, automated directories, search engines and social service agencies can be confusing when you need help the most. But now there is a place to turn in San Mateo County that can help.

United Way and its partners are pleased to announce that

the 211 helpline has launched in San Mateo County. The addition of San Mateo County completes the 211 network in Bay Area, which now serves all 12 counties in our region.

211 is a toll-free, 24-hour, multilingual information line that connects people in need with health and human services. You can now pick up a phone anywhere in the Bay Area, call 211, and immediately gain access to hundreds of local organizations that provide services such as child care, flu shots, employment assistance, counseling, food,



San Mateo County Supervisor
Adrienne J. Tissier

shelter and more.

The expansion of 211 in the Bay Area will prove crucial in the next earthquake or disaster. When disaster strikes, 211

will provide residents with critical information about evacuation routes, food and shelter. After the disaster, 211 can provide information about finding jobs and permanent housing during long-term recovery. Should calls overload our local operators, 211 call centers across the nation can assist using locally supplied information.

In addition to disaster response and recovery, 211 offers tremendous economic benefits for our region:

- 211 is a cost- and time-saving tool for police, social

workers and other community service providers, who call 211 directly to get information to help clients and constituents.

- 211 benefits businesses by reducing employee absenteeism and increasing productivity due to quality referrals for a comprehensive array of services.

- 211 reduces the number of non-emergency calls to 911. 211 also provides 911 operators, as well as first-responders, with a place to easily refer non-emergency calls.

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Standing up for teens

By Leigh Ann Pusey
East Palo Alto Today

Car accidents are the number one killer of teenagers in the United States.

Government data show that each day, more than ten teens are killed nationwide in a motor vehicle crash. Due to inexperience and bad habits, young drivers are more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than any other age group, and the risk is highest during their first years of driving.

Now, a new teen driving act introduced in the U.S. Congress seeks to slow this dangerous trend and spare thousands of families the heartbreaking loss of a teenage child.

The Safe Teen and Novice Driver Uniform Protection (STAND UP) Act would set national standards for graduated driver licensing (GDL) programs, which have been proven to reduce deaths and injuries among the least experienced drivers.

GDL programs work by grad-



Leigh Ann Pusey

ually easing restrictions on teen drivers as they gain more experience behind the wheel. Drivers must complete a three-step licensing process in which they spend a minimum of six months at the learner's permit stage, followed by another six months with an intermediate license. Once drivers turn 18, they are awarded full driving privileges.

Research shows that states with strong GDL laws have seen as much as a 40 percent decrease in teen crashes, and the longer licensure is delayed, the better. If every state had strong GDL laws, 175 deaths and about

350,000 injuries could be prevented each year, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

GDL programs save lives because they target the key behaviors that raise crash risk among teenage drivers – speeding, nighttime driving, and distractions from peer passengers and cell phones.

While teens are still mastering the complexities of driving, GDL laws limit unsupervised driving hours and ban teens from using electronic devices such as cell phones or iPods when driving. And since young teens are the most vulnerable, GDL laws would raise the age at which drivers can get a learner's permit from 14 or 15 in most states to 16.

The idea behind GDL laws is simple: Minimize risk while maximizing experience. With GDL programs, teens gain driving privileges commensurate with their developing skills and good judgment.

Although 49 states have some form of GDL, only a handful

have comprehensive licensing systems - including appropriate nighttime and passenger restrictions - in place. The STAND UP Act would strengthen and improve existing laws - the same way earlier federal mandates increased seat-belt use and reduced drunken driving.

GDL proponents recognize that parents want to keep to their children safe on the road, but they also need flexibility to manage family schedules. That's why the STAND UP Act makes exceptions for teens driving with an immediate family member under age 21 and for traveling to workplaces or school-sanctioned events - instances where teens are already less likely to engage in risky driving. The bill would also exempt most teens who work on family farms.

Thanks to the flexibility and protection GDL laws provide, numerous surveys show that parents strongly endorse the system. What's surprising is that nearly 75 percent of teenagers support a

comprehensive GDL law, according to a recent survey by the All-State Foundation. Even wider majorities of teens favor bans on texting (93 percent) and cell phone use (85 percent). Much like their elders, teens recognize the importance of sharing the road with responsible and experienced drivers.

We all know that teen crashes - and the tragic losses that result - are preventable. GDL laws are a proven, effective strategy for reducing risk to teens, their passengers, and others who share the road with them. Parents, teens, and lawmakers should "stand up" for national graduated driver licensing standards and ensure that the next generation of drivers is well-prepared for the serious responsibility of driving.

Leigh Ann Pusey is President and CEO of the American Insurance Association. This piece was originally published in PropertyCasualty360.com.

Lifecycles

Honoring two city residents

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

Patrick Brock: Inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame

In what was billed as the biggest night for Blues recognition on the West Coast, one of East Palo Alto's own native sons, Patrick Brock, was inducted into the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame.

Brock was one of thirteen "extraordinary" artists who was inducted. In addition to Brock recognition was given to such notables as Buddy Guy, Jimi Hendrix, David "Honeyboy" Edwards, Winton Marsalis, Lonnie Brooks, Lester Chambers (Chamber Brothers), Ben Hodges (Flamingos), Minor



Patrick Brock

Ellis Williams III, Barbara Taylor, Chuck Johnson (Soul Beat), Bonny Simon, Bruno Brunecker, Church of John Coltraine and Arch Bishop Franco King, Eddie Wilson, Henry Dalton Williams, Phil Givant and Johnny Winter. The Bob Geddins Lifetime Achievement Awards was presented to Vivian Waldrup-Pat-

erson and Julie C. Paisant.

The ceremony, which took place on March 27, was held in the Grand Ball Room of the Airport Hilton Oakland.

Brock received the award because of the 40 years that he has spent as a promoter of musicians.

Rosemary Steele: Honored as "a committed community leader"

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. held its appreciation recognition celebration and gave its Community Service/Humanitarian award to Rosemary Steele.

The award was presented to Steele for her more than 35 year dedicated service to the community. During the award cere-



Rosemary Steele

mony which took place in the community room of the East Palo Alto Municipal Building, it was said that Steele was known in the community as "Mama Rose" by many of East Palo Alto's young people.

Steele was lauded for the continuing assistance that she has provided to young men and women in crisis-- assistance such as counseling, ap-

pearing in court as a character witness to save young people from incarceration and for providing food and shelter to many, for example.

During the presentation, Steele was quoted as saying that when she heard the phrase "a purpose driven life," she felt connected to it because she felt that she wakes up every morning with a purpose.

The luncheon honoring Steele was opened by Pearlie M. Young-Rainer, the founder and president of the East Palo Alto section of the National Council of Negro Women. Deputy Clerk Minette Warren presented Steele with a city proclamation.

Marie Davis served as the mistress of ceremony for the event.

East Palo Alto teacher wins top award



Photo courtesy of Stephen Ashford
Stephen Ashford is shown standing with Dennis Richmond

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

An East Palo Alto teacher, Stephen Ashford, was selected over 250 other teachers to win the Dennis Richmond Community Impact Award. The award, which carries a top prize of \$5,000, is named after former Bay Area television news anchor, Dennis Richmond. Richmond retired from KTVU Fox Channel 2 in May 2008, after a 40-year career at the television station.

Ashford currently teaches physical education at the East

Palo Alto Charter School, where he has worked for 11 years. In speaking about the award and his selection, he said that someone nominated him for the award. "I'm not sure why I won. I have done a lot of work for the youth in East Palo Alto as well as Richmond. There were a lot of other teachers who also do great things," he said.

Ashford received his cash prize at an award's ceremony, which took place on Saturday, March 19, in San Ramon, CA. The award is sponsored by Ala Costa Centers, an agency in Berkeley, CA, that was created to empower children and young adults with developmental disabilities. According to the agency's website, the Dennis Richmond Community Impact Award is given each year "to recognize three individuals who have inspired and empowered children and youth in the community through their position at a public school, therefore furthering the mission of Ala Costa."

Ashford said he will use the award money he received to fund field trips and to help his eighth grade students visit Washington, D.C.

The award-winning teacher

has developed a reputation as a rap artist known as Kontac who creates videos to inspire children. Ashford said that he was asked to coordinate and co-produce a video project for First Lady Michelle Obama's Lets Move program. His video called 1 2 3 LET'S GO can be viewed at www.vimeo.com/15791818. He said that the video will be on President Barack Obama's fitness web site in June.

Ashford created another video focused on those with disabilities. This video, which is titled, Heartbeat - Ala Costa Students, can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lvw5hnykss. The remix of his original video called Stay in School, which was produced to encourage students not to drop out of school, can be seen at www.vimeo.com/4141599

The second place winner of the Dennis Richmond Community Impact Award won \$2,500 and the third place winner received \$1,000.00.



Photo courtesy of Stephen Ashford
Stephen Ashford stands with his daughter, Lashea and his son Keyshawn during the Dennis Richmond Community Impact Award ceremony in which he won the top award for the work he does to inspire youth. The ceremony was held in San Ramon on March 19, 2011.



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Lifecycles

Are you taking the right steps?

By Adriana Flores-Ragade
Special to East Palo Alto Today



Photo Courtesy of the College Board. Photograph copyrighted by George Lange.

During my tenure as a college admission officer, my colleagues and I looked forward to April 1 when we shared admission decisions with students. While some students knew exactly what to do and met the May 1 commitment decision deadline with ease, many Latino students who were the first in their families to go to college needed a bit more guidance with the process.

I was one of those students although I was fortunate in many ways that point to key steps.

I had the guidance of a great counselor who helped me navigate the process. She encouraged me to visit colleges within driving distance and to connect with alumni in my area from out-of-state colleges.

Nowadays, students have the option of doing online virtual tours, participating in chat rooms

or joining special fly-in programs.

I followed my high school counselor's advice. Choosing my college was not solely based on financial aid but on the school that I felt was the best fit for me. Although I didn't end up going to the institution that gave me the most aid, I did get a package that included grants, loans and work-study.

Since my award letter noted aid from these various sources, including parent loans, it was important to get clarification from financial aid counselors to make sure I'd be able to cover my college costs.

When I was making my college decision, I asked myself: What do I value in a college? In what type of environment do I

learn best? What are my goals and what makes me happy? I was lucky to have very supportive parents who trusted me.

They allowed me to have the final word on this big decision. The school I chose, Claremont McKenna College, was not just where I earned my degree but where I started my career as an admission officer.

I often advise students who are not accepted to find out what happened by sending a letter to the college or the representative who visited their school and begin seeking potential transfer advice.

Students can get information about their local community college and make an appointment with their school counselor to find out these colleges' deadlines for

enrollment and financial aid. Searching for institutions with rolling admission that are still looking for students is another option.

Use April to select or find the right college. Sending the required deposit to the school of your choice to save a spot is very important since many selective institutions have students on waitlists eager to take your spot. Seek help from the College Board at www.collegeboard.org/enespanol under the section "Apply to College." Remember, luck is not as important when you are prepared. Don't miss the May 1 deadline and the opportunity to make the decision that promises to transform your life for the better.

¿Estás dando los pasos adecuados?

Por Adriana Flores-Ragade
East Palo Alto Today

Durante mi etapa de funcionamiento de admisiones universitarias el 1 de abril era muy especial porque compartíamos con los estudiantes las decisiones sobre admisiones. Aunque algunos estudiantes sabían exactamente qué hacer y cumplían fácilmente con el plazo del 1 de

mayo para darnos su decisión, muchos estudiantes latinos que eran los primeros de su familia en ir a la universidad necesitaban un poco más de ayuda en el proceso.

Fui una de esas estudiantes, aunque tuve suerte en muchos aspectos que apuntan a pasos claves.

Tuve la guía de una gran as-

esora académica que me ayudó a lo largo del proceso. Me animó a visitar universidades cerca de casa y a hablar con egresados en mi área de universidades fuera del estado. Hoy en día, los estudiantes tienen la opción de realizar visitas virtuales por Internet, participar en foros o beneficiarse de visitas pagadas a las escuelas.

Al final elegí la universidad

que creía que mejor encajaba conmigo y no la que me dio más ayuda financiera. Siendo que mi carta de aceptación ofrecía dinero de varias fuentes, fue importante cerciorarnos de aclarar dudas con los asesores de ayuda financiera ya que algunos préstamos irían por cuenta de mis padres. Conseguí un paquete que incluía becas, préstamos y trabajo en la

universidad, lo cual hizo posible que cubriera los costos de mi educación universitaria.

Cuando estaba tomando mi decisión, me hice las siguientes preguntas: ¿Qué valoro en una universidad? ¿En qué tipo de entorno aprendo mejor? ¿Cuáles

continuación de la pag. 15

In memoriam

Treasured Memories



Mrs. Oneida (Mother) Branch

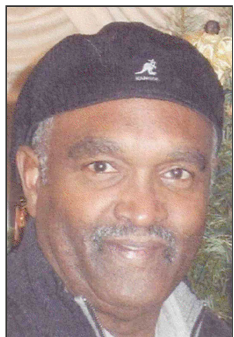
Oneida (Mother) Branch

Sunrise: October 23, 1928

Sunset: March 22, 2011

Mrs. Branch's journey began in Donaldsonville, Louisiana in 1918. She was the youngest of three children born to William and Grace Brisco. Her mother died when she was only three months old and she was then placed in the loving care of her "adopted" Christian parents, Stephen and Harriet Terry. It was from Harriet, that she learned to share openly and indiscriminately with those who were in need.

Read her complete obituary at East Palo Alto Today's Treasured Memories site: http://www.epatoday.org/treasured_memories/listing.php



Gregory Malcolm Kendall, Sr.

Gregory Malcolm Kendall, Sr.

Sunrise: February 8, 1949

Sunset: March 28, 2011

Gregory Malcolm Kendall, Sr. was born on February 8, 1949 in Berkeley, California to the late Christopher Kendall, Sr. and to Vivian Kendall. The Kendall family moved to Menlo Park where Greg gave his heart to the lord and united with the Menlo Park Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church.

Continued at: http://www.epatoday.org/treasured_memories/listing.php

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

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



For more information, call (650) 363-7850
or visit: www.smhealth.org/bih

Prenatal Advantage Black Infant Health Project
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