

KEEP YOUR HOME CALIFORNIA
 Assistance Has Been Provided to Homeowners in
ALL 58 CALIFORNIA

CA homeowners are eligible for \$178M



Immigrant rights activists see turning point for all



EPA Today founder inducted into Bay Area hall of fame page 7

East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



www.epatoday.org

East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

February - March 2018

Vol. 12 No.59

Honoring CZI Community Fund grantees



Photo courtesy of CZI Community Fund

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Dr. Priscilla Chan address East Palo Alto community members during a reception that was held to honor the 41 local nonprofit organizations that the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative chose as the fund's grant recipients. The names of the 41 organizations were announced on January 17, 2018, from a list of 200 organizations that had applied for grant funding. The reception was held on February 27, 2018 at the Cooley Landing Education Center at Cooley Landing in East Palo Alto. On CZI Facebook page Chan wrote the day after the event, "Mark and I are proud to support 41 organizations dedicated to making the Bay Area a more equitable, inclusive place. Yesterday, we had the chance to bring many of the leaders behind those organizations together in one place....We feel very fortunate to learn from such inspiring local partners who are working towards a more connected world where everyone has access to opportunity. To all of our new partners, thank you for joining us on our journey, and for letting us be a part of yours." All of the grants totaled \$2,490,700. See the full list of recipients at www.chanzuckerberg.com/community-fund/recipients

Look for regional bridge toll increase on June ballot

By Michelle Durand

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors today voted to place on the June ballot a measure that would raise Bay Area bridge tolls up to three dollars to fund key regional transportation projects aimed at easing congestion.

If passed by voters, Regional Measure 3 (RM3) will increase tolls on all bridges except the Golden Gate Bridge in one dollar increments— one dollar in each of the years 2019, 2022 and 2025.

San Mateo County projects included in the spending plan approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) include the Dumbarton Bridge highway and rail development, improvements to the Highway 101/State Route 92 interchange and express lanes on Highway 101. The measure also



Photo courtesy of San Mateo County Board of Supervisors website

includes funding to extend Caltrain to the Transbay Terminal in downtown San Francisco.

Supervisor Warren Slocum, who represents the County of San Mateo at the MTC, said voters hold the possibility of regional transportation fixes in their hands. In addition to RM3 in June, county voters may also be asked in November to approve a 30-year local tax for transportation improvements and voters statewide may consider a repeal of SB1, the \$54

billion investment in road repair and maintenance signed by the governor in 2017.

"This year is a once in a generation opportunity to define our transportation future for decades to come," Slocum said. "Passage of the first two measures and rejection of the SB1 repeal would allow us to move forward with a significant local and regional plan to reduce congestion on Highway 101, dramatically increase ridership on Caltrain and develop

a regional interconnection of the major rail networks that serve the Bay Area and Beyond.

While the focus of Peninsula traffic has long been the north/south commute, Supervisor Don Horsley who chairs the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, said the RM3 plan will also address the increasing east/west congestion.

"Addressing the 101/92 interchange and Dumbarton corridor is critical to provide relief in a number of our communities that currently face gridlock every day," Horsley said. "In addition, the potential of a new rail bridge adjacent to the Dumbarton is the missing link to creating a true regional rail network that will increase mobility for all Bay Area commuters."

Michelle Durand is the chief communications officer for the San Mateo County Manager's Office.

Inside

Editorial

News Briefs

Opinions

Senior News

TV Listings

Youth News

CA homeowners are eligible for \$178M in free mortgage assistance

By Amanda M. Kim

California homeowners are eligible for \$178 million in free mortgage assistance

In 2010, when Californians were reeling from the collapse of the housing market, President Obama created the Hardest Hit Fund to prevent foreclosures in the eighteen states most impacted by the housing market downturn. California's Housing Finance Agency received over \$2.3 billion from this fund and has steadily administered financial support to low-to-moderate income homeowners over the last seven years. These programs, known collectively as Keep Your Home California, or Conserva Tu Casa in Spanish, have assisted more than 79,000 California households to date, 94% of whom have remained in their homes two years after signing up.

So far, in San Mateo County, 509 households have received \$12.94 million in mortgage-related assistance. In the 94303 and 94205 ZIP codes, which include East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and part of Palo Alto, 60 homeowners have received \$1.28 million in assistance.

Currently, Keep Your Home



California has three programs to help eligible homeowners pay their mortgage and related expenses, and one program to help transition homeowners to a new housing situation.

1) The Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program helps homeowners who have lost their jobs and are either currently receiving unemployment benefits or whose benefits expired less than 60 days prior to application. Assistance can last up to eighteen months and cannot exceed \$54,000 total.

2) The Mortgage Reinstatement Assistance Program helps homeowners catch up on their late mortgage pay-

ments, and may also include their property taxes, insurance and HOA fees if included in their monthly payment. Assistance cannot exceed \$54,000 total.

3) The Principal Reduction Program helps homeowners who have experienced either an economic hardship or a severe reduction in their home's value. Assistance comes in the form of a lump sum of up to \$100,000 to reduce the loan principal.

4) The Transition Assistance Program helps homeowners who need to move after a short sale or a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure. Assistance up to \$5,000 can help people transition to a new housing situation.

Some homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure might be hesitant to contact Keep Your Home California because they had put their trust in the wrong

person during the purchase or refinance of their home. However, according to Steve Gallagher, Keep Your Home California's external affairs director, there is an easy way to tell if you are dealing with a scammer, "Our services are free and our certified counselors will guide you through every step. In contrast, scammers will charge a fee for their services and will leave you at even greater risk of foreclosure. If you are having trouble with your mortgage payments, we are here to help, absolutely free of charge."

To qualify for these programs, the first-lien mortgage loan cannot be greater than \$729,750 and the applicant must own and occupy the home, which can be either a house, a 1-4 unit home or a condominium. In San Mateo County, household income cannot exceed \$162,561.

Like all good things, this program must come to an end. The official sunset date is December 31, 2020, but 90% of the program's \$2.3 billion in funding has been committed, so interested homeowners should apply immediately. It can take 60 days or more to process the paperwork between the state and the loan servicer and, at this rate, the

program might commit all of its funding by this summer. So, if you need mortgage assistance, apply soon.

Programs like Keep Your Home California have a positive multiplier effect on the local economy. When homeowners keep their homes, they are able to keep their jobs, provide an education for their children, care for aging or disabled members of the family, contribute to the local economy, continue to pay taxes and buy goods and services.

For more information or to apply, call Keep Your Home California at 888-954-KEEP (5337) between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm weekdays and between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Saturdays to speak with a counselor in virtually any language, or visit their user-friendly website in English at www.KeepYourHomeCalifornia.org or in Spanish at www.ConservaTuCasaCalifornia.org.

You can speed up the application process by having the following items ready when you apply: current income, current monthly expenses and a copy of your mortgage statement.

See the graphic below this article.

Keep Your Home California's benefit to San Mateo County, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and part of Palo Alto as of January 31, 2018.

Unemployment Mortgage Assistance	Households Served	Average Assistance	Total Assistance
San Mateo County	375	\$21,676	\$8,128,568
94025 and 94303	49	\$19,388	\$950,014
Mortgage Reinstatement Assistance			
San Mateo County	80	\$20,861	\$1,668,898
94025 and 94303	7	\$22,286	\$156,002
Principal Reduction			
San Mateo County	51	\$60,022	\$3,061,114
94025 and 94303	3	\$60,066	\$180,200
Transition Assistance			
San Mateo County	2	\$2,000	\$4,000
94025 and 94303	1	\$2,000	\$2,000

Immigrant rights activists see turning point for all Americans



Photo courtesy of <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net>

By Mark Hedin

Warning that the country is heading down a white nationalist, nativist path, four immigrant rights advocates issued a call to action just hours before the U.S. Senate rejected all four proposals to change U.S. immigration policy, and a second federal court found the president's "Muslim ban" unconstitutional.

The advocates spoke at a national telebriefing for ethnic media sponsored by Ready California, a collaborative cross-sector effort led by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center.

"We've all learned to expect the unexpected," said Sameera Hafiz, an attorney and senior policy strategist for the ILRC in Washington, DC. "The reason we're here is because of Trump's decision in

September to rescind the DACA program and throw the lives of close to 800,000 young people into chaos and uncertainty.

"But while the Senate was ostensibly debating the future of the DACA program," Hafiz argued, "the reality is that any (proposed) DACA proposals go hand in hand with eliminating the diversity visa program, severely curtailing the family immigration program and expansive border enforcement measures – far beyond what we think about when we think about border security."

"And while we've been focused in DC on the legislative side, we've been distracted from what the administration is already doing," Hafiz cited attacks on jurisdictions with sanctuary policies and other enforcement actions against Dreamers, mothers and ac-

tivists.

Angelica Salas, director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), agreed that what is underway is an attack on legal immigration itself which she called "a white nationalist agenda (whereby) certain individuals are not qualified to come into the United States based on their country of birth and their religion."

On average, Salas noted, "our clients being deported from Los Angeles had been in the country more than 25 years. With the crippling of various legal channels like the Central American minors program, the separation of children from parents, the ending of diversity visas, "the list goes on," she said -- "we're destroying people's lives."

"This is not just about the immigrant community any more.

It's about what kind of country we want and who we are, as Americans."

Zahra Billoo, executive director of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and a civil rights attorney,

hailed the decision by the Fourth Circuit which joined a chorus of courts across the country who have said that the Muslim ban is unconstitutional. Nevertheless, she noted, "Whether you are from Iran or Somalia, it does not matter what your story is, you cannot come to the US." Billoo quoted a Georgetown University estimate that 60,000 people had been impacted in their efforts to get an education or see their families.

"We're optimistic," she said, but cautioned that what's legal doesn't always align with what's moral. "The court in the past has allowed many unjust things, such as the Japanese internment."

Adoubou Traore, director of the African Advocacy Network which provides legal counsel for immigrants of the African diaspora, highlighted the dramatic growth of the African immigrant community, from 816,000 in 1980 to more than 4 million in 2016. Largely faceless and voiceless, this population has borne the brunt of every new restrictive immigration measure, from the

Muslim ban to the removal of Temporary Protective Status (TPS). As immigrants and as Blacks, "we are the only group that has been named racially, and coming from countries that have been named in ways that I don't even want to repeat, but we all heard it."

Asked about the future of the immigrant rights movement, Salas noted the "tremendous mobilization by immigrant youth and this will only increase as people mobilize around the March 5 Congressional deadline for a solution on DACA.

"But this is a call to the broader immigrant community and Americans in general," Salas emphasized.

"We need to stand up not just to be in solidarity with immigrants and refugees, and our brothers and sisters from the Muslim community. We need to stand up as Americans, as a country saying this is not who we are or what our values are. I think this is what's missing."

Get more information about this topic at <https://ready-california.org/#1> and at <https://www.ilrc.org/>

See a Talking with Henrietta television show discussion on the plight of refugees in America here. Get more information about the show here.

Mark Hedin is with Ethnic Media

Los propietarios de viviendas de California son elegibles para \$178 millones en asistencia hipotecaria gratuita

continúa en la página 9

Traducido por Elizabeth Real

En el 2010, cuando los residentes de California sufrían por el colapso del mercado inmobiliario, el presidente Obama creó el Fondo Hardest Hit para evitar ejecuciones hipotecarias en los 18 estados más afectados por la recesión del mercado inmobiliario. La Agencia de Financiamiento de Viviendas de California recibió más de \$2.3 mil millones de este fondo y ha administrado de forma constante apoyo financiero a propietarios de bajos a moderados ingresos en los últimos siete años. Estos programas, conocidos colectivamente como Keep Your Home California o Conserva Tu Casa en español, han ayudado a más de 79,000 hogares de California, el 94% de los cuales han permanecido en sus hogares dos años después de registrarse.

Hasta el momento, en el condado de San Mateo, 509 hogares han recibido \$12.94 millones en asistencia relacionada con hipotecas. En

los códigos postales 94303 y 94205, que incluyen East Palo Alto, Menlo Park y parte de Palo Alto, 60 propietarios han recibido \$1.28 millones en asistencia.

Actualmente, Keep Your Home California cuenta con tres programas para ayudar a los propietarios de viviendas elegibles a pagar sus gastos hipotecarios y relacionados, y un programa para ayudar a los propietarios de vivienda a una nueva situación de vivienda.

1) El Programa de Asistencia Hipotecaria por Desempleo ayuda a los propietarios que han perdido sus trabajos y actualmente reciben beneficios de desempleo o a los que tienen beneficios que se

expiraron menos de 60 días antes de la solicitud. La asistencia puede durar hasta dieciocho meses y no puede exceder los \$54,000 en total.

2) El Programa de Asistencia de Reinstauración Hipotecaria ayuda a los propietarios con sus pagos atrasados de la hipoteca, y también puede incluir sus impuestos y cargos de la Asociación de Propietarios si están incluidos en su pago mensual. La asistencia no puede exceder \$ 54,000 en total.

3) El Programa de Reducción de Principales ayuda a los propietarios que han tenido dificultades económicas o una reducción severa en el valor de su hogar. La asistencia viene en forma de una suma global de hasta \$100,000 para reducir el capital del préstamo.

4) El Programa de Asistencia de Transición ayuda a los propietarios que necesitan mudarse después de una venta corta o una escritura en lugar de una ejecución hipotecaria. La asistencia de hasta \$5,000 puede ayudar a las personas a hacer la transi-

sión a una nueva situación de vivienda.

Algunos propietarios que corren el riesgo de una ejecución

From the Editor's Desk

'There was no one left to speak out for me'

First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a communist;

Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist;

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist;

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew;

Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak out for me. - credited to Martin Niemöller, a Nazi supporter who later became a leading advocate for world peace



Henrietta J. Burroughs

This past February, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director, L. Francis Cissna, eliminated the words "nation of immigrants" from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) mission statement.

For some it came as a surprising move by Cissna, whose mother immigrated to the United States from Peru and whose wife's mother came from the Middle East.

The USCIS' original mission statement, which read: "USCIS secures America's promise as a nation of immigrants by providing accurate and useful information to our customers, granting immigration and citizenship benefits, promoting an awareness and understanding of citizenship, and ensuring the integrity of our immigration system" was changed to a new one which now states: "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services administers the nation's lawful immigration system, safeguarding its integrity and promise by efficiently and fairly adjudicating requests for immigration benefits while protecting Americans, securing the homeland, and honoring our values."

In an email sent to the USCIS staff explaining the change in the agency's mission statement, Cissna wrote, "I believe this simple, straightforward statement clearly defines the agency's role in our country's lawful immigration system and the commitment we have to the American people."

Many Trump supporters defend the change, but for some immigration advocates, this is just one of many changes under the Trump administration that reflects a

disturbing change of direction in this country's immigration policies

For more than a century, the poem by Emma Lazarus that is engraved on a plaque on the Statue of Liberty has given the hope of freedom and opportunity to millions around the world.

That famous poem states: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

But now, Trump's immigration policies seem to show that the words in Lazarus' poem and all that it represents are being tossed aside.

One need only point to the Trump policies that canceled the Obama administration's 2014 Deferred Action for Parents of Americans, or DAPA; the use of DACA as a bargaining chip, the reduction in the numbers of immigrants who can be allowed into this country, the banning of immigrants from certain Muslim countries, the ending of birthright citizenship; the steps to build that massive wall on the U.S.' southern border, and the visas that will no longer be given to extended family members of legal immigrants.

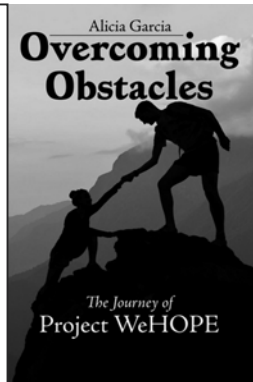
Angelica Salas, the director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), describes Trump's policies as "an attack on legal immigration itself in what she called "a white nationalist agenda (whereby) certain individuals are not qualified to come into the United States based on their country of birth and their religion."

The administration's policy of holding DACA students hostage, calling certain countries "shithole countries," hiring employees who are accused of domestic violence, breaking up families by deporting parents and putting their children into foster care is an attack on all of us.

It behooves us not to stand idly by, silently, while so

continued on page 10

Overcoming the Obstacles The Journey of Project WeHope



Photos by HJ Burroughs

You would expect that an author would have fun at their own book signing and Alicia Garcia certainly appeared to enjoy the party she held to unveil her first book, *Overcoming the Obstacles- The Journey of Project WeHope*. The lovely event took place on Sunday, January 21 at 3 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Center in Palo Alto. In addition to Alicia, her book signing featured delicious food, live music and an attentive crowd.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

Equity for East Palo Alto residents

Dear Editor:

I am angry about a statement made by Harbor Commissioner Virginia Chang-Kiraly which was posted in The Palo Alto Daily Post, March 4th. The article calls for District elections vs. County-wide in order to make our District Boards more inclusive. In the article, Commissioners Ed Larenas and Sabrina Brennan issued a statement calling for the district to switch its elections from a County-wide to District system as a way to allow "lower-income people and people of color to run successful campaigns." Running a campaign can easily cost \$15,000. District elections are the direction almost all other County elections are going, including our Board of Supervisors. However, to this suggestion Commissioner and Harbor District Board President Kiraly responded with: "How is it that an East Palo Alto resident will benefit from the Harbor District?" Kiraly said, pointing out that the district really only affects Pillar Point in Half Moon Bay and Oyster Point Marina in South San Francisco."

Commissioner Kiraly is from Menlo Park which shares no borders with the ocean. EPA borders San Francisco Bay. Commissioner Kiraly's comments are elitist, self-serving and thoughtless, hence my anger. She stated she would rather dissolve the entire Harbor District Board rather than allow for District elections. I think it is telling that Commissioner Kiraly's comment were directed at East Palo Alto. Why not Hillsborough? It is sentiments like these from our elected officials that stifle the

voices and choices of our communities. Her comments embody the very reason why District elections are important.

Even the California Coastal Commission in recognition of the value of public access to all Californian's has given coastal access by underserved communities a high priority. This means that the Harbor District must consider these communities in their planning, for example low cost day and overnight facilities, parking, and bus services. One way to address the Coastal Commission's mandate is by having District elections.

Commissioner Edmundo Larenas lives in Moss Beach and advocates for protecting the coasts environment and improving coastal access for all people, including those with disabilities. Commissioner Sabrina Brennan also lives in Moss Beach and is an activist for social justice and environmental protection. Respectfully submitted, Mary Larenas

The EPA Traffic Challenge

Dear Editor:
Dear SM County Brd of Supervisors,

NO TO STANFORD EXPANSION.

WE ARE AT COMPLETE TRAFFIC GRIDLOCK FROM WILLOW TO UNIVERSITY IN EAST PALO ALTO.

Do not allow more growth in the East Palo Alto area. Due to intentional poor planning from the past, there are only two ways in and out of east Palo Alto at Embarcadero or University. This was purposefully done

years ago to control the East Palo Alto population and prevent people from the east side from easily entering the west side. (Please research old planning documents in county and Menlo Park files to confirm this. See more recent attached example.)

Due to the lack of egress, it now takes an EPA family an hour to drive their children to school in Palo Alto. WE DRIVE ONE HOUR FOR A 7 MILE ROUND TRIP. THIS IS CRAZY. It drastically affects our quality of life, ability to get to work, create businesses and children's sleep and study time. EPA had ran out of water; we could not even build to house our own people this last decade because of this lack of water. Now you ask that we have to give up our roads and have our quality of life deteriorated more so Stanford can build housing?

I GIVE YOU THE EPA TRAFFIC CHALLENGE: I am asking that each of the county supervisors, and city counsel members, depart from Pulgas and Beech in EPA at 7:45 am and head toward ANY school located in Palo Alto and back to that starting point. Please clock your time then report back to me, the city of EPA and your constituents what you experienced. Must be a full school day - weekend and school breaks do not count. Words will not describe what you are about to experience. This cost you nothing and proves you actually care about the quality of lives of the people in this county - ALL THE PEOPLE. Once you experience the problem you will then be wise enough to visualize a remedy for the problem.

Then people wonder why EPA working families can't achieve more - thousands of lost hours of productivity and student study

continued on page 10

East Palo Alto Today

Publisher: East Palo Alto Center for Community Media
Editor-in-chief: Henrietta J. Burroughs

East Palo Alto Today is published bimonthly;
Address all letters to: East Palo Alto Today
2111 University Avenue #160, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650)289-9699 epatoday@epatoday.org;
www.epamedia.org and www.epatoday.org

Opinion

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

Defining gentrification and its characteristics

By Kyra Brown

Earlier this month, I had ten of my high school students watch a (free) documentary called "City Rising" (<https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising>).

It "is a one-hour broadcast special and multimedia project that analyzes six California communities undergoing gentrification: Boyle Heights and South Central in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Oakland and the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento."

Simultaneously, I could not help but think about my own city of East Palo Alto (EPA), in the overall narrative of the gentrification of California. I returned to give back to my community after college some three years ago and since

have had conversations across age, race and class on this topic.

I noticed that while many people had mixed feelings about the gentrification of EPA, I realized that more often than not, my conversations with white people on the topic (in person or online) seemed to be wrought with misunderstanding.

As a result, "What's the big deal about gentrification?" OR "It's bound to happen, why won't you just accept it?" were questions I was asked on a regular basis. As a person who grew up in this self-governed community of color, I thought it necessary to write this piece for two reasons: (a) that it might be used as a frame of reference for people of color (but especially for



Kyra Brown

white people) in the broader (national) discussion on this topic, as gentrification is not unique to EPA. And (b) that it might create solidarity with similar communities also facing gentrification (in the same way that the City Rising documentary has).

1. Gentrification* is "the buying and renovation of houses and stores in deteriorated urban neighborhoods by upper or middle-income families or individuals, raising

property values but often displacing low-income families and small businesses." By definition, the topic of gentrification is very likely to stir up racial and/or class conflicts.

2. Gentrification is not inevitable. It is not a force of nature, but a human act -- brought about by human agency.

3. Gentrification is a complex process with multiple players, many moving parts and those involved in the process will help it happen faster, slow it down, end it altogether or avoid addressing it at all.

4. There is a possibility that low-income communities can survive the process of gentrification, albeit there is a collective strategy to preserve the community before that

process begins.

5. The process of gentrification may yield more negative impacts than positive ones. We will let history and/or the communities most impacted be the judge.

6. We have to address the negative impacts of gentrification in substantial ways and work to mitigate them or historical communities of color will cease to exist in the Bay Area (and across the nation).

7. The impact that local governments, corporations and universities have in the process of gentrification cannot be understated.

8. We cannot have a conversation about gentrification without discussing the phenomenon that is white flight,

continued on page 6

Rumors are running rampant because of RCSD reforms

By Sharifa Wilson

For decades, the Ravenswood City School District was district known for low-test scores, drama, and lack of oversight. The result of the decades of neglect was a district that in many ways became unmanageable, and as a result, our students were paying the ultimate price.

I know that rumors are running rampant throughout our community because of the reforms that we are seeking to implement at the Ravenswood City School District. As difficult as it may be to accept our reforms, it is much more difficult to allow another generation of our children to not receive the best possible education our



Sharifa Wilson

district can offer.

As far as I am concerned, the only objective we have is to ensure that every single one of our students has the necessary support and resources to make their dreams a reality.

As our community continues going through massive socio-economic changes due to the strengthening of the Silicon Valley economy, wouldn't it be

great if our children could develop the skills to work at major tech firms? Imagine what that would do for East Palo Alto.

It is that question that fills my heart with optimism and gives me the energy to volunteer hours of my life for the benefit of our community. To me, there is nothing more gratifying than when former students of mine come back to East Palo Alto to share their stories of success with our students. The problem is that we are not yet at a point where these success stories are truly the norm for our district. In a perfect world, every single one of our students goes on to achieve massive success.

To those who spend time making disparaging remarks about our district and its leadership, I challenge you to compare the Ravenswood of the last five years versus the Ravenswood of twenty years ago. If you are honest in your comparison, you will see that today we are a district that is no longer under federal court monitoring (RSIP), our district is rated at AAA by the bond rating agencies because of our strong financial procedures, and you will see, for the first time ever, that today's 8th grade students enter Menlo-Atherton High School ready to compete on their very first day of school.

More recently, during the implementation of our Fiscal Re-

form Package, we were successfully able to balance our budget without having to lay off a single teacher or close a single school. Additionally, through a multi-agency collaborative with the San Mateo County Office of Education, we have successfully maintained the Child Development Center in order to serve families for years into the future.

At the New Ravenswood, our district is not afraid to make the necessary decisions to move itself into the best position to better serve students. The New Ravenswood is fortunate to have Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff at the helm. Her passion for our students, and

continued on page 6

Ways to put cars to better use

By Stephanie Munoz

Poor King Midas! All he wanted was to be really really rich. He didn't want to steal from the poor, or conquer some innocent country--but throughout history, people who comment on human behavior seem to be prejudiced against the rich, so in the story, Midas wishes that everything he touched would turn to gold, and his little daughter ran into his arms and...and it finally came true, thousands of years later.

Everybody has the riches of car ownership, and cars are strangling the town. You have to license them, smog them, insure them, and worst of all, you have to put them someplace. All the towns here-

abouts are drowning in cars, and East Palo Alto is the worst off, because when the town was built, nobody was rich enough to have two cars, so there are no two car garages.

In our day, both parents work, but in different places, and car parking is giving the code enforcement police (and their victims) fits. "You can't park that car on that lawn!" "But it's my car. And my lawn!"

I think the solution might be to build a 24 hour parking garage where those extra cars could park at night and be delivered by taxi to their homes. It needn't cost too much if there were a carful of riders, and would be a boost to our taxi drivers whose earnings have been reduced by the new ride share compa-



<https://www.publicdomainpictures.net>
Camper van

nies. If we put it near the approach from across the Bay, we could rent it during the daytime to the neighbors coming from Fremont and going to work in Palo Alto or Menlo Park, providing another bonanza for our taxi drivers.

Also, many may not be aware, but we have a housing shortage in this area and quite a few people with jobs don't make enough to buy or

rent homes, and resort to sleeping in their cars. Why couldn't we have a couple of bathrooms on one of the floors to accommodate them? And a couple of night watchmen, or night watchpersons to guard the cars? Jobs of that nature help the economy by making consumers out of persons whose job skills fall short of the main job market.

Our neighboring towns are starting to talk about making a place for live-in RVs to park--Councilmember Kou in Palo Alto proposed setting aside some parking at city facilities for them, although nobody had gone just one step further to make a place for sleeping cars.

In addition, the state of California has a program of buying cars of a certain age

to get them off the roads and cut down on their toxic emissions. But it's just the smoke from the cars they want to get rid of, not the cars themselves, and some of the cars are in pretty good shape

Why shouldn't the state give cities like those cars--after all, they've been bought with our tax money--and we could remove the engines and rent them out to the homeless for a dollar or two a night, to pay for the bathrooms we would need.

Maya Angelou recounts an episode in her life in between living with her mother and living with her father, in which she lived in a kind of car colony populated by other young, single car campers. All in all, it was a good experience.

Lifecycles

Vivian Joyce Johnson Jordan - March 26, 1942 - February 1, 2018

In Loving Memory of Vivian Joyce Johnson-Jordan who was born on March 26, 1942 to the proud parents of Melvin and Melvina Johnson in Taylor, Texas. Vivian was the first of six children born to this union.



Vivian J.J. Jordan

Vivian departed this life peacefully and quietly on February 1, 2018 with her family at her side.

Vivian came to California in 1954 and lived in Menlo Park, California. She graduated from Menlo Atherton High School in Atherton California in 1960. Upon graduation Vivian attended the College of San Mateo Junior College and went on to work at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, California to become a Licensed

vocational Nurse (LVN). She retired from Sequoia Hospital after 42 years of service.

In 1961, Vivian married Freddie •Fred•Jordan. They had a fulfilling and long marriage. From this union they became the parents of three children, Gail Lynne, Raymond Lee and Freddie.

Vivian accepted Christ as

her personal savior at an early age. She became a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Redwood City, CA. She later began a fellow ship with the Redwood City church Little Flock under the leadership of Doctor E.J. O'Neil.

She was very active in the church and served both as the Financial Director and as an Usher. She was a faithful member and would always express to everyone "how good God was."

Vivian was preceded in death by her parents; Melvin and Melvina Johnson, her husband; Freddie "Fred" Jordan, Brothers; Bobbie L. Johnson (wife, Velma), Clifford L. Johnson, brother-in-law, Lester Lacey; son-in-law, William Frazier.

Vivian leaves to cherish memories of her life, three children: daughter, Gail Roby-Frazier of Las Vegas, NV and two sons, Raymond Lee Jordan (Jennifer) and Freddie Jordan, Jr. both of East Palo Alto, CA; sister, LaVerne Lacey of East Palo Alto, CA; two brothers; Melvin R. Johnson (wife, Alicia) of San Jose, CA; Robbie L. Johnson (wife, Mozella) of Plano, Texas; aunt, Dorothy Owens of Menlo Park, CA; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; stepsons, stepdaughters and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many devoted friends who will miss her dearly.

Vivian will truly be missed. Her memory will continue to be cherished amongst her family and friends.

Her funeral was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the St. John Baptist Church at 1050 Bay Road in East Palo Alto.

Afterwards family members and friends said their final goodbyes at the Cedar Lawn Memorial Park at 48800 Warm Springs Blvd. in Fremont, CA

{Editors note - Read the article on Vivian Jordan that was written by her grandson Rayshaun Jordan, when he interned at the East Palo Alto Today newspaper last summer. The article was called The face of East Palo Alto throughout the generations and it discusses gentrification in East Palo Alto. The article appears on page 5 in EPA Today's Fall 2017 issue.

Clarene Novella Watts - April 24, 1927 - January 21, 2018

Clarene Novella Watts was born on April 24, 1927 in the small town of Tuckerman near Newport, Arkansas. She was the only surviving child of the late David and Beatrice Harrington Hendrix. As the first-born grandchild of the late B.A. Harrington, who was born a slave, and Mary Rutherford Harrington, Clarene enjoyed the undivided attention of her grandparents, uncles and aunts. Grandfather Harrington taught school including music and was church choir director. Holidays and family celebrations included singing around the piano and lots of good food.

Education was very important to Clarene. She attended Newport Colored High School later known as Branch High School in Newport, Arkansas. She excelled in her studies and especially liked Home Economics. She was accepted to attend college but was unable to attend due to lack of finances. Clarene attended Morningstar Baptist Church and accepted Jesus Christ as her savior at an early age.

During high school and after graduation, Clarene worked as a cook for the Hodges family, a prominent Newport family.

Here, she developed many of her favorite recipes like her famous dinner rolls.

Clarene married Kenneth Rages in 1947, and they moved to Decatur, Illinois to start a family. They had three children, Cheryl, David and Mary, before their marriage ended and Clarene relocated to Newport in 1953. Clarene, the sole support of her mother and children, returned to work for the Hodges family and in the dietetic department at Harris Hospital.

In 1955, Clarene, her mother and her four children, now including one-year old Phillip Michael, relocated to Menlo Park, California by way of Greyhound and a dream. To support her family, once again she worked two jobs: as a cook for a prominent Hillsboro family and as a nurse's aide at the Menlo Park Veteran's Administration. Her children recall how important it was to be quiet during the day, so she could rest between jobs. They learned how important it was to not disturb Mother Dear's sleep. She and her mother bought their first home in Menlo Park, seven months after moving to California.

Clarene met Roger Watts



while working at the VA. When they married in 1958, she became stepmother to his two sons, Roger Jr. and Curtis. Throughout their 48 year marriage, Clarene and Roger enjoyed spending time with family and friends, church activities, travelling and hosting family holidays. In the early 1960's, Clarene became a licensed realtor. At the time housing was extremely affordable and she encouraged people to scrape their resources together to buy homes and change their lives. Many people were able to buy homes because of her. She also worked as a housing specialist for both San Mateo County and Menlo Park, helping people make affordable upgrades and improvements to their homes. Clarene knew the importance of property ownership as a way to build a legacy for families.

Clarene was a woman of faith. She united with Macedonia Baptist Church in Menlo Park when she moved to California. She later joined St. John Missionary Baptist. She was an active member at St. John until she joined Faith Missionary Baptist as a charter member in 1982. She was an active and supportive member at Faith until she relocated to North Carolina to live with her daughter, Cheryl Houston. She served the Church in whatever ways were needed such as supporting the building project, teaching Sunday school, and helping prepare food whenever there was a need. She also provided rides for anyone needing a way to get to church, and mentored and counseled youth in the church. One of her proudest accomplishments was establishing the Faith Missionary Baptist Church Scholarship Fund.

Clarene was a respected business woman and community leader who believed in taking care of business. Through the years she served on various boards and committees, including EPA Can Do, St. John Baptist Church Finance Committee, and Faith Baptist Church Scholarship and Finance Committees. She was a founding member of the Mothers for Equal Education.

Clarene made her transition from the cares of this world to a sphere of infinite joy, peace and rest on Sunday, January 21, 2018 in Charlotte, North Carolina. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Watts Sr.; two children, Mary and Phillip Michael and one stepson, Curtis.

Clarene will live on in the hearts and memories of her daughter, Cheryl Houston of Charlotte, NC; her son, David Rages (Joyce) of East Palo Alto, CA; stepson, Roger Watts Jr. (Debra) of Compton, CA, grandchildren, James Marshall II, Mary Wells, David Rages II (Marquita), Ndeya Berryman, Jamilla Rages; great-grandchildren, Danielle, Phillip, Rodney, Jr., Namani, Micah, Camille and Candace and two great-great grandchildren, Nehele and Keegan. She also leaves to mourn her first cousins Gene Harrington of Los Angeles, Andrea Harrington of Sacramento, Imani Harrington of San Francisco and Kevin Harrington, of Las Vegas; and a host of cousins, close friends and acquaintances.

Gentrification

continued from page 7

the creation of the ghetto to begin with and the observation that when white people move into a neighborhood property values rise, automatically.

9. In a world where development is a reality, perhaps the ethical thing to do is place limits on the expansion of corporations such as Facebook and Amazon, and universities such as Stanford University. This is one way to have development within reason or "development without displacement."

10. If I have to explain the

importance and value of preserving my community on a regular basis, there is a fundamental problem. It won't be long before I have to explain the value of my culture and then after that, the value of my very personhood. This is not something I am willing to do. Ever. And the gentrification conversation is no exception.

Ashe (a Yoruba word, which can be translated: "the power to make things happen" or "so let it be"). *Definition from www.dictionary.com

Rumors are running rampant

continued from page 7

her recognition that our fight is not only an academic fight, but also, a social justice fight, has created a culture where the only thing that matters is your commitment to students. This type of leadership has made me work even harder because, for the first time in my many years of public service, I feel I am surrounded by the best leaders for our commu-

nity at this moment in time.

We continue to receive support from foundations that see the positive changes we have made over the last 3 years. To quote a long time funder: "You are fortunate to have a superintendent with Dr. Hernandez's knowledge, strategic thinking, academic background, determination and dedication".

In the education space, adult

politics should never come before our students because our students only have one opportunity to be young and they are counting on us to provide them the necessary advocacy and support that will allow them to succeed. We have confidence in our administration and staff and we will continue to work hard with a laser focus on the children.

Lifecycles



EPA Today founder inducted into Bay Area hall of fame



February 10, 2018 was an evening when the tributes were flowing, as one might expect at a black tie-red carpet event.

After all it was the night when 13 African Americans were inducted into the Black Legends Hall of Fame.

The grand affair, honoring the accomplished group took place at The Hammer Theater in San Jose.

It was the third annual Black Legend Awards ceremony

One of the notable things about the event this year was the fact that it was the second year in a row where a community member from East Palo Alto received recognition.

Last year, the late Charles Jones, who founded Jones Mortuary, received an award for his outstanding business

and community contributions.

At this year's ceremony, Henrietta J. Burroughs, the founder of the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media and the East Palo Alto Today newspaper received the Alexander-Green News and Documentary Award for her outstanding achievements in the field of media.

Burroughs, who also produces and hosts the award-winning Talking with Henrietta television show, had an opportunity to make a presentation during the awards ceremony.

In her two minute remarks, she shared some of the obstacles she's had to overcome during her career and led the audience in a rousing chant: "I will not let the naysayers win."

The other awardees in-



Henrietta J. Burroughs

cluded:
 Carl F. Ray - Art/Theater/Music
 John D. Dumas- Business/Entrepreneurship
 Inez C. Jackson and James H. Payne - Community Service
 Keith D. Aytch and Will H. Ector, Jr.- Education
 Dr. Oscar Battle - Health & Medicine
 David W. Epps and Judge Rise J Pichon - Law & Justice
 Dr. Forrest W. Williams - Pub-

lic Service
 Rev. Dr. Louis Jones, Jr - Spiritual and

Karen C. Bradford - S.T.E.M.

Janice Edwards and Afrikahn Dayvs, two local media personalities provided the welcome and opening remarks and the invocation

and blessing was given by the Rev. Anthony Brown.

Each new inductee was introduced by a member of the Black Legends Hall of Fame, who was previously inducted during the first or second year of the event,

Each awardee was presented with a large glass trophy containing their name and award title and a certificate of recognition given by the Califor-

nia State Assembly.

East Palo Alto City Council member Larry Moody also made a brief presentation at the event and told the mostly San Jose audience about East Palo Alto and its accomplishments.

Other political notables included the Honorable Ash Kalra, from the 27th Assembly District in San Jose who presented the honorees with their certificate of recognition from the California State Assembly.

The Metro Big Band supplied the entertainment. A video and photos from the Black Legends Hall of Fame ceremony will be posted on the organization's website.



Nothing like having a photo to remember with Council member Larry Moody, Henrietta J. Burroughs and Court Skinner.

¡Hablamos español!

'Oku mau lea faka-Tonga!

Family & Adult Medicine
 Dentistry • Pediatrics • Lab
 Optometry & Optical Services
 Counseling & Behavioral Health
 Pharmacy • X-Rays • Ultrasound
 Women's Health • Family Planning
 Pregnancy Testing • Prenatal Care
 Mammography • Specialty Referrals

Call now to enroll today!
(650) 330-7416

Ravenswood
 Family Health Center
 1885 Bay Road
 East Palo Alto, CA 94303

HEALTH CARE THAT CARES

We accept patients regardless of their ability to pay or their immigration status.

Aceptamos pacientes sin importar su habilidad de pagar o su estado migratorio.

'Oku mau tali 'a e taha kotoa pē tatau ai pē, pe ko e ha ho'o tu'unga fakapa'anga, pe tu'unga nofo fonua.

Community News Briefs

Leaking water pipes in East Palo Alto

At the February 20, 2018 East Palo Alto City Council meeting, city resident Patricia Lopez spoke during the council's community forum about the huge spike in the water bill that another resident received.

Lopez said that the bill had jumped from \$47 to \$90 up to \$547 and the resident had been out of town. She asked the council to look into the matter.

Council member Donna Rutherford responded that her water bill had also jumped up to \$588 because of a leak that had been found in her water pipes. But, she said that she still had to pay the bill.

Because of her situation and other complaints of similar spikes in the water bills of city residents, she said that she would call for a special hearing.

Mayor Ruben Abrica requested that the city staff look into the matter.

County poll shows growing support for new investment in transportation solutions

Nearly three-quarters of county voters would support creating new local sales tax revenue to invest in county-wide public transportation and traffic congestion solutions, according to a recent public opinion poll conducted by the County of San Mateo and the San Mateo County Transit District. The results show that support has grown by more than eight percent since May 2017, when the County con-



Courtesy of www.samtrans.com

ducted a similar poll, and is high enough to clear the two-thirds voter threshold required to create new sales tax revenues.

The poll was conducted as part of Get Us Moving San Mateo County, a public education and outreach effort led by the County and the Transit District, and was designed to understand how residents would prioritize the investment of new transportation funding. The District's Board of Directors will review the results at their March 7 meeting where they will also consider continuing the Get Us Moving outreach activities to help inform an eventual decision to put a transportation sales tax investment plan on the November 2018 ballot. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will consider the same issue at their March 13 meeting.

San Mateo County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Elections Department launches new, integrated website: www.smcacre.org

(Redwood City, CA) Mark Church, San Mateo County Assessor-County Clerk-

Recorder and Chief Elections Officer, announced the release of the Department's new website, www.smcacre.org. According to the staff, the website deploys the newest cutting-edge technology in an attractive, highly organized and easily searchable format. A powerful responsive website design allows the public to use their PCs, tablets and mobile devices to access information and services at their convenience 24/7.

"In this rapidly changing technological age, it is essential that citizens have real-time access to the vast array of information, services and data the Department of the Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Elections (ACRE) provides," stated Church. "I personally invite the community to explore this new and exciting website." Church added.

ACRE's website is compatible with many modern browsers (Chrome, Safari, Firefox, IE, and Edge). The site increases accessibility to visually impaired and disabled persons by adhering to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0. Additionally, two prominent features are Google Translator, which is offered in ten languages, along with an online search tool to quickly locate information.

Previously, ACRE was represented by two websites, www.smcare.org and www.shapethefuture.org. The new ACRE website combines the content of both of these sites. The prior websites' URLs have now been redirected to the www.smcacre.org address.

Along with the new ACRE URL, smcacre.org, the email domain for Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Elections staff have been updated to smcacre.org. The prior email domain, smcare.org, will re-

main active as well.

Questions regarding the new website can be directed to Jaleen Lee, Senior Graphics Specialist, at jlee@smcacre.org.

continued on page 10



MANSFIELD KIMBRO
 Realtor
 DRE# 01023602
mansfieldk@earthlink.net
 Mobile: 650.743.9438
 Office: 650.757.0888 Ext 326
 Fax: 650.412.1900
 BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE
 J F FINNEGAN
 362 Gellert Blvd.
 Daly City, CA 94015
www.bhghome.com/MansfieldKimbro

Better Homes
Real Estate
J F FINNEGAN
 REALTORS

DREW CENTER PHARMACY

2111 University Avenue, Suite B
 (650) 321-1449, Fax 321-5977
 Help Drew - Help You!

Health Plan San Mateo Medi-Cal Plan-Prescriptions Accepted



Medi-Cal
 Healthy Families
 Health Work
 CareAdvantage
 San Mateo Mental Health
 Express Scripts
 Medicare D Plans

Bring in your new RXS, empty bottles for refills or any other information and we can transfer or call your MD
 Public Fax Center, Utility Payment Center
 Gift Stop & Jewelry

OPEN MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

City, County, State & U.S. Government Meetings & Contacts

<p>East Palo Alto City Council</p> <p>The East Palo Alto City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers, East Palo Alto City Hall, 2415 University Avenue; (650) 853-3100 or Fax: (650) 853-3115. Website: www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us</p> <p>East Palo Alto City Council Members</p> <p>Larry Moody Mayor (650) 644-9110</p> <p>Ruben Abrica Vice Mayor (650) 380-4987</p> <p>Lisa Gauthier (650) 387-4584</p> <p>Carlos Romero cromero@cityofepa.org</p> <p>Donna Rutherford</p>	<p>(650) 327-7926 East Palo Alto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Committees</p> <p>Planning Commission Second and Fourth Monday</p> <p>Rent Stabilization Board Second and Fourth Wednesday</p> <p>Public Works & Transportation Commission Third Wednesday</p> <p>Youth Advisory Committee First Thursday of each month</p> <p>Senior Advisory Committee Meets first Wednesday of the even numbered months from 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. - City Hall.</p> <p>East Palo Alto Sanitary District The East Palo Alto Sanitary District office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and re-opens from 1:00 p.m. to</p>	<p>5:00 p.m. for service. Regular Board Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.</p> <p>Menlo Park City Council</p> <p>The Menlo Park City Council holds meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers located at 801 Laurel Street. You can subscribe to receive the agendas and minutes by e-mail when they are published. For questions about an agenda, call the city clerk at 650.330.6620.</p> <p>Menlo Park City Council Members</p> <p>Kirsten Keith- Mayor Cell:(650) 308-4618</p> <p>Peter I. Ohtaki- Mayor Pro Tem (650) 328-0300</p> <p>Catherine Carlton Residence:327-5332 Cell:575-4623</p> <p>Ray Mueller (650) 776-8995</p> <p>Richard Cline - Cell:(650) 207-1677</p>	<p>Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees</p> <p>Arts Commission Bicycle Commission Environmental Quality Commission Finance and Audit Commission Housing Commission Las Pulgas Committee Library Commission Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Commission Transportation Commission</p> <p>San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Supervisor Warren Slocum Fourth District</p> <p>The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meets on March 3, 17, 31, & April 14, 28 2009 in the County of San Mateo Hall of Justice & Records 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. Roll call at 8 a.m. 9 a.m. Regular & Consent Agenda items. 650 691-2121</p>	<p>State Officials</p> <p>Governor Edmund G. Brown State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-445-2841 Fax: 916-445-4633 Email: governor@governor.ca.gov</p> <p>Assembly Member Marc Berman District Address 5050 El Camino Real Ste. 117 Los Altos, CA 94022 650 691-2121</p> <p>State Senator Jerry Hill District Address 1528 South El Camino Real San Mateo, CA 94301 (650) 212-3313</p> <p>U.S. Government</p> <p>U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier San Mateo Office 155 Bovet Rd, Suite 780 San Mateo, CA 94402 Phone: (650) 342-0300 Phone: (415) 566-5257 Fax: (650) 375-8270</p>
--	---	---	--	---

Local dentist gives the homeless something to smile about

By Dr. Karrishma Jumani

Would you vote for a president without teeth? Can you imagine Barack Obama becoming the president of the United States without teeth? What comes to your mind when you meet somebody without a front tooth? Did he get into trouble or is he an addict?

One out of four Americans is missing a tooth and a very small percentage have dental insurance. Those who do have insurance often find it to be inadequate to cover their desired treatment. Certain procedures like dental implants or full-mouth dentures can run several thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars.

The reasons for the high costs are numerous. New dentists often come out of dental schools with exorbitant amounts of student loan debt – think north of half a million dollars. Real-estate and office setup in high cost areas like the Bay Area exacerbate the problem. Dental supply companies routinely markup instruments and supplies by several hundred percent over their wholesale rates.

Regulations often require that dentists use only certain high cost products. Dentists, faced with the pressures of running a practice or gathering enough patients to start recov-



Dr. Karrishma Jumani

ering their costs, lack the time to find more economical alternatives. Finally, the talent shortage we hear so much about in Silicon Valley isn't restricted to the technology world. Finding qualified and reliable dental assistants is a recurring theme for many dentists. The net result to these factors is a lack of access to affordable dental care for many people.

Description: C:\Users\Dr. Jumani\Downloads\IMG_7851(1).jpg

Meet Focuz! This homeless San Franciscan was abandoned by his mother at the age of five. Focuz lost all his teeth due to periodontal dis-



ease. He is 67 years old and has not been able to eat meat for the past 8 years. Dentures consultations at dental offices gave him estimates for \$3,500 to \$20,000 (with 2 implants). Focuz could come up with \$500 / month on a two-year plan, but nobody was willing to give him credit because he was homeless. Text Box: Focuz is homeless and lives in San Francisco. His only wish was to smile and eat normal food again.

The Ordemy Foundation was started to make dental treatments more accessible to people. The Ordemy Foundation's mission is to be able to restore dignity and self-worth among people who have no place to go to get their teeth fixed. The Ordemy team sets up a street-side facility on a sidewalk next to San Francisco City Hall once a month.

Using a variety of techniques developed specifically to bring the cost of certain procedures down, the team delivers teeth to people at radically more affordable rates. If for example, a patient has only \$100 to spend, then the foundation provides a custom solution for \$100. Any difference between the payment and cost is borne by foundation donors or other patients.

As the founder of the Ordemy Foundation, I think it's



Focuz

pretty cutting edge. We had to rethink a lot of the traditional ways of doing things. To date, many patients have paid a bit more than needed to enable the next patient to receive services. "Paying it forward never felt so good," said one

anonymous patient.

And what about Focuz? The Ordemy Foundation partnered with Taaya Lab in San Jose to make Focuz's smile a possibility. With a custom designed full-mouth denture, he ate his first meal with meat after years and smiled like never before.

Focuz now plans on finding a job and a mate. Good luck, Focuz!

The Ordemy Foundation is looking for donors as well as staff to join its team in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, see the Youtube video at :

<http://youtu.be/kD8qT5hQQw>

Los propietarios de viviendas de California

continuado de la página 3

hipotecaria podrían dudar en comunicarse con Keep Your Home California porque confiaron en la persona equivocada durante la compra o el refinanciamiento de su vivienda. Sin embargo, según Steve Gallagher, director de asuntos externos de Keep Your Home California, hay una manera fácil de saber si se trata de un estafador: "Nuestros servicios son gratuitos y nuestros asesores certificados lo guiarán a través de cada paso. Por el contrario, los estafadores cobrarán una tarifa por sus servicios y lo dejarán en un riesgo incluso mayor de ejecución hipotecaria. Si tiene problemas con los pagos de su hipoteca, estamos aquí para ayudarlo, absolutamente gratis."

Para calificar para estos programas, el préstamo hipotecario de primer gravamen no puede ser mayor de \$729,750 y el solicitante debe poseer y ocupar el hogar, que puede ser una casa, una unidad de 1 a 4 o un condominio. En el Condado de San Mateo, el ingreso del hogar no puede exceder \$162,561.

Como todas las cosas buenas, este programa debe llegar a su fin. La fecha oficial de caducidad es el 31 de diciembre de 2020, pero se ha comprometido el 90% de los \$2.3 mil millones en fondos del programa, por lo que los propietarios interesados deben presentar una solicitud de inmediato. Puede durar 60 días o más para procesar los documentos entre el estado y el administrador del préstamo y,

a este ritmo, el programa podría comprometer todos sus fondos este verano. Entonces, si necesita asistencia hipotecaria, solicite pronto.

Programas como Keep Your Home California tienen un efecto multiplicador positivo en la economía local. Cuando los propietarios mantienen sus hogares, pueden mantener sus trabajos, proporcionar educación a sus hijos, cuidar a los miembros de la familia que envejecen o discapacitados, contribuir a la economía local, seguir pagando impuestos y comprar bienes y servicios.

Para obtener más información o para presentar una solicitud, llame a Keep Your Home California al 888-954-KEEP (5337) entre las 7:00 a.m. y las 7:00 p.m. los fines de semana y entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 3:00 p.m. los sábados para hablar con un consejero en prácticamente cualquier idioma, o visite su sitio web en inglés en www.KeepYourHomeCalifornia.org o en español en www.ConservaTuCasaCalifornia.org.

Puede acelerar el proceso de solicitud al tener listos los siguientes elementos cuando realiza la solicitud: ingresos actuales, gastos mensuales actuales y una copia de su estado de cuenta de la hipoteca.

Are you interested in starting your own business?

Renaissance can show you how to organize, strategize, network and create goals for your business. Whether you are at the idea stage or looking to scale we can help with Business Training classes.

Classes begin in March on the Peninsula. Check out our calendar for dates www.rencenter.org/calendar

WHAT: Start Smart (Meets for 4 weeks) In this course you will find out about the basic tools you need to start a successful business: Learn how to define your vision for your future, create a mission statement to meet the vision, assess if you have the skills, mission and resources, craft a business model to match your reality and test the feasibility of your business.

WHEN: 3/8/18 - 3/29/18
WHERE: Renaissance 1848 Bay Rd, East Palo Alto also

WHEN: 3/9/18-3/30-18
WHERE: Facebook MPK45 Campus 1195 Hamilton Court, Menlo Park

For more information please email:
crasmussen@rencenter.org or call 650-321-2193

Interesado en empezar un Negocio?

Si quieres comenzar un negocio propio, Renaissance está aquí para ayudarte a hacerlo de la manera correcta. Ofrecemos capacitación para pequeñas empresas, consultoría, incubación, acceso a capital y redes, y apoyo emocional (y sí, a veces una patada en los pantalones!) Para transformar sus sueños en realidad 'Open for Business'.

Comienza y Creza con Confianza:
Clases Empiezan: Martes, 6 de Marzo
Se reúne los Martes durante 4 semanas de 6:30PM - 9:30PM
Facebook MPK45
1195 Hamilton Court, Menlo Park, 94025

Este curso se centra en el desarrollo de lo que es la misión, visión, metas y estrategias de negocio, así como el crear un plan de acción. Todo esto se ofrece en cuatro sesiones de tres horas. El objetivo final es que los participantes tengan una mejor comprensión de su modelo de negocio, cualquiera que sea su interés el de iniciar o hacer crecer un negocio. Una sesión opcional de dos horas sería facilitado por la instructora. Este servicio es disponible exclusivamente para los dueños de negocios y es limitado. (12 horas) \$60 - \$120 (Tasa de becas basado en el ingreso, la verificación es necesario).

Comienza y Creza con Confianza:
Clases Empiezan: Lunes, 5 de Marzo
Se reúne los Lunes durante 4 semanas de 6:30PM - 9:30PM
1848 Bay Rd. East Palo Alto

Para inscribirse en las clases y obtener más información, visite www.rencenter.org o Llame al 650-321-2193 Becas disponibles bajo petición

For more information, contact
Crystal Rasmussen
crasmussen@rencenter.org
 650-321-2193 ext. 1103

'There was no one left to speak out for me'

continued from page 4

many suffer from these draconian and inhumane policies. We need to raise our voices, individually and collectively against these cruel policies and against this type of demeaning and dismissive approach towards women and people of color within and outside of our country.

These policies are being made in an obvious attempt to change the course of America and to shift its direction.

Salas went to the very heart of the issue when she said, "This is not just about the immigrant community any more. It's about what kind of country we want and who we

are as Americans."

Trump's campaign slogan was to "Make America Great Again." If, now that he is in office, his promise to make America great entails the implementation of his immigration policies, the strengthening of the prison system, by going back to harsher drug policies and penalties that led to the high incarceration rates of people of color, taking away food vouchers and stamps and giving poor people on welfare government delivered food, then such steps back to the past under the guise of making America great again are not acceptable.

As the attacks on what makes our heritage richer, because of its diversity, increases and as the attacks on the poor increase, we need to become more vigilant and politically engaged.

The fact that none of these policy changes might currently affect us, because we aren't among the Mexicans, Muslims, Haitians, Somalians or Syrians who are targeted, should not be a source of comfort. They affect families that many of us know.

Let us not deny that we are, in fact, our brothers' keeper. If we remain silent now, and fail to rise to defend

the brothers and sisters that we know and the many who are unknown to us, then surely, there might be no one left to speak out for us, if and when we someday become the target of this administration or any future administration's attacks.

And, don't think that by keeping a low profile, you'll deflect attention from yourself. No one is immune from being targeted.

We have only to look at such historical events as the removal of the Cherokee Nation in the Long Trail of Tears in the 1800's and the Internment of the U.S. Japanese

community in the 1940's to see the type of actions that have been taken against innocent people.

Yes, you know and I know that there will be people left, when any action is taken, but, let's not hide our heads in the sand, Brothers and Sisters, they're not going to speak out for us. We know who they are.

Each one of us needs to speak up today and raise our voice in support of the principles of equality and opportunity for which our forebears fought. The time is now! The struggle and the policy changes going on before our eyes will not wait for us to take a stand.

Community News Briefs

USCIS expands credit card payment option for fees

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that it will now accept credit card payments for filing most of its forms.

The new payment option is available for the 41 fee-based forms processed at USCIS Lockbox facilities. To pay by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, applicants will need to use Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions.

USCIS will enter credit card data into the Pay.gov system, operated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and will then destroy the Form G-1450

to protect the credit card information.

Applicants for naturalization and those renewing or replacing their Green Cards can already use a credit card when they file online at uscis.gov. In addition, USCIS has been accepting credit card payments for naturalization forms filed at Lockbox facilities since 2015.

Current versions of all USCIS forms are available free at uscis.gov/forms. Learn more about USCIS resources at uscis.gov/tools.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), and Facebook(/uscis).

CZI grant goes to RCSD

On February 2, 2018, the Ravenswood City School District, in conjunction with the Ravenswood Education Foundation, announced a \$1.5 million grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) over the next two years.

According to district representatives, these dollars will continue the district's ongoing work with the New Teacher Center to provide professional learning opportunities, and build in-house coaching to teachers.

"CZI's partnership demonstrates its commitment to supporting the District," said Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff. "On be-

half of our district, I would like to thank CZI for their support, and I look forward to continuing our work together."

CZI's commitment allows the district the opportunity to provide district leadership and teachers with quality professional development to enable greater student outcomes.

In the fight to create the New Ravenswood, partnerships have been central to fulfilling the district's wish list of necessary support required to accelerate change. In those efforts, the dis-

continued from page 8

trict has benefitted from a long-term relationship with The Ravenswood Education Foundation (REF).

CZI's support for the development of Ravenswood's teachers is another step in the right direction

"The community is coming together now more than ever to help ensure that our students have a high quality classroom experience. This begins with CZI's support for our - teachers," said Renu Nanda, Executive Director of REF.

Letters

continued from page 4

time lost in traffic. Its mathematical not rocket science. My family loses thousands of dollars a year in income because I am in traffic instead of working. I cannot open my own firm/business in EPA because traffic is crazy and transportation horrible so I commute to my company everyday in SF where people can access my office with public transportation. Stanford is privileged enough. How about championing the worker for once? Don't let Stanford siphon off more resources from the sur-

rounding community. Time is a resource.

Everyone is so seduced by Facebook, Google, Stanford, Amazon, etc....they forget that there are hard working people who have to get to work and school, pay mortgages and spend time with their families. Our streets are flooded with this pass through traffic and pollution. Who will stand up for the people of East Palo Alto? Please respond.

-Marcia Perez, East Palo Alto



Join us for the **2nd Annual East Palo Alto Community Emergency Drill** on March 10, 2018 at the Faith Missionary Baptist Church and surrounding area. The drill begins at 8:00 AM with check-in and concludes at 1 PM.

Participants will assemble and be briefed about the scope of the major disaster, organized to respond and carry out numerous emergency missions including disaster assessment, communications, reconnaissance, triage, medical transport and treatment, light search and rescue, traffic and crowd control and a number of unexpected, challenging emergency scenarios.

We welcome individuals (at whatever level of disaster response skills you possess), church groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, Explorers, other CERT groups, community organizations, schools, businesses and corporations to take part in this East Palo Alto event.

Become an active East Palo Alto resident in disaster preparedness awareness and capability.

Please go to menlofirecert.com or info@mpccm.org for more information or call 650 996 0572.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

NEW CALIFORNIA LAW

AB 450 Immigrant Worker Protection Act

As of January 1, 2018, immigrant workers have new workplace protections regardless of whether they work in the public or private sector.

- ASK FOR A WARRANT**
Employers and their representatives are prohibited from allowing immigration agents to enter the private areas of your workplace without a judicial warrant. "ICE warrants" are NOT judicial warrants.
- PROTECT PRIVATE DOCUMENTS**
Employers and their representatives are prohibited from allowing immigration agents to access, review, or obtain employee records, without a subpoena or judicial warrant. This does not apply to I-9 employment verifications.
- NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEES & THE UNION**
Employers must provide notice of any I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification Inspection, to employees and their union representative, by posting a notice within 72 hours of the employer receiving notice of the inspection.
- PROVIDE INFORMATION TO EMPLOYEES**
Employers must provide a copy of the I-9 Inspection Notice, upon employee request. Other I-9 inspection notice provisions apply.
- MINIMAL VERIFICATION**
Employers and their representatives are prohibited from re-verifying the employment eligibility of a current employee at a time not required by Section 1324a(b) of Title 8 of the United States Code.

seiuca.org/Rights



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

East Palo Alto Annual Community Emergency Drill - March 10, 2018

Saturday, March 10 at 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Faith Missionary Baptist Church (835 Runnymede St, East Palo Alto, CA. Participants will assemble and be briefed about the scope of the major disaster, organized to respond and carry out numerous community CERT missions that might include damage assessment, radio communications, triage, initial treatment, light search and rescue, traffic and crowd control, and possibly a number of unexpected, challenging emergency scenarios. No prior experience is required, but CERT-trained folks, please bring you CERT gear and equipment. The Menlo Fire District firefighters will be on scene to participate as well. individuals (at whatever level of disaster response skills you possess), church groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, Explorers, other CERT groups, community organizations, schools, businesses and corporations to take part.

Women's History Month Program - San Mateo

County History Museum March 10, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

In celebration of Women's History Month, the San Mateo County History Museum Auxiliary will present the fifth in their series of programs featuring notable women of the Peninsula. This year will focus on women entrepreneurs, with reenactors portraying women in various and unexpected roles: a stage coach driver, a laundry woman, an Edwardian movie actress and others from more recent times. Refreshments will be served after the performance, and the audience will be welcome to meet the reenactors.

The program is free with the price of admission to the Museum: \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors. The San Mateo County History Museum is housed within the County's 1910 "old" courthouse at 2200 Broadway in downtown Redwood City.

The program will take place in historic Courtroom "A." For information go to www.historysmc.org or call 650-299-0104.

Tech Tuesday - March 13, 2018

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

See and learn about devices and apps, and how these work for you in this free workshop. Topics include Chromebooks, privacy settings, security, Facebook and Google. Tuesday March 13th at 1-2pm. The event is at Little House, 800 Middle Ave in Menlo Park.

Get more information at <https://www.penvol.org/>

South Bay Towns Public meeting: An exploration of sea level rise - March 14, 2018

An evening to meet the Field Operations Team, to learn about how climate change and sea level rise are affecting the South Bay communities, and to share your ideas about designing a more sustainable and resilient future. We are meeting at Cooley Landing Education Centre, which is located at 2000 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA, from

Talking with Henrietta Preparing for Natural and Man-made Disasters



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta. From left, Isaac Stevenson, Henrietta J. Burroughs and Mike Ralston sit on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their show discussion on February 22, 2018.

This show can be seen on Channel 30 on the Midpeninsula and on the Internet at the days and times below until Sat. 2017 on Sundays@5 p.m., Mondays@2 p.m., Tuesdays@8 p.m., Wednesdays@2 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thursdays@8 p.m., Fridays@3:00 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

Talking with Henrietta also appears on Channel 27 on Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Get more information about this show on the East Palo Alto Today website at www.epatoday.org/tv.html#emergencypreparedness

5:45 PM – 8:45 PM. As part of the Resilient By Design Bay Area Challenge, The Field Operations Team is working with the varied communities in the South Bay and Silicon Valley to shape a vibrant and living

framework for adaptation in the face of climate change and sea level rise.

Free event. open to all ages . refreshments will be served Go here for more information.

Keep Community Media Alive



Support the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media and its media outlets by making a tax deductible donation and by purchasing one or more **T-shirts for \$15.00 each** (sm., med., large and x large), and one or more **water bottles for \$10.00 each**. See more ways to support the center's programs below.

Support the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

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 # _____

Organization: _____ Email Address _____

Street Address: _____ City _____ State _____

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
info@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.

Woodland Park
— COMMUNITIES —



SAND HILL PROPERTY COMPANY

To celebrate two years of our commitment to East Palo Alto

Celebrate East Palo Alto!

Para celebrar dos años de nuestro compromiso con East Palo Alto

¡Celebra East Palo Alto!

A Taste of East Palo Alto

A free food festival & resource fair for the whole family

El Sabor de East Palo Alto

Un festival gratis de comida y feria de recursos para toda la familia

When?
¿Cuándo?

March 17th, 12:00-3:00 pm

Where?
¿Dónde?

East Palo Alto City Hall
2415 University Ave

A Community Party!

Free food, games, live music, arts & crafts, and more!

¡Una Fiesta Comunitaria!

Comida gratis, juegos, música en vivo, artes & manualidades, y más!

When?
¿Cuándo?

March 24th, 12:00-3:00 pm

Where?
¿Dónde?

Corner of Bayshore & Newell Road
(across from 7-11)
Esquina de Bayshore & Newell Road
(frente a 7-11)

Sand Hill Property Company thanks you for welcoming us into the community for the past two years.

La Compañía Sand Hill Property agradece la bienvenida en esta comunidad por los dos años pasados.