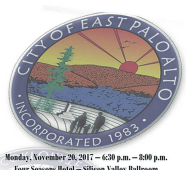


The Honorable Mayor Larry Moody
invites you to the
STATE OF THE CITY
ANNUAL ADDRESS



Monday, November 20, 2017 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
East Avenue Ballroom - Silicon Valley Ballrooms
2628 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303



Serenity Senior Apartments has its grand opening page 3



San Francisco Press Club

East Palo Alto Today wins two awards page 15

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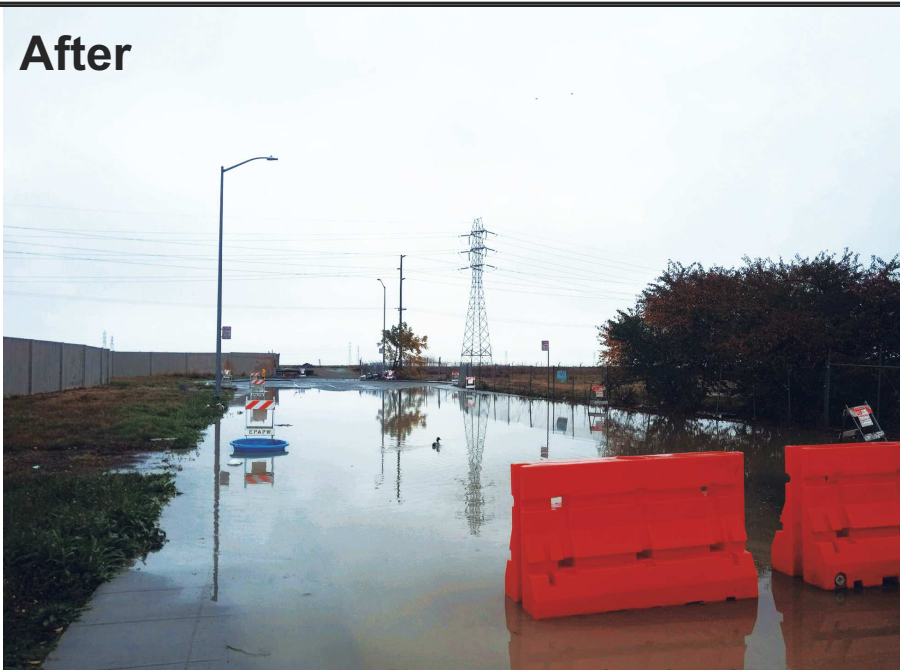
East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

Fall 2017

7

Vol. 11 No.58

24-hour notice to vacate leads to protests



Photos courtesy of the City of East Palo Alto

These photos show 1) the campers on Weeks Street prior to the notices that were given on Tuesday, November 14 to vacate the street by 8 a.m. on November 15, 2017 and 2) the street flooding on Weeks Street after the heavy rains that fell all day Thursday, November 16, 2017.

By Henrietta J. Burroughs

Fifty people signed up at the Public Works and Transportation Commission on Thursday, November 16, 2017 to share their views about the 24-hour notice East Palo Alto City officials gave to the residents of campers, cars and RVs parked on Weeks Streets.

Forty five of them had a chance to speak to the commission in what at times became a very passionate exchange.

The commissioners were being asked to consider a motion that would recommend that the East Palo Alto City Council adopt a "Parking Ordinance to Restrict Parking of Oversize Vehicles in the City."

Many of those speaking were Stanford University students who had joined the Real Community Coalition, a community group that organized an 8 a.m. protest on Weeks Street on Wednesday, November 15, on the very day and at the time the people parked there had to move.

The protesters said that the homeless families consisted of

working parents, children and elderly individuals who have lived in cars and RVs that have been parked along the 1100 block of Weeks St in East Palo Alto (near Pulgas) for more than a year. They complained that the less than 24-hour notice put the residents at a serious disadvantage since the group said in a press release that many of

those living on the street "work service jobs in Silicon Valley and risk losing their jobs if they miss one day of work."

They also said that some of the parked vehicles are not operational and cannot be moved on such short notice.

Sean Charpentier, East Palo Alto's assistant city manager continued on page 4

StreetCode hits a home room with its Tech Tuesdays

By Ivan Temes

StreetCode has held an ongoing series of events called Tech Tuesdays to introduce prominent Silicon Valley companies to the StreetCode Academy in East Palo Alto. As part of this series, StreetCode invited representatives from Tesla, Netflix and Ebay to present to the organization's students. The objective of the series is to educate youth and adults about technology and also to plant seeds for potential future employment.

Brandon Middleton, a local technical entrepreneur and consultant has been working with StreetCode Academy co-founder Tunde Sobomehin, and has been responsible for bringing in the companies. During the series, Middleton introduced SuperHeroic and founder Jason Mayden committed to providing 15 scholarships to 9-14 years old participants to



Photo courtesy of Ivan Temes

help facilitate the use of their creativity in technology.

During Tesla's visit on October 17, Tesla engineers showed off some of their company's technology and led some exciting exercises that allowed students to test their own creative skills.

Carol Regalbuto, a battery safety engineer, and Rosie Mott-smith, a glass engineer, opened the evening with a presentation about the Tesla philosophy, technology and evolving products. They said the company does not pitch models by year, but by the

technology they are introducing. Safety is a huge part of the quality process for Tesla.

While half of the 10 visiting Tesla engineers were women, Regalbuto said that the opportunities with diversity are an ongoing challenge that the company is addressing.

Nathaniel Shak, a director at StreetCode said it was great way to expose the community to what is happening in technology.

Netflix also brought in engineers and community outreach personnel to go over what the

company does and what opportunities there might be. They had StreetCode youngsters engage in creative exercises and then present their results and ideas to the audience.

The Ebay visit was also billed as an opportunity for students to learn about how a leading Silicon Valley online auction and retail company has managed to sell a broad variety of goods and services worldwide.

StreetCode also offers office hours on Monday and Wednesday evenings when community members can bring their tech questions and projects and get help.

Marcus Carrie began as a student when StreetCode opened its doors three years ago and said the overall progress has been inspiring. He confidence has grown and he is following his own passion in the computer field as a student at Foothill College.

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YOU HAVE GREAT ENERGY



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Community News Briefs



Photo courtesy of Sherry Tesler

Three East Palo Alto City Council members joined EPA Can Do, Midpen Housing reps, community residents and other officials to cut the ribbon to open the Serenity Senior Apartments.

Serenity Senior Apartments has its grand opening

It was a rainy blustery day in the Bay Area, but the rain could not dampen the spirits of those who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the East Palo Alto Serenity Senior Apartments.

According to Angah Miessi, chairman of the board for EPA CAN DO, one of the co-developers of the project, "The rain is here to wash our worries now that we've accomplished our goal of creating this beautiful community!"

Father Lawrence Goode of St. Francis of Assisi Church, and Pastor Robert Cowan of Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Christ, offered the opening blessing and the closing benediction, respectively.

MidPen Housing's Matt Franklin talked about the convenience of the property's close transit and neighborhood amenities and highlighted the service programs geared toward wellness and building community.

Warren Slocum, the city's representative on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, spoke about meeting a 65-year-old Menlo Park

citizen who had been living in her car for five years, and how the services Serenity offers are as important as the roof over the residents' heads.

Ruben Abrica, the vice mayor of East Palo Alto, invited others to join him in making Silicon Valley "a shining example, not only of innovation and wealth, but also of human compassion."

Anne Simpson, the vice president of the Silicon Valley Bank, suggested that the day's rain was a good omen. She complimented MidPen Housing for its amazing work getting Serenity Senior Apartments fully leased in just one week.

MidPen's Victoria Wong's enthusiastic speech was met with applause when she thrilled everyone by saying, "Here's to letting hope rise and to creating more beautiful communities together!"

See a new resident of the complex, which is located at 2358 University Avenue, share her story on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/89KmF-VCvEQ>

EPA Center Arts has a new executive director.

The organization announced that Nadine Rambeau will start

her position as the EPA Center's first executive director this coming December.

According to the EPA Center's website, Rambeau comes from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), where she was managing director of the arts and community engagement division for seven years.

In her new position, Rambeau will be responsible for overseeing and supporting the creation of programming and community engagement, and will guide the organization through the construction and the opening of the center, which is slated for completion in 2019.



Nadine Rambeau

The new center will be located at the corner of Bay Road and Pulgas Avenue in East Palo Alto.

See more at <http://epacenterarts.org/executive-director-announcement/>

Two winners of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District election

During this November's election, East Palo Alto voters had only one issue on the ballot to vote on: Who did they want to serve as board members for the East Palo Alto

Sanitary District? Two incumbents, Joan Sykes-Miessi and Dennis Scherzer, along with one challenger, Luis Vizcardo were running for two open seats.

Only Sykes-Miessi even bothered to leave voters any information on voter information sites.

Not surprisingly, the number of votes cast was low, and the majority of votes were cast by mail. The semi-official results show that a total of 965 votes were cast. Four hundred of them went to Scherzer, 381 to Sykes-Miessi and 184 went to Vizcardo.

Encouraging local women to get involved

The Women's Community Leadership Network, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that seeks to encourage women to take leadership positions, held a "Meet and Mingle" event at Cooley Landing on Wednesday, November 8.

The event was designed to introduce attendees to the organization's board of directors and to inspire them to take a more active position in their local communities.

The group heard words of encouragement from East Palo Alto City Council members, Donna Rutherford, Lisa Gauthier, former San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Ja-

continued on page 14

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

East Palo Alto City Council

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

East Palo Alto City Council Members

Larry Moody
Mayor
(650) 644-9110

Ruben Abrica
Vice Mayor
(650) 380-4987

Lisa Gauthier
(650) 387-4584

Carlos Romero
cromero@cityofepa.org

Donna Rutherford

(650) 327-7926

East Palo Alto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Committees

Planning Commission
Second and Fourth Monday

Rent Stabilization Board
Second and Fourth Wednesday

Public Works & Transportation Commission
Third Wednesday

Youth Advisory Committee
First Thursday of each month

Senior Advisory Committee
Meets first Wednesday of the even numbered months from 1:30p.m.-3:30p.m. - City Hall.

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

5:00 p.m. for service. Regular Board Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.

Menlo Park City Council

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.

Menlo Park City Council Members
Kirsten Keith- Mayor
Cell: (650) 308-4618

Peter I. Ohtaki- Mayor Pro Tem
(650) 328-0300

Catherine Carlton
Residence: 327-5332
Cell: 575-4623

Ray Mueller
(650) 776-8995

Richard Cline - Cell: (650) 207-1677

Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees

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

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Supervisor Warren Slocum Fourth District

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

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Fax: 916-445-4633
Email: governor@governor.ca.gov

Assembly Member Marc Berman
District Address
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Los Altos, CA 94022
650 691-2121

State Senator Jerry Hill
District Address
1528 South El Camino Real San Mateo, CA 94301
(650) 212-3313

U.S. Government

U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier
San Mateo Office
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San Mateo, CA 94402
Phone: (650) 342-0300
Phone: (415) 566-5257
Fax: (650) 375-8270

Democratic lawmakers push DHS to withhold dreamer info from ice



Photo courtesy New America Media

La Opinion

A group of 39 US Senators on Tuesday urged interim Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Elaine Duke not to use the personal data of undocumented youths known as "Dreamers" to deport them.

"The US government committed to these young people that the information they provide would not be used against them or against their families ... and the people who applied for the DACA program relied on this" assurance when they applied for the program, the senators pointed out in a letter addressed to Duke.

The 39 lawmakers are concerned over Duke's statements to the House Homeland Security committee, where she said she could not promise that the information in the DACA database would not end

up in the hands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authorities.

In the letter, senators petitioned the interim secretary, who replaced General John Kelly when he was appointed chief of staff of the White House, detailing the number and cases of DACA beneficiaries whose information has now ended up in hands of ICE.

"As a result of the Administration's decision to terminate DACA, hundreds of thousands of people who entrusted the U.S. Government with a great deal of detailed personal information about them and their families live in fear," they wrote.

The letter is signed by Democratic senators, including Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Robert Menendez and Catherine Cortez Masto, as well as three House Demo-

cratic leaders: Michelle Lujan Grisham, leader of the Hispanic Caucus; Cedric Richmond, leader of the Black Caucus, and Judy Chu, leader of the Asian Caucus.

Data from "dreamers" was a thorny issue in the last days of the administration of former President Barack Obama, as nearly a hundred Democratic congressmen and some organizations called for concrete action to prevent President-elect Donald Trump from using the data for deportation purposes.

However, outgoing National Security Secretary Jeh Johnson simply asked Trump to "comply" with the U.S. Government's commitment to these young people and to maintain that discretion.

About 700,000 undocumented youth have joined the DACA program since 2012. Trump has signaled that he is going to end the program, which granted deportation relief and work permits to undocumented immigrants who came to the country as children and who meet other eligibility requirements.

Trump suspended the program in early September, but gave Congress six months to find an alternative.

The White House is now negotiating with Democratic leaders to pass a law that will give new "dreamers" legal cover in exchange for

possibly including funding for hiring more immigration agents.

[Editor's note: The above

article originally appeared on the La Opinion website on October 25, 2017. Courtesy of New America Media.]



Renaissance is proud to announce that it will now be offering its programs in Santa Clara County.

Stay tuned at www.rencenter.org for location, date and time

The launch event celebration occurred on

**November 13, 2017
5pm-7pm at EBay,
2025 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose.**

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

El temor de que USCIS comparta con ICE datos de "Dreamers" para deportarlos

La Opinion

Un grupo de 39 senadores demócratas estadounidenses pidió hoy a la secretaria interina de Seguridad Nacional (DHS), Elaine Duke, que no use los datos personales de los jóvenes indocumentados conocidos como "Dreamers" ("soñadores") para deportarlos.

"El Gobierno de EEUU se comprometió con estos jóvenes a que la información que proporcionasen no se utilizaría en su contra o contra sus familias (...), y la gente que solicitó el programa DACA confió en este seguro para postularse", apuntan los senadores en una carta dirigida a Duke.

Los legisladores muestran "preocupación" por unas declaraciones de Duke ante el comité de Seguridad Nacional de la Cámara baja, donde dijo que no podía prometer que la información de la base de datos del programa Acción Diferida (DACA) no terminase en manos de las autoridades migratorias (ICE).

En la misiva, los senadores piden a la secretaria interina del DHS, que reemplazó al general John Kelly cuando este fue nombrado jefe de Gabinete de la Casa Blanca,



Photo courtesy of La Opinion, News Report El 5 de octubre fue el último día para renovar DACA.

que detalle el número y los casos de beneficiarios del DACA cuya información ha terminado ya en manos del ICE.

"Como consecuencia de la decisión de la Administración de dar por terminado el DACA, cientos de miles de personas que confiaron al Gobierno de EEUU una gran cantidad de información personal detallada sobre ellas y sus familias viven con miedo", aseguran.

La carta está suscrita por una mayoría de senadores demócratas, entre ellos Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Robert Menendez o Catherine Cortez Masto, así como por tres de los líderes demócratas en la

Cámara de Representantes.

Se trata de Michelle Lujan Grisham, líder del Caucus Hispano; Cedric Richmond, líder del Caucus Negro, y Judy Chu, líder del Caucus Asiático.

Los datos de los "soñadores" fue uno de los asuntos peliagudos de los últimos días del Gobierno del anterior presidente, Barack Obama, ya que cerca de un centenar de congresistas demócratas y algunas organizaciones pidieron medidas concretas para que el entonces presidente electo, Donald Trump, no pudiera utilizarlos con fines de deportación.

Sin embargo, el secretario de Seguridad Nacional saliente, Jeh Johnson, se limitó a pedir por carta a Trump que "cumpliese" el compromiso del Gobierno de EEUU con estos jóvenes y que mantuviese esa discreción, que había sido una "constante" durante "décadas".

Fueron cerca de 700,000 los jóvenes indocumentados que desde 2012 se acogieron al programa DACA, recientemente eliminado por Trump, y que dieron todo tipo de información personal en el proceso.

El programa, promovido por Obama, protegió de la de-

portación y otorgó permisos a estos jóvenes indocumentados, que llegaron de niños al país y a los que se conoce como "soñadores" o "dreamers".

Trump suspendió el programa a principios de septiembre, pero dio seis meses al Congreso para encontrar una alternativa.

La Casa Blanca negocia ahora con líderes demócratas para aprobar una ley que dé una nueva cobertura legal a los "soñadores" a cambio, posiblemente, de incluir financiación para la contratación de más agentes migratorios.

Many East Palo Alto residents attended the Latino Health Forum featured below. If you missed it, see the next Talking with Henrietta coming up on December 17, 2017

**¡Sana, Sana, Colita de Rana!
Cuidate Hoy Para Un Mejor Mañana**

5th Annual Free Latino Health Forum

Saturday, November 4, 10:30am to 3:30pm

Community Counseling Center

2415 University Avenue in East Palo Alto



Food Raffles Zumba Panel Speakers

smchealth.org/SanaSana

The face of East Palo Alto throughout the generations

By Rayshaun Jordan

More than half a century ago, in 1961, my family, the Jordans, came to the small but powerful city of East Palo Alto. We have stayed here “through thick and thin” and have seen the city grow and change. For us, gentrification has served as an extended metaphor to represent the changes in our local neighborhood culture over 56 years.

I was born here and can remember changes and growth even in my lifetime. Long-standing businesses have been replaced – my father used to take his clothes to Kitty’s Cleaners on Newbridge St., but in 2010, it became Ana’s Party Flowers, so now we go to Belmont for our dry cleaning.

We used to go to Best Buy in Ravenswood Shopping Center for electronics, but since 2013, it was replaced with PGA Tour Superstore, a golf store. Sports Authority – where I remember buying my first pair of running shoes – was replaced by Target earlier this year.

As long as I have been alive, businesses have been undulating in and out like the smooth periodic tide of the San Francisco Bay. However,

bay tide is not the cause of this phenomenon -- this is gentrification.

Gentrification started a r o u n d 2000, when the Ravenswood 101 Shopping Center and several new h o u s i n g communities

were built. In many ways it has made our city economy stronger and better and improved East Palo Alto’s status as a city. But my father and grandmother have seen other effects, which often were difficult.

One of the biggest changes is in the racial demographics of East Palo Alto since my father was young. He was raised in the first house my grandparents bought back in 1961, when the community was predominantly African-American. He grew up in the Ravenswood City School district, like myself. My father graduated from Woodside High School in 1981, joined the U.S. Air Force and worked there as an airplane mechanic f o r f o u r years. When he returned



Photo by Rayshaun Jordan
Vivian Jordan, Rayshaun’s grandmother, is shown standing in front of the house she has lived in since 1961.

home, he found his city had become crime ridden, and by 1993, it had earned the infamous title of “m u r d e r capital” of the country because of its high murder rate. It also had incorporated

as a city.

“Many things were happening at once and it was a sad time for everyone due to the many murders that happened during that decade,” he said.

My father often reminisces about the old days and the old familiar community.

“I wish East Palo Alto was more affordable so my friends could move back to where they grew up,” he said. “And that the racial demographics of the city, which gave me a sense of community, was the same.”

As the years passed, though, many African-American people who had lived in East Palo Alto for many years moved out. They had many reasons -- family deaths and disasters, unemployment, job

opportunities. The community shifted from having been about 43 percent African-American in 1990, to 23 percent in 2000, to about 17 percent today.

Racial demographics had shifted before, though. In the 1940s, it was a farming community, and many Japanese-Americans lived here. They didn’t return after World War II, and cheap housing replaced the farms. When my grandmother bought her home in the University Village neighborhood in 1961, she bought it from a white family named the Rittos.

She recalls that she first considered buying another home in the neighborhood, but it was much smaller and more expensive. She managed to buy her house and still lives in the same house today, but it has been difficult over the years to watch the impact of the steadily rising cost of living.

“East Palo Alto in the 1960’s and 1970’s was considered a low-income area with an influence of minorities (mostly black) being able to afford housing,” she said. “Now more wealthier and affluent people are flowing into this low income area forcing others out with higher rent and cost of living and the minorities are

forced to seek more affordable areas.”

Like my father, I often feel that gentrification has caused East Palo Alto to lose its sense of culture. Sometimes I feel left out and overlooked, as I am now a minority in a city where I once was in the majority. The community around me doesn’t necessarily share the values and customs I was raised to honor.

It can be a good learning experience to prepare for even more diversity and difference in college and beyond, but it can still be difficult to find my place here, even after living in this city all 16 years of my life.

I am simply one voice of hundreds and I hope that through our story, you will be inspired to explore how gentrification impacts your own family.

Rayshaun Jordan served as a summer journalism intern at East Palo Alto Today in 2016 and in 2017.

He is currently a student at Eastside College Preparatory School, where he is responsible for bringing stories in every six weeks about the East Palo Alto community to The Panther, the school’s newspaper.

He is among the EPA Today interns who won a 2017 San Francisco Press Club award.

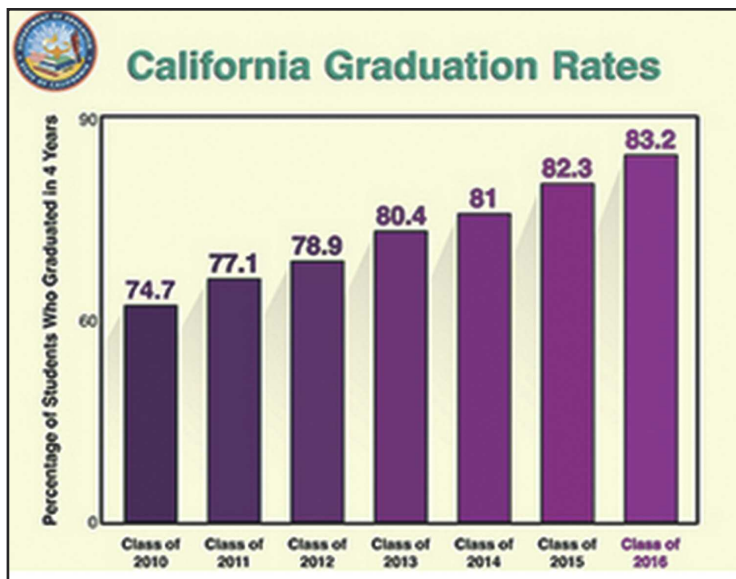
San Mateo County students continue to outpace the state average

By Patricia Love

The California Department of Education has released the 2017 Smarter Balanced Assessment results. Sixty percent of San Mateo County students met or exceeded the English Language Arts/Literary (ELA/Literacy) standard, an increase of one percentage point from 2016, and 52 percent met or exceeded the Mathematics standard, a result that mirrors 2016 results. San Mateo County students continued to surpass state averages in the percentage of students who met or exceeded the achievement standards. The State experienced a similar rate of change.

The results are part of the California Department of Education’s 2017 Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC), which were given to students in grades three through eight and grade 11 last spring to more than three million students in California.

Some results of note among San Mateo County students include gains of 3 percent among 7th graders and 4 percent among 11th graders in the ELA/Literacy assessment in 2017. That growth continued from the previous year, and the two grades are up 6 and 7 percent respectively



Graphic courtesy of <https://www.cde.ca.gov/>

since 2015. The 7th and 11th graders also saw growth in math achievement during the same periods. As for district performance, Jefferson Union and Sequoia Union High School Districts led the way in ELA/Literacy growth with a respective 10 and 12 percent increase in 2017 alone. The two schools also saw 7 and 5 percent growth in math achievement.

“These data give us the opportunity to look carefully at how our districts are doing. We will be carefully analyzing the results to see which districts are experiencing the most growth. We can identify the strategies they’re using and then share those best prac-

tices with others,” explained Anne E. Campbell, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools. “In fact, we have begun this work already. We have analyzed data on those districts demonstrating impressive growth and are now visiting them to learn what they have been doing and how others might learn from their experience.”

Other results of note indicate a continuation of the achievement gap within San Mateo County. Asian, White, and students of two or more races received scores which met or exceeded standards in much higher percentages than those of their Black or African

American, Hispanic or Latino and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander peers on both the ELA/Literacy and mathematics assessments. Additionally, economically disadvantaged students, English learners, and students with disabilities scored significantly lower than the county average. “We are disappointed not to see more growth, but our battle to close the achievement gap will continue. We need to make excellence and equity in education for all students a reality,” Campbell said. “We still have much to do.”

Differences in performance at different grade levels persisted at both the county and state level. For example, 70 percent of 11th graders met or exceeded the ELA/Literacy standard, but only 54 percent of 3rd graders hit that target. Conversely, 60 percent of 3rd

graders met or exceeded the mathematics standard, while 11th graders brought up the rear at 46 percent.

Smarter Balanced (SBA) Summative Assessments are comprehensive, end-of-year assessments of grade-level learning that measure progress toward college and career readiness. Each test is comprised of two parts: (1) a computer adaptive test and (2) a performance task; administered when 66 percent of the instructional year has been completed. The summative assessments are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for ELA and Mathematics and are administered to eligible students in grades three through eight and eleven.

Patricia Love works with the San Mateo County Office of Education.



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From the Editor's Desk

Giving thanks for "the little city that could"

Will East Palo Alto ever live down the reputation it gained in the 1990's as the "Murder Capital of the world?" According to East Palo Alto's Mayor, Larry Moody, East Palo Alto may well be on its way.

In his State of the City address, which he delivered at the Four Seasons Hotel on Monday, November 20, the mayor took as one of his themes the idea that East Palo Alto is carving out a whole new image.

In fact, Moody claimed proudly that East Palo Alto's transformation is such that now many residents proudly proclaim that East Palo Alto is their home, unlike the time not too long ago, when some of the city's residents were reluctant to say that they lived in East Palo Alto.

At the beginning of his address, the standing room only audience saw a Mural, Music & Arts project video in which "two young males rapped repeatedly, "We ain't the 90's."

Moody repeated then rephrased that refrain. "We are no longer the 90's," he said. "We are a safe, united, strong and diverse community thriving in Silicon Valley."

Indeed, there were many accomplishments the mayor pointed to that supported the transformation, which he said is underway.

Topping the mayor's list is the fact that there has not been one homicide in East Palo Alto thus far this year. "This is something worth ...celebrating and applaud(ing)," he said. He credited the city's safety record to the Community Service Aid program and the Clean Zone and Fit Zone programs, which bring police staff closer to the community. He also recognized the work of various city non-profits that had received Measure C and TOT grants from the city.

A variety of projects are also transforming the city, like the Reach I project that will prevent flooding in the city's Garden neighborhood.

Moody cited East Palo Alto's balanced budget and its newly adopted City Debt Management Policy, which are leading to the city's financial stability. He applauded the city's efforts to protect its di-

versity and its immigrant community, which led to its opposition to indiscriminate raids by ICE and its efforts to inform and welcome all of its residents in spite of their immigration status.

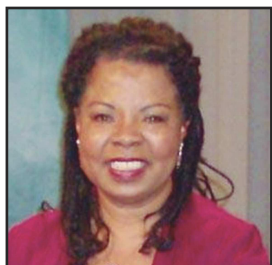
The city's agreements with its labor unions that result in the gains in benefits and salaries that were the largest in the city's history also stood high on the mayor's list, along with the Working Scholars program that allowed a number of city residents to pursue cost college degrees at no personal cost.

The attraction of Amazon to the new Sobrato building at 2100 University Ave and the opening of Target shows that East Palo Alto is a city that is attractive to the business community. This increase in city businesses enables the city to raise additional revenue that will allow it to provide more and better services to its residents.

Moody went on to cite the work Renaissance Start up is doing to develop small businesses; the opening of the Serenity Senior Apartments; the city water agreements, the plans underway to reduce the city's traffic congestion; the study to consider ways to develop a network of city bike paths and lanes; the Highway 101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing Project; the Safe Routes to School improvement project; the city's MTC award for having the most improved roads; and the new developments underway, like the Primary School, The Goldman Foundation Youth Art & Music Project and the two Class A office projects underway slated for Bay Road and University Ave.

Certainly, in many ways, the East Palo Alto of the '90's is a place of the past. Transformation is, indeed, underway. But, the challenge now is for city residents to find ways to keep many of the positive things that they value about the city's past and its present from being swallowed up by the many transformations to come.

Mayor Moody described East Palo Alto as "the little city that could." Like their city, its residents will have to believe that they can do, too, if they are to find a way to protect what they value most about their city.



Henrietta J. Burroughs



The Honorable Mayor Larry Moody invites you to the **STATE OF THE CITY ANNUAL ADDRESS**

Monday, November 20, 2017 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Four Seasons Hotel - Silicon Valley Ballroom
2850 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
Please RSVP to Maria Buell at (650) 853-3127 or mbuell@cityofepa.org

Photos by H.J. Burroughs

It was a standing room only crowd that came out to hear East Palo Alto's Mayor, Larry Moody, give the State of the City address on Monday, November 20, 2017, at the Four Seasons Hotel. The mayor began his presentation by introducing one of the city's "bright, young East Palo Alto stars, Abbie Velasquez," to sing the National Anthem, and no one in the audience, as far as anyone knows, took a knee.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

The Tools of Tyranny

Dear Editor:

The Department of Justice has obtained a search warrant for 1.3 million IP addresses of everyone who visited the anti-Trump "Disrupt J20" Web site. In addition to email addresses, says DreamHost, Justice wants 'contact information, email content, and photos of thousands of people' who simply visited the site. DreamHost challenged the warrant, and DOJ has now sought a court order to compel it to produce the information, says the company [DreamHost], "according to Multichannel.com.

This "fishing expedition" is exactly the kind of intrusion that keeps dictatorships going: It reveals who disagrees with it; who else to go after; and any old thing that was said in the emails. Those on the list are guilty simply by association.

It allows the DOJ to go after people, "guilty" or not. It has your social security number. You can be harassed, you can lose your job, You can be jailed. This happened in our country in the 1950s under McCarthyism. In Argentina, people were simply "disappeared."

Those who escape being harassed learn to keep very quiet. They are living in fear. The movie, The Lives of Others, vividly shows what it felt like to live under the Stasi in East Germany.

Warrants are for crimes. No crime was committed. In fact, it is illegal under the first and fourth amendment for DOJ to issue it. We each need to send the message that the DOJ under Attorney Jeff Sessions has gone too far. We will not live in fear!

Gertrude Reagan
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Sent to the editor:

September 12, 2017

The Honorable Kirsten Keith-Mayor
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mayor Keith:

On behalf of the Ravenswood City School District community, I am writing to inform you that our community will no longer stand by idly as you continue bashing us for the express purpose of earning political equity with your Menlo Park constituents.

Your attempt to secede Belle Haven from the Ravenswood City School District will be met with resistance at every step as we will not allow for you to create an environment that segregates our district based on race and socio economic status, for the sole purpose of increasing Menlo Park property values.

We are a blue-collar community working each and everyday to provide our students with a strong education that will allow them the opportunity to one day achieve their dreams. What the test scores you irresponsibly throw around to make your point do not capture is that, unlike students in Menlo Park, half of our students are homeless because they cannot afford to live in the Silicon Valley.

While you are worried about Menlo Park property values, I am worried about the complete economic destruction of our community due to power

grabs, such as the one you are seeking, where the only winners will be those who already have, at the expense of those who do not have affluence or power.

Despite the economic obstacles my community members navigate on a daily basis, during the last four years, in partnership with local and regional leaders, our district has implemented major reforms that are beginning the process of completely transforming the educational experience of students in our district.

From establishing a new middle school to being the only school district in the United States to extricate itself from being under a court monitor for the last 20 years, success is quickly becoming the new normal at Ravenswood. With some research and interest in getting to know us, you would have known about the amazing success that our students and teachers are achieving in our classrooms.

The days of the Ravenswood City School District being at the bottom are over. We are determined to persist and succeed despite any detractors.

On behalf of the hardworking people of the Ravenswood City School District, let it also be clear that we will not allow anyone to segregate our community. We will fight to protect our reputation, our resources, and most importantly, the future of our children and community.

Respectfully,
Dr. Gloria M. Hernandez-Goff
Superintendent

cc: Menlo Park City Council

East Palo Alto Today

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www.epamedia.org and www.epatoday.org

Opinion

The right of every child to receive a quality education

By Mary Streshly

As the superintendent of the Sequoia Union High School District, and as an educator, it is my firm belief that every child has the right to receive a quality education in order to help make all of their dreams come true.

Although I am new to the region, what is strikingly evident to me is that, for far too long, the freeway that divides the East Palo Alto community from the rest of the Silicon Valley has also acted as a metaphorical dividing line preventing the rest of the region from experiencing everything good that East Palo Alto has to offer.

Since my arrival, one of the first things I did was to immediately reach out to Ravenswood City School District's superintendent, Dr. Gloria M. Hernandez-Goff. As I continue deve-

loping our working relationship, and after meeting with her leadership team, there is no doubt in my mind that their top priority is to ensure that, not only are their students prepared for success in high school, but equally important, are academically aligned with Sequoia's standards for success.

At Menlo-Atherton High School, principal Simone Rick-Kennel has made it her mission to not only embrace East Palo Alto's children, but also, to make it clear that Menlo-Atherton High School is East Palo Alto's home high school.

The strength of the relationship between Sequoia USD and Ravenswood CSD has been so successful that we are aggressively expanding our footprint in both East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park where we have em-



Mary Streshly

braced East Palo Alto Academy as a district school, and the soon to be open, Technology Innovation Design and Engineering Academy (TIDE) Academy where East Palo Alto students will have a conveniently located school that will provide them the opportunity to obtain an education that focuses on Career Technical Education in design and engineering in a state-of-the-art facility. Additionally, TIDE students will be in a small school setting that will focus on individualized project based learning that will be further en-

hanced by our College Advantage partnership with Cañada College.

Although as a district we are in the business of educating students, it is also important to remember that, to achieve that goal, we are always seeking candidates to join our ranks. In having a stronger presence in East Palo Alto, we are also hoping to increase the number of community members wanting to be a part of our district and our mission.

As we continue building a relationship, I want to make it clear that I want you to also see me as your superintendent, and a partner that fully embraces everything East Palo Alto has to offer.

As much as I will be spending time in East Palo Alto, I also want to make sure that you feel welcomed at Sequoia sponsored events, and at meetings of our Board of Trustees as we are one

community, and your voice in the conversation is critical in the various conversations that take place at our district.

Beginning in January, I will begin my Conversation with Dr. Mary Streshly series as a way by which to interact directly with you, and provide you the opportunity to hear from me and ask me questions. The first meeting will take place on January 11th at East Palo Alto Academy, and the second meeting will take place on February 8th at Menlo-Atherton High School. I invite you to join me, and look forward to the opportunity to dialogue with you.

By working together, not only will we make sure that children in East Palo Alto will make their dreams a reality, but we will also turn the highway 101 divide into a road we take together towards prosperity and opportunity.

Expanding neighborhood revitalization in East Palo Alto

By Maureen Sedonaen

The Bay Area's shifting economy has impacted many communities and neighborhoods. Here in East Palo Alto, the city was recently ranked number one for the fastest housing appreciation over the past five years. This means, too many residents are getting priced out and displaced from their beloved community with soaring home prices and rent. For longtime homeowners, Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco believes it is important to preserve the current housing stock, especially for those whose wealth is tied



Maureen Sedonaen

so closely to their homes.

Leo Woodward, 92 years-old, has been in her East Palo Alto home for 39 years. A retired nursing assistant, Leo is naturally a caretaker. Her home has been the stable force that's helped her care for her children and relative. Leo

always has an open-door policy for home-cooked meals and a place to rest your head. Currently, Leo continues to care for her son who has autism and her two grandchildren. While Leo's four walls reflect her nurturing love and grace, they also show the wear and tear of decades of a home lived in well. Leo was faced with essential construction repairs needed for her and her family's safety and accessibility in her home. On a fixed income, Leo did not know where to turn for help. Leaving her longtime community, where she's been a parishioner for decades at her

church down the street, was not an option either.

Leo's story is one that is all too familiar. With 18 percent of East Palo Alto's residents living below the poverty line and residents making around \$40,000 less in median income than its San Mateo County counterpart, many local homeowners do not have the resources and support to fix these critical repairs themselves.

You may have recently seen Habitat Greater San Francisco volunteers hard at work in East Palo Alto neighborhoods repairing homes and community facilities. Most people know our organization for

building affordable homes for first-time homebuyers, but we also help longtime homeowners retain their home and preserve neighborhoods through our Neighborhood Revitalization program.

Habitat's Neighborhood Revitalization program rallies our massive support base to provide critical home repairs to low-income residents, renovate community facilities and restore parks in the neighborhoods where Habitat builds. Habitat is greatly expanding our Neighborhood Revitalization program here in East Palo Alto. Working alongside the

continued on page 14

Drive an EV: What An Ordinary Citizen Can Do to Fight Climate Change

By Ariane Erickson

Despite the views of our current president and his administration, global warming is real. Scientists have proven that it is caused by human activity, and we need to change our behavior in order to curtail the worst effects, including extreme heat waves, wildfires, and sea level rise. But what can an ordinary citizen do to lower the emissions that are causing climate change?

Transportation accounts for approximately 30% of a typical East Palo Alto household's carbon. Gasoline-powered cars burn fossil fuels, releasing heat-trapping carbon dioxide (CO2) into our air - not to mention many other pollutants. Conversely, electric vehicles release zero CO2 at the tailpipe. More-

over, here in the Bay Area, the electricity used to power EVs is largely derived from carbon neutral energy sources. Thus, switching to electric vehicles can bring a household's car emissions down to zero. Eliminating this emissions source is one of the biggest ways that any individual can personally fight climate change, right here, right now. Score one for the environment!

But what about consumers? What's in it for us? Aren't EVs expensive?

The sheer number of Teslas sweeping down Willow Road, and University Avenue on their daily commutes into Silicon Valley leads more modest-income Peninsula residents to believe that electric vehicles are only for the rich. This assumption is resoundingly untrue. Most automobile manufacturers are



Ariane Erickson

now producing competitively-priced electric vehicles, and government agencies are providing strong financial incentives to "early adopters" and low-to-moderate income consumers.

Here's how you can lease or own an electric vehicle for less than your family's monthly cable bill...

Federal tax credit: Consumers who purchase an electric vehicle are eligible for a tax credit of up to \$7,500. This means that, if you purchase an EV this year, you can reduce your tax bill by

\$7,500 when you complete your 2017 taxes. This is equal to paying \$7,500 less for the vehicle itself, but the discount comes as a reduction in taxes, rather than at the time of sale. (Note: the credit applies only to the amount of your tax liability. If you do not owe taxes, you do not get the credit.)

State rebate: To meet Governor Brown's ambitious goal of 1.5 million zero emission vehicles on California roads by 2025, California is giving rebates up to \$2,500 for the purchase or lease of electric vehicles, and an additional \$2,000 rebate to low-income consumers. What's more, PG&E is giving its customers (even those who have switched to Peninsula Clean Energy) an additional \$500 for purchasing or leasing an electric vehicle.

Here's an example of how

affordable an EV becomes using the above incentives. A recent local dealer offered a 36 month lease on a Kia Soul EV with \$2,500 cash due at signing (down payment, first month's lease, and various fees) and \$99 plus tax per month. These lease figures include the \$7,500 federal tax credit, so the consumer can't apply for the credit separately. However, they could apply for the \$2,500 state rebate by completing the online application, and would then receive a check in the mail for \$2,500 in approximately six weeks. This means getting a refund for the entire cash due amount! And, if the lessee qualifies as a low-income earner, they get an additional \$2,000, for a total of \$4,500, which not only eliminates the down payment, but effectively lowers their monthly

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Lifecycles

Charles Jones - August 17, 1937 - August 15, 2017

Charles Jones was born in Pleasant Hill, Louisiana the young-est of five children born to Reverend & Mrs. Joseph Jones. His humble beginnings in Pleasant Hill are significant because it was here that he received nurturing and guidance from his parents which helped prepare him to be a good businessman. They instilled in him sound principles about how to live. They taught him self-respect, how to treat others, self-discipline, and were themselves examples of a strong work ethic. Most of all, they encouraged him



Charles Jones

to always do and be his best – striving for excellence.

With this foundation, a young Charles believed he could

achieve anything he desired, and at a very young age, he began dreaming of owning his own business. Though he faced numerous obstacles growing up in a rural southern community (and throughout his life), he didn't allow these challenges to prevent him from reaching his goals. In fact, he became even more determined to attain them. He always believed that people and/or circumstances don't define who you are or what you become – you do. He is known for and has lived by this saying "It is not what happens to you in life that is important but how you respond to what happens to you that mat-

ters." His response to adversity was to keep trying, working and praying – always giving his best. He was determined not to give up and because of this dedication, he was a successful man. He was a loving spouse, an excellent father and grandfather; and he was a mentor and role model to many.

Charles completed his early education in Pleasant Hill and graduated with the highest honor as class Valedictorian. With an interest in finance, he continued his education at Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA. He came to California in the 1950's and later served in the United States Army

as a Finance Specialist. During his enlistment, he was awarded the "Key to the City" while stationed in Olympia Washington. Charles also received special recognition from the then Governor Albert Roselini, for outstanding service. During this time, he married Jean Brown and to this union, one child was born – their daughter, Sandra.

Upon receiving an honorable discharge from the Army, he furthered his education at both the University of San Francisco and the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science in preparation

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Gloria Millicent Bullock - October 12, 1929 - September 3, 2017

Gloria Millicent Bullock was born in Harlem, New York City in 1929 to Sarah Hairston and Harry Bullock. Her father received in education in the south and moved north to seek better opportunities as an architect. As a Black man in the 1930's that did not happen. Her mother's family had come from Puerto Rico. Gloria's great grandfather came from China to work on the Transcontinental Railroad. At that time Chinese women were not allowed to immigrate to the USA.

Harlem in the 1930's was very very poor. According to Gloria gangs ruled her neighborhood. Her father had taught both Gloria and her sister how to defend themselves. Both her parents valued education. In New York City at the end of

the sixth grade Gloria tested so well she entered Hunter College Honors Junior High and High School for the gifted. From there Gloria received a full Scholarship to Hunter College and graduated 1950 with B.A. in Mathematics and a minor in Physics.

Gloria's parents were devout Christians. She was baptized and attended a Black Church in Harlem where she loved to sing. As Gloria got older she preferred to go fishing with her dad and not be "dressed up" all day for Sunday church and activities. Sarah, her mother, was a highly skilled dress maker, seamstress, and outstanding cook.

With a BA in Mathematics Gloria was recruited to work in early research using mathematical models for the beginning of computers at a company in southern California. In her spare time she got



Gloria Millicent Bullock

her pilot's license and joined a flying club. With other companies her work involved extensive traveling: East Coast, Hawaii and Miami. While in Miami she would spend the weekends in the Carribean. Being fluent in Spanish she traveled extensively in Central America and almost got in the middle of a coup.

Gloria was also married for a few years but to her disappointment she had no children. Her husband took a job as a school principal in Arctic Alaska where they worked with the native pop-

ulation. Gloria said she loved it. They canoed down the Frasher River and camped during several days of a rain storm in their tent. When the Eskimo's went whale fishing Gloria was there to help carve up the blubber and store it for the winter's food supply even though there was a small company store.

When I met Gloria she had left her 25 years in industry and decided to make a difference with kids. That transition included extensive course work at Canada College where she was part of a cycling club.

In 1981 she joined the Sequoia UHSD first working with the newly formed computer Academys Program at Menlo Atherton. From there she became a bilingual senior Math Associate at MA and then Redwood where we met. She tutored not only students but many adults who needed to pass a Math Exam for their pro-

motion: teacher, principal and district administrator. At Redwood her math tutoring let to increased passing rates for all testing: GED, CHSPE and Proficiency Exams.

In her later years Gloria especially enjoyed singing at Keraoke events. She love to read. Kepler's was her favorite book store. Gloria had an extensive library of health and nutrition books.

Through the teaching, music and welcoming atmosphere at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Gloria recommitted her life to following the teachings of Jesus.

Gloria has now joined her parents, sister and her special friend, Wade Glass with our Lord.

By Suzanne Wells a Redwood High School counselor and friend.

Obituaries continued on page 12.

If you missed this event, you can still get information about the Bahá'ís of East Palo Alto. Email them at EPABahais@gmail.com and get information about future events!



200 YEARS OF VISION BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION Bahá'u'lláh 1817|2017

Bicentennial of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh

"The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."

– Bahá'u'lláh

Saturday, October 21, 2017 | 5PM-9PM

Cooley Landing
2100 Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

RSVP by October 14, 2017 by emailing EPABahais@gmail.com

The event will include dinner, performances, and a presentation.

The event is free and open to the public, but RSVP's are appreciated.

Sponsored by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of East Palo Alto

Bahá'ís of East Palo Alto mark the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

Bahá'ís in East Palo Alto and around the globe, are preparing to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892) was a spiritual teacher Who announced in 1863 that He was the bearer of a new revelation from God. His teachings have spread around the world, forming the basis of a process of social transformation and community building which is unique in its global scope and the diversity of participants.

"200 Years of Vision" is a celebration of the transformative impact of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings on the lives of families, neighborhoods, and communities around the country and the world. Bahá'u'lláh's vision of the oneness of humanity is an antidote to the racial prejudice and materialism that are corroding American society.

"Now more than ever we need positive models of social change that bring people together rather than divide them," said Amy Bayani, a member of the East Palo Alto Bahá'í community. "This is what we will be celebrating in the months leading up to Bahá'u'lláh's birth in October."

The celebration will be held at Cooley Landing on October 21, 2017 and is open to all. To learn more about the event and to RSVP, please email the East Palo Alto Bahá'í community at epabahais@gmail.com

Lifecycles

Black Infant Health program celebrates its 25th year



Photos by H.J. Burroughs

The founders and supporters of Black Infant Health San Mateo County celebrate the program's past, present and future as they share some of the congratulatory letters and certificates they received.

By **Henrietta J. Burroughs**

For the founders, staff and supporters of the Black Infant Health San Mateo County program, Friday, September 29, 2017 marked an important anniversary. It was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the program's founding and it was a day for "Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Present and Planning the Future."

The Black Infant Health (BIH) program was founded 25 years ago to reduce the infant death rate among black infants and their mothers in San Mateo Co.

But even today, according to the available statistics, "almost one in eight African American babies in California is born too early or too small... are more than twice as likely as white babies to die before their first birthdays and African American women are much more likely than white women to die of pregnancy-related complications."

Each speaker, during the anniversary event, explained why Black Infant Health San Mateo County "aims to improve health among African American mothers and babies and to reduce the Black:White disparities by empowering pregnant and

mothering African American women to make healthy choices for themselves, their families, and their communities."

The program's presenters included Srija Srinivasan, the San Mateo County family health services director and Supervisor Don Horsley, who is the president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Horsley, a supporter of the program since its founding, presented a proclamation honoring the work that the program has accomplished in improving the infant and maternal health of black infants and their mothers during the past 25 years.

In "Celebrating the Past," Bernestine Benton, the community program supervisor, discussed how Black Infant Health San Mateo County came into being and acknowledged all of the people who were instrumental in the program's creation.

Anand Chabra, the event's special guest, who is the Maternal Child Adolescent Health

& Family Health Services Medical Director, presented remarks "Embracing the Present" and Lizelle Lirio de Luna, a clinical manager with FHS/Home Visiting discussed the difference Black Infant Health San Mateo County is making in the lives of its clients. Her remarks were directed at "Planning the Future."

The program also featured several clients who passionately described the positive difference the program had made in their lives and in their children's lives.



San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley presents Bernestine Benton with a proclamation from San Mateo County honoring the BIH program.

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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Youth mental health first aid certification training is a success

By Jeff Austin

Two years ago, an independent grant review panel said to the Mid-Peninsula Athletic Association, that it should just stick to football. This statement was made after the panel denied the MPAA a grant to provide collaborative mental health services for its participants. The rejection of the programming element the organization was trying to implement was somewhat baffling to the board of directors of the MPAA and especially to me, the group's programming director.

It was baffling and the message that was sent to us that day was something that we all looked upon as totally ludicrous. We could not understand how we were being told to just stick to football. Our mission statement clearly reflects that we are totally about building champions on and off the field.

As a lifelong resident of East Palo Alto and a youth football coach for 17 years, I have been championing a programming element that enhances the development of its young participants through a process of assessment, and case management. Until this year funding had been a little tough to come by.

The city had always supported our efforts of changing the culture of youth sports in East Palo Alto. But, the funding that was allotted although grate-



Photo courtesy of Jeff Austin

The panel of trainers are shown taking a stretch break as they provide the necessary mental health certification training the Mastodons need.

fully accepted, was never quite enough to make a severe impact on the many problems that faced the programs launch.

This year along with grant funding from newly acquired financial partners such as Woodlawn Park Apartment management, Country store, Facebook, Smart and Final, PAL Market, Philanthropic Ventures and a moderate list of private donors, the Holistic Development Program could fully launch its inaugural three step program. The program was created to raise the level of awareness, assess for traumatic occurrences, and create a case management scenario for the participants of the MPAA football program and their parents concerning the possibilities surrounding mental health and the issues and challenges

among our young people.

Well thank goodness, the Mastodons are a hustle, hit, and never quit kind of group. September 16, 2017 was the first step in to a revolutionary way to administer the true mission of youth sports.

The coaches and board members of the Mid-Peninsula Athletic Association held their first Youth Mental Health First Aid Certification class. This certification course raised the level of awareness concerning mental health issues and challenges among young people. There were plenty of "I didn't know that's" during this training.

The coaches were thoroughly enlightened about the status of mental health among our young people today. They were introduced to Kevin Hines,

who was a young man diagnosed with Bipolar disorder, after he attempted suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge and surviving.

Also in attendance was Mayor Larry Moody as well as Councilwoman Lisa Gauthier, who was instrumental in drumming up support for the organization's efforts in the beginning of its mission some three to four years ago.

"I was thoroughly enlightened in the short amount of time I spent with the training. I applaud the leadership of Jeff Austin and Tyler Barker in this endeavor. It is so encouraging to see the youth sports programs of our city taking another positive developmental step," stated Councilwoman Lisa, who could only add "Great Job!!!"

I feel that every youth sports organization in the City of East Palo Alto should take it upon themselves to open up to the idea of becoming more than just sports. For the second leading cause of death among our young people in the United States today is suicide. It could be viewed from the definition of the term "epidemic."

We vow wholeheartedly that we will not allow any of our Mastodon family to become a statistic in this category of suicide. We decided to do something about it. Listen, seven times I have had to ask the

question, "Are you planning to kill yourself?" And out of the 7 times I asked, 5 times the young person said, "Yes," and three out of those 5 had a plan. Let me emphasize that these numbers are real.

In summation, the day of the training was a wonderful day for the Mastodons and the families that they serve. The next step to an enriching growth producing experience through youth sports programming has begun.

The Mastodons are proud to have been instrumental in this training and we encourage all folks that work with our youth today to partake in the Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings that the Mastodons will be offering in the future. Training our coaches to understand the difference between normal adolescent development and the possibility of a mental health challenge or disorder is essential to understanding how to navigate a truly complex world with good to excellent mental health.

The proof is in the pudding, upon implementing this program, the graduation rate of Mastodon players has grown, with a culmination of its 7 initial Holistic Development Program participants being awarded offer letters of

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24-hour notice



Photo courtesy of the City of East Palo Alto

Sanitary workers clean and disinfect the storm drains in the 1100 block of Weeks Street in East Palo Alto.

ager, said that the city had not evicted the families, but had simply responded to a health and safety issue that had developed from overflowing storm drains filled with sewage and had prohibited parking on the street for 60 days. In a telephone interview, Charpentier said, "We're just telling people not to park on Weeks Street."

In a press release issued several hours after the enforcement of the parking prohibition, Charpentier wrote, "the City closed a portion of Weeks Street to parking because there were multiple RVs ...emptying their chemical toilets into the street. The sewage from the RVs filled the storm drain and started to back up into the gutter."

Charpentier said that it is illegal to dump a chemical toilet in the street and that the city

"has repeatedly informed the RV occupants that there are sufficient RV dumping stations in Redwood City and Mountain View and Sunnyvale."

He went on to state, "Sewage in the street and the storm drain is a public health hazard. There have been outbreaks of Hepatitis A in southern California that are associated with sewage."

West Bay Sanitation district was called upon to pump the storm drain, and, according to Charpentier, the company confirmed that the storm drain was filled with sewage.

The city's press release also cited the fact that the end of Weeks Street often floods, and the impending storms predicted for the Bay Area would disperse the sewage.

On Tuesday afternoon, when the city placed no parking

signs at the end of Pulgas, prior to the Wednesday morning street closure, Charpentier walked through the area with representatives from Life Moves, a local organization that is set up to provide interim housing and supportive services to those who are homeless, in an effort to offer assistance to those living in their vehicles.

In responding to the lack of affordable housing and some of the options available to the RV tenants, Charpentier said that the nonprofit sector could do more in providing assistance, which it hadn't done yet. He said that churches and other social

s e r v i c e a g e n c i e s could offer their parking lots and that the RV dwellers could find a park that would take them. He said the City of East Palo Alto doesn't own any land like the city's religious institutions.

But, the members of RCC say that they

are very concerned about the homeless people who are being displaced. They say that data from the Ravenswood City School District shows that 50% of the students attending schools in the district are homeless.

According to - Patricia Finau Lopez, a longtime East Palo Alto resident, who lives on Weeks St., the city is just giving excuses to remove homeless people.

She said, "Our most vulnerable residents that include children and elderly are being targeted and we need to stand up for one another."

"These are families I consider ...to be my neighbors. I've

continued from page 1

shared meals with them. The city has created this excuse that the street will be flooded and it's for their safety. But with this unreasonable time frame, we know otherwise. This is unacceptable and inhumane and we will not put up with it!"

At the end of the long and contentious Public Works and Transportation Commission meeting, the motion banning oversized vehicles in the city was tabled and Charpentier said that the issue would be discussed at the East Palo Alto City Council meeting on December 19, without the commission's recommendation.

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Calls for early prostate cancer screening of black men may get a boost from Hifu technology

By Brian J. Miles, MD

African American men who delay testing or treatment for prostate cancer run greater risks with their health than other males -- because they are roughly 1.6 times more likely to develop the disease than white men, and also more than twice as likely to die from it than whites.



Dr. Brian Miles

In light of those statistics, a recent study in *Cancer*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that black men should be screened for prostate cancer more often and at a younger age.

The study is significant because it challenges the conventional wisdom that early screening of typically slow-growing prostate cancer can lead to over-treatment.

The recommendations of the ACS study may get a needed boost from a relatively new ultrasound treatment procedure known as HIFU.

HIFU (which stands for High Intensity Focused Ultrasound) is a minimally invasive procedure for ablating (removing) prostate tissue -- minimizing the dreaded side effects of im-

potence and incontinence. HIFU bridges the gap and allows patients to maintain their quality of life.

Older African-American men who are not candidates for prostate cancer surgery could possibly benefit from HIFU. And younger African-American men who are susceptible to the disease may be willing to get tested earlier if they know they have the HIFU option, which may enable them to avoid the impotence or incontinence that can result from prostate surgery or radiotherapy.

HIFU works by directing high-frequency sound waves



Hifu technology device

that heat up and burn off a target area within the prostate. In 2015, the FDA cleared HIFU for prostate tissue ablation.

In addition to the use of HIFU at the University of Chicago Medicine, urologists at Duke University, Cleveland Clinic, Houston Methodist Hospital, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, USC and Weill Cornell Medicine, (among other hospitals/medical centers) are increasingly using HIFU. According to the Urology Care Foundation, more than 90% of men who are told they have prostate cancer, have localized disease, meaning a majority of these patients could benefit from a minimally invasive procedure like HIFU.

Notably this summer, the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recognized the HIFU procedure and created a specific billing code for partial reimbursement for Medicare patients who choose the HIFU option. In Europe and around

the world, HIFU has been used to treat more than 45,000 patients with encouraging results in terms of both survival rates and quality of life.

For instance, a multicenter study conducted by the French Association of Urology (AFU) showed optimal preservation of continence for 97 percent of patients and erectile function for more than 78 percent of men.

As these European studies have shown so far, ablation with HIFU has achieved a good result with minimal side effects.

HIFU is a step in the right direction for patients.

To learn more about prostate ablation and HIFU go to www.hifu-prostate.com. For the full link to the cancer study go to:

<http://newsroom.wiley.com/press-release/cancer/higher-prostate-cancer-risks-black-men-may-warrant-new-approach-screening>

Dr. Brian J. Miles is a professor of urology at the Institute for Academic Medicine and is associated with Houston Methodist Urology Associates, Houston Methodist and the Weill Cornell Medical College.

Spreading the word to diverse communities about PrEP



Photo courtesy Peter Schurmann, New America Media

By Anna Challet

A drug that prevents HIV infection has been available for five years. But even in San Francisco, a city where one might expect information about the drug to be easy to come by, only some people have heard of it -- and it's not the communities that remain disproportionately affected by HIV.

"We don't see Latinos, we don't see Blacks, we definitely don't see women and trans women as part of the imagery that's promoting PrEP, so of course they're not going to think it's for them," says Terrence Wilder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis, commercially called Truvada) helps prevent

individuals who are HIV-negative from contracting HIV.

It's one part of a downward trend in HIV infections. In San Francisco, the rate of new HIV infections has decreased by more than 50 percent in the past five years, according to Michael Barajas, the citywide PrEP navigator at the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

And yet, the CDC estimates that half of Black men who have sex with men (MSM), and a fourth of Latino MSM, will contract HIV over the course of their lives. In San Francisco, says Barajas, these populations account for a disproportionate number of new infections.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health has launched a campaign to close

the information gap about the drug, and held a briefing for ethnic media where Barajas, Wilder, and other advocates spoke.

Most insurance plans cover the drug at least partially, and Barajas says that programs exist to help uninsured or underinsured people pay for it. His project, the San Francisco City Clinic, helps connect people with those programs.

But the bigger problem, says health systems navigator Jorge Vieto of the Glide Foundation, is that "most of the folks we're working with don't even know PrEP is available."

Vieto, who works with people who are marginally housed, says that usage of

continued on page 12

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I am an East Palo Alto resident

Health needs in the Latino Community

coming up on

Talking with Henrietta

December 17, 2017

Watch for more details at
www.epatoday.org/tv.html

Barbara Jean Perkins

August 31, 1937 - June 22, 2017

Barbara Jean Perkins, a longtime resident of East Palo Alto, California, passed away on June 22, 2017 peacefully at the age of 79 due to respiratory failure. Barbara was born in Bessemer, Alabama to Willie and Pauline Thomas on August 31, 1937. Barbara accepted Christ at a young age and enjoyed attending church. She participated in many church activities with her mother at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Hueytown, Alabama. After graduating from Westfield High School, Barbara relocated to East Palo Alto, California and attended cosmetology school in Oakland. After graduating from cosmetology school, Barbara worked for Simmons House of Style and then Price Beauty Salon where she became the owner/operator. Barbara was joined in holy matrimony to the late William Jones. After his passing, she



Barbara Jean Perkins

later married the late Emerson Perkins Sr. As a young woman, Barbara joined St. John Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. James Branch and as an adult later rejoined under Dr. Robert L. Fairley and currently under Dr. Ricky Williams. Barbara was a faithful member of St. John where she served as a hospitality committee member, hospitality president and a member of the Women's Mission ministry. Barbara was also responsible for reading the church announcements during the 11 o'clock worship service. Barbara attended Sunday School and Bible Study and she also participated in St. John's 50 Day Spiritual. Barbara was a church member you could always count on, ready to help in any capacity with a smile. Barbara was a person of faith and lived life serving oth-

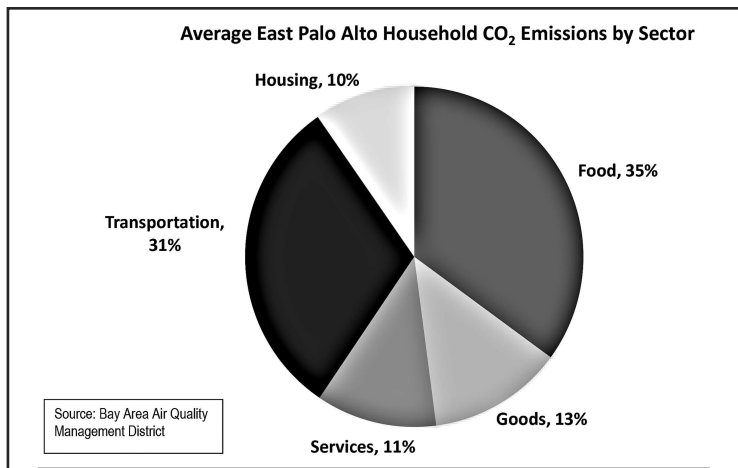
ers in the community. She was a member of Tulip L. Jones Women's Club of East Palo Alto since the early 90's. She served numerous terms as Past President leading the organization with a club motto of "When love and skills work together, it creates a masterpiece." Barbara worked very hard with the members to raise money to help provide scholarships for graduating seniors. These students have gone on to prestigious universities as Barbara always encouraged them to succeed and become productive members in society. In addition to being past club president of Tulip L. Jones, Barbara also served two terms as past State President of California and one term as Northern District President of California which are all under the umbrella of the National Association of Colored Women's Club. Helping youth has always been Barbara's passion. She has been responsible for organizing Debutante Balls while she served as President for the California Cosmetology Legislative Edu-

cational Committee. Barbara was a cosmetologist for over 50 years. She owned and operated Price Beauty Salon in East Palo Alto, CA located at 2112 University Ave. Barbara was known for keeping your hair healthy, jerry curls, hair coloring and weaves. Clients enjoyed coming to Barbara! She had a great ear for listening without judging and clients always felt comfortable speaking with her about any and everything! Barbara was also a board member of the East Palo Alto Senior Center, and remained active until her health did not allow her to fully participate. When Barbara was not busy participating with the numerous organizations she was a part of, she loved cooking for family gatherings. Her superb macaroni and cheese, potato salad, greens, combread and desserts were all mouth-watering. Barbara loved spending quality time with her children and grandchildren, watching Western movies, eating at her favorite restaurant (Sizzler), going on cruises, traveling to places such as India,

Europe and even Jerusalem. Barbara also loved to shop. Back in the day you would find her at her favorite department store I.Magnin. Barbara rejoins her loved ones, her father, Willie Thomas, her mother, Pauline Thomas, her brothers Emanuel Thomas and Willie Thomas, and both husbands, William Jones and Emerson Perkins Sr. She leaves to cherish her memories, three children: Donald Jones of Atlanta, GA and his wife Melba; Stacey Williams of Livermore, CA and her fiancé Jeff Kennon; Jennifer Stephens of East Palo Alto, CA and her husband Rycklon; two sisters: Theresa Thomas of Milpitas, CA; Pauline McKeever of Modesto, CA; five grandchildren: Demetra Jones of Oakland, CA and her mother Lisa Jones; William and Janelle Jones of Atlanta, GA and their mother Christie Morimoto; Rycklon Stephens Jr. of East Palo Alto, CA; Samora Stephens of East Palo Alto, CA; cousin Byrdie McClure of Austell, GA; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Drive an EV

payments to \$44 a month plus tax! They could then apply for the \$500 PG&E rebate (if they are a PG&E customer), which they could use to purchase an electric vehicle charger for their home. Score one for the consumer! In addition to being affordable and good for the environment, EVs provide many more benefits. Additional financial benefits include saving money on fuel (electricity is roughly one-third the price of gas) and lower maintenance costs due to the fact that EVs have 10 times fewer moving parts than gas-powered cars. All this means no more trips to the gas station, no oil changes, timing belt, radiator or spark plug replacements, or any other mechanical issues associated with gasoline engines. Want to drive in the carpool lane when you're the only person in your car? With an elec-



tric vehicle, you can apply for a carpool lane sticker and fly past the gridlock at rush hour. And if you commute over local bridges, you pay a reduced bridge toll as well! All of these financial benefits add up to huge savings. But once a driver switches to an EV, the biggest benefit just might be that electric vehicles deliver a better user experi-

ence. Due to their rapid, seamless acceleration and smooth, quiet ride, you can't help but love to drive them. But can they get you where you want to go? Some people are concerned about driving range. Today's EVs have ranges from 80 to 238 miles per charge. A study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reveals that the average Amer-

ican drives just over 29 miles a day. This means that most people can drive a fully charged electric vehicle for three days to one week before needing to recharge. But most EV owners simply plug their car into an electrical outlet each night, the same as they do with their cell phones. Which brings us to charging. How and where do you charge an electric vehicle? The majority of EV charging takes place at the owner's home. Drivers have the choice of using either a standard 120V outlet for a Level 1 (slow) charge, or of installing a Level 2 (faster) charger that will fill your car in about 4-5 hours. The current costs for Level 2 home chargers are approximately \$500, and hiring an electrician to install one can cost \$1,000 - \$3,000, depending on the amount of electrical upgrading needed. But these costs are more than out-

continued from page 6 weighed by the overall financial savings that come from "going EV." Many workplaces now also offer charging stations for their employees, and public stations abound in the EV-friendly Bay Area. The above financial incentives are being offered now to stimulate the switch to electric vehicles. As soon as widespread adoption has been achieved, these incentives will phase out. So why not take the plunge now? Do your part for the environment, clean the air in your community, reap the financial rewards of early adoption, pay less for fuel and maintenance, enjoy great acceleration and a smooth, quiet ride, and participate in the future of transportation. Go EV. This is what an ordinary citizen can do. For more information about electric vehicles, visit: acterra.org/goev.

Spreading the word

PrEP is happening primarily among gay white men and that many of his clients think that's the population the drug is meant for. In addition, says LYRIC deputy director Denny David, "When you don't know where you're sleeping at night, the idea of remembering to take a pill is pretty challenging." David's organization works with LGBTQ young people; LYRIC has found that fewer than half of their clients have ever heard of PrEP. Wilder coordinates a drop-in center in the Castro District

called the DREAAM Project ("Determined to Respect and Encourage African American Men") under the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. A lot of the young African American men he sees aren't from San Francisco. They come to the Bay Area expecting to be liberated, Wilder says, but instead find a lack of housing and few economic opportunities. "If you're worried about other things like stability, I really don't think you're going to be worried about taking a pill every day. If every day you're

worried about where you're going to lay your head and where your next meal's going to come from ... it's going to be hard to think about daily taking this pill," he says. "If you're not in a good mental state, you're not going to have the discipline to take those types of medications." There's also the issue of stigma. Wilder encounters a lot of Black men who are "on the DL," meaning that they identify themselves as heterosexual and may maintain relationships with women, but they also have sex with men.

Wilder says the stigma and shame puts both these men and their female partners at risk: "They feel free with sex when they're having sex with other gay men, which is [often] unprotected, and they'll go home to their girls, and they're not disclosing." Tapakorn Prasertsith, who supervises the HIV prevention program at API Wellness, says they encounter issues of stigma around the drug itself as well. Among trans people, they say, especially among trans women, "the stigma is that

continued from page 11 [PrEP] has been presented as a gay drug, and trans women aren't gay men." Or, some clients think the drug is only for sex workers or people who habitually engage in high-risk sexual behaviors. PrEP is for everybody, Prasertsith says, because HIV can affect anybody. It's a message that prevention advocates say needs to start coming through. The above article originally appeared on the La Opinion website on October 25, 2017. Courtesy of New America Media.

Midpen Media Center hires a new executive director

By Eva Barrows

The Midpen Media Center is pleased to announce that Keri Stokstad has been named Executive Director. Keri brings over 15 years of community media center management and director level experience to her new position at Midpen. Most recently she was the Cable TV Manager for the City of Santa Monica where she oversaw the city's television station, video production projects and government channels. Keri was recently awarded Overall Excellence in Government Programming at the 2017 Alliance for Community Media (ACM) Conference.



Keri Stokstad

She attended her first ACM conference in college and went on to serve as Chair of ACM's Board of Directors. Keri's passion for community media flourished during her college years at the University of Iowa where she earned her BA in Visual Communications. She checked out her local access station PATV in search of production tools to complete her coursework. "I was able to have access to video equipment and the television studio and take specialized training. I fell in love with it so I started volunteering and

eventually was hired as a production specialist." To earn college credits, Keri created and was Executive Producer of Inside Iowa City, a weekly news program where students got to try out all the studio crew and talent positions. Many students found work at news stations. Keri confirms, "People do go on to have careers in the television and film industry from community media." She has mentored many community media staff and producers during her lengthy career in community media and has enjoyed contributing to their growth and success.

Community media stations foster a creative and varied mix of media content. Keri loves the creative process behind those shows, "I'm just amazed at all of the ways people can create

quality television with limited resources because they have the passion for it and are interested in producing their best work every time."

As media consumption continues to move from TV screen to mobile screen, Keri is excited to use new technology to interact with the community. Midpen will be expanding live streaming and utilizing social media for event coverage and promotion. Capital Community Television (CCTV) in Salem, Oregon Keri points out just did a successful live stream of the eclipse and made it available to access stations across the country to broadcast. Keri says it is a great example of the collaborations that are available to share and receive content through a wide network of media centers across the county. "I think that community media stations play a really important part in how you're able to not only learn the techniques but also understand the importance of being able to provide information in a way that is helpful to the community."

City council meetings and information about local non-profit organizations are content staples of community access channels. Keri advises that there needs to be continued local, state and federal support and

funding for this. "Tuning in allows people to make informed choices about their council members during election season and the ballot measures that can affect their daily lives."

Keri believes that the media literacy training that community media stations provide is important now more than ever. She stresses that "We need to be vigilant and build our muscle for determining credible sources of information. There's often only one single message being conveyed and it's important to make sure you have a really deep understanding and a wide menu of options when you're looking for information." The nightly news may have one take, or quickly cover an issue that has deeper meaning for the community it's affecting. Local access shows can take the time to explore these important issues.

Media literacy also means understanding how shows are put together. Keri thinks that it's important for community members to learn how a story is shaped. "People often tell me that once

they learn how to edit and have a better understanding of the options available in making edit decisions, they never watch TV the same way again."

"Midpen Media has a history of being an award-winning organization with a resourceful board and supportive producers. The staff has a reputation in our industry of being the best of the best in their respective fields," Keri says. She appreciates all the love and care that's been put into the creation of the Midpen Media Center and she's excited about its potential as well. "I am deeply honored and excited about this new opportunity. It will be my pleasure to begin meeting and working with the staff, producers and board to continue the exemplary legacy of the Midpen Media Center and communicate its good work to a broader audience".

The Midpen Media Center welcomes Keri Stokstad as the new Executive Director and looks forward to the time ahead under her leadership.

Expanding neighborhood revitalization

community, we are striving to stabilize areas that have been historically and systemically underserved by preserving homes and vital community assets.

Now a cornerstone of our Neighborhood Revitalization work, Habitat has launched "Building Blocks" events in the East Palo Alto that will now take place a couple times a year. "Building Blocks" events are blitz-style builds that happen over the duration of three days for maximum impact. Hundreds of volunteers come out to make essential repairs on homes, parks and community facilities.

In fact, last month, Habitat repaired seven longtime East Palo Alto homeowners' homes as part of a Building Blocks event.

Leo's home was one of the seven. A record 180 volunteers came out and repaired an entire roof, disintegrating stairs, fallen down fences, and windows susceptible to break-ins, affecting not only the homeowners, but the surrounding community too.

To date, Habitat Greater San Francisco has completed 43 home repairs in East Palo Alto. We've found that 82 percent of our homeowners in East Palo Alto who've received repairs believe that they'll be able to pass their home onto their family. Additionally, 77 percent of East Palo Alto homeowners said that their home repairs increased their safety and will help them age-in-place.

continued from page 7

We believe in keeping communities intact, so that our neighbors from all income levels and backgrounds can continue to remain their home, stay in the place they call home, and ensure generational sustainability over time.

If you are interested in applying to our Habitat's Neighborhood Revitalization program or volunteering, please visit www.habitatgsf.org.

Maureen Sedonaen is the CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco, which builds homes and community in partnership with volunteers, families, donors and civic leaders in San Mateo, Marin and San Francisco counties.

Youth mental health

scholarships to 7 different D1 colleges. It has been an incredible series of events to watch, one which we hope will continue. We cannot say in totality that we are solely responsible for the success of these young men.

For after they left the Mastodons, they were either at Menlo Atherton High with coach Adhir and four ex Mastodon coaches on staff (which creates a warm hand off), or at private high schools on football/academic scholarships. The adage that it takes a village is so apparent in these successes. We would be remiss not to mention that the continuation of the values instilled in the Mastodon



Mayor Larry Moody takes the time to get his photo taken with coach Jeff Austin.

players were enhanced and groomed for even greater success by the great coaches and administrators at the high school programs that they attended.

WE build champions on and off the field. If you have

continued from page 10

never been to a Mastodon game at the Ronald McNair Middle School football field, you should take time out to attend one.

These champions are our future and they play with pride to represent our town. Let's support them as we can. If you wish to have more information on the Mastodon Youth Football Program go visit our website at: www.leaguelineup.com/ to find the Mastodons' game schedules and information concerning our mental wellness programming efforts.

Maybe, even slide by the team's donation page and make a contribution to a very worthy organization.

If you missed the Nov. 17 deadline, then contact Belen Seara at the address below and see if you can sign up for the next recruitment.

Join the Emergency Medical Services Corps

Interested in becoming an EMT? Live in San Mateo County? Are you a minority male, 18-26 years-old?

Start your career in health care today.

In just 5 months, you can learn about the emergency medical services field, graduate with a certificate, and start a career as an EMT with American Medical Response. Plus, you'll receive \$5,000!

No prior experience necessary. Why not apply?

Applications due by November 17.

Find more at bit.ly/EMTNov17

Questions? Contact Belen Seara at bseara@smcgo.org or 650-573-2319



Community News Briefs

continued from page 3



Some of the attendees are shown listening intently to one of the presenters at the WCLN

cobs Gibson, former East Palo Alto City Council member Laura Martinez and several council members from nearby cities. The

group was also joined by members from the Stanford Women in Politics organization. You can see a discussion with several of the group's founders on the current edition of Talking with Henrietta.

Get more information about this show on page 15 of this edition of EPA Today.

New grant funding now available for nonprofits in four local communities

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative announced that it had created a new fund called the CZI Community Fund to provide local community grants to Belle Haven, East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks and the Redwood City communities in the areas of

education, housing, homelessness, immigration, transportation and workforce development.

Get more information about these grants at the CZI website: <http://www.chanzuckerberg.com/community-fund>

Completed applications must be returned to the website address by 5:00 p.m. PST on December 1, 2017.

Charles Jones

continued from page 8



Sandra Spencer Jones

for realizing his dream. After graduating and receiving his National Board Certification by the Funeral Service Examining Boards of the United States, Inc., he then commenced to further develop his expertise by working with several mortuaries in the Bay Area. While serving families in their time of need, he still held on to his dream – to build a mortuary that the residents would be proud of.

In 1970, he united in marriage to Rosie M. Ross who shared in his dream. In the interim, his financial background and qualifications allowed him to work for several companies in the Bay Area including Bancker Systems in Menlo Park where he served as the Financial Analyst for over 10 years. He was also highly sought after by others across the nation. Electronic Data Systems (EDS), a company owned by Henry Ross Perot (who would later run for President of the United States) twice offered him a position. After receiving the offer, he would later reflect that prior to making a decision, "I went home to my birthplace and on the banks of a creek that we fished and swam in as children, I laid my head on the open palms of my hand and stared at the clear blue skies and pondered what my decision should be. Contrary to the advise of my wife, my parents and my friends, I decided I would not take the offer, regardless of the size of the compensation, which was quite substantial. I realized that I was worth at least three or four times what I was being offered ... and to the chagrin of my wife, my parents and friends, I declined the offer."

Charles never lost sight of his dream. It was his desire to serve families during one of the most difficult periods of their lives. His dream was to build a mortuary and provide quality service to the residents of East Palo Alto and its surrounding communities.

In 1972, he established Jones

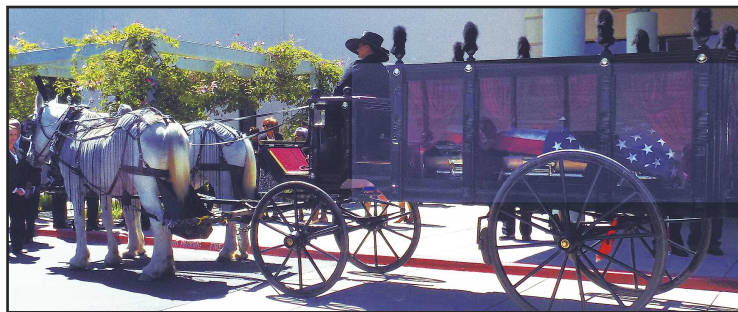
Mortuary, Inc. and in 1975, the family moved to East Palo Alto when construction of the mortuary began.

In March 1976, the doors of Jones Mortuary, Inc. opened. Upon opening, the Jones's developed a policy to help couples who lost their young babies. They provided complete funeral services, free of charge, for babies under one month old whose family could not afford burial expenses. This commitment was born out of an experience his wife Rose had as a small child when her mother gave birth to a baby boy who died, and her parents were unable to pay the mortuary fees. When they opened Jones Mortuary, Charles and Rose decided to do what they could to help families in similar situations. To date, he has provided free services for thousands of infants.

Known for his empathetic knack for being the calm in the emotional storm that follows the death of loved ones, Charles built a business that adeptly walks people through the details of saying final farewells to family and friends. On several occasions, Jones Mortuary has been recommended by members of the community to families who are in financial distress when the death of a loved one occurs. Mr. Jones, through his compassion and caring, has helped them to arrange services that were dignified, yet affordable. He was also known to help those with no financial ability to bury loved ones.

Charles was very community minded and lived a life that demonstrated his commitment to serve and give to others. This was seen in several ways. He was an avid proponent of local businesses. Charles always insisted on meeting in local eateries with people who were prospecting for his business. "I always tell them that if they want my business, then they should be willing to spend money in the community that accounts for the bulk of my clientele."

Charles worked to help the local and surrounding communities by using his business success to give back. Specifically, he volunteered his time to local organizations; provided financial support to various groups which assisted with their building efforts and served to underwrite the costs of their outreach programs and ministries; and he has adver-



Charles Jones' coffin was carried in a horse drawn carriage.

tised with almost every minority organization that has contacted him since being in business. Charles participated in numerous career day activities and other speaking engagements, provided on-site tours, worked with the Menlo Park Police Department's "Say No to Drugs" program, and he assisted a local grassroots substance abuse rehabilitation & support center. Charles also served on the Advisory Council for the Department of Mortuary Science at American River College in Sacramento and did so for almost fifteen years.

From the beginning, Charles worked directly with the Department of Patient and Family Support Services at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Here, he donated his time to counsel with families on the options available to them regarding the final disposition of their loved ones. At the time, Chaplain Ernie Young was so grateful for what Charles was doing that he wanted the hospital to do something special to thank him. He inquired as to whether Stanford had a "community service" award. At the time, they did not, but after a few memos and conversations, in 1982 the Stanford University Community Service Award was instituted and they bestowed their first award upon Charles and Rosie Jones in recognition of the distinguished service they provided to the hospital.

Charles endeavored to be a positive role model for the young people in the community. He was very concerned about their education and career choices, and he counseled, encouraged and financially supported quite a few. Many were aware of his willingness to listen and share, and benefitted from his "Open Door" policy. Through sharing his experiences and the challenges he faced with starting Jones Mortuary, he strived to instill in them his belief that "nothing is impossible". He encouraged young people to have dreams and to pursue the things they are passionate about.

But he cautioned not to "stop" with just the "dream". He always said "dream, and then work diligently every day doing something that will put you closer to attaining your goals."

Both young and old came to him for wisdom and advise. He loved people and truly lived the words of Romans 12:10-12

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer, distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Over the years, Charles received several awards, too numerous to list here but most recently, in February of this year, he was inducted into the Black Legends of Silicon Valley Hall of Fame in a red carpet event at the Hammer Theater in San Jose. He received the Clay-Williams Business & Entrepreneurship Award partly named after Roy L. Clay, Sr, founder of Rod-L Electronics, Inc. who presented the award. Charles was both honored and humbled to be included in such a distinguished group of pioneers.

A sampling of awards, special recognitions and affiliations include: •The City of East Palo Alto's "Resolution of Appreciation" for participation in civic, social and cultural affairs; and recognition for his faithful and unselfish service to its people.

•Humanitarian award for distinguished service to the community presented by the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

•San Jose Mercury News award for promoting the education of children;

•Inducted into the NAACP Hall of Fame for outstanding support and community service.

•San Mateo County Historical Association as one of the "Outstanding African Americans in San Mateo County". He was one of an impressive group of eleven who were commended for their

commitment and contributions to the communities of San Mateo County. •Was recommended for admission into the "National Select Morticians Association

Recipient of the "South Bay African American Image Award" in the "Commerce" category (1995)

•Recognized by the Mid Coastal California Pre-Natal Outreach Program and received their 2007 Outstanding Service Award for providing newborn loss assistance to families served by Stanford Hospital and Lucille Packard Children's Hospital.

Recipient of the "Corporate Philanthropy Award" in the small business category by the United Way. This award was established to honor and recognize corporations, medium and small businesses, etc. throughout the greater Bay Area which have the greatest community impact through charitable activities.

•Awarded a certificate of "Special Congressional Recognition" for community service from Congressman Anna G. Eshoo

•Part of a select group of funeral service providers recognized by the National Funeral Directors and Mortician's Association for their distinguished and longtime service (50+ years) to the profession

(2012 Living Legends of Funeral Service)

•Life Member of the NAACP
•Member of the Prince Hall Masonic Order

Other organizations who have acknowledged Charles with certificates of appreciation and community service awards for his support, leadership, dedication and sensitivity are the Stanford University Hospital Family, National Child Safety Council, 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley, Gertrude Wilks Academy, numerous schools in the Ravenswood Unified School District, several churches across denominational lines including: St. Mark AME Zion Church, Saint John Baptist Church, East Palo Alto Seventh Day Adventist Church, Faith Baptist Church, California Baptist State Convention, and the Al Baqi Islamic Center; Martin Luther King, Jr. Masonic Lodge, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Mu Chapter among others.

In 2006, Charles married Helen Grays and they have been continued on page 15

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Clarke Avenue-Highway 101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing Project - November 30 at 9 a.m. This project will enable pedestrians to safely walk and bike across Highway 101. The construction will get underway this December and continue for a couple of years.

Freshest Cargo - Farmers Market - Every Sunday

Freshest Cargo is a mobile farmers' market that works to make healthy, local food more accessible in Bay Area communities. The organization serves communities of all ages, ethnicities, and income levels with 100% California grown produce, sourced entirely from small farms within 200 miles of the Bay Area. See the market at 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. - St. Francis of Assisi Church - East Palo

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

Alto; East Palo Alto Senior Center - 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Onetta Harris Community Center in Menlo Park. 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Talking with Henrietta

University Women Making a Difference in Politics



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta. From left, Azucena Marquez, Henrietta J. Burroughs, Shivani Pampati and Hattie Gawande sit on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their show discussion on November 9, 2017.

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., Tuesdays@8 p.m., Wednesdays @ 6 p.m., Thursdays@8 p.m., Fridays@3:00 a.m. and 12 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

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

East Palo Alto Today wins two awards

San Francisco Press Club

East Palo Alto Today won two awards in the San Francisco Press Club's 2017 Greater Bay Area Journalism Awards competition. Elizabeth Real, a former EPA Today intern, won for her profile of East Palo Alto City Council member and former Mayor Ruben Abrica.

Henrietta J. Burroughs received an award for the profiles and articles that EPA Today's interns wrote during the paper's 2016 Summer Journalism Program. The intern's prize-winning feature in the paper was called, East Palo Alto Today's interns cover the news.



EPA Today contributor Elizabeth Real and Henrietta J. Burroughs, EPA Today's founder and editor-in-chief are shown at the awards ceremony on November 16, 2017.

Charles Jones

happily married for eleven years. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Helen; their three children: Sandra Jones Spencer, Robert Grays and Michelle (Kareef) Groce; four grandchildren: Niara, Kamilah, Bakari and Shakira Spencer; two sisters, Anne Carter of San Francisco and Myrtle Ogletree of Fremont; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. & Mrs. Joseph and Susie Jones; and his siblings, Mary Johnson and Joseph Jones, Jr.

Charles was affectionately known as "Charlie", "Uncle Chuckie", "Papa", "Chuck", "Pops", "Daddy" and a few other

more personal terms of endearment. His family loves him dearly and is very proud of him. Not only was he a "trailblazer" in his own right having accomplished so much despite adversity, more importantly, he was

loving, kind, a principled man of integrity at home first, as well as in the community.

He is one of our family jewels. Our man of distinction - a true role model and "living" legend.

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 # _____

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Yes, I am interested in becoming a partner with the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media. Please accept my tax-deductible do-

nation as a personal contribution _____ or as a contribution on behalf of my organization _____

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____\$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:
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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.

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East Palo Alto - Belle Haven Chamber of Commerce

presents a

Holiday Show

Club Fox Night Club

2209 Broadway St. Redwood City, CA 94063

December 3, 2017

Doors open 7 PM

Show starts 8 PM

Starring

Lenny Williams

**celebrating his 50th anniversary of
musical entertainment**

Also featuring the

Caravan of Allstars

The New Razheem Blues Band

with Ray Star

and with special guests

Fillmore Slim

Terrible Tom Tebo Lady Chico

For tickets and info email
brockpatrick288@gmail.com