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East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

Spring - Summer 2011

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Town hall meeting gets emotional

Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today

Emotions were heated and the mood was sometimes tense as more than 120 people attended the town hall meeting that was

called by East Palo Alto's Chief of Police Ron Davis and the city's Mayor, Carlos Romero. The meeting was called to solicit the community's feedback regarding additional things that the city and the police could do to solve the

sudden spate of violence that occurred in East Palo Alto during the past two months.

While the town hall meeting, which took place in the community room of the East Palo Alto Municipal Building on August 8, started

as planned, it ended up soliciting an unexpected outpouring of pent-up frustrations and complaints.

In opening the meeting Romero said that the city was interested in collaborating with the East Palo Alto community to dis-

cover ways "we can improve the way we impart public safety and the way we impart information sharing within the community," for the purpose of improving the delivery of city services.

In requesting public feedback, Romero said, "The Chief is thick skinned enough, but intelligent as is the council to synthesize... and bring back. [community ideas] and say here is how we are going to revamp some programs..."

Davis responded by saying, "I'm thick skinned, but not that thick skinned. Be nice." Davis then went on to point out that the months of June and July were very challenging, since there were five homicides that were committed in the city during that time.

Davis summarized what his department had done and the assistance it had received from the FBI and other government agencies to make arrests in the five murder cases. He also discussed some of the programs that were currently in place, like the Cease-fire program, that provides a positive alternative for those who would commit crime in the community.

He told the assembled group that the goal was not to have another homicide in the city for the

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National Night Out celebration



Photo courtesy of Kiko Aebi

An East Palo Alto resident of over 30 years, Al Howlett barbeques hot dogs in Tate Steet Park during EPA's National Night Our celebration, which was held to show community support for ending crime and violence.

Selling medical marijuana in EPA

By Anthony Amanoni and Alistair Thompson
East Palo Alto Today

The East Palo Alto City Council added a new section to the city municipal code Tuesday, voting 3-1 to add an ordinance banning medical marijuana distribution facilities within the city limits. The city



Photo courtesy of Anthony Amanoni
The Peninsula Care Giver Collective

council staff who drafted the ordinance argued that intro-

ducing medical marijuana to a community increases crime rates. The ordinance will take effect 30 days after the ruling.

In May, the Peninsula Care Giver Collective was denied a permit to sell and distribute medical marijuana in East Palo Alto. The city council banned the use of city land for the sale and distribution of

medical marijuana.

Darren Powell, one of the owners of PCGC claimed that his group was not treated fairly in the decision about allowing the use of land.

"They were not transparent with us," Powell said, referring to the city staff.

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School budget avoids teacher layoffs

By Kiko Aebi
East Palo Alto Today

The Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees approved a budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year on Thursday, June 23.

The budget, presented

by Chief Business Officer Megan Curtis, aims to close the potential \$3.2 million budget gap the school district faces this coming year. The budget calls for the closure of a yet to be identified school, the furloughing of teachers, and the increase in class sizes.

In creating the budget, district staff grappled with the issues of low levels of funding and the volatility of state legislation for the funding of public schools.

These factors limited the district's revenue projection and were only compounded by the need to cut spend-



Maria De La Vega

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East Palo Alto City Council adopts new budget

By **ML Gordon**
East Palo Alto Today

Interim Finance Director, per-



ML Gordon

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 OPERATING BUDGET

On June 30, 2011, the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Operating Budget was adopted at a Special Joint Meeting of the East Palo Alto City Council and Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors. The total city budget adopted by City Council is \$25,529,500 of which \$16,969,400 represents the City General Operating Fund. The total Redevelopment Agency budget, including loan payments to the city, is \$5,714,300.

Each year, City Council/RDA Board is required to adopt annual operating budgets. This process is basically divided into three distinct portions: 1) Proposition 4, better known as the Gann Initiative, which created Article XIII B of the State Constitution placing limits on the amount of revenue that can be spent by all entities of government; 2) Amending the City and Redevelopment Agency Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budgets; and 3) Adopting the City and Redevelopment Agency Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating budgets.

In preparation of the City Council's deliberation over a very tough and tight budget, Brenda Olwin,

formed and presented an extensive review of the operational trends of the City's revenue and expenditures. That analysis was presented in a study session in early May. Following that analysis, and over the next several weeks, departmental budgets were presented to Council. At the end of May, City Council began its deliberation. During that process, Council raised questions and sought additional responses to questions.

This, as so many years prior, was a particularly difficult budget as the sluggish economy shows no significant signs of recovery. The main sources of revenues, including property and sales taxes continue to decline; and the Council is left with tough decisions on how to balance the FY 2011-2012 Operating budget with a \$3.3 million deficit to close.

The Council and the Agency held the following Budget Study Sessions on:

- May 04, 2011 - Historical and Trend Analysis of City General Fund and RDA Capital Funds.
- May 11, 2011 - Overview of 2010-2011 Amended and 2011-2012 Proposed Budgets and Presentation of Administrative Budgets
- May 18, 2011 - Presentation of Non-departmental and Community Development Budgets
- May 25, 2011 - Presentation of Police Budgets
- June 14, 2011 - Final Remarks, including discussion regarding General Fund deficit
- June 21, 2011 - Public Hearing and Final Budget Resolutions
- June 30, 2011 - Adoption of FY 2010-2011 Amended Budgets and FY 2011-2012 Operating Budgets.

Gann Limit

In November 1979, the voters of the State of California approved Proposition 4, commonly known as the Gann Initiative. The proposition created Article XIII B of the State Constitution placing limits on the amount of revenue that can be spent by all entities of government.

Each year Council is required to adopt a limit on appropriations subject to a formula outlined in the State Constitution Article XIII B.

The calculation of the appropriation limit follows the formula estab-

lished by the State. Not all revenues are restricted by the limit, only those that are referred to as "proceeds of taxes". Revenues are classified either as "proceeds" or "non-proceeds" of taxes, which amounts to \$21,090,600 in FY 2011-2012.

The "proceeds" of taxes amount is then reduced by non-proceeds of taxes in the amount of \$5,736,600; leaving net revenue proceeds subject to limitation of \$15,354,000.

The FY 2011-2012 appropriation limit is determined by taking the prior year ending limit of \$20,777,393 and adjusting by a calculated growth rate. The growth rate is based on a ratio developed between the increase in growth in non-residential assessment valuation (0.981) and the increase in population in the County (1.008). In this case, the FY 2011-12 calculated appropriation limit using those rates is \$20,545,684.

The City's 2011-2012 proposed budget appropriations that are subject to limitation are \$5,191,684 under the limitation, and are in compliance with Article XIII B of the State Constitution.

The City's 2011-12 proposed budget appropriations that are subject to limitation are \$5,191,684 million under the limitation as shown below:

I. Determination of Appropriation

Limit: 2011-12 Appropriation Limit \$ 20,545,684

II. Determination of Appropriations Subject to Limitation: 2010-11 Revenue Sources for Appropriations \$ 21,090,600 Deductions of Exempt Revenues and Debt Service (5,736,600) 2010-11 Appropriations Subject to Limitation \$ 15,354,000

III. Amount Under (Over) Appropriation Limit (MI) \$ 5,191,684 (The above information may be referred to in Schedules I, II, and III on the City Website)

Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Amended City Operating Budget

The Amended FY 2010-2011 differs significantly from the Adopted FY 2010-2011 Budget as a result of the following:

1. Reduction in Overhead Allocation to the Redevelopment Agency and the Rent Stabilization Fund.
2. Transfer from the Redevelopment Agency to the City of all amounts owed under the Hotel Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) agreements; also resulting in increased transfers to the TOT Ordinance Funds.
3. Amended Rent Stabilization Budget based upon new ordinance, reduced fees, and litigation settlement.
4. Transfer from Agency to City of land assets and advanced pay-

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San Mateo Credit Union to replace California Bank & Trust

By **Madeline Drake**
East Palo Alto Today

While East Palo Alto's only bank, California Bank & Trust announced, that it will close its doors, the city will not be without a bank. On September 15, the San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU) will move into the space that California Bank & Trust now occupies. The credit union will become the city's new bank and it is set to officially open on November 1.

In speaking at a luncheon meeting in East Palo Alto, which was held at the Renaissance Mid-Peninsula on July 20, Stephen Tabler, the credit union's vice president of marketing said that the credit union's CEO, Barry Jollette, strongly advocated the bank finding a place in East Palo Alto. "This

opportunity came up just at the right time," Tabler said. "We're excited about this opportunity and we think we can make this work."

East Palo Alto's Mayor, Carlos Romero, said, "I cannot express our joy that we'll have a bank that understands communities of color."

"I've been in the community five years. I've seen two banks blow it," said Candice Greenburg, Executive Director of the Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto. "We will do everything we can to help."

When the California Bank & Trust, which opened its East Palo Alto branch in 2002, announced on May 20 that it was officially closing the branch on August 26, it notified the branch's customers by mail that it would be moving



Photo courtesy of East Palo Alto Today

This photo shows some of the participants at the July 20 meeting.

their accounts to its branch in Mountain View, eight miles away.

According to Steve Borg, California Bank & Trust's vice president and marketing director, the bank would have needed many more loans and deposits to remain functional. Borg said that the branch was only "marginally profitable."

When it opens its East Palo Alto branch, SMCU will become the third bank to open in East Palo Alto, succeeding both the California Bank & Trust and the Community Trust Credit Union, which opened in 2007 and closed in 2010.

Many in the community hope the new SMCU branch will fulfill

East Palo Alto's need to have a community-based bank in the community that is personal and accessible.

"When you're borrowing from a credit union, you're borrowing from your neighbors," said Tabler. "When you're borrowing for a car, you're borrowing from your neighbors."

Robert Carter, the vice president of corporate services for SMCU, said that the credit union had signed a 5-year lease for their new East Palo Alto branch on July 14. The lease includes two five-year options, so the credit union could remain in East Palo Alto for the next 15 years. "We're not in this for the short term," Carter said. **Madeline Drake** is an intern at East Palo Alto Today. She is a senior at Menlo Atherton Hi. Schl.

Spring & Summer Special:

15% Off

With This Ad

Leather and Suede

Cleaning and Preservation

Kitty's Cleaners is a full-service dry cleaners offering complete laundry and alterations services.

All new customers receive 15% off their first order of \$25 or more with the mention of this ad.

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910 Newbridge Street, East Palo Alto, CA
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With This Ad

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(650) 326-8271

Community News Briefs

Gregory Elarms will not stand trial for murder of David Lewis

The 58 year old, Gregory Elarms shot and killed East Palo Alto activist David Lewis on June 9, 2010 at the Hillsdale Shopping Mall in San Mateo. He was initially declared incompetent to stand trial for Lewis' murder. On Thursday, August 11, a San Mateo County judge ordered that Elarms be committed to Napa State Hospital for treatment. When he is declared competent to stand trial, Elarms will be tried for Lewis' murder.

Madeline Drace

Celebrating the Fourth and EPA's anniversary

Children, adults, and flags crowded the streets of East Palo Alto on July second.

They came to watch the marchers in the city's 4th of July parade walk from Cesar Chavez Academy School to Bell Street Park. Everyone loudly yelled "EPA, EPA" with smiles on their faces.



Dancers in the EPA parade.

Many walked proudly down the streets of East Palo Alto with flags in their hands, represent East Palo Alto with pride and dignity.

Different organizations and agencies, like the Senior Transportation Services and the East Palo Alto Boxing Club, participated in the parade.

The East Palo Alto Family YMCA even gave access to its pool, free of charge.

East Palo Alto Mayor Carlos Romero appeared ecstatic when he said, "This is an annual event. This is all about building interaction among all the folks that live in East Palo Alto."

Some people said that the parade was great for the community, but what others said they would

remembered the most was the fire works which concluded the evening for East Palo Alto's 28th anniversary.

Amanda Russell

[Editor's note: View a video excerpt of the celebration at East Palo Alto Today's Online Video site: http://www.youtube.com/user/Henrie1027?feature=mhs_n#g/u].

Crowning the Collard Green King

During East Palo Alto's Collard Green Festival, many city residents showed off their skills in cooking. Then they crowned a male, Jason Auzenne, as the king of the



Jason Auzenne, The Collard Green King

Collard Green Festival. This year there wasn't a queen who received the crown.

The purpose of the Collard Green Festival is show some of the community's heritage towards cooking food. "Now folks don't want to cook with pork but that's what my grandmother cooked with so that's what I'm going to cook with," Auzenne said.

Auzenne entered the contest because he had older people telling him that he wouldn't win due to the fact that he was younger. "I ended up beating two previous kings," he said.

In order to cook the best collard greens, Auzenne said that he had to tap into his mind and cook what he thought his ancestors would cook. Auzenne also said that he had a lot of help from his elders.

The talented collard green cook already knew that he would win, but he said that he didn't act as if he would win. "I thought, 'Thank God that I entered, thank God for all the help that I received and thank

God for the other contestants who entered,'" Auzenne said.

Auzenne thought that the turnout was terrible and felt that more people in the community should have attended the festival. The fact that it was in the community and it was free should have made it more attractive to people.

"I recommend that there be better advertisement and support from the community and the youth just so they are involved," said Auzenne. The ingredients for his recipe are listed below:

- Ingredients**
 -Collard Greens
 -Chinese Mustard
 -Salt
 -Pepper
 -Garlic
 -Hamhocks
 -Tender Love & Care (TLC)

Janay Scott

East Palo Alto buys Drew Health property

On Tuesday, June 26, the City of East Palo Alto obtained continued on page 13

Creating a strategic plan for Measure C funding

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

Community residents, key city staff and several city council members held a five-hour retreat to develop a strategic spending plan to allocate city tax money to prevent and combat violence and crime in the East Palo Alto community.

The participants in the retreat gathered on Saturday, July 23 to focus on the best way to distribute the proceeds from a parcel tax measure, known as Measure C, which East Palo Alto residents voted to enact in the November 2006 election. Under Measure C, city residents agreed to pay an additional \$100 a year in property taxes.

Vice Mayor Laura Martinez, who made the opening remarks at the retreat said, "In overwhelmingly passing the Measure C Parcel Tax, citizens said that they were tired



Photo courtesy of EPA Today

Community residents and city council members meet to discuss spending plan.

of the status quo and were ready to dispense additional resources to fight crime through a two pronged approach.

"The first approach would focus on 'community and neighborhood policing, training, crime suppression and investigations' through vesting additional resources to the Police Department and the second [approach] would focus on violence and crime prevention services 'with an emphasis on youth and families' through

'preventive social services provided by the City of East Palo Alto, or by adding capacity to community-based nonprofit programs with a focus on youth, ex-felons, domestic violence and support for senior citizens.'"

In passing Measure C, community residents agreed that each year, 50% of the parcel tax revenues would go to the East Palo Alto Police Department, while the remaining 50% would be distributed to nonprofit groups operating in

the community. Since the passage of Measure C, the city has spent hundreds of thousand of dollars supporting both approaches.

Since 2006, the city has issued an RFP to solicit community proposals from local nonprofits that thought their agency met the required criteria to receive a Measure C grant. Prior to issuing the RFP, each of the city's council members appointed several community members to the Measure C Oversight Committee which the city established to review the proposals and select grant recipients.

But in 2010, the East Palo Alto City Council and the city staff decided that it was necessary to develop a strategic spending plan. According to Martinez, who is the city council liaison to the Measure C Oversight Committee, the city wanted "to ensure that by the expiration of the tax, a signifi-

cant dent would have been made on the problem of violence and crime in ... [the East Palo Alto] community.

During the community retreat, which was facilitated by Dr. Omowale Satterwhite, one of the founders behind the city's incorporation movement, the participants listened to ML Gordon, East Palo Alto's city manager and city resident Stewart Hyland present the historic context behind Measure C and they heard a report from the city's Chief of Police, Ron Davis, who discussed the key causes of crime and a UC Berkeley crime study which analyzed city crime data from 1986 to 2008. Davis also presented crime data from 2010 to the present.

Consultant Peter Ellis, discussed the socio-economic conditions in the city which looked at existing city pro-

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City's Planning Commission looks at its priorities

By **Madeline Drace**
 East Palo Alto Today

East Palo Alto's Planning Commission held its annual retreat on Saturday, July 16. During this retreat, the commission outlined its priorities and how it would allocate funding for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

High priorities of the commission included implementing more of the 71 requirements outlined in the updated Housing Element, which looks to meet residents'



Photo courtesy of Henrietta J. Burroughs

The Planning Commission, deep in discussion. From left: Robert Sherrad, Renee Glover Chantler, Carlos Romero, Alex Quezada, Carlos Martinez, Robert Allen, Bernardo Huerta, and Brent Butler. Jorge Prado and Court Skinner were absent.

housing needs. Nineteen were implemented last year and the rest were adopted by the City Council on July 19. The Commission also seeks to improve the time management of its current planning system and increase the number of planning applications it processes as well as how quickly they are processed (its goal is to complete any application in 30 days). The Commission will also better its code enforcement, abiding by the City's Zoning Ordinance, and implement it in the [as of July 19]

577 active code-related cases, such as those regarding vacant or foreclosed properties. There will be more Community Rating System activities, such as maintenance and outreach projects, regarding flood protection to keep the City's flood insurance discount at 10%. There was also a call to strengthen Get Healthy San Mateo, a program that funds bicycle and pedestrian safety. These tasks will be addressed during the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

Continued on page 12

Working to improve the Baylands

By Alistair Thompson
East Palo Alto Today

For many kids, summer is an idle time. Most students take a break and push away the responsibilities and the work that come with the school year. Although they are few and far between, some kids do the opposite.



This photo shows some of the participants in the Baylands Restoration project. Photo courtesy of Alistair Thompson

This summer, local high schoolers Jessica Godinez (Mid-Peninsula), Farnalele Nauci (Menlo-Atherton), Raul Ortiz (Eastside Prep), Elizabeth Vargas (Eastside Prep) and Frederico Lopez (Menlo-Atherton) worked to restore and improve the Faber-Laumeister Tract in the Baylands. Over the past eight weeks the group took on a variety of tasks including building a salinization irrigation system to eliminate invasive species, drawing their own map of the tract and clearing the trails that run through the area. Much of the work was done with the goal of improving the habitat for two endangered species: the Salt Marsh Field Mouse and the California Clapper Rail.

One of the biggest problems in the Faber-Laumeister Tract is invasive plants. Plants foreign to the area have become common and they are competing with the native species that keep the ecosystem stable. The group saw this problem as a top priority so they addressed it.

After learning that the invasive species could be eliminated with salt water (native species can tol-

erate salt water), the team built a bicycle powered pump that took water from the bay and sprayed it into the uplands through a form of salt water sprinklers.

Program director Kimby Wells presented the group with this problem and left it to them to create the solution. Wells found this to be far more efficient than having someone work from outside the tract to solve the problem.

"We set it up as a problem where we said 'This is what we need to do, these are the materials we have. Can you design a solution?'" Wells said, "It was really helpful for us because they were the ones doing the work so if they came up with a solution that worked, that's better than having someone sitting in an office trying to figure out how to solve this problem."

Wells believes that if the local community contributes to the restoration process, the habitat will be in much better condition. "To effectively conserve any piece of land you need the buy-in of the community," Wells said, "People

are part of the ecosystem. We were looking for ways to get the community involved in habitat restoration and through youth seemed like a great way."

Encouraging the community

When they weren't building the irrigation system the team worked to clear trails to encourage the community to come out to the baylands to get outdoors and exercise. Wells believes that the tract is a community resource that so far has gone largely untapped. While it does serve as a sanctuary for endangered species and as a barrier between the bay and the cities, it also provides opportunities for people to get exercise outside of their immediate neighborhood.

The team also spent time kayaking in the canals as well as planting native plants to offset the impact of the invasive species.

This was only the physical half however. The group as a whole felt that self-confidence as well as leadership and communication skills were vital to the success of the project. The high schoolers presented their work to visiting

groups from Buildon, YCS and Facebook. The high schoolers also presented at the State Fair in Sacramento, educating kids about their cause. Members of the team agreed that these presentations helped them grow more comfortable speaking to a group.

"Before, I didn't feel like I had self-confidence," Jessica Godinez said, "I felt like I had no leadership. To hear that we were giving presentations to Facebook [I was nervous]. It was awesome to see that I could take them on and speak in front of a crowd. It was just a good experience."

For each presentation, the group members had to outline their project while convincing their audience that restoring the tract is important. They highlighted the upland's function as a filter and barrier between the bay and the cities. They also pointed out that it is part of a shrinking environment that shelters a variety of species, some endangered, that are vital to our ecosystems. The baylands is also part of the Pacific Highway, which is a route that migratory birds travel.

"This is the Pacific Highway," Farnalele Nauci said, "This is a stop. You know how when we drive we need to stop and fill up with gas? This is their stop, and then they can travel."

By citing these points, some group members developed their own new appreciation for their cause. "I look at nature differently now and I respect it much more

than I did before," Godinez said. Leadership skills were developed primarily by leading groups both at the fair and on the tract. "We learned a lot about leadership because we were able to lead groups," Elizabeth Vargas said, "Our core leader David, had confidence in all of us so he gave us opportunities to lead and gain stronger skills."

On perhaps a greater scale, some of the group members thought the program changed their ways of thinking. "Usually when I do something I think of what's gonna happen right then," Frederico Lopez said, "This program makes you think about the long term. That way you can also learn from mistakes."

Wells sees this mentality as a vital part of restoring the baylands and improving the environment as a whole. The ability to think with a long-term perspective and make conscientious decisions is the only way to make improvements. Wells also hopes that this lesson sticks with the kids and that they share what they learned with others.

"Having an awareness of conservation efforts and an awareness of environmental issues [is important]," Wells said, "I think everyone can help address that every day whether they're in a job that's devoted to that or not. These are decision that we make every day. I think no matter what they do in the future, they'll be able to keep that in mind."

Scheduled changes for the free city shuttle service

By Janay Scott
East Palo Alto Today

The schedule for the free shuttle that is operating in East Palo Alto has changed, since the City of East Palo Alto is currently having problems finding the required funds to keep the free shuttle service running.

Because of the funding deficits the city is facing, the Weekend Late Night Shuttle was terminated effective Monday, July 18, 2011,

due to low ridership and a lack of funding. The Weekend Late Night Shuttle continued its regularly scheduled route until 2:00 a.m. Monday, July 18, 2011.

The free shuttle was founded in 2003 as a result of the collaboration of city residents, community organizations, SamTrans and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

The EPA shuttle caters primarily to two community groups: the

city's senior citizens its youth.

"The shuttle takes me home at night because it's not always safe walking home since I go to College Track during the school year", said Michelle, a youth of the community.

Cutbacks in the service were first scheduled because the city was not able to pay the workers driving the weekend routes. Now the City of East Palo Alto needs money for the workers and for operational services.

According to figures released in the city's operating budget which it recently adopted the city continues to face difficult fiscal challenges as a result of the ongoing recession. The budget report describes how the city has attempted to get grants to fund the shuttle, but, thus far, those efforts have not been successful.

The city's General Fund has an operating deficit of \$3.3 million which represents 22% of the Gen-

eral Fund revenues.

Because of its current deficit, the East Palo Alto City Council has approved, for example, the recommendation to leave vacant police department positions unfilled and to halt various equipment purchases for a savings of \$837,000.

See the ads the city ran regarding the shuttle on page 12 in this issue. For further information regarding the East Palo Alto free shuttle, call 650.853.7143.

Support the East Palo Alto Today newspaper

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



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Steep cuts to clean-energy programs

Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-California) voted against a bill that slashes funding for energy research and development. The bill threatens to derail the Green Movement by severely limiting the funding it receives from the government. The House voted on H.R. 2354, the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, this past July 15.



Rep. Anna G. Eshoo

H.R. 2354 provides funding for programs supported through the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Among those programs are the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Water Reclamation, nuclear energy and waste disposal, technol-

ogy loans, uranium enrichment, and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Under the Republican pledge to roll back government spending to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels, the bill slashes funding for clean energy-efficiency and research programs as well as other energy programs. H.R. 2354 will

reduce the Energy and Water Development budget to \$30.6 billion, a nearly \$1 billion cut from the 2011 fiscal year (FY) level and \$249 million below the FY 2008 level. President Obama had asked that the 2012 budget be set at \$36.5 billion. The House approved budget is 16% below the president's request.

Rep. Eshoo voted against the legislation because she feels that the bill "fails to protect communities and jeopardizes American innovation and job creation." Eshoo views the bill as particularly damaging to the Californian economy because, of the 2.7 million people employed in the US clean economy, nearly 320,000 of them are from California.

"The last place to cut is in the area of investments in clean energy technologies," said Rep. Eshoo. "Our nation has the capacity to lead the world in clean energy technologies, lowering gas prices for families and increasing our energy independence. Hobbling our future is neither fiscally smart nor policy-wise."

H.R. 2354 passed out of Committee and is now headed to the Senate for approval. Among the many programs suffering budget cuts by the bill is the Department of Energy. The department helps to fund the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and funds research in solar energy technology.

The Advanced Research

Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E) will also have its funding cut by the bill. The agency, which Rep. Eshoo cosponsored, funds several companies in the Silicon Valley.

Rep. Eshoo is joined in her opposition of H.R. 2354 by numerous environmental conservation organizations who all agree that the proposed cuts will hurt the United States' ability to find and exploit viable and sustainable sources of energy.

Kiko Aebi is a summer intern at East Palo Alto Today. She became a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School this year.

Girls to women program holds a celebration

By Joanna Leon
East Palo Alto Today

Girls To Women held its annual End of Year Celebration on May 19, 2011. The celebration showcased the different activities the girls participated in throughout the year through photographs, the g2W Yearbook and a presentation.

The Yearbook displayed the girls' creativity through the creation of their individual pages.

Both the celebration and the Yearbook were dedicated to two incredible heroines who educated, inspired and mentored: Marty Hargrove, a great educator and public servant who inspired students to believe in themselves and their ability to achieve, and JeanneCuffey Tatum, an ex-



Photo courtesy of Joanna Leon
Akala Francis speaks during program.

traordinary mentor for young women and a leader who will live on as a role model for family, friends and community.

With families and friends in attendance, the girls, staff and parents prepared a presentation full of singing, acting and motivational speeches. The younger girls performed The Garden Song, which

they practiced with Nancy Cassidy, a popular and award-winning singer/songwriter for folk and kid's music. This was followed by a short skit titled "The Blind (Wo)men and the Elephant", an Indian fable that highlights the importance of respecting differences in perspectives. The girls worked as a team in putting this short skit together, from practicing lines to creating a paper-elephant.

Finally, the older girls performed the g2W Rap, which articulates what Girls To Women represents as well as the various activities that the girls participate in over the years. The rap was created by the girls three years ago, and has been passed on from year to year.

It was truly a pleasure to see a Girls To Women past participant

take the stage and talk about her experience with the program and the leaders behind it. Akala Francis, an upcoming junior at Loyola Marymount University, said about the program's impact on the people it serves, "My presence here today is a testament to the impact this program has had on the community. The program is a great

support system to its past and present members, assisting them academically as well as giving young girls a place to grow and develop together into young successful women."

Joanna Leon is the site coordinator for Girls to Women program.



Photo courtesy of Joanna Leon
Back row: Darleen Arteaga, Tuckey Bryant, Jalah Francis, Taevia Vauss, Esmeralda Alvarez, and Program Assistant Miriam Noriega. Front row: Zion Sewell, Karina Cervantes, Joanna Oseguera

Boys and Girls Club opens tech center

By Kiko Aebi
East Palo Alto Today

The McNeil Family Boys and Girls Club, located in Bell Haven, celebrated the grand

opening of a new Club Tech Center of Excellence on July 7, 2011. The new technology center offers youth access to computers with cutting-edge hardware and software, as

well as Club Tech: Game Tech, a video game development program.

Representatives of Microsoft and AMD were present to unveil the tech center, which the two companies equip with state-of-the-art technology. The Tech Center will provide community youth with the opportunity to develop critical STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills, which will prepare them for future jobs and leadership roles. Through this tech center, members of



Photo by Kiko Aebi
Two girls use the computers in the tech center

the Boys and Girls Club will also be able to do their homework and even design and create their own video games.

The goal of the new Tech Center is to introduce club members, ages 10-13, to the field of video game development and the principles of design, animation mechanics and computer programming. Already, Club members have shown a great aptitude toward video game programming as the youth demonstrated in a presentation during the opening of the tech center.

Antonisha Fuller, the Youth of the Year at the McNeil Family Clubhouse, oversaw the opening ceremonies and introduced representatives from Microsoft, AMD, the Boys and

Girls Club of the Peninsula, and the Boys and Girls Club of America. AMD and Microsoft have partnered up with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to provide youth with software and technological training. As Sid Espinosa, Microsoft representative and Mayor of Palo Alto stated, "we are dedicated to giving technology to communities without to prepare children for the future."

Since the launch of the partnership with the Boys and Girls Club in 2000, Microsoft has donated over \$100 million to built tech centers from youth throughout the United States. The tech center at the McNeil Family Clubhouse is the eleventh Club Tech center Microsoft has built. Microsoft adamantly believes in the necessity for technological literacy in youth, both as a fundamental tool and as an attractive skill for the working world. Comcast and AMG recently joined Microsoft in its crusade.

The community can expect great things to come out of the new tech center. As Mike Woolems, Corporate VP of Finance for AMD aptly concluded, "Game on!"

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

From the Editor's Desk

The dream and the dreamer: Life does not wait

A few months ago, as I left the U. S. Post Office on Bayshore Rd. I was stopped by a gentleman who was walking towards me. He introduced himself and he told me that he wanted to be on one of my shows. He said that he had his own business, he had some ideas for a sales training program and he wanted to talk about the programs he was starting.



Henrietta J. Burroughs

I, then, asked him if he could write about what he was doing and what he wanted to talk about and send me an email. A few days later, he sent me his biography and a brief draft of one of his programs. I was impressed by the contents of his email and I thought the story that he had to tell might serve as inspiration for others, since he had changed the direction of his life. So, I asked him if he would write his biography in the first person, saying "I," rather than in the third person referring to himself as he.

Several weeks later, I received another draft of his biography with his resume and I told him that his biography was scheduled for the next edition of East Palo Alto Today. He told me that he wanted 20 copies of the paper when it came out. I responded that he could have as many copies of the paper as he wanted. He also told me that he wanted to have his own television show at the Media Center.

Well, you can imagine my shock, when, not long after this email exchange, I found out in a casual morning conversation, that the person I had been exchanging emails with was killed in a car crash on the Dumbarton Bridge.

It was difficult absorbing what I was hearing. I went back to our email exchange to double check the name, and yes, the person who sent me the emails was the same person Terrence Abdullah, who was killed in the car crash.

You can read the article which appeared on the EPA Today website about the crash at http://www.epatoday.org/news/2011/june_2011/a_community_loss_1399.html.

I was originally heartbroken when I thought that I would not be able to give him the 20 copies of the EPA Today issue that contained his article. It pained me that he would not see his article in print. Then I realized that all of the papers he wanted, were not to be for him anyway. They would be given to others who would read his arti-

cle, which was the original intent of having him write it.

It was somewhat consoling to know that he did start his own television show and had hosted the first episode of it before he died. At one point as I thought

about Abdullah and our exchange, I was reminded that I sometimes tell my guests before we tape my show that the 60 minutes that we have for the discussion isn't really that long a period of time.

So they need to make sure, during our discussion, that they say what they want the viewers to know and what they feel is most important. They're told that they shouldn't wait until the end, because they might not have the time to say what is most important to them. When the cameras are off and the lights go out, it's over and what they have to say will not be recorded in the show.

In the article that he wrote, Abdullah said what he thought was important. So now, his article might serve as inspiration for those who will read about his life. Perhaps, readers will understand how important it is to create personal, positive goals and to work to fulfill those goals, because when it's over, it's over. Who would not want to have a life that is well-lived?

I've decided that I will still set aside 20 copies of this edition of EPA Today. I'll put the papers in a corner and as I come across this small stack of papers from time to time, I will think of Terrence Kenner Abdullah. I will think of those who started to fulfill their dreams, when their lives were cut short. I will think of those who died young before they even had a chance to set goals, let alone fulfill any dreams.

Seeing the papers that Abdullah had asked me to set aside will remind me of how important it is, if goals are to be accomplished, to get started on them right away, because life does not wait for items on a to-do-list to be completed. Life moves on and death doesn't wait either.

[Editor's note: You can see a replay of the first and only episode of Terrence Abdullah's show at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feature=player_embedded&v=h6c2gSyp9qQ. You can read the article that he wrote in this edition on page 14.]



Photo taken by Kiko Aebi for East Palo Alto Today Ceremonial ribbon cutting. Left to right: Boys and Girls Club Member, Mike Woollems, Antonisha Fuller, Mrs. McNeil, Sid Espinosa. See article by Kiko Aebi on page 5.

Letters in East Palo Alto Today

Redistricting, splitting EPA

Dear Editor
East Palo Alto and Menlo Park must stay in the same district as Palo Alto. The school districts go across city lines (many EPA kids attend Palo Alto schools, and the Ravenswood district serves both EPA and MPk); the cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park are joined at the hip and both extend to both sides of 101. Whoever thought of drawing the proposed line between District 14 and the new 18 has no clue about the residents in this area!

Connie Rez
A concerned EPA resident

[Editor's note: Read EPA Today article on redistricting at http://www.epatoday.org/news/2011/august_2011/dividing_menlo_park_1419.html]

A call for more police protection

Dear Editor,
East Palo Alto needs more protection on the streets, so people can be a little bit safer. During vacations, the police should be more aware of the needs of the community when people are away from home. So I think we should increase the number of police on foot patrol or bike patrol in East Palo Alto to make the streets safer.

In East Palo Alto, a lot of teenagers have been doing lots of wrong stuff, such as doing drugs and buying drugs off the drug dealers. They also rob houses and cars. If there were more police patrols, there wouldn't be those kinds of problems. Younger kids wouldn't have bad influences all around them. That's why you should increase the police protection.

The second reason you should

increase police protection is that people vandalize the schools. Usually this happens during the summer and on weekends. It affects the students and the community because they got their learning tools taken away. There should be more police on the lookout at our schools for those criminals who vandalize our schools.

If East Palo Alto has more police, more business people will be coming to the IKEA Shopping Mall. So that means more tax money for East Palo Alto. This will help the organizations that give food to the needy because budget cuts are taking money away from the organizations.

You might say that there is no tax money to pay for more police. It all depends on how you spend it, so you should give a certain amount to the police force to provide more safety on the streets. You might not think that giving the money to police will solve everything, but it will decrease some problems. The people of East Palo Alto are worth it because they are hard workers.

I want to increase the number of police so the community can feel a little bit safer out in the streets. This will be a good investment of our tax money.

Raúl Cruz
An East Palo Alto student

When will this reflection change?

Dear Editor,
Recently the President of the Mid-Peninsula Athletic Association went to a district meeting of all of the Presidents of the Golden Gate Football Conference. This is the conference that includes five different football clubs. San Jose, Mission Valley, San Mateo, MPAA and Pacheco. These are the five main clubs that make up this conference. The conference is growing, and next year it is anticipated

that three or four more teams will enter the league.

Here is the issue. Our fields for playing football are in terrible shape. Football seems to be the lost sport in this area. It is a sad thing that for 50 years, youth football has been played on the fields of East Palo Alto. Ronald McNair is in desperate need of a face lift. This we all know (and if you don't, just drive by and look at it at Pulgas and Donohue Streets).

This meeting was a fight between the teams of this league on where they would have the playoff games for the league. Well in years past, the teams that were winning were of course selected to hold the playoffs at their fields without real question. This year 3 out of the 4 teams of the Midpeninsula Athletic Association are in first place. Wonderful, right? That would mean that the playoffs should automatically be held here at Ronald McNair. Well it was a dog fight from the opening statement of the meeting. The main bullet being shot by the San Jose and Mission Valley Clubs was that the field was crappy. That was there exact words "crappy".

I am very saddened by this true, but awful assessment of our fields. This is why we are trying to get our whole community involved in the project to bring an artificial surfaced multipurpose field for our kids to play football on. It is high time that the reflection of our city be uplifted. We can do this. If all of us put aside for a moment our own agendas and make this a priority....

Jeff Austin
EPA resident

[Editor's note: Read the rest of Austin's ideason this topic at http://www.epatoday.org/news/2011/june_2011/the_need_for_unity_1402.html]

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Opinion

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

Wells Fargo must not repeat the Page Mill disaster

By Matthew Fremont
East Palo Alto Today



Matthew Fremont

On the morning of July 21, news broke that Wells Fargo has a list of three "final" bidders in the sale of the East Palo Alto apartments previously owned by Page Mill Properties. This story about these final bidders came as a surprise because Wells Fargo representatives had initially promised to take community input into account in deciding the future of these 1,800 homes.

The community process promised by Wells Fargo was started but apparently abandoned. Bridge Housing, a community housing non-profit, conducted initial public input sessions last summer for Wells. The promised next

steps of the process were to present a plan to the community for the future of these and then to incorporate the community's feedback to further refine the plan. These steps never occurred, and East Palo Alto has no idea whether their input was ever reviewed by Wells Fargo, what plan was created, and whether that plan addresses the community's needs and con-

cerns. We hope that the community meetings facilitated by Bridge were not merely an empty public relations exercise. Unfortunately, looking over the list of bidders and the reported secrecy surrounding this sale, how can one conclude otherwise?

In the meetings that we attended there was a clear and strong community preference that the properties be sold to multiple owners rather than a single owner. The community also expressed a strong recommendation to seek out future owners who have strong interest in and commitment to the needs of the East Palo Alto community. We need landlords that are invested in the success of our community, not just maximizing profits for their institutional

clients. It's hard to see how the "final" bidders, which have been described as "large institutional investors," meet these criteria.

It gets worse. Of great concern is the fact that one of the "final" bidders, AREA, formerly known as Apollo Real Estate Advisors, had a prominent role in the predatory equity crisis in New York City. A google search for "apollo predatory equity" readily leads to a variety of sources that describe a story familiar to East Palo Alto: unrealistic expectations of big increases in rental income, properties saddled with debt they could not hope to repay, rude staff unresponsive to tenants' maintenance requests, and properties falling into disrepair.

Will we have a repeat of the

Page Mill disaster?

It is vital to recognize that this sale is not merely a transaction for property that is located in tempting proximity to grand, multi-million dollar residences just the other side of San Francisquito Creek. The homes and lives of thousands of hard-working East Palo Alto citizens and their families hang in the balance. And so, too,

For legal and demographic reasons, a steadily improving rental housing stock is in fact the only plausible future for these properties. These 1,800 homes, nearly all of which are rent-controlled units, comprise more than two-thirds of East Palo Alto's stock of affordable rental housing. They also represent a very large fraction

continued on page 12

Why we must think outside the box

Steven Kennedy
East Palo Alto Today

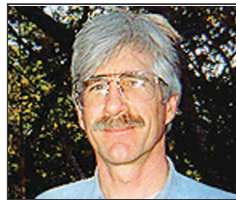
British Columbia, Canada is to pure fresh water what Saudi Arabia is to oil. The political leaders of the province operate with more independence from the Feds than do the governors of American States. The principal claimants of hugely powerful rivers like the Fraser, the Stikine, the Nass and the Skeen River are salmon, eagles and bears. These rivers spill into the Pacific Ocean almost untouched.

All we have to do is coyly borrow the largest of these rivers and then, dare British Columbians to take it back, when an entire region, a way of life and millions of people have become totally dependent

on it. The majority of the residents of British Columbia and Canada would probably approve of the loan, as they need construction jobs, American grown food and the military industrial complex, as much as American citizens do.

This request is not too much to ask of our Canadian friends and they'd probably rather send us the water than absorb the millions of environmental refugees that agricultural collapse across several Western states will surely generate.

Now that huge areas of Japan are off limits due to radioactivity and the Gulf states struggle to recover from the oil spill, large scale water transfer projects deserve another look. What I propose is nothing short of insanely



Steven Kennedy

great.

I propose the construction of a concrete dam 5,000 vertical feet high on the Fraser River that backs up water in the main channel over 350 miles. Then, the water can accomplish one of three goals and thus, a political football is born.

1) The water can make the Central Arizona Project run full, in

the driest of summers and bring birthers and die hard supporters of Arizona politician John McCain aboard. Dry West Texas would also get some water and make the Bush supporters happy.

2) The most environmentally sustainable option is to put the Black Rock Desert, where the Burning Man Festival is held, under 6 feet of water.

The water that evaporates (adding irrelevant amounts of salts to layers already hundreds of feet thick) will largely fall as rain in the watershed of the Colorado River and this augmentation will help us meet our onerous treaty requirements for the delivery of thousands of acre feet of tolerably sweet water at the Mexican border.

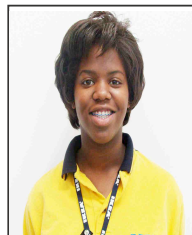
This project will bring the gov-

ernment of Mexico and their eager bankers to the bargaining table. This plan could restore the Delta of the Colorado River and flush salts from the Salton Sea, once the play ground of Southern California.

3) The water can also save the San Joaquin Valley from short-sighted irrigation farmers whose annual overdraft of the groundwater from 75,000 centrifugal pumps, equals nearly the annual flow of the Fraser River. At risk of death by neglect is Fresno and Bakersfield and one of the largest and most productive agribusiness areas in the world. Jerry Brown is again the governor of California and he has an opportunity to both

Community Opinion- How do you feel about marijuana being sold legally in East Palo Alto?

Interviews and pictures by Anthony Amanoni, Seini Moimoi and Janay Scott



Dominique

Dominique
"I'm of mixed positions about it, we could use it for tax dollars, but people could see marijuana as a gateway drug and there could be a lot of people out on the streets."

James Turner
"I dont support the legalization because of my beliefs. I'm driven by the word of God. Being a



Jason Auzere

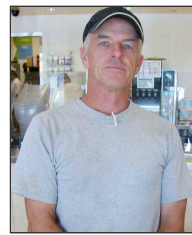
Tony Perez

child, I saw what it did to the community. There were lots of people abusing it. If it's truly for medical reasons then I see some exceptions. People shouldn't abuse it, they should utilize it."

Jason Auzere
"I say legalize it. It's a natural gift of God. Anything you put in the ground is natural. Cocaine is a

manufactured drug. They aren't illegal until people start abusing it. Not everybody uses it as a gateway drug. A quote from the rapper Askari X: He said, "It calms me down, if I didn't smoke weed I would massacre the whole town."

Tony Perez
"I've never tried it, I don't think I'll use it. So I don't



Larry McCauley

think it should be legalized."

Larry McCauley
"Your background affects the way you view hemp. I think that it should be legalized because the government is missing a grand opportunity to tax it like how we tax alcohol today. Most people get into fights with alcohol and car crashes. But when you



Freda Thomas

use hemp it just relaxes you. Allowing the use of hemp could get us out of debt. We all should be informed on it."

Freda Thomas
"I smoke marijuana and I'm 28 years old. It's a herb that grew out of the dirt. It can't hurt you like coke that's manufactured. I think it should be legalized."



Antar De Sa

"I think it would be great because if there's legal marijuana sold, people wouldn't go to dealers. It's better if marijuana is legal.

For medication, instead of having to drive all the way to San Francisco or Newark, we would have it right here. Better to take the power away from the dealers."

Lifecycles

Local students awarded scholarships

By Kiko Aebi
East Palo Alto Today

The Ravenswood High School Alumni Association held its Nineteenth Annual Anniversary Dinner and Dance at the Bay Café Restaurant in Palo Alto on June 4, 2011.

During the event, the organization honored two high school graduates from East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven Community with \$1500 scholarships.

Since its incorporation in 1991, the organization has awarded 87 scholarships totaling \$67,700.

The RHSAA's president, Martha Hanks, said that the mission of the organization was "to assist, in a variety of ways, graduating high school students who live in East Palo Alto or the Belle Haven community of Menlo Park and are planning to attend a college or univer-

sity." This year, students interviewed for the scholarships were asked, "What is the greatest challenge facing our society today and describe possible solutions."

Keneisha Perry and Thomas Williams were the two students awarded the

scholarships for their poignant responses to the interview question.

At the annual Dinner and Dance, the RHSAA also honored Dr. Faye C. McNair-Knox for her dedication to the improvement of youth in the East Palo Alto community.

Student recipients of scholarships

Thomas Williams

Thomas Williams graduated from Palo Alto High School. He will be attending Ithaca College in New York. He will be studying to become a psychologist or psychiatrist. Williams responded to the interview question, saying that, "Issues like homelessness and unemployment all stem from on thing; a sense of superiority. This feeling of being better than someone else

causes one to "help" others to improve a life that doesn't need improvement."

Keneisha Perry

Keneisha Perry graduated from Woodside High School. She is going to California State University Chico. She does not know what major she will pursue but "wants to get a solid foundation to better herself."

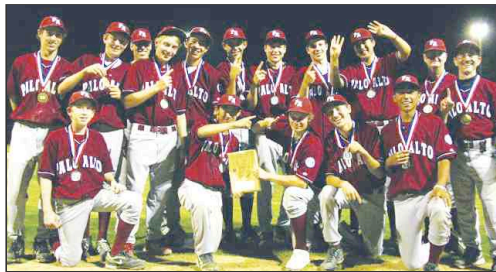
Perry said in response to the interview question: "I feel

the greatest challenge facing our society today is a lack of being able to look at things in a non-biased and rational manner. There are so many people arguing with each other for reasons not good enough to meet the bar. When kids talk about each other behind their backs...I don't understand how some acts are carried out and why there is so much hatred world."



Keneisha Perry and Thomas Williams standing with Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson at the RHSAA Dinner and Dance

Marcus Avelar to play in Nor-Cal Championship



Palo Alto Babe Ruth All-Stars. Marcus Avelar is in the front row, far right.

By Kiko Aebi
East Palo Alto Today

Marcus Avelar, a 15 year old East Palo Alto resident and baseball player, will be playing in the Nor-Cal Championship on July 16th.

His team, the Palo Alto Babe Ruth All-Stars, won the District 6 (Bell-Mateo, Palo Alto, and Los

Altos/Mountain View) championship on July 8th. Their District 6 victory won the team a spot in the Nor-Cal Championship.

The Palo Alto All-Stars' first game in the Nor-Cal Championship will be against the district 4 champions, the Washington Minors. The game will take place on Saturday, July 16, at 7 pm in Elk Grove.

"[Marcus] loves the game and maybe this might inspire other kids from our community to work hard and never give up on their dreams," said Marcus' father, Ruben Avelar.

Marcus recently graduated from Saint Elizabeth Seton School and will attend Sequoia High School in the fall. Best of luck Marcus!

JobTrain graduate gets international job



Photo courtesy of JobTrain
Suwanna Chuchinnawat is shown standing with JobTrain's Director of Program Operations Alonzo Emery

By Kiko Aebi
East Palo Alto Today

After graduating from JobTrain only a month ago, Suwanna Chuchinnawat was hired on the spot at CARGOLUX.

At her new job at one of the leading cargo airlines worldwide, Ms. Chuchinnawat will provide accounting sup-

port. She started her job on Wednesday, July 13 and was flown to Luxembourg for training.

Before she went to JobTrain, Ms. Chuchinnawat had been unemployed for two years.

"After finding JobTrain, I found new hope and an amazing career!" Ms. Chuchinnawat said at a

ceremony held in her honor by JobTrain.

JobTrain is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping members of the community most in need by providing job skills training.

To learn more about JobTrain go to:
<http://www.jobtrain-works.org/>

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Community Policing and Crime Reduction

Comprehensive report shows crime down in East Palo Alto

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today
Posted online Dec. 20, 2010

A newly released crime report, called Crime Trends in the City of East Palo Alto, held some very good news for East Palo Alto residents. Compiled over the past year at the University of Berkeley, the report presents a number of statistics, which show that crime in East Palo Alto decreased substantially over a 22-year period between 1986 to 2008.

East Palo Alto's Police Chief Ron Davis made the report the total focus of the Chat with the Chief meeting that he held at the East Palo Alto Municipal Building on December 16. At the start of the meeting, Davis introduced the report's author Sarah Lawrence, who proceeded to explain the major findings of the report.

Lawrence, who is the director of programs at the Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice (BCCJ) at the University of California, Berkeley, compiled the report with the assistance of Gregory Shapiro, a research associate at the center.

In presenting the crime data in the report, Lawrence emphasized that she merely collected the data, which already ex-

CRIME CATEGORY	2011	2010	% CHG
HOMICIDE	4	1	-75%
RAPE	9	7	-20%
ROBBERY	45	47	-4%
ASSAULT	180	182	-2%
VEHICLE WITH A FIREARM	36	5	-49%
BURGLARY	181	183	-1%
LARCENY	115	130	-12%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	102	77	-25%
TOTAL CRIME	681	542	-25%

Statistic Report for 2011 Crimes listed, from several local, state and federal sources. She also pointed out that while East Palo Alto was showing an enormous decrease in crime, crime was also dropping nationwide, albeit not as fast as in East Palo Alto. She admitted that the report does not explain why crime dropped faster in the city than it did throughout the country.

Below are some excerpts from the report's major findings covering the 22-year crime decrease in East Palo Alto:

Property crimes lower than the state

The report showed that the city's property crime rate is much lower than the state average with 245 property crimes per 10,000 people compared with 294 per 10,000 for the state overall.

Decrease in all major crime

types

"The crime rate decreased in all major crime types since the mid-1980's. The property crime rate decreased by 64% and the violent crime rate decreased by 56%. Crime has also been on the decline across the State, but East Palo Alto's crime decline has been larger than the State overall. As shown in the figure below, the State's total crime rate decreased by 49% compared to 62% for the City."

The report showed that "for the seven major crime types between 1986 and 2008 burglary decreased by 69%, auto theft by 12%, larceny by 8%, aggravated assault by 58%, robbery by 54%, rape by 45%, and homicide by 58%.

However, in spite of the decreases, the report concluded that "although the reduction in crime has been considerable, the level of violent crime in East Palo Alto remains very high, as the 2008 violent crime rate in EPA was 110 crimes per 100,000 people compared to the State average of 50 crimes per 10,000."

In addition to the above statistics, the report brought out the fact that the large majority of homicides in the city involved victims and of-

fenders who had prior criminal records.

According to the report, "Both groups had considerable arrest records, as 81% of homicide victims and 100% of homicide offenders had at least one prior arrest."

Even with its major decreases in crime, "East Palo Alto ranks in the top ten among California cities in three of the four categories of violent crime (aggravated assault, homicide, and rape)," the report said. To read the complete report, go to http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/EPA_Main_Report_Final.pdf.

Later, in commenting on the report, Davis said, "This report highlights the great progress the City has made in achieving dramatic crime and violence reductions over the past 22 years amid its limited resources and understaffed police department."

In referring to his statement about the East Palo Alto Police department being understaffed, Davis was alluding to findings in the report, which showed that the resources for the East Palo Alto Police Department were significantly lower than that of other police departments. In fact, the report stated that the East Palo Alto Po-

lice Department is significantly lower in officers per capita compared to other cities in California with similar violent crime rates and to other similarly sized cities in California.

Davis said, "As a community we should take pride in our success as it clearly demonstrates the true power of a community when it is united and working in partnership with its police department."

Further in his released statement about the report, Davis thanked "the outstanding men and women of the police department for their hard work, dedication and commitment to our community" and he also thanked "the Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice; specifically, Sarah Lawrence and Gregory Shapiro, for their hard work and partnership in completing this study."

In the end, Davis wrote, "As we move forward in 2011, we do so amid notable crime and violence reductions this year. Yet, the BCCJ report underscores the reality that despite our past progress (even in 2010), our crime and violence rates are still too high. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels - the work continues and the need is great."

Overall crime in East Palo Alto continues to go down

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today
Posted online June 3, 2011

The latest crime statistical report released by the East Palo Alto Police Department shows that, while overall crime in East Palo Alto is down by ten percent, certain types of crime in the city have increased. Burglary is up by one percent and larceny is up by thirteen percent.

According to the report, there were three rapes in May of 2010, but there were four in May of this year, an increase of thirty three percent. While there were nine robberies committed in May 2010, the crime report shows

that there were 11 robberies committed in May 2011, an increase of twenty two percent.

The increase in shootings and gun-related incidents this past May is of particular concern to the police and to city residents, since there were five gun-related incidents last month and none in May 2010. In the last crime statistical report released in March 2011 by the East Palo Alto Police Department, there were two gun-related incidents.

East Palo Alto's Police Chief Ron Davis said that these increases, while small, are still of concern to the police department, given the recent jump in violence throughout the Bay Area.

"We want to make sure that this is not a prelude to a violent summer," Davis said. In responding to the current crime increase, the East Palo Alto Police Department will continue the special enforcement operations (funded by DOJ grants) that target those involved in gangs, drugs and violence.

Davis added that the East Palo Alto City Council "has authorized \$200,000 for community and faith-based organizations to implement summer youth programs. The Police Activities League (PAL) will implement additional youth programs during the summer and host a Youth Summit in August

(thanks to DOJ grant funding). The Police and community are continuing with Operation Ceasefire and will conduct the third 'call-in' in July."

In describing the other activities that his department was pursuing to combat crime, Davis mentioned the formation of the department's anti-graffiti task force, which will develop and implement a comprehensive program to reduce graffiti in the East Palo Alto over the summer.

"Graffiti is much more than the defacement of public and private property; it is a language that is used by gangs to declare ownership of a neighborhood and, in some cases, call for vio-

lence. We must respond aggressively to this growing problem and make it clear that the only people who own a neighborhood are the families that live there. Our response to this challenge will be holistic and address not just to the taggers (those responsible for the graffiti) but the root causes of their destructive behavior as well," said Davis.

In ending his remarks, Davis said that he is confident that, with the community's collaboration and the strategic focus of available resources, East Palo Alto will "end this year with the lowest crime and violence rate in over 12 years."

Two suspects are arrested in triple shooting case

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today
Posted online June 6, 2011

The East Palo Alto Police arrested two teenagers for the triple shooting that led to the death of Izack Jesus Jimenez Garcia, the three-month old infant who was shot to death early Sunday morning, as he, his parents and his four year old brother left a baby shower in East Palo Alto.

One of the arrested teenagers, a 17 year old, is charged with the infant's murder, while the second teenager, a 16 year old, is being held on a weapons



Captain Jeff Lui addresses the press regarding the arrests of two suspects in the East Palo Alto triple shooting.

charge. At a news conference held Monday, June 6, East Palo Alto's Chief of Police Ron Davis and Acting Captain Jeff Lui, credited the many tips that were received from the com-

munity for the two arrests. They said that the police worked around the clock, since the shooting occurred around 12:30 a.m. Sunday morning, acting on tips that came from voice mails, text

tips, emails and witnesses who talked with them directly.

It was through these tips that the East Palo Alto police released two composite sketches of the suspects that Davis said were an exact match to the two teenagers, who were arrested.

The family involved in the shooting consisted of the mother, Ivonne Garcia Lopez, the father, Oscar Jimenez and their two children, a four year old son and their murdered infant Izack, who would have turned four months old on June 12.

In speaking at the news conference about the Sunday

morning attack that killed her son and left her husband and herself wounded, Garcia Lopez tearfully described her infant son as her angel. "He was my everything," she said. "I was making my own little family with my husband and my children. I'm so devastated. I have another kid. He is four years old. He is traumatized. We're all traumatized."

Garcia Lopez went on to urge parents to be involved with their children. "They should give them love," she said. "They should give them

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Police target gang activity

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today
Posted on July 7, 2011



Chief of Police Ron Davis addresses press briefing at the Four Seasons Hotel in East Palo Alto on Wednesday, July 6, 2011

More than 70 law enforcement officials met at the Four Seasons Hotel in East Palo Alto this past Wednesday in a show of unity against gang violence. The officials represented federal, state and county agencies ranging from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, the FBI, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office to local and state prison officials.

The law enforcement officials were attending a conference called by East Palo Alto's Chief of Police Ron Davis. Davis said the purpose of the conference was twofold. It was designed to allow the participating enforcement agencies to unite and to let gangs across the nation "understand what they're up against."

The strong show of unity

among the conference attendees came a month after the murder of three-month-old Izack Jesus Jimenez Garcia and the wounding of his parents, Ivonne Garcia Lopez and Oscar Jimenez when they left a baby shower in East Palo Alto on Sunday, June 5, 2011.

Davis said the infant's death was the moving force behind the morning meeting. In emphasizing this point, he said that with the infant's murder, the Nortenos and Surenos gang members "made themselves the primary focus of the

people in this room."

During the press conference, it was noted that, while crime nationwide has been decreasing, gang activity, in such areas as drug dealing, extortion, robbery and gang rivalries, is on the increase. The law enforcement officials speaking at the press briefing seemed unanimous in their acknowledgement that gang activity in the country is not an isolated phenomenon relegated to local gangs.

They said that the gangs are transnational, highly or-

ganized and structured, and have a chain of command.

San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks said that 20% of the county's jail population was made up of validated gang members. Davis told reporters that many gangs originated in prison and that gang activity centered on money. This being the case, law enforcement officials said that they would focus on disrupting gang operations and decreasing the gangs' cash flow.

Several of the officials who spoke talked about the devastating effect that current budget cuts were having on their agencies. Yet, in spite of the cuts, they said that they were confident that they would still be able to wage a successful effort to keep the transnational gangs in check and to stop gang violence from spreading.

East Palo Alto City Council member Ruben Abrica said

that he was happy to see the level of support from the law enforcement community and that he thought it would tell gang members, "You cannot cross the line and commit atrocities."

In echoing Abrica's point, Davis said the level of pressure law enforcement officials were prepared to bring on the gangs would cause them to say among themselves, "We stepped on something that was so egregious [referring to show of force which has now resulted because of baby Izack's murder] that we never want to do that again."

Editor's note - This article originally appeared on the East Palo Alto Today website on July 7, 2011. To see a video excerpt of the meeting go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Henrie1027?feature=mhnsr#p/u/1/o8oNkPWRqJs>

Prayer keeps community together

By Kalamu Chaché
East Palo Alto Today

Nearly 70 residents of East Palo Alto gathered at the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus Church for a gang-free community. Attendees sent a message to the Nortenos and Surenos gangs that violence would not be tolerated within the East Palo Alto.

The meeting was arranged in response to the death of the 3-month old baby, Izack Jimenez Garcia, who was killed in a shooting in on June 5. Garcia's parents, who were also shot, are still recovering from their wounds.

Notable attendees at the gathering included East Palo Alto Police Chief Ron Davis, East Palo Alto Mayor Carlos Romero, Vice-Mayor Laura Martinez, City Council Member Ruben Abrica, Vice-President of the Ravenswood City School District Marcelino Lopez, Clerk Ana Maria

Pulido, and Evelyn Barajas-Luis, board member of the Ravenswood City School District.

The meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Joe Prado of the Apostolic Assembly Church. Following the prayer, Prado stated that the purpose of the meeting was to come together and discuss the gang violence in the community. He expressed grave concerns about the issues that the City of East Palo Alto is facing with gang violence. As a father and pastor, he called for everyone in the community to stand together against gang violence.

Pastor Prado explained that the evening would present an opportunity for members of the community to ask questions as well as express fears and concerns regarding gang violence. Prado also stated that Chief Davis would be sharing his vision for eliminating gang violence in East Palo Alto, as well as explaining strategies

designed to eradicate the violence.

After acknowledging all visiting pastors in attendance, Dr. Guadalupe Valdez of Stanford University was introduced as the mediator for the event. Valdez gave an overview of the evening's schedule and explained that the format would ensure that all voices would be heard.

To set the tone for the evening, moderators played a video clip of the press conference held by Chief Davis announcing the capture of the suspected shooters in the Izack Garcia murder. Following the video, Juan Martinez, a local minister of the Church, gave a presentation about the nature of gangs and how they recruit.

At the end of this presentation, Dr. Valdez called for members of the audience to come forward to express their concerns.

Each person came to the microphone to share his or her

thoughts and feelings about what could be done to eliminate gang violence in East Palo Alto.

Speakers raised a number of questions. Critical topics included party supervision, communication with police, organizing alternatives to gang activities, parent support and leadership, reaching out to gang members, communication between undocumented residents and police, and youth curfews.

After everyone had an opportunity to speak, Chief Davis took the podium to respond to the suggestions and concerns. Before doing so, he gave information on the June 5 shooting. Davis stated that the shooting was an attempt to retaliate after a fight at a quinceanera in the Woodside/Redwood City area a week earlier. A videotape of the quinceanera revealed that there had been no adult supervision at the event. At the baby shower in East Palo Alto,

the shooters spotted someone from the Woodside/Redwood City fight and retaliated. Chief Davis stated that the incident speaks to the need for parents to pay attention to their youth. He advised parents to always know where their children and youth are at all times, as well as to know who their friends are.

Afterwards, Councilmember Ruben Abrica announced that plans are underway for the City of East Palo Alto and the Ravenswood City School District to work together in the future to further improve the quality of life for youth and their families.

The evening ended with closing remarks, words of commitment to keep the dialogue between city leaders and residents consistent, and a prayer to keep the community together as it does the work that needs to be done to make things better for all.

Crime reduction and new jail planning

By Seini Moimoi
East Palo Alto Today

A community meeting hosted by Supervisor Rose Jacob Gibson took place on June 29 in East Palo Alto City Hall to discuss crime reduction and jail planning.

Since 2004, the East Palo Alto Crime Reduction Task Force has taken the role of reducing crime and violence in the East Palo Alto community after Gibson held a meeting with residents and community leaders.

Dr. Faye McNair-Knox, Ex-



Photo shows police chief Ron Davis to the far left and EPA Manager ML Gordon listening during the meeting.

ecutive Director of One East Palo Alto, said during the meeting, "Were it not for

Rose, EPA would not be as well-positioned. She has opened up doors of opportu-

nity."
"The Task Force is a gift that keeps on giving," Gibson said.

Improvement from crime reduction in East Palo Alto is apparent after homicides in the year 2010 decreased from 50% to 16% compared to the the year 2005, when East Palo Alto was ranked second highest in the nation with homicides. The purpose and main goal for the Task Force however continues to be connecting with the community and getting involvement from the unity.

The last topic addressed during the meeting was the new county jail plan. Land on Maple St in Redwood City has been purchased by the county and the plan will take further action as soon as an approval is reached by the county supervisors.

In attendance at the meeting was San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks who led the discussion on plans for the new county jail. "The state is putting more and more prisoners in jail.

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Gun Buy Back program gets firearms off the streets

By Kiko Aebi
East Palo Alto Today

The East Palo Alto police held their Third Annual Gun Buy-Back on Saturday, July 9, 2011. The event held at the East Palo Alto Government Center aimed to take weapons off the streets by offering people a \$100 gift card in exchange for their firearms, no questions asked.

The Gun Buy-Back event was inspired by an accidental shooting that killed a two year old in 2009. The event is funded by grants and city money. The program gives East Palo Alto residents the opportunity to anonymously dispose of weapons that they do not use or want-weapons that might accidentally fall into the hands of a



Weapons collected by police at the 3rd Annual Gun Buy-Back

person who would use them.

The cash incentive and the opportunity to safely and legally dispose of firearms drew dozens of people from as far away as the East Bay. People began lining up to exchange their guns before the event even began at 9:00. Police asked that individuals bring their guns to the event unloaded and in the trunk of

their cars for police officers to remove.

Individuals who brought guns to the event were not required to disclose their identity or how they obtained the weapons. Police hoped that this anonymity would encourage people to turn in their firearms. However, police did examine the guns to determine whether they may

have been used in a previous crime.

In its three years, the program has succeeded in its initiative to make the community safer. Police collected over 50 firearms in its first year and almost 90 guns in its second year. This year, police hoped to collect 100 firearms; however, they fell short of this goal, collecting 75 guns. Police have received a combined total of over 210 guns in the past three years from the Gun Buy-Back program.

This year, police collected weapons ranging from small handguns to military-style rifles. Chief Davis said that police will destroy these weapons in their next bi-yearly guns destruction. At their last guns destruction, police destroyed over 300

firearms. Mayor Ramero is considering the commission of a sculpture created from these melted guns reclaimed by the police after having seen such a sculpture in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Gun Buy-Back initiative is making East Palo Alto a safer community.



Photo courtesy of Kiko Aebi
An officer inspects a gun at the event

Crime reduction and jail planning



Photo courtesy of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
This photo shows the new jail site which is highlighted in the lower left of the picture.

The facilities are severely overcrowded with no space for any kind of meaningful treatment," Munks said.

Along with a new jail in the county, there are plans for programs within the jail that will be enforced upon the prisoners. Programs will help target substance abuse, mental health, and job readiness.

"With the state releasing more state prisoners to the county, we have an opportunity to improve outcomes," Gibson said.

Due to the increasing numbers of inmates in state prisons, the Supreme Court ruled that the state release prisoners. Therefore, about 300 to 500 inmates will be transferred from the state to county jail. With the new jail, it will replace and upgrade both the women and men's facilities.

The overall conceptual plan is to cost \$140 million with 500 beds. It will take a year to design the whole jail, three years for community outreach, and four years to

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complete the plan. In the meantime, however, approval must be made by the county supervisors till further action is done.

"Whatever we do, we will have to live with it for 30 years," Munks said.

Seini Moimoi is an intern at East Palo Alto Today. For more info on the new jail planning go to the Sheriff's web page at www.smcsheriff.com or to www.twitter.com/jailplanning or www.facebook.com/jailplanning

Car shooting now a murder investigation

By Henrietta J. Burroughs
East Palo Alto Today
Posted online July 14, 2011

The East Palo Alto Police are now looking for the murderer of the 19 year old woman who was shot in East Palo Alto on Wednesday, July 13 about 2 a.m.

The victim, Catherine Fisher, who was a Menlo

Park resident, was sitting in a vehicle in the 2500 block of Annapolis Avenue, with two other people, a male and a female.

The police state that the car in which the three were sitting was fired upon. The shooting left Fisher critically wounded and her companions uninjured. Fisher was taken to Stanford Hospital

where she later died.

The East Palo Alto Police Department is seeking information that will uncover a motive for the shooting and lead to the arrest of those who were involved in Fisher's murder.

Police investigators are encouraging anyone, who might have witnessed the shooting or has any informa-

tion about it, to contact the East Palo Alto Police Department by:

Sending an email to epa@tipnow.org

Sending a text message from their cell phone to: 650-409-6792.

Or by leaving an anonymous voice mail by calling the same phone number listed above.



Fisher taught gymnastics in Menlo Park and wanted to become a math teacher.

Police respond to violent crime wave

By Kiko Aebi
East Palo Alto Today

The East Palo Alto Police Department held a special press briefing to make a major announcement. Police officials said that they had identified three suspects, whom they thought were involved in two recent homicides: the murder of Catherine Fisher, 19, which occurred on July 13, 2011, and the murder of Hugo Chavez, 26, which occurred on July 19, 2011.

Police attribute the progress in the two cases to vital leads from members of the community. East Palo Alto Mayor Carlos Romero said, "The recent homi-

cides have jarred the community into action, and when the community gets involved, change happens."

In responding to the multiple homicides, which occurred in East Palo Alto over the past two weeks, the city's Police Chief Ron Davis said, "We will not tolerate this level of violence. We want to go the next six months without another homicide."

Davis said that his department is increasing the number of officers patrolling the city's streets by 25%. For the next month, the police department will have officers working overtime, focusing their efforts in the late evening and in the early morning -- a key

time for the occurrence of violent incidents in the city.

The police department believes that the murders of Fisher and Chavez were committed by members of a violent trio of young Hispanic men, whose recent crimes span from East Palo Alto to Grand Junction, Colorado. The members of the trio are identified as Christian Fuentes, 20, Jaime Cardenas, 19, and Fidel Silva, 24, all from East Palo Alto. The suspects are also wanted in Grand Junction, Colorado for two robberies, a burglary and a triple shooting and murder.

Christian Fuentes was arrested last week by the East Palo Alto and Fremont Police Depart-

ment and is in custody for a parole violation. He is believed to be the member of the group with ties to Grand Junction, Colorado. Both Cardenas and Silva remain at-large and are wanted for the Colorado murder and for questioning in the two East Palo Alto murders.

Chief Davis said that there is significant evidence tying the suspects to the crimes. However, at this time, the police will not release the specifics of the case. Davis also acknowledged the possibility that the homicides were related to the shooting that killed one individual and wounded another on July 24, 2011 in a parking lot on East Bayshore

Road.

During the press briefing, which was held on Monday, July 25, the police said that they are still investigating this most recent crime and will determine if there are any connections that can be made.

The East Palo Alto Police Department asks, as always, for anyone with information about the shootings to call the police department's anonymous tip line at (650) 853-8477 or leave an anonymous text-a-tip at (650) 409-7692.

Kiko Aebi is a summer intern at East Palo Alto Today. She will be a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School this year.

Police sweeps send a message to gang members

By **Henrietta J. Burroughs**
East Palo Alto Today
Posted on June 29, 2011

The East Palo Alto Police, partnering with parole and probation officials, held an early morning sweep to pick up parole and probation violators in East Palo Alto.

This morning's operation was the fourth one to take place in the last two weeks. Thus far, these special operations, which have specifically targeted Nortenos and Surenos gang members in East Palo Alto, have led to two arrests.

According to East Palo Alto's Chief of Police Ron Davis, these sweeps are not about making arrests, but they are focused on increasing the pressure on the city's gang members to let them know that the violence that they are creating in the community will not be tolerated.

Davis emphasized that this random and repeated pressure on gang members is a way to keep them in check.

Davis also stated that any violence now occurring in the city is related to three things: gang involvement, drug in-

volvement or disputes between two or more parties who know each other and are using violence as a means of reconciling their differences.

These special operations' sweeps that law enforcement officials are now using, which resulted in this morning's sweep of gang members, were initiated in the aftermath of the murder of three-month-old Izack Jesus Jimenez Garcia and the wounding of his parents, Ivonne Garcia Lopez and Oscar Jimenez when they left a baby shower in East Palo Alto on Sunday, June 5,

2011.

Davis said that he met recently with Garcia Lopez to tell her that her son's death has shocked the consciousness of the community and the Bay Area and that she wanted, in memory of her son, to commence activities that would be instrumental in preventing the type of activity that led to her son's death.

Davis said that Garcia Lopez agreed with the activities that he discussed and said that she did not want to see what happened to her family happen again.

As a part of Operation

Ceasefire, the East Palo Alto Police Department has scheduled "call-ins" to occur in July and August. During this operation, known community gang members will be contacted by the police and notified that they will be under continued surveillance and that they will be given access to various community services and assistance if they decide to end their life of crime.

Davis concluded: "We are giving a clear message that we will not tolerate any continued gang violence in East Palo Alto."

Letter to the Community

By **Ron Davis**
East Palo Alto Today

WE MUST RESPOND TO THE MURDER OF BABY IZACK GARCIA

On June 5, 2011, two young men fired over a dozen bullets into a vehicle containing an innocent family of four leaving a baby shower. The barrage of bullets left 3-month old Izack Garcia dead, his mother and father seriously wounded, and his 4 year-old brother severely traumatized. The heinous nature of this shooting underscores the real and serious danger gangs pose to our community.

I want to personally applaud the community and the men and women of the police department for their response to this tragedy. Within 24 hours of the shooting one of the two suspects responsible for this cowardly act was arrested and subsequently charged with murder. The Department is working closely with the San Mateo County District Attorney's office to arrest and charge the second suspect.

Despite the arrest there exists a real threat of retaliatory violence because the two killers and their motive for the shooting involve a longstanding feud between two notorious street gangs - the Nortenos and Surenos.

If we are to protect our children and community from this type of violence and achieve true justice for the Garcia family, the accountability for the murder of baby Izack Garcia must extend beyond

the two killers. Our response to this tragedy must result in nothing less than the full dismantling of the Norteno and Sureno gangs in East Palo Alto.

I have therefore designated these two gangs as the top priority for the police department and will work to garner the resources necessary to disrupt their activities and dismantle their operations. Our Violence Interdiction Team (VIT) will continue its work with the San Mateo County Probation and state parole departments to conduct home visits, checks and searches of all Norteno and Sureno gang members on probation and parole.

The Department will convene a meeting with local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies to include the: U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Adult Parole Division, San Mateo County Probation Department, San Mateo County Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU), San Mateo County Gang Task Force (GTF), San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force (NTF), and Local police agencies in San Mateo County.

The purpose of this meeting is to share intelligence about these two gangs and develop a comprehensive and coordinated enforcement action plan that will disrupt



Police Chief Ron Davis

their illegal activities.

However, enforcement alone will not dismantle these gangs. The Department will also conduct Operation Ceasefire "call-ins" for both gangs in June and July in attempts to negotiate a truce, provide assistance and services to those gang members who want out of the gang lifestyle, and send a clear and unified community message of non-violence.

If you recall, the police department was one of nine agencies to receive a California Gang Resistance and Intervention Grant (CAL GRIP) to implement Operation Ceasefire. This is an evidence-based strategy that dramatically reduces violence by joining together community members and law enforcement to directly engage with gang members and clearly communicate: 1) a credible, moral message against violence; 2) a credible law enforcement message about the consequences of further violence; and 3) a genuine offer of help for those who want it.

It should also be noted that

the City Council is scheduled to release \$200,000 in grant funding for summer youth programs and \$50,000 for the One East Palo Alto Sponsored Employment Program (SEP). The Police Activities League (PAL) will also provide at-risk youth programs, such as the Graffiti Arts Project (GAP), this summer and work in partnership with numerous community and faith-based organizations to host a citywide youth summit that will focus on gangs and violence in our community.

Conclusion: The tragic murder of baby Izack Garcia has shocked and outraged our community. The loss of such innocence impacts of all of us and threatens that which matters most: our children. I believe we will turn this tragedy into an opportunity to not just reduce gang violence but change the environment that allows gangs to exist in our community.

Respectfully,
Ronald L. Davis
Chief of Police
August 3, 2011

For the latest information regarding the East Palo Alto free shuttle, call 650.853.7143.



CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

DATE: May 31, 2011
TO: East Palo Alto Residents
SUBJECT: Termination of Weekend Late Night Shuttle Services Effective July 18, 2011

SHUTTLE SERVICE TERMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **effective Monday, July 18, 2011, the Weekend Late Night Shuttle will be terminated** due to low ridership and lack of funding. The Weekend Late Night Shuttle will continue its regularly scheduled route until 2:00 a.m., **Monday, July 18, 2011.**

WEEKEND LATE NIGHT SHUTTLE											
NS Callahan	SR Callahan	VTA Lee-27	SAM/PAK/KY	Dp Llynwood	Uw/Wood SB	Bay/Oakwood	IKCA	Uw/Wood SB	Ar Llynwood	NS Callahan	SR Callahan
Arriving Communities		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Departing	
11:01	10:42	10:18	11:05	11:12	11:20	11:30	11:33	11:45			
11:17	12:02		12:06	12:15	12:24	12:27	12:39	12:46			
1:03	12:59		1:06	1:13	1:22	1:32	1:37	1:44			1:03

For further information regarding this notice, please call 650-853-7143 or visit the City of East Palo Alto, Community Development Department at 1960 Tate Street, East Palo Alto.

1960 Tate Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 (650.853.7143, Fax 650.853.3179)

Two suspects are arrested

attention.... They should be in school learning, preparing to be someone not killing three month olds."

When asked about a motive for the shooting, Liu said that the shooting was an apparent case of mistaken identity and was carried out in retaliation for the beating that one of the suspects received in Redwood City, when he was involved in a gang fight.

Lui said that one of the suspects saw the family in East Palo Alto and thought that he recognized the father as one

of the opposing gang members he fought with the week before in Redwood City.

East Palo Alto's Mayor, Carlos Romero, praised the police for their quick and diligent work in making arrests in the case so quickly. Both he and Davis said that the shooting, which occurred, was not something the East Palo Alto community could tolerate.

Shortly after the shooting occurred, the City of East Palo Alto, through its City Manager, ML Gordon, who was present at the briefing, offered a

\$25,000 reward for any information that led to the arrest and conviction of the shooters. Even with two suspects in custody, the reward is still available. Davis said, "We still need all of the tips that the community can provide. We are still looking for all who will be held accountable."

At the end of the press briefing, Angie Garcia, a family relative, thanked the East Palo Alto community for providing tips to the police and "breaking the silence" which generally prevents many criminal arrests

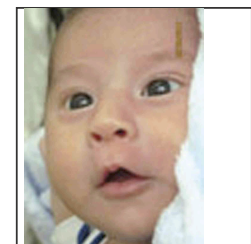
from being made in the city.

It is now up to the district attorney's office to decide how the charges against the suspects will be prosecuted.

The East Palo Alto Police are still asking for anyone who might have witnessed the shooting or has any information regarding the crime to contact them by: Sending an email to epa@tipnow.org

Sending a text message from a cell phone to: 650-409-6792 or by leaving an anonymous voice mail at the same phone number.

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Izack Jesus Jimenez Garcia