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# East Palo Alto Today

Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical



East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

February - March 2016

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Photo courtesy of San Mateo County

San Mateo County officials are shown cutting the ribbon to open the new county jail in Redwood City.

## New county jail opens in Redwood City

By Michelle Durand

San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors celebrated the new Maple Street Correctional Center today with a ribbon cutting at the 260,000-square-foot modern facility that boasts environmental design, expanded in-custody program space and the complete shift

of female inmates from their current dilapidated jail.

"This project was never about simply building a larger jail to house more inmates. Instead, this facility represents our commitment to improving the lives of the men and women who are in our care and custody. We will do so by conducting meaningful assessments of their needs and by providing innovative programming to improve their

chance for a successful reentry into our community," Sheriff Greg Munks said.

Tuesday's ribbon-cutting [on March 1] is the culmination of nearly a decade of planning, community outreach and construction. The Jail Planning Unit formed in 2007 in response to significant overcrowding at the Maguire Correctional Facility which houses male inmates and extensive maintenance issues including flooding at the Women's Correctional Facility on Maple Street.

The result is an 832-bed, three-story building at 1300 Maple St. in Redwood City with pending LEED certification for its environmentally conscious design, increased flexible classroom space and

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## Sand Hill Property Company acquires Woodland Apartments

By Kimberly Carlton

Menlo Park-based Sand Hill Property Company completed a purchase of over 1800 rent-stabilized apartments on the West Side of East Palo Alto on February 18. Chicago-based Equity Residential reportedly received \$412.5 million for the 49-acre property, which it purchased from Wells Fargo for \$130 million in 2011.

Woodland Park Apartments contains more than half of East Palo Alto's multi-family rental housing and is the largest property on the West Side. The area, whose name reflects its location across Highway 101, is home to approximately 22% of the City's residents and contains about 95% of its rent-controlled housing. Previous owners of the Woodland Park Apartments – Equity Residential and Page Mill Properties before them – have been embroiled in controversy and lawsuits over allegations of violating the City's rent stabilization ordinance, improper evictions, and poor maintenance.

The new owner is a subsidiary of Sand Hill Property

Company, the newly-formed Woodland Park Communities. The company acquired Woodland Park with financial support from the sovereign wealth fund Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. The executive director of Woodland Park Communities, Steve Emslie, is a former Palo Alto planning director and assistant city manager.

In an exclusive published in the Silicon Valley Business Journal prior to the final closing of the deal, Emslie said that he's "had good relationships with cities in the mid-Peninsula, including East Palo Alto." He noted that while redevelopment might be in the cards in the future, it's unlikely to happen anytime soon. In part, that is because "the planning process is going to take a significant amount of time because of the need to consult, understand and digest the variety of needs that exist in the community at large."

In the meantime, Vice Mayor Larry Moody said, "We have been assured by ownership that rents will stay in place. There will be no displacement efforts."

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## City residents set about designing a center for the arts

By Elizabeth Real

How would you design a building? Members of the East Palo Alto community were invited to join the Youth Action Team, a group sponsored by the nonprofit organization, Live in Peace, for a planning meeting last February to discuss possible design options for East Palo Alto's new Youth Arts and Music Center.

The meeting was a charrette, which means that it was

an intense period of design and planning. Isaiah Phillips, one of the leaders of the team, told everyone that they were there "to learn and give input on the design of the physical building."

Community members were split among three different tables. Professional designers and engineers were placed at each table to lead the discussion.

Big, laminated maps covered the tables to give everyone a better visual of the space where the center is to

be built—at the corner of Pulgas and Bay Road. Small, colored, foam blocks were also placed at each table.

Each of the blocks represented a building: café, the

atre, storage, and others. Community members were encouraged to move the

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Photo courtesy of the Youth Action Team  
Community members work on the design of the new arts center.

## Inside

- Editorial
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# East Bayshore Road to be partially closed in April

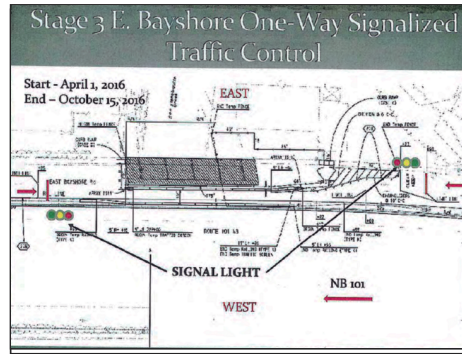
By Elizabeth Real  
EPA Today

Your commute might become a little more hectic soon, so plan accordingly.

The northbound East Bayshore Road lane is due to close April 1, 2016 and continue through October,

2016. Traffic delays are to be expected. One-way signalized traffic control will take place between Pulgas

Avenue and Laura Lane during this time. Caltrans advises to avoid the U.S. 101 Route from Embarcadero Road to University Avenue



Graphic courtesy of City of East Palo Alto

during heavy traffic hours. Southbound lanes will be realigned towards the west and temporary concrete barriers will be placed.

The partial closure is part of the San Francisco Creek bridge replacement project. The closure is stage 3 of the project.

City staff will be working on minimizing the impact, mostly by warning the public.

Big, electronic boards are already being displayed to warn the public about the closures.

While no one is excited about traffic delays, Kamal

Fallaha, Public Works Director and City Engineer, stated that "It's very critical that we finish the northbound side." Construction is on a tight deadline and must move forward.

Caltrans began working on replacing the San Francisco Creek bridges on East Bayshore Road and West Bayshore Road on June 5, 2015. The two bridges have caused flooding in the past. This project will reduce flood-risk in these areas by improving the flow of water underneath.

# East Palo Alto to develop its own water supply

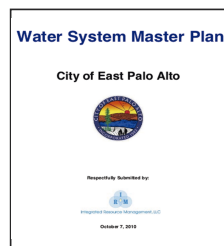
By Joshua Hoyt

East Palo Alto is continuing with plans to develop the Gloria Way Well, despite a recent estimate that it will start pumping at only 30-40% of its 300 gallon per minute (GPM) maximum capacity.

Even with this limited pumping capacity, Gloria Way Well remains a critical component in the city's goal of developing its own water management system.

East Palo Alto currently gets its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. American Water Services Company manages the distribution, operation, and maintenance of the city's water supply.

While the city is guaranteed 2,199 acre-feet of water, the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan showed a current demand of 2,200 acre-feet. The city has no water storage as a buffer against unusual demand, drought restrictions, or inter-



rupted water service. It also doesn't have enough water to support growth.

"I think there is a direct correlation between solidifying our water issues and the potential development partners that are out there, and we really can't engage one without the other" said Vice Mayor Larry Moody.

The Gloria Way Well, which is located in East Palo Alto at the intersection of Gloria Way and Bay Road, was finished in 1979, but doesn't currently produce potable water. The decision to move forward with the construction

of the well is primarily based on East Palo Alto's pressing need for water, the cost savings of local water, and the advanced stage of the project.

"We are so close, because it is basically approved, and we are done with the environmental, and very close to finalizing the design," said Public Works Director and City Engineer Kamal Fallaha. "We are letting the council know that we are proceeding with the project, but we didn't want to proceed without you knowing the significant change in the yield."

Use of the well was discontinued in the early 1980s over complaints about the water's "esthetic" qualities, including a bad smell. The current project includes plans for a treatment facility to address this issue. Construction could begin as early as December of 2016, and completion of the project is anticipated in 2017.

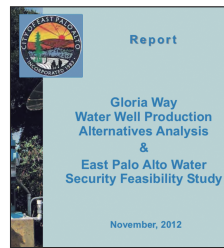
The lowered estimate of

the pumping capacity of the Gloria Way Well comes after testing to see what the underground water source can sustain. Pumping too much groundwater can have severe consequences including pulling salt water into the groundwater aquifers, tainting the groundwater.

Another serious consequence of pumping too much groundwater is called subsidence. When too much water is pumped out of the ground the land can compact and settle, causing the land level to sink. From the early 1900s through the 1960s, Bay Area

municipalities relied on groundwater, and during that time parts of San Jose and Santa Clara dropped by more than eight feet, according to the United States Geologic Survey. East Palo Alto dropped at least two to three feet. The process of subsidence does not reverse when the usage of groundwater is discontinued; the land may never return to its former level.

East Palo Alto is also planning to build a new well known as the Pad D Well, located at Clark Ave and East Bayshore Road. A test well has shown that this site might support water usage rates of 350-500 GPM. The water quality of the sample indicated that it might not need groundwater treatment. The city does not yet know how much the Pad D project will cost, but the city will need to secure additional funding to complete the project. The Pad D Well project is targeting 2017 to start construction.



# City students to get a new charter school

By Elizabeth Real  
East Palo Alto Today

The conference room of the Ravenswood City School District roared with applause and cheers. Many high-fived each other and most couldn't stop smiling.

The celebration was in response to the Ravenswood City School District Board voting 4-1 in favor of opening a new charter school by KIPP Bay Area Schools. Parents, students, and even members of the East Palo Alto City Council alike stood before the school board February 11, 2016, and voiced their opinions about the petition—twenty-two speakers in total.

Although many were there to urge the board to approve the petition, many expressed concerns.



Photo courtesy of Innovative Public Schools  
Supporters of the charter school filled the room

School board trustee, Marcelino Lopez, said he was concerned about the district, stating that the situation is frustrating. "We're bleeding and we're being asked to donate blood," he said before concluding that he hopes the district and the charter school can work together.

Vice President of the board, Sharifa Wilson, expressed

some concerns regarding the admission process for the new charter school. "Are those openings filled up by the people that are on that waitlist or is there an internal process that provides priority to existing families?" Wilson was assured by April Chou, Chief Growth and Operating Officer at KIPP Bay Area Schools, that "individuals who are on

the waitlist are contacted in the order of the waitlist."

Wilson was glad to hear the response since other charter schools have not followed this model in the past. "They choose their first group of families and then they keep those families and they never provide an opportunity for other people to come in," she said. Wilson wasn't the only one concerned about limited admissions.

One speaker pointed out that not all students will be able to attend the charter school, so not everyone will benefit from it. "Every single student deserves the opportunity," she urged both in English and Spanish. She argued that "we shouldn't let existing schools fail" and that more than just one group of stu-

dents should be helped.

Trustee, Ana Maria Pulido, agreed with these concerns and was the sole vote against the petition. "I agree with the young lady who said we should be looking for the benefit of all of our students. There's a lot of work that the district is doing, along with the superintendent to make it happen. I understand the need for higher quality education, which is why I got involved," she stated. She emphasized that they should be focusing on all students, not just a small group. "It's important that we look at the 3,500 students that are here."

In the end, however, the wishes of the parents and students outweighed the concerns

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# Community News Briefs

## EPA will soon lose another top employee

Brent Butler, who is East Palo Alto's planning and housing manager, announced to his colleagues that he will be resigning from his current position.

April 15 will be his last day as a city staff member. His colleagues are planning a farewell event for him on March 30.

Butler, who joined the city staff seven years ago, will leave the city to become the resource stewardship director for Thurston County, Washington.

Thurston County is 60 miles south of Seattle.



**Brent Butler**

Washington, and 100 miles north of Portland, Oregon.

In his new position, which starts on May 1, Butler will oversee a county budget of approximately \$13.5 million and a staff of 66 employees.

His new duties entail

that he serve as the county's building official and fire marshal, that he sets clear expectations and direction for staff and that he delegate authority to division managers.

He is also expected to prepare and administer the county budget and facilitate long-range planning programs that include land-use planning, agricultural preservation, economic development, and environmental planning, in addition to having a host of other responsibilities.

## Local CEO in line for a Bay Area award

Ravenswood Family Health Center's Executive

Director, Luisa Buada, was selected as a finalist for the Visionary of the Year Award.

Established by the San Francisco Chronicle and the School of Economics and Business Administration at Saint Mary's College of California, the award is given annually to recognize leaders in the Bay Area who have made an impactful difference in their com-

munity and beyond.

Buada was nominated for the prestigious award because of her work in bringing high-quality care to low-income communities.

The nominees include eight other area leaders, including Ken and Caretha Coleman. The winner will be chosen on March 29 at a gala dinner in San Francisco.

## Ravenswood News

By Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff  
Superintendent

I would like to use this column to inform EPA Today readers about what is happening in the Ravenswood City School District. For my first column, I would like to tell you about one of our District heroes.

Addie Keys is a Payroll Specialist in the District Office. Addie has worked for the District for 31 years and is retiring at the end of February. Addie's activities in the District have been varied and interesting.

Addie's first involvement with the District was



**Dr. Gloria Hernandez-Goff**

as the secretary to the Brentwood PTA. At that time, she was employed at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Palo Alto. She applied for the Office Manager position at Brentwood and, on November 12, 1985, Addie began her 31 career with Ravenswood. She served

as Office Manager for 14 years and one year as Secretary for Special Education. In 1999, Addie applied for and was promoted to the position of Payroll Specialist, a position she has held to this day.

While working full-time Addie was busy raising a family. Her husband Albert was, at one time, a merchant seaman. That meant he had to be at sea for up to six months. Albert retired five years ago from his job as a bus driver for the Palo Alto School District. Albert and Addie's two

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

### East Palo Alto City Council

The East Palo Alto City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers, East Palo Alto City Hall, 2415 University Avenue; (650) 853-3100 or Fax: (650) 853-3115. Website: [www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us](http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us)

### East Palo Alto City Council Members

**Donna Rutherford**  
Mayor  
(650) 327-7926

**Larry Moody**  
Vice Mayor  
(650) 644-9110

**Ruben Abrica**  
(650) 380-4987

**Lisa Gauthier**  
(650) 387-4584

**Carlos Romero**  
[cromero@cityofepa.org](mailto:cromero@cityofepa.org)

### East Palo Alto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Committees

**Planning Commission**  
Second and Fourth Monday

**Rent Stabilization Board**  
Second and Fourth Wednesday

**Public Works & Transportation Commission**  
Third Wednesday

**Youth Advisory Committee**  
First Thursday of each month

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

**East Palo Alto Sanitary District**  
The East Palo Alto Sanitary District office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and re-opens from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for service. Regular Board Meetings are held

the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm.

### Menlo Park City Council

The Menlo Park City Council holds meetings every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers located at 801 Laurel Street. You can subscribe to receive the agendas and minutes by e-mail when they are published. For questions about an agenda, call the city clerk at 650.330.6620.

### Menlo Park City Council Members

**Richard Cline - Mayor**  
Cell:(650) 207-1677

**Kirsten Keith- Mayor Pro Tem**  
Cell:(650) 308-4618

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

**Ray Mueller**  
(650) 776-8995

**Peter I. Ohtaki**  
(650) 328-0300

### Menlo Park Boards, Commissions, Committees

Arts Commission  
Bicycle Commission  
Environmental Quality Commission  
Finance and Audit Commission  
Housing Commission  
Las Pulgas Committee  
Library Commission  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Planning Commission  
Transportation Commission

### San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

### Supervisor Warren Slocum Fourth District

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meets on March 3, 17, 31, & April 14, 28 2009 in the County of San Mateo Hall of Justice & Records 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. Roll call at 8 a.m. 9 a.m. Regular & Consent Agenda items. 650 691-2121

### State Officials

**Governor Edmund G. Brown**  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-445-2841  
Fax: 916-445-4633  
Email: [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov)

**Assembly Member Richard Gordon**  
District Address  
5050 El Camino Real Ste.117  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
650 691-2121

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

**U.S. Government U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier**  
San Mateo Office  
155 Bovet Rd, Suite 780 San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone: (650) 342-0300  
Phone: (415) 566-5257  
Fax: (650) 375-8270

# Ravenswood students explore Makerspace classrooms



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Real  
Students can work in this Makerspace robotics station.

**By Elizabeth Real**

The next Mark Zuckerberg could very well be in one of the classrooms of the Ravenswood City School District. Many who are involved in education have begun to see the benefits of incorporating technology and creativity into their lesson plans. One of these is the Makerspace team.

Makerspace classrooms are labs that are available for students to use during their recess or lunch break. A Site Tinkerer oversees the classroom and is responsible for creating as well as administering activities. With many donations coming from Facebook, the Makerspace gives students the opportunity to

learn robotics, 3D printing, coding, sewing, circuitry, and much more.

There are currently seven Makerspace classrooms in the Ravenswood City School District: Belle Haven Elementary, Brentwood Elementary, Cesar Chavez Academy, Green Oaks Academy/Los Robles Dual Immersion Magnet Academy, Costano elementary/San Francisco 49ers Academy, and Ronald McNair Academy.

Montana Manalo is the Project Coordinator with Maker VISTA, a program that is part of AmeriCorps Vista, which according to their website, helps to create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty. Manalo

has teamed up with Makerspace and revealed that they have already received positive feedback. "Last year, we had data that the students whose teachers brought them into the Makerspace frequently were getting higher scores in English Language Development, which is a really big deal because that's not what we're emphasizing in the room," she said. Manalo works directly with the students as well. She pointed out that "there's a lot of reading that comes with this environment."

She gave an example of a student who wanted to use the sewing machine in the Makerspace. At the time, Manalo had not been trained to use the sewing machine yet. "We started researching projects and looking at pictures," she said. The student expressed interest in making a pillow, so they planned out the process and cut the fabric. After attending a professional development workshop on sewing, Manalo was prepared to continue the project with the student.

The Makerspace is equipped with a library of books on various subjects related to the machines in the classroom. Students are en-

couraged to research the project and plan it out before they start.

Newly appointed Site Tinkerer (and real-life tinkerer) at Los Robles Dual Immersion Magnet Academy, Christopher Auger-Dominguez, said, "The idea is to link with the [teacher's] curriculum."

Auger-Dominguez hopes to develop a relationship with teachers. "I'm meeting with all the teachers by grade to show the space." He feels that teachers might hesitate to participate in the Makerspace because they already have a curriculum to follow and are not thrilled to add new material.

On the other hand, "some of the teachers have a lot of enthusiasm for the space. I think that we still need to open up more communication about what exactly goes on," said Manalo.

Manalo explained that at Los Robles, the teachers receive a number of passes to give to their students. "It's up to the teacher to decide who to give the pass to. We don't know if we're going to get back the same students every week." She noted that they "try to give the teachers that control over what they want to do so they don't feel

like this is something that's being imposed on them."

One of the things that Makerspace does discourage is using the passes "as a direct reward system for students who have high academic performance because there's a lot of students who won't necessarily thrive in the classroom," explained Manalo.

Flexible learning is something that Makerspace highly encourages. One student won't do so well in class, Auger-Dominguez recalled, but once he started going into the Makerspace, he began excelling and coming up with great ideas. "That's the way he thinks," Auger-Dominguez said. "He learns better with his hands... That's the idea. A space where kids from all spectrums can find their own."

One of the great things about the Makerspace, Auger-Dominguez said, is that students are "learning how to learn. Learning how to make things without fear of making mistakes."

Makerspace hopes to engage parents and perhaps even recruit those who are skilled in sewing, computers, robotics, or any other activity to volunteer. Of course, they do accept volunteers even if they're not parents, said Manalo.

Those looking to volunteer can visit <http://ravenswoodmakerspace.squarespace.com/volunteer/>.

## Expansion of Bay Trail



Photo courtesy of Acterra

**By Mike Williams**

East Palo Alto Today at a public meeting held in East Palo Alto on Tuesday, February 16th, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MidPen) presented and answered community questions about the Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection project in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. The project will complete a 0.6 mile gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail, which will connect the existing Bay Trail along University Avenue to MidPen's Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, the City of East Palo Alto's Cooley Landing Education Center and the Palo Alto Bay lands to the south.

MidPen is finalizing this trail agreement with the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) to allow the trail through San Francisco's Ravenswood Valve Lot property which is located between the Ravenswood Preserve to the southeast and Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge to the north. Completing this trail segment will provide 80 miles of continuous Bay Trail connecting to Menlo Park to the north, Mt View/Sunnyvale/Santa Clara to the south and across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay.

Neighbors expressed concerns about the distance between the trail and the adjacent backyards of residents of the

University Village neighborhood and locations within the neighborhood where the community can access the trail. MidPen has worked with the City of East Palo Alto and the SFPUC to make sure that the trail alignment is on the north side of the existing San Francisco service road to provide a privacy buffer of approximately 35 feet from the backyards of residences of the University Village neighborhood that are next to the SFPUC service road. Currently the parking area at Ravenswood Preserve and the City of East Palo Alto's Cooley Landing are only accessible from Bay Road. The trail connection from University Avenue will provide a pedes-

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trian friendly alternative to access the Preserve and Cooley Landing. From University Village, neighborhood trail access will be available from University Avenue via Purdue Avenue. Public trail use will include hiking, jogging and bicycling as well as wildlife viewing and environmental education and access to the Bay. When complete the Ravenswood Bay Trail will also provide commute alternatives for bicyclists in this region.

The Ravenswood Bay Trail

will be approximately 10 feet in width. The western section of the trail will include paved and striped bicycle lane and pedestrian path running along the northerly shoulder of the existing SFPUC service road. There will be bridge crossing a wetland pond and the eastern portion of the trail will include an elevated boardwalk across wetlands connecting to the existing Bay Trail at the Ravenswood Preserve. It is anticipated that the trail con-

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# A new education center is coming to Cooley Landing

By Jessica Sanchez

Home to shorebirds, leopard sharks, and bat rays, Cooley Landing provides a prime space for wildlife watching and breathtaking views of the San Francisco Bay and surrounding salt marshes.

Formerly a landfill for San Mateo County, Cooley Landing was turned into a park and it is now being transformed into a waterfront public space.

When the new education center is completed, Cooley Landing's public space will have the potential to become a cultural and ecological hub for the residents of East Palo Alto.

On April 16, the City of East Palo Alto and the Midpeninsula Regional Open



Photo of Cooley Landing courtesy Acterra

Space District will host a Spring Festival and Grand Opening of the Cooley Landing Education Center.

The event will start at 10 a.m. and include a grand opening ceremony with East Palo Alto's mayor and other elected officials at 11 a.m. There will be nature walks,

community booths, art displays, food and kid's activities. The event is free and open to all ages.

While the park's trails and picnic areas were just opened to the public four years ago, the park has become an increasingly popular destination for runners, hikers, birders, and other visitors.

Cooley Landing Park is situated in the habitats of two endangered species only found in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and the Ridgway's Rail (formerly California Clapper Rail).

For over a year, Acterra, a local volunteer-based environmental non-profit, has been hosting community workdays at Cooley Landing to further restore the landscape by planting native species, testing water quality, removing invasive species, and cleaning up trash, with the goal of promoting a healthier, more biologically diverse ecosystem.

Acterra also hosts educational hikes and talks about the unique ecosystems of Cooley Landing's tidal

marshes, mud flats, and baylands.

Acterra has hosted local groups such as Ravenswood City School District, East Palo Alto Charter School, Eastside College Prep, and Youth Community Service.

For more information about the Spring Festival and the Cooley Landing Grand Opening ceremony, visit <http://www.openspace.org/activities/district-events/spring-festival-and-grand-opening>

For ways to get involved and volunteer at Cooley Landing, visit

<http://acterra.org/programs/stewardship/index.html> or contact Jessica Sanchez at [Jessica.sanchez@acterra.org](mailto:Jessica.sanchez@acterra.org), 650-701-3044

# History museum gets grant for EPA children

By Mitch Postel

The San Mateo County History Museum, with its two historic sites (Sanchez Adobe and Woodside Store) plus its education program at Folger Stable, is proud to announce the reception of a \$30,000

grant that will assist schools in East Palo Alto and Daly City with transportation costs to its facilities.

This happy story starts with Museum Board member Mac MacCorkle, who heard from Museum staff that 70%

of the public and private elementary schools in San Mateo County were booking tours to its venues. He questioned: "Why is it not 100%?"

Staff explained that transportation to our sites is usually provided by parents who arrange for carpools. The East Palo Alto and Daly City schools do not allow this for insurance reasons. Busing the students is the only answer, but this is an expensive alternative. Hence a major portion of the public school pupils on the Peninsula are kept from enjoying the Museum's popular, interactive, hands-on programs.

MacCorkle responded that he would raise the funds necessary to bring at least 30 classes from East Palo Alto and Daly City to one of the Museums four locations. He contacted venture capitalist



Photos courtesy of the San Mateo County History Museum

Arjun Gupta who made the \$30,000 contribution.

Now the History Museum is offering free transportation to its venues while also waiving its own usual fees for schools in East Palo Alto and Daly City who use the Gupta Project buses.

Already 15 classes from Daly City have scheduled tours. Two teachers from East Palo Alto have indicated possibly booking spring tours, while more

may be interested in summer session dates.

The History Museum wishes to encourage East Palo Alto parents to contact teachers at their children's schools and tell them about this opportunity.

Mitch Postel is the president of the San Mateo County Historical Association which is located in Redwood City, CA



San Mateo County History Museum

# New flood insurance maps are released

By Brent Butler

On August 17, 2015, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released new flood insurance rate maps for the City of East Palo Alto.

These maps are important because if your property is in the special flood hazard area and suffers damage from flooding, it will not be covered by the standard homeowner's insurance policy. These maps delineate the boundaries and tell you if you are at risk.

While these maps do not take into consideration sea level rise, they do result in an expansion of the regulatory floodplain from 49 to nearly 56% of the city's land area.

If your property will be in



Map courtesy of FEMA

the regulatory floodplain (lands within the reach of the flood expected to occur once every hundred years) but are not in the floodplain now, the city advises you to obtain flood insurance at least 30 days before the new flood maps become effective.

This may save you money that will continue into the future so long as your policy does not lapse. The exact date that these new maps will become effective is unknown. Don't wait until it's too late.

Act now.

If you wait until the 30 day period before the map become effective, you will NOT benefit from the lower rate, and may have to pay the full cost that may be significantly higher in some instances.

The city will be coordinating these and other flood messages through the Program for Public Information, a document that brings all the various groups together to deliver a coordinated, coherent, and consistent message.

Get flood insurance and if you have questions, see city staff members, who can provide assistance.



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# From the Editor's Desk

## Using money for college dormitories or using money to build jails

It's difficult not to notice the smiling faces at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the new jail in Redwood City on March 1.

Just look at the faces in the photo on the cover of this issue.

The new state-of-the-art jail, with its 832 beds, was something for some to celebrate. After all, its \$165 million construction was a decade in the making.

But, I need to ask, "What does it say about us when our public officials hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a new jail?"

Personally, I don't see anything to smile about or to celebrate. Rather than seeing that jail as an achievement, it can easily be seen as a failure of this society's ability to effectively deal with the major issues that cause people to be incarcerated in the first place. You know the issues I'm talking about: poverty, lack of education, lack of good jobs, drug addiction, unequal sentencing in our judicial system, and so on.

To be fair, it should be noted that the older jail was flooding and needed serious repairs, and as quoted in our front page article about the new jail's opening, San Mateo County Sheriff, Greg Munks said, "This project was never about simply building a larger jail to house more inmates. Instead, this facility represents our commitment to improving the lives of the men and women who are in our care and custody."

Still, a jail is a jail is a jail. Can you think of a better way to improve men and women's lives with \$165 million? I can.

What about committing to start the improvement with those most at-risk for committing crimes.

Rather than building new jails to warehouse people, wouldn't it be better if we put more of our time and resources into dealing with the issues that lead to criminal behavior? Wouldn't it be better if we dealt with the inequities in our educational system and in the judicial and law enforcement systems that put more people from this community and from other communities of

color in jail in the first place?

Of course, there are individuals and groups throughout our country who are grappling with these issues daily, as they struggle to right the injustices that lead to high incarceration rates and the need for jails.



Henrietta J. Burroughs

But, dealing with these issues means dealing with forces that yield to no easy solution. Many of the issues and circumstances that affect us all, on both

sides of the aisle are generational and involve ingrained values.

In some people's minds, it's much easier to just build jails and lock people up. Yet, when we, as a society, can effectively deal with the issues that lead to crime, then, our incarceration rates will fall and the need for new jails, like the one in Redwood City, will be unnecessary.

Statistics show that, as a nation, America can't continue to be the dynamic country it needs to be, to stay competitive in the future, with its growing levels of poverty, inequality and incarceration.

Not only are we talking about moral and ethical issues, but, we're also talking about this nation's survival! What kind of country do we want to have? One that builds more jails or one that builds more colleges.

We need more of our public officials to attend ribbon cutting ceremonies for the opening of college buildings that will educate our children. We will have something to celebrate when we can build college dormitories with 832 beds to house the students from our communities, not more jails to warehouse them as they get older. We, obviously, need to spend more time tackling the harder issues that face us. When we have addressed them effectively, then we will all have ample reasons to smile and to hold ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Can we please put the next \$165 million into improving the lives of those who are most at-risk. If this could be done, just imagine the number of people who might never find their way into a jail at all and the number of jails that would go unbuild.



Photo courtesy of the County of San Mateo  
This state-of-the-art jail was opened at 1300 Maple Street in Redwood City on March 1, 2016. It's design is said to "optimize staff and occupant health through access to daylight, fresh air and radiant flooring and its steel walls allow for [the] greatest security with [the] smallest footprint. It also has 14 original art pieces.

## Letters in East Palo Alto Today

### Falling to keep their promise

Dear Editor:  
At its December 10, 2015 Board meeting, the Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) Board of Trustees was presented a request for another charter school in the RCSD by the KIPP organization. The Board has 30 days to evaluate the request and give a response. East Palo Alto currently has 1 charter school. Nevertheless, what is KIPP?

KIPP is an acronym that stands for Knowledge Is Power Program. Founded in Texas in 1994, KIPP is a network of charter schools heavily financed (more than \$100 million) by corporate CEO's such as GAP founders Doris and Don Fisher and Microsoft's Bill and Melinda Gates. KIPP's Board of Directors consists of corporate CEO's, Investment Bankers and Hedge Fund managers. Except for the KIPP CEO and the founders, there is only one person on the Board who has ever taught children in an elementary school. While the intentions are good, the educational expertise and experience are lacking.

Charter schools are unique public schools that have the freedom to be more innovative while being held accountable for advancing student achievement. California's charters are publicly funded schools that operate independently from and with fewer restrictions than traditional public schools. To understand the educational ideas involved, it would help to understand the different kinds of school options available to parents.

There are important distinctions between different kinds of schools: Public schools operate publicly and are funded by public taxes. Private schools operate privately and are

funded privately, such as by tuition or donations. Charter schools are operated privately and funded publicly

Taxpayers fund all but the private schools. In some cases, the funding is based on the average daily attendance or ADA. This means, for every student that attends an alternative school, the ADA is given to the school and not the regular public school. And therein lies the problem.

KIPP schools, like most charter schools, sets achievement standards. Students who are unable to achieve those standards are "shamed" out of the school. The parents are blamed for the student's failure because they did not do enough to encourage the student. In addition, all parents are expected to provide a certain number of volunteer hours at the school, regardless of other responsibilities such as other children or family commitments and job commitments. When a student is shamed out of the school, he/she is not replaced. This allows the school to provide misleading statistics about the educational achievement of the students who remain. The student, feeling like an outcast, must live with the shame.

KIPP generally focuses on 6th through 8th grade students. Imagine a school with 100 students in the 6th grade. In the first year, typically 25% of those students will leave, but they will not be replaced. In the 7th grade another

25% or 18, will leave and not be replaced. In the 8th grade, another 25% or 14, will leave. This means by the time the 6th grader graduates from the 8th grade, his/her class will have gone from 100 students to 68 students.

Even with these small num-

bers, KIPP has never reached its stated goals for college graduation. And KIPP is not alone in this failure. Most Charter schools have never achieved the numbers promised to parents and other taxpayers. What happens is the best and most motivated students leave the public school system while the rejected charter school students return to the public schools.

The numbers indicating student success are then distorted, making our public schools appear to be failures because the highest performing students are not counted, even though the taxpayers are paying for their education.

The Ravenswood City School Board, at its February 11 public meeting, approved KIPP's petition. That does not mean the Board supports the charter school. By law, the charter schools must commit to providing certain basic services to the students. KIPP promised, in its petition, to do those things. The Board had no alternative. If the members of the Board had rejected the KIPP petition, KIPP would have appealed it to the San Mateo County Office of Education, where it would have been approved.

KIPP can now begin planning to bring its own kind of education to East Palo Alto's children. The law allows them to place their less experienced teachers in a district where the majority of the students are of color. In addition, KIPP does not require its Principals to have an Administrative Credential. California law requires this of Public Schools. Two of many areas where charter schools have lower standards.

If you would like to know

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### East Palo Alto Today

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# Opinion

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

## Fire Station II - April Fools Day or Bust ?

By Steven P. Kennedy

By April 1st, the residents of East Palo Alto should have had a good look at their shiny new fire station. A dedication ceremony will be held in early April and ready or not, the Station will be in daily use by the Firefighters.

After covering this story for 6 years, I've learned a lot about the organization that I oversaw as a Board Member from 1999 to 2003. I am still the only living resident of East Palo Alto to have served on the Board of Directors and possibly the only resident ever.

Maybe I've accomplished something by being a loose cannon and gadfly and maybe I haven't. In any case, it was a pleasure to serve this community. I encourage

other residents to throw their hats in the ring and give it their best shot. My only warning is this... if you want a friend on the Fire Board....get a Dalmatian.

Perhaps despite my best efforts over the past 6 years, the new fire station will have an abundance of solar panels and that should be considered a victory. Whether the system will be too small to zero out the station's electrical bill, about the right size to defray most of their on going electrical costs or entirely too large to be approved for operation by a turf jealous PG&E, remains to be seen.

In any case, Avner Daabul, the formerly high flying Chief Operating Officer of SolarCraft, Inc., of Novato, isn't talking about it. We do



Steven P. Kennedy

know that, according to Chris Gale, the Chief Building Official in the East Palo Alto, Community and Economic Development Department, Building Division, his firm's solar PV system failed two consecutive electrical inspections and finally passed on February 4th, after some roof top connections were made water proof and some wire management issues were resolved. With the fire station

over 2 years behind schedule and more than 50% over budget, I'm glad that these issues were taken care of quickly and reasonably. The old saying goes, if at first you don't succeed.... then you're about average.

While I know that sooner or later, the average resident of East Palo Alto, including this author, will one day be seen by a MPFD paramedic or go for a ride in an ambulance, there still is some room for improvement in the District's management style. In all honesty, MPFD Board member Rex Ianson and MPFD Senior Analyst Jon Hitchcock can't say that I never offered them a free, no obligation solar consultation of the residential variety, as a primer in solar marketing, PV system sizing and inverter

technology. The school of hard knocks is a rough teacher. I just wish that they'd learned about managing complex construction projects on someone else's dime. A million here. A million there. Pretty soon you're talking real money.

Firing the first two General Contractors before settling on the third one certainly hasn't helped matters any. If the contractor that finishes the project has got any ethics and has learned anything about solar PV from this project then he'll take one look at the proposed station in downtown Menlo Park and let the District know that the roof will be a solar basket case from the get go. In terms of tilt, orientation and

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## A negative attack with juvenile finger pointing

Tometrius Paxton

At the Ravenswood School Board meeting on February 11, I couldn't help but notice that it was a very negative attack with the basic juvenile finger pointing. I was raised that when you point a finger always remember you have three of your own fingers pointing directly back at you! I just want this letter to reflect for a brief moment if you will.

I understand people of our community and outside stakeholders have opinions that need to be voiced. It has caused me to think more in-depth about this volatile subject and what has led to this level of criticism. There were people in attendance that spewed criticism at the District for not serving our youth properly. They stood up and told the Board our parents



Tometrius Paxton

and our children need choices.

I have been a resident of East Palo Alto for a very long time and know when things happen in our community there's more than enough blame to go around. It behooves us to see that some of the people that spewed criticism were in a position of leadership and clearly had an opportunity to put into place a successful planned course of action to address the very concerns they outlined during the meeting. This is a 15 to

25 years ago "history" this opportunity existed and I don't see the part where they took ownership of the failures they eloquently addressed. However, again....I did hear the heroic actions of criticizing the present Board and Administration. I would like to bring the light back to the conditions they left the District in from many years back.

I sadly didn't see much support for the new successes put into place by the current Administration in only two years. I would like to highlight the good accomplishments that I have personally noticed and let others harp on the negatives (which exists in nearly any and everything if you look hard enough):

1. Ravenswood needed to change the alignment of schools and provide a Middle School for all students that

would prepare them for High School. This Administration is doing that. Within two years, all of our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will be attending the Cesar E. Chavez Middle School where they will prepare for High School with single subject teachers.

2. Our students, our future will finally have algebra, science labs, and a full music program accessible, just to name a few changes. Our students will not have to go to Algebra class on Saturdays in order to prepare for high school. It took the Board moved more than 45 community meetings before this change was approved.

3. All of our children are learning computer-coding skills. There is a maker space where children can build things using a computer and a 3-Dprinter. Our children have this available to them

right now, before many students in more affluent districts.

4. The District, working with NASA engineers, developed a robotics program taught by those same engineers. NASA engineers are teaching our children! For the first time in its history, the Ravenswood District held a Science Fair. The first year, some of our students received honorable mention. The students went to the San Mateo County competition and got a chance to see what other districts were doing. Last year, in only their second year, our students won the county competition and went to Los Angeles to compete at the State level!

I truly believe these few of many other accomplishments that I haven't listed didn't re-

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## Despite low scores, new standardized tests deserve attention

Dr. Alan Shusterman

Students across the country are increasingly failing a new type of standardized test.

Kids in New Jersey are performing below grade level in English and math. In Washington, D.C., the tests have revealed that only a quarter of students are "on-track for college." In Arizona, two-thirds of students flunked.

Yet, despite these dismal results, there is some cause for celebration.

These new types of exams, called "problem-and-technology-based" assessments, measure how students arrive at an answer -- not whether they've filled in the correct bubble. They aim to provide honest portraits of students' progress.

Unfortunately, those portraits have been anything but pretty. But that's okay. Problem-and-technology-based assessments test students on skills that actually matter in real life -- like critical thinking and reasoning. Schools should double-down on this



Alan Shusterman

approach -- and figure out how to meet the challenges it poses, rather than continuing along with the testing status

quo.

Parents, school administrators, and teachers have become exasperated by standardized tests in recent years -- and understandably so. A recent study of the nation's biggest school districts found that the average public-school student takes 112 standardized tests between pre-kindergarten and the end of high school. Eighth graders spend over 25 hours submitting to these exams.

This litany of tests has done little to raise student achievement. In the latest

National Assessment of Educational Progress, the so-called "Nation's Report Card," math scores for fourth- and eighth-graders actually fell for the first time in the test's 35-year history.

Worse, a growing obsession with boosting test scores at all costs has led to waves of cheating by teachers and administrators everywhere from Georgia to New Jersey. That's thanks, in large part, to strict federal laws that punish

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# Lifecycles

## A profile of East Palo Alto's Mayor, Donna Rutherford

By Elizabeth Real  
East Palo Alto

As the city on the move, East Palo Alto requires a fearless leader who is willing to stand up for its residents.

Donna Rutherford was appointed as Mayor December 1, 2015. Before that, she served as the city's Vice Mayor. She has served on the city council as well as the school board for many years.

The current mayor grew up in Hunters Point, San Francisco before moving to East Palo Alto as she was entering her senior year of high school. She graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in 1969. "I came from a family of 13 children, two parents, and we were always taught to



Photo courtesy of the City of East Palo Alto website

Donna Rutherford

treat every person we meet like we wanted to be treated," she said of her family dynamic. "We have a belief in God. We were expected to do certain things. I always said I don't want to be one of the statistics."

"Hunters Point was a starting point for me. It's a multi-cultural community," she said of her native town. Her mother worked for a re-development agency that helped build low-income housing. Rutherford proudly said that a street was named after her mother.

Drawing parallels to East Palo Alto, she explained that some could describe Hunter's Point as "dismal," but she didn't see it that way growing up. Instead, she saw the good in her community. "I could look out at the bay and see all those sails. The sails in the water. Different colors. Beautiful," she described. "They want this land because they can build nice houses," she said, "We're in an ideal spot here in East Palo Alto."

"I can relate to the fact that as I ventured outside of East Palo Alto, attending different conferences all over the state, people would see us from East Palo Alto and they would make some comments that were negative," she said of her experiences. "I would always defend East Palo Alto. I know there are a lot of hard-working people in this community."

Rutherford never expected to be mayor or an "elected person at all," she said. "I wasn't an A student, but I did my homework. I wasn't a follower, but I didn't consider myself to be a leader either," she described herself. What she did know, however, was that she wanted to help others. "I wanted to be a social worker to help people and

I've always respected my elders because they have so much wisdom."

After getting married, her plans to become a social worker were derailed as she dedicated her time to being a stay-at-home mom and volunteering. She volunteered with the Ecumenical Hunger Program before it came to East Palo Alto.

When her son was in school, she decided to become involved in his education. "I went to the school site meetings, PTA meetings, and got involved that way," she said. When parents began electing their officers, she thought, "well, if someone nominates me, I'm not going to turn it down."

Even though she had not finished college due to starting a

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## Honoring former EPA Councilmember A. Peter Evans

By Sandra Webster

The East Palo Alto Community with family and friends packed the room to honor A. Peter Evans. The tributes to him, affectionately known as Pete, was for his work and inspiration to the young and elderly.

Everyone in the room knew that he deserved it, because he has helped a lot of people. The large crowd reflected the personal and community nature of what he had done.

Atiba (Cecil) Reeves was M.C. for the event which took place on Sunday, February 21, 2016 from 3pm-5pm at the Bay Café Restaurant in Palo Alto, CA. and Kalamu created the programs and recited a poem. Ray Starr Rentie was the D.J. and Harry Pettis, Andrew Reynolds and Myesha Reynolds filmed the video. Tommie Moore, Oscar Jones, Rodolfo Taylor, Vernon Thomas, Andrew Reynolds, Johnnie Gray and Baba Minister Greg Hodge of Wos'e Community of the Sacred African Way played the drums. Photos by Brother Jaye.

Pastor Bruce Nash gave the opening prayer and Deacon Louis Dixon the blessing of food.

Evans was honored for his many contributions to the East Palo Alto Community. Some of these included the following activities:

He started his semi-pro Stars baseball team in the 60's that included Bob Hoover, Gene Tate, John (Bo Bo) Wallace, Jimmy Ray Kennon and others.

In 1968, he joined the Ravenswood Little League as coach and manager. He helped get the land, build the field and maintained it for years for youths to play baseball. They had fifteen teams with eight (8) boys in the League.



Photo by Brother Jaye  
Keisha and A. Peter Evans

He served as the coach, manager and president of Little League until 1989.

He supported the Nabata Yero football program in the late 70's to early 80's and was a coach too. His sons, Troy and Rod, played football at this time in the program.

In 1982 he was elected to the Ravenswood Recreation and Park District as vice chairman. During his term on the Recreation and Park District the Ravenswood High School site was saved after winning a court battle for the East Palo Alto community. After the incorporation of East Palo Alto in 1983, the District was dissolved into the City. For fifteen years, he bought and read the East Palo Alto City Council package for each meeting to be informed and to represent the community

In 1985, he helped bring the environmental group, Youth United for Community Action, (YUCA) to East Palo Alto. He was a mentor and mentee for the group. YUCA with Ujima and others worked to shut down and they got rid of the toxic waste company, Romic from the community.

In 1991, Evans retired from Stanford University's Department of Hematology and the University of Southern California (USC) as a laboratory technician after more than twenty years.

Evans was elected twice to the East Palo Alto Sanitary District Board. In 1992-1993 and from 1996-1999 he was president of the EPA Sanitary District Board, where he served with distinction.

In 2008, he was elected to the East Palo Alto City Council and he served for two terms.

He has been married to Keisha Azibo Evans for thirty-three years and has three sons, Shelby, Rod, Troy and five grandchildren; Kamilah, Bryce, Tehan, Isaiah and Tamia.

Pete is an entrepreneur and co-owner with his wife, Keisha of PanAfrican City Alive. They operated their retail shop for 22 years, first in East Palo Alto, and in Sunnyvale. They now run the shop from their website: [panafricacity.com](http://panafricacity.com).

Donna Rutherford, mayor of East Palo Alto, gave a proclamation to him for his service to the City.

Pete's certificates of appreciation were presented by Myrtle Walker, Drew Foundation; Vicki Smothers, FreeAtLast; Deborah Ballard, Dream Pusher; Elizabeth Jackson, East Palo Alto Rotary Club; Johnnie Gray, East Palo Alto Boxing Club; Karen Maxey, East Palo Alto Sanitary District; Rosemary Steele, Council of Negro Women; Baba Minister Greg Hodge, Wos'e Community of the Sacred African Way; Charisse Domingo, DeBug; Ronnie James, Ravenswood Little League; Tammeka Bennett, Youth United for Community Action and Kyra Brown, StreetCode.

Marieda Blackburn gave a wooden carved map of East

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# Lifecycles

## Obituary - Paying tribute to Germane Steward

By the Steward Family

**G**ermane Seward peacefully departed this life on February 7, 2016 after a sudden illness. He was born in Weir, Mississippi, (Choctaw County) on August 18, 1936, the son of the late Carrie Brown and Roy Seward. In his childhood days in Weir, Mississippi, Germane worked as a sharecropper picking cotton.

He moved to Redwood City, California in the early 1950's where he worked as a furniture mover and in housing construction. Later on he moved to East Palo Alto, Cali-



Germane Steward

fornia which he called home until his passing.

On July 17, 2005 Germane joined Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Christ by way of Christian experience. Ger-

mane remained an active and devoted member of Faith from that time forward.

He served as a member of the Facilities Ministry, maintaining the grounds for the church including a productive vegetable garden shared with Faith family members and others within the community.

He was also active with the Disaster Preparedness Ministry and the Men's Ministry. He vigilantly patrolled the church facilities night and day to make sure that everything was secure.

He loved everything about the church and gave freely of his time, tal-

ents, and treasures. He attended just about every event going on at Faith. Pastor Purdy and all Faith members will sorely miss his warm, friendly manner, his easy conversations, and his many acts of kindness and generosity to everyone around him.

Germane extended this same warm, friendly and generous spirit throughout the community.

You often saw him at Home Depot or McDonald's greeting and talking to everyone he met. He was loved by all who came to know him.

Germane leaves behind his cherished daughter, Ariel Seward Graham; his four granddaughters, Aniya, Janiya, Taylor, and Dakota; his sister, Peggy Hamilton, and a host of nieces, great-nieces, nephews, great-nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, Carrie Brown and Roy Seward; his brother, Frank Miller; his sisters, Mae Elise Everett and Rebecca Eiland.

Indeed, He loved his family and life itself. He will indeed be missed by everyone whose lives he touched.





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## Join Renaissance for Sam's Pop Up Cafe in Palo Alto

In partnership with the Sameer Ishwar Murarka Memorial Foundation, Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center is presenting **Sam's Pop Up Cafe**.

Come taste the culinary delights of five emerging Renaissance food entrepreneurs for a fun evening of delicious food, music and networking. **The event is free.\***

March 23, 2016 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Mitchell Park Community Center  
3700 Middlefield Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
**\*RSVP is REQUIRED** and all names must be presented upon arrival.



The Sameer Ishwar Murarka Memorial Foundation, was founded in memory of beloved Sam, food aficionado and entrepreneur.

Sponsors





Questions? Contact Program Coordinator Crystal Rasmussen at crasmussen@rencenter.org or 650-321-2193.

## Bay Trail

continued from page 2

struction will begin in 2017 or in 2018.

The total project is estimated to cost \$2.4 million. MidPen has already received \$1 million from the County of San Mateo's Measure A voter approved bond in 2012, \$400,000 from the County of Santa Clara and \$40,000 for The Bay Trail Project through

the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Trail construction will use grant funds and MidPen's voter approved Measure AA funds which received over 75% voter approval from residents of East Palo Alto.

**Mike Williams** is one of MidPen's property managers.

*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](http://www.epatoday.org/treasured_memories/index.html)

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

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# Donna Rutherford

family, she kept a positive attitude and was more than willing to learn. "I've always asked for help," she said, "Somebody knows and all you have to do is ask." As the newly appointed school site president, she "attended the school board meetings faithfully."

"I spoke up when I needed to and at one point, folks thought I was an employee because I was there at all the meetings."

Rutherford is no stranger to standing up for what she believes is right—even when it means going up against bullies. She has done so all her life. She remembered a time when she was in middle school, waiting for her turn in the game of four square. When it was finally her turn, one of her classmates, a "bad girl," took her spot. "She walked in front of me and got in the square. I thought okay, I could either let her do it again, but it's my turn and pretty soon, we're going to have to go into class," Rutherford



recalled. So, she made a decision. "I stepped in the square too," she said. "I knew she might hit me at any time because she was a fighter." The girl eventually walked away, but not before saying, "I'm going to get you." Rutherford always seemed to be standing up to the kids who were notoriously troublemakers. "I stood up," she said before admitting with a laugh, "I had to run home a couple of times." On the other side of the spectrum, she remembered a time when she was in a bit of trouble for being chatty in class, during a summer program. The teacher

asked her to be quiet, but she had forgotten about it by the next day. "Bob Hoover [a now long-time community activist of East Palo Alto] came into the classroom—I'll never forget this. He was tall and young. He said, 'young lady, your teacher told you yesterday to stop talking... I'm here to tell you that if you don't stop talking, you're going to be out of the program,'" she recalled. "I straightened up. We laugh about that today," she said.

Looking back, she didn't hold a grudge against Hoover. "He cared enough to say that to me," she said about the encounter. "We have to do that to our kids, too."

The mayor advised that everyone ask for help if necessary. "Don't be afraid." When speaking about the youth, who make up a big portion of East Palo Alto's community, she said, "You're not going to be getting younger. You're going to get older and eventually you're going to have to realize, looking back at my life, what have I ac-

complished?"

Referencing back to a study that was presented to the council by One East Palo Alto that found that this community has too many liquor stores for its size, Rutherford was impressed with the youth taking action. "I'm amazed at the youth that have taken charge of their lives... They don't have their community overrun with liquor stores," she said.

"The youth have to think that they can do it. They have to motivate themselves," the mayor said. She has high hope for the youth of East Palo Alto. "Somebody is always going to be the first person in someone's family to complete college. Somebody is going to be the first African-American person to be employed over here," she said, urging the youth not to give up. Rutherford also understood that many continue to compare East Palo Alto to its neighboring cities. "We're still a young city. So, we can't be compared to

continued from page 8

Menlo Park or Palo Alto or Mountain View."

During her term as mayor, she said, "I have lots of goals, but I'm realistic about what can be accomplished in a short amount of time." She assured that she does not let her "head get big." "I don't have a problem telling you, I don't know. But you know what, I'll get the information for you. That's the least I can do." The mayor also stated that, "I'm not using my position as a stepping stone to congress." What she wants, she said, is to "enjoy my life and make a difference in the community."

When asked what she would like to say to the youth in the community, she had firm, but fair advice. "You can't let your circumstances dictate how to behave. You have to draw on your inner strength because we can't continue to use the excuse, 'well, I came from a single family home and my mom was on drugs and my dad wasn't around.'" For those who feel that they

## JobTrain adds to its staff



Bernita Dillard

By Jasmine Baluyot

We are pleased to welcome Bernita Dillard to the JobTrain family! Bernita has been hired as JobTrain's new Corporate Services Coordinator, where she will be responsible for the development of successful training-related em-

ployment opportunities for JobTrain participants and the cultivation of business partnerships.

Bernita brings a rare combination of drive and passion to her new position. She has a diverse background that includes sales, marketing, and both corporate and community relations. Bernita has expertise in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors.

An East Palo Alto native, Bernita chose to come to JobTrain because of her passion for economic development and inclusion. She has worked for several local nonprofits, including One East Palo Alto and Youth Community Service.

She truly is committed to helping those most in need to succeed!

Bernita comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from San Jose State University, and a Masters of Business Administration from the Lorry I. Lokey Graduate School of Business at Mills College.

When asked to say a few words to the community, Bernita shared her favorite quote by Helen Keller, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet."

Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

continued from page 8

Damani Kazembe, Martha Hanks, Sandra Webster with City residents, family and friends had a fun filled event for them. As people celebrated, "we are having a good time together with Pete & Keisha."

## Evans

Palo Alto plaque from residents to Pete. Martha Hanks on behalf of the Ravenswood High School Alumni Inc. gave him an engraved plaque. Also, Pastor Bruce Nash presented him with a baseball sculpture

plaque from former players of Ravenswood Little League teams.

Myrtle Walker, Lonnie Bogan, James Walker, Ella Beecher, John Wallace, Bob Hoover, Mel & Helen Harris,

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# Free at Last celebrates its twenty-second anniversary



Photo courtesy of Free at Last. Dorsey Nunn stands with Vicki Smothers during the celebration.

By Elizabeth Real

A little over two decades ago the City of East Palo Alto was notoriously named the murder capital of the country—a label that has continued to haunt the community. Since then, the percentage of crimes in East Palo Alto has plummeted and although many people are to credit for the vast improvement, one organization stands out for many: Free at Last.

"We started in a ware-

house," said Vicki Smothers, while discussing Free at Last's early beginnings. Smothers is the president and co-founder of Free at Last, which is a non-profit organization that offers treatment, intervention, and prevention services to help reduce substance abuse.

During the 1990s when drugs, violence, and HIV seemed to be destroying the community, David Lewis, an ex-convict and recovering heroin addict, along with Smothers and several others, founded the program. "Most of us were addicts who just couldn't take it anymore," she said.

The program proved to be so successful that on January 29, 2016, it celebrated its twenty-second anniversary. During the celebration, the organization gave its prestigious David Lewis award to community activist, Dorsey Nunn. Vice Mayor Larry Moody and former Mayor Lisa Gauthier attended the celebration.

"We have always heard

people say, 'Well we have to go somewhere else to get clean. You can't get clean in East Palo Alto.' That's not true," said Reverend Frazier, who was the guest speaker at the event. "This [program] is an important part of East Palo Alto and don't let anybody let you feel like it isn't."

The audience responded with, "Yes," and "That's right," as they nodded in agreement.

"I wouldn't trade it in for a million dollars to be honest with you," said Smothers of her experience. Then she announced "some exciting news." Smothers said, "Something wonderful has happened in the last month or so. Not only is Dorsey Nunn receiving the David Lewis award, I am welcoming him back to the board of directors."

Nunn was commended for his loyalty to the program and his commitment to helping the community. Nunn grew up in East Palo Alto and faced difficulties that were similar to Lewis'. He was incarcerated at the age of 19 for a robbery that resulted in

the shooting of one person. Once Nunn was released 9 years later, he faced a new obstacle: drug addiction.

As one of Free at Last's co-founders, Nunn became an important activist after getting clean. He became executive director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, an organization that helps incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people transform their lives. He also co-founded All of Us or None,



Photo courtesy of Free at Last. Reverend Mary Frazier

an organization that helps the incarcerated and the formerly

incarcerated fight against the discrimination they face because of their conviction history.

Nunn coined the "ban the box" phrase and initiated the campaign, which fought to eliminate from job, loan, housing and other service applications the check box that accompanies the question, "Have you been convicted by a court?"

"I'm really honored to accept this award," Nunn said. "Lately I've been getting a lot of awards. Last week, I was in D.C. receiving the [Justice Freedom and Peace] award from the AFL – CIO. It was \$300 a plate. They sent a limousine to pick me up," he said. "But none are as meaningful as this award...Not only was I a co-founder with David Lewis, David Lewis was my friend."

"You never left us," said Smothers about Nunn, "Dave has been gone for 5 years and there has never been one time that I've called Dorsey and he said, 'Vicki I can't do nothing, I can't help you.'"

## Un ambiente muy negativo con acusaciones juveniles

Por Tometrius Paxton

Durante la junta de la mesa Directiva del Distrito Ravenswood, no pude dejar de notar un ambiente muy negativo donde todos se apuntaban dedos como juveniles. En mi crianza me enseñaron que cuando uno apunta un dedo hacia una persona, uno tiene que recordar que tres dedos de esa misma mano se apuntan de nuevo a uno! Quiero tomar este tiempo para reflejar sobre lo ocurrido.

Yo entiendo que las personas de nuestra comunidad tal y como partes interesadas fuera de fuera, tienen opiniones y el derecho de expresarlas. Esto me ha hecho pensar más a fondo sobre este tema volátil y también lo que nos ha conducido a un nivel de tanta crítica. Durante la junta, había personas que acusaban al Distrito de no servir nuestra juventud como se merecen. Muchos se pusieron de pie y le declararon a la mesa directiva que nuestros padres y niños necesitan tener mejores elecciones en cuanto a la educación.

Nos corresponde ver que muchas de las personas que criticaban, eran personas del liderazgo en años pasados y sin duda, han tenido la oportunidad de implementar cambios para remediar las mismas quejas que presentaron durante la junta. Yo he sido un residente de East Palo Alto por mucho tiempo y les quiero decir que cuando cosas pasan en nuestra comunidad, en la mayoría de los casos, la culpa no es solo de una persona o grupo. Hay mucha culpabilidad en la cual todos podemos compartir.

Muchos de los problemas que existen en nuestra comunidad no son de hoy. Muchos de los problemas (de los que hablaban en la junta) tienen un plazo de 15 a 25 años. En este tiempo, muchos en puestos de liderazgo, que criticaban el Distrito nunca tomaron cargo o hicieron el esfuerzo para ayudar a remediar los problemas que tanto criticaron durante la junta. Lo que vi fue una fuerte crítica hacia el presidente de la mesa directiva y la administración escolar. Yo quiero que por favor, se acuerden la condición en que dejaron el Distrito tres años atrás.

Desgraciadamente, no vi mucho apoyo por los nuevos éxitos que han tomado lugar por las acciones de la presente administración en los últimos dos años. Quiero llamar atención a los éxitos que yo he presenciado personalmente y dejar que los otros se enfocan en lo negativo. Si uno solo se enfoca en lo negativo, siempre se va a encontrar algo.

Lo siguiente son solo unos de los éxitos que se han logrado en los últimos dos años:

1. Resulta que Ravenswood tuvo que formar una escuela intermedia para mejor preparar los estudiantes para la preparatoria (highschool). La administración está progresando hacia esta meta. Entre dos años, todos nuestros estudiantes en los grados 6,7, y 8 asistirán a la escuela Cesar E Chávez donde se preparan en un ambiente que los alista para la preparatoria. Se les darán clases en aulas de materia únicas como en la preparatoria

Nuestros estudiantes al fin tendrán clases de Algebra, lab-

oratorios de ciencia y un programa completo de música accesible por todos. Nuestros estudiantes no tendrán que ir a clases de Algebra los Sábados para poder estar listos para la preparatoria. Tuvimos que tener 45 juntas con la comunidad para que esto se realizara.

3. Todos nuestros estudiantes están recibiendo instrucción de programación de computadora. Existe un programa que se llama 'maker space' donde los estudiantes aprenden a construir objetos usando una computadora y un impresor de tres dimensiones. Esto existe en el presente. Muchos distritos con muchos más recursos aun no tienen tales programas.

4. El Distrito, en conjunción con ingenieros de NASA, desarrollaron un programa de robótica enseñado por los mismos ingenieros. Ingenieros de NASA están enseñando a nuestros hijos! Por la primera vez en la historia, El Distrito Ravenswood tuvo una feria de Ciencias. En el primer año, algunos de nuestros estudiantes fueron reconocidos al nivel del condado. Tuvieron la oportunidad de ir a ver la competencia en la oficina de educación del condado San Mateo. EL año pasado, después del competir en el segundo año, estudiantes del Ravenswood ganaron premios y fueron a competir al nivel estatal!

Yo creo que éxitos (que son pocos de los muchos) como estos recibieron el reconocimiento que merecieron durante nuestra junta. Yo he sido testigo de mucho de lo que ha pasado en el Distrito por muchos años y nunca

tal vez tales programas accesibles a tales niveles para nuestros estudiantes. La innovación es una gran meta para el Distrito. Como una comunidad, estamos dispuestos a ignorar tantos éxitos solo porque programas nuevos llegan al distrito con solo quejas y promesas vacías después de tanto logro? Cuantas veces nos ha ocurrido lo mismo? Llegan con mucho ruido, y después huyen en silencio.

Durante la junta, una gran crítica fue que el Distrito no deja saber lo que está pasando o sea que no hay transparencia. No estoy de acuerdo y quiero compartir lo que yo siempre les digo a mis hijos. 'Cuando algo es cercano y querido a tu corazón y es de mucho importancia, uno no espera hasta que llegue hacia nosotros. Uno tiene que ser suficiente comprometido a sus propósitos y causas para ir y averiguar para estar mejor informado de lo que uno tiene que hacer para tener éxito.'

Yo entiendo la pasión y frustración que unos siente cuando parece que nuestros hijos no están recibiendo las mejores oportunidades para tener éxito. Es nuestro derecho dado por Dios quejarnos cuando sentimos que nuestros hijos no son justamente tratados.

Preguntas para contemplar:

1. Cuando nos dan información en la junta, nos estarán dando mal información y no presentando los éxitos también como presentan fracasos?

2. Y si esto es el caso? Por qué creen que lo están haciendo?

3. Y si su respuesta es sí,

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quien gana más con desinformación?

Todo lo que pasa en East Palo Alto, afecta a nuestros hijos, nuestro futuro, y nuestra comunidad. Debemos de entender que East Palo Alto, para muchos, es solo una mercancía deseable de donde pueden sacar dinero. Cuando esto pasa, sabemos que las agendas de muchos pueden ser influidas y ser susceptible por influencias. No se los digo para apuntar que es malo o buen sino para que estas influencias no sean pasadas por alto en este diálogo.

No es misterio que East Palo Alto está bajo cerco con gentrificación y que la comunidad está cambiando frente de nuestros ojos. Es posible que esto esté pasando sin consideración de los intereses de la comunidad sino que este siguiendo la agenda de los que mantienen las llaves de la ciudad. Es maravilloso que tengamos vecinos nuevos que ofrecen apoyo a los que lo necesitan aun cuando esto sea una espada de doble filo. Nuestra comunidad está viendo un éxodo rápido por la crisis de viviendas y si no hacemos esto una prioridad, nuestras quejas del Distrito no importarán. Por qué? Desafortunadamente, si las cosas siguen igual, la mayoría de los residentes no serán capaces de pagar los crecientes costos de vivienda.

Finalmente, esto es mi reflejo final.

Gracias por darme la oportunidad de expresar mi opinión.

# East Palo Alto student commits to serving others

By Elizabeth Real

"That's such a hard question!" Karen Camacho gushed after being asked the dreaded question: What do you hope to accomplish after college?

However, her shyness and uncertainty was quickly replaced with confidence and passion when she began talking about topics that are important to her—topics such as immigration, education, and self-motivation. Oh, and don't even get her started on the housing situation in the Bay Area, she warned with a laugh.

Camacho is currently finishing up her senior year at Stanford University. Although she hasn't quite figured out what she'll do next, looking at her past accomplishments, it would be easy for some to say: she's going places.

Camacho is a fellow East Palo Alto resident. She was born in Mexico and lived there for six years before moving to the United States. During those early years, she didn't understand why her dad was always working. "I was pretty young, but I still felt resentment towards my dad because he wasn't there often," she confessed.

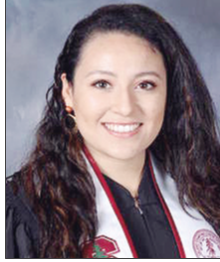
Many years later, she found her answer in one of her college classes. "So, turns out that during that time, part of the [immigration] policy was that you could obtain your citizenship if you worked in the fields. Because of that, we were all able to move here," she said. "When we first moved to East Palo Alto, we lived in my aunt's house," she remembers. They were a family of five, living in one room.

As she continued to learn more about the history of immigration in the United States, she became more and more interested in the issue. She even got involved with Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLESPA) which focuses on immigration, housing, and economic advancement issues.

"I've been helping interpret," she explained before adding that one of her options could be to continue working with them after she graduates.

So, who or what has motivated her all these years? The soon-to-be graduate credits her family for supporting her and her older sister for being a great role model.

"I'm going to brag about my sister because she's my role model. I think that's the person



Karen Camacho

that I've looked up to my whole life. She's the person that has done it and that's why I have the will to think 'yes, I can do it.'"

Camacho proudly explained that her older sister was a computer science major and is now a software test engineer. "I didn't even know what computer science was until my freshman year of college. This whole time my whole family was like 'cual es tu mayor otra vez?' we had no clue," she laughed.

What is your major again? This question is common for many families, like Camacho's, who don't have prior experience with college. Yet, despite not knowing much about the education system in the United States, Camacho's

parents made sure to encourage her anyway—which she believes played a crucial role in getting her to Stanford.

"Sometimes, even though I had the support of my family, they didn't know. They just didn't have the information. So, I think another huge contributing part was myself—having the courage to ask for help.

I made a lot of friends that were teachers," she explained. It wasn't enough to have her family's support, she had to find that drive within herself and she encourages others to do the same. "Knowing that I didn't have the same resources as everyone else, I had to put that extra effort to ask for help," she emphasized.

As Camacho began her college career at Stanford, this idea of asking for help and helping others remained on her mind. "I applied as a Service Scholar [with Branner Hall, a school dormitory] my sophomore year," she explained. Residents of Branner Hall focus on public service.

Camacho effortlessly listed the six pathways to public service: community engagement, activism, philanthropy, politics and policy, social entrepreneurship, and direct service. Not only do students

commit to incorporating service into their lives, but they also discuss how service affects communities.

One example that Camacho gave was whether or not it's ethical for startup companies to introduce new programs into lower-income communities, such as East Palo Alto, without taking the time to research whether these communities already have existing programs that could be helped instead.

So, what does Karen hope to accomplish in the future? She expressed interest in going to law school and possibly becoming a lawyer. She hopes to continue helping others by working at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto.

"I know that service will be a huge component of my life," she said before shyly adding—almost whispering—that perhaps she would like to become the mayor of East Palo Alto one day. "My community, my family, those who have had the same struggles are always on my mind."

Elizabeth Real is a regular contributor to the East Palo Alto Today newspaper. She was raised in East Palo Alto.

## Un estudiante de East Palo Alto se compromete a servir a los demás

Por Elizabeth Real

"Esa es una pregunta tan difícil!" Karen Camacho dijo después de haberle hecho la pregunta: ¿Qué es lo que esperas lograr después de la universidad?

Sin embargo, su timidez e incertidumbre fue reemplazado rápidamente con confianza y pasión cuando ella empezó a hablar de los temas que son importantes para ella—temas como inmigración, la educación, y motivación. Ah, y ni siquiera empieza con la situación de la vivienda en el área de la bahía, advirtió con una sonrisa.

Actualmente Camacho está terminando su último año en la Universidad de Stanford. A pesar de que todavía no ha descubierto lo que va a hacer después de su graduación, con sus logros pasados, sería fácil para que algunos digan: ella sí será exitosa.

Camacho es una residente de East Palo Alto. Ella nació en México y vivió allí durante seis años antes de mudarse a los Estados Unidos. Durante esos primeros años, no entendía por qué su padre siempre estaba trabajando. "Yo era muy joven, pero todavía sentía resentimiento hacia mi papá porque él no estaba allí," confesó.

Muchos años después, ella encontró su respuesta en una



Phot courtesy of Stanford University

de sus clases en la universidad. "Por lo tanto, resulta que, durante ese tiempo, parte de la ley [de inmigración] era que se podía obtener su ciudadanía si usted trabajó en los campos. Debido a eso, todos pudimos vivir aquí," dijo la estudiante. "Cuando nos mudamos a East Palo Alto, vivíamos en la casa de mi tía," recuerda. Eran una familia de cinco personas que viven en una habitación.

Mientras continuó aprender más sobre la historia de la inmigración en los Estados Unidos, se interesó cada vez más en el tema. Ella incluso se involucró con Servicios Legales Comunitarios en East Palo Alto (CLESPA) que se centra en la inmigración, la vivienda y los problemas económicos de avance. "He estado ayudando a interpretar," explicó antes de añadir que una de sus opciones podría ser la de seguir trabajando con ellos después de

que se graduó.

Así que, ¿quién o qué la ha motivado todos estos años? La estudiante le dio crédito a su familia por el apoyo y a su hermana mayor por ser un gran ejemplo positivo.

"Voy a presumir a mi hermana porque ella es mi ídolo. Creo que es la persona que yo he admirado toda mi vida entera. Ella es la persona que lo ha hecho y por eso tengo la voluntad para pensar 'sí, yo puedo hacerlo también.'"

Camacho orgullosamente explicó que su hermana mayor recibió su licenciatura de computación y ahora es una ingeniera de pruebas de software. "Yo ni siquiera sabía lo que era la computación hasta que aprendí mi primer año de universidad. Mi familia entera le preguntaba a mi hermana, '¿Cuál es tu mayor otra vez?' No teníamos ni idea," le dio riza.

¿Cuál es su mayor otra vez? Esta pregunta es común

para muchas familias, como Camacho, que no tienen experiencia previa con la universidad. Sin embargo, a pesar de no saber mucho sobre el sistema de educación en los Estados Unidos, los padres de Camacho se aseguraron de animarla de todos modos. Ella cree que este tipo de apoyo le ayudó a llegar a Stanford.

"A veces, a pesar de que tuve el apoyo de mi familia, no sabían cómo ayudarme. Ellos simplemente no tienen la información. Por lo tanto, creo que otra gran parte fue que yo misma tuve el valor de pedir ayuda. Muchos de mis amigos eran maestros," ella explicó. El apoyo de su familia no era suficiente y ella tuvo que encontrar la voluntad dentro de sí misma. Ella le recomienda a los demás que hagan lo mismo. "Sabendo que no tenía los mismos recursos que los demás, tuve que hacer ese esfuerzo extra para pedir ayuda," la estudiante dijo.

Cuando Camacho comenzó su carrera de la universidad en Stanford, esta idea de pedir ayuda y ayudar a los demás se mantuvo en su mente. "Mi segundo año, entregué mi solicitud para ser académica de servicio [con Branner Hall, un dormitorio de la escuela]" ella explicó. Los residentes de Branner Hall se enfocan en el servicio público.

Sin esfuerzo, Camacho dio las seis vías de servicio

público: la participación comunitaria, el activismo, la filantropía, la política, el empresariado social, y servicio directo. Los estudiantes se comprometen a incorporar el servicio en sus vidas. También discuten cómo el servicio afecta a las comunidades. Un ejemplo que Camacho dio era si es o no es ético que las empresas introduzcan nuevos programas en las comunidades de bajos ingresos, como East Palo Alto, sin tomarse el tiempo para investigar si estas comunidades ya tienen programas existentes que podrían ser ayudados.

Entonces, ¿qué es lo que Karen espera lograr en el futuro? Expresó interés en seguir sus estudios y, posiblemente convertirse en abogada. Ella espera continuar ayudando con los Servicios Legales Comunitarios en East Palo Alto.

"Yo sé que el servicio será una gran parte de mi vida," dijo antes de agregar con timidez que quizá algún día le gustaría convertirse en el alcalde de East Palo Alto. "Mi comunidad, mi familia, y los que han tenido las mismas luchas siempre están en mi mente."

Elizabeth Real es una colaboradora habitual del periódico de East Palo Alto Today.

# Ravenswood News

girls and one boy attended Ravenswood schools as do their two grandchildren, a boy and a girl. Addie's relationship with Ravenswood has been a long and happy story.

When she was at Brentwood, she had so much interaction with the children that when they would see her in public they would tell their parent "there's the Principal".

When she promoted to Payroll Specialist she learned how to use computers. Addie says she enjoys the data

input activities. She, also, enjoys the figures and the constant learning due to the change in equipment as well as procedures and regulations. "It's been challenging but rewarding," she says. "As I look back, I've got lots of good memories."

Some of those memories include 16 years of leadership in the union that began as soon as she became a Ravenswood employee.

She has held the position of Grievance Chair, Secre-



Addie Keys

tary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President. She has

enjoyed working with the Administration during tough financial times. When I became the Superintendent, Addie was instrumental in negotiating the restoration of furlough time and a 7% pay increase. Along with her cohort, Randy Jackson,

Addie has been able to bring together Ravenswood Teachers' Association (RTA) and California State Employees Association (CSEA) membership to resolve complex union issues.

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"I'm going to miss it," says Addie. "No matter what happens, I have a connection to the children, the parents, and the staff". Though she has not made any plans for her retirement, Addie says she'll stay busy with her family, her church, and her friends.

We wish you all the best in your retirement, Addie Keys. Thank you, Addie, for your many contributions and dedication to our Ravenswood community. You are a Ravenswood hero!

## City students

cerns. Arguments in favor of the charter school were echoed throughout the night: parents and students wanted better educational opportunities in East Palo Alto.

East Palo Alto City Council member Ruben Abrica discussed having served on the board when the first charter school was approved 15 years ago. He admitted that "some charters have worked, others have not." KIPP on the other hand, "they have met all the legal obligations," he said. "I've investigated KIPP myself...I personally support it." He also took the opportunity to suggest that the school board focus entirely on academic achievement and on higher pay for teachers.

Mayor Donna Rutherford was also present. She admitted that when she was on the school board with Abrica, she was against the first charter school because she thought public



Ruben Abrica

funds would be taken away from the district. Since then, she had a change of heart. "Times have changed and my mind has changed also. I believe in choice," she stated.

EPA Today had the opportunity to speak to two parent leaders, Ligia Rivera and Karla M. Facundo, after the petition passed. Both commented on why they

supported the charter school.

Rivera said she was very excited as she waited for the board members to cast their votes. She stated that the reason she got involved was because she saw a need for better opportunities.

Like many other parents, both Rivera and Facundo noted that students need a good school to be available in their own community and that traveling far is tiring. In addition, they both expressed that students don't always feel a connection with the school if they have to go outside of their community.

Facundo teared up as she recalled her oldest son asking her to fight for better opportunities for her youngest son. Her children inspired her to take action and get involved. She stated that many of these families are hard-working and they are honest. She also stated that she

was a bit worried as she listened to the board members, but was glad when the petition was approved.

Before casting her vote, Wilson offered a statement: "I know that parents want the best for their children. Part of the reason why the charter schools were put in place was to provide just that. You can't argue with people wanting the best education for their children...The only way that we are going to prevent the district from being eaten alive by every charter school...is to keep moving forward, which we're doing under this new superintendent."

"The results are not going to be seen for another 6 to 7 years...Based on the fact that the criteria is very clear here and that we really don't have any basis to reject this charter, my vote is going to be in favor."

School board president, Marco Chavez, emphasized that "there is still a lot of work to do in terms

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of ironing out details." He also urged that "there's still a lot of work to do and a lot of relationship building with KIPP." Before voting in favor of the petition, he stated that the school board will be responsible for monitoring the program to make sure that it is working.

When asked for her thoughts on the issue, Superintendent Dr. Gloria M. Hernandez-Goff said, "The state of California has clearly defined criteria which a charter petition must meet for approval. Since the KIPP proposal met the criteria, the Ravenswood School Board had to approve the petition."

"Much was said by KIPP supporters about parent choice. It must be noted that choice is already an option for parents in the Ravenswood school district. The Tinsley program and a number of nearby charters offer alternate educational choices."

## Despite low scores

school officials for failing to meet test-score requirements.

These reverse incentives -- along with the dismal student outcomes they've engendered -- are among the chief reasons Congress recently voted to repeal the most wide-ranging of these laws, No Child Left Behind.

The replacement bill that President Obama signed into law in December awards new freedom to states to organize their education systems as

they see fit.

Test-weary school systems in search of more constructive ways of evaluating student performance should look toward problem-and-technology based assessments.

For starters, these assessments provide more value to students and teachers than traditional multiple-choice standardized tests, which often reward rote memorization. But memorization doesn't necessarily re-

fect whether a student has actually learned or understands the material.

Problem-and-technology-based assessments, by contrast, ask students to apply critical-thinking and reasoning skills, mainly through written answers. These are exactly the skills that students need for success after school.

It's also impossible for educators to "teach to the test" when that test is problem-and-technology-based. The

only way to prepare students is to develop their problem-solving, critical-thinking, and reasoning skills -- and then to teach them to apply those skills.

Finally, problem-and-technology-based evaluations greatly reduce the likelihood of cheating. Since students must do more than merely choose the correct answer, it's nearly impossible for kids to copy off their neighbors -- or for a teacher to "signal" the right response during testing.

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Students around the country may be underperforming on these new problem-and-technology-based tests. But for the first time in decades, standardized exams are aiming to test things that matter -- and pushing students and their teachers to actually learn the skills that will help them succeed.

Alan Shusterman is Founder and Head of School for Tomorrow (SFT) with campuses in Silver Spring, MD, and Reston, VA.

## New county jail

a commercial kitchen dedicated for culinary training. The extra room also allows the TAILS dog training program, once limited to men due to space, to include female inmates and programs like Choices to expand.

"For many years, the overcrowding and lack of programming in the women's jail desperately needed to be addressed. This new facility will provide new promise and opportunities for both the men and women in our

criminal justice system and in turn the hope of a safer community for all of San Mateo County," said District Five Supervisor Adrienne Tissier.

Board of Supervisors President Warren Slocum said the new jail is designed with the mindset that the County is temporarily housing inmates and providing the opportunity to earn the building blocks for a brighter future.

"It's not a warehouse with a revolving door," Slocum said. "Our goal is

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to help our inmates return to their families, return to their communities and be able to lead productive lives."

Occupancy will begin March 19, 2016 with female inmates and transitional housing occupants. Approximately one month later, male inmates at Maguire begin their move.

Maximum security males will remain at Maguire as will some pre-trial and pre-sentenced inmates. All bookings will also be done at Maguire.

**It's 2016! This year East Palo Alto Today celebrates its 10th year serving the East Palo Alto and Belle Haven communities**

**Join us in planning the celebration of East Palo Alto Today's birthday with a "Media Day" event.**

**We'll have communications workshops along with awards and prizes for writing entries by children and adults alike.**

**The East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, which sponsors the East Palo Alto Today newspaper, is looking for partners. So, if you're interested in helping to plan Media Day and in partnering with the center, let us know.**

**Call (650) 289-9699**

# City residents

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pieces around the map wherever they saw fit.

As the discussions began, community members were given the opportunity to give their ideas—no matter how big or small. "Know that you're here because you're an expert on what you know," Phillips reminded them, "Don't feel embarrassed or scared to say anything."

Even some of the children, who were present, were

invited to give their ideas. Many ideas were shared throughout the charrette.

Some of the community members felt, for example, that the café should be placed in the corner to attract more people. Some suggested that a bike trail be included that goes through the campus.

Others took that concept to the next level and suggested that the bike trail



should go over the buildings. The design process was

part of an ongoing effort. The designers and engineers an-

nounced that they would attempt to put all of their ideas together and come back with options.

Another charrette occurred on March 10, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the East Palo Alto Family YMCA, which is located at 550 Bell Street in East Palo Alto. Dinner was served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and started at 6:00 p.m.

## Sand Hill Property Company

Given the history with Woodland Park, residents may be wary and will likely keep a close eye on any actions taken by the new owner, particularly with regard to respecting the local rent ordinances. City Manager Carlos Martinez has said, "the new owner will equally be regulated by the ordinance."

So given that, Moody said that he was "really excited about the potential of a good partnership with the Alliance Residential Company and the city."

"At the Town Hall meeting sponsored by Alliance, I recommended the formation of a tenants association that can assist the new management



Photo by Kimberly Carlton

A view of the Woodland Park Apartments in East Palo Alto.

in addressing quality of life

concerns of the tenants.

"It all begins with the tenants and their commitment to respect one another, work collaboratively in the area's of tenants safety, parking, garbage collection, noise, smoking and youth activities. I'm very optimistic," the vice mayor said.

Woodland Park Communities is also forming a new charitable foundation that will be operated through Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

One hundred fifty thousand will be contributed initially by Sand Hill Property Company, Equity Residential, and Efi Luzon, a broker on the deal from Intero Real Estate.

Sand Hill plans to con-

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tribute an additional \$100,000 per year going forward. In a statement, Emslie said, "Building a sense of community is one of our organization's top priorities, and through this foundation, we hope to enhance the quality of life in East Palo Alto."

Sand Hill Property is a responsible company, and they have expressed that they will abide by the ordinance."

The East Palo Alto City Council is scheduled to discuss potential changes to strengthen the ordinance at its special meeting on March 10.

## Fire Station II

shading, it's just not going to fly. The City of San Jose by comparison, just opened Station 21 at a cost of \$5 million dollars and while it has some well designed green features, solar PV was never seriously considered because of a "complex electrical system" according to Dave Priny, the City of San Jose's Senior Architect. So the MPFD deserves some well deserved praise for being a leader in renewable energy. The catch is that there is a learning curve in every endeavor.

In hindsight, while Solar-Craft completed one other solar installation for a Fire Department, that alone should not have qualified this solar installation company. The District deserves more than one bid on a six million dollar project. And a quick look at GlassDoor.com

reveals a small solar company with real management problems. Comments posted on line by former SolarCraft employees reveal a company that is allegedly unable to keep promises to customers. Any solar installation requires an on going relationship between customer and solar pro for maintenance, monitoring, repairs and cleaning. Promises for 99% system up time can be the difference between a 7 year return on investment and a 9 year ROI on a costly solar installation. Inverters are expected to fail. Connections pop loose. Panels wink out. Birds put down a deposit. A company that is two counties and a bridge away simply can't be as responsive as a local firm.

I have other complaints about the fire house design and community relations. The

greenest fire station in the mid-Peninsula will have a "Community Room" but it is unlikely that any members of the community will be able to enjoy it when they need it the most. ie after the levee breaks and The Gardens neighborhood looks like New Orleans after Katrina. The back side of an automatic donut machine as seen through the bullet proof windows of the Community Room will be small comfort to the shivering taxpayers on the sidewalk, as they watch the top brass and big wigs "save" their waterlogged city.

The new fire station will have state of the art and fail safe communications from a huge antenna but it is unlikely that any members of the community will be able to make a phone call to family or send an email to an employer when

there is a flood or a cyberattack and the electrical grid and communications networks go down and as traffic slows to a crawl. Even a fail safe pay phone would help when Pac-Bell's sidewalk B-Boxes are under water.

The new fire station will not have a battery back up system to complement their solar arrays, so after a 15 second delay, everyone within a half mile radius should know the electrical grid is out as the diesel generator rumbles to life and a smelly plume of smoke rises from the parking lot. The District should have enough fuel on hand to continue operations and to annoy the neighbors for three solid days and nights.

The Station's next door neighbor, homeowner Juan Pablo Mendoza, has been continually annoyed with the

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District for over two years, saying that the District failed to keep promises made by the first General Contractor to extend a temporary chain link fence so his dog could safely roam the front yard and failed to hose down his house to clean off demolition and construction dust. A ditch along Mendoza's side of a new cinder block wall, still hasn't been returned to grade level. While several years of construction noise and commotion are finally coming to a close, maybe it's a good thing that this former Board Member usually knows where to find the dirt.

Stay tuned for more news on the MPFD's newest fire station in the next editions of East Palo Alto Today.

**Steve "Solar Guy" Kennedy, Technocrat**

## Failure to keep promise

more about charters schools, their failed promises, and how the rich are trying to privatize public schools, go to your computer and Google "Charter Schools". On the other hand, keep your eyes open for the next edition of East Palo Alto Today.

Edwin Sanchez  
East Palo Alto

The Spanish translation of the above letter is below:

**Faltaron en Mantener su Promesa**

En la junta del 10 de diciembre del 2015, la Mesa Directiva del Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de Ravenswood (RCSD), miembros de la mesa directiva fueron presentados con una petición para otra Escuela autónoma o conocida como "Charter" por la Organización KIPP. El Distrito tiene 30 días para evaluar la petición y dar una respuesta. La ciudad de East Palo Alto actualmente tiene una escuela "Charter". Sin embargo cuantos sabemos, ¿Qué es KIPP? KIPP es un acrónimo que

significa Knowledge-conocimiento Is- es Poder-programa, fundado en Texas en 1994. KIPP es una red de escuelas autónomas que son fuertemente financiadas (por más de \$100 millones) por directores generales de empresas, tales como fundadores GAP Doris y Don Fisher y de Microsoft Bill y Melinda Gates. El Consejo de Administración de KIPP consiste de gerentes corporativos, banqueros de inversión y los gestores de fondos. En la mesa directiva, sólo hay una

persona que ha enseñado a niños en una escuela primaria en su trayectoria. Mientras que las intenciones son buenas, la pericia y la experiencia educativa se carecen.

Las escuelas Chárter son escuelas públicas únicas que tienen la libertad para ser más innovadoras, mientras tienen que rendir cuentas para avanzar en el logro académico del estudiante. Las Escuelas Charter de California son escuelas fundadas públicamente que operan de forma independiente y con menos restric-

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ciones que las escuelas públicas tradicionales. Para entender las ideas educativas involucradas, ayudaría a entender los diferentes tipos de opciones de escuelas disponibles para los padres.

Existen importantes diferencias entre los distintos tipos de escuelas:

•Las escuelas públicas operan públicamente y son financiadas por los impuestos públicos

•Las escuelas privadas operan de forma privada y son financiadas de forma privada,

# Community Calendar

**Brown Bag Series Nonprofit Training Session**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.** at the YMCA 550 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 Enter on Euclid (Behind the YMCA. Enter through the black gate on Euclid Avenue.) Hear Brightstar Ohlson, CEO & Principal, Kristina Bedrossian, Senior Project Manager, Bright Research Group

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Little House - March 17, 2016**  
 Attend for Some Good Ol' Irish

Fun! Live Performance by: Rosin the Bow Band Traditional Irish Folk Music Irish Coffee Festivities begin at 10:00 a.m. To register, go to [www.pennvot.org/littlehouse](http://www.pennvot.org/littlehouse) or (650) 326-2025 Venue: Little House, The Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center • 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park

**Ravenswood Family Health Center Mural Unveiling**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Ravenswood Family Health Center.** RSVP mandatory. Con-

tact Mural, Music and Arts at <http://www.muralmusicarts.org/contact/index.php> for more information

**City of East Palo Alto mandatory TOT session for nonprofit grant applicants - Tuesday, March 22, 2016 10 am-Noon or 1 pm-3 pm** at the East Palo Alto City Hall 2415 University Avenue, Community Room, 1st Fl. For more information, contact Karla Prince via email at [kprince@cityofepa.org](mailto:kprince@cityofepa.org)

**Renaissance Start up March 23, 2016 @6:30-9:30 p.m.** A Start Smart class is starting at 1848 Bay Rd. Lean in for 3 hour "action" session how to plan the launch or expansion of your business. Clarify your vision, create your mission.... For more information, contact Crystal at [casmussen@renaissancecenter.org](mailto:casmussen@renaissancecenter.org) or call 650-321-2193

See more community calendar events at the website for the East Palo Alto Today newspaper [www.epatoday.org](http://www.epatoday.org)

## Paxton

ceive a fair amount of the recognition that it rightfully deserves. I had many experiences with the district growing up and I never can remember any such programs being available to the degree our students now are having their rightful access. It looks like Innovation has been a priority for this administration. Are we as a community really going to overlook such feats and be so dismissive because the next big thing comes to town? How often has this happened in our community and the grand fanfare entrance also came with a silent exit?

There was a reference during the meeting that transparency is needed and missing on the Districts behalf. I beg to differ and would like to share what I often relay to my very own children.... **"When you are really and truly concerned about things that are near and dear to your heart and passion, you Do NOT**

**wait for it to come to YOU. You must be committed enough to your causes and purposes to go find your answers so you are well informed on what it will need from YOU to bring to fruition."**

I truly understand the passion and frustration one feels when it seems like our children are not given the best opportunities for success. This is our God given right to voice our concerns when we feel ours and any other children are being treated unfairly. Unfortunately, this is a feeling we know all too well in the East Palo Alto community. With this being said, it leads me to a few questions:

1. Is our community being misinformed and intentionally not presented with successes as well as failures?
2. If so, then why do you think this is so?
3. Who has the most to gain if your answer is yes?

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Everything that happens in East Palo Alto affects our children, our future, OUR COMMUNITY. We all should understand that EPA today is a desirable commodity by some that see it as money pit. As we know when this happens people's agendas can change and be susceptible to influence. This is not a right or wrong that I am pointing out but a necessary awareness that should not be overlooked but given intellectual consideration.

There is very little mystery that East Palo Alto is under siege with gentrification and our community is being re-invented right before our eyes. This could very well be taking place in an image that isn't aligned with the entire community but rather those that truly hold the keys to EPA's future. It is wonderful that we have neighbors moving in that offer opportunities to those that need it most, even if it comes as a double edged sword. Our

## Talking with Henrietta

Public Schools and Charter Schools - The Pros and Cons



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta From left, Supt. Gloria Hernandez-Goff, show host Henrietta J. Burroughs, and Supt. Anne Campbell are shown on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their discussion on February 26, 2016.

This show can be seen on Channel 30 on the Midpeninsula and on the Internet until Saturday, January 30, 2016 at the days and times below.

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sundays@5 p.m.                  | Thursdays@8 p.m.              |
| Tuesdays@8 p.m.                 | Fridays@3:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. |
| Wednesdays @ 2 a.m. and 11 a.m. | Saturday at 10 a.m.           |

Get more information about this show on the East Palo Alto Today website at [www.epatoday.org/tv.html](http://www.epatoday.org/tv.html).

community is seeing a rapid exodus due to the housing crisis and if we don't place this on the top of the list of priorities, our complaints about the District won't matter much at all. Why? Unfortunately, most residents will not be able to afford to live in this community much longer (unless you have some awesome ties to solidify your security).

This is my Food for Thought.  
 Thank you for giving me the chance to have a voice.  
 Tometrius Paxton

## Faltaron en Mantener su Promesa

como por matrícula o donaciones

\*Las escuelas Charter son privadas y financiadas con fondos públicos

Los contribuyentes financian las escuelas públicas pero NO las privadas. En algunos casos, la financiación se basa en el promedio de asistencia diaria o ADA. Esto quiere decir que por cada estudiante que asiste a una escuela alternativa, el ADA se le da a esa escuela y no a la escuela regular pública. Y es ahí donde radica el problema.

Las escuelas KIPP, como la mayoría de las escuelas charters, establece las normas de rendimiento. Los estudiantes que no pueden alcanzar estos estándares son "rechazados" cuando no mantienen las normas establecidas por la escuela charter. Se les culpa a los padres de la incapacidad del estudiante porque no hacen lo suficiente para motivar al alumno. Además, se espera que todos los padres proporcionen un cierto número de horas de trabajo voluntario en la escuela, independiente-

mente de otras responsabilidades, tales como mantener a sus otros hijos, compromisos familiares y compromisos de trabajo. Cuando un estudiante es rechazado él/ella no se reemplaza. Esto permite a la escuela proporcionar estadísticas engañosas sobre el rendimiento escolar de los estudiantes que permanecen. Haciendo sentir al estudiante, como un marginado, y tienen que vivir con la vergüenza.

KIPP se centra generalmente en 6º a 8º grados. Imagínese una escuela con 100 estudiantes en el sexto grado. En el primer año, por lo general el 25 por ciento de los estudiantes se irán pero no serán reemplazados. En el 7º grado, otro 25 por ciento o 18 por ciento, se irán y no ser reemplazados. En el 8º, otro 25 por ciento o 14 por ciento, se irán. Esto significa que en el momento estudiantes del 6º grado llevan el nivel del 8º grado, las clases que comenzaron con 100 estudiantes es ahora de 68 estudiantes. Incluso con estos pequeños

números, KIPP nunca ha alcanzado sus objetivos establecidos para la graduación de la universidad. Y KIPP no está solo en este fracaso. La mayoría de las escuelas autónomas nunca han conseguido los números prometidos a los padres y otros contribuyentes. Lo que pasa en nuestras escuelas públicas es que los mejores y más motivados estudiantes dejan este sistema, mientras que los estudiantes de las escuelas Autónomas o "Chárter" que han sido rechazados regresan a las escuelas públicas. Los números que indican el éxito del estudiante son entonces distorsionados, lo cual nuestras escuelas públicas se ven como que han fracasado porque los estudiantes de más alto rendimiento no se cuentan, a pesar de que los contribuyentes están pagando por su educación.

Las escuelas Charter tienen un impacto en más de un área. Estas escuelas han sido acusadas de; seleccionar a los mejores estudiantes, falsificar documentos, hacer fraude en la inscripción, el

cierre de escuelas en comunidades, la destrucción de puestos de trabajo, hasta de destrucción de sindicatos de maestros y de segregar a los alumnos. Para muchos, las escuelas Charter pueden ser el primer paso en la privatización de nuestras escuelas públicas. El abuso ha empeorado bastante que un grupo de Californianos han iniciado una campaña con una petición para revocar la Ley de Escuelas Autónomas "Charter" que fue establecida en 1992.

La Junta publica de Ravenswood, del 11 de febrero, los miembros de la Mesa Directiva aprobaron la petición de KIPP. Esto no significa que la Mesa Directiva apoya la escuela Charter KIPP. Por ley, las escuelas autónomas deben comprometerse a proporcionar ciertos servicios básicos a los estudiantes. KIPP prometió, en su petición, cumplir con eso. La Mesa Directiva no tuvo otra alternativa. Si los miembros de la Mesa Directiva de RSCD haya rechazado la petición de KIPP, KIPP hubiera hecho un llamamiento

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a la Oficina de Educación del Condado de San Mateo, donde sí se haya sido aprobado. KIPP ahora puede empezar a planear y traer su propio tipo de educación a los niños de East Palo Alto. La ley les permite colocar a sus maestros con menos experiencia en un distrito donde la mayoría de los estudiantes son de color, aprendices de inglés y con necesidades de educación especial. Además, KIPP no requiere que sus directores tengan una credencial administrativa. La ley de California requiere esto de Escuelas Públicas. Dos de las muchas áreas en las que las escuelas autónomas tienen estándares más bajos.

Si desea saber más acerca de las escuelas Charter, de cómo han faltado a sus promesas, y cómo los ricos están tratando de privatizar a las escuelas públicas, vaya a su computadora para investigar que son en realidad las "Charter Schools". Por otro lado, manténganse con los ojos bien fijados para la próxima edición de East Palo Alto Today.

# Spring Festival and Grand Opening

## Cooley Landing Education Center

# Festival de la Primavera Y Gran Inauguración

## del Centro de Educación de Cooley Landing



**Saturday, April 16**  
**Sábado 16 de Abril**  
**10 am – 3 pm**

**Cooley Landing Park**  
**Ravenswood Open Space Preserve**  
**East Palo Alto**

### IN ENGLISH

**J**oin the City of East Palo Alto and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for a FREE fun-filled spring festival and the grand opening of the new Education Center at Cooley Landing Park by Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.

**GRAND OPENING CEREMONY at 11:00 am with Congresswoman Jackie Speier (District 14), Assemblymember Rich Gordon (District 24), Supervisor Warren Slocum (District 4), Mayor Donna Rutherford and Midpen Director Nonette Hanko (Ward 5).**

### EN ESPAÑOL

**Ú**nase con la Ciudad de East Palo Alto y el Distrito Regional de Espacios Abiertos de la Península Central (Midpen) en un festival GRATUITO lleno de diversión primaveral y la gran inauguración del nuevo Centro de Educación (Education Center) en Cooley Landing Park.

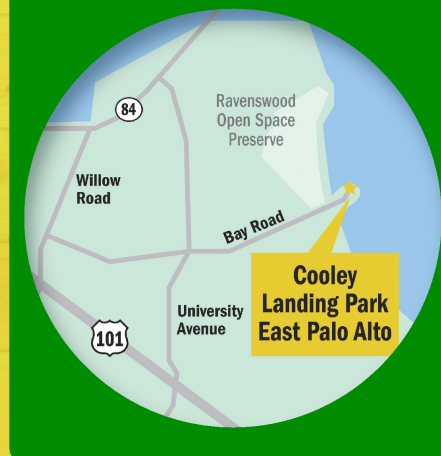
**LA CEREMONIA DE INAUGURACIÓN será a las 11 a.m., con la Congresista Jackie Speier (Distrito 14), Miembro de Asamblea Rich Gordon (Distrito 24), Supervisor Warren Slocum (Distrito 4), el Alcalde Donna Rutherford y Midpen Director Nonette Hanko (Ward 5).**

**For more information visit:** • **Para más informes visite:**  
[www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us](http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us), [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)



**Nature Walks • Food • Kids' Activities • Games • Art Displays • Community Booths**

**Caminatas en la naturaleza Comidas • Exhibiciones de Arte • Puestos Comunitarios**



**Many thanks to the contributors to this beautiful park and facility.**

**Nuestro agradecimiento a los contribuyentes de este hermoso parque e instalaciones.**

State Wide Parks Program • The City of East Palo Alto • State of California Department of Toxic Substance Control • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Packard Foundation • Peninsula Open Space Trust • CalRecycle • Bay Trail Project • Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands-Stewardship Council • Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District • U. S. National Parks Service • San Francisco Foundation • Hewlett Foundation • National Fish and Wildlife Foundation • Canopy Trees for Palo Alto • Philanthropic Ventures Foundation • San Francisco Wildlife Society • Thank you also for the continued support of community members, organizations, and agencies.

