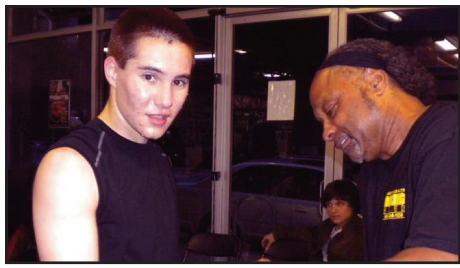
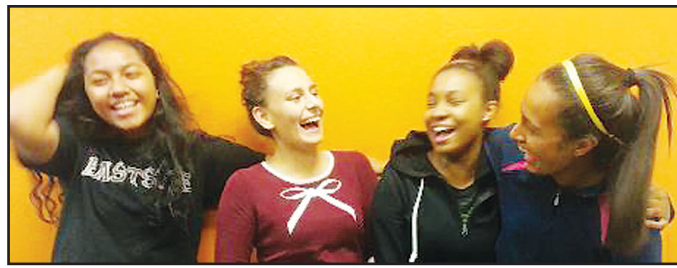




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# East Palo Alto Today



Providing news that is relevant, informative and critical

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East Palo Alto and Belle Haven

April - May 17, 2013

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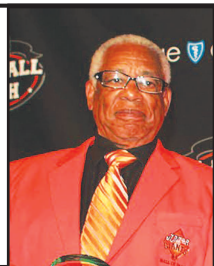
## Inside News

# A promise to stop the gun violence



A long time community advocate page 4

Inducted into the S.F. Hall of Fame Page 9



Bike to Work Day boomed in East Palo Alto Page 4

A major change comes to the East Palo Alto Sanitary District page 8



Photo courtesy East Palo Alto Today

From left, City of San Mateo's Chief of Police, Susan Mannheimer, East Palo Alto Police Chief Ron Davis, Mayor Ruben Abrica, Chief Manny Martinez, the police chief of Daly City and Robert Johnson, the police chief for Daly City appear at a press conference on May 6 to discuss the recent gun violence in East Palo Alto.

By Henrietta J. Burroughs East Palo Alto Today

Last year the police put together Operation Smart to deal with an increase in violence in both East Palo Alto and Menlo Park during last summer.

Operation Smart was an effective strategy. To deal with this new spate of violence

that started in January, the EPAPD will continue to work with Menlo Park and Palo Alto will give a local and regional response and will work collaboratively with the community to try to stem the violence and become safe.

"We are going to bring all resources necessary to hold the people accountable for the most recent shooting

and for all of the violence since January. The city will use a multi level approach in responding to the new violence by

The conference included East Palo Alto's City Manager, Magda Gonzales, the city's Mayor Ruben Abrica, Maria De La Vega, the superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District, Chief

Susan Mannheimer, who is the police chief in the City of San Mateo, Chief Robert Johnson, the police chief in Menlo Park and Captain Carl Estelle, from the East Palo Alto Police Department, and Yale Professor Andrew Papachristos.

Mayor Abrica said that the City of East Palo Alto and

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## Luisa Buada named 2013 Woman of the Year

By Henrietta J. Burroughs East Palo Alto Today

It was planned as a surprise event. Luisa Buada, the executive director of the Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto, was about to receive an award that would surprise her.

Buada sat at a conference table in the California Room of the Community Resource Center with a small

group that included a few members of her staff and several of the center's board members. Everyone in the group knew about the award and they were trying to keep the award a secret from her. [They talked about a recent trip to Washington, D.C. that one of the staff members had taken.]

As the group sat talking around the conference table shortly after noon on Tues-

day, March 26, the door suddenly opened and the surprise unfolded as planned. California State Senator Jerry Hill walked into the room towards Buada and told her that he had named her the 13th Senate District's 2013 Woman of the Year in San Mateo Coun

Buada did, indeed, look surprised. In fact, in a few more moments she would be in tears.



Luisa Buada

In giving Buada the award, Hill cited her 30 years of dedication to the field of health and pointed out the contributions that she had made in healthcare and in dental care and the partnerships she created with Lucille Packard, Stanford and Kaiser on behalf of the Ravenswood Family Health Center.

He said, "It takes a genius

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## Decide the future of open space reserves

By Shelly Lewis East Palo Alto Today

Would you like to serve on a regional planning committee to determine the future of open space areas similar to Cooley Landing Park? Well now you can. The Midpenin-

sula Regional Open Space District is inviting local residents to participate in imagining the future of their open space preserves.

The District is embarking on a new process to develop a District-wide vision for regional open space. The vi-

sion planning process, entitled Imagine the Future of Open Space, integrates comprehensive public participation with robust scientific analysis. The outcomes of the process will guide the District's work for the next 15 years and beyond.

"We're celebrating our 40th anniversary, so it is especially fitting that we are beginning a vision plan right now," says General Manager Steve Abbors. "We were started by a group of concerned citizens who wanted

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### Inside

- Editorial
- News Briefs
- Opinions
- TV Listings
- Youth News

# Proposed city budget calls for more staff layoffs

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

In its first round of city budget hearings, East Palo Alto City Manager, Magda Gonzalez, reported to the city's 5 council members that East Palo Alto is projected to end the 2012-13 fiscal year with an operating deficit of \$530,166, an increase of \$157,787 from the adopted budget deficit of \$372,379.

Gonzalez said this deficit

results primarily from both a decline in the city's property tax revenues and a drop in revenues the city would have received from licenses, fees and permits because of the delay in the development of the University Plaza Project.

The "Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Proposed Operating Budget" presented at the budget hearings, which took place from May 14-15, 2013, stated that the city's expenditures are \$128,300 lower

than budgeted, due primarily to staff vacancies that occurred during the year.

Currently, East Palo Alto relies on five major revenue sources: its property tax, sales tax, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), and its Utility Users' Tax, license fees, and permits to provide over 80% of the general fund revenues. The budget proposal stated, "... it is assumed that the FY 2013-14 revenue will increase \$495,900 over the

FY 2012-13 projected year-end position."

In spite of the anticipated revenue increase, council members must decide at their next meeting whether to lay off at least 9 city employees.

The lay offs would include Russell Averhart, who has worked for the city before its incorporation and Sean Charpentier, who is responsible for the city's recent "Award of Merit" which was

presented to the city on May 17 (See article, "An "Award of Merit"... on page 2 of this issue of EPA Today.)

But the city's budget team headed by Gonzalez and its Community Development Director, John Doughty, defended the proposed staff layoffs.

Gonzalez and her staff pointed out that the city council had chosen, as one of its number one priorities, to deal

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# Changing financial insecurity to financial security

By **Jennifer Witte**  
East Palo Alto Today

The economy is finally growing again after the housing and economic crisis, but the public's interest in financial education seems to be growing even more rapidly.

The need for financial education has increasingly gained the attention of a very diverse audience - from major banking companies, policymakers and government agencies, to grassroots community interests groups, nonprofits and economic development experts.

Financial management skills make a significant difference be-



tween personal economic security and insecurity. A lack of adequate knowledge about banking products and how to manage personal finances can negatively affect an individual's day-to-day economic situation.

Such lack of knowledge can also drastically hinder a person's ability to save for longer-term financial goals, such as buying a

home or paying for higher education.

The 2012 Consumer Financial Literacy Survey conducted by the Center of Economic Education found that 80% of adults in the United States admitted that they could benefit from advice and answers to everyday financial questions.

The survey also reported that 56% of adults in the United State do not have a budget and 33% do not pay their bills on time - up from 28% in 2011.

Another recent survey just

released in late February by the personal finance website Bankrate.com showed that nearly a quarter of Americans currently have more credit card debt than emergency savings and that a little over 15% have no savings at all.

A lack of financial education makes low and moderate income individuals especially vulnerable to financial scams and predatory lending. Additionally, some communities are further disadvantaged by language or cultural barriers, lack of technological skills, or even access to technology, which is ubiquitous in the consumer banking experience.

Financial products and services are becoming more diverse and sophisticated. This increasing complexity is partially a result of the changes in technology, which affect both the type and delivery of financial services.

While this is making it much more difficult for individuals to make appropriate and effective financial decisions, there is an increased responsibility that is expected of individuals for their own financial security. This requires consumers to be actively engaged to manage their money effectively.

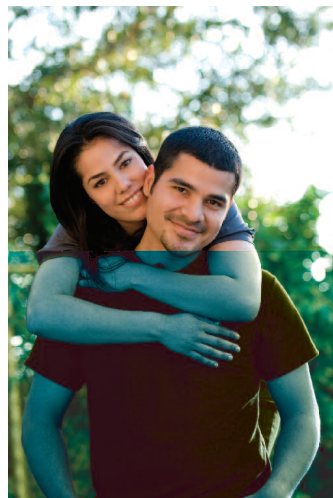
So what exactly is a financial

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# Community News Briefs

## City awards TOT Grants

The following organizations received funding from the city's Transit Occupancy Tax: Bayshore Christian Ministries, \$10,000; Boys and Girls Club, \$10,000; Building Futures Now, \$4,000; Community Legal Services, \$4,000;- East Palo Alto Boxing Club, \$4,000 - East Palo Alto United Soccer Club, \$8,000;- Mid-Peninsula Athletic Association, \$8,000 Mural Music and Arts Projects, \$12,500; - One East Palo Alto Neighborhood Improvement Initiative;\$15,000; - St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club, \$12,000- Youth United for Community Action, \$12,500

On the City of East Palo



Alto's website, it states, "The TOT revenue is collected through a hotel tax which is submitted to the City on a monthly basis. Of the total monthly amount collected, 10% is set aside for CYFS. For 2013, the City Council has released \$100,000 for Summer Youth Program-Grants, each of which may not exceed \$16,000 to be used by Community Based and Non-Profit Organizations."

## Reusable Bay Ordinance

On April 2, 2013 the City Council of East Palo Alto adopted the San Mateo County Reusable Bag Ordinance, restricting the free distribution of plastic bags in the East Palo Alto starting October 2, 2013. After this date, residents will either need to bring their own reusable shopping bags or purchase paper bags at a cost of \$0.10 each. Many businesses in East Palo Alto have already started implementing these new changes as the County started restricting plastic bags on April 22, 2013. Feel free to contact the City about these changes.

To get ready for the

Reusable Bag Ordinance, the City will again be hosting a Make your Own Reusable Bag event on June 29th at the City's 30th Anniversary, as well as distributing pre-made reusable bags. Any person or organization interested in assisting or participating with this event can contact the City for more information.

- Submitted by **Michelle Daher**, Environmental Coordinator, Clean Bay Program, City of East Palo Alto

## Finalist selected for the Ravenswood City School District Superintendent position

Maria De La Vega is retiring at the end of this school

year and her replacement has been selected. On May 8, it was announced that Dr. Gloria Hernandez was selected as the finalist for the superintendent position.

Dr. Hernandez was chosen after the RCSD Board of Trustees interviewed five applicants for Superintendent on



Photo courtesy of the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (Calsa) website

Dr. Gloria Hernandez

continued on page 14

# An 'Award of Merit' goes to the City of East Palo Alto

By Sean Charpentier  
East Palo Alto Today

The City of East Palo Alto will receive a Grassroots Initiative Award of Merit for the Ravenswood Business District/4 Corners Transit Oriented Development Specific Plan. The Northern California Chapter of the American Planning Association presented the award to the City of East Palo Alto at the annual awards dinner on May 17, 2013.

The Ravenswood Business District /4 Corners Transit Oriented Development Specific Plan (Specific Plan) represents East Palo Alto's primary opportunity to accommodate land uses that will create jobs and improve the quality of life of all residents. The Specific Plan is a community-based vision of a walkable

downtown and employment center with a network of parks, trails, and community facilities.

The Specific Plan will facilitate the transformation of East Palo Alto by adding almost 5,000 new jobs, 30 acres of parks, 4.5 miles of trails, 835 residential units, and more than 1.5 million square feet of office, R&D, and industrial development. The Specific Plan is available at: <http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=61>

The success of the Specific Plan was based on a comprehensive, meaningful, and transparent community engagement process that included extensive community-based outreach. East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica said "the collaborative process really brought us together to create a compelling vi-

sion for the future of East Palo Alto. The constructive participation from the residents, the Community Advisory Committee, the San Mateo County Public Health Department, the property owners, the RBD LLC, Urban Habitat, YUCA, and the Urban Land Institute strengthened and improved the Specific Plan."

The Specific Plan was adopted on September 4, 2012. The City would like to also express its appreciation to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for its financial support. The Planning Center/DC&E was the prime consultant and key partner during the process. Bruce Brubaker, Associate Principal, said "It was rewarding to work on a plan where the community had such positive energy and saw the planning process as a method to resolve potential differ-

ences and create a unifying vision."

The Grassroots Initiative Award recognizes planning efforts that have expanded the public understanding of the planning process and have a high degree of collaboration between civic leadership and community interests. For more information

about the Award and the Northern California Chapter of the American Planning Association, see: <http://norcalapa.org/programs/awards/>

**Sean Charpentier is an economic development coordinator II in the City of East Palo Alto's Community Development Department.**

# Interested in serving the city?

By Brent Butler  
East Palo Alto Today

East Palo Alto is accepting applications for those interested in serve on the westside and on general plan advisory bodies

Through a grant from the State of California, the City of East Palo Alto is beginning the process to update its long range plan (called a "general plan").

The plan will address issues critical to the community including improved public health, crime and safety, land use and development, parks and open space and transportation.

In addition, the City will be preparing a "community plan" that focused on the issues and challenges facing the area west of Route (Highway) 101, including the Woodland, Willows, and University Circle neighborhoods.

The City needs your help!



As part of these processes, two advisory bodies will be formed to help guide the process and ensure that the entire EPA community is part of the process.

One of advisory bodies will focus on the general plan and issues affecting the entire city; the other will focus on the area west of Route (Highway) 101.

The committees will help chart the City's course for the next 10 to 20 years. The committees will also provide ideas about growth and development, services and needs, and also ensure that the entire EPA community is active and engaged. Each committee will meet approximately 8-12 times over a two-year period starting July 23, 2013.

Applications will be accepted until 5pm, June 7, 2013. A workshop is planned for June 5, 2013 at 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 from 4:30 to 6pm.

You can access the application online by going to [vista2035EPA.org](http://vista2035EPA.org). To apply, contact the Deputy City Clerk Nora Pimentel by phone or e-mail; [npimentel@cityofepa.org](mailto:npimentel@cityofepa.org) or 650 853 3127. For information about the general plan update contact the Planning Division at [planning@cityofepa.org](mailto:planning@cityofepa.org)

**Brent Butler** is the planning manager in the Planning Division at the City of East Palo Alto. He can be reached by email at [bbutler@cityofepa.org](mailto:bbutler@cityofepa.org).

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# Bike to Work Day boomed in East Palo Alto

By Petero Quaqua  
East Palo Alto Today

More cyclists, than expected, biked through East Palo Alto on the morning of May 9, a day dedicated to inspire people to cycle to work.

At the EPA Energizer station, which was set up on the corner of Bay Street and University Avenue, organizers recorded a total of 156 cyclists compared to last year's 67.

Forty cyclists stopped for refreshments at the Energizer station between 6:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.



Photo courtesy of Brent Butler  
East Palo Alto's Planning Manager, Brent Butler stands with Ravenswood City School District Superintendent Maria De La Vega at the city's energizer station on Bike to Work Day on May 9.

The EPA Energizer Station was part of 37 such stations set up to offer bikers refreshments

during this year's county wide bike event. "Bike to Work 2013" event

has been hailed a success with participation at a 33-percent increase from last year according to the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance.

John Ford, Executive Director of PTCRA said the annual event is gaining in popularity.

"The event is an opportunity to get people who don't cycle to work to cycle ... [a] people at energizer stations provide refreshments and support and cheer them on.

"Once people try cycling to work, we hope that many of them will make it part of their regular commute.

"We hope to get 40 energizer stations for next year and our aim is to get the word out there," Ford said.

Michelle Daher, EPA's Environmental Coordinator and lead organizer for the city's energizer station stated that the unified consensus after the event was that it was a great success in terms of turnout and that keeping the location next year may be a good idea.

Daher said they were looking forward to working with the retailers, businesses and community members to add another station next year.

## A longtime community advocate is stepping aside

By Henrietta J. Burroughs  
East Palo Alto Today

Sharon Williams, JobTrain's executive director since 1979, is stepping down from her position this year. Her 30-year tenure with the agency seems remarkable given the high turnover rate that many companies experience.

Williams started with JobTrain as a GED teacher in 1973. She became the organization's director of development in 1978, and in 1979, she became the executive di-



Sharon Williams

rector of the organization, which was then known as OIC West or OICW.

When OICW was founded in 1965, it was modeled on the first OIC Job Training Center in Philadelphia, PA,

and it was housed at 1100 O'Brien Drive in Menlo Park. In 1994, the organization moved to its current location at 1200 O'Brien and in October 2007, the agency's name was changed to JobTrain.

Since its inception, the organization has focused on assisting men and women avoid incarceration, welfare and unemployment by preparing them to find gainful employment in a competitive job market.

Williams and her team are credited with having trans-

formed "a beleaguered non-profit [that was OICW] into the premier job training and placement institution," which JobTrain became.

Her contributions have been so outstanding that the City of East Palo Alto made a proclamation in her honor.

In fact, some of contributions for which she has been cited include the acquisition and renovation of JobTrain's current O'Brien Street facility; the accreditation of the agency by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC); its cutting

edge training programs; and JobTrain's diverse funding base that gets continued support from well known Silicon Valley corporations.

In explaining some of the agency's philosophy behind its training programs, Williams said, "We believe in the potential of every person who comes to us and that helps them believe in themselves. Once they know they can succeed, the challenge is nearly won."

According to the organization continued on page 8



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

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#### HEALTHY KIDS DAY

Join us for a day of fun and games, and get a jump on summer.

Saturday, April 27  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

#### Location

Bell Street Park located behind the Y

#### Activities

One-mile fun run, obstacle course, healthy gardening, Circle Time (reading, dramatic play and physical fitness), dancing, arts and crafts, basketball fun, cooking healthy snacks, plus summer camp registration.

#### Contact

Rocio Medina, Program Director  
650 687 5311 | [rmedina@ymcasv.org](mailto:rmedina@ymcasv.org)

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June 3 – August 9

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- Traditional Camp Kinder – 8
- Sports Camp 1–6
- Jr. Lifeguard Camp 6–10
- Leader in Training 8–12 (LIT)

#### SPLASH SWIM LESSONS

A national program from the Y, where children learn water safety and basics in this free, one-week session.

May 20–24

4:00 pm, 4:45 pm, or 5:30 pm

#### Ages

3–12 years

#### How To Register

At the Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA. Registration necessary. Space is limited.

# Collaborating to weatherize a local shelter

By Lucy Litvak  
East Palo Alto Today

On Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, student volunteers with Stanford University's chapter of CALPIRG Energy Service Corps performed an energy efficiency upgrade of the InnVision Shelter Network's shelter in East Palo Alto. State Assemblyman Rich Gordon, who represents East Palo Alto in the California State Assembly, came to the shelter to help kick off the weatherization.

During the weatherization, the Stanford student volunteers conducted a building assessment to help the shelter identify how they are wasting energy and steps they can take to save energy. Then, volunteers performed basic energy efficiency upgrades, such as sealing cracks around windows and doors and replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs. This was one of several non-profit buildings that the students are retrofitting this spring, including the Mural, Music & Arts Project building in East Palo Alto.



Photo courtesy of CALPIRG Energy Service Corps. State Assemblyman Rich Gordon, standing second to left is shown surrounded by the students who helped with the weatherization at the InnVision Shelter Network's shelter in East Palo Alto.

About 20% of the energy consumed in California is used to power our homes. Most of this energy (around 80%) comes from burning fossil fuels, which is causing climate change and damaging our state's air quality. Much of the energy that our buildings use is wasted through inefficient structures and behaviors. Thus, by making basic efficiency upgrades to our homes we can make significant progress on slowing climate change and improving air quality.

This weatherization will also help the shelter, which houses veterans accessing VA medical services, save

money on its energy bills.

Addressing the CALPIRG Energy Service Corps student volunteers and the InnVision staff, Assemblyman Gordon expressed his appreciation for the positive impact that both groups are making in his district. "This project reveals how energy efficient buildings allow our communities to live more comfortably, live in a healthier environment, and help our pocket books by lowering monthly energy bills," said Assemblyman Rich Gordon (Menlo Park). "CALPIRG's commitment to non-profit partners, such as InnVision, contributes greatly to our goals of

creating more sustainable communities and is highly commendable."

Allison Mateo, a sophomore at Stanford, commented that meeting with Assemblyman Gordon, "was

a great opportunity for the volunteers to ask questions and hear about the policy side of the fight against cli-

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## A grand opening

By Renee Roberts  
East Palo Alto Today



Photo courtesy Renee Roberts. East Palo Alto's Mayor Ruben Abrica talks with one of the skateboarders at the city's newly reopened skateboard park.

The ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of East Palo Alto's skate boarding park was met with excitement and joy.

The ceremony was attended by Mayor Ruben Abrica and several members of the city's finance and planning departments.

Enrique Magana was one of the many kids who attended. In talking about the park, he said. "This is so cool. We finally have a skate board park again in East Palo Alto. We no longer have to go all the way to Menlo Park and it gives us something to do after school and somewhere to go."

The kids who were present showed much enthusiasm and pride in the new park. They all rolled by on

their skate boards doing stunts and tricks, and seemed to be having a great time.

Mayor Abrica said, "What was so significant about this is that it all started with the kids. The kids are the ones, who over a period of time, convinced the city to open this park. They were organized and focused on their goal. They attended city council meetings and expressed their wants and concerns and helped get the job done."

Originally, about two years ago on the East Palo Alto city celebration day there was a march to the Martin Luther King Park and a temporary skate boarding park was set up for the skateboarders and it was a hit with the young people. But it was just that temporary.

In the meantime you see these kids skating in the street, on the sidewalks and through the shopping mall parking lots where it is dangerous and can be bothersome to the tenants. The new skateboard park, located on University and Bell streets, is seen as a win-win for everyone.

Renee Roberts is a regular contributor to East Palo Alto Today.

## Announcing a new community award

### "Everyday Heroes"

East Palo Alto City Council member Larry Moody, believes that everybody in the community is somebody. Everybody has a positive contribution to make and everybody who works on behalf of the community should be recognized for the gift that they give.

Well, it is now time to recognize these good deeds and those who do them with our "Everyday Heroes" award.

This is a monthly award that will be given to someone who lives or works in East Palo Alto or the Ravenswood community.

This award is being given because there are many people who make positive, enriching contributions that add to the quality of the community, but they are usually not acknowledged, themselves.



EPA Council member Larry Moody thanks CA State Senator Jerry Hill for his assistance during East Palo Alto's levee flooding crisis and he congratulates Luisa Buada on the award she received from Hill naming her the 2013 Woman of the Year in CA's 13th Senate District.

In all too many instances, they work behind the scenes and under the radar to help get things done and their contribution enables day-to-day activities and events to take place. They are usually unrecognized and unsung.

You know someone who fits this description. They are all too often the cheerleaders, the tutors, the youth coaches, the school crossing guards, etc.

They act as a stabilizing force and they are a reliable rock for those around them. Their contribution is ongoing, consis-

tent, dependable and unselfish.

They are loyal, sincere in what they do and they give of themselves in many ways as they give to their community.

These are the people-- men, women and children -- who deserve an award, because they are a valuable asset to those around them.

You know who the people are who should be recognized, but who generally are not.

#### Who are these award recipients?

We would like for you to tell us. Council member Moody has formed a committee of 7 people who will meet monthly to consider the names of those you submit. If you'd like to get more information about the award and/or serve on the committee, contact Council member Moody at moodylarry@sbc-global.net

# From the Editor's Desk

The road taken and the difference it made in two lives

**This is the tale of two incredible news stories that played out on the same historic day:**

Millions of Americans were captivated by two news stories that took place this past Tuesday, February 12, President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

One news story involved the shootout between Christopher Dorner, the hunted former LAPD officer and the San Bernadino Police Department and the other news story featured President Obama's State of the Union Address.

Stories about the burning cabin in which Dorner might have died captured our attention shortly before Obama was scheduled to deliver the State of the Union address. It's quite ironic that these two national news stories played out on the same day hours, if not minutes apart.

It's also ironic that both men present a striking contrast in their actions and in their impact on the national psyche. One man resorted to violence and was overcome by the racism he said he encountered and the other man made history and continues to make history by the way he surmounted racism to become the first African-American president of the United States.

It would be hard to find a more striking example of how differently two men responded to the challenges in their lives. Both men were college graduates and both men were cited for outstanding achievements as they followed their dreams down different paths.

One man, Dorner, chose the military and briefly fulfilled his dream of being an officer in the Los Angeles Police Department. The other man, Pres. Obama, started as a community organizer and, years later, fulfilled his dream of becoming the president of the United States.

Both men faced enormous obstacles as they attempted to achieve their goals. Dorner wrote a detailed manifesto about the obstacles he experienced.

Obama wrote a best selling book detailing some of the challenges he and his father experienced. Both discussed the impact of their race.

Did both men experience racism, as African American males, in similar ways? Who knows? But what is certain is that they reacted to the challenges that they confronted in very different ways. "It's

not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters" the philosopher Epictetus wrote.

One radio commentator said that given Dorner's background, education and training, he could have written a book and gone on talk shows exposing the racism and corruption he said he experienced in the LA Police Department.

Writing a book and getting on talk shows to tell one's personal story are not something that is necessarily that easy to do. Nor is it that easy to become president of the United States.

But it's all too obvious that there are other more positive choices that Dorner could have made and there are, obviously, other choices that Obama could have made, too, that would have led him in a different direction.

It's all too striking how the choices Dorner and Obama made defined their lives and it's interesting how their choices played out, so differently on the same day, within hours apart.

"The Road Not Taken"\* or the road that is taken can make all of the difference in the direction of a life.

A poem, The Road Not Taken, by the poet Robert Frost is a testament to the power of our choices. At the beginning of the poem he says:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—*

*I took the one less traveled by,*

*And that has made all the difference.*

It's amazing how our choices can impact our lives.



Henrietta J. Burroughs



Photo by EPA Today

Young dancers are shown performing at the welcoming event for San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum that was held on Friday, April 5, 2013 at the East Palo Alto City Hall Community Room.

## Letters in East Palo Alto Today

### Immigration Reform

Dear editor,

A lot has happened in just a few months.

Through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), nearly 270,000\* undocumented young people have been granted a reprieve from deportation and the ability to put their talents and skills to work. This has been great first step in helping undocumented people integrate fully into society.

With immigration reform currently being debated across the country, it's even more important for DACA recipients to seize newly opened opportunities so they can better advocate for themselves and other undocumented people.

E4FC has partnered with Curran & Berger LLP to create another publication, "Got DACA, Now What?" which has detailed answers to 29 frequently asked questions about travel, employment, rights and benefits, renewal, and more—all to help DACA recipients better understand their new reality.

It's estimated that over 1.4 million undocumented young people are eligible to apply for DACA (almost triple the number of people who've applied so far). It's our hope that as many youth as possible apply for DACA, and that with DACA they can fight even more powerfully for broad, long-term immigration reform.

Download Our Newest Publication: Got DACA, Now What? What To Know When Your Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals Request Is Approved. To download go to: <http://e4fc.org/gotdaca-nowwhat.html>

Sincerely,  
Krsna Avila  
Legal Services Manager  
Educators for Fair Consideration

**Where does the Ravenswood City School District fit in Governor Jerry Brown's \$2.9 billion budget for education for 2013-2014**

Dear editor,  
WHERE: California School

### Districts

WHEN: 2013-2014  
How much: \$2.9 billion  
80% will be distributed to all school districts based on number of students  
16% will be allocated to districts based on number of English Learners, low income students and Foster children  
4% will be part of a grant for districts where half of students fall into those categories above  
\$1 billion dollar or \$170.00 per student to implement the common core standards (see below for details)

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete success-

## EPA Today's Policies & Principles

In order to better serve the communities of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven, East Palo Alto Today has made the commitment to operate with high professional standards and to adhere to a strict code of ethical conduct.

The principles and policies stated herein serve as an agreement with our readers, advertisers and all others

within our service area.

East Palo Alto Today is dedicated to conscientious journalism. We maintain this commitment by seeking and reporting the truth, acting with integrity, and serving the public interest. We will report the news thoroughly and accurately and include multiple perspectives without favoring one over the other.

We will hold ourselves accountable to common standards of decency, treating our colleagues, news sources, and the public with respect.

We are committed to maintaining our independence by avoiding partnerships, investments or business relationships that would compromise the integrity of our news reports.

### East Palo Alto Today

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

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[www.epamedia.org](http://www.epamedia.org) and [www.epatoday.org](http://www.epatoday.org)

# Opinion

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

## New thoughts shared on Cooley Landing Park

By Marie McKenzie  
East Palo Alto Today

[Editor's Note - The following is an email that was sent by Marie McKenzie to Peter Geraghty, a consultant hired by the City of East Palo Alto to get community input regarding some of the future work to be completed at Cooley Landing Park.]

To: Peter Geraghty,

I'm excited to hear of the project plans for Cooley Landing Park, however as a resident, dismayed at the fact you seem to minimize the importance of our park. This is a perfect example of why experienced staff or local residents



Marie McKenzie

should be made available to lead projects as sensitive as the Cooley Landing project.

**Your major mistakes:**

No local resident/group is benefitting from this local project. What the hell??? Unacceptable!

You sent a poorly designed power point slide, not a nicely designed PDF flyer.

You sent the flyer just six

(6) days before the event.

You have no other outreach, so its obvious you really expect to reach no one to attend, thus make the decisions you want.

You ask residents to come out at 7 p.m. to respond to one issue and no other items - really????

You translated the Spanish flyer in Google and completely confuse the community???

Not withstanding the sloppy work...Your contract is sketchy at best - not opened as other public professional contractual consultants. It's common knowledge you are personal friends with a management employee who supervises your contract.

Because of the obvious

conflict of interest, more care should have been given to your contact. In my opinion, the city council should review the approval process for your contract.

Not your fault, but it's disappointing that again, only non-residents are managing important local projects with no consideration of the need to have local residents employed in the process - especially when locals were not given the opportunity to submit a bid. Unheard of. Should NEVER happen. The city is inundated with staff who know nothing about East Palo Alto. It's been taken over by salary mongers.

With the generous compensation awarded to you/your

company, you should be able to deliver exceptional services. East Palo Alto has one chance to make Cooley Landing Park a success and I plan to be all over you to lead excellent efforts on this project and to improve your outreach efforts.

Let's hope your presentation at the meeting is more well-rounded and indicative of a professional project manager.

**Marie McKenzie** formerly worked for the City of East Palo Alto in the area of Economic Development in charge of First Source Hiring/Local Business Enterprise Programs. She now works for the Ravenswood Family Health Center.

## Consultant responds to the criticism

By Peter Geraghty

[Editor's note: Peter Geraghty responded by sending

an email to those on his original email list. Here is his response.]

Hi, everyone. Here's a much better Spanish translation of the flyer that I sent to you at lunch time

today. I apologize for the last one; it was entirely my fault. Thanks for your patience.

I hope you can make it to the meeting. Regards,. Peter.

## Another resident comments Cooley Landing Park

By Tameeka Bennett  
East Palo Alto Today

Last week I attended the meeting about Cooley Landing. It was headed up by the project manager Peter Geraghty.

As I walked through the door to the community room, I was caught a bit off guard by the lack of residents. I truly thought that there would have been more people in attendance with so much prior work having gone into the planning for Cooley Landing.

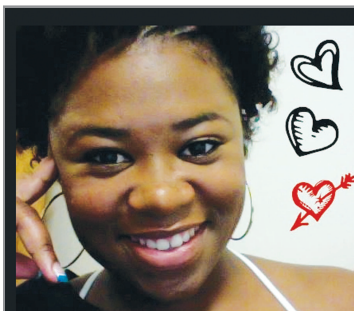
That being said, though we were short on attendance we were by no means at a loss concerning outspoken

individuals. This meeting was specifically about keeping or replacing the existing building that is out at Cooley Landing right now. This topic has been through much debate.

Project manager Peter Geraghty left no qualms about his agenda. He flat out told community members that he was in favor of tearing down the building.

In his practical way, he let us know that from an architect's point of view, revamping the old building would cost the city more than it would cost to replace it.

Some folks in the room seemed a little unsettled



Tameeka Bennett

about this, the building has been around a long time and has become something of a landmark for East Palo Alto.

Yet, on the other hand, the building is so old that we have no idea about the condition of the building or what kind of shape it's in.

Should we decide to keep

the existing building, in the midst of revamping it, we could discover a plethora of problems that would lead to more and more money towards building costs.

I have to say that I rather favor the idea of a brand new building. I think some of the wood from the existing building could be reclaimed and used in the new building, thus preserving some of the history.

By the time Mr. Geraghty was able to get into the meat of his presentation, I had to make my exit. Buy in speaking with him earlier before the meeting, I knew that he expected no easy win. He knew

he'd have to work hard to earn the trust of residents and be sure that this is an all-inclusive plan.

Well, to Mr. Geraghty I say best wishes, this will not be an easy journey nor will it be quick. The civic-minded people of this community put much heart into everything they do.

Best of luck Mr. Geraghty ...best of luck.

**Tameeka Bennett** is an East Palo Alto resident. She serves on the East Palo Alto Planning Commission as an alternate member and she is a member of Youth United for Community Action (YUCA).

## Springtime is a time of renewal

By Ayanna Anderson  
East Palo Alto Today

Did you know there's something you could do now that would only take two minutes that might renew someone's belief in miracles, like being able to see their children grow up? Thousands need a life-saving organ.

There's nothing you can do that would be more compassionate than becoming someone's hero when the time



Ayanna Anderson

comes. So, seize the opportunity to register as an organ and tissue donor.

It's not only spring, but April is National Donate Life Month and it represents a time of renewal. Every month can be a time of renewal. For Hispanics in our communities, organ and tissue donations are especially vital.

Right now, there are 22,000 people in California who are waiting for an organ transplant. More than 8,000 of those are Hispanics. Most of them are waiting for a kidney transplant. Each one of those

people could wait 7-9 years for renewed health, simply because there are too few donors.

You'll be happy to know that if you are Catholic or a member of some other faith group, that your religion is not a barrier to the idea of providing a gift of healing for others.

All major religions, including the Catholic Church, wholeheartedly support organ and tissue donation. If you would like to one day give a miracle

to others, just go to [www.ctdn.org](http://www.ctdn.org) and register.

Or answer "Yes" when you are next at the DMV to renew your driver's license. Make your donation decision, and be sure to share your wishes with your families and loved ones.

**Ayanna Anderson** is the community development liaison for the California Transplant Donor Network.

She can be contacted by email at [aanderson@ctdn.org](mailto:aanderson@ctdn.org).

# Lifecycles

## A major change comes to the East Palo Alto Sanitary District

By Meda Okelo  
East Palo Alto Today

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District Board of Directors appointed Kenneth C. Jones as the sanitary district's new general manager. The board's appointment comes after several months of consideration.

Jones replaces Leroy Hawkins, who retired as the district manager in December after more than a decade with the district.

Goro Mitchell, the sanitary district board president, said that Jones brings to his new



Photo by Meda Okelo

**Kenneth C. Jones**

position proven leadership skills, wide professional and technical experience, talents

and skills that will, "benefit the East Palo Alto Sanitary District's continuing efforts to improve its overall efficiency and cost effectiveness as well as its public image."

Jones has more than 30 years of project management, design and public agency experience. He has managed many and varied public works projects including new roadways and the construction of various public structures for municipalities, special districts, airport authorities and universities.

Mitchell said, "His expertise in management and civil

engineering will be invaluable to our staff and rate payers,"

The East Palo Alto Sanitary District, which celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2009, provides sewer services to approximately 6,700 properties in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

The District maintains approximately 32 miles of sewer lines and owns approximately 12% of the capacity of the Palo Alto Sewer Treatment Plant, operated by the City of Palo Alto.

"The district used an executive search firm to search far and wide for a General

Manager" said Mitchell. "We are very happy with the choice that we made ...finding a local person, who, in addition to his professional qualifications and experience, [also] knows the people and understands the infrastructural needs of the district," he added.

Jones officially started full time in his new position on Monday, March 25.

**Meda Okelo**, the author of this article, is also the publisher of EPA Information, a new directory listing East Palo Alto organizations.

## JobTrain's Breakfast of Champions shows its best

By Kail Lubarsky  
East Palo Alto Today

Philanthropists, local dignitaries, NFL legends, celebrities and the community-at-large, packed the Santa Clara Convention Center for JobTrain's twenty-ninth annual Breakfast of Champions on Friday, May 3rd.

Yes, the 2013 event was remarkable! Hundreds of wonderful and supportive people attended this extremely special event, to celebrate our community's unsung heroes and to help honor the prolific legacy of JobTrain's Executive Director Sharon Williams, and her dynamic achievements.

### Sharon Williams

Sharon's illustrious career at JobTrain began in 1973, and has spanned almost four decades. She's selflessly made it her life's mission to provide outstanding community leadership, phenomenal organizational direction and to always be there for her students and staff alike.

This year's event was particularly emotional, as it marked the end of an era as Sharon's last Breakfast presiding as Executive Director.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the fantastic philanthropists and extraordi-

nary 2013 celebrity guests: Jennifer Azzi, Brian Copeland, Mike Cassidy, Paul Cook, Dick Gould, Steve Kinney, Kathy Kwan, Ronnie Lott, Joe Montana, Michael Pritchard, Lisa Sonsini, Keena Turner, Tara VanDerveer, Delvin Williams and Rita Williams.

The charismatic and always fantastic Jan Hutchins was the master of ceremonies. Jan kept the audience engaged and on the seat of their chairs for two consecutive hours!

There were so many extraordinary and heartfelt moments at this year's Breakfast. JobTrain's featured speaker, USF Basketball Coach and Gold Medal Champion Jennifer Azzi, delivered an inspirational speech that set the tone for the event.

**The Paul M. Cook Alumni Awards** were presented to James Robinson, Culinary Arts graduate and Geronimo Garcia, Computer Service Technician graduate. Both these young men defied the overwhelming odds stacked against them, and were recognized for their outstanding professional success upon completing their education at JobTrain.

Todd Bradley, Executive Vice President of Printing and



Photo courtesy of JobTrain

Left – right - 49er Superbowl Champion, Dennis Brown, Adam Weiner, Arnold Hart, Sharon Williams, Kail Lubarsky, Deborah Picar, Susan Boiko, Siosuia "C-2" Ve and David Dias are shown together after the Breakfast of Champions event.

Personal Systems Group at Hewlett-Packard, accepted the TRAILBLAZER AWARD from JobTrain. During his acceptance speech, he surprised the audience when he announced: "I am thrilled to donate \$250,000 in computer equipment for JobTrain students and staff."

The excitement factor ascended towards a consistent upward trajectory after Bradley's announcement.

For the first time in JobTrain history, there were two winners of the United Airlines sponsored essay contest, "Where I Want to Fly and Why." The judges were deadlocked during the deliberation process in a 4:4 vote.

However, due to the extreme generosity of United Airlines, they provided two sets of (2) tickets, and in doing so awarding Sean Swi-

hart, current CISCO employee and Culinary Arts graduate, along with GED student Mary Thompson, tickets that fulfilled their personal dreams. (Please listen to their unbelievably moving stories and acceptance speeches by clicking [HERE](#)

**Keynote speaker**, author, comedian, philanthropist and media personality Brian Copeland, shared how life's struggles and detours are there to essentially test ones resolve towards reaching their full and unmet potential.

Humanitarian, comedian and philanthropist Michael Pritchard, brilliantly kept the audience in stitches - finding humor in aspects of everyday life. His philosophical and comedic antidotes for dealing with "the deck of cards life gave you," was exceptional.

The Breakfast also fea-

tured a live singing performance by JobTrain Culinary Arts alum, Krishna Kinsey. She now works for a Michelin Star restaurant in New York and traveled across country to inspire the audience with her show-stopping rendition of "Today My Life Begins."

California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, for both recognizing and endorsing JobTrain as the nationwide model for vocational training programs. (You can see his inspirational welcome address [HERE](#)

It's never too early to start thinking about next year's Breakfast of Champions event. If you'd like to attend or wish to become an event sponsor, please visit us at [www.jobtrain-works.org](http://www.jobtrain-works.org) to learn more!

**Kail Lubarsky** is the director of marketing & Public Relations at JobTrain.

## A longtime community advocate cont. from page 4

tion's own statistics, at least 85% of those, who enroll in JobTrain's classes, complete their training; 75% of class graduates are placed in jobs, and 12 months after placement, 84% are still working.

Williams has won many awards over the years for her achievements and contributions to the community. She has been honored with Article 1.docxthe Career Action

Center's women of Vision Award, the Palo Alto Chamber's Athena Award, induction into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, and the Silicon Valley Women of Influence Award.

She also currently serves on the boards of Center for Excellence in Nonprofits, and the East Palo Alto Digital Village.

A reception and dinner

was held at the Four Seasons Silicon Valley in East Palo Alto on March 9 to celebrate William's leadership and to raise funds for her "Life Skills" legacy to JobTrain.

**Kristi Flowers** is a guest writer for EPA Today. All questions can be forwarded to [epatoday@epatoday.org](mailto:epatoday@epatoday.org).

*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)



# Lifecycles

## Inducted into the Hall of Fame

East Palo Alto's own Ray Askew was inducted into the San Francisco Giants Hall of Fame.

Askew, who is a Junior Giants commissioner was among three Junior Giants commissioners inducted. The other two were Walt and Barbara Velasquez of the San Jose Police Ac-

tivities organization.

The induction ceremony was held during a special "Play Ball Lunch" with the San Francisco Giants team.

The lunch program, which included a reception featuring the San Francisco Giants team, took place at the Hilton San Francisco on March 29. The luncheon is held an-

nually to kick off the team's playing season.

This year over 1,200 people participated in the fundraising program which highlights the Junior Giants, which is made up of free and non-competitive baseball teams for boys and girls between 5-18 years old.



Photo L - R: East Palo Alto Commissioner Ray Askew; San Jose Police Activities Commissioners Walt and Barbara Velasquez; Giants Community Fund Board of Directors Chair Craig Alexander; Giants Broadcaster Dave Flemming

Not only was East Palo Alto's Junior Giants team invited to the luncheon, but the fact that East Palo Alto was chosen to host the S.F.

Giants Trophy Tour that was held in East Palo Alto on March 13 reflects the closeness of the organization with East Palo Alto's local

Junior Giants. Eight members of the team went to the lunch to see their coach, Ray Askew, inducted into the S.F. Giants Hall of Fame.

# Honored by the East Palo Alto City Council



Lourdes Carini is shown speaking at the East Palo Alto City Council on Feb. 5, '13.

Lourdes Carini was presented with a proclamation in her honor by the East Palo Alto City Council.

Carini, who is the branch manager of the East Palo Alto branch of the San Mateo Credit Union, received the proclamation, which was presented to her by Vice Mayor David Woods with Mayor Ruben Abrica standing

nearby, for her outstanding service to the community.

In presenting the proclamation to her at the council's February 6 meeting, Woods said that the City of East Palo Alto was recognizing Carini for receiving the 2012 Redwood City Business Woman of the Year Award and for her dedication to the East Palo Alto community.

Woods said her team at the credit union, not only included those who lived in the community, but also included those who worked on behalf of the community.

Carini, in turn, thanked the city for the way it had "opened its arms" to the San Mateo Credit Union.

Carini joined the San Mateo Credit Union in 2010 and after successfully making the Redwood City North Fair Oaks

branch the most profitable one, she was selected to be the manager of the East Palo Alto branch in late 2011. Carini received

\$1,000 as the Redwood City Business Women of the Year, which was to be donated to a charity of her choice.



10 Years of Service to The Community



Ravenswood Family Health Center  
1798A Bay Road, East Palo Alto

Celebrating A Decade of Service	Celebrando Una Década de Servicio
Primary health care for residents of East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and Redwood City.	Cuidado médico primario para los residentes de East Palo Alto, Belle Haven y Redwood City.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary medical care</li> <li>• Dental care for adults and children</li> <li>• Behavioral health counseling</li> <li>• Chronic disease care</li> <li>• Prenatal care and Family Planning</li> <li>• Immunizations and school physicals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Servicios médicos primarios</li> <li>• Cuidado dental para adultos y niños</li> <li>• Asesoramiento de la salud mental</li> <li>• Tratamiento para las enfermedades crónicas</li> <li>• Cuidado prenatal y planificación familiar</li> <li>• Vacunas y exámenes físicos</li> </ul>
To enroll as a new patient 650.330.7416 For medical appointments 650.330.7400 For dental appointments 650.289.7700	Para ingresarse como nuevo paciente Para una cita médica Para una cita dental
* Children (18 and under) can receive dental care without being enrolled as a medical patient.	* Niños menores de 18 años pueden recibir tratamiento dental sin estar registrados como paciente médico.

Ravenswood Family Dentistry  
1807 Bay Road, East Palo Alto

Belle Haven Clinic  
100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park

## East Palo Alto has a National Champion!!



Photo courtesy of the East Palo Alto Boxing Club EPA Boxing Club director Johnnie Gray, Jr. assists Aaron Katzman in putting on his boxing gloves.

Aaron Katzman is a 2013 USA Boxing National Champion. He ranks #3 in the nation. Before he started boxing, Aaron "Grown Man Killer" Katzman served as a tutor for East Palo Alto children. He is a junior at Menlo-Atherton High School and trains at the East Palo Alto Boxing Club.

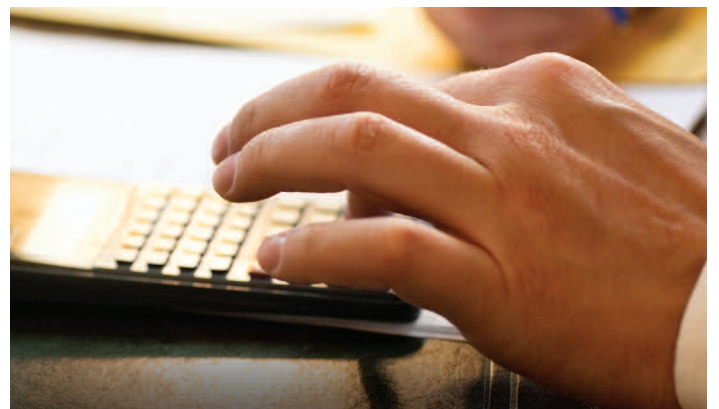
Katzman earned a bronze medal at the USA Boxing National Championships in Spokane Washington earlier this month! Katzman is only one of the EPA Boxing Club's talented young boxers.

To contact the EPA Boxing Club, which is located at 2528 Pulgas Avenue in East Palo Alto, call (650) 324-1830 or email epaboxingclub@yahoo.com.

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

At SMCU, we've paid attention to what residents need here in San Mateo County. We're your neighbor. There's a SMCU branch right near you filled with ideas to save you money on auto loans, home loans, and more. Come on in.

East Palo Alto location:  
Ravenswood 101 Shopping Ctr  
1735 East Bayshore Road



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You are eligible for membership in SMCU if you live, work, worship or attend school in San Mateo County, the City of Palo Alto, and the following zip codes located within San Francisco County: 94110, 94112, 94116, 94122, 94124, 94132, 94134. A one-time nonrefundable membership fee of \$10.00 (\$1.00 age 17 and under) is required to join. A one-time, non-refundable membership fee of \$10.00 (\$1.00 for age 17 and under) is required to join. SMCU is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

# EPA Chicas receive an “app” honorary mention



Photo courtesy of the Bayshore Christian Ministry Standing from left to right in the photo are the members of the EPA Chica Squad: Margarita Tenesi, Rosie Valencia, Ashley Davis and Vanessa Tostado.

**By the Bayshore Christian Ministries Staff**  
East Palo Alto Today

East Palo Alto sits in between, Facebook and Google, two of the titans battling it out for the mobile future but where do we fit in as protagonists in this drama?

Well, maybe pretty little so far but that all might change now that a team of four girls called the EPA Chica Squad have created their own mobile app for the Android platform called Tag It!

There was a time not too

long ago when EPA youth at Plugged In created the first web sites for many local agencies and maybe pretty soon something like that might happen again for mobile now that EPA youth are getting their hands on the latest digital skills, which most people know, is all about mobile.

The background on this story has to do with local faith-based youth development organization Bayshore Christian Ministries connecting with Technovation Challenge, a project to increase

the number of girls going into science and engineering by engaging them with creating mobile apps that address community problems.

Each year the organization has a "World Pitch" where teams of girls from around the globe come together to identify a community problem that an app might address and then prototype the mobile solution.

The finalists in this contest then present before a panel of VC judges and the winning team receives funds to have their app developed at a professional level and become available for online download.

This year, through a community grant from Facebook, Bayshore Christian Ministries was able to have a team of four girls compete in the World Pitch under the name EPA Chica Squad. And although they didn't make the final cut that pitches before the VCs, they actually did extremely well.

There were 114 compet-

ing teams that submitted apps, including from elite private schools like Castilleja School and the Nightingale-Bamford School in New York and well-regarded public high schools in places like Cupertino, San Ramon, Mountain View and Albany.

Out of this group the EPA Chicas were in the top 20 globally and were part of the ten teams receiving honorable mention.

Until a few years ago you needed to be a professional software engineer conversant with programming in Java (for Android) or Objective-C (for iPhone) in order to create a mobile app.

But that has changed in recent years with the creation of MIT App Inventor a new visually-based programming language that allows non-coders to create mobile apps for the Android platform as a way to learn program. Now with this new tool available, high school and college students have a new way to learn programming for their

beloved mobile phones, apps that they can immediately share with their friends or distribute on the web.

It's changing the way computer science is being taught just as its making a change in East Palo Alto for girls at Bayshore Christian Ministries and hopefully soon at other local youth-serving agencies.

Although the EPA Chica Squad app is not available yet you can see their video demo tape online. Other than saying it's called Tag It! and the video demo tape is 2-minutes we don't want to spoil the fun of seeing what their app does and how it works. If you want to find out you need to go to <http://bit.ly/epachicasquad> to see their demo tape.

If you want to know more, you can follow up with Bayshore Christian Ministries,

at [information@bayshore.org](mailto:information@bayshore.org) or 650.327.1139 or look up Technovation Challenge on the web.

## Cambiando la inseguridad financiera hacia la seguridad financiera

**By Jennifer Witte**  
East Palo Alto Today

Finalmente, la economía está creciendo de nuevo después de la crisis económica, pero el interés del público en la educación financiera está creciendo aún más rápido.

La necesidad de educación financiera ha adquirido cada vez más la atención de un público muy diverso - de las empresas bancarias, los políticos y las agencias gubernamentales, hasta en los grupos comunitarios, organizaciones sin fines de lucro y expertos en el desarrollo económico.

Las habilidades de gestión financiera de una persona son las que hacen una diferencia significativa entre la seguridad y la inseguridad económica. La falta de conocimiento adecuado sobre los productos bancarios y cómo manejar las finanzas personales puede afectar negativamente la situación económica del día a día de una persona. Esa falta de conocimiento también puede impedir drásticamente la capacidad a ahorrar para los objetivos financieros a largo plazo, como la compra una casa o el costo de la educación.

La Encuesta de Consumidores de Educación Financiera del 2012 realizado por el Centro de Educación Económica reveló que 80% de los adultos en Estados Unidos admitieron que podían beneficiarse de los consejos y las respuestas a preguntas financieras básicas. También la encuesta informó que 56% de los adultos en los Estados



Unidos no tienen presupuesto y otro 33% de adultos no pagan sus cuentas a tiempo - aumentado del 28% en el 2011. Otro estudio recién publicado a finales de febrero por el sitio web de finanzas personales Bankrate.com mostró que casi una cuarta parte de los estadounidenses tienen actualmente más deuda en la tarjeta de crédito que la de ahorros, y que un poco más del 15% no tiene ningún tipo de ahorros en absoluto.

La falta de educación financiera hace a las personas especialmente de bajos ingresos y moderados vulnerables a las estafas financieras y los préstamos abusivos. Además, algunas comunidades están en desventaja aún más por barreras culturales o del idioma, por la falta de habilidades tecnológicas, o incluso la falta del acceso a la tecnología, que se ubica en la experiencia de banca de consumo.

Productos y servicios financieros son cada vez más diversos y sofisticados. Este aumento de la complejidad es en parte resultado de los cambios en la tecnología, que afectan el

tipo y la prestación de servicios financieros. Mientras estos cambios hacen que sea mucho más difícil para las personas a tomar decisiones adecuadas y eficaces sobre sus finanzas, hay un aumento en la responsabilidad que se espera de los individuos para su propia seguridad financiera. Esto requiere que los consumidores intervengan activamente para administrar su dinero de manera eficaz.

Entonces, ¿qué es exactamente un programa de educación financiera? En la actualidad, los programas de educación financiera son de todas las formas y tamaños.

En términos generales, los programas de educación financiera enseñan conceptos acerca de las herramientas bancarias básicas, los temas financieros como la deuda y el crédito, y las habilidades personales de gestión financiera.

El currículo básico de educación financiera proporciona lecciones sencillas, atractivas, cultural y lingüísticamente apropiadas sobre temas financieros básicos. Sin embargo, el nuevo conocimiento no

necesariamente se traduce en un cambio en el comportamiento.

Los programas de educación financiera más exitosos no simplemente proveen la información, sino se adaptan a las necesidades actuales de los participantes para facilitar mejor e inspirar el cambio en el comportamiento de la gestión financiera. Idealmente, esto resulta que los participantes no son solo motivados para establecer metas financieras sino también prepararlos a crear un plan para alcanzar dichos objetivos.

En East Palo Alto, tres organizaciones - Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, Los Servicios Legales de la Comunidad (CLESPA) y Nuestra Casa - han unido sus fuerzas para ofrecer un programa de educación financiera a la comunidad. Este programa es ofrecido en español e inglés, Secure Future\$ o Futuros Seguro\$, consiste de un curso de cuatro semanas (8 horas) de educación financiera que informa acerca de una amplia gama de temas bancarios y las técnicas de gestión financiera.

El programa ofrece también sesiones de "coaching" financiero uno-a-uno para todos los participantes. Durante estas sesiones privadas, los participantes hablan acerca de sus necesidades financieras específicas, establecen una meta financiera y creen y se comprometen con sus propios pasos de acción para ayudarles a alcanzar su meta.

El programa también ofrece

un sistema de incentivos que ofrece boletos de rifa a los participantes para diversas actividades, tales como asistir a clases, abrir nuevas cuentas, aumentar sus ahorros o su puntaje de crédito, calcular todos los gastos o incluso establecer el depósito directo con sus empleadores.

Todos los boletos de rifa son incluidos en un sorteo de varios premios de hasta \$ 300. Los sorteos se llevan a cabo en uno de los tres talleres comunitarios cada año donde se reúnen los participantes y la comunidad para la comida y la diversión.

Estos talleres tratan temas financieros adicionales a los ya ofrecidos en las clases, como las tarjetas de crédito con garantía, servicios de preparación de impuestos y cuentas de ahorro.

Futuros Seguro\$ y otros programas de educación financiera en el área de la bahía creen que la educación financiera no sólo es una inversión en los individuos, sino también en la comunidad.

Las personas bien informadas y educadas financieramente son capaces de tomar decisiones financieras inteligentes y eficaces para ellos y sus familias.

Esta seguridad en el nivel del individuo, fomentada por programas como Futuro Seguro\$, es el fundamento de la seguridad financiera para toda la comunidad.

**Jennifer Witte** es socio del programa Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center in East Palo Alto.

# Avoid paying taxes on a foreclosed home

**J. Samuel Diaz**  
East Palo Alto Today



As everyone knows, losing one's home is a difficult adjustment, but there are things to do before, during and after losing a home that can make a big difference. If you lost your home via a foreclosure or short-sale or deed in-lieu and you then received a 1099-C form mailed to you from the bank that lent you the money for your lost mortgage, then you should read further.

This indicates the lender wrote off a portion or all of the money it failed to collect and is reporting it to the IRS for tax reasons. By law, the lender has to mail a copy of this 1099-C form to notify the borrowers that the bank has preferred to forgive the remainder of the money owed.

Under normal conditions, having a deficiency forgiven by the lender would require the borrowers to report it to

the IRS as money earned. And under normal conditions, the borrowers would then pay a tax to the IRS.

That is under normal conditions. Understand that today's situation is not normal. The Mortgage Debt Relief Act of 2007 declared that no such tax would be applied to borrowers whose lenders forgave their home mortgages. The legislation was extended to include all home mortgage deficiencies that were written off by lenders from 2007 to 2012.

Of course, with any legislation, there are certain conditions to be met. Please

make sure to talk with your tax accountant who prepares your IRS and FTB tax forms to make sure he or she is using the updated and correct IRS tax forms available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). In particular, IRS tax form 982 needs to be updated.

Do consult with your tax accountant or professional so that you clearly understand how the Mortgage Debt Relief Act of 2007 applies to your situation and you can ensure that your tax preparer is preparing your tax forms correctly!

The alternative is to pay taxes that may not apply to

your particular tax situation. Last year, for instance, I discovered one of my former clients unwittingly owed around \$12,000 to the IRS for the loss of his home to foreclosure. I met with him and reviewed the paperwork, including form 1099-C and discovered the error. His tax accountant was using an obsolete IRS 982 form!

Because of another error in his tax forms from years past and after getting his tax preparer to correct the errors and to use the updated forms, it turned out the IRS owed him money and gave him a tax credit of around \$6,000. That is a difference of roughly \$18,000! So this gentleman who duly paid his taxes every year discovered that investing the time to correct errors was well worth the effort!

Please take the time to review your tax papers and to look for a form 1099-C from your lender if you lost your

home in 2011. If the lender forgave the loan deficiency on your home mortgage in 2011, you should then expect to receive this form in January or February of 2012.

Sometimes lenders simply mail the form to the last known address, which may still show the address of the foreclosed property. So make sure you go to the U.S. Post Office and request that your mail be forwarded to your new address.

If, for some reason, the 1099-C form did not arrive in time, you should be able to have your tax forms prepared again and resubmitted to the IRS and/or FTB.

Enough people have lost too much. It is time to start planning and preparing for a better future for our families and especially for our children.

**J. Samuel Diaz** is a frequent contributor to East Palo Alto Today.

# La ciudad necesita a residentes para servir

**Por Brent Butler**  
East Palo Alto Today

**EAST PALO ALTO ACEPTARÁ SOLICITUDES PARA SERVIR EN EL GRUPO DE ASESORES DEL PLAN GENERAL DE LA CIUDAD Y DEL PLAN DEL AREA OESTE**



A través de una subvención del Estado de California, la Ciudad de East Palo Alto (EPA) está empezando el proceso para actualizar su plan de largo plazo (llamado un "Plan General").

El plan afrontará cuestiones que son críticas para la comunidad, incluyendo el mejorando la salud pública, y seguridad, disminución de crimen, uso del terreno, desarrollo de parques y espacios abiertos y transporte.

Además, la Ciudad estará preparando un "plan comunitario" que se enfocará en los problemas y desafíos que enfrenta la zona al oeste de la Ruta (Autopista) 101, incluyendo los vecindarios de Woodland, Wil-

low, y el Círculo de la Avenida University.

La Ciudad necesita tu ayuda! Como parte de estos procesos, se formarán dos grupos de asesoría para ayudar a guiar el proceso y asegurar que toda la comunidad de EPA sea parte del proceso.

Uno de los dos grupos de asesoría se enfocará en el plan general y cuestiones que afectan a toda la ciudad; el otro se enfocará en la zona oeste de la Ruta (Autopista) 101.

Los comités ayudarán a trazar el curso de la Ciudad por los próximos 10 a 20 años. Los comités también aportarán ideas sobre el crecimiento y desarrollo, servicios públicos y necesi-

dades de la ciudad, y se asegurarán de que toda la comunidad de EPA esté activa y envuelta. Cada Comité se reunirá aproximadamente 8-12 veces durante un período de dos años a partir del 23 de Julio de 2013.

Se aceptarán solicitudes hasta las 5pm, del 17 de Junio del 2013. Un taller está programado para el 5 de Junio del 2013 en el 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 de 4:30 a 6pm.

Para acceder la aplicación en línea, vaya a [vista2035EPA.org](http://vista2035EPA.org). Para aplicar, póngase en contacto con la Secretaria de la Ciudad, Nora Pimentel por teléfono o correo electrónico; [npimentel@cityofepa.org](mailto:npimentel@cityofepa.org) ó 650 853-3127. Para Información sobre la actualización del Plan General, comuníquese con la División de Planificación en: [planning@cityofepa.org](mailto:planning@cityofepa.org)

Por Brent A. Butler, AICP, CFM, Gerente de Planeación



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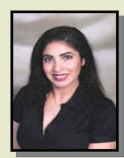
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# Luisa Buada

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and we have one right here, someone who could put it together. I don't want to say an asset.... She's more than that....[She's] the gem of our county."

As Buada responded, holding back her tears with difficulty, she said, "You know I do this because it is a vocation. People are put on this earth because they have an important role to play in life and I've found my role and I'm glad to use my talents for the betterment of the community and for people that need us.... We'll always be doing great things be-

cause we believe in being great. We believe in being great for the people we serve."

East Palo Alto City Council member Larry Moody told Buada, "I do believe in callings and I think there was something very significant about you landing in East Palo Alto. You helped this community emerge... You've been able to champion the ideas of good health, quality health for all communities and we have embraced that vision. Right. We've rallied around you. We look for-

ward to the expansion of the project here. We want to make sure the community is behind you, the city council is behind you.... You're a wonderful asset, gift, blessing to our community and I so appreciate you."

When everything ended, some of us who had arrived at the event unexpectedly, had to admit that we knew about the surprise award all along.

See a video of the event at:

<http://youtu.be/AFHwd7NqRfI>

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# Community News Briefs

continued from page 3

May 3 and May 4.

Dr. Hernandez was the unanimous choice of the board, which considered her more than 20 years of experience in California schools. She has been a teacher, a principal and an assistant superintendent.

The RCSD Board members will meet in Twin Rivers Unified School District, Dr. Hernandez's current district to gather information and meet with members of the public. If the board is satisfied with the outcome of its visit and contract details, the board will then take formal action to approve the contract and appoint our next superintendent.

[Update: Since this article was written, Hernandez was appointed as the new superintendent.]

## Opening of Virtual Dental Clinic

The Ravenswood Family Health Center now has a new way to provide dental care to low-income and special needs children through a new telehealth dentistry project called the "Virtual Dental Home."

The portable dental system provides a compact, complete dental system that allows dentists, dental hygienists and others in the field to provide hand-held telehealth



Photo by EPA Today  
This photo shows from left CA State Senator Jerry Hill, EPA Mayor Ruben Abrica and San Mateo Co. Supervisor Warren Slocum.

technology to provide critical dental services, assessment and preventive care to children, disabled individuals, seniors and underserved people who may not have access to a traditional dental clinic.

The system was unveiled in East Palo Alto at the Magnolia Head Start Preschool on April 12.

The event was attended by San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum, State Assembly member Jerry Hill, Mayor Ruben Abrica, Dr. Yogita Thakur, Dental Director of Ravenswood Family Clinic, Luisa Buada and other community leaders.

## State of the City Address

Mayor Ruben Abrica delivered the State of the City address in both English and Spanish at a special city meeting on Tuesday, March

26, 2013. In his address, he highlighted the city's accomplishments and gave special attention to the city's incorporation on July 1, 1983 and its upcoming 30th anniversary.

He said the city's incorporation was "a great accomplishment for the residents" that gave them "political independence and the right to shape the destiny of our collective community."

He also cited some of the early residents such as Gertrude Wilks, Barbara Mouton, James Blakely, Omowale Satterwhite and others who not only worked to make incorporation possible, but those who still work "to fulfill the promise of the city."

During his address, he gave special recognition to three of the city's sports teams: the East Palo Alto Girls Basketball team at Eastside Prep, the EPA United Soccer Club and the EPA Razorbacks.

He invited everyone to the city's 30th anniversary celebration on Saturday, June 30, when he said that there would be a parade a community festival and fireworks.

In speaking more about the good news, Abrica told his audience that Gov. Jerry Brown had signed the city's declaration of emergency which made the city eligible for funding that will assist it to deal with the damage that hit the city in the wake of the heavy

flooding last December. He also extended his thanks to the residents who in giving assistance themselves represented "the spirit of East Palo Alto."

He stated his intent to meet with representative from all of the city's neighborhoods to see how the current emergency system can be strengthened and he said that he would reach out to young people to form a local and regional conservation corps. So that young people can assist in emergency situations.

He said he wanted community input in the updating of the city's General Plan and, among other things, Abrica said that he would provide the residents of the city a report every three months.

## EPA lost its city attorney

East Palo Alto's City Attorney, Kathleen Kane, announced her resignation at the East Palo Alto City Council meeting on March 5 and officially vacated her position on March 22.

Kane left the city to take a position as the city attorney in Burlingame, where she lives.

Kane started as East Palo Alto city attorney on January 4, 2012, replacing Valerie Armento who served as interim city attorney after Vincent Ewing resigned as the city's attorney in March 2011.

Valerie Armento is again serving as East Palo Alto's interim city attorney (See the original EPA Today article on Kane's resignation at [http://epa-today.org/news/2013/march\\_2013/proud\\_of\\_the\\_time\\_that\\_was\\_spent\\_2062.html](http://epa-today.org/news/2013/march_2013/proud_of_the_time_that_was_spent_2062.html)).

## Election of new pope

The election of Jesuit Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina as the 266th pope on March 13 was a surprise to many in the East Palo Alto community.

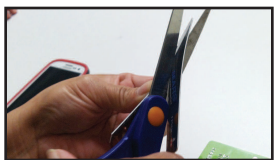
Like many others throughout the world, Father Lawrence Goode, the leader of the St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto, had not heard of Pope Francis before his appointment by the College of Cardinals.

Father Goode said, "When we heard his name, it was not at all familiar, no one in our house had even heard of him. We are just now getting to know him. And what we've heard of him we like. What we've seen of him, we also like. All I can tell you is very superficial. The choice of his name for example, Francis, we especially like."

To see the full article on the election of Pope Bergoglio by Renee Roberts in EPA Today, go to [http://epatoday.org/news/2013/march\\_2013/a\\_vision\\_for\\_renewed\\_hope\\_2066.html](http://epatoday.org/news/2013/march_2013/a_vision_for_renewed_hope_2066.html)

# Changing financial insecurity

continued from page 2



education program? Currently, financial education programs come in all shapes and sizes. Generally speaking, financial education programs teach knowledge about banking tools, basic financial topics such as debt and credit, and personal financial management skills.

Financial education programs typically start by providing simple, engaging, and culturally appropriate lessons about basic financial topics. However, increased knowledge alone does not necessarily translate into a change in behavior.

The most successful financial education programs do not simply deliver the information, but tailor the instruction to the current needs of the participants to be able to better facilitate and inspire a change in financial management behavior. The best programs motivate participants to set financial goals and create a plan and act on that plan to achieve their goals.

In East Palo Alto, three organizations - Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, Community Legal Services (CLESPA) and Nuestra Casa - have joined forces to provide a financial education program to the community. Offered in both Spanish and English, Secure Future\$, or Futuros Seguro\$, includes a four week (8 hour) financial education course that covers a wide range of banking topics and financial management techniques.

The program also offers one-on-one coaching sessions to all participants. During these sessions, the participants speak privately about their specific financial needs, set appropriate financial goals, and create and commit to their own personal action steps to help them reach their goals.

The program also offers an incentive system that awards prize drawing tickets to participants for various activities such as attending class, opening new accounts, tracking their spending, setting up direct deposit with their employers or even increasing their savings and/or credit

score.

The tickets are entered into a drawing for various prizes up to \$300. Drawings take place at a one of three community workshops each year, which brings participants together for food and fun.

These workshops also address financial topics beyond those covered in the classes, such as secured credit cards, tax preparation services and matched savings accounts.

Secure Future\$ and other financial education programs in the Bay Area view their work as an investment not only in individuals but also in the community.

Well-informed and financially educated individuals are able to make thoughtful and effective financial decisions for themselves and their families.

This security on the individual level, fostered by programs like Secure Future\$, is the foundation of financial security for the

community as a whole. the program associate Entrepreneurship Center in East Palo Alto.  
**Jennifer Witte** is at the Renaissance

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

**Prenatal Advantage Black Infant Health Project**  
provides services to help African American women improve birth outcomes.

**FREE classes starting now!**

- ✘ **Prenatal Group (Sessions 1-10)**  
Health education and group discussion regarding pregnancy, labor and delivery, women's health, community resources, and infant care. Activities include personal goal setting, stress management and hospital tour (tentative).
- ✘ **Postpartum Group (Sessions 11-20)**  
Information and group discussion on postpartum care. Parenting information on infant health, stages of development, SIDS prevention, discipline, and healthy family relationships. Activities include personal goal setting and development of a life plan.



Our Prenatal and Postpartum Classes provide lots of information, fun and energizing activities, incentives, nutritional refreshments, and peer support.



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- ✘ **Public Health Nursing Support**
- ✘ **Incentives**  
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Who is eligible? African American women ages 18 and older who are pregnant or postpartum with a child age 0-3 months.

Where: **Prenatal Advantage Offices** — East Palo Alto and Daly City  
When: For exact class schedule and location, call the Prenatal Advantage Office at (650) 363-7850

Prenatal Advantage Black Infant Health Project  
2415 University Avenue, 2nd Floor, East Palo Alto, CA  
Email: [prenataladvantage@smcgov.org](mailto:prenataladvantage@smcgov.org)  
Website: [www.smchealth.org/bih](http://www.smchealth.org/bih)



Services funded by San Mateo County Health System/Family Health Services, First 5 San Mateo County & California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program

# Habitat for Humanity dedicates homes in East Palo Alto

**Renee Roberts**  
East Palo Alto Today

It's ordinarily an unusual occurrence to have families move into homes during a dedication ceremony. But this is exactly what happened to two East Palo Alto families who received their homes during a home dedication ceremony that was sponsored by Habitat for Humanity.

Elva and Gerardo Maldonado and Bertalicia and Jesus, who prefer that their last names not be used, became the proud recipients of their homes through a special Habitat for Humanity program that makes homeownership possible for more Bay Area residents.

According to Jamin Sartor, a development and marketing officer at Habitat, 38 homes have been built in East Palo Alto overall.

Jesus said, "We are so excited to have a new home, Thank you for the opportunity. I think now we're going to have a better life."

East Palo Alto Vice Mayor David Woods, who attended the March 9 home dedication said that East Palo Alto is a better community because of Habitat's work.



Photo - Habitat for Humanity Greater S.F. This photo shows a new Habitat for Humanity condominium development on Gloria Way.

In addition to Woods, the ceremony was attended by local and current Habitat homeowners, Habitat staff and volunteers and the agency's key partners. Phillip Kilbridge, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco; Herman Pabla, product advisor at Microsoft; Ruben Abrica, the mayor of East Palo Alto and Magda Gonzalez, East Palo Alto's city manager.

During the home dedication ceremony, the two recipients of homes had their homes blessed, received keys to their homes and a gift basket with environmentally friendly cleaning products. It's understandable for one to wonder what a family has to do to receive a home.

To be eligible for the homeownership program, home recipients like the Maldonados must attend an orientation meeting and complete a pre-qualification application.

Habitat for Humanity staff members review all pre-applications to confirm that the families, who applied, meet the eligibility criteria. If they do, they are invited to fill out a formal application.

Applicants for homeownership go through a selection process very similar to obtaining a mortgage from a traditional bank, including a review of their financial status, job history, residency and other qualifications. Applicants must meet the income guidelines, have reasonable credit histories, a manageable level of debt and be willing and able to perform 500 hours of "sweat equity" to build their own homes.

If Habitat receives more applicants than there are homes available, then appli-

cants put their names into a drawing for their homes. When approved, families become Candidate Partner Families and begin their 500 hours of "sweat equity", which includes 20+ hours of Homeowner Preparedness Training courses. Approved candidates then work side-by-side with community volunteers and AmeriCorps members to build their homes and the homes of their neighbors. Habitat for Humanity volunteer Mike Straub said, "Every family that I worked with...changed something inside me."

It's stated in Habitat for Humanity literature that "the Peninsula is the number one most expensive housing market in the country, making it the least affordable, with median home sales above \$600,000, making it impossible for three quarters of Bay Area residents to afford to purchase a market rate home. This is further compounded by the acute shortage of affordable housing which has forced low-income wage earners out of the market, causing long-distance commutes and increased traffic congestion as a result of workers living outside the

county." Research shows that home ownership impacts the Bay Area in many positive ways: It gives communities a sense of pride and gives homeowners stability, a place to call home and a commitment to their communities. Consequently, homeowners appear more attached to their communities and more active in community affairs. Some even suggest that higher homeownership rates may in fact lead to lower crime rates.

Representatives for Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco say the organization's housing programs are designed to help stabilize areas that are at serious risk of decline due to a glut of abandoned, blighted homes in the community. Habitat has so far purchased 17 foreclosed homes in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

A future Habitat home is located in East Palo Alto at 2261 Poplar Avenue. For more information visit [www.habitatgsf.org](http://www.habitatgsf.org)

**Renee Roberts** is a frequent contributor to East Palo Alto Today.

Henrietta J. Burroughs also contributed to this article.

# MMAP hosts Black History Month celebration

**By Kyle Tana**  
East Palo Alto Today

On February 23rd, The Mural Music and Arts Project (MMAP) hosted its Black History Month Community Celebration, which culminated a month of learning about the important stories of struggle and perseverance that intersect with the oppressions our communities face today.

Using "the dream, the hustle, and the grind" as a mantra, MMAP staff and students reflected on the roles in the struggle.

MMAP students began



Honorees: Bryson Washington, Willie Bogan, and Brittany Margot. — with Bryson Washington and Brittany Margot at Mural Music & Arts Project.

creating their own blueprints to greatness through profes-

sional development workshops. In the social media workshop, we learned about the importance of curating our digital image and putting our best virtual foot forward. In the resume-writing workshops, students received the chance to work one-on-one with law students from Stanford, UC Berkeley, USF, UC Hastings, and Santa Clara!

MMAP honored Willie Bogan, graduate of Dartmouth College, NFL player, Rhodes Scholar, and current Executive at the McKesson Corporation, with The Paul Robeson Achievement of Ex-

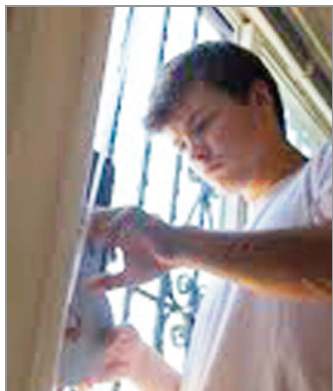
cellence award. His inspiring story instilled what it is to have a dream and persevere to achieve it.

MMAP's History through Hip Hop Program (HHH) performed three original tracks and original dance choreography. Isaiah Phillips, Reba Phillips, and Detwone Romes debuted HHH's first song of the year titled

"What If."

**Kyle Tana** is the marketing producer and programs Instructor for MMAP.

# Weatherization



Loren Amdahl-Culleton, a freshman at Stanford and intern with CALPIRG Energy Service Corps, applies weatherstripping to a window at the InnVision Shelter Network's shelter in East Palo Alto.

mate change. He had a

positive outlook on California as a leader in energy efficiency but mentioned there is still work to be done."

Weatherizations are just one of CALPIRG Energy Service Corps' projects. So far this school year, Stanford's chapter of CALPIRG Energy Service Corps has also taught 2,400 local K-12th grade students about energy conservation, including an assembly for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Brentwood Academy in East Palo Alto.

The chapter has also given 300 people personalized tips on how they

can save energy and money at home, and engaged 60 Stanford students as interns and volunteers.

CALPIRG Energy Service Corps is a joint program of the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) and AmeriCorps based on fifteen college campuses across the state.

The program's mission is to mobilize college students to increase energy efficiency in their local community through service and education projects. Nationally, the program recently reached the milestone of teaching

over 100,000 students about energy efficiency since its creation in 2009.

**Lucy Litvak** is a campus organizer at Stanford University with the CALPIRG Energy Service Corps.

See the organization's website at: [www.energyservicecorps.org](http://www.energyservicecorps.org)

continued from page 5

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# Disaster preparedness plans are tested

**Ryan Zollicoffer**  
East Palo Alto Today

On Wednesday, May 15, at 9 a.m. the City of East Palo Alto and its local partners (Menlo Park and Town of Atherton) once again activated their (MACC) Multi-Agency Coordination Center to test emergency plans for responding to a catastrophic earthquake in the Bay Area. Each year the city participates with the state in activating their response and recovery procedures related to an earthquake in conjunc-



Photo courtesy of Ryan Zollicoffer  
This photo shows local agency representatives and city officials listening to a debriefing about available emergency resources.

tion with the state's 2013 Golden Guardian Exercise. This year, city staff was given an opportunity to identify the needs, resources, and services which would be interrupted 48 hours after a

simulated magnitude of 7.9 earthquake occurred along the San Andreas Fault. The city staff trains each year within their Emergency Operation Center for the possibility that a significant emergency will impact the community and cause tremendous distress on governmental services.

Working within a MACC assists with strengthening the city's response and recovery capabilities, while at the same time allowing for greater intergovernmental coordination among the mu-



Photo courtesy of Ryan Zollicoffer

In this photo, emergency workers are making preliminary damage assessments to allocate emergency supplies.

nicipalities; so when the big one hits, resources that are shared among the three entities, contribute to providing a greater return to the whole community on the services being delivered.

Ryan Zollicoffer is the Disaster Preparedness Director for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. He can be reached by email at ryanz@menlofire.org or by phone at 650-388-0397

## A promise to stop the gun violence

organizations within the city are committed to stopping the violence. During his remarks, he appealed to "the leaders of the gangs – young and old -- to stop the shootings, stop the violence, to resolve their problems and have a little compassion for the innocent people who are injured.

"We are determined, very determined to put an end to this violence. Our community deserves to be safe and I am very proud to say we have collaborated very closely with the community and he appealed to the community to continue to collaborate with the police. He said that he was sure the police would make progress over the next few weeks."

Davis said the police are continuing to interview witnesses, is looking at surveillance tapes, and thanked the community, for the calls they made shortly after the incident.

De La Vega said the schools are always on alert to make



East Palo Alto Police Captain Carl Estelle, Ravenswood City School District Superintendent Maria De La Vega, East Palo Alto City Manager Magda Gonzalez and Chief Susan Mannheimer are shown listening to presentations at the press briefing held on May 6 in East Palo Alto.

sure the schls are safe for the students and appealed to the community to make sure the schls and the community are safe.

Mannheimer, who is also the president of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, said the broad coalition of criminal justice partners throughout the county are very much dedicated and committed to collaborating to end violence.

She said, "Wherever violence occurs, wherever community members are threatened, wherever there is a risk to our communities, we all stand together with the full breadth and might of our departments."

She said the county wide gang task force and gang intelligence unit would be deployed for the summer starting May 15 and the two groups would also be work-

ing with the county narcotics task force and gang unit "to intercept, prevent and suppress any more of the violent crime like we've seen this weekend."

Chief Manny Martinez said, "The violence affects us all in San Mateo County, from Daly City to East Palo Alto, so we are giving our full support to East Palo Alto."

Chief Johnson, who was recently hired as Menlo Park's police chief, seemed impressed by the collaboration of local law enforcement agencies. "The collaboration between agencies is tremendous," he said.

"I have no doubt that we will be successful in reducing crime, especially this recent trend in gang crime and gun violence throughout our neighborhoods ....and I think we will see very, very good results as an outcome.

The group of presenters were joined by Prof. Andrew Papachristos, who was in East Palo Alto, by prior arrangement to work with the

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EPAPD to to conduct a Social Network Analysis of violent gangs and networks in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park as part of Operation SMART (Special MultiAgency Response Team).

At the briefing, Papachristos said that the violence in East Palo Alto, in general, was not random, since violent events throughout cities like East Palo Alto, though tragic, cluster in specific areas among specific groups and individuals.

He said that it is usually only three to six percent of the people who are responsible for 75% of the violence.

He said, in spite of the violence, "East Palo Alto and this region are ahead of the curve in trying to understand some of these problems."

But a key goal is to have law enforcement agencies use the strategic analytic approaches that have been developed in both their enforcement and in their intervention efforts.

## Support the East Palo Alto Today newspaper

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
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Yes, I am interested in becoming a partner with the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media. Please accept my tax-deductible donation as a personal contribution \_\_\_\_\_ or as a contribution on behalf of my organization \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\_\$1,000 \_\_\_\_\$2,000  
 \_\_\_\_\$2001 to \$5,000 \_\_\_\_\$5,000 and above \_\_\_\_In-kind \_\_\_\_\_

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\*The East Palo Alto Center for Community Media is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation.

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[www.epamedia.org](http://www.epamedia.org)

Please check the appropriate box: if you would like to  volunteer at the center, if you would like to  advertise in East Palo Alto Today, if you are interested in  writing an article, opinion piece or letter to the editor. Also let us know if your agency or business would like to be  a distribution site for East Palo Alto Today. Call (650)327-5846, ext. 311 or send us an email at [epamedia@aol.com](mailto:epamedia@aol.com).

# Community Calendar

**Announcement**

The City of East Palo Alto is in the process of updating its Central Wait List, and is actively seeking applicants interested in purchasing a Below Market Rate home in the City. If you are aware of a family or an individual interested in purchasing a home, please feel free to suggest that they call the Community Development Department at 650/853-3189, or drop by our offices at 1960 Tate Street.

There is currently have one BMR home for sale:

1. 453 E. O'Keefe Street, #208: 2-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 1089 sf, 60% AMI unit, purchase price \$150,395

**Saturday, June 1, 2013, 2:00**

**- 4:30 p.m. - Martin and Music: Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Words and Music-** Join Facing History and Ourselves & the African American Library Advisory Committee of the San Mateo Public Library in commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., celebrated through spoken word and music. The afternoon will feature a riveting performance from renowned Broadway singer and actor Charles Holt alongside Gerald Rivers, accomplished actor, voiceover artist, and teacher. Families are welcome. Space is limited and RSVPs are required. Go to <http://www2.facinghistory.org/campus/events.nsf/eventscommunityevents?readform> or call 510.786.2500 x224.

**June 7, 2013 - East Palo Alto Blues Festival Benefit Concert** - Club Fox, Redwood City, Bay Area Blues Caravan of Allstars. For more information, Call (650) 799-8563.

**June 12 Fireside Chat with Councilmember Lisa Gauthier** (Second Wednesday of each month) Church of Christ, 1215 Laurel, EPA

**June 22, 2013 Partnership in Pride event**

The City hosted a Partnership in Pride event, to beautifying the west-side of town on National Rivers Cleanup Day May 18.

Another Partnership in Pride cleanup is being scheduled for June 22, 2013 as we beautify our City for the 30th

Anniversary.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register at <http://www.cleanacreek.org> or contact the City of East Palo Alto for more information.

Have an idea for a new Partnership in Pride program? Let the city know your ideas. It's your city, your creek, your bay! Take time for Partnership in Pride. **For more information, contact Michelle Daher**, Environmental Coordinator, Clean City, Clean Bay Program by calling 650.853.3197 or send an email to [mdaher@cityofepa.org](mailto:mdaher@cityofepa.org)

**June 29 30th Anniversary, East Palo Alto City Celebration** (Festival, Bell Steet Park and Fireworks, Cesar Chavez). More details to follow.

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

**Private Investor looking to buy income property. Will look at All Types, Any condition Call (408) 822-9587**

**Decide the future of open space reserves** cont. from page 1

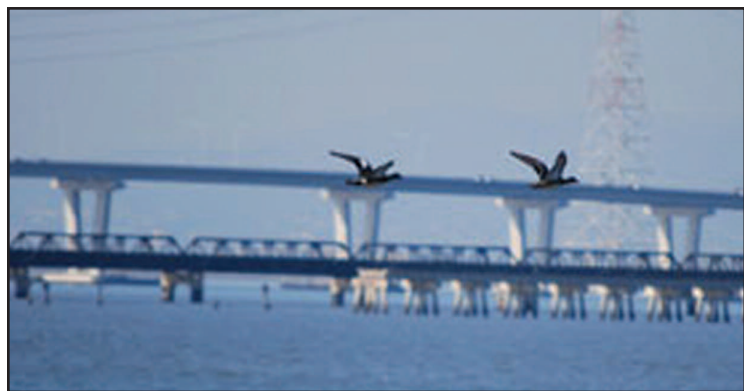


Photo courtesy of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. This photo shows the Dumbarton Bridge in the distance with seagulls in the foreground. This view is taken from Cooley Landing Park.

to preserve the regional greenbelt, and we're proud of what we have accomplished over the past four decades."

Established in 1972 through a grassroots movement to preserve local open space from development, the District has preserved over 62,000 acres with 26 preserves in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and a small part of Santa Cruz counties. Part of one of the District's preserves, Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, falls within the boundaries of East Palo Alto.

The District is currently working with the City of East Palo Alto and its residents on two key projects involving Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.

The first phase of Cooley Landing Park, developed by the City of East Palo Alto in partnership with the District, turned nine acres of a former garbage dump into a park and was completed last year.

The City of East Palo Alto and the District own portions of the land where the park is built. The park is located within the southern area of Ravenswood Open Space

Preserve.

The Cooley Landing Park not only created a new public park, but offers an important addition to the San Francisco Bay Trail between the existing Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and the Palo Alto Baylands.

The District is working on completing a critical half-mile missing link of the San Francisco Bay Trail situated between Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and University Avenue. This section of the trail, part of the Ravenswood Bay Trail, is located within the communities of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

When the San Francisco Bay Trail is done it will be 500 miles and provide a world-class network of bicycling and hiking trails along the shoreline encircling the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays.

Input from the public on these projects and others like them is critical to the success of Imagine the Future of Open Space. In addition to the scientific component of evaluating the District's preserves and adjoining open

space, comprehensive community engagement is involved in the visioning process.

Activities to engage the public include a telephone survey, in-person community interviews, meetings, and most immediately, an online town hall website at [imagine.openspace.org](http://imagine.openspace.org).

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) is also looking for community residents to serve on its community advisory committee. The committee is comprised of community leaders representing various interest groups including environmental, preserve users, neighbors, businesses, agriculture, trail advocates, and other partners.

Meetings of the committee, which are planned for about once a month, will be open to the public. The committee will make suggestions and recommendations regarding the visioning process to District staff and board of directors.

Abbors explains that it is a pivotal time for the District as it shifts from a primary em



Photo courtesy of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. This photo shows the San Francisco Bay behind some of the trees in Cooley Landing Park. The view provides a view pointing towards the South Bay

**Talking with Henrietta**  
**Sustainability: Which Way Are We Heading**



Photo courtesy of Talking with Henrietta. From left, Tanja Srebotnjak, show host Henrietta J. Burroughs, Joshua Hugg and Adrienne Etherton are shown on the set of the Talking with Henrietta television show after the taping of their discussion on May 23, 2013. Get more details about the show below.

This edition of the show will air until Saturday, June 15, 2013.

This show can be seen on Sundays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 8 p.m., Wednesdays at 3 a.m. and 11 a.m., Thurs-

days at 8 p.m., and Fridays at 3 a.m. and 11 a.m. This show streams on the web at the above days and times at [www.midpenmedia.org](http://www.midpenmedia.org) and on Channel 27 on Comcast on the Midpeninsula.

**The Talking with Henrietta show, "Fighting a Global Disease" was selected as a finalist in the Salute to Excellence Award competition sponsored by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). Winners will be announced during a media awards gala which will be held in August at the NABJ's Convention and Career Fair in Orlando FL. See more details on the Talking with Henrietta Facebook page.**

phasis on land preservation to one that equally emphasizes preservation, restoration, main-

tenance, public access, and nature education programs. "It is so appropriate that - just as when we were started - our future will be guided by the people who live and work here," states Abbors.

More information about the Imagine the Future of Open Space visioning process can be found at [www.openspace.org/imagine](http://www.openspace.org/imagine) or by sending an e-mail at [imagine@openspace.org](mailto:imagine@openspace.org). The online interactive website can be accessed directly at [imagine.openspace.org](http://imagine.openspace.org).

**Shelly Lewis** is the media communications supervisor for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT  
Proposed Budget - General Fund #02545  
Fiscal Year 2013-2014

	Actual Expenses 2011-2012	Revised Budget 2012-2013	Proposed Budget 2013-2014
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>SALARIES &amp; EMPLOYEE BENEFIT</b>			
4111 Wages	824,886	820,000	843,000
4192 Directors Fees	58,890	55,000	58,000
4631 Employees Benefits	516,773	495,000	515,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>1,400,549</b>	<b>1,370,000</b>	<b>1,416,000</b>
<b>OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>			
5188 Other Operating Supplies	939	5,292	5,000
5193 Office Expenses	23,565	35,000	36,000
5314 Election Expenses	12,195	-	13,000
5332 Membership	13,596	20,500	21,000
5341 Publication & Legal Notice	8,647	14,500	15,000
5416 Gas, Fuel	15,242	13,000	13,500
5459 Repair & Maintenance	43,725	45,000	46,000
5521 Rents & Leases	10,405	12,000	12,500
5638 Utilities	35,440	33,000	32,000
5721 Travel & Meeting	38,440	45,000	40,000
5731 Training & Education	22,077	30,000	32,000
5817 Contract Sewage Services	1,156,950	1,340,600	1,350,000
5858 Contractual Services	139,892	245,000	150,000
5861 Engineering Services	4,832	15,000	15,000
5872 Prof & Spec Services	85,950	92,000	95,000
5876 Professional Services	29,324	65,000	80,000
5958 Research & Monitoring	-	400	400
5966 Operating Supplies	8,212	7,500	9,000
5969 Special Expenses	19,202	40,000	25,000
6731 Insurance	45,763	50,000	54,000
6732 Legal Services	40,684	66,000	55,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>1,755,079</b>	<b>2,174,792</b>	<b>2,099,400</b>
<b>CAPITAL &amp; DEBTS</b>			
7211 Gen Fac Financing Corp Bnd	280,905	281,000	281,000
7311 Equipment Expenses	189,335	80,000	90,000
6322 Repay Treatment Plant	75,146	85,000	83,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>545,386</b>	<b>446,000</b>	<b>454,000</b>
<b>OTHER CHARGES</b>			
8810 Contingency	-	-	-
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS</b>			
7541 Construction/Replacement	400,000	192,400	800,000
7541 Treatment Plant Reserve	100,000	150,000	150,000
7541 Rate Stabilization	-	50,000	50,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>392,400</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,201,014</b>	<b>\$ 4,383,192</b>	<b>\$ 4,969,400</b>

## Help Wanted

Paul Martins American Grill is opening a new location in the Hillsdale Mall, in San Mateo. We are looking for an opening crew of detail oriented team members with a friendly sophistication and proven expertise in an upscale casual dining environment. We are currently interviewing for all FOH and BOH positions. You must be at least 21 years of age, have or can immediately get a current CA food handlers card, have a flexible schedule, and a minimum of 2 years' experience in a high volume, fast paced upscale restaurant.

If you are a friendly, outgoing, respectful, hard worker, and have impeccable grooming standards, Paul Martins would like to speak to you.

For more information on who we are, visit [www.paulmartinsamericangrill.com](http://www.paulmartinsamericangrill.com). Please apply in person at our hiring office, located inside the Hillsdale Mall, 105 Hillsdale shopping Center, suite 2044. San Mateo, Ca, 94403. The suite is on the second floor, above Starbucks, next to the Macy's upper level entrance. On-line submissions can be sent to [Harry@PMAGrill.com](mailto:Harry@PMAGrill.com)

## Proposed city budget

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with the city's inadequate water resources, which have thus far negatively impacted new developments, like the University Plaza Project and other capital improvement projects.

The council had cited such projects as critical in bringing in new and needed revenue. Gonzalez and her staff argued that restructuring would give the city an opportunity to hire new staff members

who have the skills they said the city needs to effectively deal with the city's pending water crisis, which would be triggered by a lack of an alternative water source, aging and inadequate water pipes and regional water allocations that would restrict the city's water supply if a drought is declared.

Thus far, several city council members have expressed reservations about the proposed layoffs

and discussed how the staff members, slated for layoffs, could be given first priority if the layoffs were made and the plans to hire city staff for new positions went into effect.

Final budget decisions can be expected at a special city council budget hearing slated for Tuesday, May 28 at 7 p.m. in the East Palo Alto City Council Chamber.

### EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY FOR ALL FUNDS FY 2013-2014

**Budget Based \$520.00 Rate Per Residential Unit**

#### Revenue For The Fiscal Year 2013-2014

	2545 General Fund	2541 Connection Fee Fund	2542 Rebate Fund	2544 Payroll Taxes W/H Fund	2546 Construction Replacement Fund	2547 Lateral Replacement Fund	2548 Treatment Plant Fund	2549 Rate Stabilization Fund	EPASD All Funds Total
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	\$ 6,126,200	\$ 892,600	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 705,600	\$ 51,300	\$ 580,000	\$ 27,200	\$ 8,382,902
Sewer Service Charges	4,123,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,123,600
Property taxes	301,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	301,000
Connection Fee	-	18,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,000
Interest Income	35,000	6,220	-	-	3,000	150	2,500	130	47,000
Rental Income	26,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,400
Other Revenue	3,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,500
<b>Total Projected Revenue</b>	<b>4,489,500</b>	<b>24,220</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>4,519,500</b>
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	800,000	150,000	50,000	-	1,000,000
<b>Total Available Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 10,615,700</b>	<b>\$ 916,820</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,600</b>	<b>\$ 201,450</b>	<b>\$ 632,500</b>	<b>\$ 27,330</b>	<b>\$ 13,902,402</b>

#### Expenditure For The Fiscal Year 2013-2014

	2545 General Fund	2541 Connection Fee Fund	2542 Rebate Fund	2544 Payroll Taxes W/H Fund	2546 Construction Replacement Fund	2547 Lateral Replacement Fund	2548 Treatment Plant Fund	2549 Rate Stabilization Fund	EPASD All Funds Total
<b>Personnel &amp; Other Operating</b>	<b>2,085,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,185,400</b>
Employees' Post Employment Benefits	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
Engineering Services	-	-	-	-	180,000	-	-	-	180,000
Treatment Plant ( RWQCP )	1,350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,350,000
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>3,515,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,795,400</b>
Long Term Debt Service	364,000	-	-	-	-	-	125,000	-	489,000
2011 SFR Loan	-	-	-	-	79,000	-	-	-	140,000
Fixed Assets/Equipment	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Capital Projects	-	-	-	-	875,000	-	-	-	875,000
Vector Truck Lease	52,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52,000
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>4,021,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,234,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,441,400</b>
Interfund Transfers	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,594,300</b>	<b>\$ 916,820</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>\$ 1</b>	<b>\$ 274,600</b>	<b>\$ 201,450</b>	<b>\$ 507,500</b>	<b>\$ 27,330</b>	<b>\$ 7,461,002</b>