

Around about Town: Walking in East Palo Alto

By Meda Okelo
East Palo Alto Today

Driving around any community is not the best way to know a community. Biking, skating and most definitely walking give you a better view and understanding of a community.

One notices fewer things when one drives or rides a bike through any community. Walking on the other hand allows one to notice the unique characteristics of the various streets and neighborhoods, and even more importantly it allows one to have conversations with other walkers, home owners, or generally residents.

A few weeks ago, I decided I was going to walk down every street in East Palo Alto. The decision was made for basically two reasons: firstly, I am party to a hypertension study that requires me to record the distance I walk each day as well as record my blood pressure at least twice a day in the morning and in the evening; secondly, I am working on an information and resource guide for the city of East Palo Alto, and as part of the research needed to complete the project walking every street in the city is a good way of knowing the people and the places they live in and the neighborhoods they recreate in.

I will be sharing my observations in the East Palo Alto Today regularly.

I have lived in East Palo Alto for 27 years. During that time, I have lived in three neighborhoods: Illinois and Bell streets and on Menalto Avenue. I, however, during that time have not had reason or the interest to visit every segment of the city although, on the average I have, due to my day to day responsibilities while under the employ of the city, occasion to visit quite a few places. Most times however I travelled by car and the trips were destination specific.

Back to my observations;



East Palo Alto Sanitary District-The district crew of Kelly, Green, Taylor and Polette have been out flushing the



sewer lines. Sewer pipes are like human arteries. Just like arteries, they too get clogged and unless flushed regularly can lead to "sewer strokes". I do not need to explain what would happen to your toilets should you flush under those circumstances. There are over 600 manholes within the district boundaries. The district crew has to flush each and everyone of them at least once and sometimes twice annually. The process, I am told is really simple a vac truck filled with water, pumps powerful jets of water down a line of pipe, cleaning up any stuff that clings to the walls of the pipe which if not cleared would gradually reduce the pipe's flow capacity. The vac truck is a \$280,000 piece of equipment! Next time you see the East Palo Alto Sanitary district workers, say hello and thank them for ensuring that that daily toilet flushes do not backfire.

Sidewalk repair project-The City seems to have undertaken the repair of sidewalks throughout the city. When I first noticed the work, I thought mmmm!!!! Residents are doing great work improving the areas around their homes, until I noticed that it was the same company B & M Construction out of Sacramento doing the work. I contacted the city and according to Kamal Fallaha the City Engineer, the City of East Palo Alto maintains approximately 70 miles of public sidewalk throughout the City.

Over the past few years, he added, residents have complained about the deterioration of City sidewalks, including cracking and "upheaval". Mature tree roots, he noted, are the primary cause of the "upheaval" or "lifting" of the sidewalks.

Bill a resident living on Saratoga Street was particularly happy that the entryway to his driveway was finally fixed after several calls, spanning multiple years, to the city.

In an effort to eliminate tripping hazards, minimize the risk of injury to citizens, and alleviate potential City liability, the city's engineering and maintenance divisions of the community development de-

partment, Mr. Fallaha reiterated, compiled a list of 120 locations throughout the city needing reconstruction. Included in the project, was, interestingly enough, the driveway to the Senior Center.

Fruit trees- Oranges, Grapefruits, lemons, loquats and black berries are in season. Hands down, loquats seem to be the most popular fruit tree. Nobody seems to be nibbling at them except me on occasion.

The loquat, I discovered, is indigenous to southeastern China. It was introduced into Japan and became naturalized there in very early times. It has been cultivated in Japan for over 1,000 years. It has also become naturalized in India and many other areas. Chinese immigrants are presumed to have carried the loquat to Hawaii. Indian immigrants apparently carried it to East Africa where I grew up and came familiar with its deliciousness.



The loquat is a large evergreen shrub or small tree with a rounded crown, short trunk and woolly new twigs. The tree can grow 20 to 30 ft. high, but is usually much smaller than this--about 10 ft.

Loquat fruits, grow in clusters, are oval, rounded or pear-shaped, 1 to 2 inches long with a smooth or downy, yellow or orange, sometimes red-blushed skin. The succulent, tangy flesh is white, yellow or orange and sweet to acid. Each fruit contains three to five large brown seeds.

Shopping Carts-I have always thought that the Ravenswood 101 Shopping Center had a shopping cart recovery program. I have concluded however, that either the program does not exist any longer or it is not as effective as was anticipated. Abandoned shopping carts seem to be a permanent feature of the neighborhood landscape in East Palo Alto. Mi Pueblo carts seem to be the most dominant.

Garbage-On garbage days, some household bins and large bins for residential complexes are filled beyond the brim. Since garbage trucks are now automated and bins



are lifted and emptied into the trucks via the roof it is highly unlikely that garbage workers would get out of the trucks and pick up garbage that would inevitably spill. So what happens to the spilled garbage? I called Recology and asked. I must admit I got an interesting response. No, Recology drivers are instructed not to pick up over laden bins. They are expected to record the address and a notice would subsequently be sent to the homeowner or residential property owner notifying them

that the bin was too full to be picked up. And No, they do not keep track of notices sent out and so anyone wanting to know the extent of overflowing bins in East Palo Alto cannot find out except by walking around and doing a manual count.

On other garbage matters, Recology suggests that your garbage carts be placed curbside in the street with wheels against the curb and the arrows on the lid pointing toward the street, with ABOUT 24 inches between each cart. In my travails, I noticed that residents including myself are all putting the carts next to each other without the suggested spaces in between. I have

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week, eight-hour course, clients think about their current financial circumstances and then focus on their individual goals. Through practical exercises, they create budgets, savings goals and financial plans for their future.

Victoria Ibarra, an East Palo Alto resident, explained how the financial education program helped her. "I've learned how to spend money on the things that I need, and not spend it on so many of the things I just want, which has allowed me to increase my savings," Ibarra said.

Ibarra's experience shows why client participation is key to the success of the program. In order to facilitate as much class participation as possible, the classes are designed to be small, with between six and fifteen students. In this way, students are encouraged to share and to learn from each other.

Georgina Peraza, the teacher of the financial education classes is sometimes amazed by the impact that the classes can have on her students. "The class has become an eye opener for the students," Peraza said.

Even before they finish



the course, they realize how they have lost control of their household budget and how they have not only been unable to save for all of those unexpected emergencies, but they also have been unable to meet some of their goals like, buying a home, affording college tuition for their children or maybe even having that long family vacation that they dreamed about."

Peraza said that after the class, the students see things differently. "Now they are able to reduce and sometimes eliminate many expenses that were overlooked before.... More than anything they are impressed by the fact that now there is extra money to start their savings account," she said.

Incentives for Change
The Secure Future\$ program also strengthens an

existing partnership with the newly opened San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU), since the program's participants have the opportunity to learn about the financial services and products offered by SMCU while receiving incentives to open accounts, practice money management strategies, increase savings and repair and build credit.

On April 26, the Secure Future\$ program held its first prize drawing, coupled with a financial services and products workshop that gave participants information about local savings, credit building, low cost loans and lending circle programs.

Presenters included the San Mateo Credit Union, Opportunity Fund, Community Financial Resources and the Mission Asset Fund. In addition to valuable information

about unique high-yield savings and low-cost lending resources, participants enjoyed what they said was an amazing meal, catered by Taqueria Los Temos. During the entire event, the mood seemed festive and the energy was high.

About sixteen clients, along with their family and friends, attended the workshop, which culminated in the first of three prize drawings for savings deposit prizes of between \$25 and \$500. The excitement grew as the prize drawing tickets, which participants had earned over the past several months, were drawn. Nine participants received Prize Drawings awards.

Victoria Ibarra, was the winner of the \$500 grand prize. Ibarra said, "I am very happy to have won, because it's something I really needed. I'm glad I was invited to the class. It's one of those opportunities that don't come up too often so it's important to take advantage of them when they do [come up]."

Summer Outreach
This summer, Nuestra Casa and the San Mateo Credit Union will offer one-time financial education

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workshops highlighting savings and money management strategies, as well as tips for building credit. Workshops will be offered to youth and young adults in the Summer Employment Program (SEP), faith-based congregations, parent groups, and to any other EPA based group or non-profit whose constituents could benefit from the services.

Upcoming classes will be held in English and Spanish from 6-8 p.m. at the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, Mid-Peninsula, which is located at 1848 Bay Road in East Palo Alto. The next prize drawing and workshop will be held on June 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center.

The workshop will feature in-depth information on credit repair and credit building in preparation for home ownership. Representatives from Mission San Francisco and Able Works will make presentations.

For more information, contact Joel Valencia Perez at jvalencia@rencenter.org or call (650) 248-5300.

Programa gratuito de educación financiera para residents

Por Keith Ogden
y Joel Valencia Perez
East Palo Alto Today



Community Legal Services en East Palo Alto, Renaissance Mid-Peninsula y Nuestra Casa lanzaron un programa gratuito en educación financiera para residentes de East Palo Alto y Belle Haven, vecindario de Menlo Park a finales de febrero de 2012. El programa se llama Futuro\$ Seguros.

Desde su lanzamiento, Seguros Futuro\$ ha servido a más de 60 residentes a través de un programa introductorio que muestra a sus participantes cómo usar el dinero sabiamente y cómo mantener y aumentar sus ahorros. Programa Centrado en el Cliente

El programa Futuro\$ Seguros se centra en crear cambios financieros prácticos a través de fijar metas y perseguirlas. Los clientes del programa participan activamente en él adoptando estrategias de gestión financiera que creen que funcionarán para ellos y monitoreando su propio progreso.

Durante las cuatro semanas del programa, compuesto por cursos de ocho horas, los clientes reflexionan sobre su

situación financiera actual y se centran en sus metas individuales. A través de ejercicios prácticos, crean presupuestos, metas de ahorro y planes financieros para su futuro

Victoria Ibarra, residente de East Palo Alto, explicó cómo le ha ayudado el programa de educación financiera: "Me ha enseñado a saber lo que necesito y no solo lo que quiero, lo que me ha permitido ahorrar," dijo Ibarra.

El caso de Ibarra muestra porqué la participación del cliente es clave para el éxito del programa. Para facilitar la mayor participación posible en clase, están diseñadas para ser pequeñas, de seis a quince estudiantes.

Georgina Peraza, la profesora de las clases de educación financiera, en ocasiones se sorprende del impacto que sus clases pueden tener en los estudi-

antes. "Las clases se han convertido en una revelación para los estudiantes," dijo Peraza.

Incluso antes de terminar el curso, se dieron cuenta de lo mucho que habían perdido el control de su presupuesto doméstico y de cómo no sólo no habían podido ahorrar para las emergencias imprevistas sino que tampoco habían sido capaces de lograr alguna de sus metas como comprar una casa, poder pagar la universidad de sus hijos o incluso poder disfrutar de esas largas vacaciones familiares con las que habían soñado.

Peraza dijo que después de

las clases, los estudiantes ven las cosas de otra manera. "Ahora son capaces de reducir e incluso eliminar muchos de los gastos que antes habían pasado por alto... Más que nada, están impresionados por el hecho de que ahora tienen dinero extra para abrir su cuenta de ahorro," dijo. Incentivos para el Cambio

El programa Futuro\$ Seguros también fortalece la ya existente colaboración con el recién abierto San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU), puesto que los participantes en el programa tienen la oportunidad de conocer los servicios fi-

nancieros y los productos ofrecidos por SMCU a la vez que reciben incentivos por abrir cuentas, practicar estrategias de gestión del dinero, aumentar sus ahorros y reparar y crear crédito.

El 26 de Abril, el programa Futuro\$ Seguros celebró su primer premio, junto con los talleres sobre servicios y productos financieros que dieron a los participantes información sobre el ahorro local, la creación de crédito, los préstamos a bajo costo y los programas de préstamo en

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Celebrating A Decade of Service		Celebrando Una Década de Servicio	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary medical care • Dental care for adults and children • Behavioral health counseling • Chronic disease care • Prenatal care and Family Planning • Immunizations and school physicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servicios médicos primarios • Cuidado dental para adultos y niños • Asesoramiento de la salud mental • Tratamiento para afecciones crónicas • Cuidado prenatal y planificación familiar • Vacunas y exámenes físicos 		
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Ravenswood Family Health Center 1798A Bay Road, East Palo Alto	Ravenswood Family Dentistry 1807 Bay Road, East Palo Alto	Belle Haven Clinic 100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park	

San Mateo County youth

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after all charges against them were dismissed.

This practice is not required by law. In fact, the federal government has said that deporting youth is not a priority. The probation department in San Mateo County is nevertheless choosing to turn over our community's young people to ICE, resulting in San Mateo County having the second highest referral rate of youth in all of California.

After probation contacts ICE about an immigrant youth, an officer from ICE will interview the youth in the juvenile hall, either in person or over the phone. ICE officials do this without notifying the youth's parents or attorney, so the young person is almost always alone.

Youth often do not know that they have certain rights during this interview, such as the right to remain silent and to have an attorney present. They often do not realize that sharing basic information, such as where they were born, can be used to help deport them. At the same time, probation



Photo courtesy of Charisse Domingo/ Silicon Valley De-Bug

officers, whether they intend to or not, are hand-delivering youth to ICE without fully realizing the effects of this referral.

When the youth would otherwise be released from the juvenile hall, either because their charges were dropped or they completed their sentence, they are held for an additional 48 hours so that ICE can pick up the youth directly from the juvenile hall. They are then transferred to immigration detention facilities across the country, far away from their families and community.

One 15-year-old from East Palo Alto was transferred between

detention facilities in Los Angeles, Virginia, and Florida. Families often do not have the resources to travel to be with their children. Instead, youth have to face the threat of deportation alone, wondering if they will ever see their families again.

Some youth choose to accept deportation back to countries they barely remember rather than spend more time locked up in immigration detention. One youth was recently put on 24-hour suicide watch while in immigration detention.

The majority of these young people end up back in San Mateo

County, traumatized from the prolonged detention and separation from their families. Their schooling and rehabilitative services have been interrupted, making it all the more difficult to reintegrate into the community.

One parent told us that her son, who before his detention got straight-A's and was active in school, has become reclusive, quiet, and is nervous of getting involved in activities fearing that immigration might come and get him.

These youth and their families are also more fearful and less willing to cooperate with law enforcement as a result of this practice, undermining the community trust that is a lynchpin of public safety.

A coalition of organizations, including Silicon Valley De-Bug, Youth United for Community Action, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, the Stanford Immigrant Rights Clinic, Nuestra Casa, Comite de Padres Unidos, and the Immigrant Legal Resource Center have been working to end

this practice in San Mateo County.

Many counties in California and nationwide do not refer youth to ICE. For example, last October, the Board of Supervisors in Santa Clara County passed a resolution that the County will not hold youth for ICE.

In January, the San Mateo probation department issued a new policy on youth referrals to ICE. This new policy continues to allow probation officers to refer youth to ICE with broad discretion. County Counsel and the Board of Supervisors are currently reviewing the policy.

To learn more and support efforts to stop this practice, come to a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, July 11, at 5:30 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. More information is available at <http://stopdeportingyouth.com>.

Helen Beasley is a staff attorney who works on immigration issues at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto.

Programa gratuito

círculo.

Entre los presentadores encontramos al San Mateo Credit Union, Opportunity Fund, Community Financial Resources y la Mission Asset Fund. Además de la información valiosa sobre los únicos recursos de ahorro de alto rendimiento y de préstamos de de bajo costo, los participantes disfrutaron de lo que dijeron era una comida increíble, atendido por Taqueria Los Temos. Durante todo el evento, el ambiente era festivo y el estado de ánimo parecía cargado de energía.

Alrededor de dieciséis clientes, junto a sus familias y amigos, atendieron el taller, el cual culminó con el primero de tres premios por depósitos de ahorro de entre \$25 y \$500. La emoción crecía a medida que los tickets para el sorteo de los premios, que los participantes habían ganado en los últimos meses, se elaboraban. Nueve participantes recibieron premios Prise Drawings.

Victoria Ibarra fue la ganadora del gran premio de \$500. Ibarra dijo, "Estoy

muy contenta y feliz porque lo necesitaba. Muy contenta de que me invitaran al programa. Fue muy eficaz y divertido. Aprendimos de todo. Es una de las oportunidades que casi no salen así que tenemos que aprovecharla."

Programas de Verano

Este verano, Nuestra Casa y el San Mateo Credit Union ofrecerán talleres puntuales en educación financiera centrados en estrategias de ahorro y gestión del dinero, así como consejos para la

creación de crédito. Los talleres se ofrecerán para jóvenes en el Summer Employment Program (SEP), congregaciones religiosas, grupos de padres, y para cualquier otro grupo o organización sin ánimo de lucro de EPA cuyos miembros puedan beneficiarse de los servicios.

Las nuevas clases se darán en inglés y en español de 6-8 p.m. en el Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, Mid-Peninsula, ubicado en 1848 Bay Road en East Palo Alto. El próx-

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imo taller y prize drawing será el 30 de Junio de 11:00 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. en el Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center. El taller contará con información detallada sobre reparación de crédito y creación de crédito en preparación para la propiedad de la vivienda. Habrá presentaciones a cargo de Mission San Francisco y Able Works.

Para más información, pueden contactar a Joel Valencia en jvalencia@ren-center.org o llamando al (650) 248-5300.

Obituary – Marguerite Ann Philips

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admired by her British family and especially by her great nephews, James and Jonathan.

The Bayliss family will always remember their eccentric cousin who never lost her English accent despite living in America for many years. Marguerite always thought of her "Englishness" as her greatest asset when communicating with her friends and colleagues in America.

She had a great command of the English language and used it with pride to her own advantage on many occasions. James, Jonathan, Andrew, Janet and other family members, will always remember her kindness and generosity of spirit. They will remember her with love and talk of the many hours she held them in awe with her exploits, her visits, tales of the

family and her travels throughout the world.

She will be sadly missed by her family in the UK. To the remarks about Marguerite Philips from her family in the United Kingdom, her longtime East Palo Alto friend Beverly Scott adds the following:

Marguerite was a member of the East Palo Alto Homeowners Association and served as the secretary of the organization for many years.

Marguerite was a candidate for the East Palo Alto City Council. She was an avid quilter and a member of the Peninsula Quilters. She loved irises and always had more than a few varieties in her garden. She was a member of the Iris Society.

Her travel knowledge was esoteric. She worked for many years for Bungey Travel in Palo Alto and for Phileas

Fogg Travel in the Stanford Shopping Center until the 9/11 attack forced the company to change its structure. She maintained a small consultation business with customers who appreciated her detailed knowledge and precise scheduling.

She was warmly referred to as the "Voice of East Palo Alto Home Depot." Her distinctive accent caught the ear of many customers who visited the store.

There was a memorial service this coming on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. at the Soka Gakkai International Silicon Valley Community Center located at 1875 De La Cruz in Santa Clara, CA.

Obituary and added comments were submitted by William Byron Webster.

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Around about town

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also noticed that drivers are getting out of the trucks, aligning the carts correctly to allow the robotic arms to pick up the bins and empty them onto the truck. Drivers do not seem to mind, but it would be helpful if residents followed the spacing instructions.

Street Conversations-I met Kevin-a burly man in his late fifties with a hairless scalp currently employed both as an apartment manager and a construction worker. He mistook me for a person walking around looking for investment properties. In a lengthy conversation, he admitted to having been involved in the drug trade years ago, but for sometime now he has been a remorseful practicing Christian clearly regretful for the kind of lifestyle he had led in his younger years.

I also met Christina and Laura two young mothers doing a garage sale to raise the \$1800 per participant needed to participate in the 2012 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. For more information please visit www.avonfoundation.org and if you can, please DONATE.

I ran across Justin Phipps, a guitar player and instructor and learnt that he is part of a team of youth development workers setting up a music studio in the basement of the old headquarters of the now defunct Community Development Institute. I promised to come back for a tour.

Political Signage- Went out on my daily walk on Memorial Day in the early morning and there were no political campaign signs on private properties or along fences. On the walk back home there were signs all along East Bayshore and Donohoe. In a crowded supervisorial race to replace Rose Jacobs-Gibson, it is interesting that only one candidate, a local, has his signs out. Either other candidates do not care much about East Palo Alto voters, or they have automatically assumed that the East Palo Alto vote will go to the only local running. Please, if a registered voter, GO VOTE!

Encroachment on pedestrian sidewalks- I came across several properties, one on Clarke and the other on Pulgas where owners have extended their property fences to include areas designed for pedestrian sidewalks. Quite inconvenient, since pedestrians are forced to have to walk on the sometimes speeding-car-laden streets.

I know this was a major problem when the city in 2010-11 rebuilt portions of Oakwood, Bell, Garden and numerous other streets in the Palo Alto Park Mutual area of East Palo Alto as part of the Safe Routes to School program.

I am not sure how it got resolved. What remains clear however is, children going to school and others, particularly seniors enjoying a healthy walk should not be inconvenienced by such intrusions into public

rights of way. Perhaps the city should use its code enforcement officers to tag these violators and force them to free up the sidewalks. What do you think? Doing sidewalk repairs to eliminate trip hazards is great, but recapturing sidewalks would, it seems to me, be equally as important.

Who are they and where are they now?



Send your comments to jateloproduction@aol.com for a chance to win a starbucks gift certificate

In the bold new world

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most marginalized areas of San Mateo County and use the 40 million for the maintenance of people. Let us make sure that people in the marginalized areas are not losing their homes to foreclosures and can wither storm of gentrification. We ask our new neighbor to commit itself to advancing a different vision of public safety.

There should not be poor schools located in the same community as corporations that act as the economic engines for the country and possibly for the world. It is sheer madness to think that in the middle of Silicon Valley, where the silicon chip is king, that we have elementary schools that lack advanced technology and high school students from East Menlo Park and East Palo Alto

who are not inspired to make it through high school.

There is much too much wealth in this area for education not to be exciting and for our children's future not to be bright. As a society we must insist that our good will go into the development of more than second-class citizens and second-class competitors.

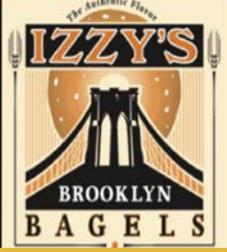
I have said repeatedly over the course of the last several months that if we continue to sit silently by, we will continue to get what we are being served. Our current vision will not advance the interest of our children in East Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, nor will society in general benefit from our greatest contribution to it: our children.

We must ask and then answer the question: What is ap-

propriate corporate responsibility when it comes to the marginalized communities of color like ours? If we don't answer this question, then we will be forced to continue to accept handouts instead of envisioning a future based on hope and justice. We need a vision where everyone is ultimately capable and willing to contribute the kind of stuff that lifts the entire ship rather than just a few boats. We need the kind of lift that truly makes countries great.

I challenge the community to look around. I hope you can see that we are surrounded by some of the largest and most profitable multi-national corporations in the world and yet our vision doesn't allow us to ask for the support that we need or to make genuine progress. I am suggesting that Facebook has to do better by our community and I am also suggesting that we have to find a vision and the leadership to speak to the common interest of the East of Bayshore community.

I am absolutely aware that good friends don't come by everyday but everyday I look for another friend.



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Affordable Home Ownership Opportunities in EPA

By Serena Ip
East Palo Alto Today

I have the pleasure of serving on the Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco (Habitat GSF) Family Selection Committee. This committee meets once a month to review applications and decide on whether to approve or deny applicants. It has been such a rewarding experience, and I have learned so much about an organization that is truly admirable for helping deserving members of our community become homeowners.

Habitat GSF serves the Counties of San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo. Their mission includes affordable homeownership for low-income families to help break the cycle of poverty by providing children with stable homes.

Habitat for Humanity buys homes or land at actual cost, but keeps the cost of the home low in part by using volunteer labor. They are able to sell the homes to "partner families" at-cost and keep their



Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity

mortgage payments affordable at 30% of their income. Partner families must complete 500 hours of "sweat equity" - actual labor to build their homes - prior to getting the keys to their new home.

Because Habitat for Humanity partners with their families, they work closely with them to make sure they are set up for successful, affordable homeownership. There is no down payment. Mortgages

are calculated with zero interest and set over a 30 year span.

The Due family is the first partner family at Habitat GSF that successfully paid off their mortgage, and they did so in 20 years. James and Ellen call their homeownership opportunity in East Palo Alto "an answer to our prayers."

Homeownership allowed Ellen and her four daughters to go to

college. "I believe that having a Habitat home helped us to reach a little higher," says Ellen. "I don't think we would have gotten as far as we have otherwise."

My favorite part of volunteering with Habitat GSF is meeting people like Ellen and her family. Every family I've conducted a home visit with has a unique story. All have been more than willing to sacrifice for the chance to become a Habitat partner family. I've met applicants who work multiple jobs and will use their vacation time to do their sweat equity. I've met children who are too young to contribute sweat equity hours, so they promise to get good grades in school (which Habitat GSF then converts into sweat equity hours).

We currently have three available homes in the East Palo Alto community. Three bedrooms, one bathroom homes are available on Westminster Avenue and Poplar Avenue, and a three bedrooms, two baths condo is available on Gloria Way. All are given first preference to applicants who live or

work in East Palo Alto.

Below is more information on the program and how to apply:

Applicants must meet the following requirements: first-time homebuyer within the last three years, good credit standing, wage earners are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, and must be within the 40-60% levels of the area median income.

There are three main components applicants are evaluated on:

1. Must be willing to be a partner by attending homeownership workshops and completing sweat equity.

2. Must demonstrate a need for housing, such as living in an overcrowded home or spending more than 30% of the household income on rent.

3. Must demonstrate an ability to pay, such as show a history of regular monthly income.

If you are interested in applying, check out their website at www.habitatgsf.org or call (415) 625-1011 to see if you pre-qualify.

Scholarships available to local residents

The Midpeninsula Community Media Center in Palo Alto is offering full scholarships for Advanced Animation and TV Studio Production classes for high school students who live in East Palo Alto. For information about the classes and a scholarship application go to the website www.midpen-media.org/digiquest

These scholarships are made possible with support from the city of East Palo Alto.

BigFuture™: Las familias tienen ahora un recurso poderoso en el proceso de planificación universitaria

Por María de los Angeles Corral

De acuerdo a un estudio de 2009 realizado por el centro hispano Pew Hispanic Center, casi el 90 por ciento de los jóvenes y adultos mayores latinos están de acuerdo en que un título universitario es importante para tener una ventaja en la vida.

Sin embargo, todavía persiste la brecha entre la aspiración y el éxito universitario. De acuerdo a la agenda de finalización de la universidad College Completion Agenda del College Board: Edición Latina, 19.2 por ciento de los latinos entre 25 y 34 años de edad ha conseguido un título de dos o cuatro años, en comparación con el 41 por ciento a nivel nacional.

Cerrar la brecha no va a ocurrir de la noche a la mañana, pero hay una cosa que podemos y debemos hacer ahora: facilitar a los latinos jóvenes que accedan al proceso de planificación para el acceso a la universidad.

El 10 de abril, el College Board dio un paso de gigante en esa dirección al presentar BigFuture™, una página web para la planificación universitaria que tiene a los estudiantes como motor, además de ser objetiva, fácil de usar y gratuita.

Esta página web fue creada con aportaciones de los estudiantes, padres y educadores, y



Un foto de al College Board

representa una nueva generación de herramientas en línea para la planificación universitaria. BigFuture es una gran oportunidad para cualquier estudiante que quiera ir a la universidad y no sepa por dónde empezar.

Eso incluye a numerosos estudiantes latinos que quizás no tengan a nadie que los ayude.

En el lanzamiento de BigFuture, Jim Montoya, vicepresidente de educación superior del College Board y ex decano de admisiones en la Universidad de Stanford, explicó la situación: "Sabemos que muchos estudiantes latinos enfrentan duras barreras, desde padres que carecen de la experiencia en el proceso de ir a la universidad hasta asesores escolares abrumados por las cargas, o que, sencillamente, no entienden las oportunidades a su disposición para acceder a una educación superior o media supe-

rior", externó. "Este sitio les proporciona una herramienta poderosa que pueden manejar en los momentos de que dispongan y que les da información y guía que quizás no esté a su disposición en sus escuelas y familias".

De adolescente enfrenté algunos de esos mismos obstáculos. En mi último año de secundaria había 1,000 chicos, lo que significaba que a mi asesor escolar se le acumulaba el trabajo y no tenía suficiente tiempo para poder conocerme y proporcionarme toda la guía que necesitaba. Yo también tenía un empleo después de clases y durante los fines de semana, así que utilizaba mis períodos libres en la escuela para hacer la tarea escolar. Eso me dificultaba aún más el encontrar tiempo para reunirme con mi asesor.

Muchos niños latinos me cuentan historias similares. Las re-

sponsabilidades laborales, escolares y familiares suelen dejarlos con poco tiempo para investigar los pasos que se necesitan dar para ir a la universidad. Y sus padres no suelen tener los fondos para contratar entrenadores y asesores que les ayuden.

BigFuture proporciona a los estudiantes todos los recursos que necesitan para manejar por sí mismos la planificación universitaria. Su diseño interactivo facilita el acceso al proceso, aunque no tengan a nadie que los ayude.

BigFuture ofrece las perspectivas de estudiantes reales y de educadores expertos, cuyo consejo se integra en el sitio con videos y otras grandes herramientas.

Proporciona consejos para encontrar ayuda financiera y becas, y termina con el mito de que la universidad es sólo para quienes tienen mucho dinero (de hecho, existe mucha más ayuda financiera de lo que creen la mayoría de las familias).

BigFuture ayuda a los estudiantes a entender cómo pueden convertir sus intereses y aptitudes en vehículos para su vida académica y profesional. Y BigFuture ayuda a los jóvenes a encontrar universidades apropiadas para ellos al integrar herramientas inteligentes de búsqueda con la capacidad para comparar hasta tres universidades a la vez.

Y lo que es más importante,

BigFuture ayuda a los estudiantes a establecer un plan para la universidad a partir, incluso, del octavo grado. Eso incluye calcular los costos de la universidad, averiguar cómo ahorrar dinero para la universidad, identificar las clases que se deben tomar en secundaria y pasos y plazos para cada año de escuela.

El problema para los niños de hoy no es que no exista una abundancia de este tipo de recursos, sino que no siempre son relevantes, confiables, objetivos, fáciles de usar y gratuitos. BigFuture proporciona información clara, exhaustiva y sin prejuicios de una fuente de confianza: el College Board. Está en verdad diseñado para la forma en que los estudiantes usan los sitios web, de forma que cada paso lleve, de manera intuitiva, al siguiente.

Nunca ha importado tanto en nuestra sociedad un título universitario. Como latinos, es hora de que hagamos algo con respecto a nuestras aspiraciones educativas como individuos, familias y comunidades. Animo a los estudiantes y sus familias a hacerse cargo de su planificación universitaria y a utilizar recursos poderosos como bigfuture.org.

María de los Angeles Corral, mcorral@collegeboard.org at The College Board.

Community Calendar

East Palo Alto City Council meeting - Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Open to the public. Meetings take place in the Municipal Building, located at 2415 University Avenue in East Palo Alto, CA.

"Meet the Candidates Night" Friday, June 15 from 6 p.m.

to 8 p.m. at the East Palo Alto City Hall, which is located in the Municipal Building at 2415 University Avenue in East Palo Alto.

Hear the five finalists vying to be the next East Palo Alto City Manager.

Juneteenth Blood and Organ Donor Drive- Saturday, June 16 from 11 a.m to 3 p.m.

This event will take place at the East Palo Alto YMCA at 550 Bell Street For an appointment to donate please go to www.bloodheroes.com Click "Donate Blood" and enter Sponsor Code: YMCAEPA Contact Fred McFadden with questions at 415-354-1381.

Juneteenth Festival in the Park - June 16 and 17

Look for signs throughout the

city for the location of this event.

Meditation Circle with Mindful Movement - June 20th, 2012 at 7pm - 8pm

2261 Clarke Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 (650) 323.0334 /email: house-ofbiggergirls@yahoo.com FREE (Donations welcome)

East Palo Alto Anniversary Celebration - June 30, 2012

The planned parade will start at 11 a.m. on June 30 at the Costano/49er Academy at 2695 Fordham Street. and

wind its way down University Avenue to Bell Street Park.

Festivities will follow at Bell Street Park. Fireworks will take place later at the Cesar Chavez Academy School at 2450 Ralmar. The gates will open at 7:30 p.m.

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

Winners and losers

continued from page 1

dies.

Among other races and issues, many local voters and election night pundits also took special note of the 13th Senate District race which saw four candidates competing for State Senator Joe Simitian's seat.

In that race California State Assembly member Jerry Hill led the race with

58.64% or 40,607 votes and California State Assembly member and former Mountain View City Council member Sally Lieber followed with 17.94% or 11,473 votes.

Complete election night returns can be found at several websites:

Election night returns for San Mateo County can be found at the San

Mateo County Race Tracker at: http://race-tracker.shapethefuture.org/summary_results.aspx?election_id=1.

See the results for Santa Clara County at SCCGov.org

The results for the entire State of California at the California Secretary of State's website at <http://vote.sos.ca.gov/>

Talking with Henrietta Which Candidate Will Be Elected?



The June 5 Primary Election is over. But you can still see the candidates for the District 4 seat on the San Mateo Board of Supervisors say why they should be elected. One of the candidates on this edition of Talking with Henrietta, is still in the race. Do you know which one? Details about this show are below.

This edition of the show will air until Saturday, June 16, 2012.

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., Thursdays 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. and on Channel 27 on Comcast on the Midpeninsula. See an excerpt at http://youtu.be/_qRW6HC9Y10

Holiday Fund

continued from page 2

JLS Middle School- \$5,000; JLS Middle School - \$5,000; Jordan Middle School - \$5,000 Kara - First year of a three-year grant - \$15,000 Jordan Middle School - \$5,000 Kara - First year of a three-year grant - \$15,000 Mayview Community Health Center - \$10,000 Midpeninsula Community Media Center - \$5,000

Music in the Schools Foundation - \$5,000 My New Red Shoes - \$3,000; New Creation Home Ministries Residential programs - \$5,000; Nuestra Casa - \$5,000; Pacific Art League - \$2,500; Palo Alto Art Center Foundation - \$5,000; Palo Alto Community Child Care - \$6,500; Palo Alto Council of PTAs- \$2,128; Palo Alto High School Get Involved!

\$1,500; Palo Alto Housing Corporation - \$5,000; Palo Alto Library Foundation -Third year of a three-year \$50,000 grant. \$17,500; Palo Alto Youth Collaborative - \$10,000; Peninsula Bridge Program - \$5,000; TEDx event at Gunn - \$2,000 TheatreWorks Presentation of "Oskar and the Last Straw" - \$5,000; Youth Community Service - \$10,000

Support the East Palo Alto Today newspaper

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



Name: _____ Phone # _____

Organization: _____ Email Address _____

Street Address: _____ City _____ State _____

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

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ \$2,000

_____ \$2001 to \$5,000 _____ \$5,000 and above _____ In-kind _____

_____ Please check back with me about becoming a donor.

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

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www.epamedia.org

Please check the appropriate box: if you would like to volunteer at the center, if you would like to advertise in East Palo Alto Today, if you are interested in writing an article, opinion piece or letter to the editor. Also let us know if your agency or business would like to be a distribution site for East Palo Alto Today. Call (650) 289-9699 or send us an email at epamedia@aol.com.

**EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT
PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY FOR ALL FUNDS FY 2012-2013**

Budget Based \$520.00 Rate Per Residential Unit

Revenue For The Fiscal Year 2012-2013

	2545	2541	2542	2544	2546	2547	2548	2549	EPASD
	General	Connection	Rebate	Payroll	Construction	Lateral	Treatment	Rate	All Funds
	Fund	Fee Fund	Fund	Taxes	Replacement	Replacement	Plant	Stabilization	
				W/H Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Total
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 3,382,172	\$ 741,500	\$ 28	\$ 61	\$ 475,560	\$ 130,650	\$ 613,600	\$ 76,160	\$ 5,419,731
Sewer Service Charges	4,057,560	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,057,560
Property taxes	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250,000
Connection Fee	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Interest Income	42,000	7,500	1	2	3,000	150	3,600	160	56,413
Other Revenue	26,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,400
Total Projected Revenue	4,375,960	107,500	1	2	3,000	150	3,600	160	4,490,373
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	600,000	150,000	50,000	-	800,000
Total Available Revenues	\$ 7,758,132	\$ 849,000	\$ 29	\$ 63	\$ 1,078,560	\$ 280,800	\$ 667,200	\$ 76,320	\$ 10,710,104

Expenditure For The Fiscal Year 2012-2013

	2545	2541	2542	2544	2546	2547	2548	2549	EPASD
	General	Connection	Rebate	Payroll	Construction	Lateral	Treatment	Rate	All Funds
	Fund	Fee Fund	Fund	Taxes	Replacement	Replacement	Plant	Stabilization	
				W/H Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Total
Personnel & Other Operating	1,897,192	-	-	-	80,000	-	-	-	1,977,192
Employees' Post Employment Benefits	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
Engineering Services	-	-	-	-	185,000	-	-	-	185,000
Treatment Plant (RWQCP)	1,160,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,160,000
Total Operating Expenditures	3,137,192	-	-	-	265,000	-	-	-	3,402,192
Long Term Debt Service	366,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	366,000
Treatment Plant (UV Project)	140,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140,000
Fixed Assets/Equipment	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
Capital Projects	300,000	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	420,000
Vector Truck Lease	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000
Total Budgeted Expenditures	4,063,192	120,000	-	-	265,000	-	-	-	4,448,192
Interfund Transfers	800,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	800,000
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 2,894,940	\$ 729,000	\$ 29	\$ 63	\$ 813,560	\$ 280,800	\$ 667,200	\$ 76,320	\$ 5,461,912

**EAST PALO ALTO SANITARY DISTRICT
Proposed Budget - General Fund #02545
Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

	Actual Expenses 2010-2011	Approved Budget 2011-2012	Proposed Budget 2012-2013
EXPENDITURES:			
CODES: SALARIES & EMPLOYEE BENEFIT			
4111 Wages	790,176	785,000	820,000
4192 Directors Fees	46,029	56,500	55,000
4631 Employees Benefits	355,805	509,850	495,000
SUB TOTAL	1,192,010	1,351,350	1,370,000
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE:			
5188 Other Operating Supplies	407	5,292	5,292
5193 Office Expenses	20,429	35,000	35,000
5314 Election Expenses	-	16,000	-
5332 Membership	13,452	16,500	15,500
5341 Publication & Legal Notice	11,753	13,500	14,500
5416 Gas, Fuel	10,258	13,000	13,000
5459 Repair & Maintenance	43,311	47,000	45,000
5521 Rents & Leases	10,138	15,000	12,000
5638 Utilities	32,866	41,000	33,000
5721 Travel & Meeting	40,211	54,000	45,000
5731 Training & Education	21,293	25,000	25,000
5817 Contract Sewage Services	902,172	1,160,000	1,160,000
5888 Contractual Services	78,126	90,000	95,000
5861 Engineering Services	10,481	15,000	15,000
5872 Prof & Spec Services	70,800	85,000	92,000
5876 Professional Services	26,839	25,000	25,000
5958 Research & Monitoring	-	400	400
5966 Operating Supplies	2,522	7,500	7,500
5969 Special Expenses	23,826	46,000	40,000
6231 Insurance	44,221	45,000	45,000
6732 Legal Services	43,924	44,000	44,000
6814 Prior Year Expenses	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	1,407,029	1,799,192	1,767,192
CAPITAL & DEBTS:			
7211 Gen Fac Financing Corp Bnd	281,265	281,000	281,000
7311 Equipment Expenses	56,824	115,000	80,000
6322 Repay Treatment Plant	56,495	85,000	85,000
SUB TOTAL	394,584	481,000	446,000
OTHER CHARGES:			
8810 Contingency	-	-	-

Capital projects
Fy 2012/13
Dual Siphon Line \$1,500,000.00
Point Repairs \$500,000.00
Community Relations Public Education program \$75,000.00