

**NEWS**

# City proposes hefty fee hikes

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In addition to spending \$14 million more than last year, the budget before Mountain View City Council tonight calls for limiting city services, shrinking city staff and raising fees by as much as 800 percent.

Higher wages for police and firefighters, increased retirement costs and bigger healthcare bills are responsible for added costs in this year's \$136.4 million budget, an increase over last year's \$122.3 million spending plan, city officials said.

"There were double digit increases in health care costs, increases in retirement costs, and increases in costs for contracted services," council member Rosemary Stasek told the Daily News. "These are costs the council has no control over," said Stasek. "We have to work around them."

Fees in many areas will be increased to try to better match the city's expenses, reflecting the results from an outside study on the costs of providing services. Fire inspection fees, apartment inspection fees, prices for city-sponsored recreation classes and even green fees at the Shoreline golf course will all go up.

The cost to residents for water, trash collection, and sewage will all increase.

Some city services will also be cut. Inspections of apartments with serious violations will be decreased from every three years to every four years. Other apartments will only be inspected when a complaint is filed with the city.

Planning fees will be particularly effected. The cost for a heritage tree removal permit will increase by just over 800 percent. Most planning fees for single-family homes will not be changed.

**Senior center**

The council will also review the plans for the new senior center. The design, budgeted at over \$12 million, will include a game room, a technology room, arts and crafts facilities, and several multipurpose rooms. At the council meeting on May 25, a conditional use permit for the Avenidas senior health center was approved, to be built adjacent to the senior center.

A recommendation to design the center to be an "essential facility" will be studied. This means that the center can be used as a staging facility for emergency workers during a disaster. Con-

struction as an essential facility requires increased structural support to survive an earthquake, an emergency power generator, and special inspections during construction.

A \$100,000 study to evaluate the feasibility of the city taking over fire and emergency medical coverage at Moffett Federal Airfield is also on the agenda. NASA, which operates Moffett, will reimburse the city for the study's cost.

Currently fire and medical services are provided by the California Air National Guard, but that agreement will expire at the end of September, and the Guard will not renew their agreement with NASA. The five month "comprehensive cost and feasibility study" will evaluate the costs, risks, and whether the overall project will benefit the city beyond recovering the costs of providing emergency fire and medical services.

The meeting will be held at the City Hall, 500 Castro Street, starting at 5:45 p.m. The complete agenda and the staff reports to be presented are available on the city's web site, <http://www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/>, or at the Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St.

# Church celebrates new center's opening

The Church of Scientology held a parade and a party in Mountain View, celebrating the opening of their new Scientology Life Improvement and Information Center at 331 Castro Street.

According to Police Chief Scott Vermeer yesterday, the Sunday parade and marching band started in Pioneer park and ended on the 300 block of Castro. Approximately 200 people marched in the parade, with a total of 600 to 800 people gathering. Sections of Castro Street were closed to allow the parade to

progress. Eleven Mountain View police officers were deployed to manage traffic and crowds, and no police incidents other than a single noise complaint were reported according to Chief Vermeer. The church had a permit for the event.

Vice Mayor Matt Neeley and Councilmember Mike Kasperzak both spoke welcoming the new church facility. Francis Wong, the Grand Representative of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance spoke both in Chinese and English, and presented the church with a

scroll written in Chinese welcoming the church.

Jan Silber, Director of the Church of Scientology of Mountain View said that total 1,400 people attended the event.

"The center includes information to introduce people to Scientology," said Silber. "It includes display panels, videos, and books." The center is open to the public.

Chief Vermeer estimated the cost of police for overtime at \$4,000 to \$5,000, which was paid by the church.

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