

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 29, 2012

Drive-throughs defended

BY JEN NOWELL
Daily Post Staff Writer

While Mountain View's City Council considers banning all future drive-throughs on El Camino Real, locals are wondering why and defending the convenience of the service, and one chain says it won't go forward with plans to open its first Peninsula location on El Camino Real if it can't have its drive-through.

Chick-fil-A is currently working with the city on its plan to open a 4,765-square-foot fast food restaurant and drive-through at 1962 W. El Camino Real, which is occupied now
[See DRIVE, page 22]

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Mustang found after 40 years

BY RYAN MCCARTHY
Daily Post Staff Writer

Call it the case of the missing Mustang — the 1968 Shelby GT 500, now valued at up to \$100,000, stolen in Sausalito in 1971, soon sold to a San Francisco man unaware of its history and spotted on the streets of San Mateo by a police sergeant who knows classic cars.

"I don't know how this is going to turn out," San Mateo County Sheriff's

By sharp-eyed San Mateo cop who really knows classic cars

Department Detective Shawn Parks said of a legal dispute that has arisen over who owns the classic car.

A March 13 case management conference is scheduled in San Mateo County Superior Court.

It's a civil case with almost as

many parts as the rare Shelby Mustang — and separate from the law enforcement investigation into the vehicle after the July 17, 2011 traffic stop in San Mateo.

Parks' inquiry into the Mustang's [See MUSTANG, page 22]



THIS 1968 SHELBY MUSTANG stolen in 1971 was found on a San Mateo street.

THE UPDATE

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Police pay

MUSTANG —

history included the basement archives of Sausalito Police and their microfiche records. He called Robert Lanyon to tell the former Sausalito resident that his Mustang, stolen 40 years ago, had been found.

"He was elated," Parks recalled. "He never thought it would be recovered."

A cop who knows cars

It likely never would have been if San Mateo Police Sgt. Timothy Sullivan hadn't noticed a discrepancy with the Mustang's vehicle identification number during a traffic stop he made last summer.

Attorney Brian Coryell, who's representing Lanyon in the civil case involving a dispute with the estate of former San Francisco resident William Heinicke over who owns the car, said the latest chapter in this saga started with that stop.

Sgt. Sullivan recognized the Shelby Mustang as a 1968, but the vehicle registration came up as 1965. Police after additional investigation took the classic car, and the city of San Mateo is now storing the Mustang.

Ownership in dispute

William McDevitt, the attorney representing Heinicke's son, said an insurance company paid Lanyon after the car's theft, and so only Heinicke's estate and the insurer have a legal right to the car.

Not so, argues attorney Coryell, who's sympathetic about a good-faith purchase of a car the buyer was unaware had been stolen. But California law is clear, Coryell said, that no real sale occurs under such circumstances. The Shelby Mustang belongs to Lanyon, he said.

Joseph Aranda, assistant city attorney for San Mateo, said the municipality is holding on to the Mustang until a judge decides who's the owner.

"We're sort of stuck in the middle," Aranda said.

A probate court has to approve any settlement reached in the classic car case, attorney McDevitt said. William Heinicke was killed in September 2010 when the plane he was piloting plunged into a Redwood City lagoon.

'Like it was a murder'

McDevitt marveled at the thoroughness of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department's work after the city of San Mateo discovered the discrepancy in

now lives in Canada, happy. Lanyon had an almost spiritual connection with the car and his son still remembers the morning in 1971 when his father discovered the Mustang was missing.

The elder Lanyon was a stoic man — a pilot and a veteran.

"That was one of the few times he saw tears in his eyes," Parks said of the son witnessing his father's reaction to the missing Mustang.

The Shelby that remains in storage in San Mateo is part of an automotive line rare enough that the cars have their own independent registry.

"This one," Parks said, "kind of fell off the map."

PAY —

who earned \$162,861, including \$24,336 in overtime pay and \$3,963 he cashed out for unused vacation time.

At the same time that police salaries are growing, city salaries are frozen, according to Kramer. The last pay leap for other city employees came in 2008, when SEIU and AFSCME employees received a 2% raise.

Police dispatcher Suzanna Dea took in the city's most overtime pay in 2011, amounting to an extra \$39,757 for the year. Russell earned the highest amount of overtime pay for a police officer, which was about \$10,000 less than Dea's overtime pay.

Overtime slightly trimmed

The city shelled out just \$785,831 in employees' overtime pay last year, compared with \$801,361 in 2010 and a whopping \$1 million in 2009.

Kramer said that the decrease in overtime was likely because the police department is fully staffed, leaving fewer open shifts for officers to take over.

In 2011, there were 79 employees earning over \$100,000 or more each year and just three that earned over \$200,000.

Retired City Manager Glen Rojas ranked as the city's top earner, with a total salary of \$229,213, including \$21,602 that he accrued in unused vacation time and sick leave.

In 2010, there were 77 employees in the \$100K club, while only Rojas earned more than \$200,000.

Kent Steffens, former deputy city manager and director of public works, earned an added \$89,297 by cashing in on his unused vacation time, but trailed behind Rojas with a total salary of \$200,083 last year. Steffens joined Sunnyvale city staff on Aug. 1 as public

ing \$10,982 he cashed out in unused vacation time.

Retirees bump payroll up

The city's total payroll has seen a slight increase. Last year, the city doled out a total \$23.2 million to its employees, whereas in 2010, just \$23 million was given out.

City employees got \$200,000 more in extra cashed-out vacation pay than in 2010, which Kramer said was due to a larger amount of retirees last year. The total cashed-out vacation time added \$968,695 to the payroll, compared with just \$749,026 in 2010.

STATION —

ished to make way for the expanded station, slated for completion in late 2013. It is planned to cost \$7.6 million and last 60 to 70 years.

According to Schapelhouman, construction of the new station has been in the works for years, but the building process will begin tomorrow. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the station's construction site at 2 p.m.

The station is one of the busiest fire stations in the Peninsula and responds to an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 calls per year. It sits in the most populous area of the district, serving about 36,000 to 40,000 residents.

The district serves 100,000 residents in Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and portions of unincorporated San Mateo County.

New tower, individual crew space

Schapelhouman said that a new communications tower, backup emergency power supply and aboveground fuel storage facility would be installed in the vicinity of the two demolished homes during the first phase of construction.

Additional parking spaces, new concrete surfacing and a perimeter gate along Capitol Avenue would also be built before the original station is torn down in three to six months, he said.

The revamped station would boast enough space to accommodate individual crew quarters for employees on around-the-clock shifts.

"The capability of these older stations does not measure up to what is needed today," Schapelhouman said in a statement yesterday.

Schapelhouman said that 63% of dispatch calls are for emergency medical incidents, with just 3% or less involving fires. He said firefighters require an appropriate facility to support the wide

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'Like it was a murder'

McDevitt marveled at the thoroughness of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department's work after the city of San Mateo discovered the discrepancy in the Shelby's vehicle registration.

"Detective Shawn Parks treated this thing like it was a murder investigation," McDevitt said.

Parks said whatever the outcome of the civil case, the recovery of Mustang's history has already made Lanyon, who

who earned \$12,001, including \$24,336 in overtime pay and \$3,963 he cashed out for unused vacation time.

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Among the city's other top earners were police Sgt. Ronald Prickett, who earned a total of \$207,083 last year, including \$87,249 he garnered in unused vacation time, and Police Chief Bryan Roberts, who earned \$194,322, includ-

2013. It is planned to cost \$7.6 million and last 60 to 70 years.

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Schapelhouman said that 63% of dispatch calls are for emergency medical incidents, with just 3% or less involving fires. He said firefighters require an appropriate facility to support the wide range of services.

"The nature of fire service and emergency response has evolved since the time when these stations were built," he said. "At that time, the vast majority of the district's duties were related to fighting fires."

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