LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Major Crisis Looms if Woodroe Woods School is Allowed to Close in June

Editor:

In July 2015, Camelot school closed after more than 20 years. It provided infant care, childcare and preschool up to Kindergarten.

In July 2016, Woodroe Woods school will be closing. It also provides care for children 2.5-5 years old and has a Kindergarten to second grade.

With these two closures over the past year, more than 300 families have lost childcare. Currently, there is a shortage of centers and schools in Castro Valley and there are large waiting lists at the few sites available.

There will be a major crisis this summer if Woodroe Woods is allowed to close in June. Efforts are underway to find a new location to move the school, but they have so far been unsuccessful. Many working families have no childcare lined up for the summer and beyond.

It was believed the old Camelot site would be an ideal site, however, the San Lorenzo Unified School District recently sold that property to a large K-8 school based out of Union City. It is unclear how this new private school in our area will serve our community.

Community leaders and officials need to get together to help prevent this crisis from happening. Many families with young children who chose to move here and are now probably regretting that decision.

Some families will be forced to move to find adequate childcare and our population demographics will shift to older kids and older households. Businesses that provide services to families with young children will suffer.

It is imperative that a site be found for Woodroe Woods, at least temporarily, so that the school can continue providing childcare and early education services. We can not afford to lose Woodroe Woods.

—**Nidhi Jain**, *Castro Valley*