

CAR

Jefferson Avenue, reported at 11:07 p.m., Hart said. Both vehicles sustained major damage and Nafeez also sideswiped another vehicle before hitting the Explorer, according to police. Nafeez was booked into San Mateo County Jail.

Nafeez and the couple got into an altercation before the collision, Hart said, and they have quarreled in the past over issues including noise.

"They both call the police on each other frequently," the sergeant said.

'Don't do it'

Tom Fenselau, 40, who lives near the intersection where the collision occurred, said yesterday that he saw the Camry driven by Nafeez accelerate to about 40 mph before running into the Ford Explorer.

"I heard the driver say, 'Don't do it,'" Fenselau said of the 46-year-old father in the Ford Explorer. Fenselau, who went outside after hearing honking, said of the driver of the Camry that, "I couldn't believe that he was going to hit them."

"I was amazed that the family seemed to be OK," Fenselau said.

The mother said, "My baby," but the two-year-old just seemed startled, Fenselau said.

"I said, 'Thank God for child safety seats,'" he added.

A lot of yelling

Amber Santos, property manager at the Villa Montgomery Apartments at 1500 El Camino Real, said Nafeez and the family both reside at the complex, that everyone was OK and that she couldn't comment any further about the incident.

A neighbor who lives near the apartments said it's often the source of loud noises and that verbal fights are frequent.

"They stand outside and yell at each other," the man, who declined to give his name, said of people at the complex.

HSR

to have high-speed rail share the same tracks as Caltrain.

Originally, high-speed rail wanted to lay down its own set of two tracks next to Caltrain, but the blended plan calls for upgrading Caltrain from electric to diesel, and having the two railroads share the electrified tracks.

Richard also said the agency is moving forward with what's been called the "bookends" approach — starting construction in LA and on the Peninsula and creating local high-speed rail systems before expanding toward the middle of the state.

He said it will take about five years to build the initial section in the Central Valley, but in that time the rail authority will also be working with the state Legislature to begin work on the bookends.

Construction in the Central Valley was supposed to begin this September, in order to meet a federal funding deadline. But the Obama administration has waived that requirement and now the start date has not been determined. Work might begin in 2013 or 2014 in the Central Valley, and presumably, based on comments made last night, construction would start here at that time as well.

The sequence of asking for the funds may be off a year or two, but the work in the Central Valley and the

bookends will be occurring at the same time, Richard said.

High-speed rail board member Jim Hartnett, an attorney and former Redwood City mayor, said the rail authority's revised business plan, which will come out this month, will incorporate the blended approach.

The blended system works, makes sense and is more affordable because it uses as much as the existing infrastructure as possible, Hartnett said. And this plan will answer a lot of questions about the blended system, he said.

The idea for the blended system, which was also proposed by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and Assemblyman Rich Gordon, emerged after public opinion locally turned against high-speed rail. In 2008, a majority of Peninsula voters were among those in California who supported Prop. 1A to start the state's high-speed rail system.

But local public opinion turned when residents realized that the train wouldn't be underground, and might possibly be placed on berms or pylons as it cut through the Peninsula. Residents also are concerned that the project will result in the state's having to buy or seize homes and businesses near the tracks to make way for the new railroad. However, with the blended proposal, the number of properties at risk of being taken has been reduced.

State Sen. Simitian, whose subcommittee took testimony at last night's meeting, made it clear that the \$98 million high-speed rail system has plans to start in more populous areas sooner rather than later.

State Sen. Lou Correa asked Will Kempton, of the High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group, if emphasizing the bookends first would jeopardize the federal funding for the project, which is now earmarked for the Central Valley.

"Yes, I believe it would," Kempton said.

DOG

of losing a beloved pet to the toxic fungus.

Less than two years ago, her six-month-old Bernese mountain dog, Donato, ate a death cap mushroom that was growing in a friend's backyard. Donato died three days later.

"It just destroyed me," Gerba told the Post yesterday, fighting back tears. "When you lose a puppy, you know, they're just babies. My dogs are like my kids to me. I don't want anyone else to go through this."

Gerba said that she took Donato to Adobe Animal Hospital in Los Altos after she noticed that he was vomiting and had diarrhea.

"They tried everything to save him," she said.

Death caps common on Peninsula

The death cap is native to Europe, but is common in the Bay Area, where it grows near oak trees. It is often a dull brown, green or gray color. When ingested by canines, it causes liver failure.

"It's the most common mushroom found on the Peninsula," Dr. William Freedman, chairman of the toxicology committee of the Mycological Society of San Francisco, said.

Gerba discovered that the mushrooms that Donato ate were hidden among a patch of ferns.

The death cap smells sweet and buttery in its early stages, and then like rotting fish as it's decaying — both appealing smells to dogs, Gerba said.

"They're enticing to puppies," Gerba said. "So it's all the more important to teach your dog commands, like 'leave it.'"

Freedman said that the mushrooms are the most

common in November and December, but can also spring up during rainy spells or areas that are watered year-round.

Donato's final gift

Now, Gerba visits pet stores, puppy schools and breeders to try and educate dog owners about the deadly mushrooms.

"Donato's name means 'gift' in Italian," she said. "And we like to think that this is his final gift — to keep people safe."

In February, Gerba donated 3,000 death cap mushroom fact cards to the Bernese Mountain Dog National Specialty, which will be put in every new owner's welcome bag and made available by breeders.

For more information about death caps and how owners can keep their pets safe, please visit Gerba's blog at mushrooms911.blogspot.com.

CHAMBER

how much the developer would pay into funds to create more parking and housing. Then the plan will return to council for final approval.

One of the changes council made was to require the developer to lease a 1,500-square-foot space on the ground floor along Lytton Avenue to a "downtown serving" nonprofit.

Council debated whether to open up the space to any nonprofit, which would perhaps accommodate tenants at Cubberley Community Center who might be forced to move. It voted instead to earmark the space for a "downtown serving" organization.

Council didn't say who would get that space, but Councilman Greg Scharff brought up as examples the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business and Professional Association (formerly known as the Business Improvement District, or BID). Council wants the owner to subsidize the rent for the 1,500-square-foot space.

Boyd Smith, who is developing the project in a partnership that includes Lund Smith and Scott Foster, said he believed retail was a better fit for foot traffic, but the developers would be open to a nonprofit office in the space.

A coffee shop was one idea that had been floated for the space, which would be seen by people walking along Lytton to the Caltrain station.

Chamber looking for new location

Both the chamber and the downtown association currently rent space in the Red Cross building behind MacArthur Park near the University Avenue Caltrain station.

Chamber CEO Paul Wright told the Post that the organization's sublease with the Red Cross at 400 Mitchell Lane ends in June 2013, so the Chamber is starting to consider its options. The Red Cross' master lease of the site ends at the same time.

He said he has talked to council members and real estate agents, asking them to keep an eye out for a space.

Wright said he got a call from Scharff before Monday's meeting, asking if the Chamber would be interested in the Lytton Gateway location. Wright said yes.

The project also has a 2,600-square-foot space for retail on Alma Street. Current plans call for a financial institution, such as a bank, to go into that space. Council didn't change those plans.

 Fox Theatre REDWOOD CITY 650-FOX-7770 WWW.FOXRWC.COM	TAINTED LOVE Friday March 16th	THE UGLY DUCKLING Saturday March 17th	MMA/MUAY THAI CHAMPIONSHIPS Saturday March 17th	NICKELODEON'S RUGRATS LIVE! Saturday April 28	Featured Show  TAINTED LOVE \$18/Adv \$20/Door March 16th
	NICKELODEON'S RUGRATS LIVE! Sunday April 29th	BEATLES VS STONES! Saturday May 5th	ABBA THE CONCERT Saturday May 12th	AIR SUPPLY Saturday June 9th	