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Higher wages would spur huge increase in Palo Alto’s janitorial costs
by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto’s commitment to fair wages will face its first real test Monday night, when the City Council considers a new janitorial contract that will more than double the cost of keeping City Hall and other public buildings clean.

The proposed five-year contract with the firm SWA Services Group would cost the city about $1.9 million in the first year, which according to a Public Works Department report represents an increase of about $1.2 million in 2018 alone over the current provider. In subsequent years, the city would pay between $1.96 million and $2.15 million for the service.

If the council approves the contract, the firm would take over the city’s janitorial operations on Sept. 1, immediately after the existing contract with the firm ABM expires on Aug. 31. ABM made clear that it is not willing to work beyond that date.

City staff chose SWA over two other firms despite the fact that the price tag was 30 percent above staff’s estimates and about $2.2 million higher than the lowest bidder over the five-year term of the contract.

Wages appear to be the main factor driving the differences in the proposals — a subject of much discussion over the past two years as the council sought to set a higher minimum wage in Palo Alto. SWA proposes to pay the 33 contract employees a minimum of $15 per hour in the first year of the contract; the lowest bidder, Uniserve Facilities Services Corporation, was proposing an initial wage of $12 per hour, with an increase to $13.50 in January and $15 by Jan. 2, 2019, when the rate becomes the city’s minimum wage.

SWA’s contract entitles its employees to health benefits,

(continued on page 8)

City eyes $10.6M price tag for janitorial work

Redesign tests ‘Palo Alto process’
Some commissioners fear new rail stakeholder group could slow city down in race for cash
by Gennady Sheyner

As Palo Alto moves ahead with plans to transform the rail corridor, city officials are struggling to reconcile two seemingly competing goals: catching up to other communities in a race for Santa Clara County funds and engaging in the type of prolonged deliberative process that has long been synonymous with City Hall culture.

The two objectives collided on Wednesday night, when the Planning and Transportation Commission considered the best way to engage the community in a new planning process for what many consider to be the city’s most critical infrastructure priority: the separation of the rail-road tracks from local streets at the city’s four rail crossings.

In discussing the new effort, known as Connecting Palo Alto, commissioners clashed over how far the city should go in engaging the community, with some arguing that the process should prominently feature a stakeholder group consisting of residents and experts and others saying that City Council and staff should be in the driver’s seat.

After a vigorous debate, the commission supported a new stakeholder group by a 4-2 vote, with Chair Michael Alcheck and Commissioner Susan Monk dissenting and Eric Rosenblum

(continued on page 9)

For College Terrace Market, a shaky start

Mandated grocery store faces hurdles of competition, signage
by Sue Dremann

College Terrace Market, the longed-for grocery store at 2100 El Camino Real in Palo Alto, finally opened on June 14, but the hopped-for crowds of customers have been slow to materialize.

After a promising opening day, the market initially averaged only about 60 customers a day, said Ron Jensen, the market’s director of operations. In the last couple of weeks, that number has grown as employees have moved into the First Republic Bank offices in the center’s upper floors.

But Miki Werness, one of the market’s partners, estimated the market needs more than 200 customers per day to thrive. He said he did not anticipate that a summer opening would be so slow, adding that he anticipates many more customers will come with the start of the school year.

The shaky start — and other factors potentially conspiring against the market — has customers and neighbors in College Terrace concerned. Under the planned community (PC) ordinance by which the College Terrace Centre development must abide, a grocery store has to be located in the 8,000-square-foot space, whether it’s financially thriving or not.

Many residents have said that no one knows the market is there, despite its location on busy El Camino between Oxford and College avenues.

“There’s not a lot of pedestrian traffic here, and that’s always concerning,” said Paul Hansen, who works from his home in the nearby Evergreen Park neighborhood and only recently noticed the market had opened. He began frequenting the store just this last week, crossing El
Cycling Forward... After selecting new seats for its upcoming electric cars last month, Caltrain is now focused on what bike racks would be used on the new trains. The agency is holding community outreach events up and down the Peninsula, with one scheduled at the Palo Alto station on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 4:30-7 p.m. Commuters can choose from two options. The first one, labeled the “stacking” option, would allow up to 72 bikes per train car and increase capacity by 12.5 percent. It would be similar to current bike storage on the trains and have sufficient space for different types of bikes, but other bikes may have to be moved as cyclists board on and off. The second option, known as the “hybrid,” would only take up to 68 bikes at a time and increase capacity by 8.3 percent, but wouldn’t shuffle bikes around during trips. Surveillance cameras will be installed at low- and mid-level heights on each bike car. Both choices have 32-inch-wide aisles, which is required under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Online voting ends on Sept. 1. For additional information, visuals of the options and online ballot, visit caltrain.com.

PET PEEVES... Palo Alto’s effort to preserve and improve its cramped but popular Animal Shelter will hit a milestone on Monday, Aug. 21, when the City Council considers a new partnership between the city and the nonprofit Pets in Need. According to a letter of intent between the two parties, which the city released this week, the nonprofit could take over operations at the existing shelter as early as March 2018, even as it moves along with a capital campaign to build a bigger, better shelter on city-owned land. The city desires a modern and adequate Animal Shelter facility while stabilizing funding for Economic Policy Research Foundation. His donations have supported the university’s School of Education, the football stadium, other projects. His donations for Educational Outreach and other projects. His donations have supported the university’s School of Education, the football stadium, other projects. His donations have supported the university’s School of Education, the football stadium, other projects. His donations have supported the university’s School of Education, the football stadium, other projects. His donations have supported the university’s School of Education, the football stadium, other projects.

EXPANDING JEWISH LIFE... Stanford University alumnus Tad Taube is cementing his name on the campus by opening a new Jewish Center, which will be named the Taube Chabad House. The facility will be constructed with help from a $5.2 million contribution from his organization, Taube Philanthropies. “We are enormously appreciative of this latest manifestation of Taube Philanthropies’ extraordinary commitment to Jewish life at Stanford,” Rabbi Dow Greenberg, executive director of Stanford Chabad, said in a press release. “Tad Taube has made a career of sowing seeds that will grow, flower and bring joy, learning and enlightenment to people for generations to come. He has done countless mitzvot — good deeds — not only at Stanford and in the Bay Area, but in Poland, where he also has made a tremendous impact.” Taube’s more than $100 million contribution to Stanford has been used to support construction of the football stadium, Institute for Economic Policy Research and other projects. His donations have also supported the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Taube Hillel House, Taube Family Tennis Stadium and additional school services. “It is a privilege to share the good fortune I’ve had as a Jewish immigrant who came to the United States as a child from Poland,” Tad Taube said in a press release. “It is most satisfying to be able to support organizations that bring people of common interest together. Stanford Chabad, in its new home, will continue to provide a venue for the spiritual and material needs of Stanford’s Jewish community for generations to come.”
Pension contract tackles city’s growing problem

City’s agreement with CalPERS would require employees to contribute part of city’s share

by Gennady Sheyner

H ow do you solve a problem so vast that it’s practically immeasurable? That’s the question the Palo Alto City Council continues to grapple with as it comes to the city’s pension liabilities, a fluctuating burden that by most estimates ranges somewhere between $300 million and $800 million. During budget discussions in May, members of the City Council characterized it as the city’s most massive budget issue, with Greg Tanaka saying the total owed to future retirees “dwarfs everything else by a lot.”

The current city budget pegs the pension liability to be at about $330.1 million, though many expect it to rise steeply in the coming years. The California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS), the massive public fund that manages the city’s pension and health benefits, has recently decreased the expected rate of return from its investment portfolio from 7.5 percent to 7 percent, a change that will be phased in over three years starting in fiscal year 2018 and that will further accelerate the city’s already rising pension costs.

To brace for the looming pension storm, the council has been pursuing two strategies: having employees pick up a greater share of pension contributions and creating what’s known as an IRS Section 115 Pension Trust Fund to offset major fluctuations down the road.

On Monday, the council will address the former when it amends its contract with CalPERS. The new agreement calls for all bargaining units in the public-safety departments (which includes the Palo Alto Police Officers Association, the Palo Alto Police Managers Association, the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Palo Alto Fire Chiefs Association) to pick up 3 percent of the employer pension contribution as of fiscal year 2018.

For the roughly 600 workers represented by the Service Employees International Union, Local 521, the share of employer contribution they would have to pay would be 0.5 percent retroactive to Dec. 1, 2016, and would increase to 1 percent as of Dec. 1, 2017. The “management and professionals group” of about 200 employees is expected to adopt a similar arrangement after the SEIU deal is approved by CalPERS this fall.

The approach is a reversal from Palo Alto’s traditional practice in which the city covered both its own and employees’ CalPERS contributions. The burden began to slowly shift during the 2009 economic downturn, when a shrinking budget and growing expenses prompted the council to pursue new agreements with its labor groups so that employees would pay their own share of the costs and, ultimately, a small portion of the city’s. The contracts included tiered pension plans, with new and recently hired employees being placed in a tier with less generous benefits.

In June, the council approved a budget that calls increases to employee contributions “an important tool to help the City contain pension costs.” But even so, no one expects the Monday action to change the underlying problem. Collectively, the higher employee contributions are expected to lower the city’s annual pension costs by about $1 million (from about $24.6 million to $23.6 million) — hardly a panacea for a problem that continues to grow thanks to CalPERS’ revisions.

For the council, shrinking the pension liability is among the most pressing and challenging priorities. And for Councilman Eric Filseth, chair of the council’s Finance Committee, it is a problem that is gradually becoming less abstract and more tangible, with real impact to residents.

Just before the council adopted its budget on June 27, Filseth observed that the city’s public pension and health liabilities are both growing much faster than revenues. The budget included an additional contribution to the Section 115 fund, raising its balance to $3.5 million.

“We’ve known for some time that eventually those liabilities would start to impact our regular operations, competing for dollars with aquatics, safety, tree trimming and all other things we spend time on,” Filseth said.

“That time has arrived. Just like with credit cards, as our overall liability grows, the minimal payment also grows.”

In addition to creating the pension trust and reaching new agreements with labor, the city is also pre-paying the entire annual employer-contribution amount — a practice that the city expects to save $813,000 in the current fiscal year (which began on July 1).

While these steps have had some impact, overall pension costs continue to rise. This year’s budgeted $23.6 million is an increase of 11.4 percent (or $2.43 million) over 2017. This contributed to the broader trend of rising employee costs: In the General Fund, salary and benefit costs have gone up by 8.1 percent or $9.4 million, between the 2017 budget and the newly adopted one.

Tanaka believes the city should go even further in addressing the liability problem. As a member of the Finance Committee, he has repeatedly advocated for reducing employee costs and during the budget adoption, he voted against both the new public-information officer position (the only new position in the General Fund) and against a plan to retain a position in the Office of Sustainability. Both proposals sailed through despite his objections.

He also argued that the city should be more explicit in both articulating the pension problem in its budget documents and coming up with solutions. “We’re shipping away at $3.5 million a year, but it’s such a small amount and such a big debt,” Tanaka said at the June 27 meeting. “We are putting in such a relatively small, minimal payment that I don’t think we’re doing justice to our constituents or retirees.

“It’s important that we realize that there is a part of our budget that’s not accounted for — the unfunded liability.”

Let’s Discuss: Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com
News Digest

New office building planned for University Circle

University Circle, the commercial park that replaced the Whiskey Gulch neighborhood in East Palo Alto over two decades ago, may soon get a fresh injection of office space.

Columbia Property Trust, which owns the development, submitted a letter to the city this week proposing to add a fourth office building to a campus that currently offers three commercial developments and a Four Seasons hotel.

Under the proposal, a building with about 180,000 square feet of office space could be constructed on what is currently a parking lot.

Not everyone is pleased about the proposed development. Norman Beamer, president of the Crescent Park Neighborhood Association, told the Weekly that the last thing the badly congested area needs is another office building. Beamer’s Palo Alto neighborhood sits just west of the East Palo Alto border.

He pointed to the history of University Circle, which was marked by litigation and a settlement that forced the developer to scale back its plans for the office park during the planning phase, over 25 years ago.

Beamer said the same issues were that at the forefront back then — including traffic and visual impacts — still apply.

Columbia, for its part, cited the settlements in its letter but argued that now the time is right for the city to move faster on the issue and provide additional parking.

The Planning and Transportation Commission reviewed and approved the map on July 12. The council is expected to do the same on Aug. 14.

Once escrow closes, the county will proceed with the next step: bringing the park up to code.

Council prepares to revise Buena Vista lot lines

Having succeeded in preventing the closure of Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, the City Council is preparing to take the next step on Monday to ensure its operations.

The council is scheduled to approve a new parcel map for Buena Vista. The county agency is in the process of buying the mobile-home park, with escrow set to close on Sept. 1.

For the residents and Buena Vista, the county’s purchase of Buena Vista is a long-awaited victory. The Jisser family has been trying to close the park since at least November 2012, and the process was mired by litigation and arguments over whether the relocation assistance being offered to the residents was adequate.

The new parcel map would reduce the number of parcels on the 619-acre site from five to three, with the Housing Authority controlling the largest parcel: 4.5 acres that includes most of the mobile homes. The Jisser family will own the 1-acre parcel that includes two commercial buildings and the 0.75 acre that includes a gas station and a few housing units.

Under the deal’s terms, the Jissers will lease to the county the residential portion of the 0.75-acre site for three years, giving the agency time to relocate the residents to the main parcel.

The Planning and Transportation Commission reviewed and approved the parcel map on July 12. The council is expected to do the same on Aug. 14.

Once escrow closes, the county will proceed with the next step: bringing the park up to code.

School board eyes range of district goals

Rolling out new curriculum, pursuing innovation, closing the achievement gap, reforming special education and supporting wellness are among the school district’s potential goals for the 2017-18 school year, which the Board of Education discussed Tuesday night.

The goals fall under three categories — high-quality teaching and learning; equity and access; and wellness and safety.

The district’s current list of goals, five of which are new.

Under high quality teaching and learning, board members lauded the success of the university partnership, which includes Stanford, San Jose State and the San Francisco State University education programs.

Goals under equity and access focus on improving academic outcomes for minority and low-income students. Board members and a parent suggested that the board could expand its focus to also include special education.

New goals that were presented and discussed included the addition of a chief equity officer to the district’s top position.

The district continues its work to support student and staff well-being through four goals: piloting a social-emotional learning program; creating a system to track homework loads, tests and progress; implementing recommendations from last year’s wellness survey; and ensuring compliance to federal civil-rights law Title IX.

Collins urged staff to commit to a “compliance audit” that could help uncover other areas in the district in need of reform, and McGee agreed.

McGee plans to return with a revised list of goals by the board’s first meeting in September.

Janitors

Vacations and holidays, while the Uniserve contract does not. Most janitors would start with a $15-per-hour wage, with lead janitors earning $18 per hour and utility worker employees making $17 per hour.

Every employee would get a 3 percent raise in each subsequent year.

SWA’s proposed wages are comparable to what other public agencies pay to their contract janitors, said Mike Wong, facilities manager with the Public Works Department. The company generally pays its employees $15 to $16 per hour but chose the $15 rate to keep its bid more competitive for the city, Wong said in an email.

Aside from Uniserve and SWA, the only other bidder was the firm Impact, which proposed a $12.7 million wage plan, or about $2.5 million higher than SWA’s — and would have paid employees $12 per hour in the contract’s first year.

For Palo Alto, the janitorial contract will represent a sweeping change in more ways than one. The city has been contracting out its janitorial services since 1994 and the price tag has always been the main criterion during the bidding process, according to the Public Works report.

The results, according to the report, have been less than stellar. Janitors have reportedly struggled to meet the city’s performance standards, which in turn required staff to intensely manage contracts and take corrective actions. Issues included supply and material shortages, prohibited activities occurring on city property, cleaning not done and poor work performance, the report states.

“When striving for the lowest cost, the city saw gaps in sufficient staffing including adequate supervision, significantly low wage rates impacting recruitment (including the ability to pass Department of Justice background checks) and retention of staff, and insufficient supplies and materials,” the report states. “All of these have led to cleaning issues throughout the city.”

The report also notes that other agencies have faced challenges of subpar performance similar to Palo Alto’s when giving preference to cost.

‘When striving for the lowest cost, the city saw gaps in sufficient staffing including adequate supervision, significantly low wage rates impacting recruitment. All of these have led to cleaning issues throughout the city.’

— Public Works Department report

The biggest factor in the city’s evaluation criteria this time around is a category called “quality, performance and effectiveness of services, which comprises 40 percent of the score. Cost makes up 20 percent. Other factors, with less weight, relate to the contractor’s experience, ability to provide future maintenance and financial stability.

Based on these criteria, staff unanimously selected SWA, which also provides services to the City of Mountain View.

The new janitorial contract is also notable for another reason: For the first time since the Palo Alto council launched its quest for a higher minimum wage in early 2015, the policy is taking a significant bite out of the city’s bottom line.

When the council approved its current plan to phase in $15 per hour citywide, the bulk of the debate swirled around the costs to businesses, whether the city should pursue exemptions for restaurants’ tipped workers (the council opted not to) and whether the $15 wage should debut in 2018 or 2019.

While the council ultimately settled on 2019, the city’s staff’s recommendation makes a case for immediately walking the talk when it comes to janitorial services.

The move is likely to please current and former council members who initiated the drive toward the higher minimum wage. Councilmen Tom DuBois and Cory Wolbach and former members Pat Burt and Marc Berman (who is now a state Assembly member) wrote in a February 2015 memo that low-paid work-ers “perform valued services in Palo Alto and often have to work multiple jobs with long commutes to barely make ends meet.”

“A modest increase like this would be a modest step in supporting these workers who are vital to maintaining the services we value and that are essential to our local economy,” the memo stated.

After numerous committee hearings, the council voted unanimously last September to approve the higher wage. Wolbach and Berman argued that the city should move faster on the issue and proposed going to a $15 wage by July 1, 2018. That proposal was rejected by the majority, who favored a schedule that is aligned with those of other cities in the region.

The proposed contract with SWA would cost the city $10.65 million, which includes $10.1 million for basic services and $507,268 for additional services, which includes special events, emergencies and new services. It covers 43 municipal buildings, including City Hall, libraries, park restrooms and parking garages. Among other services, the work will include floor waxing and window washing.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.
Camino to get sushi there.

The market’s lack of clear signage, residents and customer said, is an immediate threat to the group’s ability to offer a deli, bread and salad stations, sundries, coffee, tea and food soup — just as College Terrace Market does.

Stanford University also plans to add a small convenience store to its new Escondido Village housing development a few blocks away.

The market does have three signs: Two logos — a red apple in the shape of a “C” with shopping-cart wheels and a green apple-leaf handle — with “Market” in black block letters below affixed near the top of a 40-plus-foot spire at the corner of Oxford and El Camino.

Above the store’s corner entrance is a third logo sign with the words “College Terrace Market.”

But those, residents said, are not so good for him, he said.

“One thing we should have is to allow a cafeteria to go into the building,” said a nearly dressed, 40-ish lawyer from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, the firm he founded under his name. “It was hard to get someone in here in the first place. You’d like to see the plan supported, even if you give the store the advantage to survive.”

He’s walked from his Page Mill Road office to the market for lunch every third day since it opened, passing a no-man’s land of office buildings, apartments and a large tree branch collapsed on a group of people during a company picnic at Menlo College on Saturday afternoon, injuring three and sending two to the hospital for treatment, according to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The Palo Alto Transit Center bus depot will be closed until Sept. 21 as the city’s Public Works Department makes repairs to the pavement on and around the site.

This marks the second time the bus depot has been closed this year. (Posted Aug. 6, 8:04 a.m.)

A community symposium with world researchers of one of the potential diseases, known as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

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A community symposium with world researchers of one of the potential diseases, known as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).
Public Agenda
A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL... The council plans to meet in a closed session to discuss the status of its labor negotiations with the Service Employees International Union, Local 521, and the Utilities Management and Professional Association of Palo Alto (UMPAPA). The council will then approve the City’s new Transit Vision Plan; consider revising the parcel map at Buena Vista Mobile Home Park; consider approving a five-year contract with SNA Services Group for janitorial services; amend the city’s contract with the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) and designate a voting delegate and alternate for the League of California Cities Conference. The closed session will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday Aug. 14. Regular meeting will follow immediately after in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION... The commission will hold a retreat at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 15, in the Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road.

COUNCIL RAIL COMMITTEE... The committee plans to discuss the Connecting Palo Alto effort, including the problem statement, the objectives, the evaluation criteria and the process for facilitating the community discussion on grade separations. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 16, in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

CITY COUNCIL... The council will meet in a closed session to discuss evaluations of the four council-appointed officers: city manager, city attorney, city clerk and city auditor. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

CITY/SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE... The committee will review recent council and school board meetings; discuss the Safe Routes to School program; and discuss the city’s and the school district’s construction updates. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17, in the district office, 25 Churchill Ave.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD... The board plans to perform a site-and-design review for a proposed four-story mixed-use project at 3001 El Camino Real, which includes 50 residential units and 19,800 square feet of retail; hold a preliminary review for 4256 El Camino Real, a request for Minnie Voskerician for a new five-story hotel; and hold a preliminary review for 4190 El Camino Real, a request for a 5,340-square-foot addition and a solar canopy over an existing auto dealership. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17, in the district office, 25 Churchill Ave.

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION... The committee plans to consider approving artwork by Mary Lucking for the Highway 101 overpass; initiate the evaluation process for de-accession of the “Digital DNA” and “Go Mama” sculptures; and approve three temporary artworks for King Plaza by Toby Fraley, Megan Geckler and Konstantin Dimopoulos. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17, in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

Notice of Salvage Opportunity
In compliance with the Project Conditions for Approval, Notice is hereby posted indicating a Salvage Opportunity for building elements at 744 San Antonio Road. Qualified contractors may contact Randy Popp at randy@rp-arch.com for further information. The notice period ends 8/16/2017 and the opportunity for salvage closes 9/6/2017.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of the City of Palo Alto

8:30 A.M., Thursday August 24, 2017, Palo Alto Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Civic Center, 250 Hamilton Avenue. Contact Robin Ellner at 650-329-2603, for information during business hours.

Study Session

1. 375 Hamilton [17PLN-00224]: Preliminary Architectural Review Application for a New Five-Story Parking Garage with One Basement Parking Level with 1,709 sf of Ground Floor Retail, Bike Storage and 330 Parking Spaces Located on a 29.164 s.f. Surface Parking Lot. Zone District: PF (Public Facilities). Environmental Assessment: An Initial Study has been Prepared in Accordance With the California Environmental Quality Act and a Scoping Session was Held. For More Information Contact Amy French, Chief Planning Official, at amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org

2. 526 Waverley Street: Discussion Regarding Potential Reclassification of the Birge Clark Designed 1927 Building at 526 Waverley in Downtown Palo Alto, from Category 3 on the City’s Historic Inventory to Category 2, Prior to Application for Preliminary Architectural Review for Historic Rehabilitation and Potential Upper Floor Addition for Residential Use. Zone District: CD-C(GF)(P). Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per Sections 15331 Historical Resource Rehabilitation. No application has been submitted.

3. 2601 E. Bayshore Road: Discussion Regarding Former International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) Property. No application has been submitted.

Amy French
Chief Planning Official

The City of Palo Alto does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To request an accommodation for this meeting or an alternative format for any related printed materials, please contact the City’s ADA Coordinator at 650.329.2550 (voice) or by e-mailing ada@cityofpaloalto.org.

(continued from previous page)

Others who favored the new stakeholder group include former Mayor Pat Burt, who submitted a letter calling for the group’s establishment, and former planning commission Vice Chair Arthur Keller, who attended the Wednesday meeting to lobby for the new group. “The public participation proposed in this document is broad and shallow,” Keller said, referring to the staff proposal. “The stakeholder group includes a property owner that I know very well. I think that’s critical. You need both.”

Their arguments swayed the commission majority, with Commissioners Ed Lauing and Doria Summa both supporting the formation of a stakeholder group. The more that expert opinions are involved, the better the outcome is likely to be, Lauing reasoned.

“It’s such a significant thing in Palo Alto and if we can keep from making mistakes because we have experts in a real stakeholder group, I think it’s worth the investment,” Lauing said.

But Alcheck and Monk both supported staff’s approach. Monk said she was concerned about potentially losing Measure B funding. Alcheck argued that a project as technically complex as grade separation will necessarily require expert opinions.

“I think using a process that more heavily relies on experts, planning staff, PTC and council is more appropriate, especially because we have to deal with technical issues,” Alcheck said.

Whether or not the council ultimately agrees to form the new group (it will consider the question on Aug. 28), everyone agreed that staff should move along with community meetings to keep the broader community involved. The next such meeting is set to take place on Sept. 16 at the Palo Alto Art Center auditorium.

Deliberations over the rail corridor are far from new. In 2013, a citizen task force debated potential improvements along the railroad tracks and released a report that recommended new east-west connections and that favored putting the rail line below ground level in a trench or tunnel.

Gitelman cited the earlier efforts on Wednesday but noted that the community conversation could evolve as more details emerge in the coming months.

“My expectation is that although there’s been a lot of thought given to the corridor and a clear preference expressed for a below-grade solution, it will be more complicated than that when we start talking about cost and constraints and impacts on other grade crossings and other aspects around the railroad tracks such as Biscuits for our community,” Gitelman said.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gshyener@paweekly.com.

Ready for kick off
Lauren Kerr, Palo Alto High School class of ‘15, details her fourth and final mural — a swimmer — in the brand new Paly gymnasium. Other murals depict the sports of football, basketball and volleyball.

Upfront
Breathtaking estate property featuring a totally restored Spanish Revival residence on an expansive 24k sf lot. www.CrescentParkEstate.com

High ceilings, Bay & hill views. Contemporary open floor plan. 6 bedroom suites, 9 bathrooms, office, au pair suite, elevator, 9478 sf living area, 3 car garage.

Prime Old Palo Alto location. Two story home with 6 bedrooms, 4 baths, hardwood floors. Approx 3485 sq ft home on 8400 sf lot.

Charming Leland Manor Home, 5 bedroom 3 bath home with 2300 sq ft situated on a 9380 sq ft lot.

Recently constructed 6BR/4.5BA features open concept & contemporary functionality. Blocks from Downtown/ Menlo Park Schools. www.60Michaels.com

Brand New – Stunning and spacious 6 bed, 8 baths, 6,413 +/- sf home on a 9,750 sf lot in Crescent Park Addition neighborhood www.11Phillips.com

Renovated throughout by celebrated designer/stager Karen Salveson. Spectacular, unique and so inviting with classy updates. Possible ADU? Large landscaped yard.

Beautiful 6bd, 5ba home with inventive architecture and extraordinary views is situated atop a peaceful, private knoll, with panoramic vistas stretching from SF to Mt. Hamilton. Palo Alto Schools.
Sophie Tsang  
650.687.7388  
stsang@apr.com  

Sophie got it ready for market in 7 days, worked 10 offers in within 7 days, negotiated an all-cash deal and closed in 7 days. Total time 21 days. www.2893RamonaSt.com

Michael Johnston  
650.533.5102  
mjohnston@apr.com  

Sold with 5 offers over the asking price, Michael negotiated an all-cash deal, a 14-day close of escrow and favorable rent-back for the sellers.

Denise Simons  
650.269.0210  
dsimens@apr.com  

Nestled on a cul-de-sac in desirable Green Acres, this 4 bd, 2.5 ba home has dual pane windows, hardwood floors and central A/C.

Andrea Schultz  
650.575.3632  
aschultz@apr.com  

Stunning home, built in 2007. High end details and a long list of amenities. 5Bd, 3.5Ba, fabulous neighborhood. Close to parks and “the Avenue”. Booksin Elementary. Co-listed with Bob Jones.

Derk Brill  
650.543.1117  
dbrill@apr.com  

Leland Manor in the heart of Green Gables. Bright & open 3BR/2BA floorplan with option to qualify for the new ADU ordinance. www.841Seale.com

Arti Miglani  
650.804.6942  
amiglani@apr.com  

3 bedroom 2 bath home with a family room, living and dining room and a 2 car garage. Sold with multiple offers. Are you ready to move? Call us!

Denise Simons  
650.269.0210  
dsimens@apr.com  

Move right into this delightful 4 bedroom, 2 bath Eichler with abundant natural light, walls of windows, skylights, radiant heated floors and an open floor plan.

Shelly Roberson  
650.464.3797  
sroberson@apr.com  

Turn key newly remodeled Barron Park Eichler offers 5Bd/2ba on 6400+/- SF lot. Near excellent schools, neighborhood parks and tech companies.

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.
Free-standing 4bd/3.5ba townhome, high ceilings, chef’s kitchen has large work island. Family room, private yard plus 2-car garage.

Remodeled penthouse 2bd/2ba, ADA compliant, elevator, chef kit, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, tree top views, underground parking.

Beautiful 5bd/4.5ba home located in the prestigious “Positano” in Dublin Hill. 4225 s.f. 8850 s.f. Lot with 10 foot ceilings.

Great updated vacation home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and ocean views. Close to tennis. Steps to beach. Great rental history.

Set along idyllic Coffee Creek, Bonanza King Resort is a slice of paradise in the Trinity Alps. More at RusticResort.biz

Sophisticated condo living steps from downtown Palo Alto. High end renovation. Peaceful treetop views.

Beautifully remodeled 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2,260 square foot home on a quiet cul-de-sac with great schools and spectacular views!

Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom updated townhome with a yard and 1 car garage. Great, quiet location.
Georgia Schwaar

Georgia Schwaar died on August 1, 2017, at her home in Channing House in Palo Alto. She was 84 and had lived in Palo Alto since 1971.

Georgia Davenport Steigerwald was born in Buffalo, NY, on Sept. 8, 1932, the daughter of dentist George Steigerwald and Alene Davenport Steigerwald. She graduated from Binghamton (N.Y.) Central High School and earned an A.B. from Barnard College in 1954.

She taught elementary grades in New Jersey and New York before marrying Robert Schwaar, whom she had met while living in Princeton, NJ. In 1956 the young couple moved to Berkeley, California, where Georgia taught primary grades in Berkeley and Lafayette, California.

She was active with the Berkeley Co-op, where she helped write a commemorative cookbook. For the League of Women Voters, she led the Voter Service group, researched issues related to Fair Housing, and campaigned for Eugene McCarthy.

She hosted foreign visitors for the International Hospitality Center and for the American Host Program.

Her husband, a chemical engineer, worked on several long-term European projects; she accompanied him in Germany and Spain.

Georgia was a dedicated genealogist, researching and preparing family trees for both sides of her and her husband’s families, and visiting many newly found relatives in the US and in Europe.

Georgia’s handicraft projects included knitting, furniture designing, woodworking, quilting and rugmaking.

Always scrupulously honest, she was especially proud of the “A” she earned in [Bishop] Jim Pike’s ethics class at Barnard.

Since 1971 Georgia and Bob lived in Palo Alto, where they raised their daughter, Teresa. Georgia attended Law School at Golden Gate University, obtaining her J.D. in 1980. She worked in the public defender’s office and for Legal Aid, mostly handling cases in family law and women’s rights.

Georgia volunteered for 20+ years with the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, preparing donated books for their monthly book sales. She volunteered in elementary classrooms and special ed classes; She always enjoyed teaching young children.

Georgia liked foreign food, foreign travel, and foreign languages, and enjoyed plenty of each.

She was in charge of maintaining 80 large camellia bushes at the Gamble Garden in Palo Alto.

She was a longtime member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, where she served on the Board of Trustees and was a leader in action groups for many years.

In 2006 Georgia and Bob moved from Churchill Avenue to Channing House in Palo Alto, where they built a new circle of friends.

Georgia’s love for her grandchildren was evident, and she often cooked special meals for them.

Georgia Schwaar died on August 1, 2017, in Channing House. She was 84 years old and had lived in Palo Alto since 1971.

Richard “Dick” Alan De Stefano, 87, passed away on July 25, 2017, at the Palo Alto Veteran’s Hospital. Dick was a lifelong resident of Palo Alto for 51 years. He was born on February 17, 1930 in San Francisco to Nicholas and Mary Anna De Stefano. On January 27, 1951, he married his sweetheart Josephine Maynard who preceded him in death in May 21, 1992.

Dick is survived by his three children, Dick (Kathy) De Stefano, Tom (Linda) De Stefano and Sally Pollard. He also has seven grandchildren. (T. J., Scotty, Joey, Kayla, Jenna, Ronnie & Brad). Dick was a loving father, husband, grandfather and friend to all who knew him.

He was a Korean War Veteran who proudly served in the United States Army in the 1950s. He worked as Vice President with Spectra Physics in Mountain View. Later, he became owner of NDS Technology, a company he was very proud of.

Dick enjoyed traveling the world which included many trips to Hawaii, Panama Canal and the Caribbean Islands. He loved deep sea fishing and boating. A great joy for Dick was spending time with his children and grandchildren. He loved watching all his grandchildren compete in their individual sports.

A special thank you to Cedar Creek in Los Gatos for their loving care and support of our father over the last 8 years. Also, thank you to the Palo Alto Veteran’s Hospital for their exceptional medical care.

The family will hold a private burial at Alta Mesa in Palo Alto.

Family and friends are invited to attend a “Celebration of Life” on Saturday, August 19 at 12:30 pm at Caffe Rieca Restaurant, 200 Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto.
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City of Palo Alto

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Palo Alto will conduct a Public Hearing at its Regular Meeting on Monday, August 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California, to consider QUASI JUDICIAL: 3877 El Camino Real [14PLN-00464]. Adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan and approval of a Site and Design Review for the demolition of the vacant 5,860 square-foot commercial building and construction of a new mixed-use project. The Project includes a 4,027 square foot commercial building and 17 dwelling units (flats and townhouses). Parking for the Project is provided in a basement. The Applicant also requests approval of a Design Enhancement Exception to allow the basement to encroach into the required rear yard setback below grade. Environmental Assessment: A Mitigated Negative Declaration was circulated between March 6, 2017 and April 7, 2017. Both the Planning & Transportation Commission (March 8, 2017) and Architectural Review Board (May 18, 2017) have recommended approval of the Project. Zoning Districts: CS and RM-30.

Beth D. Minor
City Clerk

City of Palo Alto

Planning and Community Environment

CITY OF PALO ALTO

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared by the Palo Alto Department of Planning and Community Environment for the project listed below. In accordance with CEQA Guideline Section 15073, this document will be available online for review during a 30-day circulation period beginning August 4, 2017 through September 5, 2017 at http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/rinconadaplan. If you need assistance, please visit the City’s Development Center during the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. M-F at 285 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

Written comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be accepted until 5:00 PM on September 5, 2017 in the Planning and Community Environment Department offices on the fifth floor of City Hall or comments may be e-mailed to Amy French at amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org.

This project is scheduled for consideration by the public at a community meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Junior Museum and Zoo located at 1451 Midfield Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94301 and a Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Palo Alto City Council Chambers on the first floor of the Civic Center, located at 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

The City of Palo Alto is proposing to replace the 9,000 sq.ft. Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo (JMZ) with a 15,033 sq.ft. JMZ zoo and educational building. The conceptual Rinconada Park Long Range Plan (RPLRP), intended to guide park renovations over a 25 year period, is also soon subject to environmental review, since the RPLRP west end park improvements are associated with the JMZ project. The existing JMZ facility is a two-story structure; the replacement one-story JMZ building will be constructed during the first phase of the project; a second phase would add a small, 3,600 sq.ft., two-story building on the JMZ site near the park within five to ten years. The Phase 1 project includes a reconfigured parking lot for improved circulation and safety, new pedestrian and bike pathways, plaza entryway, lighting, landscaping, and playground re-siting on city-owned property zoned for public facilities.

Hillary Gitelman,
Director of Planning and Community Environment

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Editorial

Buena Vista’s finish line

After years of struggle, mobile home park will quietly become publicly owned

In less than a month, Palo Alto’s most well-known and debated housing for low-income families will be officially saved from closure and redevelopment. It is a tribute to the extraordinary work over more than four years by many people and organizations, including funding approved by three public agencies, the indefatigable efforts of Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, a determined residents’ group that organized to save their modest homes and an owner who came to accept that this was the best outcome for all parties.

If all goes according to plan, the newly renovated 90-year-old Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, located behind a small retail center on El Camino Real in the Barron Park neighborhood, will soon pay their rent checks to the Housing Authority of Santa Clara County instead of the Jisser family and they will finally have the comfort of knowing their housing is secure and no longer subject to the threat of development that would drive them from Palo Alto, and possibly the Bay Area.

Escrow on the sale of the property by the Jissers to the Housing Authority is set to close on September 1 for $40.4 million, an enormous sum for both the Jissers and the public agencies that are contributing funds to make the deal possible. No one need feel sorry for the Jissers, as they are ending up with more money than they could ever have reasonably expected and are spared the considerable expense of paying relocation benefits to the current residents and for probable litigation for years into the future.

In the end, the family accepted the fact that the Housing Authority was prepared to exercise its eminent domain powers to force a sale of the property and became willing to negotiate a sale price without the complications and expense of a court dispute over the adequate compensation-market value determination.

Palo Alto committed $14.5 million from its restricted affordable-housing funds to support the purchase, and Santa Clara County has agreed to provide the same amount. The Housing Authority, which receives most of its money from federal housing programs, will cover the remaining balance and will pay for needed improvements to the housing units and utility infrastructure. It will contract with a nonprofit experienced in operating mobile home parks to carry out repairs and ensure compliance with building codes.

A detailed assessment of what improvements are necessary will be done as soon as the Housing Authority takes ownership and meets with the individual residents.

A city staff report states that some units will likely need to be relocated within the park to meet setback and other requirements. It also revealed that there are currently “some” vacancies, which will make it possible to replace the same amount. The Housing Authority, which receives most of its money from federal housing programs, will cover the remaining balance and will pay for needed improvements to the housing units and utility infrastructure. It will contract with a nonprofit experienced in operating mobile home parks to carry out repairs and ensure compliance with building codes.

One of the last remaining requirements for the sale of Buena Vista to the Housing Authority is approval by the City of Palo Alto, scheduled for Monday night’s City Council meeting, of recommendations that proprietors to accommodate the terms of the sales agreement. Five different parcels will be consolidated into three: a 4.5 acre parcel on which most of the existing mobile homes sit, a 1 acre commercial parcel along El Camino that contains the small retail center and parking lot, and a 0.7 acre parcel that contains a gas station and a small number of residential units.

Only the 4.5 acre parcel is being purchased by the Housing Authority. The Jisser family will retain ownership of the other two parcels and will temporarily lease the small parcel with housing units to the Housing Authority to allow sufficient time for the agency to relocate the current residents into units on the larger parcel.

There are some technical and non-controversial, but are necessary to align the property lines with the details of the deal struck between the Housing Authority and the Jissers.

No changes to the existing zoning are proposed, but the parcel with the gas station is currently zoned for mixed use and could be redeveloped by the Jissers into housing in the future.

The imminent escrow closing of the sale of Buena Vista is a milestone in a journey that many thought would never conclude successfully. Some in the community harshly criticized the notion of using public funds — even those expressly paid by private developers to fund such housing — to preserve low-income housing. But far more people looked at Buena Vista as an opportunity to preserve a small neighborhood of families that brings valued diversity to a city that is rapidly losing it.

The residents of Buena Vista are valued employees in our workforce, restaurants, retail stores and schools and provide needed services to Palo Alto. The community has lost so much of its diversity in the last 40 years, we should celebrate the collaboration that has resulted in saving this unique housing community and its residents.

Allow Mime Troupe to return

Editor, I’ve attended performances by the Pantsy Francisco Mime Troupe for over 20 years and was thrilled when they started performing at Mitchell Park. I could walk to see them instead of driving to San Francisco. The performances are clever. People boo and hiss the cast villains and cheer on the heroes.

I discovered in a mention in the Weekly that they were no longer performing because the City of Palo Alto wouldn’t permit them to ask for donations after the shows. Berkeley, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Jose, Ukiah, Petaluma and Davis permit the Mime Troupe to perform in their public parks. I can only assume the donation model is the same.

If you have attended a performance, you’ll know that they bring a stage, costumes, props, musical instruments and speakers. Afterward, the cast walks around with metal cans, and people can put in there whatever they like. No one is pressured.

I very much hope that they get off the costs. When the city suddenly decided this year that they couldn’t collect the donations, the Mime Troupe couldn’t justify coming here for free.

I learned of a suggestion by City staff that a GoFundMe site be set up to donate. People attending a live theater performance are caught up in the moment and moved by the actors’ skills. I believe having people go to a GoFundMe site will be an absolute failure.

The Mime Troupe performed in Palo Alto for a number of years, occasionally twice in a summer. If all these other cities don’t have a problem with this group getting donations after the show, what’s different about Palo Alto?

A better solution than having people log onto the internet and donate would be to rewrite the city’s code and permit this Emmy-award-winning group to come back to Palo Alto.

Ceci Kettenlendorf

Grove Avenue, Palo Alto

Add a variance in the code

Editor, I am a member of a congregation in a residential neighborhood, and it is active in the Hotel de Zink program, a homeless shelter that rotates among 12 churches yearly. I have also been an organizer of a shoeing nonprofit arts group that held forums. It was the beneficiary of free space at such facilities, which helped it get off the ground.

A lot of worthwhile programs could not exist without the existence of free- or low-cost space. About 35 years ago, city facilities began charging rent on its spaces — for instance at the Palo Alto Cultural Center (as it then was called). Now, a lot of city-subsidized space will disappear at Cubberley Community Center.

If all the churches that offer space that are in residential neighborhood were brave enough to list all the organizations that they allow to use their facilities, you would see what a benefit this is to the whole community and beyond. But, they don’t want to be found in violation with stiff penalties.

I understand what sparked this was a complaint. I believe that a variance in the code is warranted and that mediation between the parties and the church could solve a lot of the problem. Adjustments could be made (soundproofing, etc.).

The church must have been there before the offended party bought the home and should be grandfathered in.

Gertrude Reagan

Moreno Avenue, Palo Alto

What changes to Palo Alto’s rail crossings do you favor?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 300 words to letters@paweekly.com.

Submit questions of 1,000 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square. For more information contact Editor Joceelyn Dong or Editorial Assistant Anna Medina at editor@paweekly.com or 650-326-6210.

Promoting pollinators

Editor, Neighbors tell me the City requires that a resident wanting to keep a bee hive needs the permission of all the surrounding neighbors.

I would think Palo Alto would be promoting the cultivation of pollinators rather than discouraging it. U.S. crops and flowering plants are at risk due to the marked decline of bee populations.

Palo Alto proud itself on a commitment to the environment and ecology. Beekeeping should be encouraged; the policy should be reviewed.

Ceci Kettenlendorf

Grove Avenue, Palo Alto

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Palo Alto Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest.

? What changes to Palo Alto’s rail crossings do you favor?

DID THEY TELL YOU WHY? IT WOULD DRIVE ME NUTS IF THEY DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND WOULDN’T TELL ME WHY, ESPECIALLY IF I KNEW WHY IT WAS.
I n June of this year, both my body and mind were in strange places. My body, in Thailand: racing through bustling Bangkok traffic, where the only apparent rule was that there were no rules. My childhood friend (let’s call him Derek) and I were packed into the back of a rickety tuk-tuk; the air we breathed was a mix of street food and smog.

My mind was in an equally odd situation. In this small tuk-tuk, Derek and I had been asking big questions — about where we were, where we were going, and where we came from. We discussed blurred realities from our pasts and blurrier dreams for our futures. Amid all that blurriness — or maybe it was the car exhaust — Derek asked a clear question, which clouded everything: “Would you raise a family in Palo Alto?”

That simple question twisted my mind — more than a recent Thai massage had twisted my hip flexor. Years ago, my body and mind were so desperate for housing, I think it’s good because they do need it. So that’s why I want to save women from sex-trafficking.

Today, our post-graduate paths are ready to cross again: Derek works at Facebook as a software engineer, while I research anatomy and biochemistry at Stanford and SLAC. The two of us celebrated our impending adulthood by traveling through Southeast Asia in June. That was where I faced Derek’s familiar, yet perplexing question.

“Umm...” was all I could muster. “I don’t know.”

I wasn’t sure which confused me more: the question itself or the fact that I couldn’t immediately answer in the positive. Like so many of my schoolmates, I grew up revering Palo Alto and Silicon Valley. We took pride in our top-ranked schools and global reputation. We gushed over local celebrities, from Steve Jobs to James Franco to Jeremy Lin. Even our problems fostered pride — unaffordable housing made it impressive that our parents could, indeed, afford homes. The city was too good to be true.

Too good to be true. Maybe that’s why Derek’s inquiry was so perplexing. Like the subtle incongruities of dystopian worlds, something just didn’t feel right about settling down in Palo Alto — something I never felt as a child but do now.

A few weeks after the trip, I was into my postgraduate rhythm and beginning research at Stanford. Every morning, I went running through familiar neighborhoods. I would shower, eat, then drive past childhood schools on the way to work. But still, something felt off — something I couldn’t figure out. Until last weekend. At a local café, I met another high school friend for breakfast. We talked about her artwork, my religious life and everything in between. As I put forth Derek’s inquiry to this friend, a voice cried out: “No way!”

We turned in surprise to find an older woman staring back.

“She did live in Palo Alto and had for five decades. What could be her issue?”

The woman explained herself: For many today, Palo Alto feels more card- board than community; more ideal than reality. I believe this sentiment was the source of my original unease. For example: I’m a social person and care about my friends and family. But I don’t even know my neighbors’ names. How could that be?

A few days later, I explained my conflicted thoughts to Derek over dinner. On the one hand, I have deep bonds here — a Stanford Christian fellowship, my family and my friends like Derek, to name a few. On the other hand, I long for a community that functions as an organism: composed of different organs and limbs, yet co-dependent and integrated. I feel as though my organism is scattered about — its dismembered parts coalescing into smaller, isolated pockets. The heart and lungs have common goals but are uninterested in the foot’s agenda. The brain respects the kidneys but considers them “work friends.”

Oddly enough, I feel more attached to Knox County, Ohio (where Kenyon is located), than I do Palo Alto. Somehow, this man-bun-wearing biochemist feels more connected to a Central Ohio community — which heavily supported Donald Trump — than one that shaped his own political and cultural views. I’ve just uttered the Trump buzzword, so I might as well utilize that example.

The custodian in my Kenyon dormitory was a 60-year-old Trump supporter (I’ll call him Jeff). We represented wildly different backgrounds and political views. Every day, Jeff informed me of the latest right-wing Hillary Clinton conspiracy, and I told him his sources were untrustworthy. I’d ask why he was so riled-up over guns, and he’d expound upon his cultural attachment to firearms. Rarely, if ever, did we see eye-to-eye.

My Facebook echo-chamber spewed rhetoric about the racism and ignorance of all Trump supporters — I had many reasons to ignore Jeff. Jeff had cleaned privileged students’ vomit and trash for over 30 years — he had every reason to think me an entitled brat. But we existed within a community. That community gave reason to breathe, feel and think as part of a larger organism. There was argument, yes, but also unity. Therefore, our differences were not divisive; we were instructive. I came to know Jeff as a caring and humble man who wants to save women from sex-trafficking. He came to see me — a man-bun-wearing kid from California — as a good friend.

(continued on page 18)
Palace Project Area:

APPROVAL OF A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PALO ALTO AND ALANIZ CONSTRUCTION, INC.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT NUMBER 3 TO CONTRACT NUMBER C15154454 WITH INTEGRATED DESIGN 360 FOR GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND LANDSCAPE PLAN REVIEW AND CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A TERM EXTENSION OF ONE YEAR AND INCREASING COMPENSATION FOR ONGOING AND APPROVED WORK WITH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND OPTIONAL TASKS BY $376,744 FOR A TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF $1,255,005.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NUMBER 3 TO CONTRACT NUMBER S1516222 WITH GOLDER ASSOCIATES TO INCREASE COMPENSATION BY $91,300, FOR A TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF $311,622, TO PERFORM AN EVALUATION OF SULFUR CONCENTRATIONS AND LEACHATE LEVELS AT THE PALO ALTO LANDFILL, AND TO EXTEND THE CURRENT THREE-YEAR TERM BY FOUR MONTHS.

AUTHORIZED THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT NUMBER 21216667 BETWEEN THE CITY AND VAN SCYOCO ASSOCIATES INC., FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY, TO REDUCE THE TERM BY SEVEN MONTHS AND REDUCE THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT BY $56,000.

APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH BAUER COMPRESSORS IN THE AMOUNT OF $667,519 FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIRE FIGHTING SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS, FACE MASKS, AIR CYLINDERS, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE RELATED CHANGE ORDERS NOT-TO-EXCEED $102,481.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NUMBER 3 TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD FOR RAIL SHUTTLE BUS ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT FOR ONE YEAR AND TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL $128,200 FOR COMMUNITY SHUTTLE SERVICE ON THE EXISTING EMBARCADERO SHUTTLE ROUTE FROM JULY 2017 UNTIL JUNE 2018.

APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF LOCAL SUPPORT FOR GRANT FUNDING AS REQUIRED BY THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (MTC) FOR THE ONE BAY AREA GRANT PROGRAM (OBAG) CYCLE TWO AND VEHICLE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS BASED AT SCHOOLS (VERBS) FUNDING PROGRAMS.

APPROVAL OF PORTAGE AVENUE: APPROVAL OF THE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR’S DETERMINATION TO AUTHORIZE A WAIVER OF THE RETAIL PRESCRIPTION ORDINANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: EXEMPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) SECTION 15061(b)(3) GUIDELINES.

APPROVAL OF A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PALO ALTO AND THE PALO ALTO POLICE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (PMA).

POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT OF NEIGHBORHOOD PAYMENTS.

POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT OF GREEN PURCHASING PROCESSES.

POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT: CROSS BORE INSPECTION CONTRACT AUDIT.

AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING–COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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When looking at photographs of Cubberley Community Center from the 1960s, when the facility served as a high school, it’s hard to notice anything different from how the grounds look today. The gymnasium still houses myriad mosaic animals on its facade, the doors still have their bluish tint, and a sign with the words “Ellwood P. Cubberley High School” still stands at the front of the property.

What those vintage photographs don’t show is the vibrant community that has evolved within Cubberley’s walls since 1990, under the City of Palo Alto’s lease of the campus from the Palo Alto School District.

The 35-acre center provides space to about 130 community groups and artists. On any given day, the campus is bustling with everything from after-school programs and sports games to dance lessons and music classes.

Artist Servane Briand specializes in book art and printmaking in the space she leases with another artist, one of 24 art studios at Cubberley.

Briand’s work has a natural twist to it. She uses beeswax as a coating and painting tool and works frequently in solar etching, in which she exposes a drawing to the sun on a polymer plate and then develops her etching using a traditional process.

Before moving to Cubberley three years ago, Briand worked in her bedroom.

“Cubberley has allowed me to work on bigger scale, to do projects that are more sophisticated,” she said, “partly because of the space, because you can lift things around and manipulate more, partly because I can have...
equipment, which I couldn’t have in my bedroom.”

Sharing a space also has provided her the opportunity to collaborate with her studio partner, she added.

“We acquire and share equipment and then inspire and influence each other, so that’s also been very good,” Briand said.

For Palo Alto Vineyard Church, one of three churches operating at Cubberley, the need for more space is what initially prompted the organization to move from its home at Mitchell Park Community Center 30 years ago.

Lead Pastor Susan Van Riesen said the church has gained much more than just space since relocating to Cubberley.

“A number of years ago, when they still had a number of homeless folks living at Cubberley, a lot of those folks came to our services. Some of them are still a part of our community. It has enabled us to be a more diverse

Artist Conrad Johnson works on paintings outside of the studio he has rented for more than two years. He is one of 28 artists renting space at the center as part of the CASP program to support local artists.

Cubberley (continued from previous page)

Teacher Helen Chan, far left, leads a knitting class at the Hua Kuang Reading Room at Cubberley Community Center as fellow knitters chat in the reading room. The Chinese-language library also offers classes in calligraphy, ESL, citizenship and tutoring.

Players from the Palo Alto Soccer Club do drills at the soccer fields behind the main buildings at the Cubberley center, which has tennis courts, softball fields, soccer fields, a football field and running track.

Luis Silva, center, holds a treat while teaching his Akita puppy, Noah, how to “stay,” as dog trainer Karen Shipe, far left, leads the “Puppy Training II” in room H-6 through SIRIUS, a dog-training business which offers classes in many cities throughout the Bay Area.
Cover Story

Lori Rock, center, leads line-dancing lessons during Senior Friendship Day — a free, weekly senior-focused program that offers classes as well as lectures and social activities like Mahjong or card games. Line dancing and lunch is provided by La Comida. The program has been offered at Cubberley for 23 years, serving about 150 seniors.

Herb Schwarz, fourth from right, a physical educator with Heart Fit For Life, leads a series of stretches, squats and lunges in the 7:30 a.m. exercise class in Gym B before the group begins strength training. Heart Fit For Life, a cardiac rehabilitation program, has been providing fitness classes, nutrition and health counseling, and social support to individuals since 1970. Each exercise class is overseen by a team of nurses who help monitor blood pressure, heart rate and hydration.

Iris, a preschooler at the nonprofit Children’s Preschool Center, plays in one of three playgrounds at the school, which has provided services for babies through children age 5 in its 10-room center at Cubberley for more than 30 years.

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Ollia Yenikomshian, executive director of the oldest program at Cubberley — the nonprofit Children’s Pre-school Center — called Cubberley a “hub for nonprofits.” Since its founding three decades ago, the preschool has operated in the same location on campus thanks to a rental stipend from the City. Yenikomshian said that under a city provision, nonprofits qualify for reduced rent, which has helped organizations that otherwise would not likely be able to find an affordable space in the community to provide services.

The future of these programs, however, is uncertain as the Palo Alto Unified School District prepares for the possible reopening of the school grounds in the coming years. The City and school district have been working to approve a joint-use master plan by 2020 with the potential to accommodate community services as well as a new school. In June, the city’s Policy and Services Committee voted to support moving ahead with a request for proposal for a consultant, which will be voted on by the Palo Alto City Council in September.

Mike Cobb, former mayor and head of the Cubberley Community Advisory Committee, said he is skeptical about whether the property can accommodate both civic and school uses. The City, however, cannot afford to not have Cubberley, he added.

“It provides services that Lucie Stern (Community Center) can’t provide, that Mitchell Park doesn’t provide. It’s a really irreplaceable resource in terms of providing resources to the community.”

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About the cover: A ballet dancer at Dance Connection performs barre exercises in the J-3 studio. The dance school has been operating at Cubberley since 1989, offering classes in ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, and break-dance for students from preschoolers to adults. The company recently expanded to four new studios in the J-wing of the community center, previously occupied by Foothill College.
Annual New Works Festival nurtures new talent, gives older works new life
by Karla Kane

Irene Sankoff and David Hein are revising their first musical, “My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding,” based on their own story.

M y Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding,” by David Hein and Irene Sankoff, subverts the “new” part of the annual TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s New Works Festival just a bit.

The autobiographical musical, based on Hein’s own mother’s coming out, reclamation of her Jewish roots and subsequent marriage to a Wiccan partner, first came out, no pun intended, back in 2009. But since then, married Canadian couple Hein and Sankoff have become the toast of Broadway, thanks to their Tony and Drama Desk award-winning musical “Come from Away,” about the hospitality of New Foundland-ers to stranded travelers following 9/11. New Works Festival Director Giovanna Sardelli said that thanks to their recent success, interest in Hein and Sankoff’s first musical was high, but that society has changed since it was first written and released. The piece, in its original form, was now dated. TheatreWorks decided that this year, the festival, which gives audiences a peek at works in progress, could offer the authors the chance to revise and resurrect their older work.

“That’s not normally something we would do, but I realized the festival should at times give new life to a work, and that actually fits that mission,” Sardelli said. “Thanks to their recent success, interest in their work is as much of the show as the show itself,” Hein said.

They said they appreciate TheatreWorks’ dedication to nurturing the creative process. “They’re so open to ideas, and we’re especially impressed by the audience there. The audience really understand that creating a work is as much of the show as the show itself,” Hein said. “Getting feedback from the audience is valuable too, especially with a piece that we’ve had to put on the shelf for so long,” said, “As Canadians, coming to California is always a delight,” he joked.

Sankoff and Hein will be portraying themselves in the show, for the first time in a while. The creative couple, who now have a 3-year-old daughter, are used to working closely in all areas of life. “It’s a challenge raising a child at the time you’re raising new musicals. There’s a lot about being married and being parents that prepares you for conflict resolution. We have a lot of tools under our belt,” Hein said.

“We don’t talk about the show when we’re hungry and tired and try not to in bed.”

“I’m still trying to find that work life balance. There is no balance: We take it day by day and do the best we can,” Sankoff added.

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“I’m still trying to find that work life balance. There is no balance: We take it day by day and do the best we can,” Sankoff added.

They’re looking forward to giving their debut collaboration a new lease on life. As Sankoff put it, in regards to both “Come from Away” and “My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding,” “There’s never a bad time to tell a story about love and kindness.”

Sardelli said that one of the other plays featured, Kevin Rolston’s play “Deal with the Dragon,” described as a dark comedy/grown-up fairytale, has also been previously produced and is being revisited. Of course, the festival is not short on brand-new works. “There’s something special about every show,” she said.

Ramiz Monsef, who’s worked with Sardelli frequently as an actor, will present his comedy “3 Farids.” The play deals with racial stereotyping set against the backdrop of Hollywood absurdity. Three men of Middle Eastern descent, all named Farid, audition to play the same character, also named Farid. “Hilarity, hopefully, ensues,” Monsef said. “It’s a clown show, in that it’s a heightened reality that gets weirder and weirder as the show goes on, much like living in Hollywood. The more you understand it and love it, the longer you stay here, the weirder it gets,” he said. It’s based on his own experiences trying to make it as an actor. “I would go into these auditions here and it’s ... harrowing! Soul crushing, maybe?” laughed the Bay Area-raised, cur-

rent Los Angeles resident. “Hollywood loves to put you in a box. It’s less about substance than looking the part. You have to play a lot of mind games with yourself and not let that get to you. I’m classically trained, I’ve done Shakespeare, I’ve got range for days but Hollywood doesn’t give a (expletive). They want you to get in your box and stay there.”

Monsef cited The Marx Brothers, The Three Stooges, Richard Pryor and Lenny Bruce among his comedy...
inspirations.

“You can laugh and still be learning; you can laugh and still be making a point,” he said. “I think comedy is powerful, it’s subversive, and I think it’s harder to do,” he said. “I think people need a laugh right now.”

Sardelli called Monsef’s piece “a bold and funny experiment. I trust him as a writer,” she said, adding that his is not the only festival entry involving clowns. The keynote speaker will be Cirque du Soleil star and literal clown-college director Jeff Raz.

Also featured will be the internet-inspired sketch comedy “Blogologues,” “Tiny Houses,” (directed by Sardelli) about the 2014 shooting down of a Malaysian airliner in Ukraine, and the festival’s second musical, “Past, Present, Future: The Shangri-Las,” which chronicles the rise of the quintessential 1960s girl group (with such hits as “Leader of the Pack”) and their mysterious disappearance from the limelight.

This year, the festival will also host an “open rehearsal” of Jeffrey Lo’s play-in-progress, “Waiting for Next,” at which the audience will get to watch the cast go through multiple versions of key scenes and offer feedback that will guide the team as they go forward with the piece.

That season sold out almost immediately, Sardelli said, to her delighted surprise. “It shows how curious people are about how a play gets made,” she said. “They really do care.”

Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane can be emailed at kkane@paweekly.com.
Summer sees spate of new dining options on the Midpeninsula

By Elena Kadavan

Summer is always a busy time on the restaurant beat, and 2017 has been no different. The Midpeninsula has seen a host of exciting openings, from the uber high-end (private dining concepts and $37 toro tartar with caviar at the new Nobu in Palo Alto) to the low-brow (dumplings and fried chicken), and plenty in between. Here’s our roundup of the summer’s new eateries, plus updates on restaurants slated to open later this year.

PALO ALTO

Nobu: A restaurant that needs little introduction, Nobu opened its first Northern California outpost in July on Hamilton Avenue, joining locations in cities such as Malibu, Las Vegas, Milan and Ibiza. The high-end Japanese eatery is serving the general public as well as guests at The Epiphany Hotel. Starting Oct. 2, the hotel will also be managed by Nobu Hospitality. Nobu Palo Alto serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. 3487 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-272-6715

Fast Tony’s Chicken: An unusual addition was made to the Tony Town & Country Village in June. Fast Tony’s Chicken, serving up Southern-style fried chicken with traditional sides such as pickles, rolls and macaroni salad. There’s also baked chicken, wings and a fried chicken sandwich featuring Duke’s Mayonnaise, a 100-year-old cult-favorite mayo made in South Carolina. The takeout-only restaurant is the brainchild of Tony Nethery, a local chef with family roots in the South and the first participant in a new mentoring program launched by Asian Box. 355 El Camino Real, suite 162; 650-321-5669

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Bonchon: Fans of Bonchon’s Korean double-fried chicken have been eagerly awaiting the chain’s opening on Castro Street, which came in July. At Bonchon, you can get Mary’s Organic Chicken in the form of fried chicken wings, drumsticks or strips with your choice of soy-garlic sauce, spicy sauce or both. There are also Korean and Asian-fusion dishes such as kimchi pancakes, bulgogi, bibimbap and Korean tacos. 260 Castro St., Mountain View; bonchon.com

Sweetgreen: For the health-conscious, popular fast-casual salad chain Sweetgreen opened on Castro Street in June. There, salads are made to order in front of customers — much like at a Chipotle or other fast-casual restaurants — with seasonal, locally sourced vegetables, fruits and whole grains from local small and mid-sized farms and companies that are delivered to the restaurants every morning, according to Sweetgreen. 440 Castro St., Mountain View; sweetgreen.com/mountain-view

WOODSIDE

Village Bakery & Cafe: Woodside residents got a new spot for food, drinks, baked goods and coffee on July 24. The Village Bakery & Cafe, which replaced the Woodside Bakery & Cafe, comes from Bacchus Management Group, which owns the nearby Village Pub, Mayfield Bakery & Cafe in Palo Alto and Spruce in San Francisco, among other restaurants. The restaurant is open for dinner nightly from 5-9:30 p.m. and the bakery, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 3032 Woodside Road, Woodside; tvbwoodside.com

MENLO PARK

Octopus Japanese Restaurant: It’s the summer’s new Japanese cuisine in sleepy Menlo Park, where not one but two new sushi restaurants (with a third on the way) have opened in the last two months. Octopus Japanese Restaurant opened under new ownership in June in the former Akasaka space on El Camino Real. The menu includes numerous classic and special sushi rolls as well as appetizers such as yellowtail tartar and wagyu tataki, sushi rolls, nigiri, sashimi, udon and entrees such as miso black cod, beef bulgogi and teriyaki. This is the third location for the Asian fusion restaurant, joining outposts in San Jose and Tustin in Southern California. 2590 West El Camino Real, 813, Mountain View; mizusbg.com/mtnview

COMING SOON

PALO ALTO

Protégé Restaurant: The two French Laundry alumni behind Protégé Restaurant were able to finally start building out the space for their highly-anticipated restaurant after securing City Council approval earlier this summer. The metal bones of a restaurant which the owners, former French Laundry master sommelier Dennis Kelly and chef Anthony Secviar, have described as “world-class” — are now emerging inside the California Avenue space. “It’s been a long and bumpy road, but we are...”

Tsui comes with experience as the general manager of the Michelin-starred Frances in San Francisco and a stint at Asian street food eatery Spice Kit. 332 University Ave., Palo Alto (No contact information available)

Dumpling City: For those weary of the upscale options, look no further than the $5.95-for-12 hand-made dumplings deal at the new Dumpling City, which opened on El Camino Real last month. Watch employees in the no-frills restaurant’s open kitchen make a range of traditional dumplings with fillings such as pork, chicken, shrimp, lamb and vegetables as well as dim sum dishes such as five-space marinated beef and tofu salad. 451 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-272-6950

Kali Greek Kitchen: Kali Greek Kitchen has breathed new life into 451 California Ave... a space that sat vacant for three years following the closure of Uzumaki Sushi. At the fast-casual Greek eatery, diners order at a counter, get a number and their own utensils before their food is brought to their tables — an increasing popular restaurant model throughout the Bay Area. Caglar Vural, who owns neighboring French restaurant Cafe Brioche, is behind Kali. The menu includes pita sandwiches, salads and rice bowls with rotisserie-roasted meats and locally sourced ingredients. 451 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-272-6950

Mizu Sushi Bar & Grill: The Village at San Antonio Center has a new dining option: Mizu Sushi Bar & Grill, offering what its website describes as “a unique fusion of Japanese and Korean flavors.” The large menu includes salads, appetizers such as yellowtail tartar and wagyu tataki, sushi rolls, nigiri, sashimi, udon and entrees such as miso black cod, beef bulgogi and teriyaki. This is the third location for the Asian fusion restaurant, joining outposts in San Jose and Tustin in Southern California. 2590 West El Camino Real, 813, Mountain View; mizusbg.com/mtnview

Nobu, part of a chain of high-end Japanese restaurants, opened in July on The Epiphany Hotel in Palo Alto.

Mark Sullivan, the executive chef at the new Village Bakery & Cafe in Woodside, sprinkles salt over heirloom tomatoes as chef de cuisine Anthony Ruth watches.

Inside Bonchon, a Korean franchise that recently opened a restaurant in Mountain View.
eager to put our delays behind us and focus on the future as we build our restaurant,” Kelly and Secviar wrote in an update to email subscribers last week. They’re aiming for a late 2017 opening.

260 California Ave., Palo Alto; protegapaloalto.com

Wahlburgers: Palo Altrans will have to wait a little longer to nosh on burgers made at a restaurant owned by the famous Wahlberg family. A franchise of Boston-based burger chain Wahlburgers was supposed to open this spring on University Avenue but has been delayed. “They are nowhere near opening,” a spokesperson said in late July. Wahlburgers was started in 2011 by the Wahlberg family, including celebrity actor-producer Mark Wahlberg and his brothers Paul and Donnie (also an actor).

185 University Avenue, Palo Alto; facebook.com/WahlburgersPaloAlto

Joe & The Juice: Joe & The Juice, a Danish juice and coffee chain that immediately bills itself as a “beacon for millennials and urban trendsetters,” will open an outpost in downtown Palo Alto this fall. Joe & The Juice serves fruit and vegetable juices, smoothies, sandwiches and coffee and is aiming for a mid-November opening, according to a company spokesperson, who said the company is in the “final stage” of finalizing a deal on a space.

University Avenue, Palo Alto; jojuice.com

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Icicles: Thai-style rolled ice cream took San Jose by storm earlier this year and it’s set to do the same in Mountain View this fall. Icicles, which serves fresh rolled ice cream at several locations throughout the Bay Area, is opening a new outpost on Castro Street. At Icicles, employees pour ice cream bases onto a flat, cold surface, mixing in desired add-ins, scraping and chipping it repeatedly and then rolling it into scroll-shaped servings for each customer.

282 Castro St., Mountain View; iciclescreammroll.com

QBB: The owner of Palo Alto Brewing Company and the former general manager of Scratch in Mountain View are teaming up to open a new venture: a Mountain View restaurant focused on bourbon and barbecue. Kasim Syed, who owns QBB for short) at 216 Castro St. They took over the space from Syed’s family, who ran Pakistani restaurant Shezan there. Expect “simple, classic, traditional barbecue” like pork ribs and collard greens along with an “expansive” bourbon list,” Andino said. With a final inspection scheduled for the end of August, they’re hoping to be open “as soon as possible,” Andino said.

216 Castro St., Mountain View

MENLO PARK

Camper Restaurant: Greg Kuzia-Carmel, who has cooked in the kitchens of notable restaurants from Per Se in New York to Cotogna, Quince and Outerlands in San Francisco, is opening a restaurant in Menlo Park, he confirmed this week. Kuzia-Carmel is behind Camper Restaurant. He declined to state where he plans to open or to provide further details about the restaurant concept. Photos on Kuzia-Carmel’s Instagram that tag the restaurant or include the hashtag “camperrestaurant” hint at the kind of dishes Camper might serve, from a lemony cured Marlin Coast halibut with Persian cucumber, kiwi and quinoa to roasted chicken with brown rice and spinach cooked in the schmatz. “I promise it will be a worthwhile trip from all points of the Valley when we get it all finalized,” he said.

Los Altos

ASA Restaurant: The owner of the forthcoming ASA Restaurant in Los Altos describes his cuisine as “American by default, with lots of Spanish and Italian influences.” Owner Andrew Welch will replicate philosophies in place at his longtime Saratoga restaurant, The Basin, including sourcing all meat and seafood and breaking them down in-house. Welch is aiming to open ASA Restaurant (named for his first son) in mid- to late August.

242 State St., Los Altos

State of Mind Public House: State of Mind Public House, a homage to California beer and food (with a focus on hand-tossed, thin-crust pizza), is set to open in Los Altos this fall. There will also be pub food and an arcade with games. Palo Alto native Lars Smith, former co-owner at The Tap Room in Palo Alto, is opening the restaurant with his brother, Andrew, also a former Tap Room co-owner, and Amy Betz, a former Tap Room manager. Smith said he hopes to open in October or November.

101 Plaza North, Los Altos; facebook.com/stateofmindpub

The Post: Expect “comfort food you can feel good about” at The Post, says owner Vickie Breslin, who hopes to be open this fall. She’s in the midst of a total remodel of the two Main Street spaces she took over after Events管理制度 Luxury Consignment and First & Main Sports Lounge closed. Breslin wants The Post to be a family-friendly restaurant with a strong “community feel,” serving locally sourced, sustainable and approachable food — plus craft cocktails.

397 Main St., Los Altos; thepostlosaltos.com

Staff writer Elena Kadvany can be reached at ekadvany@pawweekly.com.
Conventional wisdom in the movie industry says that young women make or break a horror film’s audience. Young men can be relied upon to turn out for scary movies, but instead of hoping they’ll drag dates along, studios have gotten more proactive in developing relatable characters for women rather than relegating them to the pure-victim status of ‘scream queens.’ This feminine outreach is quite apparent in “Annabelle: Creation.”

Demon-possessed doll Annabelle first appeared in the 2013 horror film “The Conjuring,” then got her own titular spinoff film a year later. To “flesh out” an origin story — one blessedly free of “this really happened, we swear!” nonsense — the prequel “Annabelle: Creation” backs up a dozen years to the mid-1950s (and a dozen years before that for its prologue). Having “nowhere else to go,” six orphan girls accompany Sister Charlotte (Stephanie Sigman of “Narcos”) to a remote, rambling farmhouse. Their hosts: retired dollmaker Samuel Mullins (Anthony Lapaglia) and his invalid wife, Esther (Miranda Otto), who lost their daughter in a tragic accident and have been haunted, figuratively or literally, ever since.

When leg-braced Little Orphan Janice (Taitha Bateman) discovers big ol’ creepy doll Annabelle, the human girl unleashes a super-natural horror the Mullinses have attempted to bless away and board up. Screenwriter Gary Dauberman (“Annabelle”) seems afraid to commit to the Mullinses being a few sandwiches short of a picnic, lest the grieving parents wait long enough to have kept the Annabelle doll intact on their property, much less that they would take on a gaggle of orphan girls while showing little if any parental pull toward them.

Impractical psychology aside, Dauberman gives talented Swedish-born horror director David F. Sandberg (“Lights Out”) a highly practical playground for chills and spills: the tinkling bell of largely unseen Esther; malfunctioning household equipment like a dumb-waiter and a chair lift; a vinyl record of “You Are My Sunshine,” a conspicuously large well; a burn with a scarecrow; and more deep, dark shadows than you can shake a fauling flashlight at. The farm-house proves to be Sandberg’s wheelhouse, and he’s skilled enough to make something intermittently gripping of the haunted-house boilerplate.

Unsettlingly lively dolls have been a horror staple dating back at least as far as “Twilight Zone” episodes like “The After Hours,” “The Dummy” and “Living Doll.” Indeed, “Annabelle: Creation” gets good mileage from its throwback feel: the period setting and an emphasis on girls’ games, from hide-and-seek to the lumber-mania of a standard of ghost stories by flashlight under a sheet. In and of themselves, the trappings of “The Conjuring” series (joint-crunching connotations, say, evil-spirit peck-a-boo, and an unsubtle cross motif) have gotten awfully old, and even after a patient buildup, they wear out their welcome ahead of schedule. On paper, “Annabelle: Creation” lays out lazy character development and logic, but on screen, it gets the job done more often than not as an unpretentious talk-back-to-the-screen audience picture.

Rated R for violence, mild violence, and mild violence. One hour and 45 minutes.

— Peter Canavese
All, with its promise of cooler climes, is soon to be in the air and, with it, comes a new school year, new course offerings and a chance to turn 2017 around and expand your horizons. There’s plenty from which to choose, from Brazilian dance, to T’aijiquan, to piano lessons — you can’t go wrong. Maybe you’re a student and you need a break from the school-day grind with some meditation or maybe you’d like to shake up your work-week with a little cardio kickboxing — either way, there’s something here for everyone.

Business & Tech

CareerGenerations
2253 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. 650-320-4639 / info@careergenerations.com / careergenerations.com.

CareerGenerations offers group workshops and programs to meet the career needs of a variety of individuals, including college students looking for internships, graduates looking for employment and those re-entering the market.

ReBoot Accelerator for Women
655 Oak Grove Ave., P.O. Box 445 Menlo Park, 650-427-9433 / rebotaccelerator.com / rebotsacelled.com.

ReBoot Accelerator for Women keeps local women current, connected and confident about re-entering the workforce through workshops taught by instructors from LinkedIn, Google, Apple and Enjoy and social media experts. Registration for workshops in the fall is now open.

Dance

Brazivedas

Brazivedas offers classes in Brazilian dance, music and martial arts for all ages and experience levels. Classes are held at several venues, including Lucie Stern Community Center, Stanford University campus and a home studio in East Palo Alto.

Dance Connection
4000 Middlefield Road, L-3, Palo Alto. 650-322-7062 / info@danceconnectionmpal.com / danceconnectionmpal.com.

Dance Connection offers a preschool combination class for preschool-age children (beginning at age 3), graded classes for youth and adults and other programs to meet dancers’ needs. Ballet, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, Pilates and other instruction is available for students at various levels of ability.

Zohar School of Dance & Classes
1-4, 4000 Middlefield Road, L-4, Palo Alto. 650-494-8223 / zohardance@gmail.com / zohardancecompany.com.

With roots going back to 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of adult dance classes in jazz, contemporary, modern, ballet, musical theater and tap. Though mainly an adult studio, Zohar also welcomes younger students.

Sports & Outdoors

Advantage Aviation
2003 Embry Road, Palo Alto. 650-494-7224 / info@advantage-aviation.com / advantage-aviation.com.

With many instructors, Advantage Aviation has a selection of flying classes that train new pilots, as well as help more experienced ones acquire needed licenses.

Brad Lobato Golf Shop
1875 Embry Road, Palo Alto. 650-856-0699 / headgolf Burbankshop.com.

Group and private lessons — teaching golf skills, rules and etiquette — are available for juniors and adults at any level of experience.

Kim Grant Tennis Academy
3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. 650-752-8061 / admin@kimgranttennis.com / kimgranttennis.com.

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of Athletic classes and programs for adults and children, including those with special needs. Camps are also held over summer break.

REI
2450 Charleston Road, Mountain View. 650-969-1058 / rei.com/store/ mountain-view.html.

REI regularly offers classes on topics such as cycling, bike maintenance, camping and snow skills, outdoor navigation and more.

United States Youth Volleyball League
Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. 650-322-7000 / info@usayvl.org / usayvl.org/locations/palalto.

Run by the league and volunteers, the youth volleyball program allows boys and girls of all skill levels from ages 7 to 15 to play and learn the sport in a fun, supportive and co-ed environment. Registration is open for the Sept. 12 to Nov. 4 season.

Health & Fitness

Equinox

Equinox’s Palo Alto location offers a variety of fitness and wellness activities including Firestarer, a day’s worth of cardio in 30 minutes; The Pursuit by Equinox, a cycling experience; and a Barre and band class.

SoulCycle

SoulCycle combines inspirational coaching, high-energy music, indoor cycling, choreography and more to create an enjoyable, full-body workout. Riders of all fitness levels and ages as young as age 12 can participate in a variety of classes.

Studio Kicks
796A San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. 650-855-9868 / info@studioskickspal Alto.com / studioskickspal Alto.com.

Studio Kicks is a family fitness center offering cardio kickboxing classes and training in martial arts for children and adults.

T’aijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto
4000 Middlefield Road, M-4, Palo Alto. 650-327-8550 / mycham@taotcm.com / taotcm.com.

At T’aijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto, established in 1973, students learn the classical Yang Style T’aijiquan Slow Form style of tai chi. Beginning classes start monthly.

Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA
3591 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto / 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto / 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. 650-396-9244 / taotciusa.org/locations/ Palo-Alto.

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA, a charitable organization with nationally accredited volunteers, holds classes designed to improve balance, strength, flexibility, relaxation and health. Beginner classes are held a few days each week.

Uferia Studies

Uferia Studies offers exercise classes incorporating dance (Pop and Hip Hop), cycle classes (Revolution and Revolutions: Road) and strength and cardio (Grin).

YogaWorks Palo Alto

With locations across the nation, YogaWorks studio classes focus on yoga and yang, Vinyasa flow, Iyengar, power and restorative yoga, as well as TRX, a circuit workout and circuit training.

For Seniors

Aeridas
450 Bryant St., Palo Alto / 4000 Middlefield Road, 2nd floor, Building 1, Palo Alto. 650-289-5400 / aeridas.org.

Aeridas offers a plethora of classes, as well as lectures and workshops, for seniors focusing on topics such as general health, physical fitness, languages, humanities, computing, music and writing.

Bay Area Friendship Circle
1925 Fabian Way, Suite 1015, Palo Alto. 650-858-6990 / bayareafc.org / info@bayareafc.org.

The Bay Area Friendship Circle offers programs for kids and teens with special needs ages 2 to 22 year round as well as winter and summer camps. Trained teen volunteers provide one-on-one friendship and support. To register for programs or camp visit their website.

(continued on next page)
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Fall Class Guide

School Days

Amigos de Palo Alto

Amigos de Palo Alto is a Spanish-immersion preschool for children 2.12 years and older. Students are mix of native and new Spanish speakers, and the program combines reading, writing, art and play to develop a love of learning. Amigos also offers Spanish immersion after-school program for kindergartners with some Spanish experience.

Emerson School
2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. 650-424-1267 / emersonschool@headsup.org / gissv.org/gissv.

Emerson School provides a full-day, year-round program for grades one to eight, teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum. Lessons draw from classical subjects and other areas, including art, music, foreign language, physical education, communication, life skills and more.

Garden International School of Silicon Valley
310 Easy St., Mountain View. 650-254-0748 / office@gissv.org / gissv.org/gissv-home.

The Garden International School of Silicon Valley is a private school providing preschool to high school students with a bilingual education. The school also offers German language courses for all ages on Saturdays, as well as adult and corporate courses on weekdays.

Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School
490 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. 650-494-8200 / admissions@ghausner.com / ghausner.com.

Instructing children in kindergarten through eighth grade, Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School provides strong aca- demics, instruction in Jewish studies and the Hebrew language, enrichment opportunities and after-school programs.

HeadsUp! Child Development Center
2840 W. Bayshore Blvd., Palo Alto. 650-424-1267 / pacdc@headsup.org / headsup.org.

HeadsUp! Child Development Center serves infants, toddlers and preschoolers (age six) with a full-day program, year-round. A half-day kindergarten program and a bilingual Chinese-English preschool classroom are also available. The Montessori curriculum focuses on building thinking skills and personal values.

Hwa Shin Bilingual Chinese School
750 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. 650-807-1088 / hwbshinchools@yahoo.com / hwashinschool.org.

This nonprofit, bilingual Chinese school (for students who do not speak Mandarin at home) offers classes for students ages 5 to 18. Chinese language and culture (ダン; 芭 and Chinese painting) are taught. Classes are also at Fairmeadow Elementary School, Oak Knoll (Menlo Park) and Laurel School (Menlo Park). Most students continue their Mandarin at local high schools at a level 3.

International School of the Peninsula
Cahn Campus, 112 Laura Lane, Palo Alto. 650-251-8500 / istp@istp.org / istp.org.

International School of the Peninsula is an independent bilingual immersion day school with two nursery-to-kindergarten programs in French and Mandarin Chinese, as well as an international middle school program. Some of the programs offered include media and technology, music, gymnastics and athletics.

Kehillah Jewish High School

This college-preparatory high school (grades nine through 12) features modern science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of academic courses with small class sizes, sports teams and more.

Living Wisdom High School of Palo Alto

Living Wisdom High School serves ninth through 12th grade, and offers a strong emphasis on personalized learning as well as project-based, experiential, in-depth study rooted in creativity, inner development, compassion, critical thinking and problem solving. The school will open in the fall of 2017.

Lydia Academy

Lydia Academy is a private middle and high school offering individualized instruction to prepare students for college.

Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. Lydia also provides tutoring, after-school and summer school programs.

Meira Academy
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. 650-185-5383 / office@meiraacademy.org / meiraacademy.org.

Meira Academy is a traditional, all-girls Jewish high school devoted to academic excellence in general and Jewish studies; preparing its students for college as well as seminaries in Israel.

Milestones Preschool
3864 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. 650-493-0550 / preschool@abilitiesunited.org / abilitiesunited.org.

Milestones Preschool offers a year-round, project-based program that fosters the social, emotional, cognitive and physical development of children ages 2 to 5.

Mustard Seed Learning Center
2585 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. 650-494-7389 / mustardseedlearningcenter.org / mustardseedlearningcenter.org.

The Mustard Seed Learning Center is an after-school tutoring and care program that teaches local youth to speak Mandarin Chinese, in addition to emphasizing social development and excellence in mathematics, science, arts and music. It also has a preschool program.

OTJCC Leslie Family Preschool
392 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. 650-222-6784 / earlychildhood@paloaltojcc.org / Paloaltojcc.org/OTJCC-Preschool.

The Oshman Family JCC’s preschool program provides one- to five-day-per-week options for children 18 months to 5 years old (2s to 4 at Congregation Beth Ami), with an emphasis placed on experiential learning, family involvement and play.

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Page 30 • August 11, 2017 • Palo Alto Weekly • www.PaloAltoOnline.com
NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

Crescent Park has stately Spanish-style homes and leafy feel

by Sophie Pollock  |  photos by Ben Hacker

Lush tree branches reach over the wide streets of Crescent Park, giving the Palo Alto neighborhood a small-town feel even though it’s just blocks away from downtown’s bustling University Avenue.

Located between San Francisquito Creek, Newell Road, Channing Avenue and Middlefield Road, Crescent Park often gives visitors and new Stanford students their first impression of Palo Alto as they exit U.S. Highway 101 heading down University Avenue toward El Camino Real.

Most passersby likely will notice the neighborhood’s Spanish Colonial streetscapes, which can mostly be attributed to the work of celebrated 20th-century architect Birge Clark.

In addition to the mature trees and notable architecture, the neighborhood is home to Eleanor Pardee Park, one of the largest neighborhood parks in Palo Alto, with a picnic area, playgrounds and even a community garden.

“If you go out and walk your dog, you will meet everybody. It is a very friendly place.”

— Connie Linton, resident

The beauty, the architecture and the trees are what attracted us to the neighborhood as well as kept us here for 30 years,” said Bob Wenzlau, who moved to the neighborhood in 1989 and has watched his children stay connected with their childhood friends through the years.

Wenzlau said he enjoys the multicultural aspect of the neighborhood, which has allowed him to meet people from many different countries. While the neighborhood is diverse in many ways, most of its residents are professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, professors and those in the tech industry, including Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

One issue that has shaped the neighborhood in more ways than one is flooding. Con- nie Linton, a 30-year Crescent Park resident, said that flooding has been a real issue in the neighborhood over the years. Flooding also has prevented “McMansions” from cropping up because speculative developers cannot build large homes with a basement in a flood zone, Linton said.

“However, there are many spots in Crescent Park that are not in the flood zone,” she added.

It’s in these areas where Crescent Park has begun to see small changes to its generally classic “Palo Alto style.”

Linton said despite the changing architectural styles, the neighborly vibe has not changed.

“If you go out and walk your dog, you will meet everybody,” she said. “It is a very friendly place.”

The Crescent Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) has been a way to engage with community and citywide concerns, like traffic and parking — two items neighbors say are big issues in Crescent Park. The association runs a monitored online chat room that allows members to post questions and suggestions. Linton said she even adopted her dog through the chat room after a neighbor posted a notice about trying to find a new home for the pooch.

Sophie Pollock is a former intern at the Palo Alto Weekly.

Facts

Fire Station: No. 3, 799 Embarcadero Road
Library: Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road
Location: bounded by San Francisquito Creek, Newell Road, Channing Avenue and Middlefield Road
Neighborhood Association: Norman Beamer, president, 650-327-7071
Parks: Eleanor Pardee Park, 651 Center Drive; Hopkins Creekside Park along Palo Alto Avenue
Post Offices: Hamilton, 380 Hamilton Ave.; Main, 2015 E. Bayshore Road
Private Schools: St. Elizabeth Seton School, 1065 Channing Ave.
Public Schools: Duveneck Elementary School, Jordan Middle School, Palo Alto High School
Shopping (nearby): The Willows Market, 60 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park; University Avenue in downtown Palo Alto; Edgewood Plaza Shopping Center

Mountain View, 94043

According to BuildZoom.com, a website that connects customers with contractors, Mountain View’s 94043 zip code is the third “toughest” place to build in the San Francisco Bay Area, and Menlo Park, at 94025, ranks 10th. According to BuildZoom’s Issi Romem, these cities are not necessarily tough because it’s difficult to get permits. “The toughest places to build tend to see few, if any, proposals for new construction” because developers tend to look for places that are less built out.

A better way to gauge the toughest places to build, Romem said, is to ask, “Where does an increasing willingness to pay for housing fail to result in more housing being built?” If people are willing to pay increasing amounts of money for housing, then a shortage of new homes indicates that construction is obstructed somehow, making it a “tough-to-build” area.

Gain in Luxe Home Sales ... Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage reports that the Silicon Valley luxury home market saw a gain in total sales in June year-over-year. A total of 870 residential properties priced $1 million and higher were sold last month in Santa Clara County, a 29 percent increase from 673 sales in June 2016 and up from 785 sales in May. The median price for luxury properties sold in June dipped to $1,438,644 from $1,455,000 in June 2016, a 1 percent slip. The data is based on sales transactions recorded in Santa Clara County by the Multiple Listing Service. Of the luxury home sales in June, 78 were priced $3 million and higher, compared to 51 sales in the prior year and 67 properties in May. The most expensive home sale in Silicon Valley in June was a 5,330-square-foot home in Palo Alto with five bedrooms and five baths that sold for $15,100,000.

San Jose real estate agent Connie Linton has been a way to engage with community and citywide concerns, like traffic and parking — two items neighbors say are big issues in Crescent Park. The association runs a monitored online chat room that allows members to post questions and suggestions. Linton said she even adopted her dog through the chat room after a neighbor posted a notice about trying to find a new home for the pooch.

Sophie Pollock is a former intern at the Palo Alto Weekly.

READ MORE ONLINE
There are more real estate features online. Go to PaloAltoOnline.com/real-estate.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • August 11, 2017 • Page 31
Juliana Lee Education Foundation

OUR MISSION

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- Gunn High School
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- Menlo Park Atherton Education Foundation
- Mountain View Los Altos Education Foundation
- Ohlone Elementary School PTA
- Hoover Elementary School PTA
- Palo Verde Elementary School
- Palo Alto Chinese School
- Terman Middle School PTA
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Schools
High School: Henry M. Gunn High
Elem School District: Palo Alto Unified
High School District: Palo Alto Unified
DELEON REALTY SEMINAR

Thursday, August 17, 2017
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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Speaker: Michael Repka

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Grand Ballroom
3000 Alexis Drive, Palo Alto

Gourmet snacks will be provided. This seminar will be presented to DeLeon Realty’s potential clients in English.

Seminar is for prospective clients only, no outside real estate professionals permitted.
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Listing Provided by: Greg Goumas Lic.#01876208

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Listing Provided by: Tim Murray, Lic. #00630078

10440 Albertsworth Lane, Los Altos Hills
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83 Tuscaloosa Ave  $9,998,000
Sun 2-4  Golden Gate
Sotheby’s International Realty 847-1141

6 Bedrooms
84 Nora Way  $7,588,000
Sun  Deleon Realty 543-8500

CUPERTINO
7 Bedrooms
22430 Cupertino Rd  $3,888,000
Sat/Sun  Keller Williams - Palo Alto 454-8500

LOS ALTOS
6 Bedrooms
74 Bay Tree Ln  $2,289,000
Sat/Sun 1-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 323-1111

7 Bay Tree Ln  Call for price
Sun 1-4  Coldwell Banker 325-6161

8 Bedrooms
1004 Redwood Dr  $2,688,000
Sat  Deleon Realty 543-8500

CUPERTINO
7 Bedrooms
22430 Cupertino Rd  $3,888,000
Sat/Sun  Keller Williams - Palo Alto 454-8500

Menlo Park
2 Bedrooms
102 Buckthorn Way  $2,295,000
Sat/Sun  Pacific Union International 314-7200

2 Bedrooms
2140 Santa Cruz Ave #D104  $77,000
Sat/Sun  Coldwell Banker 324-4456

3 Bedrooms
43 Biltmore Ln  $1,998,000
Sat/Sun  Deleon Realty 543-8500

3 Bedrooms
1342 Cloud Ave  $4,595,000
Sun 1-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

4 Bedrooms
1715 Bay Laurel Dr  $6,495,000
Sat/Sun  Pacific Union International 314-7200

5 Bedrooms
166 Seminary Dr  $3,965,000
Sat/Sun 1-4  Coldwell Banker 324-4456

5 Bedrooms
15028 Adobe Creek Lodge Rd  $2,000,000
Sat  Deleon Realty 543-8500

5 Bedrooms
112 Westgate St  $1,000,000
Sat/Sun 2-4  Golden Gate
Sotheby’s International Realty 847-1141

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435 Alameda De Las Pulgas  $3,498,000
Sat/Sun  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

5 Bedrooms
11 Colomn Lt  $2,895,000
Sat/Sun  Coldwell Banker 324-4456

5 Bedrooms
673 Woodside Dr  $3,500,000
Sun  Intero Real Estate 206-6200

5 Bedrooms
17507 Skyline Blvd  $2,295,000
Sat 1-5  Coldwell Banker 325-6161

LOS ALTOS HILLS
6 Bedrooms
12008 Adobe Creek Lodge Rd  $5,998,000
Sat  Deleon Realty 543-8500

LOS GATOS MOUNTAINS
8 bedrooms
28495 Big Basin Way  $3,750,000
Sat  David Lyng Real Estate (831) 345-0503

PORTOLA VALLEY
4 Bedrooms
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80 Junipero Serra Blvd  $3,175,000
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Palo Alto
3 Bedrooms
1301 Hamilton Ave  $8,098,000
Sat 2-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

3 Bedrooms
1176 Palo Alto Ave  $4,195,000
Sat 2-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

3 Bedrooms
1176 Palo Alto Ave  $4,195,000
Sat 2-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

3 Bedrooms
1871 Camino A Los Cerros  $4,788,000
Sat/Sun 1-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

Palo Alto
3 Bedrooms
43 Biltmore Ln  $1,998,000
Sun  Deleon Realty 543-8500

3 Bedrooms
1504 Redwood Dr  $2,698,000
Sun 1-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

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Sun 1-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

4 Bedrooms
1342 Cloud Ave  $4,595,000
Sun 1-4  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

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SAN CARLOS
3 Bedrooms
26 Hilltop Dr  $1,600,000
Sat/Sun  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

SAN CARLOS
4 Bedrooms
217 Clifton Ave  $1,995,000
Sun  Golden Gate
Sotheby’s International Realty 847-1141

SAN CARLOS
5 Bedrooms
217 Clifton Ave  $1,995,000
Sun  Golden Gate
Sotheby’s International Realty 847-1141

SAN CARLOS
6 Bedrooms
12008 Adobe Creek Lodge Rd  $5,998,000
Sat  Deleon Realty 543-8500

STANFORD
4 Bedrooms
350 Alameda De Las Pulgas  $3,498,000
Sun  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

5 Bedrooms
9 Colton Ct  $3,595,000
Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker 851-2666

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SAN BRUNO
3 Bedrooms
3411 Longview Dr  $799,000
Sat/Sun 12-5 Coldwell Banker 325-6161

SAN BRUNO
3 Bedrooms
3411 Longview Dr  $799,000
Sat/Sun 12-5 Coldwell Banker 325-6161

STANFORD
4 Bedrooms
2190 Ward Way  $4,295,000
Sat/Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker 851-2666

5 Bedrooms
1430 Bear Gulch Rd  $3,145,000
Sun 1-5  Golden Gate
Sotheby’s International Realty 847-1141

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Sotheby’s International Realty 847-1141

5 Bedrooms
1430 Bear Gulch Rd  $3,145,000
Sun 1-5  Golden Gate
Sotheby’s International Realty 847-1141

WOODSIDE
3 Bedrooms
26 Hilltop Dr  $1,600,000
Sat/Sun  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

40 Amber Ct  $1,750,000
Sun  Alain Pinel Realtors 462-1111

WOODSIDE
5 Bedrooms
22430 & 22438 Cupertino Road, Cupertino
Brand New Smart home 5 bedroom / 4.5 bath
With 2 bed / 1 bath cottage
4,309 living sq ft | 13,692 lot sq ft | Listed for $3,888,000

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A BENEFIT EVENT FOR LOCAL NON-PROFITS SUPPORTING KIDS & FAMILIES

FRIDAY, OCT. 6, 2017
33RD ANNUAL

Palo Alto Weekly
MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK
at Palo Alto Baylands
Presented by City of Palo Alto

WALK STARTS AT 7PM

10K Run 5K Run & Walk

For more information and to register:
PaloAltoOnline.com/moonlight_run

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202 Vehicles Wanted

44 Dictionary cross-reference
59 President pro ___
68 Contradict

25 ___ Plaines, Illinois

26 Chemistry suffix

51 Tool before down or cakes

47 Food list with amortized

54 She was ___ about the purchase

63 The ___ winds of change

204 Vroom ___ sheets

62 Megastore for all your ballet

57 ___ and feather

65 Letters on an envelope

37 Orangey-brown, like some

70 ___ a customer

313 Music Lessons

113 Fortune cookie

77 Grand piano

29 ___ and feather

68 ___! Brands, Inc.

298 ___ tricks

56 Dragging feeling

63 ___ and feather

275 ___ the back of an airplane

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SOCCER STUFF . . . The second-ranked Stanford women’s soccer team has been picked to finish first in the Pac-12, as voted on by the conference coaches. The Cardinal received 119 points, including 10 of the 12 first-place votes, to finish ahead of UCLA (110) and defending national champion USC (101), who each received one first-place vote. California (95), Utah (81) and Colorado (74) completed the top six. Stanford posted an 18-2-1 record last year en route to its 11th Pac-12 championship and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. The Cardinal returns 17 of 21 letterwinners, including midfielders Andi Sullivan and Sacred Heart Prep grad Tienna Davidson, who were each named to the Hermann Trophy watch list. Since the arrival of head coach Paul Ratcliffe in 2003, the Cardinal owns a 107-20-11 record in Pac-12 play, while Stanford’s 44-4-4 conference winning streak from 2008-13 is the third-longest in NCAA Division I history. . . .

CAMPUS STUFF . . .

Andi Sullivan

PRAG grad Tienna Davidson, who were each named to the Hermann Trophy watch list. Since the arrival of head coach Paul Ratcliffe in 2003, the Cardinal owns a 107-20-11 record in Pac-12 play, while Stanford’s 44-4-4 conference winning streak from 2008-13 is the third-longest in NCAA Division I history. . . .

OMLYCOP OFFERINGS . . . Standout performances during July earned the U.S. women’s national water polo team and Stanford sophomore Katie Ledecky, ‘Best of July’ honors for the Team USA Awards presented by Dow, the United States Olympic Committee announced. The U.S. women’s national team, with eight Stanford affiliated athletes, won its second straight FINA World Championship title, and fifth overall, in Budapest, Hungary, winning six games.

WATER WAYS . . . Stanford men’s water polo coach John Vargas announced the addition of Olympian and former National Player of the Year Brett Ormsby to his staff as an assistant coach. Ormsby joined Vargas, assistant coach Jonathan Barnea and volunteer assistant coach Lee Maurer on the Cardinal coaching staff.

BANK OF THE WEST

More than just one winner

Madison Keys walked away with the stuffed bear, the singles championship trophy and the top cash prize of the Bank of the West Classic last weekend but both CoCo Vandeweghe and Atherton resident Gigi Bellis called it a successful week as well. Vandeweghe turned in a spectacular effort as the tournament’s runner-up, dropping a 7-6 (4), 6-4 decision to Keys. She wasn’t finished though, as she returned to the court with Abigail Spears to capture the doubles title. And Bellis? She rewarded her followers with a fabulous week of tennis that ended in her second WTA Tour semifinal appearance. She played well, proving once again she belongs. Her effort at Stanford put her at a career-high ranking of 36. Bellis won her first two matches at the Rogers Cup in Toronto before losing to France’s Caroline Garcia, 6-4, 6-2, in the Round of 16 on Thursday morning. She’d won five of her last six matches (continued on next page)

ON THE AIR

Friday
Track and field: World Championships, 2 a.m., NBCSN
Diving: National Championships, 6 p.m., NBCSN
Saturday
Track and field: World Championships, 2 a.m., NBCSN
Track and field: World Championships, noon, NBC
Sunday
Track and field: World Championships, 11:30 a.m., NBC

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Gunn High swimmers successful in Santa Clara

Stanford senior Allman steps onto the world stage

IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Stanford senior Allman will throw the discus at the IAAF World Championships in London on Friday.

by Glenn Reeves

by David Kiefer

Madison Keys defeated CoCo Vandeweghe to earn the Bank of the West Classic title, her first WTA in nearly a year and third overall.

IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Valarie Allman will throw the discus at the IAAF World Championships in London on Friday.

Gunn seniors Julia Warner and Grace Trammack each completed a successful meet with a top 10 finish on the final day of the USA Futures Championships in Santa Clara.

Snyder went 57.81 to place third in the 100-meter free, just over a half-second out of first. Trammack placed 10th with in the 1,500 free in 17:44.25. Paly sophomore Amy Wu and 12-year-old Audrey Cheng joined Snyder and Stahmer to help Palo Alto Stanford Aquatics finish fourth in the 400 medley relay, swimming a time of 4:26.08.

Earlier in the meet, Trammack went 4:24.80 in the 400-meter free to place third while Snyder needed only 50 meters to place seventh in the free with a time of 26.84.

Gunn’s Ashley Stahmer added a 10th-place finish in the 50 free, going 26.89.

PASA’s Cyrus Morrison, who will be attending California in the fall, won the men’s 100-meter free in 51.67.

Morrison was in third at the halfway mark and then put together a 26.62 split over the final 50 meters to pull past the field.

At the U.S. Open Championships at Nassau County Aquatic Center in East Meadow, N.Y., Stanford senior Liam Egan raced to a fourth-place finish in the men’s 200-meter free.

Egan, who won the ‘B’ final of the 400-meter free earlier in the week, recorded the sixth-fastest qualifying mark and then improved upon that to finish in 1:49.71, 0.3 seconds behind third-place finisher Matt Hutchins and 0.9 seconds ahead of fifth-place finisher Isaac Jones.

The Stanford 4x100 medley relay, led by Liam Conaton, Matt Anderson, Andrew Liang and Jack Walsh finished fifth with a time of 3:42.94.

 Exactly a year before Valarie Allman boarded a plane to London for her first IAAF World Track and Field Championships, Zeb Sion was announced as Stanford’s throws coach.

At that time, Allman was content to complete her career as one of the top collegiate discus throwers in the nation. She would graduate, gather her trophies and move on with her life. But not long into their partnership, Allman felt differently and chose to redshirt her senior season to extend her Stanford career and continue the progress she sensed she was making with Sion.

With the decision, Allman needed something tangible to shoot for this season and established a goal of wearing a U.S. singlet at worlds in August.

On Friday, she will reach that goal, competing in her first senior global competition. By her previous timetable, she would have thrown her last discus months ago. Instead, her appearance at...
and reached the third round of each of her last two tournaments.
Wednesday’s 6–4, 7–5 victory over eighth-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova was her second Top 10 win of the season. She’s the youngest player with a Top 10 win this year and only the second 18-or-under player with multiple Top 10 wins in a season over the past seven years.
Bellis has a 13–4 record against the Top 50, a .765 winning percentage.

The championship singles match featured a pair of sluggers with similar styles. The 2,389 fans on hand were treated to power tennis.

Keys and Vandeweghe, good friends off the court, went back and forth, exchanging powerful serves and rocket groundstrokes. From early on it appeared likely that the first one to blink and have their serve broken was going to end up on the short end of this matchup.
That’s just what happened.

The first time either served was broken came late in the second set when a Vandeweghe double fault put her in too deep a hole and Keys grabbed the opportunity, pounding with high energy and motivation and slammed home four consecutive winners to take the game, set and match.

Winning the Bank of the West Classic is quite an accomplishment for Keys, who missed the first two months of the season with a wrist injury. She upset No. 1 seed Garbine Muguruza in the semifinal and then captured her first title on American soil while bringing her record on the season above the break-even mark at 9–7.

“It definitely feels really really good,” said Keys, who is coached by former Bank of the West champion Lindsay Davenport. “Now I feel like I’m on the right track.”

Vandeweghe said she became friends with Keys at the Fed Cup in Australia.

“The whole team bonded,” Vandeweghe said.

Both displayed powerful serves Sunday. And while Vandeweghe was not averse to charging the net, Keys stayed back and let her groundstrokes do the talking.

“When you play CoCo you have to step up and be aggressive,” Keys said. “If you give her an easy ball she’s going to hit a winner.”

And as for playing someone with such similar attributes -- the big serve, the power-laden groundstrokes -- Keys was asked, is that a good matchup for her?

The Champagne singles reached its sixth week on the calendar, with 12 advancing to Friday’s quarterfinals.
A  winner of two NCAA and three Pac-12 titles while at Stanford, Allman moved into a tie for No. 4 among the highest vaulters in history. She also remains undefeated through eight competitions and is now holding every major outdoor title she can win: world, Olympic, and European.

Allman, 22, has the seventh-best throw in the world this year. Her distance of 212 feet, 3 inches is the Top 50, a .765 winning percentage.

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Track

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“Sometimes, I wake up and think, ‘Wait, am I really going to London?’” she said, while training at Stanford before her trip.

“There’s no way this is actually happening. I feel so thankful.”

Stanford grad Katerina Stefanidi followed her 2016 Olympic pole vault victory with the best performance of her life to win the IAAF World Outdoor Track and Field Championships, nearly five years to the day of her 2012 Olympic appearance in the same stadium.
Stefanidi jumped a personal and Greek record of 4.91 meters (16 feet, 1 1/4 inches), the highest jump in the world this year, to capture her second consecutive world crown in dominant fashion.
The victory signals the official confirmation of the Stefanidi Era, as the world’s preeminent female pole vaulter.

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**Coldwell Banker Homes.com**

**LOS ALTOS** SUN 1-4 $18,000,000
10719 Main Dr. Spectacular 7BD Los Altos Hills estate; huge views, 24ft ceilings, in pool & guest house.
7 BR 11 BA
CalBRE#00620365 650.325.6161
Jan Strohecker
downtown Los Altos 2 BR/2 BA bedroom/2 bathroom end unit condo located near 477 Lassen St #7 Exquisite remodeled 2 BR/2 BA end unit
31x269 650.325.6161

**WOODSIDE** SAT/SUN 1-5 $4,995,000
17507 Skyline Blvd Gorgeous & updated w/stunning views in prime Ladera location. 4 BR 2.5 BA
Karen Fryling/Rebecca Johnson
CalBRE#00500847 650.324.4456

**PORTOLA VALLEY SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 $4,800,000** 7 Coalmine Vw. Exquisitely remodeled Portola Valley Ranch home w/spectacular views - 7Coalmine.com
4 BR 3 BA
Ginny Kavanaugh
CalBRE#008864747 650.851.1961

**WOODSIDE HEIGHTS SAT/SUN 1-5 $4,295,000** 2100 Ward Way. Pvt Gated As Estate offers sunfilled open flr pln, pool w/cabana & total privacy.
4 BR 4 BA
Sam Anagnostou
CalBRE#0079978217 650.851.2666

**MENLO PARK SAT/SUN 1 - 4 $3,965,000**
166 Sammary Dr Rare custom Vintage Oaks Cape Cod/0.51 Acre/3 excepts in-law downsmt. Master, 5 BR 3.5 BA
Chris McDonnell/Kelly Griggs
CalBRE#00120397 650.325.6161

**REDWOOD CITY** SUN 1-5 $3,595,000
9 Cotton Ct Private gated villa on 1/2 acre resort lot w/ pool. Open floor plan & in-law ste. 5 BR 4.5 BA
Sam Anagnostou
CalBRE#005798217 650.324.4456

**PORTOLA VALLEY SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 $2,895,000** 11 Coalmine Vw. Contemporary single level home w/ quality amenities and stunning views - 11Coalmine.com
4 BR 2.5 BA
Ginny Kavanaugh
CalBRE#008864747 650.851.1961

**WOODSIDE** SUN 1:30 - 4:30 $1,895,000 113 Pecora Way Mid-century modern w/spectacular views in prime Ladera location. 4 BR 2.5 BA
Karen Fryling/Rebecca Johnson
CalBRE#00500847 650.324.4456

**WOODSIDE** SAT 1 - 5 $2,296,000 17507 Skyline Blvd Gorgeous & updated w/stunning bay views. Guest cottage, Portola Valley schools.
5 BR 4 BA
Veronica Kegler
CalBRE#007998047 650.324.4456

**SAN BRUNO** SAT/SUN 12 - 5 $799,000
2411 Lonesome Dr Pacific Heights Gem. 3br/3ba 15 miles to San Francisco. 4.5 miles to beach. 3 BR/2 BA
Denice Smith
CalBRE#001295757 650.325.8161

**MENLO PARK SAT/SUN 2:30 - 5:00 $775,000** 2140 Santa Cruz Ave #D104 Bright, updated 2BD/2BA at Menlo Corr. Back of complex, south west corner. 2 BR/2 BA
Elaine White
CalBRE#001182467 650.324.4456

**WOODSIDE** PRICE UPON REQUEST
307 Olive Hill Exceptional 6 BD/5 BA Woodside Prop on over 3 sun-swept acres. Vineyard, garden, pool & more
6 BR 5 BA
Erika Demma
CalBRE#00313390 650.324.4456

**LOS ALTOS** SUN 1-4 PRICE UPON REQUEST
477 Lassen 18 87 Exquisite remodeled 2 bedroom/2bathroom end unit condo located near downtown Los Altos 2 BD/2 BA
Steve Gray
BRE 01343924 650.743.7702 or Curtis Grisham
BRE 01201700 650.728.7300

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