Three plans unveiled for Ventura neighborhood

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Sandwich staple Village Cheese House closes

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For grandparents, baby care has changed

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Palo Alto, Gunn open league seasons this weekend

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THE YEAR IN FILM

THE BEST, WORST AND MOST MEMORABLE MOVIES OF 2019

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Living Well For grandparents, baby care has changed
Sports Palo Alto, Gunn open league seasons this weekend
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Tax Strategies for Owning and Selling Silicon Valley Real Estate

Tuesday, January 14, 2020
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Oshman Family JCC
Freidenrich Conference Center
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, CA

Michael Repka, Esq.
CEO, Managing Broker, & General Counsel of DeLeon Realty
LL.M (Taxation)
NYU School of Law
DRE #01854880

Making Provisions to Buy a Home Under Market Value in 2020

Saturday, January 18, 2020
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Mitchell Park Community Center
Adobe Room
3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA

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DRE #01342140

How to Determine Optimal Pricing & Strategy When Selling a Home

Thursday, January 23, 2020
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Oshman Family JCC
Freidenrich Conference Center
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, CA

Michael Repka, Esq.
CEO, Managing Broker, & General Counsel of DeLeon Realty
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Appetizers & refreshments will be provided.
RSVP: 650.543.8500 | RSVP@DELEONREALTY.COM

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New plans envision more housing, retail in Ventura

Ambitious options come with buzz-killing caveat: Property owner indicates no interest in residential redevelopment

by Gennady Sheyner

With Fry’s Electronics closing in Palo Alto last week after three decades of supplying local techies, the city has no shortage of ideas for improving the central and much-studied site in the Ventura neighborhood.

From beer gardens and maker-spaces to townhomes and apartment buildings, the latest concept plans for what’s known as “Fry’s building” proposed by consultant Perkins & Will, aim to find something for just about everyone in the planning process to like — or gripe about.

Reflecting the desire of Ventura residents for less through-traffic, the plans include new bike paths, less street-level parking and new pedestrian-oriented corridors lined with retail. For those concerned about Palo Alto’s housing shortage, it proposes adding an entirely new residential neighborhood south and west of the Fry’s building at 340 Portage Ave. And for those who want to see the Fry’s building — an early 20th century cannery — retained, it offers an alternative that would do exactly that and effectively build around the industrial structure.

But for all of their goals and ambitions, the plans come with a buzz-killing caveat. Because the city doesn’t own the site, it has little control over what — if anything — can be built here. The Fry’s property owner, The Sobrato Organization, recently indicated no interest in redeveloping the site for residential use, putting a dent in the city’s plan to have more than 250 housing units.

That has not, however, kept the city from moving ahead with plans for what’s now called the Fry’s site, proposed by consultant Perkins & Will, to find an alternative that would do exactly that and effectively build around the industrial structure.

Leveling the playing field

Fit Kids Foundation brings fitness programs and skill-building to underserved children

by Sue Dremann

There’s a video made for the nonprofit Fit Kids Foundation that warms founder Ashley Hunter’s heart.

In it, a 7-year-old girl wearing her favorite sequined cat-ears headband is running with a group of children at a playground at Costano Elementary School in East Palo Alto.

In another shot, Brianna joins other kids in doing frog jumps, jumping jacks, push-ups and squats. When her mother comes to pick her up from the Fit Kids after-school fitness program Brianna proudly demonstrates her jumping jacks.

Brianna’s enthusiasm is the kind of response Hunter hoped for when she started Fit Kids in 2011. A Menlo Park resident, Hunter saw that children in east Menlo Park and East Palo Alto schools did not have equal access to strong fitness programs, safe playgrounds or after-school sports teams.

So she founded Fit Kids Foundation to help children ages 4-13 who may otherwise be “couch potatoes” become energetic, confident, outdoors-loving enthusiasts. Through exercise and outdoor games, the program builds kids’ fitness, motor skills and social and emotional development.

This year, Fit Kids received a $5,000 grant from the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund so that it could achieve its goals.

Despite Brianna’s family’s hectic schedule — her parents work separate shifts — they make time for Fit Kids. Brianna’s mother takes her to the after-school program Mondays and Saturdays, later said the sign is inaccurate and she didn’t put up the shopping center.

The owners of Village Cheese House, Bernard and Joni Pailma, took over the longtime business from Lindsey Hiken four years ago. (Hiken’s family bought the deli from the original owners, Frank and Donald Stadthoke, in 2007.) On Tuesday, Joni Pailma declined to answer questions about the closure.

The Pailmas had several years left on their lease, Ellis said.

The Pailmas opened a second
Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto
Unified School District for bid package:
Contract No. RFQW-20

Description of the Work: The work includes but is not limited to:

1. A pre-job conference shall be conducted with the contractor or subcontractors to discuss federal and state labor law requirements applicable to the contract.
2. Project contractors and subcontractors shall maintain and furnish to the District, at a designated time, a certified copy of each payroll with a statement of compliance signed under penalty of perjury.
3. The District shall review and, if appropriate, audit payroll records to verify compliance with the Public Works Chapter of the Labor Code.
4. The District shall withhold contract payments if payroll records are delinquent or inadequate.
5. The District shall withhold contract payments as described in the LCP, including applicable penalties when the District and Labor Commissioner establish that underpayment of other violations has occurred.

All questions may be addressed to: Palo Alto Unified School District
Technology Services
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
Attn: Derek Moore
Email: dmoore@pauisd.org
Responding to growing concerns about airplane noise, U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier has proposed a series of bills that would allow airports to restrict flight times, require the Federal Aviation Administration to give greater importance to noise impacts when developing flight routes and procedures, and allow local communities to have a significant say in developing flight plans.

The bills, which are co-sponsored by U.S. Reps. Anna Eshoo and Jimmy Panetta, were introduced last month to address the spikes in complaints about airplane noise throughout the region. The problem became acute in 2014, when the FAA rolled out its NextGen program, which created new and concentrated many flights into what some have referred to as aerial "super highways." Residents who live under those paths and waypoints, including those in Palo Alto, Woodside and Portola Valley, have since reported a significant rise in airplane noise.

"The nonstop noise from flights is seriously affecting residents' sleep, mental health, and overall quality of life," Speier said in a statement. "There is a certain expectation for noise when living near an airport, but this crosses that threshold."

Three other bills aim to make it easier for legislators and residents to get information from the FAA and to provide feedback on new policies. The All Participating in Process Reaching Informed Solutions for Everyone Act directs the FAA administrator to ensure that aviation representatives be appointed to represent working groups involved in NextGen. These representatives, according to the bill, would be able to participate "on the same terms and conditions as a representative of the industry, an airport or a participating airport," to provide feedback.

The Responsive Employees Support Productive Educated Conscientious Task Act would require FAA staff to respond to members of Congress regarding flight procedures affecting their district within 30 days. The Notified Officials to Inform Fully Impuls Educated Decisions Act would require the FAA to notify local governments about new or modified flight paths.

While the issue of airplane noise has been on Palo Alto's radar for years, the city is one of several in the region that have struggled to make headway with the FAA on the topic. In June, the council considered suing the FAA over its flight plans. But despite pleas from dozens of residents, some of whom argued that the city has become a "trash heap" and a "dumping ground" for the FAA's noise pollution, the council ultimately opted not to move ahead with the lawsuit. Instead, much like in April 2018, when the city considered litigation, the council agreed to pursue regional partnerships on the issue and to continue its lobbying efforts.

Palo Alto is one of a dozen cities that are participating in the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Community Air Carrier Accountability Committee, which aims to foster "collaboration and resolution" on aircraft noise. Other cities involved in the roundtable, which is open to any city in the two counties, are Capitola, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Saratoga and Sunnyvale.

Staff Writer Genny Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Village Cheese House in San Jose in February, telling the San Jose Mercury News that they planned to franchise the deli. That location appears to have closed as well.

Village Cheese House has long drawn a loyal following — particularly Palo Alto High School students and Stanford University students — for its housemade spread, imported cheeses and generously sized sandwiches, such as the "Double Decker" (a half pound of smoked ham and roasted turkey on three slices of sourdough bread).

Village Cheese House appears to have been the oldest food business at Town & Country Village, which has changed vastly over the last 60 years, with restaurants such as Stickney's, Hobe's and The Cook. Booker's way to the likes of Gott's Roadside, Boba Guys and Telefèric Barcelona.

Town & Country Village is now looking — and has been for a while, Ellis said — for a new operator to take over the deli. "I'm sure after the news of Fry's, we're licking our wounds and focusing on trying to find a new operator to come in and operate the Cheese House because we feel that it's a very important institution, if you will," Palo Alto, especially among Palo Alto and Stanford students," he said. "We've been looking for someone who can take this business for the next decade."

Anyone interested in ownership can contact Town & Country at tandcvillage.com/contact-us.

Staff Writer Elena Kadavany can be emailed at ekadavany@paloaltoonline.com. For more food-related news, subscribe to Kadavany's "Pendulum Foodist" e-newsletter at paloaltoonline.com/express.

Village Cheese House in Town & Country Village has been a favorite place for Palo Alto residents, including Palo Alto High School students, to get sandwiches for 60 years. But it closed in late December, and the shopping center owner says it's looking for someone new to buy and operate the eatery.

News Digest

Theresa Fry's Electronics comes to an end

After close to 30 years of operation, Fry's Electronics officially shut down its Palo Alto store on Friday, Dec. 27, leaving a gaping vacancy in one of the city's most hotly debated neighborhoods.

The closure of the electronics store at 340 Portage Ave., has been widely anticipated for the past few months after Fry's announced plans to cease operations before its lease for the former cannery building expired on Jan. 31. The complex — which is often referred to as the "Fry's site" — is part of a 60-acre area that the city is eying for redevelopment.

On Friday, the Fry's store had a notice on its doors advising patrons of the closure. Fry's also has locations in Campbell, Concord, Fremont, Sunnyvale and San Jose.

The property has been the subject of much debate even before Fry's had announced its plans to shut down. For years, Palo Alto officials have viewed the site as one of the most promising areas for new home and commercial developments.

In recent months, however, the city has lowered its expectations. The property owner, The Sobrato Organization, indicated that it has no plans to redevelop the old cannery building. — Genny Sheyner

Vandal sprays graffiti at Palo Alto church

The peace and goodwill of the Christmas season at University AME Zion Church in Palo Alto was disturbed early morning on Saturday, Dec. 28, when a man spray-painted angry messages at the area's oldest African American church.

The Palo Alto Police Department received a call around 8:20 a.m. from the Middlefield Road parish, according to a department spokesperson. Both the men's and women's restroom doors inside the main church breezeway had been defaced, as had a wall facing the restrooms. The outdoor breezeway is just inside the front doors to the church campus.

"F--- God," "Why Jesus why" and a not-quite legible scrawling that could be "God causes pain" were sprayed in blue paint.

The Rev. Kalloma Smith said the incident has "shattered our sense of security and comfort."

University AME Zion is one of six churches located along a two-block stretch of Middlefield, between East Meadow Drive and Ames Avenue. Smith called the pastors of the other churches, but none of their facilities had been marked with graffiti, he said. The police confirmed that no other churches were hit that night, nor in several days prior.

Police said the suspect was described by a witness as a white man, 35-45 years old, 5 feet 11 inches and with blondish short hair. Without additional information, however, police are not continuing an investigation, the department spokesperson said. — Jocelyn Dong and Lloyd Lee

Rinconada sees more swimmers, fewer lessons

Despite an increase in usage under new leadership, Palo Alto's Rinconada Pool has seen a dip in the number of people taking swim lessons.

The trends were highlighted at a Dec. 10 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, where members discussed the city's agreement with Team Sheeper, which operates as Palo Alto Swim and Sport, to expand access for swimmers at Rinconada Pool. According to the latest data, the pool has shown growth in terms of the number of pool visits, lap and open swim programs and swim camps between 2018 and 2019.

The agreement, which the City Council approved in 2017, shifted the responsibility of running classes from the city to Team Sheeper. It called for increasing the number of classes and expanding pool access to the greater community.

In the Palo Alto Swim and Sport annual report, data shows an increase in year-over-year lap swim hours from 50.5 weekly hours during the non-summer season and from 71 to 72.75 weekly hours during the summer season. However, there was a decrease in year-over-year lap swim hours from 35.75 to 35.5 weekly hours during the non-summer season.

About 28% more people have used the lap swim program than last year, but only 3,000 swimmers.

Swim school lessons, however, have dropped by about 10% and the program served fewer students in 2019 than 2018. Tim Sheeper, CEO of Team Sheeper, said during the commission meeting that many former swim lesson students have opted to enroll in swim camps instead of stand-alone swim lessons in the past year.

But data shows that swim camps increased by 349 and the swim school decreased by more than 1,000 swimmers.

"Another possible reason is our satisfaction ratings were a lot lower than we would have liked to see," Sheeper said. — Jonathan Guillen
Ventura (continued from page 5)

what’s known as the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan, a vision document that a Working Group of city leaders and neighborhood stakeholders has been working on since fall 2018. That effort hit a milestone last month, when Perkins & Will released three alternatives for the 60-acre planning area, which is roughly bounded by Page Mill Road, Lambert Avenue, El Camino Real and the Caltrain tracks.

The alternatives, which were presented to the Working Group on Dec. 5, recognize the various wild cards surrounding the Ventura planning process, including an utter lack of consensus about what should be done with the Fry’s building. The plans each address the five major issues that the consulting group said concerned community members: district character, traffic circulation, housing types, open space and ground-floor uses and programming.

‘I was hoping to have more definitive data at this point and more realistic data on some of the city laws and state laws that we are contemplating violating when we talk about this.’

—Doria Summa, Planning and Transportation Commission member

Under the first of the three alternatives, the 1918 building would be retained in its entirety and complemented with new developments for retail and housing. Known as the “Leading with Legacy” alternative, it calls for concentrating most of the new housing south and west of the preserved Fry’s building, near the corner of El Camino Real and Lambert Avenue. The developments would effectively create a new neighborhood that would be bisected by Portage Avenue.

The street grid in this scenario would be modified to prevent cut-through traffic on Portage Avenue between El Camino and Park Boulevard and to keep car traffic at the edge of the neighborhood. New retail would front both sides of Portage from El Camino almost to Ash Street.

The second alternative, called “Adaptive Core,” aims to strike a middle path by preserving a portion of the former cannery and disassembling other parts of it. As an example, consultants pointed to Drake’s Dealership in Oakland, where a roof was removed from an old auto dealership to create a beer garden, and the Barlow in Sebastopol, an outdoor marketplace at a former applesauce cannery.

In the Ventura alternative, the semi-developed “flex space” of the former cannery building could be converted to host outdoor movies, a play space or a farmers market, consultants said. Much like in the first alternative, the site would limit automobile access, with limited car entry from the Park Boulevard side and no cut-through car route on Portage to Park Boulevard. Cars coming in from El Camino would be limited to a horseshoe-shaped route on Portage and Acacia avenues and an exit onto Ash.

The third and most ambitious of the options would do away with the Fry’s building entirely and create what the consultants call a “robust mixed-use and diverse community.” The plan would maximize housing and propose housing sites beyond those identified in the city’s Comprehensive Plan, its guiding land-use document. Known as “Designed Diversity,” the third alternative calls the most street-level uses, including “neighborhood-serving retail, community use, small office, creative lab and maker space.”

The third alternative also calls for adding office space as well as additional residential projects on (continued on page 12)

Above: Perkins & Will, a consultant hired by the city of Palo Alto to assist in developing the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan, released in December three alternatives based on the input of the neighborhood’s Working Group. The “Leading with Legacy” option preserves the former cannery building to convey a sense of place. The “Adaptive Core” plan preserves part of the cannery building while turning the rest of it into dynamic and flexible social spaces. The “Designed Diversity” alternative emphasizes mixed-use and diverse community spaces.

Below: The North Ventura Working Group expressed a desire to eliminate cut-through car traffic from El Camino Real to Park Boulevard as well as for roads to be more conducive to walking and bike riding. The consultant Perkins & Will has offered this as one streetscape concept.
Wishing You and Your Family a Happy and Healthy 2020

Expressing my gratitude for my 2019 transactions*

2053 PRINCETON STREET
494 KNOLL DRIVE
805 EVERGREEN STREET
1044 SONOMA AVENUE
2121 BELLVIEW DRIVE
891 EDGEMOOD ROAD
244 BYRON STREET
236 ROBIN WAY
139 O’CONNOR STREET
752 LA PARA AVENUE
915 FLORENCE LANE
659 KENDALL AVENUE
522 BAY ROAD
3 FREDRICK COURT
335 FLETCHER DRIVE

357 WALSH ROAD
1 QUEENS COURT
440 9TH AVENUE
1072 DARTMOUTH LANE
1440 BAY LAUREL DRIVE
1824 DORIS DRIVE
2111 MANZANITA AVENUE
2160 MILLS AVENUE
1244 CONNECTICUT DRIVE
1705 EATON AVENUE
3853 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS
3435 LOUIS AVENUE
1745 CRONER AVENUE
953 HOBART AVENUE
1725 OAKDELL DRIVE

129 KAREN WAY
620 FREMONT STREET
812 LINCOLN AVENUE
1646 STANFORD AVENUE
657 ROBLE AVENUE
24 HOMER LANE
312 EMERSON STREET
920 MENLO AVENUE
233 ARDEN ROAD
101 CHELSEA WAY
967 STONY HILL ROAD
15 SUSAN GALE COURT
675 NASH AVENUE
1130 WESTFIELD DRIVE
1301 HAMILTON AVENUE
335 WEBSTER STREET

1320 ORANGE AVENUE
1020 BEAR GULCH ROAD
161 WILLOW ROAD
800 HIGH STREET #301
1100 SHARON PARK DRIVE
340 NOVA LANE
1073 FOXGLOVE PLACE
3006 HASTINGS AVENUE
237 MCKENDRY DRIVE
2312 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS
413 FRANKLIN PARKWAY
108 QUEENS COURT
723 COLLEGE AVENUE
485 ARBOR ROAD
605 OAK KNOLL LANE

*Not all transactions listed

Judy Citron
650.400.8424
judy@judycitron.com
judycitron.com
DRE 01825569

Talia Citron Knapp
Associate
talia@taliacitron.com
DRE 01987761

#1 Individual Compass Realtor, Peninsula

#26 Realtor in the US

70+ Homes Bought and Sold in 2019
Last Year’s Grant Recipients

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Child Care Facility Improvement Grants

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Non-profits: Grant application & guidelines at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund
Application deadline: January 10, 2020

Support our Kids with a gift to the Holiday Fund

Give to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund and your donation is doubled. You give to non-profit groups that work right here in our community. It’s a great way to ensure that your charitable donations are working at home.

As of December 31, 336 donors have contributed $311,889 to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund.

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New Donors

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<td>Bjorn &amp; Michele Lienz</td>
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<td>Florence Barr</td>
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<td>John Wilkes</td>
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**Fit Kids**

(continued from page 5)

it’s Fit Kids day because she gets to exercise,” her mother said in Spanish in the April 2019 video. Brianna said she had to adjust to the program.

“It was hard when I first started because I didn’t know what she did,” she said.

Her coach helped her to understand how to do the exercises; she likes the frog jumps, push-ups and jumping jacks the best.

“She feels like I’m sweating everywhere,” she said.

Hunter, Fit Kids’ executive director, said the foundation initially wanted to launch sports programs at underserved schools, but the leaders soon noticed that children lacked the hand-eye coordination, foot-eye coordination, speed, strength and agility that are necessary for participating in sports.

The fitness scores of children in East Palo Alto were dismal, Hunter said. Only 19% of children in the East Palo Alto Fit Kids program were at the 50th percentile for the Presidential Physical Fitness test standard. At Costano and Willow Oaks (Menlo Park) elementary schools, 4.6% of participants met the Presidential standard for curl-ups; 17.7% met the standard for push-ups and 43.4% met the standard for the shuttle run while 33.1% reached the standard for the V-sit, a flexibility exercise, Hunter said.

Without physical fitness skills, children won’t be able to participate in team sports when they reach middle school and high school.

“We’re providing opportunities for structured physical activity through games, relay races and obstacle courses to make it fun,” she said.

The tests are showing the results of the program. During three sessions in 2018-19, 80% of participants could do more curl-ups; 64% did more push-ups; 55% gained more flexibility doing V-sits and 54% ran faster in the shuttle runs, according to Fit Kids data.

Being active is also building the kids’ confidence, Hunter said.

To ensure the students have a positive experience, the program incorporates training for its coaches from the Positive Coaching Alliance and the Child Mind Institute on how to encourage students in a constructive and healthful way as well as how to recognize kids’ mental health issues.

Fit Kids also has a program at Los Robles Elementary School, but there’s no coach to run the program right now. Hunter said it’s hard to find coaches in this area.

To reach more children, Fit Kids branched out to teach the curriculum to schools and nonprofits, such as the Boys and Girls Club, where staff members there teach the Fit Kids method. About 600 children are in Fit Kids curriculum in the Ravenswood City School District during the school year through these programs, Hunter said.

Willow Oaks and Costano, where there are 142 children in the after-school program, serve as two innovation centers where Fit Kids analyzes development and program components. As happens with new programs, the children have sometimes challenged the program designers’ assumptions.

“We took out jump ropes. The kids couldn’t use the jump ropes, so they started to swing them around and could hurt each other,” Hunter said.

Though locally rooted with 13 sites in East Palo Alto, the program has grown to serve 15,000 children in East Palo Alto, Redwood City, Oakland, San Jose, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston and Las Vegas, according to the Fit Kids website. Hunter, who formerly worked in investment banking, said of the expanding program, “We’re excited. We have big goals.”

The foundation’s goal is to start up to 80 programs beginning in January, particularly in Los Angeles. They hope to establish a regional board, and if successful, the foundation will grow and start other chapters around the country, the said.

More information about the impact of the Holiday Fund, including stories about funded nonprofit agencies and instructions for donating online, can be found on page 10 of this newspaper and at PaloAltoOnline.com/holidayfund.

**Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sidremann@pawek.com.**
Property, a currently vacant area in the northwestern portion of the property, a currently vacant area near the intersection of Page Mill and Park.

The plans remain highly conceptual, with no specifics about how much residential or commercial development any of the alternatives would accommodate. Given that limitation, some members of the Working Group have criticized the plan for being either too good to be true or simply not good enough.

Tanner also noted that state laws prohibit the city from planning for fewer than 354 units in the Ventura area — the amount that currently exists.

“If you don’t have any concept of what this valley was long before any silicon chip was ever made, they should go back and read their history.”

— Terry Holzemer, Palo Alto resident

“We don’t want the unit count to get below 354, otherwise we have to find another place in the city where those housing units can be placed,” Tanner said.

Lund Smith — a member of the Working Group whose family owns nine buildings along Olive Avenue — noted that the city can make an even bigger impact on housing by considering the parcels along Olive, which are currently dominated by single-family homes. While none of the three alternatives propose redeveloping Olive Avenue, Smith said this should not be excluded from consideration.

“You can accumulate some of the parcels on Olive to do something more significant, if we want to make a bigger dent on housing,” Smith said.

The stakeholder group plans to continue its discussion of the three alternatives at its next meeting, which is scheduled for Jan. 21. Gail Price, a former city councilwoman who now serves on the Working Group, called the alternatives “a good start.”

“We are aware that there will be a more robust conversation about density, development standards and the issues of housing types and locations. That is an extremely critical conversation,” Price said at the Dec. 5 meeting.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.
**SAFE, CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM**

The Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program is a voter-approved, 15-year program to ensure uninterrupted water resources services in Santa Clara County.

**POLICE CALLS**

**Palo Alto**

Dec. 26-Dec. 31

**Violence related**
- Battery ........................................... 1
- Child abuse ...................................... 3
- Sexual assault .................................... 2

**Theft related**
- Commercial burglaries ........................... 1
- Fraud ................................................. 4
- Grand theft ...................................... 1
- Identity theft ..................................... 2
- Petty theft ....................................... 2
- Residential burglaries ............................. 1
- Shoppinglifting ................................... 3

**Vehicle related**
- Auto burglary ..................................... 3
- Auto theft ........................................ 2
- Bicycle theft .................................... 3
- Driving w/ suspended license .................. 3
- Hit and run ....................................... 2
- Lost/stolen plates ................................. 2
- Misc. traffic ...................................... 1
- Theft from auto ................................... 15
- Vehicle accident/minor injury ................... 4
- Vehicle accident/prop damage ................... 4
- Vehicle tampertying .............................. 1

**Alcohol or drug related**
- Driving under influence ........................ 5
- Drunk-in-public .................................. 2
- Possession of drugs ............................. 2
- Possession of paraphernalia ................. 1
- Sale of drugs .................................... 2
- Under influence of drugs ....................... 1

**Miscellaneous**
- Court order violation ........................... 1
- Found property ................................... 7
- Located missing person ........................ 1
- Other/misc ....................................... 10
- Psychiatric subject ............................... 1
- Suspicious circumstances ..................... 8
- Vandalism ....................................... 23
- Warrant/other agency ........................... 4

**Menlo Park**

Dec. 24-Dec. 30

**Theft related**
- Commercial burglaries ........................... 1
- Petty theft ........................................ 4
- Residential burglaries ............................. 1

**Vehicle related**
- Bicycle theft .................................... 1
- Driving w/ suspended license .................. 7
- Hit and run ....................................... 1
- Lost/stolen plates ................................. 1
- Theft from auto ................................... 2
- Vehicle accident/minor injury ................... 2
- Vehicle tampertying .............................. 1

**Alcohol or drug related**
- Drunk-in-public .................................. 1
- Possession of drugs ............................. 1
- Under influence of drugs ....................... 1

**Miscellaneous**
- Disturbance ..................................... 1
- Found property ................................... 1
- Lost property .................................... 1
- Other/misc ....................................... 1
- Outside assistance .............................. 1
- Psychiatric subject ............................... 1
- Suspicious circumstances ..................... 1
- Suspicious person ............................... 1
- Warrant arrest ................................... 1

**VIOLENT CRIMES**

**Palo Alto**

El Camino Real, 5/21, 5 p.m.; child abuse/physical.

Maureen Avenue, 5/21, 5 p.m.; child abuse/physical.

San Antonio Road, 8/30, 8:41 p.m.; sexual assault.

Pasture Drive, 12/18, 2:35 p.m.; sexual assault.

Channing Avenue, 12/20, 5:26 p.m.; child abuse/physical.

Bryant Street, 12/23, 6:14 p.m.; sexual battery.

Notice of Public Hearing

**What:** Public Hearing on proposed modification to the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project

**When:** Jan. 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San José, CA 95118

Modifications to the voter-approved program require a public hearing. The proposed modification is for the locally funded Key Performance Indicator of Project E6, the Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project.

Project E6: Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection

The primary objective of the project is to plan, design and construct improvements along 13.9 miles of Upper Llagas Creek from Buena Vista Avenue in Gilroy to Llagas Road in Morgan Hill, including West Little Llagas Creek in downtown Morgan Hill.

The proposed modification is for the locally funded Key Performance Indicator of the project. The modification increases the length of the project to be built with local funds from approximately 2.9 miles to 4.9 miles in addition to constructing the onsite compensatory mitigation. Besides getting the most out of the available local dollars, this approach keeps the project moving forward, shortens the construction window without inducing flooding downstream and maximizes the potential for external funding opportunities. This modification also reflects improved collaboration with regulatory permitting agencies that require early mitigation for the project impacts.

Proposed modification to the Key Performance Indicator:

With local funding only: Construct flood protection improvements along Llagas Creek from Buena Vista Avenue to Highway 101 in San Martin (Reaches 4 and 5 (portion), Monterey Road to Watsonville Road in Morgan Hill (Reach 7a), approximately W. Dunne Avenue to W. Main Avenue (portion of Reach 8), and onsite compensatory mitigation at Lake Silveira.

For more information

The board agenda memo regarding this hearing will be available on January 3, 2020 at www.valleywater.org. For more information on the public hearing, contact Meenakshi Ganjoo at mganjoo@valleywater.org or (408) 630-2295.
The Year in Film 2019

The best, worst and most memorable movies of 2019
by Peter Canavese

This year, the line between the big and small screen, between cinema and television, blurred more than ever. Big-spending Netflix — emboldened by last year’s Oscar-acknowledged “Roma” — led the charge again with “The Irishman.” “Marriage Story,” “The Two Popes,” “I Lost My Body,” “The King,” and “Atlantics,” among others while Hulu continued to program new feature films and Disney+ and Apple+ entered the streaming-service fray. This year, one could watch Willem Dafoe toggle with Robert Pattinson in “The Lighthouse” at the local multiplex or stay home and watch Dafoe fall in love with his sled dog in Disney’s “Togo,” a big-screen-quality, family adventure film instantly watchable on anything from a phone to a giant TV.

What does it mean for cinema when movies as dumb and/or chintzy as “Stuber” and “The Curse of La Llorona” compete for butts in seats with TV series as smart and/or cinematic as HBO’s “Watchmen” and Disney+’s “The Mandalorian”? Choice, of course. Perhaps too much of it.

Truly, there is something for everyone in today’s screen landscape. Want blockbuster movies? “Avengers: Endgame” set the new standard by skillfully wrapping up the initial phases of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (before “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” not so satisfactorily concluded the initial “Star Wars” saga). Want intimate human-scale drama? I’ve got the Mr. Rogers flick “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” and indie film “The Souvenir” right time linger in the mind and heart.

Joe Talbot’s impressive debut surfaces up a highly personal and locally resonant story that begins as a screed on gentrification but turns out to be a lively and complex salon on family history, friendship, community and the folly of belief in ownership. Playing characters that exhibit differing shades of native sentimentalism, Jimmie Fails and Jonathan Majors deliver breakout performances, while Talbot fearlessly creates a heightened reality that’s also grounded in some uncomfortable truths about American life — particularly its insistence on untrustworthy memory as well as unconscious and celluloid dreams. As such, an amateur detective’s plodding path to find his lost love leads to an astonishing “one-take” 3D dream sequence forming the film’s final 50 minutes. A lyrical, gorgeous but devastating reminder of precious time in the vein of director Wong Kar-wai.

The 10 top films of 2019

10. ‘The Mountain’
As downbeat as they come, Rick Alverson’s rigorous “The Mountain” functions as an eccentrically commentary on the horror of historical ignorance and the pain of existence in a world that’s gone insane. With just a dollop of pain of existence in a world that’s ror of historical ignorance and the centric commentary on the horror “The Mountain” functions as an ec-

9. ‘End of the Century’
Writer-director Lucio Cas-

8. ‘The Souvenir’
Joanna Hogg’s agonizingly honest and mature semi-autobi-

7. ‘The Last Black Man in San Francisco’
Joe Talbot’s impressive debut serves up a highly personal and locally resonant story that be-

dramedy). That’s where your Friendly Neighborhood Film Critic comes in, highlighting the most intriguing and, in some cases, the least widely discussed of cinematic options. Pin this list up on your bulletin board or grant it a magnet on your fridge, and you have a roadmap to 2019’s boldest statements, its most adventurous narratives and arresting aesthetics.

In a year of cinematic stunts, like the long-take constructions of “1917” and “Long Day’s Journey into Night” (which added 3D into the bargain) and the de-aging of every-

5. ‘The Irishman’
Flawed, but still essential, Mar-

4. ‘Rocketman’
“Rocketman” came along to shame those who thought “Bohemian Rhapsody” was the best of musical biopics, and “Cats” crawled into theaters to face the music with Broadway lovers. Even a good old-fashioned ensemble murder mystery came along in “Knives Out,” to tie us over until Kenneth Branagh’s Poins returns.

In other words, not much has really changed (although TV’s “Breaking Bad” suddenly became a movie — both streamed and in select theaters). But as the sheer volume of films and television increases, audiences must work harder to dig up the hidden gems (not to be confused with “Un-cut Gems,” the wild new Adam Sandler

3. ‘1917’
In a year of strong Chinese imports (see also “An Elephant Sitting Still” and “Ash Is Purest White”), Bi Gan gave us the 

2. ‘The Two Popes’
Acknowledged “Roma” — led the charge again with “The Irishman,” “Marriage Sto-

1. ‘The Irishman’
Flawed, but still essential, Martin Scorsese’s cumulative statement on American life through a mobster lens appears at first to be a neat capper to a thematic trilogy formed with “Goodfellas” and “Casino,” stories that likewise run on the insider knowledge of mob protagonists, sourced from nonfiction books. But the piv-

(Top 10 continued on next page)
The bottom 5 films of 2019

5. ‘El Chicano’
This brownexploitation actioner billed as the “first Latino superhero movie” teases itself as a Mexican-American “Batman” but has the moral sense of “The Punisher.” “El Chicano” wastes a fine actor (leading man Raúl Castillo) as it mechanically goes through its painfully dull, occasionally gruesome pieces.

4. ‘The Art of Racing in the Rain’
Great concept (mem, three — 2019 films in the increasingly popular genre of soggy dog movies where we hear the pooh’s thoughts in voice-over. Dog lovers, start your engines and turn off your brains for this Nicholas Sparks dog tale that will grab at your heartstrings.

3. ‘Rambo: Last Blood’
Co-writer/star Sylvester Stallone goes back to the bloody well with this sadistic sequel in his popular vigilante-killer franchise. Mechanical and morally wrong, and long removed from the day when John Rambo was more of a character than an icon, this one’s strictly for those who enjoy watching self-righteous murderers in bulk.

2. ‘Cats’
A special kind of bad, this adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s famous/infamous sand-pel-and-whiskers stage musical works as a feminist historical drama (foregrounding customarily forgotten late-18th century female painters) but soars as a love story of swoony beauty.

3. ‘A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood’
Celine Sciamma’s doomed but rapturous romance patiently observes the spark, the fire and the sad extinguishment of love. As William Butler Yeats noted, “love comes in at the eye,” dramatized here as a painter (Noémie Merlant) falls in love with her subject — children’s show host, or-dained minister, husband, father and friend to all. As played by Tom Hanks, Rogers could have made the convincing center of a hagiography. Micah Fitzgerald-Blue and Noah Harpster’s ingenious adaptation of Tom Junod’s Esquire profile “Can You Say...” (Top 10 continued from previous page)

also Joe Pesci, Harvey Keitel and Al Pacino as a funhouse-mirror Jimmy Hoffa), elegantly crafted, innovative and pure, uncet Scorsese.

4. ‘Portrait of a Lady on Fire’
Marielle Heller’s finely sensitive Mr. Rogers dramedy gets the magical appeal of Fred Rogers — children’s show host, ordained minister, husband, father and friend to all. As played by Tom Hanks, Rogers could have made the convincing center of a hagiography. Micah Fitzgerald-Blue and Noah Harpster’s ingenious adaptation of Tom Junod’s Esquire profile “Can You Say...” (Top 10 continued from previous page)

5. Marta Cabrera (Ana de Armas) in “Knives Out”
4. Franz Jägerstätter (August Diehl) in “A Hidden Life”
3. Jo March ( Saoirse Ronan) in “Little Women”
2. Tony Stark/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) in “Avengers: Endgame”
1. Mr. Rogers (Tom Hanks) in “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

(Honorable mention [tie]: Woody (Tom Hanks) and Forky (Tony Hale) in “Toy Story 4”)

Worst villains

5. Rose the Hat (Rebecca Ferguson) in “Doctor Sleep”
4. “Adolf Hitler” (Taika Waititi) in “Jojo Rabbit”
3. Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård) in “IT: Chapter Two”
2. Charles Manson (Da-mon Herriman in “Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood”, Matt Smith in “Charlie Says”)
1. Joker ( Joaquin Phoenix) in “Joker”

Honorable mention: Red (Lupita Nyong’o) in “Us”

Top documentaries

5. “Love, Antosha”
4. “Becoming”
3. “American Factory”
2. “SB”
1. “For Sama”

The animated winners

5. “Frozen II”
4. “How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World”
3. “I Lost My Body”
2. “Missing Link”
1. “Toy Story 4”

Peter Canavese is a freelance movie critic for the Palo Alto Weekly and author of the website GrouchoReviews.com. You can reach him at pcanavese@bcp.org.


See times for movies now showing in theaters on page 18.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • January 3, 2020 • Page 15
ZEN-LIKE RETREAT IN SHARON HEIGHTS

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Offered at $3,488,000

The sought-after neighborhood of Sharon Heights provides a wonderful backdrop for this impeccable 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home, offering both luxury and sanctuary across 2,540 sq. ft. of living space (per county) on a nearly one-third acre lot (per city GIS map). Top-of-the-line materials and expert craftsmanship abound in this home, from gorgeous flooring of both tile and eucalyptus hardwood, to the striking arched fireplace in the family room, to the gorgeously designed bathrooms. Experience true indoor/outdoor living with two private balconies providing alfresco enjoyment, and meet all work-from-home needs with the convenient office. Enjoy ultimate serenity in the stunning backyard, where a bamboo grove provides shade, a waterfall trickles down several levels to an enchanting Koi pond, and the entire area reverberates with Zen. From this great location, you'll be mere moments to everything Sharon Heights has to offer, as well as close to Venture Capital firms on Sand Hill Road, and to Highway 280 for Bay Area commuting. Adding the finishing touch, this home offers access to acclaimed Las Lomitas schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.985SiskiyouDr.com
by Elena Kadvany

Only in Silicon Valley does a longtime tech startup founder find a second career in a chocolate-making robot.

Nate Saal studied molecular bio-physics and biochemistry at Yale University after graduating from Palo Alto High School in 1990. After returning to Palo Alto, he quickly shifted from science to the internet, founding what he says was the first web-based software updating service and going on to start more technology companies.

But these days, he’s immersed in chocolate — specifically, chocolate made by a countertop device that he created called CocoaTerra. The sleek white device, which looks like a large, futuristic coffee maker, uses algorithms, hardware and a smartphone app to transform cocoa nibs, milk powder, cocoa powder and sugar into chocolate in about two hours.

Saal has high hopes for the machine, which has yet to be released. In the age of automation, where robots are making pizza and ramen and delivering our food, he sees CocoaTerra as doing something different: using technology to deepen rather than disrupt people’s connection to how their food is made.

“We’re not trying to slap technology on top of that to abstract it away, to take creativity away,” he said. “We’re trying to actually create a whole new category of people who can now make chocolate.”

While Saal’s professional career has focused on technology, he has always filled his weekends with homegrown food experiments, like jelly-making, beekeeping and growing grapes and olives to make wine and olive oil from scratch.

Making chocolate, however, was not in his repertoire. It wasn’t until he took his brother-in-law, who works in the coffee business, to a chocolate tasting several years ago, and a conversation about the similarities between the two industries

Nate Saal adds cocoa nibs to CocoTerra, the device he created to make chocolate from scratch at home.
A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (PG)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

A Hidden Life (PG-13)
Aquarius: Fri. - Sun.
Bombshell (R)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Cats (2019) (PG)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Ford V Ferrari (PG-13)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Frozen II (PG) ***
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Gone With the Wind (1939) (Not Rated)
Good Newwz (Not Rated)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
The Grudge (2020) (R)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Jumanji: The Next Level (PG-13) ***
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Knives Out (Not Rated)
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Little Women (2019) (PG) ****/2
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Parasite (R) ****/2
Aquarius: Fri. - Sun.
Richard Jewell (R)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Spies in Disguise (PG)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13) ****/2
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Uncut Gems (R)
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.
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Answer to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 27.
On a recent Monday evening, 20 soon-to-be grandparents gathered in a Stanford Health Care classroom to get their grandparenting skills up to speed before the arrival of the newest members of their families. Most of them hadn’t swaddled, fed or cared for a baby in decades, and with advanced technology, new research and different family dynamics, some of the accepted practices of baby care from those days have changed.

The group, which included 14 women and six men, shared information about their grandchildren’s impending births. Some — including a couple from Bangladesh and another from Florida — said they’d moved to the Bay Area specifically to help with child care. Several said they were taking the class at the request of their children or that their kids had paid the $65 tuition as a gift for them to attend.

The “Grandparents Seminar” at Stanford is part of a growing trend to help new grandparents become better informed about the basics of infant care and make the most of their unique role in the family.

“The story of what’s happening in this community is that grandparents — many grandparents — are doing child care, either full time or part time,” said grandmother Marilyn Swarts, who worked for decades as a labor-and-delivery nurse and nurse manager and has been teaching the monthly grandparents class offered through Stanford Children’s Health for the past 15 years.

Swarts’ 2.5-hour session, which covers some of the latest pediatric thinking on newborn care, attracts grandparents from throughout the region and consistently sells out.

Swarts tells her students: “You’ve all brought up great kids, but today there are some pretty significant differences from the way we did things.”

At the top of that list, Swarts said, is the way infants should be put to sleep. To reduce risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), babies always should be placed on their backs on a firm mattress “with absolutely nothing in the crib — no bumpers, no blankets,” she said.

Such advice comes as a surprise to many prospective grandparents who, prior to the mid-1990s, typically were advised to position infants on their stomachs for sleep. One soon-to-be grandmother said she’d retrieved old family photos in which her babies were “sleeping on lamb’s wool, on their stomachs, with bumpers and little toys — the whole nine yards.”

It’s now understood that stomach sleeping, blankets and crib bumpers increase the risk of SIDS, according to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The Sudden Infant Death rate in the United States has dropped by about 50% since the agency’s “Back to Sleep” campaign was launched in 1994, saving thousands of lives.

Also new to many grandparents are the “skin to skin” and “rooming in” practices in today’s maternity wards, which have brought an end to nurseries for sleep. Newborn assessments are done in that position, and babies not requiring special medical attention remain in the rooms of their parents — yes, dads stay overnight in the hospital, too — throughout their hospital stay.

Swarts covers a host of other topics in her monthly evening sessions: the resurgence of swaddling, breastfeeding, cord clamps, cloth versus disposable diapers, introduction of solid food and peanuts, baby food pouches, colic, soothing methods — including baby-soothing apps — warnings against honey and baby powder and more.

She reminds grandparents to update their flu vaccinations and to wash their hands often. She notes that today’s car seats are so complicated that parents and grandparents are advised to leave setting them up to professionals.

(continued on page 20)
**Public Notices**

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

624-626-628 Masonic Avenue
Homeowners' Association
Fictitious Business Name Statement
File No.: FB661639
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
624-626-628 Masonic Avenue
Homeowners' Association, located at 526 Addison Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Trust.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are):
MARY ALICE OJAKIAN, TRUSTEE
Palo Alto, CA 94301
MARY ALICE OJAKIAN, TRUSTEE
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Registrant began transacting business on December 13, 2019.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business.

The Palo Alto Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Santa Clara County. Homeowners' Association, located at 526 Addison Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are):
BRIDGETTE ORLOFF
6437 Du Sault Dr.
San Jose, CA 95119

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Douglas Lane, located at 6437 Du Sault Dr., San Jose, CA 95119.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are):
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CURBSIDE TREE COLLECTION: GreenWaste of Palo Alto will be collecting holiday trees curbside for the four weeks following Christmas Day (Dec. 25). Cut trees in 4-foot lengths and remove tree stands, all decorations, including tinsel, and any nails. Place trees next to the green compost cart. Flocked trees are not accepted. For more information, contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto at 650-493-4894; apartment and condominium managers are encouraged to call for information regarding tree collection locations for their complexes.

SEWING WITH FABMO: In this project using FabMo's repurposed fabric, all supplies are provided and the workshop is open to beginners. For ages 18 and up. The library is located at 585 Franklin St., Menlo Park. For more information, call 650-903-6337 or visit menlopark.gov/depts/library.

SPRING GARDEN PLANNING: Though it’s true that the winter solstice was just a couple weeks ago, it’s not too early to start thinking ahead for springtime in your garden. Start planning for your spring garden at a workshop led by gardening experts on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Menlo Park Library. This workshop will cover preparing the soil, the best times for planting seeds and seedlings and site selection (choosing the right spots for plants based on factors such as soil drainage and exposure to sunlight). The library is located at 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. For more information, call 650-330-2501 or visit menlopark.org/Calendar.

Just as the U.S. economy experienced the rarity of no recession for an entire decade, the residential real estate market in Palo Alto had an unprecedented strong run in the past 10 years. The median home price of all sold homes increased 2.4 times from $1.25 million in 2010 to $2.94 million in 2019, which translates to an average compound annual growth rate of more than 10%. However, there have been signs of the end of the upcycle; and, most recently, a market that has been slowing since the spring of 2018.

The median price of all sold homes in Palo Alto of 2019 was $2.94 million, a 3.8% decline from 2018. The weakness is particularly reflected in the total transaction amount, which fell by 10% compared to a year ago. Homes also stayed on market 10 days longer than a year ago. It now takes an average of 29.2 days for a listed home to find its buyer. As sellers are still adjusting expectations, 2019 saw a 26% increase in price reduction. In fact, more than 23% of new listings had to lower their asking prices after being listed on the Multiple Listing Service. Overall inventory remained at a historic low level. In Palo Alto, 537 homes hit the Multiple Listing Service in 2019, a 5.6% decline from 2018, less than half of what we experienced in 2006 and a 30% decline from the beginning of the decade.

Instead of general weakness, the key characteristic of the Midpeninsula real estate market of 2019 was polarization. The key variables of our residential real estate market remain the tech economy and the associated local supply and demand, which operate on a relatively low probability of home prices taking a big dive any time soon, potential buyers who were hesitating may want to lock in the low interest rate for meaningful savings over the long term. Without a rebound in foreign investments on the horizon, the ultra-low mortgage interest rate and new initial public offerings (IPOs) for local companies remain the two biggest drivers for demand going into the new year. Considering a market that has been slowing since the spring of 2018, there are no signs of the end of the upcycle; and, most recently, a market that has been slowing since the spring of 2018.

The last decade’s booming market sends us into 2020 with prices having peaked, but still nowhere near flat by Xin Jiang

In 2019, homes in the desirable Central Menlo Park neighborhood saw close to a 30% increase in supply, a 13% increase in closed transactions, and a 22% jump in median home price to $4.5 million. This year, both Menlo Park and Los Altos had a double-digit increase in the number of new listings and transaction volume, while those numbers dipped in Palo Alto.

The key characteristic of the Midpeninsula real estate market of 2019 was polarization.
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Sun 2-4 4 BD/6 | 2 BA
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LOS ALTOS
27500 La Vida Real $39,988,000
By Appt.  5 BD/7+3 Half BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

PALO ALTO
985 Siskiyou Dr $3,488,000
Sat 1:30-4:30 3 BD/2.5 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

369 Churchill Av $39,988,000
By Appt.  5 BD/7+3 Half BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

MENLO PARK
985 Siskiyou Dr $3,488,000
Sat 1:30-4:30 3 BD/2.5 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

369 Churchill Av $39,988,000
By Appt.  5 BD/7+3 Half BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

WOODSIDE
370 Mountain Home Crt $13,988,000
By Appt.  3+1 BD/5.5 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

The Silicon Valley REALTORS® Charitable Foundation donated $41,618 in 2019 to non-profit organizations in Silicon Valley. Funds this year also went to scholarships for graduating seniors from 18 public high schools in SILVAR’s service area.

The Charitable Foundation makes grants available to organizations from donations by REALTORS® and affiliate members of the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® (SILVAR). 2019 grants were also funded by SILVAR district fundraisers: $5,005 from the Los Altos-Mountain View district’s annual pumpkin auction to the Family Giving Tree for holiday gifts, clothing and food certificates to needy families and seniors in the community; $750 from the Cupertino-Sunnyvale district to West Valley Community Services and to Sunnyvale Community Services for their Back to School programs for low-income students; and $1,783 from the Los Altos-Mountain View district annual Pumpkin Auction and $1,786 from the Los Gatos-Saratoga District Annual Bocce Ball Tournament.

“Rising home prices and rents have taken a toll on many residents,” said Foundation president Eileen Giorgi. “We thank our members for their continued support and contributions to the communities where they work and live.”

The 2019 grant recipients include Adolescent Counseling Services, which provides a network of skilled family therapists and support groups for teens and young adults in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties; East Palo Alto Kids Foundation, which promotes educational opportunities for students in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park; Westwind 4-H Riding for the Handicapped, which provides children with disabilities the opportunity to have fun while improving their coordination and strengthening their muscles; Youth Community Service, which provides service learning and leadership activities to underserved students in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto; and Jasper Ridge Farm, which helps children and adults facing physical and emotional challenges through therapeutic interaction with gentle farm animals.

SILVAR districts, through the Foundation, likewise made the following donations to local organizations: $5,335 from the Los Gatos-Saratoga district’s annual pumpkin auction to the Family Giving Tree for holiday gifts, clothing and food certificates to needy families and seniors in the community; $750 from the Cupertino-Sunnyvale district to West Valley Community Services and to Sunnyvale Community Services for their Back to School programs for low-income students; and $1,783 from the Los Altos-Mountain View district annual Pumpkin Auction and $1,786 from the Los Gatos-Saratoga District Annual Bocce Ball Tournament.

For the 20th year, the Foundation’s Scholars Program presented a $1,000 grant to each of 18 graduating seniors from public high schools in Silicon Valley. In 2020, the scholarship grant will increase to $1,500.

The John Tripp Silicon Valley REALTORS® Scholarship grants $500 awards to veterans enrolled at Foothill and De Anza colleges. The late John Tripp was a veteran of the Korean War and past president of SILVAR and the Foundation.

Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Meily at rmeily@silvar.org.
**HOLIDAY SPIRIT ...** After hitting a pair of opponents with first-quarter fireworks in the first two games of the Joe Schram Classic, Pinewood came out relatively cold in the championship game against host St. Francis. And the Lancers, who have been victims of Pinewood upsets in the past, were eager to capitalize and stay competitive as long as possible. It was just a six-point game at halftime, but Pinewood tossed a 12-0 shutout over the first six minutes of the third quarter and pulled away for a 73-47 victory. Pinewood 6-5, which returns to action Saturday with a 5 p.m. home game against Carondelet, plays at a very high energy level both on offense and defense. The team compartmentalized for the cold shooting first half by hustling after loose balls and offensive rebounds, and as a result got to 41 points, making 13 over the first two quarters. That’s a lot of shots in 16 minutes. Point guard Annika Decker, named the tournament MVP, took the scoring responsibilities into her own hands. She had 14 points at halftime and finished with 23 on nine field goals, five from 3-point range. “It’s certainly different,” Decker said when asked how she liked being a scoring point guard. “I was taking shots when they were sagging off me.” Uma Ivanovic, also an all-tournament pick, scored 27 in Pinewood’s semifinal win over San Ramon Valley. Her shot wasn’t falling early on against St. Francis, but she attacked the boards, especially after center Maia Garcia had to sit down with three first-half fouls. Ivanovic scored 11 points in the second half to finish with 16 and made a huge contribution with 17 rebounds. “The coaches told me to attack the boards which is what I’m really good at usually pursue,” she said. “It was definitely a goal.” Courtni Thompson, a strong defensive player whose value doesn’t always show up in the box score, scored 12 points, and Garcia finished with eight points and 12 rebounds. Thompson was named the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player, Hustle – Marin Catholic beat Eastside Prep 48-40 in the consolation championship. The Panthers (4-7) participate in the Pittsburg Showcase on Friday at 2:30 p.m. with a game against Encinal ... Caroine Barclay scored 23 points, Jacqueline Chin added 13 on four 3-pointers and Sacred Heart Prep went to overtime to beat San Luis Obispo in the seventh-place contest, 57-51. It was tied at 46 at the end of regulation. Playing without three starters in the tournament, SHP (7-7) still managed to win a game. Barclay scored 45 points in her last two games. Kennedy Anderson had 11 points.

**ON THE AIR**

**Friday**

College women’s basketball: Washington State at Stanford, 7 p.m., Pac-12 Network

**Sunday**

College women’s basketball: Washington at Stanford, 2 p.m., Pac-12 Network

**Thursday**

College men’s basketball: Washington at Stanford, 6 p.m., FSN

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**Cardinal set to open Pac-12 play this weekend**

There are no weak links in conference play this season

by Rick Eymer

T he here’s no rest for the weary when it comes to Pac-12 women’s basketball and fifth-ranked Stanford will have had nearly a week to regroup after beating UC Davis on Saturday in a tougher than expected nonconference victory.

The Cardinal (11-1) opens Pac-12 play with a home game against Washington State (7-6, 0-1) at 7 p.m. Friday and the Cougars have the ‘worst’ overall record in the conference entering the weekend. The conference is so good this season there are no weak links.

Washington State’s Borislava Hristova comes in ranked third in the Pac-12 with an 18.5 scoring average. Teammate Chandelle Molina is 10th at 14.6, just ahead of LEXI HULL’s 14.4 average, Stanford’s leading scorer.

The conference is packed so full of talent that reigning national Player of the Year Sabrina Ionescu, a senior at Oregon, is the third-best scorer on her team and Jones scores ranks eighth in the conference.

Stanford is one of four Pac-12 teams in the top 10 and one of three in the top five. There are four undefeated teams and none of them are Stanford or No. 2 Oregon, each with one loss. Arizona, Colorado, UCLA and Oregon State are all 12-0.

Seven teams are already in double-digit victories and the Pac-12 has won 83.3% of its games when not playing each other. Welcome to

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**SCVAL BASKETBALL**

**SCVAL BASKETBALL**

**Vikings host Cupertino: Titans play at Monte Vista**

by Glenn Reeves

Pa lo Alto fought fire halfway through last season and rode a 10-game winning streak to a Central Coast Section Division I boys basketball championship and through the first two rounds of the Northern California Division III playoffs.

That run, as well as the season, came to an end in the NorCal Division III semifinals with a 55-52 loss at Monterey. It wasn’t a pleasant memory to carry into the off-season.

So motivation was not in short supply Monday when Paly played Monterey in the consolation championship game of the Joe Schram Classic at St. Francis High. And the Vikings turned in what was probably their best performance of the season in a 66-53 victory.

Palo Alto (6-3) hopes the win can fire up another long winning streak. The Vikings open Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division play at home Friday against Cupertino, with a scheduled start time of 7:45 p.m. Matthew Marzano was a starter on the team that lost to Monterey last season.

“We have a lot of new guys but it was still Palo Alto versus Monterey,” Marzano said. “We were definitely out to get payback for the past.”

He went off for an easy 27 points and 13 rebounds and also had a number of steals and assists. He could have scored more but was looking to pass rather than shoot late in the game.

Marzano was named to the all-tournament team.

“Honestly I didn’t think I scored that much,” he said. “So many guys played well.”

In particular, Ryan Purpur scored 16 points and Conner Lusk had 13.

Purpur, a 6-foot-6 post, slamed home a lob pass from Lusk in the first quarter, and that seemed to set the tone. Paly, playing loose and confident, steadily pulled away with 14 points for Stanford, which was coming off its first loss of the season to then-unranked Texas. Nadia Fingall added 11 points and blocked a pair of shots.

“This will get everyone’s attention on playing better defense,” VanDerveer said. “We stepped up in the second half and Haley made some nice plays. She came to play. Defense was the difference.”

Stanford ended the third quarter on a 10-1 run to take a 46-41 edge into the fourth. Jones scored five points, including a driving layup with 26 seconds left in the third.

Anna Wilson hit a layup that gave Stanford a 17-7 advantage midway through the first quarter but the Aggies outscored the Cardinal 21-5 over the next 8:41 to open a 28-22 lead and carry a 33-20 edge into halftime.

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**STANFORD WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Sophomore Lexie Hull leads Stanford in scoring with a 14.4 average entering Pac-12 Conference play Friday.
Matt Marzano (13), Ryan Purpur (22) and Connor Lusk (2) lead Palo Alto into SCVAL De Anza Division play.

and led by as many as 22 at 66-44 before Monterey scored the final nine points of the game.

“That gave us a real big boost on offense and defense,” Marzano said. “We hadn’t had a dunker like Ryan at Palo Alto in a long time.”

Palo Alto has won three of its past four games and five of seven. The Vikings lost 53-50 at Cupertino last season and struggled to win games overall.

The Vikings will be looking to end a two-game losing streak in their SCVAL El Camino Division opener in Cupertino at 7:45 p.m. They’ve lost five of their past six games overall.

The Matadors ended their season-opening nine-game losing streak with a 69-56 victory over Westmont in their last game.

Girls basketball

Cupertino (2-10) at Paly (4-4)

The Vikings head into their 6:15 p.m. home SCVAL De Anza Division opener on a two-game slide after splitting four games at the Seaside Sweet Sixteen tournament.

Paly relies on a balanced scoring attack since losing junior guard Annika Shah for the season. Carly Martin has picked up much of the load, though Ilaiyda Turgut, Kaella Peters, Elif Turgut, Irzel Torres Jessica Friske and Delaney Ball have also made significant contributions.

Paly, which does not have a senior on the roster, owns a five-game winning streak over Cupertino, all since 2015.

Gunn (0-8) at Monta Vista (2-7)

The Titans are looking for their first win of the season in their SCVAL El Camino Division opener. They lost twice to the Matadors last season in their first games against each other since 2011.

Gunn’s last winning season came in 2016-17.

Read more online: 

For expanded daily coverage of college and prep sports, visit wWw.PASportsOnline.com

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Avery Lee

MENLO BASKETBALL

The junior guard scored 45 points in the first two games of the Hawaii Baptist Tournament over the weekend. She scored 27 points in a win over Kalani on Friday and 18 in a win over the host team.

Honorable mention

Caroline Barclay

Sacred Heart Prep basketball

Una Jovanovic*

Pinewood basketball

Carly Martin

Palo Alto basketball

Ilayda Turgut

Palo Alto basketball

Reilly Duncan

Woodside wrestling

Garret Keyhani

Menlo basketball

Connor Lusk

Palo Alto basketball

Justin Sellers

Menlo basketball

Nate Tripaldi

Menlo-Atherton basketball

*Previous winner

Answers on page 18.


Watch video interviews of the Athletes of the Week, go to PASportsOnline.com

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