At Stanford Medicine our number one priority is the safety of our employees and our patients. We have obtained personal protective equipment (PPE) for the projected needs of our organization for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. However, as a cautionary measure, Stanford Medicine is now accepting donations of unopened supplies in their original packaging. We are unable to accept homemade supplies.

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Dear Reader:

During these uncertain and scary times, trusted sources of local news are more important than ever.

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Our staff is working around the clock to keep you informed in this rapidly changing environment. Our office is nearly empty, but our 50 employees are hard at work at their homes and, when necessary, in the community bringing critical news stories to you.

And you are following our reporting in record numbers. Our web traffic has soared in the last three weeks. We’ve dropped our pay meter so that everyone can access the latest news whether they are subscribing members or not. In the last 30 days more than 700,000 unique visitors were following the news coverage on Palo Alto Online.

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Please go to PaloAltoOnline.com/subscribe today to become a subscribing member. If you prefer to subscribe for a year by check, please mail a check for $120 ($60 for seniors) to us at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto 94306.

Thank you, and best wishes to all of you doing your best to get through this difficult time.

Bill Johnson
Publisher
An appeal for your support of good journalism

As crisis deepens, so does the impact on local news organizations, including ours

by Bill Johnson

Just three weeks ago, it was hard to imagine the imminent human and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. Yet here we all are, isolated in our homes, working hard to adhere to the directives from county and state health officials.

It is inspiring — and humbling — that, in the midst of this disruption and worry, hundreds of you are choosing to start subscriptions to the Weekly and Palo Alto Online to help sustain your source of community news and information. Your outpouring of support is helping us carry on.

Our office is closed and our employees are sheltering at home. But they are hard at work. Serving our readers during times of crisis or natural disasters with accurate and timely reporting is one of the most important functions of a local news organization. You are witness to that work.

I have always considered bringing the community together in challenging times to be an essential part of our mission, and I am proud of how our staff, coordinating through video conferences and phone calls, has worked as a team in service to you while taking care of themselves and supporting their families and friends.

But in the midst of this effort, we also have needed to take steps to preserve our ability to continue this important work. This week I had to make painful decisions to lay off several staff members, furlough others and reduce hours for some. We simply cannot sustain our payroll costs while we have only a fraction of our normal advertising revenue, especially when we have no way to know how long this crisis will last.

We are not alone. Local newspapers all over the country face similar or worse challenges, and scores have had to shut down. We are determined to not let that happen here.

My heartfelt thanks to those of you who have already stepped up and started subscriptions enabling you to unlimited access to Palo Alto Online and mail delivery to your home of the Palo Alto Weekly. But we need thousands more of you to do the same.

With your help, now and in the future, we’ll proudly be bringing you important news about Palo Alto and the region for decades to come. Please join your neighbors in sustaining local journalism by subscribing today at Palo Alto Online/subscribe.

Bill Johnson is publisher and founder of the Palo Alto Weekly. He can be reached at bjjohnson@paweekly.com.

HEALTH CARE

As hospitals gear up for surge in patients, local businesses and public asked for help

Medical organizations are adding outdoor facilities in anticipation of more people coming down with the virus

by Sue Dremann and Gennady Sheyner

Stanford Health Care is ramping up for large-scale testing of patients with COVID-19 symptoms, erecting tents on the Stanford University campus for use starting in the next few days, a spokeswoman said.

The additional testing capacity is in response to a growing need to identify COVID-19-positive patients as the virus spreads. Stanford Health Care has so far installed five large white tents and a cluster of smaller ones in its Galvez Street parking lot along Campus Drive, across from the Bing Concert Hall. The medical center has had a site at Hoover Pavilion running for at least one-and-a-half weeks.

“We’re preparing to extend outpatient COVID-19 testing to the Galvez location for patients with a Stanford physician order,” spokeswoman Lisa Kim said. “Patients may call Stanford Express Care at 650-498-9000 to schedule a video visit with a Stanford physician, who will evaluate and refer them for testing if needed.”

Last week, Menlo Medical Clinic started a drive-thru clinic at 321 Middlefield Road for COVID-19.

“They are currently taking scheduled Menlo (Clinic) patients based on certain clinical criteria. Again, they must have a physician’s order to be tested,” Kim said.

Jennifer Thrift, spokeswoman for El Camino Hospital, said the medical provider has tents constructed at its Mountain View and Los Gatos campuses, but the tents are not currently in use.

Other medical organizations, including Kaiser Permanente and Sutter/Palo Alto Medical Foundation, are also testing patients for COVID-19 when referred by a physician.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said this week that the rate of testing is increasing across the state, albeit slowly. As of March 24, about 66,800 tests had been conducted, which includes the latest numbers California has received from commercial and private labs. At least 18,276 results have been received and another 48,600 are pending, according to the governor’s website.

(continued on page 14)

EDUCATION

Schools to stay closed through May 1

County health officials, superintendents agree on extended regional closures

by Elena Kadvany

Hundreds of public schools in six Bay Area counties, including in Santa Clara County, will remain closed through May 1. County health officers and superintendents of schools have decided.

Palo Alto schools had been set to reopen after spring break in April, though that seemed increasingly unlikely as coronavirus cases continued to rise and Gov. Gavin Newsom indicated last week that campuses wouldn’t likely reopen this academic year.

The new decision, which is not an official order from the county health departments but was agreed to by each county superintendent, affects schools in Santa Clara, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin and Alameda counties as well as the San Francisco Unified School District.

“The well-being of our students, families and communities is our primary concern. We will continue to take all necessary steps to prepare schools for reopening,” said Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County superintendent of schools. “Meanwhile, it is absolutely crucial that we work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to the shelter-in-place orders and continuing to support learning at home.”

San Mateo County Superinten-

(continued on page 17)
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FEEDING THOSE IN NEED

**Around Town**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

Talk is cheap and free rent costs money.

– John McNellis, local developer, on providing businesses financial relief. See story on page 15.
A week and a half into the stay-at-home order that’s hopefully flattening the curve of the coronavirus contagion, and the roaring engine of Silicon Valley has grown eerily quiet.

Inside our houses and apartments, we wonder: Is anyone else here? What are other people doing?

Even those using the technology of video conferencing for work and schooling are feeling an odd sense of disconnection and dislocation. The world has shrunk to fit into the screen of a laptop. Our full-throated lives have turned into mere pantomime.

But fortunately, despite the loss of routine, social contact and freedom to get around, there are still options for things to do in Palo Alto other than binge-watching Netflix and taking the dog for another walk.

All around us, local arts organizations, community groups, businesses and neighborhoods have been busy trying to keep life and community going, albeit in unique ways.

For those who are healthy and able to get outside, here are some ideas for staying connected to the broader Palo Alto community. And if you are in quarantine or otherwise housebound, don’t worry. There are also activities you can engage in from the great indoors that will expand your world.

1 Walk or bike to parks and landmarks.

In its March 16 stay-at-home order, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department stated:

“Spending time outside improves mood and well-being. ... You can go for walks, go to the park and engage in other similar activities” — with the proper social distance of 6 feet between you and others, of course.

That’s good news because with the rain this past week, gardens and neighborhood parks are looking more vibrant than ever.

At Palo Alto’s Gamble Garden on Embarcadero Road, tulips are blooming, and the Barron Park donkeys, Perry and Jenny, in Bol Park, 3590 Laguna Ave., are currently welcoming in-person visitors during the day. (Go to barronparkdonkeys.org for more information.)

Other options: the Stanford Dish and Stanford University campus, which have wide paths. Be wise, though, and don’t enter an area if many people are there already. And if you choose to visit it, an open space preserve, you’ll want to bike or walk there. Palo Alto has closed parking lots at the preserves to prevent crowds.

2 Enjoy the performing arts.

The curtains are up — online — for a few Palo Alto area performing arts groups: TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s northern California premiere of Laurel Ollstein’s “They Promised Her the Moon,” which is being streamed online after the live shows were canceled.

Dianne Jenett, 72, talks with Sunita de Tourreil, who brought her a bag of groceries from Whole Foods Market on March 18.

Jenny and Perry, the Barron Park donkeys, stand in their pasture in Bol Park.

The well-received production was the story of world first female astronaut candidate and fought to fly among the stars.

The curtains are up — online — for a few Palo Alto area performing arts groups, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s northern California premiere of Laurel Ollstein’s “They Promised Her the Moon,” which is the story of world record-holding aviator Jerrie Cobb, who was selected as the first female astronaut candidate and fought to fly among the stars. The well-received production was forced to shutter a week after beginning performances on March 2.

“It’s almost scary to think it’s going to be over,” said Actor/producer Kevin Berne of the show that had its world premiere on March 6.

The curtains are up — online — for a few Palo Alto area performing arts groups, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s northern California premiere of Laurel Ollstein’s “They Promised Her the Moon,” which is the story of world record-holding aviator Jerrie Cobb, who was selected as the first female astronaut candidate and fought to fly among the stars. The well-received production was forced to shutter a week after beginning performances on March 2.

3 Explore the city’s eLibrary.

Sure, Mitchell Park, Rinconada and the smaller branch libraries are closed, but the city of Palo Alto’s vast eLibrary is open. With your library card, you can check out ebooks, audiobooks, music and films. How about taking advantage of this down time to learn a foreign language? Or use the e-resources to bone up on Renaissance history or trace your family’s genealogy. There are also resources accessible to those without a library card, so what are you waiting for? Go to library.cityofpaloalto.org, online-resources and find something that interests you.

4 Start something good in your ‘hood.

From Barron Park to Community Center to Midtown, residents of Palo Alto are proving that joy can be contagious. Ideas for spreading cheer range from the simple, like a daily 6 p.m. “wave” in which neighbors come to their front yards and share smiles and greetings from a safe distance, to the more creative, such as drawing chalk art on streets and sidewalks for others to enjoy. One trending idea: “bear hunts” or “neighborhood safaris,” in which stuffed animals are placed in homes’ front windows for neighborhood children to spot when they’re out walking. All you need is a willingness to put your idea out there via email, NextDoor.com or Facebook. Or even by calling your neighbors on the phone. Imagine that.

5 Support the local economy: Order takeout or delivery.

Remember the restaurant you’ve always wanted to try? Now might be a good time to get some of its grub. Restaurants are struggling financially because (continued on page 8)
of the mandated closure of their dining rooms, but they’re trying to keep afloat by offering dishes for takeout and delivery. For a map of dining establishments that are awaiting your orders, go to paloaltoonline.com/restaurants.

6 Get your hands dirty by gardening.

Really, there’s no excuse this spring for ignoring your garden, whether it be a full backyard or a patio full of potted flowers. Gardening has been shown to provide therapeutic benefits. If getting fresh plants or gardening supplies would help you get motivated, SummerWinds Nursery in south Palo Alto is providing curbside pickup and home delivery of its goods. Because the store is closed to in-person shoppers, you need to call in your order (650-493-5136).

7 Volunteer to help others.

In this time of crisis, those who are not healthy, financially well off or surrounded by loved ones may need assistance because of sudden unemployment or social isolation. Happily, Palo Alto’s enterprising residents are jumping in to help, and you can join them. Howard Kushlan of Professorville started a Google list for people who are willing to do things for others like run errands, walk dogs and get much-needed medication. Go to tinyurl.com/helpPA to sign up.

The city of Palo Alto is also seeking to organize volunteers and those who need assistance. See cityofpaloalto.org/coronavirus for more information. And if you are able to give blood, there’s currently a shortage at the Stanford Blood Center — and there’s no risk to your health from donating blood. Go to stanfordbloodcenter.org.

8 Take in some visual art — or make your own.

Now you could press your nose against the windows of the Palo Alto Art Center and peer in, but you’ll see much more by taking a virtual tour of its recent tree-themed exhibit, “Rooted: Trees in Contemporary Art.” In this unique show, created in partnership with the nonprofit Canopy, “artists from around the world use trees as subject, symbol and medium to illuminate the world around us,” the Art Center states. The virtual tour, at canopy.org/rooted-exhibit-2020, offers photos, videos and bonus features. For those wanting to get more hands-on, artist Sam Price is holding free virtual collage classes on Fridays at 11 a.m. It’s for kids and family members of all ages and can be found at paac.org/collage-with-sam-price.html.

9 Listen to an uplifting message.

Faith leaders in the area scrambled to move their weekly services online after the county’s March 16 order banned all gatherings. As a result, the inspirational messages often heard only by those inside the walls of churches and synagogues are now online for all to hear. This past week, the topic was “The Pursuit of Happiness” at Menlo Church (MenloChurch/messages), while at First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, Pastor Bruce Reyes-Chow discussed the temptations of power and control during his church’s livestreaming service (facebook.com/pcpaloalto). Congregation Beth Am of Los Altos Hills held an online discussion of “Judaism in times of crisis” (betham.org/virtual), and Rev. Kaloma Smith of the University AME Zion Church in Palo Alto spoke on “The Antidote to Anxiety,” which can be viewed at facebook.com/universityame (special bonus: gospel music with singers and a band).

10 Spend some screen time with someone isolated.

Finally, technology has made it so that isolation doesn’t have to equate to loneliness. Through free apps easily downloadable onto tablets and laptop computers, including FaceTime, Skype and Zoom, people can reach out for conversation. Co-workers are organizing virtual happy hours online to stay connected to each other, and other people are reaching out to relatives or friends who live alone to talk or play games. If you need help with technology, go to YouTube.com and search for “How to use FaceTime” (or Skype or Zoom) for instructional videos. Or contact Avenidas senior center, which offers resources at avenidas.org/programs/avenidas-without-walls or by calling 650-289-5400.

What have you been doing during this stay-at-home period? Share your ideas and read others’ on Town Square, the community discussion forum at PaloAltoOnline.com/square.

Editor Jocelyn Dong can be emailed at jdong@paweekly.com.

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**Stanford pediatricians, now in your neighborhood at Peninsula Pediatric Medical Group.**

**Stamford Health.**

**Access to Excellence.**

---

**Blood donors are needed at the Stanford Blood Center, as the supply is running low.**

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**Elizabeth Duncan waters the vegetable plants and roses at the Edith Johnson Community Garden in 2017.**

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**Pastor Kaloma Smith of the University AME Zion Church in Palo Alto is among the many faith leaders who’ve taken their weekly services online during the coronavirus shutdown.**

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**Editor Jocelyn Dong can be emailed at jdong@paweekly.com.**

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**Design by Doug Young. Photos in upper and middle left (Stanford Dish and senior with tablet) by Sammy Dallal.**
The high cost of sheltering in place

Without work, many families don’t know how long they can pay their bills

by Lloyd Lee

Three days before public health officials announced a March 16 stay-at-home order, Lucero Romero learned she was furloughed from her YMCA after-school program site director at KIPP Valiant Community Prep School in East Palo Alto, Romero had her hours reduced to zero because schools across the Bay Area announced they were shutting down.

Soon, the same thing happened to her mom, who works as a house cleaner.

“People were canceling, one house at a time,” Romero, 23, said on Wednesday. “They would call her saying, ‘Sorry, but don’t come right now.’”

Then her dad, who works in construction, was given notice.

“My dad was unsure of his job. But then the next week, he only worked Monday and Tuesday. Tuesday, he came home and he says, ‘I’m officially, not working.’”

And finally, her 20-year-old sister, Evelin, was told by her employer — the East Palo Alto nonprofit Nuestra Casa — she’d have to start working fewer hours.

Though the shelter-in-place order, first implemented by six Bay Area counties and quickly followed by the statewide mandate, applies to all Californians, it has affected families unequally across the class spectrum. And for many like Romero, the potential harm is slowly settling in.

“We have a little bit saved that we can use,” Romero said. “But what’s gonna happen when we’re using the money that we’re supposed to be saving in the future, if we can’t return to work anytime soon?”

Living in East Palo Alto with a family of six, including two younger siblings — a brother in eighth grade at Ravenswood Middle School and a sister who’s a freshman at East Palo Alto Academy — Romero’s household is unlike the traditional nuclear family where a couple supports their dependent children.

Ever since she got her first paying job a few years ago, Romero evenly split the bills with her family — with Evelin following suit when she started working at the nonprofit. Fortunate enough to be able to rent a two bedroom, one bathroom, apartment for $1,500 in a complex where some families are paying $2,600 for a similar unit, Romero’s family has long supported themselves without significant government assistance with the exception of programs such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), of which Romero and Evelin are recipients.

But Romero’s situation isn’t an outlier. At Palo Alto’s Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, Francisca Vazquez, 24, also will need to take a hard look into her family’s savings to see how long they can last without any income flowing into the household of six — her mom, her mom’s husband, a younger sister who’s home from San Jose State University, and her 4-year-old and 3-month-old siblings.

“People were canceling, one house at a time,” Vazquez said on Wednesday. “They would call her saying, ‘Sorry, but don’t come right now.’”

Then her dad, who works in construction, was given notice.

“Our mom learned how to pull their resources together and survive. But the COVID-19 crisis has been an unprecedented hit to the household. And given that a timeline for the pandemic doesn’t exist, families like Romero’s and Vazquez’s will have a hard time determining what their long-term plans should be.”

“I literally just found out today that school closures were going to (continued on page 17)
COVID-19 put her in the hospital. A clinical-trial drug was her ‘saving grace.’

Palo Alto woman on the road to recovering from the deadly coronavirus

by Sue Dremann

It was supposed to be an adventure-filled trip to Egypt, with the Archaeological Institute of America, visiting the ancient ruins and the pyramids. But on a cruise somewhere between Luxor and Aswan, Monica Yeung-Arima suspects she and her husband contracted the COVID-19 virus.

Yeung-Arima, who is in her 60s, and her husband were not alone. All of their other travel companions have contracted the disease, but it took a deeper hit on her. She said Yeung-Arima has underlying health conditions that put her at high risk, she said.

People should know and learn about the symptoms and get checked right away,” she said this past weekend while recovering at home. “The highest fever I had was 102. It was mostly 100-point something, but it felt like when you have a very high fever. Your whole body aches.” She also had a cough that became increasingly worse.

When she and her husband returned to their Palo Alto home from Egypt on March 3, she felt ill, isolated herself in a bedroom and didn’t go outside.

Two days later, she sought a medical evaluation as her symptoms quickly escalated. Doctors met her in the parking lot at Palo Alto Medical Foundation’s urgent care clinic and whisked her into a room for an exam.

PAMF tested her for all of the other viruses she could possibly have contracted, including influenza, but initially she wasn’t tested for COVID-19. After returning home, with her tests negative for other viruses, on March 6, they told her she should be tested for the disease.

“but it didn’t happen,” she said.

“The government needs to do a better job to make the test available for people.”

Yeung-Arima, who has marginal asthma, wrote a letter to her doctor that Monday, March 9, and insisted they test her for the virus since she met all of the criteria. The test came back positive.

That test was the “saving grace,” she said. “They turned it around in a very impressive 24 hours,” she said.

Her husband was treated and released after three nights and continued his recovery in quarantine at home. But Yeung-Arima’s condition grew worse. She was coughing all of the time, she said.

Doctors, nurses came in only when needed to avoid unnecessary contact. Yeung-Arima said she was impressed with the level of care and the precautions they took. Her care team wore goggles, gloves, protective hazmat suits and masks. Each time they left, they took everything they’d brought in away. They disinfected every piece of equipment in a sealed chamber between her room and the hall.

Doctors, nurses and staff also removed all of their protective gear in the compartment and wore new sets each time they entered her room.

Antibiotics and other treatments did not help her get better. Yeung-Arima’s husband is retired from biopharmaceutical research company Gilead Sciences Inc. He learned of a small trial by the Foster City company using the antiviral drug remdesivir, which was developed to treat Ebola. Researchers were testing if remdesivir would help COVID-19 patients.

Yeung-Arima was accepted into the randomized trial. For five days, she received intravenous treatments using the medication. Three days into her treatment, she began to feel better, she said. She finished her last dose on March 19.

She was released from the hospital on March 20 and returned home with a list of criteria to monitor. She was instructed to use a finger oximeter to measure her blood oxygen level, which must be at minimum 92% to 93%; and can’t have a fever. was to remain quarantined until this past Tuesday.

She still coughs. “My lungs are not going to recover in one day,” she said last weekend.

“I’m not recovered completely and I’m not supposed to go out, but in spirit, I’m fine,” she said.

She is looking forward to having a desire to eat again, to nourish and heal her body, she said.

“I know I will be back in business after that.”

On March 22, Gilead Sciences issued a press release stating that “an overwhelming demand” for remdesivir has necessitated the company to work to expand emergency access to the drug, which it had previously been offering primarily through clinical trials.
### Businesses with Adopted Services during COVID-19

**Menlo Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSINESS</th>
<th>PHONE NO.</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
<th>TRANSACTION TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coffeebar Menlo Park</td>
<td>650-627-4303</td>
<td>6:30am-2pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Spice</td>
<td>650-329-8888</td>
<td>Sun-Thurs 11:30-9pm, Fri-Sat 11:30am-10:00pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back a Yard</td>
<td>650-323-4244</td>
<td>11 am – 8 pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagel Street Cafe</td>
<td>650-328-8809</td>
<td>6am-2pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bistro Vida</td>
<td>650-462-1686</td>
<td>12:00-8:00pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafe Del Sol</td>
<td>650-326-2501</td>
<td>11am-2:30pm, 4pm-9:30pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafe Zoe</td>
<td>650-322-1926</td>
<td>M-F 7am-1pm, Sat 8am-1pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpaccio</td>
<td>650-322-1211</td>
<td>Tue-Sat 11:30am-2pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celia’s</td>
<td>650-321-8227</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chef Kwan’s</td>
<td>650-322-4631</td>
<td>M-F 11am-3pm, Sat Sun 11:30am-3pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Stone Creamery</td>
<td>650-325-4500</td>
<td>2pm-9pm</td>
<td>To go</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cook’s Seafood Restaurant</td>
<td>650-325-0604</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fey Restaurant</td>
<td>650-324-8888</td>
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<td>$40 minimum for delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Star Pizza</td>
<td>650-326-4100</td>
<td>10:30am-10pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flea St. Cafe</td>
<td>650-854-1226</td>
<td>T-Sat 2pm-7pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galata Bistro</td>
<td>650-325-7900</td>
<td>11am-3pm, 5pm-7pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey’s Hamburgers</td>
<td>650-465-6193</td>
<td>11am-2:30pm, 5:30pm-9pm</td>
<td>Delivery via DoorDash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyosho Sushi</td>
<td>650-666-2626</td>
<td>6:30am-3pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Stanza Cucina Italiana</td>
<td>650-326-1314</td>
<td>Tue-Fri 11:30am-2pm, 5pm-9:30pm, Sat-Sun 5pm-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Boulanger</td>
<td>650-322-5528</td>
<td>7am-4pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left Bank</td>
<td>650-473-6543</td>
<td>4pm-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Gallos Taqueria</td>
<td>650-369-1864</td>
<td>9am-11pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lulu’s on the Alameda</td>
<td>650-854-8226</td>
<td>Mon-Sat 7am-9pm, Sun 7am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mademoiselle Collette</td>
<td>650-250-2919</td>
<td>8am-4pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mama Coco</td>
<td>650-397-7369</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonalds (El Camino)</td>
<td>650-321-813</td>
<td>9am-7pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menlo Cafe</td>
<td>650-321-8666</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi Taqueria</td>
<td>650-289-0451</td>
<td>9am-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi Tierra Linda</td>
<td>650-325-8720</td>
<td>8am-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Mike’s</td>
<td>650-694-9898</td>
<td>Sun-Th 11am-9pm, F-Sat 11am-10pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Sushi</td>
<td>650-321-6902</td>
<td>5pm-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octopus Japanese Restaurant</td>
<td>650-600-8794</td>
<td>M-Sat 5pm-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peet’s Coffee</td>
<td>650-325-9898</td>
<td>M-F 5am-4pm, Sat 5:30am-4pm, Sun 6am-4pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posh Bagel</td>
<td>650-329-8592</td>
<td>7am-1pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Table</td>
<td>650-321-6861</td>
<td>5un-Th 11am-10pm, F-Sat 11am-11pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubio’s</td>
<td>650-326-6691</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeway (525 El Camino Real)</td>
<td>650-847-2901</td>
<td>6am-10pm</td>
<td>Open &amp; Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safeway (325 S Sharon Park Dr)</td>
<td>650-854-3056</td>
<td>6am-9pm</td>
<td>Open &amp; Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selby’s</td>
<td>650-546-7700</td>
<td>5pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiok Singapore Kitchen</td>
<td>650-838-9448</td>
<td>M-F 1130am-230pm 530pm-930pm Sat 530pm-930pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soleska Market</td>
<td>650-329-9554</td>
<td>6am-8pm</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squeeze In</td>
<td>650-361-9500</td>
<td>7am-2pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starbucks (Marsh Manor)</td>
<td>650-839-1860</td>
<td>6am-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway (santa cruz ave.)</td>
<td>650-330-1692</td>
<td>M-F 9am-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultana</td>
<td>650-322-4343</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Willow’s Market</td>
<td>650-322-0743</td>
<td>6am-8pm</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trader Joe’s</td>
<td>650-323-2134</td>
<td>9am-7pm</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Own a small business?**

Facebook is committed to providing as much support as possible.
Find more information here: facebook.com/business/boost/resource
A Letter to our Community

In compliance with both local and state Shelter-in-Place orders, we are not conducting any personal showings of our homes for sale and we have suspended all in-person real estate activity.

To buyers: We encourage you to continue to shop for properties online. We will consider any offers that are contingent on personal inspections after in-person activity is permitted.

To sellers: We are available today to consult with you by phone or video and to take listings. We can spend this time setting marketing, staging and inspection dates and be ready to prepare your home for market the moment in-person activity is permitted.

To both buyers and sellers: We’ve had many questions from clients about what the current crisis might mean for real estate values. Of course, no one can predict the future with certainty. We have navigated the ups and downs of real estate cycles with our clients for over three decades and believe that the decision to buy or sell during uncertain times is a very individual one, based on each person’s unique personal and financial goals. We are available to speak by phone and share our thoughts and we will post market updates and opinions on our website www.Dreyfus.Group.

While it is extremely difficult for our business and our clients, we are committed to complying with the Shelter-in-Place orders as long as they remain in place. The health and safety of our agents and our community is our highest priority.

— Michael Dreyfus & Noelle Queen
Tour our homes from your home

Italian Villa, Woodside · $28,000,000
Ultimate Silicon Valley Estate, Woodside · $23,000,000
447 Westridge Drive, Portola Valley · $10,995,000
4152 Baker Avenue, Palo Alto · $5,750,000
1500 Cowper Street, Palo Alto · $24,995,000
Bates Ranch Vineyard, Gilroy · $14,200,000
2050 Green Oaks Way, Pescadero · $7,500,000
567 Maybell Avenue, Palo Alto · $5,425,750

Coming Soon

Professorville $3,200,000 · Crescent Park $4,100,000 · Barron Park $4,995,000
Old Palo Alto $7,500,000 · Woodside $23,000,000

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Masks, ventilators needed

The coming wave of coronavirus patients means hospitals also are preparing for a shortage of masks, respirators and other critical protective gear for health care workers. And they’re asking the public for help.

So far, hospitals along the Peninsula aren’t seeing the types of equipment shortages that are happening in New York, which has about 10 times the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases as California. But Palo Alto resident Dr. Bruce Chui, an emergency care physician at Stanford’s Palo Alto Valley Medical Center, said there is growing concern he’s seen.

“We anticipate they will continue to increase,” Chui said. “I want to say it’s still somewhat difficult to understand exactly where we are — the epidemic curve — for a number of reasons. But we’re identifying now reflect that transmission that was happening in the community one week or two weeks ago. There is that lag.”

Given the projections, hospi- tal executives, doctors and nurses throughout the area are bracing for an explosion in need for N95 masks, gowns and other forms of “personal protective equipment.”

But there is enough adequate to test more people, then equipment will be consumed and used more rapidly because we have to use it for each of them,” Chui said. “We expect we’ll quickly exhaust our supply.”

As the county’s largest hospital, Valley Medical has been particularly successful in obtaining contributions from the community, receiving a huge influx of N95 masks, gowns, face shields, sanitizing wipes and other critical supplies, said Chris Wilder, the foundation’s CEO.

“We have roomfuls of equipment now,” Wilder said. “The whole plan is to get ready for what may come in the next week or two.”

Other hospitals throughout the area are similarly looking to bolster their supply of personal protective equipment for the coming fight.

Sutter Health, the parent company of Palo Alto Medical Foundation, has recently put out a call for donations. Sutter Health has taken numerous measures to address diminishing availability of personal protective equipment, a Sutter Health’s CEO told the Weekly.

This includes moving supplies around the system to ensure all facilities have personal protective equipment and working to secure additional PPE from conventional and unconventional sources, including donations from the community.

Sutter is specifically requesting donations of N95 masks, surgical masks, procedure masks and paper masks (with ties or elastic); protective glasses or goggles; isolation gowns, painters smocks and paper protective gowns; disposable gloves; protective gowns and other forms of “personal protective equipment.”

To make a donation are asked to call 844-587-6909.

Stanford Health Care also began accepting donations this week, according to an announcement on its website. The call for donations came exactly a week after David Ewalttse, president and CEO of Stanford Health Care, and Lloyd Minor, dean of medicine at Stanford School of Medicine, asked for assurances at a web town hall that Stanford’s medical facilities are well-equipped.

But last week, as the number of cases in the area sharply rose, the university put out a call for donations, including masks, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, face shields, eye shields, isolation or surgical gowns, respirators and flocked swabs.

Donations can be mailed to Stanford Health Care, 820 Quarry Road Extension, Palo Alto, CA 94304, Attention: Supply Donations Center. They can also be delivered in person to the hospitals facilities at 550 Broadway St., Redwood City (open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.) and at 1119 E. Stanford Blvd., Livermore (open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

El Camino Health — which states on its website that it is “currently well-supplied” — has similarly asked the public to donate gloves, isolation gowns, hard goggles, disposable eye shields, shoe covers, caps, germanical disinfecting surface cloths, Corox gowns and other personal protective equipment. Those wishing to donate are asked to call 650-940-7154 or email foundation@elcaminohealth.org.

Businesses step up

Newsom on Monday said the state would need more than 200 million sets of personal protective equipment — gloves, masks, gowns and face shields — over the next three months, after new modeling showed the state was in need for hospital beds, staff and equipment.

Some Bay Area companies have responded to the call. The company CEO Tim Cook tweeted that the company is donating “millions of face masks, and Facebook has donated nearly three-quarters of a million face masks and is looking to find millions more, CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote on the social media site.

“Facebook donated our emergency reserve of 720,000 masks to use in the coming wildfires (in California) continued. We’re also working on sourcing millions of more to donate,” he wrote.

Donated personal protective gear, hospi- tals also need respiratory ventilators to treat seriously ill COVID-19 patients. California as a state needs to find at least 10,000 ventilators, Newsom said.

Two Bay Area firms are repurposing their factories to help produce and ship personal protective equipment, donated devices and are working with other companies in the process. Newsom announced last week the state is working with Tesla/SpaceX CEO Elon Musk had promised to provide 1,200 ventilators and San Jose-based energy supplier Bloom Energy to help with an additional 700 older ventilators from the state’s stockpile.

Musk delivered 1,000 ventilators to the state on Monday.

“China has an oversupply, so we bought 125 FDA-approved ResMed, Philips & Medtronic ventilators and shipped them to LA. If you have a free ventilator installed, please let us know!” Musk tweeted on Monday.

Musk said he would use sup- ply chains that support Tesla and SpaceX to help in assembling and delivering the ventilators. He said that he had an extensive engineering discussion over the weekend with Minnesota-based Medtronic, a company that manu- facturers ventilators.

Musk thanked the Tesla China team, China Customs Authority and the City of Shanghai for helping us know!” Musk tweeted.

Fuel cell manufacturer Bloom Energy said in a statement that it is using its expertise to refurbish thou- sands of out-of-service ventilators in the U.S. The company is working with state agencies and customers — many of which are hospitals and medical de- vice companies — to identify medical ventilators in need of repair.

It is asking for anyone who knows of organizations with out-of-service ventilators in the Bay Area or anyone willing to partner with Bloom to email the company at ventilators@bloomenergy.com.

Communities, cities, counties, towns and other local governments are also scouring their inventories for ventilators and protective equipment this week. Six colleges in the Bay Area have respiratory-therapy training programs, according to Brenda Hannaing, director of the respiratory therapy program at Foothill College and Milpitas High School.

Foothill has identified 12 ven- tilators it could loan to hospitals, some of which are brand new, she said.

Staff writers Sue Dremann and Gennyd Sheyer can be emailed at sdremann@paweekly.com, and gsheyer@paweekly.com.

For comprehensive coverage of the coronavirus response to the coronavirus public health emergency, Action: None

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Hotels nearly empty as the new coronavirus ‘recession’ hits Palo Alto

Business leaders prepare for long recovery as economic activity grinds to a halt

by Gennady Sheyner

HOURS after Bay Area public health officials ordered residents to stay at home for three weeks, Stephanie Wansek made the difficult decision to shut down the historic Cardinal Hotel in downtown Palo Alto.

The hotel was struggling even before the March 16 announcement, with just a handful of rooms being occupied, said Wansek, the hotel’s general manager. The big blow came when Stanford University called off its in-person classes and told students not to return to campus for the spring quarter. What followed was a cascade of cancellations by people who were planning to attend conferences and other events at the university.

“You can see the business was going and there was no understanding of when the new business will come,” Wansek told the Weekly. “There’s nobody coming to the county right now.”

The Cardinal is hardly alone. Like other Bay Area cities, Palo Alto has seen its hotel industry screech to a halt earlier this month, a development that is particularly ominous for a city that has tethered the funding of its infrastructure plan to hotel-tax revenues. Some local hotels, like the Cardinal and the Garden Court and Nobu Hotel (formerly known as The Epiphany), have shut down entirely. Others remain open but have seen their levels of occupancy plummet because of the sudden economic freeze.

John Hutar, CEO of the San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the impact of the pandemic has been profound for hotels throughout the region. Normally at this time of the year, they have occupancy rates of 80% to 85%. In the past few days, the highest number he has heard was 30% and the most common rate was about 20%.

“I know hotels in the teens and I know some in single digits,” Hutar told the Weekly. “I know owners who may have a few hotels that are consolidating. They’re saying, ‘Why have three staffs working if you can put whatever business you have in one hotel.’”

At the Palo Alto hotels that remain open, occupancy is generally in the single digits, said Judy Kleinberg, president of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce. Guests are typically either travelers who can’t get home because of new restrictions, people who are getting their homes renovated or relatives of people staying at local hospitals.

Large companies began to cancel conferences earlier this month, launching the downturn of hotel business. Chamber CEO Charlie Weidanz pointed to Google’s decision earlier this month to cancel its annual developer conference, which was slated to bring about 5,000 people to the area.

“That was just devastating to many of the hotels,” Weidanz said.

The long road ahead

The hotel industry is hardly the only business segment feeling the pinch. The shutdown has left local retail and restaurant industries reeling, prompting many stores and restaurants in Palo Alto’s primary commercial districts to shut down. Some, including Zareen’s, Subway, Mediterranean Wraps and Izzy’s Brooklyn Bagels, remained open on California Avenue as of late last week but limited their operations to to-go orders, consistent with the March 16 directive from public health officials.

During the normally bustling lunch hour, only a few people could be seen strolling on California Avenue, with most employees now staying at home and working remotely.

Given the economic shutdown and the climate of uncertainty about its duration, business leaders are bracing for the worst. Kleinberg said she expects the recovery to take longer than a year and to be more difficult than the last recession in 2008.

The fact that the current crisis presents a “physical danger,” in addition to the financial danger, completely changes the dynamics in the business community and makes the situation very different from how it was 12 years ago, Kleinberg said.

“This is an economic crisis. It is a recession and it may turn into a Great Recession,” Kleinberg said.

She predicted that even after the stay-at-home order is lifted, some businesses simply won’t open again. Some of these businesses will probably not reopen. Some of the smaller businesses will probably not reopen,” Kleinberg said. “They won’t be able to survive, either because they are in shutdown or because staff goes away and they don’t have enough staff.”

A plan for relief

With local businesses struggling, local developer John McNellis has stepped up to launch what he is calling the “Retail Marshall Plan” to ease the pain. McNellis is forgiving rent for (continued on page 17)
WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

Limit the Spread of Coronavirus

- Shelter in Place: It Will Save Lives.
- Stay Home If You Are Sick.
- If You Must Go Out, Follow Social Distancing Guidance.

Be Well

- Stay Connected, Check on Your Neighbors, Volunteer
- Support Local Businesses
- Parks and Open Space Preserves are Open
- Community Resources are Available

www.cityofpaloalto.org/coronavirus

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SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Shelter in Place and Support Local Businesses. Local restaurants, pharmacies and grocery stores are still open and here for you.

For a list of open restaurants, please go to:
www.cityofpaloalto.org/coronavirus
Ordinary people, extraordinary times

The new normal: Life during the coronavirus crisis

by Lloyd Lee

In a span of days, the coronavirus outbreak has created a new reality along the Midpeninsula. Schools have shut down, Stanford University students have been ordered off campus, all concerts and sports events have been canceled, tech campuses are empty and most residents are now stuck at home under a statewide stay-at-home order. Life as we knew it has come to a screeching halt.

As residents adjust to the new normal over the past few weeks, the Weekly plans to share personal stories of how ordinary people are coping during these extraordinary times. This week, we talked to a local restaurateur.

Serkan Karabacak: Restaurant owner

For Palo Alto restaurant owner Serkan Karabacak, shutting down his business during this crisis is not an option. "As a small business owner, the community has always been there for him, Karabacak explained. Now, he wants to do his part. Instead of scaling back operations at his restaurant Nob Tuba, Karabacak has chosen to keep all of his employees on the payroll and is offering temporary jobs and free meals to those in need. "People have always come to support me — we have to help each other," Karabacak said.

Along with offering takeout and delivery, Karabacak will be serving free meals that can be picked up from his Turkish restaurant at 535 Bryant St. for the duration of the stay-at-home order. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., customers in need can come to Tuba for a free lunch. The menu will have rice, hummus and chicken satay. The offer also applies to his San Francisco Tuba restaurant at 1550 California St.

Customers won't have to provide any information or statements of need.
"They wouldn't want to mention what their situation is," Karabacak said.

On the other days of the week, the restaurant offers the same lunch boxes, all day, for $5.50.

Karabacak, who also owns the Pastis and Cafe Brioche on Cali- fornia Avenue, opened Palo Alto's Tuba in January 2019, replacing Tuts Bakery & Cafe. He also manages a third Tuba location in San Francisco's Nob Hill neighborhood.

The restaurant owner said he's used to challenges. Before he came to the Bay Area food scene, Karabacak was a fresh college gradu- ate from Turkey who arrived here in 2012 without knowing much English.

He enrolled in a language pro- gram, pursued his master's degree at DeVry University, and with his penchant for food and talking to people soon decided to venture into the restaurant business.

I started in this business as a waiter at Cafe Brioche," Karaba- cak said.

During the pandemic, sales at his Tuba restaurant in Palo Alto have fallen about 65% to 70%, Karabacak said.

"Sales are really down," he said. "And (there are) no people. No one can come in. Custo- mers won't come in order in the restaurant.

Despite the decrease in sales, Karabacak refuses to let go of his nearly 35 staff members he employs at his five restaurants.

"I can't fire anyone," he explained. "We're trying to stay strong. Right now, it's time to support each other."

Karabacak also is serving donors to help support the restaurant.

"I'm really worried about rent and my employees," he said. "I'm hoping our government will solve this earlier, but I don't know. Right now, I'm praying."

Palo Alto restaurant owner Serkan Karabacak has created a free and low-cost menu at Tuba for those in need while the stay-at-home order is in place for over the past few weeks. Karabacak said the community has helped him, and now he wants to help the community.

Schools move to credit/no credit system

On Wednesday afternoon, Palo Alto Unified announced that all middle and high school students will temporarily move to a credit/no credit grading system for this semester. Students will accumulate credits without positively or negatively impacting their grade point averages — of particular concern for college-bound seniors and juniors in Palo Alto.

In a message to students and parents, district administrators and superintendents, Harvard stated.

Karabacak said.

who've been impacted by the coronavirus, providing residents 120 days to pay off their rent af- ter the city's state of emergency ended. "I heard the city's not gonna make us pay rent," Vasquez said. "But we just got this note from the city. You know that the mobile home park saying that we have to pay on time. If anything, it said that if we had trouble paying it — go talk to them at the office to see what they can do to help us. But we'll see how it goes. Hopefully they're more understanding."

On a national scale, U.S. Sen- a tor leads came to an agree- ment on Wednesday for the final version of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (or CARES Act), which in- cludes a historic $2 trillion relief package. The package will go toward direct payments of $1,200 to eligible, individual Americans. However, undocumented immi- grants, such as Romero's par- ents, would not be eligible, and it's unclear if DACA recipients like Romero are included in the stimulus package.

Everyone's talking about whether the government is really going to help us; is the president really going to give us the money that we need?" Romero said. "I wonder about that, too. Is he
to a local restaurateur.

business people have faced since they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap and free rent costs money," McNellis said. "I have a number of people say that they're going to do it, but talk is cheap..."
GUIDE TO 2020 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS • VISIT PALOALTOONLINE.COM/CAMP_CONNECTION

For more information about these camps visit paloaltoonline.com/camp_connection. To advertise in this weekly directory, call (650) 326-8210.

ACADEMICS

Early Learning Institute  Palo Alto Pleasonton Improve your student’s writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Skills.

headsup.org

Emerson: (650) 424-1267 Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

Harker Summer Programs  San Jose The Harker School’s summer programs for kids K - grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full day, partial and morning only sessions.

harker.org/summer (408) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School  Palo Alto i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

castilleja.org/i2camp (650) 470-7833

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research - Stanford Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

explore.stanford.edu explore-series@stanford.edu

Summer@Stratford  Palo Alto/Bay Area Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers learn, explore, and engage in hands-on learning projects, while Elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems by utilizing academic principles and concepts in a fun and engaging way. At the Middle School level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

stratfordschools.com/summer pa@stratfordschools.com (650) 493-1141

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Art and Soul Camp  Palo Alto Art, cooking, tinkering, yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world. Summer Unplugged is appropriate for ages 6-11 years. Located at Walter Hays School.

artandsoulpa.com (650) 269-0423

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls  Palo Alto Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

castilleja.org/summercamp (650) 470-7833

Community School of Music  Mountain View Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for kids K-12 Drawing, Painting, Pottery, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.

arts4all.org (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

ATHLETICS

Nike Tennis Camps  Palo Alto Palo Alto Let’s Go Crafting  Palo Alto Palo Alto Let’s Go Crafting’s Studio is where your child will have fun while learning many different fiber related arts. We teach sewing, knitting, crochet, weaving and jewelry making to children ages 8 to 15 years. AM or PM camps 257$/week. Full day camps $550/ week. 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum.

letsgocrafting.org (650) 814-4183

Oshman Family JCC Camps  Palo Alto Camps at the OJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.

campojcc.org/Camps (650) 223-8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care Center  Palo Alto PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (LIT), Camp YOUUnique, F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports, Operation: Chef and Chef Jr! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.
pacc.org (650) 493-2361

Stanford Jazz Workshop  Palo Alto World-renowned jazz camps at Stanford. Week-long jazz immersion programs for middle school musicians (July 6-10), high school (July 12-17 and July 19-24), and adults (July 26-31). All instruments and vocals. No jazz experience necessary!

stanfordjazz.org (650) 736-0304

TheatreWorks  Palo Alto Silicon Valley Atherton Campers bring their plays to life, make new friends, and practice collaboration skills at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s PlayMakers Camp! Grades K-5. TheatreWorks offers four sessions in Palo Alto and Atherton from June 8 – July 31. Campers learn acting, playwriting, movement, and stagecraft from professional teaching artists from the Tony Award-winning company.

theatreworks.org/education (650) 463-7146

Dance Connection Palo Alto  Palo Alto Dance Connection Palo Alto Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a “home away from home” for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up and feature our new “This is Me!” Empowerment Camp along with camps focused on musical theater, hip hop, lyrical and jazz.

danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps (650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

Kim Grant Tennis Summer Camps  Palo Alto Monterey Bay Fun and specialized Junior Camps for Mini-3 (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and Sleep-Away Camps in Monterey Bay. SO MUCH FUN!

KimGrantTennis.com Text: (650) 690-0678 Call: (650) 752-8061

Nike Tennis Camps  Palo Alto Palo Alto Nike Tennis Camps Stanford University Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men’s Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women’s Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men’s and Women’s Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!

ussportscamps.com (800) NIKE-CAMP (800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps  Palo Alto Run for Fun’s mission is to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2020 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

runforfun camps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview (650) 823-5167

Spartans Sports Camp  Mountain View Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports, performing arts, and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps begin June 8th and run weekly through July 31st at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all programs benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Flexible cancellation policies.

spartansportscamp.com (650) 479-5906

Stanford Athletics & Youth  Palo Alto We can’t wait to have you join us this summer at Stanford! We hope you’re ready for engaged and safety-focused staff, phenomenal facilities, and innovative programs. We’ll have camps that challenge your camper’s physical, mental, and social skills in age-appropriate activities. When your camper registers for Camp Cardinal, they are a Cardinal Kid for life. Our main camp program is for grades K-6 and then campers graduate to our Counselor-in-Training Program where they become camp leaders!

campcardinal.org campcardinal@stanford.edu

Stanford Baseball Camps  Palo Alto At Sunkus Diamond on the campus of Stanford University. A variety of camps are offered to benefit a wide range of age groups and skill sets. Campers will gain instruction in several baseball skills, fundamentals, team concepts, and game play.

stanfordbaseballcamp.com (650) 725-2054

Stanford Water Polo Camps  Palo Alto New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 - up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

stanfordwaterpolocamps.com

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps  Palo Alto Palo Alto YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that’s right for your family. Sign up today, camps are filling up! Financial assistance is available.

ymcasv.org/summercamp (408) 351-6473
Joseph Leon Melena

Joseph “Joe” Leon Melena, a former staff photographer for the Palo Alto Weekly, died on March 15 after experiencing health complications of prostate cancer. He was 82.

Born Feb. 7, 1938, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he graduated from Washburn High School in 1955.

From 1957 to 1959, he served in the U.S. Army Airborne service at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He then studied at the University of Minnesota from 1959 to 1963, taking all of the photography classes that he could find. Between 1964 and 1966, he attended Portland State College, again taking photography classes and yearbook assignments.

In 1966, he moved to Menlo Park and found a photography job at a small newspaper, The Menlo Atherton Recorder. There, he met Lynnie, whom he married in Palo Alto in 1971. The couple purchased a house that same year. They had two children: Sara and Jay Melena.

He later went on to work as a photographer at the Palo Alto Times, then the Peninsula Times Tribune (1971 to 1993), and finally the Palo Alto Weekly, from which he retired in 2000. He was a mentor to many young photographers, according to his family.

After retirement, he spent his time working on building projects around his house and at the lake house his family owned in Minnesota. He golfed with the Palo Alto Seniors Golf Club, and welcomed their son, Daniel C. Lor- ran, in 1995 and daughter, Rachel C. Lo- ran, in 2002. He was a software engineer during his earlier years, working with IBM, Philips and Gem- stone Systems. At Millennium Pharmaceuticals, he directed a bioinformatics program in drug discovery.

He and his family lived in New England and New York before moving to Palo Alto in 2006. On top of spending time with his family and traveling, he enjoyed discussing and debating topical issues with his friends.

“Michael will be remembered for his sharp mind and quick wit,” his family wrote.

Predeceased by his sister Ayala Miron, he is survived by his wife, Maria of Palo Alto; children, Daniel and Rachel of Palo Alto; his father, Haim Loran, of Easton, Maryland; mother, Jean- nine Loran, of Ramat Gan, Israel; his family and traveling, he enjoyed discussing and debating topical issues with his friends.

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In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to be sent to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (www.pancan.org).
The city of Palo Alto is taking the COVID-19 crisis very seriously, and I wanted to share some updates, to prevent small-business displacement. Since that time, the county passed a similar moratorium. We are assessing this and how it may change our local restrictions.

The council also passed further work on a local business tax and pivoted towards what we can do to support our local businesses and nonprofits.

On that note: Please support local businesses and restaurants. The Weekly, the Chamber of Commerce and the City all have pages showing local businesses that are still open or offering delivery/takeout.

Where could we use your help?

First of all — I am worried about social isolation and loneliness. Please call your neighbors or talk from a distance on the street. Share online resources. If you know someone who needs help with food, water or medical care, please offer your help.

Second — we have businesses in scrubs at our local hospitals are truly on the front lines and need donations of personal protective equipment (PPE). Each of those organizations has published guidelines for donations, and I encourage our community to give as much as we can. There is also an urgent need for blood supply, so please donate if you can. Go to the City’s website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/coronavirus for more ways to help.

Third — our at-risk community of homeless and lower-income residents need our help. Local food banks like Second Harvest and Catholic Charities are in need of volunteers and food. Our City website offers ways to help or to get help.

With our nerves understandably frayed, it is now more important than ever to practice politeness, kindness and generosity. It is critical that we all follow county and city directives to avoid overwhelming our medical system. While you may not agree with decisions that are designed to minimize people congregating or touching shared items, these steps are necessary to stop the spread of the virus.

We have closed some public areas such as playgrounds and tennis courts, and the school district has closed its fields and running tracks. People are cutting padlocks and knocking down fences to get to these facilities, which is unacceptable and unhelpful. If you see this behavior happening, please let people know it is not OK.

As a community, we will persevere through this challenge. I have outlined some of the steps the City and other partners are taking, but it barely scratches the surface of the efforts underway. That said, everyone — your city government, your school district, your neighbors, your employer, your grandparents or your grandchildren — is depending on you to please stay home, to practice good hygiene and to support one another.

We are only as safe as we keep each other.

A good choice

Editor,

On behalf of the hundreds of businesses in Palo Alto, we applaud the Palo Alto City Council’s decision on Monday night, March 23, to postpone indefinitely the consideration of a proposed business tax intended for the November 2020 ballot.

As leaders of the Chamber of Commerce, we are grateful that the City Council and city manager recognized that Palo Alto businesses of every size are reeling from the impacts of the current health crisis and closure of all but essential businesses, severely jeopardizing their financial viability.

With fear of a great recession looming over our community and no estimate of when the economy will recover, the city’s decision about the proposed tax was a realistic and timely acknowledgement of the economic crisis in our own community. This action allows local businesses to be relieved of anxiety over a new tax at a time when many are laying off staff, concerned with being able to pay their rent and payroll, or whether they’ll even have the financial ability to reopen when the crisis abates.

Now our businesses will be able to focus on survival and recovery, where their focus and energy need to be during this challenging time.

Judy Kleinberg and Charlie Weidanz
Alma Street, Palo Alto

From a teen’s viewpoint

Editor,

Day 8 of shelter in place. I’ve probably called my friends over FaceTime at least 25 times and taken more than my fair share of midday naps. I’ve become an avid user of Zoom and learned how to change my background location, so I can be exploring Hawaii or the depths of outer space while learning.

Our high school currently has a flexible learning program that only assigns one hour of work per class per week; but the workload is expected to increase over the next few weeks.

I’m a junior, which means COVID-19 has given me a well-needed break from the constant stresses of school. But it has also come with a host of other problems that I never realized school solved. I’ve learned how important school is for interacting with my friends and that physical interactions just can’t be replaced with Houseparty or random online drawing games.

My screen time has also increased exponentially, but I try to take a break when I can by going on runs or taking hikes with my family (always making sure to comply with social distancing rules). I know that this situation isn’t easy for anyone, and it poses unique challenges for teens.

For anyone who’s reading this, some ways you can pass your time and reduce stress besides FaceTiming is by watching some puppy cams (who doesn’t love looking at adorable puppies?) or by watching some incredible TED Talks (they also have an animated series which can be fun!)

Stay safe and keep on social distancing!

Hannah Zhou
Greer Road, Palo Alto

Inconsistent closures

Editor,

On March 21, the city locked all tennis courts. Yet, the very next day, I was shocked to see the farmers market going on California Avenue. I must be missing something here!

The city says it is worried about spreading the coronavirus, but what it chooses to close doesn’t seem to align with that goal. We are told we can go out, walk our dog, bicycle, etc., making sure to keep 6 feet away from one another.

A tennis court is 78 feet long. It is easy to maintain social distance on the court. However, at the farmers market, the booths are tight and it’s impossible to maintain 6 feet distancing. The produce is arranged such that people end up near one another, yet the city has no problem with it.

Okay Palo Alto, if you’ve still got the farmers market open, you should unlock the courts. Let’s be fair here.

Lisa Steinback
Creekside Drive, Palo Alto

Message from the Mayor

by Adrian Fine

OKAY PALO ALTO, if you’ve still got the farmers market open, you should unlock the courts. Let’s be fair here.

Editor,
Guest Opinions

5 ways to help our community right now

by Sarahi Espinoza-Salamanca, Melanie Bielefeld, Mary Jane Marcus and Barbara Weinstein

In these times of “social distancing,” it can be tempting to turn inward. But as members of a community that extends up and down the Peninsula, we urge our friends and neighbors to look outward instead.

COVID-19 has shown that when our systems fail the most vulnerable people, the ripple effects touch everyone in our communities. Social safety net, where people who provide the backbone of our local economies — our restaurant workers, our pre-school teachers, our contractors — are not able to withstand the financial hit by COVID-19. The latter is particularly true for those who are undocumented and are hesitant to reach out. So we all must step up, even if that takes us out of our comfort zones.

Through the Kafenia Peace Collective, we have seen firsthand what happens when people reach past the boundaries imposed on us by geography or government. Our members come from all over the world and represent all of the communities of the Mid-Peninsula region. By building what we call the “village of all together,” we have learned some essential lessons about how to support each other in times of crisis.

The most important step in protecting our village is staying home and keeping a safe physical distance from others. But there is plenty more to be done, even as we shelter at home. Here are five practical things you can do right now to help support our community.

1. ALLY. Be an ally to those affected by COVID-related racism and xenophobia and those who need extra support. Speak out when you see injustices happening and support anti-racist language and behavior in your interpersonal interactions and on social media. People who are undocumented need extra support and resources, as they cannot access most services and are still being targeted by ICE during the shelter-in-place.

2. SHARE. If you have financial resources to spare, give money to local organizations that can help with rent. Many of our neighbors lost their sources of income and are living in fear that they won’t be able to pay rent. It’s encouraging that Palo Alto and Santa Clara County have passed anti-eviction measures, but that action just gives people a little more time to pay the same amount of rent. It doesn’t reduce the amount of rent that is owed.

3. PAY. Keep paying your gardener, nanny, housekeeper and other domestic workers for the duration of shelter-in-place, even if they’re unable to come to work. If you are a salaried employee, advocate with your employer to cover lost wages due to COVID-19 for all hourly workers.

4. HELP. Check on your neighbors and offer support if needed. Is anyone living alone and needing an extra pair of hands? Is anyone at increased risk from COVID-19 and unable to leave the house? Find out who is organizing in your area through Nextdoor, or visit our resource guide at the URL below.

5. LISTEN. Stay connected and offer an ear to those who might need it. It’s a mentally and emotionally difficult time, and the technology we are using to stay connected at home can also provide a social lifeline. Check in with your friends, even those you do not necessarily talk to regularly, and loved ones — including those on social media — to see how people are doing.

We need our village now more than ever. And these five things will help us stay connected and support those most at risk of falling through the cracks.

You’ll find specific resources for each action in our Civic Engagement Guide at kafenia.org.

Saraha, Melanie, Mary Jane and Barbara are friends and members of the Kafenia Peace Collective, a network of diverse cultures working together for a thriving Peninsula. The authors live in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Los Altos and Mountain View.

Navigating the storm of child care and school closures during the pandemic

by Peggy Daly Pizzo, Philip A Pizzo and Josh Becker

A

nuita Mesa risked injury, starvation and even death to walk here from war-torn Guatemala, determined to bring up her future children safe from the threat of murder. Now an early educator, she helps children prepare for school success.

Amanda Samaturo, a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University, is a high-level executive in California, parenting two children while balancing work in the tech industry.

Although these two women’s circumstances seem different, closures of child care providers and schools put both women in the same boat, struggling to keep afloat during a pandemic storm.

California’s governor, Gavin Newsom, deeply concerned for the health and safety of teachers, children, parents and their neighbors, took an early lead on closures and related measures. The governor has already ordered greater availability of unemployment, disability, sick leave and paid family leave insurance. Dedicated state leaders have worked tirelessly to issue critical guidance about how to apply for these benefits and to maintain other services. (See sidebar.) Hungry children who ordinarily rely on breakfast and lunch at school and child care sites will still receive food.

Despite these welcome actions, children (and their parents) will suffer over the next months.

To support our brave first responders now, we need safe emergency child care. Otherwise, we will have a shortage of doctors, nurses, firefighters and other essential workers who would need to stay home. Lower wage workers may be forced to make a frightening choice: leave young children in unsafe situations or risk losing a job. In the extreme, the end result may be loss of their children — removed into foster care — because the parents can’t provide a safe environment for the children and still pay their rent.

First, California should temporarily waive some eligibility requirements for the state’s paid family leave program. We should fund at least 21 days of paid leave for as many adult family members as possible to care for children, the sick and the elderly at home, at 100% wage replacement.

Second, all the early care and education workforce, including family child care educators, need full compensation to prevent the collapse of this essential workforce. California has already extended emergency funding for state-funded early care and education services. State leaders should consider additional steps, recommended, for example, by the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at UC Berkeley.

Third, we must provide safe emergency child care — centers and family child care homes — for essential workers. Risks of transmitting the virus to adults, early educators and children should be minimized.

California can turn to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics and the UCSF Child Care Health Program for medical guidance.

Fourth, given the risks to babies and persons with compromised immune status, California should also mobilize funds to pay for home-based child care in one to one situations by trusted early educators, friends, neighbors and family members. The state can use a voucher system, currently managed by child care resource and referral agencies and other organizations — with fiscal support to those agencies. Eligibility requirements should be broad so that nurses, for example, can qualify for these vouchers.

COVID-19 is a stark reminder that crises affecting the large breadth of our population are never far away. Our children, parents and educators — in sum, our future — depend on the entire community to act now.

Helpful resources for parents and grandparents

- California’s new provisions for more available unemployment, short term disability, sick leave and paid family leave. From the California Employment Development Department: edd.ca.gov/
- Resources for schools and child care — and the families who need these services. From the California Department of Education: cde.ca.gov/
- Resources for keeping ourselves and loved ones healthy. From the California Department of Public Health: cdph.ca.gov/

Peggy Daly Pizzo, M.Ed., Ed.M., is the director of the Early Learning Project at the Stanford Graduate School of Education. She is a former White House adviser on early care and education policy. Philip A. Pizzo, MD, FAAP, is the David and Susan Heckerman Professor of Pediatrics and of Microbiology and Immunology at Stanford University. He is the former chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Harvard University. Josh Becker, JD, MBA, serves on the San Mateo County Child Care Partnerships council and is running for election to the California State Senate to represent District 13. These views are those of the authors and do not represent those of either the Stanford Graduate School of Education or Stanford University.

Check out Town Square!

Hundreds of local topics are being discussed by local residents on Town Square, a reader forum sponsored by the Weekly at PaloAltoOnline.com/square. Post your own comments, ask questions or just stay up on what people are talking about around town!

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Home & Real Estate

A weekly guide to home, garden and real estate news

Not business as usual, but ...

Local Realtors: Midpeninsula may see some resiliency in housing market despite virus’ short-term impact

by David Goll

The worldwide health crisis has upended predictions and brought the Midpeninsula’s usually robust spring residential real estate market to a virtual halt. The COVID-19 pandemic that began late last year overseas has spread like wildfire across the globe. With no vaccine nor effective treatment available, state and local public health officials have decreed that social distancing — people remaining at least 6 feet apart — is one of the major strategies to combat the virus’ fearsome contagiousness.

As of Thursday afternoon, there were 737 confirmed cases of the illness reported in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Cases of the illness began to appear in the Bay Area in late January. By mid-March, local and state officials ordered residents to stay home as much as possible and all businesses deemed “non-essential” to close their doors.

That includes the in-person activities of real estate agents and their clients. Midpeninsula agents have acknowledged their part in the community response to curb expansion of the virus. They expressed mixed feelings about its long-term impact on the local housing market, even once the lockdown is lifted.

“We are following the guidelines from local officials in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, and from Gov. Newsom,” said Paul Cardus, CEO of the Cupertino-based Silicon Valley Association of Realtors (SVAR). “There are no face-to-face meetings.

That means no open houses or broker tours. Several Realtors interviewed for this story said they would not meet individual clients to show them properties, or would be reluctant to do so. Video conferences have replaced face-to-face meetings within real estate companies, as well.

“With this new, very serious reality, we must all follow these guidelines very strictly,” said Brian Chancellor, Realtor in the Palo Alto office of Sereno Group, referring to the social-distancing protocols ordered first by officials in six Bay Area counties, then a few days later by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who declared a statewide lockdown.

Chancellor said when the lockdown began, he advocated that all work by contractors to prepare homes for sale be halted, as well. The only construction work that should continue, he said, should be projects to build low-cost housing.

When the market begins to bounce back, local real estate agents expect that homes in the Midpeninsula’s “entry-level” price point, between roughly $1.5 million and $3 million, will be the strongest sellers — not unlike the market before the coronavirus outbreak.

“It’s an extraordinary situation, but we must all be mindful of the greater societal benefit,” Chancellor said. “In the meantime, things can be done in anticipation of a sale. We just can’t conduct business as usual.”

According to the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, county recorder offices can electronically process closing transactions, though delays should be expected. There are buyers who rely solely on online photos, videos and communications to purchase property sight unseen. And other players in the real estate process — including title companies, notaries, general contractors, inspectors and bankers — have been deemed essential businesses by state officials.

In addition, the MLS Listings board of directors voted March 18 to immediately suspend counting the number of days on the market for properties currently up for sale.

The unprecedented health crisis swiftly altered a promising early spring market, according to Leannah Hunt, also a Sereno Group Realtor and 32-year veteran of the industry. “We were already seeing a good start to the season, with very well-attended open houses and video tours. We have 160 views on March 15,” Hunt said. “Interest rates are obviously favorable. There are people out there who need to buy.”

As of March 15, Hunt said there were 55 residential property listings within the city of Palo Alto — that number has stayed relatively steady in the second half of March. For those who do need to buy for such reasons as job transfers or expiring leases, the search for properties will have to move exclusively online in the interim, she said.

“Video tours can be great,” she said. “The willingness of sellers to put their properties online during this time could help sell a property quickly.”

And, as before COVID-19 overshadowed everyday life, those agents will be particularly active in the area’s $1.5 million to $3 million entry-level market, predicted Denise Welsh, based in Compass’ Los Altos office. Welsh is a 10-year member of the National Association of Realtors board of directors.

Welsh said the current situation is worrisome and unpredictable, but very different from such recent market shocks as the Great Recession, when millions of questionable housing loans contributed to the economic meltdown.

“We have been fine-tuning safeguards to prevent a recurrence,” Welsh said of her work in conjunction with other members of the National Association’s board.

The Midpeninsula’s Silicon Valley-fueled economy, low interest rates that could increase this fall, and a high percentage of potential buyers who don’t need to sell property to buy could all help resuscitate the market in late spring or early summer, she said.

In the meantime, agents and potential buyers need to make the most of their time online conducting research to prepare for a more conventional market to return, according to Welsh. Whenever that occurs.

Cardus said up until a couple of weeks ago, the local market resembled the more robust 2018 period, instead of last year’s slower sales.

“People are now looking at their 401ks and their stock portfolios with horror,” Cardus said of the recent stock market collapse. “Property is looking like a safe harbor. In places like the Midpeninsula, housing wealth continues to rise.”

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Situated in Palo Alto, this 2 bed, 1 bath sits on a ~6100 sqft lot and features a bonus office.

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