Experts: Outbreak could peak by early May, then ease

Page 5
Accepting Donations of Supplies

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.

REQUESTED DONATION ITEMS

- Masks (N95, surgical, and procedure)
- Disinfecting wipes such as Clorox or Sani-cloth wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Face shields
- Goggles and eye shields
- Isolation or surgical gowns
- Controlled Air Purifying Respirator (CAPR) / Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) machines and disposables
- Flocked swabs

WAYS TO DONATE

Stanford Health Care
ATTN: Supply Donations Center
820 Quarry Rd Ext
Palo Alto, CA 94304
Open every day
1:00pm–5:00pm

Stanford Health Care
550 Broadway
(On Douglas Ave side)
Redwood City, CA 94063
Open Monday–Friday
8:00am–5:00pm

Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare LifeStyleRx
1119 E Stanley Blvd
Livermore, CA 94550
Open Monday–Friday
8:00am–5:00pm

To learn more, please visit: stanfordhealthcare.org/donatesupplies

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- A narrated video tour of the entire property and surrounding area
- A 3D, self-directed tour of the home
- A comprehensive list of the home’s features

In addition, this link will also provide access to photography, a detailed description of the property, and property disclosures. As always, every DeLeon listing will have this material available on our website (DeLeonListings.com) or can be sent directly to buyers via email.

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- Mamie G.

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How long will the outbreak last?

As Santa Clara County extends stay-at-home order, officials prepare for a deadly spring

by Gennady Sheyner and Sue Dremann

We’re in for a grim April and a harsh May before we approach some new kind of normalcy. That’s the message that has been imbedded in statistical models, white papers and pronouncements made by governors, mayors and White House advisers over the eerily quiet and brutally long two weeks that stretched from March 16, when Santa Clara County and five other Bay Area counties first ordered residents to stay at home due to the coronavirus outbreak, to this past Tuesday, when the counties extended the order to May 3.

But while the initial Bay Area shutdown seemed jarring, the March 31 extension felt almost inevitable. Between the two orders, the number of confirmed cases in the county jumped from 138 to 890 and the number of deaths from COVID-19 went from three to 30. Bay Area schools officially shuttered for the rest of the academic year; and U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly pivoted from a bullish plan to reopen the country by Easter to declaring on Tuesday, “This is going to be three weeks like we’ve never seen before.”

While health experts are reluctant to answer the elusive question “How long will the outbreak last?” with any degree of certainty or specificity, most measures indicate that Santa Clara County, like the state and the nation, will see a sharp increase in cases in April and early May before things begin to level off.

Health officials have been reluctant to predict the duration of the outbreak, partly because the lack of widespread testing makes it difficult to know how many people in the county are infected. County Executive Jeffrey Smith said on March 24 that he believes that based on modeling done thus far, the number of infected persons is

(continued on page 10)

PUBLIC HEALTH
Shelter order extended to May 3

County signals that COVID-19 spread may be slowing down

by Gennady Sheyner

With the number of coronavirus cases rising and health systems bracing for a surge of patients, Bay Area health officials extended on Tuesday the regional stay-at-home order until May 3 and announced new restrictions on businesses and construction activities.

The new order, which Santa Clara County Health Officer Sara Cody announced, builds on the March 16 order that Cody along with officials from San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa and Marin counties, as well as Berkeley, announced and that was set to expire on April 7.

The extended stay-at-home order is intended to help preserve the area’s critical hospital capacity. “Our hospitals are beginning to fill with COVID-19 patients,” Cody said during a noon press conference in San Jose. “We need more time.”

Of the new restrictions, the most significant pertain to businesses that remain open and construction projects that remain in progress. All businesses that continue to operate will now be required to prepare and post a “social distancing” plan detailing the measures they are taking to ensure compliance with county guidance. In addition, essential businesses that also offer non-essential services will now be

(continued on page 17)

COMMUNITY
Ordinary people, extraordinary times
The new normal: Life during the coronavirus crisis
by Linda Taaffe

In a span of days, the coronavirus outbreak created a new reality along the Midpeninsula: Schools shut down, Stanford University students were ordered off campus, all concerts and sports events were 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 living the new normal, the Weekly is sharing personal stories of how ordinary people are coping during these extraordinary times. This week, we talked to an older adult living with her husband behind closed doors and an entrepreneur who has inspired hundreds of neighbors to volunteer in the community.

“This is a war, and we all have to do what we can.”

Howard Kushlan
Entrepreneur

Howard Kushlan knows the best place to get eggs, where to find Clorox wipes, who’s in need of distilled water for their CPAP machine, which neighbor has a prescription waiting to be picked up, and just about every shopping policy at every food store in Palo Alto.

Over the past month, the Palo Alto resident has spent his days — and some evenings — helping neighbors during the pandemic as part of a growing corps of volunteer residents that he unintentionally inspired to take action after sending a call out to those in need on social media.

“I didn’t overthink it. I just put a post up saying, ‘I’m happy to do whatever you need; if you need groceries, if you need

(continued on page 15)
We need more time.

— Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County health officer, on extending the stay-at-home order. See story on page 5.
Bloom Energy used to make fuel cells. Now it’s saving lives.

With pressing need on the horizon, local company tackles the refurbishing of old ventilators to treat COVID-19 patients

by Sue Dremann

When Gov. Gavin Newsom said that California hospitals will face a massive shortage of life-saving ventilators for seriously ill COVID-19 patients, the executives of the San Jose-based company Bloom Energy knew they had to do something to help.

Newsom made a call to action on March 16 to the state’s CEOs to help find or manufacture equipment such as masks, gloves and respiratory ventilators to resupply hospitals that could run out of protective gear and vital equipment. He said the state could need at least 10,000 ventilators, which Bloom quickly had a truck deliver them to Bloom Energy for repair on Friday. The repaired ventilators were due to be returned to Los Angeles on Monday, fully functional.

Sridhar said in future weeks the company would be able to ship 200 to 250 ventilators at a time. “We will not be the bottleneck,” he said, while urging anyone who has a ventilator to send it to Bloom for refurbishing.

Bloom is one of two local companies committed to retooling for building ventilators. Tesla CEO Elon Musk has said he would use the company’s Fremont car plant to produce the life-saving equipment. Last week, he delivered more than 1,200 purchased ventilators to the state, Newsom announced. Musk said in a tweet that he has been talking to leading manufacturers about supplies and engineering for repurposing the Tesla plant.

Bloom chose to refurbish rather than build machines because it will boost the state’s supply quickly, while others are ramping up for production, said Brennan, who is a former vice president of manufacturing for Nissan, North America, and Ford Motor Company’s director of the global manufacturing business office.

“We know we will be ahead of anybody who is building new,” she said.

The biggest challenge to the new operations? Supplies.

“We started with 200 (ventilators) and we are only right now constrained by supplies. We are working with our external partners for incoming supplies,” she said.

Brennan is optimistic the company can turn out many hundreds of ventilators in a short period of time.

“I have never seen this level of cooperation between people who don’t know each other. It is as frictionless as a process that’s difficult as could be,” she said.

Bloom also is using its manufacturing facility in Delaware to refurbish ventilators on the east coast. The company started working on its first six machines for that state last week, she said.

The company is calling for more restrictions put on construction

With the number of coronavirus cases rising and health systems bracing for a surge of patients, Bay Area health officials extended on Tuesday the regional stay-at-home order until May 3 and announced new restrictions on construction activities.

The new order, which Santa Clara County Health Officer Sara Cody announced, builds on the “shelter-in-place” order that Cody and officials from six other Bay Area jurisdictions announced on March 16 and that was set to expire on April 7. Now, residents in the seven jurisdictions will be asked to stay home for all but essential functions until May 3.

The new order limits construction activity, explicitly banning construction of purely market-rate housing. However, developments that have at least 10% of their units designated as below-market-rate will be allowed to proceed.

Whereas the prior order gave wide latitude to cities to move forward on Tuesday to Thursday weeks to seven months in prison, according to prosecutors.

Elizabeth Henriquez, 57, must also serve two years of supervised release, pay a $200,000 fine and perform 300 hours of community service, according to prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts. She has until June 30 to surrender herself to the Bureau of Prisons.

Henriquez began participating in the scheme in 2015 when she began communicating with William “Rick” Singer, the Newport Beach businessman who helped dozens of other parents bribe admissions officers and athletic coaches at top colleges and universities into accepting their children in exchange for large sums of money. In many cases, the scandal involved correcting or providing answers for college entrance exams.

Henriquez and her husband, Manuel Henriquez, pleaded to one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and honest mail services and wire fraud; and a second count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Manuel Henriquez, former CEO of venture capital and private equity firm Hercules Capital in Palo Alto, is scheduled for a sentencing hearing on April 8.

The Henriquez are among 10 local parents indicted in the case.

—Jamey Padojino

News Digest

Mom gets prison for admissions scandal

An Atherton woman who paid more than $500,000 to help her children get into college through a nationwide admissions scandal was sentenced on Tuesday to seven months in prison, according to prosecutors.

Elizabeth Henriquez, 57, must also serve two years of supervised release, pay a $200,000 fine and perform 300 hours of community service, according to prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts. She has until June 30 to surrender herself to the Bureau of Prisons.

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—Jamey Padojino

Witness leads police to getaway car

Three people wanted in connection with an armed robbery at the Arco gas station at 699 San Antonio Road on Sunday night were located by police with the help of a witness, who followed the trio’s getaway car from south Palo Alto to the north side of town, police said Monday.

Dispatchers were told a man entered the gas station's store, aimed a handgun at the cashier and demanded money. A witness, who was inside a gas station store moments earlier, followed the trio while giving updates to dispatchers on their location, according to police. Officers stopped the getaway vehicle in the area of Alma Street and Palo Alto Avenue, not far from El Camino Park, and arrested a 28-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman, both from Salinas, who allegedly took turns driving the getaway vehicle away from the gas station. They also took into custody a 19-year-old Los Banos man.

The three alleged robbers were found with stolen cash, drugs, drug paraphernalia and an unsecured handgun.

The two men were also arrested for alleged possession of a stolen firearm, which is a felony, police said. The woman is also suspected of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine, both misdemeanors.

—Palo Alto Weekly staff

More restrictions put on construction

With the number of coronavirus cases rising and health systems bracing for a surge of patients, Bay Area health officials extended on Tuesday the regional stay-at-home order until May 3 and announced new restrictions on construction activities.

The new order, which Santa Clara County Health Officer Sara Cody announced, builds on the “shelter-in-place” order that Cody and officials from six other Bay Area jurisdictions announced on March 16 and that was set to expire on April 7. Now, residents in the seven jurisdictions will be asked to stay home for all but essential functions until May 3.

The new order limits construction activity, explicitly banning construction of purely market-rate housing. However, developments that have at least 10% of their units designated as below-market-rate will be allowed to proceed.

Whereas the prior order gave wide latitude to cities to move ahead with public works projects, the new one allows local governments to advance only those projects that they specifically designate as “essential government functions.” As such, it will suspend numerous projects that are pending in Palo Alto, including the California Avenue parking garage and the remodel of the city’s animal shelter.

—Gennady Sheyner

LET’S DISCUSS: Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com/square

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • April 3, 2020 • Page 7
PUBLIC HEALTH

Here’s the latest on the coronavirus

Local schools will not reopen this academic year
by Palo Alto Weekly staff

For Santa Clara County students whose public schools were ordered closed through April 3, the other shoe dropped on Wednesday: Campuses will stay shuttered for the rest of the academic year.

Superintendent Don Austin made the announcement to Palo Alto Unified families on Wednesday, saying that classroom instruction will not resume and that students will engage in distance learning for the remainder of the semester.

“We empathize with students who were holding out hope for a return this year,” Austin said. “Most people knew that reopening this year was unlikely given the challenges facing our nation and a virus still spreading rapidly. At a minimum, I hope a definitive answer can provide a degree of relief. While our classrooms are closed, teaching and learning continues.”

In the coming weeks, districts across the county will communicate with families about how grades, graduation, transcripts, scholarships, summer school and continued distance learning instruction will be handled, according to a joint letter from all 32 of Santa Clara County’s school district superintendents and the county superintendent of schools.

“We acknowledge that distance learning comes with its own set of challenges, and we commit to provide students, families and educators with ongoing support. As all of our districts further implement distance learning options and academic strategies, the social and emotional well-being of all of our students and staff is a high priority to us. We are working to find ways to stay connected, which will continue to help us learn together and celebrate important milestones,” the letter states.

In San Mateo County, districts also stated Wednesday that schools would be closed through June.

The schools announcement was but the latest development in ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which has hit Santa Clara County particularly hard. Here are more updates from the past week.

NEW COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS: On April 1, Santa Clara County reported 88 new cases, bringing its total to 956, with the death toll at 32. As of Tuesday evening, San Mateo County had 388 cases of the coronavirus, with 10 deaths.

VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE CHARTS: See the number of cases and deaths at Palo Alto Online.

GATHERING HOSPITAL BEDS: By the end of May, California may need 66,000 hospital beds, an increase of 16,000 more than the state is preparing for the “Phase 1 surge,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said during an April 1 press conference.

HOTLINE FOR SENIORS UNVEILED: A hotline for senior care services, at 833-544-2374 — on March 31 aimed at helping isolated seniors to stay connected. The hotline will provide the latest information on the coronavirus pandemic and services available to them, he said.

BEEFING UP HEALTH CARE STAFFING: On March 30, Newsom announced the California Health Corps initiative, which would bring retired health care professionals or those with inactive licenses back into the workforce to staff additional health care sites that will be needed throughout the state and increase the number of medical professionals treating patients who don’t have COVID-19. On March 31, Newsom said that 25,000 workers had already signed up.

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL: A telephone town hall on the status of the coronavirus in Santa Clara County is scheduled for this Sunday, April 5, at 11 a.m. The meeting will feature Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian and other health care professionals. Anyone interested in joining can call 855-866-6313.

STATE BANS VEHICLES AT STATE PARKS: California State Parks announced on March 29 that it is temporarily closing vehicle access at all 280 state parks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The department restriction followed an increase of visitors at parks statewide on the last weekend. The department said it could fully close parks if people do not follow social-distancing guidelines. For more information, go to the parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30350.

SAN MATEO COUNTY CLOSES ITS PARKS: All San Mateo County parks have been closed until further notice due to a sharp increase in visitors despite the shelter-at-home order, county officials said on March 27.

Data collected from mid-February to March 25 showed increases of 50% to 300%, with more use following the shelter-at-home order.

For comprehensive coverage of the Midpeninsula’s response to the new coronavirus, including how the virus is affecting public health, residents, schools, cities, businesses, nonprofits, arts groups, etc., please go to tinylurl.com/MidpenCorona.

PHOTO: Dina Abarca watches her son Ethan Castillo, 4, play a game on a cell phone after she returned home from work in Menlo Park.

EDUCATION

School closures heighten low-income families’ fears that their students will be left behind

Local school districts and nonprofits jump in to offer lifelines for children in need
by Elena Kadvany

The coronavirus has put Diana Abarca in a high-stakes Catch-22.

A single mother who lives paycheck to paycheck, she’s grateful to still have a job. She works long days at the deli counter at Bi-anchini’s Market in Portola Valley, carefully packaging meals that used to be offered at a self-serve counter and watching a staff member now dedicated to constantly sanitizing the store.

But the job means she can’t be at home with her 4-year-old son who is on the autism spectrum and whom she worries will fall behind without the structured support of his preschool, St. Elizabeth Seton School in Palo Alto.

Her daughter, a 19-year-old San Francisco State University student, has become his daytime caretaker, along with Abarca’s nephew, a junior at Bellarmine College Preparatory, and her oldest son, a 21-year-old Humboldt State University student, all living for the foreseeable future in Abarca’s home in Belle Haven.

“Not knowing how long this will last — it’s nerve-racking only because I’m not there with them. But if I were there with them, then I don’t have a paycheck, which helps me support them,” she said. “The only comfort that I have is that I’m thankful I do have 40 hours a week. I’m thankful I do have 40 hours a week. I’m thankful I do have 40 hours a week. I’m thankful I do have 40 hours a week.”

Asminda Zalava has four children at each level of the school system: a fourth-grader at Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy, a sixth-grader at KIPP Valiant Community Prep, a high school senior at East Palo Alto Academy and a college senior at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Her husband, who runs a gardening company, hasn’t worked since the shelter-at-home order went into effect.

A stay-at-home mother in East Palo Alto, Zalava is preoccupied with the many unanswered questions about how the shutdown will affect her children’s educational paths. The high school senior has been accepted to college, but will the school even be open in September? How will federal student aid loans be impacted? Will her college-age daughter, who is on the autism spectrum and whom she worries will fall behind, despite the district’s support at school?

“It is worrisome,” Zalava said in Spanish. “The main thing is — education. We don’t know how everyone will be affected.”

Zalava said the online learning being provided to her children now isn’t a replacement for in-person instruction, and she does worry about longer-term academic loss. Will her children be behind educationally when school is back in session?

“The longer it goes on, the longer our kids are away from individualized, consistent instruction,” said Janna Wachtel Pronovost, executive director of the Ravenswood Education Foundation, which raises funds for the Ravenswood City School District.

A student who was receiving guided, targeted reading instruction at school, for example, could fall behind, despite the district’s best efforts.

“If they don’t have someone who can guide them in this daily, targeted intentional way about developing their reading skills; if they don’t have that person at home or can’t access that person online, they’re not going to get it,” Wachtel Pronovost said. “That is not the case for families in other communities. They will find another way, whether it’s because the parent has access or they have access to tutors. They will be able (continued on page 17)
### 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coffeebar Menlo Park</td>
<td>650-666-2626</td>
<td>2pm-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Stone Creamery</td>
<td>650-325-4500</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook's Seafood Restaurant</td>
<td>650-325-0604</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuyu Restaurant</td>
<td>650-324-8888</td>
<td>11:30am-2:30pm, 5pm-9:30pm</td>
<td>$40 minimum for delivery</td>
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<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 and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey's Hamburgers</td>
<td>650-455-6193</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Delivery via DoorDash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyosho Sushi</td>
<td>650-656-8181</td>
<td>11am-2:30pm, 5:30pm-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Stanza Cucina Italiana</td>
<td>650-326-1314</td>
<td>TueFri: 11:30am-2pm, 5pm-9:30pm, SatSun: 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>
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<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>
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<td>Mademoiselle Collette</td>
<td>650-250-2919</td>
<td>8am-4pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
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<td>Mama Coco</td>
<td>650-397-7369</td>
<td>11am-8pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonald's (El Camino)</td>
<td>650-321-1813</td>
<td>9am-7pm</td>
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<td>Menlo Cafe</td>
<td>650-321-6666</td>
<td>9am-2pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
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<td>Mi Taqueria</td>
<td>650-289-0451</td>
<td>9am-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
</tr>
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<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>
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<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>650-325-8989</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>
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<tr>
<td>Round Table</td>
<td>650-321-6861</td>
<td>Sun-Th 11am-10pm, F-Sat 11am-11pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
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<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>
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<td>Selby's</td>
<td>650-546-7700</td>
<td>5pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Takeout and Delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shiok Singapore Kitchen</td>
<td>650-838-9448</td>
<td>M-F 11:30am-230pm 530pm-9:30pm Sat 530pm-9:30pm</td>
<td>Takeout only</td>
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<td>Soleska Market</td>
<td>650-329-9554</td>
<td>6am-8pm</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>Squeeze In</td>
<td>650-361-9500</td>
<td>7am-2pm</td>
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<td>Starbucks (Marsh Manor)</td>
<td>650-839-1860</td>
<td>6am-9pm</td>
<td>Takeout</td>
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<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>
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<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](http://facebook.com/business/boost/resource)
Outbreak
(continued from page 5)

probably at least 5,000. (The coun-
ty’s confirmed number of cases on
April 2 was only 1,019, however.)

Testing remains far from wide-
spread, despite efforts to boost
supplies of tests by academic in-
stitutions like Stanford University
and University of California, San
Francisco and commer-
cial firms such as Ab-
bott, Roche and Quest
Diagnostics.

Some experts esti-
rate the peak in cases
could happen earlier or later — in part varying
by location. Santa Clara
County health leaders
say a local surge will
start by mid-April, but
Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state’s secre-
tary of health and human services,
projected a peak in the state as a
whole in mid-May. Both state and
county leaders have refused to
publicly release details regarding
their modeling, saying they prefer
to reserve those models for inter-
nal decision making.

The Institute for Health Metrics
and Evaluation, which is part of
University of Washington, created
a model for every state in the na-
ton. It predicted that in Califor-
nia, the COVID-19 curve showing
the virus. Under this model, the
number of daily deaths would then
gradually go down to 15 on June
1 and then dip to single digits by
mid-June.

At best, experts can only take
an educated guess based on “as-
sumptions” and prepare for the
worst, they said.

“Nobody knows,” Dr. Yvonne
Maldonado, medical director of
infection control at Lucile Packard
Children’s Hospital and Stanford
professor of pediatric infectious
diseases and health research and pol-
icy, said this week when
asked about the project-
ed peak and when the
crisis might end.

“Two weeks ago, ex-
erts said we would be
like Italy. Two weeks
have passed and we are
not like Italy. On the
other hand, we could be like
New York or New Jersey,” she said.

The virus might be distributed
differently across the Bay Area,
making predictions difficult, Mal-
donado said. Some communities
may have a higher infection rate,
others a lower one. Demograph-
ics, levels of health within com-
unities and populations, access
to medical care, the movement
of people and daily behaviors can all
affect how the virus spreads.

There are some officials who are
willing to openly predict numbers.
The city of San Jose’s manager’s
office reported grim estimates
for Santa Clara County at the
March 24 City Council meeting,
estimating 2,000 to 16,000 deaths
and 9,000 to 19,000 people who
could be ill in the next 12 weeks
out of a population of 1.94 mil-
lion. County public health leaders,
however, distanced themselves in a
single-paragraph statement the next
day, saying they hadn’t vetted the
information and were studying it.

On April 1, San Jose Mayor
Sam Liccardo voiced support for
the data, noting the city manager’s
office had presented it to Smith
prior to releasing it. Emails show
the county did not dispute the data
so long as it was clear the numbers
were based on assumptions. And
those estimates and assumptions
were fundamentally correct, Lic-
cardo said, even as City Manager
David Sykes conceded the county
and the city were not completely
“in sync.”

Despite those worrisome pro-
jections, county health leaders
say they are starting to see signs
of hope. Local hospitals are not
yet nearing their capacity and are
not seeing the types of shortages
of personal protective equipment
needed by health care workers as
in New York and Michigan.

Dr. Dean Winslow, professor of
medicine in the division of hospi-
tal medicine, division of infectious
diseases and geographic medicine
at Stanford University School of
Medicine, said Tuesday that about
33 patients at Stanford had been
admitted for suspected COVID-19
infections. About half are con-
formed cases; a smaller number
tested negative. The rest of the re-
results are still pending.

And among the county’s 11 hos-
pitals, which have 1,475 beds, there
were 152 confirmed COVID-19
patients and another 90 who were

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*2019, SR Education Group

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suspected of having COVID-19 as confirmed cases reached triple digits. As of April 2, the county had recorded 453 cases and 10 deaths.

San Mateo County recorded its first COVID-19 case on March 2. Eighteen days later, the number of little bit,” Cody said.

train is beginning to slow down a very soft signs, but I think the der is working and that the spread of the virus is slowing.

she said there are signs that the or-

mensions for businesses to post plans for keeping their facilities safe —

ments of the virus — be they supplies of

beds, or staff or personal protective equipment — is fairly complex, as

understand all the needs in our health care system — be they supplies of

beds, or staff or personal protective equipment — is fairly complex, as is understanding the trajectory of the epidemic in our county.”

“We have some signs, some very soft signs, but I think the train is beginning to slow down a little bit;” Cody said.

“What we need to see is that our demand curve — which is how many people are ill, requiring hospitalization and ICU care — comes to a place where it’s comfortably nestled under our supply curve,” Cody said, referring to the supply of beds, staff and medical equipment that is needed to properly take care of the patients.

“It’s a complex balance. I want to say that bringing in the data to understand all the needs in our health care system — be they supplies of beds, or staff or personal protective equipment — is fairly complex, as is understanding the trajectory of the epidemic in our county.”

Looking at the coming months

ny estimate of when the pandemic will end is inherently fuzzy, given that the determination depends on myriad variables, including availability of testing for COVID-19, hospital capacity, and effectiveness of social-distancing measures.

Andy Slavitt, who served as acting administrator for Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services during the Obama administration and who now heads the organization United States of Care, during the Obama administration and who now heads the organization United States of Care, suggested in a March 28 post on

A recent analysis by National Geographic of how different cit-

ties handled the 1918 influenza pandemic shows the devastating impacts of halting social-distancing measures too soon. San Francisco did so immediately after its count of daily casualties dropped, only to see a second wave about a month later. It ended up with 673 deaths per 100,000 residents, ac-

We really need to be very care-

ful not to relax measures too ear-

ly,” Winslow said.

Testing has lagged throughout the state, and that’s a major con-

cern, he said. Asymptomatic peo-

tle who are still carriers are being neither tested nor tracked. There’s also no significant understand-

ing of who is potentially already immune — two pieces of critical missing data to understanding the outbreak, he said.

Winslow and Maldonado said predictive models to determine if there could be a resurgence of the disease also aren’t reliable at this point, and they urged caution.

Some analysts see a way we can ease out of the current economic and social crisis while also keep-

ing an eye on public health.

A new white paper from the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative-leaning think tank, proposes a phased “roadmap” for getting out of the pandemic. In the first stage, governments impose social distancing measures such as bans on public gatherings, stay-at-home advisories and isolation of COVID-19 cases either at home or at hospitals, allowing commu-

nities to flatten the curve. During this time, the health care system ramps up its capacity and obtains critical medical tools.

The paper’s authors, a list that includes three former FDA of-

ficials as well as Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security epidemiologist Caitlin Rivers and Johns Hopkins health security expert Crystal Watson, propose remain-

ing in this stage until there’s a decrease in cases for 14 consec-

tive days; hospitals are safely able to treat all patients that require hospitalization; and each state (continued on page 12)
has enough tests for people with COVID-19 symptoms. The paper argues for a slow and gradual progression between phases, done on a state-by-state basis. Furthermore, a state that reopens should revert to the first phase ‘‘if a substantial number of cases cannot be traced back to known cases, if there is as sustained rise in new cases for five days, or if hospitals in the state are no longer able to safely treat all patients requiring hospitalization.’’

In other words, states may need to go through another cycle of social-distancing measures if the nation has not yet developed and scaled up production of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Getting to the end point

Stanford University biologist Erin Mordecai and her team have likewise been modeling scenarios for the critical period between June, when the surge is expected to abate, and July 2021, when a vaccine would presumably be in place.

But like the American Enterprise Institute, Mordecai’s team sought to identify ways to get society back to its normal rhythms before the vaccine is created.

‘‘The idea of a shelter-in-place for a year or more doesn’t seem feasible,’’ Mordecai said. ‘‘We were interested in a possible alternative to just having everyone stay home for a very long time.’’

Their modeling suggests that the most effective approach may require repeated social-distancing interventions, with strategies quickly adapting to the situation on the ground.

The models also indicate that launching social-distancing interventions early in the epidemic cycle is more critical than the severity of the social measures imposed. Hence she and her team created the ‘‘lightswitch’’ approach. Under this concept, social-distancing measures are gradually added or removed over the course of the year, based on the fluctuations in numbers of COVID-19 cases. On one end of the scale are strict interventions like quarantines and fines for people who flout stay-at-home orders. On the other, public life starts to open up while restrictions remain in place for vulnerable populations and people with COVID-19.

‘‘You can turn on and off social-distancing interventions over time,’’ Mordecai said. Such an approach, she said, would require ‘‘very careful surveillance,’’ enabling authorities to quickly intervene if the number of hospitalizations, infections, recoveries, and deaths moves over the course of the year.

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While much is being discussed about effective strategies for handling the outbreak and the best ways to get us at an endpoint, health experts can only speculate about whether the new coronavirus will mutate and continue to plague our lives.

Maldonado noted that COVID-19 is related to six other coronaviruses, including the common cold. Some of those mutate over time and come back; others don’t. The 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) coronavirus, which sickened 8,000 people and killed nearly 800, never came back after 16 years, although some thought it would. The 2012 Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS) did reappear, although not at a high level because it was transmitted only through contact with camels. COVID-19 is highly contagious, which gives Maldonado pause.

‘‘It’s highly possible we’ll see it again,’’ she said. ‘‘That’s why we need to develop antivirals and a vaccine.’’

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About the cover: Health care systems combat the coronavirus pandemic. Illustration by Douglas Young. Photos by Magali Gauthier. Virus graphics by Getty Images.
Stand Together by Staying Apart

We are facing an unprecedented public health emergency.

It’s up to all of us to work together to keep our community safe. We all must take steps to minimize contact outside our households to reduce the risk of transmission. Every person you interact with may add to transmission.

Stay home to save lives. Only leave for essential activities, and do your best to limit even those trips. The more we can minimize our interactions with others, the more we can slow the spread of COVID-19.

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sccphd.org/coronavirus
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harker.org/summer

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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 interactive 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

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explore.stanford.edu

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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

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castilleja.org/summercamp

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arts4all.org

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artandsoulpa.org

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Palo Alto

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

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**Let's Go Crafting**
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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 25$/week. Full day camps 55$/week. 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum.

letsgocrafting.org

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Palo Alto

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paloaljcc.org/Camps

(650) 223-8622

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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 (L.I.T.), Camp YOUUnique, F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports, Operations: Chef and Chef Jr! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skills 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**
Stanford

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) 736-0324

**TheatreWorks Silicon Valley**

Palo Alto

Silicon Valley

Camps 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 local company.

theatreworks.org/education

(650) 463-7146

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**ATHLETICS**

**Nike Tennis Camps**

Palo Alto

Nike Tennis Camps at 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 Goupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!

ussportscamps.com

(800) NIKE-CAMP

(800) 645-3226

**Run for Fun Camps**

Bay Area

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.

sunforfun.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 proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Flexible cancellation policies.

spartanssportscamp.com

(650) 479-5906

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Stanford

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campcardinal.org

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**Stanford Baseball Camps**
Stanford

At Sunken 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, including pitching, hitting, and defense. Additionally, camps will focus on off-season training techniques. For more information and to register, please visit the website below:

stanfordbaseballcamp.com

(650) 725-2054

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Stanford

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stanfordwaterpolocamps.com

**YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps**
Silicon Valley

Summer Camps
Silicon Valley

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 just right for your family. Sign up today, camps are filling up! Financial assistance is available.
shopping, if you need supplies, whatever,” Kushlan told the Weekly over the phone last week. “And then it just sort of caught on. Other people ran with it, and it’s taken on a life of its own.” Kushlan said his post had about 350 likes and 90 comments last week and had inspired more than 200 residents from well beyond his downtown neighborhood to join in and volunteer to help vulnerable residents throughout the community.

He has set up a Google doc where people can add new requests for assistance or remove requests that have been fulfilled.

“I didn’t micromanage it,” he said. “It’s awesome. People just go in and get things done. … We don’t have time to waste.”

Volunteers are doing everything from translating for non-English speaking seniors at Lytton Gardens to taking time to chat on the phone with someone who just needs to talk to coordinating the distribution of hand sanitizers to seniors.

“It runs the whole gamut,” said Kushlan, who was preparing to help someone move the next day after shopping for groceries for a neighbor and taking a dog for a walk.

No one is more surprised by how one post on the social-media site Nextdoor could have snowballed into such an enormous effort than Kushlan himself.

“That’s incredible and it’s a metas- tasis in the best kind of way,” he said. “I’m stunned by the volume of people who genuinely want to help. It’s been awe-inspiring.”

Kushlan said since the stay-at-home order, he’s been focused on answering every call and doing every possible thing he can when somebody makes a request.

“There’s a lot of uncertainty, and so many people are out there that are scared and want help,” said Kushlan, who grew up in Palo Alto and now runs Crux, a marketing and political consulting firm.

“My view is this is a war, and we all have to do what we can. With a crisis like this, I think there’s no time to wait for instructions. You’ve got to step up with whatever your skill set is,” he said.

He said he’s learned a lot through this unexpected period of volunteering. One woman from a senior living center called him really scared because she needed distilled water for her CPAP machine.

“I didn’t even know those machines needed distilled water,” he said. The water was tough to find, but he finally tracked some down.

“I just go to different local stores like Piazza’s or Safeway or Ace Hardware that I know, looking for supplies,” said Kushlan, who does one shopping trip at a time. “Everyone at the stores knows me now.”

Kushlan said that, two weeks ago, going shopping was like an “apocalyptic” experience. Now, he says about waiting in line, “once you’re inside, it’s like a very lovely calm.”

Kushlan, who was just a few blocks away from the World Trade Center in New York City during 9/11, said this coronavirus outbreak is like nothing he’s experienced.

“I was out taking a walk with my mom this morning, and it’s like there’s this enemy out there that we can’t see. It’s so bizarre. It’s unfath- omable,” he said.

Kushlan said one silver lining from this experience is that he’s gotten to know his neighbors.

“I have talked to and spent time with someone who doesn’t necessarily get involved with the neighborhood. I was one of those people who felt, ‘It’s nice here, but I don’t know my neighbors,’” he said. “In times like these, you have to step out of- side your comfort zone, and that’s when people’s best is brought out.”

“Millie Chethik waters plants on the balcony of her Palo Alto home where she has been living in isolation since the earliest cases of the coronavirus were confirmed in Santa Clara County in February.”

Chethik has been voluntarily handing out hand sanitizers to neighbors and walking for groceries for a neighbor and taking a dog for a walk.

“‘It’s scary because (I’m) in the high-risk demographic … and you don’t want to go this way,’ Millie Chethik

Older adult

Millie Chethik thinks she just might be able to learn Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata on the piano be- cause, these days, she explained, she has plenty of time to practice the challenging piece. While most Midpeninsula residents started sheltering at home on March 17, Chethik has been voluntarily han- kering down inside her Palo Alto home ever since the earliest corona- virus cases were confirmed in Santa Clara County.

“I’ve been kind of in isolation, really, pretty much,” the 80-year- old said during a telephone interview. “My husband recently had a surgery, so he’s vulnerable. And it was his wisdom that really made me take this seriously.”

“He was the one that said, ‘Millie, as my caregiver, I don’t want you to expose yourself to groups.’ I have to stay away from people,” she said. “I know, you can’t come to rehearsal.”

Her current schedule has her on a very different pace than her typi- cal routine, which included social activities almost every day of the week. Chethik said she was a reg- ular at events at the senior center, an active participant in her book club, performed in a choral group and participated in a slew of other activities.

She tries not to think too much about being confined at home.

“I think it takes its toll, but you know, you try to do other things to work around it,” she said.

Chethik said she’s turned to the internet for socializing.

“Her book club now video con- ferences its meetings over the in- ternet to discuss the latest titles, “It worked well. You know, it’s socially distancing but still con- necking,” she said.

Chethik said she’s trying to coordinate the same set up for other activities, as well, such as her neighborhood’s homeowners association meeting and possibly activities that were typically held in person at Avenidas senior cen- ter prior to its temporary closure.

Chethik said when she does leave the house, it’s typically to shop for necessities or to take a walk.

“When I have to go shopping, I just try to wash my hands as often as possible and just generally keep away from people,” she said. She’s also learned to call stores ahead to schedule her shopping on days when the shelves are restocked.

“It’s scary because (I’m) in the high-risk demographic,” she said. “You don’t know how many years you have left anyway, and you don’t want to go this way.”

Even though she and her hus- band are living behind closed doors, she doesn’t feel as if they are all alone.

“My neighbor knocked on my door the other day and said, ‘Are you guys all right?’ You know, he is very worried, and it was very kind of him to stop by and ask,” she said. “I didn’t know, maybe people are being kind in the begin- ning, but then it gets really, really nasty, things may change.”

Chethik said she’s never experi- enced anything like this in her life-
time, not even during the polio outbreak in the 1940s.

“I had polio when I was 4 years old, but I was too young to under- stand,” Chethik said. “My mother was trying to do everything she could to keep me out of harm’s way. She kept me away from public swim- ming pools … but it was such a bad epidemic at the time, and they didn’t have any vaccine until a few years later.”

Chethik said her friends all have had different takes on the corona- virus outbreak.

“I had one friend who said, ‘You’re just germ crazy,’ and I had another one who said, ‘You know, you shouldn’t leave the house,’” she said. “I think we have to be- lieve in the science, but they’re telling us. Not the politicians.

“It’s a scary situation. We’ll get through it, I’m sure, but it’s very scary. And who knows how many people will die in the meantime?”

Read about how other seniors are coping in the Living Well ar- ticle on page 22.

Associate Editor Linda Taaffe can be reached at ltaaffe@ pawweekly.com.
Whether they’re grocery shopping for a neighbor or volunteering for a nonprofit, you can spread the joy and support our journalism efforts by giving them a shout-out in the Palo Alto Weekly.

For $250, we’ll design a quarter-page announcement featuring your Local Hero. Just visit the Google form at the address below and include a 50-word description and an optional photo.

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Submit entries at PaloAltoOnline.com/local_hero/

Dan Henry
Dan is a grocery store employee and my local hero. He’s constantly sharing tips on the best time to shop, and no matter how uncertain the future seems, his smiling face at the register is a constant all the customers can count on. Thank you for making shopping easy, Dan!

Submitted by: Amanda Jones

Sample print ad. Actual size: 4.375” wide x 5.75” high
to find another way and our families are going to be just fighting to survive. We're going to have to find another way and our families are going to be just fighting to survive.

The Ravenswood school district is working to fill in the most-needed gaps for local families in need, from serving nearly 10,000 free meals last week to distributing donated Wi-Fi hot spots and district Chromebooks to make sure students have access to online learning at home. Among Ravenswood elementary school students, as many as half don’t have key devices needed to access to online learning at home. Among Ravenswood elementary school students, as many as half don’t have key devices needed to access to online learning at home.

Liz Gardner, a single mother who lives in Palo Alto, said her two sons rely heavily on support programs at JLS Middle School, including the California Avenue Homework Habitat program to get help on homework and retake tests and school counseling resources.

Since we're an (economically) challenged family, what's the academic expectation when we're so reliant on certain resources from the school? Gardner asked.

She's been out of work since July and receives financial support from her family to get by. Gardner said she's grateful for the quality of education offered by the Palo Alto school district, having moved here for the schools, but as parents are missing connection and communication while the schools are closed.

She suggested the JLS principal use Zoom to hold a webinar to answer questions and talk with parents.

For many low-income families, local nonprofits have become critical lifelines of support and communication during the shutdown. Abcarian received email blasts, Duncan said. She hasn't yet heard from the special-education department how they’ll provide her son's IEP.

In contrast, communication on the stay-at-home order has been mostly districtwide. They've helped her navigate Zoom, which she hadn't used before. When her older child wasn't comfortable staying at home, she called a Peninsula Bridge mentor to talk to them. "I rely on them, too," Abcarian said of the nonprofits. "It's another way for me to be a little more at peace knowing I have that support as a parent and for the kids to have that, too."

For her older children and nephew, the online learning is mostly self-guided — "almost like homeschooling," she said. She has to take their word for it that they've completed their schoolwork while she's at her job.

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Sukey Bryant Studio
Stanford, California
Painting, prints and installations
www.sukeybryan.com

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

MR ELECTRIC OF PALO ALTO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. FN8663684
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mr. Electric Of Palo Alto, located at 1814 Armand Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: Mr. Reber. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are):
SAITAMA INC.
1814 Armand Dr.
Milpitas, CA 95035.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/17/2020.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 18, 2020.
(PWM Mar. 1, 20, 27; Apr. 3, 2020)

SUPPLEMENTING AND MORE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. FN8664539
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Supreme Painting And More, located at 888 McCreary Ave, San Jose, CA 95116, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are):
HECTOR A. CASTILLO
888 McCreary Ave.
San Jose, CA 95116.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/23/2020.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 18, 2020.
(PWM Mar. 20, 27; Apr. 3, 10, 2020)

ROG
ROG CORPORATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. FN8646519
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1) Noc, 2) Noc Corporation, located at 172 University Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are):
ROBOTIK INNOVATIONS, INC.
172 University Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/05/2020.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 13, 2020.
(PWM Mar. 27; Apr. 3, 10, 2020)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION
Case Number: 019-0305
Publication Granted. The court finds that the respondent cannot be served in any other manner specified in the California Code of Civil Procedure. The court orders that the documents listed in item 6 be served by publication at least once per week for four successive weeks in the following newspaper: PALO ALTO WEEKLY.
Date: 1/9/20
JUDICIAL OFFICER
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
Case No. 019-0305
DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR PUBLICATION OR POSTING OF SUMMONS
DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR PUBLICATION/POSTING
I, KEVIN WOMACK, declare:
I am the Petitioner in this action.
My last contact with Respondent December of 2012, was as follows:
Since that time I have had contact with any relatives of Respondent since 2003.
I have asked relatives, friends, co-tenants, the occupants of any real estate involved in the litigation and others likely to know of the Respondent’s whereabouts as follows:
I have tried to contact respondent on facebook and last known address. I got last known address from background check.
I have contacted the Respondent’s next known place of business as follows:
I have searched the county assessor’s real location was in East Palo Alto.
I have searched the county assessor’s real property, or conducted a business as follows:
I have had contact with any relatives of Respondent since 2003.
There is no last place of business.
Respondent’s whereabouts as follows:
I tried serve Respondant at last known location was in East Palo Alto.
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information provided in this declaration is true and correct.
Executed on 1/6/2020 at Martinez, California.

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto
March 26-March 31
Violence related
Armored robbery ....................... 1
Battery ................................ 2
Child abuse ............................ 2
Domestic violence ...................... 3
Theft related
Commercial burglaries ............... 1
Grand theft ............................ 1
Potty theft ............................. 1
Simple theft ........................... 1
Vehicle related
Bicycle theft .......................... 2
Lost/stolen plates ....................... 1
Parking/driving violation .......... 10
Vehicle accident/prop damage .... 1
Vehicle impound ...................... 1
Vehicle tampering ..................... 1
Miscellaneous
Found property ....................... 3
Lost property ......................... 2
Misd. penal code violation ......... 2
Other/misc. ......................... 2
Probation subject ..................... 1
Suspicious circumstances ......... 1
Theft from auto ....................... 1
Vandalism ............................ 1

Menlo Park
March 26-March 30
Violence related
Cdo. assault ............................ 1
Spousal abuse ........................ 2
Theft related
Burglary ................................ 1
Commercial burglaries ............. 1
Shoplifting ............................. 1
Violent related
Auto recovery ......................... 2
Auto theft ............................. 1
Bicycle theft .......................... 1
Hit and run ............................ 1
Theft from auto ....................... 1
Vehicle tampering .................... 1
Alcohol or drug related
Drug possession ...................... 1
Miscellaneous
Coroner case ......................... 1
Disturbance ......................... 1
Found property ...................... 1
Info. not sufficient ................... 2
Misd. penal code violation ....... 2
Suspicious circumstances ....... 1
Warrant arrest ........................ 1

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto
150 Ararat Road, 3/24, 3:20 p.m.;/simple battery.
San Antonio Road, 3/26, 5:41 p.m.; domestic violence.
El Camino Real/Oregon Expressway, 3/27, 12:16 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.
Ramona Street, 3/27, 7:20 p.m.; simple battery.
Los Robles Avenue, 3/28, 12:56 a.m.; domestic violence.
San Antonio Road, 3/29, 8:38 p.m.; armed robbery.
Menlo Park
Hamilton Avenue/Canterton Avenue, 3/26, 5:42 p.m.; spousal abuse.
1200 block Sayer Ave., 3/28, 7:18 p.m.; child abuse.
1300 block Modoc Ave., 3/29, 9:57 a.m.; spousal abuse.

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A weekly compendium of vital statistics

Anna Welke
September 7, 1940 – March 24, 2020

Our beloved devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and friend... Anna Lange Welke was born on September 7, 1940 in Jelgava, Latvia to Janis and Elsa Kalinins Lange. Her mother was a dentist and her father a forestry engineer. During World War II the family was forced to flee their ancestral home and property - exiled to Germany where they lived as wartime refugees for six years. Sponsored by the Lutheran Church of Lyford, Texas they arrived in the United States in 1950. Two years later they moved to Palo Alto, California where Anna graduated from Cubberley High School in 1959. She went on to UC Berkeley where she studied Sociology and met her husband-to-be and graduated in 1963. Anna marriedElton Welke shortly after college, and gave birth to their daughter Allison the following year. In another three years their son Erik was born. The family lived in Seattle, San Francisco’s East Bay, as well as Des Moines, Iowa briefly before returning to Palo Alto in 1972 where Anna lived ever since.

Anna entered the workforce when her children were in high school, first teaching dyslexic children, then moving on to the management of a staffing office. She concluded her working career in tech when she retired in 2005.

Her years in retirement were spent traveling, volunteering at the Cantor Museum at Stanford, and enjoying the company of friends and family. It was of highest importance to her to maintain a regular presence in the lives of her children and grandchildren. She never missed a birthday or significant event. Anna was an avid reader. She enjoyed many memorable journeys with family and friends.

Anna is survived by her daughter Allison (son-in-law Patrick Alexander, and their sons Spencer, Clayton and Hampton); son Erik (daughter-in-law Yuting Lau, and their children Ryan, Jamie and Tierra); sister Ieva Lange; brother John (sister-in-law Judy Lange, and nephews Jani and Peter Lange).

Remembrances may be made in her honor to the Cantor Arts Center, Pathways Hospice, or Hinds Hospice of Fresno.

A Memorial Service will be held at a future date to be determined. Please email allison@hoppe-law.com with contact information, and we will inform you when the date of the service is known.

Our team is in motion for you!
**OBITUARIES**

**Charles Fordyce Bisbee, Anne Knight, Virginia Mann**

A list of local residents who died recently:

- Charles “Charlie” Fordyce Bisbee, 70, a resident of Palo Alto, died on March 4. Anne Knight, 76, writing coach and resident of Palo Alto, died on March 25. Virginia Mann, 94, writer and resident of Palo Alto, died on March 8.

To read their full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.

**NOTICE OF ORDINANCE**

**ORD NO. 642**

**ADOPTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ATHERTON**

The City Council of the Town of Atherton, California, at its meeting of March 18, 2020, adopted Ordinance 642, an Ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Atherton, State of California, Chapter 8.04.050 making minor amendments to the permitting requirements applicable to newly installed alarm systems.

The full text of the proposed Ordinance is available for review or purchase in the City Clerk’s Office at 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton, California 94027. For more information, you may contact the City Clerk’s Office at (650) 752-0529.

The Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days following adoption.

The Atherton City Council voted to adopt Ordinance 642 as follows:

AVES: Widmer, Wiest, Lemprés, Lewis, DeGolia

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

/s/ Anthony Suber

Anthony Suber
City Clerk
Town of Atherton
Dated: April 3, 2020

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE STORMWATER CAPTURE FACILITY AT CARTAN FIELD**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, approving a Conditional Use Permit, and adopting a Development Agreement for a Stormwater Capture Facility at Cartan Field, 30 Alejandra Avenue, Atherton, CA.

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Governors Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 4, 2020, and Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, allowing for deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. The purpose of this is to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The meeting will be held by tele or video conferencing. The public may participate in the City Council via: Zoom Meeting.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

https://zoom.us/j/506997786

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

One tap mobile
+16699006333,506997786# (US) +16699006333,

Dia by your dial
+1 669 900 6333 US (San Jose)

Project Description:
The Town is proposing to construct a Stormwater Capture Facility at Cartan Field, an approximately 15-acres athletic sports jointly owned by Menlo College and Menlo School. The facility would include a diversion structure within Atherton Channel to re-direct dry-weather urban runoff and a portion of wet-weather runoff through a pre-treatment device to remove trash, debris, and sediment before conveying the water into a buried multi-chambered storage facility with a storage capacity of up to nine (9) acre-feet. A pump system sends the water through a filter system to remove mercury and PCBs and then slowly return the filtered water back to the channel downstream of the diversion structure.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an Initial Study, draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program have been prepared for the above described project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. A copy of these documents is available on-line on the Town of Atherton website. The public review period was from January 8, 2020 to February 24, 2020.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the Planning Commission at its regular meeting on March 25, 2020 considered the Initial Study, draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Conditional Use Permit, and Development Agreement. At that regular meeting the Planning Commission unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2020-1 recommending to the City Council adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, approval of the Conditional Use Permit, and adoption of the Development Agreement.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. which will be conducted by teleconference accessible to members of the public at the above-described means, at which time all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the Mitigated Negative Declaration, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Development Agreement should not be adopted by the City Council or why the Conditional Use Permit should not be approved by the City Council.

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** the Mitigated Negative Declaration, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Conditional Use Permit or Development Agreement in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

For further particulars, reference is made to the application on file. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0560 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Posted: April 3, 2020

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

L. Costa Sanders

Lisa Costa Sanders, Town Planner
Letters

‘Unwise’ park closures

Editor,

I think closing the parking lots at Arastradero and Foothills parks is wrong-headed, unnecessary and foolish.

For Arastradero, the parking lot is so small that it was always nearly impossible to park there throughout the week. The city should be building an accessory lot across the road. The open field awaits! We arrived at Arastradero and Foothills parks on Thursday before it closed, the lot was already at full capacity.

For Foothills, it is so small that it was always nearly foolish.

Instead of this plan, the city should consider revoking this unwise plan.

Donald Price
Addison Avenue, Palo Alto

A difficult transition

Editor,

We are thankful for our county’s proactive response to COVID-19. Sources say that Santa Clara County has helped “flatten the curve,” and we are happy that our shelter-in-place policies have been effective.

Although these unprecedented closures have created widespread uncertainty within our educational community, I am true that the health of our community should be our No. 1 priority.

Unfortunately, the transition away from grade-dependent learning has been difficult for many students, as a result of Palo Alto’s grade-focused culture.

Our school district was one of the first to switch to credit/no credit grades for this semester. Many students have the capacity and resources to complete the optional work that is posted by teachers, but choose not to, simply because “it’s not for a grade.” Nevertheless, we are extremely grateful that the well-being of students is being held as a priority.

Even though students have faced troubles in adapting to managing school work at home, our teachers’ ability to adapt and provide students with the materials they need, whether it be physical or emotional, is appreciated.

It is a challenge for teachers to galvanize students into learning, but we believe that eventually Bay Area students will learn for the sake of learning and not just for a grade.

Anshi Bhattacharya
High Street, Palo Alto
Agnes Mar Coleridge Street, Palo Alto

An Alternative View

Think about helping others in our coronavirus-affected area

by Diana Diamond

I n these dire times, as people are really worried about getting the coronavirus, it seems we all are potential targets, ready to be plucked randomly, without any regard to abilities, lifestyles, race, age or gender.

I was at a college reunion a couple of years ago and out of a class of 300, 32 had died. Their names were read off, and as I looked at the remaining classmates around me, I could find no patterns as to why they had died — no rationale — the football stars and sorority beauties, the nerds and the artists, the rich and poor, all had passed on.

The same is true today. We seem to be deliberately stricken. And now in this worldwide virus, we are worried and concentrated on those we care about — family, neighbors and friends.

But we need to also be concerned about those who suddenly lost their jobs because businesses have been shuttered — restaurants, beauty shops, shoe repair stores, cleaners, etc., many of whom suddenly have no incomes.

Here are some suggestions on how we may be able to help a bit: • If and when that promised “up to” $1,200 a month is sent to those who qualify, perhaps we could donate some or all of it to food banks. If you and your family, especially those of you retired, don’t really need the income, why not donate it to help feed others, to provide enough money for non-profit organizations to buy food for the homeless, the disadvantaged, and the disabled?

I don’t need the fed handout to eat, but others do — and if we all gave to food banks or local churches who supported the poor, what a wonderful opportunity to help, and what better time than now?

The government checks won’t come for another three weeks, but we can plan ahead.

I was going to provide a list of reputable food banks, but thought it would be better if you decide where to donate and give money to those you think are most needy. It’s the least we can do as a local and caring community.

1. I was talking to the man whose workers clean my house every three weeks. He has a crew of nine women who work five days a week for their entire wages. “Last week three of them worked twice during the week, the second group worked once and the third group didn’t work at all,” he said, “because people were afraid to have outsiders in their home. I understand, but I don’t know how to pay my workers who depend on me to pay for their rent and food.”

His crew did not come last Thursday but I told him I would pay them anyway — and for their next scheduled visit. I’m not the only one doing this.

We should do the same for our gardener, our hairdressers, our barbers, manicurists, restaurant servers, etc. They are going without any income, and I doubt they will get the $1,200 monthly grant promised by the government, so we need to keep on reimbursing them (perhaps by buying gift cards now that we can use later after they are working full time again), or purchasing takeout dinners from restaurants — just to help them get by now.

We are all in this together, and we all need to help everyone out as best we can.

Diana Diamond is a longtime Palo Alto journalist, editor and author of the blog “An Alternative View” at PaloAltoOnline.com/blogs. You can email her at dianadiamond@gmail.com.

Before I remember the virus

by Chandrahma Anderson

My dog, Bixby, is always happy to see me. He always welcomes me when I get home with enthusiasm and exuberance (not that we’re going anywhere right now other than food shopping or to the pharmacy). He shows his affection freely and often. He snuggles with me a lot (he’s small, so he’s a lap dog).

If I accidentally step on his little foot, he yelps a bit and I apologize and check to be sure he’s okay. He doesn’t hold it against me. He’s over it before I am! He’s loyal. He’s happy and excited to do things together. Doing everything together would be fine with him (and as adults that might not be your thing).

When you treat each other well, you will be better, better, better, better, better, better. I will be better, because I’m not going on outside your doors. When you are in the moment together, you are fine. You are healthy and content. Happy even. Small moments of breathing, slowing down, making eye contact, having belly-to-belly hugs.

All of this creates a safe emotional environment for you two, and for your family. It creates a secure roof over the heads of your kids.

You are resilient. Remember that. And even more so when you’re resilient together.

Inhale, exhale. Repeat. Think of what you have. You are resilient.

Chandrahma Anderson is an LMFT specializing in couples counseling and grief who worked in high-tech in Silicon Valley for 15 years before becoming a therapist. She is the author of the blog “Couple’s Net” at PaloAltoOnline.com/blogs and can be emailed at canderson.connect2@gmail.com.
PVI Meals on Wheels

COVID-19 CRITICAL SENIOR CARE FUND

HELP PENINSULA VOLUNTEERS, INC RAISE $500,000!

YOU CAN HELP SAN MATEO COUNTY SENIORS RECEIVE HOT AND NUTRITIOUS MEALS DELIVERED DAILY DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND.

IN-KIND DONATIONS ALSO ACCEPTED:
NEW AND UNOPENED GLOVES, HAND SANITIZER, DISINFECTANT WIPES, AND FACE MASKS

"The brave staff and volunteers at PVI’s Meals on Wheels are our heroes. We’re afraid to leave the house and don’t know what we would do without them.”
-Kay, Redwood City

While we are six feet apart, we’re shoulder to shoulder in caring for at risk seniors in our community!

We are living through extraordinary and uncertain times. Please know that all of us at Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., hope you and your loved ones are and will remain safe and healthy during this COVID-19 health emergency.

Daily life for an aging senior in your community now feels much more insecure and fragile than just a few short weeks ago. Someone near you is waking up alone fearful of having no means of getting food for the day. Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.’s Meals on Wheels program is up and running with staff and volunteers providing daily hot, nutritious meals to local homebound seniors unable to shop or cook for themselves. We are preparing and delivering over 12,000 meals each month, to our most vulnerable, at-risk seniors throughout all of San Mateo County, except coast-side. We’ve enhanced our protocols and protective equipment. Considered an essential service, we have become more critical now than ever and are heartened by the remarkable outpouring from volunteers in our local communities, assisting us with meal packing and delivery.

Our most urgent ask now is for your help through donations to continue this vital lifeline for our at risk seniors. Needs are skyrocketing. Our major public fundraising events have been cancelled due to COVID-19 yet the need is greater now than ever. We cannot do it without you! You can have an immediate impact. At uncertain times like these, you are the proof that the community will weather this crisis together. Thank you for helping us keep local seniors fed and safe. A donation of $500 covers meals for two seniors for a month. Donations of all sizes make a huge impact now and in the weeks ahead to help feed our homebound seniors and assist us to ramp up and further expand our programming once our doors re-open to the public. We all look forward to that day.

We are grateful beyond words.

WAYS TO DONATE

ONLINE
Visit Penvol.org/donate

MY MAIL
Sending a check to Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park, CA, 94025.

FACEBOOK
Visit our Facebook https://bit.ly/2Wsg02M
Some have lost caregivers in their homes. Many are now barred from visiting their spouses in local care facilities. Others have been forced to cancel travel plans.

About a dozen older adults answered the Weekly’s request to share how the COVID-19 shutdown has affected seniors in the community. Here are their responses:

From The Sequoias in Portola Valley, a resident noted that senior living complexes such as hers as well as Channing House, Palo Alto Commons, Sunrise and Vi are under severe restrictions, including prohibitions on visits from outside relatives. Spouses living in differing care levels within the same facility also are barred from visiting one another.

“I’m sure the spouse in ‘independent living’ stresses a great deal on how their husband or wife (in ‘assisted living’ or ‘skilled nursing’) is faring,” she wrote in an email to the Weekly.

“You eat only what is brought to you with few options other than to accept or refuse each type of offering — the entrée, the small salad, the fruit, the dessert. At least there is coffee at each meal. However, if you are eating everything, you likely would need larger clothing in no time,” she added. “Not leaving the facility, along with many other restrictions, is strictly enforced. There are barricades manned by security. If you somehow manage to leave — and I can’t imagine how that would happen — you are totally locked down for two weeks upon return and visited daily by the nurse.”

Maggie, a Palo Alto resident, had been planning to bring her husband of 62 years, who suffers from Alzheimer’s and had been living at Sunrise, back home to care for him. Then, she fell while grocery shopping, broke her femur and was hospitalized following surgery. Now she is almost recovered but a “no visitation” policy has prevented her from seeing her husband.

“We have been apart now for two weeks upon return and visited daily by the nurse.”

Another Palo Alto woman, in her 70s, is caring for her 83-year-old husband as well as his twin brother, both of whom have dementia and, in one case, limited mobility. With the stay-at-home order, she lost the help of a part-time male caregiver as well as her weekly house cleaner.

“It is hard not to see what is lost, what is lost to all that we have worked to maintain,” she wrote in an email. “Home-making, nursing, caregiving, meal planning and prep, laundry, gardening, household business matters and cheerful companionship to the twins has now all fallen on me.”

While these older adults represent only a small portion of the local senior community, their responses are stark and honest and provide insight into the challenges that some of our most vulnerable residents are facing during this uncertain time.

Contacting writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com.
Trusted Home Care

Kendra's dedication to clients is just one of the many reasons why we're the Bay Area's leading expert in senior care.

In fact, over 16,000 Bay Area families trust us to take care of family and loved ones in the comfort of their own home.

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SeniorsAtHome.org

Avenidas Still Supporting Seniors

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• Visit our website ...
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Kendra Benisano, RN, BSN
Director of Homecare and Nursing Services
Private Duty Nursing In Palo Alto

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Check out our guide to local takeout and delivery

We’ve compiled this ever-evolving list of restaurants, cafes, breweries, wine shops and bakeries throughout the Bay Area that are providing takeout or delivery service while in-person dining has been suspended.

Find local takeout and delivery options at PaloAltoOnline.com/restaurants

To report changes or additions, email food@paloaltoonline.com

Food reporting you won’t find anywhere else.

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E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company (Granular division) is seeking a full-time Software Engineer, Full Stack at our offices in San Francisco, CA. Responsible for building amazing software products used by farmers.

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by Elena Kadvany

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REAL ESTATE AN ‘ESSENTIAL SERVICE’ — The federal government recently added residential and commercial real estate services to its revised list of essential services needed to maintain “critical infrastructure” during the coronavirus crisis. Despite the federal reclassification of real estate as an essential service, the Bay Area’s stay-at-home order greatly affects how business can be conducted. Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, which have both extended their stay-at-home orders through May 3, classify real estate as an essential service but caution that as many activities as possible should be accomplished online. Since the vast majority of real estate activities require some in-person interaction, the California Association of Realtors has released guidelines for Realtors on navigating transactions while maintaining proper social distancing. Read Santa Clara County’s order at scgov.org/; San Mateo’s order at smgov.org/ and find the California Association of Realtors’ guidelines at car.org.

PERMIT CENTER MOVES ONLINE ... Menlo Park has moved to a virtual permit center in response to COVID-19, according to a city press release issued on Wednesday. Staff will continue to process applications currently on file and are reaching out to applicants who submitted their applications between January and March to ask that plans be submitted electronically. The city is not issuing new building or encroachment permit applications at this time, and all construction activity remains suspended temporarily, according to the press release. To speak to a planner, email the planning division at planning@menlopark.org.

ONLINE BLOOMS ... There’s no substitute for the visual and smeling acres of flowers in person, but there is a way to enjoy one of the Peninsula’s most abundant gardens from home. Shuttered by the stay-at-home order, Woodside’s Filoli estate is using its Facebook page and Instagram to offer a window into what’s currently in full bloom in the estate’s 16 acres of gardens. For more information, go to facebook.com/FiloliEstate/ and on Instagram at @filoli. 

HOME FRONT

_The number of new listings in Palo Alto from the beginning of 2020 through mid-March, when local stay-at-home orders were issued, matched last year’s number for that same period._

Coronavirus crisis reshapes spring real estate market

Limited market data for 2020 before the outbreak underscores the unpredictability of next few months

by Xin Jiang

As with so many other sectors, the coronavirus, the Midpeninsula’s real estate market has been upended by the state’s stay-at-home order in response to the coronavirus crisis. Even if the federal government recently added residential real estate service to the list of “essential services,” the Bay Area’s stay-at-home order greatly affects how that service is provided. It’s also the responsibility of all real estate professionals to act with extreme care to protect the community in which we’re deeply rooted.

Real estate professionals have been ordered by the California Association of Realtors to cease all face-to-face marketing or sales activities.

The entire real estate value chain is affected, as well. Preparations for homes going on the market, particularly the staging of homes, have stopped. Appraisals have been delayed, if not canceled. With a stock market meltdown, financial institutions are caught up with a sudden change in the economic outlook, and some nontraditional lenders, such as private equity and venture capital loan providers, have ceased lending. There are now some homes in limbo: at the end of the escrow/closing process, as most Bay Area counties have stopped in-person recording in favor of e-filing, which not all escrow companies are yet equipped to do.

Looking back year-to-date, we have limited data to show us the direction of the market, and it’s possible that the limited data points may not be relevant anyway. In Palo Alto, there were 133 new listings from the beginning of 2020 through March 14, compared to 134 for the same period last year. Seventy-four homes went into contract, a 13% decline from last year. Among those 74, 41 have officially exchanged hands, and the remaining are still in escrow. The median price of all sold homes from the beginning of the year to March 14 was $3.1 million, a 10% increase from the same period of last year. However, 41 is only about 10% of the usual annual closed transactions. Price information from such a small sample pool does not give any reliable indicators.

From firsthand experience, I can say that the entry-level market (below $3 million) in Palo Alto had been quite active as buyers jumped in early to lock in the low mortgage interest rate. There were a limited number of new listings in Old Palo Alto and Crescent Park, and few testing the off-market at the high end. This high-end pipeline that was skewed toward late spring now faces serious challenges.

We’re beyond the point where data from past downturns can help predict the future of the real estate market.

Based on normal seasonality, the period of March to June accounts for about 35% to 40% of the entire year’s transaction volume. Our local real estate market is likely going to lose its high season this year. No one knows how the market will unfold in the wake of the global health crisis.

Our tech economy seems to be holding on well for now, as most people in that industry can work remotely. Silicon Valley companies are providing critical infrastructure to enable people to work, and children to learn, at home. However, the local tech economy isn’t immune if the nation’s economy falls apart. Compared to what I wrote in my article, “The sky is not falling yet,” for the Weekly’s 2019 Fall Real Estate magazine, the big picture is entirely different now. We’re beyond the point where data from past downturns can help predict the future of the real estate market. When the actual economic damage over time is revealed, the stock market may head further south. Home prices will follow the downturn, even though local home prices are more resilient and supply is at a historic low.

The coronavirus pandemic offers a serious sanity check to all sellers and buyers. When the real estate market resumes, sellers who adjust their expectations swiftly may be better off in assuming there may be a further downside to home prices. For potential sellers, the critical question to ask is whether waiting to sell can be an option if the recovery takes a couple of years. Potential buyers will need to re-assess their purchasing power. They should also be prepared for even lower inventory, as Palo Alto sellers tend to have the patience and ability to wait, whether it’s because of a smaller property tax burden (for residents who have been in their homes a long time) or low-to-zero debt financing. The stickiness is even more so for homes in the high price segment. Now also is a perfect time to remind buyers to plan for the long run. The current shelter-in-place order may have just made many of us realize how quickly we can grow out of our “shelter.” In that sense, market timing is always less important compared with finding the right home.

The coronavirus reminds all of us how closely we are connected globally, regardless of cultures, religions or physical locations. Will the current outbreak stop globalization? Can Silicon Valley continue to be the world innovation center if the attraction of global talents dwindles? Our local housing market will be a byproduct of answers to all those questions.

Xin Jiang is a real estate agent with Compass in Palo Alto. She can be emailed at xin.jiang@compass.com.
The coronavirus outbreak is threatening to affect the accuracy of the 2020 Census. One of the biggest challenges facing the census now is getting the message out, as the coronavirus takes over news headlines. REALTORS® are joining elected officials and advocacy groups in this outreach. "The National Association of REALTORS® has partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau in this endeavor because a complete and accurate count will help guide funding decisions," says Mary Kay Groth, president of the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®.

Federal law sets April 1 as Census Day, the date when the government must try to get as accurate a count of the country's population as possible. As of March 29, 34.1 percent of California households have responded. Nationwide, 34.7 percent of the nation's households have self-responded. Roughly $1.5 trillion is allocated to states and localities annually based off census results to fund roads, public transportation, hospitals, schools and other infrastructure. More specifically, this year's results will influence the allocation of $83.5 billion to Federal Direct Student Loans, $19.3 billion in-person interviews for its surveys. Where feasible, census field workers will contact survey participants by phone to collect the necessary information.

There is a push to get people to respond online, but not everybody has reliable internet. Groth adds that the homeless are at risk of being undercounted in the census, as are minorities and immigrants who fear they would be targeted by federal immigration authorities. It will be even harder to reach them with door-to-door operations scaled back due to the coronavirus.

"The bureau will never ask for bank account or social security numbers, donations or anything on behalf of a federal immigration authority. It will be even harder to reach them with door-to-door operations scaled back due to the coronavirus.

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Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Meily at rmeily@silvar.org.

The Master Bedroom has a Holographic Electric fireplace and a wall-mounted Vizio 4K 55-inch smart TV (Android). A future-proof Cat6A Network cable is installed throughout the entire house. The kitchen features a quartz custom countertop, Samsung Counter-depth Flex Refrigerator, Bosch gas cooktop, Bosch quiet dishwasher, Center Island with seating for four, and large pantry.

The two-car Garage has a finished and painted interior, vertically stacked high-capacity LG washer and dryer, and tankless water heater for kitchen and laundry use. Front, side and back yards are professionally landscaped with LED lights and outlets, a new fence on the right side; and irrigation systems for front and back yards with the necessary information.

Welcome to a Smart Home!

The area was still agricultural after World War II. In the early 1950s housing was developed, as was the Rancho Village Shopping Center at El Camino Real and El Monte Road.

Adjoining Springer Meadows is a neighborhood called Blossom Valley, within which is another neighborhood and park called Varsity Park. The name seems to be related to several streets named for Eastern colleges: Yale Drive, Cornell Drive, Columbia Drive, and Fordham Way and Fordham Court. Fordham Court, although only about a mile from a major thoroughfare in Silicon Valley, is a quiet cul-de-sac.

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1527 FORDHAM COURT, MOUNTAIN VIEW

Like many towns between San Francisco and San Jose, Mountain View began as a stage coach stop. In 1850 the approximate route of today's El Camino Real was designated by the county as the town's major thoroughfare, with a stage stop between Stevens Creek and today's Grant Road. After the railroad arrived, the town's center grew around the station near Castro Street, named for one of the first major property owners, Mariano Castro. The city was incorporated in 1902.

Mountain View being blessed with rich soil and a mild climate, southeast of El Camino Real were orchards, vineyards and farmlands under large landholdings. One property owner was Elias Fulton Springer, born in Missouri in 1831, whose name continues today as Springer Road, Springer Elementary School, and Springer Meadows. The area was still agricultural after World War II. In the early 1950s housing was developed, as was the Rancho Village Shopping Center at El Camino Real and El Monte Road.

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Welcome to a Smart Home!

Please check the Virtual Tour and detailed description of the home's features at RalstonWorks.com

1527 Fordham Court was completely rebuilt in 2016. The Living Area is 2,130 sq. ft.; the Lot is 8,054 sq. ft.; the house includes 4 bedrooms & 2 ½ baths. The living/dining room features an Astra double-sided see-through linear gas fireplace, on the other side of which is an inviting open space that includes a gourmet kitchen, family room area wired with Ethernet, HDMI and audio for 5.1 home theater system with wall-mounted Sony Bravia 4K 65-inch smart TV (Android). A future-proof Cat6A Network cable is installed throughout the entire house. The kitchen features a quartz custom countertop, Samsung Counter-depth Flex Refrigerator, Bosch gas cooktop, Bosch quiet dishwasher, Center Island with seating for four, and large pantry.

The Master Bedroom has a Holographic Electric fireplace and a wall-mounted Vizio 4K 55-inch smart TV (Android). The en-suite Master Bathroom has a Blue Ocean 64-inch Stainless Steel Shower Panel. There are two more bedrooms with full bath, an office that can be a fourth bedroom, and a guest bathroom.

The two-car Garage has a finished and painted interior, vertically stacked high-capacity LG washer and dryer, and tankless water heater for kitchen and laundry use. Front, side and back yards are professionally landscaped with LED lights and outlets, a new fence on the right side; and irrigation systems for front and back yards with the necessary information.

Listing price $2,995,000

Welcome to a Smart Home! through linear gas fireplace, on the other side of which is an inviting open space that includes a gourmet kitchen, family room area wired with Ethernet, HDMI and audio for 5.1 home theater system with wall-mounted Sony Bravia 4K 65-inch smart TV (Android). A future-proof Cat6A Network cable is installed throughout the entire house. The kitchen features a quartz custom countertop, Samsung Counter-depth Flex Refrigerator, Bosch gas cooktop, Bosch quiet dishwasher, Center Island with seating for four, and large pantry.

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