Blood tests may hold key for lifting shutdown

Will they survive?
Struggling small businesses make painful decisions — but hold out hope

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Read up-to-the-minute news on PaloAltoOnline.com

- **Upfront** Volunteers make masks by the thousands Page 8
- **Pulse** A look at this week’s crimes Page 24
- **Spectrum** Community can help businesses survive Page 26
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

Stanford Health Care
550 Broadway
(On Douglas Ave side)
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Open every day
1:00pm–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](http://stanfordhealthcare.org/donatesupplies)

Thank you for your generous donations and for supporting our community.
Virtual Open Houses

In the interests of the health and well-being of both our community and people, DeLeon Realty would like to encourage the use of Virtual Open Houses. If a buyer is interested in seeing a DeLeon listing, we will happily provide a link that includes the following:

- 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.

An Important Announcement on Off-Market Listings

If you would like to sell your home off-market, or “test the waters” before coming on the MLS, please contact Ken DeLeon, the head of the DeLeon Buyer’s Team. Ken and his Buyer’s Team have more qualified buyers than any other agent or team in Silicon Valley. In fact, The DeLeon Team is the #1 real estate team in the United States.*

Under new MLS rules that will be enforced effective May 1st, agents are not permitted to publicly share information about their listings with other brokers unless the property will be on the MLS within 24 hours. Therefore, you could miss out on the perfect buyer and a higher price.

If your home is not listed with another agent and Ken finds a buyer, then your total commission would be only 7%. If your home is already listed with another agent, we will submit our offer through them, and you pay the commission based on your agreement with your listing agent. There is no obligation.

*As ranked by REAL Trends 2019 Team Volume list. Published in the Wall Street Journal in June 2019.

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We are all in this.

But you, dear healthcare worker, you’re really in this.

You’re commuting to work every day.

You’re on the frontlines.

We may share a zip code, but you’re on another planet.

You’re also trying to be like the rest of us.

Figuring out how to homeschool.

Get groceries.

And set up that videoconference with your parents.

You’re living two lives right now.

And you know what that makes you, right?

A superhero.

Our streets may be empty, but our hearts are full.

Thank you.

#SutterStrong
As costs mount, small businesses fight to survive

Independent retailers, service providers confront layoffs, red tape as they wait for shutdown to end

by Gennady Sheyner, Sue Dremann and Lloyd Lee

Georgie Gleim the Jeweler isn’t about to throw in the towel because of the coronavirus. The Palo Alto jewelry store was born amid hard times. “It opened on April Fool’s Day 1931, in the middle of the Depression,” said Georgie Gleim, the company president, whose grandfather Frederick founded the store. Now the business is in its 89th year, and Gleim is determined it will survive whatever comes, even if she and company Vice President Bhuvan Sahney have to run the business’ two stores — Gleim the Jeweler at Stanford Shopping Center and Bizzotto Boutique by Gleim the Jeweler at 540 University Ave. — all by themselves. They are a long way from that point, however. The company still has 17 employees who are being paid and whose health insurance costs are 100% covered. The workers got their full wages during the first two weeks of the stay-at-home order and slightly reduced pay during the second two weeks so that everyone could stay on without hardship. After May 3, the company will reassess what it can do. Gleim and Sahney are taking the biggest cuts. “Georgie and I are not taking salaries,” Sahney said, noting that the welfare of their employees comes first. Small businesses throughout the Midpeninsula are facing painful decisions as they seek to weather the increasingly perilous and complex economic climate. Some prominent businesses and restaurants — including Dan Gordon’s in Palo Alto and Lee’s Comics and Clarke’s Charcoal Broiler in Mountain View — have already folded. Others are bracing for imminent closure. Almost all are seeing mounting financial losses.

To gauge the impact of the (continued on page 20)

**MEDICAL RESEARCH**

**Blood tests boost hope for lifting shutdown**

Stanford now able to process 500 samples daily

by Gennady Sheyner

As the global scientific community races to create tests for COVID-19 and end the public-health shutdown, Stanford University is trying to speed up the production of a newly developed antibody test, which was made available to its health care workers last week.

Launched on April 6, the test produces results in two or three days, according to a news release from Stanford University School of Medicine. Stanford Health Care is able to test 500 samples per day and it is hoping to “scale up quickly.”

Stanford is one of many institutions, academic and commercial, that are working to develop and scale up COVID-19 tests (the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved 34 emergency-use authorizations for COVID-19 diagnostic tests as of Tuesday, according to the agency). Rutgers University in New Jersey on Tuesday received approval from the FDA for a COVID-19 test based on saliva. And Stanford last month developed its first COVID-19 test, which uses a technique called polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to multiply, amplify and analyze DNA samples extracted through nasal swabs. (The virology lab has since doubled its testing capacity from 1,000 to 2,000 per day and it is hoping to “scale up quickly.”)

(continued on page 14)
Everyone is trying to pivot and get creative to survive.

— Judy Kleinberg, president of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, on how local businesses are faring during the pandemic. See story on page 5.
when will Californians emerge from house confinement? What will life look like?

In a road map unveiled Tuesday with top public health officials, Gov. Gavin Newsom said he will not lift his shelter-in-place order until adequate suppression and mitigation measures are in place to prevent future flare-ups. That means tracking down the sick and isolating clusters of new infections, arming hospitals with adequate equipment and setting new guidelines for schools and businesses to reopen.

In short, it might be a while. The governor told reporters not to even ask him about the timeline until hospitalizations and intensive care caseloads begin to drop. To his point, Monday marked California’s deadliest day so far with 71 deaths for a total of 758 lives lost.

“Two weeks, if we see a continued flattening but not yet flatten-
ing, but a decline... ask me then,” Newsom said.

Nearly four weeks in with signs that a state lockdown was slowing the spread of the coronavirus, the governor offered a glimpse of a post-pandemic life in which restaurants and patrons’ temperatures at the door, servers in masks and masks to washers and diners at tables spaced 6 feet apart. And until most of the population is immune to the virus and a vaccine is available, Newsom said, mass gatherings such as music festivals and sporting events are “not in the cards.”

“California is not alone in taking a conditional approach. Despite President Donald Trump’s enthu-
siasm for opening the economy as quickly as possible, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National In-
stitute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that the country is “not there yet.”

What it suggests is that this is not the end of the pandemic, but only the end of its chaotic and deadly beginning.

“This time period we are en-
tering is not about going back to where we were before,” Depart-
ment of Public Health Director Sonia Angell said Tuesday. “It won’t look the same.”

With the number of new cases each day appearing to fall in some pandemic hot spots, calls to reopen the economy have been growing louder.

But the economy is not likely to rebound by executive edict alone. A recent Ipsos poll estimates that 70% of Americans view going to the grocery store as a highly or moderately risky activity. People can only be expected to resume business as-usual usually when they are convinced it is safe to do so.

California’s economic prognosis is already grim. Forecasters at the University of the Pacific project an 18.8% unemployment rate for California in May — up from a 2019 average of just 4%. One-third of the expected job losses are concentrated in the typically low-wage food service sector.

And the state is forecasting a 6.5% drop in tax collections between April and June, which in-
cludes the tax-filing season. Before lifting the lockdown, there is plenty of work to do — and plenty of details to fill in.

The Newsom administration outlined criteria to modify the shelter-in-place order. The state will need to develop the ability to test, track and isolate those who are sick; make sure that hospitals are ready to handle any potential fresh outbreaks; ensure that busi-
nesses are able to operate with new social distancing guidelines; and monitor new cases.

One key: Quashing new infections

How do we defrost the economy while keeping the virus in check? For weeks, public health officials, epidemiologists and economists have been mulling that question. And though spe-
cific plans vary, a consensus has emerged: A massive new public health surveillance system has to be built that will allow public health officials in every county of state to track down, isolate and quarantine new infections before they flare out of control again.

“We have to have the logistics in place to be able to identify small brush fires in the commun-
ity and extinguish them before they become raging wildfires,” said Jeffrey Martin, a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco.

In practice that means, at the very least, there has to be much more testing.

But even as California’s test count climbed to 215,400 tests as of April 13, another 13,200 people were still waiting on re-
sults. On April 4, Newsom an-
ounced a new partnership with University of California, Davis and University of California, San Diego to create “a minimum of five to seven hubs where we have high-throughput.”

One of the hubs is at UC Davis but the state Department of Public Health would not identify other hubs. (continued on page 12)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Reopen California? That’s the toughest phase yet, Newsom says

Governor outlines six-point plan that will guide public health decisions on ending the shutdown

by Ben Christopher and Rachel Becker

PUBLIC HEALTH

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to hear an update on the city’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic; hear a presentation on the city manager’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2021. The meeting will be held virtually at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 20. It will be broadcast on Channel 26 and streamed live on YouTube at youtube.com/c/cityofpaloalto and Midpen Media Center at midpenmedia.org. To join the meeting by Zoom, use the phone number 669-900-6833 and Meeting ID: 362-037-238

COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee will consider adopting a 2.5% increase to the stormwater management fee; approving the Fiscal Year 2021 Water Utility Financial Plan; and retaining existing wastewater rates. The meeting will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21. It will be broadcast on Channel 26 and streamed live on YouTube at youtube.com/cityofpaloalto and Midpen Media Center at midpenmedia.org. To join the meeting by Zoom, use the phone number 669-900-6833 and Meeting ID: 479-101-323.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The school board will vote on final budget assumptions, discuss a homework survey, hear a report on the California Healthy Kids Survey (HKS) results, sunshine articles for teachers’ and classified employee unions’ contracts and discuss a conceptual design for a remodel of the Palo Alto High School Tower Building, among other items. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, at the district office, 25 Churchville Ave. To join the meeting by Zoom, go to https://puaal.zoom.us/j/9497346242 or dial 1 (669) 900-6833 and enter Webinar ID: 949-9734-0242.

When will Newsom lift the lockdown?

The governor announced six requirements his administration will need to meet before he begins easing statewide shelter-in-place restrictions.

Testing and tracking

Are there enough tests to test everyone with symptoms? Are there enough public health workers to investigate every single possible case?

Containment strategies

Is the state ready to contain fresh outbreaks, particularly in high-risk locations such as prisons or senior housing facilities?

Health care capacity

Does the state have enough beds, ventilators and equipment to handle a new outbreak?

New treatments development

Are businesses set up to allow for meet long-term social distancing requirements? Do their employees have the necessary personal protective equipment?

Monitoring

Is the state gathering and processing the right data to know if and when to enact a new shelter-in-place policy?

When Will the Market Return?

Dear Monica: My husband and I moved here in March thinking that we would rent in the short term and buy as soon as feasible. The shut down has changed our timing and we wonder when the market will open again. Any thoughts on this? Nancy G

Dear Nancy: Whenever the Shelter In Place order is lifted, you will see something of a return to a more normal market, but it won’t look like a market you have seen before. There will be more showings but restrictions will continue. Buyers and agents will have to wear masks if they are in a property together. There will not be open houses except by appointment and with all parties signing COVID-19 disclosure forms.

More sales will happen and it remains to be seen if prices are affected by the changes in the economy. There have been some sales during the SIP and prices so far have been stable. It’s good you are renting for a while though because no one knows how it will be in the months ahead.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com; Office: 650-465-9571, COMPASS. Ranked in the Wall St Journal’s 2016, 2017, and 2018 Nationwide list of top 250 Realtors.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

When Will the Market Return?

Dear Monica: Whenever the Shelter In Place order is lifted, you will see something of a return to a more normal market, but it won’t look like a market you have seen before. There will be more showings but restrictions will continue. Buyers and agents will have to wear masks if they are in a property together. There will not be open houses except by appointment and with all parties signing COVID-19 disclosure forms.

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When Julia Curry lays out her fabric to make masks that’ll shield people from the coronavirus, the Menlo Park quilter does it assembly-line-style. In one hour, she can sew six masks; on Wednesday, she completed her 300th.

Curry is one of hundreds of quilters in the Bay Area who are making masks by the thousands to distribute to hospitals, senior centers and their neighbors.

The quilters even have a new meme. It’s a poster of a woman, a la Rosie the Riveter, sitting at a sewing machine and making a mask in front of a quilt-stitched background. “We Can Do It!” the poster proclaims.

Across the nation, the movement has taken off, aided by the American Hospital Association’s call to action through its 100 Million Mask Challenge.

Local mask makers range from individuals who have found inspiration and patterns on the internet to quilting guilds of hundreds of sewers. It’s a good thing to do while under the stay-at-home order and gives a sense of accomplishing something, said Curry, who is outreach chairwoman of the 140-member Peninsula Quilters Guild, an organization that spans from San Francisco to Santa Clara counties.

It’s typical of quilters’ behavior. When there’s a disaster, we turn to our sewing machines,” she said, recalling recent efforts to make quilts for fire victims. “When things get tough, we get sewing.”

‘Elastic has become the new toilet paper.’
— Eileen Wall, quilter, Palo Alto

Jena Walter, the guild’s president, said she and a couple of members started making masks before the stay-at-home order. They have since donated 550 masks to the field hospital at the San Mateo County Convention Center, whose workers don’t require N95 masks.

The guild also has partnered with the nonprofit organization My New Red Shoes, for whom some quilters were already making cloth bags for new shoes for needy children before the coronavirus outbreak. Then the organization asked for masks to distribute to hospitals and other health care providers, and the quilters switched gears.

The guild also has distributed thousands of masks to other organizations, such as the nonprofit Samaritan House, which provides safety-net services; to a San Francisco homeless shelter; and to breast cancer survivors, Walter said.

The massive sewing effort has run into problems that have forced quilters to become creative: Bendable nose pieces and elastic for fastening the masks are hard to find during the shutdown.

“Elastic has become the new toilet paper,” said Palo Alto Eileen Wall, an Evergreen Park resident who makes masks for people in her neighborhood and for veterinarians.

Some people are using fabric ties and shoelaces as fasteners.

To create the mask’s nose piece, which seals the gap around the bridge of the nose, Walter has used coffee bag clips, floral wire and aluminum craft wire.

“The clips on coffee bags are perfect. You can get two of them out of each one,” she said.

No one is dictating the designs. There are patterns and sizes for men, women and children, and each is equally effective, although some are more complicated than others, she said. Some sewers add a pocket into which the mask wearer can insert disposable filters, such as paper towels or other fabric, for additional protection. The fabric masks themselves can be washed and reused, Walter said.

Midtown Palo Alto resident Connie Butner, who teaches classes through her business Let’s Go Crafting, said she’s posted an online tutorial to show people how to sew masks.

Butner started making masks after two of her students’ mothers requested masks for their depart- ments at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara and Fremont. Butner now has a container at her home at 3331 Vernon Terrace into which people have been dropping off the masks they have made. So far, she’s distributed 200 masks to Kaiser in Santa Clara, the Palo Alto VA Healthcare System, the nonprofit organization Blossom Birth Services and a group of physical therapists who go to the homes of seniors and people with disabilities.

Most of the recipients have contacted her with requests, she said. She also has sent out notifications on Nextdoor, Facebook and through a Palo Alto mothers group. “As fast as they come in, they go out,” she said.

Butner cranks out about 10 masks a day, depending on how much she has to help her children with their homework, she said.

Retired residents have gotten into the act. Wall, a longtime sewer and quilter, jumped in after a friend
Dear Reader:

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

But like so many other local businesses, we are struggling to cope with the current health and economic crisis.

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

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For as little as $5 a month, you can join thousands of others in showing your support of local journalism and the role it plays in our community.

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

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

Bill Johnson
Publisher
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• DONATE TO LOCAL CHARITIES • ENCOURAGE FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME

Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce
The voice for business

Check our website for timely resources and links
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#PaloAltoProud
After pressure from Stanford students, faculty and alumni concerned about contracted service workers who were laid off during the campus shutdown, the university announced Tuesday that it would work with contract firms to maintain workers’ pay and benefits through June 15.

Stanford said in March that it would not be paying workers employed by independent contractors, a stance that contrasted with its position toward the university’s regular employees, whom Stanford is continuing to pay.

Contracted workers include janitors and cooks in campus cafes and residences, among others. The university’s decision sought to “minimize impacts to our regular workforce to the greatest extent possible” as the university faces a “serious financial challenge” due to the coronavirus.

On Tuesday, however, university leaders said they will work with contract firms, including UO2, which provides janitorial services, and Student Organized Services, which employs cooks in the kitchens of campus sorority and fraternity houses, to continue compensation. Other contract firms employ staff who provide child care, cleaning and sanitation, security, and transit services at Stanford.

“With Stanford resources and the resources offered by the government, these firms will be supported in maintaining income and benefits for these employees through June 15,” Provost Persis Drell and Vice President for Human Resources Elizabeth Zacharias wrote in an announcement.

This marked a victory for the grassroots advocacy campaign led by students pushing their university to support low-wage workers for whom the sudden job loss meant difficulty paying rent and putting food on the table. But the students are still pressing for more details about what exactly Stanford’s statement will mean for workers and have requested a meeting with the administration to discuss it further.

“It is unclear what concrete commitment Stanford is making to contracted workers through their promise of ‘support,’ which might mean anything from assisting contracted workers in applications for federal benefits to actually extending them pay continuity,” said Ethan Chua, a student organizer with Stanford Students for Workers’ Rights. “The announcement still does not address Students for Workers’ Rights’ demand for the extension of two weeks’ paid sick leave to all Stanford workers; neither does it specify whether contracted workers will be receiving compensation for pay they’ve already lost through layoffs that began in early March.”

Estela Diaz has worked as a prep cook at Arbuckle Cafe at the Graduate School of Business for 20 years as a contractor through Bon Appetit Management Company. She was among the hourly and salaried employees the Palo Alto company put on temporary unpaid leave starting in mid-March as campus dining services were significantly scaled back. Bon Appetit said it would continue their health insurance and other benefits.

Diaz, who lives paycheck to paycheck in Mountain View, said in an interview that the cafe employees were originally told they could use vacation and sick days while they were out of work. But they had accumulated so many, rarely taking a day off, that her manager said the company couldn’t afford to provide that pay in case it would affect the reopening of the cafe.

Unable to pay her April rent, Diaz leaned on her daughter for a loan. She quickly filed for unemployment.

Diaz said she felt “disappointing” by the institution she has worked at for two decades.

“Es un injusticia,” she said in Spanish. “It’s an injustice.”

“I am very sad,” she added. “It makes me want to cry.”

Diaz was not immediately available for comment on the latest announcement from Stanford. Stanford Students for Workers’ Rights launched its first petition in early March, concerned that service workers would be most vulnerable to the effects of a campus closure. They escalated their effort as they found out more workers were losing their jobs, using Twitter to bring famous alumni’s attention to their cause and pointing to other major U.S. universities that were paying all workers, including contracted employees, while their campuses were closed. The students raised more than $200,000 in emergency funds for workers through GoFundMe campaigns.

A group of about 100 faculty members signed a letter urging the university to support subcontracted workers and to “recognize, in meaningful and material ways, the people whose labor is fundamental to sustaining the university.” They pledged to donate each month a portion of their salaries to laid-off workers.

On Monday, the Service Employees International Union-United Service Workers also called on Stanford to continue pay and benefits into the summer for at least 100 full-time union-represented food service and janitorial workers who lost their jobs in March.

Stanford confirmed it will extend pay continuation for all regular employees, including those who are represented by a union, through June 15, Drell and Zacharias said Tuesday.

The university will reach out to businesses who rent space on campus, such as the Bike Shop and the Bookstore, to see if they need help accessing federal loans and “what Stanford can do to help...”

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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 $199, 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.

And a huge “thank you” to all the good neighbors in Palo Alto doing their best to shelter in place.

Submit entries at PaloAltoOnline.com/local_hero/

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SAMPLE AD

LOCAL HERO

Bruce Gee

Bruce cannot say no. He is very involved in the Palo Alto community. He is on the board of the Palo Alto Community Fund and the Palo Alto Rotary Club. When asked he always says yes — “I CAN DO IT.” He gets it done in record time always with a big smile.

Submitted by: Roger Smith
While health care professionals are tending to the sick, mobile mechanics are tending to their cars

Mountain View startup offers repair service in Palo Alto aimed at those on the front line

by Linda Taaffe

During the heavy rains earlier this month, Issaic Ruth was more than a bit nervous driving his usual commute from East Palo Alto to Palo Alto when he discovered that his windshield wipers weren’t working very well. But replacing those worn-out wipers wasn’t going to be as easy as it once was. As a health care worker for those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, Ruth has had to limit his routine to home and work to curb his possible exposure to the disease. This means he doesn’t do anything that can’t be done in either of those two places — including picking up new windshield wipers. And so he continued to make the trip between his home and work despite the danger.

That changed on Thursday, Ruth was the first person in Palo Alto to receive a free car tuneup through a new program launched by Mountain View startup YourMechanic.com to make sure local health care workers have access to services that are also impacted by the pandemic’s impact on local business.

“Have you had to go to work in your car?” Ruth was asked.

“No,” he said. “It’s just that our patients have been infected with the novel coronavirus and our work has been on the front line of treating those infected.”

Ruth was thrilled: He had his oil changed and received a free car tuneup through a program sponsored by YourMechanic.com.

Thousands of health care workers have been infected with the novel coronavirus and they’ve kind of risen to that occasion, so everyone at our company is working harder to try to make health care work a little easier than usual,” said Valerie Demicheva, who helped start the program in Palo Alto after discovering local health care workers’ predicaments.

“YourMechanic.com will come to the health care workers’ workplaces and homes to fix their cars,” Demicheva said.

As part of the company’s routine maintenance, maintenance, like an oil change, with about 50 independent mechanics throughout the Bay Area, the company has primarily promoted their special health care worker program through word of mouth.

While health precautions in place locally, “It’s very hard to reach people these days. You can’t just walk into a hospital,” she said. “The company is reaching out facility by facility through the people they know.

The program officially launched this week with three health care workers who were the first customers to sign up for the program. Each one of those health care workers was paired with a mechanic, who will come on-site.

All payments are made through Facebook groups for the disease. Residents, schools, cities, businesses, nonprofits, arts groups, etc., please go to tinyurl.com/MidpenCorona.

READ MORE ONLINE
PaloAltoOnline.com

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 tinyurl.com/MidpenCorona.

(business)

(hubs or how many tests they’re running.

Parts of California remain desperately short of testing supplies — such as Placer County, home to the first person to die of the novel coronavirus in the state.

Even if adequate testing shows the rate of new cases slowing, the task of limiting new infections will continue. That requires gathering, analyzing and sharing vast quantities of testing data. It will also mean identifying new infections as soon as they occur, figuring out a way to isolate the new infections, and identifying and quarantining their recent contacts.

There are different ways to accomplish all of this, and none are easy. Madera County, for instance, typically has two to three people to investigate potential exposures to infectious diseases like tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections.

But with the coronavirus pandemic, the county has leaned on sheriff’s deputies and probation investigators to bolster their team.

In South Korea, citizens who have been infected have been required to download an app that tracks where they’ve been and who they might have infected. In their pandemic recovery report, researchers at the Center for American Progress recommend that the United States develop some version of the app. But they acknowledge that a more “civil liberties-sensitive solution” would have to be adopted.

Apple and Google recently announced plans to develop a similar contact tracing system that uses the Bluetooth on people’s phones to track when people get close to one another. The idea is that public health officials could use this data to track potential contacts via their own apps.

But between the potential for false positives and concerns about privacy, it seems unlikely an app can replace the people needed to do the work.

“App or no app, the vital work needs to be done by trained public health professionals at the local level who are trained in privacy concerns and who conduct thorough and confidential contact investigations,” said Kat DeBurgh, executive director of the Health Officers Association of California.

On Thursday, Newsom agreed. While the state is working at home and there’s nothing really going on, so they’ve been more vigilant about taking this time to see what needs to get done around the house and to their car,” he said.

Health care workers interested in receiving free services can email amy@yourmechanic.com. ■

Associate Editor Linda Taaffe can be emailed at ltaaffe@paweweekly.com.

Resources

Kaiser Permanente mask instructions: tinyurl.com/wolgpdz

Let’s Go Crafting tutorial video: youtube.com/3GM5sqSNuWw Or go to YouTube.com and search for “Let’s Go Crafting” and click on “videos”

Peninsula Quilters:

Sierra Friends

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 tinyurl.com/MidpenCorona.

READ MORE ONLINE
PaloAltoOnline.com

Peninsula Quilters

Quilting instructions:

national Mask Challenge:

10 Million Masks.org

U.S. Centers for Disease Control Mask guidelines: tinyurl.com/uXPhV2

Masks

Who owns a veterinary hospital said they could not get any masks. Wall figured other animal hospitals might be in need, so she reached out to them as well.

“They were quite grateful,” she said.

Quilting cotton, without batting, is the preferred material for masks because of its dense weave, which helps keep out droplets of moisture, Wall said. She has made about 150 masks and on average makes about eight a day with a maximum output of 20, she said.

Not all patterns are the same. Kaiser Permanente has posted a pattern for mask making that is currug and goes up over the nose and around the face. Some people like the “Fui” mask, a flat, smooth mask without pleats that covers the nose and entire jawline.

Walls considers the potential recipient when she’s choosing the design.

Walls also gives away masks to her neighbors by posting on NextDoor. She puts two masks each in plastic bags and leaves them in a box on her porch. After a recent post, the masks were snaped up within hours. In return for her generosity, people leave nice cards and even a box of tea, she said.

Walter, a former psychotherapist, said that quilting has been a good way for people to use the isolation of the shelter order productively.

“It’s an introvert’s heaven, just to stay at home and work on something that is helping people,” she said. "One of the biggest problems is fear, and this is a great antidote for powerlessness." Staff Writer Sue Drennan can be emailed at sdremann@paweweekly.com.

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4015 Arbol Dr, Palo Alto

4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,086 Sq Ft | 8,184 Lot Size | $3,799,888

Providing a Concierge Experience Like No Other

This is it! Step inside and enjoy this lovely light-filled Barron Park home! Built in 2000, this home offers tall ceilings, recessed lighting, refinished American Cherry wood floors, a chef's kitchen with Viking appliances and granite countertops, an upstairs and downstairs laundry, additional bonus rooms for gym and artist's studio, and treetops out every window! With its corner lot location, wrap-around porch, mature trees and garden/vegetable boxes, it provides both a front yard and backyard oasis. Residents attribute the rural feel of Barron Park to the sidewalk-less streets, native plants and somewhat secluded community. The immediate neighborhood is home to two creeks, two parks, and four top rated Palo Alto public schools- Barron Park Elementary, Juana Briones Elementary, Terman Middle School and Gunn High School.

Adriana Trenev
Realtor®
650.383.5697
DRE 01893246
Antibody (continued from page 5)

Commercial companies such as Abbott Laboratories and Cepheid also have developed PCR tests, for which they received FDA approval. Stanford’s newly unveiled serological test detects two types of antibody molecules: immunoglobulin M (IgM), which helps disable the virus and then vanishes from the bloodstream several weeks later, and immunoglobulin G (IgG), which develops later in the infection process and remains in the body for far longer, providing immunity. Unlike the PCR test, which measures whether someone currently has the virus, the antibody test also determines whether someone has had COVID-19 in the past.

The serological test that Stanford is providing for its health care workers is different from the test that Stanford researchers administered to thousands of volunteers earlier this month at three sites in different parts of Santa Clara County. That study, which aims to gauge the prevalence of virus infections in the county, is led by Eran Bendavid, an associate professor of medicine at Stanford.

Bendavid said the tests that his project was using came from Premier Biotech, a Minnesota-based drug testing company. The tests, he said, can return results very quickly. “The upside of these is that they’re very inexpensive and very easy to use and you get results within 15 minutes,” Bendavid said. “The downside is that they are maybe somewhat less precise than the laboratory-based tests. For the purposes of what we have done — for trying to get a sense of prevalence of antibodies to coronavirus in our community — they are perfect.” Bendavid said the tests some-
Exposed.

porting those who are positive or contact tracing, isolating and sup-
our communities through testing, “ability to monitor and protect order. The first indicator is the getting out of the stay-at-home list of six critical indicators for
Gov. Gavin Newsom released a Tuesday afternoon, California economic shutdown and relax-
sary precondition for ending the testing is widely seen as a neces-

Maldonado said. The ability to ramp up accurate testing is widely seen as a neces-
sary preconditions for ending the economic shutdown and relaxing social-distancing orders. On Tuesday afternoon, California Gov. Gavin Newsom released a list of six critical indicators for getting out of the stay-at-home order. The first indicator is the “ability to monitor and protect our communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating and sup-
porting those who are positive or exposed.”

Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state’s Health and Human Services sec-

ter, expressed confidence on Tuesday that testing is ramping up and said the numbers are “en-
couraging.” Though he said he doesn’t have a specific target for how many tests should be avail-
able before the shelter-at-home order is lifted, Ghaly said that with serological tests now gain-
ing approval, California will be able to test “tens of thousands” of people daily. He also said the state is planning to greatly ex-
pand the number of community testing sites, as well as the range of people who can request tests.

We are beginning to move beyond just having tests avail-
able for the sickest people within hospitals, for health care workers as well as front-line workers. … to have community testing for those who may be early with their symptoms or may have been expos-
ed to somebody who is either asymptomatic or tested positive.”

Ghaly said.

The state’s COVID-19 Testing Task Force credits Stanford Medi-
cine on its website for launching the first serology test invented in California. But even despite efforts by Stanford and others, testing re-
mains a source of frustration in Santa Clara County, where 15,529 patients have been tested for CO-
VID-19 as of April 13, according to county data, with 1,666 test-
ing positive. It still takes more than two days, on average, to get a result, according to the county. Both locally and statewide, labs have reported huge backups of tests, though Newsom cited some progress on that front Tues-
day, noting that the backlog has dropped from 59,500 in the begin-
gning of April to about 13,200 as of April 13. The state has con-
ducted about 215,400 tests as of April 13, with 23,338 people test-
ing positive, according to state data.

In addition to boosting the num-
ber of tests, researchers at Stan-
ford also are trying to improve reliability. Dr. Thomas Montine, chair of the pathology department at Stanford, in the news release described existing commercial tests from around the world as “uncertain and variable.”

According to Stanford Medi-
cine, the university’s team had been working on the test since March 22. Led by Dr. Scott Boyd, associate professor of pathol-
ogy, the team validated the new test using samples from patients who tested positive for the virus through Stanford’s initial PCR test, which relies on DNA analy-
sis, and plasma samples that were known to be negative because they were collected more than two years ago.

Montine said in the news re-
lease that the university has suf-
icient inventory to run tests for about 3% for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. Yes: Unanimous

Climate change: The council approved a sustainability implementation plan for 2020 and 2021. Yes: Unanimous

Utilities Advisory Commission (April 15)

Electric rates: The commission supported a staff recommendation to raise electric rates by 2% for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. Yes: Unanimous

Gas rates: The commission supported a staff recommendation to raise gas rates by 3% for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. Yes: Unanimous

Gas rates: The council supported a staff recommendation to leave the wastewater rate unchanged in the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. Yes: Unanimous

Architectural Review Board (April 16)

620 Emerson St.: The board supported a proposal to amend a previously approved expansion of Nobu Restaurant. Yes: Baltay, Hirsch, Lew, Thompson Absent: Lee.
FEW VEGGIES ARE IN STOCK. They are hard to get, but are open daily. We get deliveries. Don’t panic!

We have relocated some students into different residences to support their safety and maintain social distancing guidelines,” spokesperson E.J. Miranda wrote in an email. “Stanford is currently evaluating how to best utilize other available campus resources for self-isolation spaces and housing for first responders and health care professionals. We continue to work with our public health leaders on the best ways to support regional needs.”

Students’ belongings will be packed and stored on campus by professional movers, with the option to be shipped to students, Hicks said.

The campus remains closed with classes running online for spring quarter. Summer courses will also be online only, and there will be no on-campus residential programs this summer, including for local youth. (Undergraduate students, who have been approved to live on campus for the spring quarter will be able to request to stay for the summer, Provost Persis Drell said recently.)

—Elena Kadvany

City may ban cars on some streets

In an effort to slow the spread of the virus, city leaders have announced plans to close some streets to traffic. The proposal was fueled by recent reports, both in Palo Alto and elsewhere, of drivers taking advantage of empty roads by speeding through the city.

Kamhi said the increase in driver speeds is a trend that can be seen throughout the Bay Area. He noted that Oakland used that as one of the justifications for its street-closure program, known as Oakland Slow Streets.

The ambitious Oakland program, which was launched last week-end, closed off all existing neighborhood bike routes to through traffic to promote safety and make it easier for people to maintain social distance when exercising outside. Those segments account for about 10% of all of the city’s streets.

While it wasn’t immediately clear whether Palo Alto’s program will be as ambitious, Kamhi said in an email that the city will be looking at its existing and planned bike boulevard network, similar to Oakland Slow Streets.

City falls short of climate goals

Palo Alto is looking to close some streets to traffic, city Chief Transportation Official Kamhi said Monday.

In doing so, it is preparing to follow the lead of Oakland, Denver and Minneapolis — cities that have closed some of their streets to cars and allowed pedestrians and bicyclists to take over. Kamhi said he plans to bring forward a proposal for closing streets in the near future, though he did not specify on Monday which streets would be closed or when the determination would be made.

The proposal was fueled by recent reports, both in Palo Alto and elsewhere, of drivers taking advantage of empty roads by speeding through the city.

The city has curbed emissions by only about 36%, with the vast majority of the decrease attributed to the city’s shift to “carbon neutral” electricity in 2013. Despite the progress, residents maintained that the proposed steps are insufficient to meet the goal, which requires the city to reduce its carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, with 1990 as the baseline. The council adopted the goal — known as 90/30 — in 2016 and has since taken some steps to advance it, including raising the energy efficiency standards in new buildings.

The criticism came as the City Council unanimously adopted a two-year plan aimed at getting the city closer to its goal of cutting carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, with 1990 as the baseline. The council had adopted the goal — known as 90/30 — in 2016 and has since taken some steps to advance it, including raising the energy efficiency standards in new buildings, retiring the sewage-burning power plants and making efficiency improvements in existing buildings.

The proposal was fueled by recent reports, both in Palo Alto and elsewhere, of drivers taking advantage of empty roads by speeding through the city.

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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.

We are in this together. We will get through this together.

#ApartTogetherSCC
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

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

FACEBOOK
Visit our Facebook https://bit.ly/2Wsg0zM
the Midpeninsula several days a week.

“The calls I’m getting are from pet owners who are isolated at home with pre-existing conditions that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19,” said Salem, who pivoted from a career in the corporate world to the pet transportation industry after her own cat was diagnosed with lymphoma and required multiple trips to the vet. “Prior to the shelter-in-place orders, many of our customers were working with us to shuttle their pets to and from the vet for non-emergency care. Now, it’s mostly all emergency care.”

Over the past couple of weeks, Salem has ferried an assortment of pets, including a 10-pound pup whose owner recently underwent heart surgery and is unable to leave the house for any reason.

Salem said each animal delivery requires a lengthy list of precautionary measures that begin before any of the company’s six employees even pick up a pet at a client’s home.

“The precautions we’re taking are similar to the same protocols as paramedics,” said Salem, whose lead medical assistant, a paramedic, designed the pet cab interiors with features like portable stairs and secured oxygen tanks and developed safety protocols using best practices from human emergency-medical-transport standards.

During the coronavirus crisis, the company has been looking to the American Veterinary Medical Association and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stay updated on proper safety measures.

“We treat every case as if the dog or cat has COVID viral exposure on its fur,” she said.

Before she and her vet tech board the cabs, they are required to put on gloves, a mask, safety glasses and gowns — a process she calls “garbing up.”

The back of the van is prepared with a disposable and waterproof tarp on which the pet carrier is placed.

Pet owners also are sent a list of safety guidelines that must be followed, including bathing their pet prior to pickup using a variety of methods recommended by Salem’s 360 Pet Cab.

“This can be the tough part. Some cats can tolerate baths, but some cats can’t,” Salem explained. “We give them a protocol on how to wipe them down with some soap and then remove it later.”

If the pet is in complete distress, and it’s an emergency, Salem makes an exception to the particular guideline.

When the shuttle arrives for pickup, the animal must be in a crate outside the house so that the Pet Cab driver and accompanying vet tech don’t have any contact with the owner, Salem said.

“We want to make sure that everybody’s protected,” she said. “We don’t want the virus to transfer to us or be on a surface in our van that spreads to the vet, so we’re always working with that.”

After each transport, Pet Cab brings the vans back to the dispatch center in San Jose for a deep-cleaning that starts in the interior with alcohol wipes, followed by vacuuming, followed by a hot-water-and-bleach cleanse and ventilation. Each two-person shuttle team discards their soiled gowns in a bag, and when the next call comes in, the process starts all over again.

Salem said the extensive, and sometimes exhausting, cleaning routine hasn’t been the biggest change in her business over the past few weeks.

She said the need for the delivery of prescription pet food, flea medication and other medicines has skyrocketed. Most of her business is now centered around deliveries. Salem said she makes at least three trips a week to pick up prescription items in the Palo Alto area.

“There’s a lot of people who are isolated at home and they want (pet) prescription deliveries, which I never had requests for until now,” she said.

“I’m just like DoorDash. I literally drop off items at the door and leave.”

Salem said prescription items are sometimes difficult to order online from sites like Amazon or Chewy. Because she has a partnership with Adobe Animal Hospital in Los Altos and Sage Veterinary Centers in Redwood City, she can pick up prescriptions for clients of those clinics and deliver the items the same day.

“Since COVID hit, a lot of people don’t want to leave their house. They’re scared,” said Salem, who also is concerned about possibly being exposed to the virus. Salem said she finds herself concentrating on things that she typically wouldn’t give much thought to, like not touching her face or taking off her shoes before she goes into her home.

Despite the unexpected adjustments, Salem said she believes her business will come out of this crisis stronger. She’s already working on a business plan to provide virtual check-ins with clients and plans to continue making prescription pickups.

“One of the things we’re giving them is peace of mind,” said Associate Editor Linda Taaffe at luaffe@paweekly.com. Read more stories at PaloAltoOnline.Atauist.com. Workers

(continued from page 11)

them until their on-campus operations can resume,” they said.

Stanford also is creating a grant program to support Stanford employees who are facing financial hardships due to the pandemic, including people who “work in certain contingent roles that are not eligible for pay continuation,” Drell and Zacharias wrote. People will be able to donate to the grant program.

Drell announced earlier this month several steps the university is taking to address “significant” revenue loss due to the coronavirus, including freezing faculty and staff salaries, pausing hiring, suspending capital projects and pulling back on discretionary spending. Drell and President Marc Tessier-Lavigne are also taking 20% pay cuts and have asked senior university leaders to voluntarily take 5-10% salary reductions.

“We expect additional, difficult steps will be needed in the coming months,” Drell and Zacharias wrote this week. “We intend to make those decisions thoughtful-ly, in a way that supports our community to the greatest extent pos-sible and that positions Stanford for an effective recovery from this downturn.”

Staff Writer Elena Kadavy can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.
economic shutdown, the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce this week sent out a survey to local businesses, said Judy Kleinberg, president of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce. Of the roughly 50 responses it received by Thursday morning, 58% said they would definitely reopen after the shutdown, while 11% said they will open but not at the same level of service. Another 12% said there is a “significant likelihood” they will not reopen based on financial projections, Kleinberg said. (The remaining 18% were undecided.)

The survey also underscored the staggering costs of the shutdown. About 24% of the respondents said they are losing more than $200,000 every month, while 22% said they are losing between $50,000 and $200,000.

Even though those businesses deemed “essential” are reporting heavy losses, Kleinberg said. One reported that current sales “are not enough to protect our business.” “Everyone is trying to pivot and get creative to survive,” Kleinberg said. “Some will be able to pivot and get creative but others will not.”

Palo Alto City Councilman Greg Tanaka said he has reached out to various businesses just to see if they’ll be coming back after the shutdown. His daughter’s favorite boba tea store, he said, is among those that have indicated they’re done for good.

“Phew, a lot of people like that who are getting wiped out — totally wiped out financially, personally, from this catastrophe,” Tanaka said during the council’s April 13 meeting.

Some small businesses are burning through their savings to stay afloat, with hope that the economic shutdown will end soon. A stay afloat, with hope that the economic shutdown will end soon. A stay afloat, with hope that the economic shutdown will end soon. A stay afloat, with hope that the economic shutdown will end soon. A stay afloat, with hope that the economic shutdown will end soon.

For example, it’s a devastating choice.”

“The outbreak has left few, if any, owners unscathed,” the report states.

To get through the economic crisis, business owners have had to lay off staff, shift operations from the brick-and-mortar world to a virtual one and navigate a complex, glitchy and rapidly evolving bureaucracy of grants, loans and tax breaks. Those businesses not deemed “essential” are bracing for months of revenue losses.

Michael Dorricott, owner of the Alma Street gym Training Space in downtown Palo Alto, had to cease operations in mid-March and lay off all 10 staff members. Like many other businesses, his gym is banking on virtual offerings and wondering when the shutdown will end.

“We got a slow leak essentially, and I don’t know how long that is going to last,” he said.

The pandemic hit at a time when the gym was making “record-breaking industry revenue,” Dorricott said, to the tune of $120,000 per month. He noted, however, that the gym also has some of the highest costs for a gym of its size, with monthly rent of more than $30,000 as well as labor expenses. He said he has been fortunate that his landlord has allowed him to pay only one-third of his usual rent since the shutdown started.

“We are now down to four trainers who are only getting paid for the hours that they’re doing online sessions, he said. Training Space also made a decision last week to start offering online classes to the community for free, though it is accepting donations from those who can make a contribution.

“We want to support the community because we know a lot of people have lost their jobs,” Dorricott said.

Anna Chow, owner of Menlo Park’s Cheeky Monkey Toys, also has had to be nimble to remain in business during the pandemic. When all nonessential businesses were ordered to close in March, Cheeky Monkey Toys quickly pivoted to a direct delivery-only service, dropping off toys within a 10-mile radius of the store.

Under San Mateo County’s shelter-in-place order, an essential business includes “businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences,” a definition that allowed Chow to continue to sell toys.

Right now, she said, the store gets a daily average of 20 to 25 orders and is able to make most deliveries within a business day.

The pandemic has evidently changed many habits, including the types of toys people play with. She has been trying to keep up with recent demands of puzzles, games, children’s learning tools and sidewalk chalk.

While Chow now limits hours for remote orders to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday, she hasn’t laid off any of her nine full-time and six part-time employees, some of whom are in the store fulfilling orders while others are working at home. Nor did she reduce any of their health benefits.

“One thing about being small business is your employees are your family — a lot of them have been with us five to 10 years,” Chow, 30, said. “I feel like, as an employer, I have an obligation to keep them going.”

But that commitment can’t last. Looking at her bank account, Chow predicts she has two weeks before she’ll have to reduce pay — or worse, lay off any employees and shut down the business.

She saved some money from rent; her landlord reduced it by a third for April and May. But she’ll have to pay it all back come Sept. 30.

Vying for federal funds, waiting for answers

As the pandemic stretches on, many small businesses are hoping to benefit from government programs that were launched to deal with the unprecedented economic stall out. The most ambitious of these is the Paycheck Protection Program, which was included in the $2.2-trillion package that the U.S. Congress passed on March 27. The $355-billion federal program allows small-business loans of up to $10 million, provided that at least 75% of these loan benefits are devoted to payroll. The program also includes provisions for loan forgiveness if the business quickly rehires employees and maintains salary levels.

Many businesses were also told they can tap into the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, which was created to quickly distribute loans of $100,000 to businesses. The program also allowed some businesses to take out low-interest loans of up to $2 million.

Neither program, however, has rolled out as planned. The National Federation of Independent Businesses reported that about half of small businesses that applied for the disaster-relief program. Just 4% had been approved and 1% were not approved. No one had received one, NFIB reported for the Paycheck Protection Program, she was instructed by her bank, Wells Fargo, to get in a queue to submit an application.

“The first day that became available, we had 2,594 callers ahead of me,” Chow said. “I stayed on the line for about an hour, and I moved up 50 spots.”

For the Payment Protection Program, every bank has been a free, though it is accepting donations from those who can make a contribution. (The remaining 18% were undecided.)

Even through those businesses deemed “essential” are reporting heavy losses, Kleinberg said. One reported that current sales “are not enough to protect our business.” “Everyone is trying to pivot and get creative to survive,” Kleinberg said. “Some will be able to pivot and get creative but others will not.”

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Some small businesses are burning through their savings to stay afloat, with hope that the economic shutdown will end soon. A March 30 survey by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, a group that advocates for small businesses, indicated that about half of small employers said they can survive for no more than two months, while one-third believe they can maintain operations for between three to six months.

“Our breakthrough has left few, if any, owners unscathed,” the report states.

To get through the economic crisis, business owners have had to lay off staff, shift operations from the brick-and-mortar world to a virtual one and navigate a complex, glitchy and rapidly evolving bureaucracy of grants, loans and tax breaks. Those businesses not deemed “essential” are bracing for months of revenue losses.

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that will be administered through the Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Blank).

County supervisors and city councils along the Midpeninsula also have taken action to support small businesses, including banning evictions of both commercial and residential tenants during the emergency. Mountain View went a step further in late March by providing $400,000 in city funds to provide direct relief for small businesses, money that was matched by a $400,000 contribution from Google.

Palo Alto also is exploring ways to help local businesses, though it’s not yet clear what form the assistance would take. The City Council directed staff earlier this month to convene a roundtable of business owners and to explore a relief program that may include forgiveness of utility bills. Several council members, including Liz Knis and Alison Cormack, expressed reservations about providing direct loans to businesses, a program that Knis argued would be difficult for the city to administer.

Private companies and foundations also are trying to help. Georgie Gleim is one of many business owners trying to obtain loans and grants from programs such as Facebook’s $100 million Small Business Grants Program, $40 million of which will be distributed to small businesses the city to administer.

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation has partnered with the Mountain View effort known as the Small Business Relief Fund, specifically targets self-employed individuals and small businesses, according to the foundation’s website. The Los Altos Community Foundation has partnered with Mountain View on an effort known as #TogetherMV, a fund devoted to raising money that would be distributed to small businesses and residents in financial distress because of the pandemic.

Palo Alto council members also are talking about launching a program that would allow the community to directly assist small businesses. Vice Mayor Tom DuBois said at the April 6 council meeting that he believes local companies and residents will do their part to help small businesses survive.

And like other businesses, Gleim the Jeweler is planning for the post-pandemic future. Right now, the business could take advantage of a moratorium on insurance. Sahney said, but he and Gleim are paying as much as they can so they won’t face the same bill when they reopen. They also don’t want to be part of a chain reaction causing other business failures.

“We’re not hoarding cash. We feel it’s very important to keep our part of the economy going,” he said.

Sahney said there are two schools of thought about what will happen when the economy reopens. One is that businesses will thrive because of pent-up demand; the second is that people will still be reluctant to shop out of fear or lost income.

Sahney believes the reality will fall somewhere in between. In preparing a plan for reopening, he and Gleim are weighing whether to have limited hours or a full schedule and ways to phase in the business.

Perhaps surprisingly, Sahney said that jewelry isn’t a high-profit business given the competition from online sellers. Gleim is hoping that people will remember the relationships they’ve had with her business and staff when it comes time to reopen. The stores allow people to come in and examine a diamond, to touch and feel and try on a ring or a bracelet. They provide human interaction that customers want, she said.

Fortunately, the jewelry business has another advantage for weathering the shutdown that some other stores don’t, Sahney said. “Unlike food, our inventory doesn’t go bad. We can relaunch things; there’s no shelf life to it,” he said.

Dorricott also believes his gym will withstand the current challenges and rebound after the pandemic.

“Absolutely!” he was quick to respond when asked about surviving the economic shutdown.

He acknowledged, however, that things may be different for a while. “I’m not sure we’re going to hire back staff at all until we are fully profitable again,” Dorricott said.

Neither he nor anyone else really knows when that will be. But he does predict that the virtual gym he is creating now, where members interact with trainers and free classes are offered, will likely remain in place even when the physical one reopens.

While the initiative is brand new, early feedback has been encouraging. The business has received $1,100 in donations in the first week, and Dorricott said he has a goal to hit revenues of $20,000 through online offerings.

“We’re going to continue to try to make that better and better,” he said.

For Chow, the shift to deliveries is just the latest turn on a journey that began in 2002, when she and her husband, Dexter Chow, purchased Cheeky Monkey Toys because they both thought owning a toy store would be fun. Back then, it was a 900-square-foot shop with three employees. Today, the toy store occupies a 4,000-square-foot building at 640 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park and has 15 employees. Even though the times are tough, people have been “absolutely amazing,” Chow said. Recently, Menlo Park Councilwoman Catharine Carlton helped organize a toy drive in which people can purchase toys through Cheeky Monkey Toys and donate them to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Customers, Chow said, have been reaching out to support the store however they can. While her new delivery model allows Cheeky Monkey to remain in operation, it also serves as a constant reminder to Chow of what she misses the most.

“It is so bizarre to be in there without people and kids,” Chow said of the store. “The sounds of kids’ laughter and even the sound of kids crying when they leave — I really miss it. It doesn’t feel alive right now.”

Staff writers Gennady Shepyer, Stacey Sullivan Haynes and Lloyd Lee can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com, ssreemann@paweekly.com and llee@paweekly.com.

About the Cover: Bhuvan Sahney, vice president of Gleim the Jeweler, is surrounded by empty jewelry cases in his Stanford Shopping Center store. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 27.

C A L M  L A P  E M O J I
A L I A  O R E O  R E S E W
L E F T O V E R S G E L A T O
I C E C R E A M  C H I C K E N
H U G  S A  A R T
D O S  S U B  R A G S
A H A S  R A M  R E A C T
M I L K J U I C E  B U T T E R
N O K I A  U S A  H I R E
P H D S  P C S  T A X
A M S  A P P  K O I
R O M A I N E R A D I S H E S
B R O C C O L I  C A R R O T S
U P T H E  L E N T  E L O N
S H E E T  S E E  D E N S

2 7 1 9 4 5 6 3 8
5 3 6 8 1 4 2 9
4 9 8 6 3 2 1 7 5
9 5 3 1 2 8 7 4 6
8 2 7 5 6 4 3 9 1
1 6 4 3 7 9 5 8 2
7 4 5 2 9 8 6 3
6 1 2 7 8 3 9 5 4
3 8 9 4 5 6 2 1 7

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • April 17, 2020 • Page 21

Springtime in solitude

How are you spending springtime during this period of solitude? One of our readers, Stacey Sullivan Haynes, found serenity in her patio garden, featured here. At a time when we’re missing human interaction, we want to see how you’re filling your days while staying close to home.

For the next month, post a picture on social media of how you’re passing the time. Tag Palo Alto Online on Twitter (@paloaltonline), Facebook (@paloaltoonline) or Instagram (@paloaltoonline) and use the hashtag #springtimeinsolitude. We’ll print some of our favorites over the next few weeks in the newspaper and on PaloAltoOnline.com.

Michael Dorricott, owner of Training Space in Palo Alto, has pivoted his business model during the stay-at-home order and is now offering free online classes.
I don’t think many people really appreciate what goes into covering the news so well, accurately and swiftly — people just think it miraculously appears at their fingertips or in their mailbox ... Thank you so much!

- Nancy L.

Will you join the thousands of others supporting local journalism?

Now’s your moment to step up when we need you the most.
Grace Joan Kartchner
February 15, 1933 – March 29, 2020

Grace Joan Kartchner passed away peacefully on March 29, 2020 due to Alzheimer’s. She was born in Provo, UT on February 15, 1933. She is preceded in death by her parents, Alma and Melba Kartchner, and brother, Stephen. She was an educator and taught middle and high school students in Palo Alto CA area for 38 years. She loved books and purchased thousands of children’s books that she gave to many of her relatives for their children to read. She loved to travel and especially enjoyed visiting Russia, the Scandinavian countries, Germany and Antarctica. She enjoyed cultural activities and attended operas, plays and traveled to Cedar City, UT yearly for their Shakespeare Festival. Joan never married but owned and cared for Collie dogs that she loved as part of her family. Much of her spare time was spent in tending to her rose garden that was admired by all that came to her home. She was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints all her life and spent many years providing voluntary work in the church’s Oakland Temple. She will be missed but is now reunited with her family in a far better place. Joan will be interred at the Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto, CA.

Employment

SALES ENGINEER
Provide pre-sales and post-sales engineering support for OCFx, ODMx, and SOC Alphonsio. Apply knowledge of electrical eng. Work closely with eng team for product imps to increase product deployments in the US regions. MS degree in Electrical Eng, exp in C/C++, Matlab simulation, Power/PCB electric circuit design/simulation. 5 yrs of exp in Sales Engineer Technical Manager or related. Send resume to Alphonsio, Inc, 2480 W L CAMINO REAL, Mountain View, CA 94040.

SR. CITRIX ENGINEER
Sr. Citrix Engineer sought by Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford (Menlo Park, CA) responsible for supporting Citrix envirnmts. Req: Bach in CS, SW Engg, BS. Electrc/Electrcs Engg or cIvy refl'td + 8yr exp. Must hold cert as Citrix Prof’d in Virtualz’n. Send resume to Dorothy Dekker, HR, LPCH, 4300 Bohannon Dr, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Principals only/no calls. Must have unrestricted auth to work in US. Drug/kgnd screening req’d. EOE.

Marketplace

The Palo Alto Weekly offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.
If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.

Stanford Blood Center
Give blood for life!

Palo Alto Weekly

Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto
April 9-April 16

Violence related
Attempted suicide

Theft related
Commercial burglaries
Embezzlement
Grand theft
Identity theft
Petty theft
Shoplifting

Vehicle related
Attempted theft from auto
Auto recovery
Bicycle theft
Hurt and run
Lost/stolen plates
Parking/ driving violation
Theft from auto
Vehicle accident/mirror injury
Vehicle accident/drop damage
Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence
Possession of drugs
Under influence of drugs

Miscellaneous
Animal call
Lost property
Musc. penal code violation
Othermisc.
Vandalism
Warrant/other agency

Menlo Park
April 9-April 14

Violence related
Battery

Theft related
Fraud
Grand theft
Vehicle related
Auto recovery
Bicycle theft
Driving w/ suspended license

Miscellaneous
Disturbance
Disturbance/annoying phone calls
Found property
Psychiatric subject
Vandalism

VIOLENT CRIMES

Palo Alto
Palo Alto Avenue, 4/7, 2:50 p.m.; attempted suicide.

Menlo Park
200 blk Hedge Road, 4/11, 7:16 p.m.; battery.

OBITUARIES

Zhejing Zhou, Harry S. Hewitt, Gary Deussens

A list of local residents who died recently: Zhejing Zhou, 49, a resident of Palo Alto, died on Jan. 22. Harry S. Hewitt, 85, a flight engineer and 60-year resident of Palo Alto, died on March 1. Gary Ronald Deussen, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, died on March 21. To read their full obituar- ies, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.

Elmo Eugene Sanders
May 3, 1929 – March 20, 2020

Elmo Eugene Sanders, native Californian, died March 20, 2020 after a short battle with cancer. Mo was born May 3, 1929 in San Luis Obispo, California to Elmo Edward and Ann Marie Sanders. He had two sisters Shirley and the late Barbara “Bobbie”. When Mo turned age 5, the family moved south to Hollywood where Mo attended Vine Elementary School, Hollywood High School and the University of Southern California for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. During his time at USC, he served in the naval reserves. Upon graduation from USC Mo went to work for the Fluor Corporation. Shortly thereafter he was drafted into the army during the Korean War era and was stationed at Fort Ord, Monterey CA for his service. He enjoyed northern California so much he relocated to the Bay Area starting work at Eitel McCullough Corporation and then at Varian Associates post acquisition. Mo had a long and rewarding career at Varian as Vice-president of Human Resources and International Relations. He married the late Margaret McCrady in 1961. They lived in Zug, Switzerland for several years before returning to California where they settled in Woodside and welcomed son Stephen into the family. The family lived in Woodside for 20+ years. In 1989, after retiring from Varian, Mo worked for a time with Hughes & Associates located in Boston. In early 1991 Mo met Joan who became his wife in 1996. They lived in Atherton CA for 24 years. She added her 5 grown children to the family and Mo and Joan welcomed 11 grandchildren over the years.

Mo is survived by his sister, Shirley; his beloved son Stephen, wife Nicole and children Paige and Curtis; and his adoring wife Joan and her children Daisy Hagey and husband Bob, Robert Bryne, Hank Hagey and wife Johanna, children Emma, Rowan and Cameron, Sandy Manley, husband Bud and children Lili, Arthur and Lucy, Sophy Hagey, and Susannah Johnson and children Indiana and Levi.

Mo enjoyed skiing until his 75th year and golf and tennis until his 89th birthday. Mo loved classic cars, WW II airplanes, good books, good music and an ice cold martini.” Seldom stirred, never shaken, always a classic.” Mo was kind, erudite and articulate.

“WHAT AN ELEGANT MAN”
A celebration of a life well lived will be planned when we return to our homes. She was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints all her life and spent many years tending to her rose garden that was admired by all that came to her home. She was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints all her life and spent many years providing voluntary work in the church’s Oakland Temple. She will be missed but is now reunited with her family in a far better place.

Joan will be interred at the Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto, CA.
Early Learning Institute Palo Alto Pleasonton
Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Haciendas School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Skills. headsup.org Emerson: (650) 424-1267 Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

Harker Summer Programs San Jose
The Harker School’s summer programs for children K - grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full day, partial and morning only sessions. harker.org/summer (408) 533-5737

i2Camp at Castilleja School Palo Alto
i2Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years. castilleja.org/i2camp (650) 470-7833

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

Summer@Stratford Palo Alto/Bay Area Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers learn, explore, and engage in hands-on learning projects, while Elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems by utilizing academic principles and concepts in a fun and engaging way. At the Middle School level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level. stratfordschools.com/summer pa@stratfordschools.com (650) 493-1141

Art and Soul Camp Palo Alto
Art, cooking, tinkering, yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world. Summer Unplugged is designed for our children aged 6-11 years. Located at Walter Hays School. artandsoulpa.com (650) 269-0423

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto
Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9. castilleja.org/summercamp (650) 470-7833

Community School of Music Mountain View
Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for kids K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered. arts4all.org (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Let’s Go Crafting Palo Alto
Let’s Go Crafting 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 $275/week. Full day camps $550/week. Student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum. letsgcrafting.org (650) 814-4183

Oshman Family JCC Camps Palo Alto
Camps at the OJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills. paloaltojcc.org/Camps (650) 223-8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) Palo Alto
PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training [LIT], Camp YOUUnique, F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports, Operation: Chef and Chef Jr./Periodic Field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online. paccc.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
Campers bring their plays to life, make new friends, and practice collaboration skills at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s PlayMakers Camp (grades K-5). TheatreWorks offers four sessions in Palo Alto and Atherton from June 8 – July 31. Campers learn acting, playwriting, movement, and stagecraft from professional teaching artists from the Tony Award-winning local company. theatreworks.org/education (650) 463-7146

Dance Connection Palo Alto
Dance Connection Palo Alto dance your way to fun with our range of classes for all ages and levels! Our classes are taught by the very best instructors in the Bay Area. Our summer camp offerings include classes for ages 2-17. From beginner to advanced levels, we have a class for everyone! danceconnectionpalato.com (650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

Kim Grant Tennis Palo Alto
Kim Grant Tennis Summer Camps Fun and specialized Junior Camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and Sleep-Away Camps in Monterey Bay, SO MUCH FUN! KimGrantTennis.com Text: (650) 690-0678 Call: (650) 752-8061

Nike Tennis Camps Stanford University
Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-16 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men’s Coach, Paul Goldstine, Head Women’s Coach, Lel Forood, and Associate Men’s and Women’s Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer! ussportscamps.com (800) NIKE-CAMP (800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps 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. runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview (650) 623-5167

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

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

Stanford Baseball Camps 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, fundamentals, team concepts, and game play. stanfordbaseballcamp.com (650) 725-2054

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

YMAC of Silicon Valley Summer Camps Silicon Valley
At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that’s right for your family. Sign up today, camps are filling up! Financial assistance is available. ymacsv.org/summercamp (408) 351-6473
Small businesses add pizzazz and vibrancy to our lives. Keeping restaurants, nail salons, day care centers and other small local businesses alive through these difficult times does much more than help the businesses themselves, but also helps the businesses' owners: they also are responsible for the livelihoods of all of their staff.

For most of my adult life, I was part of the music scene in Mountain View, a very popular, community-centric business. I have a very real passion for the importance of small, vibrant mom-and-pop businesses in our communities, and I have felt that the employee-employer relationship is like a dance — one cannot exist without the other, and neither will exist without the music from the publication sessions.

Mountain View City Councilwoman Alison Hicks recently told me that if these small businesses close, then corporate offices and chain restaurants will likely take their places. The little guy simply won't be able to make it anymore.

Our local businesses — mom-and-pop businesses, family businesses, vibrant and OPEN businesses — are vital to our community. I think we want to do everything possible to ensure that these businesses we value reopen when life settles down.

Here are six ideas for tangible things that you can do right now to help our small businesses and their employees:

1. During this crisis, if you are a landlord, consider lowering the rent to any business that has been highly affected by the shelter-in-place order. It wasn’t the tenant’s fault that this is happening, and it is likely that they don’t have deep pockets to weather this storm. A few weeks ago, I had the chance to chat and share my concerns with John McNellis, a Palo Alto landlord and friend who recently wrote a column about this issue, in which he stated, “We are forgiving all rent for the month of April for our mom-and-pop tenants that have been forced to close.” I continue to promote John’s essay with the hope that if local landlords see it they will follow suit.

2. Some cities are creating “small business relief funds,” including Mountain View, San Francisco, Portland and the counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo. You can contribute to such a fund to help stabilize local small businesses. These funds often issue microloans that will be paid back in time.

3. Give someone a hand. If you have the capacity, consider offering an interest-free loan to those in your own network having a difficult time. Even $100 can change somebody’s life right now. Alternatively, pay it forward! Give a no-strings-attached sum of money to someone in need.

4. Eat out! Well, take out! Most restaurants have razor-thin profit margins on a good day; right now, many restaurants are in dire straits. If you have the ability, order a to-go dinner tonight from your local restaurant. If you want to eat there when the shelter-in-place order is behind us, it’s important to support them now.

5. If you are fortunate enough to not really “need” the coronavirus stimulus check that the federal government is distributing to many taxpayers, this might be a way for you to start your own “relief fund” for others that are in more need.

6. Lastly, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation oversees $13.5 billion in donor-advised funds. These monies often come from wealthy local individuals, families and corporations. It would be quite an act of generosity if people reading this were to donate some small amount to one of these foundations for the benefit of helping our local small businesses that have been hurt by this horrific COVID-19 attack on our communities.

In my 45 years of owning a business, I have been rewarded with many good friends, some serious luck, a few rough times and a bit of good fortune. At this stage of my life, I want to give back to the vibrant community that gave my life store, I invite those of you who have had a similar life’s path to share your experience, your wisdom and maybe some of your financial success with local small businesses that now need your support. ■

Steve Rasmussen owned the Milk Pail Market in Mountain View for 45 years. He welcomes discussions of additional ways to help small businesses and can be emailed at steve@milkpail.com.

Guest Opinion
Six ideas for helping local businesses during COVID-19 crisis
by Steve Rasmussen

Small businesses add pizzazz and vibrancy to our lives. Keeping restaurants, nail salons, day care centers and other small local businesses alive through these difficult times does much more than help the businesses themselves, but also helps the businesses’ owners: they also are responsible for the livelihoods of all of their staff.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?
The Palo Alto Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest.

How can Palo Alto help small businesses make a comeback?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 300 words to letters@paweekly.com. Submit guest opinions of 1,000 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information, contact Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at lle@paweekly.com or 650-223-6026 or Editor Jocelyn Dong at editor@paweekly.com.

Letters
Safe-parking program off to a good start
Editor,

Last month, I issued a plea to local property owners willing to rent out unused lots for use as “safe parking lots” in Mountain View and Palo Alto. We made a good start in our search for “a whole lotta lots,” in large part due to the support and partnership of multiple entities — Santa Clara County, cities, nonprofit organizations, faith leaders, vehicle residents and local businesses working together. So, let me say thank you.

Thank you to the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce for co-sponsoring our four information sessions. Thank you to Palo Alto and Mountain View city councils for identifying possible safe parking sites, for their work on this issue, and for their partnership with the community.

Thank you to Live Nation Entertainment for being a key partner, working with the city of Mountain View to open 24/7 safe parking year-round at Shoreline Amphitheatre Parking Lot B, which will now be available to residents 24 hours, rather than just overnight.

Thank you to several non-profits, who are running the safe parking lots, offering expertise, and providing case management.

Thank you to the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission and faith communities, who have helped identify potential lots in Palo Alto, and to the city staff who are working with the county to make them real.

Thank you to the Mountain View Human Relations Commission for its tireless efforts in reaching out to businesses to identify suitable lots.

I also thank you to the businesses and faith organizations that have expressed interest in working together on safe parking in Mountain View.

The onset of the COVID-19 crisis has undeniably made this effort more challenging, even as it has undeniably made the effort more urgent. Before you can have an effective, successful safe-parking program, you’ve got to identify the sites. It’s just that simple, and it’s just that hard. But, with the help of our partners and the work done in March, we have a clearer path forward.

Joe Simitian
County Supervisor
Open more space
Editor,

People on the hiking trails in our parks have been respectful of the 6-feet rule. But I think an even better solution would be to open as many spaces as possible — golf courses, (public and private), nature walking trails and the Stanford Dish. This would help reducing crowding and promote health and fitness for people who are otherwise constrained.

Richard Almond MD
University Avenue, Palo Alto

New life skills
Editor,

These are unexpected times. Never would I have thought that one day I’d be in my Advanced Placement biology lab, and the next, I’d be sheltering in place with little homework to do. This situation has challenged me to develop life skills; time management and initiative. I have adapted to using FaceTime and Zoom to communicate with my teachers and friends. In fact, I celebrated my 17th birthday through a group Zoom chat; we talked and joked around past midnight, close to our respective homes. Although I could not enjoy a nice dinner at Benihana with my friends and ice cream a birthday cake, it was a very memorable and heart-warming birthday!

Over this break, I have taken the time to hone my painting abilities, experimenting with new mediums such as oils and watercolors. I know some of my friends have chosen embroidery and knitting to test their patience or are making sweaters for family members.

Although these are unprecedented times, they have given us the chance to explore new interests that our jobs or school responsibilities might not otherwise allow for. — Edward Zhang

Byron Street, Palo Alto

Spectrum
Editorials, letters and opinions

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