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stanfordhealthcare.org/emergencyready
Captivating curb appeal is the first impression of this beautiful Mediterranean-inspired villa sited in North Palo Alto’s popular Community Center neighborhood.

Built in 2000, the home’s open floor plan emphasizes indoor/outdoor living and incorporates classic Mediterranean architectural elements including vaulted open beam ceilings, graceful arched windows and passageways, and 2 indoor fireplaces. The updated interior design, lighting and color palette add timeless elegance and suggest the warm hospitality that characterizes this home.

The kitchen/family room is the heart of the home with its oversized island, handsome fireplace, and eating area with built-in banquette.

There are 5 spacious bedrooms and 4 updated bathrooms arranged on all levels of the home to accommodate different family needs.

The garden area is an entertainer’s delight! A stately redwood tree provides the backdrop for a sprawling stone patio complete with splashing fountain, out-door kitchen, fireplace, outdoor heating and generous space for relaxation and dining.

Completing this special home is the detached garage repurposed by the current owner as a home office for remote working.

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"It's because of PVI's Meals on Wheels that I feel like I'm being watched over during this crisis." (tears)
Diane, 92 years old

Community friends and neighbors, it's working! Because of each of you, we are halfway there! Thank you.

Please help us reach higher and achieve PVI's Meals on Wheels $500,000 COVID-19 response goal to continue daily meals for local vulnerable seniors.

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.

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

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. 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.
As economy plummets, city slashes police, library funding

City Council spars over capital spending, community services as it moves to cut nearly $40M from budget
by Gennady Sheyner

A fter two months of triage, prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Palo Alto’s elected leaders pivoted this week to address the next crisis: a city budget that has been bludgeoned by the economic shutdown and that now faces a $40-million hole. Over the course of three marathon budget discussions filled with alarming projections, painful choices, fraying tempers and sharp disagreements, a clearer picture began to emerge of a post-pandemic Palo Alto — a place with fewer police officers on patrol and ambulances that take twice as long to respond to an emergency. The city’s free shuttles will no longer run along Middlefield and Embarcadero roads and the Children’s Theatre will no longer stage performances. Park maintenance will be slashed in half and libraries will be open for fewer hours.

These changes, and many others, are elements of a “back-to-the-basics” new normal to which the City Council began to transition this week, as it reviewed the budgets of most City Hall departments and made unpopular cuts. Some budget proposals, including one to shutter the College Terrace Library, are likely to be reversed when the council formally adopts the budget on June 22. Most others, including the elimination of more than 60 full-time positions, will kick in on July 1, when the new fiscal year begins.

The budget that the council reviewed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday reflects what the staff had deemed to be a worst-case scenario, one in which the economy remains stagnant over the next year, with revenues remaining low long after the health restrictions are lifted. The council unanimously agreed on May 4 that staff’s grimest projection, which shows a $38.8 million revenue drop, is in fact the most realistic one.

The long lists of cuts that the council approved over 20 hours of public hearings represent the

PUBLIC HEALTH

Masks are now mandatory in Palo Alto
City Council approves order mandating face coverings
by Gennady Sheyner

P alo Alto now requires everyone to wear face coverings when entering businesses, stores, health care facilities or taking public transportation under a law that the City Council passed unanimously on Monday night. The law, which kicked in on May 13, also applies to people going to work, preparing or selling food and walking through building common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators and parking facilities. It does not apply to people out for a walk or engaging in exercise activities such as running or biking.

In adopting the law, the council joined a handful of other Bay Area cities that have stricter regulations than Santa Clara County. San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin and San Francisco counties require face coverings, with violations punishable as misdemeanors. Santa Clara County only “strongly recommends” their use.

Dr. Sara Cody, the county’s health officer, had said that she believes an order to wear face coverings will be difficult to enforce and that she believes people will wear them voluntarily.

In adopting the new requirement, Palo Alto is following the lead of Cupertino, Fremont and Milpitas. In each city, a failure to enforce and that she believes people will wear them voluntarily.

In adopting the new requirement, Palo Alto is following the lead of Cupertino, Fremont and Milpitas. In each city, a failure to wear a mask can result in an administrative citation.

The proposal to require masks

Cities mull downtown street closures to make way for outdoor dining

Cities up and down the Midpeninsula are considering temporarily closing their downtown streets to traffic to give restaurants and other businesses more outdoor space to safely serve customers when they’re allowed to reopen.

The cities, including Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Mountain View, Redwood City, San Carlos and San Mateo, are at various stages of decision-making: In a few, leaders are entertaining concrete proposals, while in others, grassroots community discussions haven’t yet been formally taken up by elected officials.

For restaurants, additional seating and space to reassure diners that eating out is safe could mean the difference between surviving or folding during this next phase of the shutdown.

“Every seat outside would help,” said Michael Ekwall, co-owner of La Bodeguita del Medio on California Avenue in Palo Alto. “Even at 50% capacity, it will be an incredible challenge to be profitable.”

In new guidance that Gov. Gavin Newsom released on Tuesday, May 12, the state recommended that restaurants “prioritize” outdoor seating when their local jurisdictions meet the criteria for reopening. Newsom noted in a press conference that outdoor seating naturally allows for “greater distribution of airflow,” while inside, ventilation could pose a potential risk.

“Restaurants can expand their outdoor seating, and alcohol offerings in those areas, if they comply with local laws and regulations,” the guidance states.

The state isn’t mandating specific capacity levels, but for many restaurants, reconfiguring their dining rooms to ensure tables are 6 feet apart will significantly reduce the number of

(continued on page 12)
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**Every seat outside would help.**

**TAKING FLIGHT ...** While many people are sewing face masks or providing tutoring services online during the health crisis, one group is taking its charity to the skies. Above, pilots from the California Disaster Air Response Team are flying out of the Palo Alto Airport to deliver personal protective equipment as part of Operation Meditation Shield. For Brian Dear, being involved with the group marries his childhood dream of learning to fly and giving back to the community. Dear, who received his pilot license in November, lived out his fantasy on May 9, when he packed his Cessna Turbo 206 at the airport with 500 face shields from a local company and took off for Walla Walla, Washington. He and his 5-year-old son, Sebastian, carried the precious cargo for emergency responders who would’ve gone four days without the shields had the equipment been sent by FedEx. The mission made a significant impact on his son, the oldest of his four children, who helped unload the equipment from the plane. After the 9-hour round trip, Dear’s day ended with a special moment he shared with his son at their Mountain View home. “He sat down on the couch and I made him some macaroni and cheese. Everyone else had already gone to bed, and he looks over at me and he’s like, ‘You know Daddy? We saved 500 people today,’” Dear said. In an interview, Dear noted that while the face shields can be used more than once and may not necessarily be distributed to 500 people, it was a “magical moment” that made the job worth it.

**LETTER OF THE LAW ...** This week, attorneys for the U.S. House of Representatives and Manhattan District Attorney’s Office in New York worked to persuade the U.S. Supreme Court to release President Donald Trump’s financial records from before he took office. Among them was Douglas Letter, general counsel for the House of Representatives. The Palo Alto native comes from a family of government employees, according to a Dec. 25 article in The Washington Post. Letter joined the House’s Office of the General Counsel in January 2019 and previously served at the U.S. Department of Justice for 40 years until his retirement in February 2018, according to his profile on the office’s website. He has presented more than 200 oral arguments during his career, including the Supreme Court. There was one stark difference during the May 12 session: instead of hearing arguments on Capitol Hill, the justices were listening by teleconference as a result of the health crisis. “History really matters here, and it shows that the arguments being made here by President Trump are astonishingly asking you to ignore a massive amount of history,” Letter argued.

**THINKING POLITICS ... C-SPAN’s annual StudentCam contest** prompted more than 3,500 middle and high schoolers to submit documentaries that tackled this year’s theme, “What’s Your Vision in 2020?”, which called on students to create a 5- to 6-minute video advocating for an issue they want to see the presidential candidates tackle. Four videos from Palo Alto were among the entries recognized by the network. Palo Alto High School sophomores Eva Salvatierra, Sebastian Chancellor and Owen Rice took a third-place prize for “A Tale of Two Districts.” Another Palo Alto trio, sophomores Dominique Lashley, Cate Barrett and Giada Agati, received an honorable mention for “Lost Opportunities.” Palo junior Emilie Difele also made it to the honorable mention list with “The Climate Crisis: Food & Water Insecurity.” Local middle schoolers also made the honorable mentions list. Castilleja School eighth-graders Sam Solomon, Sena Lee and Annika Heinemann were acknowledged for their submission on internet privacy.
The rendering shows the view from the Palo Alto side of the new Newell Road bridge, which would be wider than the current bridge and equipped with bike lanes under a design that the Architectural Review Board approved on May 7.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Plan to replace aging bridge gains approval**

North Palo Alto project aims to improve flood protection, traffic safety

by Gennady Sheyner

A n effort to replace the narrow Newell Road Bridge and improve flood protection around the San Francisco Creek received a long-awaited boost last week when Palo Alto’s Architectural Review Board unanimously backed the project.

The board’s vote in favor of the project sets the stage for the City Council’s final approval, potentially allowing construction to begin later this year. Construction is expected to take about a year and a half.

The replacement of the 1911 bridge connecting Palo Alto to East Palo Alto is considered a necessary prerequisite to replacing other flood-prone bridges at the creek, which runs through Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto. These include the Pope-Chaucer Bridge, which connects Palo Alto and Menlo Park and which was covered by water during the February 1998 flood that caused about $40 million in damages to the three cities.

Since then, the cities have been working with the San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority to improve flood control. The agency, which includes council members from the three cities and representatives from the two water districts in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, scored its first major victory in this effort in 2018, when it reconstructed levees and widened the channel in the particularly vulnerable area downstream of U.S. Highway 101.

While flood control is one major goal of the project, traffic safety is another, according to city and state leaders. The funding for the Newell Road Bridge project is expected to come primarily from the state Department of Transportation, which in 2011 deemed the structure to be “functionally obsolete,” making it eligible for grant funding to pay for design and environmental analysis. Once the council approves the environmental-impact report, the city will apply for grant funding to pay for construction.

A main reason for the designation is the narrow width of the span. The bridge, which connects the Crescent Park neighborhood in Palo Alto and the Woodland Park neighborhood in East Palo Alto, currently is just 18 feet wide from curb to curb, barely enough to comfortably accommodate two cars passing each other.

The design that the Architectural Review Board approved Thursday would expand the curb-to-curb width to 28 feet, which will include a 10-foot car lane and a 4-foot bicycle lane in each direction. The vehicle lanes would have “sharrow” markings to encourage shared use between bicyclists and drivers.

The new bridge would also have raised sidewalks on each side for pedestrians.

The size of the new bridge has been a point of contention over the course of the design process, with some residents arguing during public hearings and in letters to the city that wider lanes would only encourage more traffic. Peter Forgie, a Palo Alto resident who lives near the bridge, wrote in a letter that “a huge bridge that virtually invites increased traffic would only exacerbate the decline of the area.

“Newell would become a freeway, and I’m sure most of us nearby would have to move,” Forgie wrote in June. “People already drive too fast and don’t stop at the intersection of Newell and Edge-wood. How would making the road wider improve this? It would effectively constitute an attractive nuisance.”

Yang Shen, whose Edgewood Road residence stands next to the project site, said he opposes the project. His attorney, Paul Gumina, wrote to the city that his clients have no objections to the flood-control aspects of the project and acknowledged that removing the bridge over the creek would be beneficial. Shen’s only dispute, Gumina wrote, is “whether the bridge should be re-built, and whether it is in the best interests of the neighborhood and its residents to permanently close Newell Road to the traffic south of Woodland Avenue.”

Gumina also told the board Thursday that his client is afraid that the construction project will stall out, leaving a staging area next to Shen’s backyard with no completion date in sight. Shen will be forced to bear “the brunt of the negative impact of this project, which he opposes,” Gumina told the board.

Others argued that it’s well past time to get the project done. Xenia Hammer told the board that the project has already gone through an “extensive” community input process.

“The project has been scaled down as much as possible in re- response to the community input,” Hammer said.

Hamilton Hitchings, a resident of the Crescent Park neighborhood, also urged the board to approve the design for the new bridge, which he said, “dramati- cally improves pedestrian and bi- cycle safety.” Hitchings said the 1998 storm caused the flooding of more than 400 homes in his neighborhood, which is near the Pope-Chaucer Bridge.

Board member Alexander Lew said he too owns property near the bridge, which has experienced flooding in 1998.

“For new owners, you do not understand how traumatic that was,” Lew said. “That happened in the middle of the night. My neighbors were fleeing their house in the middle of the night to go to a hotel.”

Lew said. “It took weeks to clean up the damage from the flood. We’ve been wait- ing for over 20 years for this. And we’re ready for it. We need it.”

His colleagues agreed that it’s time to move the project forward. Board member Grace Lee said the new bridge, with its enhanced bike amenities, will be an important element in both cities’ efforts to improve the bike network.

“I understand this is part of a gesture at connecting a larger bike network, a larger regional think- ing in terms of pedestrian safety, linking East Palo Alto to Palo Alto, considering how all those pieces play together,” Lee said. “Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawweekly.com.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com; Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. Ranked in the Wall Street Journal’s 2016, 2017, and 2018 Nationwide list of top 250 Realtors.

Dear Monica: I have been carefully sheltering in place but would like to know when it is safe to start looking at properties again. What precautions are you taking when showing properties? Diane G.

Dear Diane: Our industry is being very cautious about showing property. If a buyer wants to see a property, they can first view the photos online and virtual tours and open houses if there are any. To actually visit a property buyers and agents must have an appointment, sign a form on the day of their visit that acknowledges they are not ill, and they must wear masks, gloves, shoe covers and have hand sanitizer with them. Only one agent can be in a property with their client at one time and they shouldn’t touch anything. If there is more than one buyer viewing, they must be from the same household. The seller must sign the buyer’s form giving consent to the visit. If the property is occupied, the owners need to vacate during the showing. Under these guidelines buyers, sellers and agents should feel safe.
Rebecca Eisenberg, a Palo Alto attorney who has criticized the City Council for being too friendly to commercial developers, announced last weekend her plan to run for a council seat in November, becoming the first challenger to enter the race.

Eisenberg, a resident of Old Palo Alto, made her announcement on Town Square, the community forum of Palo Alto Online. She said one of the reasons she is running is to improve City Hall’s transparency and accountability, which she argued has been diminished by the political influence of wealthy donors and lobbyists.

The announcement was part of a string of weekend posts in which Eisenberg criticized the council’s strategy for balancing the budget and challenged Mayor Adrian Fine for offering to help Tesla remain in Palo Alto. Fine’s tweet in support of Tesla followed a threat by Tesla’s CEO Elon Musk to move his company to Nevada or Texas.

Eisenberg responded by publicly asking, “What exactly DOES Tesla do for Palo Alto?”

“I am disappointed in Mayor Fine’s response,” Eisenberg wrote. “We are Palo Alto and we stand up for our residents, our safety and our community. We do not allow billionaire celebrities to blur our vision by putting Iron Man stars in our eyes.”

In a different post, which pointed to budget cuts, Eisenberg argued that the City Council is now being forced to reduce services because it had spent decades prioritizing “commercial developers/office space and tax-exempt special interest projects boosted more revenues to the city. This includes creating a new business tax. The council was preparing to place such a tax on the November ballot but suspended its effort in March, when the COVID-19 pandemic led county health officials to institute a shelter-in-place requirement. Eisenberg believes the council erred in not moving ahead with the measure, which could have been tailored to give exemptions to small businesses hurt by the shutdown.

“When I’m on the City Council, the first thing I want to address is our way of collecting revenue for the city. We positively need to tax the businesses,” Eisenberg said.

She was also the first Palo Alto attorney to require commercial developers to pay their fair share for city services. She notes that new office developments remain more profitable than residential ones and believes the city needs to “change the economics” and make office buildings more profitable than residential construction.

She also says the city needs to allow more mixed-use projects with office and residential components. Housing above retail, she said in an email, is a “well-proven method for supporting small businesses, and local small business owners have been clamoring for this reasonable solution for decades.”

Eisenberg said that she also strongly supports building housing for teachers at Cubberley Community Center, which is owned by the city and the school district. It would help teachers; it would help schools, and it would generate revenue, which both the city and the district desperately need.

She also strongly opposes the expansion proposal from Castilleja School, which she argues violates local zoning laws. She cites the school’s violation of its “conditional use permit” in 2012 as an example of the city being too lax in enforcing its rules.

Though the city fined the school $285,000 for the violation, Eisenberg argued that the fine was not sufficient.

In recent years, Eisenberg also has been a frequent critic of both the council and the Planning and Transportation Commission, which provides the building permits, and she was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and attended Stanford University. She then graduated from Harvard Law School and worked for several technology and legal companies in the Bay Area. This includes stints at Trulia, where she was general counsel, and at Reddit, where she was general counsel, head of finance and head of human resources, according to her resume.

She is principal and founder of the firm Private Client Legal Advisors, which provides legal services to nonprofit organizations, technology companies, angel funds, entrepreneurs and executives, according to her resume.

Eisenberg said she believes the council has stopped representing the majority of the city, including renters and families with children. She is hoping to change that.

“When we divert money from our public schools and from city service (fire, police, public transportation), when we focus on park-ing but forget a big chunk of our population (children and seniors) don’t drive; we are forgetting to serve the core of our community,” Eisenberg said. “The core of our community is families. ... We have lost sight of that.”

The council race will include at least one open seat this November, with Councilwoman Liz Kniss set to conclude her second term. Mayor Adrian Fine, Councilwoman Lydia Kou and Councilman Greg Tanaka are all eligible to run for a second four-year term. While all three are expected to seek re-election, none have formally announced plans to do so.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweweekly.com.
When Palo Alto Unified middle and high schools reopen this fall, students could be attending school in person twice a week and learning remotely three days a week.

District staff presented a draft bell schedule for the secondary schools during Tuesday’s school board meeting. Two groups of students would alternate coming to campus for seven-block periods Monday through Thursday, with each class meeting once a week in person. On Friday, all teachers would be on campuses while students learn from home. Students’ work would be graded and attendance would be taken.

While not set in stone — and there is not yet a draft plan for elementary schools — the hybrid schedule provides a first glimpse at what Palo Alto public schools might look like when they’re allowed to reopen. It reflects a transition “out of crisis learning and into a new type of learning altogether,” Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Sharon Ofek said at the May 12 board meeting.

The district is leaning toward starting the next school year as scheduled in August, Superintendent Don Austin said. “While that’s not a promise, it is a repositioning of a thought we had earlier that maybe delaying made sense,” he said. “Absent some hard, concrete reason to push back we will likely stick with either our current date or at the latest, a couple weeks (later).”

District leaders were scheduled to meet with the teachers union on May 14 to discuss issues that will need to be negotiated if schools reopen with a blended learning model.

All summer school courses will be online, the district also announced Tuesday, and will start later than usual, in July. The district pushed the start of summer school back to give students and families a break from screen time, Ofek said.

Elementary school students will have an additional 10 hours of remote access to tutors for summer school as well as an online social-emotional learning program (which also will be available to middle school students).

High school students will have access to a credit recovery program over the summer. High school students who have already signed up to take Living Skills and economics classes this summer will be able to take them online.

The district is also developing for the summer an online version of Extended School Year Services, which is specialized instruction for special education students, but holding out hope that some of it could be offered in person, Ofek said. Parents of special needs children voiced concerns during Tuesday’s meeting that the district’s current distance learning offerings are not meeting their children’s needs or stipulations in their individualized education plans.

Special education staff are also “very concerned about some of the learning regression and the barriers to Zoom video conferences when it comes to having individualized instruction” for students, Ofek said.

Board President Todd Collins suggested the district consult with public health leaders to see if small classes of special-education students could safely meet in person over the summer.

“These kids are in many ways the hardest kids we have to teach and they struggle the hardest to learn and their parents struggle the hardest to teach them,” he said.

The school district will be seeking public input on reopening plans during Austin’s weekly live webinar on Monday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m. People will be able to ask questions and give feedback in real time. The webinar can be viewed at go.pausd.org/backstage-webinar.

Staff Writer Elena Kadavy can be emailed at ekadvany@pawEEKLY.com.
PUBLIC HEALTH

Here’s the latest on the coronavirus

Tesla tussles over reopening manufacturing plant while San Mateo County plans to allow retail curbside pickup

by Embarcadero Media staff

A.

s other parts of the country and California start to reopen their economies, the Bay Area continued its cautious path this week. In fact, the Palo Alto City Council on Monday adopted an ordinance mandating people cover their faces while engaging in essential activities — a rule that’s stricter than Santa Clara County’s order. (See story on page 5.)

San Mateo County, however, signaled that it will align its public health order with the state’s. San Mateo County Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow intends to issue a new shelter-in-place order effective Monday, May 18, consistent with the guidelines recently issued by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The second phase of reopening allows for retail curbside pickup and delivery. According to the county’s press release, “Logistics and manufacturing, along with some other businesses, can open with modifications.”

Morrow expects to release the updated order this week.

“I am encouraged that data about COVID-19 cases, hospital capacity and other indicators show some stability so that San Mateo County can now enter the early stages of Phase 2,” Morrow said in a statement.

“I want to remind everyone these modifications are not being made because it is safe to be out and about,” he added. “The virus continues to circulate in our community, and this increase in interactions among people is likely to spread the virus at a higher rate.”

“The social distancing and face covering directives, along with the protocols adopted by San Mateo County, will remain in place since the risk of exposure to COVID-19 looms large for all of us.”

More updates on the Midpeninsula’s response to the coronavirus are detailed below.

Telephone town hall on Sunday:
Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian will host a COVID-19 telephone town hall on Sunday, May 17, at 11 a.m. Panelists include county Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody; county Counsel James Williams; Dr. Yvonne Maldonado, chief of infection control at Stanford University; and Dr. Mark Adams, chief medical officer at El Camino Hospital. Anyone interested in joining the discussion must register by 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, through tinyurl.com/covid19th.

Stanford commencement to go virtual:
Stanford University will hold a virtual commencement ceremony in June, President Marc Tessier-Lavigne told graduates in an email on Wednesday.

The livestreamed event on Sunday, June 14, will highlight digital submissions from undergraduate and graduate students in the Class of 2020, such as photos, video and stories, which he invited students to send in.

Stanford is still committed to holding an in-person commencement when public health restrictions allow for such gatherings, he said.

“I look forward to honoring all that you have achieved, and to thanking your family members and friends for their support and encouragement,” Tessier-Lavigne wrote. “I can’t wait to celebrate with you, both in June and when we meet again in person.”

Tesla tussles with Alameda County:
Elon Musk, CEO of Palo Alto-based electric automaker Tesla, got into a splashy dispute with Alameda County this past weekend, venting on social media about county public health orders that prevent Fremont’s Tesla plant from resuming production.

“Frankly, this is the final straw. Tesla will now move its HQ and future programs to Texas/Nevada immediately. If we even retain Fremont manufacturing activity at all, it will be dependent on how Tesla is treated in the future,” Musk posted on Twitter. “Tesla is filing a lawsuit against Alameda County immediately.”

On Monday, Musk tweeted: “Tesla is restarting production today against Alameda County rules. I will be on the line with everyone else. If anyone is arrested, I ask that it only be me.”

But after several days of conversation between the county and car company, which included Tesla’s submission of a reopening plan Monday to public health officials and a Tuesday meeting about safety and prevention, county officials agreed that Tesla will be allowed to resume operations under a few conditions.

“My administration and I have agreed to the terms and conditions that ramp up activity with a minimal increase in minimum basic operations and prevent major outbreaks of COVID-19 at the Fremont plant,” Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said in a press release Wednesday.

“Given the unique nature and scale of automobile manufacturing and the safety measures agreed to by Tesla, we concluded that ramp up activity with a minimal increase in minimum basic operations can occur safely,” Cody said.

Fremont police will be verifying that Tesla is maintaining social distancing and safety guidelines for workers.

New COVID-19 cases, deaths:
On Thursday, Santa Clara County reported 119 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus, 824 of which are hospitalized, and 134 deaths caused by the disease. City-by-city data showed 75 cases in Palo Alto and 51 cases in Mountain View as of Monday. San Mateo County had 1,536 cases of the coronavirus and a death toll of 65 as of Wednesday. As of Tuesday, 63 people with COVID-19 or suspected to have the disease were hospitalized.

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District faces $3M budget shortfall

Facing the likelihood that the coronavirus will impact the Palo Alto school district’s budget for several years, members of the Board of Education on Tuesday urged taking a conservative, “aggressive” approach to budget cuts to stave off deep deficits.

The district is facing a $3 million shortfall this year as a result of both lost revenue and increased spending related to school closures and the pandemic. The “moderate” budget forecast presented by staff projects deficit spending over the next three years if the district doesn’t make cuts.

How much revenue the district will have in the coming years remains uncertain, with the renewal of a parcel tax, property tax revenue and facility rentals (including the city’s lease of Cubberley Community Center) up in the air due to the virus. The district also is eyeing large, long-awaited investments in special education and dyslexia over the next three years. School board members said Tuesday they support using the district’s reserves to address the shortfall.

Staff presented two plans for cuts to the 2020-21 budget on Tuesday. One would save $3.7 million by cutting four administrators, 13 certificated staff and several classified staff as well as contracted services and summer school offerings. The second plan proposes an additional $2 million in cuts if necessary, primarily in classified staff positions.

The board will discuss the budget again in early June and is set to adopt it on June 23.

Downtown Walgreens to close

The Walgreens store in downtown Palo Alto will permanently close in June as part of a nationwide strategy to cut costs, the company announced.

The store at 300 University Ave. reopened in 2010, following a July 2007 arson that forced the demolition of the prior building.

According to company spokeswoman Alexandra Brown, the downtown pharmacy’s last day of business will be June 9. Pre-scription files will automatically transfer to the Walgreens at 2605 Middlefield Road, in the Midtown neighborhood, Brown said in a statement.

The closure will leave a gaping vacancy in a prominent downtown corner of University and Bryant avenues at a time when many other retailers are struggling to stay afloat in the midst of an economic shutdown. But unlike other downtown retailers, Walgreens had planned to shutter the University store well before the pandemic.

Brown said the store’s upcoming closure is part of the cost management program that the company announced last year. As part of the effort, Walgreens is closing 200 stores throughout the nation.

Brown noted that the closures represent less than 5% of the company’s stores and “given that we have multiple locations in many markets, we anticipate minimal disruption to customers and patients.”

Man throws a rock, flashes women

Palo Alto police arrested a man who allegedly threw a rock at two women and then exposed himself to them near the Mayfield Soccer Complex on Sunday afternoon.

Police said they received a report at about 2 p.m. about a man who harassed two women who were waiting to use a restroom at the soccer complex, which is located at 2650 El Camino Real near Page Mill Road. When police responded, they learned that the man, who was standing between the restrooms with a bicycle, began to talk to the women. He became increasingly threatening and at one point grabbed a few baseball-sized rocks and threw one at the women, missing them, police said in a news release issued Tuesday.

The man then allegedly pulled down his pants and exposed his genitals while touching himself, police said.

Police said one of the women was in her 50s, while the other was her mother, who is in her 70s. Shortly after the altercation, officers found the man about a mile south of the soccer complex.

The 39-year-old Palo Alto resident was booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, elder abuse, criminal threats, which are all felonies, and indecent exposure, a misdemeanor.

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Midpeninsula cities see spike in theft, commercial burglaries

After sharp decline, some crimes climb back to pre-pandemic levels

by Lloyd Lee

Reports of crimes, which dropped during the first weeks of the coronavirus shutdown, are trending back upward in three Midpeninsula cities, daily police records show.

Thefts in Palo Alto, Mountain View and Menlo Park have surpassed pre-pandemic numbers in recent weeks, according to police records.

The increase comes after each city reported some of its lowest numbers of criminal activity this year, based on data compiled from their daily police logs.

Prior to the stay-at-home order, from Feb. 12 to 18, the three police agencies responded to and filed reports on 363 cases, ranging from car accidents and drunk drivers to auto burglaries and other theft-related incidents.

A month later that number dropped 52%. Mountain View, Palo Alto and Menlo Park police officers collectively responded to 173 calls that warranted a written police report.

Police logs show that each city experienced record-low crimes for 2020 during the first weeks of the shutdown.

Katie Nelson, a public information officer for Mountain View Police Department, explained that after the stay-at-home order, calls for service went down.

"Because calls for service are down, that means generally reports taken are down and then booking arrests are also down," she said.

In the week of April 1, Mountain View had 75 police reports — a 50% decrease from the week of March 11. Part of this significant drop can be attributed to a reduction in collisions involving vehicles.

In both January and February, the city reported about 50 vehicular collisions that came with major, minor and no injuries. But as roads cleared of nonessential travel in March, just 33 accidents were reported. That number was slashed in half in April, when 17 collisions were reported — none involving major injuries.

Palo Alto and Menlo Park saw their sharpest dip in reported police cases in the week of March 25, with 38 and 23 cases, respectively. Compared to the week of March 11, that’s around a 52% decrease for Palo Alto and about a 74% decrease for Menlo Park.

It’s important to note that the data only includes cases that agencies decided rose to the level of a written report, using their own criteria. It does not include every “call for service” the departments received.

Still, Nelson could attest that there was a decrease in calls for Mountain View and that it spoke to the collective effort residents were making to stay at home.

Thefts take a dip just before shutdown

The trends in theft-related crimes — including petty and grand thefts, thefts from auto, commercial burglaries, financial crimes and identity theft, among others — are less clear cut. Each agency experienced lows during

(continued on page 18)

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first round of the protracted and excruciating exercise. In the coming days, the city will be notifying employees about the council’s decisions and soliciting proposals from labor unions about ways to ease the pain. This may include salary cuts, a measure that many residents argued should be instituted before any services are cut.

While the council barely discussed employee compensation during the three open hearings, City Manager Ed Shikada indicated that he will bring forward a proposal on managers’ salaries before the final budget is adopted.

Councilman Greg Tanaka urged Shikada to go further in cutting administrative costs. In the waning hours of the Wednesday meeting, he suggested that Shikada reduce the supporting staff in his own office from 15 people to two, a proposal that Shikada said would leave his office unable to function. (The council as a whole rejected Tanaka’s proposal.)

At another point, Tanaka recommended that all managers, directors and council members take a pay cut and called salaries “the elephant in the room.”

“I don’t understand how we can turn to labor negotiations if we haven’t done this ourselves as managers, as leaders of the city?” Tanaka asked. “If we haven’t volunteered ourselves to do that, how can we ask for labor to take cuts?”

Shikada noted that management is now in conversations with the city’s bargaining units about the proposed cuts.

“We have both legal as well as contractual obligations to our employees for notice, as well as opportunity for bargaining units to be consulted on the impacts and potential for them to come back with ways to mitigate those impacts,” Shikada said.

Dozens of police positions axed

In preparation for the difficult conversation, Palo Alto staff last week issued a survey that asked residents what they care about the most. The categories that received the most votes were public safety and neighborhood services, which includes libraries, Chief Communication Officer Meghan Horrigan-Taylor said Monday. Councilwoman Lydia Kou said she conducted her own survey of residents and received identical results.

But popularity did not help the Palo Alto Police Department, which saw its budget cut by $6.2 million, resulting in a reduction of 29.8 full-time positions. The cuts, which the council approved by a 4-3 vote, leave the department with fewer patrol positions, a leaner investigation bureau and less funding for animal control services, which will no longer provide overnight service. The department’s traffic unit, which was unveiled to great fanfare in 2018, will be shut down, and the department will hold fewer community-engagement hours.

The department also will shorten public lobby hours, reduce training and suspend recruiting.

“When a police department is asked to reduce its budget by $6 million, there’s going to be impacts,” Police Chief Robert Jonsen told the council Tuesday. Jonsen assured the council and the community that even with a smaller budget, the department is committed to “keeping the community safe and providing the core services required to do that.”

But he noted that the department will no longer be able to do many of the things to which the community is accustomed.

“These reductions will clearly impact our non-emergency responses as well as affect our department’s ability to be as proactive as they can be,” Jonsen said Tuesday. “When a police department is asked to reduce its budget by $6 million, there’s going to be impacts.”

The outlook for the Police Department brightened slightly late Wednesday night, when the council voted to cut $1 million from the capital budget and use about 60% of the savings to reverse some of the cuts in the department. That gesture, however, would only cover about 10% of...
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Budget
(continued from page 13)

that Shikada plans to restore as part of a reduction in the capital funding is $168,000 to keep the small branch open.

The staff proposal to close the library for two years prompted an outcry from residents, many of whom argued that their neighborhood had been unfairly singled out and that their neighborhood library is the only branch located west of El Camino Real. Chris Saccheri, president of the College Terrace Residents Association, called the branch “a vital hub and gathering place for residents on this side of the city.”

“As the community begins to slowly emerge from the isolation of the shelter-in-place, we’re going to need more places to gather and reconnect, not fewer,” Saccheri said. “It would be incredibly heart-breaking and short-sighted to lose this long-standing civic gem at the very time when we need it most.”

While the library is now likely to remain open, the city plans to reduce hours in other libraries. The Rinconada Library will now close at 6 p.m. (currently it’s open until 9 p.m. between Monday and Thursday) and the Children’s Library will now be open on four days per week, rather than seven.

Some council members argued that the cuts are too deep and took issue with the proposal. DuBois said it’s important that the city “restore some of the really low-cost but important services,” including teen programs and Art Center offerings. Kou agreed and pressed the city to find more savings in the capital program.

“It’s just unacceptable — the amount of service (cuts) to the community, especially to the youth programs, and to the libraries and the neighborhoods,” Kou said.

When the council finally approved the Community Services Department budget on Wednesday afternoon, it was in the spirit of exasperation rather than compromise. DuBois initially suggested restoring most of the cuts, a proposal that others saw as inconsistent with the council’s general directive to cut $38.8 million.

Though the vote to approve the budget was unanimous, council members acknowledged before voting that they will have to revisit the topic later in the budget process and minimize the damage. Responding to calls from his colleagues to minimize the impact on neighborhood services, Fine pushed back.

“Every single thing is shrinking. Everything — public safety, community services and libraries. We can’t just go through these items and add things back,” Fine said.

Taking the long and the short views

The biggest source of tension on the council over the course of three hearings...

(continued on next page)
Downtown

(continued from page 5)

people they can serve.

In Menlo Park, the idea of clos-
ing streets was sparked by a request from the owner of Cafe Zoe to use street parking to serve customers once the cafe is allowed to reopen. City Councilman Ray Mueller fur-
ther proposed closing Santa Cruz Avenue to allow for outdoor dining in the downtown area. He and Council-
woman Betsy Nash Tuesday night proposed the temporary closures and the creation of a “streamlined permit process” to temporarily al-
low restaurants and retail stores to serve customers and sell goods in the closed streets to help businesses. 

The council didn’t take any action on the plan on Tuesday, but City Manager Starla Jerome-
Robinson agreed to look at traf-
ffic impacts and evaluate concerns about safety raised by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District be-
fore bringing a more detailed plan back to the council, tentatively on May 26.

Mountain View Mayor Mar-
garet Abe-Koga said city staff is
“actively exploring” temporarily closing Castro Street to traffic, an idea that’s drawn interest in the community over the years.

“The social distancing require-
ments of COVID-19 makes this an opportunity to explore this concept,” she wrote in an email.

“Overall, we are looking at this COVID-19 situation as an oppor-
tunity to test out many of the ways we operate.”

Redwood City is in the early stages of considering allowing restaurants to use sidewalks, private parking lots and streets for outdoor dining and re-
tail sales, including in downtown, Community Development Director Jenni-
er Yamaguma said.

“Staff are evaluating what a pro-
gram might entail, balancing the need for economic vitality while ensuring the health and safety of our community,” she wrote.

That said, staff proposed cutting $45 million from infrastruc-
ture spending over the next five years, which includes a reduction of $8.77 million in the coming year. The capital-improvement program projects about $6 million in the current year from the General Fund to infra-

rastructure.

Projects that were scrapped from the budget include land-
scape improvements at El Camino medians, upgrades to the Menlo Park Cen-
ter building, the construction of flood-protection levees in the Baylands and the proposed dog park. The plan also calls for spending $4 million less on bike boulevards (from $11.3 million to $7.3 million) over the next five years.

But with the exception of the downtown garage, which lost political favor well before the pandemic, other projects on the council’s priority list are expected to proceed as before. Some council members strong-
dy disagreed with this strategy, Kou accused her colleagues and staff of prioritizing “monu-
ments” over services, and Tanaka said the capital projects “won’t have a meaning-
ful impact on people’s lives.”

Kniss agreed.

“There are times when I think our police and our fire may have more merit than putting up a new fire station, or may have more merit than the Byxbee Library,” Kniss said. “We’ve got to think very carefully because we are making our trade-offs.”

In Palo Alto, the City Council has not yet formally taken up a proposal to close University and California avenues, but staff has been discussing for the past few weeks with local restaurant and business owners.

Palo Alto Mayor Adrian Fine said he supports the concept, not-
ing that the timing is optimal. The usual argument against do-
ing so, particularly on University Ave-

nue, is that it would intensify traffic on side streets and neighborhoods — doesn’t carry as much weight when traffic has dropped signifi-
cantly during the shelter-in-place order, he said.

Fine has been discussing re-
lated ideas with City Manager Ed Shikada, including turning parking space on University into parklets and allowing more than one business — such as a pop-up or food truck — to share an existing restaurant space. Fine said he is “totally supportive of experiment-
ing with this staff.”

But with the City Council de-

voting much of its time to mitigat-
ing a nearly $40-million budget shortfall and continuing to navi-
gate the coronavirus pandemic, Fine said the proposal to close downtown streets is not high on the city’s priority list.

“So is a great opportunity, Yes, but it’s also not the absolute top priority right now,” he said.

Councilman Alison Cor-
mack also supports the idea. She also floated the idea of making California a one-way street, with additional outdoor seating on one side.

“My one concern is that the overriding objective of the health and safety order is that we need to be better in place,” she said. “I don’t want us to open this up until it’s safe to do so and it doesn’t constitute a gathering, but it think it’s a great idea. COVID-19 or not, in terms of activating some of these spaces.”

Restaurant owners hope their elected officials take action sooner-

er than later.

“The crisis — we’re in it now,”
said Ekwall, who’s facing major losses as a staff of just five people, including him, runs takeout ser-
vice at La Bodeguita. “We will survive, but it’s going to be tough because people really need help.”

For Oren’s Hummus on Uni-

versity Avenue, which seats 49 people inside and 10 more in the dining room during normal circ-

umstances, additional outdoor seating would help sustain the business, co-owner Mistie Cohen said.

“This wouldn’t be something we would want as a long-term so-
lution, but I do believe for at least the next few months, it would be a great idea that would greatly sup-
port many restaurants,” she said.

She also suggested the city cre-
ate outdoor “picnic” events that would allow restaurants to serve or deliver food to local parks.

Cormack also envisioned allow-

ing food trucks to operate in local parks.

Guillaume Bienaime, who owns Zola’s in Bryant Street in downtown Palo Alto, said building parklets in front of restaurants would be great as long as the city creates a tem-
plate with preicted plans, cost-
ors and fees to avoid a protracted permitting process. Zola’s has been closed since March, and Bienaime has been pressing the city to em-
brace creative ideas to help his and other restaurants recover.

“I keep in mind to see a radical change in consumer habits for the next couple of years,” he wrote to the council in late April. “We should have a new set of social responses in order to main-
tain small business and a vibrant community.”

For other local cities, Nextdoor pages and city council inboxes have been flooded with emails from residents who want to see the city go ahead — at least for now.

That said, the economic downturn could al-

low the city to save money on the $115-million police building by reducing construction-labor costs. She recalled the city’s effort a decade ago to rebuild the library system, an endeavor made possible by a bond that residents passed in 2008, when the economic outlook was also bleak.

“Inadvertently, we ended up saving a lot of money when we built our libraries because we happened to be contracting out during a recession,” said Cormack, who led the effort to pass the library bond. “We may have the opportunity to do that on steroids this time with a much bigger project. That’s something to keep in mind.”

The council will resume its budget discussion on Tuesday, May 26, when staff comes back with limited reductions in cap-
ital spending that would allow the restoration of some funding to public safety and communi-
ty services, which includes the College Terrace Library and pro-
grams for teens. The council is scheduled to formally adopt the budget on June 2.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawewly.com.

About the cover: Funding for open space preserves, Cubberley Community Center and public safety services would be cut under Palo Alto’s proposed budget. Photos by Magali Gauthier (top left) and Veronica Weber. Cover design by Douglas Young.

“We are in unprecedented times,” Liz Laffont wrote to the Menlo Park council last week. “Changes have hit us, and we must adapt more swiftly and with more creativity than ever before.”

Embarcadero Media Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw contributed to this article. Staff Writer Elena Kadavy can be emailed at ekadavy@pawewly.com.
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Crime (continued from page 11)

the shutdown, but the overall downward trends began prior to the local stay-at-home orders.

Collectively, the three midpeninsula cities a peak in crimes the week of Feb. 12, with 135 cases. Afterward, the number im-
mediately began a rocky descent — weeks before the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

Magnus Lofstrom, a policy di-
rector of criminal justice at the Public Policy Institute of Cali-
ifornia who has studied crime in major California cities during the pandemic, said one explanation for the early drop could be attributed to two factors: pro-cessing trends and new ac-
tocils instituted in early March. (By March 6, some of the largest employers in the region, includ-
ing Facebook, Twitter, Google and Blue
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Low numbers of theft crimes vary by city, but all dips oc-
turred roughly co-incident with the stay-at-home order. Mountain View reported 25 cases during the week of April 1.

“Overall, criminal activity is down in our city.” Nelson said.

“We are still seeing property crimes — things like catalytic converter thefts, commercial

burglaries — those are still happen-
ing, but overall things are a little bit better.” But, he added, “I think it’s probably because of the health order.”

Palo Alto experienced its big-
gest drop in crime just after the health order was mandated, with 12 cases.

Menlo Park statistics reveal hardly any shift that coincides with the pandemic’s timeline — although reported cases dipped to a low of seven in the week of April 8. Part of it may have to do with changes in reporting meth-

odologies. (Nicole Weber, public information officer for the Menlo Park Police Department, noted that the department recently be-
gan to process more online cases, which generates a case number that goes into the daily reports.)

Another cause could be that crime just naturally fluctuates.

We want to be cautious in interpreting and reading too much into the swings in reported crimes, because there are always swings in reported crimes,” Lof-

strom said. “But none of them are really very informative.”

Santa Clara County’s Office of the District Attorney found that overall crime was down between March 16 and April 24 when compared to the same pe-
riod in 2019. But not all theft crimes de-
creased. Commercial burglaries remained constant, District At-
tor y Jeff Rosen reported during a County Supervisors meeting on May 5.

“Residential burglaries are down — more people are home,” Rosen said. “Commercial burglaries have remained the same — many busi-
nesses have been closed and those are targets of opportunity.”

Not all officers attest to any noticeable shifts in crime possibly brought on by the coronavirus.

Agt. Craig Lee, a field train-
ing officer for the Palo Alto Po-
lice Department who regularly handles case reports, said there was “nothing remarkable about shelter-in-place.”

“From a patrol and watch-
ning the reports and calls for service there’s no significant trends that I personally have seen across any sort of offenses or other types of calls for service,” Lee said. “I wouldn’t say there is a downturn of anything based on a lower amount of reports.”

Domestic violence and distur-
bance cases also varied by agency.

Menlo Park police experienced a higher volume of domestic vio-
ces calls in the first three weeks of sheltering-in-place when com-
pared to the same period last year, according to Palo Alto Online’s sister website, The Almanac.

The Santa Clara County Sher-
iff’s office saw a 46% increase in domestic disturbance calls af-

ter March 16, according to

the article. Assistant County Sheriff Ken Binder said that included cases that had potential for domestic violence.

In addition, the Victims Servic-
es Unit of the Santa Clara County district attorney’s office experi-
cenced a rise in calls for domestic violence after an initial low in the first few weeks of the health or-
der. Referrals for physical child abuse and neglect also increased along with cases filing criminal charges.

“We know that shelter-in-place is not safe if you’re living with your abuser,” Rosen said. “And we know that this is the kind of crime, as underreported as it is, it is still seeing these levels of reports because people are still being attacked by the people they thought and hoped that they could trust.”

Palo Alto and Mountain View did not experience notable up-
ticks in domestic violence calls or reports, according to the de-
partments’ public information officers.

But the case remains, at least for Palo Alto, “People are still going to jail; people are still being issued citations; officers are still out there in the field engaging out citizenry, responding to calls for service and conducting our investigations,” Lee said.

Health order violations

Crime levels may vary for each city, but one thing that has increased for all agencies in the

Midpeninsula are calls about people violating health order. And as enforcement has created a hotline for complaints and con-
cerns about the stay-at-home or-
ers, so law enforcement agencies have seen an increase in calls. Rosen called it “flattening the law enforcement curve.”

Rosen reported that his of-
fice has received over 2,000 com-
plaints in recent weeks. But that hasn’t stopped watchful residents of the Midpeninsula from calling their local police departments.

Two areas of calls that have in-
creased for Palo Alto, according to department spokesman Ja-

nifer De la Vega, were complaints about speeding vehicles and health order violations.

“The majority of these calls in-
volve routine gardening and resi-
dential construction complaints,” De la Vega said. “While public health orders can be enforced criminally, the majority of complaints are handled through a hotline or complaints from residents about of-

The Midpeninsula enters the third month of sheltering-in-place, data from the three cities point to another new shift during the pan-
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COVID-19 Testing is NOW FREE and EASY

Schedule a test today if you:

- Work at an essential service, such as a grocery store, restaurant, food service, utility service, or other job that requires frequent contact with the public even if you have no symptoms;
- Are a healthcare worker or first responder;
- Have a scheduled surgery or medical procedure;
- Have any symptoms of COVID-19.

Make an appointment online and get a free test today!
Visit www.sccgov.org/cv19testing

Stay informed!

Protect yourself and our community.
Visit sccgov.org/coronavirus for more information about testing and COVID-19.
By order of the State, COVID-19 Testing is fully covered by all insurance providers.
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ACADEMICS

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

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) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School
Palo Alto
i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.
castilleja.org/i2camp
(650) 470-7833

Stanford ExplorE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research
Stanford
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.
explor.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.org/summer
pa@stratfordschools.com
(650) 493-1141

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto
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 grades 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’s Studio is where your child will have fun while learning many different fiber related arts. We teach sewing, knitting, crochet, weaving and jewelry making to children ages 8 to 15 years. AM or PM camps $250/week. Full day camps $550/week. 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum.
letsocrafting.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 (L.I.T.), Camp YOUNique, 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

ATHLETICS

Dance Connection Palo Alto
Palo Alto
Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a “home away from home” for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up and features our new “This is Me!” Empowerment Camp along with Teen Jazz and Hip Hop Camps. A Summer Session for ages 3 to adults will be offered from June 8 – July 31.
danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps
(650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

Kim Grant Tennis Palo Alto
Summer Camps
Monterey Bay
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 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men’s Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women’s Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men’s and Women’s Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!
uspsportscams.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.
runcampfms.com/summer-camp/summer-camps-monterey-bay
(650) 823-5167

Spartans Sports Camp Mountain View
Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports, performing arts, and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps begin June 8th and run weekly through July 31st at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Flexible cancellation policies.
spartanssportscamp.com
(650) 479-5906

YMCA 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.
ymcasv.org/summercamp
(408) 351-6473

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was championed by Councilwoman Liz Kniss and supported Monday by Councilwoman Lydia Kou, who said that requiring face coverings would help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“We have seen gatherings in parks, especially on weekends, whenever the weather is nice. ... If they’re going to be sitting in parks or going to open spaces or for gatherings, then they need to have their masks on. Because this is exactly how it will be transmitted,” Kou said.

While the council was unanimous, the public was split on the issue. Some called the measure reasonable while others suggested it’s unnecessary.

“Since the county doesn’t require masks in public, I really wonder why the City Council thinks they know better?” resident Tim Diebert asked in an email. “What science is this being based on?”

Santa Clara County already requires masks for people who visit “essential businesses.” Diebert noted. And when he is out doing errands, the very few people who are out are already maintaining the county order, he wrote.

Matt Smuts, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, said he was concerned about “the image of faith communities leading worship online with face masks on.”

“Seems it might cause people to be additionally alarmed,” Smuts told the council Monday. “I’m wondering if this would be beneficial to helping people be calm at a time of shelter-in-place. I’m wondering if this might be too broad a blanket.”

But resident Nancy Wagner said she believes a local mask mandate is warranted. She said during a recent visit to House of Bagels, she found employees were not wearing masks. When she asked the manager about it, she told her that masks were “optional.”

“Basically not required, so they’re not bothering. ... I understand that Santa Clara County has made face masks optional, but the city of Palo Alto can do better,” Wagner wrote.

City Manager Ed Shikada and City Attorney Molly Stump warned Monday that the city does not have the resources to enforce the ban. Stump urged the council to “be realistic” about the new mandate.

“Because we don’t have sufficient city staff to be responding to little gatherings as they occur, this really needs to be an effort around education through our communication channels and between community members and neighbors talking to each other,” Stump said.

Even without strict enforcement, the law will allow community members to tell others, “This is the law. You need to obey it,” Shikada said.

“The social pressure is what will make this most effective,” Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Masks

(continued from page 5)
Carleton Crosby Hoffner, Jr.
April 23, 1931 – April 21, 2020

Carleton Crosby Hoffner, Jr. died in his home 2 days before his 89th birthday. He passed peacefully with his loving son and wife of 66 years by his side.

As the only child born to Rear Admiral Carleton C. Hoffner, Sr. and Josephine Huber Hoffner in Washington D.C. on April 23, 1931, Carl wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps by serving in the U.S. Navy. While growing up, Carl became active in the Washington Figuring Skating Club, competing nationally and internationally in pairs and ice dancing competitions. Carl and his partner Ann (“Chickie”) Davies won the US National Championship in 1946 and in 1949 placed 3rd in the World Championships in Paris. He carefully maintained his amateur status in ice skating throughout his life, “just in case” he ever found the time to get back into skating.

In addition to the focus and many hours of training required to be a world-class competitive skater, Carl also worked several part-time jobs, competed in tennis at the Army Navy Country Club, and graduated at the top of his high school class. His outstanding accomplishments netted him a presidential appointment to the United States Naval Academy where his father graduated in 1925. He spent 1 year attending the University of Virginia until he was old enough to enter the Naval Academy. While at the Academy he served as captain of the varsity tennis and squash teams. During a squash competition against Harvard in 1952 one of his teammates became ill. Carl went to check on his teammate at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge. It was there that he met his future wife, Registered Nurse Mary Constance Read in Cambridge. It was there that he met his future wife, Registered Nurse Mary Constance Read (Connie). Carl graduated from the Naval Academy on June 5, 1953 and married Connie the same day.

Immediately following graduation, Carl went on to serve in the Korean conflict followed by a world tour. Upon his return to Norfolk, Virginia, after more than a year of active duty, he reunited with his wife, and was introduced to his six-month-old daughter, Carol (1954, Chelsea, MA) for the first time. He served a full career in the U.S. Navy, taking him all over the world. He and Connie found time to have two more children: Heidi (1956, West Point, NY) and Eric (1959, Guan). In 1960, the family moved to Hawaii, where Carl, as part of the Seabees (Naval Combat Construction Forces), finished the construction of the USS Arizona Memorial. His father was on duty in Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941 when the Arizona was sunk during the Japanese attack. Carl was proud of his work on this project bringing the family’s history in Pearl Harbor full circle.

After completing his active duty assignments in 1966, Carl continued his service as a Commander in the United States Naval Reserve and remained in Hawaii working as a civilian for the United States Department of the Navy. In 1968, the family moved to Fairfax, Virginia, where Carl accepted a position at the Pentagon. Although no longer in the military he continued to serve the military in his civilian capacity building infrastructure and providing logistical support in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. Once he completed his work at the Pentagon, the family moved to California in 1971, where Carl was director of the Western Division Naval Facilities Command, managing the Public Works for all Naval Facilities in the Western Hemisphere. In his “spare” time, Carl finished his studies at the Stanford Graduate School of Business where he earned his MBA in 1974. Upon retiring from the Defense Department in 1987, Carl remained active as a consultant in the Defense and Public Utilities space.

Carl and Connie moved into a retirement community on the Stanford campus. Carl enjoyed studying various businesses, investing in stocks, and attending stockholder meetings all over the Silicon Valley. He was proud of his work on this project bringing the family’s history in Pearl Harbor full circle.

For many years he was involved with the Palo Alto Garden Club and became well known and highly respected in the area. She helped found the California chapter of APLD, the Association of Professional Landscape Designers and later served as the secretary/treasurer of the National Association. She was involved with the Palo Alto Garden Club for many years and was invaluable in labeling all plants for the annual Gamble’s Spring Garden Tour. Debby was the anchor of her blended family and will be sorely missed by her husband Rob Ruskin, daughter Amy Palmer (Gadi Zohar) and sons Josh Palmer (Heather), Ethan Ruskin (Korinne) and Dan Ruskin (Kari) as well as 7 awesome grandchildren: Landon and Braden Palmer, Izzy and Ben Zohar and Matthew, Ryan and Ellen Ruskin. The entire family plus nieces and nephews gather in Hawaii for a week every July and at Tahoe during winter break. She brought fun, joy and strength to every gathering.

Debby will also be remembered by her many friends for her beauty and skill on the tennis court. For many she was a favorite doubles partner. Her coach, Mariano Paris, at Foothills T&S club wrote a glowing description of Debby the player and the amazing positive and encouraging person she was. She loved games, in particular bridge with our very fun group of 4 couples who come together for bridge and dinner regularly.

Debby was a member of the Palo Alto Kiwanis Club and participated annually at the University Avenue Art and Wine Festival pouring with her charming smile to raise money for their charitable foundation. She was active every year at the Kiwanis May Fete Faire at Heritage Park at the end of the May Fete parade.

Debby will be remembered lovingly by her family including her sister, Susan Junta, many nieces and nephews and many friends as the kind, generous and caring person she was.

The family prefers donations in her memory to be made to Gamble Gardens with the goal of adding a brick with her name to the beautiful gazebos in the center of the demonstration garden or to The Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto Charitable Foundation that serves the needs of children in the area.

The family plans to have a celebration of her life when large gatherings are once again possible.
Obtaining a diploma is a moment in your graduate’s life you all will cherish for years to come. But the current pandemic and shelter-in-place order make it much more difficult to celebrate in the ways you may have imagined.

We wanted to find a way to honor local graduates and do something memorable for the class of 2020. For the first time, we will be offering a special section in our paper and online dedicated to the Class of 2020 for announcements! This is your opportunity to publicly recognize their achievements and honor your graduate in an ad in our June 5 Graduation issue and online on a designated page on our website.

Learn more and submit your graduate at PaloAltoOnline.com/graduation

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Lauren Lee

PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL

To our favorite soccer player, our family fashion expert and the sibling with the best laugh snort, congratulations! Lauren, you inspire us every day with your kindness, big dreams and humor, and we can’t wait to watch you make your mark wherever you go. Keep running full speed ahead — we’ll always be right behind you.

—Mom, Dad & Aaron
Our subscribing members say it best...

"I admire and appreciate your excellent work — always, but especially right now. I’m forever a supporter ... Keep up the great journalism!"

- Christina D.

Will you join the thousands of others supporting local journalism?

Now’s your moment to step up when we need you the most.

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Guest Opinion

5G cell towers are coming to your neighborhood

by Meredith Einaudi

Palo Alto residential neighborhoods may be about to experience a significant increase in the number of cell towers along their streets. I think these could threaten aesthetics, safety, noise levels and property valuations.

The Palo Alto City Council is working on a Revised Wireless Ordinance, which together with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established regulations on wireless companies to permit the installation of wireless communication facilities, or WCFs (w e r e s  o r  a n t e n n a s ,  r e f e r r e d  t o  i n city documents as WCFs) on public and private school grounds, bus stops, public parks, post offices and other public facilities.

There are presently two bills in Congress (Rep. Anna Eshoo’s HR 530 and Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s SB 120) and an online search for “Palo Alto cell towers” will show several groups banding together to explore and lobby for ways to protect people from these new and intrusive forms of communication.

Meredith Einaudi is a past president of the Palo Alto Council for the Arts. She thanks Dr. Cindy Russell, founder of Physicians for Safe Technology, for reviewing this column. She can be reached at meinaud@ sbeglobal.net.

What do you think?

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

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 letters for length, clarity and correctness. 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.

Will closing down city streets help restaurants?

Submit letters to the editor editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you.

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Do you dream of living on the beach or near the ocean?

312 Oceanview Drive, La Selva Beach

Has this pandemic changed your mind about where you want to live and how you will work? Perhaps you have dreamed of living on the beach or near the ocean? The beach townhome at 312 Oceanview Drive is on the sand in La Selva Beach. Make your Zoom calls from the mid-level living area after a morning run on the beach.

533 La Honda Drive, Aptos

Need something close to the water with a zen like garden and a private home office? Look no further than 533 La Honda Drive in Aptos.

Call me today to learn more about these and other properties in Santa Cruz County and get started living the life of your dreams.

1527 Fordham Court, Mountain View 94040

Listed at $2,995,000. Sold, with four offers, for $3,115,000.

Living area 2,130 square feet; lot 8,054 square feet.

Four bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths.

Please see testimonial from the owner, below.

Recently we decided to sell our house in the Bay Area and move. This can be very stressful. We needed a realtor who could not just sell our house but help with all expected and unexpected issues. We chose to trust our house to Lana Ralston from Deleon Realty, Inc. Lana has extensive experience serving clients in Santa Clara County and has lived here for a long time.

Lana impressed us the moment she arrived, and three months later, when the escrow has closed, we are impressed even more. We began with making a comprehensive schedule, which guided us in doing house and yard upgrades, packing and moving out, staging, putting the house on the market and taking offers. Lana helped decide with making the house and yard ready. She saved us time and money by helping to choose what made the property appealing, providing the contractors, and overseeing the work, so we could focus on moving.

We were in the middle of the move when the coronavirus hit. We left, leaving Lana in charge. She dealt with all difficulties and placed the house on the market right on schedule. She adjusted her marketing strategy to a new environment, and two weeks later all was done. This is amazing considering the tough conditions with which Lana had to deal.

In conclusion, we are very grateful to Lana for her support in these difficult times and being not just a highly professional realtor, but a great friend. We would not have been able to do everything without her.

2427 Burnham Way, Palo Alto 94303

Listed at $2,100,000. Sold, with four offers, for $2,202,000.

Living area 1,120 square feet; lot 6,241 square feet.

Three bedrooms, two baths.

Food reporting you won’t find anywhere else.

Sign up for the only food newsletter on the Peninsula at PaloAltoOnline.com/express
Colonial Home in Emerald Hills

5 Bed | 4.5 Bath | 3,080 Sq Ft | Call for Price | EmeraldHillsSanMateoCounty.com

Experience First-Class Concierge Care

Magnificent views of both the Bay and Western hills are enjoyed throughout this Colonial home that sits at the end of a cul-de-sac. This charming home has been designed with an eye towards blending the interior with the surroundings, making it ideal for indoor and outdoor living.

Located in the desirable Emerald Hills neighborhood, the home offers 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms plus a one-bedroom unit (can be used as a rental or a guest unit, buyer to verify permits), a studio unit, and an oversized two-car garage.

I hope you are keeping well and staying well during these times. Despite everything that is happening, there are still many motivated buyers and sellers out there! The market is still moving. We are putting clients into escrow every week. Whatever you need, we are here for you. Call today about this home or any of my other listings/exclusive off-market opportunities.

---

Adriana Trenev
Realtor®
650.383.5697
DRE 01893246

Colonial Home in Emerald Hills

Realtor®
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DRE 01893246
STYLE AND CONVENIENCE IN BARRON PARK

3802 Magnolia Drive, Palo Alto

Tucked away on a peaceful cul-de-sac in the sought-after neighborhood of Barron Park, this stylish and elegant home stands ready to meet the needs of a modern family. Offering 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and over 2,700 sq. ft. of bright, airy living space (per county) on a nearly 10,000 sq. ft. lot (per county), this home boasts a convenient floor plan that includes a fireplace-warmed living room, an open chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances from LG and Thermador, and a family room resting beneath a cathedral ceiling, warmed by a fireplace all its own. Enjoy the comfort of the master suite with a marble-appointed en suite bathroom, and appreciate the convenience of three additional bedrooms, including a guest suite. The large, private backyard well-suited for outdoor enjoyment adds to the appeal of this wonderful home, which enjoys a location close to multiple parks, a short trip to both downtown Palo Alto and downtown Mountain View, and near U.S. 101 for Bay Area commuting. Topping it all off, children may attend acclaimed Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

Offered at $3,488,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only, instant appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (5/16) and Sunday (5/17).

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.3802Magnolia.com

Michael Repka | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun 電話：650.785.5822 | DRE #01933274
1760 Lantis Lane, Los Altos

A tranquil creek winds its way through the property totaling nearly an acre (per county), providing a glittering backdrop for this 5-bedroom, 3-bath home on a delightful cul-de-sac in sought-after South Los Altos. Bright, inviting spaces populate this 2,894 sq. ft. floorplan (per county), including the living room and family room both featuring a fireplace, as well as the chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances from Wolf and Sub-Zero. Superb privacy awaits in the expansive master suite, while the home’s four additional bedrooms provide comfort and convenience for the entire family. Enjoy al fresco delights in the large backyard, as well as the adjoining lot which leads to the nearby Stevens Creek, providing a picturesque setting to sit and relax while the soothing sounds of nature captivate the senses. Adding the finishing touch, this wonderful location is just moments to Grant Park, near Highway 85, and offers access to acclaimed Cupertino schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in the Nation.*

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

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit: www.1760Lantis.com

Offered at $3,688,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only, instant appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (5/16) and Sunday (5/17).
Elegant Entertainer’s Estate
3540 Springhill Road, Lafayette

Main Home: 4 Beds | 2 Full Baths | 2 Half Baths | ±3,985 sf
Detached Guest Cottage/Office: 1 Bed | 1 Full Bath | ±605 sf
Lot ±0.88 acres

An entertainer’s dream with welcoming spaces to gather indoors and out. Situated on a sunny and flat lot near top-rated Lafayette schools. Easy East Bay living at its finest.

Offered at $4,250,000

More photos and details at 3540Springhill.com
Whether they're grocery shopping for a neighbor or volunteering for a nonprofit, you can spread the joy and support our journalism efforts by giving them a shout-out in the Palo Alto Weekly.

For $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/

**Local Hero**

**Emel Mutlu and her wonderful staff**

The Market at Edgewood is a wonderful and responsive community resource because of its owner, Emel. The staff is gracious, customer-focused and adapted quickly to the crisis by creating new services such as curbside pickup and delivery. I am so grateful to have a local market I can feel safe shopping in during this crisis. Emel and the team really have gone above and beyond!

Submitted by: Julie Jerome
This North Palo Alto 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom midcentury gem includes everything treasured about Eichlers: An abundance of natural light, clean lines, & open living spaces. The home includes a lovely entry with skylight & line of sight to the rear yard; fantastic living room/dining room combo with fireplace, beamed ceilings and walls of floor-to-ceiling windows; sleek & updated kitchen with white quartz countertops and stainless steel appliances; and a generous family room with great space for puzzle making or board games. The bedroom wing has a sun-bathed master suite with a wall of glass sliders to the rear yard, 3 additional bedrooms and inside laundry area. Handsome slate-tiled floors, valence heat, wonderful landscaping including a large patio and a multitude of fruit trees, and a 2-car garage add to the appeal. The home is 1,954 sq.ft. on a 6,784 sq.ft. lot. Excellent Palo Alto schools: Duveneck Elementary, Greene Middle, Palo Alto High.