City managers to take pay cuts during budget crisis

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Palo Alto Community Fund COVID-19 Relief Fund have allowed 150 local families to stay in their homes despite the personal financial crisis they face due to the global pandemic.

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GIVEWHEREYOULIVE
Curbside retail pickups restart in county

Santa Clara County joins other parts of state in moving to next phase of pandemic recovery

by Gennady Sheyner

B ook shops, clothing stores and other businesses in Santa Clara County that allow storefront pickup can reopen as of Friday, May 22, provided they can limit their employee count and demonstrate their compliance with social-distancing rules, county leaders announced Monday.

With the amended order, Santa Clara County joined the wave of Bay Area counties beginning the transition into the second phase of reopening the economy, consistent with recent guidance from Gov. Gavin Newsom.

San Mateo County announced on May 15 that it would allow retailers to operate with curbside pickup, effective May 18. Retail operations in San Francisco, Marin, Alameda and Contra Costa counties also resumed operations on May 18, subject to curbside mandates and social-distancing restrictions.

In Santa Clara County, any retailers providing curbside service must also limit their employee count to one employee per 300 square feet of space under the new order. In addition, they must fill out a new five-page protocol sheet, detailing what they have done to prevent coronavirus transmission. They also have to post a sheet for visitors that lists their safety measures and a county-issued “COVID-19 Prepared” certificate.

“We want people to know what the business has done to be compliant with these protocols so that folks feel safe and are safe in entering those facilities and conducting business, and employees feel safe around working there,” County Counsel James Williams said during a May 18 press conference announcing the changes.

The order also allows car parades, as well as the reopening of schools.

(continued on page 13)

Mental Health

Having lost her son, a Palo Alto mother now scatters messages of hope

Painted rocks, left for others to find, raise awareness of mental health

by Elena Kadvany

S he carries the rocks with her everywhere she goes and leaves them for others to find. At the Angel of Grief statue at Stanford University. At high school campuses. On the beach in Carmel. Outside her son’s favorite restaurants.

“To the one who finds me: May you always feel loved,” reads one rock, smooth and small and hand-painted with a cheery bouquet of pink heart-shaped flowers.

On the other side of the rock, in her handwriting, are numbers for 24/7 suicide phone and text hotlines.

Jennifer Turner’s son, Alexander, a Gunn High School senior, died by suicide in 2017 after battling and receiving treatment for depression and anxiety. His mother started painting rocks with inspirational messages and leaving them around Palo Alto as a means to work through her own grief, while also hoping she might lift others out of their moments of darkness.

“It’s all about saving a life,” she said.

Turner got the idea for the rocks from a similar breast cancer awareness initiative. A self-described “crafty person,” she was drawn to the idea of a simple, meaningful art project. She described it as her grief therapy.

“I was putting everything I could think of on the rocks. ‘You were never a burden.’ ‘You are never alone.’ All those things that depression makes you think that are not true,” she said.

She added the suicide resources on the back and the social media hashtag #AlecsArmy so people can find the Facebook and Instagram pages where she documents the project. (Her son, who went by Alec, wanted to join the military after high school and become a marine like his father, a Gunn High School graduate.

(continued on page 11)

City execs could take pay cuts

Shikada says managers will “give back” 15% of salaries

by Gennady Sheyner

W ith Palo Alto facing a budget crisis, City Manager Ed Shikada said Monday that he plans to take a 20% pay cut and that managers at City Hall will give back 15% of their salaries.

Shikada’s announcement came days after the City Council held a series of meetings in which members debated a wide range of budget cuts to close a $38.8 million gap in the fiscal year 2021 budget, which starts July 1. Last week, the council tentatively approved reducing services in every department, which will mean shorter hours at local libraries, leaner staffing in the Police Department, elimination of the city’s free shuttle and decreased funding for recreation programs, including the cancellation of all performances at Children’s Theatre.

The proposed cuts have triggered a community backlash, with dozens of residents submitting letters in recent weeks arguing that the city should be looking at salary reductions rather than eliminations of services. Mayor Adrian Fine and Shikada both said that the city cannot legally require unions to accept salary decreases without going through a formal negotiation process.

But with popular programs on the chopping block and residents increasingly anxious about the prospect of fewer services, Shikada told the council Monday, May 18, that he plans to bring forward

(continued on page 14)
**GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP**

April 24, 2020.

Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on

name(s) listed above.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

This business is doing business as: East West Bookshop of Palo Alto.

File No.: FBN665102

This statement was filed with the County

registrant(s) is(are):

The name and residence address of the

1.) East West Bookshop of Palo Alto, 2.)

doing business as:

EAST WEST BOOKSHOP OF PALO ALTO

197 A Easy Street

Suzanne Ogawa (223-6543)

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SEEING STARS ... Anyone passing through University

Avenue in downtown Palo Alto this Monday will notice one of the iconic red — and white stripes and 50 stars has

been a longtime tradition of the Palo Alto University Rotary Club: on Memorial Day, but the manpower has

dramatically dropped due to the coronavirus crisis. Usually, about 30 people have joined as volunteers,

club members (many of whom are older) and children — set up the flags in about 30 minutes. Afterward, they

gather at a local bakery, where they socialize over breakfast. This Monday, only three club members will take

job: Larry Christsen, a 40-year resident and retired naval aviator; Richard Schoeleman, an 18-year resident;

and Katie Cooken, the club’s president. The club was initially hesitant to move forward because of social-distancing
rules and stay-at-home orders. “We really don’t want to have a lot of people there bunging into each other,”

Christsen said. On top of honoring veterans, the club also sets up the flags on three other federal holidays each year:

out on the street.” The club’s president. The club was

bankruptcy. See story on page 5.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If everyone took a 17% pay cut, we’d be done." — Greg Tanaka, Palo Alto councilman, on balancing the budget. See story on page 5.

Around Town

BIRTHDAY BASH FOR BONNIE ... People may take

Zoom to celebrate their birthdays with virtual calls as they shelter in place. But Susie Borton plans
to take it up a notch for her mother, Bonnie Borton, who’s turning 90 years old this Sunday. To mark the
milestone, Susie is organizing a social distance parade to mark the milestone in the tight-knit Los

Aubutes neighborhood south of Palo Alto, where the birthday celebrant has lived since 1960. Susie described her mother, who lives independently at home, as “quite energetic for her age. She’s still ambulatory. She walks with a cane, but she’s really on her own physically and mentally,” she said. On May 24, Bonnie will be dressed in her best attire and seated on a “throne” during the afternoon outside of a home where people can greet her —from a safe distance, of course. She’ll wear a flower crown made by Susie’s friend and will most likely have Layla, her 10-pound black and-tan dachshund, by her side. Guests will be treated to Bonnie’s favorite dessert from her childhood — a chocolate cupcakes with mint green icing and studded with a dollop of whipped cream. “She’s not a person who likes huge parties where she’s the center of attention, but I think she’ll like this because she really does love her neighbors.”

TEAM EFFORT ... There are few face shields to go around during the COVID-19 pandemic, but a group of more than 260 Bay Area residents, businesses and nonprofits has teamed up to provide the equipment to front-line workers amid the public health crisis. They were able to design and purchase parts for the shields, which they then donated to local hospitals, nursing homes and emergency service providers. More than 30,000 shields were contributed to facilities in need over a 45-day period. The final stop was at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where former Marine Corps Officer Michael McNally and other volunteers donated the final 100 face shields to Bill Ball, chief of voluntary and hospitality services at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. McNally is a volunteer manager at the Riekes Center for Veterans Affairs, a Merlo Park-based nonprofit that works with middle and high-school-aged student-athletes.
PUBLIC HEALTH

Mask on, gloves off: How to stay safe as counties loosen restrictions

Infectious disease expert speaks on protective practices, the debate on COVID-19’s seasonality and where we are in terms of a vaccine

by Lloyd Lee

W herever residents and politicians may stand in the COVID-19 debate on when to reopen the entire economy, local health officials seem to agree that Bay Area counties have slowed the spread of the coronavirus.

As a result, county leaders have allowed businesses that can offer curbside pickup and outdoor museums to operate again: Mountain View and Palo Alto already reopened tennis courts and a few other outdoor facilities; and Gov. Gavin Newsom recently hinted at a press briefing that some regions can expect to see in-store retail services and hair salons resume in the next few weeks.

But even as residents are gradually allowed to step outside to enjoy the warm weather and shop, Dr. Jonathan Blum, chief of infectious disease at Kaiser Permanent Santa Clara Medical Center, said in an interview that stopping the spread of COVID-19 is an ongoing mission: The virus continues to linger within the population and the chances of a second wave of the virus are high.

“It’s likely there will be additional waves of infection,” Blum said. “We don’t know exactly where, we don’t know how big they will be, but that is going to happen. So the real lesson of this is that we need to continue to do whatever we can to prevent the spread of the virus.”

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to continue its review of the fiscal year 2021 budget, including staff’s new recommendations to reduce the infrastructure budget and restore to the previously proposed cuts to public safety and community services. The virtual meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable TV Channel 26, at youtube.com/c/cityofpaloalito, and midpenmedia.org. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 233.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The school board will hear an update on school operations during COVID-19 and planning for the fall; and discuss the district’s budget, results from the 2019-20 CalSCHLS (Healthy Kids) survey and schematic designs for renovation projects at Gunn and Palo Alto high schools, among other items. The virtual meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable TV Channel 26 and midpenmedia.org. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by going to pausd.zoom.us/j/949497346242 or dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 949 9734 6242.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to hold a virtual meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27. The agenda was not available by press deadline.

HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD ... The board plans to hold a virtual meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 28. The agenda was not available by press deadline.

Customers stop 6 feet away from each other at markers taped to the ground while they wait to purchase their food at Piazza’s Fine Foods in Palo Alto on April 9.

The risks are evidently still present and nonessential travel continues to be discouraged because of it. However, it doesn’t mean residents must remain locked in place. Even an infectious disease expert admits that he goes on bike rides, albeit no longer with his cycling club.

“I go out for bike rides by myself.” Blum said. “I wear a mask when I’m out and bring my hand degermer. It all really comes down to the basics.”

Despite small signs of improving times, Blum said there are several simple but effective do’s and don’ts people should continue to practice in order to be mindful of their own and other people’s health.

“Once someone is outside their home, they should wear masks anytime they’re around other people,” the doctor said. “Anybody who’s sick, of course, should stay home and not go outside where they might come into contact with others. Anyone who’s been in contact with a COVID patient — the same.”

Two other tips people should continue to follow include not touching your face in order to avoid spreading germs to the eyes and nose as well as keeping a hand sanitizer, consisting at least 62% of alcohol, close by and using it.

Gloves, on the other hand, are not recommended. Blum said that wearing gloves often provide people “a false sense of reassurance,” in which they end up skipping the decontamination step of washing their hands before and after they put on the gloves. It’s also very common to contaminate hands while people remove the gloves, he said.

“One other way to think about this is to remember that this virus does not infect the hands,” Blum said. “The role of the hands is to spread the virus around to other objects and ultimately to the nose or eyes, which they can infect. So gloves provide no protection from infection, but they actually enhance spreading it by inhibiting hand decontamination.”

As county and state officials continue to loosen restrictions on stores and cubic spaces, Blum said that part of minimizing the further spread of infections will depend upon people using their best judgment.

(continued on page 14)

News Digest

Facebook expands free-groceries program

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Facebook is providing free and heavily subsidized food to local families facing food insecurity.

Since 2017, Facebook has offered free and heavily subsidized produce and food products to Belle Haven and East Palo Alto residents through its “mobile market” — a farmers market on wheels. Now, the Menlo Park tech company is expanding its mobile food market to meet new needs.

Since the pandemic started, the program has dramatically increased the number of participating families. Now serving more than 1,500. About 800 are distributed to local nonprofits, senior centers and churches, and 730 are provided at a heavily subsidized rate directly to local families. Before the pandemic, the program was distributing about 200 subsidized grocery bags to local families.

Supplies come from local farms, restaurants and vendors, according to Dena Grimm, Facebook’s manager of community outreach and events in the Bay Area.

To date, Facebook has spent around $3.5 to $4 million on monetary contributions, the mobile market and other efforts to promote food stability locally, she added.

For more information, go to communitemobilemarketers.com.

—Kate Bradshaw

President Hotel picks up key victory

For nearly two years, the proposal to convert the iconic President Hotel on University Avenue from an apartment building to a hotel has been met with resistance by residents pushing for reducing the city’s housing stock and violating local zoning laws.

But even as the COVID-19 pandemic has decimated the local hotel industry, the project continues to move ahead. And last week, it picked up a key victory when the city’s Historic Resources Board unanimously supported the developer’s plans to renovate and seismically upgrade the 1930 building at 488 University Ave.

The May 14 vote does not, in of itself, allow the project to move ahead. The board did not comment on the most controversial element of the project, the conversion of 75 apartments into 100 hotel rooms. It will ultimately be up to the City Council to grant the property owner, AJ Capital Partners, a waiver to convert residential space to non-residential space.

But the vote by the Historic Resources Board hands a rare victory to a project that has generated significant community opposition since June 2018, when AJ Capital bought the building.

In advocating for the project, Alex Stanford, chief development officer for the west coast at AJ Capital, cited the state of disrepair that the building has fallen into over recent decades.

—Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto Housing rebrands itself

Palo Alto Housing, a nonprofit developer that has been building affordable housing for 50 years, has changed its name to Palo Alto Housing, a move that signals the expansion of its ambitions beyond the confines of its hometown.

The nonprofit, which also has been known as the Palo Alto Housing Corporation, will remain headquartered in Palo Alto, a city that has struggled over the past decade to build affordable housing and that is now in the midst of implementing a Housing Work Plan with incentives for residential construction. The only significant affordable-housing project in the city’s pipeline is Willow Court, a 59-unit complex for low-income residents and adults with disabilities that is being developed by Palo Alto Housing at 3805 El Camino Real.

Since its birth in 1970, the nonprofit has focused its development efforts in Palo Alto, which is home to 23 of its 24 existing residential complexes. The nonprofit also administers the city’s below-market-rate program.

Not all of its local efforts have borne fruit. In 2013, the nonprofit found itself at the center of a heated citywide debate when residents challenged the City Council’s approval of a housing development in the Barron Park neighborhood, which included 60 apartments for low-income seniors and 12 single-family homes. The referendum passed by a 73%-27% margin, and the Barron Park project is now being redeveloped with 16 single-family homes.

Since the 2013 referendum, the nonprofit began to look for new opportunities beyond the borders of Palo Alto, where affordable housing had screeched to a halt.

Alta is currently moving ahead with a 67-unit development at 2821 El Camino Real in the North Fair Oaks neighborhood in San Mateo County that is slated to be completed in October. Randy Tsuda, president and CEO of Alta Housing, said the nonprofit is also preparing to break ground next month on its second Mountain View project, a 71-unit development at 950 W. El Camino Real.

—Gennady Sheyner
Eager to curb vaping without further harming the local economy, Palo Alto’s elected leaders agonized on Monday night over a seemingly impossible question: How can you ban sales of vaping products without killing off smoke shops that depend on these sales?

After hours of debate, the council voted 4-3 to move ahead with a ban on sales of electronic cigarettes and flavored tobacco throughout the city. In doing so, it rejected a proposal from city staff to exempt from the ban adult-only stores that would likely have to shutter as a result of the ban. Once the ban takes effect later this year, Palo Alto will have one of the region’s most stringent prohibitions on vaping.

The council approved the ordinance despite warnings from Assistant Public Works Director Phil Bobel that the prohibition ordinance was unlikely to work for both sides.

“If Mac’s ‘a piece of Palo Alto’ and not that many businesses are already being killed off because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fine also suggested that keeping adults from legally purchasing smoking devices is a step too far. He also said he is concerned about running stores out of Palo Alto.

“Threatens me under any circumstances, but especially these circumstances,” Fine said. “It just seems too far. We’re saying no to the broadest extent of what we need to do to protect kids.”

Fine had proposed delaying the implementation date for the new ban until Sept. 1 to give businesses more time to adapt. The proposal fell by a 3-4 vote, with only Kniss and DuBois supporting him.

The four council members who favored the more stringent ban each argued that health considerations should take precedence over business. Each supported moving ahead with the ban with no exceptions and with little delay as possible. Councilwoman Lydia Kou made the motion to proceed with the prohibition and said she hopes business will be able to adjust to the new rules.

“They have adapted in the past, and there’s a lot at stake,” Kou said.

Bobel suggested that places like Mac’s, which also sell newspapers, snacks and other products, would probably try to hang on even with the new rules. The three stores that don’t offer any other products — Raw Smoke Shop, Smoke and More, and Smokes and Vapes — “would probably have to close relatively immediately,” he said.

Several retailers pushed back against the proposed prohibition. Lori Khoury, co-owner of Mac’s Smoke Shop, told the council that the store fully supports keeping tobacco products out of the hands of teens by imposing more restrictive measures.

“But we feel a change in the ordinance can best be handled with a scalpel and not a sledgehammer,” Khoury said. “This needs to work for both sides.”

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TRANSPORTATION

Planning and transportation services to be cut as revenues drop

City Council looks to trim nearly 16% from programs

by Gennady Sheyner

With city finances sputtering and ridership plummeting, Palo Alto’s shuttle program is approaching its final stop after 20 years of operations.

The City Council endorsed last week the elimination of the small shuttle program, which was launched in 1999 and offers free rides to seniors, students and others. The move will save the city about $500,000 at a time when it is facing a projected budget gap of $38.8 million.

The elimination of the shuttle program is one of a series of changes that the council approved last week to the city’s planning and transportation operations, which are collectively seeing their budgets reduced by 16%, or about $3.5 million. The bulk of the cuts will be in the Planning and Development Services Department, which will lose nine positions. The reduction will mean a slower turnaround time for building inspections and significant delays in application processing.

The Office of Transportation will see two changes, each of which is rooted in factors that preceded the pandemic. In addition to scrapping the shuttle program, which has seen a steady decline in ridership over the past three years, the office plans to switch to using license-plate readers to enforce the Residential Preferential Parking programs in different neighborhoods. The move is expected to help save about $185,000 because the city won’t need as many enforcement officers.

The change to license-plate readers is also expected to increase citation revenue, Chief Transportation Official Philip Kamhi told the council during the May 13 budget review.

Kamhi said the new parking system will allow for “virtual permits,” eliminating the need to issue stickers and hangtags to permit holders. The permitting system also will allow customers to easily adjust permits and vehicles without going to City Hall or waiting for their permits to arrive by mail, he said.

Kamhi noted at the May 13 budget review that the changes to the parking program were ones that the city was considering even before the economic downturn, which made implementation more urgent. The pandemic, in effect, sped things up.

“The program modifications in this proposal are items that have actually been part of our long-term strategy that would have taken us years of approaching and dealing with,” Kamhi said. “And we’re really outside the current plan, but they really should be accelerated in order to achieve cost efficiencies immediately.”

He was less sanguine about ending the shuttle program. Its two routes, Crosstown and Embarcadero, connect downtown to south Palo Alto and to businesses near the east side of U.S. Highway 101, respectively. The budget acknowledges that the action “will reduce free alternative transportation options to residents and visitors to Palo Alto, including senior citizens and local students.”

The proposed elimination follows several years of declining ridership, which has dropped from more than 150,000 trips in 2016 to about 100,000 in 2019, Kamhi said. The city will be “lucky” if it were to see 70,000 riders this year, he added.

“We expect ridership will likely be impacted further post-COVID as people attempt to continue to distance,” Kamhi said.

Kamhi said that to be successful, the shuttle program would need significant additional investment. “It would need marketing and other service enhancements to really make it an appealing service and make it a service that drives back to the ridership that we experienced just five years ago,” Kamhi said.

The council agreed to eliminate the shuttle, even as several members lamented the end of the program. Councilwoman Alison Cormack called it a “tough loss” and Councilwoman Lydia Kou said she is “very sad” to see the routes eliminated, noting that they help commuters with the “last mile” and “first mile” of travel.

Councilwoman Liz Kniss suggested partnering with Palo Alto Unified School District to preserve a shuttle route, in recognition that students represented about a third of the ridership, according to survey data conducted earlier this year. She also suggested a switch from fixed routes to on-demand services, an option that Kamhi said should be considered in the future, if the city chooses to restore funding for the shuttle.

“An on-demand-type service would really give us the ability to cost-control and give us parameters on the types of trips we’d be subsidizing and how much we subsidize,” Kamhi said.

The council tentatively approved the budgets for both planning and transportation services. The only item that the council opted to restore is $273,987 that staff was planning to cut from long-term planning. The action would have cut funding from housing-related assignments and projects such as the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan, a forthcoming document to lay out a new vision for a 60-acre portion of the Ventura neighborhood, which includes the former location of Fry’s Electronics. It would have also limited staff’s ability to advance the council’s land-use policies, as laid out in the Comprehensive Plan, according to the budget.

Mayor Adrian Fine argued that the funding should be maintained, particularly given the shifting state mandates on housing and new developments. Having funding for long-term planning would help the city “implement them in a way that is amenable to Palo Alto,” Fine said.

Cormack, Kniss and Councilman Greg Tanaka joined him in a 4-3 vote to maintain the funding. “To remove that program will not serve us well, particularly given the contentiousness and the attention Palo Altans pay to development issues,” Fine said.

The council plans to resume its budget discussion on May 26.

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

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Nonprofits get more funding to offer food, rent relief during pandemic

La Comida, LifeMoves increase services to meet growing demand

by Gennady Sheyner

T

hree years ago, La Comida was confronted with an existential crisis. The future of the Palo Alto nonprofit, which for decades had provided affordable lunches to seniors at the old Avenidas building downtown, looked uncertain as Avenidas began reconstructing its Bryant Street building. The renovated facility would no longer house La Comida’s lunches in the way it had in the past.

After negotiating with various churches and nonprofits, La Comida moved its program to Stevenson House in south Palo Alto, where it has been providing lunches to seniors for a suggested donation of $3 ever since.

Now, with the COVID-19 pandemic creating new demand for food, the nonprofit is experiencing a growth spurt. La Comida began providing roughly 50 meals twice a week to low-income residents in Palo Alto Housing apartments starting in late March. And last week, the nonprofit signed an agreement with Lytton Gardens, a downtown senior community where the nonprofit will be providing lunches Monday through Friday, said Bill Blodgett, member of the La Comida board of directors.

La Comida is one of several nonprofits that have modified and expanded their services to meet the challenges caused by the pandemic. With recent funding from federal, county and local agencies, donations from local foundations and a surge in social-distancing groups, nonprofits serving low-income residents are transforming their offerings to meet the moment.

Part of the funding is more than $1 million from the federal government that Palo Alto is preparing to disperse in the coming months. That includes about $580,000 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a federal program that supports social services, housing and economic development. Palo Alto has also received $294,909 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which the U.S. Congress passed in late March.

‘These are folks who under normal circumstances, we’ve never seen before.’

—Philip Dah, senior director, Opportunity Services Center

The City Council’s Finance Committee approved on May 5 granting $48,181 to La Comida as part of the city’s allocations of CDBG funding. The nonprofit has also benefited from county money and from the Palo Alto Community Fund’s COVID-19 Relief Fund, which was set up during the pandemic. For La Comida and other nonprofits serving low-income residents, the funding comes at a critical time. The economic shutdown has prompted mass layoffs throughout the region, disrupting people’s incomes. La Comida is now serving people it hadn’t seen before the crisis — about 15% of the clientele, Blodgett said.

Between its programs at Stevenson House and Lytton Gardens, as well as the lunches it distributes at the Masonic Center in downtown, the nonprofit has roughly doubled the number of daily lunches it is providing, from about 145 before the coronavirus shutdown to about 295 today, Blodgett told this news organization.

“We’re thinking about ways to help seniors. It’s difficult for many to get out to the store. It’s risky. A lot of seniors prefer not to go to the grocery stores for supplies,” Blodgett said.

Instead of holding lunch gatherings, La Comida volunteers now set up tables outside Stevenson House and hand out lunches to visitors. They wear personal protective equipment and ask seniors to stay 6 feet apart, consistent with social-distancing protocols. They are also de-emphasizing the suggested donations, which Blodgett notes have never been a requirement.

“We’d rather not be handling a lot of cash and asking seniors to be donating at this time,” Blodgett said.

The city of Palo Alto is also directing more funding to organizations providing rent relief, an area that has seen a surge of demand because of the pandemic. The biggest recipient of these funds is LifeMoves, which is set to receive $294,000 through the federal block-grant program.

The funding couldn’t come quickly enough for the nonprofit, which saw its rent relief fund shrink to about $25,000 in the first week of April, according to city staff. Philip Dah, senior director at the nonprofit’s Opportunity Services Center, told the Finance Committee on May 5 that the facility continues to see new requests for help.

“These are folks who under normal circumstances, we’ve never seen before.”

—Philip Dah, senior director, Opportunity Services Center

LifeMoves has also reported an increase in unsheltered clients who are using the center for food, restrooms, sanitation and showers, according to a statement the nonprofit provided to this news organization. It has seen more demand across all 23 of its shelter and service sites. Its shelters have been operating at capacity and its rotating shelter program in Palo Alto has extended its hours to better serve the clients.

Other nonprofits receiving city grants made possible by the CARES Act include the YWCA Silicon Valley, which supports victims of domestic violence and is receiving $10,000 for rental relief, and the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, which is receiving $75,000.

Planning Director Jonathan Lait told the Finance Committee on May 5 that the rental assistance from agencies would range from $1,500 to $2,000 and recipients would be able to get help for up to three months.

The city’s largest provider of affordable housing, Palo Alto Housing, is also deferring rent payments from its tenants with the help of federal funding. The agency received close to $800,000 through the “Payment Protection Plan” program in the federal bill, said Randy Tsuda, CEO of Palo Alto Housing, which this week announced that it is changing its name to Alta Housing. The funding has helped the nonprofit offset some of the losses that it would otherwise experience and make it easier to postpone rent for those who are feeling the financial pain.

Tsuda said the nonprofit has been regularly checking in with residents. In the first month of the shutdown, about 17% of the tenants reported that they were experiencing income interruptions to the point where they struggled to pay rent, Tsuda said. He said the agency expects the numbers to climb as the economic shutdown progresses.

“Many of our residents are those who are most affected by the COVID-19 shutdown. They are very susceptible to disruptions in income,” he said.

Tsuda said the nonprofit has no plans to evict anyone but rather will eventually put residents on payment plans.

“That gives us some financial breathing room for eight weeks and it can cover a lot of salaries, benefit costs and rents,” Tsuda said of the federal grant. “It takes some pressure off our organization and gives us the ability to work more cooperatively with residents.”

Palo Alto Housing is also set to receive $419,950 in federal funding through the city. This funding, however, would be used not for rent relief, but to rehabilitate Alta Place, a housing complex at 753 Alma St.

In addition to the CDBG funds, the city plans to distribute another $74,600 through its Emergency Needs Fund, which provides one-time grants of up to $10,000 to local nonprofits. LifeMoves and Palo Alto Housing would each receive $10,000 through this fund, money that would be used for grocery gift cards for low-income residents, according to a report from the Community Services Department.

The fund would also provide $10,000 for the Downtown Streets Team food closet (in addition to the $100,000 that the city is providing through the CDBG program) and for the Heart & Home Collaborative, a seasonal shelter for unsheltered women.

Bill Blodgett, a La Comida board member, hands a bag of prepared meals to Daniel Alvarado at the nonprofit’s location at Stevenson House in Palo Alto.

Magali Gauthier
Hope
(continued from page 5)

school.) Turner left a basket of rocks at the Gunn wellness center, where her son received counseling support, for students to hold or take with them if they wanted. In February, for Gunn’s mental health awareness week, she brought plain stones for students to paint.

As the project grew, she brought painted rocks to other Palo Alto schools. For middle schoolers, she creates ones with lighter, more playful messages (“I love you a latte!” “Donut give up!”) and images (including Baby Yoda, Snoopy and Winnie the Pooh). She finds inspiration for messages and images on Pinterest, in books she’s reading or in a beautiful flower she sees while on a walk. She said she spends about 10 to 14 hours a week on the rock project.

Turner goes for frequent walks — at the Stanford campus, the Dish, local parks — and the rocks always go with her. Friends started asking her for stones to take with them on trips. The Facebook page is filled with photos of colorful rocks that have traveled far and wide: on beaches in Santa Cruz and Hawaii, benches in Central Park in New York City, outside La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, nestled in the grass in front of Notre Dame in Paris.

To me, if it helps anybody it’s just all worth it,” Turner said. “If it just makes them smile, if it just makes them feel better for one minute, it is so worth it. “If I could grab ahold of any of those kids that are really struggling, I would talk their ear off about how they’re supposed to be here and this too shall pass.”

The Turners moved to Palo Alto from Kansas City, Missouri, in 2014. By total coincidence, a Bay Area man found the very first rock she left in Kansas City, in a favorite park. He was walking through the park after his sister’s memorial, who had died by suicide. Turner said. He brought the rock, decorated with yellow roses, back to the Bay Area and left it at the Golden Gate Bridge.

Spurred by grief, Turner has become an active advocate for suicide prevention. She participates in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Out of the Darkness walks in multiple states and helped organize the Peninsula’s first-ever Hike for Hope a year ago, which raised money for American Foundation for Suicide Prevention educational programs, research, advocacy and support services for suicide survivors. She and her husband also have become a resource for other parents. She takes every phone call from mothers and fathers worried about children who struggle with or show signs of depression, anxiety or other mental health challenges. She tells them about the red flags for suicide and asks if they’ve noticed any changes in their child’s emotional or physical state. She champions treatment, from therapy and medication to local outpatient programs for teens. But mostly, she said, she just listens.

Jennifer Turner holds one of her painted rocks with an image of her son’s favorite Star Wars character, Boba Fett, at the Town & Country Village in Palo Alto.

“IT affects everyone. Everyone has mental health,” she said. “We are never alone.”

Turner has painted close to 1,000 rocks, most of them unique. A trucker picked up one she left in Carmel, painted with the image of a peacock on the front and the resources on the back, and took it with him as he made his way from California to Chicago. He’d send Turner pictures of the rock as he drove through different states, telling her, “I’m just not ready to give up the rock yet.”

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A s the state inches toward reopening from the COVID-19 crisis, counties are working to meet the California Department of Public Health’s criteria in order to further relax restrictions on businesses and public movement. For some counties, the progression will be easier than for others. Santa Clara County, with one of the state’s largest populations, has a way to go, according to its data.

The logistics of doing adequate testing of the public for the deadly coronavirus, tracing a multitude of contacts with people who tested positive (known as contact tracing), housing homeless individuals who are most vulnerable to the disease and meeting many other requirements have been hampered by a lack of resources and untold complexities, public health department and county staff have said.

Last week, the county Board of Supervisors and the board’s Health and Hospital Committee pressed the Public Health Department and county management to better define their roadmap for reaching the state’s criteria.

They reached one milestone on Monday, May 18, announcing the relaxation by six Bay Area counties and the city of Berkeley of some restrictions, which will now allow curbside sales by many retail businesses — Stage 2 of the state’s plan — as of May 22.

The forward momentum was helped by changes to the state’s largest populations, has a way to go, according to its data.

The new guidance revised the maximum number of positive cases within a 14-day period to be higher. Santa Clara County would not have made the state’s metrics for Stage 2 reopening without the change, according to its data.

This second stage of reopening is only one phase of the state’s plan. The county is succeeding in some areas while lagging on other state requirements that would accelerate reopening. Here’s how Santa Clara County is performing on the state’s metrics.

**Condition: Counties should have no more than 25 positive cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents within a 14-day period or show a positive test rate of less than 1%**

*Condition met?: Yes.*

With a population of 1.928 million residents, Santa Clara County had 25 cases in 14 days ending May 19, far less than the state’s criteria of 25 cases maximum per 100,000 residents, which would be 482 cases. To date, the county has had 2,483 confirmed COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began, according to data posted Tuesday on the Santa Clara County Public Health Department’s COVID-19 online dashboard.

Of those, 475 were cases in long-term care facilities such as skilled nursing, assisted living, board-and-care and congregate independent living.

Previous to May 18, the state’s reopening criteria required counties to have no more than 10 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people in the past 14 days, or 192 cases in Santa Clara County. The county would have just barely missed meeting this criteria if it was still in place.

**Condition: Counties can re-open to Stage 2 if the number of hospitalizations for COVID-19 patients doesn’t increase more than 5% over seven days. Small-er counties have to show fewer than 20 hospitalizations on any given day for two weeks.**

*Condition met?: Yes.*

Santa Clara County had a 15.4% decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations from May 12 through May 19, with 82 patients hospitalized with the virus compared to 97 hospitalizations on May 12.

**Condition: Counties should be able to conduct 1.5 COVID-19 tests per 1,000 residents daily, or about 2,892 tests per day, in Santa Clara County.**

*Testing should be available to counties with an ultimate goal of 13,000 to 15,000 per day to include those whom they consider high risk, Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, the head of the COVID-19 testing task force told the Board of Supervisors, who in turn asked the Public Health Committee on May 14. He said he is confident they will get to the 4,000-per-day goal by the end of the month, but reaching the larger target is harder. “Getting to that goal is going to take some time,” he said.*

*Condition met?: No.*

The county has only conducted about 1,200 to 1,300 tests per day and has a minimal goal to conduct 4,000 tests per day by May 31, with an ultimate goal of 13,000 to 15,000 per day to include those whom they consider high risk.

**Condition: Counties should have contact tracers per 100,000 residents.**

*Condition met?: No.*

The county is working to prepare more than 700 people for the contact-tracing unit and support personnel, a county spokesman said on May 19. The county will need to employ 289 people to achieve the state’s requirement. The county has not yet provided a date for when the contact tracing will ramp up.

**Condition: Counties should have at least 10% of county residents experiencing homelessness.**

*Condition met?: Unknown.*

The county has 9,706 homeless individuals, according to its 2019 point-in-time count, a survey that takes place in the last 10 days of January.

The county, city of San Jose, and Continuum of Care (a consortium of service providers) have a partnership to help homeless people affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The county and city of San Jose added a total of 1,245 additional units/beds to their temporary shelter inventory, including 575 motel/hotel rooms across 10 sites in six cities (Gilroy, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale); 250 beds in the Field Respite Center at the Santa Clara Convention Center for COVID-19 positive patients; and 420 temporary shelter beds in San Jose at Gateway Pavilion at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, a family shelter at Camden Community Center, and the San Jose Convention Center’s Parkside Hall and South Hall as of May 12, according to the county’s COVID-19 response website, but that is short of the 1,488 beds needed to meet the state’s 15% requirement for temporary housing.

The county has provided temporary shelter to 1,110 homeless individuals, according to a spokesperson for the county’s Emergency Operations Center. In addition, it has found permanent housing for 400 people.

Every known homeless person who has tested positive for COVID-19 has been given shelter, the county said.

**Condition: Counties should be able to meet a surge of at least a 35% increase in hospital demand due to COVID-19 on top of the usual non-COVID-19 care needs.**

*Condition met?: Yes.*

This is one metric where staff are confident of the county’s success. On May 19, the county had 82 people hospitalized for COVID-19. A full 100% of the 1,231 surge hospital beds are available. The surge-capacity beds represent more than 100% of the usual hospital bed capacity. On May 19, 51.34% of acute hospital beds were available and 51.90% of intensive-care unit beds were still available. The county has 867 ventilators, 119 of which were in use, but its data doesn’t state how many are being used by COVID-19 patients.

**Condition: All skilled nursing facilities should have a two-week supply of personal protective equipment for workers and their own sources of such equipment other than state supplies, and county hospital facilities should have plans for how to ensure all clinical and nonclinical workers have personal protective equipment.**

*Condition met?: Partially.*

County Executive Jeff Smith told supervisors on May 12 that this is mixed. All 11 hospitals and clinics in the county have certified they have enough personal protective equipment at this time. By May 19, a county spokesman said most of the hospitals had committed to a 30-day supply. The county Public Health Department checks in weekly on the hospitals’ supplies.

Skilled nursing facilities are a different matter. Not all have certified their personal equipment supply.

“How can we say this politely? Some of them have ignored our request,” Smith told the Board of Supervisors on May 12. He said the county Emergency Operations Center would supply the skilled-nursing facilities, and staff is doing one-to-one outreach. Those numbers were still not available on May 19. A county spokesman said staff members are working on the personal protective equipment supply levels for skilled nursing facilities and are procuring additional supplies and distribution channels through donations and the state.

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A car passes by the Stanford Theatre in downtown Palo Alto on May 14.

Reopen (continued from page 5)

outdoor museums, outdoor historical sites and publicly accessible gardens, Williams said. The updated order represents the county’s first easing of shelter-at-home restrictions since May 4, when construction work was permitted to resume and gardeners were allowed to go back to work. In the two weeks since then, the county has not seen a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases, suggesting that it is safe to further relax the restrictions that have been in effect since March 17.

Dr. Sara Cody, the county’s health officer, said the decision was driven by data. The number of new cases in the county per day is stable and has been decreasing, she said, “significantly reducing the doubling time for new cases.” She noted that Santa Clara County started with more cases than any county in the state but today accounts for just 3% of all California cases.

Cody said the number of patients requiring hospitalization for COVID-19 has been consistently trending down and that the hospitals have the beds and the staffing they need to “take care of any patient in any need.”

And while the county remains far from its goal of conducting 4,000 coronavirus tests per day, Cody noted that its testing shortfall has significantly decreased. In early April, the county was usually performing fewer than 600 tests per day, but on one recent day, the number of tests was up around 1,600. The positivity rate of tests has dropped from 9% in early April to 1% to 1.5% these days, which Cody said is a “very significant improvement.”

“With this progress, we can now take another step forward in gradually reopening,” Cody said.

Even though Santa Clara is one of the last counties in the Bay Area to allow businesses to reopen, county leaders pushed back against the notion that they were pressured to relax their health order because other parts of the state are moving faster. When asked about that, Williams and Cody pointed to the fact that the county’s last modification to the health order came two weeks ago. Because the incubation period for COVID-19 is about 14 days, the county waited this long to see the effects of the May 4 order.

The fact that new cases per day have continued to decline and that hospital capacity remains robust prompted the decision to further relax restrictions, Cody said. An increase in testing and contact tracing capacity also contributed to the decision, she said, though she did not provide details about tracing. (See article on page 12, “Has the county met the state’s metrics for reopening?”)

“The big picture is, of course we want to move as quickly as we can as there are significant health harms with the social and economic disruption, but we have to be able to look at our data to understand whether we have the headroom to take that next step,” Cody said. “I think here in Santa Clara County we have the headroom. Not a lot, but we probably have headroom here than many, many, many other places.”

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County permits car parades again, in time for graduation

The subject of celebrations on wheels had become controversial in recent weeks

by Kevin Forestieri

Santa Clara County officials have rolled back restrictions to allow drive-thru celebrations and car parades, opening up the possibility for graduation ceremonies behind the wheel.

On Monday, May 18, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department announced new revisions to its shelter-at-home order allowing for car parades, but with some restrictions. The order allows for participation in mobile celebrations so long as all the occupants in the vehicle are from the same household. Cars are prohibited from stopping during the parade or gathering at a “fixed location,” and bicycles and motorcycles are not allowed to join in.

The subject of car parades had become a bit of a lightning rod among residents in recent weeks. When asked about it during a virtual town hall meeting on Sunday, May 17, Santa Clara County Counsel James Williams explained that the public health order bans all travel deemed “nonessential.”

Williams acknowledged, however, that activities such as car parades carry a lower level of health risk due to their inherent social distancing.

The updated order, while modestly scaling back the rules, still preserves the broad requirement to stay at home.

Mountain View Voice Staff Writer Kevin Forestieri can be emailed at kforestieri@mv-voice.com.

COVID-19 tests offered to all county residents

East San Jose sites will operate on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

by Bay City News Service

COVID-19 tests are now available to all Santa Clara County residents at two new locations in Santa Jose, county and city leaders said Wednesday. Verily Life Sciences, the life science research arm of Mountain View’s Alphabet Inc., will offer free testing to all county residents, even if they don’t have symptoms or health insurance, at Police Athletic League Stadium at 680 S. 34th St. and the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds at 344 Tully Road.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez implored residents to get tested as soon as they can as the county seeks to reach an average of 4,000 tests per day. Chavez also said that local leaders can and will help residents who struggle to sign up for testing due to obstacles like language barriers.

Tests at both sites will be conducted differently than the common nasopharyngeal swab test that requires a long medical cotton swab reaching the back of a patient’s throat.

Patients can self-administer the test in their vehicle by using a smaller swab, similar to a Q-tip, to swipe the inside of each nostril for 10 seconds. The entire testing process can be completed in as little as three minutes, according to Verily.

County Testing Officer Dr. Marty Fenstersheib said both sites are located in eastern San Jose due to the disproportionate number of cases that have been confirmed in the area.

“Cumulatively, and even over the last couple weeks, 40% of our cases that we’ve identified have come from East San Jose,” Fenstersheib said. “And the percent of testing that we’ve been doing up until now has only been 20% from that area, so we’re under testing people from San Jose.”

There are many factors behind that,” San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said of East San Jose’s disproportionate case numbers, “but the fundamental one is we know this is where the economic need is. This is where so many of our residents are working every day in essential industries.”

Fenstersheib cautioned that the county’s number of cases is likely to continue rising as more people get tested, particularly in areas with large numbers of high-risk residents. As of Wednesday, the county has confirmed 2,492 cases, including 138 deaths.

He also advised front-line health care workers to get tested once a month at either site.

“You can’t just do it once; you have to do it on a regular basis,” he said. “That’s why it’s important for the employers of the workers to understand that it’s really important for them to work with us and their employees to provide time for those workers to go and get tested.”

The state of California is funding new testing sites through its partnership with Verily. Both sites will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a daily cap of about 300 tests.

At Wednesday’s news conference at PAL Stadium, Liccardo said if both sites are consistently hitting that cap, they may consider expanding the daily testing hours.

“We want to do everything we can to drive people here first, show that this is a place where, clearly, we’re going to fully utilize these resources and then we’ll be able to expand,” he said.

Santa Clara County residents can sign up for a test at either location at Verily’s Project Baseline website, projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19. The website is available in both English and Spanish.

San Jose has opened two new drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites, similar to this one in Menlo Park, that are now offering free tests to all Santa Clara County residents.

PUBLIC HEALTH

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Budget
(continued from page 5)

for the council’s consideration a proposal that would reduce managers’ salaries. The details were expected to be released May 21 (after the Weekly’s press deadline) and will be made available for the council prior to the May 26 meeting, at which members are scheduled to further refine the budget.

Shikada told the council that the city’s “manager and professional staff are leading by example” in contributing what he called a “compensation giveback” of 15%. In addition, he will personally contribute an additional 5%, Shikada said.

The management and professionals group, which includes supervisors, middle managers and other staff members who are below the director level, is the only major labor group at City Hall that is not in a labor union. According to the city’s budget, the group consists of 231.75 full-time-equivalent positions.

According to the city budget, managers of the management and professional group have an average base salary of $149,306 (the total compensation, when benefits are factored, is $250,791). While the city has not released an estimate of the potential savings, the budget documents suggest that the pay reduction of 15% to the base salary for each position in the management group would achieve savings of about $5 million.

Shikada, who earns a salary of $356,013, would see his compensation reduced by $71,202 under his proposal.

During recent budget hearings, Hamilton Hitchings was one of many residents who called for salary cuts to reduce the budget deficit.

“I am a big proponent of our leadership, but I do think the leadership should have some temporary cut built into the conversation,” Hitchings told the council during its May 13 hearing. “I don’t know how we negotiate with unions if the people negotiating aren’t willing to share any of the pain.”

Councilman Greg Tanaka has also repeatedly brought up the topic of pay cuts saying at one point saying it’s “the elephant in the room.” On May 13, he called for “all managers, directors and council members take pay cuts.

“If everyone took a 17% pay cut, we’d be done,” Tanaka said at the meeting. “We could end the meeting right now. We wouldn’t have to cut anyone; we could keep all the services.”

His colleagues have largely avoided discussing salaries in public. The council has already devoted two lengthy closed sessions to labor negotiations, each time emerging with no reportable actions.

But Fine and Shikada addressed the topic of employee compensation on May 15 during the city’s weekly “Table Talk” webcast, in which they discussed the city’s budget troubles. Fine said he has received a lot of feedback from people urging the council to require 20% pay cuts, much like many people in the private sector are now doing. The nature of the employment, he said, does not allow that.

“We have agreed upon multi-year contracts with most of our labor unions, and that means that on a year-to-year basis they are programmed to receive certain increases that the council has agreed to, and they cannot change that unless they agree to it,” Fine said.

To achieve savings, Fine said, the city has to first determine what services it wants to provide and can pay for. Only then can it notify the labor unions, triggering negotiations about service cuts and, potentially, salary reductions.

“We have to do it in a pretty formal legal process to make sure we’re following state laws, that we are doing diligence with our labor unions and that we are also balancing the city budget per our requirements,” Fine said.

Tanaka said the city’s representatives are having a “very heartfelt” conversation with each of the labor groups about helping address the budget crisis. He said he is “optimistic that we’re really working together.”

“Residents and neighbors in Palo Alto really should take heart that the city employees are taking this seriously and are dedicated to finding any solution that we can,” Shikada said.

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Safe
(continued from page 7)

For example, the 6-feet-distance rule has been the gold standard for social distancing. But a bicycle rider such as Blum may want to consider riding more than 6 feet away from another cyclist if he is downwind of a fellow person and in the same airstream.

And though county guidelines apply to everyone, Blum explained not all residents may want to immediately step into public places even if health officials give the green light.

“The reality is that more exposure to other people has higher risks than less exposure to other people,” Blum said. “And so if you’re a person who’s at greater risk for (health) complications, such as an older person, you might choose to be more cautious than the county guidelines recommend.”

Some residents are already following the rules.

John Reid, 66, has been impacted by the pandemic as an Uber driver and substitute teacher but still believes counties should remain more restricted. Reid said he would be leery of going to restaurants even as they reopen.

“I may get my haircut, but I don’t really need to dye it,” he said. “Delivery service is fine.”

Even Dena Hill — a Stanford Health Care employee within the finance department who believes “it’s time to start thinking about the economy more than the pandemic” and expressed she would “immediately” go back to dine-in restaurant and hair salons — said she would still wear a mask out of consideration for other people.

“I would probably still wear a mask if I couldn’t socially distance,” Hill said. “Just out of respect to people who might be uncomfortable.”

Blum emphasized that a critical “culture shift” needs to be made to continue preventing the spread of COVID-19.

“It’s important for people to know that the fact is these masks are effective at reducing the spread of the virus,” he said. “When you make a choice about whether you’re going to wear a mask, you’re not just making a choice for your own health — you’re affecting the health of all the others around you.”

For those such as Reid who are hoping to rely on a vaccine to truly get back to some semblance of normal times, they may not want to hold their breath.

Blum said he is “cautiously optimistic” that there will one day be a safe and effective vaccine, with promising candidates currently out in the field but all in the very early stages of development.

“In order to be used, a vaccine has to be shown to produce an immune response, has to be safe, has to protect against disease, and then it has to be produced in sufficient quantity to be deployed,” he said. “All these things take time, and the candidate vaccines out there are promising, but they have a long way to go. The timelines for when it’s going to be widely available is really unclear.”

As for whether there’s a seasonality to the virus and its prevalence can diminish in warm weather, Blum said it’s all still speculative.

In the meantime, as health professionals continue to search for an answer to the ongoing pandemic, Blum said residents should continue to follow the advice of public health officials.

“There are some pretty simple rules that have been put out there by our public health people,” he said. “We gotta follow them.”

Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee can be emailed at lle@paweeekly.com.

To place an ad or get a quote, call 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@paweeekly.com.
PVI Meals on Wheels

COVID-19 CRITICAL SENIOR CARE FUND

HELP PENINSULA VOLUNTEERS, INC RAISE $500,000! - WE ARE HALF-WAY THERE!

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

WE ARE HALF-WAY THERE!
PLEASE HELP US REACH 100% OF TARGETED FUNDING FOR PVI’S MEALS ON WHEELS VITAL LIFELINE!

“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 half-way 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.
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.sccfreetest.org

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.
Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS
Palo Alto
May 14-May 19

Violence related
Battery ........................................ 2
Child abuse .................................. 1
Domestic violence ................................ 1
Elder abuse .................................. 1

Theft related
Commercial burglaries .................................. 1
Grand theft ...................................... 4
Identity theft ..................................... 1
Petty theft ....................................... 1
Shoplifting ...................................... 1

Vehicle related
Attempted theft from auto ....................... 1
Auto theft ....................................... 1
Bicycle theft .................................... 2
Driving w/ suspended license ................. 2
Hit and run ...................................... 2
Lost/stolen plates ................................ 1
Theft from auto .................................. 5
Vehicle accident/minor injury .................. 2
Vehicle accident/prop damage ............... 1

Alcohol or drug related
Drunk in public .................................. 1

Miscellaneous
Found property .................................. 1
Misc. penal code violation ..................... 1
Psychiatric subject .............................. 2
Suspicious circumstances ...................... 1
Trespassing ..................................... 1
Vandalism ...................................... 1
Warrant/other agency ........................... 3

Menlo Park
May 13-May 19

Violence related
Assault ........................................... 1
Robbery ........................................... 1
Spousal abuse .................................. 1

Theft related
Burglary ......................................... 1
Commercial burglaries ......................... 1
Fraud ............................................. 2
Petty theft ...................................... 2

Residential burglaries ............................. 3

Vehicle related
Auto recovery .................................. 1
Auto theft ....................................... 1
Bicycle theft .................................... 6
Driving w/ suspended license ................. 1
Hit and run ...................................... 1
Theft from auto .................................. 1
Vehicle accident/no injury ..................... 1

Alcohol or drug related
Possession of paraphernalia ....................... 1
Under influence of drugs ........................ 1

Miscellaneous
Domestic dispute ................................ 1
Domestic disturbance ............................ 2
Found property .................................. 2
Lost property ................................... 2
Medical aid ..................................... 1
Psychiatric subject ................................ 1

(continued on page 18)

Marketplace

Advertising deadline is Tuesday at noon.
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or email digitalads@paweekly.com.

MEDICAL SERVICES
Private medical practice dealing with weight control, general health issues, holistic, drug free flu remedies. Reasonable prices. 650-991-5381 Tue or Wed.

Express
Sign up today at PaloAltoOnline.com/express

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for:
RFP # 17-P-06-LW: Legal Services

Bidding documents contain the full description of the Bid and may be requested via email to: kvishakana@pausd.org.

All questions concerning this request should be directed to:
Ms. Komey Vishakan, General Counsel at kvishakana@pausd.org.

Interested parties must submit proposals to Komey Vishakan, kvishakana@pausd.org, by 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

BY ORDER of the Office of General Counsel of the Palo Alto Unified School District, Palo Alto, California.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • May 22, 2020 • Page 17

Raj Marphatia

June 17, 1959 – May 8, 2020

Raj Marphatia passed away from cancer in his home in Palo Alto, California on May 8, 2020. He was at peace with his illness and reached the end of his life lovingly surrounded by his daughters, Maya and Leena, and his partner, Carolyn. Family and friends around the world were present in spirit.

The beloved son of Chandrakala and Ravi Marphatia, Raj grew up in Bombay, India. At 17, he came to the United States on a Rotary scholarship. Raj landed as an exchange student in Iowa, where he fell in love with cheesesburgers, baseball, and all things American. He remained in the United States, attended Harvard University on a full scholarship, and went on to earn a Masters in Accounting from Northeastern University and a JD from Harvard Law School. Raj became the first non-white president of the Harvard Law Review in 1987. In his 30 year career with the law firm Ropes & Gray, he earned widespread professional respect for his sage advice, attentive mentorship, and unfailing determination. Fiercely committed to his work, Raj helped to build the firm’s private funds practice into a national powerhouse. Though Raj was eternally humble about his accomplishments, they were numerous and outstanding - the results of an unparalleled work ethic and love for learning.

In his time at Harvard, Raj met Nalini Ambady, who went on to become his wife, a Stanford University professor, and a renowned expert in social psychology. Nalini was Raj’s equal (or in his words, superior) in her wit, scholarship, and adoration for her work. The pair had two daughters, upon whom Raj doted, never missing a soccer game or dance recital. Raising daughters as playful, brilliant, and compassionate as their parents, yet entirely unique in their passions, was one of the great joys of his life. The family’s love for each other has lasted through and beyond Nalini’s passing from leukemia in 2013. Years after Nalini’s death, Raj (a true romantic at heart) found the second love of his life in Carolyn Hayes. Their partnership was full of laughter, music, and mutual kindness. Raj was a thoughtful and steadfast friend, devoted family member, and simply exceptional human being. Raj will be missed by his mother, Chandrakala Marphatia; daughters, Maya and Leena Ambady; father-in-law, Shanker Ambady; sister, Maya and her husband, Asit Khandwal; nieces, Anoushka and Nikita Khandwla; partner, Carolyn Hayes; and a warm global community of family, friends, and colleagues.

A virtual memorial service will be held on May 30, 2020. Donations can be made at rajmarphatia.com to support the education initiatives of The Rotary Club of Bombay North.

Ting Shen

Ting Shen, a resident of Palo Alto, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2020, at the age of 44. Ting was a loving and dedicated mother and wife. During her fierce two-year struggle with cancer, Ting never wavered in her optimism and demonstrated ironclad bravery and resolve during her intensive treatment.

Ting’s career was filled with remarkable accomplishments. She forged a path from humble beginnings to Tsinghua University in Beijing, China for her undergraduate education, to earning her masters and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University. After graduating, she was offered a position at McKinsey & Co., where she launched her successful career in the business world. More recently, Ting has also been an entrepreneur and active investor. Outside of work, Ting loved running, having been an accomplished varsity athlete herself.

Ting is survived by her husband, Xiaojiang Zhang; son, Michael Zhang; and daughter, Lauren Zhang. During her all-too-short time in this world, Ting has blessed us with endless joy. She is bright, loving, and gracious, and we miss her greatly.

The memorial and funeral services will be on May 22nd, Friday, 2020 starting 1pm PDT at Alta Mesa Memorial Park, Palo Alto, California.

Beverly M. Oaks

September 7, 1925 – April 11, 2020

Beverly died April 11th 2020 at the age of 94. Bev was a resident of Woodsside CA for 51 years and a lifelong resident of San Mateo County. She attended local elementary schools and Burlingame high school. Bev was athletic and lettered in sports. She played in the Drum and Bugle corps and played drums in high school, where she met Norman Oaks whom she later married.

Bev loved math and science and studied nursing at St. Luke’s hospital in SF, Ca. as part of the Cadet Nursing Corps during WWII. Cal Berkeley and Shell Oil offered her a scholarship for advanced studies in chemistry but she felt nursing offered broader challenges, especially ER and surgical nursing. She worked for much of her adult life at Stanford Hospital and Stanford student health (then called Cowell Infirmary).

After WWII Bev and Norm married and settled on the peninsula where they raised four children, Donald Oaks, Patricia Naylor, Marilyn Smith and Virginia Oaks.

Bev was a wonderful teacher and enjoyed being a girl scout leader, 4H leader and an early founding member of Christ Church in Portola Valley.

Many remember Bev for her jams and jellies she made and sold at the Kings Mountain Art fair for many years.

Bev is survived by her three daughters, 4 grandchildren and five great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Bev was an interesting, lively and bright spirit in the world and will be greatly missed.
Marjorie Rose
1932 – 2020

On Wednesday, April 29, 2020, Marjorie Rose, loving mother of four daughters, adoring grandmother of four grandchildren and dear friend of many, passed away at the age of 87. Margie was born Marjorie Ann DeWitt, and grew up with her parents, David and Ida De Witt and brother, Donald De Witt, in Great Neck, New York. She attended Bennington College, where she majored in dance and met and then married Merlin Rose. They traveled together for a year performing a marionette show until settling in Los Angeles and then Palo Alto, where Margie lived for sixty years. They raised their four daughters, Dona, Jessica, Sally and Doris, in Palo Alto. Margie worked for many years as a physical education teacher at the Morgan Center, a school for autistic children. When she retired she took care of her four grandchildren, Oliver, Will, Gustavo and Thomas, whom she enjoyed immensely. Her Palo Alto home was a place of great warmth and welcome to her family, friends and neighbors. Her generous and loving heart touched all who knew her. She provided a lens of humor on almost any experience and modeled kindness and compassion at all times. She made the world a kinder, more graceful place, and it will not be the same without her. Marjorie was predeceased by her longtime partner Merrill Bickford. She is survived by her daughters, grandsons, nephews, a niece, two dear sisters-in-law, her former husband, as well as many dear friends. A celebration of life will be planned for late in June, or when we are able to gather again. If you would like to make a gift in her honor, consider making a donation to your favorite charity or to the Marjorie Rose Fund at watsonvillelawcenter.org/marjorierose

Ernestine Zabala
December 27, 1927 – April 7, 2020

Ernestine (Ernie) Zabala passed away on March 31, 2020 at the age of 95. Ernestine was born on February 27th 1915 in Detroit, Michigan and raised there by her only child of Lena Gerling Higbee and Theodore Higbee. Lee attended Redford High School in Detroit and went on to Michigan State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949. She worked as a bacteriologist in Detroit before getting married to Al Dau in 1952. Al’s service in the Air Force brought them to California where they eventually settled and raised their family in the home they built in Atherton in 1960. She is survived by her husband, Alfred, her four children, Susan Dau, Sally Carmichael, John Dau, and Paul Daul, her 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She was an involved mother and grandmother, enjoying spending time with her family. Lee was also an avid bridge player and enjoyed her love of reading and attending her book club. She had a long and fulfilling life and will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Ruth Ann Dau
December 27, 1927 – April 7, 2020

Lee Ann Dau passed away peacefully in her home at the age of 92 where she lived with her husband of 68 years, Alfred Dau. Lee was born in Detroit, Michigan and raised there the only child of Lena Gerling Higbee and Theodore Higbee. Lee attended Redford High School in Detroit and went on to Michigan State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949. She worked as a bacteriologist in Detroit before getting married to Al Dau in 1952. Al’s service in the Air Force brought them to California where they eventually settled and raised their family in the home they built in Atherton in 1960. She is survived by her husband, Alfred, her four children, Susan Dau, Sally Carmichael, John Dau, and Paul Daul, her 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She was an involved mother and grandmother, enjoying spending time with her family. Lee was also an avid bridge player and enjoyed her love of reading and attending her book club. She had a long and fulfilling life and will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Ernestine Zabala
February 27, 1915 – March 31, 2020

Ernestine (Ernie) Zabala passed away on March 31, 2020 at the age of 105. Ernestine was born on February 27th 1915 in La Paz, Santa Rosalia, Baja, CA. She was married to Salvador Zabala (predeceased) for 47 years and they were blessed with 5 Children, Victor, Sylvia, Rebecca, Lucille (Cille) and Salvador Jr. (who died serving his country in Vietnam). Ernestine had 8 Grandchildren, 20 Great-Grandchildren and 2 Great-Great-Grandchildren. Ernestine was a loving, kind, beautiful lady, devout catholic with incredibly strong faith and a longtime parishioner of Nativity Catholic Church in Menlo Park. She left behind a legacy of love, laughter, a faith-based family and an appreciation for a nice glass of Chardonnay. She has left a lifetime of beautiful memories to her entire family and lived a full life modeling family values, integrity, an always positive attitude and was the most unselfish individual you could ever meet. For those who knew her best, Ernestine was a true blessing from God. Her family takes joy in knowing Ernestine was welcomed into Heaven and is joined by so many of her loved ones who passed on before her. Ernestine passed away peacefully in her home in 61 years with longtime caregivers, Cecilia and daughter Cille, by her side. Ernestine was laid to rest on Good Friday, April 10th at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park, CA alongside her husband Salvador. May perpetual light shine upon you forever.

Regina Clyne
September 23, 1934 – May 2, 2020

Regina passed away peacefully at her home in Sharon Heights (Menlo Park) after living gracefully for years with Parkinson’s Disease.

She was born on September 23, 1934 in San Francisco to parents Lucille (Stryker) and Reginald Craig. She spent her youth in San Francisco attending Star of the Sea Catholic School, and later worked for the Hawaiian Oil Company of San Francisco.

In 1957 she married George Clyne, President of Collins Electric. For many years they lived in Woodside and Sharon Heights with their son Sean Clyne. She was predeceased by her husband in 2011, and her twin sister Lucille Barlow. She is survived by her son Sean (Esther), her brother James Craig, and many nieces and nephews.

Regina contributed to the lives of many people through her kindness and generosity. She supported and volunteered at the Saint Francis Center in Redwood City and with her husband, was among the founders of the Benedictine college preparatory school, Woodside Priory, in Portola Valley.

As active members of Menlo Country Club, Regina and George loved playing golf. Regina greatly enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid tennis player, developing many friendships through these interests, and her participation in the Women’s Amateur International Tennis group (W.A.I.T.).

Private family services are still to be determined.

Any donations in Regina’s memory may be made to St. Francis Center, 151 Buckingham Ave. Redwood City 94063 or to a charity of your choice.
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

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
**Guest Opinion**

**A better way to save vital city services**

by Pat Burt and Pat Markevitch

The COVID emergency is forcing our city government to face the most difficult challenges it has encountered in decades. Valued services that define our Palo Alto community are proposed to be cut severely; our police and fire departments, parks and open space, libraries, community centers, transport and youth services. Less visible, but deeply valued, regulatory functions such as code enforcement, parking management and development review/oversight, are also on the chopping block.

By reducing the rate of investments in big capital projects, re-bidding projects and curtailing salaries and raises, we can eliminate the most severe cuts to employees and our critical, highly valued services. At the same time, the city can ensure it has an adequate reserve fund to be able to meet essential needs if the economy worsens more in the coming months.

**Guiding principles**

Tough decisions are best made when based on clear principles. The city and council staff need to transparently lay out their essential long-term needs, but they are not generally critical over the next decades. Consequently, the city should ensure that its Budget Priorities are approved over the next two years.

The current period represents a great recession. The city completed negotiations with its employee unions for raises in response to what was then the rising cost of living in a booming economy. To now avoid layoffs and retain community support for city employees, unionized city workers should opt to forego these previously agreed upon raises.

**Big budget impacts of capital investments**

Ten years ago, the City Council appointed an Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Committee (IBRC) that recommended a substantial three-tiered solution to our decades-long problem of inadequate infrastructure investments. The Council soon addressed the first two tiers: “keeping up” and “catching up” on infrastructure maintenance. The third tier addressed funding for overdue big facility projects like a new police building, parking garages, new fire stations, restoring our Municipal Services Center and other projects. The challenge was how to fund these needs while continuing to provide our most valued services. In the next several years, the council developed and implemented a funding plan, primarily through zoning incentives and marketing to grow significantly our number of hotels and increase our hotel tax (TOT) revenue.

The plan was to stimulate new revenue to fund big capital projects. It was never intended that these projects would be built at the expense of the services we value and need. But with the COVID-related loss of TOT income, the proposed budget instead prioritizes paying for new facilities and other capital projects with unencumbered funds at the expense of vital public safety and community services. The current budget proposes to retain record capital funding for this year (see chart).

These investments meet important long-term needs, but they are not generally critical over the next couple of years. Savings can be achieved by only modestly reducing the rate of capital investments over the next two years. For example, the budget includes $102 million toward the new Public Safety Building. The project will be funded through bonds, but the debt service is $7.3 million beginning next year and the Municipal Services Center has over $8 million budgeted for major maintenance. These projects are budgeted to cost far more than previously estimated due to the formerly booming economy, but costs are likely to drop over the next one to two years. We saw that happen during the Great Recession. Projects that had been consistently coming in above estimates instead received bids at far lower costs, resulting in big savings.

The city also needs to avoid getting locked into big, new obligations in the coming months to retain latitude to respond if the downturn deepens. However, capital projects are ultimately budgeted for this fiscal year, staff should not enter into any major non-essential project contracts until after a mid-year budget review.

**Capital Improvement Fund Expenditures**

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**Employee compensation**

Nearly every resident and business is experiencing financial hardship from the COVID emergency. Our city managers have just volunteered to reduce their salaries by 15% during the city’s fiscal crisis. Shortly before the current economic crash, the city completed negotiations with our employee unions for raises in response to what was then the rising cost of living in a booming economy. To now avoid layoffs and retain community support for city employees, unionized city workers should opt to forego these previously agreed upon raises.

**Budget Stabilization Reserve**

The current period represents the greatest economic uncertainty in decades. Consequently, the city should ensure that its Budget Stabilization Reserve is adequate to respond to the changing needs from an economy that may deteriorate further. The BSR was drastically reduced from $45 million to $25 million in the current fiscal quarter alone because the city chose to support workers during the current final quarter of its fiscal year 2020 by keeping all staff on full payroll. Savings from labor agreements should be allocated to retaining an adequate financial reserve to contend with uncertainties.

By reducing the rate of long-term Capital Fund expenditures, re-bidding projects and curtailing salaries and raises, we can eliminate the most severe cuts to employees and critical, highly valued services.

This is a difficult time with tough decisions for our city leaders, but with smart choices, we can respond to the crisis without severely cutting the services that make Palo Alto such a safe and wonderful place to live. Now more than ever, we need a sense of community. Working together, we can get through this.

Pat Burt is a former Palo Alto City Council member and mayor. Pat Markevitch is a former member of the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Committee and former Parks and Recreation commissioner. Pat Burt can be reached at patburtpa@gmail.com.
Letters

Save local restaurants

Editor,

I have been a resident of Palo Alto my entire life. As a child, my parents exposed me to the excitement and wonder of dining out in a restaurant. It started with Howard Johnson’s and evolved to Stickney’s (Town & Country), Prime Rib Inn (El Camino) and countless others. As an adult, I am a bonafide “foodie.” Most of the entertainment that my husband and I spend our money on is dining out in restaurants.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on many industries, but especially the restaurant industry. Small local restaurants are the lifeblood of our communities. They not only employ cooks, dishwashers, bartenders and servers, they also support local farmers, meat and poultry distributors and winemakers. Our city and others cannot afford to lose our restaurants, and the reduction in business due to the shelter-in-place orders is making that a serious reality. We need the largest police station in the San Francisco Bay Area. Our crimes are mostly white-collar.

Palo Alton need to be alerted that the city is hiding this ever-increasing $150-million budget drain. The city is using a ruse to fool us into believing the Palo Alto Police Department’s finances are in check. They’re cutting a few positions from staffing quota, while PAPD hasn’t met staffing quota, when PAPD hasn’t met staffing quota for years, in an attempt from staffing quota, when PAPD hasn’t met staffing quota in years, in an attempt to redirect our attention away from the need for balancing the nearly $40-million budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. My plan allows our city to carry on as it always has been.

Palo Alto citizens already voted no for spending our city money for this construction. Citizens rebuked taxing for this project, yet the plans went forward against our support. What happened to open government for and by the people?

The budget for the brand-new police station continues to compromise city services, with the costs continuing to rise, now being twice the original proposal. This expense is a thorn in our side, including the latest purchase of several pieces of modern art, for $100,000 a pop. We don’t need the largest police station in the San Francisco Bay Area. Our crimes are mostly white-collar.

Palo Alton need to be alerted that the city is hiding this ever-increasing $150-million budget drain. The city is using a ruse to fool us into believing the Palo Alto Police Department’s finances are in check. They’re cutting a few positions from staffing quota, when PAPD hasn’t met staffing quota in years, in an attempt to redirect our attention away from the $150 million being spent against citizen vote.

Voters deserve to be counted!

Danielle Martell
Guinda Street, Palo Alto

Monuments over services

Editor,

The recent infrastructure spending decisions made by our city budget developers should be putting needs over wants. Safety should be Palo Alto’s top concern before addressing lesser issues. To cut police staff and ambulance/EMT services as well as the Baylands flood-control levee is a very unwise move. All of us want to have a quick and qualified response when we have a personal emergency and need an ambulance/EMT or police. Anyone living near Adobe, Barron or Matadero creeks also needs added protection for bay surge flooding. Highway 101 would be flooded as well. So even if you don’t live near these creeks, you will be affected. With each rainy season and passing year, the reality of these floods gets closer.

As far as libraries are concerned, we could manage with cutting days and hours of service and the number of branches open. We can do most of our library business online during the remaining times. I love to read as do most of our citizens: I just don’t want to be reading my book as I paddle my canoe over our neighborhood streets. It’s simple. It’s the difference between feel-good needs and the ones that keep us up at night.

Let your council know what you think!

S. Lou Grimsrud
Bibbits Drive, Palo Alto

Police palace

Editor,

Why, why, why does the city of Palo Alto not pause the development of the $150-million police “palace” project? My simple proposal comfortably satisfies the need for balancing the nearly $40-million budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. My plan allows our city to carry on as it always has been.

Palo Alto citizens already voted no for spending our city money for this construction. Citizens rebuked taxing for this project, yet the plans went forward against our support. What happened to open government for and by the people?

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Voters deserve to be counted!

Danielle Martell
Guinda Street, Palo Alto

Support local businesses

The city of Palo Alto is making that a serious reality! We need the largest police station in the San Francisco Bay Area. Our crimes are mostly white-collar.

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Voters deserve to be counted!

Danielle Martell
Guinda Street, Palo Alto
Newly Built Luxury in Community Center
The best of modern luxury takes center stage in this newly built 6-bedroom, 5-bath home, recently completed and offering over 3,500 sq. ft. (per county) of refined living space on a lot of nearly one-quarter acre (per county) in the Community Center neighborhood. High ceilings and numerous windows create a light, bright atmosphere, while an open and flowing floorplan provides ideal space for a modern lifestyle. A superb kitchen with a suite of high-end Miele appliances is sure to inspire your inner chef, while the fireplace-warmed family room offers a comfortable place for guests to gather. Enjoy the spacious master suite featuring a private balcony overlooking the backyard, where a large patio and built-in barbecue center are perfect for outdoor entertaining. Adding the finishing touch, this wonderful location puts you close to multiple parks, is just blocks to University Avenue, and offers access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only, instant appointments between 1:00 pm-4:00 pm on Saturday (5/23) and Sunday (5/24).

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.

Michael Repka, DRE #0184880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #0193274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
750 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park

The coveted neighborhood of Sharon Heights sets the stage for this stunning home, showcasing the very best of modern luxury and design. Offering 5 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, and boasting outstanding curb appeal on a one-third acre lot (per county), this home welcomes you with a bright, inviting atmosphere that flows throughout its over 4,400 sq. ft. of living space (per county). Perfectly suited for the modern family, the open and graceful floorplan presents wonderful space for both entertaining and everyday living, from the family room and living room that each feature a fireplace, to the spectacular kitchen fit for a Top Chef. Comfort and convenience await in the home’s bedrooms, each of which features an en suite bath, while an office provides space for all work-from-home needs. The beautifully landscaped backyard is an entertainer’s dream, with a large patio, delightful fire pit, plus raised planter boxes for the at-home gardener. Adding the finishing touch is a great location that puts you close to everything Silicon Valley has to offer, with access to excellent Las Lomitas schools (buyer to verify)

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit: www.750SharonPark.com
Offered at $6,488,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors* only, instant appointments between 1:00 PM-4:00 PM on Saturday (5/23) and Sunday (5/24).

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

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ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{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, computing, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.
  \texttt{castilleja/summercamp} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(650) 470-7833}
  
  \item \textbf{Community School of Music Mountain View} 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.
  \texttt{arts4all.org} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(650) 917-6800 ext. 0}
  
  \item \textbf{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 $275/week. Full day camps $550/week. 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum.
  \texttt{letsgocrafting.org} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(650) 814-4183}
  
  \item \textbf{Oshman Family JCC Camps} Palo Alto
  Camps at the OFJCC 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.
  \texttt{paloaltojcc.org} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(650) 223-8622}
  
  \item \textbf{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.
  \texttt{pacc.org} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(650) 493-2361}
\end{itemize}

ATHLETICS

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{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.
  \texttt{danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032}
  
  \item \textbf{Kim Grant Tennis} Palo Alto
  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!
  \texttt{KimGrantTennis.com} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{Text: (650) 690-0678}
  \texttt{Call: (650) 752-8061}
  
  \item \textbf{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. Join the fun and get better this summer!
  \texttt{ussportscamps.com} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(800) NIKE-CAMP}
  \texttt{(800) 645-3226}
  
  \item \textbf{Run for Fun Camps} Bay Area
  Run for Fun Camps' 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.
  \texttt{runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(650) 823-5167}
  
  \item \textbf{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 student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Flexible cancellation policies.
  \texttt{spartanssportscamp.com} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(650) 479-5906}
  
  \item \textbf{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.
  \texttt{ymcasv.org/summercamp} \hspace{1cm} \texttt{(408) 351-6473}
\end{itemize}
RECOGNIZING LOCAL HEROES

Valerie Campos

Amid COVID-19 restrictions, Valerie Campos, director of adult services at the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, pivoted to mobility classes via telephone and talks on Zoom. As a Vista client/board member, I’m inspired by a can-do spirit that touches the most vulnerable among us.

Submitted by: Joan Desmond

In a pre-COVID-19 photo, Valerie Campos is shown in the foreground in the pink shirt and ponytail.

Bruce Gee

Bruce does so much for so many! He has been growing beautiful, organic tomato and vegetable plants, and donating them to Ada’s Cafe to sell. Our customers look forward to coming to Ada’s Garden to shop. This year, Bruce’s generosity has helped Ada’s be relevant and generate some revenue.

Submitted by: Kathleen Foley-Hughes

Veronica Calderon

Veronica is a front-line worker at The Market at Edgewood. She is so caring, gracious and professional. Veronica has made social distancing a friendly experience and always has kind words for customers. The Market is such a great addition to Palo Alto providing great quality food and community.

Submitted by: Kathleen Foley-Hughes

Liz Prado

When the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP) had to cease youth programming due to COVID-19, BGCP Chef Liz Prado had an idea: Use our clubhouse kitchens to feed local families. Within days, Liz trained staff members, recruited cooks, and launched the BGCP meal program, which now distributes 2,500 dinners each night. With her competence, experience and positivity, Liz provides hope for people in her hometown of East Palo Alto and beyond.

Submitted by: Victoria Thorp

Valerie Campos

Amid COVID-19 restrictions, Valerie Campos, director of adult services at the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, pivoted to mobility classes via telephone and talks on Zoom. As a Vista client/board member, I’m inspired by a can-do spirit that touches the most vulnerable among us.

Submitted by: Joan Desmond

In a pre-COVID-19 photo, Valerie Campos is shown in the foreground in the pink shirt and ponytail.

Spread the joy and support our journalism efforts by giving local heroes a shout-out in the Palo Alto Weekly.

Submit entries at PaloAltoOnline.com/local_hero/
Life in motion
Peninsula Photo Contest winners preserve fleeting moments from ordinary times

As the digital age evolves, so does the culture of photography. And those small, everyday moments that once would have been gone forever in a blink are now memorialized with a click on a greater scale than ever before. But capturing these fleeting moments successfully often depends upon more than just having a camera or cell phone on hand at the right time.

This year’s images expose the power of creativity, patience and anticipation of unexpected moments — like when a burrowing owl came out of hiding or a girl’s shadow from the playground swing above briefly crossed paths with her abandoned flip-flops.

For the third consecutive year, the Palo Alto Weekly and Palo Alto Art Center have teamed up to bring exposure to a variety of works from Mid-peninsula photographers through the Peninsula Photo Contest. This year’s competition was open to anyone who works, lives or attends school in or near the 650 area code, from Daly City to Sunnyvale.

The categories include Abstract, Moments, the Natural World, Portraits and Travel, as well as the new Humor category, which challenged photographers to find and capture the humorous element in situations, objects, people and animals.

The judges reviewed more than 745 images submitted by 158 adult and youth photographers. Each of this year’s 12 winning images captures life and everyday objects from a unique perspective — from a boy engrossed in a bedtime story to a girl collecting laundry in the streets of Mykonos. These depictions of everyday scenes seem especially powerful during these not-so-normal times, triggering unexpected joy and the contemplation of lost normalcy.

The winning photographs were announced at a virtual awards ceremony on Thursday evening. They will be on display, along with 13 honorable-mention images, in a fall exhibition from Sept. 12 to Nov. 15 at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road.

Read on to learn more about the photographers and the ideas and feelings they hoped to convey through their work.

– Linda Taaffe

Abstract

Adult winner: Ken Fowkes
‘Pondside’

Ken Fowkes, 61, is a retired software developer who grew up in Palo Alto and now lives in Mountain View. He enjoys blending his passions for dance and photography by wiggling his camera around while the shutter is open. “Pondside” was taken with a quick upward flick of a long lens. “Details are erased, inviting us to explore the scene through color, shape and texture,” Fowkes said.

Judge’s comments

“Pondside” is a fresh and inventive interpretation of a scene that has possibly been seen by countless eyes. The forced movement of the vertical play against the natural horizontal pattern is executed brilliantly, and the uneven pattern of the darker, wood-like lines adds a visual tension that allows the mind’s eye to resolve the scene, thus including the viewer in the artistic process.

“Youfold” takes the viewer through what can be considered a mundane everyday experience and appreciates the visual beauty of what most of us usually pass over. The image displays a strong understanding and interpretation of one of the core fundamentals of photography — light and shadow, and the interplay between the two, understanding that one cannot function without the other.

– Don Feria

Youth winner: Emma Sloan
‘Unfold’

Emma Sloan, 17, is a Gunn High School student who lives in Palo Alto. She loves photography because it can be used to provide new meaning and perspective to subjects. For “Unfold,” she shot the folds of her bed sheets in the morning sunlight using a 35 mm black-and-white film camera. “I love ‘Unfold’ for its simplicity and for the softness of its lines and shadows. It captures one of the many marks a person leaves behind as they move on with each day,” Sloan said.
Moments

**Adult winner:** Deborah Lord

‘Summertime’

Deborah Lord, 42, is a Mountain View resident who enjoys using photography to capture stories and beauty all around her. Lord said “Summertime” (which is featured on the cover of today’s edition) was inspired by a girl’s carefree spirit on the swings. “Her shadow best captured that spirit, simplifying her wind-strewn hair and welcome wide-open stance. Lying next to her shadow, abandoned flip-flops. This image feels like summertime to me,” Lord said.

**Youth winner:** Alison Soong

‘Before the Rain’

Alison Soong, 15, is a freshman at Crystal Springs Uplands High School, who grew up in San Francisco. She enjoys capturing the “smallest of moments in everyday life” through photography. “Before the Rain” was taken during a school field trip to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. “This photograph aims to capture the sense of wonder that was displayed in a woman’s face as she continued to look up at the darkening sky,” Soong said.

Judge’s comments

“Summertime” is a simple and balanced image that includes just three elements: the shadow of a child on a swing, a colorful pair of flip-flops and the monotone ground covered with wood chips. The three elements come together in a subtle and creative way, leaving it up to our imagination to envision the rest of the scene.

“Before the Rain” is a very subtle image. The scale of the photo creates an interesting contrast between the city skyline in the background and the rather small figures slightly off center in the image. The angular architecture gives depth and movement to the frame, while the subtle moment of one figure looking up to assess the sky is both understated and graceful. All the elements of the image are balanced.

— Federica Armstrong

(continued on the next page)
Natural World

Adult winner: Geoffrey Brooks
‘Burrowing Owl on Frosty Morning’

Geoffrey Brooks has traveled the world photographing nature’s obscure details. He photographed this particular burrowing owl on an unusually cold winter morning in western Florida. “As the sun rose and hit the chilly ground for the first time, steam began rising around the owl and cloaked the whole scene in a beautiful golden light,” Brooks said.

Youth winner: Victor Wan, ‘Sand Falls’

Victor Wan, 16, is a high school student who lives in Palo Alto. He has been experimenting with different photography techniques and styles since he was 11. He captured this image while walking through Arizona’s Upper Antelope Canyon. “Our tour guide picked up some sand, threw it on top of a ledge, and I captured the stunning slow falling of the bright, smooth sand,” Wan said.

Judge's comments

“Burrowing Owl on Frosty Morning” is not only a beautifully crafted image but is also a fantastic glimpse into the natural world we never see in our day-to-day lives. This image jumped out as unique, thoughtful and poetic. Capturing this image with the golden shaft of light running across the frame and giving the owl a halo was almost too perfect. “Sand Falls” is a wonderful study of light, shadow, movement and color. The judges were impressed by the photographer’s use of motion to create visual movement within the image. The image is balanced perfectly, and the dark areas of the top of the image help focus the viewer’s eye on the moving sand. The well-framed stick at the middle left of the photograph reminds us that the world is organic, yet constantly changing.

– John Todd

Portraits

Adult winner: Sharon Kenney
‘The Book Worm’

Sharon Kenney is a family and event photographer from Mountain View who has been taking photos of local families for more than eight years. She took this photo of her 4-year-old son on a typical summer evening before bedtime. “The image captures an ordinary, everyday moment, but it is full of small details that show exactly what I want to remember about what he was like at this age,” Kenney said.

Youth winner: Manisha Khakoo
‘Bright Eyes’

Manisha Khakoo, 16, is a sophomore at Woodside Priory School who lives in Woodside. She captured “Bright Eyes” by playing with the way the grassy shadows fell on her cousin’s face and the way the sunlight illuminated her eyes. “I’m really happy with the result that I produced, especially the emphasis on beauty and nature and the intense engagement in this photograph,” Khakoo said.
Portraits: Judge’s comments

“The Book Worm” is a quiet and powerful moment that plays out nightly in our homes. Images such as this remind us that great photography can be everywhere, and it’s the job of the photographer to discover and share these moments. For just a moment, we are invited into a child’s world, and we become lost in his story book.

— John Todd

“Bright Eyes” stands out for two reasons: First, the play between light and shadow on the subject brings texture to an element of the photograph that the viewer might not expect to see. Second, the bright green and red create a striking contrast and define the two main subjects of the photo: a human and nature. The color of the subject’s eyes also happen to be a happy medium between that green and red and draw in the viewer with what feels like direct eye contact.

— Magali Gauthier

Travel

Adult winner | Best in Show: Teri Vershel

‘Laundry Day’

Teri Vershel is a former tech-worker who lives in Palo Alto and has spent the past five years as a street photographer capturing life as it unfolds. Vershel happened upon this domestic scene while in Mykonos, Greece. “Laundry Day” is a perfect example of why I love shooting on the street. You just never know what you’re going to encounter,” Vershel said.

Youth winner: Victor Wan

‘The Egyptian Mosque’

Victor Wan’s tour group had just finished visiting the Mosque Madrassa of Sultan Hassan in Cairo, Egypt, when he captured this image. “While walking away from the mosque, I turned my head and between the two walls of the mosque was a stunning, hazy silhouette of the Saladin Citadel,” Wan said. (See Wan’s full biography under “Natural World, Youth Winner.”)

SEE MORE ONLINE
All of the winning photos, plus additional ones chosen for exhibition, have been posted at PaloAltoOnline.com and TheSixFifty.com.

Judge’s comments

“Laundry Day” is an image we can all relate to, and that’s what makes it a good photograph. The viewer is drawn in by the simple act of the subject in the top of the frame dropping a piece of laundry to the woman below. It’s a human moment. It’s about working together. It’s also about taking pleasure in the small things — the woman at the bottom seems to be smiling.

“The Egyptian Mosque” immediately draws the viewer to the mosque. It’s the first thing the viewer sees upon the first, second and even third time of looking at the image. This is thanks to the striking lighting and centered composition. This image is an example of using elements that are already present to capture a known landmark in a unique way.

— Magali Gauthier

Federica Armstrong

Federica Armstrong is an editorial and commercial photographer working with many nonprofit organizations in the Bay Area. Her skills include traditional documentary photography, environmental portraiture and event photography. She is the founder of the Palo Alto Photography Forum, a lecture series that features prominent photographers and promotes conversations on current issues through visual storytelling. Armstrong’s latest project, “In Plain Site,” which focuses on Silicon Valley Superfund Sites, was published in the New York Times Lens Blog in 2018.

John Freeman Todd

John Freeman Todd has been a professional photographer for more than 25 years. Since 1996, he has been the team photographer for Major League Soccer’s San Jose Earthquakes. He also owns International Sports Images (isiphotos.com), the official photography supplier to the U.S. Men and Women’s soccer teams, Stanford Athletics and the former Maverick’s Big Wave Surfing contest. You can see his work on his website: johnhtodd.com

Peninsula Photo Contest Judges

Don Feria

Don Feria is an independent editorial and commercial photographer based in the Bay Area. With beginnings in culinary school in 1996, he adjusted his focus after seeing his first black-and-white image appear in the darkroom developer. His work has been commissioned for Nike, Forbes magazine, Fortune, Stanford University, Tesla, Apple, REI, the Discovery Channel and Kaiser Permanente. You can see his work at donferia.com

Magali Gauthier

Magali Gauthier covers the Bay Area as the chief visual journalist for Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and The Almanac. She received her master’s degree in journalism from the University of Southern California, where she focused on visual journalism through video, photography, interactive web pages and social media. Her work has been recognized by the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

About the cover: “Summertime” by Deborah Lord won the Moments category of the 2020 Peninsula Photo Contest.

Thank you to our Peninsula Photo Contest sponsors

The Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, Palo Alto Art Center, The Six Fifty and Palo Alto Photo Forum sponsored this year’s Peninsula Photo Contest. The Best In Show winner was awarded $500; adult winners were awarded $200 each; and youth winners were awarded $100 each. All winners and honorable mentions received memberships at the Palo Alto Art Center.
WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

Limit the Spread of Coronavirus

Shelter in Place: It Will Save Lives.

Stay Home If You Are Sick.

If You Must Go Out, Follow Social Distancing Guidance.

Be Well

Stay Connected, Check on Your Neighbors, Volunteer

Support Local Businesses

Parks and Open Space Preserves are Open

Community Resources are Available

www.cityofpaloalto.org/coronavirus

DO YOU WANT TO RECOGNIZE A LOCAL HERO?

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/

Rina Bello

Rina puts the needs of others first. As the head of nonprofit Bay Area Cancer Connections, she has ensured that thousands of breast and ovarian cancer clients, and BACC volunteers, have received personal calls to check in during this time of shelter in place. She has rapidly transformed BACC services into virtual, video, and conference call offerings, and always works tirelessly to keep the services free of charge to our community. Thank you, Rina!

Submitted by: Karlette Warner
I am very happy to support the cause. The Palo Alto Weekly/Online is an essential asset for our community, and that’s why I am doing my part. I’m so grateful to everyone on your team for their dedication, hard work and commitment to accurate reporting. Keep up the great work!

- Carrie M.

Will you join the thousands of others supporting local journalism?

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

Subscribe now at PaloAltoOnline.com/join

You can also subscribe for one year by mailing a check for $120 ($60 for seniors and students) to us at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto 94306.
BRIGHT, LIGHT, WITH AN UNBEATABLE LOCATION

111 Greenmeadow Way, Palo Alto

Offered at $1,488,000

Bright, light, and boasting a great location close to everything Palo Alto has to offer, this refreshed 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home stands ready to meet a variety of lifestyle needs. Delightful Eichler-designed details including floor-to-ceiling windows, vaulted paneled ceilings, and polished concrete floors with radiant heat create an inviting atmosphere that carries throughout nearly 1,000 sq. ft. of comfortable living space (per county). Spend nights around the fireplace in the living room, craft fantastic meals in the beautifully remodeled kitchen, appreciate the convenience of two bedroom suites each with outside access, and enjoy community amenities including a pool. Plus, a wonderful Greenmeadow location puts you close to numerous parks and top-rated Palo Alto schools, a short trip to the excitement of both downtown Palo Alto and Mountain View, and near Caltrain and U.S. 101 for Bay Area commuting. This home checks all the boxes for outstanding Silicon Valley living.

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only,
instant appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (5/23) and Sunday (5/24).

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

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.111Greenmeadow.com

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中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun 電話: 650.785.5822 | DRE # 01933274
PEACEFUL TOWNHOME MOMENTS TO DOWNTOWN PALO ALTO

674 Hamilton Avenue, Unit A, Palo Alto

Boasting an enviable location just blocks to downtown Palo Alto, this 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome of over 1,600 sq. ft. (per county) is ready to meet a variety of lifestyle needs. A delightful garden entrance welcomes you to this peaceful, secure complex of just 12 homes. Inside, a skylight and numerous windows take full advantage of this home’s end-unit location, as abundant natural light creates a light, bright atmosphere that carries throughout. Comfortable living space abounds, from the fireplace-warmed living room, to the dining room perfect for hosting dinner parties catered from the well-designed kitchen. Revel in al fresco delights with two expansive patios, and enjoy a quiet respite in the master suite crowned by a vaulted ceiling. This home’s wonderful location not only puts you close to University Avenue, it’s also just moments to Rinconada Park, near U.S. 101 for Bay Area commuting, and offers access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

Offered at $1,988,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only, instant appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (5/23) and Sunday (5/24).

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.674Hamilton.com

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www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun 電話：650.785.5822 | DRE #01933274
710 Northampton, Palo Alto
Shown by Appointment Only

Classic and Timeless Living...

Welcome to this charming home located in desirable Leland Manor neighborhood in North Palo Alto. The home offers 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and a bright and airy home with a wraparound courtyard great for gatherings and family entertainment.

Stellar Palo Alto schools: Duveneck Elementary, Greene Middle and Palo Alto High (buyers to verify availability). Conveniently located close to Eleanor Pardee Park, Rinconada Park, Lucie Stern Community Center, Children’s Library and Main Library, Junior Museum and Zoo, Downtown, hiking and biking trails, Edgewood Plaza and more. Easy access to Stanford University, Silicon Valley Tech hubs and freeways 280 and 101.

For virtual tour, visit 710Northamton.com

- 4 bedrooms
- 3 baths
- home ±2,908sqft
- lot ±10,800sqft
- Asking $5,200,000

Arti Miglani
DRE #01150085
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4062 Manzana Lane, Palo Alto

Main House  3 Bed  3 Bath  |  Separate Cottage  |  13,200 SF Lot

Tucked away on one of Barron Park’s most premier tree-lined streets, this property boasts a magical setting with wonderful privacy. Close to acclaimed Palo Alto schools and just minutes away to parks, trails and major commute routes.

Offered at $2,998,000

Lori Buecheler
650.387.2716
lori.buecheler@compass.com
lorirealestate.com
DRE 01859485
848 Southampton Drive, Palo Alto

Stunning, Ultra-Modern Masterpiece
Ultra-modern design, timeless luxury, and the best of contemporary amenities converge in this spectacular example of cutting-edge architecture on a lot of over 8,000 sq. ft. (per county) in the sought-after neighborhood of Green Gables. Offering 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 half-baths, and nearly 4,700 sq. ft. of chic living space (per county), this home is perfectly suited to meet the needs of today’s Silicon Valley lifestyle, while still maintaining a warm, inviting ambiance. A streamlined layout over three levels includes expansive gathering spaces, a stunning kitchen with high-end appliances from Miele, Thermador, and Bosch, a theater, and comfortable accommodations for the entire family, while dramatic walls of glass flood the home with natural light and create a seamless connection to the outdoors. From this great location, you will be mere moments to Rinconada Park, a short trip to the excitement of downtown Palo Alto, and close to U.S. 101 for Bay Area commuting, while children may attend top-rated Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility). This is Silicon Valley living at its absolute finest – welcome home.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.848SouthamptonDr.com
Offered at $5,988,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only,
instant appointments between 1:00 pm-4:00 pm on Saturday (5/23) and Sunday (5/24).

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


Michael Repka, DRE #01834880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
1290 Pitman Avenue, Palo Alto

Bright, Spacious, and a Coveted Location

Situated on a peaceful tree-lined street in one of Silicon Valley’s most prestigious neighborhoods, Crescent Park, this 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath home offers over 3,400 sq. ft. of living space (per county) on an expansive lot of nearly one-quarter acre (per county). Graceful French-style architecture creates outstanding curb appeal, while inside, spacious formal rooms, comfortable bedrooms, an office, and a well-designed floor plan provide luxury and convenience to meet the needs of a modern family. Enjoy a bright, light ambiance thanks to numerous windows and glass doors, revel in sumptuous details like rich hardwood floors and finely detailed ceilings, experience indoor/outdoor living in the private backyard with a trellis-covered patio, and accommodate overnight guests in the detached flexible-use living space. From this great location, you will be just steps to Eleanor Pardee Park, moments to the excitement of University Avenue, and have easy access to U.S. 101 for Bay Area commuting. Plus, children may attend acclaimed schools including Duveneck Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.1290Pitman.com

Offered at $6,788,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors* only,

instant appointments between 1:00 pm-4:00 pm on Saturday (5/23) and Sunday (5/24).

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

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

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
SPECTACULAR VIEWS IN REDWOOD CITY

26 Loma Road, Redwood City

Breathtaking vistas of the San Francisco Bay and beyond set a perfect backdrop for this extensively renovated, mid-century modern home, offering a unique opportunity to own over 2,700 sq. ft. of living space (per county) on a nearly 0.6-acre lot (per county) in Redwood City. Enjoying a peaceful, verdant setting and presenting supreme privacy, this spacious home of 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths includes comfortable living spaces, a great kitchen to inspire your inner chef, and a bright, light ambiance thanks to excellent use of glass including floor-to-ceiling windows that highlight spectacular 180-degree views of the vast Peninsula. Outside, an expansive entertainment deck provides ample room for al fresco delights, and a wonderful space to take in the beauty of this home's surroundings. Adding the finishing touch, this home's location puts you close to the excitement of both downtown San Carlos and Redwood City, and offers easy access to Highway 280 for Bay Area commuting.

Offered at $2,788,000

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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 more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.26Loma.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
BRIGHT, INVITING, AND CONVENIENTLY LOCATED

478 Quincy Drive, Mountain View

Offered at $2,188,000

Light, bright, and inviting, this well-appointed home stands ready to meet a variety of lifestyle needs. Offering 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and over 1,700 sq. ft. of living space (per county) on a lot of nearly 5,200 sq. ft. (per county), this home boasts open and flowing living spaces perfect for the modern family. From the comfortable living room, to the spacious family room warmed by a fireplace, to the well-designed kitchen with high-end appliances from Bosch, JennAir, and GE Profile. The master suite provides a welcoming retreat, and accesses the backyard with plenty of room for outdoor enjoyment. Adding to the appeal is a location close to numerous parks, shopping and dining at The Village at San Antonio Center, and Google. While also being mere moments to Caltrain and U.S. 101 for Bay Area commuting. Plus, children may attend the acclaimed Los Altos High (buyer to verify eligibility). This home checks all the boxes for outstanding Silicon Valley living.

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Listed by Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in the Nation.*

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.478Quincy.com

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

For more information contact: Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team
DRE #01933274 | 650.785.5822 | audrey@deleonrealty.com
DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224 | 我们精通国语和粤语

Managing Broker: Michael Repka | 650.900.7000 | DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com
SUPREME PRIVACY ON A PEACEFUL 1.51-ACRE LOT

1 Hayfields Road, Portola Valley

Offered at $2,788,000

On an expansive lot of over 1.5 acres (per county) nestled in the verdant serenity of Portola Valley, this 4-bedroom, 2-bath home of 2,490 sq. ft. (per county) feels a million miles away from it all, yet is still within easy reach of everything Silicon Valley has to offer. Cathedral ceilings, skylights, and walls of windows create a bright, light atmosphere that flows throughout, where spacious formal rooms are perfect for entertaining, the kitchen is sure to inspire your inner chef, and a warm, welcoming ambiance will have you feeling right at home the second you walk through the door. Enjoy the lush, peaceful grounds of this home, where towering trees dot a landscape that offers ample room for al fresco enjoyment. Plus, from this great location, you will be mere moments from multiple nature preserves, close to the Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club, and have access to acclaimed schools including Ormondale Elementary and Corte Madera Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.1Hayfields.com

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www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun 電話：650.785.5822 | DRE #01933274
VERDANT SILICON VALLEY OASIS ON 1.15 ACRES

4 Grove Court, Portola Valley

Offered at $3,988,000

On a peaceful lot of 1.15 acres (per county) in bucolic Portola Valley, this 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home embodies the historic charm of the Peninsula, while standing ready to meet the needs of a modern family. Soaring ceilings, rich woodwork, and numerous French doors and windows craft a bright, welcoming atmosphere that permeates the nearly 2,900 sq. ft. of living space (per plans). A stunning fireplace in floor-to-ceiling brick warms the dramatic living area, the comfortable family room enjoys a fireplace all its own, and an office presents convenient space for working from home. Towering trees dot the landscape of the impressive grounds, where pathways wind through the verdant surroundings, and a screened-in porch offers the chance to sleep beneath the stars while enjoying the comforts of home. Topping it all off, this home enjoys a location close to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting, while offering access to acclaimed Portola Valley schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.4GroveCt.com
One of the largest residential properties in Palo Alto (2 acres) with panoramic views of the entire south Bay Area has been owned by this family for over 55 years. Located in the highly sought out Esther Clark neighborhood it has the last horse property with barn. Esther Clark Neighborhood of Palo Alto offers residents a sparse suburban feel while enjoying close proximity to local shopping, transportation routes, schools, parks and businesses. This large family home has 6 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Remodel, rebuild or just enjoy this comfortable living home. Mesa, 44,069 sq ft lot, adjacent to 4198 Oak Hill is also available for sale.
Across
1 Raised-eyebrow remarks
4 From Bangkok
8 Loud two-year-old, maybe
14 Kabuki relative
15 Fair share, between two
16 Baltimore player
17 Start of a best-selling 2003 Mark Haddon title
20 Remote button
21 Meas. for really fast rotations
22 Band supposedly doing their final concert in 2021
23 Pellets found in some old pocket puzzles
24 Catches
26 100 centesimi, once
29 Sargasso, for one
30 Scandinavian native properly called S·mi
33 Start of a time-traveling Mark Twain title
38 Like the Beatles
39 Some time ___
40 Colin, to Tom Hanks
41 Wildebeest
42 Start of a Fannie Flagg title (the movie title being shorter than the book)
46 New Age vocalist from County Donegal
47 Chicago trains
48 Closed facilities (work out at home!)
49 Run off to get married (wait, how would that work these days?)
51 “On the Road” narrator Paradise
53 See 12-Down
56 Aries symbol
57 December garnish
61 Start of a classic 1972 Judith Vorst kids’ book title
64 1998 Olympics city in Japan
65 Japanese seaweed
66 Metal container?
67 Wallace’s canine sidekick
68 Big thick book
69 It gets caked on

Down
1 Where “I’m not a doctor” spokespeople usually “play one”
2 Hostess snack cake
3 “Falling Up” poet Silverstein
4 Part of a “hang loose” sign
5 Long-eared hoppers
6 Sports Illustrated’s Sportsman of the Century (1999)
7 Befuddled comment
8 ___ nova
9 “Entourage” agent Gold
10 Shares a secret with, maybe
11 Focal points
12 53-Across students
13 Tasting party options
18 Like the mojito’s origin

“Books I Didn’t Finish” — it’s OK, you get the idea. Matt Jones

Across
19 Lifts
25 Actress Emily
26 ...-A-Lympics” (1970s Hanna-Barbera cartoon)
27 Words of support
28 One of the Bee Gees
29 Paper packaged with a board game, perhaps
31 Variety of owl, hippo, or seahorse
32 Airline that went bankrupt in 1991
34 Winner of the most French Open singles titles
35 Pad see ew ingredient
36 Opposing argument
37 “May contain ___”
43 Procedure where you may be asked to select numbers
44 Terbium or erbium, e.g.
45 Looked the wrong way?
46 “Ready ___ ... ”
47 Band of murder hornets, e.g.
50 “Books I Didn’t Finish” — it’s OK, you get the idea. Matt Jones
51 Band of murder hornets, e.g.
52 The Governator, familiarly
53 Candidate who dropped out in February 2020
54 Fruit spray banned by the EPA
55 Blocks that inspired an animated Batman movie
56 Chemistry 101 model
58 “I’m not a doctor” spokespeople usually “play one”
59 Drive-___ window
60 Pay attention to
62 “Fuel” singer DiFranco
63 Kanga’s kid

This week’s SUDOKU

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“The Books I Didn’t Finish” — it’s OK, you get the idea. Matt Jones

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“The Books I Didn’t Finish” — it’s OK, you get the idea. Matt Jones
Memorial Day Remembrance and a
Special Tribute to our Palo Alto Businesses

STAY STRONG, BE WELL, HOLD ON

For nearly 60 years, 1705 Fulton residents have proudly displayed the American Flag on national holidays. A tradition was begun in 1961 as residents unanimously agreed to turn Christmas Tree Lane into “Flag Lane.” The proposal was to use our pipe stands (used for the Christmas Trees) for the display of uniform American Flags on July 4th. Yule Lane becomes “American Flag Lane.” Residents of the 1700 and 1800 blocks of Fulton Street today display American flags in observance of Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and other national observances.

“The purpose...to stimulate patriotism, community, and make the flag fashionable again.”
– Palo Alto Times

1705 FULTON STREET
PALO ALTO

Magnificent curb appeal hints at the interior beauty of this classic home sited on one of Palo Alto’s most storied and picturesque streets. The home was expanded and remodeled with attention to quality and detail in 1990, and features many elegant interior appointments including high ceilings, moldings, hardwood floors and abundant true-divided light windows. The spacious floor plan with 2 main level bedroom suites is ideal for intergenerational living.

View video tour at 1705Fulton.com


A House is a House. A Home has Culture, Tradition, & Memories. What Memories will your family make over the next thirty years?

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