RULE REVERSAL

UNDER STATE ORDER, WITH COVID CASES RISING, COUNTY HALTS REOPENING PLAN

PAGE 5

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County reverses new health order, ceding to state rules

Gyms, hair salons opened on Monday, only to be ordered closed on Wednesday
by Jocelyn Dong, Lloyd Lee and Ana B. Ibarra

On Monday, the same day that hair salons and gyms reopened in Santa Clara County after being shuttered since March, the county’s Public Health Department announced that those businesses, among other sectors, would have to re-close on Wednesday, July 15, by state mandate.

The sudden reversal effectively scrapped the county’s newest health directive, which went into effect Monday, July 13, and was intended to provide businesses with the leeway to operate while still observing public safety measures.

The county’s surprise announcement followed sweeping statewide rollbacks Gov. Gavin Newsom had unveiled during a press conference just hours earlier, which immediately closed indoor operations of restaurants, wineries, zoos, museums and movie theaters, among other businesses. (Outdoor dining is still allowed.)

Newsom also said that counties on the state Public Health Department’s monitoring list for three consecutive days as of July 15 would also have to suspend indoor operations of gyms, worship services, malls and offices of “non-critical sectors,” as well as hair salons and other personal care services. Public protests also would be prohibited.

That second part of the order would affect Santa Clara County, whose leaders said Monday that the county had been added back to the state’s monitoring list on Sunday. They anticipated still being on the list on Wednesday, making the county subject to the

(continued on page 10)

EDUCATION

In Palo Alto, a test case for special education this fall

Parents say in-person summer program, the only one of its kind in the county, is particularly needed for kids with disabilities
by Elena Kadvany

Every day this week, as debate raged about how and when to safely reopen schools, students in Palo Alto got off buses and out of cars, had their temperatures and symptoms checked and headed into classrooms to learn in person for the first time in four months.

These students are attending Palo Alto Unified’s Extended School Year program, which every summer serves students with moderate to severe disabilities, including autism, intellectual disabilities, and visual and physical impairments.

This year, however, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, it’s the only program of its kind taking place in person in Santa Clara County during the

(continued on page 10)

CITY HALL

Failed labor talks led to staffing cuts

Union had sought a study to reveal city’s ‘top heavy’ management
by Gennady Sheyner

Weeks before the Palo Alto City Council voted to slash $40 million from the city budget and eliminate more than 70 full-time positions, the city’s largest labor union approached management with an offer that members claimed would save more than $3 million.

Service Employees International Union, Local 521, which represents more than half of the city’s workforce, proposed foregoing the 3% raises that its members were entitled to receive on Dec. 1 under a three-year contract that expires on Dec. 31, 2021, according to Margaret Adkins, chair of the union’s Palo Alto chapter. The union and the city had been negotiating since April and members thought the offer, as well as the union’s willingness to accept furloughs in the coming year, would obviate the need for significant layoffs, Adkins said.

There was, however, one major catch. The union insisted that employees who are set to retire in the coming months be exempted from the freeze. Asking them to forego their raises would mean they’d get smaller pensions, Adkins told this news organization.

“That request proved to be a deal-breaker, according to the union and the city. The union proposal did not include a salary

(continued on page 7)
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Babies Set a New Record ... Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford set a new record that will be hard to beat: delivering four sets of twins within 32 hours. The chances of such an event are one in a million, according to a post published this week in the “Healthier, Happy Lives” blog by Stanford Children’s Health. The series of deliveries began on June 29 with mother Jessi Lee and father Dohyup Kim, who rushed to the maternity ward during the early morning hours for an emergency cesarean section. The couple’s first twin baby, Ethan, was born at 8:15 a.m., followed by his sister, Yisol, a minute later (a photo of the twins is featured above). Hours later, Kelli Smith had a successful C-section that brought her two boys, Henry and Logan, into the world at 3:03 and 3:05 p.m., respectively. Smith, who lives in Palo Alto with her husband, Zachary, is a Stanford medical resident. “Smith’s pregnancy was high-risk, as she is a cancer survivor with some cardiovascular issues,” according to the blog. “We prayed for a miracle, and we got two,” Smith said in the post. Details on the fourth set of twins aren’t available.

Cupcakes for Justice ... Recent public outcry over racist injustice has led people to create murals with the message “Black Lives Matter” protest in masses and — bake cupcakes? That’s true for the trio of Palo Alto High School seniors who are the team behind “Baking for Justice,” making and selling cupcakes that are primarily delivered in Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Funds collected from the sales benefit one of three organizations whose purpose supports the Black Lives Matter movement: The Bail Project, Act Blue Racism and Police Brutality Fund, and D.R.E.A.M. The group was founded by Paly senior Winter Pickett, who’s baking classic cupcakes (chocolate and vanilla) and specialty cupcakes (s’mores and sundae) in boxes of four or six and delivered by Halo Lynch. There’s a possibility of adding a third specialty cupcake with a peanut butter flavor, said co-founder Sabrina Chan. The group has raised $1,200 three weeks into the effort and plans to continue selling the treats at least through the summer. For more information, visit bakingforjustice. wixsite.com/bakingforjustice.

Words of Wisdom ... Professional athletes, a tech executive and community leaders, said giving and learning from others, recently offered motivational messages to youth shared through interviews with members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. The conversations were recently shared on social media to help young people “during an uncertain time,” the organization stated in a tweet. “Continue to stay connected with those people that are very crucial and important in your life,” said swimmer Simone Manuel, a four-time Olympic gold medalist. LinkedIn Executive Chair Jeff Weiner called on students to live in the moment by “being present and being mindful.” Watch the full video at youtube.com/ UV8yQHn4QG. ■

“ It’s heart-wrenching.
— Natalie Nepomuceno, Mountain View salon owner, on county’s latest order to reclose hair salons. See story on page 5.
freeze, said Meghan Horrigan-Taylor, the city’s chief communications officer. And because of the proposed exemptions, the SEIU offer “fell short of the $3 million gap we were working together to address,” she said.

“In addition, SEIU included other operational challenges in their proposal that the city could not accept,” Horrigan-Taylor added, without specifying what those challenges were.

The failure of management and union leaders to reach an agreement before the June 22 deadline will have repercussions both in the immediate future and beyond. In the current fiscal year, which began on July 1, the city was forced to eliminate more services and positions than it otherwise would have had to. It also incurred significant cuts to Children’s Theatre programs, Palo Alto Art Center exhibits and park maintenance. It also meant the reduction of hours at libraries and elimination of the city’s shuttle program.

In the long term, the impasse threatens to undermine what has been a relatively amicable relationship between the SEIU and the city. Over the past decade, the two sides have successfully negotiated numerous multiyear contracts that provided union members with salary increases in exchange for concessions on pensions and benefits. And in March, when the city began shutting down recreation services and community service in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the council voted to keep paying all employees, even those who could no longer work because of the shutdown, until the end of the fiscal year. That provision expired on June 30.

That sense of solidarity has given way to an aura of mistrust. Chris Brickner, a substation electrician in the Utilities Department, said at the June 22 council meeting that when the union was approached by the city this spring with a request for concessions, he was more than willing to help other union members keep their jobs. In later meetings, the union learned that the city was planning to cut services even with the proposed concessions.

Brickner said at the council meeting that the union returned multiple times with “generous concessions” that surpassed the $3 million mark, only to be told by the city that the offers were not enough.

“It seems to me there is some other plan or agenda being pushed on all city employees,” Brickner said, just before the council approved the budget.

The city had more success with other labor groups. All the public safety unions agreed to delay their 3% raises for a year and were rewarded by the city with “attrition ramps” that effectively delay the job cuts. Because of their concessions, no sworn positions will be slashed until this fall in the Police Department or at the end of the year in the Fire Department. This will give them some time to achieve cost reductions through retirements, rather than by laying off recently recruited employees (the city sweetened the pot for retirees by offering $30,000 payments to those opting for retirement).

The “management and professional” group, which represents more than 200 employees and which is the only group that is not in a union, agreed to 13 unpaid furlough days in the coming year to save the city money. Its new compensation agreement also specifies that there will be “no base salary increases or compensation adjustments tied to the performance appraisal process.” These concessions are expected to save the city about $3 million, according to the Administrative Services Department.

Kiely Nose, the city’s chief financial officer, noted that the city was planning to ask the management group to take 26 unpaid furlough days. Absent a deal with the SEIU, which represents more than 550 positions, this was no longer a viable option, she told the council.

“Without any sort of agreement with our largest labor workforce, implementing something like that seemed impractical and infeasible,” Nose said.

The failed negotiations process also exposed a rift between the SEIU and the management group. Adkins said the SEIU asked the city during the negotiation process to perform a “span of control” study, which evaluates the number of employees that report to managers. In some cases, Adkins told this news organization, there are managers who are supervising just one or two employees an indicator of a top-heavy organizational structure.

Adkins pointed to the Library Department, which she said had hired a senior librarian in April before proceeding to let go of other librarians. Martha Walters, (continued on page 8)

Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

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Contract No. PAHWCW- 100

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There will be a MANDATORY pre-bid conference and site visit at 10:00 AM on August 14, 2020 and afterward date August 17, 2020 at the Tower Administration Building 50 Embarcadero Rd. Palo Alto, Califor- nia, 94301. Please register via e-mail with rinaldo@ths.com.

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Bidders may examine Bidding Documents on line at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vGcT7c7MkLuv9C2sCFyG7bd_CsU4Sk7?usp=sharing

Bidders may also purchase copies of the plans and specifications at ARC Document Solutions 829 Cherry Lane San Carlos, CA 94070, Phone Number (650) 631-2310

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to:

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Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
Attn: Rinaldo Veseliza, Sr. PM
Fax: (650) 327-3588
Phone: (650) 329-3927
rinaldo@ths.com
a business analyst in the Library Department, made a similar point at the June 22 meeting, where she described the staffing cuts in the department as “a bitter pill to swallow.”

“What is more perplexing and spine-chilling is the fact that not one library manager who directly manages any rank-and-file (employees) is slated to be laid off,” said Walters, a SEIU employee who serves as secretary of the Palo Alto chapter.

Adkins told this news organization that the union was hoping that the city’s budget process would look at “restructuring” at City Hall.

“We knew it would hurt both sides, but it was needed to stabilize the budget for the long term,” she said.

With the new fiscal year already started, Adkins said the union is trying to mitigate the impact of the budget cuts by finding new positions for employees whose jobs are being eliminated. The SEIU had about 70 vacant positions last fiscal year, according to a staff report.

Some employees, Adkins said, may have to take lower positions. Most will remain with the city in some capacity. About seven workers will have to be let go, she said.

City leaders have generally kept silent on the topic of union negotiations, limiting all discussions to closed sessions and taking no reportable actions. Unlike in 2010, when the city and the SEIU were fighting over pension reform in the midst of an economic downturn (which resulted in the elimination of 56 positions), none of the offers or counteroffers in the recent negotiation session were made public.

Both the SEIU and the city have declined to release their respective offers, or any other documents to substantiate their claims, to this news organization.

Given the impasse, SEIU members will receive the 3% raises on Dec. 1 of this year, consistent with the terms of a contract that the council approved in April 2019. The contract expires on Dec. 31, 2021.

Because the city’s agreement with SEIU is a “closed contract” that is legally binding on both sides, the city had little leverage to violate its terms without the cooperation of the union. As such, council members said very little during the marathon budget sessions about employee compensation (the city’s only open contract is with the Utilities Managers and Professionals Association of Palo Alto, a group of utility workers whose contract expired on June 30). The only council member who publicly expressed frustration about the city’s failure to negotiate concessions with the SEIU was Greg Tanaka, who frequently criticizes his colleagues and city staff for excessive spending.

“We’re giving raises. It’s just mind-boggling,” Tanaka said at the June 22 meeting, just before the council adopted its budget.

At the same time, Tanaka echoed the SEIU’s concerns about the number of managers at City Hall and similarly called for a span-of-control study. Tanaka estimated that about 20% of the city’s employees are managers and argued that proportion is too high. He had also proposed on May 26 that the city move ahead with an organizational study but his colleagues did not accept the recommendation.

Tanaka noted at that meeting that the city is making “very deep cuts in this budget.”

“It would behoove us to understand: Are there structural changes we can make to move some of the dollars we have on the management side to more of the people doing the work?” Tanaka said.

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

**Teachers union lobbies for full distance learning**

The Palo Alto Unified teachers union is urging the district to return to full distance learning this fall rather than reopen classrooms as proposed. In an open letter to the school board and top district leaders, the union cited a list of concerns about the logistics, risks and limitations of in-person instruction, as well as the local spike in coronavirus cases. Santa Clara County reported 101 new cases of the COVID-19 on Thursday, bringing its total to 7,046.

“We have been negotiating since May in good faith about how to structure a return to school, we have increasing concerns whether this can be done while maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff as this pandemic shows no signs of going away,” the union wrote on July 13. “As much as we love our students and miss teaching in person, it is not safe to return to the classroom at this time.”

The school district is currently planning to bring elementary school students and teachers back in person this fall but have middle and high schoolers learn primarily online, with some opportunities for small-group activities in person. Superintendent Don Austin said Wednesday that the reopening plan remains unchanged — any revisions would be subject to approval by the school board. 

—Elena Kadvany

**High-speed rail could delay 911 response**

Despite a decade of delays, funding uncertainties and political hurdles, California’s embattled high-speed rail project continues to slowly advance, with plans to complete the section between San Francisco and Los Angeles by 2033.

On July 10, the effort hit a milestone of sorts when the California High-Speed Rail Authority, which is charged with implementing the project, released an environmental analysis that identifies about a dozen impacts that are “significant and unavoidable” and, as such, would require a statement of overriding consideration from lawmakers before the project can proceed. Some of these involve disruptions to bus routes during the construction period, while others deal with noise and vibrations relating to rail operations. The new document also suggests that emergency responders in San Francisco, Millbrae, Burlingame, Redwood City, Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Mountain View may face significant delays in crossing the tracks once the new train system is up and running.

While cities along the Caltrain corridor are exploring ways to separate the tracks from local streets so that they no longer intersect at grade crossings (a realignment known as “grade separation”), the new document suggests that the California High-Speed Rail Authority has no immediate plans to assist with that effort.

The rail authority’s plan for preventing collisions between cars and trains is not grade separation but the installation of four-quadrant gates that would extend against all lanes of travel, blocking cars from entering the tracks. While these gates would discourage cars from getting on the tracks, they also will result in greater delays at rail crossings, according to the analysis. 

—Gennady Sheyner

**Council members challenge housing mandate**

As Palo Alto braces for an ambitious new housing mandate from Sacramento, three City Council members are requesting that the state delay the contentious process and reconsider its requirement that the Bay Area roughly double the number of housing units in its upcoming growth plan.

The three council members — Vice Mayor Tom DuBois, Councilman Eric Filseth and Councilwoman Lydia Kou — are also criticizing city staff in a separate letter for failing to give the council and the community a chance to provide meaningful feedback on the allocation process, which is expected to more than double the number of units that Palo Alto will have to plan for between 2023 and 2031.

The two letters that the council trio submitted this week echo some of the recent concerns that have emerged from numerous local residents, including former Vice Mayor Greg Schmid, and from their counterparts in Cupertino, where the City Council voted on July 8 to send out a letter requesting that the state delay the contentious process and reconsider its requirement.

The letter specifically responds to a June 9 determination by the state Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) that the Bay Area has to plan for 441,176 units between 2023 and 2031. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) will now use this number to develop specific targets for each Bay Area city. Those allocations are scheduled to be released this fall. 

—Gennady Sheyner

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*The District’s cities include most of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills; a large portion of Sunnyvale; and small sections of Cupertino, Santa Clara and Palo Alto.*

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were uncomfortable sending their children for in-person instruction — as well as from staff who decider they didn’t feel safe coming back to work.

But families who did send their children to the summer program said it was desperately needed. Distance learning simply didn’t happen in any meaningful way for their children the last few months — students for whom routine, structure, socialization and constant support is critical — and parents worry their child’s academic and emotional health suffered as a result. Parents said they were left to fill the gaps themselves while managing their own full-time jobs.

“For me, it was like a hurricane came and it kept coming,” parent Sheena Cora said of distance learning.

Her 16-year-old autistic son is attending the summer program in person — a decision she said she didn’t make lightly, given the potential health risks.

“He misses that social interaction. He misses that relational learning,” she said. “What’s the price to pay for not going?”

School district staff worked for months to design an Extended School Year program that would comply with public health mandates, knowing that these students, more than most, would need in-person interaction and support. Parents of students with disabilities real said they didn’t feel safe coming back to the classroom to work, so they donated clear masks for the staff. Other students also need to be able to read lips.

The answer is mixed. District staff asked parents to get their children used to wearing masks at the very first day of the program. On a recent afternoon, several students were wearing masks, while others needed gentle reminders. Some students cannot wear them due to their disabilities, including those who are unable to put on one.

The staff have been using incentives to encourage students to keep their masks on. For those who can’t, staff try to keep 6 feet away and wash their hands before and after interacting with the students.

“It’s a new environment,” said Аршпеп Шинх, the program’s middle school teacher. “It’s not the same place where I can step right next to the student and work right over their shoulder. I try to stay as far away as possible and try to give directions from a distance.”

In general, these students, who thrive under structure and rules, have adapted well to the new health requirements, district staff said.

“It’s difficult to try to do distance learning with them because they’re more hands-on, sensory (learners) and doing distance learning from home is very different away from them,” the program’s high school teacher, Raquel Cuevas, said. “Be ing in a classroom, they’re able to get back on a routine.”

Last week, Cuevas took her students on a scavenger hunt for an art project. They roamed the campus collecting leaves, sticks, rocks and flowers and brought them back to the classroom to work, which is the stream of the Monterey Bay Aquarium played on a screen at the front of the classroom. Two of the four students in this classroom were wearing masks.

Cuevas is trying to create as many outdoor activities as possible. Postsecondary students, who typically focus on vocational skills, have been going out for local park cleanups. On a recent morning, two staff wearing face shields guided a visually impaired student down the hallway so she could practice using a cane to walk.

Bela Singh sent her 16-year-old daughter, who has cognitive delays, to the summer program without a thought. Distance learning had been a “pure nightmare,” she said.

The district did not provide remote one-on-one aide support or physical education for her daughter, despite her requests. The burden was only eased by a case manager who went above and beyond for her child, she said.

But Singh was most concerned about the detriment to her daughter’s mental health.

“A typical kid can pick up their phone and call people to stay connected to the world. A typical kid can get on a bike and go down the street and exercise.” She said. “The social disconnect is the biggest challenge.”

Villarreal also did not hesitate to keep her 16-year-old daughter to the summer program.

“For me, the risk of sending her to school is lower than just her being languishing at home,” she said. “My husband and I both work full time so that becomes very difficult. We fall under that umbrella of parents who (use the school as not only a place of education but it’s a respite for us, for child care).”

She said Ava, a rising Palo Alto High School senior, had “no meaningful educational experience since March.” Twice-weekly Zoom check-ins with her teacher were often unsuccessful.

“She would slam the computer closed because she’s not understanding why she is home, why is her teacher one square out of 20 on a computer?” Villarreal said.

It’s challenging to explain to a developmentally delayed child what the coronavirus is or why their schools are closed, Villarreal said. Her daughter would often pull up photos on an iPad of people she’s not seeing or outings she’s no longer going on.

Villarreal and other special education parents said they hope the district allows their children to attend school in person this fall, but the district has not yet finalized its plan for special education.

Singa said it feels unfair that the district is discussing allowing sixth-graders to be on campuses in person to ease their transition to middle school but that there’s been little communication about students with disabilities for whom socialization and interaction are also crucial.

“We tend to be a forgotten group sometimes,” Villarreal said. “I do believe they’re putting thought into it but it would just be unbearable if they decide that kids like Ava are going back to Zoom.”

Another question in parents’ minds is whether their children’s teachers will want to come back to school in person.

“Parents are worried about, who will return and will it be enough? Will they feel comfortable coming in?” Villarreal asked. “It’s the world of the unknown.”

In an open letter this week, the Palo Alto Educators Association (PAEA) called on the district to begin reopening schools this fall, citing concerns about social distancing and the limitations of in-person instruction, including for special education students.

“Many students with special needs require personal help multiple times a day, such as toiletting, and do not understand social distancing guidelines,” the union wrote in the letter, which was signed by more than 400 teachers. “Students with special needs also have required testing which demands close contact with educators. Students in crisis may require interventions where staff need to be close to them. There are many issues in the room, which will make social distancing even harder.”

All of the 42 staff working at the Extended School Year program this summer volunteered for the job. Several said that any nervousness about the potential health risks was outweighed by a deep obligation to serve these students.
COVID
(continued from page 5)

added restrictions.
“In light of the governor’s announce-
ment, the county sought clarifica-
tion on the effect of today’s announce-
ment in our county,” county leaders stated Monday in a press release. “The state con-
firmed this afternoon that it will require sectors closed for indoor operations in counties on the monitor-
ing list to close in Santa Clara County effective Wednesday.”

Santa Clara County is on the state’s monitoring list because of its unfavorable rate of hospi-
talization of COVID-19 patients, California Public Health Depart-
ment’s website shows. Under the state’s metric, the increase in the three-day average of hospitaliza-
tions must not exceed 10%. Santa Clara County’s increase was 15.8% as of July 15.

The reasons the county’s hospitalization rate is rising may in-
clude an increase in community transmis-
sions of the virus; the transfers of patients from outside the county; the transfers of pa-
tients from long-term care facili-
ties; or transmission of the virus from individuals of neighboring counties who seek health care in Santa Clara County, the state web-
site notes.

The county is one of 32 on the state’s monitoring list, illustrating the continuing spike across Cali-
ifornia of coronavirus cases and hospitalizations and the dwindling of resources in several coun-
ties, Newsom said.

California, which was the first state to implement a shelter-at-
home order and initially led the nation in its COVID-19 response, has now joined Arizona, Texas, Florida, Georgia and other states with a steep upward curve in cases.

Statewide 6,777 people with coronavirus were hospitalized as of July 15, with 28% of them in intensive care.

Locally in Santa Clara County, 145 people were hospitalized on July 16 — one more than the pri-
or day. They occupy 12% of the Intensive Care Unit beds in the county.

Business leader: ‘It’s taking a huge toll’
Though Santa Clara County and state leaders have said they share the goal of ensuring the public’s safety while also keeping the economy from tanking fur-
ther, this month has seen the first real conflicts between the state’s vision for how to manage reopen-
ing during the pandemic and the county’s plans.

Over the July 4 weekend, local leaders were taken by sur-
prise when the state denied the county’s latest reopening order and state enforcement agents told south county restaurants serving diners outdoors that they had to close.

By July 7, county officials an-
nounced they’d worked with the state to gain the permission need-
ed to proceed. But now, the very same order is being superseded by the state’s mandate.

Such conflicts between state and local authorities have been increasing throughout California, throwing businesses into limbo.

(continued on page 12)
The prognosis for getting a handle on the deadly COVID-19 disease currently escalating in the United States could be good if the public is responsible for its actions and if scientific breakthroughs continue this year, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said during a half-hour virtual interview with Stanford Medicine on Monday, July 13.

Fauci, in conversation with Dr. Lloyd Minor, dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine, minced no words in describing the task ahead, but he offered several bits of encouraging news. Treatments for managing the coronavirus will continue to grow and could help control the disease in its beginning phases as soon as this fall. One or more vaccines might be available by early 2021, he said.

But Fauci warned that this virus is daunting, and surprising, even to an expert such as he, who has fought a pantheon of infectious diseases.

“If this is truly historic. We haven’t even begun to see the end of it yet,” Fauci said of pandemic. “Of all the emerging infectious diseases I’ve had to deal with in the 36 years that I’ve been the director of the institute, starting off with HIV in the early ’80s, with Ebola and Zika, this is clearly the most challenging. It’s the most challenging because it’s so pervasive.”

Fauci said that the virus’ protean nature can be seen in how it affects so many people in so many different ways: Some have no or mild symptoms, while others are hospitalized or die. For some who survive, the virus causes protracted illness, long-term disability and organ failure, he said. But the currently grim outlook on COVID-19 could be completely turned around with the development of a safe and effective vaccine, he said. Before then, in the absence of a vaccine, the only means to stop the virus is to physically separate people to the point of not allowing the virus to transmit, he said.

Fauci said there have been a few important developments regarding drug developments. Remdesivir, an experimental antiviral drug that was originally developed to treat Ebola, and dexamethasone, a corticosteroid used as an immunosuppressant and anti-inflammatory, are two medications that clearly are working in hospital settings with severely ill COVID patients, according to Fauci. But he said there need to be other medications to treat the virus in its earlier stages, and a few are being developed, including direct antiviral drugs, convalescent plasma (using the blood plasma from COVID-19 survivors) and monoclonal antibodies. The lattermost can bind to specific molecules on the outside of a cell and can, among other things, block specific molecular functions on the virus.

“I believe we are on a good track to get there reasonably soon,” he said.

By fall, conceivably there could be good antiviral and antibody therapies and potentially vaccines.

“One or two will go into phase 3 clinical trials, which evaluate the benefits and risks of the drugs, at the end of this month,” he said.

“So we are pretty cautiously optimistic that by the end of the year — by 2021, we will have, I hope, one or more vaccines that will be available,” he said.

The manufacturers are taking the unusual step of producing large amounts of doses before the drugs’ proven safety and effectiveness in order to be ready if the vaccines are approved, he said. If the drugs fail, that would cost any millions of dollars, but if successful, the country would gain many months toward widespread vaccination, he said.

“Remdesivir is essential to controlling the virus, he said. The distribution of vaccines would undergo a process to determine the exact order of who should have access to a limited supply.

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@pawweekly.com.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Fauci: COVID-19 treatments, vaccines could be ready by early 2021

“I believe we are on a good track to get there reasonably soon”

by Sue Dremann

Three months ago, Newsom and his team laid out a “roadmap to recovery,” drafting the steps that would allow individual counties to reopen. Shortly after, counties started to get the state’s permission to move further into the reopening process. Steadily, restaurants, nail salons, barber shops, wineries and other businesses began to reopen with certain rules and modifications, even as some public health officials warned that the moves were happening too early.

Then coronavirus cases began a steep rise starting in June, and soon counties were failing to meet the state-set metrics that measure their degree of control over the pandemic. The intricate dance that counties and the state had been doing since March suddenly started looking more like a wrestling match.

The conflicting reopening orders have created unwelcome confusion for struggling businesses as well as for county residents and public health leaders.

“Mom-and-pops were getting back into a rhythm and feeling a glimmer of hope. Their small businesses were starting to hum again with customers’ activity and employees,” said John Kabateck, state director for the National Federation of Independent Business.

“We completely understand the gravity of this terrible pandemic,” said Kabateck, noting it’s a difficult task to balance public health with the economy’s health. “But it’s taking a huge toll on these job creators that want to take care of their employees and also need to feed their families.”

“It’s heart-wrenching,” said Natalie Nepomuceno, a hairstylist and owner of a salon in Moun
tain View, who finally reopened her shop on July 13. “At first we had to wait until the end of May, then June and then July. Then they say you can open, but now you can’t, then you can, and now you can’t again. It’s just a roller coaster.”

The new closures are also hitting in mid-summer — normally a busy season for many businesses. Newsom pointed out, however, that the virus does not take a break.

“Hope all of us recognize that if we’re still connected to some notion that somehow when it gets better, somehow it’s going to take sum- mer months or weekends off, this virus has done neither,” he said.

When the county is taken off of the state’s stricter rules, Santa Clara County Executive Jeff Smith, who in early July had expressed bafflement at the state’s denial somehow it’s going to take sum-mer months or weekends off, this virus has done neither,” he said.

As more counties cede to the state’s stricter rules, Santa Clara County Executive Jeff Smith, who in early July had expressed bafflement at the state’s denial somehow it’s going to take summer months or weekends off, this virus has done neither,” he said.

“Three counties had been allowed to reopen on July 13 would be permitted to reopen on that date," Smith said on Monday.

Santa Clara County leaders have not stated what will happen when the county is taken off of the state’s monitoring list — whether hair salons, gyms and other businesses that had been allowed to reopen on July 13 would be permitted to operate again.

County Health Officer Sara Cody warned in a July 10 video from the Public Health Department, however, that it’ll take more than health orders to combat the (continued on page 13)
The experimental antiviral drug remdesivir has reduced the mortality rate in severely ill COVID-19 patients by 62%, Foster City-based manufacturer Gilead Sciences announced on July 10.

The drug received emergency use authorization on May 1 for experimental and compassionate-use treatment of COVID-19 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The results are promising news in the management of the deadly disease, which has killed 578,000 people worldwide and sickened 13.3 million as of July 14.

The study found remdesivir is equally effective in patients who are from traditionally marginalized racial and ethnic backgrounds — groups that have seen a higher rate of complications and death due to pre-existing conditions and disparities in health care.

Gilead’s mortality and demographic research was part of a larger phase 3 study, which examined the safety and efficacy of remdesivir in severely ill COVID-19 patients receiving five-day and 10-day intravenous doses in hospitals.

The preliminary results were published in The New England Journal of Medicine in May. Gilead’s findings reinforce those of a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) study in hospitalized COVID-19 patients, which showed remdesivir shortened recovery time by an average of four days compared to a placebo. In the NIAID study, patients taking remdesivir had a lower mortality rate compared with the placebo group — 7.1% versus 11.9% — though the results did not reach statistical significance, Gilead noted.

Gilead also released its analyses of its “compassionate use” program, which provides the drug in hospital settings to select patients. The data showed that 83% of pediatric patients and 92% of pregnant and postpartum women with a wide range of COVID-19 severity recovered by day 28.

Among those patients, the vast majority who were on supplemental oxygen improved by day 28, with 73% discharged from the hospital, 12% that remained hospitalized but no longer needed extra oxygen and 4% who died.

Drilling down deeper, of the 39 pediatric patients who required mechanical ventilators, 80% of these critically ill patients recovered; of the 38 pediatric patients not requiring invasive ventilation, 87% recovered.

Among the 86 women, 96% of the pregnant and 89% of the postpartum women needed less oxygen support. The more severely ill pregnant and postpartum women achieved similarly high rates of recovery, at 93% and 89%, respectively.

Gilead also announced on July 8 that the company is working to develop an inhaled form of remdesivir for outpatient treatment.

“If we come together, if we are successful, we can get to where we want to be as a community, where businesses are able to stay open and kids can safely return to school,” she said. “If we all follow these simple measures ... we will be headed back in the right direction.”

Palo Alto Weekly Editor Jocelyn Dong and Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee can be emailed at jdong@paweekly.com and llee@paweekly.com. Ana R. Ibarra is a health reporter for CalMatters, a nonprofit journalism organization. CalMatters contributor Barbara Feder Ostrov and Mountain View Voice Staff Writer Kevin Forestieri added to this report.

CalMatters health care coverage is supported by a grant from the Blue Shield of California Foundation.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Remdesivir treatment study shows 62% reduction in COVID-19 deaths

Findings on antiviral drug reflect prior results of prior government study

by Sue Dremann

The California Department of Public Health has issued guidelines on when to wear a cloth face covering, and the county of Santa Clara requires that all people follow these rules whenever they leave home.

Why face coverings?

The use of face coverings by everyone can limit the spread of infected droplets when a person talks, coughs, and/or sneezes. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing, washing hands and staying home when ill, which should also be practiced.

When and where to wear one?

• Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space.
• Waiting for, driving or riding in public transit or a private-transportation service vehicle.
• While working, if you’re: in or walking through common areas (hallways, stairways, elevators, parking garage); interacting in-person with any member of the public or in a space visited by members of the public, even when no one is there; in any space where food is prepared or packaged for distribution.
• In any room or enclosed area with other people (not of your household) who aren’t 6 feet from you.
• While outdoors when other people (not of your household) aren’t 6 feet from you.

Who is exempt from wearing one?

• Children under age 2.
• People who are engaged in eating or drinking at an outdoor restaurant, but not while they are waiting for food or talking with the wait staff.
• People who are actively exercising outdoors and able to stay at least 6 feet away from others who are not in their household.
• Workers who are alone in their offices, so long as the office is not frequently visited by coworkers or others.

What’s closed?

Indoor operations of these industries are closed in Santa Clara County

Closed statewide as of July 13

• Restaurants (indoor dining)
• Wineries and tasting rooms
• Movie theaters
• Cardrooms

Closed in Santa Clara County as of July 15

• Worship services
• Protests
• Fitness centers
• Offices in nonessential sectors

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SUMMER 2020

Market reopens with assist from Silicon Valley technology

Page 22

Entry-level homes see multiple bids

Page 26

Real estate during COVID: How industry leaders are adapting

Page 32
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Local Realtors are combining limited in-person meetings with virtual home tours and other Silicon Valley technology — like Zoom and Facebook Live video conferencing — to reinvigorate a market that was largely shut down during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic from mid-March until the start of May when the industry was allowed to reopen as an essential business with limitations.

Realtors interviewed for this story say they consider the new hybrid industry model as a positive signal during these unusual times, especially as the summer market has started to show signs of a bounce back.

Since the spring shutdown, interest rates have remained low and some homes in the local entry-level category — ranging from $1.5 million to $3 million — have been attracting multiple offers. Tight inventory — down 30% in parts of the Midpeninsula compared to the same time last year, according to some Realtors — has not only increased competition, but has helped prices hold steady. Prices are even trending a few percentage points higher in some of the Midpeninsula’s most sought-after cities and neighborhoods, Realtors said.

Greater properties on big tracts of land in semi-rural areas in Woodside, Portola Valley and Los Altos Hills also are drawing more interest these days as increasing numbers of people have decided to avoid densely populated cities and compact living units in the COVID-19 era. Many also are working from home more often and are seeking floor plans with more space and flexibility.

Leannah Hunt, Realtor with Palo Alto-based Sereno Group, said the six-week lockdown period actually helped transition clients into the industry’s new normal of conducting business virtually by encouraging prospective buyers to use online resources to do initial research on properties.

“Business has been fairly brisk,” Hunt said.

Hunt and other local Realtors are quick to point out that face-to-face contact and in-person meetings have made a comeback as initial restrictions have been loosened, but a return to what were considered normal practices and activities before the COVID-19 virus — including broker tours and open-ended, all-day open houses — are unlikely to return this year if a vaccine or other treatments remain unavailable.

State and local public health officials have decreed that social distancing — people remaining at least 6 feet apart — is one of the major strategies to combat the virus’ fearsome contagiousness.

“We have seen a big increase in the popularity of virtual home tours,” said Paul Cardus, executive officer of the Cupertino-based Silicon Valley Association of Realtors. Zoom and Facebook Live have become household names during the pandemic, and agents are using this technology to convene and broadcast their online communications, he said.

Realtors are hosting interactive online tours, showing properties and answering questions directly from viewers, Cardus said.

Despite the emphasis on virtual tours and open houses, purchasing a home without ever visiting it in person is still unusual — but not unheard of, he added.

Denise Welsh, Realtor in the Los Altos office of Compass Real Estate, said agents are a vital link to successfully blending online and face-to-face activities in the brave new world of 2020 real estate.

“The role of agents is more important than ever,” Welsh said. “We are gatekeepers of safety for our clients and properties.”

Realtor duties have changed and expanded, she explained. In guidelines developed by the California Association of Realtors and Occupational and Safety Administration, Realtors are now responsible for cleaning and sanitizing surfaces in properties being shown and limiting tours to no more than two cohabitating adults at a time.

Home visits are by appointment only. Visitors are discouraged from touching any surfaces and doors and windows are kept open during tours. Agents must provide hand
sanitizer and face masks to visitors and often wear gloves and shoe coverings themselves. “This is an unprecedented time,” Welsh said. “Agents have had to be adaptive, resourceful and resilient.”

Brett Caviness, a Realtor in the Menlo Park Compass Real Estate office and member of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors board of directors, said the downside to temporarily sidelining traditional open houses is that it makes it more difficult for agents to generate new business.

“That is the No. 1 way to show people who you are as an agent,” he said. “Current market limitations — such as the dramatic restrictions on home tours and open houses — do tend to favor well-established agents. I’m concerned those with less experience will have a tough time during this period.”

On the upside, restricting access to a property often means visitors are already qualified buyers who are more serious, he added. Looking forward, Caviness said the usual summer market lull is unlikely this year due to pent-up demand from the delay in the usually robust spring market and the fact that most people will not be traveling for vacations this summer.

“The market could remain very busy right through Thanksgiving,” he said.

Caviness expressed hopes that at least some sellers reluctant to put their homes up for sale during the pandemic because of health and market concerns will recognize industry efforts to increase safety measures and tap into that delayed interest from prospective buyers.

Sales have reportedly been brisk from Mountain View and Palo Alto to Portola Valley. Cardus said a roughly 30% year-over-year decline in activity between March 17 and the Memorial Day weekend can be largely erased with a vigorous summer resurgence.

Caviness said as much as conditions have changed from March, the new business normal contains at least one recognizable vestige from the pre-pandemic days: “We are still getting our jobs done, so that hasn’t changed.”

David Goll is a freelance writer. He can be emailed at David.w.goll@gmail.com

Information provided by the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors from MLS Listings, Inc. Note: Rural areas do not have significant townhome sales.

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**Single-Family Home Sales** January - June 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Number of Sales</th>
<th>Median Sales Price</th>
<th>Median Days on Market</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>$3,039,000</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Altos</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>$3,185,000</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Los Altos Hills</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
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<td>$2,134,000</td>
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<td>Woodside</td>
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**Condominiums/Townhomes** January - June 2020

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<th>Median Days on Market</th>
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</tbody>
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‘We are still getting our jobs done, so that hasn’t changed.’

—Brett Caviness, member, SILVAR board of directors

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**About the cover:**

Realtors have turned to virtual open houses and other technology to help market homes like this one on Maybell Avenue in Palo Alto. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

---

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---

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • July 17, 2020 • Page 23
2020 YEAR-TO-DATE ACTIVITY by ERIKA DEMMA

$4,500,000 | Woodside
FOR SALE
355OldLaHondaRoad.com

$2,995,000 | San Carlos
FOR SALE
1418EatonAve.com

$5,495,000 | Portola Valley
PENDING
385Westridge.com

$8,995,000 | Woodside
PENDING
40Foxhill.com

$3,995,000 | Woodside
PENDING
7Monticello.com

$2,195,000 | Woodside
JUST SOLD
1942KingsMountainRd.com

$1,295,000 | Woodside
JUST SOLD
157HenrikIbsen.com

375 Mountain Home Road, Woodside*
Price not disclosed

410 Golden Oak Drive, Portola Valley
$8,250,000

600 Moore Road, Woodside*
$9,950,000

205 Eleanor Drive, Woodside
$5,295,000

4253 Jefferson Avenue, Woodside
$3,495,000

111 Alta Mesa Road, Woodside*
$2,695,000

115 Otis Avenue, Woodside
$1,999,500

228 Oakhurst Place, Menlo Park*
$1,899,000

308 Olive Hill Lane, Woodside*
Price not disclosed

518 Patrol Road, Woodside
$3,295,000

1 Odell Place, Atherton*
$7,295,000

Some exciting things coming soon!

OVER $ 1 BILLION SOLD | #216 NATIONWIDE AND #1 AGENT – WOODSIDE PER WALL STREET JOURNAL REAL TRENDS, 2020

* Represented Buyer  ** List price shown

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Mid Peninsula Real Estate
Colleen Foraker

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480 Erlin Drive, San Carlos

807 Revere Way, Redwood City

4250 El Camino Real, Palo Alto #C123

Realtor®
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collen@colleenforaker.com
DRE 01349099

Under Contract
571 9th Avenue, Menlo Park
2 bed | 1 bath | Approx 960 SF home | Approx 5,350 SF lot

Listing Coming Soon
Charming home in Palo Alto’s
Green Gables Neighborhood
3 bed | 1 bath | Approx 1,100 SF home | Approx 6,300 SF lot

Ratings provided courtesy of Real Trends. The Thousand’s list of individual agents by total sales volume in 2019. Compass as a real estate leader, licensed by the State of California and subject to Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from various reliable data but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sales or withdrawal may take place. The information is made as an accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage approximate.
Real Estate Matters

Coronavirus crisis, protests, trade wars reshape local market

Entry-level homes see multiple bids, but demand for higher-end homes softens

by Xin Jiang

Following more than a 40% drop in real estate activities during the first phase of the quarantine, our local market has gradually reopened since the start of May. Real estate is now deemed an essential business, but with restrictions: Homes are no longer permitted to be open to the general public or on a walk-in basis. Multiple measures, including signing an entry disclosure, controlling the number of people at each property and following social distancing rules, are also now required.

After the reopening of the real estate industry as an essential business, the number of new listings jumped 2.2 times between May 1 and June 19 compared to the first of new listings between May 17 and the end of April. New listings also are lower compared to the end of May.

On the other hand, buyers are not yet returning to the market at the same speed, even with record-low mortgage interest rates. Inventory is piling up as buyers are not stepping up as fast as new homes come to market. Homes are no longer selling within seven to 10 days, but tend to stay for two to three weeks at the least. Continu-
gencies are back, especially those related to financing, as banks need more time to process and many buyers are contemplating whether to liquidate their stock options now or wait longer.

A less enthusiastic buyer pool also has led to soft home prices. The number of offers on entry-level homes priced at around $3 million in good locations has come down to two to three offers compared to five to 10 last year. Homes listed above $5 million are moving very slowly. From the start of 2020, 149 homes have exchanged hands, which is a 22% year-over-year decline. The median price of all homes sold in Palo Alto since the start of 2020 is $2.74 million, a 5% decline from the same period last year.

However, if we dig into the May 1-June 19 period, it’s apparent that the median price of sold homes has actually declined much more. With a median price of $2.73 million compared to $3.1 million last year, home prices have dropped 12% since the reopening.

Home prices are soft across all segments. Less high-end transactions is another rea-
son for overall lower prices. For the May-to-June period, there were only three homes in Palo Alto that sold above $5 million based on the Multiple Listing Services, while eight homes sold last year. Overall, since the start of 2020, there have been only eight recorded transactions above $5 million, compared to 15 during the same time period last year.

The high infection rate of COVID-19 and widespread protests have triggered buyers to reconsider living in cities.

The health and economic crises have brought other changes to the local real estate market, as well. Some may be short-lived, but others will have lasting effects.

The high infection rate of COVID-19 and widespread protests have triggered buyers to reconsider living in cities. Moreover, the elimination of daily commutes in the near term as more people work from home has shifted some buyers focus from the Peninsula to more affordable Bay Cities. For buyers who can afford to upgrade, the need for additional space has become a priority, and moving from Palo Alto to neighboring cities like Los Altos and Menlo Park can help achieve that, especially if schools are not an issue. The desire for more space is also reflected in the active high-end rental market.

The most significant change of the hous-
ing market in Palo Alto is the lack of buyers directly from China due to the trade war. The pandemic only further accelerated the trend. The over-$5 million segment has been the first casualty.

Those old homes in Old Palo Alto and Crescent Park used to be the favorite of wealthy Chinese buyers who didn’t need to move in immediately and could afford the time to build new homes.

Those are now having a hard time selling.

We may have entered a more normal mar-
et when the appreciation of home values does not deviate much from inflation. The past super cycle in the Palo Alto real estate market will be hard to replicate in the foreseeable future.

However, the record-high NASDAQ index price seems to predict the continuous leading roles of technology in our lives when we eventually get out of the pandemic. Perhaps, its just a matter of time that the demand will catch up with the inventory, and the heat of the real estate market will ramp up.

Xin Jiang is a real estate agent with Compass in Palo Alto. She can be emailed at xin.jiang@compass.com.
Home is where the heart is... and where the office is... and where the school is.

For successful home selling and buying strategies tailored for today’s market, contact us!

Homes sold since March 2020.

**205 Yerba Buena, Los Altos**
205yerbabuena.com

**1958 Ivy Lane, Palo Alto**
1958ivy.com

**2787 Bristol Way, Redwood City**
2787bristol.com

**1120 San Mateo Drive, Menlo Park**

**290 Gloria Circle, Menlo Park**
290gloriacircle.com

**739 Webster, Palo Alto**
739webster.com

**1472 Via Vista, San Mateo**
1472viavista.com

**960 Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park**
(Represented the buyer)

Carol Carnevale and Nicole Aron
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DRE 00946687 | DRE 00952657 | carolandnicole.com

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1500 Cowper Street, Palo Alto · $22,995,000

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Additional Current Listings

Italian Villa, Woodside  $23,000,000

408 Eleanor Drive, Woodside  $23,000,000

Bates Ranch Vineyard, Gilroy  $14,200,000

447 Westridge Drive, Portola Valley  $10,995,000

2050 Green Oaks Way, Pescadero  $7,500,000

569 Maybell Avenue, Palo Alto  $5,295,000

367 Maybell Avenue, Palo Alto  $4,995,000

728 La Para Avenue, Palo Alto  $4,995,000

3540 Springhill Road, Lafayette  $4,250,000

1540 Walnut Drive, Palo Alto  $3,495,000
Real estate during COVID: How industry leaders are adapting
Virtual tours, sanitizing stations, a desire for flexible floor plans might be here to stay

by Linda Taaffe, Summer Real Estate editor

With real estate up and running as an essential business since the start of May, local professionals have been adapting to an industry that may never go completely back to its pre-pandemic ways.

The response to COVID-19 is redefining everything from how properties are shown and marketed to how loans are processed to what kinds of renovations, floor plans and home features are most desirable in a world that has changed the way people interact with one another in public and private spaces.

A handful of local industry leaders representing mortgage lending, construction and residential real estate shared their perspectives on how their sectors are being re-envisioned, what changes — for better or worse — might be here to stay, and why they expect the Midpeninsula to make a strong comeback during the remainder of the year.

Their interviews have been lightly edited for length and clarity.

Arti Miglani
REALTOR
Arti Miglani has ranked among the top 1% of top-producing Realtors in Silicon Valley during her 20-plus years as a Realtor practicing in the Bay Area. She currently works as a Realtor at Compass.

What adjustments have you had to make in recent weeks when showing properties?
We now have to follow very specific guidelines when showing properties. Buyers and sellers both must complete a Coronavirus Property Entry Advisory Form, which explains the risk that a buyer is taking when entering into a property and the health and sanitation guidelines that one needs to follow. Additionally, anyone living in the property that’s for sale must disclose whether or not they have been exposed to COVID-19. Anyone in the home during a property showing must wear a mask and gloves and has to sanitize before entering. Clients are not permitted to touch anything while in the property. If they do accidentally touch something, we must disinfect it before the next showing appointment.

The California Association of Realtors strongly urges us to do online showings, but most of our clients prefer to visit the property before writing an offer. I believe these protocols will be strictly enforced for at least the next six months or until a vaccine for the virus becomes available.

What sorts of deals are getting done?
Homes priced $4 million and under are the most common deals closing in our area.
Q&A: Lisa Sten
(continued from page 32)

What sorts of deals are getting done and what sorts of deals are tough to do?
We continue to offer financing at the higher levels, such as 89.9% financing on primary property purchases up to $2.5 million, and our credit score requirements were modestly modified for those transactions and for "jumbo" loans in general. The toughest transactions to approve are for those borrowers who are self-employed or who rely heavily on variable income, as the income validation is under heightened scrutiny.

Lenders have increased ratios, and financing has become more difficult to obtain. Assisting a client in securing the next three to six months who is looking to refinance is different from the past. With lower sales numbers in the traditional mortgage market due to shelter-in-place mandates, we expect the summer and fall periods to be seasonally stronger than normal.

Q&A: Derk Brill
(continued from page 32)

What's your view on the real estate market right now and what's the impact on construction financing?
The market is strong! We don't have many projects with construction financing. I see this trend continuing through the summer as inventory starts to open up again. The sales cycle over the next three to six months will differ from the past. With lower sales numbers in the traditional mortgage market due to shelter-in-place mandates, we expect the summer and fall periods to be seasonally stronger than normal.

With respect to how you go about your business, what do you want to see happen in the next six months?
We'd like to see continued collaboration and embrace technology to speed up the process.

With respect to how you go about your business, what do you want to see happen in the next six months?
I'd like to see a considerable amount of time devoted to the development of best practices in serving clients. With mandates changing regularly, it has been difficult to maintain consistency throughout the industry. I'd like to see ongoing education play a more significant role in keeping Realtors abreast of the latest developments related to COVID-19.

Q&A: Arti Miglani
What's your view on the real estate market right now and its impact on construction financing?
The market is strong! We don't have many projects with construction financing. I see this trend continuing through the summer as inventory starts to open up again. The sales cycle over the next three to six months will differ from the past. With lower sales numbers in the traditional mortgage market due to shelter-in-place mandates, we expect the summer and fall periods to be seasonally stronger than normal.

With respect to how you go about your business, what do you want to see happen in the next six months?
We'd like to see continued collaboration and embrace technology to speed up the process.

Q&A: Michael Repka
What’s your view on the real estate market right now?
It is holding up better than I would have imagined. Most buyers seem comfortable that the market will bounce back well. Generally, larger homes with bigger lots are doing better.

Are there any ways in which the pandemic has changed the industry for the better?
A lot of buyers are coming down from San Francisco. Also, narrated video tours are becoming more popular. Plus, Zoom has added some operational efficiencies between my design, engineers, handymen, stagers and marketing team.

With respect to how you go about your business, what do you want to see happen in the next six months?
We are going to increase our social media and online marketing.

Q&A: Eric Trailer
What sorts of financing deals are getting done and what sorts of deals are tough to do?

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Lenders have increased ratios, and financing has become more difficult to obtain. Assisting a client in securing the next three to six months who is looking to refinance is different from the past. With lower sales numbers in the traditional mortgage market due to shelter-in-place mandates, we expect the summer and fall periods to be seasonally stronger than normal.

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With respect to how you go about your business, what do you want to see happen in the next six months?
We’d like to see continued collaboration and embrace technology to speed up the process.
The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.

— CORETTA SCOTT KING

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5 bedrooms 4 baths
home ±3,500sqft
lot ±11,122sqft

Asking $5,495,000

Bright, Spacious and Coveted Location...
Desirable Leland Manor Neighborhood of North Palo Alto. This home embodies luxury, elegance and more, across 3500 sq ft of living space on a large lot of 11,122 sq.ft. (per City of Palo Alto). Stellar Palo Alto schools: Duveneck, Greene Middle and Palo Alto High (Buyers to verify availability). Conveniently located close to Junior Museum and Zoo, Downtown, libraries, parks, hiking and biking trails, Edgewood Plaza and more. Easy access to Stanford University, Silicon Valley Tech hubs, and freeways 280 and 101.

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4 bedrooms 3 baths
home ±2,908sqft
lot ±10,800sqft

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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 2 car oversized garage situated on a 10,800 lot. Stellar Palo Alto schools: Duveneck Elementary, Greene Middle and Palo Alto High (buyers to verify availability). Conveniently located close to Junior Museum and Zoo, Downtown, libraries, parks, hiking and biking trails, Edgewood Plaza and more. Easy access to Stanford University, Silicon Valley Tech hubs and freeways 280 and 101.

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www.ArtiMiglani.com
Arti@ArtiMiglani.com
Browsing by Budget

What can you buy on the Midpeninsula?

Under $2 million

Palo Alto
Address: 293 Bryant St.
List price: $1.85M
Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 2/1
Interior: 1,320 sq. ft.
Lot size: 668 sq. ft.
Year built: 1968
Description: Updated end-unit townhouse at Casa Bryant in downtown Palo Alto with 100-square-foot space in lower level that can be used as a wine cellar, storage or laundry area. Formal entry leads to an open living/dining room area with sliding glass doors to a garden patio. Kitchen features quartz counters and stainless steel appliances.

Under $4 million

Mountain View
Address: 646 Ehrhorn Ave.
List price: $3.69M
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3
Interior: 2,862 sq. ft.
Lot size: 8,458 sq. ft.
Year built: 2020
Description: New two-story Spanish-style home with chef-inspired kitchen that includes an island with bar seating, walk-in pantry and utility space with a desk. The dining room has dual sliding doors and overlooks the great room, which features a fireplace. Other features include: an arched entry door, wood shutters, smooth stucco, barrel tile roofing and wrought iron details.

Under $5 million

Palo Alto
Address: 327 Cowper St.
List price: $3.68M
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 3
Interior: 2,298 sq. ft.
Lot size: 4,100 sq. ft.
Year built: 1905
Description: Craftsman-style home near downtown with unique details, including a window seat perch in the front parlor, a large front porch, built-in floor-to-ceiling bookcases, shutters throughout, vaultedceilings, two en-suite bathrooms and a basement.

Menlo Park
Address: 333 Marmona Drive
List price: $3.89M
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3
Interior: 2,347 sq. ft.
Lot size: 5,005 sq. ft.
Year built: 2020
Description: New two-story farmhouse-style home that features charcoal siding, natural wood, metal seam roofing and a covered front porch. Floor plan includes a great room with a fireplace; a gourmet kitchen with a walk-in pantry, island with bar seating and an eat-in dining area; and a master suite with a pocket door that opens into a spa-like bathroom.

Menlo Park
Address: 364 N. Rengstorff Ave.
List price: $1.69M
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2
Interior: 1,320 sq. ft.
Lot size: 5,005 sq. ft.
Year built: 1954
Description: Mid-century modern home in the Monta Loma neighborhood built by famed Mackay Homes during post-war era. The floor plan allows for lots of sunlight and views of the landscaped yard, which is adorned with multiple types of plants and fruit trees.

Under $5 million

Atherton
Address: 48 Middlegate St.
List price: $4.94M
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3/1
Interior: 3,790 sq. ft.
Lot size: 6,750 sq. ft.
Year built: 2015
Description: Modern Belgian Tudor-style Home with gourmet kitchen, great room and master suite with vaulted ceilings, skylights and a walk-in closet. Living room and dining room share a see-thru fireplace.

Under $6 million

Palo Alto
Address: 262 Rinconada Ave.
List price: $5.98M
Bedrooms: 6
Bathrooms: 4
Interior: 4,325 sq. ft.
Lot size: 7,500 sq. ft.
Year built: 1999
Description: Located in Old Palo Alto, this home blends Spanish architectural details with a contemporary interior. The floor plan is ideal for entertaining and features a chef’s kitchen with exotic wood cabinets, a large island and high-end appliances.

(continued on page 40)
HOME
has never been more important.

180 Forest Lane
Menlo Park
3 BR 2.5 BA 2,565 SF
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1701 Stone Pine Lane
Menlo Park
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Redwood Shores
2 BR 2 BA 2,050 SF
Coming Soon

151 Stone Pine Lane
Menlo Park
3 BR 2 BA 1,980 SF
Coming Soon

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Elyse@ElyseBarca.com
DRE 01006027

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Under $6 Million

Woodside
Address: 355 Old La Honda Road
List price: $5.16M
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 3
Interior: 3,830 sq. ft.
Lot size: .91 acres
Year built: 1929
Description: Gated two-story home with rustic charm and period accents, including redwood-paneled walls, antique lighting, Douglas fir floors and brass fixtures. Other features include: views of San Francisco Bay and the east bay Hills; landscaped grounds with English garden, lawns, a chicken coop and vegetable and fruit gardens.

Under $8 Million

Atherton
Address: 127 Selby Lane
List price: $7.29M
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 4/1
Interior: 4,430 sq. ft.
Lot size: .995 acres
Year built: 1986
Description: Two-story traditional-style home in excellent condition with great opportunity to create a family room that opens to the kitchen and add a detached or attached guest house. Other features include: swimming pool, pool house, bocce ball court, two second-story master bedrooms and an office with a fireplace.

Under $10 Million

Palmer Alto
Address: 1039 University Ave.
List price: $9.99M
Bedrooms: 5
Bathrooms: 4/1
Interior: 5,617 sq. ft.
Lot size: 20,000 sq. ft.
Year built: 2003
Description: Turnkey home on a large lot close to downtown that reflects a seamless blend of technology and stunning design elements, including radiant heat throughout and a disappearing wall of glass in the great room. Other features include: swimming pool, outdoor kitchen, dramatic water features and a sound-resistant front wall.

Under $40 Million

Los Altos Hills
Address: 27500 La Vida Real
List price: $39.99M
Bedrooms: 6
Bathrooms: 7/5
Interior: 12,323 sq. ft.
Lot size: 1.12 acres
Year built: 2020
Description: Newly built contemporary three-level home located on a landscaped 1.1-acre lot surrounded by oak trees. Floor plan includes large rooms for entertaining and walls of windows opening to expansive manicured gardens. Other features include: two master suites, theater, wine room, exercise room, a one-bedroom guest house, swimming pool, outdoor fireplace and elevator.

— Compiled by Linda Taaffe

(continued from page 38)
A steady hand in uncertain times...

with the market changes and uncertainty posed by the pandemic, it has never been more important to have a trusted advisor. Derk has been just that to his clients for two decades.

His philosophy of client service differs from most top producing agents. He offers a hands-on, personal approach to the sale of a home. This extends from preparation through the close of escrow. Rather than handing a client off to a series of assistants, Derk manages every aspect of the sale including property prep, marketing, open houses, negotiation, and closing. This provides a seamless transaction from beginning to end.

The recent merger of Alain Pinel and Compass has given us the ability to leverage the reputation of the most respected local brand in real estate, with the marketing strength and technological innovation of the nation’s largest Brokerage. The sum is unequalled in the local market.

If you are considering selling or buying a home in the mid-peninsula, contact Derk to engage the expertise of a true local.
FOR SALE

80 San Mateo Drive
Creekside Luxury on 0.83 Acre
5 beds, 4 baths; approx. 3,960 sf
Gated privacy with pool
$5,200,000 | 80SanMateo.com

FOR SALE

349 Walsh Road
Craftsman Luxury on One Acre
5 beds, 3.5 baths; approx. 3,120 sf
Pool in a very private setting
$5,100,000 | 349WalshRd.com

FOR SALE

107 Reservoir Road
Extensively Remodeled with Views
5 beds, 3.5 baths; approx. 5,186 sf
Approx. 1.34 acres with pool and spa
$7,450,000 | 107Reservoir.com

FOR SALE

1364 Johnson Street
Remodeled Bungalow in Downtown
3 beds, 2 baths; approx. 1,700 sf
2 blocks to Santa Cruz Avenue
$2,450,000 | 1364Johnson.com

FOR SALE

2 Sutherland Drive
Prime West Atherton
5 beds, 5.5 baths; approx. 8,000 sf
Approx. 10 acre with pool and cabaña
$10,750,000 | 2Sutherland.com

FOR SALE

37 Nevada Street
Extensive Renovation in Mt. Carmel
4 beds, 3 baths; approx. 1,820 sf
Oversized approx. 9,100-sf lot
$2,795,000 | 37Nevada.com

FOR SALE

631 Harvard Avenue
$2,950,000

SOLD DURING SHELTER-IN-PLACE

234 Park Lane, Atherton
Offered at $13,988,000
Represented Buyer

323 Santa Rita Avenue, Palo Alto
Sold for $6,850,000
Represented Buyer

1337 Lincoln Avenue, Palo Alto
Sold for $4,300,000
Represented Seller

1170 Trinity Drive, Menlo Park
Sold for $4,150,000
Represented Seller

2171 Clayton Drive, Menlo Park
Sold for $2,428,000
Represented Seller

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HAS NEVER BEEN
MORE IMPORTANT

We are available to you now, as always, with safety first, technology, experience, and most of all care.

Selling homes during Shelter-in-Place and/or helping you plan now for the future.
4042 Ben Lomond Dr., Palo Alto

Beautifully Remodeled Award Winning Eichler

Located in the highly desirable community of Greenmeadow

Come, see and enjoy this award winning Eichler. Masterfully updated throughout, blending mid-century modern architecture with abundant amenities and upgrades. Truly a wonderful home in a very special neighborhood!

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 remodeled bathrooms
- Wonderful floor plan featuring:
  - private master suite
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- Quality throughout including
  - Vermont slate flooring
  - custom cherry wood cabinetry
  - dual pane windows
  - upgraded dual zone radiant heat system
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- Home size: 1,839 square feet (approx.)
- Lot size: 7,143 square feet (approx.)

OFFERED AT $2,795,000

Visit www.4042benlomond.com for more details
The Gamble Garden Volunteers

A sincere THANK YOU to the Gamble Garden Volunteers! Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden is grateful to the 400 volunteers who contribute over 35,000 hours every year.

We would especially like to thank our wonderful weekly “Dirty Knees” Garden Volunteers. Our Dirty Knees are back at work, helping to ensure our garden is safe and beautiful for everyone who visits.

Our volunteers and staff are dedicated to maintaining and enhancing our historic house and garden as an oasis of beauty and tranquility while also providing a community resource for horticultural education, inspiration, and enjoyment.

Gamble Garden is a non-profit organization, open-gate garden, free to visitors year-round. We are located at 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. Learn more at GambleGarden.org/volunteer. Photo ©Nadine Priestley.

Submitted by: Roger Smith

Have a local hero you want to recognize? Spread the joy and support our journalism efforts by giving him/her a shout-out in the Palo Alto Weekly. Submit entries at PaloAltoOnline.com/local_hero/
**Pulse**

**A weekly compendium of vital statistics**

**POLICE CALLS**

- Palo Alto, July 8–July 15

### Violent related

- Assault with deadly weapon: 1
- Attempted suicide: 2
- Battery: 1
- Child abuse: 1
- Domestic violence: 1
- Family violence: 1

### Property

- Grand theft: 1
- Petty theft: 1
- Residential burglaries: 1
- Shopping: 2

### Vehicle related

- Abandoned bicycle: 1
- Auto theft: 2
- Bicycle theft: 2
- Driving w/ suspended license: 3
- Hit and run: 2
- Lost/stolen plates: 1
- Theft from auto: 16
- Vehicle accident/injury: 2
- Vehicle accident/prop damage: 4

### Miscellaneous

- Disturbing the peace: 1
- Found property: 3
- Lost property: 1
- Misc. police code violation: 4
- Missing person: 1
- Psychiatric subject: 4
- Suspicious circumstances: 2
- Warrant/other agency: 2

### Menlo Park

- July 8–14

- Throat related
  - Burglary: 1
  - Corporate theft: 1
  - Fraud: 1
  - Vehicle theft: 1
  - Attempted auto theft: 1
  - Auto recovery: 1
  - Bicycle theft: 1

### VIOLENT CRIMES

- Grand theft: 1
- Theft from auto: 1
- Theft of property: 1

### OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

- Kay Hamilton Miller, 84, a Stanford University alumna and Palo Alto resident, died on June 2.
- Albert “Al” Joseph Keich- er, 85, former chief officer at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, died on June 12.

To read the full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memo- ries at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.

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**Luis Canales**

Dr. Luis Canales (age 78) passed away due to natural causes this past March 16 at his home in Menlo Park, California. Luis was born in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, October 25, 1941. He graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering from the National Autonomous University of Mexico in 1970 and obtained both his MS (1971) and PhD in Geophysics (1975) from Stanford University, where he formed part of the Stanford Exploration Project. He was a co-founder of the Center for Scientific Research and Graduate Studies in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, where he headed the Computer Center and the Master’s program in Geophysics. He held development and research positions in several oil companies including Schumberger (WesternGeco), Arabian American Company, Mobil Oil and Digicon. He also invented the LUNA technique, which is now recognized as a significant contribution to the analysis of seismic data and has proven highly useful in different areas of scientific research (oil companies and others) in such diverse applications as multiple attenuation, trace interpolation and restoration of missing data. His final contributions to science and technology were as an Associate Researcher at Stanford University and as a consultant for a variety of companies and universities. He was also a staunch advocate of the study and use of geophysics to solve practical problems, for which he received various awards and prizes including the worldwide Geophysicists Reginald Fessenden Award on 1996—the first Mexican geophysicist to receive this award. In 2012 he received the International Excelsis Award presented to opinion leaders, and the 2018 Antonio García Rojas Prize of the Mexican Geophysical Exploration Association. Luis also had a deep love for his lovely wife Judith with whom he shared overseas travels, a huge admiration for his parents to whom he was always grateful and a deep love for his siblings. Those who knew Luis will remember him for his passion for singing and playing the harmonica, for his knowledge of fine wines and for his friendships with the employees at his favorite local restaurants with whom he never hesitated to share a glass of wine. He attended St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Palo Alto every Sunday and will always be remembered as a consistent, supportive, loving, and joyful friend. He was preceded in death by both his parents, Coronel Espiridion and Maria Luisa Canales, by his wife Judith Canales, and by his brothers Espiridion and Juan Canales. He is survived by his brother Enrique Canales, and his sisters Evelia Canales and María Luisa Canales, and Maria’s husband Jose J. Nakakawa, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. Funeral services were held from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 23 at the Alta Mesa Funeral Home, 695 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, California. Although a religious ceremony was not possible because of ongoing health concerns, rosary prayers were recited, and words of eulogy were spoken. Attendance was limited to a maximum of 10 people as advised by the authorities. Cremation was performed at the funeral home at 4:00 p.m. We appreciate all attention received on the occasion of his death.

With all our love, Canales Family.

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**Palo Alto Unified School District**

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

**Contract No. EC-20, EL CARMELO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – MODERNIZATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK**: Includes, but not limited to construction of new single-story multi-purpose building including survey, classroom, stage lighting & sound systems, site improvements, underground utilities, concrete and asphalt pavement, playing field restoration, landscaping & irrigation. Modernization of existing multi-purpose room for conversion to classrooms.

**Contract duration**: 415 Calendar Days

There will be a MANDATORY pre-bid conference and site visit at 10:00 a.m. on August 4, 2020 at the 3024 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306 – meet at the Campus Administration Office to sign-in

**Bid Submission**: Proposals must be emailed to Veronica Melero, vmelero@pausd.org later than Tuesday, August 18, 2020 (No bids will be accepted in person)

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors’ licenses: B, or as appropriate for this Work. In addition, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §60111.6, only prequalified bidders will be eligible to submit a bid. Any bid submitted by a bidder who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive. Moreover, any bid listing subcontractors holding C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-35, C-38, or C-43 license who have not been prequalified, shall be deemed nonresponsive.

Bonding required for this project is as follows: Bid Bond 10% of the total bid, Performance Bond to be 100%. Payment Bond is to be 100%.

**PREVAILING WAGE LAWS**: The successful Bidder and all subcontractors shall pay all workers for all labor and services performed under this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to §1770 et. seq., of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available on the Internet at: http://www.dir.ca.gov. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code §1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Commissioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents by downloading them free of charge at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18oOu_cnaAM1iy1oMSVdRkYmBtBo_NQ?usp=sharing

Bidders may also purchase a hardcopy set of the Plans and Specifications at ARC Document Solutions 829 Cherry Lane San Carlos, CA 94070, Phone Number (650) 631-2310

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099

Att: Joe DaSilva
Email: joed@hr3.com
A sensible prescription for police reform starts with asking questions

by Mickie Winkler

Face it. We the people have fostered the conditions under which police departments, including our own in Palo Alto, have emerged into violent-tolerant institutions. And we the people will have to promote change—but carefully.

Here’s my prescription for what we should do: Start by asking questions. What’s good about the police? We need police because crime and hazardous driving happens. Even domestic violence can be, well, violent.

The police response time is immediate. All 911 calls are received by a central agency in each county and diverted to police and fire. Police should be first responders in all non-fire related 911 calls.

Body cameras (when turned on) now reveal police actions. This is good. What’s bad about the police? I believe police, including those in Palo Alto, have demonstrated that they are prejudiced against people of color. This observation is backed up by Rashawn Ray, a fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington, D.C., who were protected from being fired.

Palo Alto's district attorney initially chose not to prosecute Benitez; then, he said he could not because the statute of limitations ran out; and now, he says he is reconsidering. Meanwhile Benitez retired with a full pension. The Naked Cop was not sentenced because at his trial the arresting Sunnyvale cops failed to testify against him. He was still on staff in 2017 because binding arbitration prevented his firing.

What can we do to keep what’s good and change what’s bad? We can fire police who “forget” to turn on their body cameras. We can fire police who break the law, rather than protect them.

We can reform police training (and retrain our active police forces). Based on his research, Ray prescribes virtual reality training “which puts officers in situations they encounter every day.” The gender and the race of the persons they encounter are varied so the officer can experience automatic, implicit biases and repeat the virtual encounters over and over until the biased actions are eliminated. Trainees also can get practice in understanding and dealing with those with mental illness. This is not pie-in-the-sky stuff. Virtual reality is successfully used to train pro football quarterbacks, Walmart store employees, soldiers, and recently, the Chicago police, and could be applied to police training here as well. It has the proven ability to change behavior. And behavioral change is what we need.

We also can undo protective legislation statewide.

Senate Bill 1421, effective Jan. 1, 2019, allowed the release of police records from investigations of officer shootings and use of major force, along with confirmed cases of sexual assault and lying while on duty. This was a big and game-changing law.

Similarly, we can pass legislation that disallows the widespread use of confiden- tial license plates, license plates used by police, their family members and a wide range of public employees enabling them to run through intersections controlled by redlight cameras, use toll lanes without paying, evade parking and speeding cita- tions because police officers realize the drivers are “one of their own” or related to someone who is.

Of course these protections also hide the identity of off-duty police. In Palo Alto in 2017, a police officer ran from the scene of an accident in a presumably protected car. Unfortunately for him, there were witnesses. The policeman was paramedic, not police. He surrendered (ha!) five months of paid administrative leave before returning to his job.

Perhaps we cannot prohibit the police from lying, but which are among the richest campaign contributors in the state—from making campaign contributions, but we can spotlight all police contributions to all county district attorneys, judges and California candidates.

Are the state laws protecting law-enforcement officers politically driven? Shame on me for even thinking that. But we should highlight the money in this—and every—election year. The time is now.

Mickie Winkler is a former Menlo Park mayor who is now afraid of getting Palo Alto traffic tickets. You can email her at mickiew65@gmail.com.

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

Letters

Two-thirds learning
Editor,
Returning children to a (mostly) regular school schedule is imperative. A recent study from the Northwest Evaluation Association shows online schooling during the spring contributed only about two-thirds of expected knowledge in English and just about half in math as compared to face-to-face teaching. Further, students at home prohibit many parents from working, and our economy needs to start its recovery.

Now, I understand teachers’ concerns about their own health: It only makes sense to pro- vide accommodation for elderly or compromised teachers, yet it seems many teachers are demanding foolproof protection. Our gro- cers did not get foolproof protec- tion yet they continued to supply us, at risk to themselves during the height of the pandemic. What grocers and their staff did, teachers should be able to do as well.

If Palo Alto Unified School District decides to focus on re- mote online learning this fall, I suggest reducing teachers’ sala- ries by 40% — the average be- tween 1/3 and 1/2 — which is proportional to the damage they do to their students’ learning in an online setting.

Ze’ev Wurman Stockton Place, Palo Alto

Overspending government authority
Editor,
Jagit Singh’s July 10 Letter to the Editor mentioned an in- cident involving former Judge LaDoris Cordell being stopped by the police and treated inappropriately. The article Mr. Singh mentioned was misleading in one respect: The incident in question did not occur in Palo Alto, rather, it occurred in Menlo Park a couple of hundred feet from its border with Palo Alto. I suspect the problem is not just racism. When I moved to Palo Alto in the early 1970s (roughly when the incident oc- curred), I heard that Menlo Park had a ban on overnight parking, and supposedly the real reason was that there were “hippies” living there, and other residents wanted them to live somewhere else. Since the “hippies” tended to put as many individuals into a house as would fit to keep costs down, all of the cars would not easily fit in a driveway so the parking ban was put in, with some suitable rationale, as a way of making life more difficult for any “undesirable” individual not getting in trouble due to nondiscrimination laws. Of course, in such situations, the “real reason” is never put in any official docu- ments: It wouldn’t look good in court.

Regardless of whether the ac- count I heard is accurate, giving in to the temptation to use the govern- ment’s authority in some under- hand way to get rid of people deemed “undesirable,” even if those people really are undesirable, sets a bad precedent that just might en- courage racists to act out as well. It can easily spin out of control. Just look at what’s happened nationally during the last four years.

Bill Zaumen
Clara Drive, Palo Alto

Bills and fees
Editor

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

For more information, contact Editor Jillian Lee at jleew@pawper.com or 650-225-6002 or Editor Jocelyn Drog at editor@pawper.com.
To me, it all begins and ends with compassion for the client because buying or selling a home is a deeply personal and emotional process. As leaders in our community, we never want to lose sight of the human side of real estate.
Rethinking theater: Equity, access and support

Artistic directors on surviving the present and planning the future

by Karla Kane

When Koknar and wife Alika Ululani Spencer-Koknar stepped up as Dragon’s leaders in early 2019, they knew they wanted to make the theater a vibrant community hub, more than just a space to stage plays. In Fuse Theatre, founded by Stacey Ardelean in 2015 with the mission of promoting social justice and education, they found a kindred spirit, and the two Redwood City companies joined forces for an annual short-play festival centered on timely topics. This year, they’re adapting the festival — titled “Co-EXIST: stories of unlikely connection” — into an ongoing series in a variety of online formats “in an effort to open space for important conversations around racism and to support BIPOC and Queer artists,” according to the festival’s press release.

In a recent conversation, Ardelean and Spencer-Koknar discussed how they’re coping through the current crises, and how they see their roles in reimagining community theater.

When pandemic-mandated shutdowns began to hit locally, “we decided that just because we can’t continue running our show doesn’t mean that people don’t need what the theater and arts can provide,” Koknar said. “The knee-jerk reaction is to do archival videos and Zoom readings — which we did — but the question became, ‘How do we move forward and not just pretend to do the same thing, but online? How do we create community through the arts?’”

The Dragon sprang into action in a variety of ways, not only by creating online versions of its popular “Live at the Dragon” variety shows, circus shows, and acting and writing classes for adults and kids, but also by a dizzying selection of interactive, online offerings including late-night spooky tale-telling, morning storytime (complete with hedgehog puppet) for children, cooking lessons, lunchtime exercises, cocktail-hour discussions and more.

Fuse, too, was able to pivot, taking the three plays it was working on for the Bay Area Women’s Theater Festival, filming them and putting them online, along with audience talkbacks. Developing original works, Ardelean pointed out, means not having to deal with onerous rights issues for filming and streaming. While it has several new plays in development, Fuse also offers “Fridays with Fuse,” weekly interactive online programming that rotates between game nights, music nights, play readings, family activities and special guests.

“It makes our community engagement component very different, a little more intimate,” Ardelean said. “It’s been kind of interesting developing that.”

Koknar has been able to harness his tech skills to help performers figure out Twitch, Zoom, Facebook Live and other platforms, as well as how to best utilize microphones, camera angles and more. Now that they’ve gained the skills, he and Spencer-Koknar are starting to hand off many of those projects to give other artists a chance to lead them.

“We didn’t want to continue being complacent when we go ‘back to normal.’ We’re really trying to reimagine what we can do. How we approach what we do. What on earth is the point of the theater company when artists have access to all the same tools of production?” Koknar mused. “We’re here for the audience too, but right now we’re here for the artists.”

That reimagining includes trying to tear down the elitist hierarchies and lack of diversity entrenched everywhere — the arts included.

“If we’re going to survive this, it can’t be just about surviving; it needs to be about coming out on the other side of this with a more equitable model for artists and making experiences more accessible to more people,” he said.

“Koknar doesn’t have all the answers, but he’s more motivated than ever to seek them.

“I spent the last decade ranting and railing about all the things that are broken about the system in theater; Dragon was an opportunity to slowly address those things,” he said. “It’s been a struggle to push against the economic realities, I don’t know how to pay artists more than $300 for hundreds of hours of labor. But all of these things that have happened over the last few months are making it feel more urgent and critical that everything I’ve been railing against, I just act on.”

Actively supporting and showcasing more stories from people of color and others from underrepresented populations will be key, and the “Co-EXIST” festival seemed a natural way to explore some of these issues.

“When Black Lives Matter came to the forefront, we took a step back,” Ardelean said, adding that her group has been working on strengthening its “antiracism muscle.”

“We’ve really had some in-
Another is accessibility. Offering interactive programming online means that it’s open to people all around the world. Dragon and Fuse have gained not only new patrons and performers but also new friends, people who had never attended their live shows but found themselves hungry for human connection. They’re also able to work with a greater variety of artists, writers and educators, no longer limited by geography.

“The mission continues,” Spencer-Koknar said. “We’re moving past the pandemic, and we have a newfound appreciation for what we’re doing.”

The organization announced on June 29 that it was filing for bankruptcy and planning to close 1,200 of its stores, including locations in San Jose, Santa Clara, Carmel and San Francisco — but not Palo Alto. The shop at Town & Country, which used to share the same building as CVS Pharmacy, closed around six months ago.

“We’ve loved being part of the Palo Alto community,” the company wrote on its website. “Children’s hair salon Snip-its, which used to share the same building as CVS Pharmacy, closed last year. Town & Country Village Cheese House, Babka by Ayelet, Creations? The We Glass Studio and Ambassador Toys also all permanently closed prior to the March shutdown. Market confirmed that Motion Stretch Studio also will not be reopening. Amid the closures is at least one high-profile opening: Montreal-based chocolate shop Cacao 70, remains poised to take over the space of Blondivino wine store, which closed last year. The franchise announced plans for the spring opening of its second U.S. shop at Town & Country last February. For now, the shop is offering curbside pick-up service. Sur La Table also avoided having to put a lease sign in its window this month after the Seattle-based franchise announced in early July that it was filing for bankruptcy and closing nearly half of its 120 high-end kitchen stores, including locations in San Jose, Santa Clara, Carmel and San Francisco — but not Palo Alto. The shop at Town & Country, which opened in 2007, is among the company’s top 10 performing locations, according to floor manager Pamela Diken. “We’re kind of a cash cow,” she said. — L.L.

Compiled by the Weekly staff; this week written by Lloyd Lee. Got leads on interesting and news-worthy retail developments? The Weekly will check them out. Email shoptalk@paweekly.com.
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AMENITIES
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SCHOOLS
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New 2016 construction expresses the ultimate indoor/outdoor Silicon Valley lifestyle. High-quality materials complement the architectural lines designed by Steve Simpson Design Group. Sustainable modern warmth created by award-winning designer Martine Paquin. Featuring rich western red cedar, large windows and structural steel I-beam accents, built by Mason Hammer Builders. Outer Space Landscape Architects designed a water-efficient aesthetic including organic planter boxes.

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www.800HighSt219.com

152 Thompson Ave., Mountain View
3 Bd | 2 Bth
www.152Thompson.com

11275 Summit Wood Rd, Los Altos Hills
4 Bd | 3 Bth
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601 Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park
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www.601MenloOaks.com

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www.2460WBayshore9.com

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4 Bd | 5.5 Bth
www.1015MonteRosaDr.com

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226 Park Lane, Atherton
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391 Belmont Ave, Redwood City
4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.391Belmont.com

188 Elliott Dr, Menlo Park
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www.188Elliott.com

1760 Lantis Lane, Los Altos
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The Grand Dame of Crescent Park
The grace and elegance of the Victorian era blend seamlessly with the very best of modern amenities in this stunning Queen Anne Victorian home, an architectural masterpiece in prestigious Crescent Park. Boasting 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths on 4,516 sq. ft. of living space (per independent third party measurement) on a 9,984 sq. ft. lot (per county), this home affords a rare opportunity to own a piece of Bay Area history while still enjoying a contemporary lifestyle. Alluring appointments such as coved and coffered ceilings, antique windows, and embossed wall coverings whisk you away to a bygone era, while the brilliant kitchen, updated baths, and superb master suite are firmly rooted in the present. Third-level bonus space includes a kitchen and bath, offering flexible use for a variety of household needs. Adding the finishing touch, this home enjoys a location close to the excitement of downtown Palo Alto, and provides access to top-rated Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:
www.1023Forest.com
Offered at $4,988,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

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 #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
800 HIGH STREET UNIT 219, PALO ALTO

Stylish Living Just Steps to Downtown
Stylish living awaits in this 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, end-unit condominium, boasting a location that puts you just steps to the very best of downtown Palo Alto. Find yourself mere moments to the excitement of University Avenue, great shopping and dining at the Stanford Shopping Center, the convenience of Caltrain, and the prestige of Stanford University. Enjoy nearly 1,250 square feet of bright, light living space, including the expansive living room, the kitchen with high-end appliances from Viking and Bosch, and the comfortable master suite. This home also includes a delightful balcony for outdoor enjoyment, a convenient in-unit laundry closet, and two parking spaces in the underground garage. Adding the finishing touch, children may attend acclaimed schools including Addison Elementary and Palo Alto High, both of which are one-half mile or less away, as well as Greene Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.800HighSt219.com
Offered at $1,788,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

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

Data from Resi2Tend 2019 based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Palo Alto, residential properties, without off-MLS sales included in the ranking.

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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.3822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
3787 Woodside Road, Woodside

Supreme Privacy, Timeless Luxury on 3.15 Acres in Woodside

Nestled on a verdant 3.15-acre lot (per county) in peaceful Woodside, this stunning estate presents superb privacy, timeless luxury, and incredible space for entertaining on a grand scale. Lofty ceilings craft an airy atmosphere throughout the home and tall, wide windows allow an abundance of natural light. Expansive formal rooms enjoy elegant appointments, the superb kitchen is sure to inspire your inner Top Chef, the handsome office can meet all work-from-home needs, and the lower level includes a theater for fantastic movie nights. Offering 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, and 7,168 sq. ft. of living space (per county), including a 1-bed, 1-bath guest house, this home will have you feeling a million miles away from the frenetic pace of Silicon Valley thanks to extraordinary grounds that include a pool, barbecue patio, and pathways that wind their way to the serene banks of Bear Gulch Creek, yet you will still enjoy the convenience of being just a short drive to the amenities of the Town of Woodside, and be close to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting. Adding the finishing touch, children may attend the acclaimed Woodside Elementary School (buyer to verify eligibility).

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:
www.3787Woodside.com
Offered at $11,988,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties*

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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中文溝通請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
1209 PORTLAND AVENUE, LOS ALTOS

Timeless Luxury, Contemporary Design

Contemporary design, timeless luxury, and modern conveniences – this 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom home checks all the boxes for outstanding Silicon Valley living. Offering nearly 3,400 square feet of living space on a lot of close to 30 acres, this stylish home presents a light, airy ambiance thanks to high ceilings, skylights, and excellent use of glass. Spacious formal rooms are perfect for entertaining, the kitchen includes appliances from Viking and Miele, and an office is ready to meet work-from-home needs. This home features 3 fireplaces, including one in the romantic master suite, while a guest suite is perfect for extended family. The peaceful backyard provides great space for outdoor enjoyment. This great location is just steps to Heritage Oaks Park, less than a mile to Rancho Shopping Center, and offers access to acclaimed schools including Oak Avenue Elementary, Blach Junior, and Mountain View High, all of which are less than one mile away (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.1209Portland.com

Offered at $4,488,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.
Saturday (7/18) & Sunday (7/19) 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm available for showing.
Call us to make an appointment today!

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

Data from: brokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no off MLS sales included in the rankings.

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410 CHURCHILL AVENUE, PALO ALTO

English Storybook Charm in Old Palo Alto

Boasting all the charm of an English storybook cottage, this delightful home is nestled on a lot of 7,500 square feet in coveted Old Palo Alto, just across the street from picturesque Gamble Garden. Offering 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and nearly 1,700 square feet of living space, including a guest house, this home welcomes you with a fanciful garden entrance, while inside, details such as stained glass windows, arched entryways, and coved ceilings honor the home’s design and create unmatched ambiance. Enjoy comfortable living spaces, the kitchen with high-end appliances from Thermador, Bosch, and Fisher & Paykel, and the family room centered by a fireplace. This great location is within walking distance of Rinconada Park and Stanford University, just moments to University Avenue, and provides access to acclaimed schools including Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High, all of which are less than one mile away (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.410Churchill.com

Offered at $3,788,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

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

Data from Real estate Matrix ® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Palo Alto, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.3822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Stunning new home in prestigious Crescent Park

38 Tevis Place, Palo Alto

5 BEDS | 5 full & 1half BATHS | 3,986 SQFT | 11,108 SF LOT

- Private tree-surrounded home in a quiet cul-de-sac overlooking a park
- Dazzling contemporary design with elegant lighting, creative fireplace patterns, and unique tilework
- Gourmet kitchen with top of the line Sub-zero, Wolf and Miele appliances
- Two level with 5 spacious bedrooms and 5 full baths, plus a detached studio with a bath
- Dual master suites with one at each floor
- Tech and energy-saving features at every turn
- Minutes to downtown amenities and acclaimed Palo Alto schools

www.38tevis.com
Offered at $7,990,000

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Jennifer Liu
Realtor
650.575.7035
Jenliu888@gmail.com
DRE # 01933885
“Double Negatives” — it’s one way to double up. by Matt Jones

Across

1 Maker of Musk cologne and perfume
6 1990 World Series MVP
10 Ruler of Iran, once
14 “Legend of a Cowgirl” singer Coppola
15 No longer a fan of
16 Sagacious
17 Subject of library censorship
19 Like many vaccines
20 Before, to Byron
21 ___ terrier (Toto’s breed)
22 Fantasy sports option
23 Bandleader known as “The King of Swing”
25 Orchard measures
28 Basis of the game Ticket to Ride, for short
29 “Dawn” author Wiesel
30 Awards show hosts
34 Twaddle
37 In fine order
40 Multi-vol. reference set
41 Lets pass
42 Fridge problem
43 Life story
44 Basil and pine nut topping
45 Cheap bowlful, maybe
52 “Maggie and the Dandelion” band The ___ Brothers
53 Prepare for baking, as challah dough
54 “The Racer’s Edge”
57 Coin-shaped Hanukkah candy
58 Pet owner’s alternative to kibble
60 Kathryn of “Law & Order: Criminal Intent”
61 One way to run
62 Actress Dreyfuss of “Dear Evan Hansen”
63 Prep for baking, as challah dough
64 Past the due date
65 Canadian ballplayers, once

Down

1 Agree (with)
2 Eggs of “House M.D.”
3 Barn attachment
4 “Barbara ____” (Beach Boys hit)
5 Family tree members
6 Batman’s sidekick
7 Soap that floats, per old slogans
8 “The Masked Singer” panelist Ken
9 1978-82 sitcom planet
10 Suit in a tarot deck
11 U.S. Grant’s original first name
12 Carne ___ fries
13 “Hobbs & Shaw” actress Miren
18 Rather prominent on the internet these days
22 Mary a museum marble
23 Served as
24 108-year-old cookies that thankfully have a bunch of varieties to keep things fresh
25 Prefix with plane or dynamics
26 You’re reading it
27 What a tangelo is tangled up in?
30 ___ a high note
31 “2001” studio
32 CBS show with many spinoffs
33 911 responder
34 High degrees
35 Enormously
36 One who believes that one hand makes light work?
38 “____ Mad At Cha” (Tupac Shakur song)
39 Little piggies, perhaps
40 Multi-vol. reference set
41 Thanks, to J¸rgen
42 “Where’s the ___?”
43 Recovering
44 Hawk
45 Goes ballistic

46 Deflect
47 Peach ____ (Escoffier creation)
48 Appointer of Justice Kagan
49 “Ready ____ , here I come!”
50 Thanks, to J¸rgen
51 “Where’s the ____?”
54 Stock option?
55 Lawnmower brand that means “bull” in Spanish
56 BlackBerries and Palm Pilots, e.g.
57 Stock option?
58 Schenkel who designed many Zappa album covers
59 Not-entirely-secure method of sending documents

Answers on page 49.
Stunning, Sophisticated, and Chic

2312 BLUERIDGE AVENUE, MENLO PARK

- Fully renovated designer home with salt water pool
- Exceptional interior finishes with a chic sophisticated personality
- 4 bedrooms, office, 3 full baths, and 2 half-baths on one level
- Approximately 3,240 sq. ft.
- Oak hardwood floors throughout
- Fabulous chef’s kitchen and adjoining family room with two-way fireplace shared with the outdoors
- Attached and fully finished 2-car garage
- Wraparound deck with banquet seating and built-in barbecue center overlooks the large pool and spa
- Just over one-third acre (approximately 14,490 sq. ft.)
- Excellent close-in Sharon Heights location just minutes to Stanford and Sand Hill Road
- Acclaimed Las Lomitas schools

Offered at $5,100,000