City silent in debate over Black Lives Matter mural

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—Mary Hawn, MD | Chair of the Department of Surgery, Stanford Medicine

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EMBARCADERO MEDIA AND YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE (YCS) PRESENT

“Youth Rising Up: Can Gen Z Lead on Social Change?”

A conversation with young adults on racial justice, protest and advocacy.

Thursday, August 6 • 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Presented virtually on Zoom

Registration required at EmbarcaderoMediaGroup.com/youth-forum

PANELISTS

Ayinde Bomar Olukotun
2020 graduate of Menlo School and incoming freshman at Pomona College, where he will be studying Public Policy. One of the organizers of the Palo Alto Community Protest on June 6th.

Divya Ganesan
Rising senior at Castilleja School and former president of the Palo Alto Youth Council. Co-founder of Real Talk, a student-led group engaging high schoolers in civil discourse and engagement. Spearheaded a #2020ready campaign to engage Palo Alto youth voters.

Cleo Goodwin
2018 Gunn High School graduate. Transferring to North Carolina Central for the upcoming year after attending De Anza College and studying communications following high school. Was a speaker at Palo Alto’s Juneteenth event.

Hele’ine Grewe
Rising senior at Menlo-Atherton High School; daughter of a Black father and Tongan mother and active in various social justice and environmental campaigns and organizations. Raised in East Palo Alto and the eldest of four children. Works part time as a Census worker and a graphic designer.

Makayla Miller
2020 graduate of Palo Alto High School and currently a student at Louisiana State University. Organizer and speaker at Palo Alto’s Juneteenth march and Menlo Park’s Black LGBTQIA Lives Matter rally and march. Former president of Black Scholars United at Paly.

MODERATOR

Julie Lythcott-Haims
Council to tackle Foothills Park controversy

Palo Alto leaders could decide Monday whether to open 1,400-acre park to nonresidents

by Sue Dremann

A thorny issue that has created controversy for decades is about to get a hearing on Aug. 3 before the Palo Alto City Council: whether the city should launch a pilot program to allow non-Palo Alto residents access to the exclusive 1,400-acre Foothills Park.

Spurred by a renewed push for racial and socioeconomic equity amid the recent Black Lives Matter protests, advocates for opening the park to all say its exclusivity is a relic, the product of an antiquated mindset.

Emotions are running high on both sides of the debate. Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan McCasley — who helped create the proposal that the council will consider Monday for a one-year pilot program to expand park access — resigned in frustration on June 23 after the council postponed its discussion of Foothills Park until after its July break.

A group of local residents, including former Councilwoman LaDoris Cordell, have formed a group, Parks for All, and launched a website to lobby for opening up the park. They also recruited more than 100 faith and community leaders to sign a letter that urges the repeal of the city ordinance that makes it a misdemeanor offense for nonresidents to enter the park.

On the other side are people like Roger Smith, co-founder and director of the fundraising group Friends of the Palo Alto Parks, who has said that opening the park to more visitors would increase costs for maintenance — costs the budget-strapped city can't currently pay for. In a July 24 op-ed in the Palo Alto Weekly, he argued that now is not the time...

PUBLIC ART

Portrait in mural sparks ire

Image of fugitive creates controversy

by Lloyd Lee

T he Black Lives Matter street mural painted on Hamilton Avenue in front of Palo Alto City Hall on June 30 had barely dried before it became the center of a controversy that has some calling for the removal of one of its images.

What was intended to be a local effort to bring awareness to systemic racism and police brutality soon sparked a debate over whether Joanne Chesimard, better known as Assata Shakur, was an appropriate figure for the Black Lives Matter movement and mural.

Earlier this month, an Indianapolis lobbying group called the National Police Association started an effort to have Chesimard’s portrait removed from the second “E” in the mural, which Oakland muralist Cee Caprio painted with approval from the Palo Alto Public Art Program. (The police association has no known ties with police departments. Several news organizations, including the Baltimore Sun and IndyStar, have made inquiries into the organization’s identity and legitimacy.)

Caprio was one of 16 artists selected to paint a block letter in the nearly 245-foot-long and 17-foot-tall mural that spells out “Black Lives Matter.”

Chesimard was a civil rights activist in the Black Liberation Army who escaped prison and fled to Cuba after being convicted of killing a New Jersey State...
The wildlife and vegetation come first before human beings.

— Winter Dellenbach, Palo Alto resident, on limiting access to Foothills Park to 1,000 residents and nonresidents a day. See story on page 5.

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE...
The Palo Alto Fire Department’s Engine 365 crew returned on Wednesday evening, July 29, after nine days in Lassen County as part of an out-of-county team tasked to help extinguish the Hog Fire, which has burned 9,564 acres since July 16. The wildland blaze, located in the northeast section of the state about 70 miles west of the state border with Nevada, was 85% contained as of Thursday morning and the cause was under investigation, according to Fire Captain Ryan Stoddard.

The local four-person crew, which normally reports to Station 9 on Arastradero Road, included two firefighters who have previously been sent to wildfires. The other two firefighters, one of whom is a probationary firefighter, were taking on the job for the first time through the fire department. They were part of the Contra Costa County Strike Team X2C 2026C. Over the past week, the crew has faced thunderstorms, lightning, hail, heavy rain and strong wind gusts of more than 50 mph. The men have worked hard and maintained good spirits during their 24-hour shifts, said Battalion Chief Kevin Legarda.

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EXTRA SUPPORT...
From now through Aug. 17, Midpeninsula nonprofits can apply for a grant of up to $100,000 from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Community Fund, which has supported more than 70 organizations serving the Peninsula, East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks and Redwood City communities since its launch in 2017. The private philanthropic organization, founded by Palo Alto residents Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, and his wife, Dr. Priscilla Chan, is looking to help groups providing basic needs, such as housing, food, education, job skills training and emerging issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Redwood City-based organization also is looking to support organizations impacted by structural racism and inequities. “Local nonprofits have long led the fight to make sure that all members of our community have their needs are met upon their return, he said.

HOUSING GETS A BOOST...
East Palo Alto has won a $2 million award from the California

“ZOOM LIKE A PRO
Senior Planet’s free classes help you use Zoom to get fit, talk to family & friends, continue your learning, & more!

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Starting Aug. 1, participation in Palo Alto Online’s popular Town Square discussion forum will be limited to those who register on the site with their name and email address. The change is an experiment to determine if requiring registration will lead to a more welcoming environment for those interested in respectful discussions of local issues, according to Publisher Bill Johnson.

“In spite of the large numbers of people who enjoy engaging in meaningful discussion on Town Square, we know that there are many others who stay away because they view it as an inhospitable place too often dominated by rude posters who belittle others and their motives,” Johnson said. “Town Square wasn’t intended as a place exclusively for the thick-skinned. The actions of these problematic posters have demanded increasing amounts of our staff’s time to moderate, edit and sometimes delete disrespectful comments that seem intended to antagonize or manipulate public opinion with false or misleading information.”

Johnson said that the volume of commenting has soared since the shelter-in-place orders were made in mid-March, fueled by deep divisions over the handling of the pandemic response and, more recently, on protests and advocacy relating to racial injustice and police reform.

“We are constantly evaluating how to make Town Square a safer place for all posters and to keep out those who attack others, make repetitive comments and side-track discussions,” Johnson said. “With an expected highly charged election season ahead of us, it seemed like the right time to implement new requirements.”

Becoming a registered user requires a person to register their name and email address with Palo Alto Online. Although posters are encouraged to use their name when they post comments, they may choose to use a screen name instead. But the registration requirement will create some accountability and a way for Palo Alto Online moderators to contact the poster.

Currently, all users are asked to abide by the site’s terms of use to contact the poster. For Palo Alto Online moderators and administration requirement will create a time for the U.S. Census and as a graphic designer. The daughter of a Black father and Tongan mother, Grewe has been active in various social justice and environmental campaigns and organizations. Raised in East Palo Alto, she is the eldest of four children.

Makayla Miller, a recent graduate of Castilleja School and former president of the Palo Alto Youth Council, also spearheaded a #2020ready campaign to engage Palo Alto youth voters.

Goodwin graduated from Gunn High School in 2018 and was a speaker at Palo Alto’s Juneteenth rally and march in downtown Palo Alto. After attending De Anza College and studying communications, Goodwin will be transferring to North Carolina Central for the upcoming academic year.

Hele’ine Grewe is a rising senior at Menlo-Atherton High School who also works part-time for the U.S. Census and as a graphic designer. The daughter of a Black father and Tongan mother, Grewe has been active in various social justice and environmental campaigns and organizations. Raised in East Palo Alto, she is the eldest of four children.

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Lythcott-Haims is a former corporate lawyer and author of the anti-helicopter parenting manifesto “How to Raise an Adult.” Her second book is the award-winning prose poetry memoir “Real American,” which illustrates her experience as a Black and biracial person in white spaces. A third book, “Your Turn: How to Be an Adult,” will be published in April 2021. She serves on the boards of Foundation for a College Education, Global Citizen Year and Common Sense Media.

Registration is required to attend the event, which will be hosted on Zoom. Go to EmersonaderMediapGroup.com/youth-forum to reserve a spot.

— Embarcadero Media staff

## In experiment, Town Square forum limited to registered users

### Three-month trial aimed at improving tone and dialogue

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— Embarcadero Media staff

## Panel discussion to be held on Generation Z and racial justice

### Aug. 6 conversation will be moderated by former Stanford dean

Five young adults who’ve led recent efforts to bring about social change along the Midpeninsula will share their perspectives on racial justice and advocacy in a virtual panel discussion on Thursday, Aug. 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Moderated by former Stanford University Dean of Freshmen and Undergraduate Advising Julie Lythcott-Haims, “Youth Rising Up: Can Gen Z Lead on Social Change?” will feature Ayinde Bomar Olukotun, Divya Ganesan, Cleo Goodwin, Hele’ine Grewe and Makayla Miller. The free, public event is being presented by Embarcadero Media and the nonprofit Youth Community Service (YCS).

Olukotun, a 2020 graduate of Menlo School, was one of the organizers of a Palo Alto community protest on June 6. An incoming freshman at Pomona College, he will be studying public policy.

Ganesan is a rising senior at Castilleja School and former president of the Palo Alto Youth Council. She co-founded Real Talk, a student-led group engaging high school students in civil discourse and engagement, and also spearheaded a #2020ready campaign to engage Palo Alto youth voters.

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— Embarcadero Media staff

## Discussion of Palo Alto government meetings

### Public Agenda

**A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week**

**CITY COUNCIL**... The council plans to consider the Parks and Recreation Commission’s proposed pilot program to increase access to Foothills Park for nonresidents; discuss the Plan Bay Area 2050 Draft Blueprint and the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Process; and discuss the potential placement of the Caltrain sales tax measure on the Nov. 3 ballot. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable TV Channel 26, at youtube.com/c/cityofpaloalto, and midpenmedia.org. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 382 027 238.

**UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION**... The commission plans to observe and discuss a presentation by Professor Richard Luthy on “One Water Resource Approach;” discuss the Fiber Network Expansion Project; and provide an update on the Activities to Facilitate Distributed Energy Resource Adoption and Integration plan. The virtual meeting will begin at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable TV Channel 20, at youtube.com/c/cityofpaloalto, and midpenmedia.org. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 966 9129 7246.
Castilleja offers new alternative in EIR
A new alternative that seeks to reduce traffic impacts of Castilleja School’s proposed expansion is included in a much-anticipated final environmental impact report released Wednesday evening by the city of Palo Alto.

The final environmental impact report (EIR), released this week, documents a new project alternative proposed by Castilleja, required mitigation measures and responses to comments received while the draft environmental impact report circulated for public review last year.

The yearslong, divisive project has driven a wedge between the private all-girls school and residents in the surrounding neighborhood.

But school administrators on Thursday said they’re hopeful the new alternative Castilleja proposed to address neighbor concerns — reducing the size of an underground parking garage, retaining two homes on Emerson Street and creating three drop-off and pickup locations to ease traffic — provides a path forward for the project. With certain mitigation requirements, the alternative would reduce both land-use and traffic impacts, the final EIR states.

Neighbors, meanwhile, were concerned that they were seeing this proposed alternative for the first time and hadn’t had an opportunity to review and comment on it before a series of public hearings begin in August to continue the review process.

The project has several more hurdles to clear before reaching the City Council, including reviews by the Architectural Review Board, Planning and Transportation Commission and Historic Resources Board, which will provide recommendations to the council.

— Elena Kadvany

Head of Menlo Church steps down
John Ortberg, the senior pastor of Menlo Church, is stepping down from his role at the evangelical Presbyterian church that sits prominently in downtown Menlo Park, following community outcry after the church’s board learned that he had allowed his son to continue to work with youth for more than a year after learning that his son was sexually attracted to children.

Menlo Church attracts about 6,000 weekly congregants across six Bay Area campuses, and on its website brands itself as a family-friendly faith community, but it faced a reckoning as details emerged regarding troubling revelations in late 2019 and early 2020. Ortberg, who has led the church for 17 years, was put on a leave of absence this winter, and later reinstated. On Wednesday morning, the church announced that its governing board unanimously accepted Ortberg’s resignation, according to a statement on the church’s website.

His last day will be Sunday, Aug. 2, when he is expected to address the congregation.

The church board plans to hire an interim pastor to serve in a transitional role during the search for a new senior pastor, according to the statement, and in the interim, Eugene Lee will continue as executive pastor.

— Kate Bradshaw

Atherton dad sentenced in admissions scam
Manuel Henriquez, the former CEO of a Palo Alto-based venture capital firm, was sentenced Wednesday to six months in prison for paying more than $500,000 in a national admissions scam that involved more than 50 parents, sports staff and test proctors, federal prosecutors said. He helped his daughters get admitted to college by ensuring they did well on college entrance exams five times.

Henriquez, 56, of Atherton pleaded guilty last year to a charge of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and honest services mail and wire fraud, plus an additional charge of conspiracy to commit money laundering, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. He founded Hercules Capital and stepped down as CEO when federal indictments in the college admissions scandal were announced in March 2019.

The indictments claimed the parents paid large sums of money to education consultant Rick Singer, who used the funds to bribe universities into guaranteeing their children admission. The funds were disguised as donations to Singer’s fake nonprofit organization, The Key Worldwide Foundation.

The Atherton resident also paid $400,000 to help one of his daughters become a tennis recruit at Georgetown University despite her having no competitive experience in the sport, the U.S. Attorney’s Office said.

In addition to the prison sentence, Gorton ordered Henriquez to perform 200 hours of community service while under two years of supervised release and to pay a $200,000 fine.

— Jamey Padovino

No-cost COVID-19 testing funded by the El Camino Healthcare District is now available for those who live, work or go to school within the District.*

To schedule your appointment online or for more information, visit elcaminohealth.org/covid19testing

You may also call 650-940-7022 and select Option #4 to schedule your test.
Police trooper in the 1970s. Decades later, she became the first woman to be added to the FBI’s Most Wanted Terrorists list.

“For law enforcement required to enter the building (referring to the Palo Alto police headquarters inside City Hall) is there any description other than a hostile work environment?” the association asked in its online petition seeking the removal of Chesimard’s image.

“Stop trying to decide our right way of putting our message up,” said Kenan Moos, 21, after a July 16 press conference that was held in front of City Hall to defend the mural. “No matter what we’ve done, they’ve been mad. We silently kneel at games, they get mad. Peacefully march, they get mad. We call them out in their public meetings, they get mad.”

For some protesters and activists, Chesimard’s conviction is wholly appropriate, they say. “For law enforcement required to enter the building (referring to the Palo Alto police headquarters inside City Hall) is there any description other than a hostile work environment?”

“Shakur is very important to the Black Lives Matter movement, they said. Forensic analysis showed no evidence of a gun powder residue on Chesimard’s fingers, and her fingerprints were not found on guns at the scene. In addition, Caprio and the speakers believed Chesimard never stood a chance against a fair trial because she faced an all-white jury. (The Guardian reported that there was sufficient evidence that the trial was unfair, with at least two jurors expressing prejudice before the trial began.)

“Her life was destroyed by the criminal justice system,” social activist J.T. Faraji said after the press conference. “She literally had to leave family, friends, everything. Why? Because of a racist system that feared her — that feared liberation, that feared equality, that feared righteousness. Who better to put on the mural than Assata Shakur?”

On the day the mural was painted, Caprio said she used Chesimard’s portrait because she is an “amazing, radical Black Panther who is brilliant, intelligent and shared so much wisdom that is still very much relevant for us today.” Below the image, Caprio painted a quote from Chesimard’s “To My People” letter that is commonly recited in Black Lives Matter marches: “We must love each other and support each other.”

“Shakur is very important to the Black Lives Matter movement and organization,” said Kimberly McNair, a postdoctoral research fellow for Stanford University’s African and African American Studies department.

Reciting the quote “has been a tradition in the movement for seven years now and happens locally, nationally and globally. That quoted stanza ... is called ‘Assata,’ she said. “I’ve even heard ‘Assata’ repeated at non-Black Lives Matter network actions by other Black activist organizations.”

The city of Palo Alto has refused to answer the specific question about whether the “E” should be repainted, referring only to a July 9 blog post that the city does not intend to remove or expedite the removal of the temporary mural.

The Palo Alto Police Department also declined to comment. Meanwhile, the debate over the mural has continued online.

“Black lives matter,” one Weekly reader commented on a July 9 Palo Alto Online article about the mural. “But anyone, Black or white, who murders in cold blood should not be celebrated or memorialized in any way. These artists are stupid if they think reasonable citizens will support their project that glorifies a cop-killer and endorses acts of crime and violence.”

One reader called the mural “a slap in the face to law enforcement — a taxpayer-funded art project that glorifies a cop-killer and endorses acts of crime and violence.”

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“I don’t support the taking of lives, period,” Moos said. • Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee can be emailed at llee@paweekly.com.
Waiver
(continued from page 5)

Alto, Pinewood School in Los Altos and the German International School of Silicon Valley in Mountain View.

“Our size allows flexibility in keeping staff and students safe using the guidelines provided by local and state authorities,” Bowman Head of School Mary-Beth Ricks said. “It’s important to stress that we’re going to be extremely responsible ... but we’re going to try every avenue to get especially the younger ones in person and not give up hope that we can be granted the waiver.”

Before Newsom’s announcement, Bowman had already brought some students back to school for a summer session with numerous precautions. Students were in stable cohorts of 12; students and staff had their temperatures and symptoms checked daily; all students older than first grade were required to wear masks all day; and all staff gathering areas were closed. A new volunteer task force, made up of Bowman parents who work in the medical field, advised Ricks on best practices for reopening.

“Everybody’s been positive about reopening schools in person, Ricks said of the parent-advisers, “based on our very, very strict plans.” Bowman is now developing three different contingency plans for the first day of school on Sept. 1: full distance learning, a hybrid model if the waiver is approved and a third plan if the waiver is approved but not for all elementary grade levels.

In the spring, Bowman teachers were available in online classrooms to work with students from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on school days. Virtual learning proved especially difficult for younger students, who are less tech-savvy and thus required more parent supervision, Ricks said.

Other private schools are applying for the waiver to keep their options open — especially as concrete details about how the waiver will work remain scarce — but are not sure that they would use it if approved.

“We do not know if we want to open at all,” said Angie Bergeson, Silicon Valley International School’s head of school. “We want to stay as safe as possible. We wouldn’t want to go against county health guidelines even if we could with a waiver.”

But the majority of the private bilingual school’s families want face-to-face instruction, Bergeson said. In June, only 10% of families said they prefer online learning. Parents have been urging the school to apply for a waiver, Bergeson said.

“Independent schools have parent communities that are really pressuring schools to reopen. It’s putting independent schools in a particular bind knowing that they can apply for a waiver,” Bergeson said.

Parent Raphael Michel, co-chair of Silicon Valley International School’s board of directors, hopes his children, a rising third-grader and rising sixth-grader, will be able to safely attend school in person in the fall — more for their emotional development than academic, he said.

“You can get a good knowledge transfer in some conversation moderated by a well-trained educator on a video session but ... all of that learning through playing they get when they’re in the same classroom, when they have those in-person interactions, when they’re on the playground — that social emotional development is at risk of being diminished,” Michel said.

He said parents would “scratch their heads” if Silicon Valley International School obtained a waiver and decided not to use it, but they are placing their trust in the school’s leadership to make the safest decision for students.

Silicon Valley International also created an advisory council, including parents and outside experts, to whom Bergeson said she’ll turn if the school obtains a reopening waiver.

For now, the school has decided to offer only online learning for the first six weeks of school, regardless if its waiver is granted or if Santa Clara County gets off the state watch list. The school pushed the start of school later by two weeks to allow time for students to come to campus to pick up supplies, safely meet their teachers and prepare for distance learning.

“We need to now control the situation and be able to say we know what we’re doing. One of the hardest things about this for schools is this not knowing,” Bergeson said. “Actually making the decision to do distance learning is the most effective and efficient for us to start school, but of course it’s really crushing for independent schools to say that to their communities ... They’re paying tuition and they’re wondering when their kindergartner starts distance learning, what is that going to look like?”

Kathrin Röschel, principal of the German International School of Silicon Valley in Mountain View, said she plans to apply for the waiver but “only will use it when safety measures allow.”

“We miss our students. We strongly believe in in-person instruction and the social component in learning, but we were also extremely successful with our distance learning program in spring and will not put the health of our students, teachers and community in jeopardy,” she wrote in an email.

The waivers, if granted, could further exacerbate inequities between public and private schools during the pandemic. Public schools must make the request “in consultation” with their labor unions, parents and community-based organizations, according to Newsom’s office, while private schools can be more nimble.

Palo Alto Unified Superintendent Don Austin said at a school board meeting this week that the district does not plan to apply for a waiver to reopen its elementary schools, despite the urging of several parent speakers.

“If waivers were the preferred path to reopen schools, we wouldn’t have needed waivers. They would have just said, ‘It’s fine to go open your elementary schools.’ They didn’t,” Austin said. “The idea of going around that process, through all the reasons that led to us being closed ... did not make sense for our district.”

Private school leaders said they have heard little about how the waiver process will work or how long it will take. Some have been or are waiting to be assigned a liaison from the county’s Office of Emergency Operations.

The office, meanwhile, has received little guidance from the state on how to evaluate waivers — only the publicly available Cal OSHA and California Department of Public Health guidelines for reopening schools, according to a county public information officer. Newsom’s office said local health officials reviewing applications must “consider local data and consult with the California Department of Public Health.”

“The county is still in the planning stages about how next to proceed about reviewing applications,” the spokesperson said.

At Silicon Valley International School, which offers Mandarin Chinese-English and French-English programs, teachers are trying to think creatively about how to offer effective language instruction in this new era. Ideas have included virtual dinners with teachers in Mandarin or French and asking older students to play online games with younger students in the language they’re studying. Even in person, masks will make it difficult to teach language, Bergeson said.

The reopening dilemma feels like “you’re choosing between being punched in the stomach and punched in the face,” Bergeson said. “The situation is really quite difficult for schools to make everybody happy.”

Merel van der Weijden, a Silicon Valley International School student, said in an email. Contact Merel van der Weijden or contact Elena Kadiev at ekadvany@paweekly.com.
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  OR

- You had contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19;
  
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To learn more about COVID-19 visit sccgov.org/coronavirus
Foothills Park
(continued from page 5)

to make a decision about opening the park, given the pressing financial and staffing issues facing the city because of the pandemic.

Besides the financial considerations, opponents of opening the park to all assert that doing so would inflict damage on the fragile ecosystem. Residents such as Shani Kleinhaus, who is an environmental advocate for the nonprofit Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, argue that Foothills is a special place that has remained so because access is limited. Opening this unspoiled gem to all is an act that would take away from the very qualities that make it special, they say.

On Tuesday night, during a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting about Foothills, Kleinhaus said that she is used to taking frequent hikes in the park. The expansive open space preserve offers opportunities to find bird species as varied as the red-shouldered hawk, lilac-breasted roller, and woodpecker, the second largest woodpecker in the U.S.; the belted kingfisher; majestic golden and bald eagles and colorful Western bluebirds and lazuli buntings.

But on a recent visit, she said she encountered plastic bags of dog waste along the trails and loud music blaring from picnickers’ boomboxes in the verdant lower meadow. Deer by the dozen usually frequent this spot to graze, but not when humans create a racket.

These problems, while perhaps not new, have been increasing steadily during the COVID-19 outbreak, Kleinhaus, who was speaking on her own behalf and not the Audubon, said, as residents seek outdoor spaces as relief from the county health officer’s stay-at-home order.

Based on what she has seen, Kleinhaus, who was speaking on her own behalf and not the Audubon, told the commissioners she worries giving more people access will damage plant and animal habitats and frighten wildlife away.

“Really don’t care who is there and I never have,” she said. It’s the number of people and their behaviors that make a difference to the environment, she added.

The city should take the park opening to the voters to decide, she said, and perform an environmental-impact study.

Resident Wintter Dellenbach told the commissioners she also doesn’t care if the visitors are from Palo Alto or other cities but is concerned about moving ahead with a change at this time.

The city had a $40 million budget shortfall that forced the closure of libraries and curtailment of other city services. If opening the park will require added costs for security, registration and infrastructure improvements, now is not the time, she said.

Tracing the roots of the restriction

Bounded by Portola Valley, Los Altos Hills, Pearson-Arastradero Preserve and Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, Foothills Park offers spectacular vistas of the Bay Area and 15 miles of trails through rugged chaparral, fields, streams and woodlands.

A checklist of flora and fauna on the NatureServe website shows that at least 574 different types of plants, spiders, butterflies, moths, birds, amphibians, fish, reptiles and mammals frequent the park. Videos show an elusive bobcat slinking across a remote trail; a flock of wild turkeys pecking in a field; and purple, spotted checker lilies during a spring wildflower jaunt.

The city purchased 1,294 acres of the land from Dr. Russel Lee, founder of the Palo Alto Medical Clinic, and his wife, Dorothy, in 1958 on the condition that it would be preserved as open space. The council put the $1.3 million purchase on a ballot in 1959, with 62% of voters supporting the purchase.

The council also asked the neighboring cities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills to share the cost. Those cities declined, so Palo Alto restricted access to Palo Alto residents and their guests, Greg Bettis, former director of the city’s Community Services Department, told the Weekly in 2013.

Daren Anderson, division manager of the city’s Open Space, Parks and Golf, told the commissioners on Tuesday there was another reason for the exclusivity, however. Residents who feared Foothills would become a regional park formed Citizens for Good Governance to challenge a proposed plan. They filed a lawsuit against the council, which the California Supreme Court rejected, Anderson said, quoting a 1980 Stanford Daily article.

To appease the citizens group, the council voted to limit access to Palo Alto residents only. They followed up with an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to enter the park illegally, a violation that carries a $50 fine. The city formally dedicated the park in June 1965.

That decision wasn’t the end of the debate. In 1974, the American Civil Liberties Union considered suing the city over the residency restriction, according to a story that year in the Stanford Daily. Larry Sleizer, then-chairman of the Midpeninsula chapter of the ACLU, told the Stanford Daily: “The effect of the original decision has prevented Blacks from East Palo Alto and students from using the park.”

The city allowed its employees who don’t reside in Palo Alto and their families to use the park, he argued, so it should be open to the public.

“Discrimination against nonresidents is unlawful,” he said.

The threats of a lawsuit haven’t abated. Cordell recently sent the city a letter warning of a lawsuit if the council doesn’t immediately agree to stop enforcing its ban on nonresidents.

Similar discrimination claims have been upheld by courts. In a case that is similar to Palo Alto’s, a 2001 lawsuit, “Leydon v. Town of Greenwich,” the Connecticut Supreme Court found the municipality violated the plaintiff’s First Amendment rights when it restricted access to a 147-acre municipal park to only its residents and their guests.

In a 2001 analysis of the case, legal scholar James C. Kozlowski, an associate professor at George Mason University School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism Management, noted the Connecticut state appeals court first ruled the ordinance violated a general legal principle that “municipal parks are deemed to be held in public trust for the benefit of the general public and not solely for the use of residents of the municipality.”

The state’s Supreme Court affirmed the decision, finding that a municipal park is a constitutionally protected public forum, much like a sidewalk or town plaza. Even if a nonresident can find a town resident to accompany him or her to the park, “the mere fact that he or she is required to do so places more than an incidental burden on the nonresident’s express and associational rights,” Kozlowski wrote.

Legal notwithstanding, the city did in 2005 open access to Foothills Park to nonresidents, not by the front gate. That year, Santa Clara County and the California Coastal Conservancy together gave the city $2 million to help Palo Alto purchase 13 acres of private land from the Midpeninsula Open Space Trust to complete Pearson-Arastradero Preserve.

The city viewed it as part of that deal to open a trail through Foothills Park to all visitors, regardless of residency. The trail links part of the Bay-to-Ridge Trail to Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. Nonresidents who can hike through can visit Foothills Park.

How much can the park handle?

If the park is opened to all, would Foothills become overly burdened by the newcomers? Parks and Recreation Commissioner David Mos, who supports the pilot program that would allow nonresidents in 50
601 Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park

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cars or bicycles a day to access the park, expressed concern that there could be a great interest in visiting the park if the number of entrants isn’t controlled.

“You know the power of social media. The minute this gets out, social media will take it and run with it,” he said.

But the city’s estimates of current park attendance cast some doubt that there would be a rush on Foothills Park. Anderson said the city hasn’t reached its 1,000-persons-at-a-time limit in more than 20 years. Likewise, rangers have only given out one administrative citation — the equivalent of a parking ticket — and no citations for misdemeanor illegal entry into the park in about the same time frame.

The 1,000-person cap isn’t necessarily tied to concerns about human wear-and-tear on the park either. It’s based on the number of available parking spaces and an estimate that each vehicle would carry 2.5 occupants, which gets close to the 1,000-person figure, Anderson said.

Foothills had a 2,000-person cap when it opened in 1965; that number was revised down to the current number in the 1990s, he said. But park usage has actually declined. Approximately 292,000 visitors came in 1969; that figure peaked at about 372,000 in the early 1970s. It declined thereafter and through the 1990s. From 2002 to 2019, the park has averaged 152,000 visitors per year, he said, a figure that is based on rangers’ periodic counts of vehicles in the park.

The number of nonresident visitors has also been modest. Between 2015 and 2019, about 3,100 nonresident vehicles were turned away, Anderson said. (The front gate is only staffed by rangers on weekends, however, so the exact number of nonresidents coming to the park is hard to know.)

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a turnaround, however: a 136% increase in resident visitors on weekends for the month of June, compared to 2019 and a 7% decrease on weekdays during the same time period, he said.

Five experts invited by the Parks and Recreation Commission to weigh in on the potential impacts and benefits of expanding park access argued on Tuesday that damage to the park isn’t due to who comes to visit but rather how those people behave.

Taylor Peterson, director of biological analysis with MIG, an environmental consulting firm that has worked with the city in various parks, including Foothills, said increased usage doesn’t have to mean the park environment will decline. Impacts are not only quantitative; they are, perhaps more importantly, qualitative. Two people who make a lot of noise at a picnic site can create more problems than five people who walk quietly on a trail, for example.

Lester Hendrie, a former Foothills Park supervising ranger who worked at the preserve for 30 years, said the length of time a person spends doing an activity also affects the environment — preventing, for example, wildlife from returning to a grazing site.

Peterson recommended the city undertake a baseline study to understand the existing conditions within the park and its current usage, then monitor the space regularly so that any problems can be quickly addressed.

“Spend the time and money to do this right. Have a program of adaptive management so you can reverse issues right away. I think you could open (the park) to nonresidents and still keep a nice preserve. I don’t think where somebody comes from impacts the park,” she said.

Nonprofit groups and volunteers have been on the front lines of maintaining the park. Ironically, the majority of their work involves repairing damage done by invasive, nonnative plants, not people, according to panelist Alex Von Feldt, executive director of Grassroots Ecology.

Seeds from these plant species, including the highly invasive stinkwort, travel on the tires of construction vehicles working on private developments outside the park and even come in on visitors’ shoes.

Grassroots Ecology, which maintains a native plant nursery at the park, has managed hundreds of young volunteers who re-vegetate areas of the park with native plants. Von Feldt said. But while they’ve benefited the park, saving the city hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, many of these same volunteers — those who do not live in Palo Alto — feel their enthusiasm wane when they find out they can’t use the park.

“Why start out saying, “This is amazing,” Von Feldt said, but when they realize they’re doing work on a preserve they can’t return to, “it takes the air out of it.”

Stanford University Professor Nicole M. Ardoin, a director of the Emnett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources at Stanford’s School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences, studies the interaction of people and the environment. People are more likely to partner in environmental projects if they have access to the park, she told the commission.

And isn’t that what a public open space should strive to instill? Von Feldt and others asked.

When people come to love a place, they want to preserve it, to make it better than when they left and to invest in more open space because they understand its value, she said.

Von Feldt also argued that the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 epidemic makes now the right time to open Foothills Park; it would help alleviate some of the strain on Palo Alto’s other large open space areas: the Pearson-Arastadero Preserve and Palo Alto Baylands.

Pearson-Arastadero Preserve is experiencing a huge influx of visitors as people have sought open areas where they can keep their social distance. The park has had to hire more security personnel to handle the traffic and parking issues, Von Feldt said.

“We believe opening Foothills Park will have an overall positive effect. We need our wide, open public spaces now more than ever, and this would be a really great time to do it,” she said.

The decision facing the council

If Palo Alto were to lift the park’s residency restriction, access wouldn’t need to be an all-or-nothing affair. The council could continue to restrict the number of people it allows into the park, as the pilot program proposal recommends. The council could also address environmental concerns by placing limits on people’s activities.

Hendrie warned that consideration should be given to the additional burdens that more visitors would place on park rangers: more staffing of the entrance; more garbage and restroom cleanup; more patrols; more upkeep.

He urged the city to go slowly with whatever plan it decides upon.

Smith cautioned that the city will need to fund additional staff, the improvement of infrastructure, such as restrooms, and to maintain habitats.

City Councilwoman Lydia Kou, who is the council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, likewise said that further discussion must also include the funding for infrastructure and staffing to ensure the quality of the environment is maintained.

Considering the city’s nearly $40 million budget shrinkage this year, that could be a difficult prospect, she said.

Dellenbach, the Palo Alto resident, summed up what many on the commission and expert panel seemed to agree on.

“I’ve heard a litany of mitigations that would need to be made to protect the wildlife and plants,” she said. “I think the 1,000-person-a-day (limit) should stay in place,” she said. “It’s vital. The wildlife and vegetation come first before human beings.”

The City Council meeting will be held virtually on Zoom on Monday, Aug. 3, and can be viewed at Zoom.us (meeting ID 362 027 238) or by calling 669-900-6833. The Foothills Park item is scheduled to be discussed at around 7 p.m.

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

Take the survey. Watch the panel.

Councilwoman Lydia Kou is surveying residents about Foothills Park access in advance of Monday’s council meeting. To take the survey, go to tinyurl.com/KouFoothills. Also, a video of the panel discussion hosted by the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 28 will be posted at tinyurl.com/ParksAndRecreation.

About the cover: The front entrance to Foothills Park sits at 3300 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto. Photo by Magali Gauthier.
Grant Spaeth, a former Palo Alto city councilman and longtime Palo Alto resident, died from complications of Parkinson’s disease on July 28. He was 88 years old.

Born June 27, 1932, in Oxford, England, Spaeth came to Palo Alto when his father, Carl Spaeth, was appointed dean of Stanford University’s Law School in 1946. As an undergraduate at Stanford, he played for an NCAA championship-winning golf team in 1953. He then pursued a law degree at Harvard University and went on to codify the law firm of Spaeth, Blase, Valentine & Klein, where he practiced business law. During his time as a lawyer, he also served on the Palo Alto City Council from 1967 to 1971. “The council at that point was very split,” said Larry Klein, a former Palo Alto mayor who worked with Spaeth at the firm for about a decade. “In (the) classic Palo Alto debate between two people who wanted to see more development versus less development, Grant was down the middle.”

Spaeth also served on the boards of Avendos and the Los Altos Library Endowment, and as the deputy secretary for the Department of Health and Human Services during a part of the Jimmy Carter administration. But his many appointments never eclipsed his passion for golf. He served as the United States Golf Association’s president from 1990 to 1991 and helped establish the U.S. Mid-Amateur and U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur championships and the USGA’s Regional Affairs department, according to the association. In 2011, he was inducted into the Northern California Golf Association Hall of Fame.

Spaeth is survived by his wife, Lori Spaeth, of Los Altos; sister Laurie Spaeth of Palo Alto; two children, Charlie Spaeth of Oakland and Shelly Spaeth of Los Altos; and stepson Steven Travis of Greenbrae. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Judy Bolender Spaeth, who died of pancreatic cancer in 1965.

**OBITUARIES**

A list of local residents who died recently:

* Hubert Nyser, a longtime Palo Alto resident, died on May 8.

* Janet Lo- renne Wright Barrett, 87, a former Palo Alto Unified School District schoolteacher, died on July 20. To read the full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOn line.com or obituaries.

### Police Calls

**Palo Alto**

- **July 25-July 29**
  - **Violence related**
    - Luna Verde Place, 7/21, 8 a.m.; child abuse/physical
    - San Antonio Road, 7/21, 11:53 p.m.; sexual battery
    - Bryant Street, 7/23, 11:01 a.m.; elder abuse/physical
    - Alma Street, 7/24, 3:09 p.m.; simple battery
    - Curtner Avenue, 7/26, 12:24 p.m.; domestic violence/battery
  - **Seale Avenue, 7/27, 7:06 a.m.; assault w/deadly weapon**
  - **El Camino Real, 7/27, 8:23 a.m.**
  - **Alma Street, 7/24, 3:09 p.m.**
  - **Curtner Avenue, 7/26, 12:24 p.m.**
  - **Hopyard Road, 7/25, 5:11 p.m.**
  - **Luna Verde Place, 7/21, 8 a.m.**

- **July 23-July 29**
  - **Theft related**
    - Auto recovery
    - Auto theft
    - Bicycle theft
    - Driving w/out/against traffic
    - Theft from auto
    - Vehicle accident
    - Vehicle accident
    - Vehicle accident
    - Vehicle theft
    - Vehicle vandalism
    - Warrant/other agency
  - **Drug related**
    - Cocaine possession
    - Heroin possession
  - **Alcohol or drug related**
    - .25 under influence
    - Domestic violence
  - **Miscellaneous**
    - Found property
    - Lost property
    - Misc. penal code violation
    - Nursing home violation
    - Possession of paraphernalia
    - Sale of drugs
    - Suspicious circumstances
    - Vandalism
  - **Vehicle impound**
    - 3
  - **Vehicular trespass**
    - 3

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**Employment**

*Public Fund Investment Analyst**

Sofinnova (Menlo Park, CA) seeks Public Fund Investment Analyst for reviewing scientific literature, analyzing clinical trials, financial/statistical/industry analysis in biotechnology, pharmaceutical, healthcare sectors. Multiple openings; apply careers@sofinnova.com

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Tucked away on a peaceful street in West Atherton, this bright, spacious home rests on an expansive, gated lot of over 0.8 acres and offers nearly 3,000 square feet of living space. With 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, plus a 1-bed, 1-bath guest house, this home stands ready to meet a variety of lifestyle needs. A beamed cathedral ceiling crowns the living and dining room, the kitchen features appliances from Thermador and Sub-Zero, the expansive family room is centered by a fireplace, and an office allows you to work from home in style. Experience a true indoor/outdoor lifestyle as every public space opens to the spectacular grounds that include towering trees, a pool, and an arbor-covered terrace, plus the detached guest house with a kitchen and full bathroom. This peaceful location is just moments to Menlo Circus Club, is convenient to both 280 and 101, and top private schools Sacred Heart and Menlo School are a short drive away.

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Visitors can take up to five usable household products per visit, such as paint, cleaners and unused motor oil. Items are free of charge. Residency in Palo Alto is not required to use the HHW Reuse Zone.

Due to COVID-19, please check our website before visiting to confirm that access to this area is available.

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S
ay goodbye to asking your neighbors for a drink or a barbecue any time soon—such activities could be prohibited for quite awhile because of the rising coronavirus rates statewide and in Santa Clara County.

Is it a wise move by the government, or is it just a mean ban on socializing with our friends and family during our stay-at-home period? I’ve been very conscientious about avoiding contact with others, mostly because I know I have less immunity to the virus than when I was 30 or 40, and because this is a ghastly, painful disease that I just don’t want to suffer through. I wear masks when I am near others, and I haven’t had a single person socially come in our home or backyard.

Yes, every once in a while (like Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays), I either go stir crazy or figuratively climb the walls. Some of my friends have entertained in their backyards, telling me they “make all the food, everyone wears masks, and we socially distance ourselves when together.” I think they are just trying to make themselves feel virtuous.

Two Saturdays ago, for the first time in four months, my husband and I went over to visit a friend whose wife recently died. He was starving for company, too. We had a delightful, fun time and intended to observe all the rules.

We came with our masks on, did not walk through his ho and sat on the patio with a pleasant breeze blowing. He served us wine. I hadn’t yet figured out how to drink red wine through my mask. I couldn’t quite get the liquid into my mouth. So off the mask came. Back on after the first sip, then off again. On a “hell with this” response on my part.

He served takeout pizza and a salad. Although we were sitting 8 feet apart, we had to pull our chairs to the table to eat off plates. Our social distance collapsed to 2 feet.

By the end of dinner, and starting on my second glass of wine, my mask stayed around my neck. Then we talked about food, travel and the election and the virus for more than an hour.

When I came home, I realized that I certainly didn’t properly distance myself all evening long.

That’s why I support the county’s ban, which may expand to other counties, because as well intentioned as we may be, social distancing is near impossible when you eat or drink with another person. In fact, under the county’s mandatory directives, for outdoor dining, meeting friends or family from another household for outdoor dining is prohibited. It states: “Everyone sharing a table must be from the same household.”

I agree with this measure because I don’t want more people dying.

The federal government certainly has not helped in clarifying rules about how best to avoid contaminating others—only “wash your hands.” But there’s not a national wear-a-mask requirement or even consistent rules on how many people can be together at the same time.

County responses are completely uncoordinated. Two weeks ago, I could eat indoors in a Menlo Park restaurant but only outdoors in Palo Alto. I could get my hair cut in some nearby cities, but not Palo Alto until Monday, July 13, and then by Wednesday, July 15, hair salons were closed again. Last Tuesday the rule was I could get a haircut or pedicure outside.

As we all know, this virus knows no city, county or even country boundaries, so just because a pedicure is available in one city doesn’t mean that salon is protected from the virus while a mile away another salon is.

Bars should be closed because people drink and talk at bars and sit next to each other, and there’s no way we can protect ourselves from one another.

One of my grandparents had the coronavi- rus, which he picked up at a newly opened bar in “college town”—luckily a very mild case. As he was getting better, he said, “Now I can go to a bar because I have immunity from that virus.” I replied, “For two weeks, the doctors say.” I also think the virus continues to spread because many think if they feel OK, then they don’t have to worry, without ever realizing they can be carriers—silently spreading the virus among us. That’s why we have to wear masks, to protect ourselves, but more importantly, to protect all those around us. NBC reported recently that doctors think 51% of the new virus victims are the result of being exposed to people who didn’t know they transmitted the disease.

Americans, I think, tend to take things less seriously than people in Europe. America has soaring death rates—the fourth-highest in the world—but we don’t seem really alarmed. One 25-year-old on Memorial Day said, “I just want to party all weekend and see my friends and go to bars because I am tired of this coronavirus.”

With that attitude, the virus will continue to spread.

We have no real solution yet to ridding this country of the virus, except by a yet undiscovered vaccine. But polls so far show that only 50% of the population said they would get a vaccine. The only temporary solution is wearing a mask. So wear a mask. Don’t harm others. If we get California under control, maybe we can be a model for other states to do likewise.

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

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

Should shelter-in-place orders be the same in all counties statewide?

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W at h   W h y ?

The federal government certainly has not helped in clarifying rules about how best to avoid contaminating others—only “wash your hands.” But there’s not a national wear-a-mask requirement or even consistent rules on how many people can be together at the same time.

The only temporary solution is wearing a mask. So wear a mask. Don’t harm others.

If we get California under control, maybe we can be a model for other states to do likewise.
San Francisco and Hackensack, New Jersey, are two locations immortalized by the late jazz pianist/composer/innovator Thelonious Monk. Palo Alto could have joined that elite list with the release of Monk’s live “Palo Alto” album, which was originally supposed to come out Friday, July 31, on Impulse! Records. Unfortunately for jazz fans, a dispute between Monk’s previous label and his estate has left the release indefinitely delayed as of this week.

The source of the recording is a concert produced by Palo Alto native Danny Scher back in 1968. The music, performed by the working quartet of Monk, tenor saxophonist Charlie Rouse, double bassist Larry Gales and drummer Ben Riley, is magical.

“They were on the road for years, and they were just a great band,” said Zev Feldman, a co-producer of the album.

The backstory for both the live event — and the subsequent album — is both charming and inspirational.

Now a music industry veteran of renown, at the time of the Monk concert, Scher was 16 and an ambitious Palo Alto High School student who had already presented performances at his school by the working quartet of Monk, tenor saxophonist Charlie Rouse, double bassist Larry Gales and drummer Ben Riley, is magical.

“Great, man! You’re trying to make me do this, and you bet I’m going to be in bigger trouble if the show doesn’t do well,” Scher said. “And I told them, ‘You know what? I’m going to be in bigger trouble if the show doesn’t do well.’"

Some potential audience members were skeptical that Monk would actually show up. "I’m going to be in bigger trouble if the show doesn’t do well," Scher said. "And I told them, ‘You know what? I’m going to be in bigger trouble if the show doesn’t do well.’"

The fairytale ending has been suspended — for now, at least.

(continued on page 22)
Promoter Danny Scher looks back on his local music legacy

‘I was just a kid into jazz’

by Yoshi Kato

If you’ve been to an event at the Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View, you’re already familiar with Danny Scher’s music-industry legacy. During nearly a quarter century at Bill Graham Presents, he booked such historic venues as Winterland and beloved events like Day on the Green. He also led the way to other venues being built, including Cal Expo in Sacramento. But jazz was the first love for Scher, whose family lived in Mid-town and then on University Avenue in Palo Alto.

“I love Duke Ellington to this day, and I started out also listening to Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie,” he said in a recent phone interview from his East Bay home. “So I was just a kid into jazz — really not into rock ’n’ roll until much later.”

Scher took up drums while attending Herbert Hoover Elementary School. “I still play,” he noted. As a fledgling instrumentalist, he led his own traditional jazz style Dukes of Dixie group and was principal percussionist in the California Youth Symphony. His education was thoroughly Palo Alto-based, going from Jordan Middle School to Palo Alto High School to Stanford University for both his undergraduate degree and later MBA.

While the late rock ’n’ roll legend Bill Graham famously took note of Scher while he was promoting concerts at Stanford as a student, it was at Paly when he got his first taste of the thrill of bringing a live show to fruition.

“The first concert I did was when I was a junior, with Vince Guaraldi and Jon Hendricks,” he said. Herb Wong, the late jazz titan and longtime Menlo Park resident to whom he had befriended, gave him Guaraldi’s phone number.

“So I called him and said I wanted to do a concert with him at my high school,” Scher recounted. “And he said, ‘Have you ever done a concert before?’ I said, ‘No, but I’ve been to a lot.’ And he said, ‘Come on up to my house, and I’ll give you a little lesson in how to produce a concert.’”

Scher was principal percussionist in the California Youth Symphony. His education was thoroughly Palo Alto-based, going from Jordan Middle School to Palo Alto High School to Stanford University for both his undergraduate degree and later MBA.

Thelonious Monk

(continued from page 21)

“I received word that there was a dispute between the estate and Impulse! Records. Computer control,” according to a statement by Impulse! Records. Co-producer Feldman was unable to provide any further information at this time.

“They’re not saying it’s delayed. They’re saying we’ll let you know if it’s being released, not when,” Scher said. “I’ve held onto this recording for 50 years. So I can hold onto it for another two or three decades.”

Freelance writer Yoshi Kato can be emailed at yoshiyoungblood@icloud.com.
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Eating Out

From dumpling deliveries to a Michelin meal to go

Restaurants get creative to weather the coronavirus shutdown

by Elena Kadvany

A midst the hardships of the pandemic, local restaurants are finding new ways to reach diners. San Francisco’s China Live is launching delivery of its food on the Peninsula, and the upscale, Michelin-starred Bäumé is offering takeout for the first time. At Town & Country Village, meanwhile, Mayfield Bakery & Cafe has closed down for good.

Read on for the latest news from the local dining scene.

China Live to open Palo Alto ghost kitchen

Starting Aug. 1, China Live in San Francisco will be delivering its sheng jian bao, Dungeness crab handrolls and Dutch Crunch pork buns locally from ghost kitchens throughout the Peninsula.

The owners of China Live have partnered with Virtual Kitchen Co. to expand its delivery reach into 10 new cities, including Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Belmont, Daly City and San Jose. Virtual Kitchen Co., founded by former Uber executives, provides ghost kitchens and services for restaurants to launch delivery in new areas without the costly overhead of opening a brick-and-mortar restaurant.

George Chen and Cindy Wong-Chen opened China Live in 2017 in a 30,000 square-foot Chinatown building with multiple restaurants, bars and a marketplace with imported Chinese products. The Palo Alto Michelin-starred restaurant, which temporarily closed in April 2020 after the Bay Area’s shelter-in-place order took effect but remained open for takeout and delivery and reopened for outdoor dining in June.

The China Live website states, “Like many restaurants throughout the area and across the country, the impact of the COVID-19 virus and the subsequent shelter-in-place orders have reduced revenues to an unsustainable level,” Tim Stammard, founding partner of Bacchus Management Group, which owns Mayfield, said in a statement. “I would like to share a heartfelt thank you to all of our team members, as well as our loyal guests, for 11 wonderful years.”

Signs announcing the closure appeared in the restaurant’s windows this week. On Tuesday afternoon, Mayfield’s dining room sat empty while a man filled a moving truck with carts of baking trays and other items from the next-door bakery.

Bacchus Management Group, which also owns The Village Pub and The Village Bäckery in Woodside and Selby’s in Redwood City, opened Mayfield in 2009. The restaurant was known for both its farm-to-table menu and its amiable staff. Money from ready-to-eat takeout meals whose proceeds were to support the restaurant group’s employees. Mayfield later offered its own menu for takeout and delivery and reopened for outdoor dining in June.

Jim Ellis of Ellis Partners, which owns Town & Country, said Bacchus Management communicated to him that the cost of doing business in Palo Alto — including utility rates, minimum wage and labor requirements — compounded by the shutdown and ongoing lack of indoor dining made it impossible for the full-service restaurant to stay open. He said they were not currently paying rent for the 5,300-square-foot space and were in discussions to extend rent abatement.

“We were informed that that just wouldn’t solve the problem for them. Not having to pay rent basically didn’t close the gap enough for them to justify continuing the operation,” Ellis said.

He described the closure as a “huge loss” for the shopping center.

Ellis said he hopes the space will be occupied by another restaurant and bakery but is “fearful” about how long it will take to find

Most of the food is prepped in China Live’s kitchens in Chinatown, but it’s finished by Virtual Kitchen Co. cooks, Chen said. He described the company as a partner that understands food — especially Virtual Kitchen Co.’s main chef, who Chen said worked at Chez Panisse in Berkeley for more than a decade.

“They know food,” Chen said. “They’re not just private equity, venture, technology type people. That was very important for us.”

Chen described China Live’s food as modern but not fusion, drawing heavily on seasonal ingredients. Impossible Foods’ plant-based meat also shows up in some dumpling fillings.

The China Live “Signatures” menu, which will be available on the Peninsula, features eight dishes, including the restaurant’s popular pan-fried sheng jian bao, Sichuan wonton dumplings, vegetarian long potstickers, slow-roasted Kurobuta pork loin char siu and vegetable lo mein. The menu will change seasonally and to “meet local neighborhood preferences,” the China Live website states.

People will also be able to order China Live condiments and sauces, such as chili bean sauce and chili crisp.

Mayfield Bakery & Cafe permanently closes

The owners of Mayfield Bakery & Cafe in Palo Alto, unable to sustain the business due to the coronavirus shutdown, have closed the Town & Country Village restaurant for good.

Starting Aug. 1, 2017, in a 5,300-square-foot space and were in discussions to extend rent abatement.

“With this uncertainty, we never know when we’re going to be able to get back to real revenues,” Chen said in an interview. “We have to expand our geographical footprint.”

For the last several months, he’s been working closely with Virtual Kitchen Co. to develop a menu of China Live’s greatest hits that would also travel well. He said they conducted focus groups and tested deliveries anonymously, ordering food from China Live and from the ghost kitchens and comparing the quality.

Above: Chef Bruno Chemel uses a blowtorch on one of the desserts served at Bäumé in April 2015. The Palo Alto Michelin-starred restaurant, which temporarily closed in March, began serving takeout this week. Photo by Veronica Weber.

Top: A selection of China Live dishes that will be available for delivery on the Peninsula starting Aug. 1. Courtesy China Live/Virtual Kitchen Co.
with a large indoor dining room.

for the prominent corner space
an operator willing and able to af-
support and the customer support
Bay Area are really going to have

Eye steak with grilled zucchini and
with vadouvan marshmallows, rib-
March, will reopen on Tuesday,

Baumé which has been closed
(continued from page 24)
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中文聯絡人: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 | 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
## Congratulations to the Top Real Estate Agents & Teams in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Agent/Team Name</th>
<th>Brokerage</th>
<th>Organized as Agent or Team</th>
<th>Key Team Members</th>
<th>Total Sales*</th>
<th>Listing Sales</th>
<th>Buyer Sales</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DeLeon Team</td>
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<td>Ken DeLeon</td>
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Although all DeLeon sellers work directly with Michael Repka and Audrey Sun, the DeLeon Team has far more resources and a more robust staff than any independent contractor agent or small team. That, coupled with our innovative business model, creates many operational efficiencies that allow us to do considerably more volume and offer more services than traditional agents. Nevertheless, clients regularly choose between the DeLeon Team’s integrated model, and the traditional approach practiced by most other agents and teams, so we believe a direct and transparent comparison is helpful.

¹Hugh Cornish operates functionally as a team but splits the team sales amongst the members when reporting sales to the MLS. For purposes of accuracy, we have combined the sales of the individual members of the Hugh Cornish and Associates. Tom LeMieux operates functionally as a team but splits the team sales amongst the members when reporting sales to the MLS. For purposes of accuracy, we have combined the sales of the individual members of the LeMieux team. *Total sales includes both the listing sales and buyer sales; No off MLS sales were included in the rankings.
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