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E ach year the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs serving families and children in the Palo Alto area. Since the Weekly and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to support community programs through grants to non-profit organizations.

And with the generous support of matching grants from local foundations, including the Packard, Hewlett, Peery and Arrillaga foundations, your tax-deductible gift will be doubled in size. A donation of $100 turns into $200 with the foundation matching gifts.

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All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Palo Alto Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

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University, Cal Ave to stay closed through May

City Council extends street closures, explores options to address vacant retail stores

by Gennady Sheyner

B
ty just about any measure, it’s been a grim year for Palo Alto’s retailers, with businesses all over the city losing money, reducing hours and closing up shop altogether. City staff have identified at least 50 sites that, until recently, have been occupied by popular establishments — such as Chipotle, Lemonade, Tam Tam, Antonio’s Nut House and Dan Gordon’s — but that now stand empty. At Town & Country Village, in recent years one of the city’s most vibrant shopping areas, the vacancy rate has climbed from about 6% to more than 20% during the pandemic, according to Jim Ellis, whose company Ellis Partners owns the center.

The City Council acknowledged the deep challenges facing the retail sector on Monday night, as it debated and agreed on several measures to help businesses stay afloat during the economic slump. For starters, council members voted to keep California and University avenues closed to traffic until May 31 to allow street dining to continue and to help retailers along those blocks weather the economic shutdown.

The program, initially called Summer Streets and more recently rebranded as Uplift Local, has attracted visitors to those areas and prompted restaurateurs to not only set up tables and chairs on the streets but also, in some cases, to install protective fences and tents for diners. The city has also explored creating pop-up shopping areas, the vacancy rate has climbed from about 6% to more than 20% during the pandemic, according to Jim Ellis, whose company Ellis Partners owns the center.

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Why disrupt something that is perfectly stable during such unstable times?

— Justin Brown, Gunn High School English teacher, on school district's decision to reopen middle and high school campuses. See story on page 7.
S tark division over reopen- ing schools spilled over during a special meeting of Education meeting, when Palo Alto Unified District board members unanimously voted to resume in-person instruction at the elementary and high schools over the concerns of some students, teachers and parents.

Starting on Jan. 7, the Palo Alto school district will reopen its five secondary schools to students who choose a hybrid model, which will combine in-person and online instruction.

Board members and district leadership continued to emphasize their goal of providing an option to families, particularly for students who are struggling with distance learning. Board member Jennifer DiBrienza even said she was dismayed the district couldn’t bring more students back; with social distancing and staffing, only about 30% of students will be able to return in person. (For more stu- dents request the hybrid model, the district will prioritize at-risk and struggling students and then use a lottery system to fill the remaining available seats.)

“Let’s hopefully take some celebra- tion (in the moment) that we’re going to return some percentage of students to a hybrid school while some other districts aren’t,” Superintendent Don Austin said, acknowledg- ing that the reopening plan is “imperfect.”

“Not coming back is easier. We chose hard, I hope that we’re a distric- t that chooses the tougher route every single time,” he said.

Numerous speakers, however, worried about the disruption this will cause, particularly for high school students. High school students will likely see their schedules and teachers change as the district re- distributes classes to accommodate the hybrid in-person learning models. Many said that distance learning is now working well — much better than in the spring when schools first closed — and that returning for only two in-per- son classes will not reap the desired academic or social benefits. Some said they felt the reopening plan still lacked concrete details that families need to know, such as schedule mak- ing decision for how their students will attend school for the second semester.

“I can’t disrupt something that is perfectly stable during such unsta- ble times?” asked Justin Brown, a Gunn High School English teacher. As of Wednesday, district fami- lies had one week to choose be- tween the hybrid model or full distance learning for the rest of the school year. They are also able to indicate that, in the event that the hybrid model is overcapacity, they are fine sticking with distance learning instead.

The hybrid model will look slightly different at the middle and high schools. Sixth graders who opt in will be assigned to cohorts of 30 to 60 students with two to four teachers. They will attend school in person for half days on Tuesdays and Thursdays (the other half of the day they will learn from home) and full days on Wednesdays and Fridays. The district is planning to...

(continued on page 32)
Residents, businesses clash over parking policies at new garage

City Council declines to OK staff proposal to further limit worker parking in neighborhoods

by Gennady Sheyner

W ith Palo Alto’s new six-story garage near California Avenue preparing to open later this month, city officials, residents and businesses remain at odds over a key question: Who exactly will be allowed to park there?

The question came up repeatedly during the City Council discussion that stretched from Monday night into early Tuesday morning and concluded without clear resolution.

Council members were prepared Monday to consider a staff proposal that would have dramatically slashed the number of employee parking permits sold in the two neighborhoods around California Avenue, leading workers who currently park on residential streets to use the garage. Instead, a confused and exhausted council found itself facing conflicting accounts about the garage from business leaders and area residents before voting to defer its decision to a later date.

Among the points of contention: Should office workers be allowed to park in the garage, even those whose companies should be encouraging them to take public transportation? Should the garage designate some spots for low-income retail and restaurant workers, who need to come and go during the day? Will there be enough space in the garage for businesses’ customers, as the district’s retailers said they were led to believe? Can residents in adjacent neighborhoods get employees’ cars off of their streets for good, now that the garage is opening?

The stalled debate means that the city still has no plan in place for how to fill the 636-space garage, which is nearing completion at 350 Sherman Ave. Because the garage occupies a former parking lot, the net gain in parking spaces for the California Avenue business district is about 300 spaces.

Under a proposal presented by the Office of Transportation, most of these spaces would be filled by area employees, many of whom currently participate in the Residential Preferential Parking program and park on residential streets. Transportation staff is planning to cut the number of employee permits from the current level of 250 to about 130 in the next round of sales, which is scheduled for March (the city sells an additional 40 permits to employees who park on El Camino Real) and redirect the employees away from the neighborhood and toward the new garage.

The number would then be further reduced, potentially to zero, in the following year, creating a system in which only residents are allowed to park all day in the neighborhoods.

Chief Transportation Official Philip Kamhi said the new garage would also include room for the roughly 228 employees who are currently on the waitlist to acquire permits for California Avenue garages and parking lots. His plan would designate the two upper levels of the garage for employees on weekday mornings but then allow visitors to park there after 11 a.m.

“Staff considers the transition of 120 RPP employee permits as a first step in a phased approach to reducing employee permits in the RPP district,” Kamhi told the council Monday.

The plan, however, has left both residents and business owners unsatisfied. Some residents believe the city should move faster and eliminate all employee permits as soon as the new garage is open, following the model established in the College Terrace neighborhood, where the residential parking program is limited to residents.

Business leaders counter that filling the new garage with employees who currently park in neighborhoods means that there would be fewer spaces available for visitors and customers. Judy Kleinberg, president of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, suggested that this proposal runs counter to the city’s original goal, which was supported by the business community, of making it easier for people to dine and shop on California Avenue.

“This proposal would move all 290 employee street parking permits to the new garage by 2022, but it was always presented to California Avenue businesses that that garage would add an additional 300 parking spaces to address parking problems for their customers, that the new garage would add to parking that would benefit local businesses — not eliminate street parking,” Kleinberg said.

“This was going to be additive and supplemental.”

Michael Ekwall, co-owner of the restaurant La Bodeguita del Medio, called the plan “a sneak attack” and...
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ELECTION 2020

The results are in ... almost

With most ballots counted, election contests are nearing the finish line

by Palo Alto Weekly staff

More than a week after Election Day, ballot counting is nearly its unofficial conclusion in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, and that means races whose outcomes have remained in doubt are mostly decided.

While stray ballots that were postmarked by Election Day but haven’t reached the Registrar of Voters will still be counted if delivered by Nov. 20, those ballots, expected to be small in number, are not anticipated to affect any of the election results.

The counties have until Dec. 3 to certify the election results, and in the meantime, an audit known as “1 percent manual tally” must be conducted by the elections offices. The tally involves a hand count of a randomized selection of ballots, to verify the reported computer-generated results.

All the results below are as of Thursday morning, Nov. 11, when 92% of the Santa Clara County ballots and 97% of the San Mateo County ballots had been counted.

Palo Alto City Council (four seats)

As of Thursday, former City Council member Pat Burt remained in first place with 13,812 votes, or 13.4% of the votes counted; incumbent Lydia Kou held on to second place with 12,899 votes, or 12.5%. Incumbent Greg Tanaku, who was in fourth place on Election Night, rose to third place and had 12,374 votes. Teacher Greer Stone, who was in third on Election Night, traded places with Tanaku and is in the fourth position with 11,528 votes. Planning and Transportation Commissioner Ed Lauing appears to be out of contention for the fourth seat. He has been in fifth place since Election Night and is trailing Stone by 787 votes, although 8% of the county’s ballots are yet to be counted. In Palo Alto, that totals around 3,150 ballots.

Palo Alto Board of Education (three seats)

Incumbent Jennifer DiBrienza maintained her first-place finish with 19,709 votes, or 24.4% of the votes counted; parent and business owner Jesse Ladomirak remained in second place with 16,991 votes, or 21%. Incumbent Todd Collins’ lead over community advocate Katie Causey for the third Board of Education seat stood at 1,860 votes, with Collins at 13,812 and Causey with 11,952 votes. Approximately 2,300 ballots in the Palo Alto Unified School District may yet to be uncounted.

East Palo Alto City Council (three seats)

In this definition of a nailbiter contest, doctoral student Antonio Lopez has overtaken data scientist Webster Lincoln for the third East Palo Alto City Council seat, with just 30 votes separating the two. On Tuesday, Lincoln had been in the lead by just four votes. Lisa Gaunher kept her first-place finish with 3,109 votes, or 23.1% of the votes counted; parent and business owner Jesse Ladomirak remained in second place with 2,952 votes, or 21.6%.

Santa Clara County Board of Education (one trustee)

In this close race, incumbent Grace Mah’s lead over Palo Alto school board member Melissa Baten Caswell for the Area 1 seat on the Santa Clara County Board of Education grew to 1,860 votes, or 52% of the votes counted. Mah has won 50,682 votes, or 52% of the votes counted; Baten Caswell trails with 46,931 votes, or 48.1%.

Ravenswood City School District Board of Education (two seats)

Vote totals for newcomers Bronwyn Alexander and Jenny Varghese Bloom indicate that they have won the two seats on the Ravenswood City School District Board of Education. The election count on Nov. 11 showed Alexander maintained her first-place finish with 3,470 votes, or 23.1% of the votes counted; Varghese Bloom secured second with 3,241 votes, or 21.6%. In third place, incumbent Marielena Gaona Mendoza had 2,090 votes, or 13.9% of the votes. Only 3% of the county’s ballots remain to be counted — not enough for Gaona Mendoza to overtake Varghese Bloom.

(continued on page 35)

Thanks for trusting transit.

#WeGotYou

Karen
VTA Rider Since 2015

Harold
VTA Rider Since 2006
Edward."}

She had never heard of Title IX, the federal anti-discrimination law that protects students’ right to an education free of harassment. She couldn’t process what had happened to her, let alone answer the three male administrators who questioned her in the school office immediately afterward. She felt unsafe and alone, and as her mental health degraded, she attempted suicide.

This summer, Anna, whose name has been changed to protect her privacy, started an Instagram account devoted to sharing anonymous stories of Palo Alto students who have experienced sexual violence and harassment. The stories — of a girl who was raped while too drunk to consent, of another who reported a teacher for making inappropriate comments about her body, and of another who was asked “What kind of clothes were you wearing?” — are at once heartbreaking and comforting for Anna, who wishes sexual assault had been talked about more openly when she was at Gunn.

“I felt like I needed to make sure that people had a voice,” said the 2020 Gunn graduate. “I think seeing that we're not alone was really important for me.”

Anna is part of a new wave of local young Title IX activists who during the pandemic have used social media and socially distanced protests to press for reform and raise awareness about youth sexual violence in Palo Alto. The Instagram page Anna created, metoopaloalto, was inspired by one started by Los Gatos High School students this summer. She watched as one student’s disclosure of a rape on Instagram prompted dozens of students to come forward with their own experiences with sexual violence. The Instagram account, metoopaloalto, is now as much a resource page as it is a platform for survivors to feel heard and seen.

In May, Gunn senior Rachel Sun formed a student club dedicated to creating policies to protect survivors of sexual harassment and violence. She runs Instagram and Facebook pages where students discuss local and federal Title IX policies and changes they’d like to see their schools make.

Sun was first moved to advocacy by outrage at the Trump administration's new Title IX regulations, which took effect this summer and were widely criticized by survivor advocates as tipping the balance toward those accused of sexual assault.

“I started just posting on social media, ‘Is there anything that can be done?’ I was waiting for someone else to be like, ‘I already do this advocacy thing so you can stop now.’ But then no one did that so I just had to keep going,” Sun said.

Sun’s club focused this fall on lobbying the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to review local K-12 public and private schools, community colleges and universities’ compliance with Title IX and
Edward Paul Brown
December 11, 1935 – October 29, 2020

Edward Paul Brown, Ed, was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend to many. He passed away from a heart attack October 29th at his home in Palo Alto, CA. He was just short of his 85th birthday and had fought various health issues over the past few years.

Ed was born in Akron, Ohio in 1935 to Merle and Bonnie Brown. He joined the US Navy in 1953 where he was a medic, traveling the world from Japan to San Francisco, his first introduction to California and his intent was to return to the state he loved. Upon discharge, he earned his BS in Biochemistry at Akron University and worked as a Medical Technologist at Akron City Hospital while earning his degree. There he met the love of his life, Carole, who was attending the Akron City Hospital School of Nursing. They were married in January 1960, and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year.

As Ed had hoped he and Carole moved to California in 1962, with their daughter Theresa, traveling by car on USA Route 66. Their son Michael was born in 1963. Ed worked as a lab tech in the Dept. of Medicine at Stanford University before starting his long distinguished medical device career at Syva Co., a subsidiary of Syntex Corporation, in Palo Alto, and he later worked at Collagen Corp. until his retirement in 2000.

During his career, Ed enjoyed frequent international travel with Carole often accompanying him. They traveled extensively and some favorite vacation destinations were Europe, South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji, Kauai, and the Caribbean, as they were avid SCUBA enthusiasts. They also enjoyed visiting one of Ed's favorite cities, Salzburg, Austria, where they made many friends, and taking the family on vacations to Kauai, Hawaii.

Ed and Carole lived in Palo Alto for 55 years, where Ed enjoyed his neighborhood gatherings, maintaining his home, gardening, and weekly Friday lunch with neighborhood friends. His quick wit and sense of humor was enjoyed by many. He was an active member of Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, as a lector, eucharistic minister, usher, and member of the Knights of Columbus. As long term patrons of the San Francisco Ballet, Ed enjoyed performances at the Opera House and dining in San Francisco.

Since becoming an Eagle Scout in Ohio, Ed had a deep love of the outdoors, spending vacations with his family camping and backpacking in the mountains, fishing, birding, and joining family Sierra Club camping trips. Ed loved animals of all kinds. As a young man, he had numerous pets, including a red-tailed hawk, an armadillo, parakeets, a canary, and many dogs. As a family man through the years, he had many pets; the most memorable of which was Commander Sally Ride (Sally) his favorite beagle. Ed always had a supply of treats for the neighborhood dogs in the garage, who would pull on their leash when they passed, hoping to stop for a treat and pat from Ed.

Ed is survived by his wife of 60 years, Carole, his daughter Theresa Storm, grandchildren Michelle Belk and her husband Forbes, and Paul Summers. His son Michael Brown and his wife Irma, his grandchildren Michael Brown and his fiancé Bradley Fitzhenry. His sister Patricia Ward and her husband Keith, and numerous loving relatives in Ohio and Minnesota. Ed preceded in death by his father Merle Brown, his mother Bonnie Boxler, his sister Linda Poets, and his brother Richard Brown.

You will find Ed’s spirit on the beaches in Kauai, in the gardens of Salzburg, Austria, and in the woods and lakes of the Sierras and surrounding mountains. The private funeral mass will be celebrated at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, Palo Alto, CA. Interment will be at Alta Mesa Cemetery, Palo Alto, CA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, or Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, 2626 Zanker Road, Unit 200, San Jose, CA, 95134.

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If the true measure of a life well lived is achieving heartfelt happiness, then Ronald P. Reis, known to all as Ron, was a master of living well. The longtime Menlo Park resident welcomed all with smiles of enthusiasm and often a joke or two. He was friends with many, most of whom shared his passion for family life, golf, tennis, card games, magic tricks and a good laugh.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, Ron’s joyous joy came to an end as he lost his long battle with lymphoma at UCSF Medical Center. His loving wife Barbara and their family were at his bedside. The music of Carole King and James Taylor, his favorites, was playing softly.

Ron Reis was a native San Franciscan who was raised on the Peninsula. His parents were Bob and Kato Mendelsohn Reis. Kato was a classical pianist and music teacher who taught piano to Ron and his brothers. Bob Reis was the founder of DataSafe, a South San Francisco-based company. They were frequent concert and theatergoers and managed the company.

Ron graduated from Woodside High School, where he was senior class president in 1964, and received both an undergraduate and a master’s degree from the University of Redlands, where he played varsity tennis. Ron then pursued a Ph.D. in speech pathology and audiology from Kent State University in Ohio. He was a teaching assistant there during the infamous National Guard shootings of students on May 4, 1970.

After receiving his degree in 1973, Dr. Reis chaired the speech and audiology departments at a physical rehabilitation hospital in northeast Ohio where he met his future wife, Barbara. They were married on May 10, 1975, and soon after their marriage they relocated to Denver, Colorado, where Ron joined the faculty of the University of Denver as an assistant professor of speech and audiology.

While in Denver, the couple welcomed their first two children, Klari and Peter. Six years later the family moved to Bakersfield where Ron directed Mercy Center, a multipurpose community wellness center that was part of the Mercy Hospital system. The lure of the Bay Area drew the family back to the Peninsula a few years later when Ron joined DataSafe, the family business. The following year, 1987, Michael Reis, the family’s third child, was born.

Ron retired from DataSafe in 2010. The years following retirement were filled with world travels and the joys of seeing their three children succeed in their chosen careers and be happily married. Daughter Klari is a San Francisco-based artist with an international reputation. She and husband Michael Isard have two beautiful children, Otto and Phoebe, who lovingly called their grandfather, Ronpa. Son Peter is also a professional artist whose works sell worldwide. He and wife Kay Panchal reside in Richmond.

Michael Reis is married to Olivia Maki, and they are the owners of the Redfield Cider Bar and Bottle Shop in Rockridge in Oakland. Ron was fond of saying that it doesn’t get any better than seeing your kids married to wonderful people and loving what they do.

Ron and Barbara enjoyed an active social life and traveled whenever they could, most recently to Egypt, Jordan and Israel. They were frequent concert and theatergoers who appreciated an eclectic mix of the arts. The couple shared a love of fine art, particularly modern and contemporary works. They were frequently seen at the Anderson Collection and the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford, where Barbara is a docent. Ron was also an active member of the local Sons In Retirement (SIRs) professional men’s organization.

In addition to his beloved wife, children, and grandchildren, Ron is survived by his three brothers, Tom (Julie) Reis of San Francisco, Brian (Prudence) Reis of Foster City, and John (Karen) Reis of Menlo Park, as well as their families and many cherished friends.

Persons wishing to donate in Ron’s name should consider the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, or LifeMoves, an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness in local communities. Ron served as a former board member of LifeMoves, sharing his signature optimism and hope.

A celebration of Ron’s life will be arranged post-Covid. Not surprisingly, he requested his memorial to be an ice cream social.
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3 Redberry Ridge, Portola Valley
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Lic #00600311

50 Amador Avenue, Atherton
Offered at $9,500,000
Emily Smith-Silvestri · 650.346.1361
Lic. # 01927979

2 Acorn Street, Portola Valley
Offered at $3,795,000
Chris Iverson · 650.450.0450
Lic. #01708130

3 Redberry Ridge, Portola Valley
Offered at $16,800,000
The Campi Group · 650.917.2433
Lic #00600311
Home has never been more important.

Home. It’s the keeper of your moments and milestones. It’s the constant in all this change. It’s why we do what we do, and why we’re committed to helping everyone find their home whenever they’re looking. While things may look different right now, what remains the same is our commitment to you. To your families. To your celebrations. To your peace of mind. To your investments. To your home. Because wherever the world goes, home is where you stay.
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LAHResortLiving.com

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Saratoga, CA · $20,000,000
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SOLD
15350 El Camino Grande, Saratoga · $7,995,000

Bates Ranch Vineyard, Gilroy · $13,200,000

SOLD
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30 Trail Lane, Woodside · $23,000,000

SOLD
24591 Summerhill Court, Los Altos · $3,495,000

SALE PENDING
24591 Summerhill Court, Los Altos · $3,495,000

Michael Dreyfus
650.485.3476
m.dreyfus@ggsir.com
Lic. #01121795

Noelle Queen
650.427.9211
n.queen@ggsir.com
Lic. #01917593
925 Lincoln Avenue, Palo Alto

Classic Charm, Modern Living in Community Center

Presenting a masterful blend of timeless Palo Alto allure and the best of modern amenities, this beautiful 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom Tudor revival offers comfortable spaces, superb ambiance, and an unbeatable location on well over one-quarter acre in Community Center. Gleaming hardwood floors extend throughout much of the home’s 3,100+ square feet of living space, and appointments including arched entryways and coffered ceilings evoke classic charm. A gas fireplace in floor-to-ceiling stone centers the living room, the kitchen includes appliances from Viking, Sub-Zero, and Bosch, the family room features outside access, and the detached offices allows you to work from home in style. Enjoy a location that puts you one block to Eleanor Pardee Park, a short trip to University Avenue, and within a mile or less of top-ranked Palo Alto schools. Plus, this home enjoys a rich history steeped in Silicon Valley lore. This is Palo Alto living at its finest – welcome home.

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:
www.925LincolnAvenue.com
Offered at $5,988,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

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

Data from BrokerMetrics® 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.

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

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
In response to ‘As stores struggle, Palo Alto prepares to let offices fill retail spaces’
Posted Oct. 31 at 11:50 a.m. by Patrick Burt, a resident of Community Center:

“Our valued retailers, restaurants and local service providers are currently in dire jeopardy. We need the city and residents to step up to support them through the recovery if we want them to survive.

That is why the staff proposal is so bewildering. The proposal to allow office uses in formerly retail/service zones would HARM retailers and service providers while providing a financial bonus, especially after the recovery, for commercial property owners who have made hundreds of millions of dollars in windfall profits during the boom over the last decade.

Many of our most valued local-serving businesses have been driven away by big rent increases in recent years. More moderate rents would enable more local businesses a better future.

The argument is false that these long-term changes are needed to support our office-based businesses. Vacancies are currently high in our many office-zoned areas. We do not now need to expand the areas zoned for offices.

So what should we do? First, retain our current ground-floor retail zoning in our core retail areas — the two downtowns, Town & Country, and neighborhood shopping centers, etc. — while providing city support for those businesses through the recovery. Second, we should evaluate loosening the definition of retail/services in selected areas outside of our retail cores to allow other local service businesses (such as local medical providers), but not offices for law firms, accountants and other office uses that belong in office zones.

Changing our retail zoning will be semi-permanent. We should not let the current crisis be used as a backdoor excuse for expanding offices to the detriment of local services. It should be done thoughtfully and promptly, but not rashly. It must be designed for outcomes that will help, rather than hurt, the businesses that make up a healthy community.”

In response to ‘Council members cry foul over lame-duck appointments’
Posted Nov. 5 at 1:27 a.m. by Przemek Gardias, a resident of Community Center:

“The practice of nominations or appointments by the outgoing members should not be taking place in our town. The incoming council needs to have a privilege of filling vacated commissioners’ seats according to its preference.

The same practice has been carried at the Planning and Transportation Commission, when outgoing members elected the new leadership, thus effectively denying an incoming commissioner her representation. It seems the same habit has been carried over to the council level.

However, the root of the problem is in the misaligned timing of appointments to the city commissions. The appointments, specifically to the planning commission, were conducted in summer for the terms ending on July 31, per city Ordinance 4606 enacted in 1999. Then due to realignment of all board and commission terms, the planning commission terms were changed to end on Oct. 31 per city Ordinance 5208, enacted in 2013, to later change to Dec. 15 per city Ordinance 5311, enacted in 2015.

Those consequent changes created a potential (and now real) conflict allowing very soon departing council members to nominate their preferred commissioners.

While the propensity to extend one’s reach is a matter of personal convictions, the city ordinances should be corrected to stop continuation of such practices.”

In response to ‘Family-owned grocery store seeks to set up shop at College Terrace Centre’
Posted Nov. 9 at 11:14 a.m. by Larry Robert, a resident of College Terrace:

“Hopefully all parties now understand that having the market is like paying your utility bill. If the landlord does not pay the utility bill, then tenants will not continue to pay rent.

Likewise, the landlord needs to make the terms of the lease to the grocery store sustainable over the long run, even to the point of paying the tenant a $5,000 per month subsidy. That sure beats a $60,000 per month penalty for not having a grocery store. Let’s hope the landlord understands this now.”

In response to ‘Car-free zones on University, California avenues will stay through Memorial Day’
Posted Nov. 10 at 8:35 a.m. by Allen Akin, a resident of Professorville:

“As always, for permanent closure of downtown, the elephant-in-the-room is ‘Where do you put the traffic?’

Staff mentioned at last night’s council meeting that traffic on Hamilton and Lytton avenues is already back to pre-pandemic levels. More traffic is coming. Work-from-home is not going to be a game-changer downtown. No tenant is going to pay the extravagant downtown lease rates for offices they leave empty; they’ll sublet some space or renegotiate their leases to free up the space they’re not using. No property owner is going to leave vacant space unoccupied, and since Palo Alto office space is in high demand, they’ll be able to fill it more easily than landlords in the rest of the Valley.

And on top of that, staff and some council members want to replace retail space with more offices.

I think it’s fine to extend the closures through next summer, but it would be irresponsible to make them permanent without first having a plan to solve the problems that will create.”

Letters

Dangerous roads
Editor:

The notice from Palo Alto police about the death of a pedestrian in a downtown crosswalk on Nov. 5 is sad and disturbing, but it should not surprise us. Drivers in our downtown area routinely run red lights, speed and exhibit other behaviors that put pedestrians at risk.

I have personal experience of drivers failing to yield the right of way when I was walking in a crosswalk. Many others have written to express their concerns about dangerous driving in downtown, but the city has failed to respond in any meaningful way. If we permanently lose our traffic enforcement officers, the problem will surely worsen.

Palo Alto needs to evaluate options to make our downtown streets safer. Closing University Avenue to traffic is clearly not a sufficient response. A start would be to ensure that all accidents are recorded (today, even when the police are called to an accident scene, there is no guarantee it will be reported) and a geographic analysis is conducted to see where the highest danger zones exist.

John Guislin
Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY
2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

210, 212, 214, 216 EMERSON STREET, PALO ALTO

Rare Investment Opportunity in Downtown Palo Alto

Presenting a rare investment opportunity with an unbeatable location in the heart of downtown Palo Alto, just blocks from University Avenue and with easy access to Stanford University. This stately property has been fully renovated and features four stylish 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom units, plus a detached bonus cottage with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Each features refinished hardwood floors, a living room, a modern kitchen with stainless-steel appliances, and in-unit laundry, plus the 4 units include off-street parking. This property is mere moments to downtown Palo Alto, a short trip to downtown Menlo Park, and multiple parks are within walking distance. Plus, Caltrain is just steps away. US 101 is nearby for Bay Area commuting, and this home is served by top-ranked Palo Alto schools.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.210Emerson.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.

Data from BrokerMetrics* 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: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
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221 IRIS WAY, PALO ALTO

Bright, Luxurious, with a Great Location

On a peaceful, tree-lined street, this 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers intrinsic charm, a flexible floor plan, and nearly 1,550 square feet of bright, inviting living space. A brick pathway through a delightful front garden offers outstanding curb appeal, while inside, abundant natural light highlights beautiful hardwood floors that extend throughout most of the home. Highlights include the family room with a built-in entertainment center, the kitchen with sleek white cabinetry and stainless steel appliances, a detached studio ideal for use as an office or workroom, and a backyard brick patio perfect for outdoor dining. This home enjoys a great location within walking distance of both Rinconada Park and Eleanor Pardee Park, a short trip to University Avenue, and offers easy access to US 101. Plus, children may attend acclaimed schools including Duveneck Elementary, which is just a half-mile away (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.221Iris.com
Offered at $2,788,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only

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

Data from BrokerMetrics * 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.

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

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

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1172 ASHCROFT WAY, SUNNYVALE

Bright, Spacious, and Close to Top Schools

Boasting a great location close to everything Silicon Valley has to offer, and within walking distance of beautiful Grant Park as well as top-ranked schools, this 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home of over 1,600 square feet stands ready to meet a variety of lifestyle needs. The well-manicured front yard offers outstanding curb appeal, while inside, fresh paint, crown moldings, and abundant natural light create an inviting ambiance. Highlights include the living room centered by a fireplace, the dining room with access to the backyard, and the granite-appointed kitchen with a casual dining area. The large master suite enjoys views of the peaceful backyard, which offers patio space and a lush lawn. Find yourself just a short trip to Rancho Shopping Center, downtown Los Altos, and major commute routes. Plus, children may walk to acclaimed schools including West Valley Elementary and Cupertino Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

www.1172Ashcroft.com

Offered at $1,998,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.
Easy appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (11/14) and Sunday (11/15).

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

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2019; in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

For more information contact: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 我們精通國語和粵語
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
A weekly guide to music, theater, art, culture, books and more, edited by Karla Kane

WILD DREAM LOGIC AND STORY TELLING: STANFORD TAPS CREATES A MUSICAL RITUAL

New play, ‘Beyond the Wound is a Portal,’ debuts online this week

by Karla Kane | Photos courtesy of Stanford TAPS

The play also takes inspiration from a part of nature that has fascinated artists for millennia: the moon.

“In my experience, one of the trickiest parts (of devised theater) is figuring out a structure together,” Lee said. “After much conversation, the students arrived at the eight phases of the moon as a structure for the piece itself.” The show is organized into eight parts, starting with waxing crescent and ending with the new moon.

“A big motif for the students was thinking about the full moon — the brightest moment — connected to a feeling of darkness and transgression,” they said. “The most violent moment of the show happens when there is the most light, while the new moon — the moment of the most darkness and mystery — is when we are reclaiming ourselves.”

Live theater in the COVID-19 era is full of challenges, both logistically and artistically. Music director Sheela Ramesh, who’s currently based in Scotland, said that while technology is constantly improving, it’s still pretty difficult to achieve synchronization of musical elements over Zoom. For “Beyond the Wound is a Portal,” she and her team are utilizing a hybrid model, with instrumental orchestration and some vocals recorded and mixed in advance and other vocals performed live.

“All of the leads will be singing live over Zoom through at least three or four different pieces of software — some of which is being created in this moment for this moment — that we’re all knocking on wood will work the way we want them to,” she said. Putting all the pieces together has been trickier than anticipated, she acknowledged. “We’re excited to be inventing this new form of digital music and it’s also a bit scary,” she said. The result respects the limits of our format but also pushes the limits of them.

As for the music itself, it’s a blend of pieces composed by students during the devising process. “Part of piecing together the show has been working with the students and other musicians to weave the music they created (independently) into something cohesive that can work in a single show,” she said.

A low-string trio of double bass, cello and viola gives the score a slightly off-kilter sound, she said, without a soprano violin leading a melody as it would in a traditional string quartet. Djembe drums and other percussion, a bit of piano, acoustic steel-string guitar and vocals round out the sound, which encompasses ballads, spirituals, love songs and folk numbers, representing the diverse inspirations and backgrounds of the student composers and mixing ethereal and earthly textures.

“My goal was to create a sonic style that respected individual voices but worked together,” she said.

Choreographer Sarah Ashkin has also been challenged to figure out the best ways to translate live group movement to Zoom. “It’s been a trip to figure out how to dance together ... to figure out, how can we all lift our right hands and left hands at the same time, because we’re dealing with mirroring. How do we do set design? How do we show that we’re in a car, a club, together?” she said. Despite the limits of the virtual format, “I am still searching for that piece of connection that dance brings us.”

Costume designer and TAPS lecturer Becky Bodurtha,
representing the show’s large design and technology team, has had to transcend the physical boundaries as well, helping the actors find ways to best embody their characters and create set design in their own spaces, while also creating digital and animated elements to enhance the visual experience.

With creators spread out across the globe, “We have rehearsals in different time zones; all our eating and sleeping patterns are based around the show,” Ashkin said with a laugh. The show will be performed Thursday-Saturday at 7 p.m.

Admission is free, with a hope that attendees will make a donation to nonprofit organizations selected by the student cast (listed online).

For audiences, the creators hope the show will also be a time to “be with each other and tap into our aliveness as humans together,” Lee said. “We’re doing that through song and humor, and lots of wild dream logic and storytelling.”

More information is available at taps.stanford.edu.

Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane can be emailed at paweekly.com

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...for the social connections!

- Sheltering in place made it a lot harder for me to connect with friends the way I used to.
- Avenidas Village helped me learn Zoom to join social activities like happy hours and conversation groups. We even have some in-person, safely distanced gatherings such as lunch in the park and walking group!
- The Village community helps me feel like I am not alone.

Call Avenidas Village at (650) 289-5405 to learn how we can help you keep connected!

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 38.

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Craftsman Style, Newly Built in 2013

Offered at $5,500,000  ·  4 Bedrooms  ·  3.5 Bathrooms  ·  Home ±3,196 sf  ·  Lot ±14,620 sf

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More photos and details at 25Preston.com
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• How to get coverage over and above what Original Medicare provides
• Details about Stanford Health Care Advantage plans available in your community
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For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 1-855-200-9227 or, for TTY users, 711. *You may reach a messaging service on weekends from April 1 through Sept. 30 and holidays. Please leave a message, and your call will be returned the next business day. Stanford Health Care Advantage is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Stanford Health Care Advantage depends on contract renewal. Stanford Health Care Advantage complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Best Of and Readers’ Choice 2020

Saluting local businesses — the heart and soul of our communities.

This year, our Best Of and Readers’ Choice special publications will honor local businesses, the beloved institutions that have fought to stay open for staff and customers.

For the first time, Best Of and Readers’ Choice won’t include public voting. Instead, we’ll be publishing inspiring stories about how local businesses have taken positive steps to respond to the pandemic and highlighting all they have done for the community.

Don’t miss our Nov. 27th special edition featuring inspiring stories from those behind the scenes.

Learn more at TheAlmanacOnline.com/best_of or PaloAltoOnline.com/best_of

For advertising options call 650.326.8210.

TheAlmanacOnline.com | PaloAltoOnline.com
A s local restaurateurs, already hit hard by the pandemic, brace themselves for a difficult winter, there are a few local bright spots. Italian restaurant Vina Enoteca in Palo Alto has reopened with a variety of new offerings. In Los Altos, a favorite cafe that threatened to close is staying alive thanks to a new owner.

**Vina Enoteca reopens, adds market, pop-ups**

Three months after pressing pause on dine-in service at Vina Enoteca, the Palo Alto Italian restaurant is reopening with a new market, pop-ups and a more casual pizza and pasta concept.

Vina Mercato, an Italian market with imported and housemade specialty items, opened Nov. 5, inside the 700 Welch Road restaurant. Look for imported goods from small producers in Italy — fresh prosciutto, guanciale from Tuscany, a pecorino cheese from Sardinia that Scordella said is outstanding, a wood-aged balsamic vinegar produced by Michelin-starred Italian chef Massimo Bottura — as well as wine, housemade sauces, fresh pastas and frozen pizzas. Vina Mercato will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The restaurant also resumed serving fresh pizzas for takeout last week. They’re available for pickup or delivery Thursday-Saturday, 3-8-30 p.m.

As of Nov. 6, Charles Chen of Basuku Cheesecakes will sell his wildly popular and hard-to-get, Japanese-inspired Basque cheesecakes at Vina Enoteca. Every Friday at 10 a.m., 10 cheesecakes will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis in person at Vina Enoteca (no preordering on Instagram). Chen is now based out of the Vina Enoteca kitchen and hopes to increase production, he wrote in a recent Instagram post.

Another popular pop-up will also be moving to Vina Enoteca: Local baker John Shelsta of Love For Butter will now sell his pastries and breads there on Saturdays. He will no longer be baking out of Zola in Palo Alto, where customers have been able to pick up his baked goods the last few months.

Shelsta has also taken over the Vina Enoteca baking program and is making the new Vina Mercato opened inside Vina Enoteca in Palo Alto on Nov. 5.

The much sought-after Basuku cheesecake will now be available on Fridays at Vina Enoteca. Photo Elena Kadvany.

**Los Altos rallies to keep Red Berry open**

When the Los Altos community heard that Red Berry Coffee Bar would be closing in August, customers rallied to keep the much-loved cafe alive.

Their efforts resulted in Stacy Savides Sullivan, Los Altos resident and owner of Los Altos candy store Sweet Shop, taking over the business. Red Berry’s original owner, Jeff Hanson, will be staying on through the end of the year to help with the transition. Hanson opened Red Berry at 145 Main St. in 2014, bringing a multi-roaster coffee concept to downtown Los Altos. This summer, he said his lease was close to expiring and the financial losses of the pandemic made it difficult to renew.

“We were 10 days away from possibly shutting down the shop and liquidating but I had a bunch of customers who really, really love the place,” he said.

They found Sullivan, who has spent many hours drinking coffee with friends and family at Red Berry and working in the cafe’s upstairs space so much it became like a second office.

“We love Red Berry,” Sullivan said. “We really do want to keep the essence of it.”

Things will mostly look the same at Red Berry, with some updates. The current employees will stay on, Sullivan said,
Holiday Waste Service Schedule

GreenWaste of Palo Alto will be closed on Thanksgiving (November 26). If your regular collection day falls on Thanksgiving, your collection day will be moved to Friday (November 27), and customers with a collection day on Friday will be serviced on Saturday (November 28).

Call Alicia Santillán at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawweekly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

For assistance with your legal advertising needs, Call Alicia Santillán at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawweekly.com.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement
ABBOTT LEAVEN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 202000154
The following person (person) is (are) doing business at 740-742 Villa St., Mountain View, CA 94041-1327, That a bulk transfer is about to be made to: T King International Enterprise Inc., Seller(s), whose business as: stock in trade, fixtures, equipment, goodwill and other property of that business known as: Villa tea and located at: 740-742 Villa St., Mountain View, CA 94041-1327.

997 All Other Legals
Title Order No. 95931426 Tenant Sale No. 858120 Loan No. EAVS368133

HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at the Gated North Market Street Site, DECEMBER 3, 2020)

Customers drink coffee at Red Berry Coffee Bar's new parklet in downtown Los Altos.

A view of Red Berry Coffee Bar from the Los Altos cafe’s second floor, pre-pandemic.

Questions? Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto at (650) 493-4894 • pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com

Eating Out

Local eateries (continued from page 29)
and continue to serve the same coffee drinks and food, though she wants to add savory pastries, more specials and possible collab-oration with Sweet Shop. She plans to add online order-
ing and make the cafe’s hours more consistent. The cafe is operating outdoors only right now, with a new parklet, but she looks forward to safely reopening inside, which has been a gathering space for many in the community.

“I really enjoy anything I can do to build community and connection, fun and people getting together. This has always been one of those places — it’s a so-cial, interactive cafe,” Sullivan said.

Like at Sweet Shop, Sullivan will donate the cafe’s proceeds to local schools or educational programs. Sullivan is asking the commu-nity to give feedback on any im-provements or additions they’d like to see at Red Berry by emailing redberrycoffeebar@gmail.com.

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@pawweekly.com
We’re only going to get through this one way. ... We’re asking everyone in our community to dig in a little deeper and dig in a little longer.

— Cindy Chavez, president, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

C O V ID

(continued from page 5)

rolling average hovered around 100.

Health leaders don’t have a clear explanation of what’s causing the surge, such as specific superspreader events. The rise does come nine days after Halloween, it’s possible many people are developing “pandemic fatigue” and might be less careful about following local health protocols, she said.

The county’s last sharp spike was in July. Restrictions and publicity helped bring numbers down. By the beginning of October, new positive cases had dropped to double digits per day; that number has now risen to triple digits, she said.

Cody said it will take everyone’s effort to help bring the numbers down.

“What each of us (does) every day really matters to keep us from trending ourselves into the red and possibly purple tier,” she said, noting that greater restrictions under the state’s colored-tier system could be instituted again if cases continue to rise.

To keep the coronavirus in check, the public and businesses must do everything that they can to follow safety protocols, including wearing masks, washing their hands and socially distancing themselves, she said.

County Counsel James Williams said the public should look for an orange check mark at businesses that have filed and submitted revised protocols they will follow for reopening their businesses safely under the state’s orange tier rules.

“We do need it to be a community expectation and norm that people only go to places where they see that orange check mark,” he said.

Michael Balliet, head of the county’s Emergency Operations Center business engagement branch, said staff have been actively engaging with businesses to help them be in compliance. His office has received 1,850 complaints or concerns about businesses and has assessed more than $600,000 in fines so far to habitually noncompliant businesses.

The majority of businesses have corrected any issues. The county has delivered 79 notices of violations and dozens of notices of fine impositions, he said.

“Anyone who has a concern or complaint about a business or gathering — or regarding access to testing for the virus — can file a report at sccovidconcerns.org. The public can also see which businesses have submitted protocols by visiting sdp.sccgov.org.

Along with Santa Clara County’s warnings Monday, 10 Bay Area health officers issued a joint statement Monday on how to reduce risk from the coronavirus during the holidays. They strongly discourage people from nonessential travel. If they do, they’re advised to quarantine at home for 14 days after they return.

“Travel outside the Bay Area will increase your chance of getting infected and spreading the virus to others after your return. For those who are traveling, there are tips to help avoid catching COVID-19 or spreading it to fellow travelers,” the officers said.

The recommendations include no in-person gatherings with people outside of their household to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19. If people decide to have one, they should be “small, short, stable and outdoors,” according to the statement.

“When people who live in different houses or apartments are together at the same time in the same space, risk of COVID-19 spreading goes up, even when the people are relatives or friends. Please celebrate safely this year and protect yourself and your family by including masks, keeping a distance, and staying outdoors,” Cody said in the statement.

The officials recommend decorating homes or yards, sharing a virtual meal with family or friends, hosting online parties or contests, preparing meals to deliver to family and neighbors, having drive-by visits, attending drive-in venues to see holiday movies or attending holiday-themed, outdoor holiday installations.

Cindy Chavez, president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, said she understands that people are tired of following rules and that they miss their families and friends, but she urged the public, particularly during the upcoming holidays, to continue to be vigilant and restrict their movements. She urged everyone to get a flu shot so that hospital beds needed for COVID-19 patients won’t be taken up by people who are sick with influenza.

“A household is not everybody I know. A household is the people you live with,” she said. “We’re only going to get through this one way. ... We’re asking everyone in our community to dig in a little deeper and dig in a little longer.”

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sremann@paweekly.com.

Tracking COVID-19 cases, deaths in Santa Clara County

Available data as of Nov. 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27,124</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: California Department of Health Information Exchange. Cases reported for the past seven days are subject to change.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • November 13, 2020 • Page 31
Retail (continued from page 5)

long-lasting changes to the city’s retail rules, including relaxing the zoning code to allow a broader range of businesses to fill spaces designated for retail. One such idea would expand the city’s definition of “retail” to include businesses such as banks, law firms and medical offices. Another would remove or modify an existing zoning law that requires retail on the ground floor of buildings in the city’s commercial areas.

With little consensus on these issues, the council held Planning and Transportation Commission to study ways to diversify retail uses and consider modifications to the ground-floor retail protection law. The key question that it will focus on is: Should the retail requirement apply to all downtown and California Avenue? As in the past, the council split over retail protection, with some urging caution and others counseling aggressive action. Mayor Adrian Fine, as is currently the case, or exclusively to commercial cores such as downtown and California Avenue.

In other business Tuesday, the council considered management strategies for the new garage in California avenues, authorizing the staff to proceed with a community summit on gender equality issues. The council directed staff to return with modifications to the definition of “retail,” they pointed out. “If we loosen this, we’re only going to allow the rents to continue to stay high,” DuBois said. “I think we should continue with our retail protection ordi- nance until we have more data — and more nuanced data.”

Cormack agreed that the zone changes could have long-term ef- fects but said that, given the mag- nitude of the economic downturn, she is willing to be more flexible. “It’s an inflection point,” Cor- mack said. “That means it’s ap- propriate for us to make some changes.”

Kniss suggested that the city needs to streamline Palo Alto’s permitting processes for business- es looking to make improvements. “I think we need to dispel the notion that Palo Alto doesn’t really want certain things and therefore drags their feet in the development department,” Kniss said. “I think it’s important that we work at changing that perception so that we have that out there, saying this is a tough city to do business in.”

Council members voted unani- mously to direct the Planning and Transportation Commission to evaluate ways to diversify use of retail spaces. They also voted 6-1, with Kou dissenting, to direct the commission to explore changes to the ground-floor protection ordinance, a topic that has consist- ently divided the council. As in the past, Fine argued that the ordi- nance should not apply citywide. Others balked at moving ahead with the change but agreed to let the commission consider possible changes, including a more limited geography for the ground-floor retail requirement.

Tanau, a CEO of a company that specializes in retail analyt- ics, cited broad national trends that made the environment chal- lenging for retail — most notably, the large num- ber of retail locations in the Unit- ed States. In lobbying for zone changes, he noted that the busi- nesses that have thrived during the pandemic are big-box stores such as Costco, Walmart and Home Depot. Specialty stores that are predominant in Palo Alto are precisely the types of retail operations that have taken a big hit.

“I think this is one of the silver linings of 2020 ... in this hard year we’ve been through — imag- ining what our two downtowns could look like,” Fine said shortly be- fore the 6-1 vote. Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Diners eat outside on University Avenue, which will remain closed to traffic through Memorial Day.

In other business Tuesday, the council voted to keep both streets of California Avenue open to cars to support retail- ers looking to make improvements. Cormack, noting that the proposed zone changes, which she argued could change the char- acter of the eclectic strip.

“We need to add public art to these areas; we need to make them more community-friendly, not have office spaces and doc- tor’s offices,” Roth said. “I really hope you will strongly think about this. Something you do now will impact our businesses for genera- tions, decades to come.”

The council was much unified when it came to extending the street closures on University and California avenues, authorizing staff to modify the design of the program. While DuBois supported- ed reopening parts of University Avenue to cars to support retail- ers along the strip, the rest of the council voted to keep both streets open to cars to support retail- ers. Others, including Cormack and Fine, noted that the program has been extremely popular with residents.

“I think this is one of the silver linings of 2020 ... in this hard year we’ve been through — imag- ining what our two downtowns could look like,” Fine said shortly be- fore the 6-1 vote. Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Diners eat at tables set up along California Avenue, which will remain closed to traffic until the end of May 2021. Photo by Magali Gauthier. Cover design by Douglas Young.

School (continued from page 7)
to campus,” she said. “At the same (time), I don’t think one to two classes are worth disrupting the schedules of so many students.”

The presidents of the Gunn and Palo PTSA and the Palo Alto Council of PTAs, meanwhile, spoke in support of reopening. “Some students are thriving; some are tolerating; and some are suffering,” Gunn PTSA president Kimberly Eng Lee said. “We need to support our students’ ability to make plans to bring student activi- ties and supports back to campus.”

The discussion of secondary schools reopening again high- lighted fraught communication problems between teachers and the district. Palo Alto Educa- tors Association President Teri Bald- nes said there wasn’t any teacher input into the plan and that it came to the union “after it was already finished” last week. (The union opposes the reopening plan.) Dis- trict staff, meanwhile, said that site ad- ministrators discussed the plan with teacher instructional leaders, school educational councils and in department meetings.

This disconnect, which also hap- pened with the elementary school reopening, prompted the board to vote to formally direct staff to take input from instructional leaders as they continue to refine the reopen- ing plan over the next two months.

Many questions around how specific elements of the reopening will shake out — schedule changes, class sizes and the like — will re- main unanswered until the district knows how many middle and high school students choose the hybrid model. Families have until Nov. 18 at 5 p.m. to make a decision.

In other business Tuesday, the school board unanimously extend- ed Austin’s employment contract to June 2024. Some community members protested the placement of the proposed contract extension on the board’s consent calendar — which includes items typically ap- proved without discussion — and asked for greater transparency. Last June, the board approved a one-year extension for Austin’s contract, extending it until June 2022. The latest contract extension, as well as ones for four other senior administrators, should have taken place this June but fell by the wayside until now due to the pandemic, board President Todd Collins said. The board gave Austin a satisfac- tory performance evaluation in June, which typically is followed by a contract extension.

The college apologized for the delay, which he said was his fault, but described Austin’s contract exten- sion as “customary and routine.” Staff Writer Elena Kadavany can be emailed at ekadavany@paweekly.com.
concerned about the finances for a grocer in such a small store.”
Opening the market in advance of the holiday season is important, Taffi said in an Oct. 9 letter to city Planning Director Jonathan Lait.
“While times are tough right now for so many businesses with the COVID-19 pandemic, safety concerns, and increased regulatory restrictions for businesses in these times, we take the long view and have signed a long-term lease for the grocer space at 501 Oxford Ave. We are excited for the opportunity to serve the community. We want to open our doors as soon as possible and if there isn’t a delay from the city or county, we would love to open before Thanksgiving,” he wrote.
Staff is recommending the council approve the market.
“A stable market at this location has been a long-desired goal by the City Council and neighborhood when it approved the College Terrace Centre development. Having another grocery store that provides essential services and goods to the Palo Alto community is particularly beneficial during the pandemic, which will provide in-store and same day delivery service,” a staff report in advance of the Nov. 16 council meeting noted.
The proposal for approval is scheduled on the council’s consent calendar, but it could be pulled for additional discussion. If three council members vote to pull the item off of consent, staff is recommending the council vote on the proposal that same evening to help the market’s owners quickly open — if the tenant is approved.
AGB Pact, a partnership between Blox Ventures and Angelo Gordon, owns College Terrace Centre. Jason Oberman, CEO of Blox Ventures, deferred comment on the proposed grocery store to Taffi.
A grocery store is required at College Terrace Centre as a “public benefit.” Under the planned community ordinance, the city can levy daily penalties of $2,000 after a cumulative six-month grace period if a market is not operating at the site. The repeated absence of a grocery store at the site over the years has resulted in penalty assessments in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for AGB Pact. New York-based Greystone Property Development sold the center to AGB Pact for $78 million on June 29, 2018, just prior to when the penalties were due to begin.
AGB Pact has appealed the fines. Some of the appeals are currently going through the city’s administrative process and others are being litigated in Santa Clara County Superior Court. The council’s approval of Real Produce International Market is independent of the legal issues, according to the staff report.

**RECOGNIZING LOCAL HEROES**

**LOCAL HERO**

**Bob Roth**

Bob Roth has spent 25 years curbing non-native plants at Foothills Preserve. As a charter member of Friends of Foothill, a group dedicated to habitat restoration, Bob has shared his knowledge widely. The preserve needs more heroes of his kind as it enters its new phase.

Submitted by: Ruth Marshall & Roger Smith

**Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto**

For over 95 years, the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto has served the City of Palo Alto and dozens of non-profit groups with both financial support and hands-on service projects ranging from rebuilding and painting facilities at local parks and maintaining the Duck Pond, to planting trees and refurbishing preschool facilities. During the pandemic, the group has made targeted donations to needy groups and distributed educational materials, household goods, and protective equipment to the home-bound.

Submitted by: Judy Deggeller

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/
Garage
(continued from page 8)

chided city staff for failing to reach out to area businesses before finalizing the details. He told the council that there was “zero outreach” to the business community and “zero transparency.”

“This proposal basically erases any benefits that the new garage creates by accommodating the waitlist for permit parking and the RPP permits,” Ekwall said.

Residents countered that the city should move faster with moving employees — specifically, the higher-wage office workers — out of their neighborhoods. They also criticized the staff proposal for failing to include low-income service employees in their plans for the new garage. Under the proposal, the city would still offer a limited number of discounted permits for workers who meet the income thresholds so they can park on neighborhood streets and not in the new parking structure.

“It is amazing that low-wage retail workers who come and go throughout the day and often cannot take public transportation are not given any spaces in the new garage and employee permits are not being moved out of the neighborhood, despite the large increase in parking available within the business core,” Evergreen Park resident Carol Scott told the council. “Instead, the recommendation de facto give almost the entire garage over to commercial office workers — the very ones who should be parking in their own parking lots or commuting by public transportation in this transportation rich area.”

Scott also joined residents Wolfgang Dueregger, John Guislain, Paul Machado and Neilson Buchanan in penning a letter urging rejection of the staff proposal.

“Residents did not support the construction of the garage at taxpayer expense in order to provide more parking to commercial office workers, many of whom work in underparked office buildings that should have TDM agreements that promised to eliminate the need for workers to use public parking in the California Ave Business District (CABD) or residential areas,” the letter states.

Part of the conflict stems from the fact that while Evergreen Park and in its surrounding neighborhoods have changed dramatically since 2014, when the council voted to place the California Avenue garage and the commercial core, continued to see high parking rates, others became largely empty, as a result of the new program. The city later refined the parking zones throughout Evergreen Park and Mayfield to better disperse employee parking in these neighborhoods.

While these moves have alleviated many anxieties over parking, they have not completely quashed the decadeslong tug-of-war over spots between businesses and residents. Some council members struggled to reconcile the conflicting accounts from residents and businesses about why the garage was built in the first place. Council member Alison Cormack posed the question in blunt terms on Monday night.

“I’m not sure what a better time is to try to move those cars out of the neighborhoods,” Dubois said. “It seems with decreased parking during the pandemic, we can move it all out.”

Most of his colleagues didn’t feel comfortable making any decision on the divisive topic. With the decision past midnight, council member Greg Tanaka suggested postponing the decision to a later date and, in the meantime, conducting more outreach. The council unanimously approved his recommendation.

“It seems like some people are blindsided,” Tanaka said. “It seems like there are more conversations that should have happened.”

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

Holiday Fund
(continued from page 5)

purchase critical supplies in bulk.

“Staff members are wearing multiple hats, which include sourcing food, picking up and accepting fresh food donations, stocking the food pantry, packing food boxes, directing traffic and more,” Preston said.

She and key staff members are working seven days a week to keep up with the demand.

To give a much-needed boost to organizations like Ecumenical Hunger Program, the Palo Alto Weekly is again launching its annual Holiday Fund campaign to raise funds for dozens of programs serving families and children in the Palo Alto area.

Last year, nearly 400 business organizations and community members donated to the campaign, which then directed a record-breaking $465,600 to 63 vetted organizations in the area. Because the Weekly and its Holiday Fund partner the Silicon Valley Community Foundation covered all the administrative costs of the campaign, every dollar raised went directly to nonprofit organizations through grants of between $5,000 and $20,000, as well as into $1,000 college scholarships for eight high school students.

For those who need food assistance, call Ecumenical Hunger Program at 650-323-7761 or stop by the agency Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon or 2:30-4:30 p.m. More information about EHP can be found at ehpcares.org.
**Election roundup (continued from page 10)**

With about 8,000 ballots left to be counted, Baten Caswell said she’s not yet conceding the race but is “realistic” about the growing vote gap.

**Measures O (66.7% approval required)**

Measure O, the Palo Alto Unified parcel tax renewal, has passed. As of Nov. 12, it received 29,654 “yes” votes, or 77.3% of the ballots counted, and 8,720 “no” votes, or 22.7% of the ballots.

Even if all outstanding ballots yet to be counted were “no” votes, the measure would still have more than 66.7% of the votes, the threshold for passage.

**Measures S (66.7% approval required)**

Santa Clara Valley Water District’s bid to extend a parcel tax for water protection and flood control indefinitely maintained voter approval with only a slight drop in percentage of approval from Nov. 3. The measure had 75% approval as of Nov. 12.

**Measures RR (66.7% approval required)**

Caltrain’s 7 cent sales tax held on to approval, despite lower support among voters whose ballots have been counted after Election Day. The approval rate on Nov. 12 stood at 68.98%. The residents of three counties — San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara — all voted on the measure, and San Francisco voters most strongly supported it, with 73.6% favoring, whereas Santa Clara County voters would not have passed the tax had the decision been theirs alone (65.89% in favor).

**Measures RR (66.7% approval required)**

As initially reported on Election Night, the three incumbents have kept their seats for the Foothill-De Anza Board of Trustees. As of Nov. 12, Gilbert Wong continued to lead the incumbents with 29.8% of the vote, with Peter Landsberger in second position garnering 28.1% and Laura Casas at 27.4%. Challenger Govind Tatachari placed fourth with 14.7%. 

**Foothill-DeAnza Community College District Board of Trustees (three seats)**

Karen Hendricks leaves Palo Alto Unified

Deputy Superintendent Karen Hendricks, who led Palo Alto Unified for nine months after the resignation of former Superintendent Max Mc Gee, is leaving the school district to become a superintendent in Southern California.

Hendricks has been named the new superintendent of the Alta Loma School District in Rancho Cucamonga.

Hendricks came to Palo Alto in July 2017 to become the district’s assistant superintendent of human resources. In September, following the upheaval of Mc Gee’s departure, she was appointed interim superintendent and held the position until Superintendent Don Austin was hired. While interim superintendent, Hendricks also convened and led a task force devoted to addressing sexual assault and harassment in the district.

Hendricks’ resignation is effective Jan. 31. 

—Elena Kadvany

**Woman dies following collision**

A woman in her 70s who was struck by a car while crossing a street in downtown Palo Alto on Thursday morning died soon after she was taken to a hospital, police said Nov. 6.

The woman was identified as 79-year-old Pinxiang Zhou of Palo Alto, the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner’s Office said Nov. 6.

The collision was reported to police at about 10:40 a.m. Thursday, when multiple calls came in to emergency dispatchers of a major injury collision at Lytton Avenue and Waverley Street, police said in a press release.

When officers and fire crews headed to the intersection, they found the woman, whom paramedics took to a hospital where she died soon after, police said.

The woman had been walking east on the south side of Lytton Avenue in a crosswalk, then proceeded to make her way across Waverley Street, where she was struck by a blue 2011 Honda Fit that turned left onto Waverley, according to a preliminary investigation by the police Specialized Traffic Accident Reconstruction Team.

The driver, an Oakland resident in her 30s, had been heading west just before the collision. She stayed at the scene, cooperated with investigators, police said and didn’t report any injuries.

Palo Alto fire crews were on scene for about an hour, according to PulsePoint, an app displaying emergency response incidents. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the department’s 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to paloalto@tpmw.org or sent by text message or voicemail to 650-383-8984.

—Palo Alto Weekly Staff

**News Digest**

Council crys foul over appointments

In a bitter split, the Palo Alto City Council voted Nov. 2 to give its outgoing members the opportunity to appoint commissioners to key city boards just weeks before their terms expire.

By a 4-3 vote, with Vice Mayor Tom DuBois and council members Eric Filseth and Lydia Kou dissenting, the council decided on Monday to select new members for the Planning and Transportation Commission, the Architectural Review Board, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historic Resources Board on Dec. 14.

The vote made the council’s more pro-growth majority of Mayor Adrian Fine and council members Liz Kniss, Alison Cormack and Greg Tanaka will get to pick new commissioners just before new council members, dominated by the more slow-growth faction, is in.

The controversial decision came just a week after the council agreed unanimously to shift appointments to the spring, precisely to avoid the politicization of the commission appointment.

While the council’s vote took place before Tuesday’s general election, the three members in the minority denounced the decision to make the appointments in December rather than to wait for the new council to be sworn in. The four council members in the majority noted that because the new rules hadn’t yet been adopted, it is perfectly reasonable for them to make the appointments.

Kniss made a motion, which Cormack seconded, to accept the submitted applications to the Architectural Review Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission to extend the recruitment period for the Planning and Transportation and the Historic Resources Board, which has three open seats and three applications.

The motion also called for the council to complete interviews for all commission applicants by Dec. 7 and to make the appointments by Dec. 14.

—Gennady Sheyner

**Let’s Discuss**

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com/square
2128 VERA AVENUE, REDWOOD CITY

Brand-New Construction and a Great Location

Just completed in October 2020, this spacious, light-filled home offers contemporary style and a floorplan perfect for the modern family, with 4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, and 2,944 square feet of living space, all set on a lot of 6,400 square feet. Fresh, light-filled interiors create an inviting ambiance throughout, and high-end appointments are everywhere you turn. Comfortable gathering areas include the living room that shares a striking 2-way fireplace with the dining room, the chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances, and the family room with walls of glass doors that open completely to the backyard for indoor/outdoor living. Find comfort in the spacious master suite with a romantic fireplace, and appreciate the convenience of the home’s three additional en suite bedrooms perfect for the entire family. This great location is just steps to Roosevelt Elementary, blocks from Red Morton Park, and provides easy access to Highway 84 for Bay Area commuting.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:  
www.2128Vera.com  
Offered at $2,988,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only,  
Easy appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (11/14) and Sunday (11/15).

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

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2019, in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

For more information contact: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 我們精通國語和粵語  
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleondeleon.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Beautiful Sharon Heights Home on Nearly 0.30 Acres

Set on a lot of nearly 0.30 acres in one of Menlo Park's most coveted neighborhoods, Sharon Heights, this 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home offers over 2,750 square feet of inviting living space and stands ready to meet a variety of lifestyle needs. A delightful garden entrance welcomes you, while inside, stylish appointments include beautiful hardwood floors and crown molding, highlighted by abundant natural light that fills the home. Comfortable gathering spaces include the living room with custom built-ins, the granite-appointed kitchen with appliances from Thermador and Sub-Zero, and the family room centered by a fireplace. Experience indoor/outdoor living as multiple rooms open to the peaceful, private backyard with ample patio space and a lush lawn. And appreciate a location close to everything Sharon Heights has to offer, with easy access to Interstate 280 and served by excellent Las Lomitas schools that are close at hand (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.840MonteRosa.com
Offered at $3,488,000

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

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

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Across
1 1990s Disney show with characters from “The Jungle Book”
9 Clear music holder
15 Prozac maker
16 Enter, as data
17 They have two legs each
19 Icon used in Twitch chat to express feelings
20 Uganda’s Idi
21 Being, Roman-style
22 “Tiny Alice” dramatist Edward
25 Active chemical in cannabis
28 “Parklife” group
29 They have four legs each
37 Broadcast studio sign
38 Key to get out?
39 Cover once more?
40 They have six legs each
43 “Here are the words on the label ...”
44 State with a three-word capital
45 Abbr. in a job posting
46 Charlie of “Hot Shots!”
48 Singer with the EPs “BLQ Velvet” and “PRINCESS”
52 “Transformers” actor LaBeouf
54 Abbr. on marked-down clothes
55 They have eight legs each
61 Like a difficult battle
62 Comedian Sarah who once wrote “Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard”
63 “Game of Thrones” actress Williams
64 Followed

Down
1 Tiny laugh
2 Class reunion attendees
3 Cars for execs
4 Make happy
5 Mathematical ratio
6 Middle East gp.
7 French 101 pronoun
8 “All the news that’s fit to print” initials
9 By a difficult battle
10 Metric prefix for “tenth”
11 “Call Me Irresponsible” lyricist Sammy
12 City southwest of Tulsa
13 Sample of wine
14 Methyl ending
15 Actress Issa
16 Winter Games vehicles
17 They have four legs each
18 Tiny ear bone
19 “American Gods” actor McShane
20 They are here
21 Van Gogh’s brother
22 Olympic flame lighter in Atlanta
23 Maternally related
24 Rudely abrupt
25 “Is ___ fact?”
26 Poet Gil Scott—
27 Advanced very slowly
28 Daft, in Derby
29 They are here
30 “Holy moly!”
31 Levy again
32 “American Gods” actor McShane
33 Maternally related
34 ___ profundo (lowest vocal range)
35 Morning TV host Kelly
36 Like some angles
37 They have two legs each
38 “Transformers” actor LaBeouf
39 “American Gods” actor McShane
40 They are here
41 Tiny ear bone
42 Rocky Mountain Snowman
43 “Transformers” actor LaBeouf
44 State with a three-word capital
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64 Followed

Answers on page 25.

This week’s SUDOKU

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Answers on page 25.
SAN FRANCISCO | $1,498,000
Welcome to the prime location of 1104 Church Street in the highly desirable neighborhood of Noe Valley. Incredible 3br/2ba top floor flat w/rooftop deck & expansive views. Well-maintained green-filled rooftop to take in spectacular unobstructed 360 degree views of the city w/plentiful entertainment space. A private garage w/sample space for storage, completes this amenity-full home.
Tony Alejandre 415.812.3453
Liz Baker 415.516.2090
CalRE #01399197 CalRE #02096264

BERKELEY | $879,000
Magnificent Golden Gate Bridge View! Top floor corner unit in N. Berkeley near The Rose Garden. Elegant New York 1920's style feel w/classic charm and modern updated kitchen. 2 bedroom, 1 bath Berkeley Condo w/Bay & City views & updated kitchen. Feel at peace in this light filled home w/a fireplace surrounded by trees. Truly an exceptional place to call home!
Wayne Cory 510.689.9669
Joseph Chen 510.350.1321
CalRE #01431677 CalRE #01826606

FELTON | $750,000
Creekside 2 bedroom, 2 bath and 2-car detached garage single-level home in the desirable Forest Lakes Community. Try your hand at the frisbee golf net, have lunch on the picnic table by the stream and listen to the birds from your back deck. Located just minutes from the beautiful Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Roaring Camp and downtown Felton's restaurants and shopping. Welcome home!
Jessica Wallace 831.419.9345
yoursantacruzagent@gmail.com
CalRE #01455690
PORTOLA VALLEY | $5,500,000
Unique and contemporary architecture. 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home on approx. 1 acre in Central Portola Valley. Recently remodeled, the interior is filled with modern design elements and exceptional finishes. Light filled rooms offer views ranging from the natural surroundings to the western hills. An elevator connects the 2-story addition offering 2 of the bedrooms and 2 of the full baths.

Ginny Kavanaugh 650.400.8076
CalRE #00884747
John Kavanaugh 415.377.2924
CalRE #02058127

MOUNTAIN VIEW | $2,178,000
Welcome to this move-in ready 4br/2.5ba two-story home on a private cul-de-sac in Mountain View. Enjoy newly installed hardwood floors and upgraded stainless steel appliances. This home features a family room adjacent to the kitchen, a living room with a fireplace, a dining room off the living room and a laundry room on the main level. Relax in the backyard patio with low-maintenance landscaping.

Camille Eder 650.464.4598
camille.eder@gmail.com
CalRE #01394600

LOS ALTOS | $1,798,000
Rare end unit - 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in North Los Altos. Large private patio, pool and spa, A/C, wood floors, designer features. Close to WFoods and San Antonio Shopping center, and Caltrain. 2 reserved parking spots underground + large private storage locker. Gas range in kitchen and top of the line cabinets, with under-cabinet lighting. www.4388ElCaminoNort18.com.

Francis Rolland 650.204.4817
frolland@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00896319

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