Desperate Times, Creative Measures

How Businesses Are Pivoting to Survive Pandemic

Page 14
To our Stanford Medicine Community

For months, we have faced the challenges of living through this pandemic together. And while we have more reasons to hope with each passing day that we will eventually defeat this virus, it is clear the crisis is far from over.

The number of COVID cases in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as much of California, has soared over the past few weeks. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged Americans to avoid large gatherings in an effort to stop the rapid spread of COVID-19. Hospitals across the nation are filling their beds more quickly, and our frontline healthcare workers are facing exhaustion.

This is a dangerous situation to be in, and we need everyone’s help to fix it.

Even with so much uncertainty, the science is clear. We know what works to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- **Wear a mask.** Masks can save lives, including your own.
- **Wash your hands.** Thorough handwashing stops the virus from spreading.
- **Keep your distance.** Avoid gatherings and stay 6 feet apart from those you don’t live with.

We know you have heard all of these recommendations before, but they are more important than ever.

Stanford Medicine is here for you, as always, and committed to being a part of the solution. We know you are counting on us, and we have mobilized everyone—our care teams, researchers, students, and staff—to rise to this challenge.

But we need you to know that we are counting on you, too. It is your help that will make the difference and determine whether or not we can slow the spread of the virus in the weeks and months ahead. It is your care and thoughtfulness that will save lives and shape the future.

We are here for you and with your help, we will get through this together.

**Lloyd Minor, MD**  
Dean, Stanford School of Medicine

**David Entwistle**  
President and CEO  
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**Paul King**  
President and CEO  
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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

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Policy, politics clash over lame duck appointments

Despite new rules calling for spring appointments, City Council prepares for contentious votes on planning commissioners before year’s end

by Gennady Sheyner

When the Palo Alto City Council agreed last month to change its rules for appointing members to local boards and commissions, one of its stated goals was to make the process clearer, more consistent and less contentious. But as the council looks to formally adopt the rules next week, it’s more than likely the council majority will also make sure one of those rules won’t apply to them. The issue has already deepened a rift between the council’s majority and minority members. On Monday, the council is expected to vote to adopt a new commission handbook that specifies that commission appointments should be made in the spring, but the council majority is also preparing to move ahead with what promises to be a heated round of appointments on Dec. 14, with the two outgoing council members looking to cement their influence in the composition of key boards that will be advising the incoming council. The vote on Monday, specifically, will be on approval of the selection of candidates whom the council will interview for open seats on the Historic Resources Board and the Planning and Transportation Commission, which the council plans to fill at its final meeting of the year. While appointments to the Historic Resources Board are expected to be a humdrum affair that retains the status quo (all three applicants are incumbents), the council’s decision on the Planning and Transportation Commission will almost certainly be a hyper-partisan tussle that will send the seven-member commission in a more pro-growth direction.

The highly political nature of appointments to the influential planning commission was on full display on Nov. 2, when the council voted to make its appointments in December rather than to follow the protocols in the

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CRIME

Burglaries, car thefts see spike

Amid pandemic, domestic violence calls drop

by Sue Dremann

Palo Alto crime trends before and during the COVID-19 crisis show a significant increase in bicycle and car thefts, but far fewer car accidents and calls about domestic violence, according to data that police shared with the community last week.

One crime, however, saw a massive rise in Palo Alto: the theft of catalytic converters, which rose by 1,750%.

The data was discussed by police detectives and officers during a Nov. 17 community meeting held over Zoom. Department crime analysts reviewed data from March 17 through Oct. 31 in both 2019 and 2020. Officers received 28,195 calls for service during that time span. Overall, there were 62% fewer car accidents, 60% fewer arrests and a 80% decrease in citations issued during the pandemic months than the same seven-month stretch in 2019, according to the agency’s data.

The coronavirus also added a new category of police calls for service: health order violations. Officers responded to 957 incidents from March 17 through Oct. 31 this year, police said.

Catalytic converters became hot targets

Catalytic converter thefts, which are rising throughout the region and take just minutes to

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HOLIDAY FUND

With Live In Peace, at-risk students given something they didn’t think they had: choice

Nonprofit’s Gap-Year Project helps students set and achieve their next life goals

by Lloyd Lee

Two years ago, Carmen Thomas had a choice: Did she want to stay on board with Facebook, where she’d been interning to take a full-time job offer as a recruiting coordinator, or did she want to go to college?

Thomas was then only a recent high school graduate, barely 19, who’d already interned at one of the most valuable companies in the world through Year Up, a nonprofit accelerated job training program. It’s a conundrum not many recent high school graduates face — certainly not one Thomas imagined she’d have when she was in 10th grade, missing classes and watching her grades in free fall. That is, until she joined East Palo Alto’s youth nonprofit Live In Peace and later participated in one of their newer programs called the Gap-Year Project.

“I didn’t really care about school like that,” Thomas said. “Then I started coming to Live In Peace and they helped me graduate.”

The Gap-Year Project is not necessarily a job or college pipeline. On Live In Peace’s website, it’s intentionally first described in vague terms: “a two-year program for students to move forward together.” That’s because “forward” can mean a lot of things for the

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(continued on page 30)
We invite you to join us in this meaningful evening of remembrance, sharing on the themes of Love, Hope, Memory, Courage, and Community with live music and a special candle lighting ceremony to honor loved ones who have died.

This is an online non-denominational service open to the community.

“Hope links the past through memory, carries with it the grace of love and is evidence of the very real courage of moving forward.”

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Nonprofit withdraws harassment report

For more than a decade, Palo Alto has enjoyed a mutually beneficial partnership with the nonprofit Downtown Streets Team. Now, the partnership is facing a stress test. The nonprofit has been met with a series of allegations, some dating back to 2014, of sexual harassment and a hard-drinking party atmosphere fostered by its senior executives, including CEO Eileen Richardson. Numerous employees have said they were pressured to engage in the alcohol-driven culture to qualify for raises and promotions. Facilitating complaints from five former employees, the Downtown Streets Team board of directors hired the Law Offices of Amy Oppenheim in August 2018 to investigate the allegations.

The City Council was aware of these allegations in June when it voted to allot $336,400 to the Downtown Streets Team through the federal Community Development Block Grant Program with no strings attached. The council instead directed staff to engage with the nonprofit about obtaining the report before the next grant is distributed.

On Nov. 30, council members are scheduled to approve a three-year, $323,244 contract with Downtown Streets Team for maintaining downtown garages, sidewalks and alleyways and for providing case management services to homeless individuals.

Since that time, city staff has reached out to Downtown Streets Team on numerous occasions to obtain the report. The nonprofit has refused to provide it. The contract is on the council’s “consent calendar,” which means it will get approved without discussion unless three council members decide to pull the item off the calendar for discussion.

Townhouse project eyed for Fry’s site

For years, Palo Alto has treated the area around 340 Portage Ave. as a prime opportunity zone, a place that is ripe for new housing, park space and community amenities. The Sobrato Organization, which owns the property, appears to have other plans. Last week, it submitted to the city a preliminary application for a housing development that it plans to build at 200 Portage Ave., a site that is currently occupied by a portion of the former Fry’s Electronics’ building.

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Four people, including top brass in the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office, have been indicted in bribery schemes for donations to Sheriff Laurie Smith’s reelection campaign in exchange for highly covetted gun permits.

A grand jury issued two indictments on Thursday, Nov. 19, against Undersheriff Rick Sung, 48, and Capt. James Jensen, 43, who are accused of accepting bribes for concealed firearms licenses, also known as CCW licenses, Insurance broker Harpreet Chadha, 49, and Apple’s Chief Security Officer Thomas Moyer, 50, are accused of offering bribes to receive the permits, District Attorney Jeff Rosen said during a press conference on Monday morning.

The two-year investigation by the district attorney’s office found that Sung, who was allegedly aided by Jensen in one instance, held up the distribution of CCW licenses and refused to release them until the applicants gave something of value. Investigators determined some of the money was sent to Sheriff Smith’s reelection campaign, Rosen said.

Sung has been indicted on three counts of asking or receiving a bribe by an executive officer, a felony, for incidents dating between Oct. 1, 2017 and April 30, 2018. Jensen, who was previously indicted, is also charged with accepting or offering a bribe by an executive officer for the scheme involving Moyer. Moyer and Chadha each face a single count of bribing an executive officer. So far, 13 people have been indicted in the bribery schemes.
Baron Park donkey

Jenny dies after falling ill

Partner to Perry, community pet was first female to live in the park in decades

by Sue Dremann

Jenny, one of Palo Alto’s beloved donkeys who called the Baron Park neighborhood home, has died. She was euthanized on Nov. 18 after a two-week decline, according to her handlers. The standard-sized donkey likely had a tumor and had abdominal internal bleeding, lead donkey handler Jenny Kiratli said. She was in her late 20s or perhaps even 30 years old.

Jenny was the female companion of longtime celebrity donkey Perry (also known as Pericles), a miniature donkey who was the model for the donkey in the movie “Shrek.” She died almost four years to the day that she was brought from a donkey rescue organization to join Perry after his longtime buddy, Miner Forty-Niner, died.

“It’s been a really rough few months,” Kiratli said, noting that Jenny had barely been eating. Jenny was the first female, known as a “jenny,” to live in the paddock adjacent to Bol Park in decades, which is located on private property leased from James Witt by the nonprofit community group the Donkey Project. She was a descendant of donkeys that roamed wild on Bureau of Land Management property after gold miners had abandoned them post-Gold Rush and was most likely found in the Mojave Desert, Kiratli said. She was adopted by an older couple and then lived in southern California after her previous owners grew too old to care for her. The Farm Sanctuary in Santa Clarita helped the couple find her a new home in Palo Alto and transported Jenny.

Jenny was tentative when she first came to the pasture on Nov. 15, 2016. Two days after her arrival, she emerged to check out the resting herd. She joined in the middle of a fenced-in area, seemingly trying to get her bearings. She had experienced a long period of isolation prior to her rescue. The handlers initially separated her from Perry in an enclosed chain-link paddock so that she and Perry could sniff each other in safety and become familiar with each other. She soon warmed up and they bonded quickly, donkey handler Denise Sanders recalled. Jenny, who had unusually long ears and long, luxurious eyelashes, also soon warmed up to her many visitors, as did they to her, Sanders said.

Kiratli said the first time she saw Jenny go to the gate to greet visitors was when an elderly couple and their young grandchildren passed by. “She perked up and went straight over there. We had a feeling she thought they were her people,” she said of her southern California former owners.

“She was a sweet girl. She just had such deep eyes. After I’d feed her or I’d walk her, I would put my arms under her head and she would put her head down and put her weight on my arms. She would look at me with those soulful eyes. It was very calming, like all was right with the world,” Kiratli said.

Kiratli said she did not think Jenny was in pain during her last days. And, Kiratli added, “She was not alone, ever.”

Perry also had a chance to nuzzle and sniff her through the night after she was euthanized. Equines are said to need to see their companion dead in order to grieve, Kiratli said. Handlers stayed with Jenny throughout the evening, and Kiratli’s husband stayed the night to keep Perry company. Her body was removed in the morning and was to be cremated, she said.

Sanders said that donkeys are herd animals, so Perry has had a steady stream of visitors to provide him with companionship.

“Someone’s always with him now. He’s been braying for her. We’re going to try to find another rescue donkey to keep Perry company.”

Mike Hedblom, whose home is located behind the pasture, said he heard Perry braying loudly for about a minute on the morning after Jenny died.

“He doesn’t usually do that. He used to do that sometimes with Niner when they got separated and it’s like ‘Where are you!’” he said.

Jenny was the most vocal of the three donkeys, he said. Working from a home office, he and his wife could always hear Jenny braying.

“We’re going to miss her — especially hearing her. We could be on a conference call or in a Zoom meeting and it would be like, ‘What’s that?’ and you’d have to explain,” he said.

Jenny incurred significant veterinary expenses over the past few months. Anyone who wants to make a donation in her honor can visit barronparkdonkeys.org.

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

Photo courtesy of Jenny Kiratli

Jenny steals a bite of a fresh flower bouquet at Bol Park in May 2019.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain proposed actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HARING on the petition will be held on January 6, 2021 at 9:01 a.m. in Dept.: 13 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be by person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy of the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) one month from the date of the initial issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 680(b) of the California Probate Code; or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 6052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Shirley Tan 113 Market Street, Ste. 300 San Jose, CA 95113 Hours: 9:00-11:00 AM, 11:30-1:30 PM M-W/ Nov 27; Dec. 4, 11, 2020

Palo Alto year-by-year crime trends (nonviolent crimes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle thefts</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial crimes</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health-related cases</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglaries</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stolen vehicles</td>
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<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential burglaries</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This extraordinary masterpiece developed by BWB Properties and designed by the Shift Group encompasses the quintessential indoor/outdoor lifestyle with a harmonious blend of traditional and contemporary styles. Located on a cul-de-sac in Palo Alto this residence offers over 3,000 square feet of living space with 4 bedrooms and 3 1/2 bathrooms situated over two levels. This newly re-built home has been expertly designed with all of the modern conveniences and custom designer details throughout. The floor plan is ideal for family living with a spacious open kitchen/family room on the ground floor with sliding doors that open to the patio and private rear yard. The home features an open flow between rooms, large windows with abundant natural light, French oak wide plank floors, and recessed lighting throughout. The yard features elegant landscaping, a flagstone patio and grassy area. Walking distance to Charleston Shopping Center, Mitchell Park and excellent nearby schools.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE HOME INCLUDE:

- 4 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Bathrooms
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Joel Norman Rossen
June 22, 1927 – November 19, 2020

Joel Norman (“Norm”) Rossen, 93, of Palo Alto, CA, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on November 19, 2020 at his residence, after a long illness.

Norm was born in Detroit, MI, on June 22, 1927, the son of Louis and Bessie Rossen. He is survived by his wife, Barbara C. Rossen, in 2000. Norm received a degree from MIT (B.S., 1947, M.S., 1948) and met his future wife, Barbara (“Bunny”) Cohen in Boston; they married and moved to Virginia, where he worked at the Atlantic Research Corp. The couple and their three young children moved to Los Altos Hills in 1962. Norm spent a successful 25-year career with United Technologies’ Chemical Systems Division, overseeing numerous contracts for the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs, and receiving NASA’s Public Service Group Achievement Award. Retiring just before his 68th birthday, Norm and Bunny pursued their love of travel and enjoyed participating and meeting new friends in Elderhostel programs. They also shared many wonderful trips to Morrison’s Lodge on the Rogue River, and enjoyed spoiling their grandchildren.

Music was a huge part of Norm’s life: baroque and swing/jazz were his favorites. He played the saxophone and clarinet, and later became a proficient blockflute (recorder) player, participating in several local chamber groups. Norm and Nancy were fortunate to have found each other, as they shared this love of music as well as theatre, attending many Broadway shows and symphony concerts.

Norm and Nancy were fortunate to have found each other, as they shared this love of music as well as theatre, attending many Broadway shows and symphony concerts. Norm was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, and Nancy was a wonderful mother and grandmother.

Barbara Jean Kirn Roberts
August 24, 1924 – November 13, 2020

Barbara Jean Kirn Roberts passed in her sleep on 11/13/20 at 96. Born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, after college graduation she made her way west to marry Dr. Lester A. Roberts and lived in Palo Alto the rest of her life. She was a dedicated wife and loving mother to six.

Barbara was full of cheerful, passionate energy and tirelessly contributed to her community. For more details of her life, please visit Palo Alto Online.

Barbara was an active volunteer, and the person who’s doing the checking and balances for your budget.

For more details of her life, please visit Palo Alto Online.

Robert E. Lee can be emailed at llee@paweekly.com.

For more details of her life, please visit Palo Alto Online.

The Holiday Fund campaign to raise $400,000 for local nonprofit agencies serving families, kids in need, and the elderly in Palo Alto is now in full swing. Please see page 12 of this edition for information, or to donate online to the campaign, go to holiday-fund. More information about Live In Peace is available at liveipeace.org.

Editorial Assistant, Lloyd Lee can be emailed at ilee@paweekly.com. 
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Support our Kids with a gift to the Holiday Fund

Each 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.

Whether as an individual, a business or in honor of someone else, help us reach our goal of $400,000 by making a generous contribution to the Holiday Fund.

With your generosity, we can give a major boost to the programs in our community helping kids and families.

Give to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund and your donation is doubled. You give to non-profit groups that work right here in our community.

It’s a great way to ensure that your charitable donations are working at home.

Donate online at siliconvalleycf.org/paw-holiday-fund

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is: siliconvalleycf.org/paw-holiday-fund

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Non-profits: Grant application & guidelines at PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund

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WINNER OF APPA ENERGY INNOVATOR AWARD
Desperate times, creative measures

Using ingenuity, businesses pivot during the pandemic

by Elena Kadavany, Lloyd Lee, Kali Shiloh and Linda Taaffe

After the coronavirus hit the Bay Area, the halt of the local economy was swift and unprecedented. Over the past eight months, Midpeninsula businesses have had no idea how long or how extreme the impacts of COVID-19 might be. They’ve faced an unpredictable cycle of forced closures and partial reopenings that, at times, have pivoted back and forth and back again within days amid changing health mandates, which have indefinitely extended shelter-in-place orders from weeks into months.

As many local businesses rise above the chaos and uncertainty to redefine their operations during this time when it appears that business-as-usual will not be usual anytime soon, their creativity, perseverance and commitment to serving the community has pushed the concept of “small business” beyond the established boundaries.

From Menlo Park’s Flea Street Cafe, which used community donations to launch a meal program that spared kitchen layoffs while feeding thousands of meals to front-line workers at local hospitals each week, to Mountain View’s Ava’s Market, which turned to robots to make contactless home deliveries, to Stanford University’s Cantor Arts Center, which utilized real estate software to keep its collection accessible to the public, local businesses are blazing new trails and turning to unconventional ways to serve the community.

To salute their efforts, we are sharing the stories of how some businesses have responded to the coronavirus and taking a look at how our 2019 Best Of winners are doing a year later.

‘Our program, going forward, will be much more hybrid’

Real estate software transforms museum collection into a virtual gallery

There’s an art to exhibiting paintings, sculptures and a 235-ton piece of steel all under one roof — methods that curators have studied and developed over many centuries, said Susan Dackerman, outgoing director of Stanford University’s Cantor Arts Center.

“We have hundreds of years of experience of installing artworks in art museums,” Dackerman said. “Personally, I haven’t had hundreds of years of experience, but there are traditions and conventions and you learn from those lessons.”

But how do you take an entire museum — originally intended to be experienced in person — and put it online during a global health crisis?

For the Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University’s home to more than 38,000 works of art, the real estate industry already had part of the answer.

One of the problems the campus museum needed to solve was how to work around restrictions of large gatherings and maintain itself as a resource not just for the local aethetes but also for the academics who look at the art center as an educational tool.

“We wanted to ensure that we had the means to support the research and teaching mission of the university,” Dackerman said.

To do that, the museum invested in new pieces of technology — one of which is called Matterport, a 3D imaging platform that has been perfected for real estate professionals to show off commercial or residential properties online. (Clients of the Sunnyvale-based company include Coldwell Banker and Cushman & Wakefield.)

With Matterport, Cantor Arts Center is able to extract 3D renderings of the museum’s space, along with its extensive collection of mid-20th century paintings of Auguste Rodin’s bronze sculptures, and upload it to the museum website.

This allows viewers to virtually walk through some of the art center’s 130,000-square-foot campus and, with the click of a button, zoom in on each piece of art.

The technology is not without its limitations, however. Dackerman and many other art lovers agree that current digital technology cannot fully replicate the experience of seeing all the true colors and textures of a piece of artwork in person.

“There is nothing better than a personal encounter with art; there’s just so much more immediacy and intimacy that way,” Dackerman said.

But the tradeoffs still come with benefits. With a large part of the museum now online, Cantor Arts Center is no longer limited to local visitors or researchers but is accessible to anyone around the world.

“It’s a really interesting proposition around museums because it means that you can have the experience of going to the museum from your home, which makes us more accessible to a much broader demographic,” Dackerman said.

And virtual tours don’t have to bear the burden of replacing the in-person experience. Instead, the museum director sees this digital initiative as an opportunity to encourage people to later seek out art in real life.

“Even after the closure is over, even after we’re all moving through the world again, I think that we will have learned some really interesting lessons and that our program, going forward, will be much more hybrid,” Dackerman said. “It will be a combination of in-person and digital platforms because it really expands our base.”

The art center continues to expand its virtual resources. Along with a large library of artist talks, learning guides and tours virtually led by docents, the museum will push out new exhibitions online.

Next year, for example, Cantor Arts Center plans to debut a new exhibition called “When Home Won’t Let You Stay,” in which contemporary artists confront the issues of migration and global movement — a particularly relevant topic when thinking about the spread of a virus, Dackerman said.

“Our business pattern has shifted

Renovated hotel looks to target locals with its daytime amenities

At a time when most business and leisure travel have been put on hold, forcing many in the hard-hit hotel industry to shut down or reduce operations, Nobu Hotel Palo Alto has moved forward with a multimillion-dollar renovation that includes independent HVAC units in each room, a host of contactless amenities and other built-in safety measures intended to attract guests back.

“Everyone is looking at what everyone else is doing,” Chris Suarez, director of sales and marketing of Nobu Hotel Palo Alto, said. “But at our hotel, we went above and beyond in a lot of ways. There’s no shared air between rooms. ... That’s something unique to this hotel.”

Nobu also invested in new technology to encourage contactless amenities. Alexa, Amazon’s virtual assistant, is installed in each room, pre-programmed with voice commands that gives guests the ability to control the lighting and window shades without having to physically touch a switch or a cord.

There’s also the new Ryokan guest rooms on the seventh and eighth floors — Nobu’s minimalistic and modern approach to the traditional Japanese inn featuring in-room televisions that can be controlled through guests’ own phones.

Cleaning methods also have been revamped. After every guest, electrostatic and ultraviolet-light treatments are used to fully sanitize the room, Suarez said. And

In the last seven months or so, we’ve had to figure out a set of protocols for virtual tours,” Dackerman said. “I would say we’re still very much in the process of experimenting and learning from them.”

See Best Of listings on page 25 to find out how last year’s Arts & Entertainment winners have responded to the pandemic.

—L.L.
With caviar still on the menu, Michelín-starred restaurant turns to takeout

When Village Pub servers, line cooks and dishwashers clock in to work these days, they immediately have their temperature taken. They sign a form that states in English and Spanish, “I certify that I am in good health and have had my temperature checked and recorded accurately at the beginning of my workday.” They deposit the pen they used into a sleek silver container labeled “used pens,” put on masks and gloves and head to tables.

The Village Pub, located at 2967 Woodside Road in Woodside, reopened for both indoor and outdoor dining in June. While many of the signature touches of the 19-year-old Michelín-starred restaurant returned — the staff still uses hand sanitizers to steam wrinkles out of white tablecloths before setting the tables, caviar is still on the menu and service is paramount — much has changed in the age of COVID-19.

Diners can order on their smartphones from a digital QR code or physical menu, and the latter is sanitized after every use. The menu was scaled down from 60 dishes to just 15, which are now offered in a $75 per person pre-fixe model to reduce the time waiters spend at tables. Customers can only take their masks off when seated, and employees keep them on at all times. Only one employee is allowed at a table at a time unless it’s to drop off dishes and leaves.

The overarching goal, said Tim Stannard, founder of Bacchus Management Group, which operates The Village Pub, is to minimize the amount of interaction between employees and diners — a counterintuitive 180-degree change from traditional dine-in experience, which is to spend as much time as we can (with customers).

Reconfiguring The Village Pub’s elegant dining room to allow for at least 6 feet of distance between tables meant operating at 50% capacity. The restaurant quickly secured the necessary permits to build an outdoor patio — which cost $50,000 — that makes up for the lost tables. On a recent Monday evening, every table on the patio was full while a scarce number of parties sat inside. Stannard said the split between outdoor and indoor seating requests is about 70/30.

Plenty of people still want the traditional dine-in experience, he said. When Baccus was discussing whether to resume indoor dining, he talked to staff, investors and customers. There was a “pressure — not a pressure,” he corrected himself, “but interest” from the community in reopening the dining room. It’s sold out nearly every night since reopening, Stannard said in July.

The pandemic forced a major shift for The Village Pub, an upscale restaurant that places high value on the experience of dining in, into takeout. Pre-coronavirus, to-go orders generated less than 2% of sales for the restaurant, Stannard said. Now, delivery accounts for about 30% of sales — a number that’s held since the restaurant reopened for indoor and outdoor dining.

Best Of Palo Alto 2020

See Best Of listings on page 22 to find out how last year’s Retail winners have responded to the pandemic.

Note: Local health restrictions have changed since this story was written.

—E.K.

(continued on page 16)
Faced with the daunting task of leading virtual ballet-style workouts, studio incorporates furniture and everyday kitchen items into routines

After the coronavirus forced a statewide shutdown in March, Laura Santora couldn’t imagine pivoting barre classes to the virtual world — at least not the ones at her Palo Alto studio at Town & Country Village in Palo Alto, which are physically demanding and often require hands-on help from instructors.

Barre is a strenuous type of exercise that weaves in ballet choreography. The movements can be physically demanding, so instructors often move around the studio to help adjust their clients’ forms, verbally or hands-on. And like ballet, the training employs the use of a handrail, she explained.

“My first reaction was, ‘No way. How are we going to do that?’” Santora said.

But like many businesses, The Bar Method had to act fast. Within a week of closing the studio’s physical locations in Palo Alto and San Mateo, Santora and co-owner Noreen Dante began experimenting with how to move their classes online with the studio’s 18 instructors trying out various types of live video platforms: Zoom, Facebook Live and even Instagram Live.

Santora said they didn’t have much success at first: Instructors tried performing the movements with the students following along, but it’s extremely exhausting for barre instructors to perform movements and provide directions at the same time. The option of providing hands-on feedback was also gone. And with all the movements, some requiring the body to go very low, the instructors often found themselves out of the camera’s frame.

“We thought, ‘This is very clunky,’” Santora said. “And it takes away from the experience.”

That’s when they created the studio’s Spotlight Model, which uses a model to perform the exercises while teachers give instruction.

“It’s not a perfect solution,” Santora said. The models still have to adjust their laptop camera as they perform exercises like pushups or planks; there’s the inevitable connection issues over Zoom.

And while there’s still no fixed handrail used in the virtual classes, the studio has adjusted its routines so members can use flat surfaces such as a table or the back of a couch for some routines, Santora said.

Other props, like dumbbells, are also part of the class. But if you don’t have weights, she said, you can use wine bottles, cans of tomatoes or water bottles as a substitute.

“Beyond exercise, beyond toned muscles, we really are just a strong-knit community of people,” Santora said. “And people miss that. They miss being with each other.”

Live Zoom classes provide members the opportunity to log in 15 minutes before the class to reconnect with friends they haven’t seen in person.

Despite the early obstacles, Santora said she doesn’t see this new virtual option going away anytime soon. Instead, she expects that The Bar Method will invest more into their production and create their own platform to host classes in the near future.

“I really think that fitness has changed,” she said. “It’s changed the landscape and we can’t go on thinking that we can only be in the studio. I think people will always want to have this choice.”

—L.L.
BEST OF WINNERS: HOW ARE THEY DOING A YEAR LATER?

A lot has changed over the past year since readers voted for their favorite local places to eat, shop, workout or spend time with family and friends for the Weekly’s annual Best Of edition celebrating small businesses. The Weekly recently surveyed our local 2019 Best Of winners to see how they are doing a year later. (Note: With ever-shifting public health guidelines, some services listed below may be modified. Check with the business before you go.)

Adobe Animal Hospital
Adobe Animal Hospital provides pets of all varieties a wide range of quality services. The facility, which has a 24-hour intensive care unit, is equipped with an in-house diagnostic laboratory and endoscope and ultrasound machines, among other essential tools to help your furry friends stay healthy and happy. During the pandemic, the hospital is offering curbside concierge service and has launched a “tele-vet” program enabling clients to visit with a veterinarian for minor health issues via video conferencing from the comfort of their own home. The hospital also offers virtual demos with technicians for preventative care that can be done at home such as nail trimming and ear cleaning.
4470 El Camino Real, Los Altos, 650-948-9661; adobe-animal.com
2018 Hall of fame: Best Veterinarian

AJ’s Green Cleaners
Established in 1962 by the AJ Bena family, AJ’s Green Cleaners provides eco-friendly cleaning for everything from shirts and shoes to draperies, bedding and carpets. Since the pandemic, the company has also added customized mask making to its services. The California Avenue location is offering curbside concierge service by appointment only.
395 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-323-9068; ajscleaners.com
2019: Best Dry Cleaner

Animal Hospital of Palo Alto
From routine checkups, preventative care and surgical procedures to dentistry, grooming and boarding, Animal Hospital of Palo Alto provides a full range of services to keep pets healthy and happy year round. The hospital has remained open throughout the shelter-in-place orders while taking extra safety precautions such as offering curbside concierge service.
4111 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-493-2738; ahopavet.com
2019: Best Veterinarian

Dave’s Auto Repair (Advanced Motor Works)
Founded in 2008, Dave’s Auto Repair provides everything from basic maintenance and smog checks to complicated repairs. The shop offers EcoPower engine oil and recycles all used fluid, parts and new-parts packaging.
830 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto, 650-328-6537; davesauto830.com
2019: Best Auto Care

Dr. Christine Hansen
This dental practice offers private consultation rooms, blankets, your favorite music, as well as expert advice on how to solve your dental problems and what preventative or corrective procedures they can perform to ensure a healthy smile. Even dental-phobes say they enjoy going here and actually look forward to their next visit. The office is open for regular services with safety measures in place.
416 Waverley St. Suite A, Palo Alto, 650-326-3290; christinehansendds.com
2019 Hall of fame: Best Dentist

Four Seasons Hotel
Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley at East Palo Alto provides a five-star escape for those who want to feel pampered. The hotel reopened on Oct. 5 with new health protocols and enhanced business and fitness programs to keep guests safe during the pandemic. New amenities include an enhanced outdoor fitness center; a private fitness suite with hardwood floors, state-of-the-art equipment and on-demand personal training classes accessible by reservation only; and work-from-home suite upgrades with access to the business concierge and a complimentary office shuttle and house car.
2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto, 650-566-1200; fourseasons.com/siliconvalley
2019: Best Hotel

Great American Framing Company
From canvas to paper, needlepoint to three-dimensional art, the master craftsmen at Great American Framing Company construct the best-quality frames to display customers’ artwork, posters and other prized documents. The shop re-opened on June 1 after COVID-19 health mandates forced it to shutter for more than two months. “The community support has been a blessing,” co-owner James Brady said.
3886 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-327-4521; greatamericanframing.com
2019: Best Framing

Guy Plumbing & Heating
Guy Plumbing & Heating is a fourth-generation family-owned business that provides a wide range of services and operates a full-service showroom specializing in the sales and installation of Toto washlet bidet seats, as well as parts for Hansgrohe, Kohler and Grohe. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the company has been taking measures to confirm the health status of customers and its staff before scheduling each appointment. Plumbers are wearing protective masks, gloves and shoe covers as well as maintaining social distance while on the job.
1265 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-323-8415; guyplumbing.com
2019: Best Plumbers

(continued on page 20)
For more than 70 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., duly recognized nonprofit, 501 (c) (3), has demonstrated a profound legacy of caring for seniors, a commitment of providing high quality and nurturing programs so seniors are engaged, cared for and respected as vital community members. PVI’s four core programs, Meals on Wheels, Rosener House Adult Day Care for those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias and the venerated Little House, The Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center and Transportation services address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives.

Senior needs exposed through the lens of COVID-19.

James
Redwood City

"PVI’s Meals on Wheels brings me love. The meals have kept me alive and changed my life. It’s my connection to human beings.” The warm and pleasant driver is like receiving a “hug through their smiles.”

James lives alone and struggles with mobility due to chronic health conditions, making shopping and cooking for himself very difficult. The local liquor store is the most accessible option for food purchases, yet choices are scarce for healthy, affordable and easy to prepare meals. Though primarily wheelchair bound, James is anxious about using his wheelchair after witnessing another wheelchair user tip over on the uneven sidewalk. When James contacted PVI’s Meals on Wheels program he weighed only 110 pounds and had no food in his refrigerator. Now James is sustained by daily nutritious meals. His PVI Meals on Wheels volunteer driver is often the only person he sees and the connection is like a “daily hug.” James is confined to his apartment most days, where he likes to tinker and fix things, like stereo equipment. No longer burdened by hunger or malnutrition, James finds daily comfort in his hobbies.

Ruth and Mark
Menlo Park

"PVI’s Rosener House at home is an absolute lifeline for those with Alzheimer’s. Our caregivers had to retreat to their own home situations because of COVID-19. It’s my only respite right now!"

Ruth suffers from Alzheimer’s and PVI’s Adult Day Services at Rosener House has been her therapeutic haven since 2017. She still participates in our virtual programming for families in need at home. Ruth’s dementia has worsened and she struggles with memory difficulty and focus, no longer recalling how to use technology. Mark, both husband and caregiver, starts each online Zoom activity for her. Group activities and individual attention during the one on one calls help to combat increased isolation due to COVID-19, creating a lifeline for them both. Mark says the “thoughtfully tailored and creative personalized sessions by Kris and Josh are extraordinary.” The home delivered activity packets also keep Ruth’s attention, providing Mark with much needed respite. Ruth often cries and happy tears flowed when a piano video was played for her. Her music memory awakened and she joyfully reminisced. Pre pandemic, Ruth enjoyed playing the Steinway piano at Rosener House where participants and staff liked hearing her play many classical melodies. Mark shares how very grateful he is for all the ways PVI “supports our family while we are dealing with this extremely devastating disease.”

Frank
Menlo Park

“My daughter says that I’m a different person since joining PVI’s Little House online classes: more pep, more cheerful, more mobile, just happier.”

Frank moved to Menlo Park to be closer to family when his beloved wife passed away. He joined PVI’s senior activity center at Little House shortly afterward to fulfill a promise he made to his wife, to take health and wellness more seriously. Frank started attending our onsite fitness classes and appreciated PVI’s transportation rides to and from the senior center before COVID-19. Frank is now participating in the new virtual fitness class offerings, enjoying the camaraderie of others and the variety of fitness levels in the classes. Frank especially likes that minimal equipment is needed to participate and “there is something for everyone.” The instructors know participant names, give positive vibes and activity sessions are just the right size to engage. Frank says the morning classes give him “something to look forward to” and that PVI offers “a gem of a program!”

Visit penvol.org for more information and to read their complete stories.
Supporting the most vulnerable community through COVID-19 and beyond!

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that we are entering the third full season of the pandemic. All of us at Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. (PVI) hope that you and your families continue to be well and safe throughout this extraordinary time.

As COVID-19 continues to reshape our lives, the effect on seniors remains a daily concern for so many you know and love. Today, life for an older adult in your community feels much more insecure and fragile. Someone near you is waking up alone fearful of having no means of getting food for the day; others are struggling to care for a loved one with Alzheimer’s while coping with added health crisis stresses and schooling for children; and an isolated, lonely older adult is left at home without visitors, may need help using technology, and is longing to once again connect and engage in group activities that will help her flourish.

Our senior population is growing rapidly. Unmet needs are skyrocketing and amplified by COVID-19 and the holiday season. With less than 2% of institutional philanthropy going to services for seniors, together we must bridge a growing local funding gap to meet these needs. We need to ensure seniors are no longer overlooked.

1 in 8 seniors struggles with hunger and must choose between paying rent or purchasing medication or food.
1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer’s or another dementia, more than breast and prostate cancer.
1 in 5 seniors feels lonely and many are without transportation or technology to access the wellness program.

We are still six feet apart, yet remain shoulder to shoulder in caring for at risk seniors in our community!

PVI is here to walk through these tough times alongside you and our community. Deeply centered on our mission and values, we believe that every person deserves to age well. Our core programs serve over 5,000 senior households on the Peninsula, addressing the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain daily physical, nutritional, emotional and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives.

**PVI provides Connection, Community, Hope and Joy!**

We are meeting the new reality head on, swiftly adapting our services for the new environment by offering access to critical senior care programs online from the comfort and safety of home, while PVI’s Meals on Wheels continues home meal deliveries uninterrupted. Guided virtual online programs and activity packages ensure active older adults and those with Alzheimer’s and dementia and their families are able to be active, stimulated and safely supported, and isolation and loneliness relieved. Enhanced on demand transportation to support healthcare and food access provides rides to seniors for doctor, grocery and pharmacy visits.

You may ask “what can I do to help?” You can have an immediate on the families that need us most!

You provide PVI’s nutritious Meals on Wheels and wellness checks to vulnerable older adults who cannot get the daily nutrition they need. The wait list of hungry homebound seniors is growing. You help families caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s remain all together at home with Rosener House Adult Day Services active, therapeutic, program support and caregiver respite. You support active older adults through Little House. The Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center’s variety of wellness activities and on-demand transportation services that help seniors thrive.

**Your gift today of any size will help us sustain our vital programs.**

You are the proof that community hearts are generous during this extraordinary time of need.

With grateful thanks,

Peter Olson
Chief Executive Officer

Mical Attia Brenzel
Chairman of the Board/President

* A $500 donation will cover: one month of daily Meals on Wheels for two seniors; or one month of daily staff-guided virtual therapeutic sessions from Rosener House for one adult with Alzheimer’s; or two 60-minute personal training sessions from Little House for one senior; or 30 transportation rides for 30 seniors for two months.
Best Of Palo Alto 2020

Hair International

The crew at Hair International is a diverse team of stylists experienced in working with all hair types. The salon matches each client with the most appropriate stylist who will provide the best style for a particular hair type. The salon reopened on Aug. 31 with a host of safety measures in place, including the addition of five HEPA air-filtration units that operate 24 hours to help remove toxins from the air.

232 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto, 650-324-2007; hairintnl.com

2019: Best Men’s Haircut

2019: Best Hair Salon

Illuminate Plastic Surgery

Illuminate Plastic Surgery uses the latest treatments to help clients improve their appearances, whether they are looking to obtain a more youthful look, soften features or correct injuries. The clinic is fully reopen and is offering virtual surgical consultations as well as COVID-19 screenings.

101 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, 650-433-8621; illuminateplasticsurgery.com

2019: Best Plastic Surgeons

La Jolie Nail Spa

La Jolie Nail Spa offers a wide range of manic/pedi options, from the quick “express mani” (clean, shape, buff and polish) to the ultra-luxurious “peppermint pedi” (including a mint oil bath, shea butter massage and paraffin dip). The salon is open seven days a week and offers outdoor service.

364 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-322-8882; yelp.com/biz/la-jolie-nail-spa-palo-alto

2019: Best Manicure/Pedicure

Larry Morrill, DDS and Associates

From retainers to full orthodontia, Larry Morrill, DDS and Associates is dedicated to providing children and adults with personalized, quality orthodontic care in a fun and relaxed environment. The practice has treated generations of patients for the past 49 years.

1000 Welch Road, #201, Palo Alto, 650-322-2817; morrillorthodontics.com

2019: Best Orthodontists

Massage Therapy Center

One of the largest and oldest massage bodywork facilities in California, Massage Therapy Center provides clients a variety of massage therapies, including Swedish, clinical deep tissue and sports trigger point therapy. The center reopened with new safety protocols, including the use of high-quality, medical-grade HEPA air purifiers in all rooms.

368 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-328-9400; massagetherapypaloto.com

2019: Best Massage

Midtown Shoe Repair

Midtown Shoe Repair has been a Palo Alto fixture for 40 years. Since 1979, Robert Babekian has meticulously restored shoes, suitcases, purses, zippers — and practically anything made out of leather — in his quaint Midtown workshop.

2796 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 650-329-8171; midtownshoerepair.com

2019: Best Shoe Repair

Palo Alto Chiropractic Offices

Since 1978, Palo Alto Chiropractic Offices has worked with more than 35,000 individuals to help them achieve their health goals, including everything from wellness-oriented health care to relief from pain.

1691 El Camino Real #100, Palo Alto, 650-328-2100; paloalochiropractic.com

2019: Best Chiropractors

Palo Alto Dental Group

Located in the same building where its practice began in 1934, Palo Alto Dental Group has developed lifelong relationships with multiple generations of patients and their families. The practice has been open for regular business since June 1.

511 Byron St., Palo Alto, 650-323-1381; paloalodentalgroup.com

2019: Best Dentists

Palo Alto Family YMCA, Ross Road

The YMCA, which has been open for regular business and their families. The practice has been open for regular business since June 1.

1691 El Camino Real #100, Palo Alto, 650-328-2100; paloalochiropractic.com

2019: Best Chiropractors

Palo Alto Dental Group

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511 Byron St., Palo Alto, 650-323-1381; paloalodentalgroup.com

2019: Best Dentists

Palo Alto Family YMCA, Ross Road

The YMCA, which has been operating in the area for 126 years, offers swimming, youth sports, group exercise, recreational sports and personal training to help clients achieve their fitness goals at its Ross Road site. During the pandemic, the center is offering on-demand and livestream exercise classes, as well as social programs.

3412 Ross Road, Palo Alto, 650-856-9262; ymcasv.org/paloalto

2019: Best Gyms

2019: Best Personal Trainers

2019: Best Fitness Classes

Palo Alto Plumbing

Palo Alto Plumbing will be there when you need them, come rain, shine, sleet, hail — or a pandemic. From emergencies to routine repairs, the company specializes in serving all types of customers’ needs in plumbing, heating and air-conditioning and is available 24 hours a day.

716 San Antonio Road, Unit F, Palo Alto, 650-856-3400; paloaltoplumbing.net

2019 Hall of Fame: Best Plumber

SkinSpirit

SkinSpirit is the ultimate destination for all things skin and body. Co-founded in 2003 by a board-certified plastic surgeon, the clinic provides all the luxuries of a spa experience, including facials, injectables and lasers. The clinic has resumed its medical aesthetic treatments for skin health, facial rejuvenation and body contouring with safety protocols in place.

701 Emerson St., Palo Alto, 650-324-9600; skinspirit.com

2019: Best Skin Care

Turbo 26 Studio

Turbo 26 Studio reopened for in-person classes held outdoors on the rooftop of the garage adjacent to the studio on Nov. 1. The studio also offers livestream and on-demand classes. New videos are added every week, so clients can practice when they want, any format, any time.

240 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto, 650-325-2626; turbo26studio.com

2019: Best Yoga

Watercourse Way

Inspired by the natural hot springs of Tassajara, Watercourse Way offers concierge massages that can be booked in clients’ backyards. The spa is open for outdoor gazebo massages, facials and spa treatments as well as indoor massages and limited hot tub service. All rooms are equipped with Dyson air purifiers and UV lights. Hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout the building. Masks are required for clients and therapists, and all staff undergo temperature checks before each shift.

165 Channing Ave., Palo Alto, 650-462-2000; watercourseway.com

2019: Best Day Spa

Yoga Source

YogaSource Palo Alto offers more than 40 virtual classes a week, including Vinyasa, Power, Hot 26, Yin, Restorative, Yoga Sculpt, HIIT Pilates, Core-Strength and more. In addition to its ongoing livestream class schedule, the studio also is hosting special outdoor classes.

158 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, 650-327-YOGA; yogasource.com

2017 Hall of Fame: Best Yoga Studio
Cheeky Monkey Toys
Cheeky Monkey Toys is a family-owned shop that specializes in finding “just the right toy” for each customer. Since opening its doors in Menlo Park in 1999, the shop has provided interactive toys designed to stimulate children’s minds to generations of local families. When all nonessential businesses were ordered to close in March, Cheeky Monkey quickly pivoted to a delivery-only service, dropping off toys within a 10-mile radius of the store. Cheeky Monkey has reopened for in-store shopping and also offers curbside pickup and delivery.

460 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-328-7975; cheekymonkeytoys.com
2019: Best Toy Store

Essentique
Mandana Navi got her start in the beauty business in her own kitchen, testing out recipes for skin products and sharing her results with friends before opening Essentique on California Avenue in 2016. After closing in March due to health mandates, the shop is scheduled to reopen on Nov. 30. Navi’s line of hair, skin and body care products also are available at Essentique’s online store.

2417 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, 650-800-7375; essentique.com
2019: Best Beauty Supply

Footwear Etc.
Footwear Etc. has been helping customers find comfortable yet stylish shoes since 1986. The shop features Vonnie, a podiatrist-created brand for men and women that includes built-in arch supports in all of its shoes. The shop is open for in-store service.

463 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-328-1122; footwearetc.com
2019: Best Shoe Store

Hassett ACE Hardware
From hardware, tools, key cutting and knife sharpening to phone repair, garden supplies and barbecues, Hassett ACE Hardware in Palo Alto has it all. Family-owned since 1957, Hassett is a Palo Alto institution known for its focus on customer service.

875 Alma St., Palo Alto, 650-327-7222; hassetthardware.com
2019: Best Hardware Store

Kepler’s Books
Kepler’s Books has been a mainstay of the Peninsula’s literary scene for more than six decades. Besides offering books, it’s also the site of hundreds of free and ticketed events hosted by the nonprofit Kepler’s Literary Foundation. The bookseller launched curbside pickup in the plaza in May as well as a host of virtual author and books events. Kepler’s now offers virtual shopping, featuring curbside pickup, online ordering and virtual author events.

2019: Best Book Store

Leaf & Petal
With high-quality brand-name clothing, artisan jewelry and modern shoes, Leaf & Petal has been helping customers find outfits and accessories that express their style since 1976. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, Leaf & Petal is now offering virtual shopping and one-on-one personal appointments.

439 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-329-8070; lpetal.com
2019: Best Women’s Apparel

Lux Eyewear
Lux Eyewear is a one-stop shop for all things vision-related — from eye checkups to lens replacement. Opticians are available on site to assist customers, and Lux’s in-house optical lab can process prescriptions in as little as two hours. During the pandemic, Lux Eyewear is offering services on a limited basis. It is also offering online and tele-styling options for its eyewear and private appointments for vulnerable patients.

1805 El Camino Real #100, Palo Alto, 650-324-3937; luxpaloalto.com
2019: Best Eyewear

Mike’s Bikes
Founded in 1964, independent bike chain Mike’s Bikes has a singular purpose — to get as many people on bikes as possible. The shop features a big selection of brands and types, plus a skilled staff to offer tune-ups. As an essential business, Mike’s Bikes has remained open serving customers (continued on page 22)
During COVID-19 health restrictions, bikes in all categories remain in extremely short supply nationwide. According to the shop’s website: New bikes are arriving every day, but in the current situation, the shop might not have the bike available that customers want to see.

4233 W. Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 650-858-7700; mikesbikes.com

**2019: Best Bike Shop**

**Mills Florist**

Since opening in 1903, Mills Florist has provided fresh flower arrangements for special events spanning the past 100 years. The longtime florist also offers balloon bouquets, fine crystal, stuffed animals, dried swags and wreaths, and chocolates and other sweets. According to its website: The shop is open for phone and online delivery orders only and will not be delivering to medical facilities at this time.

235 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-321-1099; shadylanegallery.com

**2019: Best Gift Shop**

**Pet Food Express**

Pet Food Express features everything almost every pet needs: a line of high-quality food, toys, grooming tools, bedding, a self-service bath facility and veterinary services. The California-based chain also facilitates adoption and rescue events. The store is now offering same-day delivery service.

3910 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 650-856-6666; petfoodexpress.com

**2019: Best Pet Store**

**Shady Lane**

From hand-carved Zuni necklaces and luminescent art glass to troll beads, Shady Lane has been offering one-of-a-kind pieces ever since artist Alice Deutscher opened the boutique more than four decades ago. The boutique is open for limited hours for in-store shopping three days a week and offers pickup services. The store also offers gift wrapping.

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park, 650-321-1099; shadylanegallery.com

**2019: Best Boutique**

**SummerWinds**

SummerWinds has everything you’ll need to make your garden pop, including compost, potting mix, outdoor decor and tools (like trowels and gloves), bare-root fruit trees, native grasses, veggie plants and flower hats. The center is open and is now offering home delivery and curbside pickup.

725 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, 650-493-5136; summerwindsnursery.com

**2019: Best Nursery/Garden Supplies**

**Douce France**

Inspired by Vietnamese street food, Asian Box offers diners a 100% gluten-free menu with comforting staples like pho and curry chicken, as well as more eclectic options, like caramel catfish. During the pandemic, Asian Box is offering a lunch and dinner program enabling customers to donate meals to local healthcare professionals on the front line. The restaurant will match every box donated.

855 El Camino Real #104, Palo Alto, 650-322-3601; cafedoucefrance.com

**2019: Best Bakery/Desserts**

**Calave**

The pandemic may have put an end to the traditional happy hour, but Calave is still the go-to place for locals looking for a pre-dinner snack or a light meal with their cocktails. The wine bar serves wine by the glass or the flight, house-made sangria, beer by the glass, signature cocktails.

**Hair International**

Hair International 223 Stanford Shopping Center | Palo Alto, CA 94304

To come see us: call, text or email 650.324.2007 | hairintlpaloalto@gmail.com | www.hairintl.com

**Best Of Palo Alto 2020**

**Best Of Palo Alto 2020**

**Pet Food Express**

2019: Best Flower Shop

**Mills Florist**

2019: Best Boutique

**Pet Food Express**

2019: Best Pet Store

**Shady Lane**

2019: Best Gift Shop

**SummerWinds**

2019: Best Jewelry Store

**Bhuwan Sahney, vice president of Gleim the Jewelers, poses for a portrait surrounded by empty jewelry cases in the store in Stanford Shopping Center on April 13. Gleim has won Best Jewelry Store many times over the years.**

**From hand-carved Zuni necklaces and luminescent art glass to troll beads, Shady Lane has been offering one-of-a-kind pieces ever since artist Alice Deutscher opened the boutique more than four decades ago.**

**During the pandemic, Asian Box is offering a lunch and dinner program enabling customers to donate meals to local healthcare professionals on the front line. The restaurant will match every box donated.**

**We want you to know that during the period when businesses were shut down, we worked many hours with Health and Safety consultants, aerosol consultants, created an in-house Safety Team and took vigorous action to shield us from and reduce the covid virus spread.**

**We’ve:**

- Installed six HEPA air purifiers that filter virus particles from the air;
- Modified the air conditioning system to bring in a constant flow of fresh air;
- Reduced the number of employees and clients in the salon at any one time by 75%;
- Have staff members using N95 or KN95 respirators and provide high-quality surgical mask for clients who need them;
- And are sanitizing and disinfecting all tools and work stations between clients.

We feel these are important risk reduction techniques, especially considering we are now entering into the more dangerous winter months. We truly hope you do too. Keeping you, your families, ourselves and our community safe is our first concern, and we are committed to it.

With respect, affection and hope,

Pam and the Hair International Styling Team

**Best Of Palo Alto 2020**

**Best Of Palo Alto 2020**
2019: Best Happy Hour

Chef Chu’s

Since opening in 1970, Chef Chu’s specialty dishes, including its homemade potstickers and Beijing duck cooked in a cast-iron Chinese oven, have attracted a who’s-who list of diners from near and far, including Serena Williams, Steve Young, Justin Bieber and JFK Jr.

1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, 650-948-2696; chefchu.com

2019: Best Chinese Restaurant

Coupa Café

Coupa Café serves certified organic and shade-grown coffee as well as a variety of menu items including pastries, paninis, salads and Venezuelan specialties like white cornmeal griddle cakes called “arepas,” taqueros and empanadas. The cafe now offers curbside pickup, contactless outdoor dining and delivers a wide range of products from its online grocery store.

538 Ramona St., Palo Alto, 650-322-6872; coupacafe.com

2019: Best Coffeehouse

Darbar

According to Palo Alto Weekly readers, nowhere does Indian quite like Darbar, the unassuming fixture on Lytton Avenue in downtown Palo Alto that’s been serving up Indian fare since 1982, offering a menu that’s more local, samosas and wickedly good naan for years. There’s even more on the menu for dinner.

29 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto, 650-321-6688

2019 Hall of fame: Best Indian Restaurant

Evvia Estiatorio

Evvia Estiatorio is famous for whipping up an unforgettable Greek feast. The Michelin Guide has dubbed the restaurant’s modern Greek menu “the whitest Helenic fare in the Bay Area.” Its specialties include everything from lamb chops served straight from the mesquite grill to grilled octopus with lemon juice and olive oil to sea bass, served whole. The restaurant is serving lunch and dinner in its outdoor garden dining terrace seven days a week. Takeout also is available.

420 Emerson St., Palo Alto, 650-326-0983; evvia.net

2019 Hall of fame: Best Restaurant to Splurge

2019 Hall of Fame: Best Mediterranean Restaurant

and select bar bites on its outdoor patio on California Avenue with new health standards in place.

299 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-521-0443; calave.com

2019: Best Happy Hour

Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar serves prime beef, chops, seafood and chicken, as well as 100 wines by the glass in a contemporary dining room at Stanford Shopping Center. Takeout, delivery and indoor/outdoor dining are available.

180 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-329-8457; flemingssteakhouse.com

2019: Best Steakhouse

Fuki Sushi

With chefs trained in Japan, Fuki Sushi executes delicately crafted sushi rolls with well-cooked rice and fresh seafood. Until its sushi bar and private tatami rooms are reopened, the restaurant is offering takeout and delivery.

4119 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-494-5933; fuki Listsushi.com

2019: Best Sushi/Japanese Restaurant

Hobee’s

Founded by Paul Taber in 1974 and now operated by a new generation of owners, Hobee’s remains an iconic Silicon Valley chain known for its funky vibe and ample breakfasts — including its legendary blueberry coffee cake with crumbly streusel topping — and assortment of healthy menu items. The restaurant is open for curbside pickup and delivery (and its blueberry coffee cake can be shipped nationwide).

4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-856-6124; hobee.com

2019: Best Breakfast

House of Bagels

Tucked away in Edgewood Plaza, House of Bagels is a New York-inspired establishment that features all the bagel basics — the savory spreads, the soft lox, the mouth-watering deli sandwiches — along with cookies, pastries and other baked goods. Bagels are freshly baked daily and can be ordered online.

2199 Middlebury Road, Palo Alto, 650-322-5189; houseofBagels.com

2019: Best Bagels

Izzys’s Brooklyn Bagels

Izzys’s Brooklyn Bagels offers a wide selection of pastries and challah. The stars of the show here, however, are the bagels, which are made fresh every day. Customers know that it’s important to come in early so that popular flavors are still available. Even during the early months of the pandemic, customers continued waiting (a safe distance apart) outside for their morning bagel after the shop pivoted to curbside service.

477 S. California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-329-0700; 2220-B University Ave., East Palo Alto, 650-322-5700; izzysbrooklynbags.com

2018 Hall of fame: Best Bagels

Joanie’s Cafe

Featured on food network’s “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives,” Joanie’s Cafe at the legendary La Bodeguita in Havana is a who’s who list of diners from the West Coast with creative flavors made in small batches using local, organic ingredients. Each outpost is a reflection of the place it’s located, so the Palo Alto shop, which opened in November 2018, serves flavors unique to the Bay Area, such as fried rice and cilantro rice, the shop offers on-site pickup, delivery and orders through its online shop.

520 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-656-9224; saltandstraw.com

2019: Best New Food/Drink Establishment

Oren’s Hummus

Famous for its fresh, direct-from-Israel hummus, flavorful meat skewers and stuffed-to-the-gills pita sandwiches, the menu at Oren’s Hummus is full of Israeli staples that also are served at a new “express” version of the restaurant, which focuses on quick, grab-and-go service. Patio dining, takeout and delivery are available.

261 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-854-6922; orenshummus.com

Oren’s Hummus Express, 885 El Camino Real, #162, Palo Alto, 650-563-6736; orenshummusexpress.com

2019: Best Mediterranean Restaurant

2019: Best Meal Under $20

Palo Alto Creamery Fountain & Grill

Palo Alto Creamery Fountain & Grill is an old-school diner that has been serving shakes since 1923. Everything here is made from scratch, including the 20-plus milkshake flavors on the menu.

566 Emerson St., Palo Alto, 650-323-3131; paloalotcreamy.com

2019: Best Dining with Kids

2019: Best Milkshake

Palo Alto Sol

Owned and operated by Hector and Helona Sol, Palo Alto solvent serves up sopas, tacos, burritos, enchiladas and other regional dishes from Puebla, Mexico, that are based on family recipes. In recent years, the restaurant has been moving toward sustainability by supporting local farmers and ranchers. The restaurant is now open for outdoor dining and takeout.

408 S California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-328-8840; solrestaurantca.com

2019: Best Mexican Restaurant

Pizzeria Delfina

Pizzeria Delfina offers its Neapolitan-style pizza in a spacious patio, where trellises, wisteria, Japanese maples and a wall of ivy cool the summer nights and heat lamps wait for chillier weather. Patio dining and takeout are available.

651 Emerson St., Palo Alto, 650-353-2208; pizzeriadelifornia.com

2019: Best Outdoor Dining

Protégé

Protégé is an approachable yet impressive neighborhood restaurant that features new American cuisine. Just nine months after co-owners Dennis Kelly (master sommelier) and Anthony Secviar (chef), alumni from the three-Michelin-star The French Laundry in Yountville, opened in Palo Alto in 2018, the restaurant won a Michelin star. Protégé is open Thurs- day through Sunday. Takeout and patio dining are available.

250 California Ave., Palo Alto, reservations@protegepaloalto.com; protegepaloalto.com

2019: Best Restaurant to Splurge

Rick’s Rather Rich Ice Cream

For more than 40 years, Rick’s Rather Rich Ice Cream has been churning out small-batch ice cream handmade daily at the back of the shop. The shop now offers more than 48 flavors, including creations such as rose, sweet coconut and white chocolate ginger. Customers can order ahead to pick up ice cream scoops, milkshakes, sundaes and other items to go. The shop is also accepting online donations to “help us stay afloat,” according to its website.

3946 Midfield Road, Palo Alto, 650-493-6553; ricksicecream.com

2019: Best Ice Cream/Gelato

Saint Michael’s Alley

Originally founded as a coffee-house with a bohemian vibe when it opened in 1959, Saint Michael’s Alley has since developed into a refined restaurant with upscale ambiance and a menu rooted in local, fresh ingredients that includes entrees such as roasted sea bass, red curry roasted duck breast and pan-seared halibut. The restaurant is open for takeout and patio dining.

140 Homer Ave., Palo Alto, 650-326-2530; smikes.com

2019: Best California Cuisine

2019: Best Romantic Dining

Salt & Straw

Salt & Straw was born in Oregon but has made a name for itself on the West Coast with creative flavors made in small batches using local, organic ingredients. Each outpost is a reflection of the place it’s located, so the Palo Alto shop, which opened in November 2018, serves flavors unique to the Bay Area, such as fried rice and cilantro rice. The shop offers on-site pickup, delivery and orders through its online shop.

250 University Ave., #110, Palo Alto, 650-656-9224; saltandstraw.com
from 12 different kinds of burgers with eight different meat options, as well as vegetarian fare. 491 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto, 650-322 8226; sanchostaqueria.com
2019: Best Burrito

Sprott Cafe
With a menu that includes made-to-order custom salads, Japanese soybean noodles, grilled chicken breast, sandwiches and soups, Sprott Cafe proves that healthy fast food does exist. During the pandemic, the restaurant is offering pickup and delivery. 168 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-323-7688; cafesprout.com
2019: Best Salad

Sundance the Steakhouse
Opened in 1974, this steak-lover’s restaurant serves specially aged prime-graded steak, to-die-for slow-roasted prime rib and the freshest catches from the sea, like New England sea scallops, Scottish salmon, Australian lobster and Chilean sea bass. Open for indoor and outdoor dining and takeout.
1921 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-312-6798; sundancethesteakhouse.com
2019 Hall of Fame: Best Steakhouse

Tai Pan
Tai Pan features an extensive menu that includes more than 80 different kinds of Hong Kong-style dim sum, classic dumplings and specialty rice-noodle rolls. Indoor and outdoor dining is available daily and the dinner menu is available for takeout during the restaurant’s open hours. 560 Waverley St., Palo Alto, 650-329-9168; taipanpaloalto.com
2019: Dim Sum

Tamarine Restaurant
From ginger-beef pho and wok-flashed rice noodles to steamed wild snapper in banana leaves, Tamarine Restaurant serves thoughtfully crafted Vietnamese cuisine that makes every dish a work of art in this fine dining establishment. Takeout and indoor and outdoor dining are available. 546 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-325-8500; tamarinerestaurant.com
2019: Best Fusion Restaurant

Taverna
With casual fine dining in a Greek-style tavern, Taverna restaurant exudes Hellenic hospitality. The menu, split into bites, small plates and entrees, is an education in Greek cuisine. Patio dining and takeout are available. The restaurant also offers a family meal menu. 250 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-494-4181; tavernarestaurant.net
2019: Best New Restaurant

Teaspoon Palo Alto
Teaspoon Palo Alto offers a variety of drink flavors — from toasted marshmallow to a virgin mojito — made with all-natural cinnamon cane sugar. The shop also offers shaved snow desserts that come in flavors like banana. Items are available for in-store pickup. 2675 Middlefield Road, Suite C, Palo Alto, 650-272-6734; teaspoonlife.com
2019: Best Boba Tea

Terun
Terun with Neapolitan-style pies baked in a wood-fired oven, Terun provides diners a slice of Italy in Palo Alto. The pizzeria offers a virtually endless choice of creative combinations with toppings like burrata, zucchini, grilled eggplant, artichokes and pears. Terun is offering takeout, delivery and restaurant dining on California Avenue through the city’s outdoor dining program. 448 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-600-8310; terunpizza.com
2019: Best Pizza

2019 Hall of Fame: Best Italian Restaurant

Thai Pho
Whether you feel like having it hot or mild, the menu at Thai Pho can be altered to the spice level of your choice. From chicken coconut soup to fried tofu or braised lamb, there is something for everyone. The restaurant offers patio dining and takeout.
543 Emerson St., Palo Alto, 650-323-7700; thaiphoononline.net
2019: Best Thai Restaurant

The Counter
No two burgers at The Counter are the same. The popular restaurant on California Avenue puts a premium on letting you customize your burger down to the last detail. The possibilities are endless. The restaurant is offering outdoor dining, pickup and delivery.
2019: Best Burgers

The Fish Market
For nearly 43 years, The Fish Market has been an El Camino Real mainstay serving up traditional fare to satisfy the harshest of sea-faring souls — fish and chips, cioppino and clam chowder — as well as dishes for the edgier palate.
The restaurant and retail market reopened Sept. 3. Takeout and curbside service also are available. 3150 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-493-9188; thefishmarket.com
2019: Best Seafood Restaurant

The Market at Edgewood
The Market at Edgewood is a family-owned neighborhood market that offers a large variety of hand-selected produce from local farms and producers, as well as baked goods, a diverse meat section and a dedicated cheese specialist. The market is offering curbside pickup and delivery.
2170 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, 650-665-7590; marketatedgewood.com
2019: Best Produce

2019: Best Grocery Store

The Old Pro
Instantly recognizable by its pendant-covered interior walls, the Old Pro is known for its happy hour deals and eclectic menu, which includes wings, crispy Brussels sprouts and garlic Parmesan tater tots. The restaurant is open and menu items are available for takeout and delivery.
541 Ramona St., Palo Alto, 650-326-1446; oldpropa.com
2019: Best Sports Bar

Tin Pot Creamery
What started as an ice cream of the month club expanded to several storefronts famous near and far for serving thick-and-creamy organic ice cream. The menu includes classics and as well as more innovative ones like salted butterscotch and sweet cream with honey balsamic swirl. Ingredients are locally sourced. Menu items are available onsite and for pickup and delivery.
Town & Country Village, 855 El Camino Real #212, Palo Alto, 650-327-1715; tinpotcreancy.com
2019 Hall of Fame: Best Ice Cream/Gelato

True Food Kitchen
The menu at True Food Kitchen draws from an anti-inflammatory diet that emphasizes fruits and vegetables, beans and legumes, whole grains, seafood, healthy fats and other items, which are sourced locally and regularly rotated on the menu with the seasons. The restaurant has made adjustments to its dining room to accommodate for social distancing and other safety measures as it reopens.
180 El Camino Real, #1140, Palo Alto, 650-272-5157; truefoodkitchen.com
2019: Best Vegetarian/Vegan Cuisine
Zareen’s
Zareen’s is a Michelin Guide restaurant that serves traditional and fusion-style Pakistani and Indian food, including samosas, kebabs and a Punjabi chicken burger with spicy fries made in small batches around the clock. The Palo Alto restaurant is open for outdoor dining and takeout.
365 S. California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-600-8438; zareensrestaurant.com
2019: Best Indian Restaurant

Zola
Zola is owner Guillaume Binaime’s modern take on a classic French bistro. The dishes at this small, seasonal French restaurant include roasted button mushrooms with escargot butter, rillettes de saumon and short rib bourguignon. The restaurant is offering Take & Bake items on Fridays and Saturdays. Weekly to-go menu is posted each Wednesday.
565 Bryant St., Palo Alto, 650-521-0651; zolapaloalto.com
2019: Best French Restaurant

Bing Concert Hall
Engineered for acoustic perfection, the intimate 842-seat Bing Concert Hall has hosted musicians from all over the world since opening in Stanford University’s Arts District in 2013. The performance space is temporarily closed to audiences during the pandemic crisis. Starting in late September, however, Stanford Live rolled out a digital season that includes short films created at Bing Concert Hall, featuring the St. Lawrence String Quartet, pianist Garrick Ohlsson, musician Vân Anh (Vanessa) Võ, the Kronos Quartet and more.
327 Lassen St., Stanford, 650-724-2464; live.stanford.edu
2019: Best Place for Live Entertainment

Palo Alto Library
Palo Alto Library has long been recognized as one of the only places where you can study, work or simply scroll your social media feeds for free (no password or library account needed) while also checking out great books, music and movies. Even during the pandemic while the library is closed, patrons can still access Wi-Fi from its parking lot. The library also is offering sidewalk services, virtual events and online resources.
City library locations are listed at cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/le/default.asp
2019: Best Wi-Fi Hot Spot

About the cover: Separated by Plexiglas, Karen Himmaugh rings up a customer’s groceries at Piazza’s Fine Foods in Palo Alto on April 9. Photo by Magali Gauthier.
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We are so grateful, not only for our current members who continue to support us, but also for our newest members joining our growing community of impactful organizations in Palo Alto and the other local businesses who stepped up during these hard times. Your perseverance and creativity keeps this city thriving and the people in it safe and happy.

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Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 35.


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new handbook. The four council members in the more pro-growth camp — Mayor Adrian Fine, Alison Cormack, Liz Kniss and Greg Tanaka — all moved to make appointments this year, which will give outgoing council members Kniss and Fine a chance to re-shape the commission. The three council members who are affiliated with the more slow-growth “residentialist” camp — Vice Mayor Tom DuBois, Eric Filseth and Lydia Kou — strongly opposed the action, with DuBois accusing his four colleagues of “ramming this through.”

Kniss, who made the motion to make the appointments in December, argued that doing so would take some of the pressure off the incoming council.

By making the appointments this year, the current council can ensure that the 2021 council “at least will not have that particular area — that particular appointment challenge — to meet at the same time.”

The three council members who opposed her motion suggested that the timeline is driven by politics.

“You’re going to have people not appointed by a new council,” DuBois said. “And if you insist on doing this, people are going to remember. It’s going to be a shame. It’s going to be by the slimmest majority possible.”

With its 4-3 vote, the council also agreed to extend by two weeks the recruitment period for the two open seats on the planning commission, which are currently filled by Ed Lauing and Doria Summa. At that time, the city had only received two applications, from Summa and from resident Kevin Ma, a software engineer.

Since then, the city has received seven more applications. The list of candidates now includes Lauing, who fell just short on Nov. 3 in his bid for a council seat; architect Jessica Resmini; attorney Rebecca Eisenberg; Kelsey Banes, regional executive director of YIMBY Action; Doug Burns, a member of Barron Park Association; Kathy Jordan, a community volunteer who has been critical of the council’s recent budget decisions; and Alon Carmeli, a computer engineer who serves as managing director for multifamily residential properties investment and redevelopment at Greenpoint Real Estate.

Given the highly political nature of the planning commission appointments and the commission’s current makeup, the council’s move to pick new members this year is expected to give the newcomers an edge over the incumbents, making it more likely that both Lauing and Summa will lose their seats before the end of the year.

Of the seven commissioners, Lauing and Summa are the two that have been most cautious...
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881 San Jude Avenue, Palo Alto
5 Bed | 5.5 Bath | $4,598,000 | 881sanjude.com
Derk Brill
650.814.0478
DRE 01256035

442 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
4 Bed | 3 Bath | $3,195,000 | 642middlefield.com
Derk Brill
650.814.0478
DRE 01256035

985 Lassen Drive, Menlo Park
2 Bed | 3 Bath | $3,195,000 | 985lassen.com
Erika Demma
650.740.2970
DRE 01250766

3291 Berryessa Street #5, Palo Alto
3 Bed | 2 Bath | $1,398,000 | 3291berryessa5.com
Paul Yang
408.203.0567
DRE 01980050
Jean-Luc Laminette
650.833.9336
DRE 01847917

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Lame duck (continued from page 30)

about approving new developments and most prone to challenging staff recommen-
dations about new policies or applications.
Both voted last week against allowing Cas-
tilleja School to increase its enrollment from 426 to 540 students, arguing in favor
of a more gradual increase. Both had also
opposed in May a new ordinance that re-
laxes zoning rules for the construction of
accessory dwelling units, arguing that the
ordinance’s potential impacts.
Lauing’s recent council campaign was
endorsed by Palo Altans for Sensible Zon-
ing, a political action committee that favors
more slow-growth policies and that had also
endorsed current council members DuBois,
Filseth, Kou as well as Greer Stone, who
will join the council in January. As such,
Lauing likely would have been a shoo-in
for a fresh term had the council followed its
newly approved process, which would have
given Stone and incoming council member
Pat Burt a vote in the new appointment.
Summa, who has been the commission’s
most frequent dissenter and its staunchest
critic of policies that relax zoning rules
promote growth, may also see her term
come to an end. Summa cast the sole “no”
vote in commission’s decisions to rezone a
two-block stretch of San Antonio Road to
spur housing production thereand to create
“housing incentive program” that grants
density bonuses to housing developments
in downtown, California Avenue and El
Camino Real — a position that puts her at
odds with both her commission colleagues
and the council.
While the council has a long record of
politicizing appointments to the planning
commission, both Kniss and Cormack
argued earlier this month that filling the
seats this year is a practical — rather than
political — move. Cormack said the current
council should “do the work that is in front
of us” rather than defer to next year’s coun-
cil. She also suggested that, as the newest
council member, it would have been more
difficult for her to “make really great votes
in the first couple of months, since I was
still learning the job and all the people.”
Filseth disagreed and called the council’s
decision to make appointments before the
end of the year “wildly inappropriate” and
a “bad idea.”
“And if we pass this — and it will be by
the barest minimum margin — I hope this
is the last council that indulgesthis kind of
ting,” Filseth said just before the 4-3
vote.
Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be
emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Public Agenda
A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The commission plans to hold a study session on community
and the council.
and constructing an addition, resulting in a proposed floor area of 7,861 square feet. The virtual
meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can
do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 929 2730 7235.
CITY COUNCIL ... The commission plans to discuss and accept an audit of
the city’s financial statements, approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial
Report and consider approving a power supply contract with the Western Area Power
Administration. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Those wishing to
participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 925 2730 7225.
UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss water rates at cities
supplied by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, consider a recommendation to
decline adaptation of targets for energy storage systems and get an update on the utilities
financial forecast and rate discussion for fiscal year 2020. The virtual meeting will begin at 7
p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-
900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 996 9129 7246.
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to review a proposal to demolish an
800-square-foot commercial building at 358 El Camino Real and to replace it with a three-
story mixed-use project that includes 2,400 square feet of office space and three residential
units; and consider a proposal to demolish a portion an existing building at 3241 Park Blvd.
and constructing an addition, resulting in a proposed floor area of 7,861 square feet. The virtual
meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can
do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 925 4447 0390.
COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to discuss and accept an audit of
the city’s financial statements, approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial
Report and consider approving a power supply contract with the Western Area Power
Administration. The virtual meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3. Those wishing to
participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 966 9129 7246.

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On Thanksgiving, We Think of Family

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Looking for a new home with an easier lifestyle?
Researching a place for your parents to move closer to your family?

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* One owner must be at least 55 years old

Lucy Berman
650.208.8824
lucy@lucyberman.com
lucyberman.com
Lic. #01413627
Across
1 “Cinderella Man” antagonist Max
5 Stacks of cash
9 First name in Fighting Irish history
12 Sansa’s sister on “Game of Thrones”
13 80s–90s TV legal drama with a license plate in the title screen
14 “Star Trek” captain
16 Show excessive stubble, perhaps
18 High point?
19 As originally located
20 Old-timey hangout with a counter
22 Step unit
23 Repair tears
24 ___ the cows come home
25 Huge success
26 ___ Nublar (“Jurassic Park” setting)
30 Party invitation blank
32 Dark times?
35 Firing figure
36 Tourists’ warm-weather wear
39 2011 NBA champs, for short
40 Exciting way to take the world
41 “Middlemarch” novelist

Down
1 Send packing
2 “___ just the cutest?”
3 Made ___ (flirted, in a way)
4 Circle measurements
5 Cartoon baby’s cry
6 “Sad to say”
7 Swiss host city for the World Economic Forum
8 Any ABBA member
9 Alaises, for short
10 Basic file format that allows for bold and underlining
11 Omnate cupboards
12 “Geaux Tigers” sch.
15 Laws of planetary motion discoverer
17 Chest chamber
21 “That’s sooo cute!”
27 Checkbook record
28 Godiva’s title
29 Audibly in shock
31 Damage
32 “___ I’m told”
33 East, in Spain
34 Louboutin item
35“___ de deux (two-person dance)
36 Islands off Spain
37 Movie that brought on “Army of Darkness”
38 “25 Words ___” (game show)
39 Way of doing things
40 Prof’s helpers
42 Prof’s helpers
44 Faithful about
45 Plenty
46 1984” working class
49 1977 George Burns film
50 Shell source in the Mario Kart series
52 Clean-up clinic
54 “___ Well That Ends Well”
55 Two-___ sloth
56 ___ de deux (two-person dance)
59 Genetic info carrier

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Answers on page 30.
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