County prepares COVID-19 vaccine plan

The Long Way Back

Experts say Palo Alto’s economic recovery could take years

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Experts: Economic recovery could take years

As COVID-19 battersthe local economy,
Palo Alto plots a comeback

by Gennady Sheyner

As the number of COVID-19 cases continued to spike across Santa Clara County this week, Palo Alto’s city leaders found themselves staring at two distinct but related assignments: manage a raging health crisis and try to save the local economy from falling into a rapid downward spiral.

The county’s shelter-in-place orders, which have been in effect since mid-March, may have prevented a deeper public health crisis in the region, but they have also taken a heavy toll on the business sector. Scores of restaurants and retailers have shut down. Some eateries pivoted to outdoor dining, only to find the activity suddenly prohibited under the county’s most recent stay-at-home directive (See story on page 8). Other businesses, including gyms, hotels and entertainment venues, have remained relatively flat; in others, they have plunged steeply. Palo Alto and Mountain View both fell in the latter category, according to a report from Thomas Adams, whose firm Avenu Insights and Analytics serves as Palo Alto’s sales tax consultant. In the third quarter of 2020, sales tax revenues in Palo Alto dropped by 23.2% from the same period in 2019. In Mountain View, the decline was 24.2%. By contrast, sales tax revenues in Redwood City and San Bruno were in the latter category, according to the report.

So far, the effects of the economic recession on the Peninsula have been significant but geographically uneven. In some areas, sales tax revenues have remained relatively flat; in others, they have plunged steeply. Palo Alto and Mountain View both fell in the latter category, according to a report from Thomas Adams, whose firm Avenu Insights and Analytics serves as Palo Alto’s sales tax consultant. In the third quarter of 2020, sales tax revenues in Palo Alto dropped by 23.2% from the same period in 2019. In Mountain View, the decline was 24.2%. By contrast, sales tax revenues in Redwood City and San Bruno were in the latter category, according to the report.

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Paula Rantz, left, Debbie Nichols, center, and Margaret Lawrence, right, stand next to one of the trees they’ve brought to the neighborhood of Old Palo Alto on Dec. 1.

PUBLIC HEALTH

County leaders plan for COVID-19 vaccines

Also, PAMF fined for insufficient tests

by Sue Dremann

Santa Clara County could receive the first 17,550 doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer Inc. and 39,300 doses from Moderna Inc. this month as soon as the manufacturers get emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration for distribution, county health leaders announced this week.

The Pfizer vaccines are expected first and will be given to acute-care health workers and residents of long-term care facilities but are not likely to cover all eligible recipients in those groups, Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, head of the county’s COVID-19 testing task force, said during a press conference in San Jose on Dec. 7. With immunization requiring two doses, some 28,425 people would be able to be vaccinated with the first shipments of the drugs.

Fenstersheib noted that while neither Pfizer nor Moderna had approval just yet, both companies are meeting with FDA officials: Pfizer on Thursday, Dec. 10, and Moderna on Dec. 17.

The vaccines require very low storage temperatures. Hospitals and the county are preparing to receive the shipments and the county Public Health Department has purchased freezers, he said.

Patients in skilled nursing facilities are being prioritized because they are the most seriously at risk.

(continued on page 11)
I wonder how many of my business comrades are going to make it through this period.

— Michael Ekwall, La Bodeguita del Medio co-owner, on new restaurant restrictions. See story on page 8.

Around Town

My colleagues, assembled in a small, one-bedroom apartment on El Camino Real in Los Altos, are going to make it through this period. I wonder how many of my business colleagues are going to make it through this period.

BUON APPETITO! ... Tessa Berney’s Italian dinner kits consist of three simple ingredients: pasta, pasta sauce and a positive note for the recipient all packaged in a Ziploc bag. In about a month, the sixth-grader managed to gather 145 sets that were donated last week to Peninsula Family Service. It’s her way of helping out people in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. “I can’t write them a check, I’m only 10, so I want to help them in a different way,” she said. Tessa was inspired to launch the project after watching a video of a family of four who lived in a small, one-bedroom apartment and received help through the nonprofit. She reached out to her neighbors in Old Palo Alto and surrounding areas through Nextdoor and her school, Silicon Valley International School, to support her food drive. To keep things safe and contactless, donors left their contributions in a donation box. The notes in each kit varied in message, from a holiday greeting to simply “Buon Appetito!” She chose to center her food drive on pasta dishes because they’re filling meals and the receiver could make their own additions, such as a protein or vegetables (plus, it’s popular among children, Tessa added). The project caught the attention of Palo Alto Firefighters Local 3139, which gave her a $1,000 check. She plans to spend a portion of the funds to assist firefighters in the Bay Area. Looking forward, Tessa intends to make dinner kits every holiday season. “It just felt good to give back to my community and to help others ... in such a difficult year.”

RICH IN KINDNESS ... As Aesop once said, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” The Greek fabulist’s words ring true for the people behind this year’s Silicon Valley Philanthropy Day. The Nov. 10 event by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Silicon Valley Chapter showed appreciation for a handful of local nonprofits that have stepped up to serve the needy. Among the recognized locals were Palo Alto City Council member Alison Carmack, Megan Swezy Fogarty and Lynne Russell for their work in helping low-wage workers with rent and other expenses for basic needs. The organization also recognized Evelyne Keonium, founder of The Karat School Project, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit that works to educate women and girls. Keonium has assisted people who live in recreational vehicles parked on El Camino Real. For a full list of this year’s honorees, visit bit.ly/2kG0kML.

TOP OF THE LINE ... President-elect Joe Biden has wasted no time since the general election was called in his favor. Over the past few weeks, news has circulated of his Cabinet nominees and picks for agency review teams, some of whom have ties to Stanford University. One of the most notable choices was announced this week. State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who received his undergraduate and law degrees from Stanford, has been tapped to serve as the secretary of Health and Human Services. Becerra would be the first Latino to serve in the role if confirmed, according to Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris’ transition team. Five Stanford scholars have been picked to serve on Biden and Harris’ agency review teams. The appointees are Linda Darling-Hammond, an education professor; Colin Kahl, former senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies; Pam Karlan, professor of public interest law; Arun Majumdar, director of the Precourt Institute for Energy; and Ramin Toloui, the Tad and Dianne Taaffe Professor in Environmental Policy at Stanford University. Biden’s Cabinet nominees and picks for agency review teams are composed of highly experienced and well-regarded professionals, with deep backgrounds in crucial policy areas across the federal government, the Biden-Harris transition team said in an announcement.
When Maribel Ramirez lost her baby in pregnancy several years ago, there was a gap in Spanish-language grief counseling services. In response, Ramirez began her work with Kara’s Spanish-speaking grief-counseling agency. She wrote in a statement celebrating the program’s five-year anniversary this past June: “Helping normalize a person’s feelings is so powerful. I also believe that being able to speak their language provides a sense of comfort, too. We use phrases, poems and words that help us connect with one another, but most important is to listen with compassion,” she wrote.

Since January, the program has provided peer-based and consultative support to more than 200 people. Kara used a $7,500 Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund grant it received last year to train five of the volunteers in its expanding program. The expansion is needed more than ever. “I think we’re at capacity” in terms of the number of clients the volunteers can serve, Santucci said.

The Spanish Services Program was started by Maria Berardi, a Kara outreach volunteer who did research on grief in the Spanish-speaking community. She found barriers to grief support services and saw that the existing services lacked cultural sensitivity to the Latino community. Now directed by Rosario Puga-Dempsey, the program reaches its clients through partnerships with community organizations that include East Palo Alto Senior Center, Menlo Park Senior Center, Community Health Awareness Council in Mountain View, On Lok in East San Jose, Redwood City School District and Samaritan House Redwood City. Puga-Dempsey is also part of the National Alliance for Grieving Children’s Spanish Services workgroup. Kara has seen “an increased, continuous need for services and even more so for the Latinx community,” Executive Director Jim Santucci said.

While working to meet the growing challenge, the organization has also pivoted from many face-to-face services due to the COVID-19 crisis this year, Santucci said. In response to COVID-19, Kara is regularly conducting peer-based, one-to-one support by phone or Zoom video for its clients, including in the Spanish Services Program. It began weekly blog posts in Spanish to support Spanish-speaking community members; created a six-part video series for clients produced by the director and volunteers; presented a four-part online workshop for Sunday Friends Foundation in San Jose, an organization working to lift people out of poverty; trained seven new volunteers in an online format in September; conducted an online mindfulness-based stress reduction course for more than 20 clients and volunteers in the fall; and celebrated the traditional Day of the Dead with an altar at the Kara building in the Professorville neighborhood, where community

was a dispute over whether the agency did its “record-keeping correctly” when it came to hourly employees.

“That’s a wage and hour dispute that is separate from the allegation of harassment,” Byrd said.

The council’s approval of the Downtown Streets Team contract came a week after some members expressed reservations about providing funding to a nonprofit that continues to withhold the investigative documentation that the city has been seeking.

Several council members indicated Monday that they remained uncomfortable approving additional funding for the nonprofit, notwithstanding the valuable services that its team members provide. Council member Liz Kniss said that the group’s failure to release the Oppenheimer report — even with redactions — makes her “uncomfortable.” She noted that numerous people had complained about the Downtown Street Team executive culture and that they had “apparently had some justification for their complaints.”

“I’m not worried about what the Downtown Streets Team does in our city — it does a good job,” Kniss said. “What I’m concerned about is the overall reputation that was altered at Downtown Streets Team as a result of the allegations.”

Council member Lydia Kou said that after recent discussions with Byrd, she came away “pretty disappointed” by the city’s

(continued on page 13)
**BUSINESS**

**Restaurants brace as outdoor dining ban kicks in**

*Santa Clara County eateries return to takeout, delivery only*

*by Elena Kadvany*

Bay Area officials’ Dec. 4 announcement that they would expedite the state’s new stay-at-home order meant that Santa Clara County restaurants had just two days before outdoor dining would be shut down temporarily.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Dec. 3 that all sectors other than retail and essential operations would be closed in regions of the state where less than 15% of intensive care unit beds are available under a new stay-at-home order. But five Bay Area counties — Santa Clara, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa and Marin counties — and the city of Berkeley decided to implement the new order this week rather than wait until local hospitals are near crisis.

Santa Clara County restaurants had to revert to takeout and delivery only starting on Dec. 6 and through at least Jan. 4.

“We understand that the closures under the state order will have a profound impact on our local businesses,” Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said. “However, if we act quickly, we can both save lives and reduce the amount of time these restrictions have to stay in place, allowing businesses and activities to reopen sooner.”

It’s a blow — though not an altogether surprising one given mounting warnings about unprecedented levels of COVID-19 in the region — for restaurants that have been relying on outdoor dining to bring in revenue, particularly during the holidays when their dining rooms would usually be booked for parties and corporate events. Many invested in parklets and extensive outdoor dining set-ups, particularly in streets that have been closed to traffic like University Avenue in Palo Alto, Castro Street in Mountain View and Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park. In the wake of the news, several restaurants announced temporary closures, including Steins Beer Garden & Restaurant in Mountain View.

“Going back to takeout and delivery, it’s going to be really hard. It’s not a model we can survive on,” said Anu Bhambri, who owns Rooh on University Avenue in downtown Palo Alto. “Without any stimulus package or any help from the government it’s going to be very hard to survive.”

Rooh’s landlord paid to build the restaurant’s parklet, Bhambri said, but she recently purchased additional heaters and new tents to prepare for the winter. She immediately thought of the implications for inventory at Rooh, where outdoor dining sales outpace takeout.

“Patio heaters are just one of the additional costs Zareen Khan has incurred for outdoor dining at her eponymous restaurants in Palo Alto, Mountain View and Redwood City. Heaters that used to go for $150 are now as expensive as $400 and much harder to come by,” she said.

She’s frustrated by the new restrictions, which she said are penalizing small businesses that have already been barely treading water for eight months. She’s reduced prices at Zareen’s and feels like she’s constantly advertising discounts to bring in more business. She told her employees on Dec. 4 that they would have to start taking turns taking time off to manage staffing levels with the loss of outdoor dining.

“I request the county be more creative in how to control COVID,” Khan said. “Closing businesses is not a solution.”

During a press conference on Dec. 4, Contra Costa Health Officer Dr. Chris Farnitano said, “Any kind of activity that involves taking off your mask to eat or drink — even though outdoors is safer — even outdoors poses a risk for COVID spread. With the high risk of transmission in our communities, outdoor dining is more risky than it was two months ago.”

Lars Smith, co-owner of State of Mind Public House in Los Altos, felt a grim kind of resilience in the face of the news. He feels better equipped to help his restaurant navigate another shutdown, having done it before. He knows now that he can keep on more staff than he did in March, when in a panic they laid off front-of-house staff and cut employees’ hours — and then were overwhelmed by a spike in takeout business.

At La Bodeguita del Medio in Palo Alto, however, co-owner Michael Ekwall was facing the (continued on page 13)
A fluffy, chocolate-colored mini donkey has moved into Barron Park.

Named Buddy, the 21-year-old miniature donkey arrived to share the paddock adjacent to Bol Park with the neighborhood's other famous miniature, Perry, on Dec. 5, according to lead donkey handler Jenny Kiratli.

Perry’s previous companion, a female standard-sized donkey named Jenny, was euthanized on Nov. 18 after an extended illness. Perry had been braying for his lost companion since then, as donkeys are herd animals and need to be around others of their breed, Kiratli said.

So far, it looks like the two will get along well.

“When they first met, they went right up mouth to mouth and then ran off, Kiratli said. Buddy seems like he wants to take over, overfeeding a donkey. They need high-fiber, low-nutrient food, not carrots and apples,” she said.

When Perry displayed his dominance, Buddy retreated to a more secluded spot in the paddock and just kept an eye on things, but the two also began playing, running and kicking at each other, as donkeys do: one bites and kicks and then runs off, she said. Buddy seems like he won't take Perry believe he was superior.

Buddy was there, giving them hugs. “He’s a very cuddly, friendly donkey. He’s super child-friendly and he was led on walks. He won’t kick or bite,” she said.

Woodside resident Kerry DeBenedetti donated Buddy, who was one of two donkeys she owned. She heard that handlers at The Donkey Project, which cares for the animals, were looking for another companion for Perry.

DeBenedetti owned Buddy for three years. She adopted him from a friend in town who was moving away, she said. Buddy was cuddly and affectionate, but Curly, her standard-sized donkey, never warmed up to him.

A friend asked DeBenedetti if she knew of any donkeys that might be adoptable by Barron Park. “I thought of loaning Buddy to Perry as a temporary companion,” she said, but after talking to some people who work with donkeys, she decided to donate him, she said.

“Buddy would benefit from being around children, she said. Perry the donkey gets a new buddy

Whereas Miner Forty Niner, Perry's companion prior to Jenny, was the alpha donkey, Jenny let Perry believe he was superior. Buddy is kind of ignored. Everybody could tell he was there, giving them hugs.

“He’s a very cuddly, friendly donkey. He’s super child-friendly and he was led on walks. He won’t kick or bite,” she said.

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“The setup there is a donkey paradise. There are lots of places to explore. I thought for Buddy, it was a better place for him,” she said.

DeBenedetti, who also has horses, said that it wasn't practical or safe for her to walk the two donkeys at a time. The affectionate Buddy would benefit from being around children, she said.

Her only concern is that people will feed the donkeys.

“There’s nothing worse than overfeeding a donkey. They need high-fiber, low-nutrient food, not carrots and apples,” she said.

DeBenedetti was at the paddock on Dec. 5 and watched the two donkeys interact, prepared to take Buddy back if they didn’t get along. Seeing them together, she was confident that Buddy has found a suitable place in Barron Park, she said.

“I have a feeling that’s going to be his new home,” she said.

The Donkey Project has incurred many veterinary expenses over the past few months while caring for Jenny. After she died, people made donations.

“We’re really appreciative of the donations that have come in,” Kiratli said, noting that quite a few people opened their wallets and hearts to help defray the costs. But the project still has a way to go to make up the costs. Donations are the only source of support, she said.

Anyone who wants to make a donation can visit barronparkdonkeys.org.

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

*Paul King*  
President and CEO  
Stanford Children’s Health
C O V I D

(continued from page 5)

Although they make up 5% of COVID-19 cases, they account for more than 45% of the deaths, Fenstersheib said. The county plans to stick with state and federal guidelines for the priority of who receives the vaccines, but the county also plans to meet the equity requirements so those who are most impacted can receive the vaccines.

The rollout of the vaccines is expected to be gradual and could take well into spring or summer 2021 to complete for all residents, he said.

The vaccines can’t come soon enough, as the county is in the midst of a COVID-19 surge that eclipses the initial outbreak. On Wednesday, the seven-day rolling average of new daily cases was 883, up from 809 the previous week. Hospitalized COVID-19 patients numbered 414, an increase of 118 from the week prior.

“COVID-19 cases, they account for 5% of the county, but we’re adapting to any messages from the county that it needs to increase its COVID-19 testing,” Kou said. Stanford Health is currently waiting on FDA approval to issue at-home self-collection kits that will be tested at their clinical virology laboratory.

Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, said widespread testing is critical to informing the public about how the virus is spreading so they can advise on best practices and issue adequate health orders. “The complex array of ways,” Benjamin said. “If we’re doing random testing, and we see a large number of people in the community who have COVID-19, we can advise those people to get tested and avoid risky activities.”

State unveils COVID-19 notification app

California will make a mobile app available to the public this week that will notify users when they encounter someone who has tested positive for the coronavirus. Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday.

The CA Notify app, developed by Apple and Google, uses Bluetooth technology to notify users who are near someone who has tested positive for the virus. People who test positive for the virus will receive a verification code to enter into the app. Other app users will then be anonymously notified if they have been within 6 feet of the infected user for at least 15 minutes.

App users must voluntarily activate the app, according to the California Department of Public Health, and it does not show the coronavirus-positive user’s identity or exact location, nor does it collect, store or transmit identifying user information.

“The world needs rapid-screening, large-scale kits now,” said Newsom. “With this incremental adaptation and utilization,” he said.

Stanford seeks testing volunteers

Taking a coronavirus test could be as easy as spitting into a test tube by Stanford Medicine pays out. The test, which could cost as little as $5, involves boiling some water, reading the instructions and spitting into a funnel, according to an announcement by Stanford Medicine.

The test takes no more than 10 minutes to self-administer, and results will show in 30 minutes. Stanford Medicine wants 500 volunteers for a study of the test, which can detect the presence of the coronavirus within 30 minutes. Its accuracy rate is similar to clinical nasal-swab tests performed in hospitals. The test was invented by Muna Prakash, associate professor of bioengineering, and his group with support from the Stanford Medicine Catalyst Program.

The test is also designed for small-molecule manufacturers, Prakash said in the announcement.

“The world needs rapid-screening, large-scale kits now,” said Newsom. “With this incremental adaptation and utilization,” he said.

The research team is assembling nearly 10,000 test kits for the pilot study. The pilot study seeks to determine whether the test can achieve clinical-grade detection results. It began on Dec. 2 and should be completed in December.

“Our hope is to prove this works in the US as a whole and then scale to hundreds of millions of tests to help open schools, universities and businesses as we wait for the vaccine to be deployed development to come online,” said Euan Ashley, associate dean in the School of Medicine who co-directs the Catalyst Fund.

For information about participating in the study can be found at snaps.org.

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

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to meet in a closed session to discuss the existing litigation, Miriam Green v. City of Palo Alto pertaining to utilities fees. That council meeting will take place immediately after the closed session. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board will hear updates on reopening schools, special education, budget assumptions and an absenteeism report, among other items. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable TV Channel 28 and midpenmedia.org. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by going to pausd.zoom.us/j/9788849129 or dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 949 0734 6242.

COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee plan to discuss the Fire Department’s ambulance subscription program; consider updates to impact fees for the Park, Community Center and Library Development Fee program; review the financial forecast for the fiscal year 2022-2023 general fund. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 992 2730 7235.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to approve a park improvement ordinance for Rams Park and consider 30 other items. That council meeting will take place immediately after the council meeting. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to hold a public hearing to review the proposed replacement of the Pope-Chucker Bridge. The board also plans to elect a chair and vice chair and discuss its policy on citywide development regulations, including code enforcement.

CITY/SCHOOL LIASON COMMITTEE ... The committee is scheduled to review the School City Council and school board meeting; discuss COVID-19 coordination; and hear updates on Project Safety Net, grade separation planning and other ongoing matters. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 984 1982 2906.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss its response to receipt incidents of hate in Palo Alto; hear a presentation from an ad hoc committee on a report on the history of black and brown communities in the city and discuss the commission’s retreat. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 919 9454 8701.

Upfront

A Downtown Streets Team member works along Emerson Street on Nov. 21, 2019.

UPFRONT

11 former employees had come forward with allegations against Downtown Streets Team execu- tives, a number that she called “substantial.” While Kou suggested last week that she might vote against the contract, Kou requested that the City Attorney’s Office obtain and provide to the council any publicly available documents pertaining to the complaints from former employees.

Kou cited reports that at least 11 former employees had come
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.

As of December 8, 194 donors have contributed $137,551 to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund.

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

Enclosed is a check for $________.  

Name ____________________________  

Business Name ____________________________  

Address ____________________________________________  

City/State/Zip ____________________________  

Email ___________________________________  

Phone ____________________________  

I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)  

☐ In my name as shown above  

☐ In the name of business above  

OR:  

☐ In honor of:  

☐ In memory of:  

☐ As a gift for:  

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Holiday Fund (continued from page 7)

members could pass by and have contactless visits, he said. He’d also begun to see service calls specifically related to COVID-19 deaths throughout the past few months, among including his Spanish-speaking clients, Santucci said. The pandemic has stretched the agency’s overall capacity, as volunteers have had to care for children and loved ones due to school and child care closures.

Kara isn’t slowing down its commitment to the community, however. Santucci said the organization has a vision for 2021: to expand its services through a telehealth model during the pandemic and through in-person support afterward. They plan to hire a half-time Spanish service associate to work with the Spanish Services Volunteer Corps through annual training and offer additional workshops and education events.

The Spanish Services Program’s importance can perhaps be best gauged by the words of some volunteers, whom of were repeatedly clients.

“I joined Kara because someone had told me about an agency that was offering a training and I love to help so I signed up,” said a volunteer via Torres, a volunteer who began in 2018, wrote in the 5-year anniversary statement. “To my surprise, it was a training about grief. During that time, I was facing the battle with cancer of my mother and it was during the training that she passed away. I was not sure if I was going to be able to continue, but the words of comfort and the way they welcomed my tears and gave me space was something that I will never forget.”

“I have continued my volun-teering at Kara because being able to offer someone a shoulder to cry on is something beautiful. It is how I can offer our commu-nity a little bit of what Kara gave me. The volunteer group is full of wonderful people that have turned into a family for me. I am grateful for Kara and the work that do because there truly is nothing like it out in the community.”

Restaurants (continued from page 8)

realization that without outdoor dining, he’ll have to cut his staff of 18 employees to about six. He’s also bracing for the stay-at-home order to last beyond early January.

“It’s a challenge to have to in-dentify just let most of our people go,” he said. “I don’t think realistically that we’re going to bounce back and this is going to be over on Jan. 4. I wonder how many of our business comrades are going to make it through this period.”

On Dec. 6, Palo Alto wine bar Vino Locale launched a GoFund-Me campaign to raise money for employees whose hours would be cut or who potentially would be laid off due to the shutdown.

Judy Kleinberg, CEO of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, predicted there will be a spike in unemployment due to the new stay-at-home order. She also suggested that, to weather the storm, businesses should turn to ideas for boosting business, from social media posts advertising the final two days of outdoor dining last weekend to new takeout menus.

Rinat Yakovlev, a restaurateur from Bivri in Palo Alto said he plans to revive a ghost kitchen concept he tested out a few months ago and is exploring other partnerships to stay afloat.

Several owners expressed a sadly common refrain in the indus-try. Without another federal stimulus package, many independent restaurants will not make it through another shutdown.

“We’re getting mostly restric-tions and closures without any help to survive,” Siroin said.

Siroin urged people to con-tinue ordering takeout from lo-cally owned restaurants, which he recently described as “a citizen’s responsibility.”

“It’s really true. If we want to keep eating good and interesting food … we need to get together and help independent restau-rants,” he said.

According to a National Res-taurant Association survey con-ducted in November, 17% of res-taurants — more than 110,000 establishments — have closed permanently or long-term. The vast majority of restaurants that have closed for good were “well-established businesses, and fix-tures in their communities” that on average had been in business for 16 years, and 16% had been operating at least 30 years, the National Restaurant Association stated.

Fifty-eight percent of chain and independent restaurants said re-staurants expect continued furloughs and layoffs for at least the next three months, the survey found.

Staff Writer Elena Kadyova can be emailed at ekadyova@pawweekly.com.
Economy

(continued from page 5)

Mateo shrank by only 0.1%, while in Walnut Creek they went up by 1.3%, according to Adams.

“While you can look at state-wide numbers, each jurisdiction is its own entity and has its own trends,” Adams said during a Nov. 30 panel discussion on the impending economic recovery.

In Palo Alto, the trends are looking particularly grim. City staff are currently projecting a $34.6 million drop in tax revenues, with sales-tax receipts decreasing by $13.8 million from last year’s $34.3 million and hotel-tax revenues plunging by $14.4 million, from $29.3 million to $14.9 million, as hotels still report vacancies of about 80%.

With Stanford University offering remote classes, business travel virtually nonexistent and most major employers switching to telecommuting, the local demand for hotel rooms, restaurant meals and high-end apparel has shrunk. In fact, the city’s day-time population is now roughly half of what it was pre-COVID. City Manager Ed Shikada told the council in a Nov. 30 presentation on the city’s economic recovery strategies. Prior to the pandemic, the city saw about 130,000 people on the weekdays; now it’s down to about 70,000.

“Whatever was almost a doubling of our population during the day is no longer working here in Palo Alto on a day-to-day basis,” Shikada said. “As such, the population and quite frankly the market that businesses here in town are serving has changed dramatically in our shelter-in-place environment.”

While population loss is one factor in the economic recession, Palo Alto’s retail mix is another. The city draws nearly 59% of its revenues from its 25 largest tax producers, according to Adams. The list includes numerous department stores (Macy’s, Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus) as well as purveyors of luxury goods (Louis Vuitton, Hermes and Richemont), sectors that have seen significant losses during the sweatpants-friendly era of the pandemic. Palo Alto is also a restaurant-heavy town, which makes it particularly vulnerable to health orders that ban dining in.

Because of the vagaries of state law, the decline of retail in Palo Alto also means that the city is receiving less revenue from online sales. Under the existing “county pool” system, taxes from online sales get pooled from all jurisdictions in the county and then distributed to individual cities. The share each city gets depends on how much its brick-and-mortar retail is doing. Adams said. Palo Alto, which has historically received between 6% and 7% of the county pool, saw its share dwindle to 5% in the last two quarters, according to Adams.

In some ways, things have gotten slightly less dismal in recent months. The city saw cash receipts drop by 38% in the second quarter of this year, when compared to the same period of 2019. In the third quarter, the loss from the prior year was less severe: 24%, according to Adams’ report.

However, the most recent health orders, which further restrict business activity, are expected to further cut into local revenue.

“Efforts to contain COVID-19 are paramount to public health and will have corresponding impacts on revenue streams like sales tax as certain economic activities remain limited and constrained by regulations,” a report from Avenu states.

A sudden recession

The current recession is distinct from prior ones in several ways, Adams said. Normally, recessions take between six to nine months to materialize; this one happened virtually overnight. And while most recessions have a big impact on major expenditures — including auto sales and construction projects — this one is hitting sectors that typically aren’t affected as much: namely, restaurants and retail.

“This pandemic recession is an artificially created recession due to constraints on regulation and consumer behavior relating to perception of safety and that sort of thing,” Adams said.

“A sudden recession

‘There’s a lot of discussion about, “Are we trading off the economy for health outcomes?”

All of the evidence from 1918-1919 suggests that that’s not a tradeoff, that if you get better health outcomes, you also get better economic outcomes.’

—Jerry Nickelsburg, economist and faculty director, UCLA Anderson Forecast

Adams said he expects the city’s economic recovery to take about four years, though the exact length will be determined by factors such as a potential fiscal stimulus, the success of the vaccines and the policies of the Joe Biden administration.

Jerry Nickelsburg, an economist and faculty director at the UCLA Anderson Forecast, suggested that while high-tech sectors with high-income jobs may recover sooner, the leisure and hospitality industry may not get back to its pre-COVID levels until 2024 or later. Sectors with halting recoveries will likely include tourism, restaurant, bars, live events, accommodations and retail, Nickelsburg told the council during the Nov. 30 discussion.

“We’re expecting California to outperform the U.S. because of its technology industry. It will be generating a lot of high-wage, high-skill jobs, all in construction and in advanced manufacturing. But it’s going to lag in low-income jobs of leisure, hospitality and retail. So the issue of inequality is only going to get worse in California, absent policy intervention.”

Nickelsburg also rejected the notion that stay-at-home orders stand in the way of economic recovery. He cited a June 2020 paper by Sergio Correia, Stephan Luck and Emil Verner, which evaluated how different cities responded to the 1918 pandemic. The research found that “non-pharmaceutical interventions” (NPI) such as shelter-in-place orders were associated with better economic outcomes after the pandemic, not worse.

“If anything, cities with stricter NPIs during the pandemic perform better in the year after the pandemic,” the three researchers wrote in their paper, “Pandemics Depress the Economy, Public Health Interventions Do Not: Evidence from the 1918 Flu.”

“There’s a lot of discussion about, ‘Are we trading off the economy for health outcomes?’” Nickelsburg said. “All of the evidence from 1918-1919 suggests that that’s not a tradeoff. That if you get better health outcomes, you also get better economic outcomes.”

Nicholas Bloom, a professor at Stanford University who conducts monthly surveys with 2,500 employees across the nation, suggested that some of the existing work trends will outlive the pandemic. His surveys show that the majority of employees — and employers in industries that currently accommodate remote work favor a post-pandemic model that entails three days of coming to the office and two days of working from home.

“When you ask firms what they plan, there is a very strong consensus that post-pandemic these folks are going to come back to work in the office something like three days a week,” Bloom told the council.

The lingering telecommuting trend need not necessarily spell doom for Palo Alto’s economy. According to Bloom, the city will continue to see demand for office space, particularly in smaller, low-rise office buildings where workers do not need to crowd into elevators or into small cubicles. He also noted that some of telecommuters live in Palo Alto and, as such, could support local businesses by eating out.

But while restaurants and retailers may see some signs of recovery next year, sectors such as gyms, entertainment venues, leisure and travel, may see permanent reductions, Bloom said.

“For planning, things like allowing gyms, cinemas and those things like that to be repurposed to be office space or something else may be something that is going to be important,” Bloom said. “Some of these things are seeing permanent demand shifts.”

What’s a city to do?

Like other cities in the Bay Area and across the nation, Palo Alto is striving to respond to — and shape — the new normal. Last week, Shikada unveiled the city’s Economic Recovery Strategy, a broad framework that combines short-term measures for managing the pandemic (virus testing, contact tracing and vaccine distribution) and long-term projects to help sustain — and in some cases, transform — the business sector.

The recovery effort could significantly alter the city’s zoning code, its business climate and the look and feel of its primary commercial districts, which have already seen a remarkable transformation since the shelter-in-place orders first took effect in March. This week, in response to the county’s latest health order, the council suspended the most popular program of the pandemic era: the closures of University and California avenues to cars. While the council had intended to keep the streets car-free at least until Memorial Day, Shikada moved to temporarily reopen them because the latest public health order bans all forms of onsite restaurant dining, including eating outdoors, at least until early January.

The City Council expects the recovery effort to dominate its agenda for the next year, and likely longer. Most members have
The city's economic recovery will take about four years, though the exact length will be determined by factors such as a potential fiscal stimulus, the success of the vaccines and the policies of the Joseph Biden administration, according to Thomas Adams of Avenu, the city's sales-tax consulting firm.

“We did have a discussion this afternoon with a few downtown businesses, based on the really tail trends, Palo Alto's elected leaders have largely acknowledged that ‘business as usual’ is no longer a viable option. As such, the council’s recovery plan will almost certainly include changes to the zoning code, some of which are already in the works. On Dec. 14, its final meeting of the year, the council is expected to make it easier for commercial recreation businesses such as gyms and yoga studios to set up shop downtown by removing the existing requirement for conditional-use permits and by relaxing parking standards. The new rule would apply only to businesses with up to 5,000 square feet of gross floor area (effectively treating them like boutique ‘personal service’ studios), and it would exclude parcels that front on University Avenue.

The proposed ordinance would also remove existing conditional-use permit requirements for barber shops and salons in the California Avenue business district. In addition, medical offices with less than 5,000 square feet in floor area would no longer require a conditional-use permit to open in commercially zoned districts (currently, the threshold is 2,500 square feet).

While these changes are relatively minor, the council had recently signaled its intent to consider more significant — and contentious — zoning revisions in the near future. The most controversial of these is a proposal to allow banks, law firms, architect firms and other types of office spaces to fill downtown sites currently reserved for retail and restaurants. The city’s Planning and Transportation Commission will be considering the proposal in the coming months. The commission will also weigh a proposal to scrap the citywide requirement to reserve ground-floor spaces in commercial zones for retailers. While four council members support removing the requirement in most areas of the city (while keeping it along University and California avenues), the proposal is unlikely to advance under next year’s council. Newly elected council member Pat Burt and Greer Stone have been far less enthusiastic about removing retail protections than outgoing members Adrian Fine and Liz Kniss.

Meanwhile, council member Tanaka suggested at a recent meeting that the city consider removing its longstanding prohibition on big-box retail stores. He noted during a November hearing that businesses such as Costco, Walmart and Home Depot have actually thrived during the pandemic, while small, specialty stores that Palo Alto has generally supported continue to get hammered.

Other council members did not support this plan, but they generally agreed that it would be appropriate to take a fresh look at the city’s retail laws and adjust them to accommodate the new reality.

“We really are at an inflection point and our businesses will be transitioning and transforming,’ council member Alison Cormack said on Nov. 30. ‘And while we’re supporting our existing businesses, I want us to think long and hard about what it will look like in the future.”

Meeting business and community needs

While the zoning changes could take months — or years — to make a difference, other proposed measures would have a more immediate impact. These include further changes to California and University, which had been closed to traffic since June and July, respectively.

One idea that was proposed by John Shenk, CEO of the real-estate firm Thoits Brothers, calls for installing bollards on University Avenue. The city would be able to raise them when needed to close the avenue to traffic and lower them to make University open to cars. At the Dec. 7 meeting, both Tanaka and Shikada spoke in support of the idea.

“We really see a great opportunity there,” Shikada said. ‘There’s clearly multiple needs along University. As such, a concept like that could be really helpful for us to be able to adapt to a variety of needs in different times of day and week.”

City officials are also considering other ways to boost community morale — and business activity — despite pandemic-era restrictions. Kou recommended launching a business program in which customers can obtain gift certificates that can be used at various local businesses. DuBois noted that other cities are holding car-based events (Redwood City, for example, holds regular drive-in movie nights at its port as part of its “Motor Movies” series) and recommended that Palo Alto find new and creative ways to host community gatherings in a safer manner. He also suggested that the city restore its recently abandoned grant program to neighborhoods, which were used in the past to fund neighborhood activities.

‘I just want to make sure that as we’re coming out of it, we don’t go back to ‘as is’ — to what we had pre-COVID. I’d like to see it become more robust and have more diversity in the businesses that we have in town.’ — Lydia Kou, council member, city of Palo Alto

Kou also supported holding drive-in events, potentially at the Palo Alto Airport. She and Cormack also recommended that the council re-engage with neighborhood associations and other community leaders to discuss the future of retail. In addition, Kou has supported hiring an economic development manager, a position Palo Alto once had, to guide the city’s recovery effort and help bring in a viable mix of new retailers.

‘I just want to make sure that as we’re coming out of it, we don’t go back to ‘as is’ — to what we had pre-COVID,’ Kou said during the Nov. 30 discussion. ‘I’d like to see it become more robust and have more diversity in the businesses that we have in town and not just have plenty of just a few things.’

Staff Writer Gennady Sheynerman can be emailed at gsheynenr@paweekly.com.

About the cover: Palo Alto prepares for a long economic recovery. Illustration by Douglas Young. Photos by Magali Gauthier and Sammy Dulla. 
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12160 Kate Drive, Los Altos Hills · $16,800,000

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Lic. #01917593

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.
**Holiday Waste Service Schedule**

GreenWaste of Palo Alto is closed on Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1). If your regular collection day falls on or after one of these holidays, your collection day will be moved to the next day for the rest of the week. Regular collection schedules will resume the following week.

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

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**Palo Alto Unified School District**

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

**Contract Name:** PAULO ALTO H.S. HW-CW PIPE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**Contract No.** PAHWCW- 100

**DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK:** The work includes, but is not limited to: Excavation and removal of existing asphalt and concrete pavement, landscaping and underground Hot Water and Chilled Water (HW-CW) pipes and control valves to be replaced with new pipes, materials, surfaces, and landscaping throughout the campus. Provide traffic control, safety and security barriers along the Campus walkways, re-routing pedestrian foot traffic safely around each Work Zone.

**REVISED DATES:** There will be a MANDATORY pre-bid conference and site visit at 10:00 AM Tuesday, December 15, 2020 and alternate date 10 AM Friday, December 18, 2020 at the Visitors Parking Lot of Tower Administration Building, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, California, 94301. Proper PPE attire required, including Masks and Gloves.

Please register and respond with your date preference via e-mail to rinado@fs3h.com

**Electronic Bid Submission:** Proposals must be received at the District Facilities Office via e-mail, by 4:00 PM Monday, January 12, 2021. Send your Bid in PDF format to vmeleore@pauisd.org.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors’ license(s): A, C-4, C-34, or C-36. In addition, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §20111.6, only prequalified bidders will be eligible to submit a bid. Any bid submitted by a bidder who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive. Moreover, any bid listing subcontractors holding C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-36, C-38, or C-43 licenses who have not been prequalified, shall be deemed nonresponsive.

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

The Architectural Firm for this project is: HED Architects, 417 Montgomery St., Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94108. Contact: Chris Ramm

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

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents on line at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1y4Gjc7mLnCv9zemGF7bd_C6uk0k?usp=sharing

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

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

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

All questions can be addressed to: Palo Alto Unified School District 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099 Attn: Rinaldo Veselitsa, Sr. PM Fax: (650) 327-3588, Phone: (650) 808-7946 rinado@fs3h.com

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**News Digest**

**No consensus on Ventura’s future**

Since Palo Alto began its quest in 2017 to come up with a new plan for a 60-acre parcel in the Ventura neighborhood, the city’s goal was to develop a vision that would bring affordable housing and a host of community ideas to a site that has long been eyed as prime for redevelopment.

But as the city is nearing the finish line, the plan appears to be in serious jeopardy, with resident stakeholders splitting over different alternatives and the largest property owner, The Sobrato Organization, proposing its own development proposal for the former Fry’s Electronics site at 340 Portage Ave.

The schisms and challenges that now characterize the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan were highlighted on Wednesday night, during the Planning and Transportation Commission’s first discussion of the three alternatives developed by the 14-member working group that the council charged with the complex task. They generally agreed that dense housing should largely be concentrated on the perimeter of the site, along El Camino Real and Page Mill Road, while the interior would include retail, some office space and lower density residential development.

Alternative 1 would retain both the former Fry’s building and the office building at 395 Page Mill Road, which serves as head quarters for Cloudera. Alternative 2 would demolish major portions of the Fry’s building and convert parts of both this building and the Cloudera site to multifamily housing. Alternative 3 would do the same, while allowing higher density housing development as well as additional office development.

The commission didn’t take any action on the three proposals, which it will continue discussing on Jan. 13. —Gennady Sheyner

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**Palo Alto resident indicted for mail theft**

A federal grand jury in San Francisco has indicted six people, including a 34-year-old Palo Alto resident, on charges related to a long-running conspiracy to steal mail and commit identity fraud, U.S. Attorney David L. Anderson and Postal Inspection Service Inspector in Charge Rafael Noe declared Wednesday.

The 18-count indictment, which was filed on Nov. 17 and unsealed Dec. 9, is against Ashley Overton, 34, of Palo Alto, and five San Jose residents: Mark Guardado Jr., 38, Juan Dagio, 40, Brian Green, 37, Andrew Perez, 30; and Jaime Valencia-Arias, 23.

Beginning in January 2018 and extending through August 2019, the defendants allegedly conspired to steal U.S. mail by using real or counterfeit postal keys to access mailboxes in apartment buildings.

They allegedly raided mailboxes in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and San Jose, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

They allegedly exchanged text messages using the postal keys, some of which Guardian prosecutors said he claimed to have made, to go out on “missions,” during which they stole the mail in bulk. The group allegedly took personal identifying information, such as names, addresses, telephone numbers and dates of birth, from the stolen mail and other sources. They then used this information to create counterfeit California state driver’s licenses in the victims’ names but with the defendants’ photographs on the licenses, according to federal prosecutors.

Overton is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit mail theft and to commit fraud in connection with identification documents; one count of fraud in connection with identification documents and possession of five or more of the documents and two counts of possession of stolen mail. Each count is punishable by up to five years in prison and up to a $250,000 fine.

—Sue Dremann

**Police roll out new online reporting system**

A new online system for the public to report a wide array of low-level crimes and traffic collisions without injuries to Palo Alto police debuted on Monday, the department announced.

Residents and visitors can report crimes without suspect information that occur in the city, including auto burglary or thefts from vehicles; minor traffic collisions resulting in property damage and no injuries; bicycle thefts; vehicle-part thefts; identity theft involving credit card fraud; phone scams; child custody-order violations; and traffic complaints.

The system, which is operated by LexisNexis Risk Solutions, is accessible by any internet-enabled device. The website is accessible at cityofpaloalto.org/onlinerports. The public can also call 833-290-3185 and enter a phone number to receive a link by text to begin an online report directly on their mobile device.

—Sue Dremann

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**LET’S DISCUSS:** Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com/square
Charming Allied Arts Cottage
69 Cornell Road, Menlo Park

Offered at $1,950,000
1 Bed | 1 Bath | 793 Sq Ft Home | 4,251 Sq Ft Lot

This exceptional cottage is ideally located on a quiet street in the coveted Allied Arts neighborhood, midway between downtown Palo Alto and downtown Menlo Park, two of Silicon Valley’s most vibrant hubs. Charming circa 1926 period details including coved ceilings, picture rails, hardwood floors and vintage door pulls define the character of this spacious and inviting one bedroom, one bath home. Enjoy it as is, remodel, expand or plan to build brand new. Explore all of the possibilities. Mature perimeter trees provide a beautiful private setting. Local shops, restaurants, parks, Stanford Mall and Stanford University are nearby as are the highly acclaimed public schools. An outstanding opportunity to move into one of Menlo Park's most desirable neighborhoods!

Photos and Video Available at 69CornellRoad.com

Colleen Foraker
Realtor®
650.380.0085
collen.foraker@compass.com
DRE 01549099
This year, the Old Palo Alto “lane” has grown to more than 200 trees, Nichols estimated.

Midtown West resident Linda Stebbings Jensen said the concept spread to her neighborhood three years ago.

“At our block party on Ramona Street, my neighbor Hal Plotkin and I were talking about how much we liked seeing Christmas Tree Lane as kids growing up in Palo Alto. My husband, Eric, and I have always been fans of decorating our home for holidays. I am also an executive director at Winter Lodge, where we enjoy putting up holiday light displays as well. “So, Hal had pointed out how much he liked seeing Christmas Tree Lane, and we thought it might be fun to get other neighbors inspired to put some kind of lights together out of the little trees and how they organized their block. Lawrene referred to Nichols.”

“I put together some flyers with the information that Debbie had given me, and my twin daughters and I handed them out in the neighborhood. We order some trees with the Old Palo Alto group for those who want them and others just get the trees on their own. Our little Midtown West neighborhood (bounded by Bryant, Colorado and Ramona streets) has been lit up for the last three years, and it is fun to see more trees every year. It started with only about 10 trees,” she said. “We have some generous neighbors who sponsor and set up trees for other residents who might not otherwise get to participate.”

Jensen said she’s seen the Christmas trees on various streets all over town. In some areas, she’s seen a little tree even in front of a single home. And the cheer is spreading.

“I had someone contact me just today (Tuesday) asking how to be part of the holiday street tree tradition. I basically told them, ‘Go get a tree and put it out.’ It’s really that simple and so much fun for everyone to see.”

In Nichols’ neighborhood, the festive trees are now twinkling along parts of Homer Avenue, Tasso Street between Santa Rita and Seale avenues, Waverley and Bryant streets and Santa Rita Avenue between Bryant and Cowper streets.

“It’s one thing the coronavirus couldn’t take away from us this year. People say, ‘I need this more than ever,’” Nichols said.

Nichols also receives calls from people who are interested in setting up similar festive events in their own neighborhoods, she said. She’s happy to tell people how they can do it themselves, she said, but she hasn’t tracked how many whether they’ve followed through. It’s enough work trying to order and deliver 200-plus trees, which arrive around Saturday after Thanksgiving, she said. The next day, people get together for the distribution. It’s a neighborhood affair.

“We get together and deliver them in wheelbarrows and carts with Christmas bells on them,” she said. In years prior to the COVID-19 epidemic, there would be a brunch for people who helped deliver the trees, she said.

The trees require wooden stands, which are nailed into the base so they can stand up; many places don’t offer the old-fashioned lights Nichols recalls from her childhood. She purchases the lights, which neighbors buy from her. She has backup kinds of any one needs them. The colorful display gets turned on at 5 p.m. and off at 11 p.m. with automatic timers.

The trees on the streets aren’t all that glow, however. Neighbors put out festive decorations at their homes.

“Santa Rita between Bryant and Cowper is the best, with beautiful decorations,” she said. They allow the “big, old-fashioned lights Nichols recalls from her childhood. She purchases the lights, which neighbors buy from her. She has backup kinds of any one needs them. The colorful display gets turned on at 5 p.m. and off at 11 p.m. with automatic timers. The trees on the streets aren’t all that glow, however. Neighbors put out festive decorations at their homes.

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The Christmas trees have helped bring the neighborhood together in the ways Nichols had hoped.

“There is more of a sense of community. We have block parties now. It’s become a very friendly neighborhood,” she said. Jensen said she hopes that sharing the story of the spreading Christmas Tree Lane idea will bring “this fun little tradition to light.”

People don’t need to be invited or live in any certain neighborhood to participate. All they need to do is have a little extra hour to get clothes and hang lights around the house. In Nichols’ neighborhood, for instance, the two strands of the old fashioned, C-9 incandescent colored lights on the tree with a white one to the top make for a familiar sight of the tradition of the joy of lighting up the town.”

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sddeann@pawekly.com.
A list of local residents who died recently:

**Ernest William Hancock**, 93, a former faculty member of Stanford University School of Medicine and a Palo Alto resident, died on Dec. 1. Robert Graeme Cormack, 79, a Palo Alto resident, died on Dec. 5.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at Palo AltoOnline.com/obituaries.

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### OBITUARIES

Visit

**Lasting Memories**

An online directory of obituaries and remembrances.

Search obituaries, submit a memorial, share a photo.

Go to: www.PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries

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**Robert Graeme Cormack**

**October 19, 1941 – December 5, 2020**

Rob Cormack, who was born in Madurai, India, passed away on the morning of December 5th in Palo Alto, with his daughters holding his hands. The cause was advanced prostate cancer.

He was predeceased by his wife Ann Miller Cormack in 2016 and is survived by his daughters Allison (Tom Kahnele and S ara Cherry (Brian), grandchildren Megan, Scott, and Alex, and his brother Captain James P. (Pete) Cormack.

Rob attended Stanford as an Alfred P. Sloan scholar and graduated in 1964 with a five-year degree in architecture. He won a Fulbright scholarship to research architecture in India for his and received an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1971. While his early career was as an architect, he soon found that he was better at the business side of that work and spent the rest of his career in real estate management, first on the East Coast and eventually retiring from CRA in San Francisco.

Rob and Ann enjoyed traveling to Italy where they met, to Africa on safari with friends, throughout New Zealand and Australia to hike, and on special trips with their older grandchildren to see whales in Mexico and to watch the Women’s World Cup in Germany.

Rob cared deeply about his family and was a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. Rob created many pieces of wooden furniture for the family, starting with a crib and a rocking horse for his baby daughters and ending with a treehouse for his grandchildren. His love for architecture and wood were combined in the house he and Ann built at Sea Ranch, which hosted many happy times with friends and family.

Rob had a wry sense of humor and appreciated a good trick, especially the annual Big Game hijinks that he engaged in with neighbors who were Berkeley fans. One of Rob’s other great qualities was a willingness to uncomplainingly wash however many dishes there were in the kitchen after one of Ann’s elaborate meals. He was also an avid runner and skier for much of his life.

The family wishes to thank the Palo Alto Commons for the caring environment they provided during Rob’s last two years and Mission Hospice and Harmony Home Health Care for their kind assistance during Rob’s last two months.

At Rob’s request, there will be no service. The Yosemite Conservancy supports one of his favorite places in the world. We invite you to remember Rob when you take a hike, pet a kitty cat, or admire a fine piece of woodwork.

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**William Robert Morgan**

**June 13, 1952 – October 6, 2020**

Bill was born at Mills Memorial Hospital at San Mateo, California on June 13, 1952 to Bob and Lois Morgan of Palo Alto, California. He attended Palo Alto High School, graduated in 1970, attended local schools, excelled in wrestling, swimming, water polo and was a member of the fun-loving Fuzz Burgers Basketball Team.

After graduation from Palo Alto High School he went to college at University of California, Davis where he achieved a B.S. in Agricultural Economics. After Davis, Bill married his college sweetheart, Caren Hovden. Bill stepped into the family business at Crown Industrial in South San Francisco. Here, he learned electrical engineering and worked to expand the business including system design and engineering, wholesale hardware, industrial door and gate manufacturing and installation with electric operators. Bill’s creativity meant there was never a problem too hard for him to solve. He did not give up on a challenge. Bill cherished working with family and friends at the business. His parents, sister, son, and two cousins were part of the team.

Bill’s love for athletics was an inspiration to all those around him. He tackled every day with a smile on his face. He was best known for his total undeniable love for fun, adventure, work and his devotion to family. Sailboat racing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, snow skiing, waterskiing, playing tennis and dancing filled his weekends and vacations and that made him a role model. Bill, Billy, Wild Billi, BABS, Poppa, Pop Pop, Mr. Social, or Life of the Party Bill, as some would call him, would go to the ends of the Earth for his family and friends with generosity and a sense of humor that will be greatly missed by all but never forgotten. Friendship to Bill was everlasting and across all ages.

Bill passed away peacefully surrounded by his family the morning of October 6, 2020 at the age of 68. He showed immeasurable strength and bravery fighting A.L.S. (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) which took his life 20 months after he was diagnosed. Bill is survived by his wife of 45 years, Dr. Caren Hovden Morgan, his son, Brian Morgan and wife, Christina Morgan, his daughter, Dr. Kristen Morgan Sheaff and husband, Justin Sheaff, his parents, Bob and Lois Morgan, his three grandchildren, Charles Morgan, Julia Morgan, and Kaylee Sheaff, his sister, Beverly Morgan Kiehl and husband, Dick Kiehl, his brother-in-law, Dr. Kenneth Hovden and wife, Laura Hovden, his niece and nephew, Taira and Chase Hovden and his father-in-law, Dr. Charles Hovden. He is predeceased by his mother-in-law, Dr. Marion Motzer Hovden, grandparents, Albert H. Morgan and Florence Trowbridge Morgan, Russell Payne and Florence Jenkins Payne. Bill was a 5th generation California native dating from 1849.

At Bill’s request no services will be held at this time. We hope to hold a celebration of his life when circumstances permit. Contributions in Bill’s name can be made to the CPMC Neuroscience program at Forbes/Norris ALS/MDA clinic in San Francisco, or Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry the Hovden Family Endowment, or a charity of your choice.

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**POLICE CALLS**

**Palo Alto**

Dec. 3-9

Violence related

Matador Avenue, 10/22, 3:53 p.m.; physical child abuse.

Cowper Street, 11/25, 10:23 a.m.; sexual assault/coercion.

El Camino Real, 11/11, 9:35 p.m.; sexual assault/rape.

Edgewood Drive, 12/7, 8:01 a.m.; assault/insanitary weapon.

California Avenue, 12/7, 8:47 a.m.; strong arm robbery.

Thief related

Commercial burglaries .......................... 4

Embezzlement ........................................ 1

Grand theft .......................................... 2

Identity theft ......................................... 2

Petty theft ........................................... 5

Proxier ................................................. 5

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

Shoplifting ........................................... 2

Vehicle related

Abandoned bicycle ................................... 1

Auto recovery ....................................... 3

Auto theft ............................................ 3

Bicycle theft ......................................... 2

Hit and run .......................................... 2

Lost/stolen plates .................................... 2

Misc. traffic ......................................... 2

Stolen catalytic converter .......................... 2

Stolen catalytic converter attempt ............... 1

Thief from auto ...................................... 1

Thief from auto attempt ............................ 1

Vehicle accident/injury ................................ 2

Vehicle accident/damage ............................. 3

Vehicle Impound ...................................... 2

Vehicle tow .......................................... 2

Alcohol or drug related

Driving under influence ................................ 1

Drunk in public ...................................... 3

Possession of drugs ................................ 2

Possession of paraphernalia ....................... 2

Sale of drugs ......................................... 2

Under influence of drugs ........................... 2

Miscellaneous

Found property ...................................... 2

Misc. Penal code violation .......................... 2

Outside investigation ............................... 1

Psychiatric subject .................................. 6

Suspicious circumstances .......................... 1

Trespassing .......................................... 1

Vandalism ............................................ 2

Warrant/other agency .............................. 3

Menlo Park

Dec. 2-Dec. 8

Violence related

800 block Willow Road, 12/16, 11:32 a.m.; robbery.

Thief related

Fraud ................................................. 1

Patty theft .......................................... 2

Residential burglaries .............................. 2

Vehicle related

Commercial burglaries .............................. 4

Auto recovery ....................................... 1

Auto theft ............................................ 3

Bicycle theft ......................................... 6

Driving w/ suspended license ....................... 1

Hit and run .......................................... 2

Parking/driving violation ........................... 1

Stolen catalytic converter .......................... 1

Thief from auto ...................................... 3

Thief from auto attempt ............................ 1

Vehicle accident/injury ................................ 5

Vehicle accident/damage ............................. 2

Vehicle tow .......................................... 1

Alcohol or drug related

Drunk in public ...................................... 3

Possession of drugs ................................ 5

Possession of paraphernalia ....................... 2

Miscellaneous

Court order violation ................................ 1

Found property ...................................... 1

Info. case ............................................ 1

Mental evaluation ................................... 4

Other/misc. ........................................... 4

Suspicious circumstances .......................... 1

Vandalism ............................................ 8

Warrant arrest ...................................... 6
Guest Opinion

What you need to know about the Foothills Park referendum

by Eric Filseth and Tom DuBois

The decision of the ACLU and NAACP to emphasize a racial storyline, which obscures the actual substance of their suit, has triggered two unfortunate reactions:

• First, while it rallied their supporters, the campaign also rallied many other people who simply don’t see Foothills Park as a segregationist issue and who feel insulted at being told they are racist. As we’ve seen across our nation, this kind of 10-rallies两边的polarization hurts our capacity for principled and thoughtful discourse, even among reasonable people.

• Second, the Palo Alto community — among the most educated in the nation — is astute enough to doubt that a race-based legal case for Foothills Park admission would stick. Because the plaintiffs aggressively marketed their case on this basis, and not on the more substantial First Amendment constitutional aspect, many Palo Altans wrongly view the lawsuit as frivolous.

Both these things have helped spur the petition.

Let us therefore try to clarify the substance of the lawsuit.

The legal claim is that Foothills Park is subject to our federal First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly, overriding any Palo Alto ordinance. The argument is that even though the city owns the land, public parks, like public sidewalks, are special common areas; and unlike private citizens’ property or even many other public facilities, we can’t ban nonresidents from gathering there.

Although we have the right to manage the park, limit the number of visitors, charge fees and so forth, the suit asserts we can not discriminate on the basis of residence in allowing access. So while each case is unique, this issue would be the deciding factor, not race or other social-justice concerns.

The council discusses the details of lawsuits in closed session with legal counsel, including outside specialist counsel, in order to protect our ability to litigate without disclosing strategy to the opposing side. This is an important protection for residents, but is understandably frustrating to all involved.

We both initially voted for the pilot program and for placing the long-term question on the 2022 ballot for voters to decide. After we understood the First Amendment nature of the lawsuit, we both changed our view and voted for the settlement.

If the petition organizers collect the 2,581 signatures needed, the settlement will be voided and the lawsuit proceeds. If the city wins the litigation, then we can do what we want.

If the city loses the litigation, then Palo Alto’s “residents-only” policy, including the pilot project, is struck down. A referendum becomes meaningless; the park will be opened on terms determined in a federal court. The current settlement, which waives us paying the ACLU’s legal fees and allows a few things like residents’ priority access to facilities like campgrounds, would not apply.

In this outcome, the city may also be required to pay high plaintiffs’ attorneys’ costs. The ACLU and its private firm partner are currently working pro bono, but if they win the lawsuit, they will seek to recover their full legal expenses from Palo Alto. Those expenses would divert funds from already pandemic-challenged programs like the Children’s Theater, Youth Community Services, public safety, and ironically, parks.

Those considering signing the petition should consider two important factors:

• First, the petition does not actually give residents control over Foothills Park access via a referendum; instead it revives the First Amendment lawsuit, which the city must first win before any referendum means anything. The petition is a high-stakes bet on that lawsuit, whose odds depend not on social justice or transparency, but on details of Constitutional First Amendment law.

• Second, the decision to place this bet will be made not by majorit y vote but by the 4% of residents (2,500 out of 67,000) who sign the petition. Those 4% will irrevocably commit the other 96% of Palo Altans to this course. This places a significant responsibility on the 4%, and signers should understand the financial risk here.

The city has posted a sizable FAQ on its web site with answers to a number of questions, and the full terms of the settlement agreement are here.

Finally, let us end with a plea on a different but urgent matter. The COVID-19 situation is at a critical juncture. While we’ve all grown weary of it, we must renew our efforts to isolate in order to slow the transmission rate. Our health care system is at risk of being overwhelmed. Please do all you can to support the county and state directives now in effect.

Tom DuBois and Eric Filseth are Palo Alto City Council members; DuBois also serves as vice mayor. They can be reached at tomforcouncil@gmail.com and elfilseth@gmail.com.

Letters

Palo Alto’s spirit of exclusion

Editor,

We purchased our first home in Palo Alto in 1970. Up until 1965, that house and many others in the city had covenants for excluding Asians to live there, and they had a hard time finding a place to live in Palo Alto at that time. Such was the era and spirit under which Foothills Park was made exclusionary. Now it is the only public park in California that excludes nonresidents. We used to RV around the U.S., and I can tell you that we never came across anything like that anywhere.

The Baylands and Aranstradero parks are open to all and not trashed. Other local, regional, state and national parks are open to all. We do not need a “pilot program.” Palo Alto’s policy has been an embarrassment to me personally and I suspect others, too.

I really appreciate the American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP and individuals who took on this ugly remnant from the past. Thank you to the City Council for having the guts to do the right thing.

Leona McCabe
DeSoto Drive, Palo Alto

Let’s turn the page on Foothills Park

Editor,

To settle a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP, Palo Alto advanced its plan last month to open Foothills Park to the general public. Now a petition is circulating to reverse the 5-2 City Council vote. While I have long supported a more neighborly approach than the “residents only” restriction, I did not support this lawsuit. But that lawsuit happened. Palo Alto was pilloried in the press over it with more than 25 local and national news stories about this issue since June. The city had no choice but to respond to the lawsuit.

Now, a referendum petition drive asks residents to reverse the council vote and put it on the 2022 ballot. This will very likely force the litigation to proceed. As a former mayor, previously tasked with balancing the interests of the city when faced with significant litigation, I strongly believe the council’s action is sensible.

Signing a petition will plunge the city into costly litigation that it is likely to lose.

As the city attorney has acknowledged, Palo Alto’s municipalit y in California “limits access to park land to residents and their guests.” Similar “resident-only” ordinances around the country have been successfully challenged as violations of First Amendment rights to freely assemble.

Losing will probably cost the city millions of dollars in plaintiffs’ legal fees, plus our own costs of defense. And, the city will lose the benefits of this compromise. The settlement ensures the city may give priority to residents for reservations and any future entry fees.

It also preserves Palo Alto’s right to manage the park as we see fit.

Litigating against the NAACP and ACLU will be a public relations nightmare. Every filing will be followed by regional and national media, with an unfortunate glare placed on Palo Alto. Our reputation for inclusion and environmental stewardship may be irreparably tarnished.

Let’s turn the page on this issue, take control of the narrative and move forward with as much local control as possible.

Leland Levy
Greer Road, Palo Alto

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Palo Alto’s spirit of exclusion

Editor,

We purchased our first home in Palo Alto in 1970. Up until 1965, that house and many others in the city had covenants for excluding Asians to live there, and they had a hard time finding a place to live in Palo Alto at that time. Such was the era and spirit under which Foothills Park was made exclusionary. Now it is the only public park in California that excludes nonresidents. We used to RV around the U.S., and I can tell you that we never came across anything like that anywhere.

The Baylands and Aranstradero parks are open to all and not trashed. Other local, regional, state and national parks are open to all. We do not need a “pilot program.” Palo Alto’s policy has been an
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The Fabulous JewelTones mix 20 years of retro style and harmony with oh-so-modern tech know-how

by Karla Kane

For the past two decades, The Fabulous JewelTones have been crooning the hits of yesteryear in multipart harmony, tickling pink Bay Area audiences big and small, sporting snazzy outfits and helping to mark milestones with humor and heart.

"Because these are such great old songs, everyone’s smiling back at us, so it’s rewarding for both the singers and the audience," said co-founder and Los Altos resident Betsy Landergren. And while COVID-19 has put a stop to the group’s live shows, it can’t cramp its irrepressible style.

The Fabulous JewelTones were formed as a spinoff of Peninsula Women’s Chorus, out of a desire to get together and sing barbershop-quartet-style harmonies on a casual basis. In late 1999, they were surprised by a request from a Palo Alto preschool to perform at a picnic.

“We discovered all the horrible things about singing outside, on a busy street corner, with little children — nobody heard us and it was probably just as well.” Landergren said with a laugh. Nevertheless, the group enjoyed the gig and over the next year officially became The Fabulous JewelTones, specializing in jazz and pop classics from the 1920s through the ’50s. They could not have predicted then that they’d be going strong 20 years later.

A Fabulous JewelTones show isn’t just about the music, either. Landergren tailors each performance to the audience’s interests and creates individual scripts to fit the setting.

“I will interview them and dig out all the dirt I can and weave their unique story into our songs,” Landergren explained. “Deanne (Tucker, the group’s musical director, also a Los Altan) helps put it together in order and how we should sing it, and the story falls in line.”

The rest of the group dresses for the occasion as well, with an array of vintage and replica clothing sourced from thrift stores and attics by a particularly fashionable JewelTone.

While they’ve performed for big crowds and at corporate gigs, their favorites are the intimate shows for special events such as birthdays and anniversaries.

In a recent interview, Tucker and Landergren reminisced about some of their most memorable shows over the years, including a surprise proposal on Stowe Lake in San Francisco.

“We all got Hawaiian shirts and leis and ukuleles and got in these paddle boats and hid in the reeds until they sailed by,” Landergren recalled. “One gal got down on her knees in the boat and all their friends jumped out of the bushes.” The proposal was, she noted, a success.

Another involved a lovelorn fellow trying to win back his girlfriend.

“I had to counsel him. I told him how he should dress; that he should have a rose.” Landergren said. “We sang ‘I Don’t Know Why I Love You Like I Do’ and ‘A Good Man is Hard to Find.’” And the result?

“She cried,” Landergren said. “As far as I know, it worked.”

Because of the vintage of the songs in their repertoire, the group members have had many gratifying encounters at senior centers and assisted-living facilities.

“This is the music of their era. It takes them back to happy times when they were young,” Tucker said. Among the most poignant experiences have been at memory-care units, where the residents appear at first unresponsive to the outside world.

“When we start to sing a song that they remember, you can see their fingers starting to move, toes starting to tap,” Landergren said. “Oh man — that’s something to know they’re still there and we can do something for them that they can enjoy.”

With membership hovering pretty steadily at around 10 members (with current virtual conditions allowing some who’ve moved out of the Peninsula to stay involved, boosting the group’s numbers by a few), The Fabulous JewelTones function as a collaborative, with everyone having a say and each sharing their unique skills and talents.

Since being unable to sing together in person, the JewelTones have contributed to their 20th anniversary by releasing three music videos, including one that directly addresses the current situation.

“For Bye Bye Corona Blues,” is an original humorous ode to life during the pandemic, in which pajama-clad singers describe life stuck at home (and for those who want to sing along, the lyrics helpfully bounce along with the aid of an image of a coronavirus spore in lieu of the traditional bouncing ball). Landergren wrote the words and Tucker handled the arduous — but gratifying — task of blending everyone’s individual tracks.

“The process for making a virtual choir video, I really enjoy it because it involves both audio and video skills,” she said. She prepares a backing track, including singing all four to five harmony vocal parts as a guide, then layers in each member’s vocal tracks one by one, adjusting effects and volume as she goes along.

“It’s up to the group to decide what the video will be. They have to put on their costume, get their lighting set up, play the audio and record themselves singing along with it, then I strip off the audio and match it and arrange them in the scene in order,” she explained.

For “Bye Bye Corona Blues,” one artistic member created a claymation scene, while the “token male” and piano player/arranger Terry Weissman also helped with computer animation and juggling — a multi-talented crew.

In fact, the members come from a diverse background. Tucker is a retired NASA engineer, while Landergren is a former flight attendant and book columnist.

“We’ve had a physician, a preschool teacher, piano teachers, several computer nerds, molecular biologist, pastry chef, potter. We have a little bit of everything.” Landergren said. “Many of us are retired. Our claim to fame now is we always come with a golden guarantee. No song that we sing is younger than half a century — much like the JewelTones themselves.”

The newest video is the JewelTones’ take on Cole Porter’s 1943 tune “You’d Be So Nice To Come Home To,” a wistful wish for better times to come, just released this week and featuring glimpses of beloved pets, yummy treats, local scenes and happy gatherings interspersed with the singers.

“Here we are stuck in our COVID jails. Wouldn’t it be nice for someone to come home for the holidays?” Landergren said. “Well, we can’t do it now but we can do it virtually.”

More information is available at jeweltones.org.
Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 31.

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Eating Out

THE PENINSULA'S
GIFT GUIDE

By Elena Kadvany

This holiday season, it’s more essential than ever to take the shop local ethos seriously. Local restaurants and businesses are looking down the barrel of a tough month — after eight already incredibly tough months — with the state’s stay-at-home order temporarily banning outdoor dining and requiring residents to stay at home as much as possible.

Here are 17 ideas for locally made food-and-drink gifts, from handmade pasta and Filipino sweets to virtual cooking classes and a cocktail book authored by a local beverage director, proceeds of which will be donated to bar staff impacted by the shutdown. All of these gifts kill two birds with one stone: treat someone you care about while supporting a local business.

And if you’re at a loss, a gift card to your favorite restaurant, or a donation to the 86Fund for struggling Bay Area eateries at 86fund.org — or a subscription to your local newspaper, at almanacnews.com/user/subscribe/ — will always make for an excellent gift with meaningful impact.

The Midwife and the Baker panettone

Mountain View’s The Midwife and the Baker is making its own, naturally leavened version of panettone, the Italian holiday staple. It’s flavored with orange zest, candied orange and lemon peel, candied lemon peel and raisins. Pre-order online by Dec. 19 for pickup Dec. 22-24, or look for panettone and other holiday specials at the bakery’s local farmers market stands throughout December. (Panettone bonus: This one isn’t on the Peninsula, but you can get it delivered here and it’s just too good to not share: a gelato-filled panettone from Gino Gelati in San Francisco.) Visit themidwifeandthebaker.com.

El Merkat paella kit

Send a loved one to Spain (sort of) via a paella kit from Telefèric Barcelona’s gourmet paella kit (on Instagram under the same name), State Street Honey in Redwood City (statestreethoney.com/irc), Dave’s Backyard Bees in Palo Alto and Los Altos Hills (nextdoor.com/pages/daves-backyard-bees-palo-alto/photos/) and Bay Area Bees in San Mateo (pcfma.org/vendors/bay-area-bees-san-mateo).

Local wine

Look to the Peninsula’s small, independent wineries for bottles, wine club subscriptions and virtual tastings as gifts. Find a list to get you started at winesofthesantacruzmountains.com/wineries. Or, support a local wine shop with a gift card — our favorites include Vin Vino Wine and Salva in Palo Alto, Vineyard Gate in Millbrae and Table Wine Merchants in Portola Valley.

The Prolific Oven cake kits

Palo Alto’s beloved The Prolific Oven has revived its cake kits for the holidays: all the ingredients to make the bakery’s popular chocolate cake, poppyseed cake and rum cream cheese frosting are available for local pickup and delivery. Order at the-prolific-oven.square.site.

Fenn Coffee

Give the gift of small-batch roasted coffee beans, jarred cold brew or double espresso shots from Fenn Coffee, founded by Menlo Park triathlete and coffee obsessive Max Fennell. He sources beans from fair trade, and when possible, organic and women-owned, farms around the world. Order online or look for Fenn Coffee at local grocery stores including The Willows Market in Menlo Park, Bianchini’s Market in Portola Valley, Delconchi’s Market in Redwood City, The Market at Edgewood in Palo Alto, and Burlingame Market in Burlingame. Online at fenncoffee.com.

BackAYard Caribbean Grill jerk sauces

BackAYard sells bottles of its jerk sauces, which come in origin, hot mango, “hella fire” and sweet BBQ flavors. The sauces are available for purchase at BackAYard restaurants in Menlo Park, San Jose and Campbell; call your preferred location directly to purchase. Their website is backayard.net.

Local honey

There are numerous options for locally made honey, including NPO Bee Co (npobee.co). Allied Arts Apiaries in Menlo Park (on Instagram under the same name), State Street Honey in Redwood City (statestreethoney.com/irc), Dave’s Backyard Bees in Palo Alto and Los Altos Hills (nextdoor.com/pages/daves-backyard-bees-palo-alto/photos/) and Bay Area Bees in San Mateo (pcfma.org/vendors/bay-area-bees-san-mateo).

Vina Mercato fresh pasta and sauces

Vina Entoteca’s new Italian market, Vina Mercato, is stocked with edible gift possibilities, from imported olive oil to wine, but the fresh, handmade pastas and sauces — tortellini filled with prosciutto, parmigiana, mortadella and pork loin, among others — might be the most alluring. You can also opt for pre-selected gift boxes filled with wine, Biaocchi cookies, Bomba calabrese spread and other Italian goodies. Order online at vinaentoteca.com or visit the market at 700 Welch Road #110, Palo Alto. Open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

‘Cocktails for Home: Sheltered in Place’

Eusebio Pozos-Reyes, beverage director at San Agus Cocina Urbana & Cocktails in Palo Alto, authored this book to guide the home mixologist with ideas and recipes. A portion of the proceeds will be donated back to local industry bar staff impacted by the COVID-19 closures. “Cocktails for Home” is available at local bookstores, including Books Inc and Kepler’s Books.

Donato Entoteca cooking class

If you give a friend or family member one of Redwood City Italian favorite Donato Entoteca’s virtual cooking classes, consider getting one for yourself so you can cook together, but apart. Learn how to make agnolotti del plin, pasta carbonara, cacio e pepe and zuppa di pesce in upcoming classes (which also happen to be on sale right now). Place order for pickup by the day before the class or for shipping by at least three days before. To learn more visit donatoentoteca.com/collections/cooking-wine-tasting-virtual-clases.

Local Lady Larder

Peruse As Kneaded Bakery’s online Local Lady Larder (askneadedbakery.square.site/local-lady-larder) for gift ideas from local, women-owned food businesses, like truffles and milk tea bristle from NeoCocoa in Belmont, slow-roasted honey-sesame cashews from Nuts+Nuts in San Mateo and raspberry merengues from Déllice Glacé in Redwood City. As Kneaded is run by Palo Alto native Iliana Berkowitz; her bread is available at grocery stores throughout the Peninsula (find a list at askneadedbakery.com/wheretofindus) and would also make for a great edible gift.

Iacopi Farms heirloom beans

The local answer to cult-bean favorite Rancho Gordo: Iacopi Farms. The Half Moon Bay farm makes some of the highest quality heirloom legumes, from Italian butter beans to Prima Mente, a variety from Chile. Order online at tinyurl.com/hmbbeans or pick up a couple bags of dried beans from Iacopi’s stands at local farmers markets (including Mountain View and Burlingame on Sundays and College of

Page 26 • December 11, 2020 • Palo Alto Weekly • www.PaloAltoOnline.com (continued on page 28)
Give your parents a gift that helps them live better in their own home... A Gift Membership in Avenidas Village!

An Avenidas Village membership provides peace of mind for you and a community of support and resources for your loved ones to help them stay independent and secure. They will enjoy joining a network of active seniors sharing resources for handling life's transitions.

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San Mateo on Saturdays). Visit them online at facebook.com/iacopifarms.

**Noodle in a Haystack mala sauce**

During the shutdown, Clint and Yoko Tan, the masterminds behind Daly City ramen pop-up Noodle in a Haystack, started selling their wonderfully spicy mala sauce, which they like to describe as a hybrid of chili oil and Chinese XO sauce that can be used like a hot sauce or for cooking. It’s a blend of several kinds of chile, Szechuan pepper, kelp, hemp, tamari smoked fish, garlic, scallion and sesame. The mala sauce, as well as their “veji-grette” (a vegan and gluten-free salad dressing made from carrots, sweet peppers, onions, olives, soy sauce and rice wine vinegar) are available through Fishmonger Don’s website, fishmongerdon.com. Do also follow Noodle in a Haystack on Instagram (instagram.com/noodleinhaystack), where the couple posts when they’re selling Yoko’s pillowy Japanese milk bread and other homemade goods.

**Binka Bites bingkong**

I’d gladly wake up to a box of Binka Bites’ bingkong on my doorstep any day. The South San Francisco bakery’s coconut and rice flour cupcakes are inspired by Filipino bingkong, a baked rice cake, and come in flavors like ube flan (topped with ube cream cheese frosting and leche flan) and mango cream (filled with mango and topped with vanilla whipped cream frosting and graham cracker crumbs). Order online at binkabites.com for pickup or delivery. For pickup, orders must be placed at least three days prior to your requested date.

**Gourmet Haus Staadt imported German goods**

Gourmet Haus Staadt’s Redwood City market is full of gift-friendly German and European goods, from Spätzle mixes, bratwurst and Milka chocolate bars to rum stollen. Plus, of course, an excellent imported and local beer selection. The store is at 2615 Broadway St., Redwood City. Open Monday noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Online at gourmethausstaudt.com.

**Romolo’s cannoli kit**

Romolo’s has been making stellar cannoli in San Mateo since 1968 using a secret family recipe. Sigona’s is partnering with the family-owned business to offer cannoli kits for the holidays. It comes with three plain and three chocolate cannoli shells, garnishes (chocolate chips, chopped pistachios and glazed cherries) and cream to fill the cannoli. The kit has about a two-week shelf life. You can send it to someone through Sigona’s home delivery platform; order at sigonashome.com/shop/product/romolos-cannoli-kit/.

**A local CSA box subscription**

Give a friend the gift of fresh produce — and support a local farm — with a community supported agriculture (CSA) box subscription. Oya Organic Farm, which is based in Hollister but run by a Palo Alto resident, offers boxes with seven to nine different varieties of organic produce available for local pickup on a weekly or monthly basis. Or, gift your entire neighborhood by teaming up for a CSA box pickup — if you have at least five people interested in picking up at your house or workplace, reach out to the farm.

Or, check out Luna Vez Farm, whose CSA boxes feature rotating, seasonal produce from the Los Altos Hills farm as well as lesser known farms run by people of color. For the holidays, Luna Vez is also making chili wreaths and preserves baskets with locally made jam, salsa, marinara, canned tomatoes and honey. Delivery is available for Los Altos and Los Altos Hills residents; others can pick up boxes at the farm on Wednesdays. People interested in purchasing the CSA boxes or other items can email lunavezfarm@gmail.com.

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweekly.com

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**Here come the Holidays**

**First Palo Alto United Methodist Church**

Join us this holiday season.

- **DEC 12, 13 Luminaria Display, 5-7 PM**
  - Dedicate a luminaria at [www.firstchurchnchristmas.org](http://www.firstchurchnchristmas.org)
  - Drive by and tune in your FM radio!
- **DEC 20 Community Carol Sing, 4:00 PM**
- **DEC 24 Christmas Eve**
  - 4 PM Christmas Pageant (30 min)
  - 6 PM New VirtuAll Voices Service (30 min)
  - 8 PM Traditional Service (75 min)
- **DEC 25 Christmas Day**
  - 11 AM New VirtuAll Voices Service (30 min)

Visit [www.firstchurchnchristmas.org](http://www.firstchurchnchristmas.org) for more details and to join our services online!

625 Hamilton Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94301
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Tarun Marva, owner of Luna Vez Farm in Los Altos Hills, pulls a Korean radish from a vegetable bed.
Don’t Go It Alone for The Holidays

You are not alone. This time of year can normally be very stressful, let alone during a pandemic when we are asked to shelter in place and minimize contact with family and friends.

If you are struggling, you can turn to Avidendas Care Partners (ACP) for help.

Call (650) 289-5438 to request a crisis intervention, an elder care consult, family mediation and emotional support during these challenging times.

Don’t Go It Alone for The Holidays

We are here for you.

Avidendas Care Partners
www.avidendas.org

Public Notices

997 All Other Legals
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Case No. 20CV372765
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Aren Leon Zhang filed a petition with this court for a decedent changing names as follows:
Aren Leon Zhang to Aaron Steve Zhang.
The COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.
A NOTICE OF HEARING: January 5, 2021, at 4:45 p.m., Room 12 at the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PALO ALTO WEEKLY.
Date: November 10, 2020
Julie A. Enneking
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
Date: November 10, 2020
Date: November 10, 2020

997 All Other Legals
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Case No. 20PR188709
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of RUNSHIANG YANG.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by JUNJEAXK YANG in the Superior Court of California, County of Santa CLARA.
The Petition for Probate requests that:
JUNJEAXK YANG be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
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 very important 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 HEARING on the petition will be held on January 14, 2021, at 9:01 a.m. in Dept.: 13 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., 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 in person or by your attorney.
You may examine the file kept by the court and copy a copy of the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a personal representative, as defined in section 18 (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 9502 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:
Katherine Efting
111 North Market Street, Ste. 300
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 977-7766
(PAW Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 2020)

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Across
1. "Breaking Bad" sidekick
2. Written test format
3. Some mainframe computers
4. Follow, as an impulse
5. Peas
6. QUESTION, PART 1
7. Cry bitterly
8. Blows away
9. ___ St. Soul (U.K. R&B/soul group)
10. Controversial ride-sharing app
11. Fall back, as a tide
12. ASPCA part
13. QUESTION, PART 2
14. "Forest Gump" actor Gary
16. "Laugh-In" comedian Johnson
17. Like many indie films
18. "Buon giorno," in Brisbane
19. Go over the limit
20. Green Day, e.g.
21. "Sorry if ___ you down"
22. NBA team formerly from Minneapolis
23. QUESTION, PART 3
24. Charlemagne's realm, for short
25. Movie score with a famous two-note motif
26. Movie score with a famous two-note motif
27. Bounce back
28. Imbiber
29. Grind to a halt
30. Milne's mopey donkey
31. Flaky precipitation
32. Comedians Gilliam and Goldsmith, for two
33. Rainbow shape
34. "While that might be true ..."
35. "___ be here soon"
36. Took the bait
37. "I really don't care"
38. 157.5 degrees from N
39. Rainbow shape
40. "Buon giorno, " in Brisbane
41. Rainy day
42. "Sorry if ___ you down"
43. QUESTION, PART 4
44. Rainy day
45. Fastening bars shaped like letters
46. "Auld Lang ___"
47. Questionable, in "Among Us, " slangily
48. Fastening bars shaped like letters
49. Louisiana, to Louis
50. In ___ of (replacing)
51. Monica Geller's brother
52. Jack-o'-lantern look
53. College team from Salt Lake City
54. "Battlefield Earth" author Hubbard
55. "Forrest Gump" actor Gary
57. College team from Salt Lake City
58. Fall back, as a tide
59. Unidentifiable cafeteria food
60. Prompt
61. Corvair investigator Ralph
62. Prompt
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Answers on page 25.

"Shell Game"—maybe that's why it's green. By Matt Jones

This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 25.

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