Budget cuts target public safety, community services

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What it means to be Asian American

From growing up on family farms to being viewed as foreigners, longtime residents reflect on their experiences

Page 29
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Facing shortfalls, council prepares to cut services

Proposals to give less funding to Children’s Theatre, Children’s Library spark controversy

By Gennady Sheyner

Despite plunging city revenues wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, Palo Alto’s elected leaders kicked off a contentious budgeting season on Monday by strongly pushing back against a proposal from City Manager Ed Shikada to cut funding from popular youth programs such as Children’s Theatre and the Children’s Library. At the same time, the City Council agreed on how to allocate funds to nonprofit groups that provide critical social services and also scaled down a popular road-improvement project that’s been underway for nearly two decades.

The Monday hearings were the council’s first chance to offer feedback on Shikada’s budget, which includes a $205.5 million general fund and $152.9 million in capital spending in the coming fiscal year. Even with the Buy Area cautiously emerging from a year of shutdowns, Shikada’s budget assumes that Palo Alto’s sales tax revenues will be 23% lower than in pre-pandemic years and that its hotel tax revenues — a critical source of infrastructure spending — will be 67% lower. He proposes to save money by keeping three neighborhood libraries closed throughout the year, eliminating funding for the Palo Alto Art Center, reducing support for the Children’s Theatre, cutting five police patrol positions and instituting constant “brownouts” at Fire Station 2.

Shikada is also proposing to eliminate all teen programs and free Family Day programs at the Rinconada Park institution, as well as scrap the Cultural Theatre, Children’s Library spark controversy

Elizabeth McCarthy cuts paper she will use to decorate her coronavirus piñatas in her Menlo Park home on April 26.

COMMUNITY

Piñatas offer a cathartic whack at COVID-19

Stanford nurse’s creative project helps people vent pent-up anger at the pandemic

By Kate Bradshaw

Elizabeth McCarthy, a nurse at Stanford Hospital, gets what it’s like to want to smack the bejesus out of the coronavirus.

The Menlo Park resident has been taking care of patients with COVID-19 throughout the pandemic and knows better than most the anger and frustration that many people feel toward the invisible virus that has taken so many lives and derailed so many plans.

Now, she’s offering a way for people to get that cathartic thrill as an artisan making handmade, biologically accurate piñatas shaped like the coronavirus.

The project creatively combines McCarthy’s background as a nurse and as a crafty connoisseur of Mexican folk art. Before becoming a nurse, she was a cake decorator who specialized in creating sugar skulls celebrating Mexico’s Day of the Dead.

After the first COVID-19 vaccine was approved, she said, “I started thinking, people are going to start wanting to celebrate. What better way to celebrate the end of COVID than by having a COVID piñata where you can beat COVID with a stick?”

Piñatas had long been associated with birthday celebrations in her household — as one of four children, she enjoyed them at family birthday parties, and the garage door that the family’s piñatas were suspended over accumulated some scars over the years from blindfolded strikes missing their targets, she said.

After running across images of other coronavirus piñatas online, she said, she decided to try crafting her own.

“I saw some that looked poorly done, and as a nurse, they didn’t look very accurate,”

End of COVID-19 and the vaccine.

A survey of Santa Clara County residents on their attitudes toward the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines could help health officials understand what might prevent the remaining roughly 25% of adults from getting vaccinated or completing their second dose.

The EMC Research survey of 1,000 county residents, the fifth conducted since May 2020, found that optimism has rebounded since the winter infection surge, and concerns related to COVID-19 have waned.

About 74% of respondents said they have been either fully or partially vaccinated and 9% said they are interested in being vaccinated soon. But the remainder — about 16% — expressed some hesitancy or outright resistance to receiving the vaccine.

Nearly 71% of residents ages 16 and older who are currently eligible for the vaccines have received at least one dose, with 43% having completed the two-shot regimen, county COVID-19 testing and vaccine officer Dr. Marty Fenstersheib said.

County officials have seen

PUBLIC HEALTH

Persistent minority resistant to getting vaccine

Santa Clara County officials seek ways to keep immunization momentum going

By Sue Dremann

A survey of Santa Clara County residents on their attitudes toward the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines could help health officials understand what might prevent the remaining roughly 25% of adults from getting vaccinated or completing their second dose.

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County officials have seen
Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Savage Gardeners Fictitious Business Name Statement
File No. FBF647539
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Savage Gardeners, located at 590 Lambert Way, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) (same):
Wendy Zheng
590 Lambert Way
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/07/2021.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on April 22, 2021 (PWR Apr. 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2021)

997 All Other Legals
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
Debra Anne Lewis
Case No. 21 PRO 00428
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DEBRA ANNE LEWIS.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by ATR A LEWIS in the County Court of County of SAN MATEO.
The Petitioner requests that ATR A LEWIS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the deceased.
The petition requests authority to handle the property of the estate and to pay all debts of the estate. The Petitioner requests approval of the proposed action.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of this estate, you must file your claim with the court and a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of issuance of notice to persons with a legal interest in the estate, or (2) sixty days after the date of publication of notice to creditors. Persons who are interested in the will or estate, other than the personal representative, may file a written objection to the granting of the petition within the later of either (1) four months from the date of issuance of notice to persons with a legal interest in the estate, or (2) sixty days after the date of publication of notice to creditors. You may examine the file kept by the court.
If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file for the court a Request for Special Notice from the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of issuance of notice to persons with a legal interest in the estate, or (2) sixty days after the date of publication of notice to creditors. Persons who are interested in the will or estate, other than the personal representative, may file a written objection to the granting of the petition within the later of either (1) four months from the date of issuance of notice to persons with a legal interest in the estate, or (2) sixty days after the date of publication of notice to creditors. You may examine the file kept by the court.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you may deposit the objection with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of issuance of notice to persons with a legal interest in the estate, or (2) sixty days after the date of publication of notice to creditors. You may examine the file kept by the court.
You may deposit your objection with the court by filing the objection with the clerk of the court and mailing a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of issuance of notice to persons with a legal interest in the estate, or (2) sixty days after the date of publication of notice to creditors. You may examine the file kept by the court.
The name and residence address of the personal representative appointed by the court is:
Diane Martin
997 All Other Legals
under the fictitious business name(s) listed
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/07/2021.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on April 22, 2021 (PWR Apr. 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2021)

Call 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@paweekly.com for legal advertising.
When the new and improved Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo re-open to the public this fall after three years of construction and pandemic-induced closure, it will bring visitors closer to animals like ibises, flamingoes, turtles and other denizens of the museum's eclectic animal kingdom.

The Rinconada Park museum will have new classrooms, exhibits and a “loose-in-the-zoo” area where humans can mingle with other species. It will also, however, include a feature that is ruffling some feathers among the popular museum’s top supporters: an entrance fee that could be as high as $18 per person.

For the City Council, which is facing plummeting revenues and a second straight year of service cuts, the entrance fee is the surest and most sensible cost-recovery mechanism for the treasured community institution.

But for the nonprofit group Friends of the Junior Museum and Zoo, the $18 fee that the council endorsed last year and that the council’s Finance Committee tentatively reaffirmed Tuesday night represents both bad business and misguided values.

Faced with the financial realities of the museum and zoo, having raised $25 million in donations for the effort, Angelo said during its Aug. 10 meeting, the nonprofit had expected the city to adopt an entrance fee between $6 and $8. More recently, it has been bracing for a $10 fee.

Now, with the city planning to set the fees at $18, Angelo believes the city is making the institution less equitable and more exclusive — much to the chagrin of the many community members who supported the new museum, which is set to open in October.

“Heavenly day”

“Donors have told us that if the city opens the JMZ at $18, they will deeply regret that they donated to the JMZ initiative, they will not donate to the JMZ in the future and they will not fund future capital projects in Palo Alto,” Angelo told the Finance Committee.

For Angelo and other critics of the city’s proposal, that is a fatal flaw. If the demand plummets because ticket prices are too high, the museum will generate lower revenues than it would with tickets in the $10 range. Angelo noted that most other museums and zoos in the area charge fees well below $18, with the lone exception of the San Francisco Zoo, which costs $18 to enter.

“This is not only a question of equity,” Angelo said. “To hit the projected attendance figures, the city needs more than the very affluent to buy tickets.”

Vice Mayor Pat Burt, who serves on the Finance Committee, concurred and said he would oppose setting the ticket price at $18. He suggested deferring the decision on museum fees to a later date and requesting additional analysis of pricing policies.

“I’m kind of baffled that the tables the city is looking at assume there is no elasticity — that there is no variability of demand depending on pricing,” Burt said.

“That’s not the way it goes.”

His two Finance Committee colleagues, Chair Alison Cormack and Council Member Eric Filseth, were more ambivalent about the proposed fee. The committee ultimately voted 2-1, with Burt dissenting, to move ahead with the $18 fee — at least for now.

The motion from Cormack and Filseth also specified that the committee will revisit the subject later in the budget season, when it considers the museum’s funding needs in the context of all city services. At that time, the council will consider whether to spend about $900,000 to reduce the fee and subsidize the museum’s operations.

“The right thing today is to keep the $18 ticket price for the moment because the plan of record is the plan of record until a new one is adopted,” Filseth said. O’Kane said Tuesday that since the council first supported the $18 fee last year, city staff have in fact reexamined the fee and have concluded that it is set to stay.

“We don’t want to be in a situation where we’re discouraging people to come because of the ticket price,” O’Kane said.

“Backers of new Junior Museum and Zoo blast proposed ticket prices

$18 for admission? City’s Finance Committee says it might lower the fee later in the budget season

By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto will have to spend $1.275 million on refunds to phone customers and attorneys fees as part of a settlement that the city has reached with a resident who filed a lawsuit almost six years ago.

At issue is the utility users tax, which Palo Alto first began collecting in 1987 and then updated seven years ago, when voters approved Measure C. In her lawsuit, Eileen Staats argued that prior to the 2014 amendment, the city had been illegally collecting taxes for telephone services that are exempt from the federal excise tax. Staats then filed a class-action lawsuit that sought a refund for Palo Alto taxpayers of all taxes that the city had collected between Aug. 1, 2006, and December 2014.

The suit advanced in 2018, when the Santa Clara County Superior Court supported the plaintiffs’ request and granted them class certification. The court also supported in 2019 a motion from the city to limit any tax recovery and noted between Dec. 24, 2013, and Dec. 18, 2014, based on time limitations in the Government Claims Act.

The court did not, however, issue any rulings as to whether the tax was legally collected. Rather, the two sides reached a settlement agreement that requires the city to set aside $1.275 million for a “settlement fund” that will pay for refunds, attorney’s fees and a $10,000 incentive payment to Staats for serving as class representative.

JND Legal Administration, the firm representing the plaintiffs, has indicated that it will seek $197,000 in attorney fees from the settlement fund; the settlement specifies that the amount designated for fees cannot exceed $475,000. The firm noted in its announcement that if any balance remains in the settlement fund after all the fees and refunds are made, the balance will be returned to the city.

“City required to establish fund, pay attorney fees By Gennady Sheyner

To avoid the expense and burden of further litigation,” the settlement states, the parties have agreed to settle “all known and unknown claims, disputes and causes of action between them” arising from Staats’ lawsuit.

If the Superior Court approves the terms of the settlement, the city is required to pay $12 million in refunds to gas customers following a class-action lawsuit initiated by resident Miriam Green, who challenged the city’s practice of transferring money from the utilities fund to its general fund. The final judgment and order in that case is expected later in the summer, at which point both sides will have a chance to file an appeal.

By Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

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www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • May 7, 2021 • Page 7

Veronica Weber
The Palo Alto Unified School District and its teachers union have reached a tentative two-year agreement that will raise annual teacher salaries by 3% for the 2020-21 school year, another 3% for the upcoming school year and provide 2% one-time bonuses each year.

Under the tentative agreement reached on April 29, members of the Palo Alto Educators Association will receive a 3% salary increase and bonus retroactive to July 1, 2020, and a second 3% increase and bonus for the 2021-22 school year starting this July 1. The district also will increase employer contributions to health and welfare benefits — the equivalent to a 0.26% salary increase — during each year, according to a statement released by the school district and the union.

The terms were a result of multiple negotiation sessions throughout March and April between the district and teachers union, against the backdrop of a pandemic that has at times led to contentious disagreements between the two parties over the viability of returning to in-person instruction.

Terri Baldwin, union president, said the salary increases come at a time when the district anticipates higher-than-projected property tax revenue. The district could see “close to $6 million more coming in than what they built the budget on,” she said.

Palo Alto Unified employs around 850 teachers. The union covers all certified staff members, from physical education teachers to counselors, except for school administrators and psychologists.

If the agreement is approved by the Board of Education and union, the district will pay an estimated $12.3 million in benefits and salary, based on figures provided by Carolyn Chow, the district’s chief business officer.

The tentative agreement will go through ratification votes by union members and the Board of Education. The board will be discussing the tentative agreement during its next meeting on May 11.

— Lloyd Lee

35 guns stolen from Palo Alto garage

Four gun security cabinets carrying 35 firearms were stolen from the garage of a Palo Alto home early morning on April 27 while a family of four slept inside the residence, Palo Alto police said.

Police said the garage was unlocked, which is likely how the suspect, or suspects, gained access. The burglary took place in the 700 block of Garland Drive about a block away from the intersection of Middlefield Road and Oregon Expressway.

One of the four residents, a man in his 50s, told police that a majority of the 35 firearms were shotguns and rifles, police stated in a press release. Two pistols were also taken from the home. No ammunition was stolen.

Most of the stolen items were either heirlooms or used for hunting, according to police.

“The weapons were all unloaded and registered as required by applicable laws,” the release stated.

Footage from surveillance systems of neighboring homes showed a possible vehicle connected to the burglary in the area of the resident’s home shortly before 4:30 a.m., police said.

“The rear door on the driver’s side was left open as (the vehicle) drove away from the home, as if being prevented from closing by something sticking out,” the release states.

The resident told investigators that the vehicle looked too small to transport all the cabinets. It’s possible multiple cars were used in the burglary or that one vehicle made multiple trips, police said.

Anyone with information about the burglary is asked to call the department’s 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413.

— Sue Dremann

Man found shot in parking garage dies

East Palo Alto police have launched a homicide investigation into the death of a 25-year-old man found with a gunshot wound on Tuesday, police said on May 5.

Christian Garcia-Torres of Redwood City was located by police in a parking garage in the 1700 block of Woodland Avenue, between Newell Road and Clarke Avenue, after officers received a call of a shooting on May 4 at about 9:10 p.m. Officers attempted life-saving measures until fire personnel and paramedics responded to the scene.

The resident told investigators that the vehicle looked too small to transport all the cabinets. It’s possible multiple cars were used in the burglary or that one vehicle made multiple trips, police said.

Anyone with information about the burglary is asked to call the department’s 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413.

— Palo Alto Weekly Staff

— Sue Dremann
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Silicon Valley REALTORS® Meet Their Legislators Virtually on Legislative Day

At the first-ever virtual California Association of REALTORS® Legislative Day held last week, C.A.R. President Dave Walsh, President-elect Otto Catrina and other C.A.R. officials all underlined the urgency of increasing the state’s housing supply and addressing barriers to homeownership.

“Closing the homeownership gap is essential to closing the generational wealth gap in our country,” said Walsh.

Governor Gavin Newsom addressed REALTORS® and lamented that the twin crises of housing affordability and homelessness have dominated the state’s political conversations for decades, even before the pandemic. “At the end of the day, the fundamental truth is we need to simply build more housing at all income levels,” said Newsom.

Newcom observed solutions to the twin crises lie in a combination of subsidies, political will, and a dose of accountability across the spectrum.

“The solution as we all know is supply,” said Wagle.

Wagle briefed members on two hot issues to take to their legislators: OPPOSE ACA 7, the anti-housing constitutional amendment, which undoes the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act and allows for radical rent control and caps laws that create housing; and SUPPORT SB 6, which makes it easier and quicker to convert unused commercial property to residential housing.

Members of the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® later met virtually with Assemblymembers Marc Berman (D-Palo Alto) and Evan Low (D-Campbell) and Senators Dave Cortese (D-San Jose) and Josh Becker (D-San Mateo). The legislators said hailing from the Bay Area they understand the critical and urgent need for housing, but noted legislators from other parts of California do not see it the same way. Other legislators believe the state should only focus on affordable housing and subsidies.

“Housing is the path to family wealth and affordability is a part of the solution. Housing affordability stretches across all ranges of income,” said Berman.

Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Meily at rmeily@silvar.org.
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Events planned all month to honor Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage

Highlights include dance, music, food demonstrations, readings, movies and more

By Sue Dremann

Friday, May 7:
Library Family Storytime — Asian-themed stories, songs and rhymes from favorite librarians, 11 a.m.

Saturday, May 8:
Ta Chi with Master Nelson Ng — Chinese martial arts and exercise, 10-11 a.m.

Tuesday, May 11:
Pre-War World II Poetry of Chinese, Japanese and Korean immigrants with a companion — lecture by Charles Egan, Ph.D., chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literature, San Francisco State University, 7-8:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 13:
Virtual Author Event — Samantha Mui, author of Melting Pot: Stories and recipes from a Chinese American daydreamer, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 15:
Ta Chi with Master Nelson Ng — Chinese martial arts and exercise, 10-11 a.m.

HELP: Honoring Elderly Lives with Prevention and Awareness — With self-defense instructor Charlie Smith. Preventative practices for safe living, community resources and basic self-defense strategies and building understanding of how to respond, with access to credible resources, 2-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 16:
Violin concert with Sruti Sathyarathy — Carnatic violinist, singer and composer performing Indian music, 2-2:45 p.m.

Yoga for Wellbeing with Venki Venkatesh, yoga practice, 3-4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19:
Library Family Storytime — Asian-themed stories, songs and rhymes from favorite librarians, 11 a.m.

Indo Raga Jazz — performance by Ramya Shankar, 3:30-4 p.m.

Raga Music, Pop and Jazz — music by the Raga Monsters, 4-5 p.m.

Growing Up Asian in Palo Alto — Youth Community Service will host a discussion for youth, and Jeremy Lin will talk about his own experiences, 6-7 p.m.

A Difficult Place — Psychiatrist Dr. Rona Hu, associate dean of academic affairs at Stanford University School of Medicine, will discuss the difficult place many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are in due to the increase in hate crimes, 7-8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 21:
Movie in the Park: Mulan — The first summer movie in Mitchell Park South Field, 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 23:
Cook-along with Vittal Shetty — Chef and co-founder of Jalsa hosts an Indian cuisine cooking demonstration, 3-3:45 p.m.

Bharatanatyam Dance — Performance by Varsha Sankar, traditional dance of India, 4-4:45 p.m.

Ragas and Rhythms Workshop — An introduction to ragas and rhythms rooted in Indian classical music, with the Raga Monsters, 5-6 p.m.

Monday, May 24:
Library Family Storytime — Asian-themed stories, songs and rhymes from favorite librarians, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, May 25:
An Evening with Taru Maeda and Taiko drumming — General Consul of Japan live discussion and performance by San Jose Taiko Dojo, with a Q&A session to follow, 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 27:
Virtual Author Event — Jeanette Arakawa, author of “The Little Exile.” Co-hosted by the Bill Lane Center for the American West. The author is donating copies of the book to add to the Palo Alto Library collection and to give away at Mitchell Park and Rinconada libraries, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 28:
AAPI Children’s Books Live Gallery — A live gallery show in which children are invited to share any art or writing projects completed during AAPI month in connection with a recommended booklist, 5-6 p.m. See the city’s website at cityofpaloalto.org/aapi for details.

Sunday, May 30:
Lunchbox Moments: What’s in Your Lunchbox? — Readings on food and cultural identity from Lunchbox Moments Zine. Works by Asian American and Pacific Islander artists and writers exploring the AAPI relationships with food and cultural identity to include and transcend literal school lunch narratives centered on shame, 11 a.m.

Our Story of War and Remembrance: Chinese American WWII Veterans of the China-Burma-India Theatre — Online film, 1-3 p.m.

A young attendee holds up a sign that reads “Stop Asian Hate!” at a rally outside City Hall on May 2 to bring awareness to attacks against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Korean dance — Moseok Ko and Korean Culture Center-Urisawe Inc. students and members will perform traditional Korean dance and music, 3-4 p.m.

To find out more about the events and to register, visit cityofpaloalto.org/aapi or hydakou.com/calendar.

In addition to these events, county Supervisor Joe Simitian and the nonprofit Asian Americans for Community Involvement are hosting three virtual discussions with Asian American and Pacific Islander panelists on May 13, May 20 and May 27, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. See page 29 for more information on the series, “Understanding the Asian American and Pacific Islander Experience.” To register, visit tinyurl.com/understandingaapi.

Read more about the Asian American experience in Palo Alto in our Living Well section on page 29 of this edition.

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

’I want lasting change’

Around 250 people marched and rallied in downtown Palo Alto on Sunday afternoon, May 2, to protest against hate violence of Asian American and Pacific Islanders across the United States and to increase voter registration within this group. ’I want lasting change,’ said City Council member Greg Tanaka, who is a candidate for U.S. Congress and organized the rally along with council member Lydia Kou and about 70 volunteers. ’And lasting change is really going to help through voter registration and more participation politically,’ Current congresswoman Rep. Anna Eshoo and state Assembly member Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park, also spoke to the crowd outside Palo Alto City Hall. Watch a video of the rally by Chief Visual Journalist Magali Gauthier on the Palo Alto Weekly YouTube channel at YouTube.com/paweekly.

D ozens of events to honor Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month kicked off in Palo Alto on May 1, with celebrations planned during the next four weeks that will include films, a virtual conversation with basketball star Jeremy Lin about being an Asian American in Palo Alto, martial arts, dance and music performances, a cook-along demonstration and discussions with experts regarding the impacts of hate and violence against the AAPI community.

The events, which are being organized by members of the community and the city of Palo Alto, will be virtual with the exception of the Movie in the Park showing of “Mulan” on May 21. Pre-registration is online.

“The point is to celebrate the lives of the different immigrants who have come to America and all the contributions they have brought and helped to make what became our country. The road where we are now, we are a product of many, said City Councilwoman Lydia Kou, who has spearheaded the celebration.

In the face of recent hate incidents and crimes throughout the nation against Asians, the month-long celebration offers opportunities to share culture, history and remembrances and to feel pride in one’s heritage, she said.

“Rallies are great, but by having these events, people get to kind of hear each other and learn something. We can hear other sides of the stories and have a different relationship with each other. And people will know they are not alone,” she said. “I think this is also great to just make it fun and not be angry.”

Some events will also focus on youth.

“There are some traditions we still hold, and we wanted youth to be proud of their heritage,” she said.

One program she thinks will resonate with people is called “Lunchbox Moments.” Asian authors will share their stories about their relationship with food and cultural identity. When her daughters went to school, Kou sometimes would give them dumplings to take for lunch. Although they loved eating them at home, they wouldn’t eat them at school.

“They were embarrassed by the smell,” she said.

Kou said she is excited by the outpouring of interest and contributions from many members of the community. These events reflect traditions, cultures and experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and from the Asian diaspora, including from China, Japan, Korea and India.

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A mid the devastating health and economic circumstanc- es of the COVID-19 pan- demic over the past year, the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund distrib- uted more charitable grants and more money overall in 2021 than in any other year since its launch in 1993 thanks to overwelm- ing support from local donors. The Holiday Fund raised $680,000 — or $215,000 more than last year’s record-breaking amount — and split the dona- tions into 81 grants to nonprofits serving families and children in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and sur- rounding areas.

“Young the pandemic, the needs have never been greater, and thanks to your support from individual donors and foundations, we are able to help more organizations, including many that have been on the front lines helping families and children get through this difficult year,” said Bill Johnson, publisher of the Weekly. “We are pleased to have been able to help so many organizations, including many that have been on the front lines helping families and children get through this difficult year.”

Major Holiday Fund donors this year included two anonymous donations totaling $350,000; the Hewlett and Packard foundations, which each donated $25,000; the Peery and Arrillaga foundations, which each contributed $10,000; and numerous donations of more than $10,000 made by individu- als and family foundations who asked to remain anonymous.

In all, 74 nonprofit agencies serving families and children are receiving program grants, plus several are receiving capital grants to make physical improvements to their sites. Grants range from $25,000 to $2,500 and were disbursed by Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which has partnered with the Weekly for the Holiday Fund since its launch.

A special joint meeting between city and county bodies are expected to finalize the process for crafting the new document. The council and the Planning and Transportation Commission on Monday night, when the two bodies are expected to finalize the process for crafting the new document. Major Holiday Fund donors this year included two anonymous donations totaling $350,000; the Hewlett and Packard foundations, which each donated $25,000; the Peery and Arrillaga foundations, which each contributed $10,000; and numerous donations of more than $10,000 made by individu- als and family foundations who asked to remain anonymous.

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The law makes it much more difficult for Palo Alto to rely on large, undeveloped sites like 340 Portola Avenue to meet its housing goals. According to a new report from the city’s Department of Planning and Development Services, about 78% of the housing-opportunity sites listed in the current Housing Element fall ei- ther below or above these thresholds and, as such, would require further analysis before they could be included in the next housing document.

Other recent state bills further complicate the city’s planning ef- forts. Assembly Bill 686, which became law in 2018, requires cities to adopt strategies that “affirmatively further fair housing,” which includes analyzing historic patterns of segregation and disparities in areas of opportunities. The bill, which was authored by Assembly member Miguel Santi- ago, D-Los Angeles, specifically requires cities to take “meaning- ful actions, in order to combat discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers to access to opportunities based on protected characteristics.”

The new report from the city’s Planning and Development Services notes that while the...
POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto
Feb. 21-Feb.27

Violence related
James Road, 3/9, 2:26 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
Channing Avenue, 4/14, 5:46 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
University Avenue, 4/30, 11:27 a.m.; battery/assault.
El Camino Real, 4/30, 4 p.m.; sex crime.
East Meadow Drive, 5/2, 8:47 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
Bryant Street, 5/3, 1:35 p.m.; arson.
University Avenue, 5/3, 11:41 a.m.; simple assault.
Oak Creek Drive, 5/3, 10:24 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

Theft related
Grand theft: 1
Identity theft: 3
Petty theft: 1
Residential burglaries: 1
Shoplifting: 2

Suspicous circumstances: 2
Vandalism: 1
Warrant/other agency: 2

Menlo Park
April 28-May 4

Violence related
1200 block of El Camino Real, 5/1, 5:58 p.m.; robbery.
Threat related
Burglary: 1
Fraud: 3
 Petty theft: 1
Residential burglaries: 1

Alcohol or drug related
Drinking in public: 1
 Possession of drugs: 1
Possession of paraphernalia: 3

Miscellaneous
Casualty fall: 1
 Court order violation: 1
Found property: 1
Indecent exposure: 2
Located missing person: 1
Lost property: 1
Misc. penal code violation: 1
Missing person: 1
Psychiatric subject: 7

Obituaries

A list of local residents who died recently:

James Lewark, 77, a Palo Alto resident, died on Feb. 11. Shirley Ann Cahn, 84, a former Palo Alto resident, died on April 14. Elizabeth “Betsey” Wallick Danon, 91, a former Palo Alto resident, died on April 14. Elizabeth “Betsey” Wallick Danon, 91, a former Palo Alto resident, died on April 14.

Shirley Ann Cahn
January 23, 1937 – April 14, 2021

Shirley Ann Cahn was born January 23, 1937 in Albany, California, the daughter of Roland and Miriam Masters. Shirley attended Berkeley High School and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1959 with a BA in Decorative Arts. Following graduation from Cal, she worked for the Emporium Capwell Company in San Francisco, managing the Decorating Studio. There she met Ralph Cahn, whom she married in 1961. They raised two daughters in Palo Alto until their divorce in 1996. Shirley was a loving mother, wonderful artist, staunch supporter of KQED, and cheerful soul who will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her daughter Jennifer Cahn (David Fisher) and Julia Elman (Ian), and four grandchildren Natalie and Elena Fisher and Olivia and Anna Elman, her sister, Joan Brinton (Bob), and nieces Mary Beth Santos (Craig) and Anne Ashton (Don).

Shirley died of complications from pneumonia and heart failure after many happy years living at Maple House II in Santa Cruz. A private service for the family will be held at Lake Tahoe this summer. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Heifer International, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202, www.heifer.org.

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Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 39.

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Stephen Anthony Kalthoff
June 29, 1940 – March 31, 2021

Stephen was born in San Francisco during the summer of 1940 to parents Hazel Garatti Kalthoff and Herbert Kalthoff. Stephen’s family eventually moved to San Leandro to be closer to his extended Italian-American family in Pleasanton and Livermore. He grew up largely in the vineyards and wineries of Pleasanton, including his grandfather Frank’s eponymous Garatti winery. A curly haired young boy, Stephen was adored by his family for his boundless energy, sharp intelligence, and sense of humor.

He graduated from St. Joseph’s High School in Alameda and received his bachelor’s degree from USF and MBA from UC Berkeley. During his college years he worked for Southern Pacific Railroad where he developed a life long love affair with trains. As children he would take us to watch trains at all hours of the day and night. He knew every schedule. He even planned trips along rail lines throughout the U.S. and the world; taking the Trans Siberian Railroad with his brother Phil and nephew Brian in 1993 and most recently with his daughters through Texas in 2018.

Stephen married Alice Painter in 1964 and moved to San Antonio, TX to join the Air Force. When he returned, he accepted a position with Consolidated Freightways in Menlo Park and remained there for over 25 years. During this period, he also developed his grandfather’s “Escondido Vineyard” into a successful business, selling grapes to Wente and several smaller wineries in the area for decades. As family business, we spent many weekends and summers working the land; we camped, hunted, moved irrigation pipe, and picked grapes. He instilled an unshakable work ethic in us, for which we are so grateful.

As a third generation vintner in the Livermore Valley, Stephen served as President of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, chaired the South Livermore Valley Development Planning Committee, and was elected to the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Water and Conservation District (Zone 7). He was very active socially and politically in the Tri-Valley and San Francisco where he was a deacon at Saint Peter and Paul Church in North Beach.

Stephen had an amazing life. He was a renaissance man in every sense of the word. He could be the executive in a suit one moment and in overalls working on a tractor the next. He was an avid reader, hunter, farmer, historian, and traveler. He was member of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco and an Eastern European history buff. He lived life to its fullest and never succumbed to fear. As a father he taught us to work hard, dream big, and be brave. We will always remember him as bigger than life, both in stature and personality, and completely irreplaceable. He was truly one in a million.

We will always remember him as bigger than life, both in stature and personality, and completely irreplaceable. He taught us to work hard, dream big, and be brave. With love, love, love!}

Elizabeth “Betsey” Wallick Danon
August 26, 1929 – April 17, 2021

Elizabeth Anne “Betsey” Wallick was born August 26, 1929 to Guy Philip Wallick and his wife, Florence Kenneth “Keysie” Keys, in Palo Alto, California and was the youngest of three children. Her sister, Alice Jean Wallick and brother, Philip Wallick predeceased her. As a young child, she remembered rationing during WWII, therefore she was a recycler for the rest of her life.

She graduated Palo Alto High School Class of 1947.

She graduated from the Mills College in Oakland in 1951 with a degree in occupational therapy - the first woman with a college degree in our family.

After college, she traveled to Europe on a steamer, seeing the aftermath of WWII. Upon her return, she worked as an occupational therapist at the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

She traveled again in 1956, this time to Italy and then to Istanbul, meeting her handsome husband, Renato Giuseppe Danon, shipboard. Renato spoke six languages and then learned English only for her. They had three children, Giuliana Maria Danon, Guido Renato Danon, and Felicia Grazia Danon before returning to the USA in 1961. Two years later the family moved to Rome, Italy for a year and then returned to Palo Alto.

In 1968, the family returned to Istanbul where Renato was to open the catering service for Marriott at its Yesilkoy airport. While in Istanbul, Betsey taught at the Roberts College Community School where Giuliana attended school while Felicia and Guido attended the Italian elementary school in Istanbul.

Returning to the USA in 1970, Betsey got her teaching degree from San Jose State University and taught elementary school at Harker Academy in Palo Alto. When Harker merged with a military school in San Jose, Betsey opened an elementary school in Palo Alto with Inge Zummawalt at her side, naming it the Keys School after her mother’s maiden name. Today the school flourishes with students from Kindergarten through 8th grade and recently honored both Betsey and Inge in a Founder’s Day ceremony.

Betsey’s family spent summers at Pinecrest where she learned to swim, fish, kayak, ski and camp, all of which she taught her children. In the winter, she learned to ski at Dodge Ridge when skiing in America was just becoming fashionable, and she taught her children how to ski there many years later. She loved the “Fallen Log” cabin on Rustic Road her dad built during the depression, taking her children there any time she could until it was sold in 1970.

While living with her parents in Palo Alto, one by one her children graduated high school and began college. After both her parents passed away, she sold the Palo Alto home and moved to Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1978, in town where her father had obtained a Master’s degree from Dartmouth College’s Amos Tuck School of Business in the 1920’s. After two years, she returned to California, this time settling in Sonora where she remained for the next 40 years.

In Sonora, she became co-owner of the Sierra Foothills Residential Care Center, caring for the developmentally disabled until she retired at age 80. She built a beautiful octagonal house on a Sonora mountainside with its gorgeous view and proximity to Pinecrest. It became the family center, where her daughter Giuliana and her husband, Levent Vural, and their children Taran Vural and Zerrin Vural, and her second daughter Felicia Danon North and her husband, Richard North, and her friends gathered for her memorial. It became the home of her son Guido and daughter-in-law, Sheri Gardener Danon, and their children, Andriana (Danon) Billeci and Christopher Danon. Her husband Renato and son Guido predeceased her.

She was loving, fair, outspoken, opinionated, warm hearted, stubborn, generous with her time in assisting others, not prejudiced about color, race or religion, a tree lover always worried about the California droughts, an avid oik and skier well into her 70’s, an avid reader, lover of Italian Opera, a viewer of Great Courses, a consummate planner of fun and educational “activities” for others, a grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren and even a great grandmother to vera Elizabeth Billeci. We remember her with many emotions and will miss her tremendously.
Barbara Jean Wong, forever in our hearts...

Barbara Jean Wong, wife, mother, grandmother, and long-time resident of Palo Alto, CA, passed away peacefully at the age 85, surrounded by her husband and two sons on April 23rd, 2021. While the sudden onset of an aggressive case of lymphoma complicated by disseminated intravascular coagulation proved a challenging fight, Barbara maintained her jovial sense of humor, grace, and elegance until her last moments.

Barbara was born in Suisun Valley, California, on January 2nd, 1936. She was the youngest of five children, two brothers and three sisters, to parents Jim and Ivy Fong. Growing up, Barbara was imbued with a creative and outgoing spirit, as well as a deep love for nature from spending time on the family’s fruit farms as a child. She graduated from Armijo High School, and then attended City College of San Francisco before completing her bachelor’s degree in education at San Jose State University.

Upon graduation, she worked in Fairfield and the Santa Clara County School districts as an elementary school teacher. Later she took up an assignment teaching US military personnel children at a US base in Japan. While in Asia, she connected with distant relatives who had grown up in China and Macau, and continued to stay in close contact with them for the rest of her life. After two years abroad, Barbara returned to the Bay Area. Working in the Palo Alto Unified School District, she taught children with learning disabilities for over a decade before leaving to start her own family.

Barbara’s charisma made her larger than life, touching the lives of family and friends alike. In college, her classmates crowned her Miss Congeniality at the City College Sweet Heart Ball. She also brought great pride to her hometown when she competed as a national contestant in the Miss Chinatown USA pageant. The only thing greater than her thirst for adventure to see the world, was her devotion to her family and helping others.

As a second “mother” to so many, Barbara always welcomed family and friends to our house for social gatherings. She was always generous with her legendary homemade tapioca with pineapple chunks, almond jello fruit salad or her fabled apple strudel made out of organic apples from our own backyard. Her encyclopedic knowledge of health and natural remedies was her conduit for expressing her love and care for others, with whom she eagerly shared her secrets to beauty and longevity. And if that wasn’t enough, the sound of her melodic voice and uplifting laughter could give that extra boost to the immune system of anyone who heard it.

In 1970 she met the love of her life, Dr. Guy Y. Wong, while doing her graduate course work at the Pacific Medical College. They were married within two years, a union that would last for half a century. They raised two sons, who never once doubted that they were her greatest pride and joy for the rest of her life. Barbara is survived by her husband, her first son Andrew, his wife Tina, and her two grandchildren, Alexander and Elyse; as well as her second son, Brian, his wife, Chaa, her granddaughter, Emerson, and another granddaughter expected in the fall of this year.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in her name to the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project of Santa Clara County, Inc. (CHCP), PO Box 5366, San Jose, CA 95150-5366 (http://chcp.org/caf-museum/) or Morrissey-Compton Educational Center, 995 Price Ave, Ste 100, Redwood City, CA 94063 (http://www.morrissey-compton.org/support.php).

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

**Contract Name:** Juana Briones OH Center Roof Replacement

**Contract No.:** BOH-21

**DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK:** The work includes, but is not limited to:
- Removal and replacement of existing single-story roof, installation of new cold process, multi-ply system, Appx. 22,000SF

**Contract duration:** 78 Days

**Estimated Cost:** $850,000

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 – 10AM at the 638 Maybell Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 – meet at the covered walkway/entrance.

**Bid Submission:** Proposals must be E-MAILED to the District Facilities, umelero@pausd.org no later than 2:00 p.m. on June 1, 2021. Bids received in a timely manner by the District will be tallied online, live at the following website:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ERJjPzA0p0LPs_lqMfU0hHMr9IM7-hqvW3R3Rbxw/edit?usp=sharing

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors’ license(s): B, C-39. 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. Bonding required for this project as follows: Bid Bond 10% of the total bid, Performance Bond to be 100%, Payment Bond to be 100%.

1. **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 and download all Bidding Documents for free, online at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D7fYhH28Xo54UYtm-nr8_J0dpYlYBt1hu?usp=sharing

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

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount plus add alternate 1.

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:
Paloo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, CA, 94306-1099
Attn: Royce Rippee
Phone: (650) 329-3927
Fax: (650) 327-3587
Email: royce@fls3h.com

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3443 Ashton Court, Palo Alto
Quiet, friendly cul-de-sac location

NICELY REMODELED
- Four bedrooms, two and one half bathrooms
- Large fourth bedroom can be used as master suite or a family room
- Updated kitchen includes custom maple cabinets with an abundance of storage, some stainless steel appliances, breakfast area, and desk nook with built-in file cabinets
- Inviting living room with recessed lighting, slate fireplace, built-in wall unit, ceiling-to-floor double pane windows, & door leading to cozy courtyard.
- Premium bamboo and oak engineered hardwood floors
- Double pane windows throughout the home
- Quality window coverings in the bedrooms
- Skylights
- Raised vegetable beds
- Approximately 1700 sf of living space* on an approximately 6500 sf lot*
- Highly desirable Palo Alto schools are within walking distance.
- Walk to schools, two nearby parks, including Magical Bridge Playground, coffee shops, community center.

*buyer to verify

Offered at $2,798,000

Listing Agent: Jane Volpe
DRE# 01330133
Cell: 650.380-4507
jane@midtownpaloalto.com

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In response to ‘City’s urban forester resigns to join Cal Fire’

Posted May 4 at 10:15 a.m. by Paul Brophy, a resident of Professorville:

“Before this position is filled by the public works director, shouldn’t the city first decide how important this job is relative to proposed cuts elsewhere in the city budget? Very few cities the size of Palo Alto have an ‘urban forester.’ Just maybe an additional position in police, fire, libraries, children’s services etc. should have a higher priority.”

In response to ‘Facing another bleak budget season, City Council prepares to cut services’

Posted May 4 at 10:14 a.m. by Derek McKennon, a resident of Stanford:

“From a municipal budgeting standpoint, doesn’t infrastructure and public safety funding trump the more luxury items such as community art programs and children’s recreational activities?

The parents can take it upon themselves to provide for these endless school parties that cannot repair roads or respond to police and fire calls. This whining about cutbacks in non-essential city expenditures says a lot about some residents in Palo Alto. It’s like we want to dine at The French Laundry when all we can actually afford at this time is a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Time to get real and adjust to some much-needed austerity measures.”

Letters

Let’s be idealistic

Editor,

As Diana Diamond points out in her latest blog on climate change, the city council’s carbon dioxide mitigation goals are both imperative in nature and breathtaking in audacity and scope.

Her skepticism is understandable. The city’s mitigation list is as long as it is daunting — not to mention expensive. And even if Palo Alto could convert all residents’ cars to electric vehicles, while reshaping commuter behavior and installing thousands of electric kitchen ranges, would that even make a dent in what is clearly a global problem?

She thus ends by politely asking the city council to “Please, don’t be too idealistic.”

But can there be such a thing at this point? Can we afford to be anything less than audacious in our post-carbon economy vision? As Diamond points out, if we don’t do something fast, life on this planet will be impossible for millions.

What Diamond leaves out of this story is that Palo Alto is not alone. Many other cities and counties are getting real with themselves about the magnitude of the climate transition required. Further, equally audacious federal legislation has been introduced in Congress: the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act would levy a fee on carbon at the source and return proceeds to citizens, all in support of a 2050 net-zero target.

So let’s be idealistic — not just in Palo Alto, or Silicon Valley, but everywhere. Let’s believe we can transform both our kitchens at home and our carbon pricing strategy nationally. Let’s support both local and federal lawmakers as they plot the course for the radical change the climate crisis calls for.

Christi Opitz
Grant Road, Mountain View

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

What do you think about the city’s proposed budget cuts to youth programs?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 300 words to letters@paweekly.com. Submit guest opinions of 750 to 950 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you.

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

For more information, contact Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at lleew@paweekly.com or 650-223-6526 or Editor Jocelyn Dong at editor@paweekly.com.

Disappointing budget cuts

Editor,

The May 3 Palo Alto City Council and staff decisions on the budget cuts are disappointing. The Charleston-Arastradero project was approved in 2003. The automated garage parking signs are worthwhile and necessary, but not critical, so they can wait a year or two. Are the automated parking signs more important than the Charleston-Arastradero safety improvements? Are the automated parking signs more important than the libraries or the services for children, teens, and seniors? I think not, and many residents think not. Thanks to Pat Burt, Greer Stone and Greg Tanaka for supporting safety improvements and services. To the rest of the council, please reconsider this decision.

Keri Wagner
Edlee Avenue, Palo Alto
Our subscribing members say it best...

“\nWe will definitely resubscribe and up our amount. You do an essential and superb job in really being ‘the glue’ of the mid-Peninsula. Special appreciation to your leader Bill Johnson, who has spent his life making this area and our lives better. ”

- Linda and Sid L.

Will you join the thousands of others supporting local journalism?

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Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

The COVID-19 Pandemic has reshaped all of our lives and definitely reshaped how we deliver and receive healthcare services today. Amazingly, just one year after the pandemic began, effective vaccines became available to help us stop the spread and bring us hope that we may soon return to normal living and working.

Ravenswood Family Health Network began our COVID-19 Vaccine rollout in January 2021. To date, we have administered over 15,000 doses to patients and community members. As a community health center, we believe our prevention mission requires us to offer community-wide vaccines. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the communities we serve—in terms of health, children’s education, incomes, access to food, shelter, stable work, and much more. Participating in COVID-19 vaccine delivery is essential to protecting ourselves, our loved ones and our community from further illness, hospitalization and death.

Currently we offer six weekly vaccine clinics. Two are open to the community. To make it easier for our people to access vaccines, we provide barrier free COVID-19 vaccine events. They are walk-up-no appointment necessary while supplies last. We provide in-person interpretation in multiple languages, help people fill out forms, and efficiently vaccinate from 150-250 individuals and hour. This would not be possible without our dedicated managerial and operational staff putting in lots of overtime to lead our mass vaccine events as well as our volunteers. We have over 400 amazing volunteers recruited from our donors; Rotary; City of East Palo Alto staff; City of Menlo Park staff; Facebook; nonprofits like Belle Haven Action, Emoja, and Nuestra Casa; and health care partner staff from Stanford, Kaiser, El Camino Hospital, and San Mateo Health System. We have retired clinicians and Encore physicians; nursing students; medical students; and aspiring students who want to go into health care; and just wonderful folks who care.

Every time we finish a community vaccine event, we are joyfully tired and inspired. Each vaccine event fills us with hope that there will be a future without COVID. We hope you are staying safe, getting vaccinated and beginning to enjoy an expanding personal bubble!

Together in Health,

Luisa Buada, RN, BSN, MPH,
Chief Executive Officer
Our Mission
To improve the health of the community by providing culturally sensitive, integrated primary and preventative health care to all, regardless of ability to pay or immigration status, and collaborating with community partners to address the social determinants of health.

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COVID VACCINE CLINICS
As of April 24, 2021, we have conducted 3,436 COVID tests and 14,460 COVID vaccines have been administered. We could not have done this without our staff, volunteers, and partner organizations. While it is hard work, it is worth it. Ravenswood’s Board Member, Melieni Talakai, shared, “as a resident and a board member of Ravenswood Family Health Network, I am grateful for the vaccines that have been sent our way and look forward to seeing more.”

On April 10, we held our first COVID Vaccine Clinic on Facebook’s campus in Menlo Park. With the assistance of Facebook, the County of San Mateo, the City of East Palo Alto, and the City of Menlo Park, we administered 1,180 doses of the COVID vaccine at our first COVID Vaccine Clinic on the Facebook campus.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE
We are truly grateful for our dedicated staff and volunteers who have been a part of the success of each vaccine clinic. Our staff have worked long nights and weekends, and many community members stepped up to help out. For volunteers like East Palo Alto City Councilmember, Antonio Lopez, “directly helping out the patients of Ravenswood, who are primarily undocumented and immigrants, is personal,” says Antonio. Community members, funders, partner organizations, civic leaders, and legislators have volunteered their time—from conducting outreach, providing us space to vaccinate individuals, helping at vaccine clinics, to donating supplies.

In the Time of COVID-19
On top of providing comprehensive healthcare services, our staff have been working diligently to meet evolving health guidelines and keep patients safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we enter spring, we are very grateful to see that the hard work of our community and health care workers is paying off, as the surge we experienced in winter is declining back to pre-surge levels. In addition, providing COVID vaccines and testing to our community has provided hope, as we can begin to see a path out of the pandemic.

Our first major COVID Vaccine Clinic was held on January 30th, where 1,235 individuals were vaccinated by our organization. At this event, we successfully administered all vaccines in a timely manner due to the hard work of over one hundred staff and volunteers. “It takes a large team to run vaccine clinics. We make sure we have ‘Team Captains’ for each area,” says Ravenswood’s Senior Director of Clinical Operations, Natalie Hodgen. Natalie, who oversees our vaccine clinics, has been key in assigning roles, updating regulations, and tracking and resupplying our vaccines. Currently, we are holding COVID Vaccine Clinics for registered patients and eligible community members working or living in East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, or North Fair Oaks.

More moments from our COVID vaccine efforts
Join Us in Caring for Our Elderly Patients

Lisate and his wife have been patients of Ravenswood Family Health Network since 2017. He has been seeing his Ravenswood physician, Dr. Karim, regularly to keep his diabetes and high blood pressure under control. Lisate is thankful that Dr. Karim takes a holistic approach to his health and does not just treat him as a problem, but as a person. Dr. Karim takes the time to listen to Lisate so that he can fully understand his overall health and health concerns, and guides him through possible solutions.

In November, Lisate experienced pain in his shoulder and was unable to raise his arm to 90 degrees. Dr. Karim referred him to get an x-ray of his shoulder. At Lisate’s follow-up appointment with Dr. Karim, she presented the x-ray to him, explained what was happening in the image, and diagnosed his pain. He had glenohumeral arthritis and a frozen shoulder. Glenohumeral arthritis is the wearing and degeneration of cartilage in the joint of the shoulder, and a frozen shoulder is a condition characterized by stiffness and pain in the shoulder joint. Dr. Karim referred him to physical therapy where he was advised to perform physical exercises to address these issues. Lisate is pleased to have solutions that can help his condition.

Recently, Lisate learned that given his and his wife’s age group, they were eligible to receive the COVID vaccine. Lisate was excited when he found out that he and his wife were eligible to receive the COVID vaccine at Ravenswood and made appointments for himself and his wife right away. He said, “I trust the medication (vaccine) to fight against the pandemic.” Lisate and his wife were so happy and relieved when they received their first dose of the vaccine. A day before his second dose, he proclaimed, “I am very happy to know I am safe, and tomorrow when I get my second vaccine, I will be even more confident in my health in regards to COVID-19.” Now that Lisate and his wife are both fully vaccinated for COVID, they can focus on supporting each other and maintaining their health.

From keeping his diabetes and high blood pressure under control, addressing shoulder pain, to getting vaccinated to protect himself against COVID, Lisate knows that Ravenswood will always be there for him. Lisate wants you to know, “Your support is worth it for people like us - elderly and high-risk people!”

Here’s what community members had to say about the vaccine:

“The COVID vaccine greatly reduces the likelihood I would end up in the hospital with serious complications, so that was more than enough reason for me to be among the first ones vaccinated in the County!”

—Melieni Talakai, RN, San Mateo County Homeless Mobile Clinic

“I know I can contract the virus anywhere, so getting the vaccine helped me feel secure.”

—Candelaria Magaña, East Palo Alto Community Member
Celebrating All Mothers and Mother Figures!

Mother’s Day is a day to appreciate all the mothers who provide endless care and support for their families. At Ravenswood, we know a few mothers who are living double lives—providing care for their families at home while simultaneously providing care for their patients in the community. Despite the long nights at home and long days in the clinic, these women are devoted to seeing a change in health care.

![Image of mothers in clinic]

**DR. SONIA MENCHAVEZ, CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF OPTOMETRY**

Sonia Menchavez is the mother of a baby girl and a soon-to-be baby boy, and is also the Clinical Director of Ravenswood’s Optometry Department. Her work and family are both essential parts of her identity and purpose, and she strives to be fully present for both. At work, she focuses on her patients and the needs of her department and organization. At home, she leaves work at the door to be fully present with her family.

Since high school, Sonia has been passionate about dismantling the inequities in optometry care, and she committed herself to work towards creating access for underserved communities. While attending University of California, Berkeley for her Doctor of Optometry degree and Master’s in Public Health, Sonia met Ravenswood’s CEO, Luisa Buada. Her conversation with Luisa turned into Sonia’s capstone project—creating the health center’s new optometry department in 2015. She was responsible for creating all policies and procedures, working with contractors and architects, and setting up the optical shop. Sonia says, “it was a unique opportunity, and I was at the right time, at the right place.”

Every day Sonia looks forward to connecting with her patients. Reaching the most vulnerable people and creating equitable eye care are her top priorities. She finds joy in preventing an aging patient from losing their eye sight or providing a pair of glasses to a child learning to read or having difficulties focusing. She is happy to be making an impact on her patient’s lives—no matter the age or circumstance.

Sonia’s advice to new mothers, second-time mothers, and all mother figures is to keep going, put one foot in front of the other, and take it one day at a time. “Your child will go through phases—both beautiful and challenging, and recognizing the presence of both allows you to savor every moment.”

![Image of Dr. Mokaya performing a belly check]

**DR. DIANA MOKAYA, ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR, FAMILY PRACTICE**

Diana is Ravenswood’s Associate Medical Director of Family Practice. She has just returned from maternity leave with her first baby, Dylan. Leading the clinic as the Associate Medical Director of Family Practice and being a full-time mother is both challenging and rewarding. Diana loves establishing working relationships with people from different departments of the clinic for a whole-team perspective. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, she says, “It takes a village to run a health care facility too!”

Providing patient care and looking at bigger system perspectives is what excites her the most! Diana says, “historically, healthcare is traditionally practiced at a one-on-one level, but most success stories are formed by a whole team perspective.” One way that Dr. Mokaya works with a whole team perspective is through CenteringPregnancy®, which is a group-based prenatal visit program. In this program, Dr. Mokaya and a team of clinic staff provide care and guidance for a group of mothers going through the same developmental process. She conducts belly checks for mothers, and then leads the group through discussions about their health. Dr. Mokaya enjoys caring for a group of mothers because she sees first-hand how the group learns and grows with each other.

One reason Diana chose to work at Ravenswood was the professional medical shortage in the area. She has earned her patients’ trust by having their best interests at heart. In a patient consultation, she provides multiple care options, which ultimately leads patients toward achieving their health goals.

As a care provider and as a mother herself, Diana wants to remind mothers this Mother’s Day to give yourself a break and a mental compassion check. Despite the many sources telling you what the right way is to parent, what matters most is what works for you and your family. “If your child is happy, healthy, and growing, then you’re doing a great job,” says Diana encouragingly!

Yes! I Want to Join Ravenswood’s Care Team!

Donate online at:
www.ravenswoodfhn.org/donate/

Mail a check with this slip to:
Ravenswood Family Health Network
1885 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Ravenswood Family Health Network is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency

Questions? Contact the Development Team at Development@RavenswoodFHN.org

☐ $100 pays for one pediatric patient’s routine dental exam with x-rays
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A fruitful year for ‘Pear Slices 2021’

Festival of bite-size new works features local playwrights

By Karla Kane

A s we’re all too aware, we’ve been living under COVID-19 conditions for quite a while now. One way of marking this passage of time, in the Peninsula arts world anyway, is by noticing that we’re now onto the second year of virtual “Pear Slices.” And while 2020’s production was done via Zoom, as companies inch toward reopening for in-person audiences, the Pear Theatre has (in some ways) returned to a more traditional format for its annual roundups of short plays by members of its Pear Playwrights Guild while still presenting it digitally on demand.

Last year’s production was the Pear’s first show performed under lockdown regulations. Since then, the Mountain View-based theater company has had a year of experimenting with how to film and share its work. Now, thanks to the wonder of vaccines, testing and strict safety procedures, “Pear Slices 2021” looks and feels pretty much like the traditional look and feel yet accessible pandemic adaptations have made theater more accessible in many ways. Because the nine Slices have been uploaded separately, audiences can choose when and in what order to watch them, although there is a suggested flow. Don’t have the time or attention to watch the whole shebang — another example of how helpful closed-captioning options — another example of how theatrical “Pear Slices” is a time-honored Pear tradition. Even if individual “Slices” may vary in quality from one to the next, or from year to year, it’s always a treat to peek into the minds of local writers, to see the fruit of their efforts brought to life by a small cast and a couple of directors. In this case, the directors are Troy John-

As usual, the bite-size plays cover a range of topics and tones, from mind-bending and mysterious to contemporary realism. Leah Halper’s two offerings both deal with real-world parenting and family themes, although in quite different contexts. In the over-long “Hello Heriberto,” a young couple on the verge of becoming parents frets over the struggle to live in modern-day California. In “Yes Yes Maybe,” one of the production’s strongest pieces and based in historical fact, a 40-year-old Buenos Aires man confronts his mother about some long-buried family secrets. Matthew Fyffe’s “A Stable Family” also deals with parenthood, in the form of a lighthearted take on the fears of inadequacy experienced by Joseph and the Three Wise Ones at the birth of Jesus.

Two plays — “Power(less) Pete” by Meghan Mauger and “Sequestered” by Barbara Anderson — set the action within the COVID-19 pandemic, the former about a depressed superhero stuck at home and the latter about an overscheduled (and, it must be said, overprivileged and rather irritating) couple who can’t find time in their docket of online meetings and streaming hobby classes to be present together. “Sequestered” boasts a winking moment of self-deprecating humor when the wife notes that while everyone in her online screenwriting class is writing about the lockdown, she’s sure she has a unique spin on it. “Don’t Let Go” by Carol Wolf explores a primitive society in which having a useful extra sense may be more of a hazard than a benefit in terms of fitting in to the group. Bridgette Dutta Portman’s “Wheel of Fortuna” pits an anonymous goat herder, Queen Cleopatra VII and Emperor Nero against each other in a game show of destiny — which develops into a philosophy, ancient history and physics lesson — hosted by the unhappily mortal Fortuna.

Peggy Powell, like Halper, has two inclusions: “Keepsake,” about a wife who’s not too sure she’s ready for her long-dead husband to be resurrected from cryogenic storage, and “Roadside Attraction,” in which a couple stop for gas in the middle of nowhere and have an odd encounter (while I was intrigued by “Roadside,” I must admit to being baffled afterward).

Pear leader and show producer Sinjin Jones handles sound and video projections, with Kevin Davies as technical director, lighting designer Ben Hemmen, costume designer Pati Bristow and Kelly Weber Barraza as stage and production manager. Except for a few slight bits of buzz in the sound and a few trouble spots with filming focus, the Slices unfold smoothly and simply, with little interference from the camera.

“Pear Slices 2021,” with its traditional look and feel yet accessibility for at-home viewers, is a nice showcase for what the Pear Playwrights Guild has been up to over the past challenging yet fruitful year. "Pear Slices 2021" is streaming digitally on demand through May 23. Tickets are $30-$34. More information is available at thepear.org.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com.
1138 STANISLAUS LANE, PALO ALTO

Stylish Townhome with a Desirable Location

A desirable corner unit location coupled with light-filled interiors gives this stylish townhome an attractive ambiance from the moment you step inside. Built in 2008 by renowned SummerHill Homes, and offering 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and 1,300 square feet of living space, this home enjoys chic appointments including high-quality laminate floors and plantation shutters, as well as a fresh, modern floorplan. The living room flows into a sunny dining area, as well as to the kitchen with granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances from GE Profile. Plus, two French doors open to a private balcony for indoor/outdoor dining and entertaining. Spacious bedrooms include the master suite with a walk-in closet, as well as a convenient guest suite. This home also boasts an in-unit laundry closet, as well as an attached 2-car garage. Find yourself just moments to the Baylands Trail, beautiful Ramos Park and Mitchell Park, and the shops and restaurants of The Village at San Antonio Center, as well as to top tech firms including Google, Facebook, and Intuit. And, top-ranked schools Palo Verde Elementary and JLS Middle are both within approximately 1 mile. This home checks all the boxes for outstanding Silicon Valley living.

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2151 OAKLEY AVENUE, MENLO PARK

Light-filled spaces and a modern floorplan highlight this stylish home in sought-after West Menlo, offering 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, and nearly 2,100 square feet of living space, including a beautiful guest home. Towering trees frame a garden pathway leading to the covered front porch with delightful outdoor space. Inside, hardwood floors extend throughout expansive gathering areas, while fresh paint and ample natural light brighten the ambiance. Highlights of the home include the inviting living room, the dining room with a serving station, and the granite-appointed kitchen with stainless-steel appliances. The sizable master suite resides near a private outdoor entrance, while the home's additional bedrooms include one that easily converts into office space to meet all work-from-home needs. Outside, the detached guest house includes a full kitchen, while the backyard offers multiple areas for outdoor enjoyment and relaxation, including a Zen-like garden. Topping it all off is an outstanding location moments to downtown Menlo Park, Stanford University, and downtown Palo Alto, and served by top-ranked Las Lomitas Elementary and La Entrada Middle, both of which are within one mile of the home (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

In an effort to provide diners more opportunities to support local restaur-
ants as the Peninsula slowly reopens, Embarcadero Media’s Peninsula Foodist
is teaming up with Facebook to launch Peninsula Restaurant Week. From May
14-22, restaurants, bakeries and eateries of all stripes along the Peninsula will of-
fer prix fixe deals and other menu spe-
cials available for dine-in, delivery or curbside pickup.

As part of the new weekend dining event, the Peninsula Foodist has asked participating chefs and restaurant owners to share their stories about what the past year has been like for them and where they see the industry headed. This week’s Q&A features Michael Ekwall, owner of La Bodeguita del Medio at 463 Califor-
nia Ave. in Palo Alto. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

For more information about Peninsula Restaurant Week, go to peninsularestau-
rantweek.com.

For readers who may not be familiar, tell me a little bit about you and La Bodeguita.

We opened in 1997, and we’re coming into our 25th year this year. We’re a Cuban-inspired restaurant. We always make an effort to tell people we are not a traditional Cuban restaurant, because that might leave some folks disappoint-
ed. Basically, what we have done is really focused on the great aspects of Cuban cuisine and Cuban cocktails and adapted them to a California-Bay Area concept.

We do a lot of traditional dishes, but with more localized ingredients available in our area.

Tell me about the pandemic and the lockdowns. What was the biggest chal-
lenge you faced?

Not knowing what to expect from day to day. Normally, the way we func-
tion, the most unpredictable thing that happens to us is someone calls in sick. This unpredictability, inconsistency and inconsistent and unreliable messaging from the people in charge (of health or-
ders) during the pandemic is difficult.

When we were closed and doing take-
out only, we went from a staff of 50 to basically three people. There was that shock of: “How do we lay off people that have been working with us for 20-plus years?” I think that was the most trauma-


lative thing that happened. Once we kind of got our footing, we were operating as a takeout restaurant, which we had never done. Pre-pandemic someone might call in and order a ropa vieja or a Cuban sandwich to go, but that was it. All of the sudden, that’s all we had, so we had to adapt the menu and change the way we did business with three employees.

We had plenty of friends and volunteers helping us out.

As for keeping us going, I think it was resiliency. It was just that we had so many years under our belt, and we thought: “Someday, finally, we’ll retire.” This is not how we’re doing that.

How has 2021 been so far compared to 2020?

This year started out just as bad as 2020 ended. We were basically closed down, doing takeout only. Now, the weather is beautiful, vaccines are kick-
ing in — and our staff was fully vacci-
nated a couple of weeks ago.

That was one thing that was a game changer for us — people getting vacci-
nated. It makes people feel more com-
fortable about being out and about. We haven’t reopened inside, and we’re not prepared at this time. At this point, it is not worth it for us to turn our lives up-
side down because we have our takeout zone and we’re doing outdoor dining, and that’s functioning pretty well. On cold nights, it’s not so great, but most of the customers are understanding. We’re making the most of living in California.

What is the biggest challenge res-
taurants face in the post-pandemic era ahead of us?

Inflation. We buy and sell commodi-
ties on a daily basis. This is an extreme example, but a year ago, we paid $45 for a case of kitchen gloves. A couple of weeks ago, we paid $180. Just think about all of the small elements that go into running any kind of business.

Another example — local fish. A year ago, we paid $10 per pound, but it might be $20 right now. One of our biggest challenges is how we choose to reflect that in our pricing. The cost of labor has increased significantly, the cost of goods (has increased) significantly, but we still can’t raise prices on our customers by 50% or 75%.

Has the pandemic sparked any kind of innovation at La Bodeguita that will remain in the future?

We’re rookies, but I think that social media is a huge component. We’re rec-
ognizing we need to adapt to that type of technology: online ordering, for ex-
ample, which we hesitated to do. We were late to the game, but we adapted an online ordering portal that allowed us to bypass using those third-party compa-
nies, except when it comes to delivery.

The online ordering is something that we’ll stay with. I don’t imagine in a year we’ll be doing as much takeout as we’re doing now, but as we’ve kind of come to adapt over the course of this year, that’s been significant.

We’ve also had a lot of shift in terms of employee roles in the restaurant. It was great to see that everybody took an all hands on deck mentality. Whereas before someone might have been a bartender or a server, now they’re helping do dishes or bus tables — whatever needs to be done. That’s one thing we’ve tried to kind of roll into our new COVID-19 format.

What should guests and the broader community keep in mind as they’re visiting local restaurants more and more?

I think that a lot of people don’t un-
derstand the importance of restaurants or food service — how large of a com-
ponent it is in the overall economy, how many people are or were employed in this particular sector. Over the course of the year, our industry lost hundreds of billions of dollars. In our industry, businesses closed. People lost their jobs. Most customers are incredibly gracious, but things have changed, and our busi-
ness has been turned upside down. Cost is skyrocketing, and all of us are doing the best we can with what we have. Be patient, be kind, and just recognize all of that — that’s the most important thing.

What should guests expect from La Bodeguita during Peninsula Restau-
rant Week?

For Restaurant Week, we’re doing something that came out of our origi-

nal concept of adapting to our Califor-
nia lifestyle and Cuban cuisine — we’re going to do picadillo, which is typically made with ground beef, with (vegan) meat from Impossible Foods.

We’ll also do mojitos, because you can’t come to La Bodeguita and not have a mojito. And then for dessert, we’re do-
ing a Cafe Cubano flan, which is a tra-
ditional flan but infused with a sweet Cuban coffee.

Email Writer Sarah Klearman
at peninsulafoodist@embarcadero publishing.com.
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An incredible lot of 1.29 acres provides gorgeous scenery and ample privacy for this spacious home of almost 3,350 square feet with views of the nearby Rancho San Antonio Preserve. Situated at the end of a cul-de-sac, this home enjoys numerous updates including refinished hardwood floors, new kitchen flooring and appliances, fresh paint, and new light fixtures. Soaring ceilings and tremendous use of glass fashion a bright, airy ambiance throughout this light-filled home, with expansive gathering areas including both the living room and family room, each of which enjoys a centerpiece fireplace, as well as the dining room with a serving station and wet bar. Plus, this home also features an office to meet all work-from-home needs. Five bedrooms are highlighted by the sizable master suite that opens to the expansive backyard, where you will find excellent space for both entertaining and unwinding with a deck, patio, pool, and peaceful views. Just moments to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting, this home is also close to the Los Altos Golf & Country Club, a short trip to both The Village of Los Altos and downtown Mountain View, and is served by top-ranked Los Altos schools.

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Contemporary Luxury in Old Palo Alto

Moments to the excitement of University Avenue, convenient to prestigious Stanford University, and offering easy access to eco-friendly public transportation – this fresh, modern home exemplifies the vibrancy of its setting in sought-after Old Palo Alto. Outstanding build quality is readily apparent on both levels of this 8-year-old property, which offers 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and over 2,000 square feet of living space. Stylish appointments including hardwood floors, marble finishes, and detailed ceilings create a sophisticated ambiance throughout the floorplan perfectly suited for a contemporary lifestyle. Entertain guests with ease in the expansive living room with a centerpiece fireplace, craft delicious meals in the chef’s kitchen with GE Profile and Thermador appliances, and enjoy indoor/outdoor living in the family room that opens to the private backyard patio. Enjoy your morning coffee on the master suite’s outdoor balcony, and appreciate the convenience of a main-level guest suite. Plus, top-ranked schools Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High are within one mile of the home.

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中文諮詢請與Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 聯繫: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
For almost 75 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., a duly recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit, has enabled seniors to age in place, driven by a profound legacy of caring and our core values of respect, commitment, trust, dedication and compassion. Our four core programs serve over 6,000 households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives. PVI’s programs include Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels; Adult Day Services at Rosener House; Health, Wellness and Enrichment offerings at Little House; and on-demand Transportation Services at Little House.

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** A $500 donation will cover one month of daily Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors; or one month of daily staff-guided virtual therapeutic sessions for an Alzheimer’s patient from our Adult Day Services; or ten 60-minute personal training sessions for one senior; or 30 transportation rides for two months for 30 seniors.
Longtime residents reflect on spike in hate incidents

By Chris Kenrick

Ingrid Lai was at a loss for words when a man began yelling at her to “go back to China.” It was early in the pandemic and Lai, a longtime Palo Alto resident, was working her regular volunteer post at the check-in table of Palo Alto’s La Comida hot lunch program for seniors. The man—a client of the lunch program—was standing on the other side of the table.

“I wanted to say something back to him, but I was lost for words,” Lai said. “I probably looked scared. He walked away finally.”

Reports of anti-Asian harassment are disturbing, but not surprising, according to longtime Asian-American residents of Palo Alto who spoke to the Palo Alto Weekly about the recent spike in local and national anti-Asian hate incidents.

“Going through history, all the way back to when the Chinese came (here) in the gold (rush) days, way back to when the Chinese were first generation at Stanford,” said 84-year-old Yosh Kumagai, who had been targets of anti-Asian attacks.

“Like other non-white ethnic groups, Asian Americans have ‘always been seen as perpetual foreigners, no matter how many generations we’ve been here’ said the San Francisco-born Seid, a fourth-generation Californian. Mary Seid, from Stockton, is a third-generation Californian.

In spite of some negative aspects, Palo Alto has been a good place to live, said Seid, who moved to the area in 1962 for his medical residency at Stanford.

“By and large, it has provided me and my family opportunities to grow and learn and to be accepted,” he said.

Other longtime—or lifelong—Asian American residents of Palo Alto echoed that view.

“I have never, during all my years in Palo Alto, run across any prejudice against me personally,” said 84-year-old Yosh Kumagai, who grew up on a 30-acre pear orchard at the corner of Embarcadero Road and Old Bayshore Highway, which his grandfather had purchased in 1927.

Under the California Alien Land Law in effect at that time, the elderly Kumagai—born in Japan—could not own property, so the land was held in the names of his American-born sons. Growing up in Palo Alto except for two years when he lived in the Tule Lake Japanese internment camp with his family beginning at the age of 6—Kumagai remembers playing in haystacks near Embarcadero, where Ming’s restaurant later opened. He also remembers Japanese-owned farms at the corner of El Camino Real and Page Mill Road, as well as in the location of what is now the Goodwill Store on El Camino Way.

He recalls socializing and playing sports with Black and white classmates at Palo Alto High School. (Kumagai also graduated from Walter Hays Elementary and Jordan Junior High schools.)

Kumagai does not recall facing any racial career barriers or housing discrimination, though another family member did encounter deed restrictions enacted in the mid-1950s that barred Asians and other racial minorities from buying property in Palo Alto.

“I tend to think on the brighter side, and I thank my parents and grandparents for having lived here—I couldn’t find a better place to live,” said Kumagai, who mentioned that his grandchildren played sports at Palo Alto High just as he did.

Other Asian Americans described generally positive experiences of their decades in Palo Alto, though several said their children had been targets of racial bullying in elementary school because of their facial features or the presumed contents of their lunch boxes.

When Andrew Chang’s daughters reported racial bullying at school, the Palo Alto resident recalls being upset.

“I actually told them that it happens again just to hit them back,” said Chang, a retired engineer who grew up in Palo Alto in the 1970s after graduating from University of California, Berkeley.

“They said no, they get in trouble if they hit them back. I also remember I said I’d support them all the way, going to the principal or the school board if necessary,” Chang said.

Lai said she was proud that her son, Anthony Shu, now in his 20s and working in multimedia production and writing, overcame the bullying and turned the experience into something good for the next generation by creating Lunchbox Moments, a new not-for-profit publication encouraging Asian American and Pacific Islander artists and writers to explore relationships with food and cultural identity.

“Early on in their children’s schooling, the Seids switched their kids from their neighborhood elementary school, Green Gables, to a now-closed elementary school in the Ventu
tura neighborhood, which they preferred because of its greater economic and racial diversity. At the almost all-white Green Gables, Seid recalled, “The teacher in first or second grade would put up a beautiful collage of different racial groups, and some of the racial groups would wear different garbs. The lesson was, ‘Who are the Americans?’ The kids picked the blond, blue-eyed Caucasians. At that age, kids don’t dispute—they just accept it. But in our mind, these things were devastating for a minority child.”

Though Seid said his children had a “very good academic experience” in general, he expressed frustration that the 1980s Palo Alto curriculum conveyed a severely limited view of China.

“My kids grew up, despite (our) parenting, with a really negative impression of China and Chinese people—poor, backward, uneducated, essentially starving,” Seid said. The three eventually gained a more sophisticated understanding through summer study trips to China.

Former Palo Alto Mayor Yor
to Kishimoto—now an elected member of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District—first came to Palo Alto in 1977 to study at the Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business.

Kishimoto, whose two daughters went through local K-12 schools, was most troubled by the Palo Alto school board’s 2018 decision to reject a recommendation to rename a middle school after Palo Alto Fred Yamamoto, a hero who fought and died in World War II, because of concerns of the possible confusion between his name and that of Japanese admiral and Pearl Harbor attack mastermind Isoroku Yamamoto.

“Since Yamamoto is a common last name, it was as if a person named Smith did something negative and all people named Smith are blamed for it,” Kishimoto wrote in an email.

“It was shocking that the school board acquiesced and chose a different person to name the school for. This wasn’t a racial attack in
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**” Data on file at Earlens.

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Asian Americans (continued from page 29)

the school, but at the school board,” she said.

James Wong, 95, who has lived in Palo Alto since 1962, described a long Silicon Valley career in which he thrived, working with high-speed digital computers and communications systems to test satellites. He said he felt no disadvantage as a Chinese American.

Since retiring in 1986, Wong said he’s enjoyed spending time with family and friends and even getting to know people with views different than his own.

“We all need an attitude adjustment to really believe in helping people, respecting people, even if we don’t agree with them,” he said.

Of the recent spike in anti-Asian attacks, Wong said, “I thought we’d gone past that ... We have a big problem with discrimination.”

Wong said he’s counting on younger generations to find solutions.

Kumagai called the people perpetuating anti-Asian hate crimes and harassment “cowardly thugs.”

“I look at anybody who might be discriminatory and think, ‘It’s probably a reflection of their own life. They’re deprived and their life might be really pathetic, so they take it out on people who look different.’”

Kishimoto referred to “The Third Century,” a book she co-authored in 1988 about the political and economic culture of the United States.

Three-part series (continued from page 29)

has been in the works for many months and predates the most recent surge in anti-Asian incidents. He noted that while May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and seemed a good time for the series, the rise in hate incidents and crimes against Asian Americans is also a motivating factor for opening community dialogue and building understanding.

According to an April Pew Research Center survey, 81% of Asian adults say violence against them is increasing, including anti-Asian rhetoric, racism and scapegoating that blames Asians for the pandemic and its impact, he noted. Asian Americans have had a long history of bearing abuses and discrimination in the United States, particularly in California.

Prior studies found that three in four Asian Americans say they have personally experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly due to their race or ethnicity. Asian women are roughly twice as likely to be victims than men, studies show.

The Stop AAPI Hate reporting center has catalogued nearly 3,800 reported hate incidents since March 2020. More than 700 were reported in the Bay Area.

“It’s appalling and unacceptable and makes these conversations all the more important,” he said.

Rallies are not enough to break down long-standing prejudice, violence and exclusionary practices, he noted.

“Real change requires understanding — a willingness to listen, engage, and do the necessary come true for California and the Bay Area. ‘Diversity is our strength, as is our democracy, education, rule of law. It all takes constant work and reinvention in every generation.’

Email Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@pawweekly.com.

Local hate crimes on the rise

The number of local hate crimes is low, but the trend line is rising even as most incidents go unreported: That’s the message from Palo Alto Police Chief Robert Jonsen and Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen.

Acts against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are just a fraction of the area’s reported hate crimes, which can target victims not only because of race but also because of disability, gender, nationality, religion or sexual orientation, Jonsen and Rosen said during several recent presentations on the topic.

Three out of the 10 hate crimes filed so far this year in Santa Clara County were against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Rosen said. In 2020, a total of 14 hate crimes in all categories were filed, but one.

Palo Alto has averaged about 4.8 hate crimes a year since 2016 — up from 3.6 hate crimes a year from 2006 to 2015, Jonsen said. Two-thirds of those pertain to property, such as vandalism of signs, and about one-third are physical crimes like assaults, he said.

“Santa Clara County is a relatively safe county, and Palo Alto is extremely safe,” Jonsen said.

But the data probably captures just a small fraction of actual incidents, both officials said.

“We believe there’s a lot that’s not reported to us,” Jonsen said. “We hear about a lot of things third hand that never get reported to the police department.”

A nonprofit tracking center, Stop AAPI Hate, recorded 3,794 anti-Asian incidents nationwide since its founding in early 2020 to February 2021. The group has created a reporting system for incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at stopaaphate.org. The nonprofit was co-founded by the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University, the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and Chinese for Affirmative Action.

Jonsen and Rosen urge the public to report all potential hate crimes and incidents to local police.

If it’s an act of violence, call 911. If it’s even an insensitive remark, call your local police department, Jonsen said.

“We will come out and have a conversation. Even if it doesn’t rise to the level of a crime, we still want to document it,” Jonsen said.

Both officials stressed that hate crimes are motivated by bias and typically involve violence or a criminal act against a person or their property, while hate incidents can include horrible words but don’t involve a criminal threat.

“It’s the difference between words and actions,” Rosen said. “A hate incident is yelling and screaming at someone because they’re Jewish, Asian, Muslim, Black — saying horrible slurs against someone, but that’s all. It’s not threatening to hurt them or throwing a punch at them.”

Jonsen spoke April 16 and April 26 at virtual events organized by Palo Alto City Council member Lydia Kou and Los Altos City Council member Lynette Lee Eng in partnership with Avenidas senior center and the cities of Palo Alto and Los Altos.

Rosen spoke virtually on April 20 to the Yale Club of Silicon Valley.

— Chris Kenrick
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Three-part series
(continued from page 31)

work. I hope that people will join AACI and me to better understand our county’s diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities,” he said.

Simitian was also motivated by a high level of interest after he and his office sponsored the “Understanding Islam” series a few years ago.

“I think most people want to understand the lives and experiences of the folks in their community, and that opportunities like this help them to do just that.”

Sarita Kohli, president and CEO of Asian Americans for Community Involvement, said people need to come together as a community and stand against xenophobia, hate and violence.

“I am deeply outraged by the racially motivated attacks and crimes against Asian Americans that are occurring in our community. We hope that knowledge and empathy will empower our communities to support each other and heal together.”

The panel discussions will be held virtually, are free and are open to all. They take place on Thursdays, May 13, 20 and 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Attendees can sign up individually for each event:

  - Pawan Dinghra, professor of American Studies, Amherst College; author of “Managing Multicultural Lives: Asian Americans and the Challenge of Multiple Identities” and co-author of “Asian America.”
  - Michele Lew, CEO, The Health Trust

- May 20: Prejudice and Violence: Origins of prejudice and violence and how it can be addressed.
  - Rob Bonta, attorney general, State of California
  - Johnny Gogo, judge, Santa Clara County Superior Court
  - Helen Hsu, Psy.D., lead outreach specialist, staff psychologist, Asian American specialist, and lecturer at Stanford University

- May 27: Notions of Identity: How the AAPI community sees and describes itself. How is it seen and described by others?
  - Thuy Thi Nguyen, president, Foothill College
  - Phillip Yun, CEO, World Affairs Council
  - Pawan Dinghra, professor of American Studies, Amherst College; author of “Managing Multicultural Lives: Asian Americans and the Challenge of Multiple Identities” and co-author of “Asian America.”

For more information and to register visit tinyurl.com/understandingaapi or www.aaci.org.

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

About the cover: Longtime Asian American residents reflect on life in Palo Alto. Photos by Magali Gauthier and courtesy James Wong and Mary and Allen Seid. Cover design by Douglas Young.
May 3
LGBTQ+ History Awareness: part 1
2:30 -3:30pm via Zoom, RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free

May 4
Techie Tuesdays Explore Tech Lectures, 2-3:15pm via Zoom
Tuesdays. For information or to register email rsvp@Seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free

May 5
Bilingual Event: Mother’s Day Virtual Afternoon Tea, Cinco de Mayo and AAPI Heritage Celebration
2-3pm via Zoom. Presented in English and Mandarin. RSVP for log on info to ACCCO@avenidas.org. Free

May 6
Wonder Women Lesbian Social Group via Zoom
Every 1st & 3rd Thursday, 3-4pm via Zoom. Email jenn@seniorshowerproject.com for info and to register. Free.

May 7
Flashback Fridays Literature Reading Club with Phil Lumish
10:30am-12pm via Zoom. Email tmcloud@avenidas.org for log on info and current reading. Free

May 10
Bilingual Workshop: The Collaborative Approach for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Research and Education (CARE) 1-2pm via Zoom. Presented in English and Mandarin. RSVP for log on info to ACCCO@avenidas.org. Free

May 11
Apple Tech Tutoring
1:15-3:30pm via Zoom. Tuesdays. RSVP required. Email rsvp@Seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free.

May 12
Info Session: ClearCaptions Advanced Telephone Captioning
11am-12pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free

Book Club: The Giver of Stars by JoJo Moyes
2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free

May 13
Avenidas Village Coffee Chat
10am via Zoom. Get an e-card for a free cup of coffee from Peets. Email tkingery@avenidas.org to register. Free

Gay Men’s Walking Group Planning Meeting
3-3:30pm, 2nd & 4th Thursdays via Zoom. Email tkingery@avenidas.org for more info and to register. Free.

Song Appreciation Group “Favorite Song about Friendship”
4-5pm via Zoom. Email tkingery@avenidas.org for more info and to register. Free.

May 14
National Dance like a Chicken Day.
Go ahead. No one’s looking. Free

May 17
LGBTQ+ History Awareness with special guest Ken Yeager, part 2
2:30 -3:30pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to LGBTQ@avenidas.org. Free

May 18
National No Dirty Dishes Day
For more info and to register. Free.

May 19
Wellness Wednesdays Explore Tech Lectures
2-3:15pm via Zoom, on Wednesdays. For info or to register email rsvp@seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free.

May 20
Tinnitus Support Group
5:30-7:30pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free

May 21
World Day for Cultural Diversity

May 24
Tech and Innovation Discussion Group via Zoom
12-1pm, on Mondays. For info or to register email rsvp@seniorplanetavenidas.org. Free.

May 25
National Wine Day
Red, white, or rosé?

May 26
Mindfulness Meditation

May 27
Care Forum: Patients and Caregivers – The New Unit of Care: Supporting caregivers and guiding the conversation with providers. Speakers: Dr. Rita Ghatak and Dr. Ellen Brown, 11am-12:30pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free

Avenidas Village Coffee Chat
10am via Zoom. Get an e-card for a free cup of coffee from Peets. Email dgreenblat@avenidas.org to register. Free.

Book Club: The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
2:30-4pm, via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free

Song Appreciation Group “Favorite Song from the 60’s”
4-5pm via Zoom. Email tkingery@avenidas.org for more info and to register. Free.

May 28
National Road Trip Day
Pack up the car and get going!

May 31
Memorial Day
Avenidas closed.

For complete schedule or info about Avenidas events, call 650-289-5400

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Michelle Inserra, MD is an otologist with the Earlens Hearing Center. She holds a medical degree from Stanford University and completed a fellowship in Neurootology at the California Ear Institute.

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Vaccine
(continued from page 5)
recently the number of vaccine appointments drop by half. In the past few weeks, the seven-day rolling average of doses admin-
istered per day was 30,000; now it’s 15,000 per day, Fenstersheib said.

The survey found that among people who haven’t gotten the vaccine, 5% are “vaccine hesi-
tant.” About 16% say they would only receive the vaccine if it is required. An additional 6% flatly said they would not get vaccinated. Men, people of color and Republicans had the highest percentages of resistance: 27% of men ages 18 to 44; 15% of men ages 45 to 64; 22% of people of color and 18% of Latinos. About 74% of Democrats are resistant, the survey found. The survey margin of error is about 3.1%.

The top three reasons vaccine-hesitant respondents gave for not getting immunized are side effects and safety (45%); not enough research and lack of time or availability (13%). Residents who would not get the vaccine at all cited the same top reasons at the same percentages. In addition, 5% who would not get a vaccine at all said nothing would change their minds.

Of the people who would only take the vaccine if it is required, about 37% cited safety concerns and 21% said there is not enough research. But they differed from the other two groups in one sig-
nificant way: 22% said they felt the vaccine was not needed or was unwanted. About 38% of the cohort who would only get vaccinated if mandated later said they might get the vaccine with more time and research, however.

The biggest hurdle among people who want the vaccine and those who are hesitant is its perceived availability and the timing or logistics to get to ap-
pointments, the survey found.

Many also expressed concern regarding vaccine safety. Overall, nearly one in five respondents (about 19%) think they can get COVID-19 from the vaccine. A persistent minor-
ity since the previous survey in January (about 10%) think COVID-19 vaccines are unsafe or are not effective.

The portion who believe in the vaccine’s safety and efficacy has grown, the researchers said. Opinions also depended on the vaccine type. More than 80% of respondents agreed that the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are safe compared to 56% for Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

Many respondents in all co-
horts have ideas about post-vac-
cination behaviors at odds with recommendations by health ex-

COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to discuss the Americans with Disabilities Act transition plan for city facilities and sidewalks; get a legislative update on state and federal policy and hear an update on community engagement. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 992 2730 7235.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ... The committee plans for public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022, with a focus on community services, planning, transportation, public works, utilities and municipal fees, as well as other individual departments. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, and is scheduled to go until 9 p.m., with a break between noon and 2 p.m. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 966 9169 5246.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to recognize commission service of Vice Chair Valerie Stinger, consider changes to the bylaws of the Palo Alto Mediation Program; consider a response to the council about the proposed fiscal year 2022 operating budget; head an update on the 100 Community Conversations initiative; continue its discussion of avenues to address the needs of incarcerated individuals; and discuss next steps relating to its fiscal year 2021-22 workplan. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 13. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 919 9454 8701.

Top three reasons why people hesitate to get COVID-19 vaccine
Survey of 1,000 Santa Clara County residents, conducted mid-April
Among those who are hesitant or refuse to get vaccinated at all
• 45% Concerns about vaccine side effects and safety
• 19% Belief that not enough research was conducted on vaccines
• 13% A lack of time to get vaccinated or availability of vaccine

Among people who would only take the vaccine if it is required
• 37% Concerns about vaccine side effects and safety
• 21% Belief that not enough research has been conducted (note: 38% of this cohort said they might get the vaccine with more time and research)
• 22% Feeling that the vaccine is not needed

Source: EMC Research
Kaleidoscope, a bridge-building program that brings artists to elementary schools in the neighborhoods of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

The budget also eliminates the dozens of positions that the council froze last year during its budget-setting process. Combined, the current budget and the proposed one eliminate 96 full-time-equivalent positions and 129 positions, resulting in a workforce of 939 employees, which includes 490 in the general fund.

Even with these cuts, the general fund would be about 4.4% higher than in the current fiscal year, when the city cut $39 million in response to the economic impacts of the pandemic.

We really wish we had a better option, said City Council member Eric Filseth, who said he would have to bring forward discussion of the pandemic.

On Monday, just about every council member opposed cuts to popular youth programs such as Children's Theatre. Dozens of residents, including young actors and their parents, urged the council in letters and in public testimony to retain funding for the theater.

Juliana St. Peter, 12, was among those who testified about the important role that the Children's Theatre plays in her life.

“I found my people and my place and I really don’t want to let go,” St. Peter said Monday. “The theater doesn’t just serve the community. It’s a safe space for kids to hang out during the summer and it’s a place for families to gather and celebrate the accomplishments of their kids.”

Council member Greer Stone, a history teacher, was one of several council members who expressed the heavy mental toll that the pandemic has taken on local youth and suggested he would oppose further cuts to the theater and to other popular youth programs.

“As an educator, I’ve witnessed first-hand the deleterious effect that this pandemic and the shelter-in-place order has had on our community’s youth,” Stone said. “It’s very hard on us, as city leaders, to do all we can to protect the health, safety and emotional well-being of our youth and support those programs that are serving that critical need.”

But while generally united in opposition to reduced funding for children’s programs, the council struggled to reach a consensus when it came time to capital spending.

Responding to direction from the council to identify additional $2.5 million in cuts in infrastructure projects in the current fiscal year, city staff proposed deferring a portion of the Charleston-Arastrodromo streetscape project to a future year.

The city still plans to proceed with the most critical part of the project’s next phase: improvements in the areas around El Camino Real and Middlefield Road.

The proposal drew opposition from bike advocates and parents who have been lobbying for the project for years. Penny Ellson, a leading supporter for the Charleston-Arastrodromo project, was part of a group of residents who urged the council to stick with its plan and complete the project, rather than split it up and defer a portion of it to a future year.

“The safety problems in this corridor are well-documented,” Ellson said. “We have a solution. Twenty years is long enough.

Let’s just do it.”

Some council members supported her position, with Vice Mayor Pat Burt and Stone both arguing that the city can find savings in other projects.

“I’m just baffled why there was a notion of a necessity to drop from this plan a critical project that is focused on the safety of children, when that was far beyond the council direction,” Burt said. “And a project that has been committed to by multiple councils, delayed multiple times — and each time, each year we have injury accidents with children in these two critical areas, most of all in the greater El Camino and Middlefield area.”

Burt’s plan to retain the project in its entirety was narrowly shot down, with the council voting 4-3 to follow staff’s recommendation and defer the final portion of the project — a segment of Charleston Road between Charleston Court and San Antonio Road — to a future phase. While Stone and council member Greg Tanaka joined Burt, the rest of their colleagues supported the staff proposal.

Those who supported the change pointed to the city’s dismal financial outlook.

“There’s joy in this,” council member Eric Filseth said before the vote. “But this is a conversation we’ll have over and over again in the next several weeks. We’re going to run out of money before we run out of important stuff to invest in.”

Nonprofits receive funding

In addition to discussing the larger cuts, Monday, the council also allocated funding from a critical pot of federal funding — the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. That money supports social service programs targeting low-income residents and populations deemed to have special needs, including individuals who are homeless or have disabilities.

Of the city’s $738,920 allotment, the largest grants will go to Ravenwood Family Health Network, which is set to receive $300,000 for construction of an accessible ramp for individuals with disabilities, and the Downtown Streets Team, which is set to get $160,477 in support of its workforce development programs. The latter amount is less than half of the funding that the nonprofit, which provides support services to homeless individuals, had requested for its work-development program.

The council agreed to allocate funding for Downtown Streets Team despite the nonprofit’s steadfast refusal over the past year to provide documents relating to allegations of sexual misconduct by top executives, including CEO Eileen Richardson. At a March hearing, Richardson told the city’s Human Relations Commission that the past year has been the most difficult one in the organization’s 16-year history.

In addition to facing allegations of sexual misconduct from multiple former employees and grappling with the impacts of the pandemic, Richardson told the Human Relations Commission that she has been battling cancer and that she received her final chemotherapy treatment in March.

She also pledged to provide more information to the city, including documentation about all new policies that the nonprofit had adopted to address concerns about employee misconduct. Despite getting some funding from the city, Richardson said Downtown Streets Team will have to scale back its services in the coming year, though it has no intention of leaving the city.

“We’d have to cut staff,” Richardson said. “Then, we’d come back bigger and stronger next year.”

The city is also providing $31,545 to LifeMoves, the nonprofit that runs the Opportunity Center on Encina Avenue in Palo Alto, which provides case management and other support services to homeless individuals. Rebuilding Together Peninsula, an organization that provides safety-related home repair services to low-income individuals, is receiving $65,340, another area nonprofits are receiving smaller grants.

Council members were unanimous in approving the CDBG funding.

Email Staff Writer Genny Sheynor at gsheynor@pawtweekly.com.
PROPERTY OVERVIEW

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**Housing**
(continued from page 14)

On May 18, the council will consider proposals for a mixed-use project with 36 microunits (with an average size of 342 square feet) at 955 Alma St., as well as a proposal for a 24-apartment building at 2253 Wollesley Ave., a single-family zone in College Terrace.

The College Terrace project, which is being proposed by Cate Investments, is already creating neighborhood residents rallying against the project, which they say does not belong in a neighborhood zoned for single-family homes. Housing advocates, meanwhile, maintain that the type of projects being proposed by Cate is precisely what the city needs to do to make housing policies more equitable.

Kelsey Banes, executive director of the advocacy group Peninsula for Everyone, made that point at the council’s April 12 meeting, just before the council determined that its new “planned home” zone, which aims to encourage more residential development, should not apply to R-1 districts.

“I think all of our neighborhoods have room for affordable homes and we should be thinking creatively to make it happen and not precluding our options before we even get to see them,” Banes said at the April 12 meeting.

Even the Sierra Club, which had endorsed several council members who favor slower city growth, wrote in the April 29 letter to the city that the organization is “greatly concerned that the City Council has decided to make it significantly harder or impossible to build affordable housing in the vast majority of Palo Alto’s neighborhoods.”

“If Palo Alto wants to continue to be seen as a champion of climate action and positive social change, it needs to be more flexible in the types of housing it allows in many of its neighborhoods,” wrote Gladwyn D’Souza, conservation chair of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter. “The ability of people who work in Palo Alto to live in Palo Alto would make a huge difference in their carbon footprint, to say nothing of clean air, good schools, and a walkable/bikeable lifestyle.”

Despite the new state mandates, Mayor Tom DuBois also strongly pushed back against Sierra Club’s assertion that the city made it harder to develop affordable housing by prohibiting the use of the planned-home zone in single-family residential (R-1) neighborhoods.

The zoning “was never intended to be used in R-1 neighborhoods; those who claim otherwise are mistaken, which should be obvious: Palo Alto has never allowed apartment buildings in R-1 neighborhoods to begin with,” DuBois wrote in response to D’Souza’s letter. “So, the notion that introducing the (planned-home zoning) has somehow reduced the available space for affordable housing in Palo Alto is simply absurd; in fact, the opposite is true.”

The root cause of the area’s housing crunch, DuBois maintained, is “unsustainably faster job growth than housing growth.”

He cited Palo Alto’s recent efforts to address this trend by restricting commercial growth by adopting caps on new office development.

“We are working to manage both supply and demand,” DuBois wrote. “Our objective is to be a net annual new housing supplier to the region — to balance our own jobs and housing growth, while shifting as much of our housing mix as we can to the affordable side.”

**Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almancanews.com.**
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