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As housing bills advance, critics and advocates amplify debate

By Gennady Sheyner

A

ter a series of crushing defeats in the 2020 legis-

tive session, housing advocates are hoping for better

luck next month, when state law-

makers return from their sum-

mer recess and take up the doz-

eens of housing bills that are now

advancing through the Capitol’s

labyrinthine process.

According to Palo Alto’s lobby-
ing firm in Sacramento, Townsend

Public Affairs, there were 39

housing bills going through the

Legislature this year, of which 34

made it past the first appropriation

committee in their respective

houses of the Legislature. These

include two bills — Senate Bill

9 and Senate Bill 10 — that have
gained the lion’s share of scorn

and limelight among slow-growth

groups and housing advocates, re-
spectively. The list also includes
dozens of other bills that aim to

spur housing construction by re-

moving zoning barriers and add-
ing development concessions.

SB 290, which is authored by

Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley,

falls into the latter camp. It grants
density bonuses to developments

that serve low-income students

and moderate-income house-

holds. Housing developments

that designate units for at least

“moderate-income” residents

and are within a half mile of

major traffic stops, for example,

would be allowed to provide less

parking, while student housing
developments in which at least

20% of the units are for lower-
income students would become

eligible for a zoning incentive or

a concession.

Another bill, SB 6, would pave

the way for housing developments
to be permitted in areas that are

zoned for office and retail use,

(continued on page 45)

ANIMALS

School district fires contractor after trapped ground squirrels die

Cages were set up to prevent injuries on Gunn High’s playing fields

By Sue Drenann

T

he Palo Alto Unified School

District terminated its con-

tract with a pest control

company on July 14 after ground

squirrels that it trapped were re-

cently found languishing in so-
called live or humane traps. One

of the animals died in the trap and

a second was later euthanized,
said Cody Macartney, Palo Alto’s

lead animal control officer.

Barron Park residents walking

their dogs at Gunn High School

on July 11 spotted the traps in the

baseball field. Dozens of residents

contacted the school, Palo Alto

Unified and the city’s Animal

Control Division to complain.

One of those residents was

Jenny Kiratli, who was walking

her dog that Sunday evening at

about 6:30 p.m. when she noticed

several dogs were standing along

the fence surrounding the ball-

field. When her dog pulled her to

the fence, Kiratli said she saw the

partially covered trap in the field.

With the gate to the field locked,
she spoke with another dog walk-
er who saw movement inside the

trap and said the animal had been

there for at least a couple of days.

“This is not OK,” Kiratli said.

“There are ground squirrels ev-

everywhere. Trapping a handful

seems futile,”

Macartney said that animal

control officers are investigating

the situation. The division filed a

report with the California Depart-

ment of Fish and Wildlife, which

issues trapping permits. A Fish

and Wildlife spokesperson said

the department doesn’t comment

(continued on page 15)
DON’T FALL FOR IT ... If you find yourself picking up a call from someone who says they work for Palo Alto Utilities and claims your bill is overdue, think twice. Changes have been made by a scammer who will persuade you to pay now through a wire transfer or money transfer service. If not, you risk losing your utilities services. The request can come as an legitimate even before you answer, as these scammers can make the Utilities Customer Call Center phone number display on the recipient’s caller ID, according to Utilities Communications Manager Catherine Elvert. In some cases, the phone number can appear to be the business line of a city employee. That was the case for one city electrician during a recent wave of the scam. “This poor electrician started receiving hundreds of phone calls from people either angry that they were feeling like they were being scammed or concerned that the call was legitimate,” Elvert said. “It’s inconvenient and it’s annoying.” It’s likely the scammers are Overseas making hundreds of scam calls in a day. While Palo Alto Utilities hasn’t heard of many people following through with the scammers’ request, it has happened and the amount of losses have varied. The department only notifies customers of an overdue bill in writing and other means of communication. Anyone who finds themselves faced with a potential scammer is asked to immediately report the call to the Utilities Customer Call Center at 650-326-2161.

OUT OF THE RUNNING ... After contemplating a run for California governor earlier this year, former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and former Olympic decathlete and self-styled entrepreneur Calstyn Jenner. It also names nine Democrats, including Fauci health, education, and career development. Originally open to nonprofits working in Menlo Park’s Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto, and claiming they would expand eligibility to groups across all of San Mateo County. CZI is also adding a City, CZI has expanded eligibility to groups across all of San Mateo County. CZI is also adding a 24-person panel made up of CZI employees and community members in San Mateo County “to ensure grantmaking decisions are informed by community participation and feedback.” Another notable change this year has been the shift to two-year grants of $200,000, which “provide partners with greater flexibility and opportunity to respond to crises, build capacity, and strengthen outcomes,” a July 12 press release states. Since launching in 2017, the Community Fund has awarded grants to more than 90 organizations. Applications for the latest round of funding will be accepted through Aug. 27 at charzuuckenberg.com/ communityfund.
Funding boosts museum, mental health program

Palo Alto’s plan to build a history museum and create a new program addressing response services for mental health-related emergencies received a boost from the federal government last week, with Rep. Anna Eshoo announcing that she was able to secure funding for both efforts in federal appropriation bills.

The projects are part of a $1.12 million package that Eshoo secured for District 18, which includes portions of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, including Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Woodside and Portola Valley. The bills have already cleared the relevant subcommittees in the House of Representatives, as well as the Appropriations Committee, and will soon be considered by the full House, according to Eshoo.

The allocations include $3 million for the rehabilitation of Roth Building at 300 Homer Ave., a city-owned building that was designed by architect Birge Clark and which is slated to be transformed into the Palo Alto Museum.

Also included in the federal package is $2 million in funding for Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos for response services to mental health-related emergency calls. Eshoo said the funding will make sure these calls are addressed with “the appropriate resources rather than law enforcement.”

— Gennyd Sheyner

State grant to bring COVID shots to doctors

The California Department of Public Health announced Tuesday that it will make $40 million in grants available to help doctors’ offices and small practices safely store and administer more COVID-19 vaccines.

With more than 74% of state residents age 12 and up at least partially vaccinated, the CDPH and its third-party vaccination administrator, Blue Shield of California, are focusing primarily on making vaccine doses widely accessible across the state, particularly in areas that have been hardest hit by the pandemic.

The $40 million CalVaxGrant program will help them do so, according to state officials, by partially reimbursing small doctors’ offices up to $55,000 for the staffing and infrastructure needed to set up small-scale vaccination clinics in their offices.

The state is making the grants available to health care practices with up to 200 physicians that apply at phcdocs.org/Programs/CalVaxGrant.

“California must take action to protect themselves and those in our communities who cannot get vaccinated, including children under age 12,” CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Mark Ghaly said in a statement. “COVID-19 vaccines are free, safe, and our best tool in stopping the spread and mutation of variants.”

— Bay City News Service

County approves relief funds for small businesses

To support small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa Clara County supervisors on Tuesday approved small business relief funds and passed a law that would allow home food sales.

First, the Board of Supervisors allocated $2 million of federal funding for small businesses that have not received other relief funding in the past year. The 2021 SMC Strong Small Business Assistance Program would provide 200 grants of $10,000 each to qualifying small businesses.

Businesses will need to submit a short preliminary application, which will open in August, and then grantees will be randomly selected. The San Mateo Credit Union Community Fund will administer grants on a rolling basis in September and early October.

Second, the supervisors introduced an ordinance that would allow food sales from home kitchens. The “Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations” ordinance will create a process for permitting home kitchens under the county’s Environmental Health Services Division, in accordance with state law.

The ordinance goes into effect in 30 days and will stay in place for a two-year pilot period.

The supervisors also allocated $238,000 of federal funds to the Health Services Division to cover the administrative costs of regulating these home food sales. The county will begin accepting permit applications in August and permits will be issued in October, according to Heather Fosbery, the director of the Environmental Health Services Division.

Once the permits are issued, permit holders can apply for grant funding to help with startup costs, like food safety training, advertising, marketing and web presence. Permit holders could receive grants of $2-500, as the Board allocated $625,000 to provide grants to 25 permit holders.

— Bay City News Service

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The public is invited to provide input at the 2016 Measure B Citizens’ Oversight Committee’s (MBCOC) public hearing on 2016 Measure B revenues and expenditures for the periods of Fiscal Years (FY) 2017-2019 and FY 2020:

Wednesday, July 28, 2021
12:00 p.m.

Zoom videoconference (includes phone capability)

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure B, a 30-year, half-cent countywide sales tax devoted to enhancing transit, highways, expressways, and active transportation (bicycles, pedestrian, and complete streets) within Santa Clara County. Voters entrusted the MBCOC with oversight to ensure that Measure B funds are being spent consistent with the ballot language and to inform voters on Program compliance.

In 2019, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) began the process to deliver the projects and programs contained in the 2016 Measure B Program, having been delayed by an unsuccessful court challenge to the measure. Examples of the many projects/programs underway include local streets/roads repair and improvements; highway interchanges; and bicycle/pedestrian projects. More information on projects/programs is available at VTA’s 2016 Measure B Program website: vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b.

To ensure everyone’s safety during the pandemic, there will be no physical location for the public hearing. Further information on the public hearing is available at the Board & Community portal on vta.org. The public is encouraged to provide their input during the Zoom meeting or via email, which will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. on 7/28/21 at: board.secretary@vta.org.

Sign language and additional interpreter services will be provided upon request by contacting VTA Customer Service at least five days prior to the hearing at customer.service@vta.org or (408) 321-2300, TTY (408) 321-2330.

Copies of 2016 Measure B Program documents, and the results of the independent audits on (A) FY’s 2017-2019 and (B) FY 2020, are available for public inspection from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the VTA offices at 3331 N. First Street, San Jose, CA in the Building B lobby. This information is also available at: vta.org/projects/funding/2016-measure-b. Questions on the public hearing should be directed to: Office of the Board Secretary at (408) 321-5680 or to board.secretary@vta.org.

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Valley Transportation Authority
A developer who was preparing to build 75 apartments as part of a mixed-use project near the California Avenue Caltrain station in Palo Alto earlier this year has dropped the proposal and is now looking to construct an office complex at the site. Smith Development, which owns numerous properties in the Mayfield and Ventura neighborhoods near the Caltrain station, had proposed in January a development that would occupy three of its parcels at 123 Sherman Ave., 150 Grant Ave., and 2501 Park Blvd. and that would include 75 apartments and 35,996 square feet of office space. Because the properties are zoned for commercial use, the developer requested a rezoning of the site to “planned home,” which would allow it to request concessions to development standards in exchange for the public benefit of housing.

The zone change would also, however, require Smith to undergo an extensive plan review process that includes a prescreening hearing in front of the City Council and formal reviews by both the Planning and Transportation Commission and the council. In its application, the developer noted that the site’s zoning already allows Smith to build up to 70,858 square feet of commercial space. The firm had elected at that time “not to pursue an exclusively commercial redevelopment so (we) can provide housing units for the community,” Boyd and Lund Smith wrote in a letter to the city accompanying the application.

Now, however, that plan appears to be dead in the water. Last month, Smith Development submitted a new application that complies with underlying zoning and, as such, will not need to go through the “planned home” process. Smith’s new project is a three-story building that is 37 feet tall and includes offices on the top two floors and retail on the ground floor, along Sherman Avenue. The building will have 52,661 square feet of commercial space and a two-level underground garage, according to the project application.

Because the project falls well within the density limits of the CC2 (community commercial subdistrict) zone near California Avenue and complies with the city’s 37-foot height limit for the commercial zone, the development will only need to be approved by the Architectural Review Board and the city’s planning staff before it gets constructed.

“Smith Development looks forward to completing a high-quality project (that) will serve our community for years to come,” Boyd and Lund Smith wrote in a June 15 letter to Planning Director Jonathan Lait.

The Smith project was one of several developments seeking to add housing to the centrally located area near the California Avenue Caltrain station through the city’s newly established “planned home” zoning process. The most recent of these is a 49-condominium proposal that Roger Fields has applied for at 280 and 300 Lambert Ave.

While the council has yet to review Fields’ plan, members signaled tentative support in January for another planned-home project close to the area: a 113-apartment proposal from Acclaim Companies for a three-parcel site at 2951 El Camino Real, between Olive and Pepper avenues.

Most of the other applicants have not been as successful. In February, the council criticized a proposal by Jeff Farrar to build 290 apartments at 3997 Fabian Way as being too tall and dense.

(continued on page 45)
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Only 60% of Palo Alto cops report being vaccinated**

By Kevin Forestieri

Despite getting early access to COVID-19 vaccines, nearly all of its fire department staff, 97.5%, have been vaccinated as of last month, well above the countywide average of 76.6%.

But the high inoculation rates do not extend to other first responders, notably police and sheriff’s deputies working in county jails. Only 60% of Palo Alto police officers report that they have been fully vaccinated as of June 18, according to a department survey, while 24% declined to state their vaccination status. Another 6% said they were not vaccinated, and 10% did not respond to the survey, despite the county’s mandate that they participate.

**COVID-19 vaccination rates reported by emergency responders**

Data as of June 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto Fire Department</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View Fire Department</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View Police Department</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto Police Department</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Retiring fire chief reflects on 40 years of protecting the community**

Harold Schapelhouman talks about the times he wanted to quit and the joy of persevering

By Kate Bradshaw

Harold Schapelhouman almost didn’t become a Menlo Park firefighter.

The chief of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, who retired at the end of June after a 40-year career, was a student when his fellow firefighters-in-training at the Los Altos Fire Department woke him in the middle of the night and asked him to join them in taking the test for Menlo Park Fire.

Schapelhouman, then 20, needed some convincing. He had been passed over in his first effort to join the Los Altos firefighting staff and had recommended himself to his college coursework. Sleepily, he went with his friends to stand in line at the station near St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. The trial was a test of></p>
Universal basic income was championed by Martin Luther King Jr., promoted by Silicon Valley citizens as the “social vaccine for the 21st century” and endorsed by 2016 presidential candidate Andrew Yang, but it has never really caught on.

Now its time may have come. Last week, California lawmakers approved the nation’s first state-funded guaranteed income program. Once the bill is signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, cities and counties can apply for funding from a $35 million pool to support current or new pilots that prioritize foster youth who recently left the foster care system and pregnant mothers. The White House also has rolled out a form of guaranteed income in its new expanded Child Tax Credit that is part of the pandemic relief package.

The state program comes on the heels of local efforts in the Bay Area and Stockton. Over the last two years, Oakland, Marin County, San Francisco and Santa Clara County started one- to two-year basic income programs that offer participants between $500 and $1,000 guaranteed every month with no strings attached. Those programs are largely funded by private donations.

The surge in support for guaranteed income is being credited to the wealth and racial inequalities revealed by COVID-19, as job losses hit low-income and minority workers the hardest.

“The pandemic “took the blinders off of what it means to live on the margins,” said Los Angeles county supervisor Holly Mitchell, a member of Mayors for Guaranteed Income, a national group that started Santa Clara County’s new Universal Basic Income program at a press conference in San Jose on July 27.

Foster youth advocate Nayeli Grano describes the benefits of Santa Clara County’s new Universal Basic Income program at a press conference in San Jose on July 27.

ECONOMICS

California to fund experiments in universal basic income

Programs to lift people out of poverty have popped up throughout the Bay Area

By Jesse Bedayn

The Bay Area basic income initiatives are focused on raising artists, mothers or minorities out of poverty. The Santa Clara County program, which helps foster youth, helped lay the groundwork for the statewide program.

“Cities are the laboratories of democracy,” said Sukhi Samra, director of the mayors’ group, who hopes the pilots in the Bay Area and across California will “provide a proof of concept” for federal policies.

The new wave of basic income initiatives is an alternative to government assistance programs that were “very prescriptive about doling out social services,” said state Sen. Dave Cortese, D-San Jose, who started Santa Clara County’s income program for foster youth as a county supervisor. “It really had a mentality of ‘We know what’s best for you weaker, poorer people.’”

Critics of guaranteed income worry that free money, similar to unemployment benefits, will discourage participants from working.

“There’s a pretty plausible case to be made that the more generous you make unemployment benefits, the less anxious people are going to be to get back to work,” said Matt Zwolinski, director of the Center for Ethics, Economics and Public Policy at the University of San Diego.

Universal basic income supporters point to Stockton’s 2019 program, the first in the state, which found that full-time employment among participants increased by 12% in the program’s first year. Participants, who received $1,000 monthly from 2019 to 2021, reported greater financial stability month to month. That enabled them to buy the necessary food, pay off unexpected costs, and increase their overall wellbeing.

Zwolinski worries that the pilots’ one- to two-year timeframes limit the evidence researchers can pull from the data.

“The pilot programs are worth doing. They provide some level of evidence,” he said, but “there’s always going to be a leap of faith involved in jumping from a pilot program to, say, a full city-wide program to a full statewide program.”

The city of Oakland’s new program is the largest in the Bay Area, offering $500 monthly to 600 families making below Oakland’s median household income,
With wildfire season roaring, Air Quality District offers tips to handling smoky skies

How to stay safe and prepare for looming threats of unhealthy air quality

By Jana Kadah

With hotter, drier temperatures and an anticipated increase in wildfires, the Bay Area is bound to have some unhealthy air quality this summer.

So, what are the best ways to prepare and keep yourself safe?

Juan Romero, spokesperson for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, said the first thing to do is check the air quality levels, especially if there is a wildfire in the area.

“Looks can be deceiving,” Romero said.

Even if the air seems clear, there can be enough smog or particulate matter in the air that makes it unhealthy to breathe.

The air district has more than 30 air monitoring sites throughout the Bay Area that provide more focused readings of air quality that can be found at baqmd.gov.

Other unofficial sources, like Purple Air, can provide important real-time information on air quality, but low-cost sensor readings often run several times higher than the air district’s U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-certified air monitors, according to Romero.

He said it is best to use the air district’s readings because their monitors “meet stringent EPA requirements for regional air quality monitoring and are located, designed and operated to ensure that air quality data is consistent and accurate.”

Healthy air quality falls into the 0-50 range, which is what the Bay Area typically experiences on a day-to-day basis.

But if there is enough smog or particulate matter and the range goes above 50, Romero advises residents to stay inside — and take their pets with them.

“Masks are not a substitute for staying indoors,” Romero said.

He said only a gas mask could really be able to prevent particulate matter from seeping through the mask. Even the N95 masks, which were recommended by many health officials to protect from COVID-19, are not effective enough to block out extremely small pollutants.

Still, Romero said, if someone must go outside it is better to wear an N95 mask than nothing at all.

To ensure air quality stays healthy indoors, Romero suggested residents purchase non-ozone producing air purifiers as well.

The air district also recommends that residents replace or refurbish old leaky windows and doors and use caulk to seal the openings.

Another way to make sure unhealthy air is kept outside is to upgrade to a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system that allows for both heating and cooling and has the mechanism to switch to recirculate so new air does not enter.

Residents who do not want to upgrade their HVAC system can also purchase a MERV 13 or greater filter for the HVAC system.

If none of those options are plausible, the air district recommends that residents go to public spaces that do have cleaner filtered air like indoor shopping malls, cooling centers, community centers and local government buildings, for example.

Romero said this is especially important for children, elderly residents, pregnant people and those with asthma or other respiratory conditions as poor air quality can result in serious health impacts.

He said smog, which mostly comes from cars and other mobile sources like planes, could at the least irritate the respiratory system, eyes, nose and throat and cause coughing and headaches.

At its worst, unhealthy smog levels could also reduce lung function or even damage the lining of the lungs.

“It’s like sunburn on your lungs!” Romero said.

Particulate matter, which often is produced from burning wood, could cause “lung irritation, aggravate the severity of chronic lung disease, cause changes in respiratory conditions as poor air quality can result in serious health impacts,” Romero said.

“Both (smog and particulate matter) can cause things like developmental harm, exacerbate existing respiratory conditions and cause premature death,” he continued.

Romero also advised that residents follow Spare the Air protocols, especially

“(continued on page 45)
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Renspoding to new state laws, Palo Alto is preparing to overhaul its process for approving new housing developments.

Instead of subjective guidelines that require developers to ensure that their projects fit in with the surrounding neighborhood, the city will now lean on “objective standards” that clearly outline what the city would be able to enforce. This includes height limits and setback requirements, said Gerhardt. These clear standards provide developers with a more predictable process.

The city has been developing the new objective standards for over a year, with the Architectural Review Board holding 11 public hearings on the project. At the March 18 meeting, the council voted to approve the changes to the city’s development standards.

Michael Alcheck, Planning and Transportation Commission member, said, “We’re taking our current set of design rules and just making them a little better.”

The new standards require that when a building is within 40 feet of an abutting structure, no more than 15% of the area facing that structure shall be windows or other glazing. They also dictate how far an upper floor should be set back when a new development is next to a much smaller building (6 feet). And they require each building that is three stories taller to have a differentiated base, middle and top.

The new rules aim to give the city a greater say over housing projects, the public reception so far has been mixed. Some of the attendees cheered at the rules treat height limits, particularly for buildings in or near RM-40 zones, which allow up to 40 dwellings per acre. Under existing laws, new projects within 150 feet of residential zones have a height limit of 35 feet. RM-40 zones, however, are excluded from this.

Several residents in the Mayfield neighborhood, including resident Travis Niedermeyer, attended Monday to address this discrepancy and give their zoning input. Niedermeyer said the new standards do not recognize the differences between building types and that they could unintentionally cause projects with greater affordability to have to use this alternative route and lose the streamline.

The Planning and Transportation Commission also supported the new objective standards. At its June 9 meeting, commissioners agreed that these rules would also apply to projects in “public facility” zones, which include the former Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority parking lot at 2755 El Camino Real, where the developer has been constructing a 57-unit residential development.

The commission also supported the changes to the city’s development standards. All told, the new objective standards increase the city’s ability to have more affordable housing.

“The city’s new rules also promise to streamline the approval process for housing projects,” said Werner. "They’re an improvement for developers who want to stay within the objective standards. Those that do so, however, no longer qualify for streamlined approval. Chris Wuthman, director of Stanford University Real Estate, suggested that this could cause developers to work around the streamlining rules for their projects."
Squirrels
(continued from page 5)

on ongoing investigations.

Animal-trapping contractors under City Code must set live traps to check the traps, which are wire cages that don’t snare the animal’s leg, at least every 24 hours, Mac-

cartney said.

For-profit businesses must be permitted by the state and are regulated as to how they can trap and euthanize. Under the City Code, the local law also requires trapped animals to be killed by shooting or lethal injection. In many jurisdictions, discharging a firearm is illegal, so shooting is not an option, he added.

“The law requires the trainer to immediately release the animal or euthanize it on site,” he said.

Maccartney said he hasn’t ruled out citing the contractor. The re-
cent incident is the third time animal control officers have been called out to Gunn to investigate in the last two years, he said. Ani-
mal Control has been in talks with the school district to get it to comply with the law, he added.

Carolyn Chow, Palo Alto Uni-
tied's chief business officer, said the district is damage fields and rangeland with Advanced IPM, which has an office in San Jose.

“Clearly, there was a misstep there,” she said.

The district had contacted Ad-
vanced IPM to understand what checks and balances the company has in place and how they monitor the traps.

Chow said the ground squir-
rels dig in the playing fields, and several students and coaches have broken or sprained ankles after falling into the holes. The district hired the contractor to trap the animals at Gunn and Palo Alto high schools for five days each month. The traps are supposed to be checked daily, she said.

The contractor has been inundated with calls from residents since July 12, the day after the animals were discovered, she added.

In a July 23 letter to the Weekly, Advanced IPM provided a state-
ment that didn’t explain what hap-
pened at Gunn.

“We strive to serve our commu-
nity with excellence by following local, county and state guidelines and regulations, and we care deeply about our environment and ecosys-
tem. In fact, we met with a local animal control officer to get their advice and counsel on the best approach to this issue. We take great pride in helping to protect students, staff and the community that enjoy the Gunn campus,” the company said in the statement.

“The natural habitat of this pest species is to dig extensive burrow systems in fields, schools and parks and landscape areas. Left unchecked, these burrows can be so extensive that they undermine the structural integrity of buildings and build-

ings,” the company stated.

In large numbers, the rodents can also be vectors for some flea-borne diseases.

Advanced IPM is accepting comments by email at feedback@advancedipm.com.

Maccartney said the ground squir-
rels were nowhere near any build-

ings and that it would take many animals at least a year to damage any buildings in the way the com-
pany has stated. It is possible to transfer diseases to humans from their fleas, that’s also the case with any kind of animal that has fleas and there wouldn’t likely need to be many animals in a given area. That isn’t the case at Gunn.

Palo Alto Animal Control prefers using deterrents, such as adding plants that have a smell that the animals don’t like, in-

stead of trapping and euthaniza-

ing them.

Chow said she doesn’t know what other methods might be used as deterrents. There’s a balance of fostering the community fields and the ground squirrels, but whatever methods are being used, she said they should not involve leaving the animals without food, water and in the heat.

Mary Emily Wurtz
May 1, 1977 – April 20, 2021

Mary Emily Wurtz passed away on April 20, two weeks before her 84th birthday. Mary cared deeply about making the world a better place and helping others. She loved spending time with her family, exploring nature, and enjoying and promoting the arts. Mary is sur-
vived by Don, her husband of 64 years; her children Brad and Katie; and her four grandchildren Zachary, Henry, Leo, and Aidan. Her gift of curiosity and interest in others al-

lowed her to make new friends wherever she went.

Mary was born in Seattle, moved to Palo Alto at age three, started school at Miss Harker’s School (later, Harker Academy), and continued on to Jordan Jr. High and Palo Alto High School.

Mary attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she studied Education and met Don. They were married on Sept 15, 1956. After graduation, Mary and Don moved back to Palo Alto, where Mary taught 2nd and 3rd grades at Hillview Elementary School in Menlo Park before leaving to start a family.

Mary was always active in both personal and political issues and worked as an avid volunteer while raising her children. In the mid-’70s Mary devoted her time to Project Survival, and also devoted more than twenty years to founding and expanding Bay Area Palo Alto-based organization devoted to ending war on the planet.

Between 1989 and 1996 Mary and Don lived in Washington D.C., where Don served as an appointee in the Clinton adminis-
tration, including stints at General Accounting Office (GAO) and Department of Education. While there, Mary found photography, an interest that blossomed into a new vocation. Whether in black-and-white or color, Mary’s photographs re-

dected her passions: people, wildlife, and nature. Mary also worked as a volunteer in the correspondence office of the Clinton White House and T.I.L.S., an organization established in 1961 during John F. Kennedy’s presidency to welcome and orient new-

ly appointed foreign diplomats and their families to Washington, D.C., and life in the United States.

Mary and Don returned to California in 1996 and lived in Carmel for the next 20 years. While in Carmel, Mary helped found El Sistema Salinas, which launched the Youth Orchestra of Salinas, where she served on the Board of Directors for more than 10 years. Mary also co-authored a children’s book, “Cleopatra, Queen of Pebble Beach,” to raise money for the SPCA. For many years, Mary’s favorite annual tradition was attending the Sun Valley Writers’ Conference, a gathering that combined her love of the natural beauty of the mountains, books, and culture.

Mary and Don returned to the Bay Area in 2016, moving into The Forum in Cupertino. As she had her whole life, Mary be-

came active in the Forum community, where she made many new friends and created Reader’s Theater, a program for residents to produce and participate in readings of plays for The Forum community.

For those so inclined, Mary’s favorite charities were the El Sistema Youth Orchestra and the Environmental Defense Fund.

Dolores Ann Stanziano
July 25, 1930 – November 9, 2020
Palo Alto, California

In remembrance of Dolores “Dee” Stanziano, who passed away November 9, 2020 at home after a brief illness. Born July 25, 1930 in Cleveland, Ohio, Dee grew up in a close-knit Italian community. In 1951, she mar-
rried Eugene “Gene” Stanziano (d. 1999), her high school sweetheart, and a professional musician. They traveled with his group to sev-
eral midwestern cities including Detroit, Chicago, and Decatur, where he performed in popular big bands and played jazz standards on accordion and piano. After Gene was drafted, they left Cleveland for San Francisco in 1952, where he was stationed at the S.F. Presidio, and continued to play music in the officer’s club and occasionally in North Beach. Discharged in 1954, Gene and Dee drove down the peninsula “until the fog cleared” and bought a new modern house in Palo Alto, which became their permanent home.

They raised three children there and Dee remained in the home for 65 years. She instilled a strong work ethic and the importance of an education in all of her children. She proudly helped her kids attend college, an opportunity she didn’t have, for which we are grateful.

Dee worked in San Francisco as a medical transcriptionist at St. Joseph’s Hospital. In Palo Alto she began working for Dr. William Wurzbach, an internist at Palo Alto Medical Clinic. In 1963, she went to work at Menlo Medical Clinic where she supervised a team of transcribers, remaining there for 32 years before retiring in 1995 to care for her ailing mother. With her interest in medicine and percep-
tive ear, she learned every doctor’s speech pattern, and quite a bit about medicine. Dee was an avid reader who enjoyed walking to her neighborhood library, and relished the annual Friends of the Library book sale. She taught all of us to cook and enjoy a good meal. She was always ready to try new restaurants in town, although she had a special fondness for the P.A. Creamery. After retiring, Dee espe-
cially cherished spending time in her garden and with her family. She loved her adopted city and all that Palo Alto has to offer families, especially the public schools and programs, and events like the 4th of July chili cook off.

Dee loved the mild climate of California and never missed Cleveland winter snow. She was devoted to her family, open-minded, generous, and opinionated. Dee lived on her terms up to her final days. She is survived by her sister Bernadette Patti Barrett (Rick); be-

loved children Gina Stanziano Mathews (Jon), Lisa Stanziano, and John Stanziano (LaNette); grandchildren Gianna, Jason, Genessa, Evan, and Rayna; and great-grandchildren Alessia and Aria. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband (Eugene Stanziano), her parents, Susan Patti and Frank Argiso, her step-father William Patti, and her brother Frank. The family would like to express gratitude to Silva Arias, Alma Lamas, and Julie Weiss, Dee’s exceptional caregivers.

We remember our mom on her birthday, July 25, and every day. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Mary Emily Wurtz
This live trap and others on the Gunn High School baseball field were used to capture ground squirrels on July 11. Two of the captured animals died, however, after allegedly being left in the traps by the contractor.

“We’re trying to manage being humane and keeping the students and coaches safe,” she said. ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dreman at sdreman@paweeekly.com.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • July 23, 2021 • Page 15
Richard I. Whaley

Richard ("Dick") Whaley departed this world on Friday, July 2, 2021, surrounded by family. He celebrated his 88th birthday in May with many family members he had not seen in over a year due to the pandemic. The night before he left earth, he was able to enjoy watching the San Francisco Giants baseball game, one of his favorite pastimes. We will miss him.

The youngest of three children born to William and Anna (nee McLellan) Whaley in San Francisco, he graduated from Saint Ignatius High School. He studied civil engineering at Stanford University with a two-year break to serve in the U.S. Army in Korea. Joan and Dick married at age 20 before he departed for his service. This required his mother to consent, as he was not considered old enough to marry by the State of California at the time. Joan and Dick celebrated their 68th anniversary in January.

Dick worked as a civil engineer in the private and public sectors for over fifty years. He had his own business for many years and was the consulting engineer for the City of Woodside. He worked as a utility inspector for the City of Palo Alto and retired from them. In retirement, he served on the Storm Drain Oversight Committee for Palo Alto. Most recently, he was an engineering consultant for the State of California. He was a longtime member of a number of professional organizations and received the Outstanding ASCE Life Member award from the ASCE San Francisco section in 2016.

Dick loved to work and worked into his seventies. While some of us thought he might be bored in retirement, he found plenty of things to do. He read the Smithsonian magazine and lots of books, had a lifelong interest in trains, and loved watching football, baseball, and college basketball. He could finally spend whole days watching sports!

Joan and Dick lived in San Jose and Palo Alto, raising a family of six children. The annual family vacation was to Housekeeping Camp in Yosemite the week before Labor Day, with visits on the way to and from Yosemite in Merced to visit Joan’s cousin and children and Dick’s brother, wife, and their four children, resulting in a rambunctious passel of ways and places. In later years, they enjoyed trips to New York, Guatemala and Hawaii. They took numerous weekend trips to closer locations, such as Fort Bragg, Mendocino and Solvang. They visited Dick’s sister in Oregon. Their favorite getaway for Joan’s birthday was Pismo Beach.

Dick was predeceased by his sister Elinor Lantz and brother W. G. (Bill) McElhinney. He is survived by partner Ruth Whaley, his parents divorcing when he was a toddler. His older sister Barbara died as an infant before he was born. He went to Stanford University and a Palo Alto Online.com/ lastings membranes.

Richard I. Whaley 1933 – July 2, 2021
CELEBRATING
15 YEARS

“Over these past 15 years, Sereno held firmly to the belief that a small group of people can change the world and that a for profit company can do good things and not lose its soul. This spirit is held in the hearts and minds of our people and we have great faith in what the next 15 years will bring.”

— CHRIS TRAPANI, CO-FOUNDER

“I have always maintained that Sereno’s greatest strength is its people and for the past 15 years, that belief has held true and allowed us to create a real estate practice with meaning. The fact we are here and thriving 15 years later speaks to the success of our brokerage. Today we honor the individuals, both inside and outside Sereno, who have supported our vision along the way.”

— RYAN IWANAGA, CO-FOUNDER

Follow our stride at sereno.com

sereno

SF PENINSULA | SILICON VALLEY | SANTA CRUZ | EAST BAY | TAHOE | SIERRA FOOTHILLS
Following a year of uncertainty, hope is finally on the horizon as businesses reopen and slowly inch closer to pre-pandemic normalcy. To show appreciation for the local business community, readers once again cast votes for their favorite places to eat, shop, work out or spend time with family and friends for the Palo Alto Weekly’s annual Best Of edition after a hiatus in 2020. The Weekly recently surveyed this year’s Best Of winners to see how they are doing in 2021 since California officially reopened on June 15, signaling a small but significant shift toward recovery. Read on to find out what they had to say and to see our comprehensive list of winning businesses.

**HALL OF FAME WINNERS**

- **Hair International**
  Best Men’s Haircut
  Inducted: 2020

- **Dr. Larry Morrill**
  Best Orthodontist
  Inducted: 2020

- **Leaf & Petal**
  Best Women’s Apparel
  Inducted: 2020

- **The Counter**
  Best Burgers
  Inducted: 2020

- **Sancho’s Taqueria**
  Best Burrito
  Inducted: 2020

- **Asian Box**
  Best Takeout
  Inducted: 2020

- **Palo Alto Creamery Fountain & Grill**
  Best Dining with Kids
  Inducted: 2020

- **Palo Alto Sol**
  Best Mexican Restaurant
  Inducted: 2020

- **Dr. Christine Hansen**
  Best Dentist
  Inducted: 2019

- **Darbar**
  Best Indian Restaurant
  Inducted: 2019

- **Evvia Estiatorio**
  Best Mediterranean Restaurant
  Inducted: 2019

- **Best Restaurant to Splurge**
  Inducted: 2019

- **Palo Alto Plumbing Heating and Air/ Dahl Plumbing**
  Best Plumber
  Inducted: 2019

- **Sundance the Steakhouse**
  Best Steakhouse
  Inducted: 2019

- **Tin Pot Creamery**
  Best Ice Cream/Gelato
  Inducted: 2019

Businesses are inducted into the Hall of Fame for three years after topping their categories for five years running. Since voting was on hiatus in 2020, there are no inductees for 2021.
# BEST OF PALO ALTO

## Services
- **Auto care**
  - Advanced Motor Works
- **Chiropractor**
  - Integrated Health Care
  - Stanford Chiropractic Center
- **Community Services**
  - Second Harvest Foodbank
- **Day Spa**
  - Watercourse Way
- **Dentist**
  - Palo Alto Dental Group
- **Dry Cleaners**
  - AJ’s Cleaners
- **Gym**
  - Oshman Family JCC
- **Hair Salon**
  - Midtown Hair Studio
- **Hotel**
  - Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley
- **Manicure/Pedicure**
  - La Jolie Nail Spa
- **Massage**
  - Massage Therapy Center
- **Men’s Haircut**
  - The President Barbershop
- **Orthodontist**
  - Midpeninsula Orthodontics/Stacey Q
- **Personal Trainer**
  - Oshman Family JCC
- **Plastic Surgeon**
  - Hessler Plastic Surgery
- **Plumber**
  - Guy Plumbing & Heating
- **Shoe Repair**
  - Midtown Shoe Repair
- **Skin Care**
  - LaBelle Day Spas & Salons
- **Veterinarian**
  - Adobe Animal Hospital
- **Yoga Studio**
  - Yoga Source

## Retail
- **Beauty Supply**
  - Essentique
- **Bike Shop**
  - Palo Alto Bicycles

## Bookstore
- Books Inc.

## Boutique
- Shady Lane

## Children's Store
- Cheeky Monkey Toys

## Eyewear
- Cambridge Optometry

## Flower Shop
- Mills Florist

## Gift Shop
- Shady Lane

## Frame Shop
- Richard Summer Frames

## Hardware Store
- Hassett Ace Hardware

## Jewelry Store
- Shady Lane

## Nursery/Garden Supplies
- SummerWinds

## Pet Store
- Pet Food Express

## Shoe Store
- Footwear Etc.

## Stationery Store
- Letter Perfect

## Women's Apparel
- Cassis

## Food & Drink
- **Bagels**
  - Izzy's Bagels
- **Bakery/Desserts**
  - Douce France
- **BBQ**
  - Armadillo Willy's
- **Breakfast**
  - Joanie’s Cafe
- **Boba Tea**
  - Teaspoon Palo Alto
- **Burgers**
  - Kirk's Steakburgers
- **Burrito**
  - Taqueria El Grullense M&G
- **Cocktails To Go**
  - Calave
- **Deli/Sandwiches**
  - Driftwood Deli and Market
- **Best Dim Sum To Go**
  - Dumpling City
- **Grocery Store**
  - The Market at Edgewood
- **Ice Cream/Gelato**
  - Rick's Rather Rich Ice Cream

## Milkshake
- Palo Alto Creamery

## New Food/Drink Establishment
- State of Mind Slice House

## Pizza
- Terun

## Produce
- The Market at Edgewood

## Salad
- Sweetgreen

## Takeout
- Oren's Hummus

## Yogurt
- Pinkberry

## Restaurants
- **California Cuisine**
  - Saint Michael’s Alley
- **Chinese**
  - Chef Chu's
- **Coffeehouse**
  - Ada’s Cafe
- **Creative Outdoor Dining Service**
  - La Bodeguita del Medio
- **Curbside Service**
  - La Bodeguita del Medio

## French
- Zola

## Fusion
- Tamarine

## Indian
- Zareen’s

## Italian
- Cafe Pro Bono

## Kids Menu
- Hobee’s

## Latin American
- La Bodeguita del Medio

## Meal Under $20
- Ada’s Cafe

## Mediterranean
- Oren’s Hummus

## Mexican
- Reposado

## New Restaurant
- Rooh Palo Alto

## Place to Order Food on Game Day
- The Old Pro

## Restaurant to Splurge
- Protégé

## Seafood
- The Fish Market

## Steakhouse
- Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

## Sunday Brunch
- Joanie’s Cafe

## Sushi/Japanese
- Fuki Sushi

## Takeout for a Romantic Night at Home
- La Bodeguita del Medio

## Thai
- Thaiphoon

## Vegetarian/Vegan
- True Food Kitchen

## Arts & Entertainment
- **Best Museum/Art Gallery Virtual Tour**
  - Cantor Arts Center
- **Best Virtual Theater Performances**
  - TheaterWorks
- **Best Outdoor Escape**
  - Palo Alto Baylands
- **Best Wi-Fi Hot Spot**
  - Copua Cafe
- **Best Virtual classes/lecture series**
  - Palo Alto Library
Best Auto Care
Advanced Motor Works

Founded in 2008, Advanced Motor Works (formerly Dave’s Auto Repair) provides everything from basic maintenance and smog checks to complicated repairs. The shop offers Eco-Power engine oil and recycles all used fluid, parts and new-parts packaging.

830 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto, 650-328-6537; advancedmotorworks.com

Best Chiropractors*
Integrated Health Care

Integrated Health Care tailors wellness programs specifically targeted to each client’s needs using a variety of methods, including chiropractic care, corrective exercises, lifestyle advice, nutritional assessment, spinal and postural screenings and physiotherapy.

480 California Ave., #103, Palo Alto, 650-321-7193; achiropracticwellnesscenter.com

Stanford Chiropractic Center

Stanford Chiropractic Center provides non-invasive pain relief and pain prevention programs aimed at helping patients boost their immune system and gain physical strength. The center uses a variety of wellness methods, including nutritional advice and corrective exercise programs.

499 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 650-326-7000; stanfordchiropractic.com

* Two businesses tied for first place in this category.

Best Community Services Resource
Second Harvest Foodbank

Founded in 1974, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is one of the largest food banks in the nation. During the pandemic, the nonprofit made significant operational changes to meet double the need. It went from serving about 270,000 people a month to 500,000—a 85% increase. Just after the shut-down, the organization distributed 12 million pounds of groceries in one month through a network of more than 300 partners at drive-thru and walk-up sites in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Mailing address for donations: 4001 N. First St., San Jose, 408-266-8866; shfb.org.

Best Dentist
Palo Alto Dental Group

Located in the same building where its practice began in 1934, Palo Alto Dental Group has developed life-long relationships with multiple generations of patients and their families. The practice has been consistently voted a Best Of favorite.

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

Best Dry Cleaners
AJ’s Cleaners

Established in 1962, AJ’s Cleaners provides eco-friendly cleaning for everything from shirts and shoes to draperies, bedding and carpets. The family-operated business now offers door-to-door pickup and delivery service, automated billing and 90-day storage at no extra charge. Same day service is available for items dropped off by 10 a.m.

3175 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 650-494-1550; ajscleaners.com

Oshman Family JCC was voted Best Gym, Personal Trainers, and Pivot to Online Workouts. Courtesy Oshman Family JCC.

Located at 3700 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto 650.327.2327; www.adascafe.org

Wednesday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. More Days and Hours Coming in September!
What was the biggest challenge you faced during the pandemic?

“Having to lay off staff three different times due to changing county and state restrictions. The county not only shut down indoor dining but banned TVs, bar seating and required tables be spaced apart. ... We were not able to open for nine months last year.”

— The Old Pro
Best Place to Order Food on Game Day

“Our sales dropped by 65%.”

— Izzy’s Brooklyn Bagels
Best Bagels

“Opening and then being required to close again multiple times due to ever-changing COVID-19 regulations.”

— La Belle Day Spas & Salons
Best Skin Care

“We suffered great financial losses during the seven months we were required to close but had to continue paying out rent, insurance and other operating expenses.”

— Massage Therapy Center
Best Massage

“When we were closed and doing takeout 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 traumatic thing that happened.”

— La Bodeguita del Medio
Best Latin American Restaurant, Curbside Service, Takeout for a Romantic Night at Home, Most Creative Outdoor Dining Service

“Navigating the permitting process to build our (new) restaurant in Palo Alto with reduced staff at government offices.”

— State of Mind Slice House
Best New Food Establishment

“The lockdown meant we lost the thing that matters most to us: our customers coming to eat at our tables. This meant lost revenues and job insecurity for our team. ... The pandemic engulfed us with uncertainty. There was no path to normalcy that we could see and follow, and everything changed week to week.”

— Zareen’s
Best Indian Restaurant

“Having to meet our customers’ high demand for pickup orders and asking for help from family when our employees were asked to stay home.”

— Thaiphoon
Best Thai Restaurant

“Balancing the emotions of watching a business that you have grown for almost two decades evaporate while remaining level-headed enough to pivot your business model was a huge challenge. Our main goal was to keep our full-time employees so they could continue to have both a paycheck and their health insurance.”

— Cheeky Monkey
Best Children’s Store

“Our biggest challenge was not being able to create or perform in the theater. ... Our theater shuttered overnight, closing our main stage production and shutting down rehearsals for the next show. We quickly pivoted to online programming, creating new works with actors and creative teams across the country as well as streaming recordings of TheatreWorks favorites.”

— TheatreWorks
Best Virtual Theater Performances

Responses compiled from Best Of winners survey and Weekly business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.
Best Gym, Best Personal Trainers, Best Pivot to Online Workouts

Oshman Family JCC

The Oshman Family JCC offers a wide menu of heart-pumping options to anyone looking to shed pounds, firm up or simply bask in the post-workout buzz. In addition to the usual gym trappings — dumbbells, treadmills, stationary bikes — the world-class facility offers two swimming pools, basketball courts, a steam room, personal trainers and more than 100 exercise classes, from Zumba and Pilates to cycling and cardio workouts. During the pandemic, the center pivoted to on-demand and livestream exercise classes and opened an outdoor fitness center, which will remain open indefinitely to provide clients more workout options. 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, 650-223-8700; paloaltojcc.org

Best Hair Salon

Midtown Hair Studio

Whether looking for a simple haircut or a complete makeover, Midtown Hair Studio is dedicated to making clients look and feel their very best. The full-service beauty salon offers everything from waxing, manicures and makeup applications to Brazilian blowouts and facials. 2786 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 650-462-9856

Responses compiled from Best Of winners survey and Weekly business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity
Ave. by fall 2022, according to the shop’s Instagram page.

486 Hamilton Ave
Palo Alto, 650-325-5229

**Best Orthodontist**
**Mid Peninsula Orthodontics/Stacey Q**

Mid Peninsula Orthodontics has provided state-of-the-art orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics services to the community for more than two decades. Dr. Stacey Quo and her team incorporate SureSmile technology into the process, programming wire adjustments into an off-site robot that can bend wire more precisely than a human hand. From the first consultation to the final day of braces, Quo and her team maintain an upbeat, supportive atmosphere with contests and a kids’ club for young patients and a family care program.

965 High St., Palo Alto, 650-328-1600; orthoquo.com

**Best Plastic Surgeon**
**Hessler Plastic Surgery**

Hessler Plastic Surgery specializes in the surgical and non-surgical refinement of the face, eyes, nose and neck. Before performing a procedure, Dr. Jill Hessler meets with clients for an in-person or virtual consultation.

320 Lambert Ave., Palo Alto, 650-799-9009; hesslerplasticsurgery.com

**Best Plumber**
**Guy Plumbing & Heating**

Guy Plumbing & Heating is a fourth-generation family-owned business that provides a wide range of services and operates a full-service showroom specializing in the sale and installation of Toto (continued on next page)
Over 2,250 square feet of chic, open living space coupled with extensive smart home features make this 4-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom Midtown home an outstanding choice for Silicon Valley living. Set on a lot adjacent to a nearby walkway, which allows an abundance of natural light to fill the interiors, this home also enjoys high ceilings throughout that create a sense of openness. The stylish great room features a fireplace in the living room, which flows into the dining room and kitchen with stainless-steel appliances from brands including GE Monogram, while nearby, the convenient office opens to a balcony for alfresco enjoyment. A spa-like bathroom highlights the spacious primary suite, and the remaining bedrooms, including the guest suite, offer comfortable accommodations for family and friends. Convenient smart features can be found throughout and include Lutron lighting, a Nest thermostat, Hunter-Douglas automatic blinds in most rooms, and an automatic awning that provides shade for the private, Travertine-tiled front patio. Plus, the attached 2-car garage includes multiple E.V. chargers for your eco-friendly vehicles. Close to great parks, shopping, and public transportation, this home is also served by top-ranked Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
www.3527AlmaVillage.com
Offered at $2,288,000

Listed by Alexandra Wilbur of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Palo Alto, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

For more information contact: Alexandra Wilbur, DRE #01926475 | 650.459.3888 | alex@deleonrealty.com
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
RARE 2-STORY EICHLER IN SOUGHT-AFTER PROFESSORVILLE

Timeless mid-century modern details abound in this spacious 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home that enjoys a sought-after location in Professorville. Introduced by a peaceful, Zen-like garden courtyard, this rare 2-story Eichler home enjoys soaring ceilings, walls of windows, and beautiful laminate floors that extend through most of the home's 2,451 square feet of interior space. Expansive spaces include the living room with fireplace, the dining room with backyard access, and the kitchen with stainless-steel appliances, while a flexible-use room can be used as an office, family room, or additional guest quarters. Comfortable bedrooms include the sizable primary suite that opens to a private balcony overlooking the backyard, where a brick patio shaded by tall trees provides excellent space for outdoor enjoyment. Plus, this home offers an EV charger for your eco-friendly vehicle. Just moments from vibrant public spaces such as Rinconada Park and Gamble Garden, this home is also convenient to University Avenue, Stanford University, and Caltrain, with top-ranked schools Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High all located within approximately 1 mile.

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

www.480Melville.com
Offered at $3,988,000

Listed by Michael Repka and Alexandra Wilbur of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Palo Alto, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

For more information contact: Alexandra Wilbur, DRE #01926475 | 650.459.3888 | alex@deleonrealty.com
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Footwear Etc. was named Best Shoe Store. Courtesy Footwear Etc.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"So many businesses, unfortunately, were unable to weather the storm of last year. I was one of the lucky ones. I would highly encourage everyone to support small, family-owned businesses because they are the backbone of the economy and shape the communities that we live in."

— Richard Summer Frames & Prints
Best Frame Shop

"I think we all need to remember that life won’t change overnight. Just be mindful everyone has a different tolerance and concern for the virus and be accepting of that.”

— Hessler Plastic Surgery
Best Plastic Surgeon

"It is still incredibly tough for restaurants: Just as we start to recover economically, we have been hit with an extreme labor shortage. We request customers to understand that our staff is shorthanded and so things will be less than perfect.”

— Zareen’s
Best Indian Restaurant

"It is still a very challenging time, especially considering that we can’t find new staff.”

— Terun
Best Pizza

"Try to remember that small businesses support local families, so try not to ask for too much.”

— Rick’s Rather Rich Ice Cream
Best Ice Cream/Gelato

"We are all recovering — the impact is still with us. We need to be patient and kind with our fellow community members and the people who are getting back to work.”

— Ada’s Cafe
Best Coffeehouse, Meal Under $20

"We are doing our best to maneuver constantly changing guidelines.”

— Calave
Best Cocktails To Go

"Wear a mask if you don’t feel comfortable. No one will judge you for being careful.”

— Rooh
Best New Restaurant

"Hang in there with us, and help us to recover and build back our businesses. ... It was a rough year and many of us lost everything that we had built up.”

— Saint Michael’s Alley
Best California Cuisine

"Remain mindful and aware that COVID-19 brought struggles for everyone. Local businesses had to fight especially hard to get to where they are now.”

— Palo Alto Dental Group
Best Dentist

“Everyone has had to accommodate a lot of changes over the last 15 months. We are giving them time and grace to reemerge at their own pace.”

— Hobee’s
Best Kids Menu

“Please be patient, tolerant and kind as we all start to rebuild and reestablish ourselves.”

— La Bodeguita del Medio
Best Latin American Restaurant, Curbside Service, Takeout for a Romantic Night at Home, Most Creative Outdoor Dining Service

Responses compiled from Best Of winners survey and Weekly business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.
Thank you for voting us your NUMBER ONE Best Italian Restaurant.

Our deepest thanks and appreciation to everyone who voted Cafe Pro Bono ‘Best Italian Restaurant’ in Palo Alto Weekly’s ‘Best of’ 2021 competition.

This past year was beyond difficult for everyone, so to receive the overwhelming support (and votes!) from our amazing ‘CPB family’ during such a life and business-altering time means more to us than you will ever know.

Cheers to you all!

Akif, Sean… and the entire staff of Cafe Pro Bono

BEST OF PALO ALTO 2021

has weathered wars, depressions, earthquakes and more than one pandemic. During the pandemic, the bookseller pivoted to curbside pickup, online ordering and virtual author events.

Shady Lane

Shady Lane has been offering one-of-a-kind pieces ever since artist Alice Deutscher opened the boutique more than four decades ago. The boutique is open for in-store shopping and offers online shopping, curbside pickup as well as shopping by appointment. 325 Sharon Park Drive, Sharon Heights Shopping Center, Menlo Park, 650-321-1099; shadylanegallery.com

Best Children’s Store

Cheeky Monkey Toys

Cheeky Monkey Toys is a family-owned shop that specializes in finding “just the right toy” for each customer. Since opening its doors in Menlo Park in 1999, the shop has provided interactive toys designed to stimulate children’s minds to generations of local families. When all nonessential businesses were ordered to close in March 2020, Cheeky Monkey Toys quickly pivoted to a direct delivery-only service, dropping off toys within a 10-mile radius of the store. Cheeky Monkey has reopened for in-store shopping and also offers onsite pickup and delivery.

640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-328-7975; cheekymonkeytoys.com

Best Eyewear

Cambridge Optometry

From eye exams and ocular treatment to contact lens evaluations and fittings, Cambridge Optometry provides full-service eye care. The facility has state-of-the-art equipment, and offers more than 1,000 designer frames.

250 Cambridge Ave. #102; Palo Alto, 650-323-6772; cambridgeoptometry.com

Best Flower Shop

Mills Florist

Since opening in 1903, Mills Florist has provided fresh flower arrangements for special events spanning the past 100 years. The longtime florist also offers balloon bouquets, fine crystal, stuffed animals, dried swags and wreaths, and chocolates and other sweets. According to its website, the shop is open for phone and online delivery orders as well as limited pickup service.

255 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-326-3443; millsflorist.com

Best Frame Shop

Richard Sumner Frames

Richard Sumner Frames has been serving Palo Alto from its downtown location for more than 30 years. The shop offers a full range of framing services, including hand-painted and closed corner frames. Visiting the showroom is like a trip to a museum — the shop also features hand-selected (continued on next page)
Thank You
Palo Alto Weekly readers
for voting us #1 Best Pizza!

And for all your support over this past year!

– LIVE MUSIC –
MONDAYS

– OPEN EVERY DAY FOR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR DINING –

See our website for updated hours

448 S. California Avenue, Palo Alto
650-600-8310
www.terunpizza.com

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ajscleaners.com

(continued from previous page)

framed vintage posters, antique artifacts and Chinese antique country furniture. During the pandemic, the shop expanded its services to include private appointments online. 625 Emerson St., Palo Alto, 650-322-3330; summerframes.com

Best Hardware Store
Hassett ACE Hardware

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

875 Alma St., Palo Alto, 650-327-7222; hassetthardware.com

Best Nursery/Garden Supplies
SummerWinds

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

723 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, 650-480-8166; summerwindsnursery.com

Best Pet Store
Pet Food Express

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

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

(continued on next page)
Best Breakfast
Joanie’s Cafe
Breakfast is so good at Joanie’s Cafe that the California Avenue restaurant offers it at lunch and dinner as well. Favorite brunch items include pancakes, waffles, French toast and omelets, crepes, scrambles or just plain eggs — all served with hash browns, home fries or fruit.
405 S. California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-326-6505; joaniescafepaloalto.com

Best Burgers
Kirk’s Steakburgers
Kirk’s Steakburgers has been satisfying generations of Palo Alto residents with its famous massive steakburgers grilled over a charcoal flame the same way since the restaurant was founded in 1948. Kirk’s still uses the same butcher as the original founders and several second- and third-generation employees work at the popular Stanford-student hangout. Over the years, the restaurant has aimed to make its dining experience second to none by combining contemporary conveniences with its classically cooked foods. The result: Kirk’s burgers have become local legends that just keep getting better.
Town & Country Village, 855 El Camino Real #75, Palo Alto, 650-251-9317; elgrullensepaloalto.com

Best Burrito
Taqueria El Grullense M&G
Taqueria El Grullense M&G is the go-to destination for those craving quick and authent-tic Mexican food in a no-frills setting. The menu features an extensive choice of fresh-made soups, tacos, burritos, enchiladas, quesadillas, homemade tortillas, combination plates and more. The burrito menu boasts a selection of 14 meat or fish fill-ings, as well as vegetarian op-tions, topped with your choice of cheese, guacamole, sour cream and red or green sauce. The res-taurant also takes phone orders.
3636 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-251-9317; elgrullensepaloalto.com

Best Cocktails To Go
Calave
After the pandemic put an end to the traditional happy hour for most of 2020, Calave — known for its bar bites and happy hours on the patio — put together an extensive to-go cocktail menu for patrons to enjoy at home (or elsewhere) that includes select wines, craft beer and signature cocktails such as its Mezcal Mule and the House Old Fash-ion. Its food and cocktail menu is now available for indoor and patio dining as well as for pickup. 299 California Ave., #115, Palo Alto, 650-321-0443; calave.com

Best Deli Sandwiches
Driftwood Deli and Market
With its plethora of possible sandwich combinations, Drift-wood Deli & Market draws happy customers from all over the Bay Area. The menu at this old-style family-owned deli includes every-thing from longtime favorites like its signature “Heaven on Earth” with roast beef, melted Jack, ba-con and avocado, to a classic turkey twist with pesto, avocado, artichoke hearts and cheese on a Dutch crunch roll. Driftwood also has daily soup and salad options as well as lunch boxes (including a sandwich, soda, cookie, chips and fruit) to go.
3450 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-493-4162; driftwooddeliandmarket.com

Best Dim Sum To Go
Dumpling City
When Dumpling City opened in 2017, the owners aimed to provide locals with an authentic handmade Chinese dumpling and dim sum experience. The menu doesn’t disappoint: Dumpling...
How has 2021 been so far compared to 2020?

“Only very recently have things started to improve a bit. At this rate, it may take the rest of this year for things to approach normalcy.”
— Izzy’s Brooklyn Bagels
Best Bagels

“So far, so good.”
— Zola
Best French Restaurant

“It is getting better but still, we feel there is a long way to go.”
— Rick’s Rather Rich Ice Cream
Best Ice Cream/Gelato

“The first half of 2021 has been so much better than 2020 as life returns slowly to normal and our community finally returns to our tables. If not a return to full normalcy, there is the return of hope to our stoves and tandoors. For the first time in months, we can exhale our anxious, suspended breaths and get back to hosting our patrons with a grateful smile.”
— Zareen’s
Best Indian Restaurant

“It has given us the promise of getting back to normal. We still have a ways to go, but we see the light at the end of the tunnel.”
— Calave
Best Cocktails To Go

“It’s been a rocky start, but things are getting better!”
— Saint Michael’s Alley
Best California Cuisine

“This year has been much better. Both employees and clients are feeling hopeful again, planning fun activities and starting to care about looking their best again.”
— La Belle Day Spas & Salons
Best Skin Care

“We’re still in recovery mode from 2020 — but with each day that passes, business continues to improve. I’d say the biggest challenge Cafe Pro Bono now faces in 2021 seems to be a universal one for the restaurant community: We need to hire more staff.”
— Cafe Pro Bono
Best Italian Restaurant

“Many times during the pandemic, we thought about walking away from the 17 long years we’ve put into building our name and clientele. But now we can see brighter lights and better days are near.”
— Thaiphoon
Best Thai Restaurant

“Best year so far.”
— Terun
Best Pizza

“It has been much less chaotic and more predictable.”
— Oshman Family JCC
Best Gym, Personal Trainers, Pivot to Online Workouts

“If we are talking about sales, we took a big hit — no sugar coating that fact. If we are talking spirit, ingenuity, hope, pride, strength, I couldn’t be prouder of our team. They have risen above every challenge.”
— Hobee’s
Best Kids Menu

Responses compiled from Best Of winners survey and Weekly business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity
Are there moments this past year that inspired you throughout this particularly difficult time?

“During the past year, I was incredibly touched by the outreach from the community, especially my long-term customers. They are the reason I was able to keep my doors open. Some of them went so far as to pre-pay for future work to ensure that my business could survive such a challenging time.”

— Richard Sumner Frames & Prints
Best Frame Shop

“We had a family approach us about planting a succulent garden in front of our store. They asked for donated cuttings and some extra hands from their neighbors and came one morning and completely transformed the plant bed into a beautiful garden.”

— Cheeky Monkey
Best Children’s Store

“We had customers and community members who checked in on us frequently — our sanity, our health, our business — and offered their support in different ways. We had customers who came in and volunteered to work at the market to help us keep up with an influx in online orders and deliveries. We saw neighbors shop for one another, and teens shop for the elderly. We had team members who volunteered to be cross-trained to help their other teammates in other departments.”

— The Market at Edgewood
Best Grocery Store, Produce

“It broke my heart to see and hear our employees feeling so lonely, scared and detached. I realized in a new and significant way that we are providing more than just jobs and a paycheck — we are a community.”

— Ada’s Cafe
Best Coffeehouse, Meal Under $20

“I have to say, the loyalty of our amazing customers overwhelmed us. At a time when everyone was worried about their own personal survival, they were equally as worried about Cafe Pro Bono’s survival. They gave us so much support and positive energy over the past year, letting us know they weren’t going anywhere, placing even more takeout orders than usual and inspiring us to not give up.”

— Cafe Pro Bono
Best Italian Restaurant

“Pre-pandemic, we would sell a few gift cards each month. When we first went into lockdown and business plummeted, we noticed something unusual: We suddenly were selling hundreds of dollars worth of gift cards each day. It was simply the local community — our neighbors and well wishers — supporting us.”

— Zareen’s
Best Indian Restaurant

“Providing meals through multiple charities at hospitals, police stations and to India through donations has definitely been an uplifting part of this difficult journey.”

— Rooh Palo Alto
Best New Restaurant

“My landlord’s support, flexibility and huge sacrifices to keep our restaurant afloat. A big thank you to her.”

— Thaiphoon
Best Thai Restaurant

Responses compiled from Best Of winners survey and Weekly business stories. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.
Best of Palo Alto 2021

City offers a range of traditional, handcrafted dumplings with fillings like pork, chicken, shrimp, lamb and vegetables, steamed buns and wontons. All items are available to order online and in person. Customers can also buy frozen dumplings in packs of 20 to make at home.

3487 El Camino Real,
Palo Alto, 650-272-6715;
dumplingcityca@gmail.com

Best Grocery Store,
Best Produce

The Market at Edgewood

The Market at Edgewood is a family-owned neighborhood market that offers a large variety of hand-selected produce from local farms and producers, as well as baked goods, a diverse meat section and a dedicated cheese specialist. The market offers curbside pickup and delivery as well as special food events on the patio.

2170 W. Bayshore Road,
Palo Alto, 650-665-7590;
marketatedgewood.com

Best Ice Cream/Gelato

Rick's Rather Rich Ice Cream

For more than 40 years, Rick's Rather Rich Ice Cream has been churning out small-batch ice cream handmade daily at the back of the shop. The menu boasts more than 48 flavors, including creations such as coffee-molasses chip and rose and white chocolate ginger. Customers can order ahead to pick up ice cream scoops, milkshakes, sundaes and other items to go. It also makes banana, coconut and peanut butter “doggy ice cream” that’s safe for canines. The shop is accepting online donations to “help us stay afloat,” according to the website.

3946 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto, 650-493-6553;
ricksicerream.com

Best Milkshake

Palo Alto Creamery Fountain & Grill

Palo Alto Creamery Fountain & Grill is an old-school diner that has been serving shakes since 1923. Everything here is made from scratch, including the 20-plus milkshake flavors on the menu, which are all served the old-fashioned way in metal mixing cups.

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

Best New Food/Drink Establishment

State of Mind Slice House

Brothers Lars and Andrew Smith’s State of Mind Slice House, which opened in January, is their ode to the New York City slice shops, with their own West Coast stamp. All of the slow-proofed pizzas are made from organic California flour and topped with made-from-scratch sauces and ingredients like housemade chorizo, chèvre, local vegetables and hot honey. During the pandemic when other local pizza shops discontinued serving single slices, the Slice House remained true to concept. Takeout is available. All whole pies also can be ordered as rectangular pan pizzas instead.

3487 El Camino Real,
Palo Alto, 650-384-6369;
stateofmindslicehouse.com

Best Pizza

Terún

With Neapolitan-style pies baked in a wood-fired oven, Terún provides diners a slice of Italy in Palo Alto. The pizzeria offers a virtually endless choice of creative combinations with toppings like burrata, zucchini, grilled eggplant, artichokes and peans. Terún is offering takeout, delivery and restaurant dining.

448 California Ave., Palo Alto,
650-600-8310; terunpizza.com

Best Salad

Sweetgreen

Sweetgreen combines a fast-casual service concept with seasonal dining. Its farm-to-table salads include locally sourced lettuce, vegetables, fruit, meat and other toppings. The menu changes five times each year, with the supplying farmers and vendors posted on a list inside the downtown restaurant. Diners can take their pick from signature salads and seasonal combinations or customize their own.

581 Ramona St., Palo Alto,
415-212-7385; sweetgreen.com

Best Takeout

Oren’s Hummus

Famous for its fresh, direct-from-Israel hummus, flavorful meat skewers and stuffed-to-the-gill pita sandwiches, the menu at Oren’s Hummus is full of Israeli staples. Oren’s bakes the pita and cuts produce for dishes onsite every morning. Items also are served at Oren’s Hummus Express, which focuses on quick, grab-and-go service. Patio dining, takeout and delivery are available.

561 University Ave., Palo Alto,
650-752-6492; orenshummus.com; Oren’s Hummus Express, 855 El Camino Real, #162,
Palo Alto, 650-365-6736;
orenhummusexpress.com

Best Yogurt

Pinkberry

Loyal customers attribute Pinkberry to reigniting the phenomenon for frozen yogurt after the chain made its debut in southern California in 2005. The menu at the Stanford shop features a wide selection of fresh ingredients served in its yogurt and smoothies. All fresh fruit is hand cut at the store daily. In addition to its long list of frozen yogurt flavors — pomegranate, pineapple, coconut, island mango, raspberry white chocolate, strawberry vanilla — Pinkberry recently rolled out cold brew fruit teas for the summer.

Stanford Shopping Center, 180 El Camino Real #14, Palo Alto, 650-322-6030; pinkberry.com

Restaurants

Best California Cuisine
Saint Michael’s Alley

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

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

Best Chinese Restaurant
Chef Chu’s

Since opening in 1970, Chef Chu’s specialty dishes, including its homemade potstickers and Beijing duck cooked in a cast-iron Chinese oven, have attracted a who’s who list of diners from near and far, including Serena Williams, Steve Young, Justin Bieber and JFK Jr. The restaurant has expanded its services to include curbside and no-contact delivery.

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

Best Coffeehouse,
Best Meal Under $20

Ada’s Cafe

Ada’s may serve up delicious artisan drinks, baked goods, paninis and salads all made with organic ingredients, but it is not a typical café. It’s a non-profit that trains and employs people with developmental disabilities, giving them space to both work and belong. Since opening in 2014, Ada’s has been working to change the face of retail and create meaningful connections between the community and its employees. Even during the pandemic, the cafe has continued to serve as a community hub where loyal customers have stood in line outside offering heartfelt words of hope while picking up their to-go orders. Dine-in and curbside pickup are now available.

Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 650-327-2327; adascafe.org.
BEST OF PALO ALTO 2021

Best Latin American Restaurant

La Bodeguita del Medio

Its Cuban-influenced menu, elegant dining room and heated patio, La Bodeguita del Medio has been a Best Of winner in various categories year after year. During the pandemic, the restaurant added a curbside pickup zone, revamped its outdoor dining service and pivoted, for the first time ever, to a takeout menu to provide customers an enjoyable dining experience, whether at home or outside the restaurant. Inspired by the legendary La Bodeguita in Havana, the Palo Alto restaurant offers robust meat dishes, fresh seafood, flavorful vegetarian entrees and specialty cocktails. 635 S. California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-329-7762; labodeguita.com

Best French Restaurant

Zola

Zola is owner Guillaume Bien-aime’s modern take on a classic French bistro. The dishes at this small French restaurant incorporate seasonal produce into every dish on the menu, which includes items like roasted button mushrooms with escargot butter, lillettes de saumon and short rib bourguignon. Meat also is sourced as locally as possible. The restaurant has been on the Michelin Bib Gourmand list, which recognizes eateries that offer excellent food at a reasonable price. In May, Bien-aime opened the restaurant’s bar companion, Bar Zola, next door. 365 Bryant St., Palo Alto, 650-521-0651; zolapaloalto.com

Best Fusion Restaurant

Tamarine Restaurant

From ginger-beef pho and wok-flashed rice noodles to steamed wild snapper in banana leaves, Tamarine Restaurant serves thoughtfully crafted Vietnamese cuisine that makes every dish a work of art in this fine dining establishment. Takeout, no-contact delivery and indoor and outdoor dining are available. 546 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-325-8500; tamarinerestaurant.com

Best Indian Restaurant

Zareen’s

Zareen’s is a Michelin Guide restaurant that serves traditional and fusion-style Pakistani and Indian food, including samosas, kebabs and a Punjabi chicken burger with spicy fries made in small batches around the clock. During the coronavirus shutdown, Zareen’s also started selling frozen foods to-go and expanded to a third location in Redwood City. 363 S. California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-600-8438; zareenrestaurant.com

Best Italian Restaurant

Cafe Pro Bono

With its authentic Italian dishes (grilled polenta, veal piccata, rigatoni mancini), white tablecloths and casual setting, Cafe Pro Bono has been a favorite local dining destination for more than 27 years, even attracting notable Italian guests such as Secretary of State George Shultz and Consoloezza Rice. During the pandemic, the Italian eatery expanded its dining service outdoors. Dine-in, curbside pickup and delivery are available. 2457 Birch St, Palo Alto, 650-326-1620; cafeprobono.com

Best Kids Menu

Hobee’s

After opening in the 1970s, Hobee’s quickly evolved into an iconic Silicon Valley chain known for its funky vibe, healthy menu items and ample breakfasts — including its legendary blueberry coffee cake with crumbly streusel topping. The Kids menu, which doubles as a coloring page, includes an array of fun and healthy items, including the cheesy scramble, smiley potatoes, chicken drummies, fruit dippers and a peanut butter & jelly sandwich. Kids eat free on Wednesdays. 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-856-6124; hobees.com

Best Mediterranean Restaurant

Oren’s Hummus

See Best Takeout, Food & Drink

Best Mexican Restaurant

reposado

reposado is much more than tacos and ceviche. The eatery offers specialty dishes like marinated pork that’s slowly been braised in banana leaves as well as a fabulous array of appetizers, including a plate of four different street tacos. Full plates come with house-made tortillas and offer inventive twists on vegetables, chicken, seafood, steak, pork and tofu. The restaurant also offers dozens of artisanal tequilas and specialty cocktails. Food is available for takeout, pickup and online dining. 236 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, 650-833-3151; reposadorestaurant.com

Best New Restaurant

Rooh Palo Alto

Modern Indian food is the name of the game at Rooh, which opened in January 2020 as the first Peninsula restaurant for owners who run several Indian restaurants in the U.S. and New Delhi. The restaurant’s calling card is a 13-foot custom wood-fired grill, smoker and tandoor oven setup that churns out charred tandoori pineapple, roasted eggplant and duck kebabs. 473 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-800-7090; roophpaloalto.com

Best Place to Order Food on Game Day

The Old Pro

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

Best Restaurant to Splurge

Protégé

Protégé is an approachable yet impressive neighborhood restaurant that features New American cuisine. Just nine months after co-owners Dennis Kelly (master sommelier) and Anthony Secciar (chef), alums from the three-Michelin-star The French Laundry in Yountville, opened in Palo Alto in 2018, the restaurant won a Michelin star. Protégé is open for patio and dining room service; takeout also is available. 250 California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-494-4181; protegepaloalto.com

Best Seafood Restaurant

The Fish Market

For nearly 43 years, The Fish Market has been an El Camino Real mainstay serving up traditional fare to satisfy the hardest of sea-faring souls — fish and chips, cioppino and clam chowder — as well as dishes for the edgier palate. Indoor and patio dining are available, as well as takeout delivery. The restaurant’s retail market also has reopened. 3150 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-493-9188; thefishmarket.com

Best Steakhouse

Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar serves prime beef, chops, seafood, chicken and plant-based options, as well as 190 wines by the glass in a contemporary dining room at Stanford Shopping Center. Takeout, delivery and indoor/outdoor dining are available. The restaurant also offers a special carry out menu that features family-friendly meals. 180 El Camino Real Palo Alto, 650-329-8457; Flemingssteakhouse.com

Thank You!
Best Sunday Brunch
Joanie’s Cafe
See Best Breakfast in the Food & Drink section.

Best Sushi/Japanese Restaurant
Fuki Sushi
With chefs trained in Japan, Fuki Sushi executes delicately crafted sushi rolls with well-cooked rice and fresh seafood. The restaurant features private tatami rooms and offers takeaway and delivery. 4119 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-494-9383; fukisushi.com

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

Best Vegetarian/Vegan Cuisine
True Food Kitchen
The menu at True Food Kitchen draws from an anti-inflammatory diet that emphasizes fruits and vegetables, beans and legumes, whole grains, seafood, healthy fats and other items, which are sourced locally and regularly rotated on the menu with the seasons. The restaurant is open for indoor and patio dining and offers no-contact pickup and delivery. 180 El Camino Real, #1140, Palo Alto, 650-272-5157; truefoodkitchen.com

Gift Cards Available!

Pakistani-Indian Food

NEW Redwood City
2038 Broadway St. (650) 257-7185

Palo Alto
365 S. California Ave. (650) 600-8438

Mountain View
1477 Plymouth St., #C (650) 641-0335

Order online at www.zareensrestaurant.com

Best Outdoor Escape
Palo Alto Baylands
Bounded by Mountain View, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto, the 1,940-acre Baylands Preserve is one of the largest tracts of undisturbed marshland remaining in the San Francisco Bay. The preserve offers 15 miles of multi-use trails, access to a unique mixture of tidal and freshwater habitats and one of the best areas to bird watch on the west coast. 2775 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, 650-617-3156; open.space@cityofpaloalto.org

Best Wi-Fi Hot Spot
Coupa Café
With its free Wi-Fi and casual setting, Coupa Café is more than a place that serves organic fair-trade coffee and food. Since opening in 2004, the family-owned business has evolved into a landmark destination for entrepreneurs looking for an informal sit down outside the office: The cafe has served as a testing ground for more than 20 products from local startups. (It is even referenced in the 2010 film “The Social Network.”) The cafe offers tableside ordering, curbside pickup and outdoor dining. During the pandemic, it expanded its services and now offers groceries that can be ordered online. 538 Ramona St., Palo Alto, 650-322-6872; coupacafe.com

Best Virtual classes/lecture series
Palo Alto Library
Palo Alto Library has long been recognized as one of the only places where you can study, work or simply scroll your sofa media feeds for free while also checking out great books, music and movies. Since the pandemic, it’s also become the place to find a plethora of online classes, livestream lectures and other digital events. The Library shifted much of its programming online after the shutdown forced it to close its doors. From author talks, origami workshops and filmmaking classes to cooking demonstrations, family yoga hour and dance lessons, the library has something for just about everyone. City library locations are listed at cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/lib/default.asp.

Arts & Entertainment
Best Museum/Art Gallery Virtual Tour
Cantor Arts Center
When the pandemic forced the Cantor Arts Center to shut down in-person visits, the museum used new technology to put 3D renderings of its extensive art collection on its website, enabling viewers to virtually walk through much of the center’s 130,000-square-foot campus, and with the click of a button, zoom in on each piece of art. The museum also pushed out new exhibitions online and offered a large library of artist talks, learning guides and tours virtually led by docents. And now that the museum is fully open, these digital programs have become part of its regular offerings. 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford, 650-723-4177; museum.stanford.edu
Welcome Back!

We can't wait to see you.

Our Programs for Seniors:

- Meals on Wheels
- Adult Day Services
- Senior Activity Center
- On Demand Transportation

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At the Forefront of Psychology & Counseling
Guest Opinion

California reopened, and it’s time to return to health

By Josh Becker and Dan Woods

Sadly, many hospitalizations now are of those who are younger and unvaccinated. While largely preventable with a vaccine, COVID-19 has significant personal and financial costs as a result of the complicated care and lengthy recovery associated with treating severe illness. It is more important now than ever before, given the rise in more contiguous and deadly variants, to get vaccinated.

We are at a critical tipping point in our society with vaccines. There is real urgency associated with convincing all who are able to get a vaccine and minimizing the opportunities for the coronavirus to mutate and create more deadly variants. If you have not been vaccinated, get one, and if you cannot do it for yourself, be a hero and get a vaccine to protect those around you who may be more vulnerable than you.

There is also no better time than now to return to therapeutic approaches that we know are important to positive well-being. According to a recent University of California, San Francisco study, physical activity dropped by one day a week and to open a door into my path. It’s my attention is focused on the street is: What are you doing about climate change? I would really like to know.

Deborah Goldeen

Letters

Support the bike plan

Editor,

According to your article, “Bike plan runs into opposition from East Meadow residents,” opposition to the bike safety improvements are primarily objections to the removal of street parking. They claim that street parking is not a safety issue. I beg to differ. When I’m biking beside a row of parked cars, most of my attention is focused on whether or not a driver is going to open a door into my path. It’s called being “doored.”

Contrary to popular opinion, free street parking is not a right. The streets belong to the city and to the residents as a whole, not just to a particular neighborhood. If I had my druthers, all on-street residential parking would require a paid permit, which is what we actually have here in Evergreen Park. All the properties along East Meadow have double-wide driveways, so I have zero sympathy with their complaint. I think they are just too lazy to pull into the driveway.

What keeps people off bikes is safety, or rather the perception that biking is dangerous. That perception is, more often than not, stress of biking in traffic more than real danger. But when someone decides to bike or drive, it’s perception that matters. Biking instead of driving is the single biggest personal action that can be taken to mitigate climate change. My question to all those residents who feel they have the right to continue to park on the street is: What are you doing about climate change? I would really like to know.

Deborah Goldeen

Birch Street, Palo Alto

ABAG’s plans

Editor,

As a U.S. citizen and a long-time resident of Palo Alto, I strongly disagree with the plans that the Association of Bay Area Governments is preparing to implement with respect to new housing in the Bay Area and in Palo Alto. ABAG’s plan does not seem to be concerned about the number of people who can survive comfortably in Palo Alto. On the contrary, it seems to think that we can accommodate an infinite number of new residents as long as we build any kind of housing for them. There’s no concern for the severe drought that currently exists in California and especially in the Bay Area that’s requiring significant reductions in water consumption by the existing population. Likewise, there’s no concern for the amount of new traffic nor the space for parking that this plan would entail. Nor is there concern for the quality of life of the people who have invested their assets in Palo Alto because they enjoy living here. Who is expected to pay for the required new infrastructure, roads, schools, etc., that we would need to accommodate the additional population?

My concerns would be less valid if Palo Alto and the surrounding communities like Los Altos and Mountain View hadn’t already increased their supply of new housing very significantly in the past several years. As a resident since 1984, I’d be happy to provide a guided tour of housing projects that would like to see the new housing developments that have arisen in recent years and those that are now being constructed. The ABAG Executive Committee should respect the right of Palo Alto residents to retain local zoning control and the right to live a peaceful life free from unreasonable pressures from the state and other entities such as ABAG.

Linval DePass

Encina Grande Drive, Palo Alto

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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should the county mandate indoor masking again?

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.

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Bollywood: It’s the name for the wildly successful Mumbai-based, Hindi-language film industry, probably best known for its dazzling musical numbers, romantic melodramas and flamboyant costumes. But, said “My Bollywood Jukebox” creator and producer Heena Patel, to millions of fans, Bollywood means a lot more than entertainment.

“These films have influenced the dreams, the passions, even the decor and fashion sensibilities of those who’ve watched them,” she said. “People know about the sequins and it being fun, but I wanted to show how it’s really more than that.”

Patel’s new production (with MELA Arts Connect), which premieres at Stanford University’s Frost Amphitheater on July 25, will take audiences on a music-and-dance-filled journey through Bollywood history, showcasing many time periods, genres and styles from early classics to modern blockbusters. At the same time, the show also ties the songs of Bollywood to the memories and experiences of South Asian immigrants and their children, examining “how Bollywood music and culture has shaped the lives of those in the diaspora,” she said.

“If there’s an underlying theme of this show, it’s really about the connecting that has been facilitated through this medium of film.”

Patel’s previous production, “Bollywood Boulevard,” compressed nearly a century of Bollywood history into a 90-minute song-and-dance spectacular. She noticed how audiences at that show were relating with the material — some because they had grown up with the culture and some who were experiencing it for the first time.

“That show had become a conduit for people to step into the lives of their neighbors,” she said.

When she began discussions with Stanford Live about bringing a new production there, it seemed a natural evolution to explore Bollywood from both more personal and wider perspectives, especially as many people are hungrier than ever for connections after more than a year of pandemic isolation.

What developed — “My Bollywood Jukebox” — is a community memoir of sorts.

“I would say that the show is literally my soundtrack,” Patel said. “And I incorporated not just my stories, but also a lot of conversations with friends, my parents and their friends to find the common themes and experiences we had. It’s my story but it’s also not my story. It’s the story of these generations.”

Raised in Toronto, Patel grew up singing and dancing along to Bollywood songs. She named the song “Chaudhvin Ka Chand” (from the 1960 film of the same name) as one of her earliest Bollywood memories, having heard her father sing it frequently around the house, inspired by his favorite singer, Mohammed Rafi. In the 1990s, Patel idolized the actress Madhuri Dixit.

“My dreams of being a Bollywood star and dancer are all connected to Madhuri Dixit,” she said. “I grew up watching her movies on the VCR, rewinding to copy her, to do these dances at our community shows.”

The Stanford Live production of “My Bollywood Jukebox” will feature nine musicians and a group of eight or nine dancers. The primarily Northern California-based cast includes the Bay Area band Raga & Blues and choreography for the show is by Ashisha Babbar and Rohit Gijare. Patel herself will serve as narrator.

“What people are going to really get to see and hear is that Bollywood is not just one type of music or one type of dance. Bollywood is everything and nothing,” Patel said. “It’s not a particular movement vocabulary or sound aesthetic. There are jazz, classical, folk, pop and disco influences — so many musical influences — and a lot of different styles of dance in it as well.”

Patel and company started working on the show in late May. “It’s a rapidly evolving process,” she said with a laugh. And she expects the show to continue to evolve and grow in future incarnations. While tickets to the family-friendly Stanford show are being sold in pods to allow for social distancing, Patel said she still hopes for plenty of audience participation from people of all ages.

“There’s an invitation for the audience to really become a part of it and dance with us,” she said. “So much of Bollywood is a celebration. It’s about joy and it’s about connection. I can’t think of anything more powerful than celebrating with joy and music and stories.”

“My Bollywood Jukebox” will premiere Sunday, July 25, at 6 p.m. at Frost Amphitheater, 351 Lasuen St., Stanford. Tickets are $30. More information is available at live.stanford.edu/calendar/july-2021/my-bollywood-jukebox.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com.
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**Schapelhouman**

(continued from page 9)

“They gave it the best college try they could give it, but he didn’t make it,” he said. “I took that real hard.”

He recalled rummaging on whether there was anything else he could have done to save the man.

“It messed me up for a while,” he said, “I almost quit about six months later.

Over his years as a firefighter and first responder within the fire district, there were plenty of harrowing experiences he remembers. There were fires in which children perished. Suicides witnessed and responded to. A call intended to blow up firefighters with propane bombs, in which the bombs miraculously did not explode. Hostage situations.

And, as so often, there were many difficult calls due to the heroin epidemic and high crime rates, yielding a grim and repeating rhythm of ‘not being told, that someone’s dead, overdose,’ Schapelhouman said.

There were also challenging calls that came from scientific laboratory sites like Raychem and SRI, he said. He recalled responding to a call at an SRI building that was on fire, but when he made it to the outside, but inside had signage indicating the presence of radioactive materials. Experiences like that were especially traumatic for the responders who didn’t know the hazardous chemicals to which they might have been exposed.

And then there were the regular house fires with their own complexities, like when two overlapping roofs at a house on Altshul Avenue created a hidden fire, causing the roof to collapse immediately after a new fire chief had commanded him to step away.

“We almost died that night,” he recalled.

But there were victories too. He and his colleagues found and rescued a young child who fell into a dryer near Whiskey Gulch and named him Walter Millschap, a portmanteau of their names.

They succeeded in safely evacuating every child from a 1997 fire at Green Oaks Academy in East Palo Alto despite extremely hazardous conditions, including a faulty fire alarm and no sprinkler system.

“We got as close to 60 kids getting inaugurated that day as you can get,” he said.

It was even through the fire district’s bumpy history that Schapelhouman, who would later become his wife. She had come to see one of the district’s exhibitions with one of the district’s firefighters.

Schapelhouman was introduced later that night at the Oasis (a beloved Menlo Park watering hole that she had enjoyed with two stayed in touch while she attended college in Santa Barbara. After she returned, single, they began dating and later married.

Over the years, Schapelhouman said he found ways to see a little irony where he could, like the wordplay when the Menlo Park French restaurant Le Pot au Feu experienced its own fire. The restaurant’s name means “pot on fire.”

“It does take on a rhythm,” he said. “Sometimes people don’t say thanks or are not nice or are going through their own stuff you may not know about. We have to be professional to them. You can’t take it personally or you’re going to be a basket case.”

He became part of the district’s first group of emergency medical technicians and has seen the way first responders’ skills have transformed from providing basic first aid to the more comprehensive responses that paramedics offer now. That transition, he said, “has become a huge evolution in patient care. We can save people (who) I would have said in the past we would have lost.”

**It’s a job where you can find the better part of yourself, if you’re looking.**

—Harold Schapelhouman, retiring chief, Menlo Park Fire Protection District

Meanwhile, those risks have been part of his own impact on his home life, he said.

At one point, he said, he and his wife had a situation. With the extremely risky work Schapelhouman took on, they worried about how a family would fit into the picture. Plus, Schapelhouman admits to having a workaholic streak. It was around that time that he stepped back from maritime training to focus on search and rescue work and work toward more management-focused roles.

From search and rescue work to advocacy

Over the years, Schapelhouman kept working in his chosen field, developing a specialty in urban search and rescue operations. He played a pivotal role in creating Menlo Park’s urban search and rescue team, and was called upon to respond to some of the worst national and international disasters of the past decades.

He and his team responded to the Oklahoma City bombings in 1995, 9/11 in New York in 2001 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, among other disasters.

Schapelhouman’s daughter, now 21, was born just months after he returned from a trip abroad to provide search and rescue aid during the Chi Chi earthquake in Taiwan in 1999.

Over time, Schapelhouman began to work more in the realm of fire prevention and advocacy. In the aftermath of the Green Oaks Academy fire, he pushed legislators to mandate that automatic sprinkler systems and fire alarms be installed on school campuses. The Green Oaks Family Academy Elementary School Fire Protection Act became law in 2002, but Schapelhouman expressed disappointment that the legislation didn’t cover existing school campuses, just new ones.

He pushed for other common-sense measures from local agencies like for the district’s emergency response vehicles to be exempted from Fastrak fees and fines when crossing the Dunbarton Bridge during emergency responses.

Through it all, he worked at mastering the art of staying professional through the trauma by seeking do just to the grand calling of firefighting, many people’s last line of defense in the face of death, personal risk.

“The job essentially is bigger than any of us — the responsibility to protect the community and serve the community,” he said. “If you can’t do that with compassion and forgiveness in your heart and the ability to move past people who aren’t nice to you, then this isn’t the job for you. I’m not saying you get there overnight, but in the end, it’s the reason the fire service is what I hold as a profession.”

“It’s a job where you can find the better part of yourself, if you’re looking,” he said.

Thinking he was going well with his search and rescue work and legislative advocacy when he was tapped to become the next fire chief, Schapelhouman said that he said no to the offer twice because he loved the work he was doing so much, traveling and pushing toward the positive innovations that would help firefighters work more safely and effectively.

There had been turnover in the chief position and in the previous 21 years, nobody from within the department had been selected as chief, he said. He was cognizant that he only had a few years left until he could be fully vested in the district’s pension system and didn’t want to get fired or become a “casualty” of the district’s board. He finally took on the role March 31, 2006, after he was told that if he didn’t, the next chief from outside of the district. He said he ran right into labor disputes and contract disagreements. At one point he received a vote of no confidence, which he said was “breathtakingly disappointing.”

He channeled lessons about detail orientation he’d picked up from his father and his accountant brother as a youth, and kept working at it, he said.

**A devastating fall and then a comeback**

In May 2012, about seven months into his tenure as chief and after escaping unscathed from so many high-risk rescue situations, Schapelhouman was struck with a life-changing injury in his own backyard.

He fell off a ladder while trimming bushes and suffered paralyzing spinal injuries and a traumatic brain injury. He was left unable to walk and with only partial use of one hand. About nine months after the injury, he resumed the role of chief, this time from a wheelchair.

Coming back wasn’t easy, he said. He brought in attorneys to push for his return to the chief position, and took steps to ensure he could still do the job well, like finding specialists to evaluate him and forming the right adaptive equipment.

“It was a real privilege to come back and prove I can do the job and be able to do it and do it well,” he said. “Every single day you’ve got to do the job, whether your body’s cooperating or not cooperating. I was able to do that. I worked extremely hard.”

After he returned, he said he helped to come up with a five-year agreement with the district’s union that provided stability to the organization among other initiatives he’s led since returning to the department after his injury.

After 40 years in the field, Schapelhouman said he’s proud of the financial direction of the district as well, over the course of his career seeing a transition from firefighters being equipped with substandard gear to top-of-the-line technology, including an ambitious drone program, earthquake warning systems, and thermal imaging equipment.

Chief Harold Schapelhouman is shown here in his early days at the fire department.

“Fire seasons aren’t getting smaller. They’re getting bigger, and I worry about firefighter safety,” he said.

Another 40 years from now, he said, he’s hoping the district will continue to adapt by gaining knowledge, technology, and convenience through automation.

But there still will be fires, and there will continue to be firefighters.

“Somebody has to do the dirty work,” he said. “Somebody has to go out and do the patient care.”

Fittingly, Schapelhouman’s last day was dedicated to a ceremony to promote staff members of the fire district. He credits the community and the staff of the district for shaping his life in a profound way.

“What made me who I am is the people here and the calls here,” he said.

The district board also had its own concrete step to commemorate Schapelhouman’s legacy in the community. The fire truck museum at the district’s newly rebuilt Oak Grove Avenue site will bear his name.

*Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.*
Air Quality (continued from page 11)

since most pollutants are human-caused and avoidable.

When a Spare the Air day is issued for smog because the hot temperatures trap smog emitted from cars closer to the ground.

Bay Area residents can sign up for air quality alerts by texting the word “START” to 81757 for text alerts or visiting sparetheair.org/alerts to sign up for phone or email alerts.

More tips on how to stay safe during an unhealthy air quality event can be found at baaqmd.gov.

Reporter Jana Kadah writes for the Bay City News Service.

Upfront

Housing

(continued from page 5)

provided these areas are not adjacent to industrial sites.

Housing

(continued from page 11)

A smoky landscape is visible from Foothills Park during last year's August fires.

Arbor Real, a residential community that was completed in 2007, is one of only a handful of dense housing projects that Palo Alto has approved over the past 15 years. The city is now opposing several state bills, including SB 10 and SB 9, that aim to encourage more housing density.

local government already have; so, SB 10 provides no value," the letter signed by Mayor Tom Du-Bois states.

Palo Alto is hardly the only opponent of SB 10. At the June 30 meeting of the Assembly Local Government Committee, which voted to advance the bill, Redon- do Beach Mayor Bill Brand suggested that the bill would circumvent the state’s initiative process, which allows voters to make their laws directly.

"We may not like it, being legis-
lators ourselves, but this form of direct democracy has been reserved in our state Constitution for over 100 years," Brand said.

Other opponents of SB 10 have pointed to voter initiatives that ensured that open space preserves would be maintained and wildlife protected. In a concession to these critics, Wiener has narrowed the parameters of the bill to explicitly exclude open spaces and greenbelt areas.

Wiener argued at the June 30 meeting that cities that oppose SB 10 are free to simply ignore its provisions.

"It gives cities a powerful new tool that they can use or not use so that if a city decides to rezone for small multifamily housing in one part of its city, on one block of its city, on one parcel, in its entire city, whatever they want," Wiener told the Assembly Local Government Committee shortly before the vote. He noted that as long as development is proceeding in an "non-sprawl" manner — namely, as an infill development or near transit — the city can proceed with rezoning in an "expedited, streamlined way" under the proposed bill.

We have cities in California right now that are literally incapa-
citated from adopting even a Housing Element, or doing any zoning work whatsoever," he said.

SB 9 also continues to polar-
lize local residents and officials.

A successor to SB 1120, which narrowly failed to advance in the frantic final hours of last year’s legislative session, SB 9 cleared a major hurdle on June 22, when the Assembly’s Housing and Community Development Committee voted to support it.

The bill’s opponents, including Palo Alto, are preparing to increase their lobbying efforts in the coming month. In early June, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County became the latest group to publicly come out against SB 9. Its letter opposing the bill stated that cities "lay the groundwork for housing production by planning and zoning new projects in their communities based on extensive public input and engagement, state housing laws, and the needs of the building industry."

"While The Cities Association advocates for the Committee proposes Tem- bore Atkins’ desire to pursue a housing production proposal, unfortunately, SB 9 as currently drafted will not spur much needed housing construction in a manner that supports local flexibility, decision making and community input," the letter states.

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Plan

(continued from page 8)

The 62-foot-tall building had designated 29 apartments for indi-
viduals in the “very low” income level. And in April, the council flatly rejected a proposal by Cato Investments to build a three-story apartment building with 24 apart-
mens at 2239 and 2241 Wellesley Ave. in the College Terrace neigh-
bhood. Even though the coun-
cil didn’t take any formal votes during the project’s prescreening hearing, members agreed on April 12 that the use of planned-home zoning will be prohibited in sin-
gle-family neighborhoods and largely restricted to commercial and high-density residential areas.

Vice Mayor Pat Burt also noted at that time that density limits on and around California Avenue are already being exceeded as more and more businesses move ahead with office projects, which are far more lucrative, rather than residential ones. He suggested adjusting these limits to make housing more attractive.

"I don’t see any circumstances that we’ll see residential in the California Avenue area under this formula," Burt said.

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.
 Variant cases in Santa Clara County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamma</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These numbers represent the cumulative cases of the four strains of the coronavirus considered by Santa Clara County to be “variants of concern.”

In Santa Clara County, the cumulative number of cases of each of four “variants of concern” with other rural areas across the nation, that you’ll see increased rates of cases.

Since the start of the pandemic have been: 99 cases of delta, 644 of alpha, 25 beta, and 81 gamma. The health department stated that the data could be lagging by up to a month.

The indoor masking recommendation, the county health officials said in a joint statement, is intended to help protect unvaccinated residents, who are orders of magnitude more likely right now to contract the virus and be hospitalized with serious illness.

On July 16, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky went as far as to say the virus “is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.”

In Contra Costa County, the seven-day average of new cases per 100,000 residents was 1.7 for fully vaccinated residents as of July 8 and 161 per 100,000 for unvaccinated residents.

“The highly infectious delta variant is now the predominant strain in Contra Costa County,” Contra Costa County Health Officer Dr. Chris Farnitano said. “While vaccines remain our best tool against COVID-19, masking in indoor and crowded outdoor settings will help us curb the spread of this latest wave of infection.”

The coalition of health officers is expected to revisit the recommendation in the coming weeks after monitoring local case and hospitalization data.

State officials have also been hesitant, for now, to reissue mask and social distancing requirements statewide, instead deferring to local health agencies to do what they feel suits their constituents.

As of Tuesday, Santa Clara County’s seven-day rolling average of new cases was 104, or 5.4 per 100,000 residents. Sue Dremann contributed reporting to this article. Reporter Eli Walsh writes for the Bay City News Foundation.

Income

(continued from page 10)

about $65,000 for a four-person family. San Francisco is offering $1,000 a month for 130 artists and 150 Black and Pacific Islander pregnant women. Similarly, Marin County will be supporting 135 low-income women of color as much.

In Santa Clara County, the cumulative number of cases of each of four “variants of concern” with other rural areas across the nation, that you’ll see increased rates of cases.

$1,000 a month to 72 foster youth. The program either randomly select eligible residents or pull from an applicant pool.

One recipient of Santa Clara County’s program was Veronica Vieyra, a recent San Jose State University graduate.

In March 2020, Vieyra was surviving on a $1,100 monthly stipend from an internship with iFoster, an organization supporting foster youth. Kicked out of the dorms as COVID-19 spread across California, her monthly expenses for rent, car insurance and phone left her with $280 for food and gas. The 25-year-old’s grades plummeted and she fell into a new living routine.

“If I sleep I don’t have so much to worry about,” she remembered thinking. “I actually save money because then I won’t have to eat as much.”

Vieyra planned to return to the job at Safeway she worked before college, delaying her graduation. When Vieyra received her first payment at the end of the summer, “The first thing I felt was, like, I’m going to pay my rent.” She paid two months ahead. “I was like, that feels so good.”

With greater free time, Vieyra attended after-hours tutoring for the classes she had failed the year before, graduating with a degree in public health. She hopes to work with foster youth.

“If it wasn’t for the program, I’d probably be going back to Safeway,” she said.

This article is part of the California Divide, a collaboration among newsrooms examining income inequality and economic survival in California. CalMatters.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media venture explaining California’s policies and politics.

Answers on page 10.

Across
1. Skids laterally
10. Indifferent individual
15. 1968 album whose first single was “Think” (You Send Me)
16. Decoy customer
17. Comic commentator on both the U.S. and Australian versions of “Holey Moley”
18. “Pioneers” author Cather
20. Room 204 at the Roman Holiday Inn?
22. Lying beneath
23. Gp. that supports summer reading
24. ___ kama (imitation crab used in California rolls)
25. One-liner, e.g.
26. Drive out on the prairie?
28. San Francisco Bay structure
29. “Percy Jackson: The Battle of the Labyrinth” author Rick
31. “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test” stuff
32. “Right?”
33. Calutello or Black Forest, e.g.
36. Sponge cake seen on “The Great British Bake-Off” (and named for an Italian city)
37. Streaming service that sounds like a Haitian religion
38. Microsoft hybrid product announced in 2001
40. 30-miles-per-hour runners
41. Regional butter substitute (I swear nobody rolls)
42. Comic commentator on both the U.S. and Australian versions of “Holey Moley”
43. “___ Poetica” (Horace work)
44. Lesson at the end
45. Imperfection
46. Leaders of the bunch?
47. Group that supports summer reading
50. Paleontologist’s big find
52. Fake (like with lip-synching or air guitar)
53. Flee, in a way
54. Embarrassed acknowledgement
55. Small, but cute

“Free Up Space” — another themeline, for these times, by Matt Jones

This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 10.

Across
1. ___ Col2 (virus that causes COVID-19)
2. “Confedera” of Native American peoples
3. Explained as false
4. Web-based stock follower, maybe
5. Hobbits’ home, with “The”
6. Bed Stripe is one
7. “Splendor in the Grass” Oscar winner
8. With “The,” Dallas indie-pop group that often has up to 27 members
9. Tiny candy brand with the slogan “Be Both”
11. Get set
12. Early carrier tank on the tracks
13. “Fighting” NCAA team
14. His Final Jeopardy response was “Who are three people who’ve never been in my kitchen?”
20. Shaw who sang “Puppet on a String” for the U.K. at Eurovision 1967
25. Research ch. that co-manufactured the Curiosity Rover
27. 2021 role for Mayim
29. Go on off
30. Rubbing alcohol variety
32. Small, but cute
33. Focus of much genetic research
34. Flatterer
35. Letters before nus

644
9
81
25
99
Alpha
Gamma
Beta
Delta

Source: California Reportable Disease Information Exchange

**COVID**

(continued from page 5)

“The delta variant is spreading quickly, and everyone should take action to protect themselves and others against this potentially deadly virus,” Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss said in a statement.

While the Bay Area is one of the most vaccinated regions in the state and country, local health leaders had recognized the potential for renewed mask requirements in recent weeks as the delta variant became more of a threat, particularly for unvaccinated people.

“The Bay Area is very, very diverse and there’s hot spots, within the Bay Area, of unvaccinated populations,” Marin County Deputy Health Officer Dr. Lisa Santora said earlier this month. “So we would expect to see, especially in more rural areas (and) consistent with other rural areas across the nation, that you’ll see increased rates of cases.”

With greater free time, Vieyra attended after-hours tutoring for the classes she had failed the year before, graduating with a degree in public health. She hopes to work with foster youth.

“If it wasn’t for the program, I’d probably be going back to Safe- way,” she said.

This article is part of the California Divide, a collaboration among newsrooms examining income inequality and economic survival in California. CalMatters.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media venture explaining California’s policies and politics.
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