Homeless program challenged over background checks

Page 5

Who are the Peninsula's biggest water users?

Page 7

Palo Alto among cities fighting housing mandates

Page 8

Chamber director inspires harmony

Page 27
Stanford Hospital is proud to be recognized for patient safety and quality by *U.S. News and World Report* for the seventh year in a row. Thank you to our staff and the entire Stanford Medicine community for your exceptional response in an extraordinary year.

Stanford Hospital is once again ranked as one of the nation’s top hospitals.
35 RALSTON ROAD, ATHERTON

$15,950,000 • 6 Bed • 7 Bath • 35ralston.com

Marybeth Dorst
650.245.8890
DRE 01345542

782 DIXON WAY, LOS ALTOS

$7,230,000 • 5 Bed • 5.5 Bath • 782dixon.com

Lynn Wilson Roberts
and Anne Wilson Roberts
650.255.6987 | 650.279.5358
DRE 01814885 | DRE 02033636

12195 ALTAMONT COURT, LOS ALTOS HILLS

$4,998,000 • 4 Bed • 3.5 Bath • 12195altamontct.com

Lynn Wilson Roberts
and Anne Wilson Roberts
650.255.6987 | 650.279.5358
DRE 01814885 | DRE 02033636

639 ARASTRADERO ROAD, PALO ALTO

$4,680,000 • 6 Bed • 5 Bath • 639arastradero.com

Carol Li
650.281.8368
DRE 01277755

3766 REDWOOD CIRCLE, PALO ALTO

$2,198,000 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • compass.com/agents/lynne-merc

Lynne Mercer
650.906.0162
DRE 00796211

1335 HOOVER STREET, MENLO PARK

$1,997,000 • 3 Bed • 2.5 Bath • 1335hoover.com

Carol Corneval, Nicole Aron & James Steele Team
650.745.7954
DRE 00946687 | 00952657 | 01872027

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.
The HHW Reuse Zone is a reuse program for gently used, good quality household products such as paint, cleaners and unused motor oil that are brought to the HHW Station for disposal. Visitors can take up to five products per visit.

The HHW Reuse Zone is only open during HHW Station hours.
Most district teachers are vaxxed. Is that enough for parents?

Parents concerned about district protocols after COVID cases increase
By Lloyd Lee

As summer winds down, local school districts are facing another academic year amid a pandemic. But this time, they have vaccines and a new set of health protocols from the state that aim to make this year look a lot more normal.

Most K-12 students will be returning to campus with a bell schedule and a full day of classes. At Palo Alto Unified and Mountain View-Los Altos Union High school districts, students will still have to wear masks — but only indoors.

These come as welcome changes for district leaders and teachers following more than a year of remote classes. Part of the optimism comes from reports of high vaccination rates among employees: Palo Alto Unified, Mountain View-Los Altos Union High, Mountain View Whisman and Foothill-DeAnza Community College school districts all have reported a vaccination rate of more than 90% among staff and faculty.

“I’m super excited,” said David Campbell, president of the Mountain View-Los Altos teachers’ union, who also teaches Spanish at Mountain View High. “And every teacher I’ve spoken with is super excited.”

Some parents are equally, if not more, eager to get their children back to class. But others, especially parents of elementary school students, are left with concerns about how their districts are preparing for their children’s return given the surge of COVID-19 cases from the delta variant and the fact that children under 12 still don’t have access to a vaccine.

Palo Alto father Mark Noronha, whose son is entering third grade and whose daughter is starting high school, said his

(continued on page 10)

PUBLIC HEALTH

The mask mandate is back
Amid COVID surge, everyone must cover their faces indoors
By Kevin Forestieri

Seven Bay Area counties announced Monday that residents will be required to wear masks in nearly all indoor settings, marking the first major step in reversing a statewide rollback of public health restrictions in June.

The mask mandate, which began on Tuesday, comes as COVID-19 cases spike across the Bay Area, with some of the highest case rates since February of this year. Public health leaders said at a Monday press conference that the delta variant of the virus is far more contagious and now accounts for the vast majority of new cases in the region, requiring protective measures to keep infection rates and COVID-19 hospitalizations under control.

“The delta variant is now the dominant variant in our area,” said Dr. George Han, Santa Clara County’s deputy public health officer. “And because it’s more contagious, we need more protection, and that comes in the form of masks as the easiest and best tools that we have.”

All of the county public health orders are nearly identical, requiring vaccinated and unvaccinated residents alike to wear face coverings when indoors with people who aren’t part of their households. In Santa Clara County, the regulations include a short list of exceptions including work in closed rooms or offices; outdoor dining while patrons are

(continued on page 31)

HOMELESSNESS

As church prepares to welcome vehicle dwellers, neighbors urge background checks
Stevenson House appeals proposal from Unitarian Universalist Church to open safe parking program
By Gennady Sheyner

When Palo Alto agreed to allow local congregations to establish “safe parking” programs for unhoused individuals who live in vehicles, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto eagerly jumped at the chance.

Since January 2020, the church has been making plans to establish such a program at its parking lot at 505 Charleston Road, says Christopher Kan, chair of the church’s safe-parking program. The program would provide a secure space for selected participants to park between 6 p.m. and 7:30 a.m., as well as bathroom access and case management services geared toward helping them find more permanent living arrangements.

Kan, who lives near Greer Park, says he sees people living in cars in just about every neighborhood, including his own. Church leaders agreed that by welcoming some of them to a “safe lot” and providing them with social services, the church would be directly addressing one of the most difficult problems in the city, as well as the state, he said.

“If you look at facts across the country, these programs are effective in helping people off the street and increasing the safety of the neighborhood because you have people in managed programs rather than struggling on their own,” Kan said.

Church members spent months going through the application process and finalizing the details for the program, which would house up to four vehicles at a time. In December, the church reached an agreement with Santa Clara County officials to open the program.

Christopher Kan stands at the site of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto’s proposed “safe parking” program for unhoused residents.
If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please contact PaloAltoOnline.com/express Ref#17400.

www.jobpostingtoday.com, according to plan. Apply at
and system is implemented
system testing is completed,
Views, Spa and On the Greens
call 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.
Sign up today at
and as Home and Business Services.
Embarcadero Media, Staff Writers Kate Brandshaw
(223-6583), Kevin Forester (223-6530), Angela Sweerts (223-6524)
Chief Visual Investigator Magal-Gatchev (223-6538)
Editorial Assistant/Intern Coordinator
Lloyd Low (223-6536)
Contributors: Chelsi Angules, Mike Berry, Carol Bitter, Edward Gerard Fle, Yoshi Kato, Chris Kenney, Sherry Honeenberg, John Dr. Monica Schreder

ADVERTISING

Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)
Neal Fine (223-6583)
Evelin Oogain (223-6783), Connie De Cotton (223-6571)
Real Estate Advertising Sales
Neal Fuer (223-6608)
Legal Advertising Alcira Santolan (223-6578)

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Sales & Production Coordinator
Chien Martin (223-6584)

DESIGN

Design & Production Manager
Kristen Brown (223-5582)
Senior Designers Lainde Andela, Paul Lovellin
Designers Kevin Logan, Amy Leven, Douglas Young

BUSINESS

Assistant Business Manager
Gwen Fischer (223-6570)
Business Associates
Naja Navareve (223-5582), Suzanne Ogeva (223-6504)

ADMINISTRATION

CFO/Chief Financial Officer
Robert Devereaux

EMBARCADERO MEDIA

President William S. Johnson (223-6505)
Vice President Michael Naar (223-6548)
Vice President & CFO Peter Beller (223-6690)
Vice President Sales & Marketing
Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

Director, Information Technology & Webmaster
Frank A. Braun (223-6551)

Director of Marketing and Audience Development
Garrett Freeman (223-6546)
Major Accounts Sales Manager
Connie De Cotton (223-6577)

Consultant Assistant Alisia Santolan
Computer System Associates Chris Paymnie, Mike Schreder

The Palo Alto Weekly is published every Monday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, (650) 326-8210. The Palo Alto Weekly is available on the Internet at PaloAltoOnline.com (ISSN 0199-1159) is published every Monday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto, CA and each additional mailing office. Adjusted to a newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County. The Palo Alto Weekly is a general circulation, no profit making publication. It is not the official newspaper of the Stanford University and Stanford Medical Center. The Palo Alto Weekly is a registered trademark of Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306. Copyright 2013 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. The Palo Alto Weekly is available on the Internet at PaloAltoOnline.com

Our email addresses are editor@paweekly.com, admin@paweekly.com, digitalads@paweekly.com, ads@paweekly.com

Missed delivery or start/stop your paper?
Email circulation@paweekly.com. You may also subscribe online at PaloAltoOnline.com. Subscriptions are $120/yr.

“Breaking barriers.” Over the last 16 months, East Palo Alto nonprofit StreetCode Academy has equipped community members with the digital tools and skills they need to virtually communicate as they stay close to home during the pandemic. StreetCode was recently recognized as the Nonprofit of the Year in California’s 23rd Senate District, which is represented by Sen. Josh Becker. “In any given year, tackling this issue would be challenging enough,” he said in a statement. “But coming up with a plan that considers COVID-19, that with a once-in-a-century pandemic, and I can imagine it felt almost impossible.” The nonprofit has conducted 20,000 hours of free technology classes, provided tech support to 2,500 students at the Ravenswood City School District and secured hundreds of free laptops for students. StreetCode now serves more than 5,500 people in the region and 1,000 people nationally. “In so many ways this past year threatened to widen the gap that exists within Silicon Valley — the poverty in the shadow of wealth and no bridge between,” StreetCode CEO Olatunde Sobomehin said in the release. “Yet in the midst of an unprecedented crisis, so many people stepped up to provide computers, internet access, technology education and a hope for a better future.”

Supporting students...

College and high school students challenged by learning differences will have a new place where they can find assistance. Children’s Health Council (CHC) and the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation have joined forces to establish the Schwab Learning Center at CHC, which will open in Palo Alto in September. The foundation has presented an endowment for the center at 650 Clark Way, where students are either referred or self-referred for the services, which include psychoeducational evaluations, mentoring, short-term therapy and community education. The assistance will be available either in person or online, depending on COVID-19 protocols, and financial aid will be offered to students. “We are tremendously confident that the center will be the right hands with CHC’s mission and the founders’ goal that we can make a difference and make a real impact in the education of students.”

“Many people in our community, so we look forward to working with CHC and seeing high school and university students thrive.” The center will focus on serving Stanford University students in its first year, then expand to high school students and other colleges and universities in the Bay Area in its second year. In the long run, the program expects to assist 400 to 500 students on an annual basis. CHF has selected Dr. Nicole Offsey to be the center’s director starting this month. Her previous job was chief innovation officer and senior research scientist at the Potentially Institute.

Tech-minded... Students can enter the seventh annual Congressional App Challenge for the 18th Congressional District, which is represented by Rep. Anna Eshoo. D-Palo Alto. The House of Representatives began the contest eight years ago to promote innovation and engagement in STEM education fields. “Since its inception, the Congressional App Challenge has been an extraordinary opportunity for students to think creatively and create innovative solutions to problems in our community. Last year we had many examples of unprecedented innovation that met the needs during the pandemic and the pressing matters in our community, and I look forward to seeing what students will design this year. I encourage all students, regardless of their level of coding expertise, to use technology to address the myriad of challenges we face today,” Eshoo said.

Science, technology, engineering, and math are foundational for innovation, and the Congressional App Challenge encourages students, bolsters interest in STEM, and motivates students to pursue higher education and jobs in those fields, she said. The challenge is open to all middle school and high school students in the district or are eligible to attend a public school located in the district. Students entering the competition must create a video explaining their app and what they learned through the competition process. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 1. An appointed panel of academics, entrepreneurs, technology executives and other experts will judge the submitted apps. The winners will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol. To apply, visit congressionalappchallenge.us.
Three wealthy water districts consume the lion’s share of local water

Landscaping accounts for the biggest use in Hillsborough, Los Altos Hills

By Sue Dremann

The biggest sip of the straw from the Bay Area’s water supply comes from people living in just three water districts.

They consume nearly three to four times the amount of water as residents in 23 other municipalities and districts, according to data from the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, whose member agencies receive most of their potable water from the Hetch Hetchy system.

Residential use per capita is highest in the wealthiest communities while residents in the least financially advantaged communities consumed the least, according to the 2019-2020 annual survey, the latest to be published.

The differences are striking amid the growing drought, and there are currently no mandatory water restrictions to curtail use.

The biggest water users are in the Purissima Hills Water District, which serves two-thirds of Los Altos Hills and an unincorporated area to the south. Residents there used 248.9 gallons of water per capita per day in fiscal year 2019-2020, according to the water agency’s data.

Second in line are Hillsborough residents, who use 215.8 gallons per capita per day. Residents of California Water Service’s Bear Gulch District, which serves Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley and parts of Menlo Park, use 153.1 gallons per capita per day.

Per capita, residents in the 26 Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) member agencies use 63.4 gallons on average per day. Fifteen communities use less than that amount, with East Palo Alto residents using the least at 38.1 gallons per capita per day.

Frustration isn’t at the heart of this stark contrast — it’s real estate, some water operators said. In an urban environment or a community with few parks and higher-density housing, water use is pretty much confined to drinking, cleaning and bathing. But in communities with lush lawns, expansive acreage and landscaping, water use skylarks.

That’s the case in Hillsborough and Los Altos Hills, where there are primarily estate homes with most having a minimum lot size of one-half to 1 acre. Water demand for landscaping, pools and ponds is sizable. In its 2012 voluntary landscaping guidelines for Los Altos Hills, Purissima Hills Water District noted that landscaping accounted for 75% of water usage.

In Hillsborough, more than two-thirds of all water is used for irrigation, pools and other outdoor purposes, according to the town’s website. Water conservation efforts have traditionally focused on indoor water use such as water-efficient toilets, shower heads and washing machines, the website stated.

However, “reducing outdoor water use represents the greatest opportunity for Hillsborough to conserve water. The town has implemented several new programs to promote outdoor water conservation,” the town website stated.

Considering its potential water savings, the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan for California Water Service’s Bear Gulch District found that limiting landscape irrigation to one to three days per week, prohibiting irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians and with potable water and banning filling ornamental lakes and ponds among other restrictions could reduce a projected water-shortage gap by 26%.

Closer to home, three Peninsula cities also rank in the upper echelons of water use, according to BAWSCA: Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Mountain View. Below are snapshots of their water usage.

Palo Alto

Most Palo Altans might not have the large lots of Hillsborough and Los Altos Hills, but the city’s residents rank as the fourth thirstiest in the BAWSCA system, at 90 gallons per capita per day.

The city’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan, published in June, found that 63% of water was for residential use. Most of that went to landscaping, said Catherine Elvert, City of Palo Alto Utilities communications manager.

“Landscaping in residential areas for homes constitutes 50% or more of a home’s total water use. The approximate 50% of water use per household is an average estimate of water use for a single-family home. This of course will vary based on landscape area and plant type,” Elvert said.

Business and industry used 18% of water; irrigation customers used 12%; and public and city facilities consumed 7%, according to the water management plan.

The city uses some recycled water from its Regional Water Quality Control Plant, including 36 acre feet that went to parks in fiscal year 2020; 316 acre feet used at the municipal golf course; and 25 acre feet for the duck pond. Fountains at Lytton Plaza and California Avenue also use recirculating water, said city spokeswoman Jeanne Bilecici.

At the beginning of the current drought, the city began to reduce potable water use in grass areas that were not playing fields, but it has kept watering areas with trees, Bilecici said. The city converted some turf areas into native plant landscapes and uses recycled water from the Regional...
Despite widespread recognition that the Bay Area desperately needs more housing, more than two dozen cities and Santa Clara County are appealing their assignments for the next round of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process, arguing that the allotments pose insurmountable problems.

Each of the 27 jurisdictions that have filed an appeal is unhappy in its own way and each is hoping that an Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) appeals committee, which consists of local elected officials, will consider its case and reduce its allocation this fall, before it makes its decision.

The 27 appellants face stiff odds, given that they are opposing not just ABAG’s methodology, but one another. ABAG is required by the state to assign 441,176 units throughout the nine Bay Area counties and the process is, by its very nature, a zero-sum game. For any jurisdiction that gets a reduction, one or more would see a corresponding increase.

Much like the number of projected housing units, the number of appeals is considerably higher in the current cycle than it was in 2014, when regional planners and local officials last went through this exercise. At that time, appellants rejected 187,990 units by the state Department of Housing and Community Development for the period between 2013 and 2023. Palo Alto and Mountain View were among eight jurisdictions that appealed the allocations at that time. Both saw their appeals rejected.

Despite the relatively low probability of success, Palo Alto is once again appealing its allocation, citing its famously high jobs-to-housing ratio of more than 3-to-1. The city argues in its appeal that it is being penalized by ABAG for its recent efforts to curb job growth, a trend for which city leaders believe it should be rewarded with a smaller allocation. After being assigned more than 6,086 dwellings for the period between 2023 and 2031, the city is requesting that for this reason, as well as several others, its allocation should be reduced by 1,500 units, or 4.586.

Pleasant Hill, by contrast, is arguing that its assigned allocation would hinder economic growth by forcing it to designate commercial lands for residential use, limiting its ability to create jobs. The city is asking that its allocation be reduced from 1,803 to 784.

Saratoga, which was assigned 1,712 units, similarly argues in its letter that the housing allocation will force it to “consider reducing the limited commercial job-producing development that it has.” In requesting a 50% reduction, to 856 units, the city’s letter also posits that the allocation will effectively force Saratoga to build housing in areas that are vulnerable to wildfires, for lack of more suitable land options.

Requiring the higher number, the letter from Saratoga Mayor Yan Zhao states, would necessarily entail construction in the city’s Wild Urban Interface area, which contains much of the city’s existing housing stock and which “cannot sustain increased housing density.”

Conversely, planning for the addition of more than 1,700 new homes in other sections of Saratoga that are outside the Wildland Urban Interface is simply impractical and unrealistic given the financial realities of residential construction,” Zhao wrote

Los Altos Hills’ letter also cites fire risks in arguing for a 129-unit reduction to its allocation of 489 units. The entire west end of the town abuts a regional open space and most of the town is located within a “high fire hazard severity zone,” the letter notes. But for all the open space, the town is “basically built-out” and its allocation of 489 housing units is neither feasible nor justified, the letter argues. The Los Altos Hills letter points to the town’s “narrow roadways and limited escape routes” and argues that a proposal to increase density in its community “is ill-conceived and does not represent good planning practice.”

Santa Clara County, which was assigned 3,125 units, is one of four counties that are appealing the allocation (along with Contra Costa, Marin and Sonoma). The county’s letter characterized the regional call for more housing in its jurisdiction of unincorporated areas as poor planning, inasmuch as it would encourage development in rural areas and open spaces.

“This exponential increase is disproportionate to the overall regional allocation,” the appeal states. “The allocation ignores several ground realities and material limitations, coupled with longstanding County General Plan policies that focus growth within urban areas to combat sprawl and preserve farmlands within unincorporated areas.”

Contra Costa County, which (continued on page 10)
4122 Wisteria Lane, Palo Alto
Desirably located on a private, tree-lined lane!

Quality throughout, ready to move-in and enjoy

- 3 bedrooms
- private master suite featuring:
  - spa inspired bathroom
  - dedicated office space or sitting area
  - large walk-in closet
- 2 1/2 bathrooms
- Spacious chef’s kitchen featuring:
  - granite countertop
  - stainless steel appliances
  - dining area leading to the backyard
- Private backyard with mature landscaping
- perfect for outdoor dining
- Tucked away on a small, private tree lined lane yet centrally located near schools, shops, transportation and much more
- Excellent Palo Alto schools, including Gunn High School
- Home size: 1,501 square feet (approx.)

OFFERED AT $1,950,000

Midtown Realty, Inc. • 2775 Middlefield Road • Phone: 650.321.1596 • www.midxtownpaloalto.com

Listing Agent: Tim Foy
CalBRE# 00849721
Cell: 650.387.5078
tim@midtownpaloalto.com

Joann Weber
DRE# 01896750
Cell: 650.815.5410
joann@midtownpaloalto.com

Open Saturday & Sunday 1:30PM to 4:30PM
Housing (continued from page 8)

was assigned 7,645 units, similarly argued that unincorporated areas face significant constraints when it comes to housing construction because they lack basic services like grocery stores and banks.

Palo Alto’s city planner warned in June that the appeal faces long odds. Regional bodies have been loath in recent years to grant appeals. Of the 14 Bay Area jurisdictions that requested reductions to their allocations in the current cycle (including the eight that filed formal appeals), only three — Hayward, Lafayette and Sunnyvale — saw their numbers adjusted.

City planner Tim Wong, who is managing Palo Alto’s Housing Element process, noted at a May meeting that in the southern California region, 52 agencies had filed an appeal. Two of them were able to “partially succeed,” he said.

While Palo Alto’s elected leaders have long been critical of state and regional housing mandates, the city’s letter is more technical than ideological. It lists specific sites for which the regional agency had — erroneously, in the city’s view — proposed housing growth. These include sites that are owned by the Palo Alto Unified School District rather than the city, as well as areas to which the regional mapping model assigned unrealistic density (the outlier among these is the Opportunity Center at 33 Encina Ave., which has a projected density of 1,625 units per acre).

“Without background checks, there’s high risk when it comes to safety, to not only our seniors but to the people who live there in the safe parking program area.”

— Grace Mah, president, board of directors, Stevenson House

Palo Alto’s letter also argues that ABAG unfairly penalizes the city for instituting a ban on new developments, a move intended to reduce the demand for housing by reducing job growth. But the city’s memo says the state regional agency to justify increasing the housing allocation under the dubious assumption that because mobile homes can’t build offices, they will now build housing, according to the city.

“This reasoning represents a fallacy of confusing the letter and spirit,” said DuBois. “There is not a one-to-one ratio of office-to-housing development. An office building of 1,625 units per acre does not mean a property owner will necessarily build housing.”

The city’s top cop, DuBois told the Weekly in an interview, is the pace of construction that the allocation would allow. “If we were to reduce the half of the housing that the city is projected to need under the regional vision document, Plan 2050, for example, it could be front-loaded in the next eight years” if the city were to meet its allocated housing total for the coming cycle, he said. From the perspective of construction standpoint, this would be impractical, he said.

“There are specific reasons for our appeal,” DuBois said. “It’s not our general policy to have a blanket appeal, which is sometimes how it’s painted. There are very specific issues with specific numbers. It’s not making a blanket appeal for every potential.”

He said it’s looking at Palo Alto situation and how they assigned numbers and where it makes sense.”

Palo Alto’s appeal states, however, “We need the science.” The city is asking whether there are any legal restrictions on where they are allowed to reside, according to the appeal, and whether Stevenson House is operating the safe parking program in a way that is safe for the community and vehicle dwellers themselves.

The appeal also suggests that requiring program participants to provide information for a background check allows them to demonstrate that they are serious about ultimately finding permanent housing.

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

Uproar

Vehicle dwellers (continued from page 5)

with Move Mountain View, a nonprofit that operates safe lots in Mountain View and on Geng Road in Palo Alto. In March, the church filed its formal application with the city.

Things looked promising when the city approved the project on May 12. But within weeks, the program faced a new obstacle: opposition from Stevenson House, a residential facility for low-income seniors next door to the church.

The residents, she noted, aren’t worried about whether the person has a record of misdeeds or property crimes. They are primarily interested in knowing whether the participant is a violent felon or a sex offender, she said.

“What is worrying is that participants can self-report that they are in a violent episode or that they are suffering from mental illness, placing an added risk when it comes to safety,” Mah said.

Another reservation, she said, is the prohibition on participants being allowed to be in Stevenson House’s parking lot. The community at 3373 Middlefield Road for example, screens out people with history of violent or sexual offenses, which county officials argue conflict with the city’s “housing first” policy, which calls for sheltering the unhoused to housing. A report from the Department of Planning and Development Services states that requiring background checks would “discourage homeless individuals from participating in the program and obtaining permanent housing.”

Stevenson House’s appeal points to safe parking programs in various other jurisdictions, where certain participants are required to undergo background checks.

The church, he notes, has been operating homeless shelters for nearly 100 years and has devices to ensure that participants are safe.

Kan noted that the Move Mountain View has already taken numerous security measures to ensure safety, including installing security cameras, having someone patrol all safe parking sites and creating a phone hotline for anyone with safety concerns.

The city approved an application from Highway Community at 3373 Middlefield Road for its parking program in March, and it is now reviewing an application from Peninsula Bible Church at 3505 Middlefield Road.

If the council rejects the appeal, Unitarian Universalist Church would become the second local religious group to appeal a safe parking site. The city approved an application from Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, a housing complex for low-income seniors.

“Your philosophy is: If you’re legally allowed to be in our lot, we think we should be able to serve you.”

— Christopher Kan, chair, safe parking program, Unitarian Universalist Church

“We will not support or allow any project that is required by landlords and employers or as participants work to transition to more permanent housing.”

If the council rejects the appeal, Unitarian Universalist Church would become the second local religious group to appeal a safe parking program site. The city approved an application from Highway Community at 3373 Middlefield Road for its safe parking program in March, and it is now reviewing an application from Peninsula Bible Church at 3505 Middlefield Road.

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

**Upfront**

**Our philosophy is:** If you’re legally allowed to be in our lot, we think we should be able to serve you.

— Christopher Kan, chair, safe parking program, Unitarian Universalist Church

“This is especially true since homeless folks, who are often required by landlords and employers as participants work to transition to more permanent housing,” Kan said.

If the council rejects the appeal, Unitarian Universalist Church would become the second local religious group to appeal a safe parking site. The city approved an application from Highway Community at 3373 Middlefield Road for its safe parking program in March, and it is now reviewing an application from Peninsula Bible Church at 3505 Middlefield Road.

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

**Our philosophy is:** If you’re legally allowed to be in our lot, we think we should be able to serve you.”

— Christopher Kan, chair, safe parking program, Unitarian Universalist Church

ABAG is scheduled to hold public hearings on all of the appeals in August and make its determinations later in the fall. The agency’s Executive Committee is scheduled to adopt the Final Housing Element Law in November or December. ABAG underscores on its website that it is required by Housing Element Law to allocate all of the 441,176 units assigned to the Bay Area by the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

Housing Element of a jurisdiction’s draft RHNA allocation is success- ful, ABAG must redistribute the units to other local governments in and out of the area, the agency states on its website.

A proposal to allow up to four vehicle dwellers to park overnight at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto is facing an appeal from Stevenson House, a housing complex for low-income seniors.

**Our philosophy is:** If you’re legally allowed to be in our lot, we think we should be able to serve you.”

— Christopher Kan, chair, safe parking program, Unitarian Universalist Church

“We will not support or allow any project that is required by landlords and employers or as participants work to transition to more permanent housing.”

If the council rejects the appeal, Unitarian Universalist Church would become the second local religious group to appeal a safe parking program site. The city approved an application from Highway Community at 3373 Middlefield Road for its safe parking program in March, and it is now reviewing an application from Peninsula Bible Church at 3505 Middlefield Road.

Email Staff Writer Gennyday Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.
Built in 2018, this beautiful home presents two levels of absolute luxury with the perfect blend of traditional and contemporary style. Surrounding it all are wonderful outdoor venues that begin with a two-way fireplace shared with the living room, plus a covered patio, a large putting green, an arbor-covered barbecue terrace, and a spacious open travertine terrace. The drought-friendly grounds are just perfect for today’s requirements. Inside, the home is also suited for today with its open, flexible living space, fabulous kitchen, plus main-level bedroom perfect for a home office. Upstairs, there are three additional bedrooms including a luxe primary suite with windows, sound speakers are found inside and out, and the attached garage is wired for EV charging. Enhancing the home’s appeal is a fabulous location less than one-half mile to The Market and Starbucks, just over two miles to downtown Palo Alto, and just blocks to a major biking/walking trail that connects to the Bay Trail, Facebook, and Google.

2335 Santa Ana Street
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Offered at $4,088,000
4 BD | 3 BA | 2,450± SF Living | 6,576± SF Lot

John Forsyth James
650.218.4337
John@JohnForsythJames.com
JohnForsythJames.com
DRE 01138400
Alma Margarita Wanzer (nee Power)

Loving daughter of Guillermina Power (nee Damian) of Monterey Co., and Michael George Power of Round Rock, TX., was born in Santa Clara, CA. on January 21st, 1973 and died in Salinas CA. on July 21st, 2021. Alma grew up in Palo Alto where she enjoyed playing softball, bowling and swimming. She was athletic and often walked long distances. Both brothers were very good singers. It was a bilingual family, and there were many trips to Mexico City.

She is a graduate of the prestigious Palo Alto H.S., where she excelled in foreign languages. She joined the U.S. Navy, with an interest in marine biology, and served proudly in Illinois, Virginia and aboard ships in the Mediterranean and across the Atlantic.

Alma “came of age” at her Quinceañera Mass near the start of 1988. She is survived by her parents and children Acacia Leigh University, died on July 26.

in Psychology at Stanford in 2022. David Starr Jordan Professor 90, a health care activist and Palo Alto resident, died on Feb. 3. Alma Margarita Wanzer, 48, a longtime Palo Alto resident, died on July 21. Walter Petersen, 89, a former Palo Alto resident, died on July 24.

A list of local residents who died recently:

Joy Dana Kaiser, 90, a health care activist and Palo Alto resident, died on Feb. 3. Alma Margarita Wanzer, 48, a longtime Palo Alto resident, died on July 21. Walter Petersen, 89, a former Palo Alto resident, died on July 24.

Alma Margarita Wanzer, 48, a longtime Palo Alto resident, died on July 21. Walter Petersen, 89, a former Palo Alto resident, died on July 24. Albert Bandura, 95, a prolific psychologist and David Starr Jordan Professor Emeritus of Social Science in Psychology at Stanford University, died on July 26.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memorials at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.
MAGNIFICENT LINDENWOOD ESTATE ON NEARLY AN ACRE

Private, gated grounds of nearly an acre envelop this majestic Lindenwood estate overflowing with impeccable details and opulent comforts. Evoking the feel of a five-star Tuscan resort, this grandiose residence enjoys several high-end appointments that wrap you in luxury from the moment you step inside, with elegant, grand-scale spaces offering ideal venues for either entertaining or extraordinary everyday living. Nearly 14,700 square feet of space includes a gourmet kitchen, a theater with 8 luxury recliner seats, and a fitness center with an adjacent recovery room featuring a sunken spa and sauna, plus a 2,000+ bottle wine cellar, pool house, and an oversized 6-car garage perfect for auto enthusiasts. Sanctuary awaits in the 8 extravagant bedrooms highlighted by the primary suite with a custom-built, Roman-style tub/shower as well as two massive walk-in closets. Plus, nearly all of the bedrooms offer a full en suite bathroom, and one bedroom easily converts into stylish office space. Incredible grounds offer seemingly endless options for outdoor enjoyment with a vast lawn, a saltwater pool with separate spa, a vineyard terrace, and an outdoor kitchen. And this incredible location is just moments to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, and top private institutions including Sacred Heart and Menlo School.

www.96HeatherDR.com
Offered at $13,488,000

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Atherton
Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Atherton, 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
Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
A brick-lined pathway leads to the front door of this bright and spacious 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom home set on nearly ¼ acre on a peaceful non-through street in Central Menlo. The traditional floorplan offers 2,000 square feet of living space and includes refinished hardwood floors, the expansive living room with a centerpiece fireplace, the family room with backyard access, and the dining room that adjoins the kitchen for easy entertaining. The primary suite includes a private outdoor entrance, while the home’s additional bedrooms provide comfort and convenience for friends and family alike. The sizable backyard offers excellent space to relax and unwind with a large patio, colorful plantings, and a newly planted lawn. And for added convenience, this home includes a 2-car garage, plus a large paver driveway for ample parking. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, this great location is also convenient to downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, and Caltrain, and is served by top-ranked Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

www.1120MayBrown.com

Offered at $3,288,000

Listed by Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Menlo Park, 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: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 我們精通國語和粵語
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
431 LAUREL AVENUE
MENLO PARK

MODERN, SUSTAINABLE LUXURY IN MENLO PARK

The pinnacle of sustainable California living awaits in this contemporary masterpiece designed by renowned local architect Ana Williamson. Set on a corner lot of a peaceful tree-lined street, this home offers striking curb appeal with bold exterior colors and a linear fence encircling a drought-tolerant garden. Inside, beautiful engineered white oak floors extend throughout expansive gathering areas, 12-foot ceilings create a wonderful sense of openness, and windows are placed strategically to maximize daylight and reduce electric output. The living room is highlighted by a spectacular wall of 10’ glass doors that open completely to the backyard deck for true indoor/outdoor living, while the nearby casual dining area flows seamlessly into the kitchen with rift sawn white oak cabinetry and honed black Basalt countertops. With 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, and nearly 2,300 square feet of living space, including the detached studio ADU with a full bathroom, you will find plenty of comfortable accommodations for family and friends alike. And for outdoor enjoyment, the backyard offers private space with a lawn, patio, built-in grill, and fire pit. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, and Stanford University, this home is also served by top-ranked schools Laurel Elementary and Hillview Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
www.431LaurelAve.com
Offered at $3,498,000

Listed by Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Menlo Park, 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: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.669.8088 我們精通國語和粵語
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonnrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Exhibiting a mid-century sleek modern design with striking clean lines, open flowing floor plan and effortless minimalist style that begins at the Zen-like front courtyard. It is ideally tucked away inside a tree-lined cul-de-sac in the prestigious Crescent Park neighborhood of Palo Alto.

- Lot: about 11,190 sf (per Realist)
- House: about 3,550 sf (per Realist)
- Garage: about 330 sf (per Realist)
- 4 bedrooms
- 4 bathrooms
- 2 suites (1 on each floor)
- dining room
- office
- family room
- 2 kitchens (1 by family room)
- laundry room
- Duveneck Elementary, Greene Middle, Palo Alto High (9-12)

www.80Kent.com
Asking Price: $4,798,000

80 Kent Place, Palo Alto

Open House: Sat & Sun 1:30 - 4:30 pm
Untold stories of the resilience of low-income students

By Randi Shafton and Amika Guillame

Since March 2020, we have worried about the health, grief, finances and social isolation of low-income students and families. There has been heartbreaking loss, financial strain and unemployment, and a clear, disproportionate impact on low-income communities. East Palo Alto has seen four times more COVID-19 cases than Menlo Park and seven times more than Atherton.

And yet, there also have been incredible stories of joy, strength and celebration from these hard-hit communities.

Against all odds, low-income students and families have continued to prevail. East Palo Alto Academy High School saw their college persistence rate improve from 26% to 80%. At Peninsula Bridge, 100% of 12th grade students are matriculating to college

Bridge, 100% of 12th grade students are matriculating to college this fall, with 95% being the first in their family to do so.

It is resilience — rather than heartbreak — that we want to illumninate and celebrate. As author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie reminds us, there is danger in the single story. While we acknowledge the tragedy the last year brought, it is imperative to also shed light on the incredible complexity and triumph of low-income students during this pandemic.

Like many students this past year, Daniel began his first year at UC Riverside at home, struggling to find a proper learning environment where he could focus on his physics classes. Countless low-income students have found themselves taking classes from their families’ studio apartment, with no quiet space to work. After finding an old tent in storage, Daniel began to use it as his own “backyard dorm.” With a space to call his own, Daniel is now at the top of his class, attending office hours religiously and on track to join the physics department’s honors program.

Max, a high school senior, had to work double-duty after his family lost their home last year; he attended school full time and picked up shifts at the family restaurant to help keep it afloat. Determined to not lose the restaurant as well, he raised enough money to build outdoor dining, allowing the restaurant to continue serving customers. Through the many lockdowns and changes in regulations, the business survived. Max is now a freshman at UC Berkeley, and the family is “thriving — because we are still together, strong and healthy.”

Jessica was just a sophomore in high school when she was forced to step up as the head of her household last year. After the death of a family member to COVID-19, Jessica was left to pick up the pieces, planning the funeral and figuring out finances. At the age of 15, she had to find $2,700 for funeral services. What do you do if that money is your rent money? With the help of East Palo Alto Academy’s social services team, Jessica was able to successfully fundraise, negotiate with the mortuary, and ultimately found a way to honor her family member.

These stories are not exceptions. There are countless more examples of the hardships our students and their families faced and the innumerable institutional barriers that we must continue to dismantle. It is not OK that a 15-year-old is responsible for planning a funeral. And it is certainly not okay that BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) continue to bear the brunt of this pandemic.

And yet, each story also continues to prove that the impact of COVID-19 on poor communities is complex and nuanced. We must celebrate the triumphs. We must recognize the strength and resilience that has emerged from this painful year.

Psychological resilience is defined as the process of adapting in the face of challenges, crises and threats. Dr. Ryan Matlow, a child clinical psychologist and director of community programs for Stanford’s Early Life Stress and Resilience Program, found that having a mission, objective and valued activity in times of crisis is a protective factor and indicator of adaptive adjustment. It is this psychological resilience that allows our students to persevere and achieve despite adversity.

For this reason, programs like Peninsula Bridge and East Palo Alto Academy emphasize perseverance. Strength already exists inside of our students — they just need our support as they access it. Peninsula Bridge teachers risk-taking, agency and self-advocacy from fourth grade through college. Our Middle School Academy uses literature and a focus on global education to demonstrate that children around the world navigate adversity and challenges — and that we can collectively identify personal and community resources to overcome those challenges. Through education and discussion, students can examine human qualities like courage, bravery and resilience, and discuss key strategies to overcome adversity.

East Palo Alto Academy helps to shed light on our first-generation, BIPOC students’ incredible wealth of experiences and inner strength. Students learn the “The Bulldog Way” beginning the summer before fourth grade, which comprises five attributes of success: love, attitude, mindset, power and grit. Students harness their grit forged by life experiences and are able to use this to develop an increased sense of belonging and persevere in challenging circumstances.

We firmly believe that it is this tenacity and resilience that will give our students the power, access and opportunity to dismantle the immeasurable and unacceptable barriers that lay ahead.

Young people who have not yet faced adversity can develop perseverance through experiencing challenges and developing delayed gratification. There are countless avenues to help understand the joys of working hard and earning success, including playing sports, learning a musical instrument and participating in community service. Yet, it is still crucial that our community continue to ask questions about inclusivity, communal responsibility and sense of belonging in the hopes of building a more just, equitable and caring community. When we listen to and support diverse perspectives, we all flourish.

Randi Shafton is the executive director of Peninsula Bridge and can be reached at randi@peninsulabrige.org. Amika Guillame is the principal of East Palo Alto Academy and can be reached at aguillaume@eq.org.
561 RUBY STREET
REDWOOD CITY

Elegance abounds in this spacious home that offers a graceful floorplan along with 4,300 square feet of luxurious living space. A grand formal entry with a soaring ceiling and glittering chandelier sets the stage for this home’s stylish ambiance, as hardwood floors extend throughout gathering areas beginning with the living room centered by a marble fireplace, and continuing into the dining room that opens to the eat-in kitchen. Offering an incredible 6 bedrooms and 7 bathrooms, this home provides an abundance of space for family and friends alike, highlighted by 3 bedroom suites including the primary suite with a spa-like marble bathroom and private balcony. For added convenience, this home includes an office with excellent work-from-home space, while the detached 3-car garage provides a flexible-use room that can be used as a gym or yoga studio. And for outdoor enjoyment, the backyard offers great space with a lush lawn, patio, greenhouse, and privacy hedges surrounding the perimeter. Just moments to the parks, fields, and services of the Red Morton Community Center, this home is also convenient to downtown Redwood City, Caltrain, and major commute routes.

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
www.561Ruby.com
Offered at $2,988,000

Listed by Audrey Sun and Francis Lopez of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in San Mateo County

For more information contact us at: 650.684.0887
Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 | audrey@deleonrealty.com | Francis Lopez, DRE #02119541 | francis@deleonrealty.com
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
STYLISHLY UPDATED IN NORTH LOS ALTOS

On a nearly ¼-acre lot in sought-after North Los Altos rests this updated home that boasts an ideal floorplan for a modern Silicon Valley lifestyle. Elegant stone-tile floors extend throughout expansive gathering areas including the living room with a fireplace, and the kitchen with new granite countertops plus appliances from Viking and Bosch, while new white oak floors grace the expansive family room. Offering 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and over 2,550 square feet of light-filled living space, this home also provides true California indoor/outdoor living with numerous rooms opening to the spectacular entertainer’s backyard with a large patio, built-in grill, and an automatic fireplace. Plus, this home enjoys plentiful updates that include new appliances, new carpeting, a new tankless water heater, and new custom shutters, plus a fully built-out garage with heating and AC, and eco-friendly, drought-resistant landscaping. Topping it all off is a location moments to downtown Los Altos, top tech companies, and acclaimed Los Altos schools.

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
www.505Casita.com
Offered at $3,988,000

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Santa Clara County

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, in Santa Clara County 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

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.980.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 | 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Our patients reflect the diverse fabric of the Golden State. Their needs and life stories are one-of-a-kind, but they seek the same experience: Exceptional heart and vascular care from an exceptional team of medical experts.

OUR SPECIALTIES:
Preventative & Non-Invasive Cardiology | Interventional Cardiology | Structural Heart
Vascular & Endovascular Intervention | Vein Care & Treatment | Cardiac Rhythm Management

gshav.com
650-695-0955
2490 Hospital Drive
Suite 106
Mountain View 94040

Golden State
HEART & VASCULAR

Dr. James Joye
Dr. Ajanta De
As delta variant spreads, how safe are nursing homes?

New protocols, vaccines have local leaders optimistic

By Chris Kenrick

The early months of the pandemic highlighted long-standing flaws in the nation’s fragmented system of care for frail seniors. Before vaccinations became available last December, nursing home residents accounted for up to 40% of COVID-19 deaths. And while coronavirus-related deaths among seniors have plummeted since that time, the pandemic is not over as nursing home residents continue to be hit hard by the virus.

With no uniform response in place for care centers at the start of the crisis, Cedar Crest developed its own protocols and created its own walled-off COVID-19 unit. It was later asked to run a COVID-19 unit for other facilities in Santa Clara County that could not manage it on their own, Murray said. No COVID-19 cases have originated in her facility since the March 2020 outbreak, she said.

Brad Heap, administrator of Atherton Park Post-Acute in Menlo Park, which experienced COVID-19 cases early in the pandemic, is also hopeful. “Obviously the pandemic has been pretty tough on this whole industry, but now I’m feeling optimistic,” Heap said. The crisis led to better communication procedures with residents’ families, he said.

Though his facility has not had a COVID-19 case for months, Heap said he and other nursing home administrators are required under state law to file daily reports to health agencies, including on weekends, or face fines. In addition to increased reporting requirements, facilities also must have a full-time staff member dedicated to infection prevention and control.

Other precautions that facilities have adopted include the use of surgical masks for anyone entering the building, limited visiting hours and proof of vaccination for family members who wish to take off their masks inside a loved one’s room. The precautions are constantly evolving, Heap and Murray said.

At the end of July, California Gov. Gavin Newsom introduced a new law that requires all health care workers, along with state employees, to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing and wear masks by Aug. 23. The regulation comes amid a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant.

Statewide, 76.3% of health care workers were fully vaccinated as of June 20, according to a recent AARP analysis of government data. Vaccination rates nationwide among nursing home workers, however, continued to lag, with only 1 in 5 facilities hitting an industry target of getting 75% of their health care staff fully vaccinated.

Locally, rates vary among facilities from 60% to 100% fully vaccinated. The Sequoias and Villa Siena in Mountain View are among local facilities that had the highest employee vaccination rate at 100% as of July 18, according to data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Palo Alto Sub-Acute and Rehabilitation Center and Grant-Cuesta Sub-Acute and Rehabilitation Center in Mountain View had the lowest rates at 60% and 79.77%, respectively.

Murray, who last year took over management of Cedar Crest from her mother, Tracie Murray, said 100% of the facility’s long-term residents and almost 100% of the staff are now vaccinated.

“There are people — for (continued on page 22)
Delta variant
(continued from page 21)
example, if they’re pregnant — who don’t want to get vac-
cinated. We have one employee who refused on a religious ba-
sis,” she said. “Fortunately they are not someone who interacts with our residents. In Califor-
nia, you can’t require (vaccines) or discriminate based on it. All you can do is try to address the conditions that lead employees to say no.”

The March 2020 outbreak at Cedar Crest came after an as-
ymptomatic but infected nursing assistant reported to work. Cases went from zero to 38 residents in 12 days, peaking at 44, Mur-
ray said.

The outbreak hit early in the pandemic — even before the Santa Clara County mask mandate — when precautions were not well understood, Tracie Mur-
ray said in an interview last year with the insurance risk-manage-
ment firm HealthCap One.

A single person was tasked with communicatng with fami-
lies so clinical staff could focus on patient care. A simple binder system was established to quick-
ly record and track any and all coronavirus-related events, in-
cluding test results, communica-
tion and guidance.

Seven weeks after the first re-
ported coronavirus case at the center, Cedar Crest was declared coronavirus free.

“We were asked to run a CO-
VID-19 unit for other facilities in the county that had outbreaks but could not manage their own COVID unit,” Murray said.

Though still under significant COVID-19 precautions, Mur-
ray said things have “relaxed a lot from where we were at the height of the pandemic when we couldn’t have visitors and residents couldn’t be in the hallways.”

The California Department of Public Health issued new guidance in March allowing vaccinated nursing home and long-term care residents to receive indoor and in-room visitors following a yearlong lockdown.

“From a residents’ perspective we’ve definitely gone a long way to have activities and communal dining,” she said. “Most facili-
ties are even letting residents go out on a pass if their loved ones want to take them to dinner or something.”

The lockdown took a particu-
lar toll on long-term residents who were not even permitted to leave their rooms to go into the hallway or visit with a neighbor, she said. To try to keep them “oriented to reality and to time passing,” Murray said she solic-
ited photos from families and brought them to the residents’ rooms along with balloons or flowers.

And while COVID-19 cases in long-term care facilities are at historic lows since the start of the pandemic, many providers are struggling to recover from the economic crisis the pandem-
ic has induced.

According to a national survey released in June by the Ameri-
Can Health Care Association, a Washington, D.C., advocacy group for thousands of for-profit and nonprofit facilities, only a quarter of nursing homes said they’re confident they’ll make it through to next year.

More than half said they’re operating at a loss due to fewer residents as well as extra expens-
es, including additional staff pay because of COVID-19.

Murray and Heap said their nursing homes will survive. Both said they are now especially fo-
cused on helping their staff feel supported after the crisis.

“I know our ability to care for patients is good,” Heap said. “Our motto is to uplift, nurture and heal, and we believe if we do that first, success in other ways will follow.”

Email Contributing Writer
Chris Kcnicki at chenrick@ pawweekly.com.
Hiking Group ... The Avenidas Hikers meet every Thursday for a moderate hike followed by lunch. Participants should be comfortable with hikes ranging from 3 to 8 miles on uneven surfaces with elevation gains between 300 and 1,000 feet. August itineraries include El Corte De Madera Creek Preserve, Pescadero Marsh and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. For more information, go to avenidas.org (search for “hikes” under “Classes and Activities”).

New to Medicare? ... Certified volunteers with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program will present a free introduction for Santa Clara County residents entering the world of Medicare. The Zoom presentation, scheduled for Monday, Aug. 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., will cover Medicare Part A, Part B, Medicare/Supplemental Insurance, Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans. Volunteers with the counseling program are not affiliated with any insurance companies and do not sell or endorse any particular plan. Pre-registration is required. To register for a Zoom link, email register@avenidas.org.

Alzheimer’s, Dementia Update ... The Community Conversation series at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center will sponsor a free, virtual talk on research and advances in treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia from 1 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Claire Day, chief program officer for the Alzheimer’s Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, will discuss the landscape of Alzheimer’s and dementia science, clinical trials, lifestyle interventions, controversies surrounding the recently approved drug aducanumab and more. To register for a Zoom link, contact Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

Rainbow Collective ... The Avenidas Rainbow Collective will sponsor many activities for LGBTQ seniors and their friends in August. Events include a skin care presentation from a dermatologist, a lesbian social group, a gay men’s walking group, a session on brain health and music, a song appreciation group and more. For information, email LGBTQ@avenidas.org or go to avenidas.org and search “events.”

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Senior Focus

Hiking Group ... The Avenidas Hikers meet every Thursday for a moderate hike followed by lunch. Participants should be comfortable with hikes ranging from 3 to 8 miles on uneven surfaces with elevation gains between 300 and 1,000 feet. August itineraries include El Corte De Madera Creek Preserve, Pescadero Marsh and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. For more information, go to avenidas.org (search for “hikes” under “Classes and Activities”).

New to Medicare? ... Certified volunteers with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program will present a free introduction for Santa Clara County residents entering the world of Medicare. The Zoom presentation, scheduled for Monday, Aug. 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., will cover Medicare Part A, Part B, Medicare/Supplemental Insurance, Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans. Volunteers with the counseling program are not affiliated with any insurance companies and do not sell or endorse any particular plan. Pre-registration is required. To register for a Zoom link, email register@avenidas.org.

Alzheimer’s, Dementia Update ... The Community Conversation series at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center will sponsor a free, virtual talk on research and advances in treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia from 1 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Claire Day, chief program officer for the Alzheimer’s Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, will discuss the landscape of Alzheimer’s and dementia science, clinical trials, lifestyle interventions, controversies surrounding the recently approved drug aducanumab and more. To register for a Zoom link, contact Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

Rainbow Collective ... The Avenidas Rainbow Collective will sponsor many activities for LGBTQ seniors and their friends in August. Events include a skin care presentation from a dermatologist, a lesbian social group, a gay men’s walking group, a session on brain health and music, a song appreciation group and more. For information, email LGBTQ@avenidas.org or go to avenidas.org and search “events.”

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Senior Focus

Hiking Group ... The Avenidas Hikers meet every Thursday for a moderate hike followed by lunch. Participants should be comfortable with hikes ranging from 3 to 8 miles on uneven surfaces with elevation gains between 300 and 1,000 feet. August itineraries include El Corte De Madera Creek Preserve, Pescadero Marsh and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. For more information, go to avenidas.org (search for “hikes” under “Classes and Activities”).

New to Medicare? ... Certified volunteers with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program will present a free introduction for Santa Clara County residents entering the world of Medicare. The Zoom presentation, scheduled for Monday, Aug. 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., will cover Medicare Part A, Part B, Medicare/Supplemental Insurance, Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans. Volunteers with the counseling program are not affiliated with any insurance companies and do not sell or endorse any particular plan. Pre-registration is required. To register for a Zoom link, email register@avenidas.org.

Alzheimer’s, Dementia Update ... The Community Conversation series at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center will sponsor a free, virtual talk on research and advances in treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia from 1 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Claire Day, chief program officer for the Alzheimer’s Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, will discuss the landscape of Alzheimer’s and dementia science, clinical trials, lifestyle interventions, controversies surrounding the recently approved drug aducanumab and more. To register for a Zoom link, contact Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

Rainbow Collective ... The Avenidas Rainbow Collective will sponsor many activities for LGBTQ seniors and their friends in August. Events include a skin care presentation from a dermatologist, a lesbian social group, a gay men’s walking group, a session on brain health and music, a song appreciation group and more. For information, email LGBTQ@avenidas.org or go to avenidas.org and search “events.”

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Senior Focus

Hiking Group ... The Avenidas Hikers meet every Thursday for a moderate hike followed by lunch. Participants should be comfortable with hikes ranging from 3 to 8 miles on uneven surfaces with elevation gains between 300 and 1,000 feet. August itineraries include El Corte De Madera Creek Preserve, Pescadero Marsh and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. For more information, go to avenidas.org (search for “hikes” under “Classes and Activities”).

New to Medicare? ... Certified volunteers with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program will present a free introduction for Santa Clara County residents entering the world of Medicare. The Zoom presentation, scheduled for Monday, Aug. 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., will cover Medicare Part A, Part B, Medicare/Supplemental Insurance, Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans. Volunteers with the counseling program are not affiliated with any insurance companies and do not sell or endorse any particular plan. Pre-registration is required. To register for a Zoom link, email register@avenidas.org.

Alzheimer’s, Dementia Update ... The Community Conversation series at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center will sponsor a free, virtual talk on research and advances in treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia from 1 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Claire Day, chief program officer for the Alzheimer’s Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, will discuss the landscape of Alzheimer’s and dementia science, clinical trials, lifestyle interventions, controversies surrounding the recently approved drug aducanumab and more. To register for a Zoom link, contact Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

Rainbow Collective ... The Avenidas Rainbow Collective will sponsor many activities for LGBTQ seniors and their friends in August. Events include a skin care presentation from a dermatologist, a lesbian social group, a gay men’s walking group, a session on brain health and music, a song appreciation group and more. For information, email LGBTQ@avenidas.org or go to avenidas.org and search “events.”

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Senior Focus

Hiking Group ... The Avenidas Hikers meet every Thursday for a moderate hike followed by lunch. Participants should be comfortable with hikes ranging from 3 to 8 miles on uneven surfaces with elevation gains between 300 and 1,000 feet. August itineraries include El Corte De Madera Creek Preserve, Pescadero Marsh and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. For more information, go to avenidas.org (search for “hikes” under “Classes and Activities”).

New to Medicare? ... Certified volunteers with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program will present a free introduction for Santa Clara County residents entering the world of Medicare. The Zoom presentation, scheduled for Monday, Aug. 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., will cover Medicare Part A, Part B, Medicare/Supplemental Insurance, Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans. Volunteers with the counseling program are not affiliated with any insurance companies and do not sell or endorse any particular plan. Pre-registration is required. To register for a Zoom link, email register@avenidas.org.

Alzheimer’s, Dementia Update ... The Community Conversation series at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center will sponsor a free, virtual talk on research and advances in treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia from 1 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Claire Day, chief program officer for the Alzheimer’s Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, will discuss the landscape of Alzheimer’s and dementia science, clinical trials, lifestyle interventions, controversies surrounding the recently approved drug aducanumab and more. To register for a Zoom link, contact Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

Rainbow Collective ... The Avenidas Rainbow Collective will sponsor many activities for LGBTQ seniors and their friends in August. Events include a skin care presentation from a dermatologist, a lesbian social group, a gay men’s walking group, a session on brain health and music, a song appreciation group and more. For information, email LGBTQ@avenidas.org or go to avenidas.org and search “events.”

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.

Senior Focus

Hiking Group ... The Avenidas Hikers meet every Thursday for a moderate hike followed by lunch. Participants should be comfortable with hikes ranging from 3 to 8 miles on uneven surfaces with elevation gains between 300 and 1,000 feet. August itineraries include El Corte De Madera Creek Preserve, Pescadero Marsh and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. For more information, go to avenidas.org (search for “hikes” under “Classes and Activities”).

New to Medicare? ... Certified volunteers with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program will present a free introduction for Santa Clara County residents entering the world of Medicare. The Zoom presentation, scheduled for Monday, Aug. 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., will cover Medicare Part A, Part B, Medicare/Supplemental Insurance, Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans. Volunteers with the counseling program are not affiliated with any insurance companies and do not sell or endorse any particular plan. Pre-registration is required. To register for a Zoom link, email register@avenidas.org.

Alzheimer’s, Dementia Update ... The Community Conversation series at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center will sponsor a free, virtual talk on research and advances in treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia from 1 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Claire Day, chief program officer for the Alzheimer’s Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, will discuss the landscape of Alzheimer’s and dementia science, clinical trials, lifestyle interventions, controversies surrounding the recently approved drug aducanumab and more. To register for a Zoom link, contact Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org.

Rainbow Collective ... The Avenidas Rainbow Collective will sponsor many activities for LGBTQ seniors and their friends in August. Events include a skin care presentation from a dermatologist, a lesbian social group, a gay men’s walking group, a session on brain health and music, a song appreciation group and more. For information, email LGBTQ@avenidas.org or go to avenidas.org and search “events.”

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@paweekly.com.
Palo Alto Weekly
37th Annual
Moonlight Run & Walk
Presented by City of Palo Alto
RACE NIGHT
SEPT 17
2021
Half Marathon 10K & 5K

Register at PaloAltoWeeklyMoonlightRun.com

Early Bird Registration
SIGN UP BY AUG 25
AND SAVE $5
USE THE PROMO CODE: "EARLY5"

Register at PaloAltoWeeklyMoonlightRun.com
Our subscribing members say it best...

“"We are so lucky to have the Palo Alto Weekly. You and your staff are such an important part of our community.""

- Shannon M.

Will you join the thousands of others supporting local journalism?

Now’s your moment to step up when we need you the most.

Subscribe now at PaloAltoOnline.com/join

You can also subscribe for one year by mailing a check for $120 ($60 for seniors and students) to us at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto 94306.
Our philosophy prioritizes the best interests of our clients.

We are committed to maximum exposure for every one of our listings and do not undermine their value through self-interested “private” listing strategies.

We advise clients on the benefits of taking listings public to ensure maximum exposure and opportunity.

Our agents strive to counsel our clients against bias so all parties experience transparent and equitable property transactions.

Follow our stride at sereno.com
Making beautiful music together

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra School nurtures small ensembles with collaborative spirit

By Karla Kane

Violinist Claudia Bloom has been hooked on chamber music from a young age. “For me, it’s so exciting to be able to be heard in a group and to express your music in a very intimate setting,” she said. “It’s so much fun. It’s very gratifying, and you learn how to interpret music along with other musicians.”

Her musical family (including a cellist brother and father and twin sister who are pianists) and her teacher, renowned violinist Anne Crowden, fostered in Bloom a lifelong love of playing in small ensembles. Wanting to encourage new generations of chamber musicians, she founded the Palo Alto School of Chamber Music, which has been offering locals the chance to learn, bond and play with peers since 2015.

Bloom grew up in the East Bay, studying and playing music intensively. After earning a bachelor’s degree from Manhattan School of Music and a master’s degree from Yale School of Music, she got her dream job: a spot on Duke University’s music faculty and in its resident string quartet.

In 1992, after some time in Zurich, her husband’s career brought the family to Palo Alto. “I had to start all over again,” she said. But she quickly became part of the local music scene, forming and joining numerous chamber groups, serving as second violinist with Opera San Jose, subbing for the San Francisco Symphony, playing in a klezmer group alongside her husband, and teaching private lessons. Still, “chamber music is really my passion,” Bloom said. Inspiration to develop a school came out of the small groups she was hosting at her home.

“I thought, ‘You know, I would really like to do this and collaborate with my friends who are also private teachers,’” she said. And so, the Palo Alto School of Chamber Music was officially born in 2015, starting out as a summer program, then expanding into year-round coaching sessions for children, teens and adults.

“There’s so much that goes into playing chamber music — teamwork, being responsible, public speaking, we have a theory component now, a little composition — they perform for each other and their parents and friends at the end of the session,” Bloom said. “They come away feeling really good about themselves because they have input, they have a voice.”

At the school, interested students are matched in a group (trio, quartet or quintet) of peers at their level. Each group receives coaching from the faculty and rehearses weekly, forming a tight bond with both their coach and their fellow musicians. An optional orchestral ensemble also rehearses weekly. In addition to Bloom, local musicians Be’eri Moalem, Lucinda Breed Lenichcek, Virginia Smedberg, Gulnur Spurlock, Yueh Chou and Susan Macy make up the faculty.

Moalem, who in addition to coaching small groups also conducts the school’s Allegro Ensemble (and has contributed as a music writer to this news organization), recalled fondly the first time he played a duet in harmony, at age 12. “It felt like my soul was being tickled and I burst out in tearful laughter. It was such an exciting experience and I’ve been chasing that feeling ever since,” he said. “I’m very happy to have an opportunity to teach chamber music, passing on the gift that was once given to me.”

While private lessons and participation in large orchestras are undoubtedly invaluable experiences for musicians, Bloom said chamber music offers a unique opportunity for students to both work as an ensemble and as individuals. Willa Redinzer, 16, is a Gunn High School junior who’s been playing violin for nine years. “I love that in chamber music, everyone works together and roots for each other because we all have our own part to contribute,” she said. “Playing with just a couple other kids my age, we have a lot of freedom to collaborate and have fun coming up with our own ideas for the music.”

Max Chang, 17, another Palo Alto violinist, has been part of the school for three years, joining after taking private lessons and being part of the orchestras at Greene Middle School. “I really liked to play in a small group, where every person had their own unique role, and their part to fill or else the music wouldn’t work. It was a different experience than the orchestra, where as long as most people played their part the rest could do whatever they wanted,” he told this news organization.

San Jose-based cellist Tyler Biesemeyer, 16, agreed. “It feels a lot more personal,” he said. “Everyone has direct communication with each other, and everyone’s opinions are heard and valued equally.”

The school, which was formerly housed at First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto, this September will move to a new home in a new city, on the campus of Yew Chung International School of Silicon Valley (310 Easy St., Mountain View). For the foreseeable future, participants will be masked, and auditions are currently held via video rather than in person.

When the COVID-19 pandemic first struck, the school was forced to cancel planned performances by its 10 chamber groups. “We had to say goodbye right before they performed for the spring session,” Bloom said. The faculty pivoted to online lessons, with some chamber groups continuing to meet in outdoor and distanced rehearsals.

“During the pandemic, my quartet was able to keep playing on my teacher’s front lawn,” Bednarz said. “Being friends and practicing under the trees was always a highlight of my week.” The school also serves a social function, offering a way to meet new people and form friendships. And Bloom and the rest of the faculty strive to offer an empowering experience, free from pressure.

“I have students who are also in youth orchestras. Some of them have a lot of expectations and are high-powered,” Bloom said. “Ours is, I would say, a little different. We are trying not to compete with other programs. The main draw is that we are encouraging, we’re nurturing.”

More information is available at schoolofchambermusic.com.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at k Kane@pawweekly.com.
Your Realtor & You
Selecting a REALTOR® in a Competitive Market

Buying and selling a home are two major financial decisions that most people will ever make. For buyers, a home is the biggest investment in their lifetime. Sellers want to get the best offer for the home in which they have invested much time and money.

"Buying or selling a property at these prices is impactful and life changing, and like other decisions of major importance, would need the assistance of a qualified and trusted professional," says Joanne Fraser, president of the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Fraser reminds consumers that not all real estate agents are REALTORS®. A REALTOR® is a licensed real estate agent who is a member of the National Association of REALTORS®, the world’s largest professional trade association. The “REALTOR®” designation is used by real estate agents and brokers who must adhere to a strict Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics sets REALTORS® apart from other real estate licensees and protects all parties to the real estate transaction, not just a REALTOR®’s client. If a local Association of REALTORS® finds a REALTOR® in violation of the Code of Ethics, disciplinary action can be imposed.

For a REALTOR®, living with the Code of Ethics means being honest and dependable, never putting your interests ahead of your client’s, and speaking the truth to all parties. Additionally, REALTORS® must complete ethics training by taking at least 2.5 hours of instruction once every three years to keep membership in the national REALTOR® association.

When evaluating a potential real estate agent, Fraser advises buyers and sellers to first ask whether the agent is a REALTOR®. Then ask the following questions:

- Does the agent have an active real estate license in good standing? To find this information, you can check with your state’s governing agency.
- Does the agent belong to the Multiple Listing Service? Multiple Listing Services are cooperative information networks of REALTORS® that provide descriptions of most of the houses for sale in a particular region.
- What real estate designations does the agent hold?
- Which party is he or she representing - you or the seller? This discussion is supposed to occur early on, at “first serious contact” with you.
- How will the agent help you accomplish your goals? How will the agent show you homes that meet your requirements and provide you with a list of the properties he or she is showing you?

Consumers may visit the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® website at www.silvar.org for a list of REALTORS® by location.

Information provided in this column is intended to provide a helpful guide and is not meant to replace the advice of professional real estate licensees.

Gloria Young DRE# 01895672
Gloria@YoungPlatinumGroup.com
650.380.9918

John Young DRE# 02036387
John@YoungPlatinumGroup.com
650.862.2122

www.YoungPlatinumGroup.com
Golden Gate
Sotheby’s International Realty

Concert series at Mitchell Park

After a pandemic pause, Palo Alto's Earthwise Productions is back in action, hosting live, local concerts. Free concerts by La Doña (pictured above) and the David James Trio on Aug. 7 and Aug. 14, respectively, originally scheduled at the Palo Alto Art Center, have been moved to the Mitchell Park Bowl at 600 E. Meadow Drive, according to Earthwise Productions’ founder Mark Weiss. The new venue will allow the performances to be held outdoors, as well as for more listeners to attend the Aug. 7 show by San Francisco’s acclaimed La Doña (songwriter, trumpet player and vocalist Cecilia Peña-Govea) and band, which was at capacity for the previous location. Guitarist, composer and singer James’ band will include Beth Custer on clarinet and vocals and Alan Williams on trombone and vocals. San Francisco indie-folk band Velver is also on the Aug. 14 bill. Both shows begin at 7 p.m. Tickets and more information are available at earthwiseproductions.live.

Special event

Vintage Computer Festival West comes to Mountain View

When it comes to technology, is newer always better? At the Vintage Computer Festival West, it’s the early and old tech that’s in the spotlight, with the two-day event celebrating the History of computing through expert speakers, demos and a chance to buy and sell vintage equipment. Speaker highlights include Bill Herb and Margaret Moribito discussing their book “Back into the Storm: A Design Engineer’s Story of Commodore Computers in the 1980s” and Liza Loop discussing the history of computing in education. Planned exhibitions include “Analogue Computing in the 1960s,” “Rare Computers from Japan,” and “but can it run Doom?” among many others. The festival will be held Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Tickets are $30 for a one-day ticket or $50 for both days. Schedule and more information is available at vcfwest.org.

Opportunity: King Artist Residency

Calling all local artists: Aug. 8 is the deadline to apply for the first two rounds of the Palo Alto Public Art Program’s new Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King Artist Residency. Individual artists or teams based in Santa Clara, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Cruz and San Francisco counties are eligible to apply for the opportunity, which will involve engaging the community in conversations on equity and including in Palo Alto and culminating in an artwork to be displayed at King Plaza in front of Palo Alto City Hall for six months to a year. An ideal candidate would be open to meaningful community outreach and partnerships, aware of their own biases, able and willing to recognize and address shared challenges in the Palo Alto community, and able to articulate diverse voices of diverse community members,” according to the application page. The artist or artists will receive $20,000 for the period of the residency (approximately 16-20 hours a week for six months), plus up to $10,000 for funding of community outreach materials. Before the final selection is made, up to four finalists will be granted $1,500 to research and create their proposals. More information is available at cpapublicart.slideroom.com.

Mural art

Murals, a sculpture and more

Bay Area artists Abi Mustapha, Debra Kopman, Jessica Eastburn and Olivia Losee-Unger were selected to design original digital artwork celebrating the California Avenue area of Palo Alto. Temporary vinyl murals of their designs will be on display on the Public Safety Building construction fence at 250 Sherman Ave. and are expected to remain for around one year. The site-specific murals will be installed in August, according to the Palo Alto Public Art Program’s website. Other new public art in Palo Alto includes Charles Sowers’ playful, interactive Sway, installed at the recently rebuilt Junior Museum and Zoo. The sculpture, made up of four 40-foot-tall pendulums, is available during limited times until the museum’s grand reopening, slated for autumn 2021. Artist McGratrn projects continue to roll out throughout Palo Alto, including The Free Little Art Gallery of Palo Alto at 2323 Byron St. Artist Trish Jernisson’s project encourages viewers to take and leave miniature artworks for the community. For those more musically inclined, the Public Piano Project offers a restored, painted piano for passersby to enjoy at Mitchell Park. More information on all Palo Alto public art programs is available at tynurl.com/PAtempart.
Eating Out

Asian Farm Cuisine brings pad thai burritos and more to Redwood City

By Sara Hayden

Chef Sok Hor is cooking up old favorites in new ways at Asian Farm Cuisine in Redwood City. Since opening in the spring, Hor and her family have been refining the menu, figuring out what resonates best with hungry guests at 3176 Middlefield Road.

Owned by Hor’s son Nick Khov, the restaurant has drawn diners from as far as San Jose just for the pad thai burrito. The dish riffs on a favorite pad thai recipe at Asya, another Redwood City restaurant owned by Khov, featuring Japanese and Thai cuisine at 3215 Oak Knoll Drive. The burrito, however, is unique to Asian Farm. Khov’s younger brother, Try, got the idea from social media to bring together the best of both worlds, adding noodles to burritos. He saw potential in a ramen burrito.

“I said, ‘Why not try something new and see where it goes?’” Try Khov said.

This spirit of inventiveness extends to other dishes, too. There’s a shrimp tempura banh mi that takes inspiration from Vietnamese sandwiches and incorporates elements from a sushi roll with special sauce, imitation crab and deep-fried shrimp. There’s also udon served with kimchi and Spam.

“In this day and age, it’s not that you open a store and people will come,” Try Khov said. “Everybody wants an Instagrammable picture and fresh concepts they haven’t done before.”

Originally, the family aimed to offer a fast-casual Chinese food experience at Asian Farm. “Think of a Panda Express — or a Chipotle-style restaurant,” Khov said.

With those restaurants already so firmly established, they found it hard to stand out from the competition, so they looked at how to improve the business model to create better food.

“A lot of the issues we had were logistical: How could we better prep the food and keep it for customers that come later in the day?” Khov said. “Now, we cook the food as people order to maintain freshness and quality, while minimizing food waste.”

Asian Farm offers takeout and delivery. On-site, there are a few tables guests can sit at after ordering from the counter. Those who visit also can pick up freshly baked croissants, muffins and bagels at Brew Coffee — the cafe and bakery owned by Khov’s brother-in-law Ken Huot — which shares the same space as Asian Farm.

Brew Coffee is also collaborating with Yessi’s Cake Creations to serve cupcakes alongside matcha lattes, blended drinks with boba, coffee and other treats.

“In the future, we might scale it up and do cakes. It’s just great in terms of local businesses doing partnerships with each other. I find that really great, especially during these times,” Khov said.

From the family’s Donut Delite in San Mateo to bagels in Oakland, the Khovs have been cooking up different creations throughout the Bay Area for more than 20 years. Khov said they’ll continue to do so, including at Asian Farm and Brew Coffee.

“We’re still experimenting on a few things,” he said. “Our current menu is not going to be our final menu.”

Asian Farm Cuisine, 3176 Middlefield Road, Redwood City; (650) 679-6448.

Email Associate Digital Editor Sara Hayden at peninsulafoodist@paweekly.com.

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at almanacnews.com/express/foodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.
New hotel hearkens back to the future

Robot-staffed restaurants and NASA Ames history featured at Ameswell Hotel

By Kevin Forestieri

Inside the Ameswell Hotel is a fusion of two eras. Modern-day amenities catering to millennials — like heated saltwater pools, games of cornhole and restaurants staffed by robots — are all named after NASA missions like Voyager, Pioneer and Orion.

Next door is a library devoted to aeronautics and space flight, decorated with dirigibles, or NASA. The fast-casual cafe next door is called the “Flyby” and is decorated with dirigibles, and the meeting and event spaces are all named after NASA missions like Voyager, Pioneer and Orion.

There’s also a conscious effort to keep Ameswell from feeling like an exclusive development cut off from the community around it. Though the city spends on unhoused services, the city owns about 7 acres of land under the hotel from Caltrans. While Broadreach purchased the property to generate cash, the county’s 2019 point-of-service Comprehensive Report, the county’s 2019 point-of-service Comprehensive Report, the county’s 2019 point-of-service Comprehensive Report, which detailed a rotating shelter program organized by local churches. The Opportunity Center, told the council that demand for shelter space and mortgage assistance has only increased over the pandemic. Dah noted that the only emergency shelters in Palo Alto are Hotel de Zink and the Heart and Home Collaborative, both of which are rotating shelter programs organized by local churches. The Opportunity Center, said he has a 20-bed shelter that had to reduce its capacity to 10 during the pandemic because of social distancing requirements.

Dah recommended that the city consider a Project Homekey proposal similar to the one in Mountain View. In addition to providing shelters with basic needs — most notably, bathrooms — the Leghorn facility connects clients to health care, supportive services and job placement resources. According to Mountain View’s announcement, clients are anticipated to stay for between 90 and 120 days, while they “get stabilized and begin on the path to more permanent housing.”

“We think that if we move to a more permanent location or something with a longer-term stay, it will address some of the systemic issues that we see in Palo Alto,” Dah said.

If the council goes along with the staff proposal, the city would partner with LifeMoves and potentially the Santa Clara County Housing Authority and submit a grant application once the next round of Project Homekey funding becomes available, which city staff expect will happen in September. The city would then move ahead with making the necessary zoning changes to convert the site and further pin down the program’s costs and potential funding sources. Under the current estimate, operating the program would cost the city between $2.5 million and $4 million.

While the council has yet to discuss the staff proposal for the San Antonio site, DuBois called the Project Homekey proposal “really exciting” in a recent interview.

“Encampments in parking garages aren’t the answer,” DuBois said in an interview, citing the recent trend of unhoused individuals stationing their tents in a public garage on Bryant Street. “I think there is a gap that Homekey provides an answer to.”

Email Staff Writer Eunice Shneyer at eunice@paloaltoonline.com.

By Shannon Corey

The newly opened Ameswell Hotel in Mountain View features robot-staffed restaurants.

The 255-room hotel coming, approved back in 2016 as the shape of Hangar One. “We had mandated construction stoppages, supply chain challenges and a variety of delays causing an approximate one-year opening delay, but here we are!” Maritz said.

Everywhere you go in the hotel, there’s a reference to Moffett Field or NASA. The fast-casual cafe next to the lobby is called the “Flyby” and is decorated with dirigibles, and the meeting and event spaces are all named after NASA missions like Voyager, Pioneer and Orion.

Next door is a library devoted to aeronautics and space flight, decorated with dirigibles, or NASA. The fast-casual cafe next to the lobby is called the “Flyby” and is decorated with dirigibles, and the meeting and event spaces are all named after NASA missions like Voyager, Pioneer and Orion.

The newly opened Ameswell Hotel in Mountain View features robot-staffed restaurants.

During Palo Alto’s study sessions on homelessness, Kathryn Kaminski, deputy director for the county’s Office of Supportive Housing, said that between 2015 and 2019, the county has doubled the number of supportive housing units, temporary housing spaces and its emergency shelter capacity. Despite the progress, the number of homeless people has continued to grow.

“What we’ve seen over the past several years is that for every one person that we house, another two or three become homeless,” Kaminski said.

According to the county’s Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report, the number of people in north Santa Clara County who experienced homelessness went up from 1,102 in 2017 to 1,621 in 2019, a 62% increase.

The county’s 2019 point-of-time count also identified 313 unhusied individuals in Palo Alto, of whom 292 slept in vehicles, tents or on the street. Dah recommended that the city consider a Project Homekey proposal similar to the one in Mountain View. In addition to providing shelters with basic needs — most notably, bathrooms — the Leghorn facility connects clients to health care, supportive services and job placement resources. According to Mountain View’s announcement, clients are anticipated to stay for between 90 and 120 days, while they “get stabilized and begin on the path to more permanent housing.”

“We think that if we move to a more permanent location or something with a longer-term stay, it will address some of the systemic issues that we see in Palo Alto,” Dah said.

If the council goes along with the staff proposal, the city would partner with LifeMoves and potentially the Santa Clara County Housing Authority and submit a grant application once the next round of Project Homekey funding becomes available, which city staff expect will happen in September. The city would then move ahead with making the necessary zoning changes to convert the site and further pin down the program’s costs and potential funding sources. Under the current estimate, operating the program would cost the city between $2.5 million and $4 million.

While the council has yet to discuss the staff proposal for the San Antonio site, DuBois called the Project Homekey proposal “really exciting” in a recent interview.

“Encampments in parking garages aren’t the answer,” DuBois said in an interview, citing the recent trend of unhoused individuals stationing their tents in a public garage on Bryant Street. “I think there is a gap that Homekey provides an answer to.”

Email Staff Writer Eunice Shneyer at eunice@paloaltoonline.com.
biggest frustration lies with what he characterizes as lax protocols from the Palo Alto school district, which make no mention of daily health screeners or methods to track students in case of outbreaks. (Mountain View Whisman and Foothill-DeAnza have screeners.)

“There’s a sense of inevitability here, saying that an outbreak is inevitable,” Noronha said. “It shows up in the different ways people talk — you can start feeling a sense that it’s going to happen.”

With a new school year fast approaching, parents are now forced to quickly decide: Should I send my child back to school or potentially put them through another year of distance learning?

“A lot of people are extremely concerned and feeling pressured, saying that we don’t really have options,” Noronha said.

Mostly vaccinated

Through a California Public Records Act request, the Weekly obtained results of internal surveys conducted at four Santa Clara County school districts that tracked the vaccination status of all employees. The surveys were done in response to a May 18 county health order that required employers to maintain a record of their personnel’s vaccination progress. (The order was rescinded on June 21.)

At Palo Alto Unified, 95% of district employees reported that they were fully vaccinated, as of July 7.

The remaining 5% of respondents are from employees who received a second dose but hadn’t reached the two-week mark at the time of the survey, had only received a first dose, were not vaccinated or declined to answer.

Mountain View Whisman, a district that serves fewer than 5,000 elementary school students, reported a vaccination rate of 91% among faculty and staff, as of July 29.

Out of the 674 employees accounted for in the survey: 612 or 91% reported that they were vaccinated; 29 or 4.3% of respondents said they were unvaccinated; 2 or 3% declined to state their vaccination status; and 32 employees or 4.7% did not respond.

Mountain View Los Altos Union High, which has a student population of more than 4,000, reported that 97.7% of its employees were fully vaccinated.

However, the percentage was based on a response rate of “slightly over” 30% when the data was collected in the first week of July, according to Debbie Maher, executive assistant to the superintendent. The latest data results provided also did not provide figures for the unvaccinated or those who declined to state their status.

At Foothill-De Anza Community College, 9% of staff reported they were vaccinated based on a survey conducted between May 24 and May 26.

The rate is based on 1,239 responses to a survey that was sent to 2,811 people — a 44% response rate — who make up the college districts’ three employee mailing lists, which constantly vary in number, according to Becky Bartendale, coordinator of communications and public affairs.

The district recently approved a vaccination mandate policy for its employees and students, which will take effect this fall, following the footsteps of the University of California and private institutions such as Stanford University.

The policy applies to any one who accesses the campus or receives an in-person service from the district that may be off site, except in cases where a medical or religious exemption is approved.

No choice but to return

Presidents of local district teachers’ unions expressed confidence, and excitement, in coming back to class rather than juggling cohorts of students in person and at home for another year.

Sean Dechter, president of Mountain View Educators Association, which represents teachers of the Mountain View Whisman district, said he felt safe coming back to campus in part thanks to the district’s vaccination rate.

“The district has made safety a number one priority,” he said.

Similarly, Campbell, of the Mountain View-Los Altos district, lauded his district’s efforts to prepare teachers and students for in-person learning. He pointed to precautionary measures such as masks and changes to the classroom, including overhead speakers, which make it easier for teachers to project their voice.

From a personal perspective, Campbell said he would prefer if everyone around him were fully vaccinated. As union president, however, he said he understands there are “exceptions to every rule.”

“We do have, of course, some members who have medical exemptions and others who might not feel comfortable getting the vaccine, but I would say that those are few and far between,” he said.

Teri Baldwin, president of the Palo Alto Educators’ Association, wrote in an email that her district won’t be able to reach a 100% vaccination rate since some teachers “medically cannot receive a vaccine.” Still, she expressed “cautious optimism” that the district will have “some sort of a normal year.”

“We will still be masks and some social distancing while eating, but it will be nice for everyone not to have to teach and learn through Zoom,” she said.

But even with the high vaccination rates at local districts, some believe it’s not enough. On Tuesday, Sen. Josh Becker and East Palo Alto City Council member Antonio Lopez called on local school districts to implement a vaccination mandate for employees.

“Even if 80% or 90% of teachers and staff are vaccinated, what if your kid is interacting with the other 10% to 20%?” Becker said.

“What if we don’t vaccinate them?”

The vaccination rates among staff don’t assuage all parents’ worries about their children’s health. A group of Palo Alto Unified parents of elementary school students have expressed alarm at what it perceives to be a significant rollback in COVID-19 protocols while their children remain ineligible to be vaccinated.

The recent spike in delta variant cases has added another layer of fear and uncertainty. Current studies indicate that the variant is highly transmissible — as much as chickenpox, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — but the extent of its impact remains unknown.

Leo Hochberg, a Palo Alto parent with a rising third grader and fifth grader, said he’s less concerned about transmission from teachers or staff than transmissions between younger unvaccinated students and the district’s plan to try and mitigate the problem.

“Given that we’ve seen a rise with this delta variant … I was just disappointed to see that it seems like the district doesn’t really acknowledge the existence of the delta variant,” he said.

Hochberg has posted his concerns to the Nextdoor app, which resonated with some other parents, including Mark Noronha.

“There’s a lot of parents who talked about the social and emotional impact of not being in school. There’s no parent that
Kelly Ranger, the parent of a first grade student in the Palo Alto school district, echoed his sentiments about the district’s protocols this academic year. Before the delta variant cases, Ranger and her husband were eager to put her son back to school. Now, Ranger feels she has to choose between the risk of sending her child back to school or enroll him in the independent study program that was provided last year.

“I was really surprised that they basically threw out all the protocols that they did last year,” she said.

Noronha also feels the Palo Alto district needs to be more transparent about the vaccination rates of its faculty. Recently, district Superintendent Don Auslin briefly mentioned in a message to families that 97.5% of the district teachers and substitutes were fully vaccinated.

“One part of me was really happy,” Noronha said. “The other part of me was like, 97.5? That’s really high. Where’s this data coming from? How do they know this?”

Last fall, Hochberg said he pulled his children out of the district to temporarily home-school them. In less than a week, he and other district parents will have to decide if they want their children to come back to school or keep them at home. While Austin said more than 95% of district families are opting to come back, Hochberg said he hasn’t made a final decision yet. Noronha is currently thinking about putting his two kids in a private school where protocols are more rigorous.

“I would love nothing more than my kids to be back in school,” Hochberg said. “I just want them to be safe, and I want their friends to be safe.”

**Email Editorial Assistant**

Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com.

---

**2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee**

**REPORT TO THE PUBLIC**

**Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)**

2000 Measure A is a 30-year half-cent sales tax devoted to transit improvements. The measure mandated that an independent citizens watchdog committee review the 2000 Measure A expenditures, commission audits, and issue reports to the public. This report is the 2000 Measure A CWC’s report for FY 2020, the 14th year of the 30-year program.

After careful review, the CWC concludes that for FY 2020, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.

**Summary of FY 2020 Program Expenditures:**

$361.1M

**TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES***

---

**Expenditures were grouped by category. Totals and percentages may not be precise due to independent rounding. Individual project detail is available in the project status section of this report.**

**Data provided by Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and other agencies, debt service, printing, payment, bond interest, etc.**

**Transit Operating Assistance equals 20.75% of sales tax revenue, which equals 12.1% of total expenditures for FY 2020.**

---

For more information, visit vta.org/2000MeasureA.

---

**Mask mandate**

(continued from page 5)

actively eating or drinking; and swimming and showering at the gym. Residents are strongly discouraged from dining indoors and are asked to mask up in crowded outdoor areas.

The mandate was simultaneously rolled out in the counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, Marin, Contra Costa and Sonoma. These public health orders do not have a sunset date, and come just days after the California Department of Public Health recommended universal mask-wearing in public indoor settings statewide.

In Santa Clara County, there is now an average of 202 new cases per day over the last week, the highest rate since late February, according to county data. That’s almost 10 times higher than the low point in June, despite a countywide vaccination rate of 78% among residents age 12 and older. San Mateo County saw a similar large spike to 87 cases per day during the week of July 15.

Sonoma County Health Officer Sundari Mase said the COVID-19 vaccine remains one of the strongest protections against the virus and that the infection rate among the unvaccinated is six times higher than those who are vaccinated — a stark difference, given that unvaccinated residents make up just a small minority of the county population. But she said the vaccine alone is not enough to combat the delta variant, which is a much more widespread and aggressive opponent.

The California Department of Public Health reported that the delta variant accounts for 84.4% of COVID cases this month, a rapid increase from just 53.1% in June and 5.9% in May. In Sonoma, it accounts for 95% of all new cases.

“It’s not the same virus that we were combating last year, or even a few months ago,” Mase said.

Fully vaccinated residents are included in the mask mandate because they, too, can get infected with so-called breakthrough cases, and Los Angeles County health officials reported last week that 20% of all new cases were among those who were vaccinated. Though people who are vaccinated are far less likely to suffer severe illness or end up in the hospital, they may spread the virus in public settings like grocery stores and restaurants.

In a statement following the press conference, Scott Morrow, San Mateo County’s health officer, described the mask mandate as a less disruptive public health requirement that can reduce community transmission while still allowing higher-risk activities to take place.

“As San Mateo County joins its neighbors in issuing these orders, the goal is to avoid disrupting businesses and residents’ everyday activities,” Morrow said.

“We want our communities to stay open while being as safe as possible.”

Like past mask mandates, Han said he recommends people wear a surgical or medical-grade mask and, barring that, a well-fitted cloth mask. Enforcement will largely fall to individual businesses, many of whom made face coverings optional for vaccinated individuals less than two months ago.

Though the new public health orders are even-handed with residents regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, public health officers were emphatical in encouraging people to get vaccinated. Broad nationwide trends show that 97% of people ending up in the hospital with severe symptoms are unvaccinated, and local hospital admissions for people with COVID-19 are surging. In Contra Costa County, the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients doubled in just the past 10 days, and are up 400% in the month of July.

In Sonoma, 100% of the ICU patients with COVID-19 were unvaccinated and could have protected themselves from the virus. “This is really tragic given the widespread availability of vaccines in the area,” Mase said.

“It’s needed now more than ever.”

**Email Staff Writer Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com.”**
Unvaccinated are driving COVID surge

The rate of COVID-19 cases among unvaccinated Santa Clara County residents is nearly four times higher than among those who have been vaccinated, according to a new public dashboard launched by the county’s Public Health Department on Wednesday.

The dashboard, which shows the seven-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases among the overall population, among unvaccinated residents and among fully vaccinated residents. The case rates represent the number of cases on a given day per 100,000 county residents.

With the delta variant spreading in the Bay Area, health leaders in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are heightening the risks people take if they aren’t vaccinated. And those numbers don’t lie.

The fully vaccinated have a case rate of 6.8 per 100,000 residents in Santa Clara County while the case rate soars among the unvaccinated to 25.3 per 100,000 residents, according to the data. Overall, the county average is 12.1, a far cry from the single-digit numbers from mid-June.

“The case rate per 100,000 residents for the unvaccinated has jumped from about three to more than 25 over the past month. The case rate among the vaccinated, while also increasing in recent weeks, is not experiencing as steep a spike,” according to a Santa Clara County press release issued Wednesday.

The dashboard reflects the need to keep public health officials off their feet in recent weeks: The delta variant is fueling a surge in cases, and the unvaccinated are at the highest risk of contracting COVID-19.

In absolute numbers, 1,347,005 Santa Clara County residents are fully vaccinated, and 78,956 are unvaccinated, according to county data. On Wednesday, the county’s seven-day rolling average of new cases was 242 per day.

In San Mateo County, the infection rate among unvaccinated people in July was about five times that of the county.

The county Health Chief Louise Rogers said. East Palo Alto has the highest percentage of its population who have tested positive out of all cities in the county. The county data shows 4,654 residents, or 16%, have tested positive for COVID-19 through July 29.

Person dies in train collision

A person on the Caltrain tracks in Palo Alto died Monday night after being struck by a train, Caltrain officials said.

An alert about the collision involving southbound train No. 192 was issued at 10:22 p.m. by Caltrain. The person who had trespassed on the tracks near Palo Alto Avenue and Alma Street died at the scene, according to the agency.

The incident will be investigated by the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, which has jurisdiction over the tracks, police said.

The Santa Clara County Coroner’s Office identified the individual as 23-year-old Jacob Aaron Meisel of Stanford.

Stanford’s new school focuses on climate

Stanford University will establish a new home for the study of climate and sustainability issues at an environmental sciences school set to open next year. Last week, Stanford president Marc Tessier-Lavigne said in an announcement issued on Aug. 5. “With our faculty aligned in these new divisions, and with cross-cutting themes and an accelerator integrating expertise from the entire university to drive solutions, we will marshal our resources to serve humanity’s top priority, which is to create a future in which all humans and natural systems can thrive together in concert and in perpetuity.”

Taking recommendations made by the faculty Blueprint Advisory Committee, the new school will house several existing academic departments and research institutes, including the university’s School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences; the Stanford Woods Institute for Environment; the Precourt Institute for Energy; the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; and Hopkins Marine Station.

The departments will be grouped into four divisions: division of earth and planetary sciences; division of engineering for sustainability; division of biodiversity; and division of integrated socio-environmental systems.

The academic shape of the school was formed based on faculty input and town hall surveys conducted by a nine-member student advisory committee and input from students.

Students will be accepted into the school in the 2022-23 academic year.

Person dies in train collision

A person on the Caltrain tracks in Palo Alto died Monday night after being struck by a train, Caltrain officials said.

An alert about the collision involving southbound train No. 192 was issued at 10:22 p.m. by Caltrain. The person who had trespassed on the tracks near Palo Alto Avenue and Alma Street died at the scene, according to the agency.

The incident will be investigated by the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, which has jurisdiction over the tracks, police said.

The Santa Clara County Coroner’s Office identified the individual as 23-year-old Jacob Aaron Meisel of Stanford.

Bay City News
Menlo Park

Menlo Park Municipal Water residential customers used 67.2 gallons of water per capita per day in fiscal year 2019-2020, according to BAWSCA, ranking it the seventh largest water user among member agencies. Menlo Park Utilities Department didn’t have specifics regarding how its water is used by residents, as they normally have just one meter measuring water for both indoor and outdoor use, the department stated in an email. The same goes for smaller non-residential customers. Larger non-residential customers normally have separate meters for indoor and outdoor use.

According to the city’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, 41% of water use was residential from 2016-2020. Commercial, industrial and institutional use, large sectors of this water use by indoor and outdoor uses, commercial and institutional use; 3% was for industrial use; and 0.08% for construction. Recycled water amounted to 3.7%, according to the city’s 2020 recently adopted 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.

The city’s largest category of water users is residential, followed by large landscape and commercial or institutional uses. City Water Resources Manager Elizabeth Flegel said. In 2020, 58% was for residential use; 24% for large landscape irrigation; 11% for commercial and institutional use; 3% was for industrial use; and 0.08% for construction. Recycled water amounted to 3.7%, according to the city’s 2020 recently adopted 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.

The city’s historical water demand shows a general downward trend in water use since the mid-1980s, according to its Urban Water Management Plan. In periods of drought, the city had rapid drops in use over time, but typically accounts for 2% to 5% of total citywide water use, Flegel said.

According to BAWSCA, ranking it the seventh in residences. Commercial users consume 18%, while institutional and government uses 1% and industrial uses 1%. 8% of the water is lost through leaks and for unknown reasons. Patrick Heisinger, assistant city manager, said that in part the city’s low water use is due to half of its residences being multifamily units. There’s not big open space watering and you don’t see a lot of big gardens; there’s not big, endless landscapes like in Hillsborough,” he said.

Although the city is planning multiple large-scale commercial projects, those buildings would have all new infrastructure that would save “a ton” of water, he said. The city is also looking at other ways to chip away at water use in its five parks and at school district playing fields. The city is in discussions with the Ravenswood City School District to potentially reassure its playing fields with synthetic turf, he said.

Mountain View

Mountain View residents used 62.4 gallons of water per capita per day, ranking the city the 11th thirstiest, but its usage is below the average per capita residential use among the BAWSCA member agencies, according to the water agency.

The city’s largest category of water users is residential, followed by large landscape and commercial or institutional uses, according to the water agency. Mountain View has more than 200 water meters serving city-owned properties, including parks and landscaping. Use varies over time, but typically accounts for 2% to 5% of total citywide water use, Flegel said.

Although Mountain View has overall seen a steady increase in water usage since 2017, its current water demand is 16% below the 2013 pre-drought baseline, according to the water management plan.

Pie charts show a general downward trend in water use since the mid-1980s, according to the management plan, with single-family residential use dropping significantly. Commercial, industrial and institutional use dropped and stayed steady starting in 2015 and in 2020 it is the only sector that dropped.

Mountain View encourages customers to use water wisely and limit irrigation to three days per week, Flegel said.

“The city’s Parks Division carefully manages landscape irrigation to maintain efficiency and is following the same voluntary conservation measures currently requested from our customers,” she said.

East Palo Alto

The evolving city of East Palo Alto tops BAWSCA’s list of the water conservers at 38.1 gallons per capita per day in fiscal year 2019-2020. Water use has gone down overall since 2010, even as its population and commercial development have grown, from a high of 88 gallons per capita per day in 2010 when the service population for the city-owned utility was 22,916 to 60 gallons per capita per day in 2020 with a service population of 25,935, according to the city’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which was published in June. Some East Palo Alto residents are also served by a water cooperative and a mutual water company, which are not figured into this data.

Although the city doesn’t break out its residential use by indoor and outdoor uses, it estimated residential water use as higher than BAWSCA’s 2019-2020 measurement. In 2020, residents used 38 gallons per capita per day for indoor use and four gallons per capita per day outdoors.

The city estimates 71% of its water is used in residences. Commercial users consume 18%, while institutional and government uses 1% and industrial uses 1%. 8% of the water is lost through leaks and for unknown reasons. Patrick Heisinger, assistant city manager, said that in part the city’s low water use is due to half of its residences being multifamily units.
2719 Bryant Street, Palo Alto

This three-bedroom, one-bath home plus bonus room is on a fabulous and desirable, prime Midtown lot. There is a spacious and open living room and dining room with French doors leading to a private side patio. Here’s your great opportunity for your own touches to remodeling. There was added to the master bedroom many years ago. The kitchen with breakfast nook has been remodeled. The bathroom has a tub and separate stall shower. There is a washer/dryer, shelving and car charger in the one and one-half car garage. Open and sunny backyard. This beautiful property is situated on a peaceful street in prime Midtown.

Offered at $2,798,000

Arlene Gault
DRE#01242236
650-208-3014
arlene.gault@cbrealty.com

Ken Morgan
DRE#00877457
650-208-3722
ken.morgan@cbrealty.com

Starter Home in Midtown

Open Sat-Sun 1-4 pm

206-208-3722

Ken Morgan
DRE#00877457

Arlene Gault
DRE#01242236
650-208-3014
arlene.gault@cbrealty.com

©2021 Jonesin’ Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com) Answers on page 12.
PORTOLA VALLEY | $8,500,000
This unique French-style 4 bedrooms, 4 baths and 2 half baths home in Central Portola Valley is a true gem. In addition to its superior finishes and floor plan, it has spectacular outdoor areas with views of Windy Hill. Chef’s kitchen with adjacent family room. Features include the master suite with fireplace, backyard pool and hot tub.
Matthew Mills  
650.863.2621  
matthew.mills@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #02050582

MENLO PARK | $3,395,000
Welcome to this charming Mid-Century Modern home set in West Menlo Park. Live in this bright and sunny single-story home on an approximately 10,250 square foot lot or build the home of your dreams. Enjoy close proximity to downtown and Stanford Shopping Center from this convenient location. Award-winning Menlo Park schools.
Wendy B. McPherson  
650.619.4044  
wmcpherson@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #00572958

SAN CARLOS | $2,349,000
Situated on a lovely cul-de-sac is this beautiful 5br/4ba home with great curb appeal. Living room features hardwood floors, built-in bookshelves and wood burning fireplace. Separate family room off the kitchen. Spacious primary suite w/fireplace. Close to downtown San Carlos shops, parks and public transportation.
Sandy Rostad  
650.888.1078  
srostad@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #010272902