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Ventura growth plan prompts calls for more parks

Commission supports effort to increase parkland in dynamic but underserved community

By Gennady Sheyner

The Ventura neighborhood is, in many ways, Palo Alto’s fastest changing area. It has seen more new homes go up in the past decade than any other neighborhood, according to U.S. Census data. And over the past two years, it has been both a magnet for development applications and the focus of the city’s most ambitious planning effort, which is known as the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan.

But there is one area in which the neighborhood that lies between El Camino Real and the train tracks isn’t changing quickly enough, according to the city’s Parks and Recreation Commission and neighborhood leaders. Ventura, they argue, is dreadfully short on parks.

Even though the city has recently purchased a parcel of land next to Boulware Park, with the intent of expanding one of Ventura’s few outdoor recreation spaces, neighborhood leaders and parks commissioners believe much more needs to be done. To underscore the point, the parks commission took the rare step in late August of unanimously endorsing a letter that criticizes all three alternatives in the North Ventura plan for having inadequate park space and that urges the city council to look for opportunities to create additional park area.

Keith Reckdahl, a Parks and Recreation commissioner who serves on the North Ventura... (continued on page 16)

Local events set to honor Sept. 11

Nonprofits host day of service and prayers

By Sue Dremann

Two Palo Alto organizations will remember the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on Saturday, hosting events to bring people of different backgrounds together to enjoy a meal and also to perform service projects in honor of those who died.

The Multifaith Peace Picnic will include a free meal and an interfaith prayer service; the 2021 Mid-Peninsula National Day of Service and Remembrance will host volunteer projects at multiple sites in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto.

The Peace Picnic, sponsored by American Muslim Voice and Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice, honors all who were killed in the 2001 attacks. It also honors the 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows — families whose loved ones died in the attack but who have dedicated themselves to creating a more peaceful world.

“We wanted to honor the victims, families and first responders that have lost loved ones,” organizer Samina Sundas said.

The Multifaith Peace Picnic has been an annual event since the first anniversary of Sept. 11. Sundas, founder of American Muslim Voice, started the picnic after someone blamed her for the terrorist event because she is a Muslim.

“Some days, it seems like we are making progress, then all of a sudden something happens... (continued on page 16)
We just crave parity with other neighborhoods.

— Becky Sanders, moderator of the Ventura Neighborhood Association, on push for more neighborhood parks. See story on page 5.

Around Town

DIALED IN ... When the City Council retired in June for a summer break, it fully expected that by the time September rolled around, its meetings would revert in some part to their pre-pandemic form. In late May, with the end of the health crisis seemingly in sight, members endorsed a “hybrid” approach in which most council members would go to City Hall for the meetings but would still give the public a chance to participate remotely. Now, with the prevalence of the delta variant, the council is still holding meetings via Zoom and the future of its meetings remains hazy. A new staff report notes that despite the city’s plans for hybrid meetings, “safety concerns prompted the decision to continue the virtually-only meeting format for City Council and City board and commissions, at least through the month of September.” The city, like many others, is legally allowed to conduct remote meetings through Sept. 30 under a June executive order by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Several state bills are trying to extend that authority beyond September, chief among them AB 361, which was authored by Assembly member Robert Rivas, D-Salinas, and which would allow local governments to hold remote meetings when they declare a state of emergency. The bill has passed the Assembly and is winding its way through the Senate’s committee process (the Judiciary Committee was scheduled to discuss it on Sept. 9).

A SPLASH OF COLOR ... The California Avenue business district has become more vibrant with four new temporary murals at 250 Sherman Ave., which were installed last month, according to the Palo Alto Public Art Program. They surround the city’s future public safety building, which broke ground in June and is set for completion in July 2023. Jessica Eastburn drew on the district’s past and present for her mural, “Busy Business,” which depicts various animals, inhabitants of so-called Cauliflower Ave., rushing to and from small businesses and restaurants, according to a description by Eastburn on the city’s website. “A rabbit entering a saloon is a nod to the former raccoon, buzz-lee-loving town of Mayfield,” she wrote. Debra Koppman also was influenced by the district’s history for her mural, “Stopping Out to the Beat of California Avenue.” Her mosaic-like work captures abstract characters who “walk, run, dance, prance, float and soar through vibrant colorful and animated spaces,” she wrote in a description. Liv Losee-Unger brought nature to the site with “Night and Day,” a mural filled with animals, plants and a radiant sun in the middle. Abi Mustapha turned the emotions over from the past year of pandemic life to create “New Garden,” which features people alongside bountiful flowers and a night sky. “As things change and open up again, we’re seeing that we’ve changed, shifted, pivoted and in many ways grown,” states Mustapha’s description of the piece. “We are adaptable and like our gardens we are ready to bloom again.” The murals are expected to stay at the site for the next year.

SIFTING THROUGH THE SMOKE ... The impact of recent Northern California wildfires on the local air quality have been hard to ignore in the Bay Area, where a haze has permeated the skies in recent weeks. There have been numerous air-quality advisories and Spare the Air alerts, which have called on the public to stay indoors if they smell smoke and cut back on driving to reduce smog. Stanford researchers plan to examine the effects of wildlife smoke through a study that recently received nearly $1 million in federal funds. The Environmental Protection Agency awarded the university $999,845 in order to help researchers “address behavioral, technical, and practical aspects of interventions and communication strategies to reduce exposures and health risks of wildland fire smoke,” according to an Aug. 23 press release. Focus on San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, the university’s research will explore “affordable and accessible technology and native language messaging-based interventions” in low-income communities. Gabriele Wong-Panodi, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth System Science and center fellow at the Wood Institute for the Environment, is the principal investigator for the study.
City looks for help in fighting economic slump

By Gennady Sheyner

When tax revenues plunging and businesses struggling to stay afloat, Palo Alto’s elected leaders agree that they will need plenty of help to reverse the trend and restore prosperity.

There is little consensus, however, on exactly what should be done. Some people, including Palo Alto City Council members Lydia Kou and Greer Stone, argued during a June 1 discussion that the city needs to hire a dedicated economic coordinator to steer its recovery. The council majority, including council members Alison Cormack and Eric Filsht, supported a more cautious approach: hiring a consultant to develop an economic strategy — a document that would inform the city’s decision on hiring an economic manager.

Council member Greg Tanaka, for his part, suggested at the time that the city reconsider some of its existing restrictions, including a citywide prohibition on big-box stores like Costco and Walmart.

The city has only grown in urgency since June, with a new analysis showing sales-tax receipts falling more precipitously in Palo Alto than in other area jurisdictions. The report from Avenu Insights & Analytics indicated that Palo Alto sales-tax reve- nues dropped by 27.3% between the fourth quarter of 2019 and the fourth quarter of 2020, far exceeding the decrease of 7.2% statewide.

The pain was particularly acute in the hard-hit commercial areas of downtown, El Camino Real and Midtown, where sales tax receipts dropped by more than 46% over this period.

A recent survey conducted by the city underscores the variety of challenges facing local businesses. Of the 65 businesses that responded to the survey, 67.7% cited the difficulty of retaining or hiring employees as one of their top three challenges. Also scoring high in the rankings of challenges were the high cost of supplies (40%); a lack of resources for marketing and promotions (38.5%); and the need to pay deferred or increased rent (30.8%).

When business owners were asked to name the top three sources that would be most helpful, 53.8% respondents chose “finding employees,” while 38.4% said “access to capital.” The next two most popular answers were “assistance with marketing and promotions” (24,65%) and “assistance with city, county, state and federal regulations” (21.5%), according to a new report from the Administrative Services Department.

The council will review these survey results on Monday as part of a broader discussion of next steps. Council members will also consider a staff recommendation to hire an economic coordinator, a position that will cost between $245,000 and $290,000, according to the department.

To date, the council has been tentative about making the new hire. During the June 1 meeting, Filsht suggested that the council needs to hire an economic coordinator and methodological about who we bring into the organization” and declined to support a motion from Kou and Stone to move ahead with recruitment for the new position (the motion died by a 3-4 vote, with Vice Mayor Pat Burt joining Kou and Stone) to facilitate “place making” in commercial districts, known for their high number of jobs. The city is considering hiring an economic development coordinator to help business remain in Palo Alto.

Businesses in Palo Alto’s downtown commercial area have been particularly hard hit by the impact of the pandemic. Most business owners cited retaining or hiring employees as one of their top three challenges, according to a recent survey conducted by the city.

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to hold a study session with the city’s independent police auditor; hold a TEFRA hearing for financing the Silicon Valley International School project at 151 Laura Lane; consider a zoning code interpretation pertaining to nonconforming uses at 340 Portage Ave.; consider strategies for adding resources to promote economic development; and consider possible extensions to closures of University and California avenues to vehicles. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 13. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 946 1874 4621.

COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to hear an update on state and federal legislation; hear a presentation from the office of city auditor on the IT Risk Management Audit Activity Report; and get an update on recent work pertaining to race and equity. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 946 1874 4621.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The board is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the sufficiency of instructional materials; receive a report on the PAUSD Promise priority areas; and hear information about the district’s maskking requirements on campuses. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14. The public can attend the meeting in person at the district’s board room, 25 Churchill Ave., but is required to provide proof of vaccination. Those wishing to participate online can get the Zoom link at gq.boarddocs.com/ca/paused/Board.nsf/Public.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to meet at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16. The agenda was not available by publication deadline.

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss the CodeART festival; temporary murals at the new public safety building site; and the status of the King Artist Residency program. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 947 9297 0053.
Upfront

Council considers extending street dining

The fate of Palo Alto’s popular street closure program on University and California avenues will once again be up for debate at a city council meeting on Monday.

The menu of options that council members will consider includes staying on the current path, which directs staff to conclude the program on Sept. 30 but which also gives City Manager Ed Shikada discretion to keep either — or both — of the streets closed until Oct. 31.

A new report from the Department of Planning and Development Services outlines several other alternatives that the council could pursue, should it choose to keep streets closed to cars in the near term. The council can keep the streets car-free until November and then reopen them to vehicles in time for the holiday season. It can wait until the end of January before letting cars back onto the streets. It can limit the downtown street closures to weekends or it could direct staff to temporarily reopen the streets to cars during the holiday shopping season and then potentially revert them to car-free mode until the end of January.

According to the report, the lattermost option would “allow time to observe what happens this winter and decide early next year if the program continues to be needed.”

Decertification bill moves to governor’s desk

A bill that creates a process for decertifying police officers who have committed serious misconduct is on its way to the governor’s desk after the state Senate voted on Wednesday to give the legislation its final approval.

The Senate’s 26-9 vote came five days after the state Assembly voted 46-14 to support Senate Bill 2. While the Senate had given the bill its initial endorsement on May 26, numerous senators who voted to support it in May expressed concerns about the legislation and suggested that they may vote against the bill when it returns for final approval.

Recent amendments to the bill from Sen. Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, appear to have mollified some of the critics, who had previously maintained that the legislation is biased against police officers. Opponents of the bill specifically objected to the proposed makeup of the new Peace Officers Standards Accountability Advisory Board, a panel that will be charged with making recommendations on decertification.

The prior version of SB 2 allocated two of the board’s nine seats to individuals who have been subject to excessive use of force by police or to family members of individuals who had been killed by the wrongful use of deadly force by police. The amended version of the bill removes this requirement and only specifies that these two members will not be former police officers and that the governor gives “strong consideration” to individuals who have been affected by police misconduct.

Another amendment in SB 2 raises the threshold of votes required to decertify an officer. The Commission for Peace Officer Standards and Training, which is currently charged with establishing standards for training and recruitment of officers, would review the recommendations of the new panel and make decisions on whether an officer should be decertified. Doing so, under the new amendment, would require a two-thirds vote of the commission’s present members and only after the commission establishes that “serious misconduct has been established by clear and convincing evidence.” The commission will also have the option of suspending but not revoking an officer’s certification.

Man allegedly shoots air rifle at student

A 62-year-old man who lives behind a Palo Alto elementary school has been arrested for allegedly shooting a BB gun and striking a child, Palo Alto police said in a statement Sept. 3.

Police said the neighbor’s action was not accidental.

Around 12:28 p.m. on Sept. 3, a student playing on an athletic field at the Stratford School campus, located at 870 N. California Ave., was struck in the back with a BB that was allegedly shot from an air rifle by the neighbor.

The child suffered minor injuries and didn’t require medical attention. The BB did not penetrate the child’s clothing, according to a police press release.

Officers contacted the neighbor and placed him under arrest without incident at about 1:56 p.m. They recovered the air rifle from his home. His motive is under investigation.

The man was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail for two felonies: assault with a deadly weapon and child abuse, and one misdemeanor, creating a disruption on a school campus.
September 14th

Vote in the California Gubernatorial Recall Election

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Palo Alto adopts COVID vaccine mandate for city workers

New policy includes exemptions, testing requirements

By Gennady Sheyner

The city of Palo Alto last week joined other municipalities in requiring COVID-19 vaccination of its employees, according to a Sept. 2 announcement from City Manager Ed Shikada’s office.

In a shift that comes after directions from the City Council and negotiations with the city’s labor unions, Palo Alto is following other public agencies that have already instituted a vaccine mandate for employees. The city and county of San Francisco instituted a vaccine mandate in June, becoming one of the nation’s first large cities to do so, while Santa Clara County followed suit in late July.

The Palo Alto City Council, which was on its summer break for part of June and all of July, began pursuing a vaccine mandate shortly after reconvening in early August. On Aug. 9, council members discussed the topic with staff in a closed session. Council members had communicated at that time their desire to work with the employee unions to “implement required vaccinations and a mandatory COVID-19 testing program for the workforce for the safety of our community and employees,” according to Meghan Horrigan-Taylor, the city’s chief communications officer.

Much like Santa Clara County’s mandate, Palo Alto’s policy includes medical and religious exemptions. Palo Alto will require all employees who are unvaccinated to get tested for COVID-19 twice per week.

The new policy also creates a testing regimen for each employee group, with the frequency of tests varying by group. Firefighters and police officers would undergo regular testing, regardless of vaccination status. Vaccinated employees in other departments are encouraged, though not required, to undergo weekly COVID-19 tests.

The Palo Alto Police Department, which over the summer had a lower reported rate of vaccinations than other neighboring jurisdictions, is starting to implement its vaccine and testing mandates this week, according to Horrigan-Taylor. All sworn officers will be required to get tests on the first and third days of their shifts.

“The Fire Department, which has a 96% vaccination rate, will require testing every six days, with tests occurring before the start of a firefighter’s shift.”

“This policy was adopted after careful consideration of the recommendations from public health organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of California Public Health, and the Santa Clara County Public Health Department,” the city’s announcement of the new policy stated.

“The city will continue to monitor conditions and consider the next steps to address the ongoing pandemic.”

So far, about 82% of the city’s workforce is vaccinated, according to Horrigan-Taylor. In the Police Department, however, the rate is currently 74%. While this is an improvement from June, when only 60% of the Police Department’s employees reported being vaccinated, it remains below the city’s overall rate.

The new vaccine mandate seeks to change that. According to Horrigan-Taylor, the city anticipates full workforce implementation by Sept. 15 and, at the latest, by Sept. 30.

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.
On a tree-lined street in The Willows bordering Crescent Park, this 3 BD, 2 BA bungalow has charming appeal inside and out. Originally built in 1920, the home has been thoughtfully updated while maintaining the best of its original heritage. A stone pathway leads to the inviting front porch. Maple wood floors sweep through the main living areas with graceful arches, recessed lighting, crown moldings, chair railings, and custom built-ins. The adjoining sky-lit kitchen has been updated with quartz counters, stainless steel appliances and a large updated bath with a dual-sink vanity, large shower and spa tub. The private back yard with a deck provides access to the oversized, detached 2-car garage; *possible conversion to an ADU; buyer to confirm with city.
As school boards resume in-person meetings, will the public still get to comment from home?

Pandemic ‘silver lining’: Residents’ interactions with some boards increased as meetings went virtual

By Zoe Morgan

Alto Unified among them, have signaled they plan to retain the remote access. The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, on the other hand, is already requiring people to show up face-to-face if they want to participate in real time.

California’s open meetings laws require that local legislative bodies, such as school boards, hear public comment but don’t mandate the allowance of remote comments. During the pandemic, many boards started letting the public comment from home when meetings went virtual.

Holdings online meetings was made possible by a series of executive orders from Gov. Gavin Newsom that waived certain provisions in the state’s open meetings laws. The most recent order is set to expire Sept. 30, at which point school boards will largely have to return to in-person meetings that are open to the public, though they can continue to give the public the option to participate remotely.

A bill currently working its way through the state legislature would require city councils and county boards of supervisors in jurisdictions with at least 250,000 people to allow the public to participate over the phone or internet until the end of 2023, though the law wouldn’t apply to school boards.

Despite the lack of a legal requirement, the Palo Alto Unified, Los Altos and Mountain View Whisman boards have all expressed interest in keeping remote commenting when they move back to in-person meetings. Some districts may take a vote on retaining online participation, while others have indicated they may continue allowing it without taking formal action.

Currently, the Palo Alto Unified and Los Altos boards have been meeting in person, with the public participating over Zoom. The Mountain View Whisman board is still fully remote.

Palo Alto Board of Education President Shounak Dharp said that he can see his district continuing hybrid commenting for the “foreseeable future,” adding that the district hasn’t set any end date.

“My personal preference would be to maintain remote access forever,” Dharp said. “I think that would be a great upgrade to the way public meetings have been run historically.”

The Mountain View Los Altos High School District board of trustees, however, has ended remote commenting, already resuming fully face-to-face meetings and requiring members of the public to attend in-person to address the board.

Some advocates for government transparency believe boards should strive to retain the option for the public to participate remotely. Remote commenting was a silver lining of the pandemic, in many cases expanding public access to local government meetings, said David Snyder, executive director of the First Amendment Coalition, a California-based nonprofit that advocates for public access and government accountability.

Snyder said he wants to see boards return to in-person meetings, while also retaining the option for remote engagement in real time, so long as they can make it work technologically.

“That would be great,” Snyder said. “We’d have the best of both worlds if that happens.”

Welcoming back the public

Starting at its Sept. 14 meeting, Palo Alto’s board intends to allow the public to attend on-site, as well as over Zoom. Since March, only the board and administrators had been face-to-face, while the public was fully remote.

Attendees will have to show proof of vaccination. Superintendent Don Austin said, adding that the public was fully remote.

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Effective order expires though, Austin said the district will need to consult with its legal council to determine whether the vaccine requirement is allowable.

“This is all uncharted for everybody,” Austin said. “It just made it much easier for many members of the public to engage with the board.”

The Los Altos School District hasn’t made a formal decision on whether to retain remote commenting, although members have expressed interest in the idea. Superintendent Jeff Baier said he expects the trustees will discuss the issue at their next board meeting.

Board President Vaishali Sirkay said she personally doesn’t think people should be precluded from participating in meetings because of concerns about COVID-19 exposure, adding that attendance and commenting increased during the pandemic.

“I am very happy and impressed with the level of attendance that we’re getting,” Sirkay said. “I’ve also been that parent who’s at home at seven o’clock on a Monday night taking care of my family and not being able to attend the board meeting.”

The board is currently back in-person with district staff, while the public is still fully online. Baier said the public would need to be allowed back once the executive order expires.

Without the executive order, a number of regulations will be
and the Muslim community feels like it could be a backlash again,” she said recently, noting the return to power by the Taliban in Afghanistan and the current of hatred among some groups throughout the country. This year, the event is limited to 150 people and those who are interested are encouraged to pre-register. Food will also be boxed for people who don’t want to eat on site due to COVID-19 concerns. Participants are required to wear a mask at all times and to socially distance. The event takes place 5:45 to 8:15 p.m. at King Plaza, 250 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, To register, visit ti- nyurl.com/3lsbwyv.

The Youth Community Service Day of Service will bring together volunteers to perform projects including food drives, card making, mural painting, fence painting, gardening and clean-ups and more. This year's theme is Reconnect, Remember and Renew.

“The struggles of this past year have shown us the importance of community connections and supporting one another,” the nonprofit organization stated on its website. The projects are open to people of all ages and from every community. Masks are required and participants are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. For details and to register, visit youthcommunityservice.org/

national-day-of-service or call 650-858-8019.

Read the remembrances of a 9/11 volunteer who aided first responders at Ground Zero in this week’s Spectrum section on page 22.

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

Meetings (continued from page 12)

back in effect. Among them, any board member who wants to keep participating remotely has to publicly post their address and allow members of the public to take part in the meeting from that location.

Dharpal said he hopes the California legislature considers amending the state’s public meetings law to let board members participate remotely more easily.

To broaden the types of candidates who run for public boards, Dharpal said, it is important to be mindful of working families and realize that attending an in-person meeting can sometimes be an "insurmountable" obstacle.

"Increased access is really only going to be facilitated with legislative change," Dharpal said.

MVLA bars remote commenting

While other districts have signaled an openness to continuing to let members of the public participate from home in real time, the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District last month began requiring all commenters to show up on site. Remote commenting had been permitted last school year, even after the board resumed in-person meetings in March. The change this fall was intentional, board President Fiona Walter said.

"We’re going back to normal," Walter said. "We would rather see people in person.

According to Walter, she and Superintendent Nellie Meyer made the decision to return to a "pre-COVID" meeting model, with the addition of a YouTube livestream to increase access. Before the pandemic, the district only posted audio recordings after the fact.

Walter acknowledged that the district could in theory continue to allow online commenting but said that it is logistically cumbersome, although she didn’t detail what the barriers would be. She also said that people can always share feedback over email. At board meetings, Walter announces the number of emails the board has received on a given topic.

"We’re not trying to reduce community engagement. That is not the goal. The goal was to get us back to normal," Walter said.

School boards saw big increases in the number of participants during the pandemic. In the past, meetings often drew only a handful of people. During the pandemic, remote meetings would sometimes see hundreds of attendees.

That was likely in part because of the controversial topics on the agenda, namely how and when to reopen schools. However, the format of the meetings may have made it easier for people to attend.

Laura Tekslar, who ran unsuccess- fully for the MVLA board last year, said she believes many more parents were able to participate in meetings during the pandemic because they didn’t have to dedicate a whole evening to showing up in-person.

"One of the few good things that came out of the remote world was that ability for more of the public to engage," Tekslar said, adding that she believes the district should continue to allow remote participation, so long as it’s technologically possible.

One of MVLA’s trustees has continued to participate in meetings from home, while the rest of the board is back on the dais. Phil Faillace said in an email that he has been taking part over Zoom both because of the risk of a severe breakthrough COVID-19 case, made more likely due to his age, and because hearing loss makes it difficult for him to understand what is being said through masks.

Asked whether he believes the public should be allowed to comment remotely, given that he has been participating online, he said “yes” but added that he thinks allowing the public to email the board is sufficient in most cases. The exception, Faillace said, would be when someone wants to respond to something said during a meeting about an item the board is about to vote on.

"The board and administration are still working out the kinks in the current method of live-streaming, and I’m confident some mechanism will be developed to solve this problem in the relatively few instances of its occurrence," Faillace said.

Faillace said he intends to resume attending in-person meetings next month when the executive order expires, at which point he expects that he and his wife will have received booster shots of the vaccine.

Without the executive order, a board member participating remotely must publicly post their address and allow members of the public to attend the meeting at that location.

Faillace said that these requirements "seem to me to have outlived most of whatever use or worth they had when they were legislated, well before the widespread availability of very high quality video conferencing." He said he hopes to work with the district’s technology staff to find ways to use available assistance devices to improve his understanding of meetings while masks are worn.

Email Staff Writer Zoe Morgan at zmorgan@paweekly.com.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • September 10, 2021 • Page 13
Editor’s note: Descriptions of crime in this article may be disturbing to some readers.

A

illeged serial killer John Arthur Getreu was con-

fessing a 15-year-old girl in Ger-

many in 1964, a decade before the strangled bodies of two young women he is now accused of kill-

ing were found on Stanford Uni-

versity land, the brother of the murdered teenager testified on Tuesday.

Evan David Williams, a pas-

tor, said that Getreu killed his sister on June 9, 1963, when his family and Getreu’s parents were stationed at the U.S. Army base in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. His sister, Margaret Williams, was found in a field. She had been beaten about the face, strangled and raped.

Williams said his father, who was an army chaplain at the time, told him that Getreu — who had been arrested for the crime — is now trying to be released in San Mateo County Superior Court for allegedly killing Janet Taylor, 21, whose beaten face and strangled body was found in a ditch near the intersection of Sand Hill Road and Manzanita Way in 1974. Taylor was the second woman found on Stanford land with similar injuries. Leslie Marie Perlov, 21, was discovered near what is now the Stanford Dish hiking area in a remote loca-

tion in 1973. Getreu is facing a first-degree murder charge in her death in Santa Clara County.

San Mateo County Sheriff

Detective Gordon Currie testified Tuesday that he obtained 10 vol-

umes of court documents related to Getreu’s 1964 conviction in Margaret Williams’ murder. Dep-

uty District Attorney Josh Stauffer read excerpts from the more than 1,000 pages of court documents.

Getreu, who was 18 years old at the time of the killing, was sent-
to 10 years in prison for rape with fatal consequences. He

served a partial sentence of five years and nine months. German officials believed he was likely to lead a “righteous life” after he was sent to live with his parents in the U.S., where he returned in 1969 under probation supervision, according to the German court documents.

Getreu, in his own statement to German investigators, said he and Williams met at a dance. He

(continued on page 16)

As bidding wars cool, is a Peninsula housing crash on the way?

Region sees most competitive market in a decade

By Xin Jiang

A

s we roll through summer, many local families are final-

ly getting away for their first vacation since March 2020. With fewer active buyers, the bidding war has cooled down quite a bit compared to the crazy spring, and the market seems to be back to its normal seasonality.

The first half of 2021 was the most active six months in the past decade for the local real estate market with 431 new listings on the multiple listing system — a 45% increase from the first half of 2020 and 30% more than the recent 10-year average.

Unlike the supply shortage reported in the news for most parts of the nation, Palo Alto had an ample supply of houses for sale.

Neighboring Menlo Park and Los Altos also experienced their largest inventory since 2011. The increased supply was driven in part by pent-up demand due to the pandemic and by the very strong pricing environment at the beginning of the year after more than two years of price correction.

There were 10 active listings in the heart of Old Palo Alto in mid-May, ranging from $6 mi-

lion to just north of $30 million. Higher home prices pushed sell-
ers previously on the fence to take

action, quite noticeably at those price points, rarely available locations.

Pent-up de-

mand coupled with the strong tech economy contributed to a big and ac-
tive buyer pool.

More than 74% of new listings in Palo Alto during the first half of this year were sold. This con-

sumption ratio was even higher in Los Altos at 83% and in Menlo Park at 78%. In Palo Alto, 71 of 112 homes officially exchanged hands — that’s 64% more than the first half of 2020 and the highest level since 2012.

Median home prices also saw sharp increases in cities along the Midpeninsula. The median price of single-family homes sold in Palo Alto rose to a record-high of $3.53 million — a 16% increase from the first half of 2020 and an 18% jump compared to all of 2020.

In Los Altos, the median home price jumped to $3.9 million, or 22% year over year. It’s become common for older, smaller homes (less than 2,000 square feet) on larger lots (over 10,000 square feet) that are listed slightly below $3 million to receive bids that are nearly $1 million higher than asking price.

The pandemic triggered a pref-

eference for bigger living spaces and larger lots, which are more difficult to find in Palo Alto.

The market also has gone back to its normal quick turnover with-
in seven to 10 days.

As sellers experience quick sales and higher-than-expected

prices, and buyers are frustrated by severe competition or bidding wars, no wonder some of the most Google-searched questions by consumers are: “Are we in a real estate bubble?” and “When will the market crash?”

If we dig into the fundamentals, the run-up of home prices is not fueled by an increase in demand or speculation in the face of lim-

ited supply. The high price is a result of very healthy transaction volume. In the near term, supply may keep increasing because of the high home price. Aging fami-

lies may also choose to move out because of the high cost-of-living and tax rates.

Demand, however, will remain

(continued on page 56)
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The city recently purchased an empty lot at Chestnut Avenue and Ash Streets with the intent of expanding the adjacent Boulware Park, one of Ventura’s few outdoor recreation spaces.

The city’s goal is to provide 4 acres of park space for every 1,000 residents. Ventura has less than 1.5 acres per 1,000.

Ventura’s green space: Boulware Park and Ventura Community Center

Trial (continued from page 14)

hadn’t seen the girl before but no-
ticed her when she exited a car.
They went for a walk and talked.
He said he had no special inten-
tion that night. Williams told him
she had been out all day the same
time, but not walk around the
class and her home, they
headed in the opposite direction.
They said they would later walk to
a playground. He said he wanted to be
alone with her, they walked away
from where they were talking.

Getreu and Williams began
kissing while sitting on his
jacket, then were lying down, and
he soon began to want intercourse.
He told her that he had consumed
a lot of drinks.” She was nervous
and distressed and wanted to go
home. It began to rain, and she
said that was why she wanted to
leave. “She did not react posi-
tively to his advances, according
to the police investigation. He said
as his excitement had increased,
he wanted to rape her.

Williams began talking loudly
to try to attract attention. Getreu
gave her a judo chop in the neck
so she couldn’t talk anymore,
he said. She stood up, and he
punched her in the face, he said;
she fell to the ground.

She was about to cry out, so
he covered her face tightly with
his jacket. As Williams began
to kick and tried to scream, he
held her mouth shut with one hand
and grabbed her by the throat with
the other, he told police.

Williams lost consciousness,
but Getreu had the impression
she was still breathing. She didn’t
move at all and he raped her, he
said.

As car headlights passed near-
by, he grabbed his jacket and ran
away. After returning home, he
took his dog for a walk and re-
turned to the area to see if she
was still alive. Margaret Williams
never regained consciousness.
She died on the playing field, police
said.

Outside the courtroom, Evan
Williams said there were new as-
to the crime he hadn’t heard
before.

“I feel glad that there’s the
potential to convict someone
who needs to be convicted. I feel
a connection to others” who have
lost loved ones to murder, he said.
Getreu’s first wife, Susan Cam-
marota, also testified Tuesday.
She said that he told her before
they were married that he had
killed a girl in Germany. She also
said he was convicted of statutory
rape after initially being charged
with raping a teenage girl who was
a member of his Boy Scout troop in
1975, while Cam-
marota and he were married.
(The victim testified in court last
week he had served his jail sentence
on weekends, she said.

Getreu also regularly traveled
along the route where Taylor
was found, his next-door testimony
from his stepdaughter.

Kathi Stone, Cammarota’s
daughter, testified that she first
remembered him as 6 years old.
The family lived in various
locations along the Midpenin-
sula. They lived about two years
on Montrose Avenue in Palo Alto,
then moved to Redwood City for
another two years before moving
back to an apartment in Palo Alto.

While living at an aunt’s house
on Roberta Drive in Woodside, a
quiet area of trees and grasslands,
Getreu drove Stone to school dai-
ly. She said she was frequently
found on Sand Hill near Manzan-
ita Way, the route Getreu would
have taken daily to go home.

The time to travel from the
scene of Taylor’s murder to Ro-
berta Drive takes about six min-
utes, he said.

Email Staff Writer Sue Drellman at sdreeman@pawweekly.com.
251 Parkside Dr., Palo Alto

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We’re sad to announce that Judith Monson Scalan has passed away from the effects of a debilitating stroke.

Judith was born in Merced, CA to parents Charles Kenneth Monson and Amelia Amy Souza. She attended Merced schools until graduation, attended Fresno State and then San Francisco State College where she earned a Business Degree. Her early career was working for financial companies in San Francisco and in 1980 she moved to San Mateo, and ultimately to Palo Alto, where she worked for a capital management company until her retirement.

Judith loved running, hiking, bicycling and physical fitness. She especially enjoyed hiking the trails around Palo Alto and the Bach Festival in Carmel each year as well as other concerts at venues closer to Palo Alto.

Judith was a devout Catholic and always active in the local parishes where she resided. When she moved to Palo Alto, she joined Santa Thomas Aquinas community and was one of the Sacristans. She was small but strong, and rung the church bell vigorously many Sunday mornings before the 7:30AM Mass. After complaints from neighbors about the vigorous bell ringing so early on a Sunday morning they finally decided to suspend its use. She volunteered and worked for a time for the Chaplain at Stanford, and was a financial supporter of many Catholic related charities including St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park.

She is predeceased by her parents, Ken and Amelia — Brother Charles Jr. of Virginia, and nephew Gregory Statham.

Obituary

 ALPHA SOLVEZ, 56, a former Palo Alto Unified School District employee, died on Aug. 5; Aimee Ann Vickers, 89, a former Palo Alto resident, died on Aug. 19; Daryl Reinig, 96, a Palo Alto resident and longtime staff member of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, died on Aug. 24.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memoirs, PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.
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Guest Opinion

On anniversary, 9/11 volunteer revisits the tragedy — and humanity

By Francine Toder

I left Palo Alto for New York City, my birthplace, as soon as I could get my Red Cross Disaster Mental Health volunteer documents in order, just two weeks after the attack in lower Manhattan.

As a psychologist, I already had the training and just needed the hard hat, badge, walkie-talkie and a flight to get me there. My role was to support the efforts of first responders — police, firefighters, handlers of survivor and cadaver-sniffing dogs as well as volunteer medical personnel as they struggled to manage the horrors.

Wearing a helmet, goggles and face mask, I left my emergency response vehicle and entered a surreal space, once the World Trade Center, noting a smell permeating the air that defied description. Some said it smelled like death or maybe the electrical smell of a melted toaster cord. Hot smoldering hills of rubble rose from the ground and manholes. The smoke was so heavy at the makeshift police station at Ground Zero that walking the flight of stairs took enormous effort. The whole scene was eerie and seemed like a black-and-white movie in slow motion. De- livering food and drink to disaster workers there, I noticed how little they talked, communicating through eyes that were sad and intense. The mood was somber, resolved and very subdued. New York was humbled by Sept. 11 and you could see it reflected in locals’ behavior — less honk honking, more courteous encounters and recognition of sorrow in each other’s faces. It was business as usual but with a tenderness I’d never before witnessed in New York City.

Winding my way up to the top of the landfill at the Staten Island facility designated to sort body parts, I could see at a glance that this was no ordinary place. Enormous hills of mangled metal dotted the landscape. I knew what was in the piles and why there were people raking the ground and why others were watching debris pass over a conveyor belt. The mission of this place was awesome: trying to separate building materials from human remains.

Even though I was acquainted with the facts, I wasn’t prepared for the mood of this place — melancholy, quiet for a New York setting and uncharacteristically gentle. A walk through the mess hall where hundreds of exhausted disaster workers ate around the clock, I observed a sense of discipline and camaraderie. Outside it was very cold, the early November wind was howling, and it was hard to keep the swirling dust and debris from our eyes. I used my gut to pick out workers who I thought might benefit from some conversation or support and took my lunch with them.

The slow, painstaking work was critical because the facility served both as a crime scene and a personal memorial. The losses were very real to the locals, many of whom lost someone or had a friend who did. This was sacred work, made clear by the clergy of different religions who blessed the ground where bodies had been brought but of course couldn’t be definitively identified. I thought that the whole landfill ought to be regarded as a sacred burial ground or identified as a memorial site — the final resting place for so many people, I hoped that this would mark the end of a tragedy and a step toward recovery.

As if the mood in New York weren’t somber enough, the crash of a commercial plane in Rockaway Beach on Nov. 12 ratcheted up the general nervousness several notches. The site was less than a quarter mile from where I was stationed, and I saw the plumes of black smoke as I was riding in a Red Cross Emergency Response vehicle on my trek to provide food and water to disaster workers at Ground Zero.

My new orders rerouted me to Rockaway Beach to talk with local residents who were traumatized by the crash from seeing either the crash itself or the destruction of homes, their own or their neighbor’s. I saw disbelief, anger and fear on their faces as they assembled at the barriers constructed at the crash site. A temporary mound was set up within their view. They came alone or in families. Kids in twos and threes wandered by to gawk, cry and inquire about the safety of their neighbors.

A woman rocked as she sat on her porch steps facing the burned out remains of the house across the street. Another woman sat in shock. Her house was demolished with a piece of the plane sitting in what had been her front yard. Even though all of the tangible re-minders of her former life were taken by the fire, she was focused on a mother and child, neighbors across the street, who had perished in the fire. Over and over I saw people being re-traumatized, this crash being just the latest assault on their lives. Rockaway lost 84 people at the World Trade Center. Now this. It was almost unbearable.

After daily shifts that woke me at 4:30 a.m. and didn’t end until nightfall, sleep didn’t come easily. But writing did. As a writer, this immersion proved invaluable. Keeping my sanity meant chronicling what I witnessed and observed on a daily basis because some of it was so unspeakable that talking to loved ones at home wasn’t an option.

In looking back, I was amazed at the resilience of Americans to deal with disaster and come together with heroism and compassion even in the darkest of times. Three weeks later I returned to California. Ten years later I was diagnosed with lung cancer, like so many disaster responders.

At the time it seemed impossible to imagine that an attack on American soil would ever be repeated. Yet here we are two decades later following a domestic attack and ongoing threats from foreign adversaries. Domestic terrorism is something new, but our ability to come together as a nation of patriots is not. Francine Toder, Ph.D., is a local psychologist, writer, author of four books and emeritus faculty at CSU Sacramento. She can be emailed at Francine@docToder.com.

We unequivocally condemn all acts of emotional, institutional, or physical violence directed at any member of the African American or Asian American communities in Palo Alto. We reject false narratives about the dangers of BLM and all attempts to pit people of color against one another in our ongoing commitment to anti-racism.

We know that Palo Alto has much deep and difficult work to do in order to confront and dismantle its own patterns of cultural and institutional racism. As we move forward, we dedicate ourselves to the work of anti-racism within ourselves, the communities that we serve, the city of Palo Alto, and our global family.

What you think about the city’s vaccination mandate?

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

What do you think about the city’s vaccination mandate?

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

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

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

Letters

Racism in Palo Alto

Editor,

Last month, a local Black female clergy person discovered, for the third time, that the Black Lives Matter sign on her property had been vandalized. On three separate occasions, a poster was left outside her home claiming that BLM is the cause of recent violence directed at Asian American and Pacific Islander elders. The poster included threats of retribution directed at anyone supporting BLM.

While religious leaders are not all of the same mind on how to approach issues of racial injustice, we are all deeply angered and saddened by these events and stand in solidarity with our Black siblings in Palo Alto.

This attack was not an isolated incident, but one of a series of recent hate crimes, building on a long-standing pattern of racial hate and exclusion directed at people of color in Palo Alto.

Weaning ourselves from our own biases allows us to approach difficult and painful events with an open mind and heart. We need to consider how we might feel if we, or a family member, were targeted.

It is imperative that Palo Alto and the larger community come together to address the racism that exists within ourselves and our institutions. This is not the time to be silent, but rather a moment to speak up and take action.

We are here to support each other and stand against racism in all its forms. Let us work together to create a safer and more inclusive community for all.

We encourage all individuals to consider how they can contribute to the fight against racism and ensure that our community is a place where everyone feels safe and valued.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Page 22 • September 10, 2021 • Palo Alto Weekly • www.PaloAltoOnline.com
Parking permits can help climate change

Editor,

According to your Aug. 24 article, “New committee seeks to boost Palo Alto’s climate-change efforts,” progress remains stubbornly slow on the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80%. This has a lot to do with the fact that the city has chosen to focus on the electrification of homes. Electrification of homes is very, very important, however, it requires an enormous amount of infrastructure investment. Not only is it not low-hanging fruit, it’s the fruit at the tippy top of the tree.

Simplifying the approval process for rooftop solar installation could help a lot. But even more, so could the elimination of parking requirements. According to City of Palo Alto Utilities, 63% of Palo Alto’s greenhouse gas emissions come from automobiles. All free parking does is encourage driving. Parking requirements also add 17% to the cost of any new construction.

Worried about too many people parking on the street? Permit parking for all of Palo Alto would address that problem.

If the city wants to do something constructive as well, they could have an electric-assist cargo bike rental program. Use an electric-assist cargo bike for a month, and you will never go back to a car.

Deborah Goldeen
Birch Street, Palo Alto

Background checks

Editor,

It was heartening to see the idea of case management offered as a useful tool in dealing with unhoused persons and those with other problems of living. As a former member of the Board of the Urban Ministry back in the Jim Burkle days, we found that building interpersonal relationships with people was the key to success. I do not believe that police or military intelligence models work as well as focused and sustained substantive help. The hubb over background checks at the church on Arastadero seems particularly ill-advised. Not only does the city have a rap sheet about interfering with the mission of Christian charity — the Friends on Colorado Avenue and the Baptists on California Avenue — but there seems to be little acknowledgement of equal protection under the law. How can the city of Palo Alto seek to do background checks on guests of the Unitarian Universalists and not do similar diligence on the guests at Stevenson House? There appears to be much of the short-sightedness that many of us have unfortunately grown accustomed to seeing at City Hall in the formulation of policies in this area; however, I remain hopeful for more clarity and charity in developing future solutions and programs.

John Friedich
La Para Avenue, Palo Alto

Affordable housing targets

Editor,

Palo Alto is using taxpayer dollars to appeal affordable housing targets. Our Regional Housing Needs Allocation, or RHNA, is a state-mandated goal meant to help cities and counties plan the needed housing for low- and middle-income residents.

I am the president of Palo Alto Forward, which works with residents and city government to make Palo Alto a more affordable, inclusive, and sustainable place for neighbors at all income levels. We’re a multigenerational network of families, grandparents, tech workers, teachers, renters and homeowners.

I support Palo Alto’s affordable housing goals and hope this waste appeal is denied. With our high rent-burdened residents and those with other disabilities and who have received a 40% reduction; they are capable of meeting affordable housing goals. The city has set hard targets and must do whatever it takes to appeal affordable housing allocations.

Gail Price
Orme Street, Palo Alto

This week on Town Square

Town Square is an online discussion forum at PaloAltoOnline.com/square

In response to ‘In fight against homelessness, Palo Alto turns to police officers’

Posted Aug. 31 at 8:36 a.m. by Jeff Tiernan, a resident of Mountain View

“When a complaint is made regarding a homeless person, the (Mountain View Police Department) simply dispatches an officer to investigate, and in many instances, the disruptive individual has fled or wandered off prior to police arrival.

Actual encounters generally involve the police politely telling the homeless individual to move on and that is that.

Palo Alto appears to be taking a far more repressive approach on behalf of business owners and residents who abhor the impoverished and their oftentimes disheveled appearance.

Palo Alto is all about keeping up appearances, and the poor need not apply.”

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Piedmont’s Finest Estate

Completely updated mid-century modern classic by famed architect Gardner Dailey built on a rare site of 2.75 private acres. The home is an entertainer’s dream with Dailey’s signature style of wide hallways and doors and windows that turn rooms into gardens. Mature trees and manicured grounds create a private, secure, park-like atmosphere on the most prestigious street in Piedmont. This estate is truly a one-of-a-kind gem.

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SEARCHING
FOR THEIR
FATHER’S
KILLER

Andy Kinyon died in 1972. His family wants answers.

By SUE DREMANN

On Kinyon was 9 years old when his father, Andrew, was stabbed to death in San Francisco in 1972. Nearly 50 years later, the Palo Alto native and his family are still seeking answers as to why Kinyon was murdered and who his killer — or killers — might be.

Although police identified a suspect early on, no one was ever brought to trial. Statements reportedly made by Kinyon in the weeks prior to his death also hinted that more than one person might have been involved in the crime. The Kinyons — Jon, his sister, Lori, and their mother, Geraldine — want the case reopened and evidence to be reexamined using modern DNA techniques, which have helped solve a number of decades-old cold cases. (See article on the John Getreu murder trial in the Upfront section.)

Since the late 1980s, the family has searched for answers, but in 2010, Jon began doggedly hunting for every scrap of information he could gather that would lead the family to the truth. Newspapers, clippings dating back nearly 60 years, old photographs, online databases and police reports are all pieces of a complex puzzle that have taken the family into the dark recesses of San Francisco’s North Beach scene in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Discovery of the truth, the family believes, is being stymied by the San Francisco Police Department’s baffling silence. For decades, the family hasn’t received any information about the case nor gained access to the full investigation file. Geraldine, who still resides in Palo Alto, has only learned bits and pieces after initiating multiple phone calls, Jon said.

All of these years, the family believed the case was still active. But in 2020, Jon learned that the primary suspect had died decades earlier, and police had closed his father’s case in 2018.

“This summer, on July 19, he started a Change.org petition for police and the district attorney to preserve evidence and conduct a complete and thorough investigation of the case. The Kinyon family wants the police to test a knife and bloodstreamed boots belonging to the sole suspect, along with other evidence using modern DNA testing. They hope that investigators will find proof that will connect the suspect, or suspects, to Kinyon’s brutal stabbing.

“If it turns out to be my dad’s blood, our family would be more certain of (the suspect’s) guilt. And if it’s enough to close the case, it would be nice to be able to refer to him as a murderer rather than ‘suspect,’” Jon wrote in a June 2020 email to Lt. Michael Philpott of the San Francisco Police Department Major Crimes/Homicide Detail.

Police haven’t responded to the family’s entreaties, nor have the department responded to the weekly’s multiple requests for comment on any aspect of the case or the Kinyons’ comments. This silence has only fueled Jon’s concerns about a possible cover-up. It’s led to his own ongoing investigation to track down the real story of his father’s homicide. He’s made videos, created a website, and plans to write a book.

He once had a brief sense of triumph 11 years ago. The family was able to look at some of the notations in the case file in May and December 2010 when a sympathetic detective permitted them to see some of the pages after they’d requested for decades to see the file led to more questions than answers: a mention of narcotics, an argument on the street, a previous threat against Kinyon’s life, a comment about money owed, and rumors of unknown figures in San Francisco’s mob underworld. The 6-foot-tall shadowy figure who emerged as the lone suspect shortly after the murder remained just that: a shadow that Jon continues to pursue 49 years following his father’s death.

AN ARTIST, CAR ENTHUSIAST AND FATHER

A series of photographs provide a snapshot of Kinyon’s life during the course of his last decade and how he transitioned from a sales professional to a denizen of San Francisco’s North Beach hippie community.

In a 1961 color picture taken at Palo Alto’s Hoover Park, he is leaning against his gold Chevrolet Bel Air. His reddish-brown, wavy hair is neatly and stylishly tousled over his forehead. It’s the year he graduated from the now-closed Cubberley High School.

A professional black-and-white photo taken in 1964 shows an impeccably dressed young man with his foot confidently perched on a stool, a scroll of marketing materials in hand. He was the West Coast regional sales manager for Cowles Media, publisher of Look magazine. He got married young — in 1961 — to his high school sweetheart, Geraldine Kidder.

The couple started a family. Jon was their first-born child in 1962. Two years later, a daughter, Lori, was born. In photographs, Kinyon’s holding his infant son...
in his lap, intently cradling his new child. A 1962 photo shows him in the living room around Christmastime. He’s holding his baby son upright as Jon slaps a set of bongos nestled between his father’s loosely crossed legs.

“My dad was always working on art projects. I remember watching him draw and paint, work with wood and metal. He also loved to work on his cars. He built hot rods. I remember him always wanting to fix me and my sister breakfast. He was always taking us places, like the beach, the park, swimming. I don’t remember him ever being angry. He was very easygoing and laughing a lot,” Jon recalled.

By the mid-1960s, the marriage faltered. Kinyon moved to San Francisco in 1965. He traded the slicked hair and polished look for long hair and a beard and a job working for music promoter Bill Graham doing light shows at rock concerts. He loved the job, Jon said.

“When I spent the summers working with wood and metal. He always took us places, like the beach, the park, swimming. I don’t remember him ever being angry. He was very easygoing and laughing a lot,” Jon recalled.

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to send his girlfriend away. With Margaret present as a witness, the man abandoned his challenge to a fight and left.

Margaret, who planned to stay the night at Kinyon’s apartment, decided to stay with her sister after the incident, she told police. Kinyon walked alone to his apartment at 1367 Grant Ave. He entered the building’s doorway and walked up a staircase leading to the second-floor landing to the apartments.

A resident heard a commotion. Kinyon was talking with someone in the stairwell. Then, another voice: “You bet you pay,” a man said two or three times, the resident told police.

At approximately 2:15 a.m. police found Kinyon with a vicious slit across his neck on one side, from throat to ear. A second deep stab punctured the base of the neck. A large stab wound opened his abdomen, according to the police report.

An all-points bulletin from police described the man who had argued with Kinyon minutes before the stabbing: “white male, approximately 31 years old; 5 feet, 11 inches to 6 feet tall, 170 pounds, slender build. Black hair, full black beard, bushy type; wearing prescription glasses, small, round wire-frame type; wearing a light-colored hat similar to cowboy style but with a smaller brim, maybe homemade; light-colored three-quarter-length jacket, should have blood on his clothing.”

Based on information about his previous threats and his physical description, police questioned Imbrogno. He said he’d been drinking at Spec’s Bar at 12 William Saroyan Place near Columbus Avenue with friends. He’d arrived home at about 2:30 a.m. He claimed to have shaved off his full beard a couple of weeks prior.

Imbrogno also claimed to have no quarrel with Kinyon. “There never was any trouble between Andy and me. In fact, we have been arrested together,” he told an investigator.

Acquaintances had a different impression. Sometime before the murder, Kinyon and Imbrogno got into a brawl. Both were arrested. They spent five days in jail for disorderly conduct, Jon said. He wonders if the incident was the precipitating factor for the stabbing. At least one acquaintance told police about the same incident. It likely didn’t settle well with Imbrogno, according to the witness’ statement. The acquaintances who drank with Imbrogno the night Kinyon was murdered also gave conflicting statements to police.

Imbrogno had arrived at the Caffe Trieste at 601 Vallejo St. between 5 and 6 p.m., and he was already drunk. He appeared to be upset, an acquaintance named Ed told police.

“Eugene is a very moody character,” he told police. They also went drinking that night at Spec’s and left at about 1:30 or 2 a.m. The last time Ed recalled seeing him, Imbrogno was still standing in the bar. But another acquaintance, Donald, said they had been drinking at Caffe Trieste until about 2 a.m. They all got into a car, except for Imbrogno, who remained on the corner of Grant and Vallejo, he said. He also thought Imbrogno had shaved off his beard around the New Year, he said.

In Jan. 28, 1972, a police department memo noted Imbrogno was “taken into custody” for Kinyon’s murder. The complaint was “interrogated prior to booking.” Two neighbors had called police after they spotted Imbrogno sitting in a Chevrolet with another man in the 1400 block of Grant Ave. He gave his address as 1458 Grant Ave., two blocks from where the murder of Kinyon took place.

Imbrogno was apparently released, however. Police confiscat-ed a knife and a pair of boots with apparent blood stains during Imbrogno’s detention. Imbrogno had had the boots cleaned or polished before he was taken into custody, however, making linking the stains to Kinyon’s murder difficult to ascertain at the time.

Jon said the family learned there was a suspect about a week after the murder, but the case languished for 11 years until 1983, when Imbrogno, then 47 and back living in New York state, was arrested for criminal possession of a dangerous weapon. The New York police were apparently in contact with San Francisco law enforcement, perhaps looking at Imbrogno’s criminal history. A single handwritten note on the outside of Kinyon’s manila case file summed up the case’s disposition: “Suspect Eugene Santori (sic) picked up Catskills, N.Y. Case discussed with Asst. DA Whitman. According to Mr. Whitman insufficient evidence to warrant trip or extradition from N.Y. of suspect Santori.”

It was signed “Falzon/Clearly,” inspectors Frank Falzon and Jack Cleary.

“Falzon told us in 1984 that Imbrogno had been ‘convicted of a similar crime’ in New York and that he wouldn’t be getting out of prison any time soon. He thought that we should take comfort in knowing he was behind bars,” Jon said.

Imbrogno, however, was back in Fairfax, California, that same year, a death notice published that March showed.

Not long after being told that the suspect in her ex-husband’s murder was supposedly in prison, Geraldine went to New York to visit relatives and intended to visit Imbrogno in prison. She wanted to confront him about Kinyon’s murder. She was still under the impression that Kinyon’s killer was named Eugene Santore, but there was no record of Eugene Santore in the New York prison system. The family only learned the suspect’s real name was Eugene Imbrogno in 2010 when they finally glimpsed the case file and saw the FBI rap sheet, Jon said.

Jon laid out his concerns regarding the case in an October 2020 email to San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin. “We were shocked at what we learned. There was a lot of damning evidence, even though it was clear that we weren’t shown everything they have. Many things that you would expect to find in a case file are missing, or at least they weren’t shown to us, such as witness statements from my dad’s closest friends/roommates at the time.

‘Andy said before the New Year would be over, someone would kill him.’

Margaret, girlfriend of Andy Kinyon

“It appears that detectives didn’t do any investigative work beyond the first week. There were many leads, including an eye witness to the murder who told robbery detectives that she could identify the killer; she was evidently never tracked down or talked to. This person’s name wasn’t in the files we were shown. There was no indication that my dad’s girlfriend was brought in to see if she could identify the main suspect as the man who threatened my dad shortly before the crime, you’d think that would be the very first thing they’d do,” he wrote.

In 2020, Jon made a formal request to access the incident report related to his father’s death. In an updated incident report dated May 30, 2018, Kinyon, also Kenneth Young, was now listed as 75 years old; the suspect, Eugene Santore, “alias Eugene Imbrogno,” was listed as 62.

Two paragraphs summed up the case’s disposition: “While reviewing this case on the above listed date and time, I learned that sufficient evidence was developed identifying Eugene Imbrogno as the...”
suspect in this case. A subsequent computer search revealed the (sic) Eugene Imbrogno died in March of 1984. Given this development, this case is closed code 13/Exceptional Clearance.

It was signed by Det. Daniel Dedet.

“They never bothered to tell us,” Jon said.

Geraldine said she felt “betrayed and lied to.”

“How many other people have they done this to? We’ve suffered to the point that it’s beyond comprehensible for somebody to realize what we’ve been through. I wish he would’ve got caught. They had the means to do it and they didn’t do it,” she said by phone in July.

POLICE OBfuscation?

Around 2020, Sgt. Al Levy, head of the cold case unit, told Jon that Inspector Dedet had informed Lori Kinyon that the case had been closed in 2018. Lori, however, claims never to have heard from anyone, Jon said.

Police told Jon they won’t run tests on the knife and the boots, he said. An investigator said they had “swabbed the soles of the boots and found no usable blood.” Jon said.

“I reminded him that we’ve been told since 1972 that there were visible blood drops on the boots. He kept repeating the ‘we swabbed the soles’ bit, and not responding to what I said,” he wrote in an email to the Weekly.

Police also wouldn’t tell him when the boots had been swabbed, whether it was 1972, 1990 or 2010. They were silent when he asked about testing the knife’s wooden handle for DNA.

“It was so infuriating,” Jon said.

“A man got away with murder ... It's a case that I've lived with.’

Frank Falzon, retired San Francisco police inspector

The Kinyons now want to view the entire case file, but their request has been denied. It seems strange that a nearly 50-year-old case, now closed, can’t be viewed by the family, Jon said.

“The main suspect is dead. Nearly all witnesses are dead. And my private investigation has turned up more information than anything they’ve turned up, but they weren’t interested in hearing any of it,” he wrote in a 2020 email to San Francisco Assistant District Attorney David Merin, who referred the case back to the police department.

There is one former police inspector who is willing to speak about the case: Falzon. He was one of two lead investigators at the time of the murder.

Now retired and in his 70s, Falzon solved the infamous “Night Stalker” murder case that led to the arrest of Richard Ramirez. He has investigated other high-profile cases, including the City Hall murders by former San Francisco police officer Dan White, the Zodiac killer, the Zebra murders and the 1974 Carlson murders, a torture, murder and rape case of a San Francisco couple.

But he couldn’t bring the Kinyon murder to justice, he said.

“I can’t create evidence; I can’t create witnesses,” he said, noting the bloodstained boots had been “professionally cleaned,” and they didn’t have the technology to test them for DNA in the 1970s.

Using common sense, he argued in 1983 that Imbrogno, who he still refers to as Santoro, should have been extradited to San Francisco from New York because of an incident that was similar to the Kinyon case.

“It fell on deaf ears,” he said.

“I’m sorry for the family. I think if you look at my record, you’ll find I solved a lot of my cases,” he said in August by phone.

He said he put much effort into the case, and he’s felt badly that the Kinyons have criticized his investigation.

“It is very hurtful to me. It hurts me to this day that we couldn’t make an arrest in this case. A man got away with murder. ... It’s a case that I’ve lived with. I couldn’t do it. I could not come up with that key piece of evidence. I went the extra mile on this case, and I wanted to solve it for her. The mother, Geraldine, was a good woman — very, very caring, a loving woman — and her heart was broken,” he said.

Falzon said he also shares Jon’s anguish at losing his father.

“I lost my father at 8 years old. I understand,” he said.

And he doesn’t blame the Kinyons’ dogged pursuit of the truth.

“They have been relentless,” he said, and they have every right to be, he said.

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

About the cover: For years, the Kinyon family has been trying to piece together information about their father’s murder in January 1972, which remains unsolved.

Photos from San Francisco Police Department and courtesy Jon Kinyon. Cover design by Douglas Young.

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Today. Tomorrow. Always.

We are here for you.
The 37th annual Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run & Walk is moving back to its longtime home at the Baylands for in-person races on Friday, Sept. 17 following a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The event also is taking place virtually in parks, on streets and in neighborhoods near and far for a second consecutive year for participants who prefer to run whenever and wherever they choose. This is the first year that the event will be held in person and virtually.

The annual event, organized by the Palo Alto Weekly and city of Palo Alto, will kick off in person on Friday, Sept. 17, with a 5K walk followed by 5K, 10K and half-marathon races under the full harvest moon at the Baylands. Virtual participants can complete the race, which kicked off on Aug. 4, on any day between now and Sept. 17.

The annual fundraising event supports the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund, which awards grants to nonprofits that serve children and families in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Last year’s virtual event, which included 677 runners and walkers from 13 states and six countries, raised more than $50,000 through race registrations and sponsor donations. During the last in-person event at the Baylands in 2019, more than 2,000 runners and walkers participated.

Race-night registration for all events begins at 5:30 p.m. at Baylands Athletic Center, 1900 Geng Road, Palo Alto.

Results of the in-person races will be posted as available on race night at paloaltoonline.com. To maintain fairness to in-person runners, virtual participants will not be eligible for awards and will not be able to submit times.

For more information about the event, go to bit.ly/2021MoonlightRun.
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CITY OF PALO ALTO • PALO ALTO WEEKLY
Three ways to explore the Baylands

Palo Alto Weekly’s annual Moonlight Run & Walk includes a half marathon, a 5K trail along the water and a 10K route.

THE 5K WALK/RUN

The 5K run starts on Embarcadero Road and continues into the Baylands through the Adobe Creek Loop Trail that follows a stream across Mayfield Slough, before returning to Embarcadero. The 5K route takes participants (both walkers and runners) up onto the Bixby Park hill, which offers a view of the entire bay.

HALF MARATHON

The half marathon takes place extensively through the marshes, grasses and ponds in the Baylands. The 13.1-mile route follows Bayshore Road for about 2 miles before turning east into a narrow and curvy strip of land between Soap Pond and Charleston Slough. The route continues along Adobe Creek toward the San Francisco Bay before tracing the Mayfield Slough back inland. This course is repeated once before runners head toward the Palo Alto Airport and back to Embarcadero to wrap up the half marathon. Half marathoners who reach the 9.5 milepost more than two hours after the race’s 7:30 p.m. start, however, will be diverted along a shorter route to the finish line.

THE 10K RUN

The 10K run follows the same route as the half marathon without steering inland along Mayfield Slough for a second lap — instead, the trail heads directly toward Bixby Park and back toward Embarcadero Road to the finish. Despite the event happening late in the evening, it’s held every year under the full (or near-full) harvest moon, which creates bright and colorful conditions. The 10K launch heads directly toward Slough for a second lap — instead, steering inland along Mayfield Slough, before turning east into a narrow route as the half marathon without curvy strip of land between Soap Pond and Charleston Slough.

5K run (3.1 mi.): 7 p.m.
5K walk (3.1 mi.): 8:15 p.m.
Half marathon (13.1 mi.): 7:30 p.m.
10K run (6.2 mi.): 8:25 p.m.

Palo Alto Weekly
Moonlight Run & Walk Courses

Water Stations

— Palo Alto Weekly staff

WHAT’S HAPPENING AND WHEN

8:30 p.m. Registration opens. Activities, sponsors’ booths and more on the field (see below).
8:15 p.m. 5K run begins.
8:25 p.m. 10K run begins.
8:45 p.m. Food tables open for 5K and 10K runners. Post-race snacks provided by Country Sun Natural Foods, Hobee’s, House of Bagels and Trader Joe’s.
9:30 p.m. Awards ceremony for the top three finishers in each category. Race results will be posted as available.

FIELD ACTIVITIES AND BOOTHS

- DJ music by Byron Binns
- Zumba warm up with JCC instructors

Find more race night information on page 41.

RACE NIGHT GUIDE

MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK RACE ROUTES

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Gunn YCS-Interact
Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto
Mountain View High School Key Club
Palo Alto Run Club
Paly YCS-Interact
Paly Key Club
Pinewood Service Learning Club
Scouts BSA
Youth Community Service

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TO OUR
Youth Community Service
Scouts BSA

RACE RESULTS

Results of the in-person races will be available on computer monitors at the Baylands Athletic Center beginning at around 9:30 p.m. on race night. Results also will be posted online at bit.ly/2021MoonlightRun.

Medals for first-, second- and third-place finishers in each division will be handed out once final results are in, between 9:30 and 10 p.m. They may also be picked up during regular business hours after the race at the Palo Alto Weekly, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto.

To maintain fairness to in-person runners, virtual participants will not be eligible for awards and will not be able to submit times.

FASTEST TIMES TO BEAT

Here’s a look at the top Moonlight Run & Walk finishers from each running event over the past five years.

5K — Men
2016: Jonas Enders, Palo Alto....16:38
2017: Kevin Periantz, Los Gatos....16:13
2018: Alex Wang, Palo Alto .......18:06.3
2019: Henry Moonstehhi, Palo Alto ....17:05
2020 (virtual race): Ben Maines, Stanford....17:55

5K — Women
2016: Eliza Fadil, Palo Alto........21:01
2017: Eliza Fadil, Palo Alto.........19:44
2018: Tevah Gevelber, Palo Alto ....19:11.1
2016: Emma Dolson, Monte Park...19:03
2020 (virtual race): Taylor Fortnam, Portola Valley ....19:45

10K — Men
2016: Ryan Runser, Palo Alto.......35:33
2017: Blake Salvador, Stanford.....33:43
2018: Sam Wharton, Palo Alto ......32:53.2
2019: Eric Baysse, Santa Clara.....36:02
2020 (virtual race): Andrew Bray, Los Altos........40:47

10K — Women
2016: Chloe Glare, Redwood City....39:51
2017: Maria Houston, Mountain View....35.44
2018: Emilee Palmer, Palo Alto .....37:12.8
2019: Chloe Glare, Redwood City....39:06
2020 (virtual race): Chloe Glare, Redwood City......40:35

Half marathon — Men
2018: Joe Brough, Stanford .......1:12:49
2019: Joe Brough, Redwood City ....1:12:45
2020 (virtual race): Austin Johnson, Stanford ....1:42:30

Half marathon — Women
2018: Anna Kae, Palo Alto .......1:30:46
2019: Alexis Hee, Wilmington .......1:26:32
2020 (virtual race): Rachel Christensen, Fremont ....2:15:45

*Half marathon was added to Moonlight Run & Walk in 2018.
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12:00 pm: Lunch*
12:30 pm: Special Presentation & Thank You’s

*All riders will receive a morning snack, lunch, and a custom T-shirt

Dogs and smoking are not permitted in some of the county parks.
Running revival
With most activities on hold in 2020, sport experiences a resurgence

By Linda Taaffe

When the air horn goes off for the 5K run at the 37th annual Moonlight Run & Walk on Sept. 17, Lupe Alcantar plans to be at the starting line in person with her two daughters and two sisters by her side.

The East Palo Alto resident said the return of the event at the Palo Alto Baylands represents one small step toward normalcy following a year of living in pandemic lockdown. This is the first time in months Alcantar said she has felt motivated to return to running, a sport she’s enjoyed for more than 20 years, despite a knee injury.

“It’s not about coming in first place or beating her own running time, the 44-year-old explained.

“It’s just so much fun being out there with other people ... and I know I have to push myself because I don’t want to be the last one,” she said.

Vera Horiiuchi, 67, also plans to be at the starting line surrounded by her extended family. The longtime Palo Alto runner has participated in the annual event with her family many times since the mid-1980s when her daughter, now 36, crossed the finished line in a racing stroller.

Horiiuchi said participating in this year’s 5K run seems to hold even more significance.

“I feel more inspired,” she said. Running, she explained, represents the one thing that the pandemic didn’t alter or take away from her.

“I feel really fortunate that I can still do my preferred exercise — pandemic or no pandemic,” said Horiiuchi, who has been an avid runner since grade school. She runs or walks the same neighborhood loop along Almaden and Churchill and California avenues on most days of the week, although she now avoids the pedestrian tunnel at the end of California Avenue as a safety measure due to the rise in COVID-19 cases.

“I like the feeling of running. It makes me feel a lot stronger,” she said.

Alcantar and Horiiuchi are hardly alone in returning to running.

“It’s just so much fun being out there with other people,” explained.

For more information about the event, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • September 10, 2021 • Page 41 on who is brand new to running and who has taken it up again in the pandemic, she said.

In general, more adults ages 20 to 50 are new or returning to the sport, she said.

In the past year, the company experienced such a surge in business with people looking to order running shoes online or calling the store to arrange curbside pickup, that Urtz actually had to temporarily give up running herself because she was too busy trying to meet customers’ needs.

For Alcantar, the pandemic initially had the opposite effect on her running routine.

She said in the early months of the pandemic, she stopped running, partially because it was an activity that she and her daughters did as part of their training for the Moonlight Run, in which they had planned to participate in fall 2020 until the in-person event got canceled due to COVID-19. After that, they stopped training, and Alcantar turned to hiking — one of the only activities she did outside of her house during the shutdown, she said.

In recent weeks, with her daughter’s dog by her side, she’s been training nearly every day for the race, alternately walking and running the trails near Cooley Landing, Facebook and Dunnarton Bridge. Alcantar said she typically runs the 3.5-mile trail that loops along the perimeter of the Facebook campus, which is just around the corner from her home. Easy access to the trails has been an upside of working from home over the past year: It’s made it much more convenient to get outside and enjoy the surrounding nature, she said.

Horiiuchi said she’s been content running her neighborhood loop and was happy to participate in last year’s virtual Moonlight Run, but she’s ready to get back out to the Baylands.

“I love doing the run,” she said. “It’s very special to (my family).”

Urtz said whether someone’s running competitively or just for fun, “Running, and really any kind of physical movement, is beneficial for one’s mind, body and soul. It’s a good thing to do when you want to get out of the house and clear your head.”

This year’s annual Moonlight Run & Walk includes a 5K walk/run, 10K run and half marathon offered virtually and in person at the Palo Alto Baylands. The fundraising event benefits local nonprofits dedicated to helping kids and families on the Peninsula. For more information about the event, go to paloaltoonline.com/moonlight_run/ • Email Associate Editor Linda Taaffe at L.Taaffe@pawweekly.com.
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Public hearings on communities of interest will be held Sept. 13 and Oct. 4.

The district serves the communities of Palo Alto, Stanford, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, and parts of Saratoga and San Jose.

Learn more at fhda.edu/trustee-areas

FOOTHILL-DE ANZA Community College District
Fuse Theatre’s ‘Special Delivery’ uses letters to explore connection, relationships — and it’s coming to a mailbox near you

By Heather Zimmerman

The correspondence that’s central to Fuse Theatre’s “Special Delivery” includes photos of places that are relevant to the story. Courtesy Fuse Theatre.

Fuse Theatre has been among the many performing arts groups that looked to online platforms to reach audiences while theaters have mostly been off-limits for the past year and a half. And the Redwood City-based company’s latest production is still made for a remote audience, but rather than using Zoom, the show relies on a much older form of communication: the mail.

Starting in mid-September, Fuse’s show “Special Delivery: Theatre by Mail” will unfold via a series of letters sent to audience members who “subscribe” to the show by buying a ticket.

The company was inspired to create a theater-by-mail production in part because so many projects had migrated online, said Fuse Theatre’s Artistic Director Stacey Ardelean.

“We were looking for creative ways to not only work together but also address the pandemic and how that has isolated, many, many people … (we were) thinking about the communities that didn’t have access to the internet and how difficult that would be,” Ardelean said.

“Special Delivery” isn’t about the pandemic per se, but also address the pandemic by exploring connection, and how people have kept in contact in these unusual times, and asks what has been lost amid the isolation.

“We kept coming back to this idea of ‘not using technology, how can we do theater?’” Ardelean said.

Over the course of about a month, “Special Delivery” audience members will receive mail — 12 pieces in all — every two or three days that advances the story. The letters are written by different characters, some of whom discuss the same events but from different perspectives.

As a recipient of the correspondence, the audience gets to be a character in the show — though no interaction is required. But they can engage further with the play, thanks to some optional online extras. “Special Delivery” will have its own website (separate from Fuse Theatre’s online presence), where audience members can seek out some extras if they choose, such as sharing photos of themselves posing with the “props” that arrive with one of the mailings.

The online component is offered as more of a bonus, though; the main story of “Special Delivery” takes place via mail.

So what is this show of letters all about? Ardelean didn’t want to give too much away, but said it focuses on relationships and connections.

“This story is about our friends, our chosen family, reconnecting and (it’s) about celebration, love and friendship. It’s kind of a surprise,” she said.

The unconventional format of “Special Delivery” makes the most of a reorganization at Fuse Theatre over the past year, a shift that’s still underway as the group moves from a more traditional hierarchical model, with a board and executive positions, to an artists’ collective — a group of artists that Fuse calls “SPARKS.”

“We have a collective of 12 artists now. We’ve been working a lot on the company and the structure and dealing a lot with the idea of how do we run this company, being very mindful of dismantling systemic racism within those structures,” Ardelean said.

The SPARKs artists’ collective created “Special Delivery” together, each contributing to the show.

Ironically, the online realm of video conferencing, chats and emails that the show is deliberately avoiding in its presentation actually aided in its development. The era of Zoom has allowed Fuse Theatre to broaden its reach and the SPARKS collective features actors from beyond the Bay Area, including Southern California and Boston.

Theater-by-mail may be low-tech compared to performing via video conference, but the concept came with its own array of unusual logistics.

With the U.S. Postal Service’s well-publicized delivery troubles over the past year or so, the company made sure to put a system in place to deal with any letters that go astray. Each missive is curated so that audience members don’t accidentally open anything in the wrong order that would spoil the show for them (the correct order is also shared on the show’s website).

As they developed “Special Delivery,” the collective had to approach creating a theatrical experience in a new way, such as having to take into account a sensory element, which doesn’t come into play much with traditional in-person productions or those presented online. Company members had to consider not only how the letters would be designed, including instructions on how to read them, but also what paper each letter might use, not to mention how to incorporate props in this production.

The unique challenge was, Ardelean said, “How do we create not only the storytelling aspect of it, but also that theatrical aspect of it?”

And then of course making sure every piece of mail actually reaches its destination has involved a multitude of mailing labels.

“We have to have mailing labels for every single thing. With just the labels alone, it was like, ‘My God, how do we do this?’” Ardelean said with a laugh. “It’s just been a new way of thinking.”

If “Special Delivery” does well in its first outing, the company will look at potentially offering it again this fall, she said, and could even add a theater-by-mail production as a regular feature of coming seasons.

Subscriptions for “Special Delivery” are $20 and offered on a limited basis; as of press time, subscriptions were still available. For more information, visit fusetheatre.org.

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A sweet bonus: you can pick your own berries — blackberries, raspberries and ollaliberries among them — or pick up a pint (or several) at the stand. Just as sweet are the baked goods like pan dulce or a slice of tres leches cake.

Top, artichokes are plentiful coastside, but San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee is considering guideline changes to allow farm stands to sell more items that aren’t produced on-site. Photo by Charles Russo. Middle, local fruit stands feature organic and fresh foods like these patty pan squash. Bottom, R&R Fresh Farms in Pescadero sells candied fruit.

By Sara Hayden at shayden@peninsulafoodist.com.
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Palo Alto High School students sort donated food during a drive they organized in 2020. To celebrate the community’s resilience over the course of the pandemic, Palo Alto is hosting a week of events starting Friday.

Resilience

(continued from page 5)

The event listing. The full list of activities is available at youthcommunityservice.org/national-day-of-service.

Art and music will play a central role in Palo Alto’s week-long celebration. The Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival will take center stage at the Palo Alto Art Center on Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors will have a chance to view and purchase clay and glass works and meet the artists behind them. The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University plans to hold a special welcome for Palo Alto residents on Sept. 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. (admission is free, but reservations are required for entry).

Music lovers will also have plenty of options, with numerous outdoor concerts planned in downtown and on California Avenue. The first of these will take place on Sept. 11, when singer-songwriter Steve Poltz performs on California Avenue at 5 p.m. in a “salute to merchants, workers, caregivers and consumers,” according to the event listing. Dayna Stephens Group will play jazz at Lytton Plaza on Monday, Sept. 13, between noon and 1:30 p.m.

Inspector Gadje Sextet, a world music ensemble, will bring music to California Avenue on Sept. 13, between 5 and 7 p.m., while the Mads Tolling Quartet will play jazz at Lytton Plaza on Sept. 14, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Jazz lovers are also invited to hear Ben Goldberg and Scott Amendola, who will play the music of Thelonious Monk on Sept. 13 at 4:30 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 15, and the Zach Moses Ostrow Trio, who will perform a free noon concert from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 17. Eden Edell will perform original songs and covers at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 16. All three of these performances will be at Lytton Plaza.

For a full list of events, visit cityofpaloalto.org.

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

Housing market

(continued from page 14)

strong from local and foreign inbound migration. Young families from the south, north or east bays continue to move to Palo Alto for the schools and an easy commute. We’ve also started to see families immigrating from overseas as the issuance of the working visa has resumed with the new administration. The net population growth of Santa Clara County has been relying on foreign immigrants for quite some time. As long as the tech economy remains solid, we may be just entering another bull cycle that could last six to seven years.

While it’s impossible to time the market, sellers and buyers are wise to take different strategies in different market environments. For sellers, it always helps to know your “products.” For buyers, it is essential to “think through the mid- to long-term needs.”

Xin Jiang is a real estate agent with Compass in Palo Alto. She can be emailed at xin.jiang@compass.com.
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Senior Systems Test Engineer
Senior Systems Test Engineer with Rivian Automotive, LLC in Palo Alto, CA. Plan, execute, and document tests to verify & validate controls, containment, self-driving & connectivity system behavior & performance, expose issues, & identify root causes. Must possess a Master's degree or foreign equiv in Electrical Eng or a closely rel field & 2 yrs of (or a Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Electrical Eng or a closely rel field & 5 yrs of progressively responsible) exp testing, troubleshooting or debugging air/ ground/space vehicle systems or complex software systems. Exp must include: HIL data analysis in Simulink, Matlab, or similar programming; utilizing linux or unix based systems; work w/HIL/SL/MIL prototype/production vehicle driving; using embedded Linux for communication; working w/ Embedded C/C++, Python; managing High Voltage and Low Voltage Electrical (LVE) power system; and work w/ Systems Engineering. Telecommuting permitted. Domestic travel required 10% of the time. Email resume to Rivian Automotive, LLC, Attn: Mobility, Job Ref #: SEF521MD, hmbrolivity@rivian.com

Senior Embedded Software Engineer
Senior Embedded Software Engineer with Rivian Automotive, LLC in Palo Alto, CA. Work on embedded software for Auto Advanced driver-assistance systems products. RQMTS: Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in computer science, eng, info technology, math, or a closely rel field & 2 yrs of exp in software dvlpmt, data architecture, data eng, business intelligence, data science w/a track record of manipulating, processing, & extracting value from large datasets. Alt, employer will accept a Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in an acceptable field as stated above + 5 yrs of progressively resp exp as stated above. Exp must include: managing big data and data warehousing services offered by AWS; work w/ AWS big data technologies, incl REDSHIFT, SPECTRUM, S3, EMR, GLUE, ATENIA & big data technologies, incl HADOOP, HIVE, HBASE, & SPARK; creating data mgmt strategies & tuning large redshift clusters; developing ETL, data modeling, & data warehousing; building/operating highly available, distributed systems of data extraction, ingestion, and processing large data sets; utilizing analytics & reporting tools, such as TABLEAU, POWER BI, D3VIEW and programming languages, such as JAVA, PYTHON, and SCALA; and working w/data base by AWS; work w/ AWS big data technologies, incl REDSHIFT, DYNAMODB, MONGO& & SQL SERVER. Email resume to Rivian Automotive, LLC, Attn: Mobility, Job Ref #: A5261EJG, hmbrolivity@rivian.com

Lead Data Engineer
Target Enterprise, Inc. is seeking a full-time Lead Data Engineer at our offices in Sunnyvale, CA. The Lead Data Engineer develops the technology, including software development, that personalizes the guest experience, from product recommendations to relevant ad content. This position requires a Master's degree or equivalent in Computer and Engineering or a related field and 6 months related experience. Must also have 6 months of experience (which may have been gained concurrently) with each of the following: (1) leading projects and managing product lifecycle from inception to release; (2) understanding and developing machine learning, pattern recognition, and deep neural networks; (4) designing and implementing image retrieval systems in Python with technologies and frameworks including Keras, TensorFlow, or PyTorch; and (5) implementing and testing low-power solutions to retail applications on Intel’s Loihi neuromorphic chips using Loihi NxSDK. Will accept experience gained before, during or after Master's program. Position includes a telecommute benefit within commuting distance to a Sunnyvale-area Target office, as directed. Please apply online at https://corporate.target.com/careers/

Employment

HIL Validation Engineer, Self-Driving
HIL Validation Engineer, Self-Driving with Rivian Automotive, LLC in Palo Alto, CA. Determine and assemble test specific setup requirements to perform verification including Hardware-in-the-loop (HIL), Software-in-the-loop(SiL) and Model-in-the-Loop(MiL) platforms. RQMTS: Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in electrical eng, computer science, mechanical eng, or a related field. Min of 3 yrs of exp in automotive eng or a related occupation. Exp must incl the following skills/tools/technologies: automotive communication protocols (CAN, ETHERNET); HIL test system & test script dvlpmt; test automation tool selection & execution; real-time test platforms; automated rjpts regmt tools; issue tracking & workflow tools; test dvlpmt exp w/MATHWORKS tools such as SIMULINK, MATLAB, & test scripting exp w/ PYTHON. Email resume to Rivian Automotive, LLC, Attn: Mobility, Job Ref #: HILVESD21PB, hmbrolivity@rivian.com

Sr. Technical Program Manager
Sr. Technical Program Manager with Rivian Automotive, LLC in Palo Alto, CA. Lead a cross-functional team comprised of eng. supply chain, construction mgmt, and others to design, integrate, & deploy custom industrial equip. RQMTS: Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in mechanical eng, electric eng, or a closely rel field & 2 yrs of exp designing & launching industrial equipment into mfg. environments. exp must incl: leading design and mfg. validation activities such as D/PFM CITY, D/PV testing, PPR, or similar tools; utilizing a standard product dvlpmt process such as SCRUM; working w/ managing system integrators, vendors, & 3rd party resources; creating & maintaining a dvlpmt roadmap; and managing mfg eng projects from concept through launch, incl conceptualization, design, procurement, installation, commissioning, & turnover to operations. Domestic and/or international travel req approx 25% of the time. Destination & frequency impossible to predict. Email resume to Rivian Automotive, LLC, Attn: Mobility, Job Ref #: STPM21EJL, hmbrolivity@rivian.com

AWS Data Engineer
AWS Data Engineer with Rivian Automotive, LLC in Palo Alto, CA. Design, implement and support an analytical data infrastructure providing access to large datasets and computing power. RQMTS: Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv computer science, eng, info technology, math, or a closely rel field & 2 yrs of exp in software dvlpmt, data architecture, data eng, business intelligence, data science w/a track record of manipulating, processing, & extracting value from large datasets. Alt, employer will accept a Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in an acceptable field as stated above + 5 yrs of progressively resp exp as stated above. Exp must include: working w/ AWS big data technologies, incl REDSHIFT, SPECTRUM, S3, EMR, GLUE, ATENIA & big data technologies, incl HADOOP, HIVE, HBASE, & SPARK; creating data mgmt strategies & tuning large redshift clusters; developing ETL, data modeling, & data warehousing; building/operating highly available, distributed systems of data extraction, ingestion, and processing large data sets; utilizing analytics & reporting tools, such as TABLEAU, POWER BI, D3VIEW and programming languages, such as JAVA, PYTHON, and SCALA; and working w/data base by AWS; work w/ AWS big data technologies, incl REDSHIFT, DYNAMODB, MONGO& & SQL SERVER. Email resume to Rivian Automotive, LLC, Attn: Mobility, Job Ref #: A5261EJG, hmbrolivity@rivian.com

Advanced Manufacturing Engineer
Advanced Manufacturing Engineer with Rivian Automotive, LLC in Palo Alto, CA. Dvlp detailed mfg assembly & automation processes. RQMTS: Master's degree or foreign equiv Mechanical Eng, Auto Eng or a closely rel field & 3 yrs of exp as an eng in the auto industry. Alt, employer will accept a Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in an acceptable field as stated above + 5 yrs of progressively resp exp as stated above. Exp must incl: Utilizing 2D & 3D CAD software tools, incl AutoCAD, CATIA & DELMIA Simulations; applying knowledge of lean mfg & auto-related mfg processes & tooling; working w/ assembly lines/stations layout (product & process layout) & OEM for vehicle launching; handling component specification stds and ANSI standards for GD&T incl understanding impact on dimensional variation; working w/statistical qualification of machinery, equip, and gauges, & the ability to improve & document methods for completing equip/ process capability; & Applying knowledge of high and low volume mfg skills and concepts incl cycle time analysis, quality control, equip efficiency, equip selection, and return on investment. Domestic and/or intel travel req approx 2% of the time. Destination & frequency impossible to predict. Email resume to Rivian Automotive, LLC, Attn: Mobility, Job Ref #: A5261EJG, hmbrolivity@rivian.com
Wonderful mid-century home with clean lines and open floor plan on a quiet street in Midtown. This one-story home offers a lovely living room with fireplace and glass sliders to the rear patio, a cozy family room with gorgeous new carpeting, a bright kitchen with skylight and adjacent dining area, and an abundance of natural light from oversized windows throughout. Vaulted wood-beamed ceilings, refinished hardwood floors, fresh paint inside and out, and an attached 2-car garage. Excellent Palo Alto Schools: Palo Verde Elementary, Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle, and Palo Alto High.

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