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Plan for lifting mask mandate announced

Organizations will be able to set independent masking requirements

By Sue Dremann

Eight Bay Area counties will lift the indoor mask mandates after a series of criteria are met, they announced on Oct. 7. The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties are all in the CDC’s orange, or “substantial,” tier, according to the CDC’s County Check tool. Most Bay Area health depart-

(continued on page 40)

As workers return, city shakes up parking

Plans aim to drive employees from neighborhoods, into city lots and garages

By Gennady Sheyner

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered local commute patterns, Palo Alto’s parking policies were in flux as the city launched new residential parking programs, adopted data-collection technologies and advanced a plan to build a large new garage near California Avenue.

Now, with businesses slowly coming back and some employees returning to the office, Palo Alto is eying another major shake-up with significant ramifications for workers in downtown and around California Avenue. Under the new plan, which the City Council Finance Committee endorsed on Tuesday night, permit prices for lots and garages will go up, and employees in the California Avenue area will no longer be able to purchase parking permits in the residential neighborhoods of Evergreen Park and Mayfield.

Instead, workers in the California Avenue business district will be eligible to buy permits in the new 626-space garage at 350 Sherman Ave., a facility that staff is confident can more than accommodate the influx of cars that will shift there from residential streets.

Concurrently, the city plans to lower the number of employee permits that it will be selling in a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by federal and state authorities for 5-11-year-olds.

Currently, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties have all seen the need many times, in-

(continued on page 47)

Housing

Giving renters a voice in Palo Alto

Group forms to advocate for rights of residents who make up almost half of city’s population

By Lloyd Lee

For years, Angie Evans talked about bringing together Palo Alto renters to push the city to protect the rights of tenants. She clearly saw the need many times, including in 2019, when the new owners of the President Hotel evicted its tenants and the City Council declined to intervene.

But it wasn’t until city leaders finally broached the subject of rental protection programs in early 2020 — and the COVID-19 pandemic increased anxieties nationwide about housing security — that Evans saw the perfect moment to launch the Palo Alto Renters’ Association with seven other tenants, in the hopes of giving non-homeowners a voice in the city’s government.

“There wasn’t an exact thing that made this happen,” Evans, 38, said. “It was more like we finally had a group of people who were all interested in working on tenant protections.”

A year later, the grassroots group is in the process of maintaining its nonprofit status. It’s also developed four priorities: creating a citywide rent registry, developing a public education campaign, and tackling issues of tenant harassment and subsidized housing.

Ironically, about half of the group’s founders have since left Palo Alto due to challenges created by the pandemic, according to Evans. The remaining founders declined or did not respond by press deadline to requests from the Weekly for interviews.

“People have asked to remain anonymous because it’s really hard to fight for renters’ rights when you know it’s so easy for your landlord to take your house away,” said Evans, a longtime housing advocate and Palo Alto renter since 2014.

The group’s founders included a mix of renters, young adults living at home with their parents, vehicle dwellers and homeless residents. Though there’s no formal membership program (continued on page 14)
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**Planning, Conversations and Concerns Regarding Discharge From The Hospital During the Pandemic**

**THE RIGHT REMEDY ...**

Visitors at MayView Palo Alto clinic will notice major renovations and expanded onsite services — many of which will help people follow COVID-19 safety protocols. The updates are evident once you step through the doors of the Grand Avenue facility, which is part of the Ravenswood Family Health Network. The entrance includes an expanded waiting area, which allows for more social distancing, and a new modular front desk with longer plexiglass. The site has added three exam rooms, which each now have more electrical outlets on the walls (they were previously on the floor, which posed a danger to visitors and staff). The additional outlets provide staff with enough power sources for equipment such as ultrasound machines, computers and HEPA air filtration systems. There are plans to dedicate two exam rooms to optometry services. The clinic also has put in a disability-accessible bathroom with a cabinet for patients to leave specimen samples for lab testing. The changes extend to staff-only areas as well. Two large team rooms have been renovated to allow for more physical distancing and additional ergonomic equipment. The health network was able to move forward with the transformation thanks in part to the Ken & Lucille Packard Foundation and community members.

**WHEELIE POPPIN’ ...**

A video of a man cussing out a teenager who had been riding his bicycle on his back wheel along University Avenue is making the rounds on the internet. On Sept. 27, Gerardo Maldonado’s original video that was uploaded to Instagram was reposted on Reddit, a content aggregation platform and online forum, and received about 24,000 “upvotes” in two days. In the six-minute video taken Aug. 21, an older man in a blue polo shirt blocks Maldonado’s path and accuses the bicyclist of previously “running into” him. Maldonado, 18, is heard denying ever crashing into the man. The older man also makes several threats toward Maldonado. Maldonado originally made the video, others could be heard yelling to the older man, “Leave him alone!” A police investigation “determined that two adult men got into a verbal altercation downtown about perceived unsafe bicycling,” Lt. Con Maloney said via email. The case has been submitted to the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office.

**A RENT REGISTRY IS KIND OF A NO-BRAINER.**

— Angie Evans, co-founder of Palo Alto Renters’ Association, on giving renters a voice in Palo Alto.

**See story on page 5.**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

Upfront

A rent registry is kind of a no-brainer.

— Angie Evans, co-founder of Palo Alto Renters’ Association, on giving renters a voice in Palo Alto.

**See story on page 5.**

**THE RIGHT REMEDY ...**

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**TOP MARKS ...**

Some of the state’s best high schools can be found in Palo Alto, where public and private institutions ranked high on Niche’s 2022 Best Schools and Districts rankings, which were released last month. Gunn High School was named the best public high school, dethrone San Diego’s Canyon Crest Academy, which was bumped to the No. 2 spot. Palo Alto High School came in a respectable fifth place, behind Saratoga High School and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, located near Los Angeles in the city of Caris. Castilleja School also took fifth on the list of best private high schools, just behind Stanford Online High School. California’s top private school resides just about 40 miles away from Palo Alto in Oakland. The College Preparatory School came first, followed by The Nueva School in San Mateo and Hillsborough and Harvard-Westlake School in the Los Angeles area. In its eighth year, the rankings capture data from 94,491 public schools, 2,489 private schools and 11,846 school districts across the country. The rankings are based on input from school community members such as current students, alumni and parents, and quantitative data on teachers, resources and other factors from sources like the Department of Education. To view the complete rankings, visit niche.com/k12/rankings.
Out of weeds grows a pumpkin patch

Baskin-Robbins owner Seng Kaing creates a ‘Hidden Halloween’ pop-up patch to build community spirit

By Sue Dremann

In a lot behind the Midtown shopping center usually filled with weeds, a hay-bale circle dedicated to the most supernaturally horrid of holidays has taken shape. The rectangular bales encircle a straw and wood “altar” covered with bright orange pumpkins, corn stalks and colorful fall leaves. The display is guarded by a dangling ghost effigy and a pumpkin-headed goblin. A skeletal sprawl between two large pumpkins, resting his bones. With the vibe of a magical circle fit for a full-moon ritual, this pop-up mini Halloween park could be Palo Alto’s own version of Stonehenge.

By daylight, it’s a gathering place for families, where children can paint or carve their own pumpkins and visitors of all ages can sit and chat or relax in the warm afternoon sunshine.

The Hidden Halloween is the creation of Baskin-Robbins franchise owner Seng Kaing, his wife, Ivy, and their relatives: Kent Chang and Tim Sin. They spent hours clearing the lot and hauling 24 straw bales they’d imported from Half Moon Bay. Pumpkins of all sizes sit on each bale. They aren’t yet carved, since it’s early in the season, but a few showed the promising signs of a Jack-o’-ween to come: fake blood trickled down the smooth orange skin and one was decorated with a blue painted heart.

Kaing, who has owned the Midtown Baskin-Robbins at 2051 Middletown Road for six years, said the land behind his store has been empty for a long time. He’s always looked for a way to use the space.

“Rather than simply replicating the model of other newspapers, the Pulse has been given the charge of taking a fresh approach to digital journalism. Rather than simply replicating the model of other newspapers, the Pulse has been given the charge of taking a fresh approach to digital journalism. The model of other newspapers, the Pulse has been given the charge of taking a fresh approach to digital journalism. The model of other newspapers, the Pulse has been given the charge of taking a fresh approach to digital journalism. — Sue Dremann

Man allegedly runs over woman after dispute

A man who got into a dispute with the cashier at a Palo Alto spa allegedly robbed her of her cellphone and ran over her with his gold 2005 Honda CR-V while fleeing the scene, police said.

Officers and fire personnel responded to an emergency call on Sept. 24 around 11:30 a.m. in the 3400 block of El Camino Real near Creekside Inn and found a woman in her 40s sitting on the roadway. The vehicle that struck her had fled the scene. Paramedics pronounced the woman dead.

Detectives identified the man as 31-year-old Juan Carlos Valdivia Colvin. They said he was seen fleeing the scene and trying to evade police.

Colvin has been charged with two felony counts of theft by an employee and two misdemeanor counts of now authorized to operate a vehicle.

He is being held at the Santa Clara County Jail on $3 million bail.

The alleged embezzlement occurred between February 2019 and October 2020. The owner of Rangoon Ruby and Burma Ruby discovered the alleged fraud in November 2020 after noticing accounting discrepancies. Colvin had given herself multiple $15,000 bonuses and made $65,000 in payments to a Porsche, among other alleged thefts, investigators reportedly found.

Colvin has been charged with two felony counts of theft by an employee. She is scheduled for arraignment on Wednesday in the Santa Clara County Superior Court in San Jose.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen cautioned business owners to watch their business finances closely.

Employee accused of embezzling $200K

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**State’s vax mandate for students garners local support**

By Zoe Morgan and Angela Swartz

Gov. Gavin Newsom’s announcement last week that COVID-19 vaccines will be required for students ages 12 and up has been met with broad support, and a lot of questions, from local education leaders.

School officials on the Peninsula are generally on board with the idea of a vaccine mandate, but some say there are still a lot of details that need to be worked out.

For Palo Alto Unified School District Superintendent Don Austin, the news of a vaccine mandate was “relatively predictable,” but the lack of written documentation on how the new rules will function has left a lot of issues unanswered.

“Immediately school leaders have a thousand questions, which are in addition to the questions we received right away from parents and staff,” Austin said. “The frustration begins with having to wait for clarification around exactly what it means and potential timelines.”

The governor announced at an Oct. 1 press conference that students will be required to get fully vaccinated to participate in face-to-face instruction. The mandate will only take effect at the start of the academic term next year, either Jan. 1 or July 1, after the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves the shots for those 12 and older.

Based on current FDA timelines, the state expects students in grades seven through 12 will be required to get vaccinated by July 1, 2022.

In response to questions from the Weekly, the California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) communications office said in a statement that once the FDA fully approves a vaccine for students within a given span of grade levels, the state health department will consider recommendations from other groups, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and American Academy of Pediatrics, before implementing a requirement.

CDPH will then begin a rule-making process to flesh out the details, gathering public comments and possibly include exemptions to the mandate, according to the statement.

“We will make an announcement when we have more information to share,” a communications office spokesperson stated.

Los Altos School District Superintendent Jeff Baier said that he thinks the mandate is a “positive step” to protect student and staff health, adding that it’s similar to vaccines the state already mandates, including mumps, measles and rubella.

“This is yet another disease over which we can exercise a measure of control and really ensure that our students are able to remain in in-person schooling with much less worry about a significant outbreak,” Baier said. “Everyone participating is critical in this.”

**Parents and students react to mandate**

Mount View High School parent Jennifer Matus said the vaccination requirement makes a lot of sense,” she said. “Kids always have vaccine requirements for the safety of students and adults.”

Matus serves as Mountain View High’s PTSA president but said she was speaking for herself only. Matus said she knows other families who aren’t getting their kids vaccinated, including some of her son’s friends.

Los Altos High School senior Serena Gaylord is similarly supportive of the mandate, saying that while she is vaccinated, she knows that some other students aren’t.

“I think it’s really important, especially because kids don’t have a lot of autonomy to decide whether they can be vaccinated or not,” Gaylord said. “It’s their parents’ decision.”

Some teachers have also shared their support of the vaccine requirement. John Davenport, who teaches history at Corte Madera School in Portola Valley and is president of the Portola Valley Teachers Association, said his mentality toward COVID-19 vaccines is “the more the merrier.”

“We can hopefully move back to something a little less restrictive than what we have now,” he said of current classroom safety protocols.

The vaccine mandate will also apply to school staff. Public school employees will be required to get vaccinated when the mandate takes effect for students. Currently, teachers and staff who aren’t vaccinated must undergo ID-19 cases among the vaccinated.

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Audit says Palo Alto insufficiently prepared for cyber threats

Review of city’s IT operation finds dearth of strategic thinking

By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto’s city leaders often tout the city’s reputation as a technological powerhouse, but when it comes to preventing cybersecurity threats at City Hall, the city has plenty of room for improvement.

That’s according to a new audit from Baker Tilly, the agency that serves as the city auditor and that in 2020 and 2021 conducted a thorough review of the city’s information-technology landscape. Its audit concluded that the city lacks a risk framework to identify key threats and proactively address them. It also found that the city does not have a formal disaster recovery plan; that the “playbook” program management in its information-technology (IT) operation is outdated; and that the city’s inability to “wipe” mobile devices that get lost or stolen “may result in the unintentional disclosure of confidential organizational data to a malicious attacker.”

The good news for the city is that none of the issues that the Baker Tilly audit identifies on its “risk map” rise to the “critical” level — the most urgent category. The bad news is that numerous are deemed to be “high” risk.

Areas in Palo Alto that were singled out as “high” risk are disaster recovery, malware defense, mobile device management and incident response. Also included in this category is “strategy and governance,” which refers to the interplay between the city’s day-to-day IT operation and its broad needs and priorities.

The overarching theme among the audit’s various recommendations is that the city’s IT operation suffers from insufficient strategic planning and a lack of proactive preparation.

“The city does not currently have formal IT risk management practices,” the audit states. “In general, day-to-day operational controls are in place to mitigate IT risks, but gaps may still exist for unidentified IT risks, resources may not be prioritized to higher risk or strategically aligned areas, and senior management or oversight bodies may not receive timely awareness of risks affecting the city.”

The audit argues that an effective IT strategy can bring many benefits to the city, including lower costs, greater control, more efficient use of resources and better risk management. Failure to define the city’s threat landscape, it notes, may result in an inability to protect against and respond when an event occurs.

“Understanding the threats to the city’s strategic plan is essential to ensuring risk management controls add value to the risk management process. Failure to define the city’s threat landscape may result in the inability to protect against and respond in the instance where an event occurs. Disruptions in technology and unmitigated risks may prevent or delay responses from receiving vital services,” the audit states.

The audit notes that the city already has an existing strategic document that identifies and prioritizes critical assets. However, the city has not identified employee responsibilities or developed action plans pertaining to its citywide strategy. It also has not developed metrics to evaluate whether the plan’s objectives are being met.

While the audit analyzed the city’s controls and practices pertaining to information security, these details are redacted from the publicly released audit. The audit does, however, detail the risk factors associated with each category. On “strategy and governance,” the city’s risks include having IT service delivery that is misaligned with the organization and the possibility...
To support local schools, Dana Carmel will donate $5,000 to your local Education Foundation when you buy or sell a home with her by May 31, 2022.

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5 questions and answers about the end of the state’s eviction moratorium

What you need to know about rent relief, legal options

By Manuela Tobias

The California eviction moratorium ended Sept. 30, but tenants still have some protections and can get help paying the rent.

After more than a year of waiting, landlords in California once again are allowed to take their tenants to court over missed rent payments.

About 724,000 California households are still $2.5 billion behind in rent, according to a recent National Equity Atlas analysis. And some advocates are warning of a wave of evictions.

Some cities and counties have ongoing protections for renters, and the state is also keeping a few guardrails in place — all tied to billions of dollars in rent relief the state is urging landlords and tenants to apply for.

Here’s what you need to know about the state’s eviction law going forward.

I haven’t been able to make full rent payments. Can I be evicted?

Current law shields tenants from eviction if they’ve paid at least 25% of their rent between Sept. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021. And tenants cannot be evicted over any rent owed between March 1, 2020 and Aug. 31, 2021 — as long as they respond to their landlord’s eviction notice with a signed declaration of COVID-19-related financial distress.

While tenants are shielded from eviction, the full rent between March 2020 and September 2021 is still due, however, and can be collected in small claims court starting Nov. 1.

If you are eligible for rent relief and apply, and your application is either approved or pending, you can use that as a defense in court.

Who is eligible for rent relief?

To qualify for aid, tenants must say, under penalty of perjury, that they have been financially impacted by the pandemic and earn below 80% of the area median income.

You will be asked to show either your 2020 tax returns, your W-2 tax form, current pay stubs or proof of participation in a state or federal subsidy program, such as CalFresh, to prove your income and qualify for help. But even if you don’t have any of those documents, you can still apply.

Landlords can only collect relief for periods they didn’t receive rent from tenants. Property owners have to provide a lease or rental agreement that includes the renter’s name, address, and monthly rent, or a rent ledger or statement that shows the unpaid rent balance; and a W-8 or W-9 tax form.

I’m a tenant still waiting for rent relief. Can I be evicted?

If you’ve applied for rent relief and have yet to hear back, that’s a defense against eviction in court. Your application doesn’t have to be approved.

You will also have to give your landlord a signed declaration of COVID-19-related financial distress, and have yet to hear back, that’s a defense against eviction in court. Your application doesn’t have to be approved.

What reasons can a landlord evict for, other than nonpayment of rent?

Since the start of the state’s eviction protections, evictions over issues unrelated to rent payments have been ongoing.

A CalMatters analysis found that 10,000 through March 2021. Those reasons include:

The landlord or their family is moving into the property, or selling the property to a person who intended to move in.

A landlord had to demolish or do a substantial remodeling because the unit posed a health and safety threat.

The landlord or their family committed a crime or a criminal threat on the property.

The tenant violated the lease by subleasing the property, causing a nuisance or staying after the lease expired.

Renters

For Evans, a few glaring numbers propelled the association’s creation: Rental households make up nearly half of Palo Alto’s housing stock, yet few renters are represented on the city’s public boards and commissions.

Earlier this year, when the City Council opened applications for Palo Alto’s Housing Element Working Group, about 40 of the 80 applicants were renters, Evans said.

Out of 17 seats, the city selected one market-rate renter, two below-market-rate renters and one Realtor who owns two homes to represent renters’ interests within the working group, which will help the city update its housing programs and policies. Despite these appointments, Evans said she believes that renters remain vastly underrepresented.

According to the group, a key starting point for protecting tenants would be the institution of a rent registry, which would provide baseline information about the city’s rental environment. Already aiding in this effort is Lauren Bigelow, a fellow from Partnership for the Bay’s Future (an organization focused on affordable housing in the Bay Area), who was brought in by the city.

Part of Bigelow’s work involves creating a profile of Palo Alto’s renters and researching policies that would benefit them.

Since the group’s formation, the city has started looking closely into rent protections. In April, the Planning and Transportation Commission unanimously approved two programs that would track the city’s inventory of rental properties and provide renter relocation assistance. On Sept. 23, the Human Relations Commission also unanimously recommended four policies that the City Council will consider in November: expand relocation assistance, reduce evictions, prevent rent gouging and create a renters survey. The commission still has an additional five policies to review.

At the very least, Evans said, she’s optimistic the City Council will support a rent registry.

“A rent registry is kind of a no-brainer,” she said. “It provides us with accurate data we need to de-
Annie Evans, who rents a home in Palo Alto with her two daughters, co-founded Palo Alto Renters’ Association last year to advocate for tenants.

How much Palo Alto renter households earn, and how much goes to housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income level</th>
<th>Number of units</th>
<th>Percent of total renter units</th>
<th>Cost burdened units</th>
<th>Percent of cost burdened units in income tier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $20,000</td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>1,135</td>
<td>84.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 to $34,999</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>89.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>74.83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $74,999</td>
<td>1,319</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>73.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 or more</td>
<td>6,958</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>1,185</td>
<td>17.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero or Negative Income</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Cash Rent</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>11,764</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>4,409</td>
<td>37.48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Denotes more than 50% of units are cost burdened
Denotes less than 50% of units are cost burdened

Rental households make up 46% of Palo Alto’s total housing stock, according to the 2018 American Community Survey. About 37% are “cost-burdened,” meaning that they spend more than 30% of their income on rent. Not every renter struggles with the cost of housing, however. About 59% of rental households have an income of $75,000 or more. But the same data reveals that in every income group that makes less than $75,000, over 70% are spending too much on housing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey

Annie Evans, who rents a home in Palo Alto with her two daughters, co-founded Palo Alto Renters’ Association last year to advocate for tenants.
BRIGHT, SPACIOUS, WITH A GREAT LOCATION

Set on a lot of 6,300 square feet on a peaceful, tree-lined street, this bright and spacious 5-bedroom, 3-bathroom home offers over 2,100 square feet of living space. Brand-new engineered wood floors extend throughout expansive gathering areas perfect for entertaining and everyday living, with excellent use of glass filling the space with natural light. The traditional floorplan includes the living room that flows into the dining room, the kitchen with Thermador appliances, and the family room with outdoor access. Five spacious bedrooms offer comfort and convenience, and are highlighted by the inviting master suite with a step-in shower. An entertainer's backyard awaits outside with a built-in grill, a large paver patio, beautiful rose bushes, and a delightful putting green. Just moments to both Eleanor Pardoe Park and Rinconada Park, this home is also a short drive to downtown Palo Alto and Stanford University, and offers easy access to US 101. Plus, children may attend acclaimed schools including Duveneck Elementary, which is less than a half-mile away (buyer to verify eligibility).

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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
PERFECTLY LOCATED on the Stanford campus at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, this home presents sleek mid-century modern style with a two-level floor plan. The interiors exude a fresh, bright ambiance designed for indoor/outdoor living. A spacious entry hall connects the main rooms, each with high ceilings, oversized windows and sliding glass doors inviting great natural light. An extra-large fully screened-in porch is ideal for year-round enjoyment while two upstairs partially covered porches offer outdoor living connected to two of the home’s four bedrooms, including the primary suite. A dedicated office with significant library space is perfect for the Stanford lifestyle and today’s work-from-home needs. All around, low-maintenance, drought-tolerant grounds surround the home with privacy and provide ample space for an organic garden, fruit trees and/or play areas. This home is just one block from acclaimed Nixon Elementary School, offers an easy connection to the pathways throughout the Stanford campus and is one-half mile to the “Dish” hiking trailhead entrance.

MORE PHOTOS AVAILABLE AT www.729TolmanDrive.com

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POLICE CALLS
Palo Alto
Sept. 30-Oct. 6
Violence related
Ames Avenue, 9/30, 3:5 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
Ames Avenue, 9/30, 3:30 p.m.; child abuse.
Ames Avenue, 9/30, 2:34 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
El Camino Real, 9/30, 11:13 a.m.; simple battery.
El Camino Real, 9/30, 2:34 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
El Camino Real, 9/30, 1:05 p.m.; assault w/deadly weapon.
El Camino Real, 9/30, 3:17 a.m.; strong arm robbery.
El Camino Real, 9/30, 11:13 a.m.; strong arm robbery.
El Camino Real, 9/30, 2:34 a.m.; domestic violence/battery.
California Avenue, 9/30, 2:47 a.m.; simple battery.
Addison Avenue, 9/30, 7:31 a.m.; strong arm robbery.
Forest Avenue, 10/02, 10:32 a.m.; strong arm robbery.
Alma Street, 10/03, 6:30 a.m.; domestic violence/battery.
Thief related
Commercial burglaries ................................ 1
Fraud ........................................... 1
Grand theft ..................................... 3
Identity theft ..................................... 6
Petty theft ....................................... 10
Residential burglaries ................................ 1
Shoplifting ...................................... 11
Vehicle related
Auto recovery ................................... 1
Auto theft ....................................... 4
Bicycle theft ..................................... 15
Driving w/suspended license ......................... 1
Hit and run ...................................... 8
Lost/stolen plates ................................ 1
Misc. traffic .................................... 2
Stolen catalytic converter ......................... 2

Menlo Park
Sept. 29-Oct. 5
Violence related ................................ 0
Thief related
Fraud ........................................... 1
Panthety theft .................................... 2
Residential burglaries .................... 1
Vehicle related
Automobile recovery ....................... 1
Auto theft ...................................... 1
Hit and run ..................................... 2
Lost/stolen property ......................... 1
Parking/driving violation .................... 1
Stolen catalytic converter .................. 2
Vehicle accident/no injury ............... 3
Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence .................. 1
Miscellaneous
Coroner case .................................. 2
Discharge ...................................... 1
Disturbance/annoying phone calls .......... 1
Lost property .................................. 1
Missing person ................................ 1
Possession of stolen property .......... 1
Resisting arrest .............................. 1
Vandalsm ..................................... 2
Warrant arrest ............................... 3

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

Wendy Hedwig Smith, 74, a former Palo Alto resident, died on Sept. 19. Jim’s “Jim” Paul Phillips, 86, a former vice president of Lockheed Missiles and Space Company and a 2021 Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement honoree, died on Sept. 19.

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

Visit Lasting Memories
Go to: PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries

Mary Cox

December 11, 1932 – March 10, 2020

In loving memory of Mary, born in Robinsonville, Wisconsin to James and Florence (Comboy) Brinks.

Mary died of natural causes at age 87, in Redwood City. Mary’s faith in God was a principal guiding force throughout her life. She was devoted to family and friends, and frequently walked/hiked with both.

Mary began her career with the Sequoia Union High School District as a Home Economics teacher at Ravenswood High School. She later became a guidance advisor, working at San Carlos, Carlmont, Sequoia, and ending her career at the head of the Guidance Department at Menlo-Atherton, from which she retired in 2002. While at M-A, Mary earned the school’s Sisyphus award twice.

Mary was a successful real estate investor and landlord. Along with her husband Barry, she owned and managed Pear Williams Restaurant in Menlo Park from 1976 - 1982. She was a volunteer docent at Filoli, working as a House and Garden docent and also dispatching nature hikes for school children. Mary was a volunteer usher with Stanford Live, San Jose Rep, and Palo Alto Players.

Mary loved working in her garden. She was known to some as “the rose queen”. She loved playing bridge with her “Ladies of the Club”. She was active in her church and had a very strong sense of community.

Mary is survived by one sister: Florence (Seattle); four children: Leanne, Ken, Darrell, and Adele; seven grandchildren: Erin, Devon, Lauren, Ryan, Alex, Daniel, and Emanuel. Mary’s beloved husband, Barry, her eldest son, Craig, her parents, five sisters and two brothers are all deceased.

Services:
Saturday October 16, 2021 11:00 AM
Peninsula Covenant Church
3560 Farm Hill Blvd.
Redwood City, CA 94061
In lieu of flowers, please send donations, in honor of Mary, to Kenya Help: https://kenyahelp.us/
194 Ferne Ct., Palo Alto
Light Filled Atrium Eichler

Spacious Home in the Highly Desirable Greenmeadow Community

- 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms:
  - private master suite with remodeled bathroom and walk-in closet
  - bonus “hobby room”
  - Enormous living room and separate dining room
  - Large eat-in kitchen with stainless steel appliances and walk-in pantry
  - Remodeled bathrooms, freshly painted and new flooring throughout
  - Wonderful atrium entry

- Towering walls of windows yielding abundant natural light and promoting indoor/outdoor integration
- Large backyard with mature landscaping
- Ideally located in the desirable community of Greenmeadow with easy access to the community pool and park
- Highly desirable Palo alto schools including Gunn High school
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- Lot Size: 7,969 square feet (approx.)

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835 WESTRIDGE DRIVE
PORTOLA VALLEY
$9,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7.5 Bth
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890 SEALE AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$4,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4 Bth
www.890Seale.com

2461 BENJAMIN DRIVE
MOUNTAIN VIEW
$1,988,000 | 7 Bd | 3 Bth
www.2461Benjamin.com

26304 ESPERANZA DRIVE
LOS ALTOS HILLS
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www.26304Esperanza.com

528 JACKSON DRIVE
PALO ALTO
$2,988,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth
www.528Jackson.com

1117 HAMILTON AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5 Bth
www.1117Hamilton.com

11665 DAWSON DRIVE
LOS ALTOS HILLS
$4,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.11665Dawson.com

1420 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
PALO ALTO
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www.1420University.com

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Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | DeLeon Realty, DRE #01903224
BOARDS & COMMISSIONS RECRUITMENT

DEADLINE ON OCTOBER 26, 2021

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<th>3 POSITIONS</th>
<th>ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD</th>
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<td>1 POSITION</td>
<td>HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 POSITIONS</td>
<td>PARKS &amp; RECREATION COMMISSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 POSITIONS</td>
<td>PLANNING &amp; TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION</td>
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APPLY NOW
Applications online at http://bit.ly/bcaplications
www.cityofpaloalto.org

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 47.

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Meet and hear these acclaimed authors!

Julie Lythcott-Haims
Best-Selling Author and Former Stanford Dean

Kathy Wang
Acclaimed Novelist

Bryant Terry
Award-Winning Chef, Publisher, and Author

Paul O. Zelinsky
Caldecott Medal-Winning Illustrator

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Patty and Jim White

**SILVER**
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Cloudia Clausen
Nancy Deakin
Goldman Sachs Olives
on behalf of Tammy Kiley
Ellen Jones
John McNichols
Katie and Bryan Hedder
Jenn Wagstaff Hinton and John Hinten
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Watch online at abilitypath.org/authors
In response to ‘Theranos lab director testifies that he refused to spin wonky test results’

Posted Sept. 29 at 12:25 p.m. by William Hitchens, a resident of Mountain View:

“I worked for a startup, now long since defunct, where we had two heads of product reliability quit rather than to present falsified test data to the board of directors and the investors. In both instances, about a year apart, our data were awful, and the CEO and his second in command, ‘massaged’ the data and graphs in their PowerPoint presentations and tried to force those engineers to personally present cooked data at board and investor meetings the following week. On the Sunday night prior to those two sets of meetings, each of those engineers cleaned out their desks, left letters of resignation for HR, and didn’t report to work on Monday.

Sounds like Theranos needed a lot more people with guts like those two engineers, who gave up millions in stock options rather than to lie and ruin their professional reputations. Both found far better jobs at far better companies, I’m glad to say.”

In response to ‘‘Duo strikes man, robs him of cellphone and other belongings’

Posted Sept. 29 at 12:05 p.m. by Philomena Gladstone, editor of Mountain View:

“The Palo Alto Police Department should initiate foot or bicycle cops to patrol downtown Palo Alto after hours. This would result in a faster response time following a crime reportage.

The police headquarters is still situated downtown, and it is fairly obvious that the police are not doing their job in terms of proactive crime prevention. They only take ‘reports’ following a reported incident.”

In response to ‘Police: Offensive graffiti found in city garage under investigation as hate crime’

Posted Sept. 29 at 9:04 a.m. by Aron Tierman, a resident of Downtown North:

“Why doesn’t the city of Palo Alto install more surveillance cameras in city-operated parking lots? This would assist the Palo Alto Police Department in identifying the culprits.”

In response to ‘‘Laurene Powell Jobs to invest $3.5B toward climate change initiatives’

Posted Oct. 4 at 3:46 a.m. by Joe Tighe, a resident of Palo Alto Hills:

“Amazing leadership Laurene! Waiting for world leaders and NGOs is not an option. ... Just as Steve changed the world of computing, one man or woman can change the world by backing the right technologies. Thank you!”

In response to ‘New residential community eyed next to Greer Park’

Posted Sept. 30 at 12:05 p.m. by Rebecca Eisenberg, a resident of Old Palo Alto:

“This sounds like a great project! Finally, a development that does not force people to live in shoeboxes, which is the nature of every El Camino-area proposed development without exception. The 1,700-square-foot units are large enough for couples and families with kids, unlike the 350-square-foot ‘micro’ units that other developers are pushing. A lovely relief.

There will be no parking issue here, either. I have been down this road countless times, as well as at Greer Park, and the concept of a parking shortage is irrational. Additionally, two parking spots per unit is ample to provide for guests. Car ownership is going down, not up, and it’s counterproductive to ruin a good design with parking spots that will remain empty just like the parking garage monstrosities that the City Council giddily wasted limited taxpayer funds on near California Avenue, which continue to stand empty and be a blight in the neighborhood.

Regardless, the way to avoid traffic and parking challenges is to bring back — and enhance — public shuttles and invest in safe bike lanes. The more viable alternatives there are to driving, the fewer cars there will be on the street.”

In response to ‘Vehicle stolen from home’s driveway in Charleston Meadows’

Posted Sept. 30 at 9:28 a.m. by Robin Layne, a resident of Crescent Park:

“The police cannot prevent or reduce car thefts unless they are actively patrolling every driveway and parking lot, and monitoring parked curbside vehicles.

This is impractical. Just report the car stolen to the police department and contact your insurance company. It’s as simple as that.

Another alternative is to keep the vehicle in the garage when it is not in use rather than using the garage as a storage area for clutter.

As for the 25% budgetary cut and subsequent reduction in staffing, this will be compensated for by the city shelling out overtime pay, a very lucrative option for the remaining police department officers.

So in essence, no money saved one way or the other.”

Letters

Kudos to Baylands housing project

Editor:

I am delighted and proud of Palo Alto for taking this step to provide housing for our homeless population. Of course, a three-story building would have been even better. It’s too bad that Palo Alto City Council Member Greg Tanaka opposed increasing the number of stories. A three-story building might have given us a better chance of successfully getting grant money for the project. We will have to wait and see. At least it seems that as a community, we are heading in the right direction.

Cybele LoVuolo-Bluhans Mumford Place, Palo Alto

Comcast needs to be held accountable

Editor:

Like many residents of Palo Alto, I use Comcast Xfinity for my internet connection at home. On Oct. 5, I experienced a very long internet outage, starting from about 8 a.m. and ending at about 3 p.m. I did not receive any advance warning about the outage from Comcast. A similarly long outage also occurred on Sept. 28, from about 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. I did receive an advance notice about that outage, but the notice gave no hint about how long the outage would last or precisely when it would start. Judging from my email correspondence with my neighbors, many of them also experienced the same problem.

With most people still working from home, I believe this kind of unprofessional behavior on the part of Comcast is unacceptable and should not be encouraged. I went to the Comcast store at 2825 El Camino Real to demand a refund. I was also offered a $30/month reduction of my Xfinity bill for the next two years. (The offer does have the catch of extending my Xfinity contract by one year, which I consider acceptable, because so far as I know, there is no real alternative to Xfinity for high-speed internet connection in our neighborhood as AT&T Fiber is still not available in Palo Alto.)

I think my experience deserves to be better known in the Palo Alto community. In particular, anyone who has suffered from a prolonged Comcast internet outage should go and get a refund and a similar fee reduction from Comcast. A company like Comcast is more likely to change its behavior for the better if its bad behavior has real financial consequences.

Ching-Tsun Chou

South Court, Palo Alto

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

What do you think about lifting the mask mandate in the Bay Area?

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 considered. 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 Lue at llew@paweekly.com or 650-223-6520 or Editor Jocelyn Dong at editor@paweekly.com.

SHARE YOUR OPINION

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.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • October 8, 2021 • Page 23
EXPANSIVE AND PRIVATE WITH PALO ALTO SCHOOLS

On an expansive lot of over an acre in peaceful Los Altos Hills rests this bright, inviting home offering over 4,600 square feet of luxurious living space perfect for both entertaining and everyday living. Privately situated away from the road, this home enjoys a welcoming ambiance from the moment you step inside, with hardwood floors extending throughout large gathering areas, and excellent use of glass filling the interiors with natural light. Highlights of the traditional floorplan include a fireplace in both the living room and family room, the open kitchen with appliances from Thermador and Viking, the upstairs playroom, and the office that allows you to work from home in style. A total of 7 bedrooms and 5.5 bathrooms includes the comfortable primary suite that opens to a hot tub patio, two guest suites, and the detached 2-bedroom, 1-bath guest home with a living room and kitchen. Incredible grounds offer retreat-like space for indoor/outdoor living with a large patio, lawn, and a sports court, and this home also provides a 3-car garage for ample parking. Just minutes from beautiful parks and nature preserves, this home is also a short trip to downtown Los Altos, the headquarters of both Tesla and VMware, and it offers easy access to Interstate 280. Plus, children may attend acclaimed Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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中文諮詢請聯繫: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 | 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonnrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
This spacious 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom home of over 3,100 square feet enjoys an unbeatable location close to everything Palo Alto has to offer, situated on a corner lot of nearly one-quarter acre on a 1-driveway cul-de-sac. Preceded by a garden entrance with a beautiful Japanese maple tree, this home provides a graceful floorplan with appointments including refinished hardwood floors and crown molding, while skylights and picture windows allow an abundance of natural light. A Craftsman fireplace highlights the living room, the kitchen includes appliances from Thermador, Monogram, and DCS by Fisher & Paykel, and the family room doubles as an incredible home theater with a wet bar, 92” pull-down screen, surround sound, and ceiling-mounted projector. Comfortable bedrooms include the primary suite that opens out to the patio and a deck with a hot tub, and another bedroom with numerous built-ins perfect for office use. Enjoy the outdoors in the peaceful backyard with a large patio, as well as a side yard with a delightful play structure. Plus, this home enjoys ample storage space throughout, as well as an attached 2-car garage. Enjoy a location just moments to vibrant public spaces including Rinconada Park and Gamble Garden, a short drive from University Avenue and Stanford University, and convenient to both Caltrain and US 101, with top-ranked schools Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High all within approximately 1 mile.

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
www.890Seale.com
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STUNNING RETREAT ON OVER 1.6 ACRES

Over 1.6 acres of verdant land envelopes this contemporary masterpiece that exemplifies the rustic elegance synonymous with Los Altos Hills. Evoking the feel of a five-star mountainside retreat, this home offers over 3,600 square feet of luxurious interiors, a modern floorplan, and ample privacy. Beautiful hardwood floors extend throughout expansive gathering areas made for entertaining, and spectacular walls of windows stretch to the tops of soaring ceilings to fill the home with natural light. Both the living room and family room include a fireplace with a slate tile surround, the chef’s kitchen features top-of-the-line appliances, and the media room offers great space for enjoying movie nights. Four spacious bedrooms provide the accommodations, including the primary suite with a spa-inspired bathroom, and one bedroom that easily converts into office space to work from home in style. Outside, a gorgeous deck encircles the home and offers outstanding space for indoor/outdoor living while taking in the all-encompassing natural beauty of the home’s magnificent setting. Plus, the grounds of the home include a hot tub, as well as a pathway leading to the Rancho San Antonio nature trails. And though this home enjoys an incredibly private feel, you will still be just moments to downtown Los Altos, a short drive to Interstate 280, and have access to top-ranked Los Altos schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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835 WESTRIDGE DRIVE
PORTOLA VALLEY

RESORT-LIKE PROPERTY OF OVER 3.5 ACRES

The quintessential beauty of Portola Valley provides the perfect backdrop for this spectacular estate of over 7,400 square feet, including a beautiful guest home of more than 700 square feet, resting on over 3.5 verdant acres of resort-like grounds. A gated paver motor court introduces the property, and inside, this home presents a luxurious ambiance with soaring ceilings, fine millwork, floors of marble and hardwood, and stunning walls of glass that bring the outside in. The floorplan is scaled for entertaining yet comfortable enough for everyday living, and features the living room with a fireplace, the chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances, and the expansive family/game room, plus a theater, wine cellar, yoga/fitness room, and so much more. Accommodations include 4 bedroom suites, highlighted by the incredible primary suite with a sitting room and fireplace, while the detached guest home offers an additional bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen. Experience true indoor/outdoor living as multiple points throughout the home open to a multi-level deck with a built-in grill and peaceful views of the home’s magnificent grounds, featuring meandering walking trails, a gazebo, and a side area with an enticing blend of both natural and synthetic grass. Moments from beautiful nature preserves and trails, this home is just minutes to the iconic Roberts Market, and offers access to acclaimed Portola Valley schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

www.835Westridge.com
Offered at $9,988,000

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A «ruin» populated by colorful primitive life forms will arise in downtown’s Lytton Plaza. Visitors can even interact with the beings that inhabit the ruin. It’s not a time travel portal, but an interactive installation called “Paleoalto” and despite its ancient theme, technology made it possible.

“Paleoalto” is a center piece of Code:ART, a three-day festival hosted by the city of Palo Alto that highlights digital media, taking place Oct. 7-9 in Palo Alto. In addition to “Paleoalto,” visitors can enjoy six other “urban interventions” — digital works that all invite interaction — placed in spots in and around downtown Palo Alto.

“Paleoalto” is a collaboration between Alameda-based Marpi Studio and technology system designers and installers Colour Feeders. Artist Marpi specializes in interactive works, both large-scale installations and smaller pieces that can be experienced on screens as small as a phone. His exhibitions have been shown internationally, including in Shanghai, China, and Seoul, Korea, and often feature organic shapes that also have a slightly otherworldly quality to them.

“It’s an interactive but imaginary world. So it’s (about), ‘How do you bring imagination to a physical, three-dimensional space?’” Marpi said.

He has collaborated with production designer Will Clark and systems architect Kevin Colorado, co-founders of Colour Feeders, for about three years. They have worked more closely together as pieces have become increasingly intricate or demanding in design.

“(‘Paleoalto’) is more of a design collaboration rather than a technical collaboration. Traditionally, when I’ve collaborated with Marpi in the past it’s been more from a technical perspective — designing the infrastructure that makes the digital experiences happen,” Colorado said.

In this case, the collaboration meant getting more hands on in important details, such as how the piece would look.

“It’s a big experiment, and even considering our previous work which was relatively experimental as well, this is just going further,” Marpi said of “Paleoalto.” “... with all of this we are treading in uncharted territory in a bunch of directions.”
Marpi’s works are site-specific, which posed a particular challenge for an outdoor space like a plaza. Most of Marpi’s installations have been created for indoor spaces, and many of them have used projections. “Paleoalto” employs an LED wall and uses software to track and mirror visitors’ motions.

“We’ve been researching different camera vision systems and hand-tracking software. In both cases we’re focusing on technologies where you don’t have to touch anything. Our work before was on touch screens and phone interactions, and touch-related interactions, but this time it’s all tracking your skeleton and tracking your hands in midair,” Marpi said.

Marpi’s works often incorporate music, and although the specifics of what the music will be was still in development when Marpi and Colour Feeders spoke to this publication, “Paleoalto” will definitely have some original music to help set the scene for visitors.

One thing that makes “Paleoalto” especially unique as an interactive piece is its shape, with the installation built in a staircase shape. “We’ve been working with the city of Palo Alto’s engineers to design a truss system, and then attach a projecting LED wall to it. It’s in a step shape, so it’s not just a traditional square or a rectangle, like a screen would usually be. It has its own tapering edges and some extra panels on top of it,” Clark said.

The pandemic delayed the exhibition of “Paleoalto” by a year. In the meantime, Lytton Plaza saw some changes that required alterations to the design, making the space for the installation a bit smaller, for one. Another significant change was the planting of some trees in the plaza that ultimately became a serendipitous addition, bringing an extra sense of realism to the piece.

“That became a design consideration, which was pretty cool, and we incorporated the trees into our setup. The trees are emerging from our digital ruins, and that ties it into the physical world,” Colorado said. “It ties into the theme, as well, because I am always a fan of this kind of overgrown ruins look, where nature takes over again.” Marpi added.

Not only is its shape unusual, but the design of “Paleoalto” allows for greater interaction. Where many interactive pieces have only one side where visitors can participate, “Paleoalto” is double-sided and allows for interaction between the sides.

“I’m really excited for the design aspect of it. I’ve never really seen something like this myself in terms of an outdoor installation of this type. I feel like we’ve done a lot of work to make it not stand out as a big video wall; it’s a fully immersive thing that looks like it belongs in that space,” Clark said. “Paleoalto” may have moved into its temporary home complete with its own population of brightly colored whimsical creatures, but it’s waiting for the visitors who will really make it come alive.

“More than anything else, it’s the interactivity that gives it a soul, that gives it life,” Colorado said.

“Paleoalto” will be on view Oct. 7-9 in Lytton Plaza, 125 University Ave., Palo Alto. For more information and a map of where to find all seven Code:ART pieces, visit cityofpaloalto.org.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@paweekly.com.

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**Arts & Entertainment**

**More than anything else, it’s the interactivity that gives it a soul, that gives it life.**

—Kevin Colorado, Colour Feeders
SPACIOUS HOME WITH NUMEROUS UPDATES

Almost 2,500 square feet of living space along with a great location close to great shopping, top tech companies, and commuter options make this delightful home an outstanding choice for Silicon Valley living. Thoughtfully updated with new main level flooring, new carpeting, new bathroom tiles, and refinished hardwood floors upstairs, this home enjoys a traditional floorplan offering comfortable space for entertaining and everyday enjoyment. A fireplace centers the living room, the bright kitchen includes a breakfast nook, and the expansive family room provides great space to relax and unwind. Enjoy the convenience of 7 bedrooms that offer tremendous flexibility for use as at-home work space, a play room, and more. Plus, the low-maintenance backyard shaded by towering trees offers the perfect venue to relax and unwind. Just moments to beautiful parks, this home is also convenient to The Village at San Antonio Center, Google, and Caltrain, and it offers access to acclaimed Los Altos High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

www.2461Benjamin.com
Listed at $1,988,000

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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
A tree-canopied street in the desirable Menlo Oaks area of Menlo Park provides a peaceful setting for this inviting 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home set on nearly one-half acre. An airy openness envelops you from the moment you step inside, as high ceilings crown almost 2,800 square feet of living space adorned with refinished hardwood floors, and a beautiful wall of glass fills the home with natural light and brings the outside in. The open-concept floorplan features the bright living and dining room, the granite kitchen with appliances from Bosch, Thermador, and Sub-Zero, the family room with great space for movie nights, and the executive office with outdoor access. Enjoy a retreat-like feel in the primary suite that offers two massive walk-in closets and a luxurious bathroom with a tub and shower. Outside, a quiet sanctuary awaits in the magnificent backyard that offers a deck, patio, pool, and hot tub, all shaded by towering trees that populate the grounds. Plus, this home also features a 2-car garage and an EV charger, and photovoltaic solar panels. Just moments to beautiful parks, this home is also convenient to both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, as well as Stanford University, and US 101, with access to top-ranked schools Laurel Elementary, Hillview Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

www.624Berkeley.com
Listed at $4,488,000

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STYLE AND ELEGANCE IN CRESCENT PARK

The prestige of one of Palo Alto’s most sought-after neighborhoods takes center stage in this magnificent home that exemplifies the grace and elegance synonymous with Crescent Park. Designed by the renowned architect Charles K. Sumner, this home on more than one-half acre has been thoroughly updated to meet the needs of a modern lifestyle while staying true to the charm of its rich heritage. A gated entrance opens to a vibrant garden cultivated by landscape artist Katsy Swan, famous for her work in the Bay Area. Brilliant interiors of over 4,200 square feet in the main home wrap you in style from the moment you step inside, with oak floors extending throughout expansive gathering spaces scaled for entertaining, and high-end appointments including exquisite wall coverings, imported tiles, and a magnificent La Cornue range anchoring the chef's kitchen. The home’s 6 bedrooms offer comfortable accommodations for family and friends, while 2 guest cottages each with a kitchen provide space for an office, fitness center, or additional lodging. Outside, a meandering brick pathway leads through the private haven of the backyard that features a large terrace, lawn, fire pit, and sparkling pool and spa. Plus, a gated, extended driveway ensures ample parking is always available. Just moments to the shops and eateries along University Avenue, this home is also convenient to Stanford University, and to venture capital centers along Sand Hill Road, with access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
www.1420University.com
Offered at $8,988,000

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William Becerra first saw the Pacific Ocean underneath the typical, heavy fog of the Bay Area. He had spent little time outside of his home in Huila, Colombia. Then, one day, he was on a plane to visit the Peninsula, where he saw the Google campus in San Francisco. The sheer scope of it all — a city that was just shy of the population that his native state hosts across its 7,680 square miles — was a lot to take in. At the same time, Becerra’s coffee farm back home was being converted into a sustainable farm with innovative techniques, such as shade-grown cultivation, crop rotation and giving the soil a chance to breathe. These are the practices that will be required in the future to raise the kind of coffee that can net the prices that make life on the farm a little easier.

It’s thanks to Maria Palacio and John Trabelsi, owners and founders of Progeny Coffee of Palo Alto, that Becerra may have a dog in the fight 20 years down the road. It’s thanks to them that he took an eye-opening trip to Cali-in sul-and those who work for low-income young people who are growing everyone’s beans. They are agitating the global coffee supply chain from their living room. They came to the Peninsula after Trabelsi got a job in tech marketing. They were married at this point, with a baby on the way, and they didn’t want to raise their kid in New York. It was then that they launched a coffee company, crunching numbers at the kitchen table. They called it Progeny, and it was created alongside their expanding family. They have yet to open their own brick-and-mortar shop, focusing for now on selling their bags of beans.

The humble venture is about more than just their family business on the Peninsula, though. Palacio was born and raised in a smallish city called Armenia, one of many coffee-growing communities in Colombia. Her family, like many others in Colombia, faced the hard task of picking and collecting the red cherries as a way to generate income. When she entered the coffee business, she saw that the coffee that runs in the veins of many in Colombia was what she wants to share with the world.

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in the process in terms of time. It’s noticeable with low-level research to see that farmers are getting lost.

Trabelsi said the first thing a company can do is to avoid representation pitfalls of the industry, such as Starbucks’ “Traceability Tool.” The mega-company allows customers to scan a bag of coffee to see where the beans were roasted and grown. The well-intentioned app has been criticized for lack of transparency by the folks at popular coffee website Sprudge. The owners of Progeny tack around this issue by spending time at the source.

“This is critical,” Trabelsi said.

Another long-standing issue surrounding ethics in photographing and documenting people at origin, common for gathering marketing materials. It is almost always better to hire local talent to document producers if the company wants to portray coffee producers in culturally relevant ways. Vava Avgweyi, who works with the folks at The Crown, an East Bay peer of Progeny’s, covers this in her book “Coffee Milk Blood.”

Progeny follows this practice, paying dozens of photographers across Colombia for their services. In fact, they love the hyper-specific portrayal coffee producers in cultural ally relevant ways. Vava Avgweyi, who works with the folks at The Crown, an East Bay peer of Progeny’s, covers this in her book “Coffee Milk Blood.”

Progeny works with plenty of tech companies to place their coffee, and farmers, inside the industry. This is what Progeny calls their “Adopt A Farmer” program. Google adopted several such farmers — one being Becerra. After his trip, Google sent a team to one of the same farms in Colombia. They mapped the area to host a virtual reality tour for the Googlers back home.

For their part, the husband-and-wife team can be found sipping espresso at a Verve or Blue Bottle in Palo Alto. They love Proyecto Diaz Coffee, as “their heart is right.” Proyecto Diaz places its coffee in Peninsula cafes like Boga Boys, sourcing from the owner’s abuela’s farm in Oaxaca.

“Oftentimes we see that companies don’t aspire to more,” Trabelsi said of why he likes Proyecto Diaz. “They are participating in the chain we are trying to break.”

While it may seem counterintuitive to some, Progeny also offers the spicy criticism that, sometimes, a coffee business giving money to farmers isn’t the best thing to do. Starbucks offering a bundle of $20 million looks good on the surface, but the best scenario is to see money used for specific projects and investments. Buying a bigger fridge, an improved drying bed, or even food for farmers can be the right choice instead. It’s not just throwing money — it’s investigating how to throw it.

Another way that Progeny brings the farmers front and center: The company prints the scores of their coffees right on the bags. Coffee scores are just like scores for wines, and in that same spirit, most businesses avoid printing the number on the product itself. Sometimes the Progeny team does themselves half a point or a point to ensure the quality. Trabelsi said this is yet another moment to boost the farmer’s work.

“I don’t see major specialty coffee brands putting scores on their bags,” Trabelsi said. “It makes me wonder why. Is this the low end of specialty coffee?”

And Progeny coffee is really, really tasty. The “Alegria,” which features a gorgeous por- trait of the producer Sandra Isabel Campo painted in electric yellow on the front of the bag, is as complex and bright an espresso as one can pull, with notes of chocolate, pear and caramel. Progeny plans to keep cutting deals with the massive companies of the Peninsula. They’ll keep putting coffee farmers right in front of your face. Whatever the future holds, the workers slinging espresso so are hoping it’s about raising those tides, at home and abroad.

And the dedicated duo at Progeny will keep making it happen from their kitchen table.

Palo Alto Weekly

DIG INTO FOOD NEWS.

Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at paweekly.com/expressfoodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.

What Peninsula coffee-drinkers can do

Palacio believes in education. Her own crash course in biodiverse farming techniques, supply chain economics and ethical representation has helped build Progeny into what it is today. But it can be an enormous challenge to translate that experience to consumers.

It’s harder still to tell a fourth-generation farmer, who has been cultivating coffee in the same way Colombians did long before them, why it’s important to highlight their work.}

Maria Palacio and John Trabelsi are the owners and founders of Progeny Coffee. Members of the public get to virtually “tour” Colombian coffee farms from the streets of Mountain View.

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Maria Palacio and John Trabelsi are the owners and founders of Progeny Coffee.

Maria Palacio and John Trabelsi are the owners and founders of Progeny Coffee.

Eating Out
After closing in March 2020 during the initial COVID-19 lockdown, the Cool Cafe at Stanford University’s Cantor Arts Center has closed for good. Helmed by educator and food activist Jesse Cool, the cafe introduced organic dining options to campus in 2000.

The Cool Cafe concept was well, Cool, with a capital C. Cool’s philosophies permeated the menu with a focus on fresh, ingredient-driven flavors, as well as how the team worked, advocating for justice and kindness for those who produce, cook, and serve food. Together, the Cool Cafe team elevated the approach to organic food, and raised the bar for how people are treated in the food industry.

“It was food meets art,” Cool said. “We made everything from scratch. It was delicious, beautiful food.”

Now, Cool is turning her attention to other iron in the fire, including her restaurant Flea Street Cafe in Menlo Park.

“It was bittersweet, but I made the choice to not renew the lease,” Cool said about closing the Cool Cafe. “COVID’s been hard, and I’m getting older... We had the lease in front of us, and I decided that it was the best time to end 20 good years. We’re leaving in a very positive way.”

At the turn of the millennium when Cantor Arts Center’s Tom Seligman first approached Cool about the prospect of a cafe in the museum, she was skeptical. She had just launched her JZ-cool Eatery & Catering Company, and didn’t think she had the money or bandwidth to take on more.

“I was working constantly,” Cool said. “I said, ‘No way. I can barely do what I do now.’”

But a friend took a walk with her to the museum, just to check it out. From that visit, he convinced her to give the cafe a go.

“He said, ‘You have to do this. You have to bring an organic cafe to campus and elevate what this place is all about,’” Cool recalled. So she took out a loan and opened its doors.

“I have no idea how I did it,” Cool said. “Actually, I do — I had a lot of help. I’ve always had incredible people who supported us.”

With that support, the Cool Cafe went on to serve fresh salads, sandwiches and soups.

“It wasn’t easy back then. People came through and wanted Diet Cokes. People wanted Sweet’N Low,” Cool said. “We didn’t have Diet Coke. We didn’t have Sweet’N Low.”

The Cool Cafe offered something else. A sandwich wasn’t simply a sandwich. A salad was more than the sum of its parts.

“It was old-fashioned, simple cooking, but artfully done. It was always garnished. It had color and vibrancy because we cooked with the seasons. Because of that, the food tasted better,” Cool said.

Soon, students, museum members and other guests were seeking out the Cool Cafe as a restaurant and caterer.

“I had to learn how to cater for five to 1,000 people,” Cool said.

What she learned, she put into practice for a party for Chelsea Clinton, as well as themed museum events. At an event for art of the “Wild West,” the Cool Cafe prepared a Western-inspired menu for 600 people.

“We greeted them with a shot of bourbon,” Cool said.

One of the cafe memories that stands out most to Cool was when she ran into a “disheveled man at the cash register.”

“He had dust all over him,” Cool recalled. “I said, ‘Hi, how are you, are they taking care of you?’”

The man explained he was installing a piece of art. It turned out that Cool was face to face with an artist who works with natural materials like leaves and stones.

“It was Andy Goldsworthy, one of my favorite artists on the planet,” Cool said. “For me, it was like meeting a rock star.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cool leveraged the Cool Cafe kitchen and worked with her team to help provide 29,000 meals to frontline workers through the Meals of Gratitude program.

Now, Cool says she plans to focus on other things, and let the next generation take over.

“I decided, why don’t we just say our farewells on a really lovely note. Thank you for the memories, and let someone else try.”

Craving cool eats? Check out Cool’s Flea Street Cafe in Menlo Park (3607 Alameda de las Pulgas; 650-854-1226, cooleatz.com).

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

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Parking

(continued from page 5) the downtown Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) district. When the city launched the downtown RPP in 2016, it capped the number of employee parking permits at 2,000. It subsequently lowered the number to 1,000. Now, staff plans to offer only 800 worker permits.

Even as it aims to steer more employees away from residential streets and into parking facilities, the city also is preparing to raise prices for parking permits for lots and garages in the California Avenue area and downtown, a move that Office of Transportation staff say will bring the city closer into alignment with nearby jurisdictions.

In the downtown area, the annual cost of parking will increase from $806 to $900, while in the California Avenue area it will go from $403 to $650. The city also plans to offer some permits at lower rates for employees with qualifying income. These permits will be sold for $225 in downtown and for $162.50 in the California Avenue area.

Parking on residential blocks also will become more expensive for those employees with permits. The new plan calls for raising rates. In the downtown RPP district, permits will go up from $806 to $1,050 for most employees. Low-income employees will be eligible for $267.50 permits, up from the current level of $100. In the Evergreen Park/Mayfield and Southgate parking districts, permit costs for most employees will be raised from $403 to $750, while those with qualifying incomes will see their rates go from $50 to $187.50.

For residents in each RPP district, the cost of the annual permit will remain $50, though households will no longer be eligible to receive a free permit.

In making the case for the changes, Chief Transportation Officer Philip Kamhi underscored the fact that, for most people, parking in Palo Alto garages remains a fairly cheap proposition when compared to commuting by transit. The monthly costs of parking in Palo Alto currently range from $33 to $67, according to staff. By contrast, in Mountain View, drivers pay $61 and in Redwood City, they pay between $40 and $100. The new pricing structure for garages and lots would bring Palo Alto into the $54 to $84 range.

“Parking in Palo Alto generally is severely underpriced compared to our peers and compared to, quite frankly, transit,” Kamhi said. “If transit is significantly more expensive than parking, which it currently is, people will opt to drive.”

In approving the latest suite of changes, city staff and Finance Committee members acknowledged that more changes will inevitably follow. Kamhi noted that the city’s recent adoption of new parking technology — including a license plate reader and guidance systems in garages that track occupancy levels — will allow his office to track parking rates and adjust policies as necessary. The city’s existing demand models, he said, “are correct in a world that we don’t live in currently.”

A report from the Office of Transportation notes that reducing employee parking throughout most of the Evergreen Park/Mayfield RPP district, leaving just 40 permits, is “in line with expectations of residential stakeholders.” Staff also believes the new garage at 350 Sherman provides a sufficient number of spaces to accommodate the roughly 250 cars that currently rely on permits to park in the Evergreen/Mayfield district. (Editor’s note: The Weekly’s parent company, Embarcadero Media, is located in the California Avenue district and some employees purchase passes for the RPP district.)

While parking is poised to get more expensive, staff believe it also will become more convenient. Next year, the city will be making the switch from hangtags and decals to virtual permits, which will be available to residents and employees by online purchase. Nathan Baird, the city’s parking manager, said that once this change is made, the city will be able offer monthly permits rather than require employees to commit to six-month permits.

Council member Alison Cormack, who chairs the Finance Committee, supported the various changes proposed by staff but suggested that the city will likely need to make further modifications once it gets a better idea of what the parking landscape looks like post-pandemic.

“Perhaps we’ll have to change those prices and those numbers more than we had before because we’re not in a stable situation,” Cormack said.

Both of her committee colleagues, Vice Mayor Pat Burt and council member Eric Filseth, agreed. Burt warned, however, that by encouraging drivers and commuters to exit the Evergreen Park RPP, the city may be setting an expectation for residents that this will be the new permanent status quo. Some residents have urged the city for years to stop selling residential permits to employees and to adopt a residents-only program modeled after the one in place in College Terrace.

City leaders are confident that the new California Avenue garage creates an opportunity to do just that. Under the new program, only employees who work in the city for years to stop selling residential permits to employees and to adopt a residents-only permits to park in the Evergreen Park and Mayfield neighborhoods are those who work on El Camino Real, who will be restricted to the parking zone close to their workplaces.

The new price structure also seeks to steer drivers toward garages. RPP permits currently cost as much as permits to park in city lots and garages — $806 in downtown and $403 in the California Avenue area. With the newly approved changes, it would cost more to buy a permit to park in the RPP districts than to park in public lots and garages.

Carol Sosa, who lives in Evergreen Park, told the committee that she welcomes the change, which she says is consistent with the city’s Comprehensive Plan policy of promoting business but “not at the expense of residential quality of life.” She lauded staff for working with residents to make the changes to the parking program.

Burt suggested that the elimination of all but 40 employee permits in residential districts near California Avenue may not be a permanent move.

“I think it’s entirely reasonable that these neighborhoods get what we committed to — that we ratchet down the number of permits in the neighborhoods. This basically goes to implementing it,” Burt said. “I don’t want to set an expectation that we’re going to struggle with.”

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

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### Audit

(continued from page 12)

the City Council and executive management would be unwise to overlook the potential for serious risks in a current IT environment. This plan should include, among other things, efforts to address offline communications, software and hardware failures, downtime and data loss. It would also designate roles during disasters such as cyberattacks and en-

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### Pulse

(continued from page 7)

Worthington are bilingual. In the weeks leading up to the Pulse launch, Iracheta and Worthington have been meeting with as many local business leaders and community members as possible. Embarkerado’s marketing team has been connecting with key local business leaders, whose support in the form of institutional sponsorships will be important to the site’s success, as will membership from readers.

“If we’ve learned a great deal about Redwood City and its robust and diverse community through our conversations with key community leaders,” Iracheta said. “The city has changed dramatically in recent years through its collaboration with local nonprofits, various industry leaders and by being open to healthy public discourse. The city has welcomed having diverse voices to the council. It has acknowledged the rich history of the many cultures that contribute to its growth. I was encouraged to continue learning about Redwood City in the coming months.”

The public can reach Irach-

ters such as cyberattacks and en-

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### Online This Week

These and other news stories were posted on Palo Alto Online throughout the week. For longer versions, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news.

#### End-of-life law reduces waiting period

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill Tuesday intended to streamline the state’s process of approving requests by terminally ill patients to the law, aiming to reduce the current mandatory 15-day waiting period between requests for assisted suicide medication to 48 hours. (Posted Oct. 6, 2:27 p.m.)

#### County workers get ‘hero pay’

Nearly all Santa Clara County employees will receive “hero pay” bonuses of up to $2,500 for their work during the pandemic under a program approved by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday that will use a portion of federal stimulus funds for the one-time payments. (Posted Oct. 6, 2:43 p.m.)

#### No more mandatory jail sentences

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Oct. 5 signed a new California law that will end mandatory jail sentences for nonviolent drug offenses starting in January 2022. (Posted Oct. 6, 12:50 p.m.)

#### Arson shuts down parking garage

A fire set in Palo Alto’s public parking structure at 520 Webster St. that engulfed an unoccupied car on Monday night and Prompted the closure of the garage is being investigated as arson, according to a statement from Palo Alto police. The blaze was the second fire in a downtown garage on the same night. (Posted Oct. 5, 12:55 p.m.)

#### Rapid COVID tests in short supply

With the spread of the delta variant, rapid COVID-19 tests are in short supply in California prompting some retailers to limit sales to one per customer and leaving supply vendors short of kits needed for schools, shelters, nursing homes, employers and other groups. (Posted Oct. 4, 3:32 p.m.)
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Nestled on over one-half acre within the chic enclave of Crescent Park lies this impeccable Italianate estate designed by Palo Alto’s most revered architect, Birge Clark. Extensively renovated over a 3-year period, this home has been designed to provide for a modern Silicon Valley lifestyle while still offering an abundance of nearly century-old Palo Alto beauty, charm, and grace. Offering 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and 3 powder rooms, including a beautiful guest house, this estate boasts a total of over 7,200 square feet of living space, with expansive interiors brimming with elegant appointments and providing incredible venues for both entertaining and everyday living. Highlights of the estate include 7 fireplaces, including one outdoors, sizable formal rooms, the flawless chef’s kitchen with a La Cornue range, and the magnificent library with a secret passageway to the adjacent dining room. The self-contained master suite is a retreat in and of itself, with a spa-like bathroom, exercise room, laundry, and sauna. The crown jewels of the estate are the brilliant grounds cultivated with assistance from renowned landscape designer Ken Schoppe, showcasing vibrant, distinctive plantings as you enter the property with seating areas to relax and unwind. The resort-like rear grounds are reminiscent of the French Riviera, accentuated by the remarkable pool that draws inspiration from Hearst Castle and features hand-set Murano glass tiles in a deep, striking shade of blue. For added convenience, this estate also offers a 3-car garage, porte-cochère, and a motor-court with ample parking. And though this Crescent Park location affords outstanding privacy, you will still be mere moments to University Avenue, Stanford University, top tech companies, and US 101.

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Pumpkin (continued from page 7)

wanted to do something with it and this year he received permission from the landlord to set up the Halloween display. It opened around the third week of September.

The pumpkin patch is a labor of love — a means to bring the community together, especially during these hard, COVID-19 times, he said.

“It took a half a day to finish it. Before, people passed by an empty, dirty lot. Now, they pass by and take pictures, get ice cream and enjoy that big, beautiful pumpkin patch,” he said.

Manley said she noticed the patch when she saw Kaing and his family weeding the lot and haul- ing in the hay bales.

“There’s something magical about this pop-up pumpkin patch. Every time I walk by, I notice a few more pumpkins perched on the hay bales. I am really grateful to the Baskin-Robbins manager at that location for allowing them all their hard work, generosity, and creativity in transforming an empty lot into what I consider to be a perfect pumpkin patch, filled with bales of fun and the Halloween spirit,” she said.

Kenichi Hartman and his family discovered the pumpkin patch during a family walk with a friend. Cutting through the alley behind Baskin-Robbins, they were delighted to see it perched along side the neighbors’ for their three children, Eaba, 11, Mave, 10, and Amit, 1, it is their first Halloween. The family just returned from living in Israel for 10 years, and the two older children had only seen Halloween decorations on YouTube, he said.

“This is the girls’ first experience with a real Halloween scene,” said Hartman, who previously lived in Palo Alto. “It is so wonderful for the community.”

The pumpkin patch was recently beset by ghouls. Twice so far youths have come to destroy the holiday display. The patch was only up for one day when a teen smashed pumpkins. Then, earlier this week a group of teens arrived at the pumpkin patch and instead of focusing on the pumpkins and wrecks the display. The vandal were captured on surveil-

lance video.

Kaing said his family felt dis- couraged and saddened.

“They broke our Halloween spirit,” she said. “We wanted to keep the pumpkins painted on them and took down some of the decorations on the frame,” Kaing said. “We wanted to keep the pumpkins as an event for the kids, family and the community.”

But he is heartened by the com- munity response. After a posting about the incidents on Nextdoor, some neighbors immediately be- gan replenishing the pumpkins and the display.

“The people all work together and they are bringing more to- gether. We feel like we are in a community,” she said.

The Halloween pumpkin patch will stay up until at least the end of the month, and perhaps beyond so that the circle of friendships gathered around the hay bales will grow. Kaing said he is so gratified by the community response that he is thinking of ways to keep the community spirit alive. He plans to have a Christmas display later in the season, he said. •

Email staff writer Sue Drenmann at sdrenmann@pawekyly.com.

Vax (continued from page 6)

regular testing.

Palo Alto Superintendent Aus-
tin said a lot is still unclear about the status of the vaccine. “It is like whether there will be any exemptions and what would happen to unvacci-
nated employees.”

Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister is optimistic the “medical, legal, and logistical questions will resolve themselves.”

According to Meyer, enrolling unvaccinated students in the dis- trict’s independent study program seems like the most likely option at this point.

Austen said it would be “disap-
pointing” if the vaccine mandate meant more students don’t receive an in-person education, when the goal is to ensure students are able to stay on campus.

Another remaining question, Burmeister said, “is the school board need to receive full approval before the mandate takes effect. Currently only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is fully approved for ages 16 and up, with Moderna’s and Johnson & Johnson’s still under emergency use authorizations. Pfizer is the only vaccine currently available to those under 18 and is being adminis-
istered under an emergency use au-
thorization for ages 12-16.”

Austen said he “absolutely” sup-
ports mandating COVID-19 vac-
cination for those 12 and older once the FDA gives its full ap-
proval, adding that although he indi-
normally favors local control, he feels it would have been “irrespon-
sible” for the state to leave the de-
cision about vaccine mandate to local districts.

“I do support the state taking this on for an entire state, rather than leaving it to the 1050 indi-
vidual school districts,” Austin said. “I think that path was going to be a disaster.”

Local schools push for the mandate

Some local school districts had publicly pushed the state to issue a vaccination mandate ahead of Newsmow’s announcement. Se-
quía Union High School District Superintendent Darnise Williams and school board members recently

Upfront

Pumpkin (continued from page 7)

sent a letter to Newsmow, asking the state to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of legally re-
quired vaccines.

School district officials felt forced to make medical decisions while being “squarely in the mid-
dle of focusing on educating students,” she said.

San Mateo County Superinten-
dent of Schools Nancy Magee co-
signed the Sequoia district letter.

“When students at every grade level are fully vaccinated, the lev-
el is much lower and our ability to teach is much higher,” she said in an email. “This will allow schools to begin operating with fewer restrictions and, in turn, will improve the quality and stability of the teaching/learning environ-
ment as well as reduce the burden on school leaders and staff.”

In the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, Meyer said the district’s board hasn’t tak-
en a formal position on the man-
date but added that the district sup-
ports students being vaccinated.

“The more students and staff we can have vaccinated, the safer our community will be,” Meyer said.

Magee noted that individual school district governing boards may decide to enact vaccination mandates sooner than July if they deem it necessary.

Menlo Park Superintendent Burmeister concurred that school boards will have some flexibility to mandate vaccinations sooner than the state. But most boards would likely not do so until vac-
cinations receive full FDA approval.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is expected to receive emergency FDA approval this month for 5-
year-olds. To prepare for a “robust and efficient” vaccination process for that age group, the San Mateo County Office of Education is working with the county health department and local districts to plan for school-based vaccination events starting in early November.

Menlo Park district officials have already partnered with a local clinic with SafetyWay Pharmacy for 5- to 11-year-olds on Saturday, Nov. 6, at Hillview Middle School.

Gathering information

Some school districts have already begun asking students to voluntarily disclose their vaccina-
tion status. Roughly 50% of stu-
dents in the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District have submitted proof of vaccina-
tion, Associate Superintendent Leya Benson said.

The “vaccination confidentiality” of that in-
f ormation came from students who had been identified as a close contact of a possible COVID-19 case, Benson said. Vaccinated stu-
dents who are close contacts can generally continue to participate in extracurricular activities while being monitored for COVID-19, while their unvaccinated peers have to sit out.

Both Benson and Meyer said they believe the number of students who have been vac-
cinated is well above 50% but said many students may not see a need to submit their vaccination information.

“If there is some kind of re-
quirement imposed, or a local requirement, I do think that the number will go up very quickly,” Benson said.

Email staff writers Zoe Morgan at zmorgan@almanacnews.com and Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.
right away,” Dr. Scott Morrow, San Mateo County health officer, said.

People who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must continue to wear masks in businesses and indoor public spaces, in accordance with state health guidance.

The state also requires face coverings for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in health care facilities, public transit and adult and senior care facilities. California’s masking guidelines in K-12 schools would also not be affected by changes to local health orders.

The county health officers have to decide on metrics for reimposing indoor mask requirements should that become necessary, Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said during a Thursday morning press conference. They are jointly keeping an eye out for emerging new variants and assessing how the vaccines do over time with new variants, she said.

Santa Clara County remains in the CDC’s orange tier but the number of new infections is trending down. The county currently has 72.4% of its total population fully vaccinated, though 84.2% of those 12 and older have been fully inoculated. The county has just shy of 175,000 children ages 5 to 11 who would be eligible for the vaccine once it is approved for that age group, Cody said the county will diligently pursue getting those children vaccinated.

The public can track together with health departments how each county is doing by following on the CDC site and looking at the counties’ COVID-19 websites.

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdermann@pawEEKLY.com.

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**Across**

1 Wheat byproduct
6 Australian boots
10 Ensemble
14 Burj Khalifa locale
15 It comes before a fall?
16 Italian volcano that has been erupting through most of 2021
17 Opinion that the ordinal suffix from 4 onward is the worst of the group?
19 They may rehabilitate injured animals
20 Turn into
21 Songs to Wear ____ To (early 2000s website with humorous music)
22 Jason’s mythical vessel
25 Drive into hard
26 Highly decorated
27 Personal notification that nothing but dense, flavorful bread is available?
30 A little off
31 Soothing ointment
32 The color of money (if that money is a Brazilian 10 real note)
33 “Doubtfire” (movie turned into an upcoming Broadway musical)
36 Louis XVI, once
37 Sunscreen letters
40 South American mammal that looks like a raccoon
42 Like some roof panels
44 The physics of a Spanish bear tying its shoes?
48 Figures on some Valentine’s Day cards
49 Pantone selection
50 Added color to white canvas shoes, maybe
51 Lounges around
52 Pop music family from Utah
54 Leaning type (abcs)
55 Request for Garfield’s canine pal to hurry up?
59 Self-referential
60 Actor Steve of “Superstore”
61 Person from Malmo

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**Down**

1 1t ends in Chicago in Nov.
2 "Wait, what?"
3 "Aladdin" monkey
4 Some Comic-Con attendees
5 Bona
6 Hoo-ha
723 so far for Jay-Z, e.g.
87 to 10, on the Beaufort Scale
9 2011 World Series winners, for short
10 "Peanuts" expletive
11 Daith piercing locale
12 Benjamin Franklin’s 330th birthday
13 Cup, in France
18 Beige-like shade
21 Qualifying clause
22 Distant
23 Capital on the Tiber
24 Graph paper pattern
25 "Breaking Bad" org.
25 "Uncommon Bonds" — spy thrillers with something missing By Matt Jones

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**This week’s SUDOKU**

Answers on page 22.

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**Mask**

(continued from page 5)

ments issued the masking requirements for their respective jurisdictions on Aug. 3, following a summer surge in cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

But with regional data showing that the surge is now receding, and with the Bay Area one of the most vaccinated regions in the country, Bay Area health officers agreed it is time to plan for a transition.

“Lifting a local indoor mask mandate would not prevent businesses, nonprofits, churches or others with public indoor spaces from imposing their own requirements, however. COVID-19 easily spreads through airborne droplets, and face coverings remain highly powerful in preventing its spread, San Mateo County’s public health department noted.

“Each jurisdiction will rescind its order when criteria are met in that jurisdiction. The criteria were developed to assist in determining the safest time to lift the indoor masking orders, based on regional scientific and medical consensus. The criteria also provide safety for school children, ages 5-11, who need the added protection of masks in the community to keep case rates low so they can remain in school until they can be vaccinated,” the San Mateo County announcement said.

“As a safety measure, along with vaccination, face coverings have been key to our success in the Bay Area in reducing transmission and protecting public health. As we look toward lifting the mandate, it’s vital for everyone who has not gotten vaccinated to consider getting vaccinated

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**Palo Alto Weekly**

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Gorgeously-renovated and expanded Barrett and Hilp ranch-style home in the sought-after Green Gable/Duveneck neighborhood with its excellent schools, tree-lined streets, and close proximity to a myriad of wonderful attractions. The home includes a stunning entry with high ceilings & oversized skylights, a generous family room, and a living room/dining room combo that’s flushed with natural light from walls of windows. The handsome kitchen has high-end stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops, new cabinetry and direct access to a two-car attached garage. Primary suite with walk-in closet and just-renovated bathroom with glass-enclosed shower. Chic details throughout include shiplap interior walls, Russian oak floors with washed walnut finish, interior window between entry and kitchen, several skylights, and a barn door to the primary bathroom. The private and tranquil rear yard is anchored by a concrete patio that’s surrounded by lush mature landscaping including a variety of maples, azalea, camellia, citrus, and Italian cypress. Neighborhood schools: Duveneck Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High.

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