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City seeks better safeguards to preserve its canopy

Protecting Palo Alto’s trees

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- Charity Dean, MD, MPH&TM  
  CEO, Public Health Company
- Robert Redfield, MD  
  Former Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**HOSTED BY**

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OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1:30-4:30PM
City seeks to better protect its trees

Despite reputation as a tree-lined city, Palo Alto’s laws lag behind neighbors’
By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto famously loves its trees — as its namesake redwood, its official seal and its recently adopted Urban Forest Master Plan loudly and proudly testify. But despite that passion, city laws that protect local trees are somewhat weak and outdated, a conclusion that residents and city staff reached more than three years ago, when they began an effort to update the city code.

Today, the city’s planning staff struggle with the ambiguities in the city’s code, particularly its failure to address situations in which trees affect plans for accessory dwelling units or neighboring properties. Neighborhood leaders argue that the laws are too permissive when it comes to allowing developers and property owners to remove trees as part of construction projects. City commissioners observe that other cities protect a wider array of trees than Palo Alto.

Bryna Chang, a member of the city’s Planning and Transportation Commission, said she was surprised to learn recently that Palo Alto’s tree protection laws are weaker than in neighboring cities. “I was absolutely shocked that despite the great pride we take in our trees and the great pride we take in being a green and environmentally conscious community, we protect our trees far less than all of these neighboring cities,” Chang told the City Council on Monday, as the council considered its first update of the tree protection ordinance in 20 years.

She was one of about two dozen residents, including environmental advocates, nonprofit leaders and (continued on page 32)

CODE ENFORCEMENT

City warns Google cofounder Larry Page about using a residential home for business purposes

Violation notice issued for Old Palo Alto home that caught fire in September
By Sue Dremann and Lloyd Lee

The city of Palo Alto has issued a notice of violation to a company connected to Google cofounder Larry Page warning that a business should not be operating out of a house in the Old Palo Alto neighborhood.

The home, located at 2175 Bryant St., gained wide public attention after it caught fire on Sept. 14 and forced neighbors to evacuate. It is one of the handful of Old Palo Alto homes owned by Page or limited liability corporations associated with him. LLC ownership allows for the owners to be hidden from the public record. Information about these properties’ connections with Page are based on interviews with neighbors and on records that list representatives of Page.

In a notice of violation dated Sept. 29, city Code Enforcement noted the building was “red tagged” for safety concerns due to damage from the two-alarm blaze, which engulfed the back of the house. The residence was deemed to have substandard conditions as a result of the fire and was uninhabitable. Fire and water damage throughout the home were cited as the reasons.

In the notice of violation, however, the city also stated that it also “received a complaint regarding the property being used for business purposes.”

“To avoid being in violation of the city of Palo Alto Home Occupation regulations please ensure you are not violating any of the rules below,” the letter states, before enumerating Palo Alto’s requirements.

(continued on page 33)
RECONNECTING ... Over the past few days, the Midpen Media Center celebrated Community Media Week with a handful of events that encouraged the public to think about the role community media plays in our lives. It was also a celebration of Free Speech Week. The organization welcomed local residents to its studios at 900 San Antonio Road on Wednesday for an open house, which marked its official reopening. “During the height of the COVID pandemic, we supported our producers remotely so they could continue to deliver important new content. We also used the time to listen to our community and reassert how we can use our space to better serve its needs,” Midpen Media CEO and executive director Keri Stokstad said in a statement. “We’re introducing revamped areas that will support greater collaboration for the local creative community and provide space for media makers and other creative types to meet and build community, learn new skills, create great art and make new friends.” Midpen also hosted a VIP watch party over Zoom featuring some of their producers’ work on Thursday and plans to screen free public service announcements for local nonprofits on Friday. For more information, visit midpenmedia.org. 

SHAKE IT OFF ... With the drought and pandemic dominating the headlines, it’s all too easy to forget about earthquakes, the Bay Area’s ever-present threat. This week, the Palo Alto City Council and Ken Duerker, director of the city’s Office of Emergency Services, did their part to remind residents what to do when the ground shakes. Donning T-shirts with the words, “Drop,” “Cover” and “Hold On,” council members started their virtual Monday meeting by taking part in a simulated earthquake. The event, which supports the International ShakeOut Day campaign, aims to drill into participants the steps they need to take in the event of an earthquake: drop, cover and hold on. “Those are the things one ought to do as soon as one feels the earth shaking,” Duerker said. “The worst that can happen is that you’re embarrassed that it’s a large truck coming by.” Council members did their part by scurrying under their desks for a brief period before reemerging for a “false check” roll call by Mayor Tom DuBois. Most survived the drill unscathed. Council member Lydia Kou was the sole exception. “I hit my head on the table when I was going under, so I have a headache right now,” Kou, a longtime emergency response volunteer, said after the drill. Duerker encouraged community members to take earthquakes seriously. “It may be tempting to ignore it as we deal with the global pandemic, and people are dealing with many other things that are perhaps more front and center, but at any moment we may be confronted with a pretty severe shake,” he said. For more tips on natural disaster planning, visit cityofpaloalto.org/preparedness.

ALL IN THE FAMILY ... Stanford University Professor Guido Imbens’ household was buzzing with excitement during the wee hours of Oct. 11 when they learned he was one of three winners of the Nobel prize in economics. “I woke up around 2:30 in the morning. Everybody was running around,” his son, 17-year-old Cavan Imbens, told Stanford News Service. The award was so momentous that Imbens’ wife, Susan Athey, gave their three children the option to stay home from school that day. Imbens and Athey (the economics of technology professor at Stanford’s Graduate School of Business) have discussed their work with their three children. “Mostly they want to talk about other kinds of science, but occasionally they’ll indulge their parents with a handful of economic ideas.” Athey said in the Stanford article. Imbens has been told that winning half the prize with Joshua Angrist, his colleague from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “for their methodological contribution to the analysis of causal relationships,” it’s a topic that Imbens and Athey’s children seem to understand. “It’s very interesting how you can take data from things that were not intended for anything and then use it to draw these outstanding conclusions,” Sylvia, 10, told her father in a Stanford video.■
Housing

Palos Alto scrambles to react to barrage of new housing laws

By Gennady Sheyner

City prepares to craft ‘urgency ordinance’ in response to new state requirements

October 20, 2021

Hoping to make a dent in California’s housing crisis, policymakers have passed a barrage of sweeping new laws that streamline approval processes for residential developments. But Palos Alto, city planners are already crafting an “urgency ordinance” that would modify the municipal code to comply with the state laws — an update that they hope to bring to the City Council in December.

The two bills that have garnished the most attention, celebration and pushback during the recently concluded legislative session have been Senate Bill 9, which allows cities to approve developments with 10 dwellings per acre in transit-rich areas, notwithstanding any restrictions that require a lower density. But while SB 9 and SB 10 have dominated the spotlight, neither is expected to significantly boost housing any time soon. An analysis by the Terner Center for Housing Innovation at University of California, Berkeley estimated that SB 9 could potentially generate 700,000 new dwellings across the state. The analysis notes, however, that “relatively few new single-family parcels are expected to become financially feasible for added units as a direct consequence of this bill” and suggests that the law will “modestly accelerate the addition of new units relative to status quo.”

The impact of SB 10, which prohibits cities from using minimum lot-size requirements to preclude residential development and which sets minimum density requirements in residential zones that have multiunit developments, is uncertain. Under this law, developments that have between three and seven units would have a minimum floor area ratio of 1.0, while those with between eight and 10 units must be allowed a floor area ratio of 1.25. Floor area ratio is the measure of a building’s floor area in relation to the square footage of the land it’s on.

Because many of these zones in Palos Alto currently allow a floor area ratio of 0.4 or 0.6, SB 478 would effectively double the density on many lots.

Given the city’s existing density restrictions, SB 478 impacts most of Palos Alto’s existing mixed-use development standards in commercial districts, according to planning staff. Sing said that the law is one of several that will require the city to make changes to the local zoning code to ensure compliance.

After the council reviews the urgency ordinance with the zoning changes in early December, it anticipates approving permanent ordinances in spring 2022.

Like SB 10, SB 478 was authored by state Sen. Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco, who described it as a way to prevent loopholes that cities use to deny housing.

“Small, multi-unit housing — prior to SB 478 — could be prevented even allowed by local zoning code because of onerous and unnecessary restrictions on square footage and lot size,” Wiener said in a statement just after Newsom signed the bill into law.

(continued on page 29)
County supervisors seek to create a new clinic serving north county

Facility could provide services for up to 25K people

By Kevin Forestieri

The county has leaned on health care services provided by May-View Community Health Center — with locations in Palo Alto and Mountain View — and has even contracted with Ravenswood Family Health Center for residents to receive services just over the county border in East Palo Alto. Planned Parenthood is also looking to lease space to the county to provide specialty services at its Mountain View location.

This arrangement hasn’t been perfect, Simitian said. MayView has a financially shaky history, and Planned Parenthood — which provides primary care services to county residents — faced closure in 2017 when it was displaced by residential development.

What’s more, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced hundreds of thousands of county residents to rely on county-run services when other health care providers fell short, particularly for tests and vaccinations.

Absent a clinic in the north county, many are turning to Valley Health Center Sunnyvale, which operates next door to District 5. The clinic is bursting at the seams and has long wait times for appointments, caused in part by thousands of patients hailing from Palo Alto to Santa Clara.

Backeing Simitian’s efforts are Los Altos Hills Mayor Kavita Tankha and Los Altos Mayor Neya Siglor, both of whom called for greater access to affordable care in the region.

The fifth supervisorial district is largely considered the most economically prosperous, which might explain why it’s been short-changed on county-run health services, Simitian said. But the need is still there: More than 39,000 district residents are on Medi-Cal, and 57,000 residents have a household income under 400% of the federal poverty line. County staff estimate between 10,000 and 25,000 people could be served through a north county clinic.

While it makes sense to focus health care resources on the high-need areas of the county, Simitian said.
Afttering falling into a deep funk in spring 2020, Palo Alto’s economy is starting to show signs of life, with hotel and sales tax revenues now exceeding the city’s projections, a new revenue analysis shows.

The report, which is based on economic activity through June 2021, indicates that the city’s sales tax revenues could exceed budgeted levels by between $2.5 million and $3.5 million. Hotel tax revenues, which plummeted by more than 90% at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, are now less dramatic in the current fiscal year, which began July 1, that was lower than it was in March 2020.

While the budget cuts were less dramatic in the current fiscal year, which began July 1, that was largely due to assistance from the federal government. The city was allotted $13.7 million through the American Rescue Plan Act, which handles street and sidewalk repairs. And the Planning and Development Services Department, which has seen an uptick in building and planning applications, can no longer adequately staff new council positions.

According to a report from the Administrative Services Department that the City Council is scheduled to discuss on Monday night.

The new report offers a glint of economic good news to a council that has spent much of the pandemic cutting staff positions and exploring new tax measures to avoid further service reductions. Last year, the city adopted a budget with about $40 million in cuts, entailing a reduction of 83 full-time positions and 107 part-time positions. According to staff, the city’s employee count is now 11% lower than it was in March 2020.

At the same time, city staff continue to feel budget pressure. The Fire Department lost five firefighter positions due to budget cuts, though it is now trying to recruit new employees thanks to funding that the city received through a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.

The Police Department, which saw at least seven officers depart this year, currently has 10 vacancies in police officer positions and has identified “retention and recruiting” as a critical challenge. The Public Works Department has about 34 vacancies, according to the new report, including five in the 12-employee group that handles street and sidewalk repairs.

And the Planning and Development Services Department, which has seen an uptick in building and planning applications, can no longer adequately staff new council positions.
initiatives and is “challenged in responding to emerging issues,” such as new housing laws. In addition, the city is fighting a shortage of labor and supply. Supply chain issues have forced the city to delay opening the new bike bridge over U.S. Highway 101, according to the report, and to postpone the opening of the reconstructed Junior Museum and Zoo because of delays in transportation of animals. In some instances, the report states, vehicle-replacement contracts have been canceled due to the lack of inventory from vendors.

City planners, meanwhile, are having a hard time finding consulting firms with enough availability to assist with plan reviews. This, according to the report, has “led to planning staff carrying several projects beyond the recommended number of projects per staff person.”

**Business-tax measure on the horizon**

While the recent revenue increases and the federal aid will help the city balance its budget in the near term, council members are banking on a new business tax as a long-term solution for restoring and potentially expanding city services.

The effort to place a business tax on the November 2022 ballot advanced on Tuesday night, when the council’s Finance Committee officially dropped from consideration the pursuit of a parcel tax, which would have applied to landowners and required approval from two-thirds of voters.

The committee’s decision all but ensures that the measure that will end up on the ballot will be a business license tax based on square footage. The committee also favored possible exemptions for retail and for businesses that occupy buildings with square footage of less than 20,000 square feet, details that the full council will discuss on Nov. 8.

While the details of the business tax will be ironed out in the coming months based on council direction and polling, the Finance Committee agreed that the rate should range somewhere between 5 cents per square foot and 20 cents per square foot per month.

The council has yet to determine how the funding would be used, though past discussions centered on affordable housing and transportation as key focus areas. Now, another key area is the restoration of services that were cut during the pandemic.

To gauge residents’ appetite for a business tax, the city is preparing to commission a survey by the firm FM3 Research, which has worked with the city on prior ballot initiatives. The survey will measure residents’ spending priorities, their interest in the proposed tax and their level of confidence in local government, according to David Metz, president of FM3.

Metz told the Finance Committee that other cities are finding it harder now to get support for new tax measures than in the past. “We’re seeing a lot of measures polling 5 percentage points lower than they do typically and two-thirds is a hard sell even in a politically advantageous climate,” Metz told the Finance Committee on Tuesday. “At this point around the region, ‘wrong track’ numbers are up. The level of confidence in local government pretty much across the board is lower.”

The difficulty of gaining two-thirds support was a key factor in the Finance Committee ditching the option of a parcel tax, which it had previously considered. Chair Alison Cormack said she supports a business license tax, which as a general tax would require majority support. Her colleagues agreed, though there was some debate over what types of exemptions the measure should include. While Vice Mayor Pat Burt favored basing exemptions on business type, Cormack and council member Eric Filseth supported the simpler approach of exempting businesses with 20,000 square feet or less. All three committee members felt that retail should be exempt.

Committee members also acknowledged that it might be hard to accurately gauge public opinion about the new tax given the rapidly shifting economic climate and the council’s inability to clearly define exactly how the money would be used. Filseth suggested that if voters don’t pass the tax, the city will have to cut staff. But even if that’s the case, Burt noted that the extent of the potential cuts is far from clear at this time.

“We don’t have a consensus that we’re going to have major cuts to services absent this business tax,” Burt said.

**Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheynet at gsheynet@paweekly.com.**

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**Public Agenda**

**A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week**

**CITY COUNCIL ...** The council plans to hold pre-screening hearings for 1033 Amarillo Ave., which involves splitting a single-family zone to create eight residences, and 660 University Ave., a proposed mixed-use development with ground-floor office space and 70 dwellings. The council will then consider various budget amendments; provide direction to staff about zoning interpretations pertaining to 340 Portage Ave.; and discuss revisions to the city’s “objective standards” for reviewing new developments. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to hear an update on water recycling and on the Measure E area at Blythe Park. The commission also will consider new rules for pickleball courts and a new court-usage policy. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 26. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 999 3789 9745.

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ...** The commission plans to hold a study session to discuss building electrification and consider ways to streamline the permitting process. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 916 4155 9499.
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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.

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Eric Strauss
May 23, 1931 – September 8, 2021

Dr. Eric Strauss of Palo Alto, CA passed away suddenly on September 8th at the age of 90. Born in Berlin, Germany in 1931 to William and Anna Strauss, Eric and his parents left their home and immigrated to the US in 1939 to escape Nazi persecution. His four grandparents, who remained in Germany, tragically lost their lives during the Holocaust.

Upon his family’s arrival at Ellis Island aboard the SS Volendam, Eric, who spoke virtually no English at that time, worked to acclimate by quickly embracing the educational opportunities that America offered. He earned admission to storied Stuyvesant High School, received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Yale University, and graduated with his medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

During his residency at Bellevue Hospital, Eric met nurse Nancy Klett, and their courtship led to marriage in New York City in 1960. After finishing his medical training as a urologist, Eric served his new country in the US Army as a doctor at San Francisco’s Letterman General Hospital. When his military service was completed, Eric and Nancy decided that their permanent home would remain in California, where Eric could enjoy, year round, the sun he cherished so much.

He worked four years with Stanford University at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto. Then, in 1966, Eric chose to focus on clinical medicine, joining the Palo Alto Medical Clinic where he practiced for the next 37 years. He ultimately returned to the VA system, working in both Livermore and Palo Alto, to close out his illustrious career. All told, Eric practiced urology for 51 years until his retirement at age 81. An “old school” physician, Eric was dedicated, thorough and generous with his time; he took great pride in his work and cared deeply about the well-being of his patients.

In addition to his lifelong love of medicine, Eric never passed up a game of bridge or a chance to pursue gold master points, was a San Francisco Symphony season ticket holder for nearly 60 years, and was a dedicated cover-to-cover reader of the New York Times. He enjoyed tennis, skating, reading, hiking, Native American baskets and jewelry, and playing the piano. Alfred died of cancer in 1970, and Karen went back to school and then worked as an administrator, volunteer coordinator, and community college educator while raising three children, who she parented with a heavy dose of perspective. She loved learning and surrounding herself with people from different walks of life, and for over 50 years she volunteered at the International Center at Stanford University, teaching conversational English and American culture to students from around the world.

Karen Klvans Sortino passed away September 17 after a battle with cancer. She died peacefully at home, surrounded by family.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, the middle child of a Russian Jewish family, Karen was a funny and feisty young woman who attended University of Wisconsin and then worked in journalism, advertising, and elementary education in Cleveland until she met Alfred Weisz, a medical student at Case Western. They married, settled in Northern California, and began a family.

Karen found great joy in a good laugh, a beautiful poem, and long conversations over deep cups of coffee. She enjoyed tennis, skating, reading, hiking. Native American baskets and jewelry, and playing the piano. Alfred died of cancer in 1970, and Karen went back to school and then worked as an administrator, volunteer coordinator, and community college educator while raising three children, who she parented with a heavy dose of perspective. She loved learning and surrounding herself with people from different walks of life, and for over 50 years she volunteered at the International Center at Stanford University, teaching conversational English and American culture to students from around the world.

Karen married again in 1982 and had a long, happy, and romantic relationship with her husband, Frank Sortino. She treasured food, jokes, crossword puzzles, travel, hiking, music, and especially time with family and grandchildren. Though she never considered herself “a success,” her life was characterized by enduring friendships. Karen had a wide circle of friends with whom she shared book discussions, mahjong, walking, meals, and lively conversation. Many of them called her “a force” of social engagement. She was characterized by a “cup half full” mentality and loved life and adventure. She inspired those around her to be kind, to be just, and to live with joy.

Karen is survived by her husband Frank, her three children, Craig, Carolyn, and Margo, her daughter-in-law, Debby, son-in-law, Gregory, and by her five grandchildren.
Marion Peterson "Pete" Avery, beloved matriarch, passed away peacefully at age 93 after a brief illness. Pete is remembered for her love of family and friends, keen intellect and wit, natural inquisitiveness, kind and generous spirit, humility, and for her elegance and charm. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a caring friend.

Pete was raised in Oakland by her loving family: Otto and Gladys Peterson; stepmother Florence (after Gladys’ death); and older brothers Robert, Richard and Edward. Many of her lifelong friendships were formed during her early years, later at Anna Head High School in Berkeley, and at UC Berkeley (‘49) where she was president of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Pete met the love of her life, Burt Avery, on a blind date in 1948. Burt was completing his degree at Stanford Business School after returning from U.S. Naval service as an underwater demolition specialist in WWII. Their relationship blossomed that summer at Lake Tahoe where each held a summer job. Pete enjoyed waitressing at Glenbrook Inn while Burt built a house at Rubicon Bay. They married one year later in Berkeley and enjoyed 56 years of wedded bliss until Burt’s death in 2005. At first, when they went together to Big Game, Pete sat on the Cal side of the stadium while Burt was on the Stanford side. But they quickly decided they preferred to sit together!

Pete and Burt were a devoted couple and dedicated parents. Early in their marriage they worked nights and weekends together to convert the historic Flood estate horse barn in Atherton into a loving family home, where they raised their five sons. The Avery home, fondly known as “The Barn,” was a hub of activity where everyone felt welcome, and there was never a dull moment! Pete infused every day with humor and grace. Alejandro Pacheco and Burt took great interest in each of their sons’ pursuits in education, activities and sports. Once the boys were off to school, Pete could be found helping in the classroom, working with the PTA, or volunteering with the Junior League. Pete spent many afternoons shuttling the boys back and forth to swim and water polo team practices. She took the lead organizing family vacations and particularly enjoyed their summer excursions to Glenbrook, a special place for the family dating back to that first summer she shared with Burt. Pete also was extremely supportive of Burt’s career, as he founded Avery Construction in 1960 and developed garden apartments and office buildings on the San Francisco Peninsula.

Pete and Burt were overjoyed to welcome four daughters-in-law into the family, whom they both loved dearly. They adored their 11 grandchildren, and Pete lived long enough to enjoy the company of her three great-grandchildren. Strong and active supporters of Stanford, Pete and Burt helped the University to upgrade its aquatics facilities and backed groundbreaking immunology research at the School of Medicine. They shared a passion... for Early California Art, and they greatly enjoyed dominoes and bridge games with friends.

Pete moved to the Vi, a senior living community next to the Stanford campus, after Burt passed, in 2005. She enjoyed connecting with old friends, as well as building many new relationships. Always inquisitive, she attended lectures at the Vi and was an avid reader of fiction and non-fiction. One of her favorite experiences at the Vi was taking a memoir class where she had the opportunity to record personal stories from her entire life. Another great joy for Pete was playing bridge and the deep friendships she developed around the bridge table. And she rarely missed watching the Golden State Warriors, San Francisco Giants, and Stanford football. She particularly loved learning about the players’ personal stories.

Pete will be forever missed by her four surviving sons: Chris, Brian (Tracey), Matt (Kathy) and Regan (Brenda), and by Laurene, her son Bruce’s widow; grandchildren: Ailida Avery McIntyre (Shea) and Tom Avery (Anne); Galen Avery Neidlinger (Matt), and Alex (Janine), Amanda, and Meg Avery; Wade, Gavin and Weston Avery; Christian and Palmer Avery; and great-grandchildren: Luca and Crew McIntyre; and Reese Neidlinger. Her beloved brothers and husband Burt predeceased her. Pete and Burt’s cherished son Bruce was taken too young in an automobile accident in 2014.

There will be a private memorial service over the Thanksgiving holiday for immediate family to celebrate Pete’s life. The family appreciates your thoughts and prayers, and would greatly enjoy receiving emails or letters with stories about your connection with Pete.

In lieu of flowers, donations honoring Marion P. Avery may be made to Stanford Medicine’s Cancer Discovery Fund, JDRF (formerly called Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), or the charity of your choice. The Stanford Medicine Cancer Discovery Fund supports various programs including cancer research, patient services, and educational programs within the Cancer Center. Donation checks may be made payable to “Stanford University” with a memo note of “In memory of Marion P. Avery” and mailed to Stanford Medicine, P.O. Box 20466, Stanford, CA 94309-0466. Gifts may also be made online at memorial.stanford.edu. Click on Stanford Medicine, and in the second line please select “The Cancer Discovery Fund”, and in the gift specifications section mark the gift as “In memory of Marion P. Avery.”

Donation checks to JDRF may be made payable to “JDRF” with a memo note of “In memory of Marion ‘Pete’ Avery” and mailed to JDRF, 1215 4th Avenue, Suite 1100, Seattle, Washington 98161. Gifts may be made online at http://www2.jdrf.org/goto/peteav.
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www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • October 22, 2021 • Page 19
The United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) is returning to the big screen after playing exclusively on the smallest screens — computers, tablets and phones — for its 2020 edition. The documentary film festival, which made a pandemic pivot to an all-virtual format last year, is back Oct. 21-31 in theaters for 11 days of screenings of 60 films at venues in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and the Stanford University campus. San Francisco’s Roxie Theater also hosts an evening of screenings.

The films vary in length from shorts to feature length, making it easy to take in a session of as many as three or four films in an afternoon or evening. Over 30 countries are represented in this year’s schedule of films, including Cuba, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan.

With 24 years under its belt, UNAFF is the oldest documentary film festival in the United States, said founder and Executive Director Jasmina Bojic, a Stanford University educator. Bojic is also the director of Stanford Arts’ Camera as Witness program, which uses documentary film as an educational tool to help illuminate a number of important topics, such as the environment and human rights — a role which has complemented her work with the festival.

“When I founded the festival, I was really wanting to have an opportunity for our community to be educated about human rights issues particularly,” Bojic said, noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 informed the festival’s mission, though the event is not affiliated with the United Nations. UNAFF remains its own entity, and although it has weathered the most recent economic threat brought by the pandemic, like all nonprofits, it needs continuing support, Bojic said.

“We are an independent nonprofit organization, and we need support from our community in order to continue with it.”

She said her longtime dream is to create a Camera as Witness Institute — a facility that would be a home for documentary film and learning. Such an institute is a much longer term pursuit.

For the moment, with the return to person-to-person, indoor screenings, Bojic underscored the stringent public health rules that will be in place. All in attendance are required to wear masks and must have proof of vaccination or a negative test result from no longer than 48 hours prior.

“The first and the most important rule is safety,” she said.

But Bojic was effusive about once again presenting films to audiences in the theater. The festival aims to create a sense of community among filmmakers, speakers and audiences, she said, which is bolstered by the in-person experience.

“It’s not just being at a film festival, coming to see a film and then you’re out,” Bojic said, emphasizing the festival’s six free panel discussions that explore the larger issues covered by some of the featured documentaries, including criminal justice reform, crossing borders, youth action for climate, and censorship and the press. Panels will have filmmakers as well as local subject matter experts, such as government officials or members of the Peninsula media, depending on the topic.

“Moving Forward” is the theme of the 2021 festival — a concept that might sound like it’s happily heralding a return to theaters after the pandemic lockdown, but there’s more to the idea, according to Bojic, who said that the slate of 60 films and half-dozen panels...
offers an opportunity to dive into pressing political, economic and health issues of our day and explore how we can go forward together. And with the pairing of documentaries and discussions, festivalgoers can get a more informed picture of world and national events.

“The best way to move forward is having knowledge about a situation — what’s happening in the world. You get the idea of what’s happening in Afghanistan, what’s happening in China, what’s happening in the Middle East, or what’s happening in our country,” she said.

The United States’ two decades of war in Afghanistan are the subject of “Ghost of Afghanistan,” one of a trio of films opening the festival on Oct. 21 at Palo Alto’s Mitchell Park Community Center, along with “Hunger Ward,” which examines the efforts of health care workers to battle starvation among children as war wears on in Yemen, and “Barbara Lee: Speaking Truth to Power,” about Bay Area Rep. Barbara Lee, who cast the lone dissenting vote in Congress against authorizing the broad use of military force following the Sept. 11 attacks. The film chronicles Lee’s longtime work for human rights.

The festival will honor Lee and musician and activist Harry Belafonte with its Visionary Award. A special message from Lee, who disclosed a diagnosis of dementia last year, will accompany the screening of “The best way to move forward is having knowledge about a situation — what’s happening in the world.’’ — Jasmina Bojic, UNAFF founder and executive director

The festival’s closing night, which takes place Oct. 31 in Palo Alto, includes screenings of “In Case of Emergency,” which looks at the key role of emergency rooms and nurses in U.S. health care, and “To the Street (A la Calle),” a look at political activists in Venezuela. The final film to be screened will be “Solutions,” which chronicles a 10-day retreat by some of the world’s leading scientists and experts in fields ranging from the environment to technology, democracy to social media, who come together to discuss how to secure human- 

The power of young people coming together is also highlighted in a screening of “Youth V. Gov,” about 21 youth climate activists ages 8 to 19 who filed suit against the United States government for violating their constitutional rights in creating and failing to mitigate the climate crisis.

The film will be followed by a panel discussion with youth climate activists, presented in partnership with Amamantangi Polynesian Voices, a nonprofit focusing on environmental justice for the underrepresented Pacific Islander community. The film and panel will be presented Oct. 27 at Cooley Landing in East Palo Alto.

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Denzel Jackson strains hops out of beer as it drains into a fermenter in East Palo Alto on Oct. 17.

Denzel Jackson, left, and Risean “Bookie” Tinsley work on a batch of homebrew beer outside Tinsley’s home in East Palo Alto.

Brewing With Brothas aims to open first microbrewery in East Palo Alto

By Sara Hayden

Despite his birthday camping trip, Denzel Jackson woke up at 5 a.m. and spent the morning fishing with Risean “Bookie” Tinsley. When they returned to shore and stepped off the boat, the craft beer connoisseurs brewed up an idea.

“We were having a beer, and talking about actually making our own,” Jackson said. About a month later, the two purchased a homebrew kit at MoreBeer in Los Altos. They started with extract brewing, then went on to all-grain brewing. Jackson recalls, “It kicked off from there.”

With that, the friends co-founded Brewing With Brothas. Their goal is to launch the first microbrewery in their East Palo Alto hometown, where they were born and raised.

“We want a place for our community to come and chill, have a good time and have a quality pint to drink,” Tinsley said.

Since their founding almost two years ago, Brewing With Brothas has received local and national recognition.

Out of 18 brews, theirs took first prize at the Taplands homebrew recognition.

“This was an amazing competition out of Santa Clara in prize at the Taplands homebrew recognition. They have received local and national recognition.

The Belgian-style beer is “phenomenal,” said Little, who’s been brewed with the first annual Peoples Harvest Time Jubilee. As part of the event, Brewing With Brothas brewed their first commercial size batch of their Black Belgian Tripel — or BB3.

As part of the event, Brewing With Brothas brewed their first commercial size batch of their Black Belgian Tripel — or BB3.

“Since they started developing it, BB3 has become Brewing With Brothas’ first flagship beer. With that one, “there’s just something that clicked,” Tinsley said.

The Belgian-style beer is “phenomenal,” said Little, who’s been part of Sacramento’s craft brewing scene since it began. “I think they probably created a new style.”

To make BB3, Brewing With Brothas started with a yeast-driven Belgian base with clove and banana esters. They added dark malts, imparting caramel and roasty characteristics. At 8.6% ABV, BB3 has notes of chocolate, toffee and clove. The flavor is smooth and rich, light and savory, and it’s got a dry finish.

“When you say ‘dark beer,’ a lot of people think of Guinness,” Tinsley said. He enjoys the dry stout, he said, but, “There’s so much more to dark beers. That’s something we want to highlight. One of our mottos is, ‘Make dark beer great again.’”

Tinsley said he first tasted beer at old Biersch — the brewery where Pliny giving a nod to Russian River’s Pliny the Elder. They’ve also taken inspiration from Gordon Biersch — the brewery where Tinsley said he first tasted beer that actually liked.

Tinsley was pursuing his master’s degree in social work in Hawaii when he encountered it. “The dormitory was right below a Gordon Biersch brewery. That’s where my love of craft beer started,” Tinsley said. He chuckles. “Before then … I had no idea about how beer could actually taste good.”

Meanwhile, Jackson’s dad introduced him to beer. “When I had my first beer, I didn’t really like beer.” Jackson wanted to change perceptions around it. “The conversation about beer is maybe not as high esteemed as folks talking about wine. It’s just a conversation that maybe hasn’t been had. There’s complexities if you look for them.”

Jackson and Tinsley set out to find those nuances. When Tinsley finished his studies and returned home to California, he reached out to Jackson, who had a penchant for quality food and drink.

“I asked him, ‘Where’s the best place to get a good beer around here?’” Tinsley said. “He started to name off some restaurants, and I was like, ‘Those are cool and all, but where are the craft breweries at, the places where people make their own beer?’”

They ventured out to different breweries, like Barebottle Brewing Company in Santa Clara and Freewheel Brewing Company in Redwood City. “But I quickly realized there were no breweries around my area — East Palo Alto, Palo Alto,” Tinsley said. There was the Tap Room on University Avenue, but that closed.

Around that time, Tinsley had seen a social media post about Celeste Beatty, who’s breaking barriers as the founder, owner and brewer of Harlem Brewing Company at a time when less than 1% of breweries are Black-owned.

“It inspired me to say, ‘Hey, why can’t we do this?’” Tinsley said. Starting a business was something that Tinsley had long had in mind. “I come from a lineage of entrepreneurs. My grandfather and his brother started a car dealership some years back called Tinsley Buick. Just from then on, my grandfather and my family have always strived to make sure we have some kind of equity just to keep the family afloat, and keep the next generation going, and have something to stand on.”

Creating a craft beer taproom where they grew up presents a special opportunity. “We want to bring that here,” Jackson said. “This is my hometown. Doing something here for my home, with all the changes that are being made, it would be nice to make a positive change for our folks … Understanding craft beer and sharing craft beer with our community, it’s a new

(continued on next page)
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www.PaloAltosOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • October 22, 2021 • Page 25
A French-inspired outdoor market is coming to Menlo Park. Bon Marchè will feature more than a dozen vendors for fresh produce, flowers, cheese, charcuterie, mushrooms, beer, wine, olive oil, honey and more.

The market will take place weekly every Wednesday, starting Oct. 27. It will run 4 to 8 p.m. at the 600 and 700 blocks of Santa Cruz Avenue, adjacent to Bistro Vida at 641 Santa Cruz Ave. Local high school students, who’ve been providing music in the area during weekend brunch hours, will also perform at the inaugural market.

“We’ll bring the best gelato, the best saucisson. There will be the mushroom guy, and the cheese guy,” Bistro Vida owner Ali El Safy said in an interview about coordinating the effort.

The new open-air market will complement the Menlo Park Farmers Market that takes place every Sunday. It’s one of the latest pilots in the city to reimagine what life in the area can be as people have needed greater physical distance and gravitated outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic, organized with the city, West Coast Farmers Market Association and Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.

El Safy, whose restaurant is inspired by France, said that he’s long had a desire to do a boutique French-style outdoor market — “it’s got to be very Parisian.” In addition to that, it has to draw the community. “It’s an idea that can bring people in the middle of the week, downtown,” El Safy said. “We wanted to do it right.”

Vendors will be confirmed as required permits are finalized. The market will feature up to 20, such as: Bistro Vida; Buon Gusto Pasta; Artisan Macaron; Fabrique Delices; Castellano fruits; Lemos Farm strawberries; Tu Universo Farm produce; Arellano Farms produce; Hummus Heaven; Fernandez Flower Growers; GIO Gelati; Achadinha Cheese Company; Little Sky Bakery; JuiceAlize; and Jewelry by Geri.

In the winter months, El Safy said he hopes there will be a vendor for hot chestnuts and mulled wine. “It’s going to be fun,” he said. 

Email Associate Digital Editor Sara Hayden at peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com.
From theater to naval aviation — and back again

By Karla Kane

Palo Alto's Loree Draude pens a book, then a play, about her experiences in the military and beyond.

**Palo Alto's Loree Draude grew up loving theater, and even considered going into acting professionally. In college, however, her life took a different flight path when she unexpectedly fell in love with aviation.**

And after a career as a jet pilot with the U.S. Navy, she’s now come full circle. Her autobiographical one-woman play, “I Feel the Need” — based on her first book she penned in 2000 — will be performed in New York City in November as part of United Solo Theatre Festival.

“The show covers all of the various forms of flight that I’ve had in my life,” she told the Weekly in a recent interview.

Draude spent her childhood moving around the country thanks to her father’s career in the U.S. Marine Corps. Studying dance became one of the few consistencies in her life.

“Dance was a form of flight for me. Dance studios were a home for me,” she said. The bulk of “I Feel the Need,” though, covers her experiences as one of the first women to fly combat jets in the Navy. In the show, she shares “what it’s like to land on an aircraft carrier; the culture of naval aviation; and of the challenges and the losses, because it is a dangerous profession,” she said.

While she hails from a military family, she didn’t have much childhood experience — or interest — in flying. Draude said it was a pivotal University of San Diego field trip to military air stations that inspired her Navy career, despite the fact that at the time, women were not allowed to become fighter pilots.

“That was the first time I had any idea flying was a possibility for me. I was fascinated by the machinery. It was thrilling because it looked like it was really challenging,” she said. “I looked at all the pilots who were showing us around and they were all white men. I thought, ‘This looks really cool, but I don’t know if this is even an option for me.’

One of the pilots said, “You know, you can be a pilot, too. You can’t fly in combat but you can be an instructor or a combat support pilot.”

She promptly changed her major from theater to mathematics and joined the aviation club. The film “Top Gun” had recently been released and naval aviation was at the height of cool, she recalled with a laugh. After graduation, she earned a place at flight school and earned her wings, qualifying to fly Navy jets.

In 1993, when then-President Bill Clinton lifted the Combat Exclusion Policy, she transitioned to a combat jet aviation squadron, flying the S-3B Viking, deploying to the Persian Gulf and completing her Navy career as a Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor pilot.

While many pilots go into commercial aviation after military service, Draude decided that was not a path she wanted to follow. She found that while she loved to fly, she also loved working with people — coaching, teaching and helping develop their leadership skills. She went to business school, earned an MBA and ended up in the Bay Area as a compromise between her then-husband’s desire to move to Los Angeles and her own to head to New York. She spent the next two decades working in Silicon Valley, including at Google and Facebook. She also runs her own executive coaching business.

“I’ve always enjoyed leading teams. I feel like I’m helping people be better leaders, and happier,” she said. Now, she’s also enjoying getting back in touch with her artistic side.

She published her first autobiography, “She’s Just Another Navy Pilot: An Aviator’s Sea Journal,” in 2000, which she co-authored with her former husband’s brother. But around six years ago she began enrolling in writing workshops and eventually decided to pull the autobiographical monologues she’d been working on into a live show, working with respected director Beth Dunnington.

“I finally felt like I was at the point I had some stories to tell, and the confidence to go up on stage and do it,” she said. She had Palo Alto High School’s historic Haymarket Theater reserved for the show’s local debut but the performance was, like many, stymied by the COVID-19 pandemic. She and Dunnington reworked the play — titled, with a “Top Gun” reference, “I Feel the Need” — for the small screen, did some Zoom performances and submitted it to the United Solo Festival in the heart of the solo theater world: New York City. It was selected, and will be performed Nov. 17. She also plans to take the show to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe next summer.

“I’m super excited,” she said. “It’s really interesting to be the writer, the subject of the show and the actress. It’s been fun.”

While the book and the play both cover Draude’s experience in the Navy, she said the two works differ in tone, as well as content, as her life has changed considerably since the book was published more than 20 years ago.

(continued on page 28)
A cross her long and notable career, retired Palo Alto Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell has been known for many firsts. She was the first lawyer to open a private practice in East Palo Alto. She was the first California judge to require convicted drunk drivers to install breathalyzers in their vehicles. She was the first woman to ask to sit on the Superior Court bench in Northern California.

Now, Cordell is preparing to celebrate another first — the release of her memoir on Oct. 26.

“The Honor: My Life on the Bench ... What Works, What’s Broken, and How to Change It” chronicles Cordell’s experience as a state trial court judge ruling on cases that had life-changing repercussions on plaintiffs and defendants alike, as well as on her personally.

(After) playing tennis with (Rampersad) and chatting a bit, I eventually got him alone and asked him to tell me about the letters. He said, "Can I see some of them?" and I said, "Absolutely not! This guy is a world-famous writer, and these are just some letters to my parents," Cordell said.

Cordell noted Rampersad kept putting him off. "But he worked on me, and finally I let him see some of the letters. He called and said, "I think you have a book here." That's really what started me thinking about writing about my time on the bench."

"Her Honor" is a highly readable mix of memoir and commentary on the justice system primarily in state trial courts, taking readers behind the scenes, where judges wrestle with plea bargains, sentencing hearings and jury selection. Throughout, she provides examples showing a justice system disproportionately punitive to people of color.

"Racism is baked into our legal system," she said. The stories she tells are rife with suspense, indignation, compassion and humor.

"I see the book as a 'primoir,'" Draude said she's proud of how her story has unfolded and recommends mandated jury trials in felony prosecutions of juveniles. She would enact legislation to uncover racial bias in peremptory challenges, as well as end coercive plea bargains.

Despite encouragement from Rampersad and others, Cordell was so involved with public service that "Her Honor" took a while to complete. She served on the Palo Alto City Council from 2004 to 2008, during which time she raised the issue of opening Foothills Park to everyone, not just Palo Alto residents. (Threatened by a civil rights lawsuit initiated by the American Civil Liberties Union in 2020, the Palo Alto City Council finally opened the park to everyone last December. In 2015, Cordell completed a 5-year term as San Jose's Independent Police Auditor.)

An active vocalist and pianist, Cordell is also co-founder of the African American Composer Initiative, which gives annual concerts benefiting Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto.

Music, she said, has kept her sane. "It's just been an integral part of my life. That's how I've kept it all going."

When she finally began writing in earnest, she developed routines to adapt to solitary writing life, Cordell said. "I spent mornings doing yoga and playing pickleball at Mitchell Park, then worked on the book from noon to 5 or 6 p.m. I adjusted quickly to the regimen because I was highly motivated to write this book."

Cordell said she is on "pins and needles" as she awaits the publication date of "Her Honor."

"There are controversial things in the book. That's good because I want to provoke thinking (about what we can do to make this a better system for everyone)," she said. "By better, I mean more just and more fair. And less racist."

Email Freelance Writer Michael Berry at mikeberry@mindspring.com.

Upcoming book talk events:
LaDoris Cordell will speak about her new book “Her Honor: My Life on the Bench ... What Works, What’s Broken, and How to Change It” during three local book talk events:
• Oct. 26, 10-11 a.m.: Cordell will speak to radio host Mina Kim on KQED Forum, 88.5 FM.
• Oct. 27, 6 p.m.: Cordell will be in conversation with University of San Francisco Law Professor Lara Bazelon, commonwealthclub.org.
• Nov. 11, 7 p.m.: Cordell will speak at the Oshman JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto; paloaltojcc.org.

Retired Palo Alto Judge LaDoris Cordell looks back on her 19-year career in her new memoir “Her Honor: My Life on the Bench ... What Works, What’s Broken and How to Change It.”

Her life on the bench
Retired Palo Alto Judge LaDoris Cordell reflects on her legal career and the court system
By Michael Berry

A visit to her parents’ home in Philadelphia inspired Cordell to think about writing a book after her mother pulled out eight years of letters Cordell had written home from in her chambers, mostly on Fridays, after the court calendar was clear.

Reached by phone at her Palo Alto residence, Cordell said, “I wrote (to my parents) about everything. I wrote very personally about how I felt about some of the decisions I had to make.”

Cordell didn’t immediately jump into writing a book, which took the encouragement of renowned Stanford University Humanities professor Arnold Rampersad to motivate her.

Naval aviation (continued from page 27)

"The show is a more authentic representation of my life now. It incorporates the lessons learned from the experiences I’ve had since writing the book," she noted. Ultimately, she’d love to be able to stage “I Feel the Need” locally, as originally intended.

“I definitely had to strip some of the tech talk off the show. The festival presentation, she said, including planned immersive video of flying. “It would be great to do a run somewhere locally with production values.”

Her busy life has not left her much time for piloting recently, although she still holds it dear to her heart. “I don’t own an airplane — not yet. Someday,” she said. “Right now I am spending my money on the show. I picked two of the most expensive hobbies,” she joked. "Trying to put on a show, and flying!"

Reflecting on her journey from theater to military aviation and back again, as well her career in leadership coaching and passion for writing, Draude said she’s proud of how her story has unfolded, and recommends mandated jury trials in felony prosecutions of juveniles. She would enact legislation to uncover racial bias in peremptory challenges, as well as end coercive plea bargains.

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Email Freelance Writer Michael Berry at mikeberry@mindspring.com.

More information on Loree Draude is available at loree-draudecoaching.com. Her book is available at amazon.com/shes-just-another-navy-pilot-dp1575503354/Tickets to “I Feel the Need” are available at unitedsolo.org/shows/i-feel-the-need.

Email Contributing Writer Karla Kane at karlajkane@gmail.com.
Cubberley (continued from page 7)

“...and backed by Supervisor Joe Simitian. Current plans call for the dis- trict to contribute $1.45 million and get 29 units for its staff, which would be a mix of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom spaces—over the next few years. Palo Verde Elementary School would move to Cubberley next school year while its campus is being renovated and then Hoover would be housed at Cubberley for the following two school years.

If we’re going this direction, we don’t have a lot of time to talk about it for months and months,” Austin said. “We would need to start on Cubberley very, very soon to get that going in a posi- tive direction.” Board members supported plans to use Cubberley as a tem- porary campus, which Director of Facilities and Construction Eric Holm said dramatically changes the speed at which we can build.” By moving students off of the Palo Verde campus during con- struction, the project is expected to take a single year, rather than two and a half, Holm said.

The board also supported raz- ing and rebuilding Hoover, rather than an earlier plan to do a more limited renovation on the site. Ac- cording to Holm, anything short of a full redo of Hoover’s campus would still leave the site most in need of work. The plan the board supported is expected to have a total cost of $73 million, compared with $57 million for the more limited reno- vation.

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

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A new report from the Depart- ment of Planning and Develop- ment Services highlights SB 8 as one of four laws — along with SB 9, SB 10 and SB 478 — that are “relevant to our planning and housing policies and are focused primarily on process streamlin- ing and housing production.” Assistant City Attorney Albert Yang said that while SB 8 tech- nically doesn’t require the city to modify its code, staff will review its code to ensure it is consistent with the law’s extension of the Housing Crisis Act’s streamlin- ing provisions to single-dwelling residences.

The city’s planning commission supported planning staff’s pro- posal to modify the zoning code with the urgency ordinance this year and then make further refinements early next year be- fore adopting permanent changes. Chair Bart Hechtman pointed to the potential dramatic implica- tions of the new bills — particu- larly SB 9 — and said he expects the planning commission to play a role in creating the permanent ordinance.

“This is a far-reaching legisla- tion that the state has adopted and placed on our doorstep,” Hecht- man said. “It can have some po- tentially significant effects.”

Email Staff Writer Genny Sheyner at gsheyner@pawweekly. com.

Housing

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Email Staff Writer Genny Sheyner at gsheyner@pawweekly. com.
Exemplary grounds of over an acre provide an intimate setting for this spectacular Atherton estate, custom-built in 2017 by renowned builder Lencioni Construction. Natural tones create a warm, welcoming ambiance that puts you at ease from the moment you step inside, with a quiet elegance that emanates throughout over 9,300 total square feet of interior space filled with high-end appointments and finishes. The modern floorplan offers grand-scale formal rooms made for entertaining, as well as a gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, a convenient office, family room with wet bar, theater, wine cellar, and much more. An impressive 5 bedrooms and 7 bathrooms include the detached pool house, as well as 4 en suite bedrooms in the main home highlighted by the primary suite with a spa-like bathroom and stunning walk-in closet. Enjoy true indoor/outdoor living as numerous glass doors open to impressive grounds filled with vast heated terraces, a fireplace, grilling station, and a lap pool. Plus, ample parking for family and guests is always available thanks to a gated motor court and oversized 4-car garage. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, this estate is also within easy reach of downtown Palo Alto and Stanford University, with the venture capital firms of Sand Hill Road close at hand.

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neighborhood activists, who supported stronger protections. Some touted the environmental and health benefits of trees, particularly when it comes to sequestering carbon, supporting biodiversity and keeping neighborhoods cool. Almost all urged the council to expand the city’s tree protection laws to be more aligned with surrounding jurisdictions.

“As a resident of Palo Alto, it has been disturbing and heartbreakingly to see residential lots in my neighborhood stripped of all vegetation, including beautiful large trees, prior to new home construction,” said Julianne Frizzell, a landscape architect who lives in Palo Alto.

“Aesthetically and ecologically, removal of trees has a negative impact on neighbors, neighborhoods and the community,” he added.

While cities such as East Palo Alto, Redwood City, Sunnyvale list all species as “protected” once they reach a certain size, Palo Alto tree protection laws protect just three native species: the coast redwood, the coast live oak and the valley oak.

According to the city’s Urban Forest Master Plan, there are about 534 coast live oaks, 243 coast redwoods and 215 valley oaks in the public right of way, making these three among the most common city-owned native species in the city.

While Palo Alto takes pride in its street trees, such as this oak tree at the intersection of Channing Avenue and Bryant Street, the city council agreed on Oct. 18 that the city’s tree-protection laws are inadequate.
Bryant (continued from page 5)

Municipal Code 18.42.060:

“The home occupation (business) ‘shall be conducted in a manner that is compatible with residential uses permitted in the same district, and in a manner which does not change the character and appearance of the dwelling unit in which it is conducted.’”

No person shall be employed on the site in connection with the home business except lawful occupants of the dwelling unit.

No advertising is permitted on the site.

Not more than 25% of the gross floor area of the dwelling unit, or 500 square feet of gross floor area on the site including accessory buildings, whichever is less, can be used for a home business.

The home business cannot generate trash or odors, substantially greater than what is customarily associated with residential occupancy of the dwelling unit.

No mechanical, electrical, or other equipment shall be used, nor can a home business be conducted in any manner that is a nuisance due to vehicular traffic, noise, electrical or magnetic interference, vibration, particulate matter, odor, heat, humidity, glare, refuse, radiation, or other objectionable emissions or effects.

No open storage of any material, equipment or goods is allowed in connection with any home business.

“We believe that most community preservation issues are simply oversights that can be quickly corrected,” the city’s letter states.

Corrected,” the city’s letter states.

Several other neighbors on or near the Bryant Street block spoke with The Weekly on the condition of anonymity, emphasizing that they did not want to stir up controversy or appear to be complaining about their neighbor. The residents were unanimous in saying that the people at the 2175 house have been mostly quiet, though the visitors have added to the number of cars parked on the streets.

One Washington Avenue resident said that there would be a “bunch of cars and young dudes in their 20s, 30s” entering the house but not much activity beyond that. Even a resident on North Cali- fornia Avenue, 2140 Bryant, used to be used for nonresidential purposes. Before the house was demolished recently, it looked to be vacant and only used for Page’s security as a lookout post or parking lot, according to the resident, who’s lived on the street for more than 30 years. At one point, the neighbor noticed the door to the home was ajar and peeked inside; it appeared as if nobody lived there, the resident said.

“Nothing there, the resident said.

“Nothing lived here for years.”

Residents largely had no complaints about the idea of having an office and staff center or even a pseudo parking lot next door. One resident admitted they liked having no neighbors. But some agree that it is, at the very least, different from having traditional neighbors and the community that comes along with them in Palo Alto.

“All of a sudden you don’t have neighbors,” said the resident who has lived in the neighborhood for more than a decade. "It does create a different feeling."

Should businesses be allowed?

The idea of changing city policy to allow homes to be used for business—nearly startups — has been raised over the years. Palo Alto City Council member Greg Tanaka, a tech entrepreneur, and former councilman Adrian Fine, a proponent of city-growth policies, in 2017 proposed letting startups operate in homes in single-family residential neighborhoods. However, the council rejected the idea by a vote of 3-6.

Fine and Tanaka had noted that Hewlett-Packard started in a now-legendary backyard garage, a location that has now become a shrine to early tech history.

Councilman Tom DuBois, now mayor, however, noted the city already has a housing shortage. Allowing people to rent out their homes or have them be used as offices would send “the wrong message,” he said at the time.

The Weekly reached out to 2175 Bryant Street LLC and Page for comment through the agents listed on state incorporation papers and city records and through a Google spokesperson, but they did not respond before the publication deadline.

The Palo Alto Fire Department has not yet released a report stating a cause of the Sept. 14 fire.

In its notice of violation, the city gave the listed owner, 2175 Bryant Street LLC, until Nov. 1 to apply for a building permit to bring the building up to code. 2175 Bryant St. LLC shares the same address as Page’s Carl Victor Page Memorial Foundation, according to public records.

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com and Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com.
Zuckerberg

(continued from page 5)

Facebook if we don’t do that,” Rosenberg said. “So as users we should have some collective power here and we’re trying to manifest that.”

Facebook recently came under intense scrutiny from the public and federal lawmakers after Frances Haugen, a former product manager for the company, released troves of internal documents, detailing how the social media giant is aware that its products, including Instagram, spread disinformation and negatively impact teenagers’ mental health yet chooses to avoid implementing effective safety measures.

“Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety,” Haugen said in a “60 Minutes” interview on Oct. 3. In a Senate Commerce Committee hearing on Oct. 5, Haugen, who was hired by Facebook in 2019 and was part of its civic misinformation team, urged federal lawmakers to regulate the company and request more documentation from it in order to effectively do so.

“I’m here ... because I believe Facebook’s products harm children, stoke division and weaken our democracy,” Haugen testified to lawmakers. “The company’s leadership knows how to make Facebook and Instagram safer but won’t make the necessary changes.”

In response, Zuckerberg took to Facebook to argue that his company has taken steps to consider its users’ well-being, such as an algorithm adjustment that pushes fewer viral videos and more content from friends and family, and Haugen mischaracterized the company’s intentions.

“It’s disheartening to see that work taken out of context and used to construct a false narrative that we don’t care,” Zuckerberg wrote.

This is far from the first time Facebook has had to parry calls for more regulations. In the past few years, the company was criticized for stoking divisions in democracy amidst the 2020 presidential election, impacting youth’s mental health, spreading COVID-19 misinformation and even inclining genocide in Myanmar.

Many people who heavily rely on Facebook for their work or to keep in touch with friends and family, and who are also critical of the platform, are often stuck at an impasse on how to effectively protest against a social media giant with nearly 3 billion users.

“I’d love to delete Facebook,” said Debi Rose, 61, a protestor from San Mateo who manages several groups on the social media platform. “But I just can’t. I have too many responsibilities on it.”

Calling for Zuckerberg to step down as CEO is also a monumental challenge in itself. Rosenberg recognized that Zuckerberg has greater voting power at the sharehold- ers’ table, which is why she believes users need to coalesce and apply the pressure for change. Global Exchange and Media Alli- ance recently formed the Facebook Users Union under the belief that users are essentially stakeholders in the platform and thus should have a say in the decisions made by the company, Rosenberg said.

“We understand that technically the board cannot fire Zuckerberg because of the stock arrangement,” she said. “However, that doesn’t mean that he can’t be pressured or forced to step down. And we hope to start that conversation.”

Email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com.

Health

(continued from page 8)

tian said the status quo is causing problems. Lower-income families in the north county lack easy access to services and could very well decide to leave the area and further gentrify communities that are already struggling to retain diversity.

“It’s tough to be a person of modest means in a more prosperous community: You are largely invisible, people say there is no ‘need’ there, which means then that there are no services there,” Simitian said. “If you are a person of modest means, it’s that much tougher to hang on when you need it, to access the services that you need.”

County staff are expected to come to the board with a timeline to find a suitable property, construct a clinic and begin accepting patients. ■

Email Staff Writer Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com.

Protesters park directly in front of Mark Zuckerberg’s Palo Alto home to demand he be fired from his job as Facebook CEO on Oct. 17.

ATHERTON

497 Stockbridge Avenue

Sun 1:30-4:30

DeLeon Realty

Sun 650-900-7000

PALO ALTO

552 Kellogg Avenue

Sun 1:30-4:30

Compass

650-465-5058

LOS ALTOS

686 Spargur Drive

Sat/Sun 10:00-3:00

DeLeon Realty

650-900-7000

LOS ALTOS HILLS

11665 Dawson Drive

Sat 1:30-4:30

DeLeon Realty

650-900-7000

MENLO PARK

1295 Woodland Avenue

Sat 2:00-4:00

DeLeon Realty

650-900-7000

MOUNTAIN VIEW

372 Loreto Street

Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00

DeLeon Realty

650-669-9088

PALO ALTO

1319 Tasso Street

Sun 2:00-4:00

The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty

650-485-3476

380 Colorado Avenue

Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00

Liu Real Estate

650-966-9969

PALO ALTO

436 Grand Street

Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00

DeLeon Realty

650-880-2980

SUNNYVALE

1020 Hollenbeck Avenue

Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00

DeLeon Realty

650-880-2980

WOODSIDE

133 Old La Honda Rd

Sun 1:30-4:00

Compass

650-740-2970

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Agents: submit open homes at PaloAltoOnline.com/real_estate

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Across  
1 Brit's WWII weapon
5 Eight, to Teo
9 Tiny tastes
13 Chance for change, maybe?
14 Bratwurst topper
15 Spike's demon friend, on "Buffy"
16 Opera highlight
17 Flower in a Texas song
19 Genre for Michael McDonald and Rupert Holmes
21 "...la vista, baby!"
22 Raphael's weapon, in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"
23 Chess piece, at times
24 Getaways with a focus on poses
30 Commandeer
31 "The Hangover" actor Ed
32 Objective
35 Otter relative
36 Car brand that translates to "I roll"
37 Order for humans
39 "Aladdin" character
40 Runny cheese
41 Longest waterway in China
43 Toward the rear of a boat
46 Objective
47 Prized instrument, for short
48 "I'm serious"
54 "No argument here"
56 "Empire" actor Diggs
57 Like two, but not too?
58 Cardiologist's procedure, for short
59 Pasion d'... (justification)
60 Hardy title character
61 Abrbr. on a cognac bottle
62 Ticket specification

Down  
1 Hang around
2 "America's Next Top Model" host Banks
36 ____ diagram (logic illustration)
37 Order for humans
39 "En ___" (fencing command)
40 Bunny cheese
41 Longs (for)
42 Keep an ___ the ground
43 Until now
44 Cooking appliance
45 Squares up
46 Yangs' counterparts
47 Squares up
48 Yangs' counterparts
49 Waffle brand that somehow has a cereal version
50 Propose a romantic connection, in fanfic
51 Like some bloomers
52 Constellation named for a stringed instrument
53 Chuck as far away as possible, in modern slang
54 Like some bloomers
55 Toyota ___4 (SUV model)

3 "Yrs Truly" — more initial reactions, by Matt Jones

Across
1 Brit's WWII weapon
5 Eight, to Teo
9 Tiny tastes
13 Chance for change, maybe?
14 Bratwurst topper
15 Spike's demon friend, on "Buffy"
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39 "Aladdin" character
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58 Cardiologist's procedure, for short
59 Pasion d'... (justification)
60 Hardy title character
61 Abrbr. on a cognac bottle
62 Ticket specification

Down
1 Hang around
2 "America's Next Top Model" host Banks
3 Impressive in scope
4 Vessel crammed full of wildlife
5 McFlurry variety
6 A.P. math subject
7 Smashing fellow?
8 Prefix meaning "ear-related"
9 Cancels
10 "Have ___ my mind!?
11 Bucatini sauce
12 Lipstick smudge
14 NBA star Irving in the news for refusing to get vaccinated
18 Word often used by "Jeopardy" champ Matt Amodio
20 It covers a lot of ground
23 It's hard to distinguish, for short
24 "3:10 to ___"
25 Conditional suffix?
26 Engine build up
27 Minimal beachwear
28 Fired up again
29 Presley-inspired Mexican-American singer with the albums "Graciasland" and "Merry Mex-mas"
32 Chuck O's Public Enemy partner, for short
33 Zero, for Nadal
34 Dumpster emanation
36 ___ diagram (logic illustration)
37 Order for humans
39 "En ___" (fencing command)
40 Bunny cheese
41 Longs (for)
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4150 Orchard Court, Palo Alto - $4,934,650

1319 Tasso Street, Palo Alto - $5,995,000

2303 Cowper Street, Palo Alto - $6,995,000

Bates Ranch Vineyard, Gilroy - $14,200,000

12160 Kate Drive, Los Altos Hills - $14,995,000

Madrone Hill Road, Saratoga - $20,000,000

Diamond B Ranch, Lower Lake - $23,000,000

Ocean Cliff Ranch, Santa Cruz - $30,000,000

24021 Highway 9, Los Gatos - $96,600,000

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