Roberts Market provides curbside pickup to Sequoias seniors

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

For residents of the Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley, mostly confined to their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, pick-ups of a little something extra at the nearby Roberts Market have been a delight. A recent call for volunteers to help bag the items brought in an immediate and “overwhelming” response, said Mike Kerr, the store manager.

On Tuesday and Friday afternoons, the seniors drive up to the store, located on Alpine Road, and have items loaded into their trunks without having to leave the car. The residents have been on “super secret lockdown” and only leaving home for medical appointments for the most part, Kerr said.

“It just happened kind of organically when the Sequoias residents were locked down,” said Kerr, who has managed the grocery store for five years.

Residents email Kerr twice a week with their grocery requests. While the Sequoias provides residents with all the food they need, “sometimes they want a little more.” Treats requested include bottles of wine, chocolate bars, cookies, crackers or soy milk.

The community has stepped up to help. An innumerable amount of people responded to Kerr’s recent post on the Portola Valley Forum, an email forum for residents and members of the Portola Valley community, asking for volunteers to help bag groceries for the roughly 20 to 25 seniors who participate in the program.

“I stopped counting after taking 15 names,” Kerr said. “We only really needed three to four (volunteers).”

The seniors thank Kerr “effusively” and tell him how much it makes the lockdown easier to deal with, he said.

Email Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com

Bay Area health officers fast-track regional stay-at-home order

San Mateo County decides against implementing new state framework, for now

By Sue Dremann

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has reached an alarming rate, prompting Bay Area health officers to implement the state’s new regional stay-at-home order rather than wait until local hospitals are near crisis, they said during a press conference on Dec. 4.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Dec. 3 that all sectors other than retail and essential operations would be closed in regions of the state where less than 15% of intensive care unit beds are available under a new regional stay-at-home order.

Santa Clara County reached that metric Dec. 4, with 14% ICU bed capacity. Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said. The average percentage of ICU beds filled with COVID-19 patients has tripled in the last month. Dec. 3 brought a new record of 67 new patients admitted to the hospital with COVID-19, and each day breaks a previous record, she said. (On Dec. 4, the county recorded 46 new COVID-19 patients.)

Health officers from Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin counties and the city of Berkeley enacted the early order starting Dec. 6, 7 and 8 through Jan. 4 to try to reduce the stress on their hospital resources and staff.

The order follows the state’s restrictions under the regional stay-at-home order. Bars, wineries, personal services, hair salons and barbershops are closed in affected areas. Retail is also limited to 20% of capacity; restaurants are closed for indoor and outdoor dining but may have takeout and deliveries. Schools that have already opened for in-person instruction and critical infrastructure, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, will remain open.

San Mateo County did not join the regional health officers in issuing the early order. In a statement released Monday, Dec. 7, San Mateo County Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow listed a number of reasons why the county has not joined neighboring Bay Area counties in implementing the state’s new stay-at-home order, saying in part that the new state framework is “rife with inexplicable inconsistencies of logic” and calling it “style over substance, without any hint of enforcement.” (Read his complete statement in Viewpoint on Page 23.)

“While I don’t have scientific evidence to support this, I also believe these greater restrictions will result in more job loss, more hunger, more despair and desperation (the structure of our economy is, for the most part, if you don’t work, you don’t eat or have a roof over your head), and more death from causes other than COVID,” Morrow wrote.

“And I wonder, are these premature deaths any less worrisome than COVID deaths?”

San Mateo County’s unadjusted case rate of 16.3 new cases per day per 100,000 is less than the state’s case rate of 30.2 per day per 100,000, according to the state’s data.

Statewide, ICU capacity was at 14.2%, compared to 25.7% in the Bay Area region, and 32.6% in San Mateo County.

Morrow also called into question the decision to base the implementation of the order off of ICU capacity numbers, saying, “There is not a good or standard method for understanding ICU capacity on a county level, much less on a regional level. Basing such extreme decisions on non-standardized and poorly

Please see HEALTH ORDER, page 12.
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To learn more, visit: stanfordhealthcare.org/resumingcare
By Elena Kadvany

Local News

regions of the state where less than retail and essential services other than outdoor eating areas when the pandemic struck, help may be on the way. The Menlo Park City Council on Tuesday night voted unanimously to create a new grant program to help restaurants install outdoor eating areas. The program set aside $100,000, to give a maximum of $10,000 to up to 10 restaurants throughout the city. Restaurants do not need to have a full kitchen to be eligible, and will be favored if they have not received any aid previously.

For restaurants like The Refuge, which is located off of Santa Cruz Avenue and doesn’t have a permanent outdoor eating area, adding one is a critical piece of being able to compete with other businesses, owners Matt Levin and Melanie Roth said to the City Council. “If we were able to build a permanent street parklet, our business would be able to properly compete with Santa Cruz Avenue businesses that already received assistance for permanent parklets,” Roth said.

Several years ago, the city worked with several businesses to help them set up outdoor dining “parklets” in parking spaces along Santa Cruz Avenue, based on a matching system where a maximum of $10,000 to 10 restaurants will be given.

See OUTDOOR DINING, page 21

Final election results show county’s highest voter turnout since 1968

Bay City News Service and Almanac staff

San Mateo County released its official, certified election results on Dec. 3 for the Nov. 3 general election, which saw 85.9% voter turnout, the county’s highest rate since 1968. Voters cast 380,193 ballots for the Nov. 3 general election, out of 442,637* registered voters. In 2016, voter turnout was 81.6%, with 323,303 votes cast out of 396,341 registered voters.

San Mateo County Chief Elections Officer Mark Church said the high voter turnout was expected this year. "The Presidential Election cycle traditionally draws in more voters due to the high-profile nature of the contest, but even as compared to other Presidential elections this was a notable showing," Church said in an email.

In recent years, voter turnout for presidential elections hovered around 80%. This year, several factors such as California’s Voter’s Choice Act, Senate Bill (SB) 415 and the county's Voter Education Outreach Program contributed to the high turnout, according to Church.

The state’s Voter’s Choice Act expanded voting options, while SB 415 moved governing board elections to even-numbered years. As a result, Church said, “This is the largest number of jurisdictions, candidates, offices and ballot styles ever to be placed on a Presidential ballot.”

Of the ballots cast, over 90% were cast by mail.

Church said that the entire election process went very well and that approximately 90% of the 14,251 challenged ballots were cured, a term that means errors or omissions were corrected by the voters, enabling the ballot to be counted.

Of the uncured ballots, over 300 could not be resolved due to issues like being postmarked after Election Day.

Church said the county overcame the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic while accommodating the high voter turnout.

“Even though we had over 33,000 visitors to our Vote Centers and over 1,300 employees and volunteers, I’m proud to say we had no COVID outbreaks at the polls or the elections office, due to the extensive precautions we implemented,” Church said.

Menlo Park City Council

In Menlo Park’s District 3, the only district with a contested race, Jen Wolosin won the seat over candidates Chelsea Nguyen and Max Fennell, according to official results. Incumbent Ray Mueller ran unopposed and will represent District 5.

Wolosin received 1,702 votes (58.2%), Nguyen received 779 votes (26.6%) and Fennell received 446 votes (15.2%).

Atherton City Council

Incumbent Elizabeth Lewis and newcomer Diana Hawkins-Manuelian won two open seats on the Atherton City Council, according to official results from the San Mateo County Elections Office posted Dec. 3. Incumbent Cary Wiest lost his seat. The voter turnout was 87.5%.

Lewis garnered 2,407 votes (32.4%), Hawkins-Manuelian had 1,721 votes (25.8%), while Wiest had 1,508 votes (22.6%) and newcomer Christine David had 1,043 votes (15.6%).

Portola Valley Town Council

Councilman Jeff Aalfs and challenger Sarah Wernikoff were elected to the Portola Valley Town Council. Aalfs, who served as mayor this year and joined the council in 2011, received 2,059 votes, or 39.7%, according to official results. Wernikoff, who replaces longtime Councilwoman Ann Wengert after she declined to run for reelection, received 1,695 votes (32.8%).

Challengers Mary Hufty and Angela Hey came in third and fourth, respectively, with Hufty receiving 1,059 votes (20.5%) and Hey getting 362 votes (7%).

Menlo Park Fire Protection District board

Incumbents Virginia Chang Kiraly and Rob Silano easily won

Outdoor dining ban a blow to Santa Clara County eateries

It’s still allowed in San Mateo County, but that may not last

By Elena Kadvany

Bay Area officials’ decision to expedite the state’s new stay-at-home order gave Santa Clara County restaurants have just two days before outdoor dining shut down temporarily. Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Dec. 3 that all sectors other than retail and essential operations would be closed in regions of the state where less than 15% of intensive care unit beds are available under a new regional stay-at-home order. But for Bay Area counties — Santa Clara, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa and Marin counties — and the city Berkeley decided to implement the new order this week rather than wait until local hospitals are near crisis.

Santa Clara County restaurants reverted to takeout and delivery only as of Dec. 6, at 10 p.m., through at least Jan. 4.

“We understand that the closures under the state order will have a profound impact on our local businesses,” Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said. “However, if we act quickly, we can both save lives and reduce the amount of time these restrictions have to stay in place, allowing businesses and activities to reopen sooner.”

It’s a blow — though not an altogether surprising one given mounting warnings about unprecedented levels of COVID-19 in the region — for restaurants that have

See ELECTION, page 19

See OUTDOOR DINING, page 21

Menlo Park is launching a new program to help restaurants without existing outdoor eating areas install them. Bistro Vida, shown here, and a handful of other restaurants along Santa Cruz Avenue previously received some city funding for outdoor dining facilities.
CRIME BRIEFS

$800K worth of jewelry stolen

Someone reportedly stole hundreds of thousands of dollars in jewelry from an Atherton home on Tuesday, Dec. 8. A thief or thieves made away with about $790,000 in jewelry after rummaging through a master bedroom and its closets at a home on Greenoaks Drive near Fredrick Avenue between 3:40 p.m. and 7 p.m., according to a Dec. 9 Atherton Police Department news bulletin.

Burglars broke in by smashing a second-story French door window adjacent to a balcony, police said.

The break-in method is notably consistent with a string of burglaries that happened last winter, in which thieves climbed up to the second story of homes to gain entry. Last month, police noted that two recent burglaries also involved burglars breaking glass doors or windows at the back of houses by climbing up to the second story.

“We believe the burglars are breaking into homes where they think the resident is not at home,” a Nov. 19 news bulletin said about the two November burglaries. “We believe the burglars arrive in neighborhoods when there is still daylight, and then when it gets dark, they wait to see which homes do not have lights on and appear to be unoccupied.”

Police noted that a security alarm was not on when the Dec. 8 crime occurred.

There have been six residential burglaries reported in town since Oct. 1, police said.

Police had already scheduled a community meeting for Dec.

Letters to Santa

If your child would like to write a letter to Santa and receive a response by Dec. 24, drop off his/her letter by Dec. 11 at the Atherton Police Department, 83 Ashfield Road.

Please include your mailing address, so Santa knows where to send the letter.

Any questions can be directed to Jennifer Frew, “PD Elf,” at 650-752-0503 or via email at jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us.

Portola Valley committee members step down

Marge DeStaebler, a member of the town of Portola Valley’s Conservation Committee, is stepping down after 24 years of service, according to a Dec. 3 email to residents from Councilman Jeff Aalfs.

“Her love of nature, and of gardening in particular, has shown through in her contributions on native plantings, and our perennial war on bermudagrass,” Aalfs said, referring to the invasive nonnative plant. "Marge also volunteered as a science specialist at Ormondale Elementary School years ago, sharing her love of nature with our children." Bill Urban, who has served 24 years on the town Finance Committee, is also leaving his post.

“Bill has worked tirelessly to promote and protect the town’s financial health,” Aalfs said. “Notably, he stewarded our funds through the El Niño situation of the late ’90s; he helped lead the funding of our pension liabilities (a complicated step that will save us hundreds of thousands of dollars in the long term); and he recently assisted in the reinvestment of part of our general fund to achieve higher returns.”

—Angela Swartz

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fire district toy drive

This year, Menlo Park Fire Protection District firefighters are asking for help collecting toys for 419 children in need.

If you or your business chooses to participate, contact John Wurdinger at johnw@iaff2400.org and indicate the number of children you want to sponsor.

Toys can be delivered to one of the district’s seven firehouses (addresses are listed on the link below) by Dec. 18. Drop off toys in a clear 55 gallon bag with the child’s name and assigned number. Be mindful when dropping off toys that, because of COVID-19 restrictions, visitors are not allowed inside the firehouses.

Toys will be distributed on Dec. 21, 22 and 23.

For more information, go to iaaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighteryouthandfooddrive.

—Angela Swartz
Facebook to invest $150M for affordable housing in Bay Area

By Lloyd Lee and Kate Bradshaw

Facebook announced Wednesday that it will dedicate $150 million to affordable housing for extremely low-income residents in the Bay Area.

Destination: Home, a nonprofit organization focused on alleviating homelessness in Santa Clara County, will contribute an additional $5 million.

In a company press statement issued Dec. 9, David Wehner, chief financial officer of Facebook, said the money will support the development of at least 2,000 affordable homes for families making less than 30% of the Bay Area’s median income. In Santa Clara County, that’s an income of about $33,000 for a one-person household and $47,000 for a family of four.

Starting Wednesday, projects from Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Contra Costa counties will be eligible to receive the fund. But one-third of the investment will be dedicated to Santa Clara County with the partnership the social media company has with Destination: Home, the company said.

“We expect to fund at least five projects across the eligible counties in the next 12 months and plan to distribute all $150 million by 2026,” Wehner wrote in the statement.

The funding allocation is part of the tech giant’s larger $1 billion commitment to California, which it announced in October 2019. Facebook said at the time that the money is intended to address the affordable housing crisis in the state, with the goal of creating up to 20,000 housing units for essential workers.

The billion-dollar investment is expected to be rolled out over the next decade, the company said. The first part of that investment, announced last year, was a $25 million grant to support community development projects.

Coronavirus central: State’s daily case average has doubled

California has highest number of hospitalized patients since pandemic began

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County reported 16,666 cumulative cases as of Tuesday. The death toll remains at 177. There were 88 people hospitalized as of Tuesday. Santa Clara County as of Tuesday had 41,316 COVID-19 cases and a seven-day rolling average of 592 new cases per day, which breaks down to 30 cases for every 100,000 people. The death toll rose to 512, and 383 people were hospitalized with the virus, 75 of which were new.

Case average more than doubled

California’s average number of new coronavirus cases per day has more than doubled over the last two weeks, one of the state’s top health officials said Tuesday.

The state recorded 23,272 cases Tuesday and has averaged 23,503 new cases per day over the last seven days, according to state Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly.

The state was recording around 11,000 new cases per day on average four weeks ago, Ghaly said, a reflection of the surge of new cases that has engulfed much of the state.

“It is so ubiquitous, so around our communities that many actions and activities are causing the transmission,” Ghaly said.

Test positivity has been on the rise over the last two weeks, according to Ghaly, with the state’s seven-day test positivity rate sitting at 10.1% and its 14-day positivity rate at 8.7%.

As a result of the sheer number of new cases, coronavirus-related hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions have also skyrocketed over the last 14 days.

Hospitalizations have risen 71% over the last two weeks while ICU admissions have jumped 68.7% over that same span of time.

At 10,567, the state now has its highest number of hospitalized coronavirus patients since the pandemic began.

Vaccine priority to health workers

Up to 24,000 health care workers in San Mateo County will be first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, with the first shipment to Santa Clara County with the partnership the social media company has with Destination: Home, the company said.

The company’s announcement comes at a time when the pandemic has exacerbated existing housing insecurities and homelessness throughout the Bay Area.

“Since Facebook committed $1 billion to help address the affordable housing crisis one year ago, this work has only become more imperative as the pandemic has heightened the challenges for people already struggling with the cost of housing,” Wehner said in the news release.

The $150 million fund will be managed by Local Initiative Support Corporation, which supports community development projects. The New York-based nonprofit has offices in more than 30 cities, including Oakland.

Don’t Go It Alone for The Holidays

You are not alone. This time of year can normally be very stressful, let alone during a pandemic when we are asked to shelter in place and minimize contact with family and friends.

If you are struggling, you can turn to Avenidas Care Partners (ACP) for help.

Call (650) 289-5438 to request a crisis intervention, an elder care consult, family mediation and emotional support during these challenging times.

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New sites expand access to COVID-19 testing in Menlo Park

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

In Menlo Park, getting a COVID-19 test may be more convenient than ever, with the launch of several testing sites throughout the city.

On Dec. 7, a new testing kiosk operated by Curative that is set to offer 1,650 COVID tests per week was launched in Menlo Park. In addition, neighborhood testing through Curative has also been in effect since mid-November in the Belle Haven neighborhood.

The new kiosk is located at 201 Ravenswood Ave. in a parking lot owned by SRI and near 201 Ravenswood Ave. in a park-mid-November in the Belle Haven neighborhood.

The kiosk is overseen by Curative, across Middlefield Road and near the First Church of Christ Scientist, across Middlefield Road from Menlo-Atherton High School. The testing system uses a self-administered oral swab technique, so people collect their own testing samples, but the site is overseen by Curative employees, according to a company spokesperson.

People are encouraged to register in advance for a test at curative.com, but there is some walk-up capacity as well. People 5 years old and up are eligible for testing.

Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister worked with various stakeholders to reach an agreement to launch the testing site there, according to district spokesperson Parke Treadway.

The school district is only paying the electricity costs to operate the kiosk, Treadway said. People who sign up for testing are expected to input their insurance information, which is billed for the tests. However, people may also access testing for free if they are uninsured.

“We felt it was important to make testing as easy to the community as possible,” she added.

Since reopening to students in September, the district has reported a total of 19 COVID-19 cases over 13 weeks, according to the district website.

The district has suggested that students be tested every two weeks but not mandated it, Treadway said. There were a number of organized testing events with Curative at the schools previously, but in each instance there was more demand than the one-day testing event could supply, she said.

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The district has suggested that students be tested every two weeks but not mandated it, Treadway said. There were a number of organized testing events with Curative at the schools previously, but in each instance there was more demand than the one-day testing event could supply, she said.

The tests at these events are also from Curative and are administered by swabbing one’s mouth. People can sign up through curative.com or walk up. Access the event schedule at bellehavenaction.org/testing.html.

For more information, contact Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

Kepler’s joins authors to spark joy of reading in local students

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Over the past six years, the Kepler’s Literary Foundation has partnered with the Ravenswood City School District to bring award-winning authors into classrooms to help students foster a love of reading.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the literary nonprofit has found a way to adapt the program for virtual learners.

Starting this month, each one of the 1,800 students in the Ravenswood City School District will receive a book, thanks to the foundation’s efforts. To encourage writing, the foundation also provided journals that accompany the books, and the youngest students received crayons, as well.

Students will receive different books based on their grade levels. Transitional kindergartners through second graders will receive “Hiro’s Hats” by Elisa Kleven, students in grades three through five will receive “The One and Only Ivan” by Katherine Applegate, and students in grades six through eight will receive “The Unwanted” by Lisa McMann.

In one of the videos, McMann addresses the middle school students in the district and gives a brief summary of the first few chapters of the book — introducing them to a fantasy world called Quill, where children expect to be赏被 as “unwanted” at age 13 for being caught engaging in creative activities.

She told the students she got the idea for writing the book after her children’s school stopped offering art, music and drama programs due to budget cuts, and from there she started imagining a society where kids are punished for being creative.

According to Lara Daetz, school events manager for the foundation, the program is intended to help students become more engaged readers. They partnered with three authors who had previously participated in school visits to the district with the program.

The program is focused on helping students get engaged in learning, even at a distance. “Remote learning tends to be less engaging than in-person instruction,” she said.

Schools received the materials in the middle of October, and it’s up to teachers as to when to introduce the lessons to their students.

“We knew it would be important for teachers to have flexibility,” said Forstner.

As for the students who are still learning to read, the videos provided are read-aloud lessons, where the book pages were digitized and a cursor goes over the text while the author is reading, providing students a video they can watch as needed to reinforce their early reading skills.

“The One and Only Ivan” for third through fifth graders, Daetz said, is particularly relevant for 2020, as the character featured is isolated, so kids who are not able to attend school and play with other children can relate. Applegate, the author of the book, had visited every school in the district through the program before the pandemic, and will be a familiar face to the students, she added.

“Pre-pandemic, our librarians noted that students were much more excited to check out books immediately following an author visit. The new, enhanced program is so flexible that our students and teachers can easily use it online now and in the future with classroom or hybrid instruction. Staff can also use this flexibility to pace delivery to complement their individual teaching plans,” said Lara Burein, director of curriculum and help instruction at the Ravenswood City School District.

For more information, contact Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.
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to purchase buildings such as hotels, motels and vacant apartment buildings and convert them into interim or permanent long-term housing for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Homekey has fundamentally changed the way California creates housing for the homeless — faster than ever before and at a significantly lower cost,” Facebook has stepped up to invest in success, making up to $150 million available for low-interest loans to local governments and nonprofits to buy hundreds more units to create permanent housing,” said Gov. Gavin Newsom in a written statement.

“This investment is part of Facebook’s $1 billion commitment they announced last year — and there is no better time to put this money to work. The COVID crisis demands we all step up and do more to protect the most vulnerable. I challenge other private sector corporations to follow suit and provide additional low-cost capital to create thousands more homeless housing units all across California,” he said.

Facebook’s housing commitment is also part of the regional collaborative efforts housed under the umbrella of The Partnership for the Bay’s Future, Salazar said. That organization is a public-private partnership working to, over the next five years, expand and protect housing for 175,000 households and protect 8,000 housing units, according to its website.

As of Dec. 9, the door is open for funding applications, Salazar said.

“On our end, the faster it goes out, the better,” he said.

Email Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com and Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

FACEBOOK
continued from page 7

CRIME BRIEFS
continued from page 6

9 on Zoom to discuss license plate readers in town and recent burglaries.

—Angela Swartz

Sheriff’s Activities League executive director accused of fraud

The executive director of the youth-serving San Mateo County Sheriff’s Activities League was taken to jail Friday, Dec. 11, for allegedly stealing about $25,000 from the league, sheriff’s officials said.

South San Francisco resident Barbara Bonilla, 55, was taken to the San Mateo County Jail and is being held on $70,000 bail.

Bonilla was also a Sheriff’s Office employee. In May, she resigned from her job and is also no longer affiliated with the activities league, according to the Sheriff’s Office.

In January, a bookkeeper with the league apparently noticed some discrepancies on the books and an internal review revealed the possibility of fraud.

As a result, Bonilla was put on administrative leave Feb. 10, sheriff’s officials said.

“The activities league and Sheriff’s Office are affiliated, so the California Attorney General’s Office conducted the criminal investigation.

“SAL and its entire staff was shocked and saddened to learn of the allegations,” San Mateo County Sheriff Carlos Bolanos said in a statement.

“We are committed to providing service to our community and building positive relationships with our youth,” Bolanos said. “We will continue to move forward with SAL for the impactful work the program does in our community.”

—Bay City News Service

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This exceptional cottage is ideally located on a quiet street in the coveted Allied Arts neighborhood, midway between downtown Palo Alto and downtown Menlo Park, two of Silicon Valley’s most vibrant hubs. Charming circa 1926 period details including coved ceilings, picture rails, hardwood floors and vintage door pulls define the character of this spacious and inviting one bedroom, one bath home. Enjoy it as is, remodel, expand or plan to build brand new. Explore all of the possibilities. Mature perimeter trees provide a beautiful private setting. Local shops, restaurants, parks, Stanford Mall and Stanford University are nearby as are the highly acclaimed public schools. An outstanding opportunity to move into one of Menlo Park’s most desirable neighborhoods!

Photos and Video Available at 69CornellRoad.com

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CORONAVIRUS
continued from page 7

Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, Dec. 8.

“We know that we’re getting six boxes of the Pfizer vaccine probably next week, so that’s just under 6,000 doses. It’s a pretty small shipment,” Chabra said. “Towards the end of December, we’ll receive something on the order of six to seven times as much of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine, assuming both get approved by the FDA.”

With additional vaccines on the way, Chabra said, “I think we could see pretty widespread vaccination (by) the middle of next year.”

Rogers said health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities would be the first to receive the vaccine, estimating that the first round of vaccines would be enough to cover about 13,200 of the county’s 38,000 health care workers.

Additional shipments will continue to serve high-priority workers and residents before the general population. As the rest of the public waits for the vaccine, Rogers encouraged people to recommit to safe behaviors that will slow the spread of the virus.

“We’re really in the final phases. We’re climbing one of the last hills. It may not be the last hill, but we’re getting there. We have every reason to be very optimistic about the future,” Rogers said.

New COVID-19 tracking app

California is making a mobile app available that will allow people to check whether they’ve been in contact with someone who may have COVID-19.

According to Newsom, more than 60 positive test/verification codes have been issued to people at the universities over the last eight weeks.

“The more people that participate in it, the more that opt in, the more effective this program can be,” Newsom said. “Another tool in our toolkit in terms of impacting the spread and transmission rate of this virus.”

Businesses advised to be vigilant

San Mateo County Manager Mike Callagy said county officials were alarmed by the 85% spike in new COVID-19 cases between October and November.

They’ve begun issuing citations for businesses that violate the health orders, he said during a Dec. 2 media briefing. With 747 complaints so far, the most common complaints include the excuses that they are not ensuring social distancing and not requiring customers to wear masks. Of the complaints, 24% were against businesses in San Mateo, 16% in Redwood City and 10% in Burlingame, he said.

“This is the time to be extremely careful,” he said of the next six weeks. “To really be vigilant and make sure you comply with all the regulations and requirements to operate businesses. We are headed into some darker days before the light at the end of the tunnel. .. This is that hill at the end of the race everyone dreads.”

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage


CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include: Susan Gri- ner, 68, a teacher at Sacred Heart Preparatory and Menlo Park resident, who died on Aug. 15; and Thomas Woodward Smith, 83, a Saint Francis High School teacher and Los Altos resi- dent, who died in June.

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

COVID-19 testing and hospitalizations

The Almanac has been fairly notified if they have been within 6 feet of the infected user for at least 15 minutes.

App users must voluntarily activate the app, according to the California Department of Public Health, and it does not show the coronavirus-positive user’s identity or exact location, nor does it collect, store or transmit identifying user information.

“This is not contact tracing; this is not a testing program,” Newsom said Monday during a briefing on the pandemic. “You can choose to participate in leveraging this technology to know that you have been in contact with or have been in contact with you to be notified of potential exposure.”

CA Notify became available through the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store on Thursday after it was piloted for several months at seven universities of California campuses.

The app technology was also piloted by California, Colorado, Nevada, Washington and Oregon — the members of the Western States Pact, along with California.

“A lot of the folks that are not participating are the ones who are near someone who has tested positive,” Cosgrove said. “If you’re not using the app, you are being left behind.”

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Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage


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Menlo Park Firefighters Toy & Food Drive

We Need Your Help To Make Wishes Come True This Year.

**Deadline: December 18th**

This year, Menlo Park Firefighters are looking for assistance in getting toys to 419 children in need. Due to COVID19 restrictions we’ve needed to make significant changes to our normal operations.

**For Food Donations:** Please go to this website to donate: [impact.shfb.org/MenloParkFirefighters](http://impact.shfb.org/MenloParkFirefighters)

**For Toy Donations:**

1. Contact John Wurdinger @ johnw@iaff2400.org with how many children you wish to sponsor. You will be assigned a child on our website: [www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive](http://www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive)

2. Purchase 3 toys from the child’s list [www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive](http://www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive) expect to spend $60 to $80.

3. Package the gifts in a clear 55 gallon bag with the: Child Name and Assigned Number clearly legible on a piece of paper inside the bag (we need to be able to see both the toys and child ID)

4. Deliver the bag to one of Menlo Park Fire Districts 7 Firehouses by the 18th of December

   - **Station 1** - 300 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
   - **Station 2** – 2290 University Avenue, East Palo Alto
   - **Station 3** – 32 Almendral Ave, Atherton
   - **Station 4** – 3322 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Menlo Park
   - **Station 5** – 4101 Fair Oaks Ave, Menlo Park
   - **Station 6** – 700 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park
   - **Station 7** – 1467 Chilco St, Menlo Park

5. When you drop the toys off, please be mindful that due to COVID19 the Firefighters are not allowed to have visitors in the firehouse.

Please share this with your friends and family. Thank you for your generosity and support.

[www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive](http://www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive)
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954 Blair Court, Palo Alto
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www.954Blair.com

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1160 Channing Avenue, Palo Alto
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$2,988,000
20 Prado Court, Portola Valley
3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.20Prado.com

$4,888,000
4152 Baker Avenue, Palo Alto
5 Bd | 7 Bth (5 full, 2 half)
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25396 La Loma Dr., Los Altos Hills
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www.25396LaLoma.com

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www.580Addison.com

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www.2797Ross.com

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11491 Old Ranch Rd, Los Altos Hills
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www.11491OldRanch.com

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27500 La Vida Real, Los Altos Hills
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www.27500LaVida.com

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Please visit our website (DeLeonRealty.com) to see the Virtual Tour of the homes, or call 650.900.7000 to schedule a showing.

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3787 Woodside Road, Woodside

Supreme Privacy, Timeless Luxury on 3.15 Acres in Woodside

Nestled on a verdant 3.15-acre lot (per county) in peaceful Woodside, this stunning estate presents superb privacy, timeless luxury, and incredible space for entertaining on a grand scale. Lofty ceilings craft an airy atmosphere throughout the home and tall, wide windows allow an abundance of natural light. Expansive formal rooms enjoy elegant appointments, the superb kitchen is sure to inspire your inner Top Chef, the handsome office can meet all work-from-home needs, and the lower level includes a theater for fantastic movie nights. Offering 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, and 7,168 sq. ft. of living space (per county), including a 1-bed, 1-bath guest house, this home will have you feeling a million miles away from the frenetic pace of Silicon Valley thanks to extraordinary grounds that include a pool, barbecue patio, and pathways that wind their way to the serene banks of Bear Gulch Creek, yet you will still enjoy the convenience of being just a short drive to the amenities of the Town of Woodside, and be close to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting. Adding the finishing touch, children may attend the acclaimed Woodside Elementary School (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties*

*Data from BrokerMetrics based on MLS sales from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2019, in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed $150,000 from more than 150 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

The organizations below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is: siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund

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(Name of person)

Boys & Girls Clubs
Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program
Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Health Connected
Serves over 5,000 students and their families each year through comprehensive sexual health education programs. Students learn to have ongoing communication with parents and to make informed decisions that will apply to their lives, now and in the future.

LifeMoves
Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Literacy Partners — Menlo Park
Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal wellbeing.

Ravenswood Family Health Center
Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room
Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony’s is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

St. Francis Center
Helps low-income, working families become self-supporting members of the community by providing long-term solutions through educational programs for children and parents, as well as after-school programming at Siena Youth Centers. St. Francis Center also provides housing, food and clothing services to address short-term needs.

StarVista
Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Upward Scholars
Empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.
Thank you for donating to the Holiday Fund

Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List
As of Dec. 8, 85 donors have contributed $48,714 to the Almanac Holiday Fund.

Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Holiday Fund: Ravenswood Family Health Network adapts to meet patient needs

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Ravenswood Family Health Network is one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac’s Holiday Fund. Because The Almanac and its partner the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to this year’s 10 nonprofit organizations. Donations to the Holiday Fund can be made at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

Both COVID testing and preventative actions, Buada said, are necessary.

"A test today is only a test today," she said. "If you go out and partied tonight, you could get COVID and five days later be in the hospital.”

"Testing is not a cure," she said. "It is a snapshot in time. It’s not something that should reassure you such that you do not practice preventive measures."

Now, clinic visitors are screened at the entrances and called in advance to find out if they are symptomatic, she said.

For patients who do test positive, the clinics conduct telehealth visits to make sure they are OK and not at risk of exposing many people. For COVID-19 positive patients who have asthma, the clinics have also been providing free pulse oximeters so that patients can check their oxygen levels at home, she said.

While COVID-19 has hit especially hard in the communities the clinic serves in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood and North Fair Oaks, clinic staff is also seeing increases in anxiety, depression and financial hardship among patients, Buada said. Many patients have lost jobs and some were not eligible for aid due to their immigration status, she said.

Another challenge for the Ravenswood clinic was figuring out how to conduct dental care safely. The team spent a lot of time researching it and ended up purchasing aerosol filters and defoggers, and requiring dental patients to be tested for COVID-19 three days in advance of an appointment and get a negative result, Buada said.

"No one’s gotten COVID from patient care," she said. "We're doing all the right things.

On top of all that, the clinics switched their entire electronic medical records systems midway.

"It’s extremely helpful for continuity of care," she said.

Future challenges

As of late November, two challenges that the health clinics faced were a glove shortage and concerns, leading into Thanksgiving, that employees would travel for the holiday and be required to quarantine, impacting the availability of workers in the clinics, Buada said.

Clinic employees are part of the community, and some are dealing with the same factors that create temptations to break with pandemic guidelines, she said. Some may have cultural beliefs that can be somewhat fatalistic, along the lines of "If God wants me to get COVID and I die, that’s just life;" pressure from family members to visit; and pressure from friends to hang out or face isolation and ostracism, she said.

"It’s really hard to say no to people who are around you," she added.

Looking ahead, another challenge will be making sure people feel safe about getting vaccinated. She expressed concerns that some people may fear the vaccine and opt out. "If not enough people get vaccinated, we face a situation of COVID continuing endlessly for a very long time," she said.

COVID-19 is still a young disease, and it’s still not clear what the long-term impacts will be to those who are infected, even after they recover, though the clinics are keeping a close eye on the emerging research, Buada said.

"We’re going to be managing the long-term effects of COVID for a very long time in health care and trying to figure out the best way to help people once they recover as well," she said.

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com
re-election to their seats on the Menlo fire board.

Chang Kiraly and Silano, who both had been on the board since 2011, were separated by just 103 votes, according to certified election results. Chang Kiraly received 19,711 votes (38%), while Silano received 19,608 (37.8%).

Former board member Peter Carpenter came in third with 7,081 votes (13.6%), followed by Sean Ballard at 5,522 votes (10.6%).

**Sequoia Union High School District**

Two newcomers won two contested seats on the Sequoia Union High School District’s governing board. Rich Ginn, a parent and business owner, won the Trustee Area A seat, which represents Woodside, West Menlo Park and Portola Valley, with 9,685 votes (37.8%). Incumbent Georgia Jack, who initially lost on election night, had 8,605 votes (33.5%), while Shamar Edwards, school principal, had 7,366 votes (28.7%). Voter turnout was 89.6%.

Candidate Shawneece Stevenson won 9,510 votes (71.5%) in Trustee Area E, which includes Menlo Park neighborhoods east of Highway 101 as well as East Palo Alto, Jacqui Cebrian, who dropped out of the race in September, garnered 3,789 votes (29%). Voter turnout was 74.5%.

**Las Lomitas Elementary School District**

Newcomer Jason Morimoto and Jody Leng won two open seats on the Las Lomitas Elementary School District board. Leng has declined to serve, as she told the district shortly after Election Day, leaving her seat unfilled. The district will hold another election to fill the open seat.

**Menlo Park City School District**

Newcomer Francesca Segré and incumbent David Ackerman won two open seats on the Menlo Park City School District’s governing board. Voter turnout was 88%. Segré had 8,943 votes (46.3%), Ackerman had 7,621 votes (39.5%) and Robert Maclay followed with 2,736 votes (14.2%).

**Other county results**

There were some close races at the city level, with less than 100 votes separating some candidates.

In East Palo Alto’s City Council race, just 69 votes separated the two candidates vying for the third spot on the council. Newcomer Antonio Lopez won a spot on the council, with 2,998 votes compared with Webster Lincoln’s 2,929 votes. Incumbents Lisa Gauthier and Carlos Romero got the top two spots.

In the presidential race, 77.9% of San Mateo County voters supported President-elect Joe Biden over President Donald Trump, who received 20.2% of the vote. To view the official results for San Mateo County, go to livevoterturnout.com.

**RESTAURANTS**

**continued from page 5**

both the city and the restaurant invested in the construction.

SAMCEDA, the San Mateo County Economic Development Association, will be administering the new program, along with the San Mateo Credit Union Community Fund.

Don Cecil, representing SAMCEDA, commended the council for considering the program and emphasized the urgency of helping struggling restaurants.

“I would say that the clock is ticking,” he said. “Restaurants are hanging on by their fingernails. You have mostly family-owned, immigrant-owned, minority-owned and women-owned businesses, both in families, who put everything on the line to survive the pandemic.”

He added that it will likely be well into, if not near the end of, 2021 before customers are likely to feel comfortable sitting inside restaurants again.

Council members discussed several options leading up to the vote, including whether to mandate that restaurants in each of the city’s five districts receive an equal amount of funding, and whether to set a maximum of $20,000 per business instead. They decided against strict district-level requirements because the city’s restaurants are not evenly divided among the city’s five districts and there may be more businesses in need downtown than in another neighborhood, for instance.

Councilwoman Betsy Nash expressed concern that the program funds would be quickly depleted and more businesses would seek support, leading to additional grant cycles funded by the city.

“...now that we can come back ... I’m not comfortable with that,” she said.

Councilwoman Catherine Carlson pushed back, arguing that programs like supporting downtown restaurants are part of why the city saves money to use in economic downturns. “This is signaling support for businesses, people and quality of life to keep great restaurants and cafes available in Menlo Park,” she said.

The council’s decision to reduce the maximum of $20,000 to $10,000 per business was mixed and may be renegotiated.

Vice Mayor Drew Combs favored the same model for the current program and reducing the amount to $10,000. He added that he wanted the program to benefit mom-and-pop businesses, too.

“From my perspective, it should be an effort to partner with businesses, not a grant,” he said.

Carlton and Councilman Ray Mueller expressed concerns that $10,000 wouldn’t be enough to cover the costs, and could deter applicants from seeking the grants.

The council asked for an update in about a month to see how the program was going, and expressed openness to reconsidering a maximum amount of $20,000.

To be eligible, restaurants should be independent, with no more than five locations in San Mateo County; in compliance with local regulations; and have no business interruption before the pandemic began.

“By providing (restaurants) support to maintain themselves, it keeps our economic ecosystem afloat in this city,” Mueller said.

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

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**William James Graham**

September 20, 1923 – November 24, 2020

William James “Bill” Graham died on November 24, 2020, near his home at Fox Hill Village in Westwood, MA. He was born to Margaret Euwer Graham and John Ellis Graham on September 15, 1923 and raised in Pelham Manor, NY with three brothers: Jack, Malcolm, and Bob (only Bob is still living).

Bill graduated from Pelham High School and attended Columbia University for one year before he transferred to Amherst College. He enlisted in 1943 and saw action in Luzon, Philippines as an infantry officer. He returned to Amherst and graduated cum laude in 1948. He was called back into service in 1950 and served as the Training Officer at Camp Gordon, GA.

Bill met Natalie Stolck at a wedding in 1950, and they married a year later. They had seven children: Jimmy, Susan, Margaret, John, Betsy, Joanne, and Cathy. Bill and Natalie were married for 68 years. Natalie predeceased Bill by 10 months, and their first child, Jimmy, died in 1957. They will all be buried in Pelham Manor, NY with three brothers: Jack, Malcolm, and Bob (only Bob is still living).

Bill started his business career at Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company. He joined Owens-Illinois, Inc. in 1953 as a sales trainee and worked for the company for 33 years. By the end of his tenure, he had managed all of the key divisions at O-I, including Glass Container, Plastics, Lily Tulip, and Closures. He also successfully negotiated the nation’s first bottle contract in the state of Oregon in 1972. He was active in various industry-affiliated groups, like the Management Policy Council, Plastic Bottle Institute, and the Society of the Plastics Industry. He joined GW Plastics, Inc. as a Director in 1983 and was an active and enthusiastic member of their board until the company was sold in 2020.

Bill was a fierce competitor; sports was a big part of his life and character and the basis of many of his friendships. He taught himself to play tennis at age seven and played for the next 80+ years. He was captain of the Amherst tennis team and played competitively until an injury took him out of the tournament circuit. When Bill stopped playing, he was ranked #2 in the United States by the USTA (in his age group).

Although tennis was his favorite sport, golf was a close second. He belonged to a golf club wherever he lived, and played often, especially after he retired. He had two hole-in-ones (after the age of 80), one at Menlo Country Club in CA, and one at Eastman in NH.

The Grahams lived in both Toledo, OH and in the San Francisco Bay Area, CA (twice each). In CA, Bill was on the boards of Filoli Historic House and Garden, Portola Valley Ranch, San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Menlo Country Club, and Foothills Swim and Tennis Club.

Bill and Natalie traveled often for both pleasure and work. Every other year, they would convene their burgeoning family to a warm-weather spot where they could be together and form the strong bonds that still connect them today. The children (Haydn, Whitney, Willie, Aidan, Elle, Sarah, Alex, Conor, David, Carolyn, Annie, and Grace), devoted him to and to each other, called Bill on Zoom every Sunday once the pandemic hit, and in-person visits were no longer allowed.

Bill and Natalie moved to Fox Hill Village in 2012 to be closer to family and to New Hampshire, where they had a family gathering place. Their years at Fox Hill were happy ones, and the friendships they made there enriched their final years.

It is fitting that Bill died with the Wall Street Journal open on his lap. He had an inanimate appetite for business and finance (and sports and cars), but mostly he loved his family: Natalie; their seven children, twelve grandchildren, and three great grandchildren (Frances, Tadeusz, and Moses)—so far.

A memorial service has been planned for January, 2021. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bill’s name to The Greater Boston Food Bank or the Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP). To share a memory of Bill, please visit www.eatonfuneralhomes.com.
To our Stanford Medicine Community

For months, we have faced the challenges of living through this pandemic together. And while we have more reasons to hope with each passing day that we will eventually defeat this virus, it is clear the crisis is far from over.

The number of COVID cases in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as much of California, has soared over the past few weeks. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged Americans to avoid large gatherings in an effort to stop the rapid spread of COVID-19. Hospitals across the nation are filling their beds more quickly, and our frontline healthcare workers are facing exhaustion.

This is a dangerous situation to be in, and we need everyone’s help to fix it.

Even with so much uncertainty, the science is clear. We know what works to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- **Wear a mask.** Masks can save lives, including your own.
- **Wash your hands.** Thorough handwashing stops the virus from spreading.
- **Keep your distance.** Avoid gatherings and stay 6 feet apart from those you don’t live with.

We know you have heard all of these recommendations before, but they are more important than ever.

Stanford Medicine is here for you, as always, and committed to being a part of the solution. We know you are counting on us, and we have mobilized everyone—our care teams, researchers, students, and staff—to rise to this challenge.

But we need you to know that we are counting on you, too. It is your help that will make the difference and determine whether or not we can slow the spread of the virus in the weeks and months ahead. It is your care and thoughtfulness that will save lives and shape the future.

We are here for you and with your help, we will get through this together.

Lloyd Minor, MD  
*Dean, Stanford School of Medicine*

David Entwistle  
*President and CEO*  
*Stanford Health Care*

Paul King  
*President and CEO*  
*Stanford Children’s Health*


OUTDOOR DINING

continued from page 5

been relying on outdoor dining to bring in revenue, particularly during the holidays when their dining rooms would usually be booked for parties and corporate events. Many invested in parklets and extensive outdoor dining setups, particularly in streets that have been closed to traffic like University Avenue in Palo Alto, Castro Street in Mountain View and Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park.

"Going back to takeout and delivery, it's going to be really hard. It's not a model we can survive on," said Anu Bambhri, who owns Rooh on University Avenue in downtown Palo Alto. "Without any stimulus package or any help from the government it's going to be very hard to survive."

Rooh’s landlord paid to build the restaurant’s parklet, Bambhri said, but she recently hired additional heaters and new tents to prepare for the winter. She immediately thought of the implications for inventory at Rooh, where outdoor dining sales out-pace takeout.

Patio heaters are just one of the additional costs Zareen Khan has incurred for outdoor dining at her eponymous restaurant in Palo Alto, Mountain View and Redwood City. Heaters that used to go for $150 are now as expensive as $400 and much harder to come by, she said.

She’s frustrated by the new restrictions, which she said are penalizing small businesses that have already been barely treading water for eight months. She’s reduced prices at Zareen’s and feels like she’s constantly advertising discounts to bring in more business. She told her employees on Friday that they will start taking turns taking time off to manage staffing levels with the loss of outdoor dining.

"I request the county be more creative in how to control COVID-19," Khan said. "Closing businesses is not a solution."

Lars Smith, co-owner of State of Mind Public House in Los Altos, felt a grim kind of resilience in the face of last Friday’s news. He feels better equipped to help his restaurant navigate another shutdown, having done it before.

He knows now that he can keep on more staff than he did in March, when in a panic they laid off four-front-of-house staff and cut employees’ hours — and then were overwhelmed by a spike in takeout business.

At La Bodeguita del Medio in Palo Alto, however, co-owner Michael Ekwall was facing the realization that without outdoor dining, he’ll have to cut his staff of 18 employees to about six. He’s also bracing for the stay-at-home order to last beyond early January.

“It’s a challenge to have to

sadly common refrain in the industry: Without another federal support package, many independent restaurants will not make it through another shutdown.

“We’re getting mostly restrictions and closures without any help to survive," Sirotin said.

Sirotin urged people to continue taking orders from locally owned restaurants, which he recently heard described as a “citizen’s responsibility.”

“It’s really true. If we want to keep eating good and interesting food... we need to get together and help independent restaurateurs,” he said.

According to a National Restaurant Association survey conducted in November, 17% of restaurants — more than 110,000 establishments — have closed permanently or for at least a year. The vast majority of restaurants that have closed for good were “well-established businesses, and fixtures in their communities” that on average had been in business for 16 years, and 16% had been open for at least 30 years, the National Restaurant Association said.

Fifty-eight percent of chain and independent full-service restaurateurs expect continued furloughs and layoffs for at least the next six months, the survey found.

Several owners expressed a

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Oregonian

Susan Griner

Susan Griner passed away peacefully in her sleep in her own home, on August 15th, 2020. Born in Pasedena, California to Ann and Robert Bennett, Susan grew up in Sunnyvale with her brother, Robert, and sister, Debbie. Susan attended Peterson High School, where she excelled greatly in her scholastic endeavors, along with her mastery as a musician. Santa Clara University offered her a scholarship, and she graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, majoring in the Spanish language, which she spoke fluently. While working as a successful businesswoman, Susan met her husband, Rusty Griner. They were married in Portola Valley, and had a daughter named Sarah. Both Rusty and Susan shared a great love of horses as long time members of the Mounted Patrol in Woodside.

Susan continued to own and ride horses throughout her life. An amazing seamstress, Susan sewed incredible, beautiful designs, some of which were for the Woodside Vaulter—an equestrian club where she was the treasurer, and her husband was horse owner and her daughter an athlete. Teaching the Yearbook class at Sacred Heart Preparatory is a huge testament to Susan’s talent (which was ahead of its time) in computer graphics and design. She loved working with children, and had an immense abundance of empathy for those around her— people and animals! Susan was a truly special human being, and the absolute best and perfect mother to her daughter. She is missed, so much, each and every day...and will be forever. Susan is survived by her husband Rusty Griner, daughter Sarah Griner, mother Ann Bennett, sister Debbie Cooper, niece Leah Cooper, and nephew Wyatt Cooper.

Susan Griner

PAID OBITUARY

Lois Marilla John

February 1, 1933 – December 4, 2020

Lois Marilla John, 87, our loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend, formerly of Woodside, California, passed away on December 4, 2020, in Spanish Fork, Utah. Lois was born on February 1, 1933, in Ogden, Utah, to Perry Eugene Moss and Marilla M. Lundquist Moss.

Lois attended local schools and graduated from East High School in Salt Lake City. She attended college at the University of Utah, where she became acquainted with her future husband, Robert John. Their relationship blossomed and they eventually married on June 24, 1953, in the Salt Lake Temple.

The day after their wedding, they moved to Olympia, Washington, where Bob was stationed serving in the U.S. Army. They then moved to Seattle, while Bob attended dental school. To support them during school, Lois worked as a secretary to the Speaker of the House for the State of Washington. Her organizational skills and attention to detail proved beneficial throughout her life. She volunteered in the community as PTA president and in other groups, including the Children’s Home Society, the San Mateo Dental Auxiliary, to name a few.

Bob and Lois welcomed two children into their family, Judy and Steve. Of the many things she was involved with, she treasured the title of mother the most. Lois was an excellent homemaker and knew the importance of being a good example to her children. She was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served in various callings and especially enjoyed the time she spent as the Compassionate Service Coordinator for her ward. Helping others came naturally to her.

When her children were older, Lois worked as a travel agent in several agencies before starting and managing her own travel agency, Woodside Travel. This allowed her to travel, which she loved. She would often travel to many different parts of the world, gaining new insight and advice for her clients. She loved planning their itineraries and made sure that they were perfect.

...When Lois was in her 70s, Lois loved to be active. She enjoyed tennis, golf, and shopping with friends. She also liked to scrapbook, dance and exercise. She and Bob loved to entertain in their home and treasured good times with friends and family. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren spent countless hours swimming in their pool, and the whole family loved the vibrant popsicles that Nana always had in the freezer. Lois and her husband had a ranch in Healdsburg, California, on the Russian River. They would travel the two hours north, over the Golden Gate Bridge, almost every weekend while Judy and Steve were still growing up. The ranch produced prunes and they had a variety of animals, including cattle. They had many fond memories there.

Later in life, Bob was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease which slowly took his abilities. Lois faithfully cared for him for approximately 10 years, as the disease progressed. Through her challenges, she was undeniably positive and forgiving. She always saw the best in people.

Lois is survived by her children as well as nine grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews who will dearly miss “Aunt Lois.” She is preceded in death by her husband, two brothers and a son-in-law.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020, from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at Walker Funeral Home, 187 South Main Street, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660. A graveside service will be held at Skylawn Cemetery, in San Mateo, California, on Friday, December 18, 2020, at 12:30 p.m.

Those unable to attend the graveside service may join us via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/7867341454?pwd=TlZCtFZ6Qkp38002ahnj305WmpqZz09

PAID OBITUARY

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Why San Mateo County hasn’t implemented the state’s stay-at-home order

By Dr. Scott Morrow

Please read or reread my previous statements (at AlmanacNews.com) about the coronavirus (Covid-19) and the local health officer’s orders to get a better understanding of where we find ourselves today and actions you can take to protect yourselves and your family.

I do believe we face a great challenge. A great challenge during a time of year whose hallmark is gathering with family and friends. A great challenge because gathering at this time is exactly the wrong thing to do. I share the intent of the state and my Bay Area colleagues, which is, during this surge, you should be staying at home as much as possible. I also deeply understand how people can look at the same issue, and seemingly the same set of facts, and come to completely different conclusions.

I’m sure some of what is going on is confusing to many of you, so I wanted to take this opportunity to try to explain some reasons why I haven’t signed onto the concept of a Bay Area Stay at Home (SAH) order (an order that accelerates the timing of the state’s new framework) for San Mateo County, at this time. I certainly understand reasonable people trying different approaches to the unimaginable dilemmas that face us. And I have no intent to fault the state on their impossible task. They’ve done an even more complex task than do the locals. But I’m not managing the state. I’m trying to make the best public health decisions for all of you.

What are some reasons that San Mateo County hasn’t decided, so far, to advance the implementation of the state’s SAH order like some other Bay Area counties have?

1. I may have a different view of the power and authority I have, as a function of my position, than some of my colleagues. During the first shelter-in-place order, which I wholeheartedly endorsed, the virus was brand new and had the capability of spreading exponentially due to zero immunity and people’s complete lack of awareness. It was very much consistent with my long-held views about the judicious use of power. I felt that this was the time for our great power to be maximally applied. And that our power and authority was designed to be broad for situations just like this.

However, I very quickly rescinded that on the basis of the public health society and focused my new orders on the personal behaviors that are driving the pandemic, mainly limiting gatherings, using masks, social distancing, and adopting the state’s framework on business capacity restrictions. Just because one has the legal authority to do something, doesn’t mean one has to use it, or that using it is the best course of action. What I believed back in May, and what I believe now, is the power and authority to control this pandemic lies primarily in your hands, not mine.

2. I’m not sure we know what we’re doing. (Please don’t misinterpret this sentence. The science and public health principles around disease transmission interruption — no gathering, mask wearing, social distancing, etc. — are clear. I’m referring to how to get to you, the community, to change your behavior.) I look at surrounding counties who have been much more restrictive than I have been, and wonder what it’s been for them. Now, some of them are in a worse spot than we are. Does an unbalanced approach on restrictions work well in general? Maybe, maybe not. But I think there is a more likely explanation. When I look at the trend data, the Bay Area seems to mostly move as a group, pretty independent of individual health officers’ actions.

3. Surely a hard, enforced, SAH order will certainly drive down transmission rates. But what we have before us is a symbolic gesture, it appears to be a proxy over substance, without any hint of enforcement, and I simply don’t believe it will do much good. I think people should stay at home, avoid all non-essential activities, wear masks, and not gather with anyone outside their households. I’ve been saying this for about 10 months now. If you didn’t listen to me, and (many others’) entreaties before, I don’t think you’ll likely change your behavior based on a new order. I appreciate that some of you think I (or the government) have magical abilities to change everyone’s behavior, but I assure you, I (we) do not.

4. Being in the purple tier, the state has already put significant restrictions on businesses and the public space in San Mateo County. I am aware of no data that some of the business activities on which even greater restrictions are being put into place with this new surge, the major drivers of transmission. In fact, I think these greater restrictions are likely to drive more activity indoors, a much riskier endeavor. While I don’t have scientific evidence to support this, I also believe these greater restrictions will result in more job loss, more hunger, more despair and desperation (the structure of our economy is, for the most part, if you don’t work, you don’t eat or have a roof over your head), and more death from causes other than COVID. And I wonder, are these premature deaths any less worrisome than COVID deaths?

5. I don’t see us (governmental public health) looking at data other than case rates and positivity rates and hospital rates in order to make balanced decisions. When you only look at one thing, you only see one thing.

6. I look closely and frequently at our data to try to divine what they say. Pro sports being critical infrastructure is just a proxy of reality, not reality in and of itself. Our cases are certainly going up. But it appears to be a linear increase, with higher increases in 20- to 40-year-olds, but the increases are across all demographics. Our hospitalizations are going up, linearly, and our hospitals feel equipped to deal with a surge, as of today.

7. There is not a good or standard method for understanding ICU capacity on a county level, much less on a regional level. Basing such extreme decisions on nonstandardized and poorly understood metrics seems fraught to me.

8. Many hospitals have not yet made the basic internal policy decision of canceling elective procedures. And granted, personnel who provide services for elective procedures may not directly increase ICU capacity when they are freed up, repurposing the services these personnel provide will be required in a surge.

9. Efforts to creatively maximize regional hospital capacity have not yet begun.

10. Regulatory constraints that limited hospital capacity have yet to be addressed.

11. I have grave concerns about the unintended consequences of reducing our grocery store capacity by 29%.

12. The SAH order will make it more difficult for schools to open or to stay open. It is a very hard needle to thread to message that everyone must stay at home by strict order, but it’s OK for kids to go to school. I continue to strongly believe our schools need to be open. The adverse effects for some of our kids will likely last for generations. So, changes procedures to open safely even during a surge as evidenced by data. My earlier stated positions from June remain the same.

13. That the state considers pro sports a critical infrastructure (essential) activity undermines this whole rubric in my mind. Pro sports is very nice to have and is probably a pleasant distraction. It is not essential. (Granted, I could be very wrong on this point. Maybe keeping millions of people home watching sports on TV without mixing households is exactly what we should be doing more of. Of course, if folks stay home watching TV and gather with other households, it could be much worse.)

14. The new state framework is ripe with inexplicable inconsistencies of logic.

15. Beyond the basic human needs for air, water, food, shelter, and safety, it has, to date, been impossible for me to define what is “essential” to the 800,000 people who live here.

16. There are additional reasons, but these were enough to give me pause.

It is possible, under the state’s new regional rubric, that they will apply a SAH order on us as a region in short order. If and when the governor issues the regional stay-at-home order for the Bay Area, San Mateo County will support it. It may be that new data convinces me to take this action. I believe this is what the state is convinced. Either of these situations occurring is really quite moot, because neither absolves you of your personal, social, and moral responsibility to stop the spread and protect your fellow humans, many of whom can’t stay at home because they are protecting you, or are keeping society running, or are at high risk of death.

Some additional pieces of information for your consideration as you make your decisions:

1. There is a nascent science developing about mobility. This data comes from tracking your cellphone movement (anonymously, I believe, but I don’t know that for sure). What it shows is a strong direct correlation with mobility and spread of the virus. Less overall mobility, means less spread. The take-home message here is: STOP MOVING!

2. Right now, based on modeling data, there are an estimated 8,000 to 15,000 active cases in San Mateo County capable of transmitting the infection to others. These active infections are EV-ER-Y-where. Literally, they are in every corner of the county. The chance of you encountering this virus anywhere is much, much higher than it was just a few weeks ago. Many people are asymptomatic and can transmit the virus unknowingly. And these asymptomatic folks may very well be the ones you are most likely to let your guard down with, your family and friends.

3. Based on modeling data, the overwhelming majority (80-90%) of people in this county are still susceptible and at risk of contracting the virus. This is a horrible, nasty, and deadly virus. But it is highly transmissible and one you do not want to get. To get out of this situation depends on all of us. Our collective best course of action: No gatherings outside of immediate households, use facial coverings extensively, and social distancing. And during this surge these are the additional things you should be doing: Stop moving around, stay at home except for essential (please observe the most restrictive definition of what you deem to be essential) activities, avoid all travel that is not essential, never enter an indoor environment without a mask if that environment has people outside your household, get tested if you have symptoms.

Dr. Scott Morrow is the San Mateo County health officer. This statement was released Monday, Dec. 7.
Peninsula singing group offers ‘golden guarantee’

The Fabulous JewelTones mix 20 years of retro style and harmony with oh-so-modern tech know-how

By Karla Kane

For the past two decades, The Fabulous JewelTones have been crooning the hits of yesteryear in multipart harmony, tickling pink Bay Area audiences big and small, sporting snazzy outfits and helping to mark milestone stories with humor and heart.

“Because these are such great old songs, everyone’s smiling back at us, so it’s rewarding for both the singers and the audience,” said co-founder and Los Altos resident Betsy Landergren. And while COVID-19 has put a stop to the group’s live shows, it can’t cramp its irrepressible style.

The Fabulous JewelTones were formed as a spinoff of Peninsula Women’s Chorus, out of a desire to get together and sing barbershop-quartet-style harmonies on a casual basis. In late 1999, Altos resident Betsy Landergren.

The rest of the group dresses for the occasion as well, with an array of vintage and replica clothing sourced from thrift stores and attics by a particularly fashionable JewelTone. While they’ve performed for big crowds and at corporate gigs, their favorites are the intimate shows for special events such as birthdays and anniversaries.

In a recent interview, Tucker and Landergren reminisced about some of their most memorable shows over the years, including a surprise proposal on Stowe Lake in San Francisco.

“We all got Hawaiian shirts and leis and ukuleles and got in these paddle boats and hid in the reeds until they sailed by,” Landergren recalled. “One gal got down on her knees in the boat and all their friends jumped out of the bushes.” The proposal was, she noted, a success.

Another involved a lovelorn fellow trying to win back his girlfriend.

“I had to counsel him. I told him how he should dress; that he should have a rose,” Landergren said. “We sang ‘I Don’t Know Why I Love You Like I Do’ and ‘A Good Man is Hard to Find.’” And the result?

“She cried,” Landergren said. “As far as I know, it worked.”

Because of the vintage of the songs in their repertoire, the group members have had many gratifying encounters at senior centers and assisted-living facilities.

“This is the music of their era. It takes them back to happy times when they were young,” Tucker said. Among the most poignant experiences have been at memory-care units, where the residents appear at first unresponsive to the outside world.

“When we start to sing a song that they remember, you can see their fingers starting to move, toes starting to tap,” Landergren said. “Oh man — that’s something to know they’re still there and we can do something for them that they can enjoy.”

With membership hovering pretty steadily at around 10 members (with current virtual conditions allowing some who’ve moved out of the Peninsula to stay involved, boosting the group’s numbers by a few), The Fabulous JewelTones function as a collaborative, with everyone having a say and each sharing their unique skills and talents.

Since being unable to sing together in person, the JewelTones have celebrated their 20th anniversary by releasing three music videos, including one that directly addresses the current situation.

“Bye Bye Corona Blues,” an original humorous ode to life during the pandemic, in which pajama-clad singers describe life stuck at home (and for those who want to sing along, the lyrics helpfully bounce along with the aid of an image of a coronavirus spore in lieu of the traditional bouncyball). Landergren wrote the words and Tucker handled the arduous — but gratifying — task of blending everyone's individual tracks.

“The process for making a virtual choir video, I really enjoy it because it involves both audio and video skills,” she said. She prepares a backing track, including singing all four to five harmony vocal parts as a guide, then layers in each member's vocal tracks one by one, adjusting effects and volume as she goes along.

“It’s up to the group to decide what the video will be. They have to put on their costume, get their lighting set up, play the audio and record themselves singing along with it, then I strip off the audio and match it and arrange them in the scene in order,” she explained.

For “Bye Bye Corona Blues,” one artistic member created a claymation scene, while the “token male” and piano player/arranger Terry Weissman also helped with computer animation and juggling — a multi-talented crew.

In fact, the members come from a diverse background. Tucker is a retired NASA engineer, while Landergren is a former flight attendant and book columnist.

“We’ve had a physician, a preschool teacher, piano teachers, several computer nerds, molecular biologist, pastry chef, potter. We have a little bit of everything,” Landergren said. “Many of us are retired. Our claim to fame now is we always come with a golden guarantee. No song that we sing is younger than half a century — much like the JewelTones themselves.”

The newest video is the JewelTones’ take on Cole Porter’s 1943 tune “You’d Be So Nice To Come Home To,” a wishful wish for better times to come, just released this week and featuring glimpses of beloved pets, yummy treats, local scenes and happy gatherings interspersed with the singers.

“Here we are stuck in our COVID jails. Wouldn’t it be nice for someone to come home for the holidays?” Landergren said. “Well, we can’t do it now but we can do it virtually.”

More information is available at jeweltones.org.

Email Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com
The Peninsula's edible gift guide

By Elena Kadvany

This holiday season, it's more essential than ever to take the shop local ethos seriously. Local restaurants and businesses are looking down the barrel of a tough month — after eight already incredibly tough months — with the state's new stay-at-home order temporarily banning outdoor dining and requiring residents to stay at home as much as possible.

Here are 17 ideas for locally made food-and-drink gifts, from handmade pasta and Filipino sweets to virtual cooking classes and a cocktail book authored by a local beverage director, proceeds of which will be donated to bar staff impacted by the shutdown. All of these gifts kill two birds with one stone: treat someone you care about while supporting a local business.

And if you're at a loss, a gift card to your favorite restaurant, or a donation to the 86Fund for struggling Bay Area eateries at 86fund.org — or a subscription to your local newspaper, at almanacnews.com/user/subscribe/ — will always make for an excellent gift with meaningful impact.

The Midwife and the Baker panettone

Mountain View's The Midwife and the Baker is making its own, naturally leavened version of panettone, the Italian holiday staple. It's flavored with orange zest, candied orange and lemon peel, candied lemon peel and raisins. Preorder online by Dec. 19 for pickup Dec. 22-24, or look for panettone and other holiday specials at the bakery's local farmers market stands throughout December. (Panettone bonus: This one isn't on the Peninsula, but you can get it delivered here and it's just too good to not share: a gelato-filled panettone from Gio Gelati in San Francisco.) Visit themidwifeandthebakery.com.

El Merkat paella kit

Send a loved one to Spain (sorta) via a paella kit from Telefèric Barcelona's next-door market, El Merkat, in Palo Alto. The kits come with a paella pan, extra virgin olive oil, Santo Tomas bomba rice, homemade sofrito and paella seasoning. There are two sizes available, one for two people and another for four. While you're at it, treat yourself with some imported jamón iberico, tinmed fishes and anchovy-stuffed olives for a holiday tapas platter. Order online at telettericbarcelona.square.site or visit El Market at 855 El Camino Real #130, Palo Alto. Open Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Prolific Oven cake kits

Palo Alto's beloved The Prolific Oven has revived its cake kits for the holidays: all the ingredients to make the bakery's popular chocolate cake, poppyseed cake and rum cream cake. ‘Cocktails for Home: Sheltered in Place’ Eusebio Pozos-Reyes, beverage director at San Agus Cocina Urbana & Cocktails in Palo Alto, authored this book to guide the home mixologist with ideas and recipes. A portion of the proceeds will be donated back to local industry staff bar impacted by the COVID-19 closures. “Cocktails for Home” is available at local bookstores, including Books Inc and Kepler's Books.

Fenn Coffee

Give the gift of small-batch roasted coffee beans, jarred cold brew or double espresso shots from Fenn Coffee, founded by Menlo Park triathlete and cofounder Max Fennell. He sources beans from fair trade, organic and women-owned farms around the world. Order online or look for Fenn Coffee at local grocery stores including The Willows Market in Menlo Park, Bianchini's Market in Portola Valley, Delucci's Market in Redwood City, The Market at Edgewood in Palo Alto, and Burlingame Market in Burlingame. Online at fenncoffee.com.

BackAYard Caribbean grill sauces

BackAYard sells bottles of its jerk sauces, which come in original, hot mango, "hell fire" and sweet BBQ flavors. The sauces are available for purchase at BackAYard restaurants in Menlo Park, San Jose and Campbell; call your preferred location directly to purchase. Their website is backayard.net.

Local honey

There are numerous options for locally made honey, including NFO Bee Co (nfobeecos.com), and Allied Arts Apiaries in Menlo Park (on Instagram under the same name), State Street Honey in Redwood City (statestreethoney.com/rwc), Dave's Backyard Bees in Palo Alto and Los Altos Hills (nextdoor.com/pages/daves-backyard-bees-palo-alto-ca/photos/) and Bay Area Bees in San Mateo (pcfma.org/vendors/bay-area-bees-san-mateo). Local wine

Look to the Peninsula's small, independent wineries for bottles, wine club subscriptions and virtual tastings as gifts. Find a list to get you started at winesofthesantacruzmountains.com/wineries. Or, support a local wine shop with a gift card — our favorites include Vin Vino Wine and Salvia in Palo Alto, Vineyard Gate in Millbrae and Table Wine Merchant in Pacifica.

Vina Mercato fresh pasta and sauces

Vina Enoteca's new Italian market, Vina Mercato, is stocked with edible gift possibilities, from imported olive oil to wine, but the fresh, handmade pastas and sauces — tortellini filled with prosciutto, parmigiana, mortadella and pork loin, anyone? — might be the most alluring. You can also opt for pre-selected gift boxes filled with wine, Baiocchi cookies, Bomba calabrese spread and other Italian goodies. Order online at vinaenoteca.com or visit the market at 700 Welch Road #110, Palo Alto. Open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donato Enoteca cooking class

If you give a friend or family member one of Redwood City Italian favorite Donato Enoteca's virtual cooking classes, consider getting one for yourself so you can cook together, but apart. Learn how to make agnolotti del plin, pasta carbonara, cacio e pepe and zuppa di pesce in upcoming classes (which also happen to be on sale right now).

Place order for pickup by the day before the class or for shipping by at least three days before. To learn more visit donationslinestore.com/collections/cooking-wine-tasting-virtual-classes.

Local Lady Larder

Peruse As Kneaded Bakery's online Local Lady Larder (askeadedbakery.square.site/local-lady-larder) for gift ideas from local, women-owned food businesses, like truffles and milk tea bitrate from NeoCocoa in Belmont, slow-roasted honey-sesame cashews from Nuts+Nuts in San Mateo and raspberry meringues from Délícé Glacé in Redwood City. As Kneaded is run by Palo Alto native Iliana Berkowitz; her bread is available at grocery stores throughout the Peninsula (find a list at askeadebakery.com/wheretofindus) and would also make for a great edible gift.

See EDIBLE GIFT GUIDE, page 27

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Here come the Holidays

Give your parents a gift that helps them live better in their own home... A Gift Membership in Avenidas Village!

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www.avenidasvillage.org

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Make magic in your home this holiday: shop curated ingredients, fresh produce, quality meat, and fine wines.
Iacopi Farms heirloom beans

The local answer to cult-bean-favorite Rancho Gordo: Iacopi Farms. The Half Moon Bay farm makes some of the highest quality heirloom legumes, from Italian butter beans to Prim Manteca, a variety from Chile. Order online at tinyurl.com/hmbbeans or pick up a couple bags of dried beans from Iacopi’s stands at local farmers markets (including Mountain View and Burlingame on Sundays and College of San Mateo on Saturdays). Visit them online at facebook.com/iacopifarms.

Noodle in a Haystack mala sauce

During the shutdown, Clint and Yoko Tan, the masterminds behind Daly City ramen pop-up Noodle in a Haystack, started selling their wonderfully spicy mala sauce, which they like to describe as a hybrid of chili oil and Chinese XO sauce that can be used like a hot sauce or for cooking. It’s a blend of several kinds of chile, Szechuan pepper, kelp, hemp, tamari smoked fish, garlic, scallion and sesame. The mala sauce, as well as their “veji-chile garlic, scallion and sesame,” are available through Fishmonger Don’s website, fishmongerdon.com. Do also follow Noodle in a Haystack on Instagram (instagram.com/noodleinhaystick), where the couple posts when they’re selling Yoko’s pillowy Japanese milk bread and other homemade goods.

Binka Bites bibingka

I’d gladly wake up to a box of Binka Bites’ bibingka on my doorstep any day. The South San Francisco bakery’s coconut and rice flour cupcakes are inspired by Filipino bibingka, a baked rice cake, and come in flavors likeube flan (topped withube cream cheese frosting and leche flan) and mango cream (filled withmango and topped withvanilla whipped creamfrosting and grahamsnarrows). Order online at binkabites.com for pickup or delivery. For pickup, orders must be placed at least three days prior to your requested date.

Gourmet Haus Staudt imported German goods

Gourmet Haus Staudt’s Redwood City market is full of gift-friendly German and European goods, from spätzle mixes, bratwurst and Milka chocolate bars to rum stollen. Plus, of course, an excellent imported and local beer selection. The store is at 2615 Broadway St., Redwood City. Open Monday noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Online at gourmethausstaudt.com.

Romolo’s cannoli kit

Romolo’s has been making stellar cannoli in San Mateo since 1968 using a secret family recipe: Sigona’s is partnering with the family-owned business to offer cannoli kits for the holidays. It comes with three plain and three chocolate cannoli shells, garnishes (chocolate chips, chopped pistachios and glazed cherries) and cream to fill the cannoli. The kit has about a two-week shelf life. You can send it to someone through Sigona’s home delivery platform, order at sigonashome.com/shop/product/romolos-cannoli-kit/. A local CSA box subscription

Gourmet Haus Staudt’s Redwood City market is full of fresh produce — and support a local farm — with a community supported agriculture (CSA) box subscription. Oya Organic Farm, which is based in Hollister but run by a Palo Alto resident, offers boxes with seven to nine different varieties of organic produce available for local pickup on a weekly or monthly basis. Or, gift your entire neighborhood by teaming up for a CSA box pickup — if you have at least five people interested in picking up at your house or workplace, reach out to Sigona’s to set up for local pickup on a weekly or monthly basis.

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@pawweekly.com

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