

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

JULY 3, 2020 | VOL. 55 NO. 33



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

How 12 million pounds of food get distributed during a pandemic

A day in the life of Second Harvest food bank, now serving a half-million people

By Elena Kadvany

A line of cars stretched through the parking lot of the Mountain View Senior Center on a recent Tuesday morning, drivers waiting patiently for boxes of fresh produce, milk, eggs, canned goods and chicken to be placed in their trunks by masked volunteers.

One young mother left quickly to prepare food for her baby, while two older women filled shopping carts with free food so they wouldn't have to spend money at the grocery store this month. Jose Quijano, who has been out of work since March 16, was picking up free groceries for the fifth time.

They are among the half million people in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties now relying on Second Harvest of Silicon Valley for food assistance during the pandemic.

Since the coronavirus hit the Bay Area, ushering in a shutdown that's ravaging local

businesses and spiking unemployment, Second Harvest Food Bank has seen an astronomical rise in demand. The nonprofit went from serving about 270,000 people a month to 500,000 — an 85% increase.

Second Harvest expects to distribute 12 million pounds of food in June. Pre-pandemic, 6 million pounds in a month would have been a milestone.

The nonprofit's phone hotline has fielded as many as 1,200 calls a day, many from people looking for food assistance for the first time.

Second Harvest CEO Leslie Bacho, who led the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank through the Great Recession in 2008, said the almost overnight, dramatic increase in need is "unprecedented."

"You suddenly have so many people who just a week ago thought they were pretty financially secure," she said. It's hard

See **FOOD BANK**, page 14



Magali Gauthier

Volunteers Hana Rust and Steven Jing place boxes and bags of food from Second Harvest of Silicon Valley in the trunk of a car at the Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center in Mountain View. Farmers market-style distribution sites have been replaced by drive-thrus due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Three cities unite to tackle fireworks problem

By Sue Dremann

Loud explosions on East Palo Alto's city streets formed a backdrop for a public meeting on Monday night as city council members and chiefs of police and fire departments from Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto met to discuss the growing problem of fireworks.

The virtual meeting on June 29, which was convened by the city of East Palo Alto and chaired by Mayor Regina Wallace-Jones, laid out specific steps city leaders hope to take to reduce the number of explosive devices that have been emanating from nightfall until the early morning hours in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park for at least the last two months. Fireworks,

except for those designated as "safe and sane," are illegal in the three cities and possession is a misdemeanor.

City leaders planned to take a two-pronged approach: increasing enforcement in the short term and outlining efforts to change the culture behind the use of fireworks in the weeks and months ahead.

The fireworks are largely associated with July 4, and to some extent, New Year's Eve, but this year's massive and persistent explosions have alarmed local leaders. The illegal fireworks have been bigger and more powerful than in years past. The firecrackers and bottle rockets of a few years ago have given way to M-80s, M-1000s and mortars that shower yards and homes

with sparks. It's more than a colorful display. The booms are a public health issue, impacting seniors, triggering trauma for veterans, causing lost sleep for many residents and building anxiety in pets.

The fireworks are also destructive. Last month, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District has put out six fires, including ones that threatened homes, Chief Harold Schapelhouman said.

Police chiefs from Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto also spoke at the meeting. East Palo Alto police Chief Al Pardini said the large increase is thought to be due to pent-up stress from the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, canceled fireworks shows and the accessibility of large fireworks in nearby

states, particularly Nevada. The devices also are more powerful because vendors have shifted to consumers the more powerful fireworks they usually sell for professional shows since the public celebrations have been canceled due to public health concerns.

"We are going to be dealing with airborne devices," Pardini said. Officers are trying to track them and are out on the streets pursuing the offenders. Next week, he plans to release information about the department's current investigations surrounding fireworks use, he said.

Menlo Park Mayor Cecilia Taylor said the city has received more than 200 calls regarding fireworks complaints. "It's been

hard to sleep at night," she said.

Palo Alto police Chief Bob Jonsen said they have not found anyone in the city in possession of fireworks, but they have responded to 28 calls regarding noise complaints about fireworks and 10 calls related to firearms. They found three incidents where bullets were falling to the ground. The complaints have taken place from 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. and the fireworks were observed to be coming from East Palo Alto, he said.

Menlo Park and East Palo Alto police will be beefing up staff for the July 4 holiday. Menlo Park police Chief Dave Bertini said he is doubling staffing, with increased patrols in the Belle

See **FIREWORKS**, page 17

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 19 | ARTS 20 | FOOD & DRINK 22

Read up-to-the-minute news on AlmanacNews.com

Get a head start to finding your home.

As we adjust to these changing times, our agents are proud to support their local communities and committed to helping you find your perfect place for you to call home.

Access thousands of new listings before anyone else, **only at [compass.com](https://www.compass.com).**



210 Atherton Avenue, Atherton
6 Bed | 6.5 Bath | \$17,800,000
[210athertonave.com](https://www.210athertonave.com)

Anita Hunter
408.930.1265
DRE 01294883



65 Tripp Court, Woodside
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | \$5,495,000
[65trippcourt.com](https://www.65trippcourt.com)

Evan Kohen
925.323.0746
DRE 01963050



355 Old La Honda Road, Woodside
5 Bed | 3 Bath | \$4,500,000
[355oldlahondaroad.com](https://www.355oldlahondaroad.com)

Erika Demma
650.766.7780
DRE 01230766



145 Bear Gulch Road, San Gregorio
1 Bed | 1 Bath | \$3,995,000
[sangregorioranches.com](https://www.sangregorioranches.com)

Scott P Hayes
650.245.5044
DRE 01401243

Karin Bird
650.207.0940
DRE 00929166



1472 Prince Edward Way, Sunnyvale
4 Bed | 2 Bath | \$2,088,000
[1472princeedwardway.com](https://www.1472princeedwardway.com)

Dorothy Liu
650.492.0859
DRE 01777158



2061 Anthony Drive, Campbell
4 Bed | 3 Bath | \$1,698,000
[2061anthony.com](https://www.2061anthony.com)

Allison Hsieh
415.316.2870
DRE 01233377



3008 McGarvey Avenue, Redwood City
3 Bed | 2 Bath | \$1,648,000
[compass.com](https://www.compass.com)

Julie Hadidi
408.921.1091
DRE 01955868



1132 Hawthorne Drive, San Mateo
2 Bed | 1 Bath | \$1,399,000
[compass.com](https://www.compass.com)

Buffy Bianchini
650.888.6379
DRE 00878979

Mario Andrighetto
650.796.4902
DRE 01993000

Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Numbers 01079009 and 01272467. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.





COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

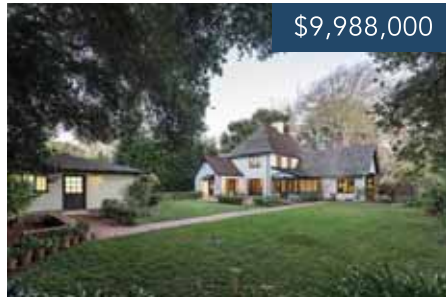
2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer's Agent

Waived if DeLeon Buyer's Agent



\$4,645,000

301 Stanford Ave., Menlo Park
5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
www.301Stanford.com



\$9,988,000

435 Santa Rita Ave., Palo Alto
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.435SantaRita.com



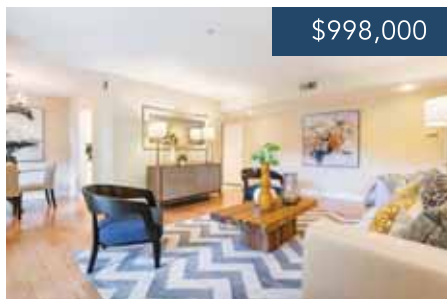
\$5,988,000

848 Southampton Drive, Palo Alto
5 Bd | 6 Bth (4 full, 2 half)
www.848SouthamptonDr.com



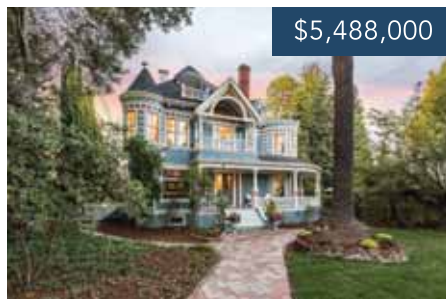
\$6,888,000

734 Channing Ave., Palo Alto
6 Bd | 5 Bth
www.734Channing.com



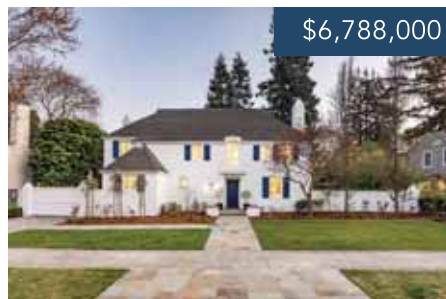
\$998,000

3069 Middlefield Rd #102, Palo Alto
1 Bd | 1 Bth
www.3069Middlefield102.com



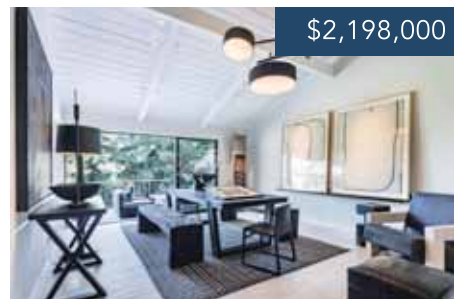
\$5,488,000

1023 Forest Ave, Palo Alto
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.1023Forest.com



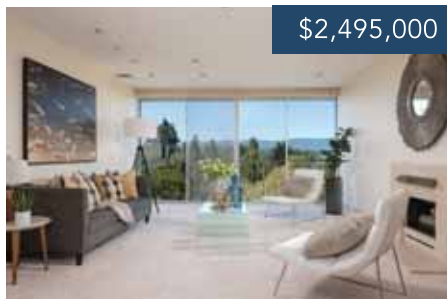
\$6,788,000

1290 Pitman, Palo Alto
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.1290Pitman.com



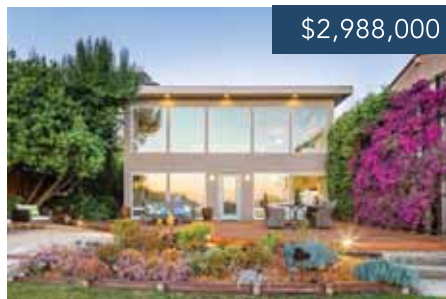
\$2,198,000

164 Sand Hill Circle, Menlo Park
2 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.164SandHill.com



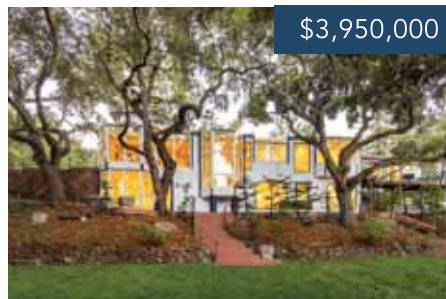
\$2,495,000

1330 University Dr #73, Menlo Park
3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.1330University73.com



\$2,988,000

771 Lakeview Way, Emerald Hills
3 Bd | 3 Bth
www.771Lakeview.com



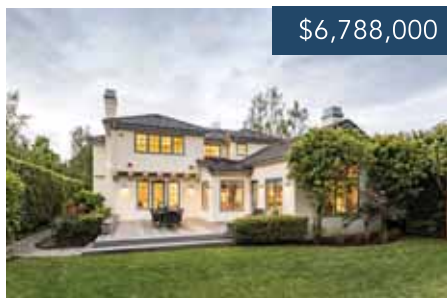
\$3,950,000

12374 Melody Ln, Los Altos Hills
6 Bd | 4 Bth
www.12374MelodyLn.com



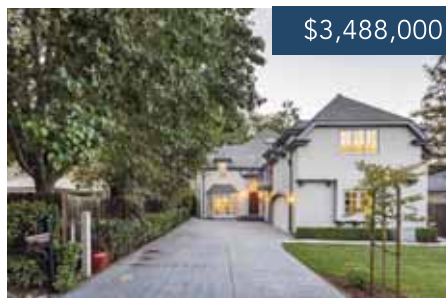
\$6,988,000

11491 Old Ranch Rd, Los Altos Hills
6 Bd | 6.5 Bth
www.11491OldRanch.com



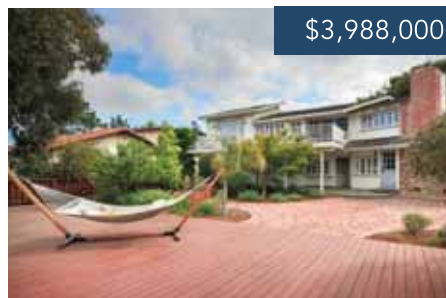
\$6,788,000

765 Cotton Street, Menlo Park
6 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.765Cotton.com



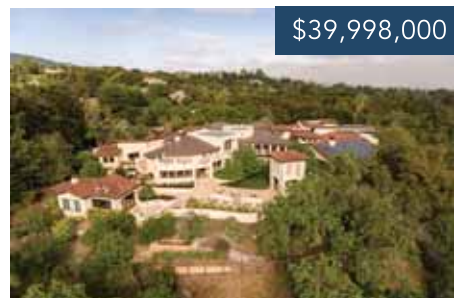
\$3,488,000

2020 Ashton Ave., Menlo Park
5 Bd | 4 Bth
www.2020Ashton.com



\$3,988,000

5887 Arboretum Drive, Los Altos
4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.5887Arboretum.com



\$39,998,000

27500 La Vida Real, Los Altos Hills
5 Bd | 12 Bth (7 full, 5 half)
www.27500LaVida.com



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

Michael Repka | 650.900.7000 | DRE #01854880
michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Enjoy local takeout, delivery and outdoor dining options



OSTERIA | Cucina Toscana
Palo Alto

**To Go • Takeout
Wine To Go**

Everyday: 4:30pm - 9:00pm

Free delivery • Order on our website

247 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto
650 328-5700

OsteriaToscanaPaloAlto.com



Patio Dining Now Open

Chicken Tikka Masala With Basmati Rice

zareen's
MADE WITH LOVE AND INTEGRITY

Contemporary Indian Pakistani

One of the Top 100 Restaurants in the Bay Area.

Palo Alto Restaurant
365 S. California Ave.
(650) 600-8438

Mountain View Restaurant
1477 Plymouth St., #C
(650) 641-0335

Order online at www.zareensrestaurant.com

Café
PRO BONO



MEDITERRANEAN ITALIAN CUISINE
TAKE OUT

Open for to-go orders from 12 noon-8 pm
10% discount off food 20% discount off wine
650-326-1626

2437 Birch Street, Palo Alto
www.cafeprobono.com



Saint Michael's Alley

Patio Dining Now Open
Tuesday-Sunday, 5-8:30 pm

3 course prix fixe menu

Takeout menu also available

Wine to go ... yes, wine and cocktails to go!
50% off of wine bottles to go

140 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto
(650) 326-2530 www.stmikes.com



evvia
ESTIATORIO

TAKE OUT ORDERS

Lunch: Monday - Friday 11:30AM - 2:30PM

Dinner: Monday - Sunday 5:00PM - 8:00PM

All wines 30% off

Call for:
In-Person Orders • Curbside Pick Up

420 Emerson Street • Palo Alto
650.326.0983 • evvia.net



EST. 1974
SUNDANCE
THE STEAKHOUSE

PRIME TIME!
Simply a cut above the Rest.

1921 EL CAMINO REAL, PALO ALTO
650.321.6798 | sundancesteakhouse.com



**WE ARE OPEN EVERYDAY
FOR OUTDOOR DINING**

From 11:30am-2:00pm • 5:00pm-9:00pm

Call Or Order Online For Takeout Or Delivery

448 S. California Avenue, Palo Alto
(650) 600-8310

www.terunpizza.com



CAFFERIACE

*Spacious piazza with
safe social distancing.*

Patio Dining • Takeout • Curbside Pickup

Lunch and Dinner: Wednesday-Sunday
11:30am-2:00pm and 5:00-9:00pm

200 Sheridan Ave., Palo Alto
650.328.0407

WWW.CAFFERIACE.COM

SHOW SOME LOCAL LOVE

Support local businesses and help our communities thrive.

- Select Local Businesses for Your Needs
- Shop at Local Businesses Online or Over the Phone
- Purchase Gift Cards
- Order Takeout or Delivery
- Spread The Word About Businesses That Are Open

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

A sign on Highway 101 in Menlo Park reminds drivers to follow safety precautions. The Bay Area is seeing a surge in coronavirus cases, including in neighboring Santa Clara County.

With COVID-19 cases on the rise, state orders new restrictions for 19 counties

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County on Tuesday reported 63 new cases of COVID-19, raising its total to 3,311. There was no change to the death toll, which has stayed at 108 since Monday. Forty-one people were hospitalized as of Monday.

Santa Clara County, which is being monitored by the state due to the rise in its cases, reported 210 new cases of the

coronavirus on Wednesday, bringing its total to 4,572. Two more people have died of the disease, raising the death toll to 158. Eighty people are hospitalized, four of which are new.

New restrictions for 19 counties

With COVID-19 cases once again on the rise in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Wednesday banned indoor dining in 19 counties for

three weeks and announced that parking facilities at state beaches will be closed in the Bay Area and in Southern California this weekend.

Newsom made the announcement during a Wednesday news conference, where he addressed the growing number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The state saw 5,196 positive cases on Tuesday,

See **COVID-19**, page 15

San Mateo County inmates win demands after 10-day hunger strike

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Rodrigo Prieto and other inmates in a San Mateo County jail didn't eat for 10 days, striking in protest of unfair food prices and a lack of video visits.

But then, they won.

Prieto led a hunger strike within the Maguire Correctional Facility, a San Mateo County jail located in Redwood City, that demanded an end to price gouging within the county's

commissary system and pushed for expanded phone and video visitation access for inmates.

The Almanac spoke with him on his last day of the strike, June 25. His body ached, his joints hurt and his eyes had started to look sunken in, he said.

But by then, his cause had started to gain momentum. Outside the Redwood City jail that night, a group of about 40 people rallied, shouting their support for him and his fellow hunger strikers.

"The only thing they have to

protest with is their body," Missy, an activist who was formerly incarcerated, said to the crowd. The protesters stood outside, banging drums and pots and pans, blaring sirens, blowing whistles, honking car horns and chanting statements such as, "We hear you. We see you. We will fight for you. We love you. Your voice is not lost."

The rally was followed by an email campaign, with at least 50 people emailing the San Mateo

See **HUNGER STRIKE**, page 18

High schools to reopen with a mix of online and in-school learning

By Tyler Callister

Almanac Staff Writer

After weeks of uncertainty about the fate of student learning amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Sequoia Union High School District has announced that students will return part-time to school campuses this fall.

The district, which includes Woodside and Menlo-Atherton high schools and TIDE Academy, will offer a mix of online and in-school classes, known as a "hybrid" model, according to a June 25 letter released by Superintendent Mary Streshly.

The announcement came after two contentious and widely viewed virtual school board meetings. At the board's June 10 meeting, over 300 community members tuned in to the livestream and over 900 submitted public comments, with many parents and students imploring the school district to open campuses in the fall.

District leaders presented a final report to the school board at its meeting on June 24. The board voted 4-1, with Carrie Du Bois opposed, in favor of the hybrid learning model.

"The recommendations in the final report took into consideration the voices of staff, parents, and students and proposed a multi-stage reopening

plan that is responsive to health conditions as determined by the San Mateo County's health director in partnership with the superintendent of the San Mateo County Department of Education," Streshly wrote.

Students will begin the fall semester on Aug. 17 — five days after originally scheduled — in a transition phase in which students rotate on-campus attendance in order to train students and staff on new safety procedures, according to Streshly.

After the transition phase — which may last a few weeks — students will remain in stable cohorts, with their classes a blend of online and on-campus learning that will have only 50% of students on campus at a time. On Wednesdays, school will be fully online, with the two cohorts rotating on-campus days during the rest of the week. Schools will survey students with health questionnaires and do temperature checks upon students' arrival on campus.

The hybrid plan only applies to fall semester at this juncture, and Streshly wrote that it could change depending on local health orders.

"While we are looking forward to seeing our students on campus in the fall, it is important to remember that our

See **REOPENING**, page 8



Magali Gauthier

Menlo-Atherton High School's classrooms have been empty since March. When school resumes in August, students in the Sequoia Union High School District will have to wear masks and will only spend two days a week on campus as they combine online learning with time in the classroom.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028

NOTICE OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Municipal Election will be held in the Town of Portola Valley on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, for the following officers:

Council Seats:

A member of the Town Council to fill the office now held by Ann Wengert for a full term of four years;

A member of the Town Council to fill the office now held by Jeff Aalfs for a full term of four years;

The nomination period begins on Monday, July 13, 2020, and closes on Friday, August 7, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

If nomination papers for an incumbent elective officer are not filed by 5:00 pm on Friday, August 7, 2020, 5:00 pm, the filing period shall be extended to Wednesday, August 12, 2020 by 5:00 pm.

If no one or only one person is nominated for an elective office, appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by Section 10229, Elections Code of the State of California.

The polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Sharon Hanlon
Portola Valley Town Clerk
June 25, 2020

Established 1965

The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park,
Atherton, Portola Valley,
and Woodside for over 50 years

NEWSROOM

Editor
Andrea Gemmet (223-6537)

Assistant Editors
Julia Brown (223-6531)
Heather Zimmerman (223-6515)

Staff Writers
Kate Bradshaw (223-6536)
Tyler Callister (223-6588)
Angela Swartz (223-6529)

Contributors Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

Special Sections Editor
Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

Chief Visual Journalist
Magali Gauthier (223-6530)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager
Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers Linda Atilano, Amy Levine,
Paul Llewellyn, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing
Tom Zahralis (223-6570)

Display Advertising Sales
(223-6570)

Real Estate Manager
Neal Fine (223-6583)

Legal Advertising
Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager
Kevin Legarda (223-6597)

Sales & Production Coordinators
Diane Martin (223-6584),
Nico Navarrete (223-6582)

The Almanac is published
every Friday at

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025

■ **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ **Email news** and photos with captions
to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Email letters** to:
Letters@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Advertising:** (650) 854-2626
Advertising Fax: (650) 223-7570

■ **Classified Advertising:** (650) 854-0858

■ **Submit Obituaries:**
AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2020 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969. Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 for two years. Go to AlmanacNews.com/circulation.

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



CRIME BRIEFS

San Jose woman killed in crash

A 23-year-old San Jose resident died in a solo vehicle crash Monday afternoon on southbound Interstate Highway 280 near Portola Valley, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The crash was reported around 2:30 p.m. on Highway 280 north of Alpine Road, not far from the Stanford Dish.

According to the CHP, a white 2006 Toyota Tundra was traveling south when, for unknown reasons, the motorist drove onto the right shoulder and about 20 feet up an embankment, crashing into a tree before the car came to rest between two lanes of traffic a half-mile north of Alpine Road. A majority of the damage was on the truck's roof, most of which came off, and its left side, CHP Officer Art Montiel said.

The driver died at the scene, Montiel said. She was found wearing her seatbelt.

She was identified as Marley Marie Gregory, the San Mateo County Coroner's Office said.

Investigators are looking into what caused the crash, including whether speed, drugs or alcohol played a role, according to Montiel.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 15

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open Space District reopens restrooms

Restrooms have been reopened at the parks operated by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, offering visitors relief when nature calls.

The open space district has also reopened its off-leash dog area at Pulgas Ridge Preserve near Redwood City and its picnic tables at the Purisima Creek, Skyline Ridge and Windy Hill open space preserves.

The district's backpacking camp at Black Mountain in the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve and permit-only parking lots at El Sereno, Monte Bello and La Honda Creek are now open, too.

Visitors are still required to maintain safe social distances of 6 feet from people not in their household and wear face coverings when they can't do so. Masks are recommended at all times when recreating outdoors.

Paper maps are not available, so people are advised to download a map before leaving home or taking a photo of the maps at park entrances before they hike.

The open space district advises checking on Google Maps to get real-time data on how busy an area is before traveling there. People are advised to avoid areas when parking lots are full.

Go to is.gd/midpencovid for the latest updates.

County assessments reach record high

San Mateo County's property assessment roll increased by \$16.7 billion, or 7.02%, over last year, according to a June 30 announcement by county Assessor Mark Church.

"The combined assessment roll has increased by \$113.7 billion from 10 years ago. This is the tenth consecutive year in which a new historical high has been set," Church said in a statement.

Since the Jan. 1 lien date for 2020, however, much has changed, Church said.

The shelter-in-place mandate likely impacted retail and hotel properties. Many property owners of commercial and residential properties lost rent and are subject to eviction moratoriums, he said. "We anticipate that these disruptions will have a negative impact on the 2021-22 Assessment Roll," he said.

The unemployment rate in San Mateo County, while it has risen to 11.6%, he said, is still the second-lowest in the state, and the local tech and life science industries are strong. It's still not clear what the pandemic's impact on single family home values will be, but early indications show that demand still outweighs supply for homes in the county, Church said.

The city of Menlo Park ranked fourth in the county for the highest percentage growth in assessed value at 9.22%. In the top three were Brisbane at 14.3%, Burlingame at 11.2% and South San Francisco at 10.9%. Menlo Park also ranked fourth in the county among cities with the highest dollar growth in assessed value, at \$1.91 billion. Ranked higher were South San Francisco at \$2.27

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 17



ZOOM LIKE A PRO

Senior Planet's free classes help you use Zoom to get fit, talk to family & friends, continue your learning, & more!

SENIOR PLANET  Avenidas
Aging with Attitude

www.seniorplanet.org/online

Supervisors extend county eviction moratoriums to July 28

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

With unemployment looming at more than five times its usual rate, and many residents feeling anxiety about paying rent, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted last week to further extend moratoriums on residential evictions throughout the county and on commercial evictions in unincorporated county areas until July 28.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order at the end of May authorizing local jurisdictions to extend eviction moratoriums through that date.

Under the ordinance, renters whose ability to pay rent has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are required to notify their landlord within 14 days of receiving an emergency regulation notice — which landlords are required to provide to their tenants. Renters are liable for unpaid rent within 180 days after the emergency ordinance ends.

Courts have suspended eviction proceedings for the time being as well.

In public comments, a number of local residents and leaders expressed concerns that the extension did not go far enough.

They asked the county supervisors to consider extending the repayment period for tenants beyond 180 days, or converting their debt to civil debt.

Renters, said Nazanin Salehi, an attorney with Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, are “not just willy-nilly choosing not to pay their rent,” she said. They must demonstrate they cannot pay rent to be eligible for the protections offered in the ordinance.

They are unable to pay rent through no fault of their own, and will be vulnerable to evictions once they are allowed to proceed again without sufficient time to make up for back rent in a troubled economy.

“You cannot draw blood from a stone,” she said.

In a May letter from the

nonprofit legal services provider again urging the supervisors to not just extend the eviction moratorium, but provide renters additional protections during the pandemic, the nonprofit stated, “Tenants will be forced to pay their future rents on time or face eviction, to simultaneously make payments toward the balloon payments of rent debt that have been accruing, and to pay for other necessities like food, healthcare, and utilities.

“Such obligations will place extreme financial hardships on vulnerable families during a time where future job and income stability is all but certain.”

The nonprofit added that measures to convert rent debts to civil debts have been adopted by other Bay Area jurisdictions, like Alameda and Solano counties and the cities of Berkeley and Oakland.

Doing so requires tenants to pay the rents they have agreed to, but eliminates the danger of losing their homes if they are unable to pay the rent back within 90 to 180 days after the eviction moratorium expires.

Landlords, rather than follow the traditional eviction process by filing action for an unlawful detainer, would pursue unpaid rent debts through small claims actions, civil actions, collections actions, or negotiated payment plans, according to the nonprofit.

A health care provider at the Fair Oaks Health Center in North Fair Oaks said she has seen people experiencing high levels of anxiety related to the fear of becoming homeless and urged the supervisors to do what they can to reduce those anxieties and extend the rent moratorium for vulnerable residents.

In the years before the COVID-19 pandemic, San Mateo County’s unemployment rate hovered around 2%, routinely one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state.

That number has more than quintupled from 2.1% in January to 11.1% of the labor force in May, according to statistics from the state Employment

Development Department.

And even before the pandemic, more than 20% of Black renter households and about 25% of Hispanic and Latino renter households within the county spent 50% or more of their income on rent, according to a 2018 study by the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo.

Others, such as representatives from landlord groups, opposed extending the ordinance beyond the time frame the governor has authorized, arguing that some small-business property owners are concerned about paying property taxes or mortgages without rent revenues coming in.

Rhovy Lyn Antonio of the California Apartment Association said she sought to ensure that homeowners and property owners receive payment for back rent in a “manner equal to both sides.”

Go to is.gd/smcrent to access the county’s webpage for more information on help for commercial and residential renters during the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com


VERY REAL LOCAL NEWS

Join today:
SupportLocalJournalism.org

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Edwards Luggage
Store Closing Sale

30% to 50% Off Everything



After 74 years we are closing our doors.
Great Savings on Tumi, Briggs & Riley, Swiss Army, Eagle Creek, Longchamp, Montblanc, Northface, and more.

Limited to Stock on Hand.
Some exclusions may apply.

edwards everything travel

Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto
Monday-Saturday 11 am - 6 pm, Sunday 12 pm-6 pm
650-325-3308

LEHUA GREENMAN



Happy Birthday America!
The HOME of the FREE because of the BRAVE!
Happy 4th of July!

650.245.1845 COMPASS

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

Ralph Everett Townsend, 87, a U.S. Air Force veteran and Portola Valley resident, died on June 17.

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



Let us take the stress of running errands off your plate. We have a large team of caregivers ready to travel throughout the Bay Area.

CI-GO Offers:

- Grocery shopping
- Dry Cleaning
- Medication Pick Ups
- Mail Services

Our top priority is the safety of you, your loved ones, and our community. We’re Here to Help!

Call us today at (650) 352-4007 or intake@careindeed.com to find out more about our program!

www.careindeed.com

CareIndeed
The Heart of Home Care.

ERRANDS TO RUN? LEAN ON US!

All Your Essentials Delivered Safely to Your Front Door

CI-GO

Order online and get 10% off your first service
Promo code: **CAREINDEED**

<https://info.careindeed.com/ci-go>

Menlo fire board OKs \$57M budget, eliminates new positions

By Julia Brown
Almanac Assistant Editor

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District board unanimously approved a new budget June 16 after removing funds for proposed new positions and staff reclassifications.

The decision on the 2020-21 fiscal year budget followed a discussion led by board member Chuck Bernstein, who said that he felt more analysis was needed before the board approved the additions and reclassifications. The district's Finance Committee will now review the proposed staff changes, and the board could decide to approve them later in the fiscal year, which began July 1. Staff had proposed funding three new battalion chiefs, one new information technology analyst and three part-time emergency management coordinators, as well as reclassifying four positions.

"I'm concerned about the

addition to headcount," Bernstein said. "I'd like us to take all of those items out, both the additions and reclassifications ... and act on them on their own merits with a hearing on each one, because I think these things should be justified.

"I don't know what these positions are, I don't know what the people are going to do, I don't know whether we need them," he said later in the meeting. "It would be wonderful if we were back in February and we had a meeting to talk about these things and understand them, but here we are two weeks before the budget has to be approved and we haven't had a chance to discuss them."

There was also confusion during the meeting about whether the three battalion chief positions had already been approved at a previous board meeting. Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said it was his understanding that the board had greenlighted

the new roles; Bernstein said he thought the board had approved funds for management training, but not specifically for new positions. His amendment to the budget that the board approved included the addition of an undetermined amount of money for management training.

"I'm for these funds, I agree with the funds — I'm just not necessarily agreeing with three more bodies sitting in firehouses," Bernstein said. "I want to see the justification for that, particularly knowing that our calls are down now."

Board vice president Jim McLaughlin said that, moving forward, unfilled non-line positions should be subject to board approval.

"If we think we're so special that we can watch these other government jurisdictions around us bleed personnel and budgets and that we're somehow immune to it, I think that's something we need to reconsider," he said.

The budget projects \$60 million in total revenues for 2020-21 — including \$54.7 million in property tax revenue, an increase of 4% over last fiscal year — and \$57 million in expenditures (although that estimate was provided before the board decided to leave out new positions and reclassifications). The district initially projected expenditures would include \$45 million for wages and benefits, \$9.5 million for other operating costs and \$2.5 million toward California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) unfunded pension liability. Last year, the district saw \$60.3 million in revenues and had \$58.1 million in expenditures.

District staff cut nearly \$6 million from the 2019-20 budget and \$5 million from 2020-21 in response to the coronavirus pandemic. In the new fiscal year the cuts include halting the purchasing plan for apparatuses, reducing travel expenditures and removing a training prop

from the budget.

The district's capital improvement projects budget for 2020-21 is \$5.5 million, which is earmarked for the project to rebuild Station 4 in Menlo Park. The station, located at the corner of Alameda de las Pulgas and Valparaiso Avenue, was built in 1949 and is the oldest in the district.

Board election

At the same meeting, the board authorized a November election for two members' seats: Rob Silano and Virginia Chang Kiraly.

Silano and Chang Kiraly were elected in November 2011. Directors serve four-year terms, with elections held every two years.

Silano confirmed in an email that he is running for reelection. Chang Kiraly did not respond to requests for comment before The Almanac's press deadline Wednesday. ▣

Email Julia Brown at jbrown@almanacnews.com

Atherton budget remains healthy, despite COVID-19

By Tyler Callister
Almanac Staff Writer

The Atherton City Council voted 5-0 to approve the town's 2020-2021 fiscal year budget at its June 17 meeting, with signs that the town is weathering the storm of economic impacts brought on by COVID-19.

A staff report shows that the town's general fund revenue is projected to be approximately

\$16.3 million for the fiscal year, which began July 1. Property taxes make up roughly 72% (\$12 million) of the town's general revenue. The budget reflects a single-year revenue surplus of roughly 8%.

"In general, the FY 2020/21 Operating Budget reflects a positive outlook, despite potential short- and long-term impacts from COVID-19," wrote town Finance Director Robert Barron in the staff report. "The

town is weathering the short-term impact of COVID-19 with anticipation that a quick recovery period will resume with ramp up of town residential construction and the continued construction of the Town Center project."

After having halted most residential construction for seven weeks due to COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders, San Mateo County health officials began allowing residential construction again at the beginning of May, allowing Atherton to begin making revenue from issuing

permits again.

Atherton's resiliency during the COVID-19 era is due largely to the town's reliance on property taxes, City Manager George Rodricks said in an email.

"Like other communities, we have our financial and operational challenges due to COVID-19, loss of revenues, etc., but, because we are not reliant on sales tax or transient occupancy taxes (hotel taxes), our revenue streams don't fluctuate up and down as much and are less 'people' dependent," he wrote. "As a result, we are less

impacted financially as a result of COVID-19's impacts."

Atherton's new Town Center remains the town's primary capital improvement project, with a recommended expenditure of \$16.6 million, according to the city staff report. After having halted construction due to COVID-19 concerns in March, work on the project resumed on April 9, and is slated for completion midway through the 2020-2021 fiscal year. ▣

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com

Employment

Vice President

Summit Partners LP seeks Vice President for Menlo Park, CA location to lead presentation & discussion of new investment opportunities to Summit managing directors & investment committee, & engage w/ limited partners for portfolio & fund reporting, & fund-raising. Position reqs Bach or equivalent degree in Finance, Business Admin or related field. 5 years relevant private equity or investment banking exp w/ demonstrable deal track record. 5 years exp advising clients on capital raising, mergers & acquisitions & other strategic transactions; Exp developing financial models to forecast future outlook for business & building quantitative analyses to assess key metrics & health of business; and Transactional exp encompassing software, hardware, internet, & media industries. 5% international travel and 25% domestic travel for client and team meetings Background/reference checks required. To apply, submit resume to careers@summitpartners.com and reference "Vice President" in the subject line.

The Almanac offers advertising for Employment, as well as Home and Business Services.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawebweekly.com.

REOPENING

continued from page 5

plans may change in the event our county issues new health directives, as (the district) is required to adhere to updated orders," she said. "We understand that last-minute changes in plans can cause upset and other difficulties, and we commit to sending out a community update by Aug. 1, 2020 to confirm our targeted schedule of Aug. 17 for starting school."

The chance for students to return to campus this fall contrasts sharply with the spring semester, which saw all students learning from home for three months. After Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered all California schools to close in mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic, students and staff at district schools had to scramble to adapt to a new, fully online learning environment, often with mixed results.

In public comments submitted

for the Sequoia Union High School District's June 10 board meeting, many parents and students complained that the fully online spring semester was a challenge for both teachers and students.

District parent Karen Paluska, said that her son had difficulty learning through online instruction. "Remote learning is not working," she wrote. "Our children's education, especially in high school, is way too important for us to sacrifice an entire year to remote learning ... To learn the core content, kids were expected to watch videos and read things to essentially teach themselves. We know that our kids are not prepared to teach themselves subjects like Algebra 3 or chemistry — this is why we're sending them to school in the first place."

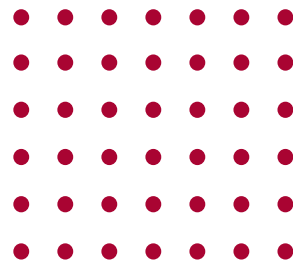
Spring 2020's at-home semester also impacted students' extracurricular activities. High school sports were canceled, along with

cherished traditions like prom. And for Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high school seniors, graduation day came in a way that they never expected: Through the computer screen in livestreamed ceremonies, or in the form of car parades that kept students at a distance from each other.

Following Streshly's letter, Menlo-Atherton High School Principal Simone Rick-Kennel wrote to parents, reinforcing the district's plan for the fall and offering her perspective.

"Reinventing school this way is a huge undertaking and we'll be working most of the summer to make it happen safely," Rick-Kennel. "Our teachers and staff and my administration team have worked incredibly hard to ensure the best learning environment and outcomes for students in a situation we are all trying to fathom and make the best of." ▣

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com



on your list of safe places to go

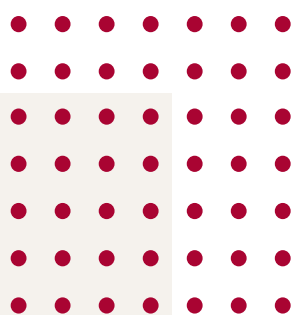
“Stanford Medicine is probably one of the safest places you can be.
We are taking every precaution.”

—Mary Hawn, MD | *Chair of the Department of Surgery, Stanford Medicine*

At Stanford Health Care, we are raising standards to create a safe environment for our patients and staff.

- Employees are tested for COVID-19 using methods developed by Stanford Medicine.
- Every individual entering our facilities is given a mask and screened for symptoms of COVID-19. Those with symptoms are directed to a separate waiting area.
- Appointment check-in is available through the MyHealth app, reducing patient queues and use of shared devices.
- Medical teams have sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE), including gowns, gloves, and masks.
- Waiting rooms and clinics are arranged for physical distancing.
- A restricted visitor policy and expanded access to telehealth video visits limit the number of people passing through.
- Patients are tested before all procedures and surgeries and when visiting the emergency room.
- Enhanced cleaning measures are in place, utilizing chemicals and UV light.
- Specialized filtration systems eliminate the circulation of airborne contaminants.

We are prepared to provide healthcare through this crisis, with safe in-person care and convenient telehealth video visits.



To learn more about how we are adapting care, visit: stanfordhealthcare.org/resumingcare

Waste not: Webb Ranch's new compost program gets help from resident horses

By Heather Zimmerman
Almanac Assistant Editor

Portola Valley's Webb Ranch is undertaking a new version of making lemonade from lemons, except that the base ingredient is a bit earthier than citrus fruit. The family-owned ranch has launched a new business that transforms horse manure, a byproduct of the ranch's horseboarding business, into compost that the ranch is making available to local landscapers and home gardeners.

"I knew that they were having this issue with all the manure that they're collecting and they were trying to figure out what to do with it," said Tracie Meskell, who is managing the ranch's compost operations. Meskell is a South Bay-based landscape architect and member of the Webb family.

Thanks to her background, Meskell has a lot of contacts in the landscape architecture industry, and she knew that there was a way of composting manure because Wheeler Farms equine waste management used to be at Webb Ranch.

Animal manure is a common fertilizer, but uncomposted, it

can be tricky to use in growing food. Meskell said that the ranch had been applying the manure without composting it to some of their fields, but it had to be done six months ahead of planting any food crops, to ensure food safety.

"We did want to use some for the ranch, but we needed to find a way that maybe can speed up the process and allow us to use it when we actually wanted or needed, not just in the fall," she said.

Meskell has tried out the compost in her own home garden, and members of the community have also given the product a test run and have reported back with good results.

Danna Breen, a landscape designer and founding member of the Portola Valley Garden Club, experimented at home with a sample of the compost.

"I did a little bit of a test plot at my house with a ground cover of geranium biokovo, which really sucks the life out of the soil. I did a patch with the compost and a patch without the compost and there was quite a remarkable difference with the one (where) I used the compost," she said.

In addition to horse manure, a significant component of the

compost is the used wood shavings that make up the bedding in horse stalls. There's also a small amount of hay in the mix. Now that the ranch has the composting process in place, Meskell said that they may occasionally add some crop waste as well, such as produce that has gone bad.

Meskell said that people often ask if the compost smells unpleasant or if it will sprout weeds due to the hay. "The answer to both is no because the compost has cured long enough so that it has a nice earthy smell, and we keep the compost temperature above 131 degrees for a minimum of three days in a row, which kills any seeds or pathogens," she said.

She also noted that the compost is tested regularly at a Bay Area lab.

"Whatever batch pile that we've just finished composting, we get it tested to make sure that it's met all the requirements for killing all the pathogens, making sure there's no heavy metals or anything like that," Meskell said.

Webb Ranch has made cubic-foot bags of compost available to customers who come to the ranch for U-pick berries. The ranch is also currently offering



Courtesy Webb Ranch

Two of the youngest members of the Webb family hold up handfuls of compost created through Webb Ranch's new composting business.

limited quantities to local landscapers. Meskell said they're still working on getting delivery trucks lined up for larger quantities.

"It's well tested. I thought it was a beautiful product. And I'm really excited that it's in town, because I work a lot in Portola Valley and in Ladera. So it's great to have it a little more local," Breen said.

Webb Ranch is located at 2720 Alpine Road, Portola Valley. Appointments for U-pick berries are required due to COVID-19 precautions. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit webbranchinc.com. ■

Email Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

Triathlete Max Fennell to run for City Council

Max Fennell, a Menlo Park resident, is known in the community and beyond in several capacities. He's the entrepreneur behind Fenn Coffee, a small batch coffee roasting company, which sells beans in several local markets, including at Delucchi's in Redwood City, Bianchini's in Portola Valley, the Willows Market on Middlefield Road in Menlo Park and the Market at Edgewood in Palo Alto.

He's also a professional triathlete who made headlines as a "defender" on LeBron James' TV show competition, "Million Dollar Mile," and was identified in 2017 by the New York Times as the only African American triathlete competing as a pro.

He confirmed with The Almanac that he plans to run for the Menlo Park City Council to represent District 3.

District 3 stretches as far as Crane Street downtown to Coleman Avenue and from San Francisco Creek to the Atherton border in the Felton Gables neighborhood.

Other candidates who plan to run for City Council this year are Jennifer Wolosin, founder of Parents for Safe Routes, who has announced she plans to run for the District 3 seat, and incumbent Ray Mueller, who has announced he plans to run for the District 5 seat.

Only Wolosin so far has filed the initial form that declares a candidate's intent to run for office, according to City Clerk Judi Herren.

— Kate Badshaw



Charles Russo

Max Fennell, a pro triathlete, has announced he plans to run for the District 3 seat on the Menlo Park City Council.

County supervisors encourage companies to offer work-from-home options

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to encourage all employers in the county to offer employees the option to work from home and telecommute when feasible.

Supervisors David Canepa and Warren Slocum co-sponsored a resolution, which the board unanimously approved June 30, encouraging telecommuting in an effort to tackle multiple problems.

Residents working from home, Canepa and Slocum argued, can protect themselves from the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic while also minimizing traffic congestion and reducing carbon emissions from their vehicles.

Canepa noted that the American Lung Association gave the county an "F" for its particulate pollution and a "B" for ozone pollution prior to the pandemic.

However, he argued, following local health orders to stay home during the pandemic could have lasting positive results in the form of reducing pollution in the Bay Area.

"There's a big lesson to learn here: Do we return to gridlock or do we look at what is working now ... to come up with new innovative policies to protect the environment," Canepa said.

Slocum argued that local employers should take a cue from technology companies in Silicon Valley and the greater Bay Area who have expanded telecommuting opportunities. In May, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey told employees they could continue working from home permanently.

"I think it's important that San Mateo County, that we demonstrate leadership on this issue," Slocum said.

San Mateo County Health Chief Louise Rogers told the board that the county is seeing a rise in coronavirus cases that is similar to other parts of the Bay Area that have begun reopening.

The county's 14-day average testing positivity rate is at 4% while the rest of the Bay Area is at 3.4%, according to Rogers. A large number of the county's 3,311 coronavirus cases and 108

deaths are also associated with congregate care facilities and nursing homes.

Rogers added that movement among members of the public has quantifiably reduced and still remains well below what it was before the state and local shelter-in-place orders went into effect in March. While use of public transit has risen since early June, Rogers said, it is still more than 60% below the county's baseline prior to the pandemic.

"We've expected, as society loosens, that people will be moving around, we'll see a lot of that activity," Rogers said. "The question in whether we will observe, in our community, that people are respecting the guidance about wearing face coverings, about observing physical distance of at least 6 feet, about avoiding crowds."

"If we don't respect all of those behaviors, we're going to start to see more of a taking off of the numbers that we've now seen in other states," she said.

—Bay City News Service

WHY SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM?



*Our subscribing members
say it best...*

“ *It is your support of local journalism that I am grateful for and sometimes take for granted. I desperately want to see you succeed in keeping a local paper available to us so we can stay informed and voice our opinions through your news outlet.* ”

- Jim J.

***Will you join the thousands of others
supporting local journalism?***

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

Subscribe now at AlmanacNews.com/join

The Almanac

You can also subscribe for one year by mailing a check for \$120
(\$60 for seniors and students) to us at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto 94306.

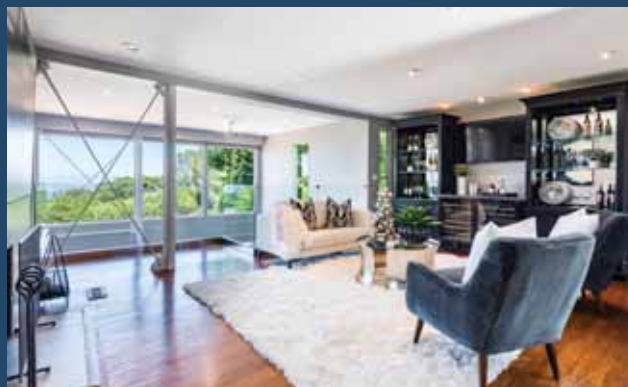
The Almanac
Online



COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer's Agent

Waived if DeLeon Buyer's Agent



MODERN LUXURY, OUTSTANDING BAY VIEWS

771 Lakeview Way, Emerald Hills

Offered at \$2,988,000

Contemporary design, modern luxury, and unparalleled views of the San Francisco Bay – this stylish 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom home of over 2,700 sq. ft. (per county) offers all of this and more, set on a spacious lot of over one-quarter acre (per county). Clean, fresh lines give this home outstanding curb appeal, while inside, the open floorplan fills the home with a dynamic energy. Enjoy the two-sided fireplace that centers the living room and dining room, cater fantastic dinner parties from the chef's kitchen, and meet all work-from-home needs from the open office space. Natural light fills the home thanks to skylights as well as tall windows that showcase spectacular views of the Bay and surrounding Peninsula, giving the home a bright, vibrant ambiance. Topping it all off, this great location is close to numerous parks, the Edgewood Park & Natural Preserve, and also offers easy

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

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, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.771Lakeview.com

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

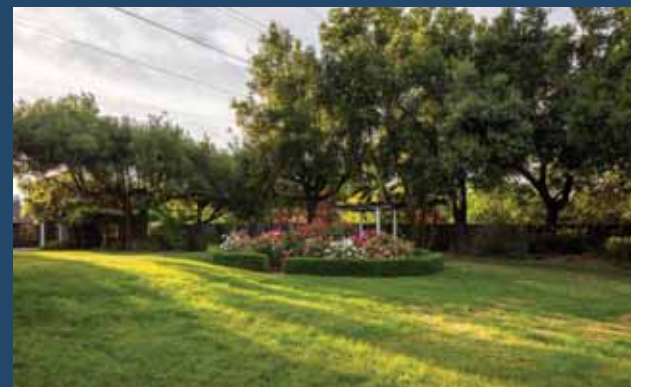
www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun 電話: 650.785.5822 | DRE # 01933274



COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer's Agent
Waived if DeLeon Buyer's Agent



CREEKSIDE SETTING ON NEARLY AN ACRE

1760 Lantis Lane, Los Altos

Offered at \$3,688,000

A tranquil creek winds its way through the property totaling nearly an acre (per county), providing a glittering backdrop for this 5-bedroom, 3-bath home on a delightful cul-de-sac in sought-after South Los Altos. Bright, inviting spaces populate this 2,894 sq. ft. floorplan (per county), including the living room and family room both featuring a fireplace, as well as the chef's kitchen with high-end appliances from Wolf and Sub-Zero. Superb privacy awaits in the expansive master suite, while the home's four additional bedrooms provide comfort and convenience for the entire family. Enjoy al fresco delights in the large backyard, as well as the adjoining lot which leads to the nearby Stevens Creek, providing a picturesque setting to sit and relax while the soothing sounds of nature captivate the senses. Adding the finishing touch, this wonderful location is just moments to Grant Park, near Highway 85, and offers access to acclaimed Cupertino schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

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, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit: www.1760Lantis.com

Michael Repka | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun 電話: 650.785.5822 | DRE # 01933274

FOOD BANK

continued from page 1

“to suddenly be out of work and really worried about: Are you going to be able to keep your housing? Are you going to be able to find food for your family?”

The coronavirus also forced Second Harvest to dramatically transform its operations. Farmers market-style distribution sites had to be reconfigured into socially distanced drive-thrus to prevent the spread of the virus.

They started delivering food to thousands of homebound low-income seniors. They stopped accepting canned food donations from the community.

With most volunteers — who made up 40% of Second Harvest’s workforce — unable to come in during the shelter-in-place, the nonprofit relied on the United States Army National Guard, temporary workers and staff from partner agencies to sort and package food.

“Everything changed overnight,” Second Harvest spokesperson Diane Baker Hayward said.

Three months after the Bay Area started sheltering at home, demand for food has not let up — and Second Harvest expects the need to continue for more than a year.

To illustrate a day in the life of a food bank during COVID-19, an Embarcadero Media journalist and photojournalist spent a day at Second Harvest, following the critical lifeline of food as it made its way from boxes in warehouses to the hands of needy families.

6 a.m.

Shortly after dawn, masked workers start their shifts at Second Harvest’s largest warehouse. The 75,000-square-foot Cypress Center in San Jose stores mostly fresh produce: bags of onions and carrots, boxes of melons, oranges, broccoli, corn and celery. Meat is kept in a separate, chilled room — storage that helped Second Harvest make it through an initial meat shortage at the start of the shutdown, Baker Hayward said.

Signage throughout the warehouse reminds workers to stay 6 feet apart, to wipe down machines after every use and to wash their hands for 20 seconds. A table at the entrance to the warehouse is set with masks, hand sanitizer and a thermometer.

The workers deftly steer forklifts in and out of rows of boxed produce, stacking pallets of cardboard boxes in trucks parked in a dock outside. The trucks later head throughout the Bay Area to a network of



Magali Gauthier

Fresh produce, including strawberries, peaches, lettuce and cantaloupe, is distributed by Second Harvest. The local food bank, which serves San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, has seen an 85% increase in people seeking help.

more than 300 partner agencies — schools, senior centers, churches and shelters — with 1,000 distribution sites.

This warehouse, which is one of four that Second Harvest operates, including a new, 40,000 square-foot temporary space added in April to meet the current demand, also stores food provided by the federal government through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Second Harvest receives an average of 27,000 boxes of food per week from the government. This helps relieve some of the supply burden for Second Harvest, said Sarah Howard, a produce sourcing and quality manager who early on Tuesday morning was climbing a ladder to check boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables for mold.

Her job of managing the flow of food in accordance with demand has taken on new pressure during the pandemic, she said. At the start of the shutdown, many Second Harvest distribution sites initially closed. After some reopened, it took a few weeks for word to spread and for people to know where to go if they needed food, making it hard for the nonprofit to predict how much food to send to sites.

7:30-10 a.m.

A truck full of food from the San Jose warehouse arrives at the Mountain View Senior Center on Escuela Avenue. The site normally only serves low-income seniors but during the pandemic has been open twice a week to anyone in need. Staff members are continuing to see new people come each time, which is unusual, they say.

Pre-pandemic, Second Harvest modeled its distribution sites after farmers markets, allowing people to see and choose their produce. This helped to

preserve a sense of dignity and normalcy, as well as community, Second Harvest staff said. The sites became hubs where people connected with one another and found resources for other support they needed. Volunteers got to know regular visitors by name. Many visitors became volunteers themselves.

Now, families quickly pass through in their cars to pick up the pre-packaged boxes: one with a selection of fruits and vegetables and another with dairy and items like tortillas, beans and peanut butter, plus a bag of meat.

As a warehouse worker unloads boxes in the back parking lot, a group of about 17 volunteers wash their hands, put on gloves and gather for a brief orientation.

“The most important thing is we treat our members with dignity and respect,” Janice Soderberg, the volunteer leader for the Mountain View site, tells the group.

Also important, she tells them, is putting on new gloves any time they touch their faces or phones.

“As restrictions loosen, I actually think people are more vulnerable,” Soderberg said. “We don’t want to ease up. We need to be as careful as we’ve always been.”

The volunteers split into groups of three. To minimize contact, as cars drive through, one person talks to the driver (many in Mandarin or Spanish), another opens the trunk and a third puts the boxes in the car.

On the other side of the parking lot, delivery drivers start filling their cars with boxes to bring to about 120 Mountain View residents. Since March, Second Harvest has rapidly expanded what was a limited home delivery service to now

reach upwards of 6,000 people.

By 9 a.m., a line of cars forms in the parking lot. People without a car go to a walk-up area, where they unpack boxes and put the food, cartons of milk and eggs into their own bags. One man uses a children’s stroller to transport his food; another woman, a large grocery store shopping cart.

Ines Varela, a longtime Mountain View resident, said she’s come to the senior center for food for several years. She’s also a regular Second Harvest volunteer. She said the fresh food has been a big help during the coronavirus shutdown. A typical Second Harvest recipient gets \$245 worth of free groceries every month.

“The food is good,” she said in Spanish. “Everything they give us here is very good.”

Bernard Cabute went through the drive-through to pick up food for his 70-year-old mother, who was sitting in the backseat of the car.

“They’re helping her out a lot,” he said of Second Harvest. “It’s making her really healthy, too. She’s eating a lot of vegetables, healthy food.”

The Mountain View site typically serves about 250 people; it’s also a location that’s continuing to see a rise in numbers, Second Harvest said.

10 a.m.

In a back corner of Second Harvest’s Curtner warehouse in San Jose, a well-oiled assembly line of National Guard service members in army fatigues packs boxes of food that will feed a family of four for two weeks.

National Guard members who usually volunteer once a week-end, in addition to having full-time jobs, have been sorting and packaging food full time for three months. In March, Gov. Gavin Newsom deployed nearly 500 service members to food banks across six Bay Area counties on a humanitarian support mission.

Battling food insecurity during a public health crisis is a first-of-a-kind deployment for this particular unit. The 129th Rescue Wing, which is based at Moffett Field in Mountain View, is usually activated for search and rescue missions.

“We’re here to support the state of California,” said Major Alfred Tamayo, who works in sales in the semiconductor industry. “Being able to do this humanitarian support for our local community is even better.”

He oversees a team of about 37 National Guard members at the warehouse during the day and 15 more during a swing shift. They assemble up to 250,000 pounds of food a day for distribution, Tamayo said. The

day before, they sent out 10,000 boxes.

Some of the service members got called away recently to provide crowd control at the Black Lives Matter protests, but they’re continuing to fill in at Second Harvest as the nonprofit works to rebuild its volunteer base.

11 a.m.

On the second floor of the Curtner warehouse on Tuesday, a handful of employees sitting in cubicles are taking calls coming into Second Harvest’s Food Connection hotline.

In late March, their phones were ringing off the hook with as many as 1,200 calls a day — 12 times the normal amount. Several National Guard service members who speak Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagalog and Vietnamese moved upstairs to help with translation.

Claribel Chavez, a Food Connection coordinator for Second Harvest, said the calls were emotional and taxing. It was like listening to people work through the five stages of grief, she said. She talked to people who were in shock at losing their jobs. Many felt ashamed, never having needed food assistance before. Others took their stress out on her and other staff.

“One morning you’d get someone angry, someone who was worried, somebody crying because they lost their job, who didn’t have money for their rent ... and then you’d get the clients who were just so overwhelmed with joy because they got a box of food,” Chavez said.

A former Second Harvest recipient, Chavez saw herself in many of their stories.

“I’ve been there before. I encourage other people, ‘It’s not always going to be like this. You’re not always going to be struggling,’” she said.

The hotline now receives about 250 calls a day. The staff and volunteers answer questions about where to get food, help people apply for the state’s CalFresh food-assistance program and assure them that they have access to free groceries regardless of their income and citizenship status.

The Food Connection hotline is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., by calling 1-800-984-3663.

1:30-4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are the backbone of Second Harvest. The majority of volunteers — large corporate groups and seniors — all but disappeared when shelter order began in late March.

But volunteers, both veterans and first timers, have since started to come back. They’re now trained

See **FOOD BANK**, page 15

FOOD BANK*continued from page 14*

and consolidated in a single location, the Cypress Center.

Mary Ellen Carter said she started volunteering during the shutdown.

“It’s such a great need right now,” she said. “It’s good to give back in whatever way you can, not only monetary but with your time.”

On Tuesday afternoon, she and other volunteers fill the San Jose warehouse in socially distanced groups, bagging frozen chicken to go out to distribution sites. They’re joined by the 144th Fighter Wing National Guard

group from Fresno.

Cat Cvengros, Second Harvest’s vice president of marketing, said the organization is now grappling with its short- and long-term future. Even the shift to boxes requires an enormous human investment that will be difficult to sustain, but returning to the high-touch farmers market concept doesn’t feel safe yet. When the National Guard leaves, Second Harvest will have to backfill with more and longer volunteer shifts. And she doesn’t expect the demand to drop any time soon.

“It’s a crisis,” Cvengros said. “We don’t even know what the next month looks like. As people

continue to deplete their savings, we will see our numbers rise.”

2:30 p.m.

On Tuesday afternoon, a masked Leslie Bacho sits in her office, a few steps away from the volunteers and National Guard, preparing for a Zoom board meeting later that afternoon. Second Harvest’s leadership is now working through its greatest challenge: how to sustain the unprecedented demand.

“For now we’re just trying to bring in the resources we can to meet this very immediate need, but it’s going to be an immediate need for probably the next 12 to 18

months,” she said.

The organization’s expenses have also shot up dramatically — food expenses were up over 140% of the budgeted amount in April, not including additional spending on staff or cleaning and PPE supplies — though donations have remained strong during the pandemic.

For Bacho, who has worked in food banks for more than two decades, the coronavirus has thrown into sharp relief an already deep food insecurity crisis in Silicon Valley. The root causes of that crisis — housing costs, wage disparity, the steep challenges of making a living

wage in the region — will remain after the public health concerns fade, she said.

“We already had so many people who were working and still really not earning a wage that made it possible for them to also be able to support their families or support themselves. Now, even when people start to go back to work, it’s going to be a long time before people really recover from this kind of economic devastation,” she said. “It’s going to take a long time to get back to a financially stable place.” ■

Email Elena Kadavy at ekadavy@pawebly.com

COVID-19*continued from page 5*

he said, a 51% increase from just two weeks ago, when there were 3,439 cases.

California has also seen a growing rate of positive cases among those getting tested. The positivity rate for those tested in the past 14 days is 6%, he said. Two weeks ago, it was 4.6%.

“The bottom line is, the spread of this virus is continuing at a rate that is particularly concerning,” Newsom said.

The new restrictions on indoor operations are limited to the 19 counties on the state’s watchlist, which includes Santa Clara, Los Angeles, Contra Costa and Fresno counties (San Mateo County is not on the list). It orders these counties to close indoor operations at restaurants, wineries/tasting rooms, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, zoos, museums and cardrooms. Outdoor dining and retail are allowed to continue.

In Santa Clara County, indoor dining and most other forms of

indoor entertainment remain prohibited activities under the county’s own shelter-in-place order. But while Newsom’s Wednesday proclamation will not have an immediate impact, it all but ensures that these activities will not resume until at least late July. Newsom said he anticipates that the guidance for the 19 counties will remain in place for at least three weeks.

The counties on the watchlist represent around 72% of the state’s population, Newsom said, which reflects the overall increase in COVID-19 cases throughout California.

In the past few weeks, counties experiencing an uptick in COVID-19 cases, positivity rates and hospitalizations entered the state Public Health Department’s watchlist. If counties stay on the watchlist for more than two weeks, Newsom said those regions will be told to slow down reopenings and possibly reinstate stricter stay-at-home orders. Santa Clara County has been on the state’s watchlist since June 23.

“Once over a two-week period and you’re still on that watchlist, and we’re still seeing an increase in spread and transmission, that then triggers the kind of decision we made yesterday,” Newsom said, referencing mandatory bar closures for some counties.

Progress in housing the homeless

Newsom announced Tuesday that California has housed roughly 14,200 homeless residents across the state since April in leased hotel and motel rooms through a partnership with the federal government.

Standing outside a motel in Pittsburg, Newsom outlined the progress the state has made with Project Roomkey, which launched in April with a goal of finding shelter for homeless residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the state has procured 15,679 rooms, Newsom said.

The program has allowed state officials and local governments to identify vacant hotel and motel rooms during the

pandemic that can be used to house homeless residents. The Federal Emergency Management Agency then reimburses the expenses required to procure the unused rooms as well as meal, custodial and security services.

“The state identifies the asset, provides the capacity to get reimbursed from the federal government and get support from the state of California,” Newsom said of the program’s localism. “But at the end of the day, this program doesn’t work without outstanding local officials.”

Newsom said most of the 131 rooms in the motel he stood in front of have been filled with 164 tenants who are now receiving three meals a day and other supportive services.

Newsom also touted the state’s budget for fiscal year 2020-21, which he signed Monday, for its support for homeless services across the state in spite of tax revenue shortages due to the pandemic.

The budget includes \$1.3

billion in funding to expand Project Roomkey and similar programs like it. The state has also secured philanthropic commitments of roughly \$45 million for supportive services through the program.

“Despite the deficit, despite the headwinds of stress that we had to address in balancing our budget, we still made a commitment to lean forward, lean in the future, follow through on our commitment to do more and do better for homeless Californians,” Newsom said.

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage

View interactive charts tracking the spread of the coronavirus in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties online at paloaltoonline.atavist.com/tracking-the-coronavirus. Find a comprehensive collection of coverage on the Midpeninsula’s response to the new coronavirus by The Almanac and its sister publications, Palo Alto Online, and the Mountain View Voice, at tinyurl.com/c19-Almanac. ■

CRIME BRIEFS*continued from page 6*

The crash blocked three left southbound lanes of Highway 280 at Sand Hill Road, backing up traffic to Sand Hill Road, Montiel said. All lanes reopened around 5:30 p.m.

Anyone who witnessed the crash is asked to call CHP Officer Adrian Lopez-Martinez at 650-369-6261.

Man sentenced for shootings

A 34-year-old man has been sentenced to more than 95 years in prison for a fatal shooting in East Palo Alto in 2015, as well as a non-fatal shooting months earlier, San Mateo County prosecutors said Monday.

Freeman Owens III was sentenced June 26 after being convicted last November of second-degree murder and other

charges for the fatal shooting of 27-year-old Mark Jack on the evening of July 18, 2015, and a separate shooting in the same area on April 25, 2015, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office.

Owens shot Jack outside of the Light Tree Apartments on East Bayshore Road in East Palo Alto following an argument over a woman, prosecutors said.

During the investigation into the fatal shooting, authorities learned Owens had been involved in the April shooting, which also happened at the same apartment complex. Owens shot someone once in each leg after an argument over a card game, prosecutors said. The victim survived his injuries.

On the third day of deliberations in November, a San Mateo County Superior Court jury convicted Owens of second-degree murder, assault with a firearm, possession of a

firearm by a felon and various enhancements.

At last week’s sentencing hearing, Jack’s family members spoke about their loss and asked San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Stephanie Garratt for a life sentence for Owens, prosecutors said.

Garratt ended up sentencing Owens to 95 years and eight months to life in prison, with 1,371 days credit for time served, according to the District Attorney’s Office.

—Bay City News Service

express

**Today’s local news
and hot picks**

**Sign up today at
AlmanacNews.com/express**



Courtesy Patty Mayall

La Honda shows its pride

A colorfully clad group gathered in La Honda on Sunday, June 28, to celebrate Pride Month in what was billed as the community’s first ever LGBTQ Pride March. Patty Mayall said that between 80 to 90 people marched from the Country Store to the duck pond, decked out in rainbow gear and holding signs.

Camp Connection

Please check directly with camps for updates and remote offerings.

For more information about these camps visit paloaltoonline.com/camp_connection. To advertise in this weekly directory, call (650) 326-8210.

ACADEMICS

Early Learning Institute Palo Alto Pleasanton

Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Skills.

headsup.org Emerson: (650) 424-1267
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

Harker Summer Programs San Jose

The Harker School's summer programs for children K - grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full day, partial and morning only sessions.

harker.org/summer (408) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School Palo Alto

i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

castilleja.org/i2camp (650) 470-7833

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research Stanford

EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford. Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

explore.stanford.edu explore-series@stanford.edu

Summer@Stratford Palo Alto/Bay Area

Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers learn, explore, and engage in hands-on learning projects, while Elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems by utilizing academic principles and concepts in a fun and engaging way. At the Middle School level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

stratfordschools.com/summer
pa@stratfordschools.com (650) 493-1141

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Art and Soul Camp Palo Alto

Art, cooking, tinkering, yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world. Summer Unplugged! is appropriate for ages 6-11 years. Located at Walter Hays School.

artandsoulpa.com (650) 269-0423

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Palo Alto

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

castilleja.org/summercamp (650) 470-7833

Community School of Music Mountain View

Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for grades K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.

arts4all.org (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Let's Go Crafting Palo Alto

Let's Go Crafting's Studio is where your child will have fun while learning many different fiber related arts. We teach sewing, knitting, crochet, weaving and jewelry making to children ages 8 to 15 years. AM or PM camps \$275/week. Full day camps \$550/week. 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum.

letsgocrafting.org (650) 814-4183

Oshman Family JCC Camps Palo Alto

Camps at the OFJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.

paloaltojcc.org/Camps (650) 223-8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) Palo Alto

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), Camp YOUNIQUE, F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports, Operation: Chef and Chef Jr.! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

paccc.org (650) 493-2361

ATHLETICS

Dance Connection Palo Alto Palo Alto

Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a "home away from home" for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up and features our new "This is Me!" Empowerment Camp along with Teen Jazz and Hip Hop Camps.

danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps
(650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

ATHLETICS

Kim Grant Tennis Summer Camps Palo Alto Monterey Bay

Fun and specialized Junior Camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and Sleep-Away Camps in Monterey Bay. SO MUCH FUN!

KimGrantTennis.com Text: (650) 690-0678
Call: (650) 752-8061

Nike Tennis Camps Stanford University

Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men's Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women's Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men's and Women's Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!

ussportscamps.com (800) NIKE-CAMP
(800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps Bay Area

Run for Fun's mission is to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2020 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview (650) 823-5167

Spartans Sports Camp Mountain View

Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports, performing arts, and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Flexible cancellation policies.

spartanssportscamp.com (650) 479-5906

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps Silicon Valley

At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that's right for your family. Sign up today, camps are filling up! Financial assistance is available.

ymcasv.org/summercamp (408) 351-6473

FIREWORKS

continued from page 1

Haven neighborhood. Pardini is tripling East Palo Alto's staffing.

ShotSpotter, a gunshot-tracking system that the department uses, filters out anything but gunshots, however, it archives other sounds, such as fireworks. The department plans to use the system to identify hot spots, but the technology isn't likely to result in real-time responses by police. Each activation is sent immediately to laptops in patrol cars, which make it too difficult for officers to discern calls that are gunshot-related, he said. ShotSpotter would also likely not pinpoint the exact house where the fireworks are being set off, but rather approximate the sound within about four to six homes, he said. Looking at the archived data, investigators look for common threads such as similar addresses, Pardini said.

Those igniting fireworks frequently run away, making it difficult to catch them by the time officers arrive. By law, police can only arrest or cite someone they have directly witnessed shooting off the fireworks, he said.

This year, some home camera systems showed that people are driving around the city discharging fireworks from their vehicles, according to Pardini.

East Palo Alto City Councilwoman Lisa Gauthier suggested police could gather video from home Ring technology systems to assist with identifying the violators, which Pardini said could help. He is asking the public to review their home-security cameras and share any



Sue Dremann

Boxes of used fireworks are piled up at the corner of Bell Street and Lincoln Street in East Palo Alto on June 24.

information with police to help track the location of the fireworks. Officers can collect the fireworks that are left behind and turn them over to the fire district. "We make a citation when we can," he said.

Bertini also said it's difficult to enforce fireworks laws. There's a fine of up to \$1,000 on the books and possession is a misdemeanor, he said.

The number of fireworks being moved through the area each year is staggering. A couple of years ago, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection broke up a distribution ring in remote locations such as the Stanislaus National Forest, where big rigs full of fireworks were brought in and dispersed to distributors, Pardini said.

Iture

Faced with such odds, Pardini and others said the only way to create meaningful change is to

alter the culture that is at the root of the problem.

Menlo Park City Councilman Ray Mueller asked if the police have ever seen a buyback program for fireworks.

"I confess I actually love fireworks and grew up loving them. In legal areas, I have used them. The issue I see in enforcement is you are asking someone who has made an investment and spent money not to use it," he said. They are stuck putting it in their closet and they lose their investment, which is not an incentive to turn the fireworks over to police.

The police chiefs said they have not seen a buyback program anywhere for fireworks, unlike similar gun-buyback programs. The main impediment is funding, they said.

Menlo Park City Councilwoman Catherine Carlton suggested that rather than fining people for use, the cities should make restrictive fines

for people selling fireworks and use the money for the buyback program.

Menlo Park fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman was against a buyback program, however. He said that when the city located 600 pounds of fireworks in a home, the fire district stored them in a metal container for later disposal by the proper authorities. It took two years for the explosives to be moved. In the meantime, the gunpowder was sweating, which posed its own problems, he said.

Instead, he recommended surveillance, such as using cameras on a pole or at strategic locations, similar to what is used in the Santa Cruz Mountains to sweep large areas for fires and fireworks explosions. Although controversial, the agency also has drones that could be used to find offenders, he said.

East Palo Alto City Councilman Ruben Abrica stressed that any culture change would not occur without the input of the community. Historically, East Palo Alto has worked through difficult challenges by working with its community.

"We can't realistically expect the police to do everything. These are times when the whole issue of police and community is presenting challenges," he added.

He suggested bringing in the city's many organizations and activists to help talk to people in neighborhoods and on their blocks and to distribute information to residents.

"Some people have the will, authority and compunction to go and talk to those people directly. Otherwise, we are going to end up being

disappointed and pointing the finger at the police and I don't think that's fair," he said.

Other city leaders agreed that building up volunteers through nonprofit organizations and emergency-preparations groups could help disseminate information and deliver a unified message to neighbors who are involved in releasing fireworks. Organizing on a block-by-block basis and creating "quiet block" campaigns would help engage the community in pinpointing the trouble spots. Pardini said such community interventions could help.

The city has successfully used community-policing techniques to reduce criminal behavior in the past by bringing in nonprofit leaders to talk to people suspected of criminal activity.

Wallace-Jones apologized for the fireworks.

"I will not offer any excuse for that except to say I do plead a little forgiveness and goodwill from our neighbors," she said. The city has been dealing with the pandemic and protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd while in custody of Minneapolis police, which until now, have occupied much of officials' and staff's attention.

Turning to the fireworks problem, she said no one has been sitting on their hands. She plans to hold another meeting after July 4 to discuss how strategies they discussed, such as training the block volunteers and adding a surveillance mechanism to support the police, are progressing and how they can be leveraged in the coming weeks or months. ■

Email Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

billion, San Mateo at \$2.15 billion and Redwood City at \$1.98 billion.

Menlo Park ranked second for the most new commercial development at 10.4 million square feet of new commercial space pending, approved or under construction, second only to Redwood City, which has 15.2 million square feet of new commercial space in the works.

Library events go virtual

The Menlo Park Library has moved its events online and has announced its July lineup of activities, offering virtual events featuring animals, zines and music alongside practical webinars on how to find a job during the pandemic or stay focused while writing. Here are a few events:

■ Tuesday, July 7, from 3:30 to

4:30 p.m. "Safari Encounters." Through Zoom, meet and learn about a snake, alligator, armadillo, baby ring-tailed lemur and sloth.

■ Wednesday, July 8, from 7 to 8 p.m. "Your Career after COVID: Finding a Job in Uncertain Times." Career adviser Dylan Houle, director of career services at Menlo College, offers advice on how to get one's career back on track if it was disrupted by the pandemic.

■ Tuesday, July 14, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. "The Writer's Life: Staying Focused in the Time of Pandemic." A panel of Bay Area writers will discuss strategies you can apply to writing or just life in general.

■ Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m. to noon. "So, What are You?" Storyteller Judi Le tells her story about fleeing Vietnam, living in a refugee camp in Arkansas and settling in Katy, Texas.

■ Tuesday, July 20, from 2 to 3

p.m. "Zines: A Self-Portrait in 6 Panels." Artist Breana Nunez will guide virtual attendees through how to make a mini-comic about oneself.

■ Saturday, July 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. "Live Music with the Corner Laughers." Karla Kane, lead singer and ukelele player (who is also Embarcadero Media's arts editor) will be giving a free performance with her band, the Corner Laughers.

■ Monday, July 27, from 5 to 6 p.m. "Collecting Community History: The West During COVID-19." Tyree Boyd-Pates, associate curator of Western history at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, will give a presentation about the museum's project to collect artifacts and information about how people have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Go to is.gd/menlojuly to access the full list of events.

—Kate Bradshaw

A&E BRIEF

Windrider film fest launches online

As the definitive end to the weekend, Sunday nights can be kind of a bummer, even in the era of working from home. But Windrider Bay Area Film Forum is offering a reason to start looking forward to Sunday evenings. On Sunday, July 5, at 7 p.m., Windrider will launch its new virtual summer series, which features weekly online screenings of inspirational independent short films, followed by filmmaker conversations.

The seven-week summer series lineup includes some films seen at previous Windrider events, as well as new selections. The confirmed films for the summer series are: "Teen Press" by T.C. Johnstone; "The Driver is Red" by Randall Christopher; "Nocturne in Black" by Jimmy Keyrouz; "Soar" by Alyce Tzue; "Beneath the Ink" by Cy Dodson; "DeKalb Elementary" by Reed Van Dyke; and "Head Over Heels" by Timothy Reckart.

The series is free, but viewers need to register at the Windrider website, windriderbayarea.org, in order to receive links to each screening and conversation. Films and discussions will be available on the website after they are released each week.

Windrider's signature event is an annual festival of short films, which recently marked its 11th anniversary. The festival typically takes place in Atherton but was held online late last month due to COVID-19 precautions. The Windrider website also offers an online replay of the festival, which featured a program of three short films and filmmaker Q&As.

—Heather Zimmerman

HUNGER STRIKE

continued from page 5

County Board of Supervisors and county Sheriff Carlos Bolanos expressing support for the strike. And it was accompanied by a petition Prieto had launched on the website change.org, which had garnered about 1,700 online signatures as of Friday.

By then, Prieto and the other hunger strikers learned their demands had been met and broke their strike, according to Prieto's girlfriend, Deyna Cortez, who helped organize the rally.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office renegotiated commissary prices with its third-party commissary vendor, Keefe Group, and will align prices with those in San Francisco County, starting on Sunday. The county will also start to provide all inmates with two free 30-minute video visits per week, according to Paula Canny, a Burlingame-based attorney who represented the hunger strikers.

Canny worked with the strikers and their families to negotiate with the Sheriff's Office, which she threatened to sue if it did not meet the strikers' demands.

The Sheriff's Office issued a press release June 25, the 10th day of the hunger strike, announcing that the office "became aware of a hunger strike" and "discovered that our commissary vendor charges prices that are higher than those of local jails."

"We have worked with our vendor and have agreed to lower the prices to match those of other jails," wrote Lieutenant Stephanie Josephson in the press statement.

The office did not change its rates for phone calls, another service it contracts out, at a cost for inmates or their families of 4.5 cents per minute. The jail had not provided remote video visits before the pandemic and Josephson said that setting up tablets to enable those visits was "an enormous undertaking." "We do experience technical issues," the statement added.



Kate Bradshaw

Protesters rally outside the Maguire Correctional Facility in Redwood City to support inmates who were on their 10th day of a hunger strike on June 25.

"We are committed to finding solutions to remote video visits and are hopeful they will enhance the inmate family unification process," Josephson said in the statement. Inmates are supposed to be receiving two 30-minute video visits for free during the pandemic, but several inmates' family members said that technical problems and failures to notify inmates of when the calls were scheduled had meant that few, if any video visits had been taking place.

Keefe Group did not respond to requests for comment.

'It's an insane system'

On June 16, 16 inmates at the Maguire Correctional Facility initially started their hunger strike in response to the disparate and arbitrarily high prices at the jail's shop, or commissary, where people can buy basic food and hygiene items.

As the strike went on, some inmates stopped because their bodies couldn't take it, said a family member to one of the inmates. Others bailed out of jail.

Yet others had started boycotting the commissary in solidarity. And another pod within the jail had started its own strike which had gone on for four days as of June 25, according to Cortez.

As the strike went on, the

protesters expanded their demands to ask for free phone calls, as are offered in San Francisco and Santa Clara county jails, and to have video devices repaired and accessible so that inmates could have video visits with friends and family members.

Since the pandemic struck, visitors have not been allowed at the jail in person, and the jail's video visit system has not been working, Canny said.

She said she reviewed the price lists in commissary items and identified clear and significant differences between the prices for various food and hygiene items offered at the in-jail store, or commissary between counties across the state, she said.

In comparing lists of sales prices for the same items available in both San Mateo and San Francisco county jails, she found glaring disparities that revealed significant mark-ups beyond market value in San Mateo County, she said.

A packet of Pop Tarts costs \$1.10 in San Mateo County jail and 75 cents in jail in San Francisco, 46% more. A packet of Fritos is \$1.20 in San Mateo County and 50 cents in San Francisco, a whopping 140% more, Canny said. And the same 3-ounce bar of Freshcent soap costs 52 cents in San Francisco and 70 cents in San Mateo County, or 34% more, according to documents Canny provided *The Almanac*.

Many county sheriff's offices contract independently with vendors over commissary goods and their pricing. San Mateo County contracts with Keefe Group, a St. Louis-based company that has commissary contracts with many counties nationwide.

"It's an insane system," Canny said.

Keefe Group's arm that specializes in care packages for prisoners was identified in 2017 as having disparate pricing systems through reporting by *The Marshall Project*, a nonprofit news organization covering the U.S. criminal justice system.

'Our families are jobless out there'

That these inmates were willing to wage a potentially life-or-death hunger strike over price differences of less than a dollar in some cases, in one of California's most affluent counties, is striking.

"San Mateo County, they're like one of the richest counties in California. They're not offering help at all to (any) of us in here and our families are stretched," said Prieto, who grew up in South San Francisco. "They've just got so much money invested in the Sheriff's Office that they can afford to help the inmates out without anything happening to them," he said.

Inmates are not permitted to earn any money, which means that the burden of paying commissary costs falls largely on the family members of the incarcerated, Canny said.

Because inmates are predominantly men, that often leaves their partners and family members to shoulder those costs, Canny said. Many people responsible for funding commissary costs are their female household members, and some bear the additional burden of parenting solo while their partner is incarcerated.

Add to those existing stressors a global pandemic and a county-wide unemployment rate that has quintupled since January, and the conditions that led 16 inmates to put their bodies on the line to fight for fairer prices emerged.

"With the pandemic going on, San Mateo County hasn't really offered us any help, you know. We had no contact with our family, the commissary prices are ridiculous, they're way above market value, and we just felt it's unjust the way they treated us. ... We kept asking and asking for lower prices, because our families are jobless out there," Prieto said.

"We went through every motion and we felt we had no option but to go on the hunger strike."

On day 10 of the strike, he said, "It's just been hard the whole way. ... I'm praying that something good comes out of this."

'I don't make a lot. ... This isn't right.'

Carolyn D., a Redwood City resident, said at a rally outside the jail on Thursday evening that her "dude" was one of the participants in the hunger strike.

If he weren't incarcerated, he'd be helping her care for two children. With him in jail, she's become the sole provider to pay for his commissary needs, she said. The two of them had agreed that she would take on that financial burden to relieve his sick mother. She said she puts in

about \$200 every week or every two weeks, but it is a struggle.

"I don't make a lot," she said. "It's hard. Families are struggling. ... This isn't right."

After 10 days of not eating, Cortez said she was worried Prieto was losing hope. Thinking about his condition made it hard for her to think straight, hounded by what ifs — what if he faints? What if he falls asleep and doesn't wake up?

The hunger strike, she said, didn't have to be his fight. His commissary costs are paid regularly by his sister and mother. He did it for the other inmates and their families, she said. "He's a people person."

"I get it," she said. "He's standing up for cause for a cause, not just for himself but for the inmates there with him, for future generations as well, because he thinks that this is so unfair and inhumane."

"It's scary to know you have to fight for something that should already be given to you. You should be able to afford food," she said.

Another family member of an inmate was in attendance at the rally, pushing a stroller back and forth as she talked.

She pays for the inmate's commissary costs and said that there's a fee of about \$8 required each time one deposits money. She said that the food quality in the jail is bad, and just about all of the foods available for purchase though the commissary are unhealthy.

"It's really poor quality," she said.

The inmates, she said, were "not asking for something ridiculous, especially right now. People lost their jobs. ... There's just no compassion for them and their families."

Other family members also raised concerns about health and safety inside the jail during the pandemic.

Two women, who identified themselves as loved ones to an inmate, had traveled three hours from Stanislaus County to attend the rally and show their support for the inmates. They had heard from the inmate that the room he stays in is dirty and he was not provided with soap or other cleaning materials. They didn't know if he was one of the participants in the hunger strike.

When the strike ended, Cortez told *The Almanac* that she felt happy and relieved, but mostly proud of Prieto and the other inmates who stood by their cause through the pain and didn't give up.

"Their voices were finally heard," she said. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

Marketplace

AmiCare

SERVICES INCORPORATED
Quality and affordable caregiving services right at the comfort of your home.

CALL FOR A FREE NURSE ASSESSMENT
(650) 709-8900

Cottage for Rent

Quiet 1 bedroom 1 bath cottage in College Terrace, Palo Alto. Walking distance to Stanford University. \$3350/month; Call (650) 387-3350.

express

Sign up today at
AlmanacNews.com/express

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Black lives matter

Dear Sheriff Carlos Bolanos,
On June 21 my son and I, longtime residents of Portola Valley, participated in a protest demonstration at Portola and Alpine Roads ("Portola Valley holds Father's Day Black Lives Matter protest," June 26). About 200 people, almost all white, waved signs and urged drivers to honk, but did not stop traffic. Absolutely no vandalism occurred.

Two Sheriff's Office vehicles showed up. They stopped at the stop sign, waited a long moment, probably studying and perhaps photographing the crowd, and then turned onto Portola Road. They were only 6 to 10 feet from the crowd. Windows closed, not once did they make eye contact with any demonstrators. Their demeanor was such as though we were possible enemies. I wondered how they would have acted had we been a mostly Black crowd behaving the same.

Their coldness and near hostility is a kind of police behavior that needs to be changed. Intentional or not, it carries a message, the wrong message in these days of turmoil.

Thank you for thinking about this.

*Andrew C. Browne
Santa Maria Avenue,
Portola Valley*

Shop local

As owners of a local small business, we walk down Santa Cruz Avenue and our hearts grow heavy. We have seen Village Stationers close their doors, and then Sole Desire, and now The Pet Place, just to name a few. Earlier in 2020, we said goodbye to friends and colleagues at two independent toy stores close to us, Talbot's Toyland in San Mateo and Ambassador Toys in Town & Country, when they closed their doors.

There are so many factors that go into the closing of a business. We often hear people say that "greedy landlords" and "online retailers" are causing this "retail apocalypse." As typical of things that are often emphasized in "quotes," these explanations simplify the current challenges. Add in the implications of COVID-19 and the stresses on businesses get even more complicated.

What is often overlooked in this scenario, however, is the power the consumer has to help tilt the scales in favor of local businesses. How? By making the choice to spend their dollars

LETTERS

Our readers write

locally. It may take a little more time, but it may not. It may cost a little more, but it may not. You may have to settle for a different color or style, but you may not. With every purchase, we get to choose where to spend our dollars, and those dollars add up. Together, those dollars become an investment in our community. They demonstrate a commitment to keeping our neighbors employed and our town vibrant.

As the shelter in place is lifted, local businesses need your support now. Most businesses have added delivery and/or pickup options if you prefer not to go inside the store. Do some research about your local businesses, give them a call, go on their website, and see how they are adjusting to the new normal.

Then support them — simply by shopping there.

*Anna and Dexter Chow
Owners, Cheeky Monkey Toys*

Racist covenants

Unfortunate that Maryann Derwin and her former husband were given an obsolete 1947 copy of the Westridge CC&Rs (covenants, conditions and restrictions), when they bought their house in 1992 ("It's a moral imperative that we address it": Portola Valley council discusses racism, policing in wake of killing of George Floyd," June 19).

This was a big mistake on someone's part, as the restrictive covenant preventing non-Caucasians from buying houses in the subdivision was nullified by a Supreme Court decision in 1948, and the Westridge

CC&Rs were rewritten soon after that to purge the offending restrictions.

*Bev Lipman
Favonio Road, Portola Valley*

Mask donations

Throughout the week of June 15, the newly founded Silicon Valley Cyber Leos Club led a mask event for COVID-19 relief.

The Silicon Valley Cyber Lions Club gave the SV Cyber Leos Club 2,000 masks to donate. Annika Bai and I, leaders of the SV Cyber Leos Club, organized an event in which we donated the masks to five organizations in a variety of locations. Ergo, the club helped out a multitude of different communities who needed masks to fight COVID-19.

Members donated 400 masks to Momentum for Mental Health in San Jose, 250 masks to LifeMoves in Menlo Park, 200 masks to Mission Hospice in San Mateo. 400 masks to Tenderloin Housing and 250 to Project Open Hand (both in San Francisco).

The event was a heartwarming opportunity to help out multiple communities and interact with our members for the Silicon Valley Cyber Leo Club's first event ever. It was a great opportunity — over 10 members participated, and five organizations were given at least 200 masks each.

*Amelia Kratzer
Lennox Avenue, Menlo Park*

The Almanac
AlmanacNews.com

LET'S DISCUSS:
Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues on Town Square at AlmanacNews.com

What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.

Public Notices

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

Public Hearing Notices • Resolutions • Bid Notices
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate
Lien Sale • Trustee's Sale

Deadline is 5 p.m. the previous Friday.

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578
or email asantillan@pawekly.com
for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Robert Stevens Elliott

May 26, 1929 – June 20, 2020

Robert Stevens Elliott passed away peacefully on June 20th at Webster House in Palo Alto. He was born on May 26, 1929 in Melrose, MA. The eldest of three children, Bob was raised in nearby Middleton, RI, the location of St. George's School, where his father was a science teacher. Bob was graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon Preparatory School in Massachusetts before receiving his collegiate degree from Trinity College in 1951.



After college Bob served in the U.S. Army for four years, worked at W.R. Grace in New York City, and then moved to Toledo, Ohio where he took a job with Owens Corning. Following an executive training program in sales and management, Bob was assigned to San Francisco where his work with Owens Corning focused on the development and sale of reinforced plastics. He later formed his own business, Royell, with two other partners, which distributed reinforced plastic materials throughout California. He retired at 60 years of age.

Bob married Rosemma ("Fred") Brundage in 1960. They have one son, Timothy Scott Elliott, who resides in Menlo Park, CA.

Throughout his lifetime Bob pursued a wide variety of outside activities. As a member of the Audubon Society, Bob was always thrilled to make a bird sighting during a nature walk. A longtime volunteer for Environmental Volunteers, Bob taught grade school students about environmental issues, and took them on field trips to local parks and preserves. Using his expertise from Royell, he also took pleasure in teaching elementary school children in science classes how to put plastic materials together to make a small cup.

Bob enjoyed travel, and particularly the trips that included his love of the outdoors. He took several golf vacations in Scotland, and Alaska was a favorite destination for his backpacking trips with son Tim. For a number of years Bob and Fredi owned a home in Arizona where they enjoyed the desert flora and fauna, and collected Native American art and artifacts.

Closer to home Bob enjoyed tennis and golf which he played with a regular group of friends. Pursuing his interest in sports, he served as a Red Coat at Stanford to usher fans to their seats. He and Fredi also volunteered at rummage sales for the benefit of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. For twenty-six years Bob delivered food for Meals on Wheels, always taking the time to engage in conversation, and often replacing a light bulb or turning on the furnace for a needy client.

Having a keen interest in the culinary arts and through his friendship with Shirley Sarvis, a well known food writer and wine expert, he helped to organize special evenings of food and wine pairings.

Bob is survived by his son Tim, wife Fredi, and a sister Barbara Elliott Fargo of Massachusetts. His younger brother William predeceased him.

Bob will always be remembered for his outgoing personality, unbounded optimism, enthusiasm and generous spirit. Should friends desire, memorial contributions should be made to Environmental Volunteers, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

PAID OBITUARY

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Courtesy Khoi Huynh

Redwood City's Chalk Full of Fun Chalk Festival will be held virtually this year, with chalk artists working from home.

Who needs a parade?

Celebrating the Fourth of July in an unusual year

By Palo Alto Weekly staff

For those accustomed to celebrating Fourth of July with big parties, parades, chili cook-offs, fireworks, and concerts, the Independence Day holiday is going to feel a bit ... different this year. But just because the usual festivities and mass gatherings may be off due to COVID-19 concerns, it doesn't mean you can't have fun. After all, a holiday is a holiday and sometimes, it's the simple things that mean the most.

Perhaps you are looking forward to the premiere of the film of the original Broadway production of "Hamilton" on Disney+. Maybe you'll have a backyard barbecue

with your (very) nearest and dearest. Maybe you'll just curl up with a good book and enjoy a day off. We've gathered a few ideas, in case you need some inspiration.

Hold a personal chili cook-off

For some Palo Altans, the Fourth of July means it's chili time. But crowded lines and communal food are not exactly advisable this summer. Never fear, the International Chili Society, which sanctions chili cook-offs nationwide, publishes online a number of award-winning recipes in a variety of styles from across the country. To check out the possibilities, go to chilicookoff.com/winning-recipes.

Michael Brown, of San Carlos

catering company MB's Place, won top honors at last year's Palo Alto Chili Cook Off for his renowned three-way chili. He recently gave us some tips for becoming a chili champion.

"A common mistake people make is walking away from the kitchen and not stirring the pot. It's like a spaghetti sauce: You gotta keep stirring that pot, making sure nothing is sticking to the bottom," he said. To check whether the chili has achieved the desired texture, he applies "the spatula challenge, which means if my wooden spatula doesn't stand up by itself in the middle of my three-way chili it's not thick enough."

For a full interview with Brown, see next page.

If laboring over a pot of beans and meat for the Fourth of July isn't your thing, you can order chili from Brown by calling 415-748-4222. MB's Place is also available for delivery on DoorDash.

More options from local chefs

Palo Alto's Zola (565 Bryant St.) is offering a Fourth of July grill kit including summer corn and fava beans, potato salad, smoked pork ribs, dinner rolls and apricot brown-butter crumble, available for pickup on Friday, July 3, from 3-7 p.m. The kit is fully cooked and just needs reheating. It feeds three to four people and costs

\$175. To order, go to zolapaloalto.com.

Woodside's Village Bakery is offering a Fourth of July "backyard" barbecue featuring smoked brisket, ribs, chicken, "all the fixins," potato salad, corn, strawberry shortcake, cocktails, wine and beer from 12:30-4 p.m. at 3052 Woodside Road. Orders can be picked up or eaten at a small number of tables. To pre-order for pickup, go to eventbrite.com/e/july-4th-backyard-barbeque-tickets-110806264520.

Chalk Full of Fun (Virtual) Chalk Festival

Normally, on July 4, Redwood City's Courthouse Square and its surrounding areas turn into a glorious, colorful gallery of incredible chalk art. This year, the Chalk Full of Fun Festival, sponsored by the Redwood City Parks and Arts Foundation, is sending the fun home instead, with a virtual festival and a contest for kids, teens and adults. Interested artists can create a chalk drawing at home, upload photos of the work (including one with the artist) and share on social media (use the hashtag #RWCchalkfest) and be eligible to win a prize. An online gallery of entries will be created on the festival's website, where would-be participants can also find some tips on working with chalk (don't forget the sunscreen). To enter, or for more information, go to rwcparf.org/chalk-full-of-fun.

Independence Caravan Parade

While most traditional parades are canceled, Los Altos Hills is hosting a July 4 vehicle caravan parade, which will include emergency vehicles and classic cars, rather than its usual pedestrian and bike procession. The vehicles will cruise through town starting at Town Hall at 10 a.m. and ending at Fremont Road. According to the town's website, residents are encouraged to walk to the street nearest them on the parade route or gather at Purissima Park or the Gardner Bullis campus and to maintain social distancing while watching the festivities. For more information, go to losaltoshills.ca.gov.

A (virtual) Old-Fashioned Fourth of July

While it's closed for in-person visits this time around, the San Mateo County History Museum is offering an online version of its annual "Old-Fashioned Fourth of July" celebration. Activities for children, including instructions on making ice cream, flags and whirligigs, and

historic festive photos from the 1800s, will be posted on the museum's site at historysmc.org/old-fashioned-fourth.

A refresher on refreshments

Palo Alto's City of Cocktail is offering a Fourth of July cocktail bartending class at 5 p.m. on July 4. For \$79 per person, participants will receive two hours of "activity-based bartender learning," with all equipment provided and pizza appetizers included. Class size will remain small, to comply with health guidelines. For more information or to register, go to cityofcocktail.com.

Menlo Park's Left Bank Brasserie is also debuting its new "American Bar" cocktail menu, inspired by the post-World War I American expatriates in Paris. Over the holiday weekend, cocktail specials include the "Bee's Knees" (gin, honey, lemon and lavender) and a daiquiri inspired by Ernest Hemingway, available for pickup or delivery (635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park). Go to leftbank.com.

Take a hike

Take advantage of the beautiful weather and get out into the great outdoors. Many Santa Clara County and San Mateo County parks, open space preserves and city parks are now open, with some restrictions (sorry kids, still no playgrounds allowed). Conditions can change quickly, so confirm that your preferred park is accessible (as well as its parking lots and restrooms, in case you need them). Hikers should maintain at least a 6-foot distance between their and other parties and bring masks to wear when social distancing isn't possible. For information on parks and preserves, go to openspace.org, parks.smcgov.org, scgov.org or check with individual cities on municipal park access.

Find your next favorite soundtrack

Sure, live concerts aren't a safe choice right now, but summer's still a great time to discover new music by local artists. Our sister publication TheSixFifty.com has been publishing interviews with and information on Peninsula-connected musicians with new music recently released, including Call Me Ace, Rob Woods and The Corner Laughers. Even better, on Friday, July 3, the music platform Bandcamp.com is waiving its fees, meaning 100% goes to the musicians, making it an especially supportive way to find new music in time to add it to your holiday weekend playlist. ▣



Michelle Le

Wunderlich Park is among the parks open for outdoor enthusiasts for the holiday weekend.

Chili tips from Michael Brown, winner of last year's Palo Alto Chili Cook Off

How to create award-winning chili at home

By Elena Kadwany

Sadly, there will be no socially distanced version of the annual Palo Alto Chili Cook Off this year, a festive Fourth of July event that for decades has brought people to Mitchell Park to taste locally made chili.

Michael Brown, owner of MB's Place in San Carlos, took home the top spot at last year's Chili Cook Off. A panel of community judges voted his chili "Best Overall" in the annual competition.

Brown, a San Francisco native who grew up learning how to cook from his mother and grandmother in Pacifica, is effusively proud of his chili. It also took home awards at chili competitions in Pacifica and Castro Valley.

"Ultimately I have the best award-winning three-way chili in the entire world, I believe. But that's just what I believe," Brown said.

Brown's three-way chili gets its name from the three types of beans (black, white and kidney) and three types of meat (ground chuck, boneless, skinless chicken breast and filet mignon) he uses.

Brown started making chili last year. He had been thinking about his late father, who used to make chili from a frozen brick of meat and spices. He wanted to create a fresh, updated version using more than one meat. He made two gallons of chili and brought it to a gathering at a friend's house where a group of people, he said, went quiet after their first bites.

"When the conversation stops... you know you're onto something," he said.

Good luck asking Brown for the full recipe; he holds that tight to his chest.

But he does have tips for home cooks who want to try their hand at making chili for the Fourth of July.

Using fresh ingredients is key, as well as consistency.

He cooks all the meat separately. He encouraged creative seasoning — "put your own twist on it" — with herbs like rosemary, thyme and cilantro.

Brown makes sure to constantly stand watch over the chili, stirring and seasoning until it's thickened.

"A common mistake people make is walking away from the

kitchen and not stirring the pot. It's like a spaghetti sauce: You gotta keep stirring that pot, making sure nothing is sticking to the bottom," he said.

Brown likes to top his chili with chopped red onions and shredded Colby-Jack cheese. He'll reserve one corner of his bowl for the cheese so it doesn't melt over the entire surface. Other options are to serve the chili over rice or with cornbread.

For Brown, cooking is his "family trade." His grandmother was a pastry chef at the Transamerica building in San Francisco, his mother was a cook at a retirement home for many years, his aunt ran a restaurant in San Francisco and his brother and sister-in-law owned a cupcake shop in the city.

He quickly graduated from his first-ever cooking experiment as a 4-year-old — melting down Now and Later candy in the oven — to grilled cheeses, hamburgers and fried chicken. Brown later worked as a carver at Boston Market and helped out at his brother and sister-in-law's bakery while barbecuing seriously on the side.

In October, Brown was invited



Courtesy Michael Brown

Michael Brown, owner of MB's Place in San Carlos, took home the top spot at last year's Chili Cook Off in Palo Alto.

to serve his chili at the Palo Alto Black and White Ball. After the event, he found himself with 5 or 6 leftover gallons. He decided to sell it at construction sites he drives to for work, which eventually became popular enough that he decided to start MB's Place, his catering business.

Brown said he's seen a recent spike in sales due to media lists encouraging people to support local Black-owned businesses in the wake of the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minnesota

police.

Brown has been planning on purchasing a concession trailer to take his catering business on the road, and the increase in business means he'll be able to do that much sooner, he said.

He'll also soon be serving his three-way chili on Sundays at the San Carlos Farmers Market, which remains temporarily closed due to the pandemic but is set to reopen soon. ■

Email Elena Kadwany at ekadwany@paweeekly.com

The first step in planning your weekend starts here

Weekend @express

EAT SEE PLAY

SIGN UP AT

AlmanacNews.com/express/weekend

Presented by *The Almanac*

Your weekly
email with tips
and insights
about hot events
and cool activities



- Music
- Eating out
- Movies
- Fun and free
- Art exhibits
- Theater
- Lectures and learning

Food & Drink

What's new in food and drink on the Midpeninsula

Flea St. Cafe reverts to takeout-only, while Nut House reopens

By Elena Kadvany

Menlo Park's Flea St. Cafe has ceased outdoor dining service, while the Nut House in Palo Alto has opened its new socially distanced patio. Read on for updates about these two longtime Midpeninsula businesses.

Flea St. Cafe, Menlo Park

After a week of cautious outdoor dining service, Flea St. Cafe in Menlo Park is reverting to a takeout-only operation, citing concerns about the recent uptick in coronavirus cases.

"We made a commitment at the onset of this pandemic to be conservative and ultra-cautious," reads an email the restaurant sent out on Saturday. "We put the safety of our staff, with responsibility to them and their families, above all else. Due to recent concerning and upward trends in the virus we've respectfully made the decision to immediately close our outdoor patio for full service."

Flea St. had gone beyond public health recommendations in its approach to outdoor dining, including using only compostable plates and utensils, asking diners to serve and bus their own tables and checking customers' temperatures if they went inside to use the bathroom. The goal was reduce as much contact between employees and customers as possible, particularly given most customers weren't wearing masks while dining.

After "a lot of restless nights," however, owner Jesse Cool and partner Michael Biesemeyer decided to halt outdoor dining, Cool said.

"We decided it was not responsible to put our staff in jeopardy with guests unmasked," she said.

She said it was impossible for staff to provide table service and still keep the required 6 feet away from diners. They worried about the potential risk of cross contamination.

"We appreciate that the public is relieved and excited to get back to some kind of normal," Cool said. "It was not easy, a great loss of revenue, but, for us, no other option if we are truly keeping Flea Street and our staff as safe as possible."

Flea St. will continue to serve takeout and allow customers to eat their to-go food at the outdoor tables, but with no wait service. There will also be live music on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Cool also plans to revive breakfast dishes from Late for the Train, the Menlo Park restaurant she opened with her then-husband Bob Cool in 1976, including tamarind potatoes, eggs pipérade and chilaquiles. People will be able to pick up breakfast items in the evenings for reheating at home the next morning.

Despite the fact that San Mateo County has allowed restaurants to resume indoor dining, with many local owners eager to serve more customers in person after months of takeout, Cool doesn't anticipate opening the Flea St. dining room any time soon.

Taking care of diners is "paramount," Cool said, but not enough attention is being paid to the risks for restaurant workers.

"We all want our business back to where we can take care of our beloved guests," she said. "But at what risk and what cost to the food industry?"

Nut House, Palo Alto

Darius Johnson grew up in Palo Alto's Ventura neighborhood, practically down the street from Antonio's Nut House on California Avenue.

The longtime dive bar reopened on Monday after a monthslong pandemic closure with Johnson leading the kitchen. Taqueria Azteca, which for three decades had served Nut House patrons, closed permanently earlier this month due to the coronavirus.

Johnson, a self-taught chef, is now serving chicken wings, lumpia, tacos, burgers and other bar fare out of the Nut House at 321 California Ave. Socially distanced tables have been set up in the parking lot adjacent to the bar for outdoor dining, and bright-yellow peanuts have been spray-painted in front of the entrance to remind people to stand 6 feet apart while in line. (Alcohol can only be served with food under local public health mandates, so people must first order food before getting a drink.)

The menu reflects Johnson's roots in Palo Alto. There's handmade meat- and vegetable-filled lumpia because one of his best friends growing up was Filipino. He named his burger, which comes with pickles and remoulade he makes himself, after Michael Meyer, a local woodworker whose son he went to Ohlone Elementary School with.

Johnson, a Gunn High School



Magali Gauthier

Flea St. Cafe is stopping its outdoor table service to protect its wait staff, owner Jesse Cool announced. Diners can still get takeout and eat at outdoor tables.



Elena Kadvany

Antonio's Nut House is now offering outdoor dining in its small parking lot off California Avenue in Palo Alto.

graduate, got the gig at the Nut House through another hometown friend: Palo Alto native Lars Smith, co-owner of State of Mind Public House & Pizzeria in Los Altos. Smith was in talks with the Nut House owners to take over the kitchen but realized he didn't have the time or staff to make it happen, he said, so he suggested they tap Johnson instead. Smith also grew up in the Ventura neighborhood and has known Johnson since he was about 5 years old. Johnson helped Smith open State of Mind in 2018. Smith said they're talking about teaming up for future burger or pizza pop-ups at the Nut House.

Johnson always loved cooking; as a teenager, he'd barbecue for his friends. His first restaurant job was as a line cook at The Fish Market in Palo Alto.

He went on to cook at the now-closed Calafia Market in Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Elks Lodge, Sushi 88 in Mountain View, Mandarin Roots in Palo Alto and Alexander's Steakhouse in Palo Alto. Before the pandemic, he was a kitchen manager at Facebook.

During the shutdown, Johnson had been serving tacos, Japanese curry, barbecue and other dishes out of his mother's house in Palo Alto through his catering company, Bay La Soul. He describes his cooking style as "soul food," not in terms of Southern-style cuisine but rather cooking with soul.

"I believe everybody has their own soul food," he said.

Also on the menu are quesadilla tacos — two tortillas with a layer of melted cheese in between — and regular carne asada,

chicken or black bean tacos. He plans to expand the menu as he settles in.

Johnson said his dream is to have his own restaurant, so the Nut House was an unexpected but welcome opportunity.

"It's kind of weird it took a pandemic but I'm completely ecstatic about it and I'm grateful for the opportunity," he said.

Bay La Soul is open at the Nut House daily from noon to 9 p.m. The kitchen closes at 8 p.m. but will serve items like chips and salsa for the last hour.

The owners of the Nut House are still looking for a permanent home for the dive bar before the lease expires in December, including at a space down the street on California Avenue. ▀

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweekly.com

Craving a new voice in Peninsula dining?



Every other week, top local food reporter Elena Kadvany provides insight into the latest openings and closings, what she's eating that she's excited about, interviews with chefs and the trends affecting local restaurants.



Sign up for food reporting you won't find anywhere else at almanacnews.com/express



Small businesses, we're giving away advertising to help you reopen.


Small, independent businesses are the heart and soul of our communities. To help meet the challenges we all face to getting back on our feet, we've committed to giving away up to \$200,000 in print and online advertising over the next three months.

Our matching grants of up to \$2,500 per month enable you to double your advertising at no cost.

Working together, we can start bringing customers and employees back to work.

To learn more and apply, go to
EmbarcaderoMediaGroup.com/smallbusinessgrant

The Almanac

 embarcadero media

2020 YEAR-TO-DATE ACTIVITY by **ERIKA DEMMA**



\$4,500,000 | Woodside **FOR SALE**
355OldLaHondaRoad.com



\$5,495,000 | Portola Valley **FOR SALE**
385Westridge.com



\$2,995,000 | San Carlos **FOR SALE**
1418EatonAve.com



\$8,995,000 | Woodside **FOR SALE**
40Foxhill.com



\$3,995,000 | Woodside **PENDING**
7Monticello.com



\$2,195,000 | Woodside **PENDING**
1942KingsMountainRd.com



\$1,295,000 | Woodside **PENDING**
157Henrikbsen.com

Erika's 2020 YTD Sales**

375 Mountain Home Road, Woodside*
Price not disclosed

410 Golden Oak Drive, Portola Valley
\$8,250,000

600 Moore Road,, Woodside*
\$9,950,000

205 Eleanor Drive, Woodside
\$5,295,000

4253 Jefferson Avenue, Woodside
\$3,495,000

111 Alta Mesa Road, Woodside*
\$2,695,000

115 Otis Avenue, Woodside
\$1,999,500

228 Oakhurst Place, Menlo Park*
\$1,899,000

308 Olive Hill Lane, Woodside*
Price not disclosed



Some exciting things coming soon!

COMPASS

OVER \$ 1 BILLION SOLD | #171 NATIONWIDE AND #1 AGENT – WOODSIDE PER WALL STREET JOURNAL REAL TRENDS, 2019

* Represented Buyer ** List price shown

Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

Boutique Customized Service with Strong Local and Global Presence

650.740.2970 DRE#01230766
erika@erikademma.com
erikademma.com

ERIKA DEMMA
REAL ESTATE SERVICES