

The Almanac

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Citing COVID-19 increase, high school district to start fall semester with full distance learning

By Tyler Callister

Almanac Staff Writer

In a packed Zoom school board meeting that hit the virtual platform's capacity of 500 viewers, the Sequoia Union High School District on Tuesday night gave its most concrete decision about the fate of the fall thus far: High school students will learn from home for the first quarter of the school year.

Superintendent Mary Streshly said that recent coronavirus case increases have pushed the district to keep students learning remotely until at least October, saying that the district works from a system of phases meant to adapt to ongoing health conditions.

She said that the administration's decision was based on "current health data in conjunction with our evaluation of our current abilities to keep both staff and students safe in classrooms."

Students and staff will follow a consistent bell schedule during distance learning, Streshly

said, and students will receive letter grades — a notable change after the district had moved to a credit/no-credit system for the spring semester.

The announcement Tuesday follows a two-month-long community debate about a single question: return students to campus, or keep them home?

At a June 10 board meeting, parents flooded the board with public comments imploring the district to allow kids to return to campus with a hybrid schedule — half online, half on-campus.

Meanwhile, a June 24 meeting saw hundreds of comments from district teachers and staff asking for greater caution about reopening schools. A survey done by the Sequoia District Teachers Association found that 46% of teachers opposed returning to campus in the fall, with most citing health concerns. At that meeting, the board voted 4-1 on June 24 in favor of a hybrid learning model as part of a phased reopening

See **SEQUOIA**, page 17



Magali Gauthier

High school classrooms will remain empty when school starts next month, Sequoia Union High School District officials decided Tuesday. Locally, that means Woodside, TIDE Academy and Menlo-Atherton students will stay home and attend online classes for the fall quarter.

Coronavirus delays start of high school sports seasons

Postponed until at least December, there will be two, not three sports seasons

By Elena Kadvany and
Jamey Padojino

Local high school sports teams won't be competing until at least December or January, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) announced Monday.

"We are continuously monitoring the directives and guidelines released from the Governor's Office, the California Department of Education, the California Department of Public Health, and local county health departments and agencies as these directives and guidelines are followed by our member schools/school districts with

student health and safety at the forefront," the governing body for high school sports in California said in a press release.

The California Interscholastic Federation released a modified season that pushes section play-offs for several sports, including football, water polo, basketball and baseball, into spring and summer of 2021.

Given the changes, the CIF will temporarily allow student athletes to participate on outside teams at the same time as their high school teams.

The CIF's announcement leaves it up to each section to set their regular-season schedules for multiple sports. The Central

Coast Section (CCS) executive committee, which administers sports from San Francisco to King City, voted and released its plan on Tuesday. Under the schedule, no local sports seasons will start until December. Cross country, field hockey, football, water polo and volleyball teams can begin practicing on Dec. 14, while spring sports including tennis and basketball will start in February and March. Gymnastics and competitive cheer seasons are listed as to be determined at this point.

The committee faced numerous decisions, including whether it should forego regional tournaments, said Commissioner

David Grissom, who expected the 10-member group to set schedules that will largely fall in line with the CIF's sports calendar.

"What the state put out basically was a reduction of seasons from three to two," Grissom said. While the state's schedule allows for full seasons of competition, a student who plays in two sports will see their seasons compete with one another.

"Student-athletes are going to have to make choices where they didn't have to make decisions (in the past)," Grissom said.

The changes are in effect for the 2020-21 school year only. If public health and education

guidelines change, however, local high schools can allow for athletic activity to potentially resume, CIF said.

Grissom planned to suggest switching gymnastics from the fall, its current category under the CIF schedule, to the spring in the CCS based on feedback from people in the sport and public health orders preventing student-athletes from practicing at gyms. Also, the Central Coast and San Diego sections are the only ones across the state that offer gymnastics, which doesn't have a state tournament. The plan approved Tuesday

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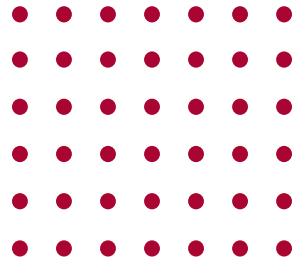
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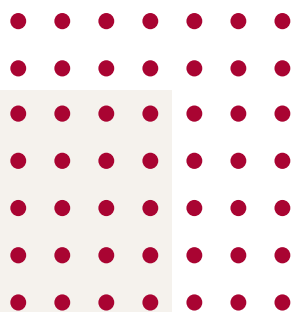
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—Mary Hawn, MD | *Chair of the Department of Surgery, Stanford Medicine*

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Lloyd Lee

Maddie Ta, 17, receives a nasal swab test from one of the traveling nurses staffing the COVID-19 testing site in Palo Alto City Hall on June 16.

State on alert as as COVID-19 hospitalizations, positive cases rise

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County reported 72 new cases on Tuesday, raising its total to 4,776. The death toll has stayed at 114 since July 13. Seventy-seven people were hospitalized as of Tuesday.

Santa Clara County reported 280 new cases of the coronavirus on Wednesday, bringing its total to 8,321. Two more people have died, raising the death toll to 180. There are 169 people

hospitalized, 36 of which are new.

The county has seen 29 more COVID-19 patients hospitalized between July 14 and 21, during which time the average of beds has risen by 1% to 6.53%. Of the 169 patients hospitalized with the virus, 116 are in non-intensive care unit beds and 50 are in ICU. A month earlier, 48 people were hospitalized with the virus, 25 of whom were in ICU.

County could wind up on state watchlist

In comments to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, county Health Chief Louise Rogers said two factors could place the county on the state's watchlist — the coronavirus case rate and the local hospital census.

The county's rate is 105.7 per 100,000 in the population, a 14-day rolling average,

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page 12

Menlo Park council talks about how city can be more racially equitable

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council recently pushed for a series of steps to tackle what some termed “institutional bias” and others called “racism” in city policies and practices, including within the police department.

On July 16, the council agreed to take initial steps to develop a plan to recruit a new police chief who can help lead changes in the department, and to start a mandatory racial equity training program for all executive staff members, the City Council and the city attorney.

“I know some of the conversation is uncomfortable, but it's something we're going to move through together,” said Mayor Cecilia Taylor.

Four council members or executives planned to attend a virtual conference called “Building Racial Equity” by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity on July 30 at a cost of \$400 per person.

A more in-depth plan to assess how the city can better address racial inequities is set to come back to the council at its Aug. 11 meeting.

“There is a national debate going on right now, and I think it very much makes sense for Menlo Park to plug into that debate,” said Vice Mayor Drew Combs.

When it comes to starting a search for a new police chief — Chief Dave Bertini suddenly announced on June 18 that he planned to retire — the council agreed to work with an outside consultant to aid in the recruitment process, and to include the community, especially at the beginning of the process.

An overly public recruitment process can limit the applicant pool because applicants may be worried that it will be revealed that they're looking for a new job, which could have repercussions for their current role, according to City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson.

The council also agreed to reconsider in the future how funds the city receives from Facebook for “public safety” should be spent.

The Facebook funds previously have been put toward creating a new police unit on Menlo Park's Bay side, covering its newly rezoned areas where



Mayor
Cecilia Taylor



Vice Mayor
Drew Combs

See **RACIAL EQUITY**, page 8

Ravenswood to start school year with full distance learning

By **Elena Kadvany**

The Ravenswood City School board backed unanimously a plan to open schools in August remotely, with the hopes that students can return to campuses in a hybrid model later in the fall if public health conditions improve.

A task force at the East Palo Alto district had been working for weeks on a different proposal: to have students attend school in person two days a week and learn from home the other three days. Conversations about the need to instead

reopen with full distance learning started about a week and a half ago, Superintendent Gina Sudaria said last week, given the rise in local coronavirus cases — particularly in East Palo Alto.

As of July 13, San Mateo County has about 4,400 confirmed coronavirus cases. East Palo Alto has 401 as of July 16, a high rate given the city's small population.

“It's important that we try to bring our students in so we can have that relational, instructional experience. The framework from the county says that we reopen school when the curve flattens. The data is not telling

us that,” Sudaria said. “We don't feel comfortable opening school and exposing families and staff, our team, to harm.”

Ravenswood joins a wave of districts that are deciding to keep students and staff at home for the start of the new school year, from the Redwood City School District, Mountain View Whisman School District and Mountain View-Los Altos High School District to the state's two largest districts, Los Angeles Unified and San Diego Unified. Palo Alto Unified has not changed its plan to reopen its elementary schools in August, though its teachers union called

in an open letter last week for full distance learning.

The reopening schools task force, made up of staff, parents, community partners and two trustees (Tamara Sobomehin and Sharifa Wilson), recommended that the district assess distance learning in September and phase in a hybrid model, if safe, in October. In the hybrid proposal, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students would attend school four days a week while first through eighth graders would be divided into two stable cohorts to attend campuses two days a week on an alternating schedule.

“I'm glad to hear that we're not planning on doing distance learning for the whole semester ... because I know families are burdened with being able to help their students in the way that they need,” said President Ana Maria Pulido.

In a survey, 41% of Ravenswood parents said they preferred keeping their children at home until there is a vaccine, while 59% wanted a hybrid model. (276 parents responded to the survey representing about 340 students.) The task force also held virtual town halls and

See **RAVENSWOOD**, page 16



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 for nonincumbent filers only.

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
July 13, 2020

July 24, 2020
2nd Quarter 2020

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

The O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Company has levels of manganese above the secondary drinking water standard.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Our water system is in violation of a secondary drinking water standard. Violation of a secondary standard does not pose an immediate threat to health.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 50 ppb in well #1 and 148 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb.

Manganese concentrations above the standard may have an effect on taste and tend to leave black deposits in some plumbing systems.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).** There is no health risk.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

O'Connor Water has been above the secondary standard for manganese for many years, and this has been described to members in the annual Report on Water Quality Measurements. Recent state regulations have imposed stricter requirements for complying with the secondary standard for manganese. The state has issued the company a citation for noncompliance. The state ordered the company to start quarterly monitoring in February 2012, and this monitoring is still ongoing at both wells. The state also required that manganese monitoring be continued quarterly and that the results of these tests be reported to all water consumers.

The Company is working with State agencies and the City of Menlo Park to complete the planning of a manganese treatment facility that will then be installed and operational on the Company's property.

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The Almanac

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ELECTION BRIEFS

Fire board incumbent running for reelection

Another member of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board is running for reelection this fall.

Virginia Chang Kiraly, who was elected to the board in November 2011, has qualified for the Nov. 3 ballot, according to the San Mateo County candidate roster. Her seat and that of fellow incumbent Rob Silano, who was also elected in November 2011, are up for reelection. Silano told The Almanac he intends to run, but had not pulled papers by the paper's press deadline Wednesday.

Upon her election, Chang Kiraly became the second woman ever to serve on the Menlo fire board. She ran for reelection uncontested in 2015.

Board directors serve four-year terms, with elections held every two years.

The fire district serves Menlo Park, Atherton and East Palo Alto, as well as nearby unincorporated communities such as North Fair Oaks and Stanford Weekend Acres.



Virginia Chang Kiraly

Candidate filing period open for November election

San Mateo County residents who are looking to run for office have another two weeks to submit all required paperwork.

The county's filing period for the November election opened July 13. If an incumbent doesn't run for reelection, the filing deadline for non-incumbents will be extended until 5 p.m. on Aug. 12.

Candidates have until 5 p.m. on Aug. 7 to file paperwork with the county Elections Office, although city candidates need to file with their city clerk's office and should check their business hours.

Due to COVID-19 and the shelter-in-place order, the state has issued guidelines allowing counties to send and receive candidate filing documents electronically. While the county Elections Office still offers in-person filing, electronic filing is strongly encouraged.

To file electronically, candidates need to fill out a registration form, which can be downloaded from the county's website at smacre.org or requested by phone or email. Upon receiving the written request and confirming the candidate's eligibility, the county will email all filing forms out in a fillable PDF format.

Staff can assist candidates with filling out each form by phone or online videoconferencing, according to the county. Any documents requiring an oath by candidates can be done via videoconferencing, but not by phone.

In addition to electronically signing and emailing forms back to the Elections Office, candidates must print and sign each completed form and mail them or drop them off at the Registration & Elections Division. If the county doesn't receive completed documents with original signatures by the filing deadline, the candidate will not be considered qualified, and their name won't appear on the ballot.

Those who still want to visit the Elections Office are asked to make an appointment. Visitors must wear a mask and practice social distancing, according to the Elections Office.

For more candidate or election information, visit the Elections Office website, or call (650) 312-5222.

—Julia Brown



File photo

The filing period to run for office on the Nov. 3 ballot is open through early August.

Newsom: Schools in watchlist counties cannot reopen in person

By Elena Kadvany

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced July 17 that public and private schools in counties on the state's coronavirus watchlist cannot reopen for in-person instruction until they've been off the list for 14 days.

This means that schools in these counties must plan for full distance learning in the fall, and those that had hoped to reopen their campuses must switch gears. Counties on the watchlist have not met the state's benchmarks for reopening, including positive case rates, hospitalizations and capacity.

Counties not being monitored by the state can decide locally in partnership with local health leaders whether to offer in-person instruction, Newsom said.

San Mateo County Health Chief Louise Rogers said Tuesday that the county is not currently on the state's watchlist but she expected it to be soon, given the county's case rate of 105.7 cases per 100,000 in the population (a 14-day rolling average) as of Tuesday. As of Wednesday, the county was not on the watchlist, but the Sequoia Union High School District on Tuesday decided to go with entirely online instruction for its fall semester (see story on Page 1). Most local elementary schools had not announced their decisions as of The Almanac's Wednesday press deadline.

In a press conference, Newsom cited the rise in coronavirus cases statewide as a driving

force for the new mandate for reopening schools. As of July 16, California has just over 366,000 confirmed cases, with 9,986 new confirmed cases Thursday. Of California's 58 counties, 32 are on the watchlist.

"We all prefer in-classroom instruction for all the obvious reasons ... but only, only if it can be done safely," Newsom said. "Safety is foundational and safety will ultimately make the determination of how we go about educating our kids."

District superintendents can, however, in consultation with labor unions, parents and community organizations, seek a waiver from their local health officers to allow elementary schools to reopen for in-person instruction, the state said. Health officers must consider local data and consult with the California Department of Public Health when reviewing the waiver requests.

Newsom also announced new criteria to prevent the spread of the coronavirus for schools that are allowed to reopen. Masks will be required for all staff and students in third grade and above (unless they're exempt), and they will be "strongly encouraged" for younger students. Schools should provide masks to students who don't have them and must "exclude" students who refuse to wear masks, the state's new guidance reads.

Staff will be required to keep 6 feet of distance between themselves and their students, while students should maintain 6 feet

from one another "as practicable." The school day should start with temperature and symptom checks, Newsom said. The state also will require regular testing of all teachers and staff: 25% of staff should be tested every two weeks, or 50% every month, to rotate testing of all staff over time.

Newsom emphasized the importance of the health and safety of teachers and staff.

"We're not just talking about our children. We're also talking about those we entrust our children with when we drop them off at school as well and their health and safety. It's an ecosystem, our public education system. We are responsible to address the needs of that ecosystem," he said.

If a school or school district resumes in-person instruction, but its county is later placed on the monitoring list, schools should begin testing staff or increase the frequency of testing. They are not, however, required to close, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Acknowledging that distance learning failed to meet the needs of many students in the spring, Newsom said the state expects schools to offer "rigorous" distance learning this fall. Beyond requiring daily, live interaction between teachers and students; providing devices and "challenging assignments equivalent to in-person classes," Newsom didn't provide further detail on

See **SCHOOLS**, page 12

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Pricing

Dear Monica: My house has been on the market for more than five weeks and so far there haven't been any offers although it is being shown regularly. It's a good property in a fine location. Do you think price is the issue? Bruce T.

Dear Bruce: If your property has many things buyers are looking for and it's still not selling, it is probably

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Woodside: Man arrested for DUI following fatal crash pleads not guilty

Alex Seyedi was driving 80 to 90 mph on Skyline when he crashed

By Julia Brown
Almanac Assistant Editor

A Campbell man arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence following a fatal crash in Woodside earlier this month has pleaded not guilty to all charges, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Alex Seyedi, 27, appeared in court Monday via remote video from San Mateo County Jail. He turned himself in on July 7 after being released from Stanford Hospital following treatment of major injuries, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Art Montiel.

The crash was reported around 7:25 p.m. July 3 on Skyline

Boulevard near Thomas Fogarty Winery in Woodside.

Seyedi was driving his friend, 27-year-old Campbell resident Woodrow Gibson, in a BMW 540i when he veered off the southbound side of the road at a right curve and hit a tree north of Clouds Rest lookout point, according to CHP Officer David LaRock. The car then rolled back into the southbound lane.

Gibson was pronounced dead at the scene, and Seyedi was flown to Stanford Hospital with major injuries, LaRock said.

The two had been at a party and left, presumably to get more alcohol, Gibson's fiancée told investigators. Seyedi was driving 80 to 90 miles per hour when he lost control, according to the DA's office.

Four hours after the crash, Seyedi's blood alcohol level was .10, according to the DA's office.

A private defender has been appointed for Seyedi, who remains in jail on felony charges of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the combined influence of an alcoholic beverage and drug and causing an injury, and a misdemeanor charge of driving with a suspended or revoked license, according to jail records. Further information was not available before The Almanac's press deadline Wednesday.

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on July 31. Bail has been set at \$250,000. ■

Email Julia Brown at jbrown@almanacnews.com



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Third candidate joins race for Menlo Park's District 3 council race

Chelsea Nguyen is a former refugee, military police trainee and theology student

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Longtime Menlo Park resident Chelsea Nguyen has lived a life full of what sound like contradictions.

She came to America as a child refugee, then served in the military in the Middle East and attended military police training. She has been Buddhist and Christian, and got her graduate degree in theology from Oxford University.

She's experienced the gamut of circumstances that brought her from a refugee camp in Vietnam to being a homeowner and parent of three in Menlo Park, a city she's lived in for 40 years, she said.

And on July 20, she pulled papers to run for the Menlo Park City Council's District 3 seat.

If elected, she said, her top policy priorities would be in the areas of housing affordability, police reform and transportation.

When Nguyen first came to the U.S. with her parents and two siblings, the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church (now Menlo Church) sponsored her family. They lived in a small apartment in East Palo Alto and she attended Willow Oaks School.

"As an immigrant I have a different perspective than other people who are born and raised here," she said. "I know what it's like not to have anything. I know what it's like to lose everything and start new ... I know how hard it is to survive when you have very little. As a community we ought to know better."

Now, her three adult children — a daughter and two sons who



Magali Gauthier

Chelsea Nguyen has joined the Menlo Park City Council race for the District 3 seat. Jennifer Wolosin and Max Fennel are also running to represent the district in the Nov. 3 election.

have served or are serving in the military — tell her that there's no way they'd be able to live in the community if their family didn't own their home.

She said she favors rent control and would like Menlo Park to have a more robust below-market-rate housing rental program.

Santa Monica has had rent control for many years. "It's an affluent neighborhood like ours and they are able to have rent control. I don't see how we can't have that," she said.

"If you work at Starbucks and make \$15 an hour, like my daughter, you will never make enough to have a place to live," she said.

Her daughter, she said, is lucky, because she can live at home and walk to work. She, unlike her coworkers, doesn't get parking tickets for not moving her car

frequently enough while on the job.

"What about the young people who just start out who don't live here (and) work here?" she asked. "I just think we ought to ... be better. We have to find a way to be better."

Nguyen said she also is interested in police reform policies.

While in the military, she said, she had several jobs, one of which was with the military police.

At the military police academy, she said, she was taught that every suspect she would interact with is a trained killer. Yet despite working to enforce laws among people with far more combat training than the average civilian, she was always instructed to shoot to maim, never to kill.

That training contrasts deeply with the police shootings that have been happening around the

U.S., she said.

Nguyen said she'd be interested in focusing police reform on recruitment and hiring practices rather than training. She said she would also want to understand more about how policing is taking place, and whether police officers are patrolling with a mindset of catching criminals or focusing on community safety more broadly, especially in Belle Haven, where many minority residents live.

She said she favors a compassionate approach to law enforcement, and described a scene from Victor Hugo's novel "Les Misérables" in which a young man who stole some food went to jail. When he was released, he stole some silverware from a church, and when caught, the priest let him keep the silverware and forgave him. She said she took a

lesson from that story: "For me, if you give compassion, you never know what kind of wonderful positive outcome could come back to you."

Another policy priority would be transportation. She said she was recently in Phoenix helping with a campaign for a Democratic candidate and was impressed with the public transit there. She said she'd love to see a similar public transit option that allows for faster travel along El Camino Real in particular. "I think it's a pipe dream," she said, but added she is interested in other ideas to improve transportation in the Bay Area.

While a run for City Council would be her first campaign for public office, she's volunteered for a number of candidates, doing phone banking and registering voters. She also helps register new naturalized U.S. citizens to vote, has served on Palo Alto's Community Development Block Grant board and is the vice president of the San Mateo County Blue Star Moms chapter, which organizes care packages for troops and supports veterans, including those who are homeless, in Menlo Park.

"I want to have a voice to speak for the ones who can't, who won't, or who are not able to speak for themselves," she said.

Nguyen joins a race for the District 3 seat that so far has two other contenders: Jennifer Wolosin, founder of Parents for Safe Routes, and Max Fennel, a Black pro triathlete and entrepreneur. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

RACIAL EQUITY

continued from page 5

housing, life science and office buildings are now permitted. Since many of the development proposals are still under review, the new police unit doubles the number of beats that patrol the city's existing Bay side neighborhoods, including Belle Haven, where a majority of residents are Latino or Black.

Councilwoman Betsy Nash said she'd be interested in seeing more police data and analysis.

Councilman Ray Mueller said he was interested in talking more about why the Neighborhood Service Center has become more of an annex for police officers than a community serving center, and whether minorities feel uncomfortable around public safety officers. "We can be more.



Courtesy city of Menlo Park

Menlo Park police Chief

Dave Bertini announced on June 18 that he planned to retire. Now the city must start a search for a new chief.

We're trying to figure out how to be stronger," he said.

Additional resources to help with the process are former East Palo Alto police Chief Ron Davis and NOBLE, the

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, community members and NOBLE representatives said in public comments.

Traffic flow to expand on Santa Cruz Avenue

Less than a month after barriers were placed along Santa Cruz Avenue to block off the street to allow restaurants to expand outdoors, the council also voted July 16 to reopen some parts of the street, allowing traffic to run one way on Santa Cruz Avenue southbound from Doyle Street through Curtis Street and northbound from Crane Street to Chestnut Street.

The move was in response to a request to do so by the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce. That's because retail businesses on the street have come out against the street closure, saying it has adversely impacted

their businesses even while the street closures were set up to help downtown restaurants enable safer outdoor dining during the pandemic.

Vasile Oros, owner of Ace Hardware in downtown Menlo Park, said that the closure has coincided with a 30% loss of sales at the hardware store, that the city's downtown is a "ghost town" during the day, and that many customers have been confused and called to ask about where they can park.

"Just seeing this drop, I am thinking about other businesses ... if they suffer the same, it's not good," he said.

In addition, other uses than restaurants, such as personal services and fitness and recreation businesses, will also be able to apply for permits to operate outdoors.

The discussion came with an acknowledgment that the

city may be headed for more restrictions, including the elimination of outdoor dining, in the near future if COVID-19 cases continue to rise in San Mateo County. In addition, as case counts begin to rise, more people are staying in and are more reticent to go out, Mueller said.

That downtown retailers are so uniformly opposed to the closure makes it a failure already, Combs said. "There's no way we can end this in its current state and say it's a success. ... A key stakeholder has already said it is not working for them."

The county could soon be placed on the state's watchlist of counties that face greater restrictions as COVID-19 case counts rise. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com



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Woodside council eases rules for building granny units

Also discussed a leaf blower ordinance and proposal to restrict parking near Wunderlich Park

By Heather Zimmerman

The Woodside Town Council took up a variety of housing, local safety and quality of life issues at its July 14 meeting. The council updated an ordinance to make granny units easier to build, discussed what a local leaf-blower regulation might look like and took the first step in making a stretch of Highway 84 safer for cyclists, equestrians and drivers.

The council unanimously voted to approve an amendment making it easier to get permission to build granny units, also known as accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The change will bring the town's ordinance into alignment with a state law that went into effect at the beginning of the year. The state regulations aim to streamline ADU requirements to help alleviate the statewide housing shortage and allow for broad exceptions to local development standards, including shorter timelines for approval and loosening of setback requirements.

The new state law mandates that "no local regulations preclude the development of at least one 800-square-foot ADU, a minimum of 4 feet from the side and rear property lines," according to Woodside's staff report.



File photo

Accessory units will be easier to build in Woodside, after the Town Council voted to amend the ordinance to streamline approvals and relax setback requirements.

Approving the update to the town's ADU ordinance will ensure that the town is complying with the new state law, but the council does plan further fine-tuning of the ordinance later this year, particularly as it relates to building height, said Jackie Young, Woodside's planning director.

A study session to explore the possibility of imposing restrictions on leaf blowers drew more comment than has been typical at recent council meetings, with about eight callers weighing in. Some residents shared concerns about the noise and air pollution caused by leaf blowers,

particularly gasoline-powered blowers, and others said that leaf blowers are the most efficient way to help them clear their properties of leaves and other material, particularly debris dropped by the area's many redwood trees, that would otherwise pose a fire hazard.

Town Manager Kevin Bryant noted that with more residents at home due to shelter-in-place orders, there's increased awareness of the noise caused by leaf blowers, and creating a regulation could be "timely." He also pointed to neighboring communities with comparable land use, such as Atherton, that have implemented

leaf blower restrictions, and that Portola Valley is banning gas-powered blowers by 2021.

Council members raised concerns about placing an additional burden on workers who may already be facing economic hardship during the pandemic, as switching from gas-powered leaf blowers to electric ones could be costly, and as several residents noted, electric blowers can be less efficient at clearing large areas.

The council ultimately directed town staff to research creating a leaf blower ordinance that would look at offering monetary incentives to switch from gas-powered to electric blowers and include restrictions on hours of use that might be patterned after the hours that the town allows construction to take place.

The council also unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the town manager to apply to Caltrans for encroachment permits that will allow the town to post "No Parking" signs along a stretch of Highway 84 near the entrance to Wunderlich County Park and create an equestrian crossing near the park entrance.

The proposed equestrian crossing would be south of Montelena Court and connect the Boone Trail to a small spur trail that crosses the highway and

goes into the park — a "heavily used informal crossing now," according to Sean Rose, the town's director of public works.

"No Parking" signs would be posted on both sides of Highway 84 from the entrance to the park, which is just south of Montelena Court, to Portola Road. "Town staff have received a number of complaints about illegal parking and speeding in this area," Rose said, adding that the shoulder of the road is too narrow in many places, parked cars block sight lines and some areas are poorly graded, making them unsafe.

In response to council members voicing concerns over the limited parking inside the park, which causes visitors to park along the highway just outside the entrance, Rose said he would look for safe places along the road where some parking spots could be retained.

He also noted that the San Mateo County Parks Department has made improvements to the existing parking lot and that the county's general plan for parks does call out creating additional parking spots inside Wunderlich, but county officials have not offered a timeline on when that parking might be added. ■

Email Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

COVID-19 testing could expand with 'specimen pooling'

By Sue Dremann

As COVID-19 infections continue to spread, demand for diagnostic tests has risen to a level that has pushed back California's mass-testing expansion plan due to a strain on resources. Now, "specimen pooling" could be a game changer, making hundreds of thousands of tests accessible to the public.

Dr. Sonia Angell, the state's public health officer, rolled back testing guidelines on July 14 to essential workers, those with symptoms of the virus and people who were in close contact with an infected person or who were in high-risk settings such as public transportation and mass gatherings due to a shortage of testing components and testing-result delays at laboratories.

The rollback puts a damper on the widescale testing and retesting that health experts say is crucial to control the outbreak and to protect the economy. Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Romer, formerly chief economist of the World Bank, said in his

proposal "Roadmap to Responsibly Reopen America" that to save the economy and lives, everyone in the United States should be tested every two weeks. Patients with positive results should self-isolate while the economy reopens.

If that's the case, then the U.S. has a long way to go. Currently, only 7% of the population is being tested every day, David Donoho, Stanford University professor of statistics, said in a recent SIAM News article that noted Romer's hypothesis. Donoho and his Stanford colleagues, Mahsa Lotfi and Batu Ozturkler, have researched worldwide emergent mathematical and statistical ideas regarding COVID-19 specimen pooling published July 13 in the publication by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

"For context, only about 4% of U.S. residents were tested for COVID-19 from March through May," he noted.

Specimen pooling, also known as group testing, can vastly increase the number of tests, save scarce resources, reduce costs and speed up results, he and his

co-authors said. The method received a boost last weekend after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized one laboratory, Quest Diagnostics, to conduct small-scale test batching through an emergency authorization, the company announced on Saturday, July 18.

Stanford Medicine is also in line for possible emergency-use authorization from the FDA for its specimen pooling, which could markedly increase its daily testing output.

"If we are doing 2,000 tests per day and convert to pooling we can do 20,000 per day," said Dr. James Zehnder, director of clinical pathology at Stanford Medicine.

In specimen pooling, nasal-swab samples taken for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) diagnostic test, which identifies active virus infections, are still collected in individual vials through swabs used in a patient's upper respiratory system. The specimens are then combined into small batches. A batch that tests negative means all of those patients do not have the virus; if

a batch has a positive result, then all of the patients in that pool are retested individually to find out who has an infection, Zehnder said.

"I'm a little concerned there's not a dialogue about reopening schools" using specimen pooling to track infections, he said.

With disease-prevalence rates still low, that could amount to thousands of test kits being freed up. If the FDA approves Stanford's specimen pooling, the university's medical school lab could process up to 10 samples on a test, he said. Stanford could also save an estimated 25% in test and processing costs, according to Zehnder.

Pooling specimens would also help reduce shortages. Various components of the test kits have been in short supply at different times since March: pipette tips, reagent and other chemicals for transporting the tests to labs, Zehnder said. Stanford has been fortunate because it has largely been able to get around the shortages through its innovations. It created its own in-house test, which has FDA emergency-use

authorization, and 3D-printed its own nasal swabs, he said. Border towns and areas with fewer resources and many cases have been less fortunate, and specimen pooling could help preserve precious resources and reduce backlogs, he said.

Specimen pooling has been successfully used for more than 70 years. It is currently used at blood banks to screen donations for a variety of viruses.

Donoho said specimen pooling was used in the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, when antibody tests for the virus were restricted to a limited number of kits.

"There are many, many examples. It's proven itself over a lot of years. Mass testing gives us a safe path out of lockdown, and just by using math, we can do that today," he said.

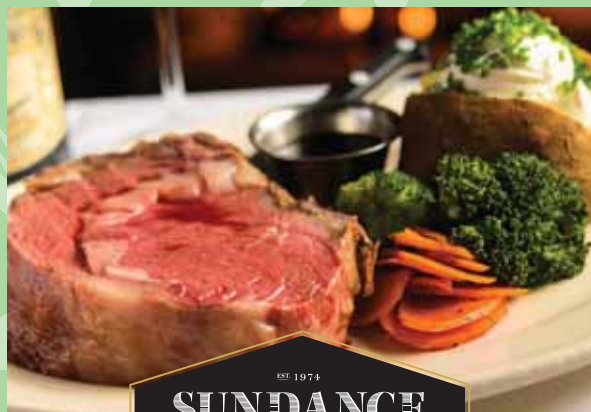
Using specimen pooling, 100 people can be accurately checked for the virus using 10 test kits, Donoho said. Researchers are examining ways to push the frontier further using math and

See **TESTING**, page 18



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Caltrain to hold public meeting on closing Atherton train station

By Tyler Callister
Almanac Staff Writer

Caltrain will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed closure of Atherton's 108-year-old train station at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29. Members of the public can access the meeting online via Zoom.

The Atherton station has had steadily decreasing ridership for some years, Caltrain officials said in their statement announcing the meeting.

"Prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Atherton Caltrain Station only received limited weekend-only service every 90 minutes with an average of 114 passengers per weekend day. Weekday service to the station was cut in 2005 due to low demand," the rail service said.

Integrating the Atherton station into the rail service's electrification project would be difficult given the station's limitations — only one train can board at a time. "If the

station remains, an upgrade of substantial cost would be necessary to prevent disruption of the expanded service that will come with the electrification of the corridor," the statement said.

In January, the town of Atherton struck a tentative agreement with Caltrain to close the station, subject to a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

According to Town Manager George Rodericks, the MOU is currently being discussed by the City Council's ad hoc subcommittee and Caltrain over

details regarding the closure of the space, including parking, station maintenance and refurbishment, security, fencing and landscaping, and other safety improvements.

Rodericks said that after closure, the train station space would become part of the town's new civic center project slated for completion in October 2021, while the train station building and parking spaces would remain.

Community members can view the July 29 meeting at

zoom.us/j/97368870471 using the webinar ID 973 6887 0471. To access via telephone, dial 1-669-900-9128 and use meeting ID 9736 8870 471.

Caltrain will hold another public hearing about the Atherton train station closure at its board of directors meeting Aug. 6.

Comments may be submitted until Aug. 6 at caltrain.com/athertonclosure, by mail, email or phone. ■

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com

CORONAVIRUS

continued from page 5

according to a press release issued Tuesday. Although the county's case rate is lower than that of the Bay Area (109.2), it is above the state's guideline saying that the rate should be below 100.

The percentage of COVID-positive patients in local hospitals was 10.8 on Monday, down from 12.1 on July 17.

"Given the relatively small patient census numbers (as of Monday, there were 74 patients, including transfers from San Quentin State Prison), a handful

of incoming or discharged patients affects the percentage, increasing the variability," county officials said.

Rogers has asked state officials to evaluate the data "with sensitivity to underlying core issues and local concerns," according to the press release.

San Mateo County was the only Bay Area county not on the watchlist as of The Almanac's press deadline Wednesday, but Rogers said she expects the county to be added soon.

If the county is added to the list and remains on it for three consecutive days, the state would require the closing of

gyms and fitness centers; hair and nail salons, as well as other personal care services; barber-shops; shopping malls; offices for non-critical infrastructure sectors; and places of worship, as well as weddings and funerals.

Visit almanacnews.com for the latest information.

Newsom: Residents' actions will determine reopening timeline

Gov. Gavin Newsom stressed Monday that the actions of residents across the state will determine how quickly the

state reopens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Newsom has continuously advocated for the use of masks and face coverings and the need for physical distancing as the pandemic has worn on, encouraging residents that certain activities like in-person schooling and indoor dining are not feasible if people flout the state's public health guidelines.

"We have to minimize the transmission of this disease," Newsom said. "We have to minimize that by practicing physical distancing, wearing the face coverings and doing the kinds of things that are well-described and, obviously, now need to be more vigilantly followed."

The state continues to see an aggregate rise in positive cases and hospitalizations due to the coronavirus as counties started to reopen at the outset of summer. An average of nearly 9,000 people per day tested positive for the coronavirus over the last week, Newsom said.

In addition, the state's positive test rate continues to hover around 7.5% despite an average of more than 120,000 tests being completed each day.

"We're going to continue to ramp up those efforts," Newsom said of the state's testing capacity.

Alongside the surge in cases, coronavirus deaths in the state also reached an average of 91 each day over the last week, according to state officials.

"Hospitalizations and (intensive care unit) use continue to be a cause of concern in the state," Newsom said. "That's why we want everybody to double down on everything we have been doing so that we can get back to school, get back to work in the traditional ways."

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.

SCHOOLS

continued from page 7

how the state defines "rigorous."

He noted that the state has invested \$5.3 billion to help schools address learning loss and technology needs, as well as to purchase additional personal protective equipment.

"We want to do our best to create some sense of equivalency with the obvious constraints that is distance learning," he said.

Newsom also outlined criteria for closing schools in the event of confirmed cases among students or staff. Schools should first consult with their local public health officer, Newsom said. A classroom cohort should be sent home if there is a confirmed case, and other exposed

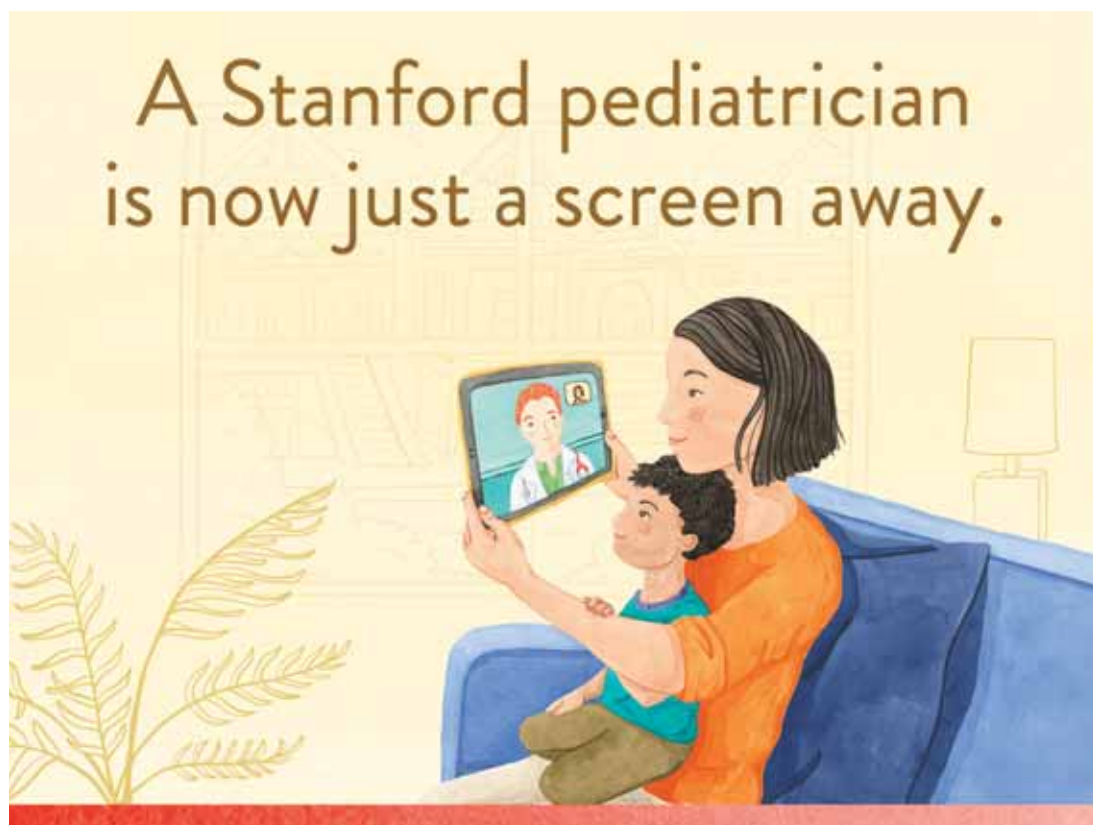
students and staff should be quarantined for 14 days. An entire school should close when multiple cohorts have cases or more than 5% of a school tests positive for the coronavirus.

A school district must shutter if 25% of their schools have closed within a 14-day period, after which time school districts may reopen with the approval of the local public health officer.

The state will soon release guidelines for reopening universities and community colleges, Newsom said.

The state's new guidance for reopening schools is online at files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf. ■

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Atherton: Civic center construction well underway

By Tyler Callister
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's \$32 million civic center project made "exciting" progress this month, project manager Marty Henneman told the Atherton City Council at its meeting July 15.

Hanneman said that contractors S.J. Amoroso Construction completed significant steps on two of the project's major buildings — the new library and city hall — during the first half of July.

"There's a lot of activity going on at both the library and city hall, and ancillary structures, so it's very, very exciting," he said.

Interior and exterior walls were worked on, as well as electrical and HVAC installation. Work on the library's rammed



Atherton's civic center project is slated for completion in October 2021.
Courtesy town of Atherton.

earth wall took significant effort, Hanneman said.

The next major step is deciding the details of two fountains, which the council accepted donations for at its meeting May

20, Hanneman said.

In a staff report, Hanneman provided the council with a range of design options for the fountains, one of which will be built off Fair Oaks

Lane and the other in front of the library. After some discussion, the council decided that features and logistics of the fountains will be explored by a subcommittee made up of Mayor Rick DeGoila and Vice Mayor Elizabeth Lewis, along with two former members of the civic center's advisory team. The subcommittee will return to the council with recommendations at a later date.

The civic center facilities will be open for some use by July 2021, with full project completion slated for that October, Hanneman said.

The new center will have a council chambers, a library, and facilities for town administration, including the police department, the building

department and public works. The town administration facilities will be mission-style buildings, and the library will be an angular modernist structure, according to renderings released by the town.

In 2012, Atherton voters elected to replace the old buildings and pay for the new civic center with donations. In 2017, 61% of Atherton voters said in an advisory measure that money from the town's general fund could be used to help pay for the center.

A live webcam of the construction being done on the new library can be viewed via the town's website at ci.atherton.ca.us/519/Project-Webcams. [▲](#)

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com

Elected officials call for voters to decide Caltrain funding

A joint statement issued by seven elected officials calls for letting voters decide on funding for the Caltrain service between the South Bay and San Francisco.

The statement — released Sunday by U.S. Representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo, state Sen. Jerry Hill, Assemblymen Kevin Mullin and Marc Berman, San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine and Belmont Vice Mayor Charles Stone — responds to resistance last week by San Francisco supervisors to putting a sales tax measure on the ballot.

Caltrain has seen ridership drop steeply during the

COVID-19 pandemic and there are fears that its financial struggles could halt the service.

Supporters have pinned their hopes of bolstering Caltrain on a dedicated sales tax assessed in San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

"For almost a year, negotiations have been aimed at helping riders by getting Caltrain firmly funded," the statement says. "It has no source of its own money, the farebox only brings in 70% of its operating costs coupled with annual operating costs from the three member counties, and year to year the riders are at risk of the line shutting down. Now, at one

minute to midnight, the train is really in danger of not showing up at the station."

San Mateo County supervisors and the San Mateo County Transit District, or SamTrans, which operates Caltrain for the Peninsula Joint Powers Board, have approved putting the measure on November ballots in the region. But the boards of supervisors in San Francisco and Santa Clara counties and the leaders of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority also must agree.

Supervisor Shamann Walton, who is San Francisco's

representative on the Joint Powers Board, said Wednesday the fact that Caltrain is operated by SamTrans presents a problem.

"(That) means San Francisco voters and San Francisco leadership don't actually make decisions as to what happens with the funds," Walton said. "But yet we pay millions of dollars to the railroad each year. This inequitable relationship has to change."

The sales tax was initially proposed to fund the electrification of Caltrain, but the agency now needs the funding to keep operating. It said its weekday average ridership, at

65,000 before the pandemic, has dropped by 95% during the health emergency.

"While it's wildly popular, Caltrain could shut down without its own funding," the officials say in their statement. "To prevent this, the legislature passed a statute to allow the public to decide.

"The statute requires that, if the ballot measure passes, the tax money go to Caltrain."

The statement concludes, "All of us need to keep riders first and foremost in our minds. It's really quite simple. A clean deal is what the riders and public deserve. Let the voters decide."

—Bay City News Service

Peninsula Clean Energy opposes state utilities commission decision

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A recent California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decision could have long-term impacts on the ability of local nonprofit energy competitors of PG&E to succeed.

That's according to several local energy programs, Peninsula Clean Energy, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, San Jose Clean Energy, East Bay Community Energy and Monterey Bay Community Power, which have all come out against a June 11 decision by the CPUC that designates PG&E and Southern California Edison as "central buyers" responsible for ensuring that there are enough energy resources to provide electricity

within the state, according to a press statement from Peninsula Clean Energy.

The decision could undermine community choice energy programs — nonprofits that pool a region's energy demand to bargain for environmentally cleaner electricity than PG&E provides, they say.

"The CPUC's action undermines our ability to make long-term planning decisions, while undercutting incentives to speed up clean energy innovation," leaders at the opposing energy programs said in a joint statement. "It represents a lost opportunity to support local clean energy investments being made today."

See **ENERGY**, page 18



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RAVENSWOOD

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focus groups to solicit input.

Teachers, however, were more reluctant to return. In a survey, only 15% said they were comfortable coming back to teach in person, according to Ronda White, president of the Ravenswood Teachers Association.

“This was a very hard decision and teachers were very torn about continuing distance learning or coming back to school,” White said at the board meeting. “Our priority became the safety of the students and families and staff.”

When school starts on Aug. 26, students will have daily, live interaction with teachers as well as asynchronous instruction. Attendance will be taken daily. Ravenswood will send every student classroom materials such as pencils, crayons, notebooks and art supplies. (The Ravenswood Education Foundation is currently running a supply drive to collect donated items for students.) Sudaria said they are considering having small parent-teacher conferences in person at the start of the school year so students and parents can meet their teachers in person before online learning begins.

The district is “assuming that most students have at least some unfinished learning due to the disruption this past spring,” and is planning how to evaluate and then address these gaps in the fall.

The district is thinking about how to help students learn better at home, including potentially providing “privacy shields” and noise-canceling headphones. Pulido suggested the district look into offering spaces on campuses for students who need a quiet space to work.

Ravenswood’s student population, with high percentages of English language learners, low-income students, special education students, and foster and homeless youth, poses additional challenges for distance learning. San Mateo County has “directed all schools to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable and unique students,” the reopening plan states. “Based on the county’s definitions, virtually every student in Ravenswood falls into one or more of their categories.”

For English language learners, teachers will provide small group English instruction. For students who arrived in the district from outside the U.S. in the last 12 months and are new

to English, there will be extra language and literacy support.

A small group of students with moderate to severe disabilities will attend school in person four days a week in a “bubble cohort” with a special education teacher and two or three teacher assistants. No other adults or students will come into the classroom or interact with the students in person at school, the district said — even speech and language specialists, physical therapists and occupational therapists will provide their services online.

Board members urged staff to focus on improving the distance learning experience from the spring and to think about how they can continue to support low-income, working families who will continue to need technology help, child care and other services with their children learning from home in the fall. They also asked about procedures — and liability for the district — if a student or staff member contracts the virus at school.

The district also plans to increase access to mental health support services for students, both in person and virtually, and help connect families to resources for housing, food, and mental health support. Staff

will do home visits “if there is a need to help them navigate barriers to resources and/or services,” the reopening plan reads.

Several board members expressed concern about East Palo Alto’s rate of coronavirus cases and described a lack of adherence to social distancing, face coverings and other public health requirements in the community. They suggested partnering with the City Council to address this.

“Business is as usual around here,” Pulido said. “At this rate, when are we ever going to be able to reopen? How do we partner with the city to make sure as a city we’re being responsible and we’re all working together to get to a place where we can reopen schools?”

In other business last week, the board approved a 10-year lease with The Primary School to take over the Brentwood Academy campus. The board decided in January to close Brentwood on Clark Avenue in East Palo Alto due to declining enrollment and merge it with Costañó School (as well as merge Willow Oaks and Belle Haven schools).

Under the lease agreement, the private school founded by pediatrician Priscilla Chan will

pay \$1.3 million in rent with a 2% annual escalation rate as well as make a \$1 million unrestricted donation to Ravenswood to support the district’s strategic plan. The Primary School and Ravenswood also will explore possible opportunities for collaboration, including social-emotional learning, parent education, health integration and mental health.

The Primary School is also still planning to open a new campus at 1200 Weeks St. in East Palo Alto.

The board also heard lengthy public comment on proposals to rename Belle Haven and Costañó schools in anticipation of them merging with the two closed elementary schools.

While a committee recommended several ideas for new names, the board ultimately voted 4-1 to retain all of the school names. They and community members debated the merits and drawbacks of naming schools after people, the historical significance of school names and what names would best unite the merging school communities. Trustee Marieleena Gaona Mendoza cast the sole dissenting vote against keeping the names as they are. ■

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweekly.com



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Magali Gauthier

Woodside High School football players stand 6 feet apart on the football field as assistant varsity football coach Danny Bowers describes a conditioning drill on June 24. Coaches are required to wear masks at all times.

SPORTS

continued from page 1

designates gymnastics as a Season 2 sport.

Another question that faced the CCS Executive Committee was whether to extend the end of the summer season, which allows student-athletes to participate in conditioning training, from this Friday, July 24, to December. At Tuesday's meeting, the committee chose to extend the summer period to Dec. 12.

With the CCS regular season schedules now released, schools

will need to scramble to complete their sports schedules for the year, Grissom said. They also face pressure over which teams will be able to use a facility at a given time.

Steven Kryger, Menlo-Atherton High School's athletic director, said that despite the push-back of sports seasons, the school's conditioning training, which began June 16, will continue. "We are going to allow our athletes to do conditioning practices, and whatever the county health officer allows, through the fall," he said.

Once the CCS releases regular

season schedules, schools will need to scramble to complete their sports schedules for the year, Grissom said. They also face pressure over which teams will be able to use a facility at a given time.

"No matter how you slice the pie, when you have two seasons and one stadium, then you've got competing interests to get on the playing field," he said. ▣

Tyler Callister contributed to this report. Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweekly.com and Jamey Padojino at jpadojino@paweekly.com

SEQUOIA

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plan that changes based on county health conditions.

The meeting follows a July 17 announcement from Gov. Gavin Newsom that public schools on the state's coronavirus watchlist cannot open campuses until they've been off the list for 14 days.

Newsom also announced new safety criteria for schools, including face masks for staff and students in third grade and above, 6 feet of social distance "as practicable," and regular temperature and symptom checks.

As of now, Sequoia Union High School District — which includes Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools and TIDE Academy — has not made concrete plans beyond the first quarter.

In June, the district board committed to a four-phase system that adapts to local health conditions. The first quarter of the fall semester will correspond to phase one, which is full distance learning, while a hybrid schedule would represent

phase three and fully reopening schools would be phase four.

Streshly said at Tuesday's meeting that during distance learning, which will begin in August, students will receive "daily live interactions with teachers and other students," and that students will receive "class assignments that are challenging and equivalent to in-person instruction."

Streshly emphasized the "dynamic nature" of the district's response to COVID-19. "As we move forward we need to stay flexible and adaptive," she said. "Because that's the beast that we battle in the global pandemic."

Local elementary schools

Other school districts are poised to discuss fall reopening plans in light of recent coronavirus case increases and the governor's announcement. Board meetings are planned for Menlo Park City School District on July 23, Portola Valley Elementary School District on July 24, Woodside Elementary School District on July 28, and Los Lomitas Elementary School

District on August 5.

Belle Haven Elementary in the Ravenswood School District and Selby Lane Elementary in the Redwood City School District have both already announced they will start the school year with full distance learning. ▣

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

Luis Canales, 78, a Stanford University researcher and Menlo Park resident, died on March 16. **Ilse Hertha Hanna Friedel Mede**, 96, a longtime Woodside resident, died on June 16. **Louise Fleener**, a longtime Midpeninsula resident, died on July 3. **Sherry Auchard**, a former Menlo Park resident, died on July 14.

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Louise Fleener

October 23, 1922 – July 3, 2020

Louise Fleener passed away peacefully on July 3, 2020 after suffering multiple strokes.

Named Theda Louise but always called Louise, she was the fifth of six children born to Claude and Maude (Ewoldsen) Smith. She grew up on the Smith family farm and graduated from Woodburn High School in 1941. Louise married Merrill Fleener in 1946; they were parents of two children, Gary and Tana.

Merrill and Louise moved from Iowa to Oregon and then settled in San Jose, CA.

Louise had twinkly eyes, deep dimples, and a sweet nature. But she was highly competitive in sports and card games. A golfer and bowler in her younger years, she excelled at Wii bowling in her senior living complex. She played bridge, poker and cribbage as long as her eyesight allowed. And she was a champion pie baker.

Louise was preceded in death by son Gary in 1967 (a student at Stanford University while studying abroad), and husband Mel in 2002. Survivors include daughter Tana (Bob) Budelli, 3 grandsons Bobby (Sierra), Mikie (Brooke), and Christopher (Naomi), 6 great grandchildren, brother and oldest friend Wilbert (Rosalie) Smith, and numerous nieces, nephews and family members.

Louise Fleener, 23 Oct 1922 - 3 Jul 2020, RIP. Grandma GG will be missed by all!!!

Family request that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to one of the following:

Cardiac Therapy Foundation of the Mid-Peninsula: 400 Middlefield Rd. Suite G-3 Palo Alto, CA 94303. Brain Aneurysm Foundation: 269 Hanover Street, Hanover, MA 02339 or visit the website www.bafound.org.



PAID OBITUARY

County supervisors extend eviction moratorium through end of August

By Bay City News Service

San Mateo County's Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday to extend the countywide moratorium on residential evictions from July 28 to Aug. 31.

The temporary moratorium protects renters from eviction if they cannot pay rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also suspends evictions in certain no-fault cases. At the

end of the moratorium, tenants have up to 180 days to pay the owed rent.

Residents around the county are struggling to pay rent due to the high cost of living in the Bay Area and the negative economic impact of the pandemic. San Mateo County's unemployment rate was 10.8% this June, compared with 2.2% in June 2019, according to data from California's Employment Development Department.

A San Mateo County staff report described many county residents as "rent-burdened," as they spend up to 50% of their income on rent.

The board voted unanimously to extend the moratorium, recognizing the need to protect renters and prevent the rampant evictions and homelessness that may result without it.

Some small landlords and property owners spoke against

the moratorium and requested financial support. Through written public comment to the board, they highlighted their own financial burdens, like being unable to afford mortgage payments due to missed rent, which puts their properties at risk of foreclosure.

This is the third time the board has extended the moratorium since introducing the regulation on March 24, after Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an

executive order allowing local bodies to establish eviction moratoria.

That executive order now extends through Sept. 30. At Tuesday's meeting, some residents and city officials requested that the board take full advantage of the state's extension.

In the Bay Area, counties like Contra Costa and Alameda have extended their moratoria to Sept. 30. ■

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TESTING

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statistics, squeezing the largest number of test samples into the fewest number of tests possible, he said.

More advanced research is also looking at ways to pinpoint people in group testing who test positive so they won't have to be retested individually, he said. Each patient's specimen is divided into a number of subsamples and applied to tests against different sets of patients. The results can be laid out in a table to identify individuals who are likely testing positive.

"We create a kind of a Sudoku puzzle and solve it using math smarts," to find out which people among a group have the virus, he said.

Specimen pooling may have some limitations, including lower test sensitivity if infection prevalence in a population is high, Zehnder and Donoho said. COVID-19 also has a five-to 14-day incubation period, so someone might test negative if they are still at the very early stages of the disease.

Quest's FDA-authorized testing guidelines note that specimens with low amounts of the virus also may not be detected in sample pools due to the decreased sensitivity of pooled testing. Donoho considers that's less of a problem with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

ENERGY

continued from page 13

Representatives of the community choice energy programs worry that if PG&E is the only authorized buyer in Northern California, then it'll favor larger energy production facilities rather ones that may be smaller and more local, according to Joe Wiedman, director of regulatory and legislative affairs at Peninsula Clean Energy.

"Our concern is that we want to go out and buy more

"The reason is that the RT-qPCR (real-time polymerase chain reaction) test can detect as little as 10 virus particles in a sample," he said.

A dilution of virus particles on a pooled test due to having more than one person testing negative wouldn't have much effect on the test sensitivity because when sick, a person will shed millions of particles, he said.

"It's been proven by several teams that moderate levels of pooling are not a problem," he said.

Quest's study also found no statistically relevant test-sensitivity loss. None of its 3,091 specimens incorrectly tested negative from a population with a COVID-19 community prevalence rate of 1% to 10%, the company said.

Specimen pooling could also make another goal possible: testing people frequently and repeatedly. Continuous testing would help catch the virus in its early stages even after someone initially tests negative, Donoho said. Stanford's Dr. Benjamin Pinsky, associate professor of pathology and infectious diseases at the School of Medicine, used pooled specimens earlier this year to track the early prevalence of the disease.

Other parts of the country are already conducting pooled specimen testing, such as the state of Nebraska and University of Nebraska system, he said. Cornell University in

Ithaca, New York, which will fully reopen this fall, will also pool tests. The university is enforcing a strict regimen of frequent and repeated testing to catch cases, he noted.

"With (repeated) group testing, the benefit is you catch it so early that people are not very infectious," Pinsky said.

Frequent, pooled-specimen testing "makes good sense for universities in college towns," Pinsky said, and he hopes Stanford can use similar testing on its campus, he said.

Dr. Jay G. Wohlgenuth, senior vice president and chief medical officer at Quest Diagnostics, was cautiously optimistic in a July 18 company statement that specimen pooling will help improve testing result times, with a caveat. Just five days prior, July 13, Quest had issued a statement that soaring demand for COVID-19 tests is slowing turnaround times to report results. On July 20, the company said testing was still strained by the demand.

"Pooling will help expand testing capacity but it is not a magic bullet, and testing times will continue to be strained as long as soaring COVID-19 test demand outpaces capacity. Each of us can practice behaviors that will reduce COVID-19 infections in our communities, so our national healthcare system can better respond to this crisis," he said. ■

Email Sue Dremann at sdremann@pawekly.com

renewables," he said. "Our communities formed (Peninsula Clean Energy) to say we want to do more renewables faster than the state. To do that, we have to invest in building local resources all over."

But if PCE does that, and then PG&E says it won't buy energy from the new resources that PCE has invested in, "we don't get to see all the benefit of that investment," Wiedman said. "We still have to pay PG&E for what it did buy."

In short, "This change in direction leaves value on the

table that threatens to raise customer costs," the joint statement said. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

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The Almanac
Online

Why is COVID-19 spreading so rampantly? Here are three factors to consider.

By Dr. Scott Morrow

GUEST OPINION

Why is the virus spreading here at its current higher level now? I don't know exactly, but it appears to me that there are three major factors.

In order to understand what's going on completely with transmission risks, we would need to do case-control studies. We don't have the resources to do case-control studies given the enormous burden on all the staff at the health department at this time, but we can take some educated guesses based on patterns that we are seeing here.

■ The virus appears remarkably, even surprisingly, transmissible. At pretty much every point over the last six-plus months, I've been surprised, and impressed, at how capable this virus is at moving itself between people. It spreads in households like wildfire and it spreads in other indoor environments too. It seems to be everywhere we look.

I know this is hard — we're all exhausted and frustrated by having to take precautions — but the implication of this

fact is that you can't let your guard down, or be careless, even once, especially if you are at high risk.

■ Fundamental structural failures of the U.S. economy are being laid bare by the pandemic. These structural issues seem to be a major cause of the transmission we're now seeing, at least in San Mateo County. Many elements of the U.S. economy can be viewed as illogical, even immoral in my opinion, in that so many people are forced to live lives of economic desperation, live paycheck to paycheck, are not paid a living wage, (and) live with no workplace safety nets, like health care, paid sick leave or other wage-protection programs. While these structural issues are illogical in good times, they are downright inexplicable in times of a pandemic. These structural problems are at such a massive scale, they can not be ignored.

A majority of people we are seeing infected now are frontline workers (people who allow the rest of us to eat, and

have electricity, and have our garbage picked up, etc.) living in crowded multigenerational conditions, living with lack of trust in, and in fact have downright fear of, the government. Remember that to stem the spread of this very

Your seemingly innocuous get-togethers are driving the spread and are a major reason why you can't go to a restaurant, why you can't go to the gym, why you can't go get your hair cut, why kids can't go to school.

transmissible virus, people who are infected need to be separated from others (isolation and quarantine), not go out in public, and not go to work while they are infectious. Try getting compliance with isolation and quarantine when the infected person is the

breadwinner for the family and the family will be out on the street if they don't go to work. And when they go to work they will, perhaps, interact at that job with you. There is not enough enforcement capacity in the world to stop this from happening.

The implication of this is that the current business-focused restrictions will do little to stem the spread of the virus when the spread is exacerbated by these conditions. This requires rapid policy and systems changes at every level of both public and private sectors, from the feds on down, and from the largest corporations to the smallest business. We need to see much more work in this area, and we need to have less reliance on business sector closures and restrictions, beyond getting businesses to do the basic transmission control measures. Failure to fix some of these issues will prolong our collective pain.

■ Complacency is the other majority factor enabling spread. This is either born of belief systems (this is all a hoax, this isn't that bad for

me, let's go to a party and get infected), or born of just not paying attention. Many, many of our infections are related to fairly small gatherings of family and friends: birthday parties, picnics, eating at restaurants with mixed households, etc., without the basic precautions being taken. Most of these gatherings are innocent, no doubt, not intending to spread the virus, but they do spread it, and with far reaching implications. Please note, your seemingly innocuous get-togethers are driving the spread and are a major reason why you can't go to a restaurant, why you can't go to the gym, why you can't go get your hair cut, why kids can't go to school. Until, or unless more people get this fact, we will continue to be stuck in the situation we are in. To get out of this situation depends on all of us. Our collective best course of action: No gatherings outside of immediate households, use facial coverings extensively, and social distancing.

Dr. Scott Morrow is the San Mateo County health officer.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Yes on Prop. 15

We're all getting tested in ways nobody could've expected, and we're lucky to have Gov. Newsom and all those on the frontlines leading us through this crisis. But there's no sugarcoating it: Our schools, essential workers and local governments are facing unprecedented threats of budget cuts.

We have some tough times ahead of us, and we're going to need reasonable solutions to claw our way out of this crisis.

The Schools & Communities First initiative, now Proposition 15 on the November ballot, garnered a record 1.7 million signatures of support. It would close corporate property tax loopholes to bring back \$12 billion locally for our schools, essential workers, and critical local services while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture. What's more, research

has shown that only 10% of the biggest, wealthiest commercial and industrial properties would generate 92% of the new revenue — meaning a fraction of top corporations would finally pay their fair share.

Simply put, we can't afford corporate tax loopholes at the expense of our schools and local services anymore.

Eva Orbuch

*Senior community organizer,
Innovate Public Schools*

Women in office

There has been much coverage of the fact that many more women are running for office than in years past both here in Silicon Valley and the country at large. I'd like to comment on why it is important that women have a seat at all levels of government. It is not that women are better than men. It is because women govern differently than men. Studies show that women are more collaborative, less partisan and more goal-oriented than men. In other words, women "get things done." In today's world where the

word "government" is often synonymous with "gridlock," this is important.

A local volunteer nonpartisan organization called WIRE for Women helps elect and appoint women to local offices. This pipeline of women will help "get things done" when given a chance to sit at the tables where decisions are made.

Remember, Margaret Thatcher famously said "If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman."

*Carol Mayer Marshall
Founder and president emeritus,
WIRE for Women
Claire Place, Menlo Park*

What's on your mind?

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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.

The Almanac

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Music@Menlo's 'Intermezzo' takes the annual festival online

The 2020 edition features a packed schedule of new and archival chamber music performances and events

By Heather Zimmerman

When a global pandemic struck a century ago, where did performing-arts audiences turn? David Finckel, who with fellow musician Wu Han is co-founder and co-artistic director of the Music@Menlo festival, researched the question and learned that during the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, masked audiences packed concerts as soon as performance spaces reopened.

"People were so hungry for music that they just had to go back to concert halls," he said.

But the risk of contagion at live performances was so high that apparently audience members could be ejected from the hall just for coughing, Finckel said.

Though such a strict practice might fulfill the fantasies of a few modern-day concert-goers, this year's Music@Menlo chamber music festival has found a far better solution for satisfying listeners' hungry souls, while keeping audiences, artists and everyone behind the scenes safe (with absolutely no cough drops needed). Music@Menlo usually takes place every summer in Atherton, and the festival's 2020 edition, with the theme "Intermezzo," boasts a schedule that's as packed as any other year, with three weeks of daily musical events, including an anticipated album release — but all online. "Intermezzo" launched last week and runs through Aug. 8.

Music@Menlo is carrying on, but it's not business as usual:

The coronavirus pandemic led Finckel and Wu Han to postpone this year's planned "Haydn Connection" theme until 2021 and quickly create a new schedule of events for 2020.

"Intermezzo" will revisit a number of well-loved past performances, but with the addition of newly recorded interviews and conversations that offer a chance to catch up with some of the festival's featured artists from previous years, hear about where they are now, and learn about their lives during the pandemic. Music@Menlo regulars will likely enjoy the chance to get reacquainted with some favorite artists, Finckel noted.

Moving online has in some ways opened up new possibilities for the festival.

"One of the silver linings of this summer is that because we could select from different seasons, we're able to have a roster of artists that is larger and more diverse than we could ever have in a normal season," Finckel said.

He and Wu Han are also co-artistic directors of the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center in New York City and "Intermezzo" makes the most of that symbiosis.

This year's festival draws its programming from six years' worth of high-definition concert footage from Chamber Music Society performances in New York, in addition to numerous recordings of master classes, discussions and recitals from past editions of Music@Menlo.

"We realized that we could



Courtesy Music@Menlo

Music@Menlo will celebrate the release of a recording of Franz Schubert's Winterreise by baritone Nikolay Borchev and pianist and festival co-founder and co-artistic director Wu Han with a live Q&A with the artists, and a video showing the making of the recordings during the 2019 festival.

put together a festival that if you really watched it all, it would be in many ways as information-rich as a normal festival," Finckel said.

In looking to the archives, "Intermezzo" offers audiences something unusual: the opportunity to gain new insights into past performances. Revisiting recordings of past master classes, for instance, provides a chance to reflect on the career trajectories of the young artists featured.

"You can watch kids come up through those master classes over the years and now some of them are on our main stage. They mature and develop their performance to the point where they have entered the ranks of world-class performers," Finckel said.

He added that such historical context speaks to the long-term impact of educational performances like those at Music@Menlo, "not only on the lives of musicians but on the fabric of the music community at large."

"Intermezzo" highlights new performances with its Explorers series, which includes the Calidore String Quartet (July 26) performing Beethoven's String Quartet in B-flat major, op. 130 and Grosse Fuge in B-flat major, op. 133; and pianist Michael Brown and cellist Nicholas

Canellakis (Aug. 2) with a program still to be announced.

Finckel noted that the Explorers series actually came about from artists reaching out to Music@Menlo to share their current projects. He hinted that there may be more "Explorers" performances sometime in the future.

"Intermezzo" also features a July 26 live online launch party, which celebrates the release of a new recording of Franz Schubert's masterwork, "Winterreise," by Nikolay Borchev, baritone, and festival co-director Wu Han, piano.

The launch party will be hosted by Oliver Condy of BBC Magazine, who has covered Wu Han and Finckel's work for over 20 years.

"Winterreise" is a challenging piece for both vocalist and pianist, and though it tells quite a tragic story, "it is one of art's most profound and beautiful human journeys to be found anywhere on the planet," Finckel said.

All events are free, although donations to benefit artists are encouraged. Find a full schedule and links to watch the performances at music@menlo.org. ■

Email Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com



Courtesy Music@Menlo

Anthony McGill, the New York Philharmonic's principal clarinetist, revisits his 2014 Music@Menlo performance of Beethoven's Quintet in E-flat Major for Winds and Piano in a July 27 conversation with Patrick Castillo, Music@Menlo's audience engagement director.



Courtesy Music@Menlo

Cellist Nicholas Canellakis will perform with his frequent collaborator, pianist Michael Brown, in an Aug. 2 concert, with the program still to be announced.

LEHUA GREENMAN



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Food & Drink



Cartons of fruit are ready to be picked up at a drive-thru organized by Giving Fruits in Portola Valley on July 17.



Emily Hong and her mother, Tiffany, place a crate of apricots in their car to bring to Portola Valley to be picked up at a drive-thru organized by Giving Fruits on July 17.

It started with a box of cherries. Maria Gregorio, a Palo Alto resident and Stanford University IT professional, saw a Nextdoor post in May from a neighbor organizing a group buy of farm-fresh cherries. She eagerly bought a box and was chagrined when the neighbor didn't continue it the following week. He connected her with the farmer, so she put her own Nextdoor post up, asking if anyone wanted to buy cherries in bulk with her. The response was "astronomical," she said.

What started as an informal neighborhood purchase of cherries has since evolved into a streamlined weekly pickup operation of fresh fruits and vegetables from multiple farms. It's a virtuous cycle: Farms that are struggling to make up for lost revenue due to the coronavirus shutdown can sell in bulk directly to customers, while local residents get direct access to high quality, organic produce. Gregorio donates the proceeds to local nonprofits, to fund meals for frontline workers and to a coworkers' fundraising effort to provide 3D-printed face shields to health care providers. Unclaimed orders go to local homeless shelters and care homes for the elderly.

About two months in, Gregorio estimates she's donated over \$5,000 through the effort, dubbed Giving Fruits.

"Anybody could really make a difference if you really want to," Gregorio said in a previous interview. "If you just put your heart in the right place, people will see your sincerity and the fruits of your labor."

Every week, Gregorio posts what's available from the farms and people place their orders online. On the Giving Fruits menu this week: white nectarines and pluots from Kashiwase Farm in Winston, yellow and white peaches from The Peach Jamboree in Oroville, strawberries and summer squash from Oya Organics in Hollister, plus pints of frozen custard and sorbet from Lexie's Frozen Custard in Berkeley. Because of the volume, the prices are a steal: \$34 for 12 pints of organic strawberries or \$20 for 12 pounds of squash.

People pay Gregorio through Venmo

Much more than cherries

A grassroots produce pickup is supporting farms, frontliners and local nonprofits

Story by Elena Kadvaný | Photos by Magali Gauthier

or PayPal and pick up their orders every Friday evening at a contactless drive-thru outside Rinconada Library in Palo Alto. Last Friday, a long line of cars stretched out of the parking lot as volunteers placed flats of fruit in car trunks. For anyone who's elderly or immunocompromised, Gregorio finds volunteers to deliver their orders.

Marsha Habib, who owns Oya Organics and lives in Palo Alto, said her 20-acre vegetable farm saw sales disappear almost overnight due to the pandemic. Gone was a weekly account with Stanford University and demand from restaurants. They had to till under ready-to-harvest crops — butter lettuce, fava beans, kale, cauliflower — that they had planted for specific

restaurants. Some restaurant accounts have since come back, but their volume is vastly reduced, Habib said.

Demand for Oya Organics' community supported agriculture (CSA) program shot up from 12 members to over 200, leaving her racing to create the infrastructure to support such volume. She had to pull workers from the fields to help her pack boxes and organize deliveries.

Participating in Giving Fruits appealed to her for all these reasons, but also for the opportunity to support other small farmers. She's helped connect Gregorio with other farms to partner with Giving Fruits.

"It's been of course a challenge to scramble and find different ways to sell and be

safe about it. But at the same time, it's kind of like shelter in place and the breakdown of the existing conventional food chains has been a big eye opener — a chance for small farms to be highlighted and for us to really step into a role of being essential to getting people food locally," Habib said. "I really hope that's a lasting impact."


Gregorio said the original woman with the cherries who started it all — who it turns out is not a farmer herself, but a hairdresser who started buying and selling cherries to make ends meet during the shutdown — became emotional the first time she received the payment for the orders that went to Palo Alto. The woman hadn't been sure how she was going to be able to pay her rent that month and was worried she'd be evicted, Gregorio said.

Selling directly to customers through Giving Fruits is the best kind of model for small farmers, Habib said, compared to wholesale accounts that involve "a lot of hands and a lot of markups. That money isn't going back to the farmer," she said.

As word about Giving Fruits has spread, it's become a more involved, volunteer-run effort. Gregorio's teenage sons have taken over much of the daily operations, including monitoring who's paid for what and sending orders to the farms. A local law firm reached out to Gregorio to offer her pro bono help to form a nonprofit.

Giving Fruits has expanded to other cities as well: Her sons' friends, two college students home because of the coronavirus, started picking up orders and offering delivery to their neighbors in Portola Valley. Two high schoolers in Pleasanton reached out to do the same there.

Because the farms sell in bulk, Gregorio said she's seen small communities form around picking up the produce — groups of neighbors or friends who decide to purchase boxes together and split up the fruits and vegetables.

For more information about Giving Fruits and to place an order, go to givingfruits.org. 

Email Elena Kadvaný at ekadvaný@paweekly.com



Marsha Habib, owner of Oya Organics, pulls cartons of fruit out of her truck with help from Giving Fruits volunteers in the parking lot by the Palo Alto Art Center on July 17.

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

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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

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

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artandsoulpa.com (650) 269-0423

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letsgocrafting.org (650) 814-4183

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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 YOUUnique, 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

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danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps
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ATHLETICS

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

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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

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spartanssportscamp.com (650) 479-5906

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps Silicon Valley

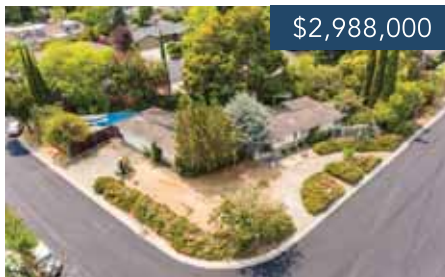
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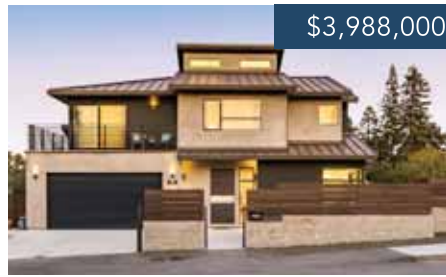
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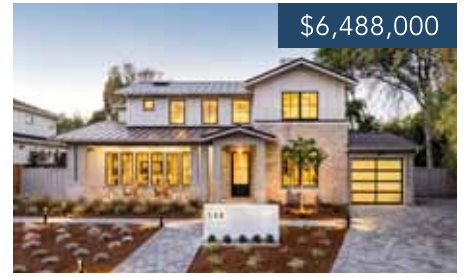
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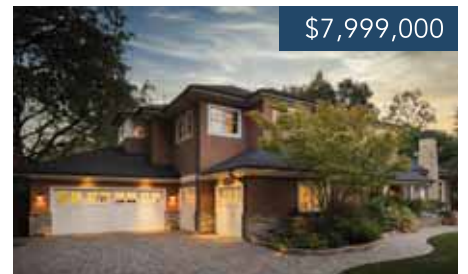
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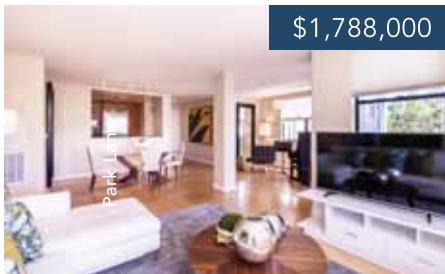
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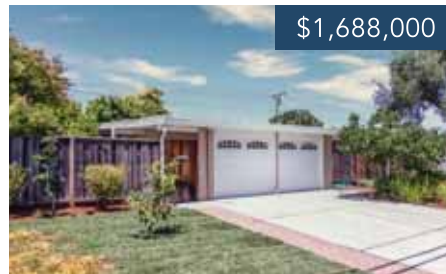
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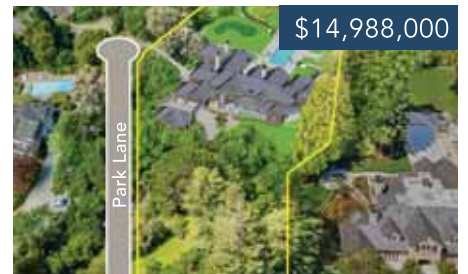
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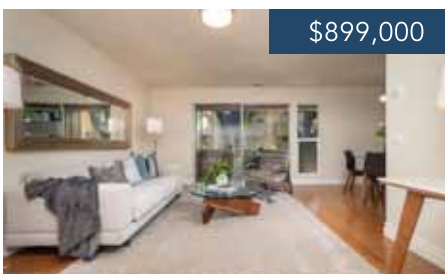
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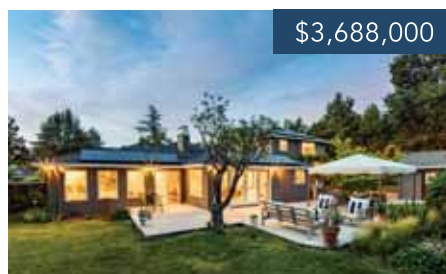
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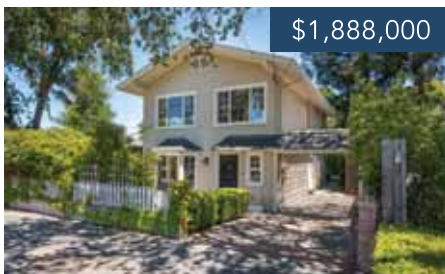
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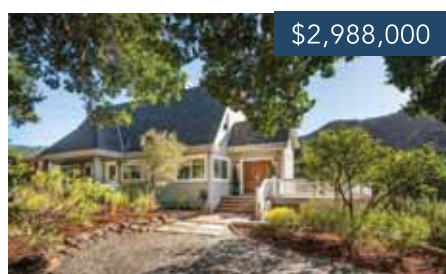
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4 Bd | 3 Bth
www.1805BayLaurel.com



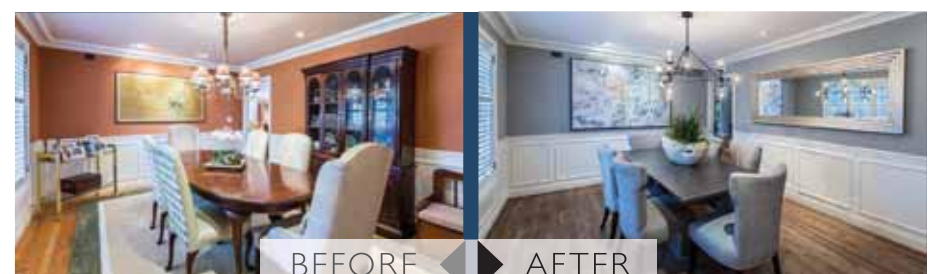
\$1,888,000

391 Belmont Ave, Redwood City
4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.391Belmont.com



\$2,988,000

27360 Sherlock Rd, Los Altos Hills
3 Bd | 3 Bth
www.27360SherlockRd.com



BEFORE AFTER

DeLeon Realty

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Michael Repka | 650.900.7000 | DRE #01854880

michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224



COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

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



3787 Woodside Road, Woodside

Supreme Privacy, Timeless Luxury on 3.15 Acres in Woodside

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

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:

www.3787Woodside.com

Offered at \$11,988,000

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.

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771 LAKEVIEW WAY, EMERALD HILLS

Modern Luxury, Outstanding Bay Views

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 access to Highway 280 for Bay Area commuting.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.771Lakeview.com

Offered at \$3,088,000

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.

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COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

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



325 CHANNING AVENUE #214, PALO ALTO

Stylish Living in the Heart of Palo Alto

Just steps away from beautiful Heritage Park, and a short walk to the excitement of University Avenue, this bright, spacious condominium offers stylish living in an ultra-convenient location. With 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and nearly 1,700 square feet of living space, this home is ideal for a modern lifestyle, with a living area centered by a fireplace, the kitchen with high-end appliances from Bosch, Thermador, and Sub-Zero, and the master suite with a private balcony overlooking the park. This wonderful location also puts you close to Stanford, the Stanford Shopping Center, and within walking distance of Caltrain. Plus, children may attend acclaimed schools including Addison Elementary and Palo Alto High, both of which are less than a mile away, as well as Greene Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.325Channing214.com

Offered at \$2,688,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Palo Alto, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



Menlo Park | \$3,750,000

Be prepared to be surprised at how much space there is in this wonderful one level superb expansive 4br/4ba home in Sharon Heights. Huge extra family room, two bedroom suites, light and bright, with private landscaped garden.

Tory Fratt
650.619.3621
tory.fratt@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #01441654



Palo Alto | \$2,695,000

This updated home is on the 'best kept secret street' in Old Palo Alto. There are hardwood floors throughout this light, bright 4br/2.5ba home. A hop, skip and a jump to Jerry Bowden Park and the tunnel to California Ave shops, restaurants, and Mollie Stones. Pending Sale.

Chris McDonnell
650.207.2500
cmcdonnell@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00870468



San Mateo | \$1,580,000

Come see this premier corner unit in the Bay Meadows development. It is the largest two bedroom, two bath open floor plan nestled within the complex with lush landscaping and no thru traffic. It has soaring 10' ceilings throughout with clerestory windows providing abundant natural light on three sides. The upgraded kitchen boasts a modern hand-crafted backsplash and a white quartz "waterfall island".

Mary Ellen Wetlesen
415.699.6440
maryellen.wetlesen@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00963869