

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 11, 2020 | VOL. 56 NO. 14



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Roberts Market provides curbside pickup to Sequoias seniors

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com



Olivia Treyner

Volunteer Jami Worthington, left, and Roberts Market store manager Mike Kerr pack up groceries for Sequoias retirement community residents in Portola Valley on Dec. 8.

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

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

By Sue Dremann

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

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

Santa Clara County reached that metric Dec. 4, with 14% ICU

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

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

The order follows the state’s restrictions under the regional stay-home order. Bars, wineries,

personal services, hair salons and barbershops are closed in affected areas. Retail is also limited to 20% of capacity; restaurants are closed for indoor and outdoor dining but may have takeout and deliveries. Schools that have already opened for in-person instruction and critical infrastructure, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, will remain open.

San Mateo County did not join the regional health officers in issuing the early order. In a statement released Monday, Dec. 7, San Mateo County Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow listed a number of reasons why the county has not joined neighboring Bay Area counties in implementing the state’s new

stay-at-home order, saying in part that the new state framework is “rife with inexplicable inconsistencies of logic” and calling it “style over substance, without any hint of enforcement.” (Read his complete statement in Viewpoint on Page 23.)

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

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

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

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

See **HEALTH ORDER**, page 12

INSIDE

Help local families in need 16

VIEWPOINT 23 | ARTS 24 | FOOD 25



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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

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

New Menlo Park program to help struggling restaurants offer outdoor dining

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

For some Menlo Park restaurants that lacked outdoor eating areas when the pandemic struck, help may be on the way.

The Menlo Park City Council on Tuesday night voted unanimously to create a new grant program to help restaurants install outdoor eating areas. The program set aside \$100,000, to give a maximum of \$10,000 to

up to 10 restaurants throughout the city. Restaurants do not need to have a full kitchen to be eligible, and will be favored if they have not received any aid previously.

For restaurants like The Refuge, which is located off of Santa Cruz Avenue and doesn't have a permanent outdoor eating area, adding one is a critical piece of being able to compete with other businesses, owners Matt Levin and Melanie Roth said to the City Council.

"If we were able to build a permanent street parklet, our business would be able to properly compete with Santa Cruz Avenue businesses that already received assistance for permanent parklets," Roth said.

Several years ago, the city worked with several businesses to help them set up outdoor dining "parklets" in parking spaces along Santa Cruz Avenue, based on a matching system where

See **RESTAURANTS**, page 19

Outdoor dining ban a blow to Santa Clara County eateries

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

By **Elena Kadvany**

Bay Area officials' decision to expedite the state's new stay-at-home order gave Santa Clara County restaurants just two days before outdoor dining shut down temporarily.

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

regional stay-at-home order. But five Bay Area counties — Santa Clara, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa and Marin counties — and the city Berkeley decided to implement the new order this week rather than wait until local hospitals are near crisis.

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

"We understand that the closures under the state order will have a profound impact on our

local businesses," Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said. "However, if we act quickly, we can both save lives and reduce the amount of time these restrictions have to stay in place, allowing businesses and activities to reopen sooner."

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

See **OUTDOOR DINING**, page 21

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

Bay City News Service and Almanac staff

San Mateo County released its official, certified election results on Dec. 3 for the Nov. 3 general election, which saw 85.9% voter turnout, the county's highest rate since 1968.

Voters cast 380,193 ballots for the Nov. 3 general election, out of 442,637 registered voters. In 2016, voter turnout was 81.6%, with 323,303 votes cast out of 396,341 registered voters.

San Mateo County Chief Elections Officer Mark Church said the high voter turnout was expected this year.

"The Presidential Election cycle traditionally draws in more voters due to the high-profile nature of the contest, but even as compared to other Presidential elections this was a notable showing," Church said in an email.

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

The state's Voter's Choice Act expanded voting options, while SB 415 moved governing board elections to even-numbered years.

As a result, Church said, "This is the largest number of jurisdictions, candidates, offices and ballot styles ever to be placed on a Presidential ballot."

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

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

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

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

"Even though we had over 33,000 visitors to our Vote Centers and over 1,300 employees and volunteers, I'm proud to say we

had no COVID outbreaks at the polls or the elections office, due to the extensive precautions we implemented," Church said.

Menlo Park City Council

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

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

Atherton City Council

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

Lewis garnered 2,407 votes (36%). Hawkins-Manuelian had 1,721 votes (25.8%), while Wiest had 1,508 votes (22.6%) and newcomer Christine David had 1,043 votes (15.6%).

Portola Valley Town Council

Councilman Jeff Aalfs and challenger Sarah Wernikoff were elected to the Portola Valley Town Council.

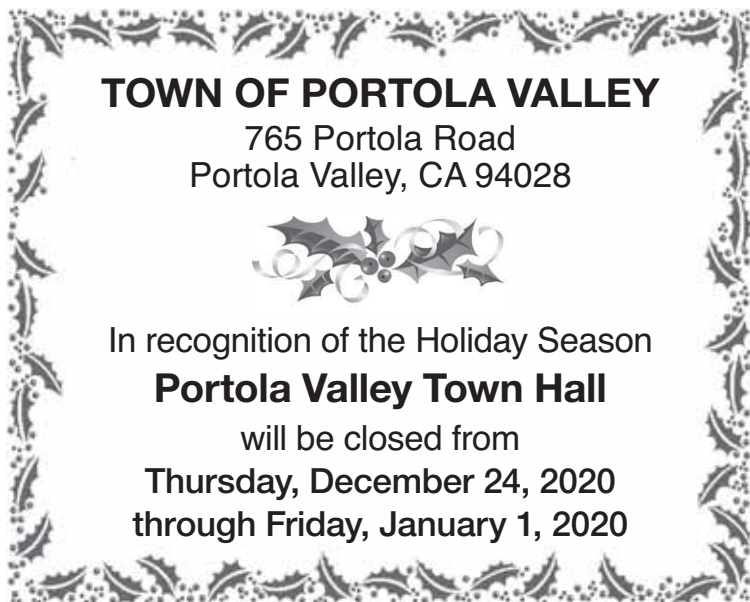
Aalfs, who served as mayor this year and joined the council in 2011, received 2,055 votes, or 39.7%, according to official results. Wernikoff, who replaces longtime Councilwoman Ann Wengert after she declined to run for reelection, received 1,695 votes (32.8%).

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

Menlo Park Fire Protection District board

Incumbents Virginia Chang Kiraly and Rob Silano easily won

See **ELECTION**, page 19



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

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The Town of Atherton will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

JAMES AVENUE OVERLAY PROJECT

Removal and replacement of 2 inches of asphalt concrete pavement on James Avenue (between Middlefield Road and Magnolia Drive). Once roadway is grinded down, the contractor and the Town's project engineer shall identify any pavement failures for repairs. Grind and replace approximately 10,000 square feet of asphalt to a 4-inch depth; then contractor shall perform crack sealing (per specification). Some hand work around utility access-hole covers will be necessary. Repave the entire street with a self-propelled paver & finish per Town Standard Specifications. Striping and pavement marking installation is also included in this project.

Plans & Specifications may be obtained at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. The Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website.

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 150 Watkins Ave. (Temporary Trailers), Atherton, California 94027, **until 1:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Thursday, January 21, 2020**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **JAMES AVENUE OVERLAY PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

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The Almanac

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

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NEWS

CRIME BRIEFS

\$800K worth of jewelry stolen

Someone reportedly stole hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of jewelry from an Atherton home on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Police had already scheduled a community meeting for Dec.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fire district toy drive

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

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

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

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

For more information, go to iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive.

Letters to Santa

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

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

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

Portola Valley committee members step down

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

“Her love of nature, and of gardening in particular, has shown through in her contributions on native plantings, and our perennial war on broom!” Aalfs said, referring to the invasive nonnative plant. “Marge also volunteered as a science specialist at Ormondale (Elementary School) years ago, sharing her love of nature with our children.”

Bill Urban, who has served 24 years on the town Finance Committee, is also leaving his post.

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

—Angela Swartz

Facebook to invest \$150M for affordable housing in Bay Area

By Lloyd Lee and Kate Bradshaw

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

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

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

Starting Wednesday, projects from Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Contra Costa counties will

be eligible to have access to the fund. But one-third of the investment will be dedicated to Santa Clara County with the partnership the social media company has with Destination: Home, the company said.

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

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

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

build teacher housing in Palo Alto, according to Juan Salazar, Facebook's public policy manager for local and community affairs.

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

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

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

One of the first projects the fund will support is the First Community Housing project in San Jose, the company said, which has proposed building 123 affordable apartment units on the site of a former San Jose State University fraternity house.

Salazar explained that Facebook is taking a multi-pronged strategy in its approach to housing issues, prioritizing housing construction, advocacy for more housing and supporting transit-oriented development in

particular.

Facebook, alongside other tech and finance companies, is also investing in a company called Factory OS that works to drive down multifamily housing construction costs.

The funding commitment also complements other efforts at the state and regional levels to expand housing access, such as California's Homekey initiative, a new \$600 million fund created to enable local agencies

See **FACEBOOK**, page 10

Coronavirus central: State's daily case average has doubled

California has highest number of hospitalized patients since pandemic began

By Embarcadero Media staff

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

Case average more than doubled

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

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

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

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

Test positivity has been on

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

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

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

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

the county expected to arrive next week, health officials said.

Chief of Health Louise Rogers and Dr. Anand Chabra, one of the county's medical directors who oversees the vaccination program, discussed the vaccine's timeline during the county

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page 12

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Prop 19 – Part 1



Dear Monica: Since Proposition 19 passed in November, I have been wondering how it will affect my situation. I am over 55 years of age and have been in my house for many years. If I sell and move within California may I move my property tax basis to the new property? Gail S.

If you buy an equal or lesser valued property, you move the entire tax basis to the new property. If you move to a more expensive property you may take your present property tax to the portion that is equal to the property you sold, and be taxed at current rates only on the additional value of the new property. You may do this up to three times. There is more to explain about the new tax system which will be the subject of future posts.

Dear Gail: There is much to understand about Prop 19 but in your situation you may move your property tax basis to any new residence in California.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com; Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. Ranked in the Wall St Journal's 2016, 2017, and 2018 Nationwide list of top 250 Realtors.

Don't Go It Alone for The Holidays

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

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

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



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Vaccine priority to health workers

Up to 24,000 health care workers in San Mateo County will be first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, with the first shipment to

LEHUA GREENMAN

*"Wise men
still seek
Him."*



650.245.1845 COMPASS

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

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

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

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

The new kiosk is located at 201 Ravenswood Ave. in a parking lot owned by SRI and near the First Church of Christ Scientist, across Middlefield Road from Menlo-Atherton High School. The testing system uses

a self-administered oral swab technique, so people collect their own testing samples, but the site is overseen by Curative employees, according to a company spokesperson.

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

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

The school district is only paying the electricity costs to operate the kiosk, Treadway said. People who sign up for testing are expected to

input their insurance information, which is billed for the tests. However, people may also access testing for free if they are uninsured.

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

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

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

Belle Haven testing

Since mid-November, a team of about a dozen paid volunteers, recruited from within the neighborhood, has been helping to operate pop-up testing sites in Belle Haven, according to Menlo Park Mayor Cecilia Taylor.

The effort, supported by the community organization Belle Haven Action and San Mateo County, offers neighborhood residents testing at central, convenient sites and times, taking place when food aid is being distributed at the Onetta Harris Community Center or each week during the farmers market near Belle Haven Elementary, Taylor said. The volunteers have also offered private testing events for seniors at the Sequoia

Belle Haven apartments.

Using neighborhood volunteers to oversee the tests can help residents feel more familiar and safe while accessing testing, she said.

The program, supported through the county's allocation of federal CARES Act funding, is currently set to expire at the end of the year, Taylor said.

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

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

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

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Over the past six years, the Kepler's Literary Foundation has partnered with the Ravenswood City School District to bring award-winning authors into

classrooms to help students foster a love of reading.

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

Starting this month, each one of the 1,800 students in the Ravenswood City School

District will receive a book, thanks to the foundation's efforts. To encourage writing, the foundation also provided journals that accompany the books, and the youngest students received crayons, as well.

Students will receive different books based on their grade

levels. Transitional kindergartners through second graders will receive "Hiro's Hats" by Elisa Kleven, students in grades three through five will receive "The One and Only Ivan" by Katherine Applegate, and students in grades six through eight will receive "The Unwanteds" by Lisa McMann.

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

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

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

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

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

"We knew it would be important for teachers to have

flexibility," said Forstner.

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

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

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

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

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TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 PLANNING COMMISSION DECEMBER 16, 2020 6:00 PM

This meeting is compliant with the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 4, 2020, allowing for deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. The purpose of this is to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The meeting will be held by teleconferencing. The public may participate via Zoom meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING BY TELECONFERENCE: BILDNER, DARE, ELFISHAWY, KUTAY, LONDON, VOELKE, AND WALL

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Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 15 Upper Lake Road

VARI2020-0009

Deborah & Alexander Fitz

Planner: Joseph Balatbat, Assistant Planner

Planning Commission review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal to install a new generator, transfer switch, and other associated site improvements. The project includes the review of a Variance to allow the new generator and transfer switch within the required 50-foot setback area.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING JOSEPH BALATBAT, ASSISTANT PLANNER; AT JBALATBAT@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG



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FACEBOOK

continued from page 7

to purchase buildings such as hotels, motels and vacant apartment buildings and convert them into interim or permanent long-term housing for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

"This investment is part of Facebook's \$1 billion commitment they announced last year — and there is no better time to put this money to work. The COVID crisis demands we all step up and do more to protect

the most vulnerable. I challenge other private sector corporations to follow suit and provide additional low-cost capital to create thousands more homeless housing units all across California," he said.

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

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

"On our end, the faster it goes out, the better," he said. ▀

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

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

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

—Angela Swartz

Sheriff's Activities League executive director accused of fraud

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

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

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

to the Sheriff's Office.

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

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

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

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

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

—Bay City News Service

Menlo Park Monthly Market Report

November 1 - November 30, 2020

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5. \$3,800,000 2191 Mills Avenue	6. \$3,750,000 12 Sunset Lane	7. \$3,600,000 1356 Cloud Avenue	8. \$3,000,000 1319 American Way
9. \$2,850,000 1000 Lassen Drive	10. \$2,450,000 1376 Johnson Street		

ACTIVE LISTING

Nov 79
Oct 85
-7%

PENDING LISTING

Nov 24
Oct 38
-37%

SOLD LISTING

Nov 23
Oct 42
-45%

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

Nov \$2,851,905
Oct \$2,753,846
4%

AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ Ft

Nov \$1,380
Oct \$1,342
3%

AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET

Nov 32
Oct 25
28%

MONTHS OF INVENTORY

Nov 3.40
Oct 2.00
70%

If no further homes/condos were to come to market, the area would be SOLD OUT of residential real estate in the number of MONTHS shown

SALE/LIST PRICE

Nov 100.70%
Oct 101.80%
-1%

30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE

Nov 3.01%
Oct 3.03%
-1%

10/28/2020 3.03% 11/24/2020 3.01% Source: Bankrate

*Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

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Photos and Video Available at 69CornellRoad.com



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CORONAVIRUS

continued from page 7

Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, Dec. 8.

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

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

Rogers said health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities would be the first to receive the vaccine, estimating that the first round of vaccines would be enough to cover about 24,000 of the county's 38,000 health care workers.

Additional shipments will continue to serve high-priority workers and residents before the

general population. As the rest of the public waits for the vaccine, Rogers encouraged people to recommit to safe behaviors that will slow the spread of the virus.

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

New COVID-19 tracking app

California is making a mobile app available to the public this week that will notify users when they encounter someone who has tested positive for the coronavirus, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday.

The CA Notify app, developed by Apple and Google, uses Bluetooth technology to notify users who are near someone who has tested positive for the virus.

People who test positive for the virus will receive a verification code to enter into the app. Other app users will then be anonymously notified if they have been

within 6 feet of the infected user for at least 15 minutes.

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

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

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

The app technology was also tested at universities in Colorado, Nevada, Washington and Oregon — the members of the Western States Pact, along with California.

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

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

Businesses advised to be vigilant

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

They've begun issuing citations for businesses that violate the health orders, he said during a Dec. 2 media briefing. With 747 complaints so far, the most common complaints against businesses are that they are not ensuring social distancing and not requiring customers to wear masks. Of the complaints, 24% were against

businesses in San Mateo, 16% in Redwood City and 10% in Burlingame, he said.

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

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage

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. ■

CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

HEALTH ORDER

continued from page 1

poorly understood metrics seems fraught to me."

Morrow noted that the state could issue a stay-at-home order for the entire Bay Area and said San Mateo County would support such a move, or that new data could convince him to do so before the state.

At a joint virtual press conference Dec. 4, Contra Costa County Health Officer Dr. Christopher Farnitano warned, "We are in an especially dangerous period of the COVID-19 epidemic. December will be the dark COVID winter we feared would come."

He and the other health officers did not think they could wait. The current situation is an emergency, he added.

There is a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Contra Costa County and across the region, according

to Farnitano. "The number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in our county has doubled in just the past couple of weeks, and we are at risk of exceeding our hospital capacity later this month if current trends continue," he said.

"It takes several weeks for new restrictions to slow rising hospitalizations and waiting until only 15% of a region's ICU beds are available is just too late," San Francisco Health Officer Dr. Tom-s Aragon said. "Many heavily impacted parts of our region already have less than 15% of ICU beds available, and the time to act is now." He added that there is no place to transfer patients with nearly three-quarters of all beds filled in the Bay Area.

Aragon said that every person who tests positive infects another one and a half people. For every case they do detect, six to 10 cases go undetected. "This virus is relentless and unforgiving," he said.

Dr. Lisa Hernandez, health officer for the city of Berkeley, urged the public to take the order seriously. People should not travel for the upcoming holidays, nor gather or meet with anyone outside of their own household, even outdoors. "If you have a social bubble, it is now popped. Do not let this be the last holiday with your family," she said.

The health officers said that they often work collaboratively and provide hospital and ICU beds when hospitals in another county are overwhelmed. They would do the same during

the COVID-19 crisis, but they want to make sure they would have enough beds to serve their patients and handle any overload, if necessary.

"We cannot wait until after we have driven off the cliff to pull the emergency brake. We understand that the closures under the state order will have a profound impact on our local businesses. However, if we act quickly, we can both save lives and reduce the amount of time these restrictions have to stay in place, allowing businesses and activities to reopen sooner," Cody said.

Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss said the rising hospitalization rates across the region threaten not only community members with severe COVID-19, but anyone who may need care because of a heart attack, stroke, accident or other critical health need.

"By acting together now we will have the greatest impact on the surge and save more lives," he said.

San Mateo County officials issued a statement Dec. 4 supporting the other Bay Area health officials, but stopped short of issuing the restrictions.

"As other Bay Area Health officials today announced that they would impose new local stay-at-home orders, the County of San Mateo remains focused on following the state's existing metrics and process, while reinforcing the public's responsibility to comply with existing safety measures — especially avoiding gatherings — to slow the spread of

COVID-19 during the holiday season.

"Accordingly, while the County understands and appreciates the measures taken by the other Bay Area counties, San Mateo will not at this time be issuing a new local stay-at-home order and will continue to work with business and community leaders on adherence to existing guidelines. San Mateo County remains in the purple Tier 1 on the state's four-tier, color-coded system for restricting and loosening activities," county officials said.

"We know our residents have sacrificed and patience is growing thin, but we need you to know that you have the power to curb the spread and preserve hospital capacity for those who will need care in the coming weeks. We can get through this together if each of us takes action now to social distance, wear face coverings and avoid gatherings," County Manager Michael Callagy said in the statement.

Local school districts respond

Plans for Portola Valley School District sixth and seventh grades to return to classrooms on Dec. 15 and 18 were put on pause, according to a Dec. 4 email from Superintendent Roberta Zarea. She said that the decision came after much deliberation "in light of recent public health data." The students will now return to campus after winter break.

"As the state and local counties

implement more restrictive measures than the previously outlined purple tier restrictions, we are slowing down our reopening plans so we can review, assess and adjust plans as needed," she wrote. "I understand families' strong feelings on both sides of the argument as to whether or not to send students back in-person right now. In the end, we believe making a judicious decision to modify the seventh and eighth graders' 1.5-day return is the right thing to do based on new public health information."

Students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade will continue with in-person learning, and sixth graders will return to campus as planned the week of Dec. 14.

The board of trustees will discuss reopening plans at the Dec. 17 meeting.

Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister emailed families Dec. 4 that the district's internal case rate is low (the district has reported 17 cases since it reopened in September) and said the school board is committed to keeping schools open "as long as risks can be sufficiently mitigated."

The sector closures and restrictions on activity under the state's regional stay-at-home order can be found at tinyurl.com/COVIDclosuresCA. ■ *Almanac Staff Writer Angela Swartz and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.*

Email Sue Dremann at sdremann@pawebkly.com

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include: **Susan Griner**, 68, a teacher at Sacred Heart Preparatory and Menlo Park resident, who died on Aug. 15; and **Thomas Woodward Smith**, 83, a Saint Francis High School teacher and Los Altos resident, who died on Nov. 28.

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

Menlo Park Firefighters Toy & Food Drive

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

Deadline: December 18th

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

For Food Donations: Please go to this website to donate: impact.shfb.org/MenloParkFirefighters

For Toy Donations:

**IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE,
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1. Contact John Wurdinger @ johnw@iaff2400.org with how many children you wish to sponsor. You will be assigned a child on our website: www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive

2. Purchase 3 toys from the child's list www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive expect to spend \$60 to \$80.

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

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

Station 1 - 300 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

Station 2 - 2290 University Avenue, East Palo Alto

Station 3 - 32 Almendral Ave, Atherton

Station 4 - 3322 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Menlo Park

Station 5 - 4101 Fair Oaks Ave, Menlo Park

Station 6 - 700 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park

Station 77 - 1467 Chilco St, Menlo Park

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



www.iaff2400.org/menloparkfirefighterstoyandfooddrive

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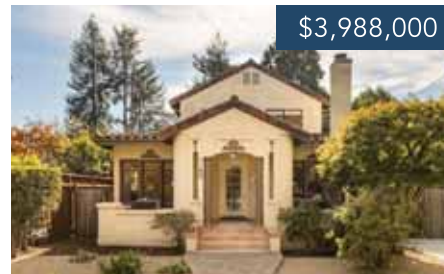
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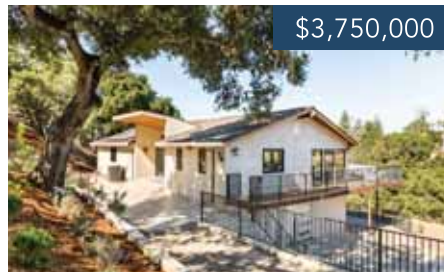
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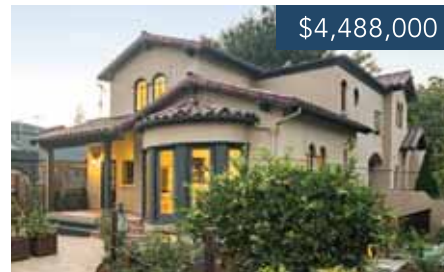
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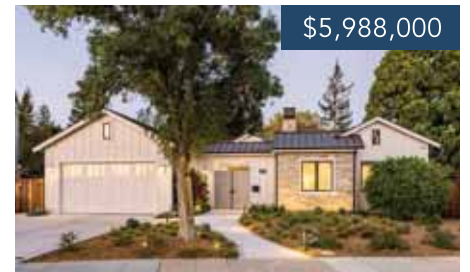
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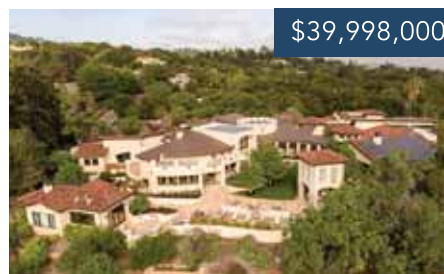
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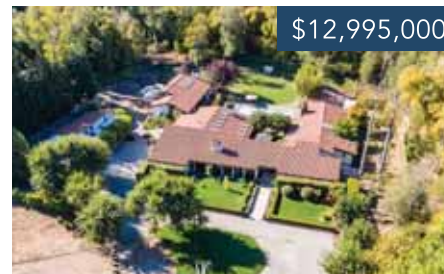
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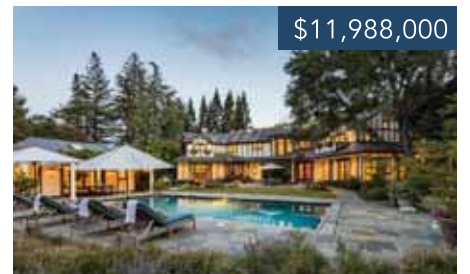
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27500 La Vida Real, Los Altos Hills
5 Bd | 12 Bth (7 full, 5 half)
www.27500LaVida.com



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Ecumenical Hunger Program

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

Health Connected

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

LifeMoves

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

Literacy Partners — Menlo Park

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

Ravenswood Family Health Center

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

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

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

St. Francis Center

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

StarVista

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

Upward Scholars

Empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

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As of Dec. 8, 85 donors have contributed
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Changes or corrections to listings may be made by contacting Kali Shiloh at kshiloh@almanacnews.com.

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

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

To say it's been a busy year for the Ravenswood Family Health Center and MayView Community Health Centers would be an understatement.

Just as the pandemic was breaking out in March, the East Palo Alto-based Ravenswood Family Health Center was in the midst of wrapping up its acquisition of the MayView Community Health clinics, adding its staff members and working through contract details, and learning the nuances of running clinics across the border in Santa Clara County. The combined facilities, now part of the Ravenswood Family Health Network, are responsible for about 25,000 patients at the Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto and the MayView clinics in Palo Alto, Mountain View and Sunnyvale. The Palo Alto location is temporarily closed.

From there, it's been a whirlwind of learning and adapting to serve communities upended by a coronavirus that has hit patients like theirs disproportionately hard, said Ravenswood Family Health Network CEO Luisa Buada.

One of the first problems in the early months of the pandemic was acquiring enough personal protective equipment for employees. In the first three months, she said, about 80% of their PPE was donated from various sources, including corporate leaders who leveraged connections with international markets to track down needed supplies. Staff members have also had their own challenges — some are themselves medically vulnerable and unable to work closely with patients, and others have had to cut back their hours due to limited child care options.

The system has hired a number of nurses to do testing for patients and staff, and has developed protocols to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, Buada said. The network provides free testing for its patients at the East Palo Alto and Sunnyvale locations. Go to is.gd/rfhcCOVIDtest for more information.

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



Courtesy Ravenswood Family Health Network

Paul and Jennifer, staff members at Ravenswood Family Health Network, screen patient Patricia before she enters the health center.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On top of all that, the clinics switched their entire electronic

medical records systems midyear. "It's extremely helpful for continuity of care," she said.

Future challenges

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

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CHERUBIC IN-HOME CARE SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 285643
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Cherubic In-Home Care Services, located at 3290 San Jose Ave., CA 94501, Alameda County.
Registered owner(s):
ELITISI SEKONA
3290 San Jose Ave.
Alameda, CA 94501
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/19/2020.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 29, 2020.
(ALM Nov. 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11, 2020)

HAPPY HOME
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 285792
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Happy Home, located at 258 Lowell St., Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DANIELLE MARTIN
258 Lowell St.
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 6/17/20.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 12, 2020.
(ALM Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020)

THE STROLLER STORE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 285969
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
The Stroller Store, located at 180 South Spruce Ave., Unit L, South San Francisco, CA 94080, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 561 Hilbar Ln., Palo Alto, CA 94303.
Registered owner(s):
COUTURE LANE INC.
561 Hilbar Ln.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Delaware
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The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/03/20.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 3, 2020.
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2020; Jan. 1, 2021)

TACOS Y MARISCOS EL GORDO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 285894
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Tacos y Mariscos El Gordo, located at 2315 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 1525 Regent St. #6, Redwood City, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s):
JOSE LUIS PEREZ ESQUIVEL
1525 Regent St. #6
Redwood City, CA 94061
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/23/2020.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 23, 2020.
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2020; Jan. 1, 2021)

997 All Other Legals

Title Order No. 05942225 Trustee Sale No. 84977 Loan No. HUELIN APN: 088-030-100
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/22/2018. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 12/16/2020 at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALISTS, AS TRUSTEE as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 3/1/2018 as Instrument No. 2018-014763 in book N/A, page N/A of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by: DAVID L. HUELIN, TERESA F. WHITE-HUELIN, TRUSTEES OF THE DAVID HUELIN AND TERESA F. WHITE HUELIN LIVING TRUST DATED JUNE 24, 2016, as Trustor

CHI-KOU, LILY FAN, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS, as Beneficiary WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: Outside the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063, NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE — continued all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California described the land therein: Lot 9 as shown on that certain Map entitled "Dearborn Park, Map No. 2, San Mateo County, California", filed in the Office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County on March 7, 1924 in Book 11 of maps at Page 51. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 730 DEARBORN PARK ROAD PESCADERO, CA 94060. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit \$525,052.98 (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election of Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. DATE: 11/16/2020 CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALISTS, AS TRUSTEE, as Trustee 8190 EAST KAISER BLVD., ANAHEIM HILLS, CA 92808 PHONE: 714-283-2180 FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION LOG ON TO: www.stoxposting.com CALL: 844-477-7869 PATRICIO S. INCE; VICE PRESIDENT CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALIST IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. "NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 844-477-7869, or visit this internet Web site www.stoxposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case T.S.# 84977. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale."

For legal advertising call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578.

ELECTION

continued from page 5

reelection to their seats on the Menlo fire board.

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

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

Sequoia Union High School District

Two newcomers won two contested seats on the Sequoia Union High School District's governing board.

Rich Ginn, a parent and business owner, won the Trustee Area C seat, which represents Woodside, West Menlo Park

and Portola Valley, with 9,685 votes (37.8%). Incumbent Georgia Jack, who initially led on election night, had 8,605 votes (33.5%), while Shamar Edwards, school principal, had 7,366 votes (28.7%). Voter turnout was 89.6%.

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

Las Lomitas Elementary School District

Newcomers Jason Morimoto and Jody Leng won two open seats on the Las Lomitas Elementary School District board. Leng has declined to serve, as she told the district shortly after Election Day, leaving her seat unfilled. There will be two open seats come

mid-December, as board president Jon Venverloh recently resigned amid public outcry over his wife's racist and misogynistic tweets disparaging Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Voter turnout was 88.5%

Morimoto had 3,579 votes (39.9%). Leng had 2,943 votes (32.8%) and Molly Finn had 2,443 votes (27.3%).

Menlo Park City School District

Newcomer Francesca Segrè and incumbent David Ackerman won two open seats on the Menlo Park City School District's governing

board. Voter turnout was 88%.

Segrè had 8,943 votes (46.3%), Ackerman had 7,621 votes (39.5%) and Robert Maclay followed with 2,736 votes (14.2%).

Other county results

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

In East Palo Alto's City Council race, just 69 votes separated the two candidates vying for the third spot on the council. Newcomer Antonio Lopez won a spot on the council, with 2,998 votes compared with Webster

Lincoln's 2,929 votes. Incumbents Lisa Gauthier and Carlos Romero got the top two spots.

In the presidential race, 77.9% of San Mateo County voters supported President-elect Joe Biden over President Donald Trump, who received 20.2% of votes.

To view the official results for San Mateo County, go to livevoteturnout.com. ■

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RESTAURANTS

continued from page 5

both the city and the restaurant invested in the construction.

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

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

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

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

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

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

now that we can come back ... I'm not comfortable with that," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

William James Graham

September 20, 1923 – November 24, 2020

William James "Bill" Graham died on November 24, 2020, near his home at Fox Hill Village in Westwood, MA. He was born to Margaret Euwer Graham and John Ellis Graham on September 20, 1923 and raised in Pelham Manor, NY with three brothers: Jack, Malcolm, and Bob (only Bob is still living).

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

Bill met Natalie Stolk at a wedding in 1950, and they married a year later. They had seven children: Jimmy, Susan, Margaret, John, Betsy, Joannie, and Cathy. Bill and Natalie were married for 68 years. Natalie predeceased Bill by 10 months, and their first child, Jimmy, died in 1957. They will all be buried together in New London, NH, as will their other children and spouses.

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

Bill was a fierce competitor; sports was a big part of his life and character and the basis of many of his friendships. He taught himself to play tennis at age seven and played for the next 80+ years. He was captain of the Amherst tennis team and played competitively until an injury took

him out of the tournament circuit. When Bill stopped playing, he was ranked #2 in the United States by the USTA (in his age group). Although tennis was his favorite sport, golf was a close second. He belonged to a golf club wherever he lived, and played often, especially after he retired. He had two hole-in-ones (after the age of 80), one at Menlo Country Club in CA, and one at Eastman in NH.

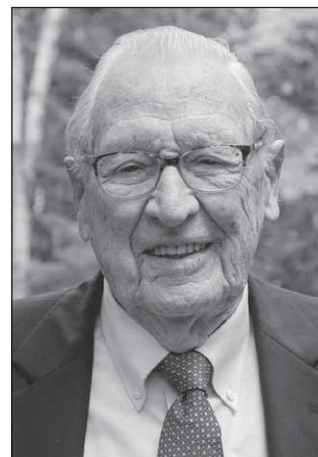
The Grahams lived in both Toledo, OH and in the San Francisco Bay Area, CA (twice each). In CA, Bill was on the boards of Filoli Historic House and Garden, Portola Valley Ranch, San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Menlo Country Club, and Foothills Swim and Tennis Club.

Bill and Natalie traveled often for both pleasure and work. Every other year, they would convene their burgeoning family to a warm-weather spot where they could be together and form the strong bonds that still connect them today. His 12 grandchildren (Haydn, Whitney, Willie, Aidan, Elle, Sarah, Alex, Conor, David, Carolyn, Annie, and Grace), devoted to him and to each other, called Bill on Zoom every Sunday once the pandemic hit, and in-person visits were no longer allowed.

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

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

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



To our Stanford Medicine Community

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lloyd Minor, MD

Dean, Stanford School of Medicine

David Entwistle

*President and CEO
Stanford Health Care*

Paul King

*President and CEO
Stanford Children's Health*



OUTDOOR DINING

continued from page 5

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

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

Rooh's landlord paid to build the restaurant's parklet, Bhambri said, but she recently purchased additional heaters and new tents to prepare for the winter. She immediately thought of the implications for inventory at Rooh, where outdoor dining sales outpace takeout.

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

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

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

Lars Smith, co-owner of State of Mind Public House in Los Altos, felt a grim kind of resilience in the face of last Friday's news. He feels better equipped to help his restaurant navigate another shutdown, having done it before. He knows now that he can keep on more staff than he did in March, when in a panic they laid off front-of-house staff and cut employees' hours — and then were overwhelmed by a spike in takeout business.

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

"It's a challenge to have to

indefinitely let most of our people go," he said. "I don't think realistically that we're going to bounce back and this is going to be over on Jan. 4. I wonder how many of my business comrades are going to make it through this period."

Judy Kleinberg, CEO of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, predicted there will be a spike in unemployment applications in the wake of the new stay-at-home order. She's been advocating at the county level for relief for small businesses.

San Mateo County is not participating in the early order, but at least one restaurant — Flea St. Cafe Menlo Park — decided to shut down outdoor dining anyway and others started preparing to do so. Camper in Menlo Park posted on Instagram that it's "clearing house of some delectables," advertising deals on porterhouse and ribeye steaks and mussels.

Across the Peninsula, local restaurateurs' minds were quickly turning to ideas for boosting business, from social media posts advertising the final two days of outdoor dining last weekend to new takeout menus. Pavel Sirotin of Bevri in Palo Alto said he plans to revive a ghost kitchen concept he tested out a few months ago and is exploring other partnerships to stay afloat.

Several owners expressed a

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

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

Sirotin urged people to continue ordering takeout from locally owned restaurants, which he recently heard described as a "citizen's responsibility."

"It's really true. If we want to keep eating good and interesting food ... we need to get together and help independent restaurants," he said.

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

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

Email Elena Kadvaný at ekadvaný@pawEEKLY.com

Susan Griner

Susan Griner passed away peacefully in her sleep in her own home, on August 15th, 2020. Born in Pasadena, California to Ann and Robert Bennett, Susan grew up in Sunnyvale with her brother, Robert, and sister, Debbie. Susan attended Peterson High School, where she excelled greatly in her scholastic endeavors, along with her mastery as a musician. Santa Clara University offered her a scholarship, and she graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, majoring in the Spanish language, which she spoke fluently. While working as a successful businesswoman, Susan met her husband, Rusty Griner. They were married in Portola Valley, and had a daughter named Sarah. Both Rusty and Susan shared a great love of horses as long time members of the Mounted Patrol in Woodside. Susan continued to own and ride horses throughout her life. An amazing seamstress, Susan sewed incredible, beautiful designs, some of which were for the Woodside Vaulters—an equestrian club where she was the treasurer, she and her husband were horse owners, and her daughter an athlete. Teaching the Yearbook class at Sacred Heart Preparatory is a huge testament to Susan's talent (which was ahead of its time) in computer graphics and design. She loved working with children, and had an immense abundance of empathy for those around her—people and animals! Susan was a truly special human being, and the absolute best and perfect mother to her daughter. She is missed, so much, each and every day...and will be forever. Susan is survived by her husband Rusty Griner, daughter Sarah Griner, mother Ann Bennett, sister Debbie Cooper, niece Leah Cooper, and nephew Wyatt Cooper.



PAID OBITUARY

Lois Marilla John

February 1, 1933 – December 4, 2020

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



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

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

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

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

When she wasn't working, Lois loved to be active. She enjoyed tennis, golf, and shopping with friends. She also liked to scrapbook, dance and exercise. She and Bob loved to entertain in their home and treasured good times with friends and family. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren spent countless hours swimming in their pool, and enjoying their company and the yummy popsicles that Nana always had in the freezer.

Lois and her husband had a ranch in Healdsburg, California, on the Russian River. They would travel the two hours north, over the Golden Gate Bridge, almost every weekend while Judy and Steve were still growing up. The ranch produced prunes and they had a variety of animals, including cattle. They had many fond memories there.

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

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

A visitation will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Walker Funeral Home, 187 South Main Street, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660. A graveside service will be held at Skylawn Cemetery, in San Mateo, California, on Friday, December 18, 2020, at 12:30 p.m.

Those unable to attend the graveside service may join us via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/7867341454?pwd=TjZCTFZ6Qkp3S002anh3V05WempqZz09>

PAID OBITUARY

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

By Dr. Scott Morrow

GUEST OPINION

Please read or reread my previous statements (at smchealth.org/coronavirus-health-officer-updates) to get a better understanding of where we find ourselves today and actions you can take to protect yourselves and your family.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Being in the purple tier, the state has already put significant restrictions on businesses and the public space in San Mateo

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

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

'The power and authority to control this pandemic lies primarily in your hands, not mine.'

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

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

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

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

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

11. I have grave concerns about the unintended consequences of reducing our grocery store capacity to 20%.

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

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

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

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

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

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

are protecting you, or are keeping society running, or are at high risk of death.

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

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

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

3. Based on modeling data, the overwhelming majority (80-90%) of people in this county are still susceptible and at risk of contracting the virus.

This is a horrible, nasty, and lethal virus that is highly transmissible and one you do not want to get. To get out of this situation depends on all of us. Our collective best course of action: No gatherings outside of immediate households, use facial coverings extensively, and social distancing. And during this surge these are the additional things you should be doing: Stop moving around, stay at home except for essential (please observe the most restrictive definition of what you deem to be essential) activities, avoid all travel that is not essential, never enter an indoor environment without a mask if that environment has people outside your household, get tested if you have symptoms or are concerned, and isolate yourself IMMEDIATELY from your family and others if you have symptoms.

Dr. Scott Morrow is the San Mateo County health officer. This statement was released Monday, Dec. 7.

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Peninsula singing group offers 'golden guarantee'

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

By Karla Kane

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

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

The Fabulous JewelTones were formed as a spinoff of sorts of Peninsula Women's Chorus, out of a desire to get together and sing barbershop-quartet-style harmonies on a casual basis. In late 1999, they were surprised by a request from a Palo Alto preschool to perform at a picnic.

"We discovered all the horrible things about singing outside, on a busy street corner, with little children — nobody heard us and it was probably just as well,"

Landergren said with a laugh.

Nevertheless, the group enjoyed the gig and over the next year officially became The Fabulous JewelTones, specializing in jazz and pop classics from the 1920s through the '50s. They could not have predicted then that they'd be going strong 20 years later.

A Fabulous JewelTones show isn't just about the music, either. Landergren tailors each performance to the audience's interests and creates individual scripts to fit the setting.

"I will interview them and dig out all the dirt I can and weave their unique story into our songs," Landergren explained. "Deanne (Tucker, the group's musical director, also a Los Altan) helps put it together in order and how we should sing it, and the story falls in line."

The rest of the group dresses for the occasion as well, with an array of vintage and replica clothing sourced from thrift stores and attics by a particularly fashionable JewelTone.

While they've performed for big crowds and at corporate gigs, their favorites are the intimate



Courtesy The Fabulous JewelTones

Peninsula singing group The Fabulous JewelTones have been entertaining audiences for 20 years, specializing in classics from the 1920s through the '50s.

shows for special events such as birthdays and anniversaries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"When we start to sing a song that they remember, you can see their fingers starting to move, toes starting to tap," Landergren said. "Oh man — that's something to know they're still there

and we can do something for them that they can enjoy."

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

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

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

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

"It's up to the group to decide what the video will be. They have to put on their costume, get their lighting set up, play the audio and

record themselves singing along with it, then I strip off the audio and match it and arrange them in the scene in order," she explained.

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

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

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

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

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

More information is available at jeweltones.org. ■



Courtesy The Fabulous JewelTones

The Fabulous JewelTones were formed as a spinoff of Peninsula Women's Chorus.

Food & Drink

The Peninsula's edible gift guide

By Elena Kadvany

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

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

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

The Midwife and the Baker panettone

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

El Merkat paella kit

Send a loved one to Spain (sorta) via a paella kit from

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

The Prolific Oven cake kits

Palo Alto's beloved The Prolific Oven has revived its cake kits for the holidays: all the ingredients to make the bakery's popular chocolate cake, poppyseed cake and rum cream cheese frosting are available for local pickup and delivery. Order at the-prolific-oven.square.site.

Fenn Coffee

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

BackAYard Caribbean Grill jerk sauces

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



Courtesy Rocco Scordella

The new Vina Mercato, inside Vina Enoteca in Palo Alto on Nov. 5.

Local honey

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

Local wine

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

Vina Mercato fresh pasta and sauces

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

'Cocktails for Home: Sheltered in Place'

Eusebio Pozos-Reyes, beverage director at San Agus Cocina Urbana & Cocktails in Palo Alto, authored this book to guide the home mixologist with ideas and recipes. A portion of the proceeds will be donated back to local industry bar staff impacted by the COVID-19 closures. "Cocktails for Home" is available at local bookstores, including Books Inc and Kepler's Books.

Donato Enoteca cooking class

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

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

Local Lady Larder

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

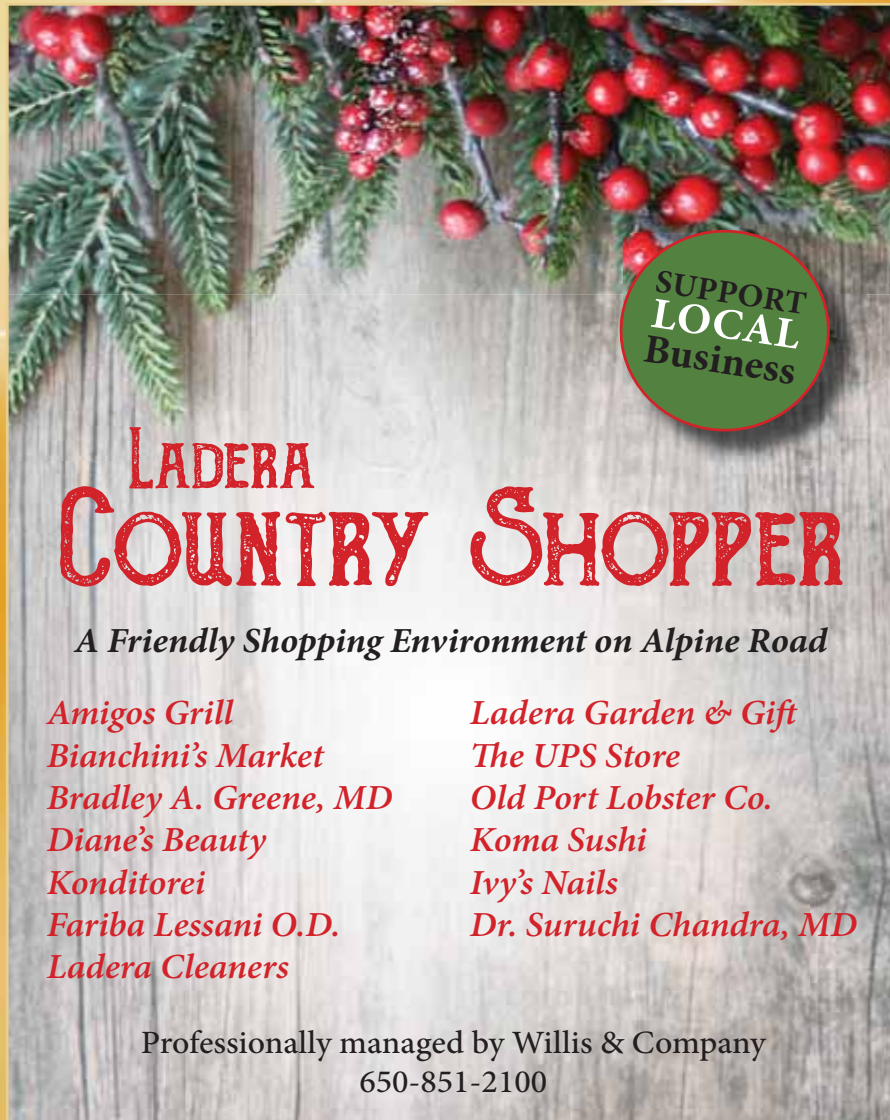
See **EDIBLE GIFT GUIDE**, page 27



Magali Gauthier

El Merkat at Telefèric Barcelona's basic paella kit serves two people and contains paella seasoning, sofrito mix, Bomba rice, Spanish virgin olive oil and a paella recipe.

Here come the Holidays



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<i>Konditorei</i>	<i>Ivy's Nails</i>
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ST. 19 - 4091 JEFFERSON AVE, WDS

LETTERS MUST INCLUDE AN EMAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER. LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 19TH. YOU CAN ALSO EMAIL OR MAIL YOUR LETTER.

YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY SANTA'S HELPERS TO SET UP YOUR VISIT VIA ZOOM!

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Draeger's MARKET

Shop Small, Shop Local

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

TASTE FLAVOR AGAIN

EDIBLE GIFT GUIDE

continued from page 25

Iacopi Farms heirloom beans

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

Noodle in a Haystack mala sauce

During the shutdown, Clint and Yoko Tan, the masterminds behind Daly City ramen pop-up Noodle in a Haystack, started selling their wonderfully spicy mala sauce, which they like to describe as a hybrid of chili oil and Chinese XO sauce that can be used like a hot sauce or for cooking. It's a blend of several kinds of chile, Szechuan pepper, kelp, hemp, tamari smoked fish, garlic, scallion and sesame. The mala sauce, as well as their "veji-grette" (a vegan and gluten-free

salad dressing made from carrots, sweet peppers, onions, olives, soy sauce and rice wine vinegar) are available through Fishmonger Don's website, fishmongerdon.com. Do also follow Noodle in a Haystack on Instagram (instagram.com/noodle-inhaystack), where the couple posts when they're selling Yoko's pillowy Japanese milk bread and other homemade goods.

Binka Bites bibingka

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

Gourmet Haus Staudt imported German goods

Gourmet Haus Staudt's Redwood City market is full of gift-friendly German and European goods, from spätzle mixes,

bratwurst and Milka chocolate bars to rum stollen. Plus, of course, an excellent imported and local beer selection. The store is at 2615 Broadway St., Redwood City. Open Monday noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Online at gourmethausstaudt.com.

Romolo's cannoli kit

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

A local CSA box subscription

Give a friend the gift of fresh produce — and support a local farm — with a community supported agriculture (CSA) box subscription. Oya Organic Farm, which is based in Hollister but run by a Palo



Magali Gauthier

Eusebio Pozos, San Agus Cocina Urbana & Cocktails beverage director, uses epazote syrup and Nixta Licor de Elote to recreate the smells of a Mexico City market in the Central de Abastos, in Palo Alto on Dec. 3.

Alto resident, offers boxes with seven to nine different varieties of organic produce available for local pickup on a weekly or monthly basis. Or, gift your entire neighborhood by teaming up for a CSA box pickup — if you have at least five people interested in picking up at your house or workplace, reach out to the farm.

Or, check out Luna Vez Farm, whose CSA boxes feature rotating, seasonal produce from the Los Altos Hills farm as well as lesser known farms run by

people of color. For the holidays, Luna Vez is also making chili wreaths and preserves baskets with locally made jam, salsa, marinara, canned tomatoes and honey. Delivery is available for Los Altos and Los Altos Hills residents; others can pick up boxes at the farm on Wednesdays. People interested in purchasing the CSA boxes or other items can email lunavezfarm@gmail.com. **A**

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