City events canceled amid concerns over coronavirus risks

by Kevin Forestieri

Senior Programs curtail services, take precautions to minimize risk of exposure

Very event planned at the Mountain View Public Library this week has been axed, the latest in a flood of recently postponed or canceled events in Mountain View in order to limit possible exposure to the new coronavirus.

The cautious approach is expected to last at least through the end of March, putting a damper on city services as the number of confirmed cases of the illness — also known as COVID-19 — rose to 48 in Santa Clara County as of Wednesday, March 11.

Local nonprofits serving vulnerable residents, particularly the elderly, are also taking steps to prevent the spread of the virus.

The city’s senior nutrition program, run by the nonprofit Community Services Agency (CSA), has been severely cut back to curb potential exposure.

By Kate Bradshaw

As the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 rises to 48 with one death in Santa Clara County, local schools are introducing new practices and protocols to protect students and their families.

Below are the latest policies to come out of elementary and high school districts serving Mountain View and Los Altos students.

Mountain View Whisman School District

Schools: Open

Events: Many are postponed or canceled. Check for notifications.

At the Mountain View Whisman School District, new recommendations from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department and other health agencies have led to updated practices the district has adopted, effective March 6, the district said in a written statement.

The district has postponed or canceled non-essential events depending on duration, attendee proximity and size. However, sports events and practices will continue as scheduled. Spectators should stay at arm’s length from each other and high-risk spectators should avoid attending.

“The state of California has issued a state of emergency, a preparatory measure so that public agencies can have more access to federal resources to combat the coronavirus. There also have been recommendations about ‘social distancing,’ or ways people can reduce their close contact with others,” according to the statement.

When it comes to preventing or mitigating the spread of the new coronavirus, students and staff are being reminded about hand washing and provided alcohol-based sanitizing wipes.

The district will continue to disinfect and clean school facilities, including using industrial-grade misters to disinfect common high-traffic areas and classrooms regularly.

Masks aren’t being recommended for healthy people at this time and the district won’t be providing them to students. However, if parents want their child to wear his or her own mask at school, that request will be honored so long as it doesn’t conflict with the district’s guidelines.

By Kevin Forestieri

A proposal to bring 100 affordable apartments to Mountain View’s North Bayshore tech park got a big boost Tuesday, after the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide $19 million in funding.

If approved by the Mountain View City Council later this year, the project on La Avenida Street would be the first affordable housing complex north of Santa Clara to benefit from the county’s $950 million Measure A bond. It would also be one of the first housing projects in North Bayshore, which was rezoned in 2017 in order to transform the area into a mixed-use neighborhood.

The nonprofit developer, Eden Housing, is seeking to replace office buildings with a four-story apartment building at 1100 La Avenida St., with an eye toward housing the homeless and very low-income families. The largest portion of the units, 34 in total, will be set aside for permanent supportive housing for the homeless, with county support services available on-site for the tenants.

The remaining units will be available to families making well below the Area Median Income (AMI), which is currently $131,400 for a family of four.

Thirty-three of the units would be available for families making up to 50% of the AMI with 19 units and 14 units for households earning up to 50% and 60% of the AMI, respectively.

Eden originally bought the 1-acre property intending to create a more family-oriented housing project focused on two- and three-bedroom apartments, said Susie Criscimagna, Eden’s director of real estate development.

But after talking with city staff, Criscimagna said it was clear that the vision for North Bayshore favored studios and one-bedroom apartments tailored for Mountain View workers to improve the job-housing balance.

The mix of units is also exactly the kind of project that Measure A, passed in 2016, was designed to fund, said Wayne Chen, the
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The play tells the story of Jerrie Cobb (played by Sarah Mitchell), a brilliant American aviator who hoped to be the first woman to go to space, only to have her astronaut dreams thwarted by sexism.

The show begins in 1960, when, privately funded by record-breaking female pilot Jackie Cochran (Stacy Ross), Dr. Randy Lovelace (Anthony Fusco) and his team recruit qualified women, including Cobb, to become part of “Mercury 13.” The female recruits undergo the same rigorous physical and psychological tests as the celebrated male astronauts in NASA’s Mercury program. Cobb passes the grueling tests, including spending nearly 10 hours in an isolation tank, doing better, in fact, than most of the men. She’s hailed in the media as the first “lady astronaut” and feels sure her dreams are about to come true. Historical spoiler alert: It doesn’t turn out that way.

Ollstein’s play, well directed by TheatreWorks’ Artistic Associate and Director of New Works, Giovanna Sardelli, explores Cobb’s story first in flashbacks, from her childhood as a shy, tongue-tied kid in Oklahoma, where she enjoys the support of her alcoholic pilot father (Dan Hiat) and clashes with her conservative mother (Luisa Sermol). Cochran, a cocky, wealthy, glamorous ace aviator who led the Women Airforce Service Pilots during WWII, is Cobb’s idol who becomes her mentor and, eventually, her frenemy.

Act 2 deals with the disappointing crash landing of Cobb’s plans. The audience feels Cobb’s heartbeat at having her dreams dashed for reasons of prejudice.

The Soviets ended up with the first woman in space — Valentina Tereshkova, who in 1963 shattered Glenn’s orbit record. It would take decades for America to finally bridge the gender gap, with Stanford University’s own Sally Ride in 1983.

But this is Cobb’s tale, and Mitchell gives a fine performance as the awkward, deeply spiritual woman with a backbone of steel, who should have become a major name in American history. Ross, though, as the more flamboyant, comical and shrewd Cochran, also makes a strong impression, drawing the limelight whenever she’s on stage. The rest of the cast takes on multiple roles, including flesh-crawlingly sexist newscasts and a pair of blustery opposing congressmen. Craig Marker plays John Glenn, the swaggering American astronaut who despondently deters gender equality in the space program.

“They Promised Her the Moon” comes to the local stage on the heels of the recent death of Katherine Johnson, the African American female NASA mathematician critical to early spaceflight, whose story is celebrated in “Hidden Figures.” It also comes at a time when many are feeling frustrated thanks to society’s ongoing misogyny, writ large right now with the dwindling likelihood of a woman president being elected any time in the near future. This makes the show more than just a look back into history at a figure who deserves to be better known. It also gives it a relevance to the present that helps connect Cobb’s cracking anger and sadness to that of some in the room.

“Men have walked all over you,” Cobb says to her beloved heart at the show’s end. “I know how that feels.”

“They Promised Her the Moon” runs through March 29 (showtimes vary) at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are $35-$95. Go to theatreworks.org.

— Karla Kane

Voices AROUND TOWN will return.
Local News

CRIME BRIEF

THREE TEENS ARRESTED AFTER ALLEGED MOUNTAIN VIEW CARJACKING

Police arrested three San Jose teenagers in connection to an armed carjacking incident Tuesday evening, in which one of the teens reportedly pointed a replica firearm at the driver.

Officers received a call from a couple reporting that the three teenagers approached their vehicle around 7:30 p.m. near the intersection of Central Avenue and Moffett Boulevard, according to a statement released Wednesday.

One of the teens reportedly pointed a gun at the driver, who was able to drive away before pulling over to call police.

A detective found three teenagers matching the description of the suspects walking on the 400 block of Stierlin Road. The trio initially refused to stop for police, but were detained when more officers arrived.

A replica firearm closely resembling a real gun was found on one of the teens, and the victims identified the three as the people who allegedly tried to steal their car.

The three, whose names and ages were withheld because they are juveniles, were arrested on suspicion of attempted carjacking and conspiracy to commit a crime.

—Kevin Forestieri

ELECTION BRIEFS

VOTERS STRONGLY REJECT MEASURE D

A bid by the Mountain View City Council to modify the city’s rent control law was soundly defeated at the ballot box last week, with an updated count showing more than two-thirds of city residents voted against the measure.

The initial vote on election night showed a majority of the city rejected Measure D on the March 3 primary ballot, and the margin of defeat has steadily grown since then. As of Wednesday morning, 14,341 votes had been counted against Measure D, or 69.4% of the tally so far.

A total of 20,669 votes had been counted as of Wednesday in a city of 38,000 registered voters, a rough indicator that voter turnout among Mountain View residents was at least above 53% and well above the Santa Clara County average.

Measure D would have made numerous changes to the
Mountains View’s small businesses say new coronavirus poses major threat

By Kate Bradshaw

“It’s been so hard,” said Eun-Joo Chang, owner of Rumble Fish in Mountain View when asked how business has been over the last couple of weeks, as grim news about the spread of the new coronavirus has pummeled Santa Clara County.

To date, there are 48 confirmed cases of the new coronavirus and one death reported by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

The new coronavirus has also begun to have a severe impact on local small businesses, said Peter Katz, president and CEO of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce in a March 9 email.

“Smaller operations may be in danger of closing should the crisis go into months rather than weeks,” he said.

At Rumble Fish, a sushi restaurant located at 357 Castro St., business has been sharply impacted by the news cycle surrounding the new coronavirus, Chang said.

On Feb. 28, the day that the Voice reported there was a patient with the new coronavirus being treated at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, 80% of the restaurant's reservations were canceled, she said. Business was oddly slow through that weekend, but later seemed to pick up to about 80% of its usual pace. Then last weekend, as information circulated about the quarantine of the Grand Princess cruise ship, numbers dwindled again.

During lunchtime March 9, with the announcement of the first coronavirus-related death in Santa Clara County, “we got the message. On Caltrain, many riders appear to have gotten the message. On Caltrain, ridership appears to have dropped off over the past week, with morning trains that are typically standing-room-only now featuring a wealth of empty seats. With many tech workers now working from home, a Tuesday morning train was three-quarters empty as it approached the Palo Alto station. One conductor compared the ridership levels to those during the Great Recession in 2008-2009.

Caltrain has been taking its ridership changes into account as well as city and county guidelines about the new coronavirus — and has canceled events like the March 16 Marching for Change and March 21 Italian Festival, plus plans to move the March 21 March for Science indoors.

NASA Ames employee tests positive for coronavirus

By Kevin Forestieri

An employee working at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View has tested positive for the new coronavirus, prompting Ames officials to call for a mandatory work-from-home status effective Monday morning and lasting until further notice.

The federal agency said in a statement that it confirmed Sunday that one of the employees working at the research center tested positive for the coronavirus, or COVID-19. Though exposure to other employees on the site is believed to be limited, the research center has since been placed on “mandatory telework” status.

“The safety of our employees and their families is our top priority. Any decisions we have made, or will make, is with the safety of our workforce in mind,” according to the statement Monday.

Access to the research center campus has since been restricted to essential personnel only, including safety and security staff and those who must be present at the site for work.

NASA Ames Research Center announced that an employee tested positive for COVID-19, prompting a mandatory work-from-home order for all non-essential employees.

This, he said, could either mean that fewer people are riding or that more people are shifting to off-peak trains, in accordance with recommendations from public health leaders to avoid crowded spaces.

“It’s very likely many people are staying at home and working from home,” Eisenhart said.

But while transit agencies are providing advice, they are not preparing to modify their schedules just yet. Neither Caltrain nor the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority had made any decision to change service levels as of Tuesday evening, though Eisenhart said that Caltrain may have to reconsider the extra service it provides to large events at San Jose’s SAP Center and Chase Center and Oracle Park in San Francisco.

He noted Santa Clara County’s order on Monday to cancel large gatherings in the county. If events get canceled, so would the Caltrain services associated with those events, he said.

Like other transportation agencies, Caltrain has been taking its cues from county health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The San Mateo County Transit District, which administers the SamTrans bus service and Caltrain, is maintaining regular contact with local public health agencies, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the CDC, the

Trains, buses unfazed by the new coronavirus — despite fewer riders

By Gennady Sheyner

Despite plummeting ridership and growing anxiety about the coronavirus, transportation agencies are planning to keep trains and buses running on their regular schedules — at least for now.

As the number of coronavirus cases has climbed in Santa Clara County over the past week, transit agencies have upped their outreach efforts with tip sheets and brochures advising riders to cover their coughs, avoid touching their faces and to stay home if they’re feeling sick.

Many riders appear to have gotten the message. On Caltrain, ridership appears to have dropped off over the past week, with morning trains that are typically standing-room-only now featuring a wealth of empty seats. With many tech workers now working from home, a Tuesday morning train was three-quarters empty as it approached the Palo Alto station. One conductor compared the ridership levels to those during the Great Recession in 2008-2009.

Caltrain generally tracks ridership on a monthly basis, with numbers for March typically not available until late April, agency spokesman Alex Eisenhart said. Given the circumstances, Caltrain is planning to release some preliminary numbers next week. That said, train conductors are reporting seeing fewer riders during peak commuting hours.

NASA Ames Research Center announced that an employee tested positive for COVID-19, prompting a mandatory work-from-home order for all non-essential employees.
Lawsuit alleges city's sewage is leaking into creeks

By Kate Bradshaw

A n environmental watchdog group has filed lawsuits against the cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale alleging that the cities’ aging sewer systems are leaking bacteria from human feces into their stormwater drainage systems, contaminating local creeks and ultimately the Bay.

Over the past few rainy seasons, San Francisco Baykeeper, a nonprofit that works to protect the Bay and its water quality, has sent scientists to measure the amounts of various bacteria that indicate the presence of human fecal waste. In some instances along Stevens Creek, the nonprofit found levels of those bacteria about 50 times higher than legal limits, Baykeeper reported on its blog.

The Mountain View suit alleges that the city’s old sewer system, mostly made up of breakable clay pipes, has leaks that have released bacteria found in human feces into the city’s stormwater drainage system. From that system, the bacteria are being discharged into Stevens Creek and other bodies of water that feed into the Bay.

The pollution has been going on since at least 2014, according to a state study that identified the water as polluted, said Sejal Choksi-Chugh, Baykeeper’s executive director.

Eighty-nine percent of the sewage system is made up of clay pipes, which are susceptible to cracking and breaking, the suit claims. The sewage system is also aging: at least 26% of it is more than 60 years old, and at least 57% is more than 20 years old. More than a third of the system doesn’t have a recorded age.

“No one wants to waste a lot of time in court!” Choksi-Chugh said.

The presence of raw sewage in local waters also poses a health risk to anyone who may eat fish caught in those streams. “Contaminated fish are particularly damaging to ethnic and economic minority communities, who eat a great share of the average amount of locally caught fish,” the lawsuit claims.

Wildlife may also be impacted, but the risks to animals from human pathogens is lower than it is to other humans, McCann said.

Still, there are a number of endangered and protected species found along Stevens Creek and South San Francisco Bay that may be vulnerable to the contaminated water. The creek is one of the last remaining viable habitats for Central California Coast steelhead trout, and the creek’s brackish reaches are home to the federally endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse, according to the lawsuit.

San Jose and other cities along the Bay have had similar problems to Mountain View and Sunnyvale, said Choksi-Chugh.

San Jose is working on addressing its sewage pollution, she added.

While no illnesses have been directly attributed to the fecal bacteria, sometimes such incidents are not reported or people don’t know that polluted water has made them sick, she said.

“If you have to consider the very real damage additional pollutants will cause to the Bay’s already compromised health. We know the level of risk is unacceptably high, so it’s the city’s responsibility to act now,” she said.

“We strongly encourage Baykeeper’s allegations while continuing to meet with them and keeping an open dialogue. We are evaluating next steps with the goal of a timely and appropriate resolution,” she said in a statement.

The ability for bacteria-laden water to enter local waterways is a common problem, said Lisa Horowitz McCann, an officer from the California Water Board’s San Francisco Bay regional office. In particular, old sewer systems overflow when there are blockages in dry weather and capacity constraints in wet weather.

Such contamination events can lead to people being exposed to the bacteria, which can make them sick. The Bay is heavily used for recreational purposes, and people may be exposed through activities like swimming, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and windsurfing.

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prove to be a classroom distraction. The district may ask families where they have traveled, and if there are concerns, district nurses may screen students. Students being kept home due to concerns about the new coronavirus won’t received excused absences unless their parents are under quarantine. Case-by-case accommodations may be made for children with underlying health conditions. People in health care for a child who is sick should consult with a healthcare provider about whether the child should stay home.

If a student or family in the district is confirmed to have COVID-19, the county’s public health department will be in contact with the district and with the affected people. Students who show signs of illness will be assessed by a school nurse; students who demonstrate a fever and respiratory symptoms at school will be put in an isolation area with a surgical mask, if tolerated, before being picked up.

If a school closure were to happen, the district would permit distance learning, or having children do schoolwork online. While the district has the technology available, it states, it “does not replace the teacher in the classroom. It comes with its own challenges, especially for parents who still have to be present at their workplaces.” Many of these policies will remain in effect until June 4, with potential reconsideration on April 3. Access the full list with potential reconsideration of new policies at tinyurl.com/mv-schools3.

Los Altos School District

- Schools: Open
- Events: Many are canceled. Access the full list at is.gd/mvla_cancel_list.

When it comes to local high schools, classes are being held as usual, for now. The district notes that children and teens have not been shown to be high-risk becoming seriously ill from the virus. The district recommends that students who feel ill stay home, according to a March 6 statement from the Mountain View Los Altos High School District.

The district has ordered a number of portable washing stations to be placed in strategic areas at Los Altos, Mountain View and Alta Vista high schools, as well as at Freestyle Academy, to encourage student hand-washing.

As of March 6, the district was working to develop a protocol for large gatherings like sports events and field trips. “We are reviewing events and cancelling, if appropriate,” said Superintendent Nellie Meyer in a statement. As of March 10, many student events and trips were announced to be canceled or postponed. These include trips such as Los Altos High School’s planned choir tour in New York City from March 13 to 17, and Mountain View High School’s Madrigals Music Tour in New Zealand from March 27 to April 9 as well as a student acting trip to the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon from April 3 to 7. If a student or staff member at a school is confirmed to have COVID-19, the county public health department will consider whether it’s warranted to close the school.

State guidelines

In addition to what local schools are doing, California health leaders have released new guidance for school districts, colleges and universities on how to respond to COVID-19, including preparing for potential school closures.

It’s a question of when — not if — some California public schools will face closure because of COVID-19,” said Gov. Gavin Newsom, who declared a state of emergency in California last week. “School districts must prepare for these scenarios so that parents and children can plan for what would happen if their local school closed.”

If a local public health department has confirmed two or more community transmission cases but no staff or students at a school have tested positive for COVID-19, the state Department of Public Health is recommending schools limit visitors; consider alternatives to large group events, such as assemblies; stagger recess time to limit the number of students who are together; and consider relaxing requirements for a doctor’s note for students to come back to school after an illness.

If a single student, teacher or staff member tests positive for the new coronavirus and exposed others at school, public health officials suggest schools consult with their local public health departments to determine whether a school closure is warranted and for how long, “based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.” Schools should consider developing a plan for how to continue educating students, as well as to provide meal plans and medical and social services.

Other measures include canceling group activities or events, religious services, after-school classes and athletic events. Schools should also develop communication plans and send information to parents and staff about labor laws, paid family leave, disability insurance and unemployment insurance, the state said. (The California Employee Development Department is encouraging people who are unable to work due to exposure to COVID-19 to file a disability insurance claim.)

In the most extreme scenario — multiple schools within a school district have a student, teacher or staff member test positive for the new coronavirus — administrators should consult with local public health officials to decide whether additional school closures are necessary. State education and health leaders also urged “schools to ensure students’ and staff’s privacy to help prevent discrimination or unnecessary stigmatization.”

The Department of Public Health issued similar guidance for colleges and universities. Additional recommendations for higher-education institutions include immediately contacting their local public health department if administrators notice “concerning clusters of respiratory disease or spikes in absences.”

The district has recommended guidelines for students, teachers or staff who test positive for COVID-19. If more than five students, faculty or staff at a college or university test positive, administrators should work with local public officials on whether to close the campus.

At Stanford University, which moved all in-person classes online and has asked all undergraduate students to move out at the end of the quarter, a School of Medicine faculty member has tested positive for the new coronavirus and two undergraduate students were in self-isolation after possible exposure. Public health officials continue to remind schools and the broader public of the precautions anyone should take to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, including washing hands frequently; covering sneezes or coughs; avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands; staying home when sick; and seeking immediate medical care if symptoms become more severe.

— Elena Kadvany contributed to this report.

City of Mountain View

2020 NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications are Now Available

The Neighborhood Grants Program provides financial support for programs and activities to improve neighborhood participation and conditions. Some examples of eligible grant activities are:

- Neighborhood Cleanups
- Ice Cream Socials
- Neighborhood Picnics
- Youth Activities and Events
- Association Recruitment Activities
- Assistance for New Associations

The City of Mountain View would like to encourage your neighborhood group to apply. Applications and grant guidelines may be picked up in the Community Development Department, City Hall, 500 Castro Street, or online at mountainview.gov/grantprogram. Please call (650) 903-6379 if you have questions or would like an application mailed. The application deadline is March 26, 2020.
Call for Nominations

THE EL CAMINO HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS is seeking individuals interested in serving as a member of its FINANCE COMMITTEE. Candidates will have demonstrated strategic financial effectiveness in an environment as a Financial Officer or General Manager. Experience with evolving markets and technologies applicable to healthcare, financial services, industry, real estate or other complex financial environments would be highly valued as would experience with the following: (1) large complex facility construction, (2) healthcare payer, (3) large corporate environment, (4) medical group practice and (5) residence in the South Bay/Los Gatos area. An active executive or healthcare professional might be appropriate, as would consultants and advisors to the local community. To inquire about the open position or to nominate someone you know, please email nominations@elcaminohospital.org.


By Kate Bradshaw

A woman in her 60s died Monday morning, March 9, from COVID-19 at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, the first fatality due to the new coronavirus to occur in Santa Clara County.

She had been hospitalized for several weeks, according to a statement from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

The woman, whose identity hasn’t been released, was the first person in the county confirmed to be infected with the new coronavirus who didn’t have a known history of international travel or contact with a person who had traveled or was infected. That suggests she contracted the disease in the community, the department said.

The Santa Clara County Coroner’s Office declined to provide information about the person who died, saying it did not have jurisdiction over the case, and referred media inquiries to the public health department. The public health department said it was not releasing information such as the woman’s name, age or city of residence out of concern for her family’s privacy.

The department offered condolences to the woman’s family and friends in a statement issued just after noon on March 9.

“This is a tragic development. The Public Health Department is taking necessary, carefully considered steps to slow down the spread of the disease and to protect those at greatest risk,” said Dr. Sara Cody, the county’s top health officer. “We are facing a historic public health challenge and know this is a very difficult time. Our top priority continues to be protecting the health of our community.”

The county continues to work closely with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health and other partners as the situation continues to change.

Visit scdph.org/coronavirus for the latest updates and guidance on how to slow the spread of the virus.
TRANSIT

Continued from page 5

district’s CEO Jim Hartnett said in a video explaining the agency’s response.

On its website, Caltrain pointed to the CDC’s determination that immediate risk posed by COVID-19 to the public remains relatively low. The agency encouraged riders to wash their hands with soap before and after riding public transit; to avoid eating while onboard; to cover coughs and sneezes with their elbows; and to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

“We believe our buses and trains are cleaned and sanitized regularly, and taken these simple precautions is the best way to minimize your risk of exposure,” Hartnett said in the video. “We will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds and respond as necessary, in partnership with local public health and transportation agencies.”

The Palo Alto Shuttle also plans to maintain its regular schedule, said Chief Transportation Officer Philip Kamhi. The city has a dedicated webpage offering information about preventive measures residents should take to reduce the risk of respiratory illnesses, which can be found at cityofpaloalto.org. The city has also put together a flyer that includes a "Frequently Asked Questions" section and is being printed and distributed to passengers on shuttles, he said.

The VTA is similarly retaining its regular schedule and ramping up its educational offerings in response to COVID-19. The agency underscored on its website that surface transmission is “not a significant focus at this time.” The VTA’s page notes that the CDC has recommended frequent, routine cleaning of surfaces — advice that the VTA said “aligns with (its) protocols.”

VTA buses and light-rail vehicles are cleaned daily, the agency announced. In addition, service workers wipe down the interior and frequently touched surfaces are disinfected using a bleach-based cleaning solution, its page states.

“Our goal is to keep our employees and riders informed on how best to stay healthy and prevent exposure to viruses,” the VTA page states. “VTA employees are receiving ongoing updates and tools (like gloves and travel hand sanitizer) to reduce exposure. Additionally, hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed at all work divisions.”

Andrea Gemmet contributed to this report. Email Gennyad Shneyer at gsheyner@paweekly.com

NASA

Continued from page 5

on-site for experiments. Ames workers who rely on specialized equipment and on-site labs are expected to receive “more guidance” from Ames officials, according to the statement.

With much of the workforce at home, public health officials and Ames medical personnel will have time to figure out who may have had contact with the virus, and assess which areas of the research center need cleaning to reduce further exposure.

Santa Clara County reported its first death on Monday, and five additional cases of COVID-19 were reported on Sunday, bringing the total confirmed cases in the county to 48.

In order to make available important local information on the coronavirus health emergency to all residents of the area, the Mountain View Voice is providing unlimited access to its website, mv-voice.com, effective immediately.

Until further notice, visitors to the website can follow the news without the normal seven-story limit per month for non-subscribers.

Voice offers free access to website during COVID-19 crisis

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Until further notice, visitors to the website can follow the news without the normal seven-story limit per month for non-subscribers.

“**At a time of heightened anxiety and a high demand for accurate and highly localized information, we want to make our reporting as widely available as possible,**” said Embarcadero Media President Bill Johnson.

“Our editorial staff is working overtime to follow and report on every aspect of this ongoing story. During such emergencies our policy is to suspend the pay meter as a public service,” Johnson said.

The Mountain View Voice and its Embarcadero Media sister papers, the Palo Alto Weekly and the Almanac, have been working together and coordinating local coverage of their Midpeninsula cities since the outbreak of the coronavirus. Our frequently updated roundup of the latest COVID-19 news is at tinyurl.com/COVID-mVVoice.

—Embarcadero Media staff

A nearly empty Caltrain rolls through downtown Palo Alto en route to Mountain View on the morning of March 11. The train is usually standing-room only.

**City of Mountain View**

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER MEDIATOR FOR THE MOUNTAIN VIEW MEDIATION PROGRAM**

The Mediation Program, sponsored by the City of Mountain View, is now accepting applications from volunteers who live or work in Mountain View, or who own property in the City.

- Neighbor-to-Neighbor disputes regarding fences, trees, parking, noise, etc.
- Tenant-Landlord disputes regarding deposits, repairs, rent increases, etc.
- Consumer Issues such as disputes over auto repairs or contractor work.

The program seeks applicants, representative of the ethnic and economic diversity of the City. Bilingual applicants are particularly encouraged. Those accepted into the program for an initial two-year appointment will receive mediation training and will participate in program activities including monthly meetings and continuing education.

**The deadline for applications is March 20, 2020**

Application material is available at www.mountainview.gov under Announcements

For more information, call the Mediation Program at 650-960-0495
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Developing the Healthcare Professionals Our Community Needs

Ralphina Seymon is a psychiatric technician at El Camino Hospital. She is committed to providing great patient care for our community and advancing in her profession.

It’s tough for working caregivers to hold down a job and invest in an education to develop their career so they can flourish in our high cost region. An innovative partnership between El Camino Hospital and SEIU-UHW has allowed Ralphina and many more workers like her to do just that. Through their joint Education and Training Fund, Ralphina is studying to become a registered nurse while working at El Camino.

With a projected shortage of nurses and other healthcare professionals over the next decade, our community will need many more Ralphinas. El Camino Hospital and SEIU-UHW are making sure they’ll be there for us when we need care.
MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE OFFICERS DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE MENTALLY ILL NOW HAVE THE OPTION TO SEND THEM TO A NEW TREATMENT CENTER IN SAN JOSE THAT OFFERS ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PSYCHIATRIC STAFF.

The jail diversion program acknowledges the inextricable link between law enforcement and mental health.

The Mountain View Police Department, along with the San Jose Police Department and the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s office, will be the first law enforcement agencies to transport people to the Mental Health Triage Center, located on Mission Street in San Jose. Mentally ill individuals taken to the triage center will be met by clinical staff for assessments, counseling and referrals, and can stay for up to one full day.

Though the program is intended for those experiencing a mental health crisis, anyone deemed a danger to themselves or others — the criteria for a “5150” or 72-hour involuntary psychiatric hold — will not be admitted.

Up until now, the San Jose facility has been run as a so-called sobering center for the county, with 20 recliners available for people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs and do not face criminal charges that require booking into county jail. The sobering center was launched in 2017 as a “positive alternative” to incarceration that puts people on a path towards health care and substance use treatment rather than imprisonment, according to county staff reports.

Because the center has been under-capacity since its launch, county officials decided to expand it to include mental health referrals. Half of the recliners will be designated for the Mental Health Triage Center, but will remain under the same roof and run by the same organization, Horizon Services.

The Mountain View Police Department was also among one of three law enforcement agencies to use the sobering center starting in October 2017, and took advantage of the center more frequently than almost any other department in the county. Data through May 2019 shows that Mountain View police referred 99 people to the sobering center, more than the Campbell Police Department (71) and the San Jose Police Department (60). Mountain View police chief Max Bosel told the Voice in an email that the center does not absorb anyone of charges for criminal conduct, but provides a supervised space for people to sober up and potentially get connected to treatment services. The option means that Mountain View is able to help those with health problems while also freeing up law enforcement and emergency medical personnel, he said.

“The center’s inclusion of behavioral services helps to holistically address problems commonly encountered by police officers with individuals who have mental health needs,” Bosel said.

Over the last decade, the already high number of mentally ill inmates throughout California has risen significantly, as has the number of people deemed mentally incompetent to stand trial. Data reviewed by the group California Health Policy Strategies found that the number of inmates on psychotropic drugs in Santa Clara County grew from 607 in 2013 to 708 in 2017 — accounting for roughly 20% of the jail population.

ELECTION BRIEFS

Continued from page 4

Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA), the rent control law that was approved by voters in 2016. Among other changes, annual adjustments in rent would be capped at 4% per year — rather than at the rate of inflation, which has been around 3.4% — and landlords would have been more easily able to pass the cost of building and facility upgrades onto tenants.

The measure also would have permitted the council to appoint members to the Rental Hearing Committee — the body tasked with overseeing rent control — who own property in Mountain View but do not live in the city. It also would have expressly exempted mobile homes from renter protections, which rankled members of the city’s mobile home community.

Measure D was supported by local landlords and the California Apartment Association and opposed by tenant advocacy groups. It was also opposed by one of the largest mobile home park owners in Mountain View, John Vidovich, putting the measure in the unusual position of being opposed by both sides of the mobile home rent control debate.

SUPPORT GROWS FOR MEASURE T

A $259 million bond measure that would be used to construct new facilities across the Mountain View Whisman School District won considerable support by district voters last week.

As of Wednesday morning, 12,423 ballots have been cast in support of Measure T, or 69.2% of the vote. The bond measure taxes property owners $30 per $100,000 of assessed value annually, and needed 55% of the vote to pass.

Measure T was sold to district voters during the campaign as a way to pay off debt from past projects and fuel the construction of a 144-unit teacher housing project planned at 777 W. Middlefield Road. Once built, it would be one of the largest housing projects in the Bay Area devoted to school workforce housing.

The money is also being spent on security measures for nearly every school and additional classroom space where enrollment is expected to surge. Landels Elementary School, in particular, will need a two-story classroom building in order to accommodate extra students in the coming years, according to district officials.

Proponents of the measure said the funds were badly needed for small-but-important things like storage space for teachers, new windows and better heating and air conditioning systems. They also cautioned voters that Measure T does not attempt to solve the long-term concerns about enrollment growth spurred by major rezoning efforts by the Mountain View City Council, which could add in excess of 15,000 new homes to the city in the coming decades.

—Kevin Forestieri

GEOGRAPHIC
In Santa Clara County schools, with a large number of students from low-income families, putting forth paper work to prove a child's eligibility for free breakfast and lunch may soon be a thing of the past.

A proposal to start a pilot program in Santa Clara County to provide free school breakfasts and lunches to all students in participating high-need schools moved forward last month when the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to have staff flesh it out into a comprehensive four-year pilot program.

The initiative, co-sponsored by supervisors Susan Ellenberg and Joe Simitian, would be the first such program in the state. Ellenberg said she's hoping to have the initiative lined up in time to start in the 2020-21 school year.

In Mountain View, two schools will be eligible to participate, Castro Elementary in the Mountain View Whisman School District's and Alta Vista in the Mountain View-Los Altos High school district.

"With the free and reduced lunch rate of 84%, many families at this school have to make a choice of paying rent or food," said Debbie Austin, Mountain View Whisman School District's director of child nutrition in a statement. "By feeding everyone we eliminate the need to ask students for payment. Meals at school will help many children be healthier, miss fewer days of school and a full stomach makes for a mind that can concentrate on learning."

The program will also eliminate the need to encroach on general funds to cover the cost of unpaid meals, she said.

About 3 in 5 children in the county experience food insecurity, according to Tracy Weatherby, vice president of strategy and advocacy at Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, the local food bank.

"School meals are one of the most crucial tools to make sure that those kids are ready to learn and thrive," Weatherby said.

"At a time where there is great fear in our community and stigma around applying for free and reduced price meals, these universal meals programs build strong community by feeding all the children in a school together," she said in a letter to the board.

Mary Ann Dewan, county superintendent of schools at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, expressed strong support for the pilot program. "The intersection between health and education is undeniable," she told the supervisors. "Families in Santa Clara County are facing very real challenges related to housing, child care and food insecurity. Food insecurity is top of mind for many families. The lack of consistent access to an adequate amount of nutritious food has harmful educational and health consequences for children."

However, not all needy children are eligible for federally supported school meal programs — the income thresholds don't account for the high local cost of living causing financial hardship, according to a memo by county staff. According to Santa Clara County Education Agency, only 35% of eligible students participate in the school breakfast program and only 68% in the school lunch program.

According to research, staff note, kids who do participate in school breakfast programs have higher standardized test scores, fewer behavioral problems and higher attendance rates.

"The idea is to offer the pilot program to all school campuses in the county that have at least 70% of students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals, or otherwise have a high proportion of students who qualify for some form of federal assistance — which at the last count in 2019, represented 84 schools in 17 school districts countywide. The county expects only half of the eligible schools to participate, and would set aside $2 million in funding per year while also leveraging additional federal support."

"The quick and dirty of it is this: Kids aren't participating (in school meal programs) because of fear, because of stigma, and because of bureaucracy. We get rid of the fear, the stigma and the bureaucracy and those kids are going to participate. And when they do participate, their attendance is going to go up, their behavior's going to be better, and they're going to be learning more — and that is a great return on investment by anybody's measure," Simitian said at the meeting.

Staff will also explore possible sources for matching funds to support the program.

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@mv-voice.com

By Kate Bradshaw

On February 26, 2020 Betty Compton Selberg, formerly of Princeton, NJ and Mountain View, CA, passed away at the age of 90 in Virginia Beach, VA.

Betty was born November 24, 1929 in Muses Mills, KY to Virginia Nell Compton and Harold Compton. Betty was the eldest of six children. A graduate of Deer Park High School in Cincinnati, OH, she received her undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Kentucky. She was a member of the Phi Kappa Kappa Society, an editor for the UK paper and modeled for department stores: Shillito's of Cincinnati, OH and Purcell's of Lexington, KY. She later worked as a journalist for the Thoroughbred Record and the Lafayette Journal and Courier.

Married to the late Carl Faith, Professor Emeritus of mathematics at Rutgers University, she lived in Princeton, NJ with their daughters, Heidi and Cindy. She taught English as a second language, studied ballet and dance while she attended the University of Pennsylvania, and modeled for department stores: Shillito's of Cincinnati, OH and Purcell's of Lexington, KY. Betty was a member of the Phi Kappa Kappa Society, an editor for the UK paper and modeled for department stores: Shillito's of Cincinnati, OH and Purcell's of Lexington, KY. She later worked as a journalist for the Thoroughbred Record and the Lafayette Journal and Courier.

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BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS IN WAVERLY PARK

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*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

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to COVID-19. CSA Executive Director Tom Myers said the sit-down congregate meal program has been temporarily scrapped in favor of packaged takeout meals that will be available at the Mountain View Senior Center.

Though the program is a popular daily event and a good way to prevent isolation and loneliness among the city’s seniors, Myers said the changes are the “new normal” until further notice from county health officials. All of the tables will be folded up so there’s no temptation for seniors to sit down and eat at the senior center. The program serves between 150 and 200 people each weekday.

“The other option was to cancel the program, but we have seniors who rely on this food,” Myers said. With worries swirling over the spread of the virus and the cutbacks to the senior nutrition program, participation has plummeted. On Monday, the program served 87 meals — far fewer than usual — followed by 64 meals on Tuesday. Voice staff saw no more than 50 people show up for food on Wednesday.

Other services in the senior center have also been curtailed. Instead of allowing clients to handpick groceries at the nonprofit’s distribution center on Sterlin Road, CSA’s pantry services have also been heavily curtailed. Instead of allowing clients to handpick groceries at the nonprofit’s distribution center on Sterlin Road, CSA’s pantry services have also been heavily curtailed. Instead of allowing clients to handpick groceries at the nonprofit’s distribution center on Sterlin Road, CSA’s pantry services have also been heavily curtailed.

### HOUSING

- **Continued from page 1**

City’s assistant community development director. The money is largely earmarked for extremely low-income families and people who are either homeless or recently housed, and maximizing the investment with mostly studios and one-bedroom apartments.

The La Avenida Apartments project is among one of seven projects in the “fifth cohort” of projects to receive Measure A funding, totaling more than $400 million in funding committed from the $950 million bond. Even with the latest batch of projects, it remains the only one north of Santa Clara.

Asked about the dearth of North County projects, county Supervisor Joe Simitian said part of the reason is that not every community is enthusiastic about building the apartments that Measure A was intended to create: very low-income households and permanent supportive housing for the homeless.

"On the one hand I’ve got people asking, ‘Can we get some fair share of the funding?’ and on the other hand folks having, frankly, mixed views about whether they want to accommodate housing in that particular community,” Simitian said. “I’m proud that Mountain View wants to step up.”

In a statement shortly after the vote, Simitian praised the project for making progress in the county’s mission to house needy residents struggling to live in the area.

“We’re focused on the most vulnerable residents of our County — folks who face a particularly difficult challenge in high-cost cities in my district,” he said.

Financing affordable housing projects takes numerous sources, including loans, tax credits and funding from multiple public agencies. In addition to the $19 million from the county, Eden is requesting an additional $15 million from the city of Mountain View, which will be decided by the council later this year.

The total cost of the project is expected to be just over $78 million, which includes the $12.2 million to buy the land. That breaks down to about $765,000 per unit — roughly equivalent to other affordable housing projects and not far from the cost of market-rate units in the area, said Linda Mandolini, president of Eden Housing. She said the high price is the result of a highly constrained labor market, prevailing wage requirements and high design standards.

Though the land was bought at more than $12 million an acre, Mandolini said she counts Eden lucky for picking up the property when it was up for sale, before redevelopment in North Bayshore rapidly escalated the cost of property in the area.

“Buying land in Mountain View or anywhere in the North County area in Santa Clara is extremely competitive and very challenging, so we are quite fortunate to get the property,” she said.

As the project progresses, Eden will be working with county staff to provide ongoing services including case management for the tenants in the apartment.

We serve some of the most vulnerable people in our community who have few other options to obtain food on the weekends,” Carmichael wrote.

As of Monday morning, the city of Mountain View has postponed a March 10 community event to welcome new city manager Kimbra McCarthy; a March 18 neighborhood meeting at Huff Elementary School; and two teen job fairs originally scheduled for March 18 and 21. The city’s March 14 Arbor Day celebration is also expected to be canceled.

On Monday, Santa Clara County issued its first mandatory, legal order in response to the new coronavirus outbreak: banning all events of 1,000 people or more effective Wednesday at midnight. The ban will remain in place until March 31, County Counsel James Williams said during a press conference at the sheriff’s office’s headquarters in San Jose.

The city has ramped up efforts to clean surfaces in public areas and has installed numerous hand sanitizer dispensers throughout all of the city’s facilities, including the bathrooms, said city spokeswoman Shonda Ranson. The city has not conducted a so-called deep cleaning of its buildings, as some Bay Area school districts have done.

Though county public health officials have released limited information about each of the 48 known cases of COVID-19 in Santa Clara County, one patient was confirmed to have been treated at El Camino Hospital's Mountain View campus. NASA Ames officials announced Monday that one of its employees tested positive for the coronavirus, prompting a mandatory work-from-home status for the research center.

Here’s the list of canceled upcoming events announced by the city on Monday:

- 3/12: Green Streets Symposium, postponed
- 3/13: Leadership Mountain View session at PD/FD Admin and Fire Station 4, canceled
- 3/13: Council Neighborhoods Committee meeting at Huff Elementary, postponed
- 3/18 and 3/21: Teen job fairs, canceled, may be rescheduled
- 3/14: Arbor Day celebration will likely be canceled
- 3/25: Spring Fling Dance at Senior Center, canceled
- 3/30: Civility Roundtable, postponed
- Senior Center: Will remain open; many programs canceled or postponed; the nutrition program will provide to-go meals only.
- Youth and recreation programs: Will continue until further notice

The nonprofit Hope’s Corner, which operates a downtown meal program for needy residents on Saturday mornings, is also adjusting its practices. Breakfasts will be provided in a takeout container for guests seeking to minimize potential exposure or for those who arrive “appearing ill,” Hope’s Corner President Leslie Carmichael said in a statement Monday. Chairs and tables have been spread further apart, and previous self-service items like coffee are now being handled by volunteers only.

Though the safety of guests and volunteers is a top priority, Carmichael wrote that the meal program is also an important part of local safety net services.

- **Continued from page 1**

Events at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts were slated to go on as scheduled, as of Wednesday, but the city and library canceled a number of other programs and events.

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ACADEMICS

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castilleja.org/summercamp
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Community School of Music Mountain View
Mountain View
Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for grades K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.
art4all.org
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Palo Alto
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letsocrafting.org
(650) 814-4183

Oshman Family JCC Camps
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Camps at the OJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.
paloaltojcc.org/Camps
(650) 223-8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)
Palo Alto
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pacc.org
(650) 493-2361

Stanford Jazz Workshop
Stanford
World-renowned jazz camps at Stanford. Week-long jazz immersion programs for middle school musicians (July 6-10), high school (July 12-17 and July 19-24), and adults (July 26-31). All instruments and vocals. No jazz experience necessary.
stanfordjazz.org
(650) 736-0324

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley
Atherton
Camps bring their plays to life, make new friends, and practice collaboration skills at TheatreWorks. Silicon Valley’s PlayMakers Camp (grades K-5). TheatreWorks offers four sessions in Palo Alto and Atherton from June 8 – July 31. Campers learn acting, playwriting, movement, and stagecraft from professional teaching artists from the Tony Award-winning local company.
theatreworks.org/education
(650) 463-7146

ATHLETICS

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(800) 643-3226

Run for Fun Camps
Bay Area
Run for Fun Camps is a mission to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2020 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake, Great National Park and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.
runtorfun.com/summer-camps
(650) 823-5167

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ymcsav.org/summercamp
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March 13, 2020 ■ Mountain View Voice ■ MountainViewOnline.com 17
CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Whereas Chinese reaction to this disease was swift and thorough, ours is piecemeal and haphazard (“Think you have coronavirus? Don’t run to the hospital or urgent care,” March 6). Months into the epidemic, testing kits are still scarce. Thousands of untested passengers are allowed to board cruise ships, and when there is an outbreak, they are quarantined on board, where many more come down with the virus.

China shut the country down. We don’t even shut schools and cruise lines. How smart is that? Let’s get serious.

Robert Pollok
West Middlefield Road

FREE MEAL PROGRAM

It is exciting to read that Santa Clara County is piloting a free breakfast and lunch program schoolwide in two participating schools. Having worked with foster youth who benefit from free lunch programs, youth have shared with me that it is the stigma of participating in a free lunch program that causes them to forgo the free meal and not eat during the school day. This, in turn, decreases their school attendance and decreases their school performance.

A free meal program schoolwide would erase the stigma and create a fair playing field for all students. In a county where 1 in 3 students experiences food insecurity, this would dramatically benefit the youth in this county, both nutritionally and academically, as the correlation between physical health and academic performance is indisputable.

Erica Van Skike
San Jose State University
social worker

RV LOTS WILL BRING MORE RVs

Mountain View has decided to be a sanctuary city for RVs. The “safe parking” lots will take a small flock of existing RVs off the street so a new gaggle of RVs can move in. What shortsighted half-measure will our politicians come up with then?

Stuart Eichert
Piazza Drive

THANKS TO MIKE AND RAY

Ever since moving back to Mountain View five years ago, I have been walking my dogs every morning at beautiful Rengstorff Park.

After a couple of years of walking my dogs at the park, I sent a letter to the Mountain View Voice thanking all the maintenance people who worked to keep the park looking so great.

Since then I have learned that it’s Mike and Ray who are responsible for keeping Rengstorff Park looking so beautiful. It’s hard for me to believe that two guys can accomplish the job. I have a hard time keeping my small yard looking as good as the park and I am retired with time on my hands. So thanks again Mike and Ray for all your hard work! And thanks for the yard care advice you have given me from time to time.

Jerry Pugh
Adele Avenue

WHAT’S YOUR mind?

Tell us your thoughts on matters of interest to the community by sending your letters to letters@MV-Voice.com. Or snail mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

The wrong solution to the housing crisis

By Lenny Siegel

Solemnly, Tom Wiener is back again with Senate Bill 902, which if enacted would require the upzoning of residential property throughout California. The legislation would require cities, depending on their size, to allow duplexes to fourplexes on properties currently zoned for single-family residences. The bill is sure to upset many local officials and NIMBY homeowners, but that’s not why I oppose it.

As just about everyone around here knows, I advocate policies that would increase Mountain View’s housing stock by 75% or more. The new City Council is slowing things down, but Mountain View is still building more housing than its neighbors.

Except for the reprehensible redevelopment of rent-controlled apartments, which should soon grind to a halt, Mountain View is adding substantially to its housing supply by creating mixed-use, medium-density neighborhoods in what were formerly commercial areas such as shopping centers and tech employment centers. This allows us to preserve our existing neighborhoods while making it much easier for people to walk, bike, or ride local shuttles to work. That is, we simultaneously address the housing crisis, traffic, and our principal source of greenhouse gas emissions: the automotive commute.

I agree with Scott that some people who oppose increased density are elitist, but some of their concerns — traffic, parking, and privacy — are valid.

A little bit of personal history here: One of my first ventures into Mountain View politics was back in the mid-1970s, when I lived in apartments in our central city. Already, the area had numerous apartment complexes, duplexes, and small apartment buildings. Those rentals are still here. I knocked on their doors this year campaigning against Measure D. Anyhow, back in the 1970s I supported the downzonning of much of Old Mountain View because I believed that the look and feel of the neighborhood was irreplaceable. We zoned to protect most of the central city, and we blocked the further widening of Calderon Avenue and Dana Street, which had been slated to become four-lane arterials.

My wife and I were fortunate to buy a small, quaint house on a small lot on a narrow street in 1979. I’m not bothered by the presence of denser housing nearby, but I support preservation of the neighborhood for some of the same reasons I fought to save Hangar One at Moffett Field. No one will ever again build a hangar like that, and no one will ever build a new neighborhood like Old Mountain View.

So what can the state do to ensure that more housing gets built in recalculating communities? First, I support programs that reward cities where housing, particularly affordable housing, is actually built. The state could provide such communities with more transit funding. That would help address one of the potential problems associated with new development.

I might support a state law that limits employment-generating development unless it is mitigated with new housing. Mountain View is trying to do this with city policy. Stanford University should be doing this (though it’s not officially a city). Unfortunately, Wiener’s SB 35 is forcing Cupertino to accept a huge office development in exchange for a moderate amount of housing.

In summary, while I appreciate Sen. Wiener’s desire to see that California builds more housing, Mountain View is proving that cities can add a lot more housing, in an environmentally responsible way, while still preserving the character of our neighborhoods. It will be a lot easier to get residents of other cities to accept additional housing if they do not see development as a threat to their neighborhoods.

Lenny Siegel was mayor of Mountain View in 2018.

Guest Opinion

By Lenny Siegel

In summary, while I appreciate Sen. Wiener’s desire to see that California builds more housing, Mountain View is proving that cities can add a lot more housing, in an environmentally responsible way, while still preserving the character of our neighborhoods. It will be a lot easier to get residents of other cities to accept additional housing if they do not see development as a threat to their neighborhoods.

Lenny Siegel was mayor of Mountain View in 2018.

E-mail to: Letters@MV-Voice.com

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FOOD FEATURE
By Elena Kadvany

There’s something alluring about pop-ups — both their ephemerality and the sense of community you feel eating with like-minded people who are willing to seek out birria tacos made out of a home garage on a Tuesday afternoon or to support a software engineer pursuing his true passion for making Asian-inspired croissants. Pop-ups often lay the foundation for permanent locations for food businesses, and it’s exciting to follow up-and-comers as they transition to bigger things.

In no particular order, below are six pop-ups of note happening throughout the Midpeninsula.

Amandine Project chef series
Jean-Luc Kayigire, owner of Los Altos cocktail bar Amandine Project, started last fall a pop-up dinner series featuring international chefs. The first event was a six-course meal cooked by Rodolfo Castellanos, the well-known chef-owner of Origen Oaxaca in Oaxaca, Mexico, which he opened after cooking in San Francisco restaurants, including the acclaimed and now-closed Jardinière. Earlier this month, chef Raisaku Sawai flew in from Maebashi, Japan, to make his Japanese-influenced Italian food using produce from Luna Vez Farms in Los Altos and pasta from Los Altos Italian restaurant Tre Monti.

Kayigire has been inviting chefs he meets while traveling or through connections he’s made as a restaurant owner. (His business partner recently introduced him to Sawai on a trip to Japan, where Kayigire said he’s opening a gin and vodka distillery.) The goal of the pop-ups, he said, is to bring more visibility to Los Altos.

“Our job is introducing as many people as possible to come enjoy Los Altos,” he said. “I know a lot of chefs. For me, that’s the best way I can give back to Los Altos.”

Because Amandine doesn’t have a kitchen, most of the dinners have been hosted at Bumble in Los Altos, but once the forthcoming State Street Market, a massive food hall, opens downtown, Kayigire hopes to move it there.

The next pop-up will be in April and feature a yet-to-be-named chef from Paris. Follow Amandine Project at instagram.com/amandineproject for updates.

Little Sky Bakery
Tian Mayimin has drawn a local following for her naturally leavened breads, baked out of her Menlo Park home. A former criminal defense attorney and entrepreneur, she started experimenting with baking after moving to California, using a starter that has reportedly been nurtured by monks for more than a hundred years.

You can now find her orange-olive oil challah, sourdough baguettes and country bread at several local farmers markets: Portola Valley (Thursdays from 2-5 p.m.), downtown Palo Alto (Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), Menlo Park (Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), and Mountain View (Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), where she recently started doing grilled cheese and breakfast sandwiches. She also delivers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in Menlo Park and Palo Alto.

Visit littleskybakery.com for updates.

Lil’ Eagle Burger
The Peninsula’s only smash-burger pop-up is run by Zack Fernandes, a communications manager at Apple by day and burger obsessive by night. He only serves smashburgers — his latest iteration being two 2-ounce patties made from an 80-20 chuck blend, smashed to peak thinness and topped with gooey Kraft American cheese, caramelized onions and a mayo-based sauce that he “umamifies” with fish sauce and other ingredients on an unfussy potato bun.

“Burgers are such a quintessential immigrant food for me,” said Fernandes, who was born in Singapore and moved to the United States as a teenager. “George
Motz talks about this in his book (“Hamburger America”) and some videos, but there would be no hamburger if the hamburg steak from Germany didn’t end up at a world’s fair in New York where some dude slapped it in between two slices of bread.

“I think it’s funny that people view the hamburger as being so distinctly American,” he said, “and forget about that very important factor.”

You can find Lil’ Eagle in undisclosed parking lots, Redwood City bar Timber & Salt or Palo Alto natural wine bar Salvaje. His next pop-up is set for March 21 at Salvaje (369 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto).

Follow Fernandes at instagram.com/zachareats/ for updates.

Pok Pok

Arguably the most exciting pop-up of 2020 will be Portland Thai food darling Pok Pok’s monthslong event at the Four Seasons Silicon Valley in East Palo Alto. The pop-up — Pok Pok’s first ever in the Bay Area — will start April 3 and last through the end of June. In an email from his second home in Chiang Mai, Thailand, chef-owner Andy Ricker said the menu is still being developed but to expect “a mixture of Pok Pok favorites,” including Thai salads, curries and noodle dishes.

Ricker opened the first Pok Pok in Portland, Oregon, in 2006 after traveling and cooking through Thailand. He went on to win two James Beard awards as well as a Michelin star; open more restaurants in Portland, New York City, Los Angeles and Las Vegas; and write three cookbooks.

Follow Pok Pok at instagram.com/pokpokpdx/ for updates.

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Pastries at Manresa Bread in Los Altos include, from left, pepper jam danish, hazelnut brown butter cake and strawberry buttermilk danish.

Bagel Tuesdays at Manresa Bread

Manresa Bread hosts two of its own pop-ups weekly: bagels on Tuesdays and pizza on Wednesdays, though the latter is only available at the Campbell location. All three locations of the bakery (Los Altos, Los Gatos and Campbell) serve naturally fermented sourdough bagels — plain, sesame, everything and cinnamon raisin — from 7 a.m. until the bakery sells out.

Manresa Bread, the bakery spinoff of the three-Michelin-star Manresa in Los Gatos, is the grain-forward brainchild of Avery Ruzicka, who was recently named a semifinalist for a James Beard award.

Manresa Bread is located at 271 State St., Los Altos. Call 650.946.2293 or visit manresa-bread.com.

Something Swede-ish

The Peninsula’s sole Swedish sweets pop-up serves kar-demummabullar (a cardamom bun), drömmar (Swedish dream cookies, akin to a Mexican wedding cookie), semlor (a yeasted bun sliced in half and filled with cream, traditionally served on Fat Tuesday) and other baked goods. Something Swede-ish owner Denise Touhey, who grew up in Belmont with her Swedish grandmother, draws inspiration from Swedish cookbooks and family recipes. She pops up on Thursdays at Woodside cafe The Village Hub, 3154 Woodside Road.

Follow Something Swede-ish at
instagram.com/somethingswede_ish/ for updates. Email Elena Kadvany at
ekadvany@pawweekly.com

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**Jojo Rabbit (PG-13)**
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**Little Women (2019) (PG)**
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**My Hero Academia: Heroes Rising (PG)**
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**Onward (PG)**
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**Parasite (R)**
Century 20: Fri-Sun.
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**The Way Back (PG)**
Century 20: Fri-Sun.
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**MOVIE REVIEWS**

**‘ONWARD’ ★★★★/2**

Processing grief means working toward acceptance, a profound acceptance that allows for forward movement. With Lightfoot (Tom Holland), who can’t help but yearn for the father who died before he was born. While older brother Bailey (Chris Pratt) and mom, Laurel (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), loved and lost Ian’s father, all Ian has are photos and an old audio cassette recording, which he uses to synthesize a conversation with the man he never knew. But Ian’s 16th birthday present turns out to be one heck of a gift from his father.

---

**‘THE ASSISTANT’ ★★★★/2**

Kitty Green’s drama “The Assistant” features a put-upon female protagonist working in the outer office of a movie mogul we never see or hear but whose outsized presence overshadows everything. In the wake of real-life movie mogul Harvey Weinstein’s recent guilty verdict for rape and sexual assault, “The Assistant” has the benefit of relevance in the current news cycle — but it’s about something much larger than even Weinstein, who threw his weight around Hollywood for years. The film provides an unsettling, and realistic, look at a young woman navigating a fraught American workplace still largely in the grip of the patriarchy. The story rests on the shoulders of talented 20-somer Julia Garner. As junior assistant Jane, Garner subtly embodies the inner war within so many in positions of powerlessness. How much is she willing to put up with? And can she afford not to? R for some language. One hour, 27 minutes. — P.C.

---

**‘DOWNHILL’ ★★★★/2**

The comedy “Downhill” questions the limits of love, marriage and family. A remake of the 2014 film “Force Majeure” from Swedish writer-director Ruben Ostlund, “Downhill” concerns an Italian family ski vacation, turned upside down when a father (Will Ferrell) abandons his wife (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) and two sons (Julian Grear and Armon Jacob Ford) during an apparently life-threatening avalanche. “Downhill” doesn’t live up to its celebrated forebear but it is not without its amusements, and it has a powerhouse in top-billed Bill-Dreyfus. While the original was a subtle, more ambiguous and ambiguous black comedy, the remake mostly settles for toothless cringe humor. Ferrell uses his quintessential man-child mojo to play Pete, who lost his father eight months earlier, giving him an implicit excuse to fear death in the present tense. The movie demonstrates its intelligent side whenever it focuses on family dynamics, such as clumsily troubleshooting one son’s “phase” or playing out archetypal travel nightmares like a botched $2,000 tourist adventure and the dreaded question, “Can we just have screen time back at the hotel?” Ultimately, the movie’s trajectory isn’t an acute angle, but a slow-sliding zigzag approaching an interesting insight, then turning and heading toward a new one rather than ever going there as “Force Majeure” once committed to do. R for language and some sexual material. One hour, 26 minutes. — P.C.

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**‘THE CURSE OF THE GREENFYRE’**

A magical staff that, if properly outfitted, can be wielded to cast a violation spell. Ian can bring his father back for one day, allowing for the bonding experiences Ian’s dreams. Ian is too easy, an interruption to the spell leaves Dad restored only from the waist down, forcing Ian and Barley on a quest to restore power to the stick. PG for action/peril and some thematic elements. One hour, 42 minutes. — P.C.
THEATER

'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' Based on the novel by Mark Haddon, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" is directed by Melinda Marks and tells the story about a young boy and his journey to uncover the mystery behind the death of his neighbor’s dog. Through April 4; dates and times vary. $20 - $37; discount for seniors and students. The Pear Theatre, 200 Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

'They Promised Her The Moon' Directed by Giovanna Sadelli. "They Promised Her The Moon" tells the true story of the world record-holding female aviator, Jenny Job, and her pursuit to be an astronaut during the space race of the '60s. Through March 29; dates and times vary. $25 - $100; discount available. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

'Newsies' Peninsula Youth Theatre puts on a production of "Newsies," a Walt Disney classic about a young teen who leads a strike against the unfair practices of the publishing giants. Through March 13; dates and times vary. $28. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. pytnet.org

'The Wishing Chair and Other Irish Tales' Peninsula Youth Theatre presents Karen Simpson's adaptation of traditional Irish folk tales in "The Wishing Chair and Other Irish Tales," where a storyeller is on a mission to keep a king entertained. March 20-21; times vary. $6.50-$13. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

'Baylands and Beyond' The EcoCenter hosts a new exhibit, "Baylands and Beyond: Natural Northern California," which features Chris Stevens-Vick's photography of Northern California’s natural world. March 21, 2-4 p.m. Free. EcoCenter, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. evols.org

CSMA Art Faculty Exhibition This exhibition includes works by Community School of Music and Arts faculty, featuring ceramics, paintings, jewelry and more. Through March 22, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

'In the Fields of the North' Los Altos History Museum’s new bilingual exhibition, "In the Fields of the North" or "En los Campos del Norte," chronicles the lives of contemporary migrant farmworkers through David Bacon’s photographs. March 21, 2-5 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

'Photography of J. Gilbert Smith I.' Gilbert Smith’s photographs of the natural world and Los Altos in days gone by are the subject of the exhibit, "The Photography of J. Gilbert Smith," Through May 24; Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

DANCE

Spring Showcase 2020 Pacific Ballet Academy of Mountain View presents its annual concert featuring student dancers and members from the Pacific Ballet Studio Company. March 21-22, 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. $25-$60; discounts available. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

Emma's Revolution and DanceVisions Actor-musicians Emma’s Revolution join activist choreographer Laura Zweig as her multigenerational dance troupe dances to songs about war, peace, family separation, border walls, #MeToo, clean energy and more. March 20-21; times vary. $12-$25; discounts available. Cubberley Community Theatre, 4010 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. dancevisions.org

COMEDY

Colin Quinn Brooklyn-born stand-up comedian Colin Quinn hits the stage for his new comedy tour, "The Wrong Side of History." March 13-14; times vary. $15-$40. Bing Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

LESSONS & CLASSES

Springtime Flower Arrangements Gamble Garden instructor and floral designer Lisa Karl directs a flower arranging class. March 21, 9:30 a.m.-noon. $40. Bing Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. gamblegarden.org

Engagement rings drawn with the help of Chris Stevens-Yu's photography of Northern California's natural world. March 21, 9:30 a.m.-noon. $40. Bing Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. gamblegarden.org

SPORTS

Silicon Valley Basketball Silicon Valley Basketball organizes weekly, year-round, pickup basketball games, welcoming all skills, ages, genders, etc. Ongoing, Sundays, 9:30 a.m. $1.25/month fee. Graham Middle School, 1175 Castro St., Mountain View. facebook.com

EMPLOYMENT


CA, Inc. has an opening in Mountain View, CA for Infrastructure Engineer 3 (Senior Software Engineer) to serve as a part of our Cloud/DevOps group engaged in design, automation and technical support for our cloud infrastructure framework. Ref job code C# 4782268 & mail resume to: CA, Inc., Attn: HR (J.O.), 1320 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131. $98-$129. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. gamblegarden.org

TALKS & LECTURES

Erin Brockovich Famed consumer advocate Erin Brockovich shares stories of how bringing people together to address environmental issues can have an impact. March 17, 8 p.m. $23-$45; discount for students. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

FAMILY

A Day at the Farm Visitors can reserve a day at the Hidden Villa farm and tailor the reservation to include private farm tours for up to 30 people or one of three picnic areas. Dates vary through May 23; times vary. $180-$2575; prices vary between packages. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

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Goin's On

COVID-19 UPDATE

Many events that would normally appear in the Goings On section have been canceled or postponed due to public health concerns over the new coronavirus. These events were still scheduled as of the Voice’s Wednesday press day, but the situation is changing rapidly. Check with the venue or event organizer before you go, in case of last-minute cancellations, and keep up with the latest news at mv-voice.com/arts.
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CRAFTSMAN STYLE AND A BRIGHT, INVITING AMBIANCE

3330 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park

Light, bright, and luxurious, this 4-bedroom, 2-bath home presents gorgeous Craftsman style, sumptuous appointments, and a floorplan ideal for a modern family, all across 2,020 sq. ft. of living space (per county) set on a 6,655 sq. ft. lot (per city). High ceilings, crown moldings, and brilliant wood floors create an enticing ambiance that continues throughout this home. The spacious living room features a wall of custom built-ins, while the open dining room flows seamlessly into the chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances from Bosch and JennAir. Find flexible-use space plus a bonus room with storage upstairs, accessed by a charming spiral staircase. The backyard features plenty of space for entertainment and play, highlighted by a large synthetic lawn. Topping it all off is a location just moments from the excitement of downtown Menlo Park, near the Venture Capital firms of Sand Hill Road, and with access to sought-after Las Lomitas schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics* using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.3330Alameda.com
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12004 Adobe Creek Lodge Road, Los Altos Hills
5 Bed | 4 Bath | $6,588,000 | compass.com

Jolaine Woodson
650.740.9694
DRE 01080402

Jack Woodson
650.740.9787
DRE 01732438

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4PM

1326 Hoover Street Unit 7, Menlo Park
2 Bed | 2 Bath | $1,998,000 | compass.com

Elizabeth Daschbach
650.207.0781
DRE 00969220

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4PM

3008 McGarvey Avenue, Redwood City
3 Bed | 2 Bath | $1,698,000 | compass.com

Julie Hadidi
408.921.1091
DRE 02955868

COMING SOON

1321 Los Padres Boulevar, Santa Clara
3 Bed | 2 Bath | $1,338,000 | compass.com

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BY APPOINTMENT

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SPACIOUS & LIGHT-FILLED IN THE HEART OF SILICON VALLEY

464 MOORPARK WAY
MOUNTAIN VIEW

EXTENDED HOURS: FRIDAY, 9:30AM – 5:00PM  SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 1:30 – 5:00PM

6 BEDS  4.5 BATHS  GOURMET KITCHEN & OPEN FAMILY ROOM  MAIN-LEVEL BEDROOM SUITE
UPPER-LEVEL OFFICE  LOWER-LEVEL RECREATION/MEDIA ROOM  FABULOUS REAR YARD WITH PATIO
MINUTES TO DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN VIEW  TOP-RATED MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOLS

464MOORPARK.COM  $2,798,000

DAVID TROYER  Lic. #0123450
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305 Pettis Ave, Mountain View

$3,788,000  5 Bed  4.5 Bath  3,010SF

Gorgeous New Construction Half a block away from Mariposa Park on a quiet corner lot sits this brand new Mountain View home. Inside, the home’s open layout creates an easy flow which is perfectly complemented by its ample natural light and inviting feel. The home is loaded with modern amenities—giving you everything you need to unwind after a long day. Coupled with its easy access to local thoroughfares and Downtown Mountain View, this is the private Silicon Valley retreat you’ve been waiting for.

- 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, 3,010 square feet of living space
- Situated on a 7,203 square foot lot
- Home built in 2020
- Naturally-lit, airy atmosphere throughout due to open floorplan, plenty of windows and high, vaulted ceilings
- Gourmet kitchen with modern, stainless steel appliances—including a Sub-Zero refrigerator, Thermador 36’ pro-style gas range with 6-star burner, and built-in microdrawer microwave—as well as custom-built cabinetry, glacier white quartz island countertops imported from Brazil, Fireclay Apron front farm house sink, and two ground-to-ceiling pantry pullouts
- Spacious bedrooms with custom built-in closets—master suite has a large walk-in closet
- Comfortable family room with natural stone surround fireplace and custom built-in wine cooler
- Gorgeous European Oak hardwood flooring throughout the home
- Nest thermostat, cable/wire security system, and JELD-WEN craftsman entry door with smart door lock
- Additional amenities include: custom mudroom with 3-drawer sitting bench, custom designed stair rails with wood and metal rail European Oak, Anderson doors and windows throughout the house, and Hansgrohe plumbing fixtures
- Central location with easy access to Highways 85 & 101, El Camino Real, and Google; very close to iconic Downtown Mountain View’s amazing shopping, restaurants and nightlife.
- Excellent Mountain View Schools: Landels Elementary, Graham Middle, and Los Altos High.

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