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JANUARY 31, 2020 VOLUME 28, NO. 1

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MOVIES | 20

Council seeks to strengthen city's gun control laws

SAFE STORAGE, BAN ON POSSESSION WHILE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY ARE ON THE HORIZON

By Kevin Forestieri

Despite California having some of the most restrictive gun control regulations in the country, the Mountain View City Council agreed Tuesday that more local action is needed to curb gun violence.

Council members unanimously backed a plan to prohibit the possession of firearms and ammunition on all public property, including parks, schools, recreational facilities and municipal buildings. They also asked staff to draft a safe storage ordinance making it a requirement for gun owners to lock up and store firearms to prevent theft and accidental shootings.

Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga said the proposed prohibitions and safe storage requirement would amount to the city catching up. Sunnyvale, for example, has been on the leading edge of gun control regulations, including a high profile ban on the possession of "large-capacity" magazines.

"I think the more localities sign on to these policies, the more it

spreads, hopefully, and it does become more of a national movement," Abe-Koga said. "I think it's time for us to join up."

The idea of clamping down on firearm possession and gun sales in Mountain View came up in the wake of a deadly shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in July last year, in which three people were killed and 12 injured. Councilwoman Lisa Matchak, then serving as mayor, joined 278 other mayors in signing a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging him to take up and pass bills that would strengthen background checks aimed at keeping dangerous individuals from obtaining a firearm.

Though it failed to get majority support at the Jan. 28 council meeting, Abe-Koga advocated for taking it a step further by cracking down on firearm sales in the city. She supported an ordinance that would prohibit the sale of firearms near areas deemed "sensitive," which could include schools, day care centers and parks, and ban firearm

► See **GUN CONTROL**, page 7



SAMMY DALLAL

Anna Crompton, 69, said she plans to move to Oregon because she can no longer afford the space rent for her mobile home at Santiago Villa. A vocal group of mobile home residents spoke out at Tuesday's City Council study session asking for rent control protections.

City Council agrees to extend rent control to mobile homes

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View City Council took early steps Tuesday to begin drafting a law that would extend the city's rent control law to mobile homes, following a campaign by mobile home

residents who say renter protections are necessary in order to have any hope of staying in Mountain View.

A majority of the council signaled at the Jan. 28 study session support for limiting annual rent increases on mobile home park residents

in line with Mountain View's existing rent control law, the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA). The law regulates about 15,000 rental units in Mountain View, and caps annual rent increases

► See **MOBILE HOMES**, page 9

Venerable ramen shop Ryowa to close next month

By Elena Kadvany

When Ramen House Ryowa opened in downtown Mountain View in 1997, it was reportedly the sole ramen shop in the area.

Now, there are at least four in the surrounding neighborhood, not to mention the explosion of international ramen chains up

and down the Peninsula (including Ramen Nagi, Afuri, Taishoken and Ippudo, among others).

That competition, compounded by minimum wage increases, local tech companies providing free food to employees and the rising cost of operating a restaurant, all led to owner Rinaldi Surya's decision to close the 859 Villa St. ramen shop.

"Due to (the) high cost to operate a small business these days, especially a restaurant, we are forced to close our doors," he said. "Mountain View has been a great place for our business, but the drastic changes in minimum wage these past few years have affected us so much."

Ryowa will be open until the end of February. New owners are

set to take over on March 1, Surya said.

Surya is a former employee who bought the business from the original owner, Nobu Nishimura, when he retired in 2015. Nishimura also at one point operated a Ramen Ryowa in Berkeley that has since closed.

"My dad wanted to start a noodle shop because there

weren't any good ones," Tomita Nishimura, the owner's son, told the *Mountain View Voice* in 2005.

The pressure of Mountain View's minimum wage hikes — which are happening in cities throughout the Bay Area — was a major factor in the closure, Surya

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

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COURTESY OF HERSHEY FELDER PRESENTS

Mona Golabek stars in TheatreWorks' "The Pianist of Willesden Lane."

POIGNANT 'PIANIST OF WILLESDEN LANE' AT MVCPA

When teenage Lisa Jura left her home in Vienna, Austria, in 1938 and traveled, unaccompanied, to London, England, her mother told the budding concert pianist to "hold on to your music." It would be advice she would heed after leaving her parents and two sisters behind, amidst the horrors of the Holocaust and the Blitz, and that would carry her through her darkest days.

"The Pianist of Willesden Lane," TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's latest production, is Jura's story, told by her own daughter, pianist Mona Golabek, who also wrote the book "The Children of Willesden Lane," upon which the live performance is based.

In the 90-minute, one-woman show, Golabek embodies Jura, as well as many other memorable characters she meets along her journey as one of the more than 10,000 Jewish child refugees who fled from Nazi-occupied Europe thanks to an operation known as kindertransport ("children's trains"). Jura, whose parents were only able to secure one kindertransport ticket, chose her out of their three daughters in part because of her great musical talent, believing in London she'd be safe and able to continue her education. This proved more difficult than imagined, but in keeping her promise to her mother, Jura managed to hold on to her dreams despite great adversity, modeling remarkable resilience.

Jura's story is certainly a

compelling one. It's not only, as Golabek said after opening night, a story of how music can provide light and hope in terrible times, but also about the importance of holding on to shared humanity in those times, as Jura did with those around her, including her fellow refugees, the British volunteers who took them in, and more. It's also a story of sacrifice, of parents' love for their children. It would be a powerful tale regardless, but the fact that it's true and that it's the protagonist's own daughter telling it makes it all the more touching to audiences. Anyone not moved by the bittersweet ending words must be made of stone.

"The Pianist of Willesden Lane" was adapted for the stage and directed by TheatreWorks favorite Hershey Felder, and his influence comes through strong and clear. Just as Felder does in his own one-man shows, Golabek combines her spoken narrative with gorgeous piano playing, highlighting pieces of significance to her mother's life — most importantly, Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor — and using the music to underscore the emotional tone. The show's structure, style and even Golabek's manner of speaking resembles Felder's. And, like Felder, she does a wonderful job in blending music and heartfelt storytelling (I'm always especially impressed with how easily they can perform complicated piano parts with ease while talking to the audience).

Felder also designed the set (along with his frequent collaborator Trevor Hay) and it's simple but beautiful: Gilded picture frames on a black backdrop, into which are projected various images and videos, set the scenes and give an understated, old-world elegance.

With the added personal connection Golabek brings making it especially poignant, "The Pianist of Willesden Lane" certainly seems to have all the elements that have made Felder's productions so successful for TheatreWorks in the past. I'd be surprised if it wasn't another big hit for the company.

"The Pianist of Willesden Lane" runs through Feb. 16 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Tickets are \$32-\$98. Go to theatreworks.org.

—Karla Kane

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Do you need more information on rent stabilization in Mountain View?

The City of Mountain View hosts clinics every first and third Friday of the month to explain the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act and review the petition process.

Upcoming Petition Clinic (see new address!)

Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 | Friday, Feb. 21, 2020

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
298 Escuela Ave.
Mountain View, CA 94040

Questions?

Walk-in Office Hours
Thursdays 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
City Hall, Public Works 1st Floor
Front Conference Room

Phone: (650) 282-2514
Email: csfra@housing.org
Mountainview.gov/rentstabilization

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

BILL TO KEEP TEENS FROM BEING TRIED AS ADULTS

A proposed state law that aims to raise the age at which people accused of crimes are automatically tried as adults was introduced in the California Legislature last week.

On Jan. 24, state Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley, introduced Senate Bill 889, which would raise the age at which suspects in California are tried as adults from 18 to 20.

“When teenagers make serious mistakes and commit crimes, state prison is not the answer,” Skinner said in a news release announcing the bill Tuesday. “Processing teenagers through the juvenile justice system will help ensure they receive the appropriate education, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation services necessary to achieve real public safety outcomes.”

Skinner worked with the Chief Probation Officers of California, the National Center for Youth Law and “other juvenile justice advocates” to craft the bill, according to the news release.

“Under California law, teenagers can’t buy cigarettes, beer or even rent a car, yet they can be sent to prison for the rest of their lives,” Alameda County Public Defender Brendon Woods said. “Kids should be treated like kids.”

The bill is at least partly based on research that shows the human brain isn’t fully developed in 18- and 19-year-olds, according to the announcement from Skinner’s office.

While it has not yet taken an official position on the bill, officials with the California District Attorneys Association are skeptical.

“The obvious reaction is: you’re 18, you’re old enough to bind yourself in a contract, you’re old enough to marry, you’re old enough to vote, you’re old enough to join a police force and you’re certainly old enough to put your life on the line by joining the military,” said Larry Morse, CDAA’s legislative director.

“But this (bill) would say you’re not old enough to be responsible as an adult for committing a violent crime,” Morse said. “It’s inconsistent and arbitrary at best.”

The bill could be assigned its first committee hearing within a month at the earliest.

—Bay City News Service

LAUNDRY ROOM FIRE

Mountain View firefighters extinguished a fire that broke out in a two-story apartment building over the weekend, scorching the laundry room. No one was injured or displaced.

Fire officials say the small blaze was coming from a dryer at the complex, located on the 2200 block of California Street. It was first reported in a 911 call shortly after noon on Saturday, Jan. 25, by a witness who saw flames through the window of the room.

Fire crews put out the flames and found that the fire did not extend into the units surrounding the laundry room. The area was cleared around 12:22 p.m.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Damage to the structure and contents of the laundry room is estimated to be \$20,000.

—Kevin Forestieri

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

- 500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 1/20
- 2200 block Latham St., 1/20
- 500 block San Antonio Rd., 1/20
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/20
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/20
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 1/21
- 600 block W. Dana St., 1/21
- 1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/21
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 1/21
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/22
- 200 block Franklin St., 1/24
- Latham St. & S. Rengstorff Av., 1/26

BATTERY

- 600 block Cuesta Dr., 1/25

BRANDISHING A WEAPON

- 200 block Castro St., 1/21

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

- 400 block Castro St., 1/23
- 1200 block Crittenden Ln., 1/23

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

- 1700 block Miramonte Av., 1/23

- Franklin St. & Villa St., 1/26

GRAND THEFT

- 200 block Escuela Av., 1/20
- 1700 block Begen Av., 1/21
- 2200 block W. El Camino Real, 1/22

IDENTITY THEFT

- 200 block Hockney Av., 1/24

INDECENT EXPOSURE

- 800 block California St., 1/24

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

- 600 block Rainbow Dr., 1/24
- 700 block Continental Cir., 1/24
- 300 block Escuela Av., 1/24

VANDALISM

- 700 block E. Evelyn Av., 1/20
- 1 block Saw Mill Ct., 1/20
- 300 block Moffett Blvd., 1/21
- 1900 block Rock St., 1/22
- 2300 block W. El Camino Real, 1/22
- 300 block W. El Camino Real, 1/25

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State Senate Candidates Debate

Wednesday, February 5

7:30 – 9 p.m. at Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto

Featuring



Josh Becker (D)



Michael Brownrigg (D)



Alex Glew (R)



Sally Lieber (D)



Shelly Masur (D)



Annie Oliva (D)



John Webster (L)

PANEL: Jocelyn Dong, Editor, Palo Alto Weekly
Kate Bradshaw, Reporter, Embarcadero Media
Ben Christopher, Political Reporter, CalMatters



Who will fill the 13th District State Senate seat when Sen. Jerry Hill is termed out this year?

California’s open primary election is Tuesday, March 3. Voters can vote for any candidate regardless of party affiliation. The top two in the primary will face off in November unless one candidate receives more than 50%. The 13th District runs from South San Francisco to Sunnyvale.

Sponsored by Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, Mountain View Voice, The Almanac and CalMatters





SAMMY DALLAL

Mountain View police officer **Bobby Taylor** gets a hug from Carmen Gomez at a Jan. 23 goodbye lunch thrown by staff at Mountain View High School. Taylor has served as the school resource officer for the past eight years, but last week he returned to duties as a regular patrol officer.

Longtime school cop bids farewell to Mountain View High

OFFICER BOBBY TAYLOR HELPED HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGH RAPID EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND DRUG USE

By Kevin Forestieri

Bobby Taylor spent the last eight years as a critical connection between law enforcement and local high schools in Mountain View, guiding students and staff alike through the proliferation of social media and fast-changing drug trends.

But after stretching what is ostensibly a two-year assignment, Taylor has finally called

it quits. He served his last day as school resource officer for Mountain View High School last week, and is officially back to being a Mountain View patrol officer.

Taylor, whose tenure at Mountain View High started in 2011, strove over the years to foster personal relationships with students and was widely credited for being a mentor. He won accolades from Challenge Team of Mountain View, Los

Altos and Los Altos Hills for his work in 2017 as a “champion” for youth, creating a climate for students to talk openly about tough issues like gang activity, drugs and mental health.

Police officers in the department typically serve specialized assignments, like school resource officer, for only two years with the option of a two-year extension. Due to an influx

► See **SCHOOL COP**, page 6

Mountain View Whisman finds itself \$500K short on developer fees

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View’s first North Bayshore housing project generated \$12 million in funding for local school districts to offset the cost of new students. But when it came time to approve the funding last week, Mountain View Whisman district officials said they found out they were getting the short end of the stick.

The Sobrato Organization is planning to build a 635-unit apartment complex at 1255 Pear Ave., and won City Council approval for the project in 2018. Council members required the real estate giant to pay \$12 million in fees to offset the cost of facilities for the additional students generated by the new homes.

But how that money would be split between the two public school districts — Mountain View Whisman and Mountain View-Los Altos High — was apparently unclear. As it turns out, the city opted to give \$6.5 million to the high school district and \$5.5 million to the K-8 Mountain View Whisman district. Mountain View Whisman school board members voted unanimously to accept the money, but said it shouldn’t set a precedent and shouldn’t happen again.

The imbalanced agreement reportedly came as a surprise to Mountain View Whisman officials. Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph told trustees at the Jan. 23 meeting that the city, in

deciding the fees, determined that the high school district ought to receive more funding because of the greater acreage required at high school campuses. At the time, Mountain View Whisman was exploring dense, urban school models in order to find a way to fit a campus in a neighborhood with limited, expensive real estate abutting 15-story buildings.

The expectation was that Mountain View Whisman would receive \$6 million of the school fees, but district administrators and its legal firm did not realize it would be receiving less until after it was approached by the City Council. Board member Laura Blakely said she was willing to accept the terms of the funding agreement, but was not excited about the amount.

“I am disappointed that the city tried to dictate the parameters,” Blakely said. “That doesn’t feel appropriate to me.”

City staff contend that the final negotiated amounts for each district were roughly based on a proportional share requested by the school districts themselves, rather than its own concocted formula. The city was involved, but the terms of the funding contract were brokered between and agreed on by all the parties involved.

“The school districts submitted a report to the city,” said Aarti Shrivastava, Mountain View’s community development director. “That breakout they

► See **DEVELOPER FEES**, page 8

Coronavirus concerns prompt local organizers to cancel Lunar New Year events

By Sue Dremann

The sponsors of two major Chinese Lunar New Year fairs in Palo Alto that would have drawn thousands of celebrants have canceled the events due to concern over the potential spread of the coronavirus. The illness originated in Wuhan City, China, in late December, and cases are now being found in other countries, including the U.S.

The 2020 Palo Alto Chinese New Year Fair, which was to take

place Feb. 16, and the Avenidas Chinese Community Center’s Lunar New Year Celebration, scheduled for Jan. 30, were canceled out of an abundance of caution, the events’ sponsors said. Neither organization plans to reschedule the New Year festivities.

The sometimes fatal disease causes fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. The World Health Organization reported Wednesday that 5,997 cases have been confirmed in China, with 132 deaths.

Severe cases can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Five cases have been confirmed in the U.S., including in Southern California, among people who had traveled to Wuhan, according to the CDC.

Santa Clara County health officials said the risk of becoming infected locally is low at this time, but the Palo Alto events sponsors said they felt canceling

the New Year celebrations was the right thing to do. Palo Alto’s Chinese New Year Fair attracts thousands of people who share food, demonstrations and activities.

“Due to the uncertainty and the risk of the Wuhan novel coronavirus epidemic, the 2020 PA CNY (Palo Alto Chinese New Year) Fair committee voted last night to cancel this year’s CNY fair,” committee members Lily Chiu, Steven Lee and Ann Xu wrote in a Jan. 23 email. “We believe being prudent at this

critical time is a responsibility to our community.

“We are saddened that after about four months of hard work by the whole committee on preparing for the event, we must make this decision at this point. We hope the situation will improve soon,” they wrote.

That decision was followed by the cancellation of the event by Avenidas, a Palo Alto nonprofit that serves seniors and their families. Already, some seniors

► See **LUNAR NEW YEAR**, page 11

LASD polls: Put Bullis Charter School in Mountain View

By Kevin Forestieri

Finding a home for Bullis Charter School has been a contentious issue that has split Los Altos School District residents for years. But a big majority can agree on one thing: Put the charter school in Mountain View.

A series of workshops held late last year gave more than 900 parents and community members a chance to vote on a staggering 55 options for where the charter school should be located and whether any public schools should be relocated or closed in the process. Popular picks will be analyzed by district officials over the next month, with plans to choose a final option by June.

Though there was virtually no agreement between Bullis parents and district parents, a majority of workshop attendees agreed that the best option was to move the charter school to a future school campus located in the San Antonio neighborhood of Mountain View. The district recently purchased 11.6 acres of land at the corner of California Street and Showers Drive and plans to build a campus there, but the school board has yet to commit on what kind of school it will be.

The most popular option — garnering support from more than two-thirds of the

participants — was to place the entirety of Bullis Charter School, from kindergarten through eighth grade, at the as-yet-unbuilt school site in Mountain View and give students living in the neighborhood an enrollment preference. Bullis Charter School's leadership has not agreed to such a preference, raising questions about the viability of the idea.

Other top picks among workshop attendees include placing some portion of Bullis in Mountain View, making it an elementary school campus, and finding another place to put middle school-age charter school students, such as a shared-campus arrangement with Egan Junior High. Options that received less than a majority of the participants' votes, but still had significant enough support for trustees to consider them, include scenarios in which Bullis Charter School and a district-run school share the future Mountain View campus.

Parents with students attending district schools were overwhelmingly in favor of moving Bullis out of Los Altos and into Mountain View, with more than 94% supporting the idea of the charter school adopting a neighborhood preference for San Antonio neighborhood students. Nearly 800 students reside in the area, where the

district's boundaries extend into Mountain View, but they are split up between three campuses in Los Altos.

Bullis parents sharply opposed the idea of getting shifted into Mountain View, with more than 80% instead favoring the charter school getting exclusive use of the Egan or Covington Elementary campuses.

Putting the charter school in Mountain View may be a popular option among district residents, but it may not actually be possible. District officials inked an agreement with the city of Mountain View last year that would clear the way for razing a portion of the San Antonio shopping center to build a future school, including a transfer of development rights agreement that made it financially feasible for the district to pay \$155 million to buy the land. But the agreement came with a catch — the school district would have to build a school that serves the neighborhood.

More specifically, the district could either create or relocate a school with attendance boundaries that encompass the San Antonio area, or it could transplant a charter school at the shopping center under the condition that it have an enrollment preference for neighborhood students.

Board president Bryan

Johnson said the community feedback was useful in the sense that some parents, up until now, have felt the district may have skipped over viable options for the new school site and where to house Bullis Charter School. With all possibilities on the table, it's clear that the district hasn't missed any obvious, consensus-building solution, and will have to work to bridge a divided community.

"Obviously it would've been great if we could have seen broad consensus across the community, but I'm not necessarily surprised that didn't materialize," Johnson said. "We'll just have to see as we go forward."

The community workshops and polling drew unexpectedly large crowds last year, with some parents being turned away due to space constraints, and there were worries at the time that the results were muddied by outside efforts. Parents at the Jan. 27 school board meeting alleged that Bullis Charter School's board of directors gave explicit directions on how its families should vote on each of the 55 options.

"The BCS board had the ability to direct their parents how to vote," said parent and former board member Sangeeth Peruri. "There (were) actually information sessions held by BCS board members prior to the meetings where they instructed BCS

parents on how to vote."

Another district parent, Peipei Yu, claimed that the Bullis board used its oversight authority to get its parents to vote as a bloc, and was able to observe families at workshops to ensure they voted the correct way.

Bullis Charter School spokesman Alan Simpson said the board did not direct parents how to vote in any way, and called the claims "categorically false." The board only encouraged parents to attend the workshops, he said.

Though there were no claims that Los Altos School District trustees did the same, participants immediately after the workshops complained that district parents were electioneering during the polling. Voting guides passed out by a group calling itself "LASD Families for Public Education" advocated full support for a handful of options — including moving Bullis to Mountain View — and rejected nearly all of the others.

The 13 options remaining will come back to the Los Altos board on Feb. 10 with an early analysis of each. The board has tentatively scheduled to decide where to put Bullis Charter School and what kind of school should go on the Mountain View site by the end of the school year. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

SCHOOL COP

► Continued from page 5

of new officers in the unit who weren't yet ready to step in, Taylor ended up doing an extra four years.

It was hardly a burden, Taylor told the *Voice*. He said the department was "generous" giving him the extra time, and that he plans to stay involved with teens when he returns to patrol starting this week.

'He has a way of being able to connect with kids, he's real.'

PRINCIPAL DAVE GRISSOM

"The entire time, I always wanted to be there," Taylor said. "It was my passion, I enjoy working for youth, and even from patrol I'll still be able to participate in youth-related activities."

With the extended time at Mountain View High, Taylor said he got the benefit of building strong ties with the school staff, which he said started to feel like

family. His farewell party at the school on Jan. 23 wasn't among students but with school staff, who gathered in the front office for a low-key celebration.

"He's just been awesome to work with," said Principal David Grissom. "I've had the opportunity to work at multiple schools including Mountain View, with a lot of different school resource officers. While each of them brings their own style, there is something special about Bobby."

On paper, the on-campus police officer is there to provide security and handle student law enforcement incidents and, in rare cases, cite and arrest students. They also provide information to students and parents about current drug trends and periodically handle mental health issues — particularly if it means an officer has to involuntarily detain students in crisis who pose a danger to themselves or others.

In practice, it meant Taylor checking in with students and asking how they're doing, exchanging fist bumps in the hallways, Grissom said, and volunteering to do talks with student clubs and parent groups. He was still an authority figure



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Officer Bobby Taylor was welcomed back to Mountain View High School in August 2018 after taking a year off to battle cancer.

first vape pen on campus about six years ago and didn't even know what it was. Though vaping is perceived to be a big public health hazard due to severe and sometimes fatal lung injuries, Taylor said he worries that the ultra-high concentration of THC in marijuana products also poses a risk to teens with developing brains. It's getting more powerful and is easily accessible under changes in state laws, including the legalization of recreational use of marijuana in 2016.

During his term as school resource officer, Taylor took a yearlong hiatus after he was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer in 2017. He underwent six months of aggressive cancer treatment and spent five months recovering before returning to the job last August. Shortly after returning, Taylor told the *Voice* that coming back to the police department and continuing his job was his priority.

Mountain View police Officer James Guevarra is set to take over for Taylor as the school resource officer primarily in charge of overseeing high schools. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

on campus, but one of respect rather than distrust or fear.

"He has a way of being able to connect with kids, he's real," Grissom said. "I think when he's wearing his uniform there's always that piece to it, 'I need to listen to him because I don't want to get in trouble,' but he was able to connect with kids in a way that goes beyond that uniform."

Grissom said he was surprised to see Taylor stick around for eight years, and said the department probably kept him as a school resource officer because he had a knack for working with youth and knew everyone so

well. He wasn't officially part of Mountain View High's staff, but he may as well have been.

Taylor said the bonus time as a school resource officer gave him a front-row seat to so many changes, watching social media go from nonexistent to enveloping all social interaction among students. It meant a fresh wave of new types of online crime and forced police departments to adjust to the digital age.

E-cigarettes and vaping are now huge problems in high schools across the country, but it wasn't a thing when Taylor first started. He said he saw his



SAMMY DALLAL

Bay Area Gun Vault is one of two retail gun stores in Mountain View.

GUN CONTROL

► Continued from page 1

dealers that do business inside their homes.

There are two brick-and-mortar gun stores and three licensed dealers in residential areas in Mountain View, according to a city staff report. Though zoning buffers for firearm dealers and a ban on home sales won some praise among council members, the ideas were ultimately tabled after staff said it would take significant time and effort and have a relatively limited effect on gun safety.

Former state Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, who is currently running for state Senate, advocated for all four of the gun-control options on the table, calling them a “great place to start” and in tune with the opinion of residents.

“I think that I’m a lot like my neighbors in Mountain View and the overwhelming majority of people who do actually live here in saying we want more regulations in this area,” she said.

Though the idea didn’t gain traction among council members, Lieber said the city should quash gun sales among home businesses and not grandfather any existing businesses on safety grounds, pointing to a 2015 incident in which a home with several rifles and a large quantity of ammunition caught fire. Though it’s unclear whether the home was being used for sales, the ammo inside the garage exploded rapidly during the blaze.

Not everyone was enthusiastic about the city’s proposed regulations. Former councilman John Inks said that the additional laws won’t stop gun violence and criminal activity involving firearms, but would instead target gun owners who follow the rules. He said the city should stick to community development and

maintaining public infrastructure rather than wading into the gun control debate and passing local restrictions.

“The plain truth is that common criminals, psychopathic killers, people who tend to be suicidal, are not deterred by these laws,” he said. “Instead they put burdens on otherwise law-abiding gun owners who actually in some ways have been criminalized by this type of ordinance.”

Unlike the sitting council members, Inks was a frequent critic of gun control during his tenure on the council and in 2013 declined to join a coalition called Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

Jess Guy, a frequent shopper at Eddy’s Shooting Sports in Mountain View and a former special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), told the *Voice* that it’s difficult to imagine how any of the proposed regulations would improve gun safety. There’s no clear connection between shooting incidents and the proximity of gun shops to schools or day care centers, he said, and the city’s staff report does not cite any evidence or data to support buffer zones of up to 1,000 feet.

“Many of these (proposals) are preempted by state law and many of them serve no purpose other than to harass gun stores and people who own firearms,” he said.

Guy said he wasn’t sure whether zoning restrictions could spell the end for stores like Eddy’s or the Bay Area Gun Vault in Mountain View, but said neighboring cities have snuffed out legitimate businesses under the guise of public safety. He recalled one gun shop in Los Gatos that was open for no more than five months before a regional coalition of residents sought to shut it down by making it run afoul with a new zoning ordinance. It was given a grace period of a few years to relocate, but ultimately closed.

Council members did not take formal votes, but asked staff to come back with an expanded prohibition on firearm possession on all public properties. The exact details of the local law remain murky — Matchak said she wasn’t sure how public property would be defined, but she assumed it didn’t include all of the city’s streets and sidewalks. The ordinance would likely leave out schools as well, as possession of a gun on campus is already banned under state laws.

Even less clear is how the city intends to roll out a safe storage ordinance. State laws require gun owners to store firearms in a locked container or disable them with a locking device in circumstances where they could be accessed by a child or someone prohibited from possessing a gun. City laws can take it a step further, requiring safe storage of all firearms regardless of who may have access to them.

But enforcement of beefed-up safe storage requirements would be tricky. The police department cannot proactively check homes and vehicles for compliance due to constitutional protections preventing unreasonable search and seizure, meaning violations would need to be discovered “incidentally,” such as during a criminal investigation.

Limitations aside, Councilwoman Alison Hicks said she supports a stronger safe storage law, noting that access to guns is a concern among parents when setting up play dates and that a fellow student of hers in middle school inadvertently shot himself with a gun that he thought wasn’t loaded. She said outreach and information to gun owners may be a good way to get around the limitations of enforcement.

“This is something I’ve seen repeatedly throughout my life and I would like to see some education around that,” she said. ▣



2019 ANNUAL FLUSHING PROGRAM

The City of Mountain View continues its annual water system flushing program. Flushing will be complete by approximately March 2020.

The City understands the importance of saving water, but flushing the system is a critical component of maintaining water quality. Water main flushing is a process used to clear water lines of sand and sediment that may have accumulated during the last year. Signs and barricades will be posted in neighborhoods the day before flushing is to take place to alert residents.

If you would like more information about the City’s water main flushing program, or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood flushing water mains, please contact the City’s Public Services Division at 650-903-6329, or visit our website at www.mountainview.gov.

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Candidates for state Senate to square off on Feb. 5

Seven candidates for California Senate District 13 will go head-to-head in a debate on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Five Democrats, one Republican and one Libertarian are vying for the seat currently held by state Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), who is being termed out at the end of the year. Senate District 13 stretches from South San Francisco to Sunnyvale and is home to about a half-million voters, 49% of whom are registered Democratic, 16% of whom are Republicans; and 31% of whom have claimed "No Party Preference."

The field includes Democrat Josh Becker, Democrat Michael Brownrigg, Republican Alex Glew, Democrat Sally Lieber, Democrat Shelly Masur, Democrat Annie Oliva and Libertarian John Webster.

At the debate, voters will be able to hear the candidates' stances on issues ranging from housing and homelessness to education, climate change and local versus state control.

The California open primary election is earlier this year — Tuesday, March 3 — and voters



Top row, from left: Josh Becker, Michael Brownrigg, Alex Glew, Sally Lieber. **Bottom row, from left:** Shelly Masur, Annie Oliva, John Webster.

will start receiving their ballots by mail in early February. Voters can cast a ballot for any candidate regardless of party affiliation. The top two in the primary will face off in November unless one candidate receives more than 50% of the vote in March.

Becker of Menlo Park is a philanthropist, former venture capitalist and CEO. Brownrigg is

a former Burlingame city councilman, diplomat and venture capitalist. Glew is an engineer and Los Altos Design Review Commission member. Lieber is a former state assemblywoman and Mountain View City Council member. Mazur is the Redwood City vice mayor, a nonprofit executive and a former school board member. Oliva is a

Millbrae city councilwoman and realtor. And Webster of Mountain View is a software engineer.

The debate will be moderated by Palo Alto Weekly Editor Jocelyn Dong, Embarcadero Media Reporter Kate Bradshaw and CalMatters Political Reporter Ben Christopher.

Questions from the audience will be taken at the debate. Ahead

Voter Information

Santa Clara County citizens can get voting information online at tinyurl.com/sccMarch2020. If you are registered as "no party preference" and would like to vote in the Democratic, American Independent or Libertarian party primary, you may file a request up to seven days before the election using a form on the county's website.

of the event, members of the public can suggest questions to the moderators by emailing editor@pawebly.com or contacting them via Twitter and Facebook.

The event is sponsored by the Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, *Mountain View Voice*, *The Almanac* and *CalMatters* — a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom committed to explaining California policy and politics.

The Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium is located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

—Embarcadero Media staff

DEVELOPER FEES

► Continued from page 5

put together themselves was used to facilitate the agreement between the developer and the districts and all parties agreed to it."

After the meeting, Mountain View Whisman spokeswoman Shelly Hausman clarified that the split was based on the total estimated cost of \$193 million for both school districts (\$109 million for the high school district and \$84 million for the elementary district), which amounts to approximately 56% for Mountain View-Los Altos and 44% for Mountain View Whisman.

California school districts receive state-mandated developer fees for new residential and commercial construction, which can vary from one district to another but rarely, if ever, cover the full cost of housing additional students. This is particularly true in cases where an expected burst of enrollment growth would require school districts to purchase land and construct a new campus.

City Council members have endeavored to ask housing developers to pay beyond that state-mandated fee, but doing so has been a balancing act. Asking for too little would leave

school districts without the resources to house more students, but asking for too much threatens the financial viability of residential projects and runs contrary with the city's housing goals.

Mountain View Whisman currently collects \$2.53 per square foot of new residential development and \$0.41 per square foot of commercial and industrial development. The Mountain View-Los Altos district collects \$1.26 per square foot in residential fees and \$0.20 for commercial, or about half of Mountain View Whisman's fees.

Going forward, Blakely said it would make sense for the city to follow that ratio, and give Mountain View Whisman two-thirds of negotiated school fees from developers — something Rudolph said would be the standard for future projects.

"Moving forward our expectation is that we will get the two-thirds share of the developer mitigation," he said.

The subject of developer fees has been a difficult and occasionally contentious three-way debate between school districts, the city and developers over the last year. The city is planning for 20,000 new homes primarily located in the North Bayshore and East Whisman areas of

the city, transforming lower-density tech parks into urban mixed-use hubs. That magnitude of growth could mean anywhere from 2,500 to 3,600 additional students, and could end up costing school districts in excess of \$1 billion, according to one city staff report.

Sobrato's project is the first one approved in North Bayshore, and the first to test-drive the city's policy on school fees. Originally, school districts requested that Sobrato contribute \$24.4 million, but the City Council bent the rules in 2018 and accepted roughly half that amount after the developer complained that the high fees made the project financially infeasible. Council members insisted that Sobrato's deal was not intended to set a precedent for future housing proposals.

The largest landowner and prospective homebuilder in North Bayshore, Google, has been in talks with Mountain View Whisman for years on school fees and where a school could potentially be located. The last proposal considered by the school board was a small, 2.5-acre property on Plymouth Street between Huff Avenue and Joaquin Road. ▀

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MOBILE HOMES

► Continued from page 1

at the rate of regional inflation, unless it tops 5%.

Whether mobile homes should have been covered under CSFRA in the first place has been the source of legal disputes for years, but the current interpretation is that the city's roughly 1,100 mobile homes aren't covered. For mobile home residents, rationalizing that mobile home owners aren't renters amounts to mental jiu-jitsu.

"We're renters, we have rental agreements, we have lease terms, I pay rent every month, there's an eviction process and procedure," said Sahara Mobile Village resident Sarah Georg. "To tell me that I pass all three of those tests and say I'm not a renter defies logic."

Residents across Mountain View's six mobile home parks have been a growing presence at City Council meetings, galvanized by what they describe as price-gouging rent increases and fears that the dwindling number of affordable housing options in Mountain View will drive them out. An estimated 85% of mobile home residents in the city are either seniors, disabled or veterans, according to the Mountain View Mobile Home Alliance, and many of them can't afford the rent hikes.

"This is our home, Mountain View is our home," said Anna Marie Morales, a Sahara mobile home resident. "My mom is elderly, she is disabled, she doesn't want to leave Mountain View. But with these ever-increasing rents it's almost impossible to make a living and try to stay there."

Though rent control does not extend to mobile homes, the stakes are arguably higher. Mobile home owners own the house itself but have to pay monthly rent for the space it occupies at the mobile home park. The mobile home's value is closely tied to the price of its space in the mobile home park. In other words, prospective buyers are going to be less interested in buying the mobile home if they have to pay \$2,000 a month in rent, on top of a mortgage.

The general rule of thumb is that every \$10 in space rent drops the home's equity by \$1,000, according to city staff.

Santiago Villa resident Chris Chiang described many of his neighbors as the type of middle and working-class residents that the council is seeking to protect: They include a carpenter, a preschool teacher, an electrician and a ride-share driver. He said his community may appear mad at the council in demanding renter protections, but it's really just

fear reaching a tipping point. Residents are working hard to put equity into their homes, only to see the values tank when faced with steep rent increases. If they can't afford to pay the rent, residents feel pressured to sell their home to the park's ownership at a loss.

"When you hear people angry, we're not really angry at you," Chiang said. "What you're hearing is fear."

It's because of these higher stakes that roughly 100 jurisdictions throughout California have adopted some kind of rent stabilization measure for mobile homes, including San Jose, Milpitas, Morgan Hill and Los Gatos. All four of those cities also have a provision known as "vacancy control" that prevents mobile home park owners from jacking up the rent when the mobile home ownership changes hands.

Councilwoman Alison Hicks said she was surprised to see how commonly mobile home rent control laws have been adopted, particularly when compared to the number of cities that have imposed rent control more broadly. She said Mountain View joins only about a dozen other California jurisdictions in having rent control, and very likely is the only city in the state that protects apartments but not mobile homes.

"If that's the case, then I would like to not be the exception anymore," Hicks said. Her comment was followed by rowdy applause from the crowd.

While the majority of the council lent support to extending renter protections to mobile home residents, there was no clear consensus Tuesday evening on the critical details of the policy. It's unclear whether the annual cap on rent increases will be tied to inflation — 3.5% as of last year — or a flat 4%, and when precisely to set the "base year" that would determine permissible rent increases going forward.

Trey Bornmann, president of the Mountain View Mobile Home Alliance, told the *Voice* that he and others have been fighting to make the start date Oct. 19, 2015, consistent with the date that CSFRA rolled back apartment rents. He said the rollback makes sense because he believes mobile homes were always supposed to be included in the law, but the body charged with implementing the rent control law — the Rental Housing Committee (RHC) — went against the advice of its legal consultant and determined mobile homes were not included in the law.

Bornmann alleges that the owner of Santiago Villa and

Sahara has been jacking up the rents as part of a long-term strategy to pressure residents to sell their homes back to the park at fire sale prices, which the park can turn around and rent out for as much as \$4,000 a month. Residents say as many as 90 homes in Santiago Villa may be owned by the park now.

'We have rental agreements, we have lease terms, I pay rent every month ... to tell me that I pass all three of those tests and say I'm not a renter defies logic.'

SARAH GEORG, SAHARA MOBILE VILLAGE RESIDENT

The frustration among mobile home residents is that council members appear sympathetic to mobile home residents who are simultaneously being priced out and losing a huge chunk of equity in their home, but have yet to show a sense of urgency. It's been more than three years since Mountain View voters passed rent control in 2016, and more than a year since a judge reaffirmed that the Rental Housing Committee could exclude mobile homes from CSFRA.

If and when the council actually passes an ordinance, Bornmann said he worries it won't actually mirror the rent control

law, and may end up weaker than they had hoped.

"I am afraid everybody is going to get screwed," he said. "They kicked the can and they didn't take any action and when they do take action, I'm worried they will water it down to appease the California Apartment Association and the landlords. They're more worried about getting campaign contributions."

The fault for the delays lies not with the City Council, but with the RHC, argued Councilman Chris Clark. He said CSFRA empowers the committee to oversee rent control writ large in the city, and its membership flexed its authority by excluding mobile homes from renter protections. This left the council in a "quagmire" in which the committee's power supersedes the council, and changing membership on the committee could alter that critical decision on mobile homes in the future.

The City Council is seeking to add language to the rent control law in Measure D on the March ballot to explicitly say mobile homes are not covered. Clark said this would allow the council to move forward with its own rent stabilization ordinance separate from the decisions of the rental committee.

"One of the things behind Measure D ... was to very specifically say, 'Okay well that's what you did RHC, we're taking that power away from you and we're going to cover this ourselves,'" Clark said.

Many of the complaints and worries aired at the Jan. 28 meeting were from members of the Sahara and Santiago Villa

mobile home parks, with fewer from members of the remaining four mobile home parks in the city. Frank Calcic, a managing partner of the Sunset Estates Mobile Home Park, said his family may have had some missteps but overall believes the park is one of the "best examples of quality mobile home living." He worries that a rent control ordinance would paint a broad brush for all six of the parks, and would take away his ability to make important financial decisions about his tenants.

"Rent control places the budgetary decision-making in the hands of a bureaucracy that isn't able to respond to the specific needs of a community and its infrastructure," he said.

Calcic also contends that the rule of thumb about rent increases and how they relate to loss in home equity is a gross oversimplification of how home sale prices are determined. Overall, he said, mobile homes in Mountain View are getting sold for more than the purchase price in spite of rent increases.

Only one speaker at the meeting identified herself as a Sunset Estates resident, and said she and her neighbors don't really need rent control. But she maintains that the rest of the other parks do, and insisted that CSFRA was written with the assumption it would extend to mobile homes.

The city is expected to hold stakeholder meetings prior to drafting an ordinance, with plans to return the issue to the council sometime in the spring. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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County supes to tackle homelessness with new task force

By Bay City News Service

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Tuesday approved a plan to establish a homeless task force and a plan to address the region's housing insecurity crisis.

"Obviously we have a lot of people living in creeks and underpasses, and 700 of them are veterans. It's shameful," Supervisor Dave Cortese said in an interview Tuesday.

The task force — which is to be called the Unhoused Task Force — will work on serving homeless people in the county and helping them transition into temporary and permanent supportive housing with increased funding for mental health services, increased shelter beds countywide and more publicly available storage and hygiene services for unhoused people.

"It's costing us about \$521 million a year to deal with the in-and-out recidivism of unsheltered people landing in different

places in our system, whether it's at emergency rooms, whether it's jail, whether it's in and out of courtrooms, case work, behavioral health offices," Cortese said. "That's largely because they're not stabilized, they're not in one place long enough to get the continuous care that they need, and so where they end up instead is on the street, with police, acting out, having problems, parking in the wrong place. This all costs the county money, a lot of money."

The action plan for the task force calls for the addition of 2,000 shelter beds to the county's arsenal of "short-term solutions" to homelessness countywide within 12 to 18 months, with a requirement of at least 200 per supervisorial district. The task force will also work to expand state investments in the county through surplus state land and state-owned trailers and tents.

"It's actually going to be saving you money," Cortese said. "There's a business model here as well."

The task force will report back to the board by March 24 on its progress.

"Bill Wilson Center is currently housing more than 700 individuals a night," said Sparky Harlan, CEO of San Jose's Bill Wilson Center, which operates as a shelter and service provider for unhoused youth and families. "By April it'll be a thousand, and people don't realize that two-thirds of who we're housing are families."

She urged the board to partner with the city of San Jose and her organization to house homeless individuals in vacant vacation homes throughout the county through Airbnb.

David Tran, a spokesman for San Jose City Councilman Raul Peralez, told the board Tuesday that Peralez also is hoping the county will partner with San Jose.

Geneva Strickland said she's happy to see the county working to address homelessness, but happier to finally have a home again, after getting housing on Jan. 15.

"It doesn't seem real,"

Strickland, 53, said Tuesday, adding that she had been living on the street for six years until this month. "It's really bad out there. If you're a woman out there, you're going to get hurt."

Her mother was one of the 161 homeless people who died in Santa Clara County last year.

'People don't realize that two-thirds of who we're housing are families.'

SPARKY HARLAN,
BILL WILSON CENTER CEO

"Our grandmas and grandpas are out there," Strickland said. "This is America. We're supposed to care about people here. Where's the empathy?"

She said if the county doesn't do something quick to address homelessness and house homeless people, "we're screwed."

"My story could happen to anybody," Strickland said.

Jerome Shaw, president of the Sunnyvale Clients Collaborative — a group representing homeless people staying at Sunnyvale's HomeFirst shelter — said he appreciates Cortese and the board for having a "vested interest" in addressing homelessness.

However, he said, the county looks like it's "tending" rather than "solving" the many issues around the county's vast homelessness problem.

"There's really nothing new that's being introduced," Shaw, a 44-year-old homeless resident at the Sunnyvale shelter, said Tuesday.

While the county focuses on short-term solutions, he said the county must also expedite its long-term efforts to address homelessness through quicker access for homeless people to long-term supportive housing.

"People don't want to be homeless," Shaw said. "People want homes." ■

LUNAR NEW YEAR

► Continued from page 5

have been showing up for classes wearing protective masks, according to Amy Andonian, Avenidas president and CEO.

Avenidas hasn't canceled its classes, but staff members are educating seniors on how to recognize the disease's symptoms and take precautions. Staff is working with a medical supplies vendor to find masks to give to seniors for free, she said.

The organization decided to follow suit after learning on Jan. 24 of the Palo Alto Chinese New Year Fair Committee's decision.

"In particular we're serving the elderly, who are more at risk," Andonian said.

Staff also considered the logistics. Their event takes place at Cubberley Community Center in a large room, but the space can be crowded when 150 seniors show up.

Many of the Chinese seniors who attend Avenidas' programs do travel frequently to China, potentially exposing themselves to the virus, Andonian said. Talking with health providers and the agency's insurer, the organization staff weighed the pros and cons.

"The biggest concern is that the virus is to be at its peak in the next 14 days because of the New Year. Maybe the risk is small, but it's not worth it. ... We don't want to take any risk," she said.

On Tuesday afternoon, Santa Clara County Public Health Director Dr. Sara Cody said during a press conference in San Jose that there are no reported cases of the novel coronavirus in the county nor in the Bay Area. She noted there are many forms of coronaviruses. The common cold is caused by a coronavirus, she said.

Still, the county public health department is working closely with other agencies. It has activated the county's Emergency Operations Center mainly because there is so much information to disseminate, and the center offers the most expedient way to distribute the information to all agencies and medical facilities.

The county is not suggesting any general actions for people to take, such as wearing masks, unless one is ill.

Unless a person recently traveled to Wuhan or was in close contact with someone who was ill who recently traveled in that area, there is little risk of coming down with the disease, the public health department said in a statement.

The department cautioned against going to large group gatherings in general since influenza and other respiratory viruses are highly common right now. The health department also emphasized that everyone should get a flu shot to protect against influenza, which

can produce similar symptoms to the coronavirus.

The San Mateo County Health Department said that reports of a case in Daly City are false. There are no cases of the novel coronavirus in the county.

Coronaviruses are infections found in some species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats and bats. On rare occasions, it can mutate to infect humans. Recent outbreaks of coronavirus included the serious diseases Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV), which jumped from camels, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV), which mutated from civet cats, according to the CDC.

The disease in Wuhan, called 2019-nCoV, was not known before in humans. Its DNA profile has since been identified. Many patients infected by the virus were initially linked to a large seafood and live animal market, which suggested that the virus jumped from an animal to a person. A growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, however, indicating person-to-person spread is occurring, according to the CDC. Person-to-person spread is not known to have occurred in the U.S. cases.

More information and updates about the novel coronavirus can be found on the Santa Clara County Public Health Department's website,

tinyurl.com/scc-coronavirus.

Santa Clara County also has a call center open to answer questions about the coronavirus Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at 408-885-3980.

The county has an anonymous 24-hour crisis line for anyone feeling stressed and overwhelmed about the coronavirus. It is available daily, including

holidays, at 800-704-0900 (Mental Health Services) or at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline, available 24 hours at 800-985-5990 or by texting TALKWITHUS to 66746 (Press 2 for Spanish). ■

Email Sue Dremann at sdremann@pawekly.com

RYOWA

► Continued from page 5

said. In 2015, when the city's minimum wage rate was \$10.30 per hour, the City Council voted to increase it to \$15 an hour by 2018. Starting in 2019, the minimum wage is adjusted annually in January based on a regional Consumer Price Index.

The rate in Mountain View is now \$16.05 an hour. (By comparison, Palo Alto's 2020 rate is \$15.40, Menlo Park's is \$15, Redwood City's is \$15.38, Sunnyvale's is the same as Mountain View and San Jose's is \$15.25.)

Surya said he could only raise the price of ramen "so much to cover our costs."

While catering revenue has increased since he took over the business, dine-in sales have dropped, he said.

Surya has worked at Ryowa since 2000.

"I have seen couples come when they were dating and now their kids are in high school.



COURTESY OF RAMEN HOUSE RYOWA/FACEBOOK

Ramen House Ryowa has served traditional ramen in downtown Mountain View for over 20 years.

Kids came when they were toddlers and (are) now working in one of those high tech companies," he said. "Some of our loyal customers became really good friends of mine. It's something that I will treasure forever."

According to a public ownership change notice, the new restaurant will be called Maruyama Mountain View. ■

Email Elena Kadvanj at ekadvanj@pawekly.com

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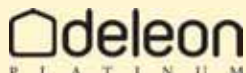
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A redo on rent control

MEASURE D OFFERS AMENDMENTS TO FIX CSFRA FLAWS

By Margaret Abe-Koga

In 2016, Mountain View voters enacted rent control (known as the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act) to address housing affordability. While somewhat effective, it was written behind closed doors by a small group of renters and concerned citizens without public input and placed on the ballot through signatures. Predictably, the campaign for the CSFRA was very divisive for our community, and the result was imperfect.

The city has worked diligently to faithfully implement the CSFRA over the last three years without burdening taxpayers. Despite our best efforts, the measure has faced lengthy and expensive legal challenges and repeal efforts.

Based on feedback from residents, renters and housing providers, it has become clear that a handful of amendments are necessary, as we have seen:

■ Housing affordability remains a major issue, and prices continue to rise.

■ More than 700 affordable apartments have been demolished and replaced by high-priced condos or townhomes, and this trend continues.

■ Under the current law, base rent increases can reach 5%.

■ Property owners refuse to invest in earthquake-proofing older apartments.

■ An unelected rent board can pay themselves a salary.

■ The City Council is powerless to remove rent board members for misconduct.

As a result of these issues, wealthy landlords have placed their own "fix" to rent control on the November 2020 ballot. Their measure was also written behind closed doors and, if passed, would indefinitely suspend rent control, putting thousands of families at risk of displacement.

As your mayor, one of my duties is to build consensus and find solutions to difficult problems so our community remains strong and united. The landlord measure is an overreaction that our community should not accept.

To ensure that rent control isn't repealed, the City Council placed Measure D on the March ballot to limit repeal efforts or legal challenges, set stronger guidelines for the conduct of the Rental Housing

Guest Opinion

Committee, incentivize seismic and sustainability upgrades, and create a pathway to cover mobile homes.

Unlike the other measures, Measure D was debated and reviewed by the public over several months. As with most compromise measures, not everyone likes it. Some renters and property owners oppose this measure, but many renters and property owners believe it is a fair compromise that fixes significant flaws while preserving the most effective elements of the CSFRA.

Measure D would accomplish the following:

■ Preserve the essential elements of the current rent control measure and better address affordable housing.

■ Permanently prevent the Rental Housing Committee from paying themselves.

■ Ensure property owners invest in seismic safety improvements to their buildings without excessive costs to their renters.

■ Further limit rent increases to no more than 4% annually (current law is 5%).

■ Ensure the City Council can remove Rental Housing Committee members for misconduct.

■ Clearly state that landlords or their representatives cannot be a controlling majority of the Rental Housing Committee. If no qualified non-resident property owners apply, non-residents who own property in Mountain View may serve.

The council and I approached key landlord and tenant groups to support a compromise. In a major victory, key property owners have reluctantly agreed to support Measure D and withdraw all support for their November measure if Measure D is approved in March. This is a major concession that most said could not be achieved.

Given the divisive turmoil emanating from Washington, D.C., we don't need another landlord measure dividing Mountain View renters and property owners in November. Passing the Measure D compromise in March will avoid another fight in November

Measure D is misleading and unnecessary

COUNCIL'S RENT CONTROL MEASURE WOULD WEAKEN CURRENT LAW

By Ronald and Dorothy Schafer

In 2016, the voters of Mountain View adopted Measure V (the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act), which protects renters by limiting rent increases and requiring just cause for eviction while ensuring landlords get a fair return. Measure V has worked well and has enabled many families, seniors, teachers and workers to stay in Mountain View with stable rents.

Now the City Council has placed Measure D on the March ballot. It professes to improve Measure V, but in fact, Measure D would result in higher rents and weaken the current law.

Proponents have made the misleading assertion that Measure D would lower the allowable rent increases, but this argument is flawed. Current law allows rent increases between 2% and 5%, but never higher than the rate of inflation, which has remained below 3.6% for the past 10 years. Measure D would give landlords the ability to raise rents 4% every year, which is more than these historical inflation rates. Thus, fixing the allowed increase at 4% is a gift to landlords at the expense of renters, and this gift grows in value with lowering inflation.

In another move to weaken current law, Measure D changes the rules on how improvement costs are passed on to renters. Current law allows for rent increases of up to 10% to offset costs of safety upgrades or government-mandated improvements (if those costs deny landlords a fair rate of return). Measure D broadens the list of upgrades to include projects that "extend the useful life of the property." This could include almost any renovation or improvement, and these could raise rents by up to 10%. This part of Measure D is not needed to allow increases for earthquake safety improvements as claimed by proponents, and it opens the door to manipulation and abuse.

Proponents say that Measure D will reduce demolition of older apartments. This argument has been made moot by state Senate Bill 330 (a new law prohibiting cities from approving new

Guest Opinion

housing developments that would raze rent-controlled or affordable housing unless an equal number of new units are offered to tenants at the same price).

Some of the other features of Measure D are just unnecessary. One is the prohibition on paying the members of the Rental Housing Committee. They have never asked to be paid, and the implementation of Measure V has not cost the taxpayers of Mountain View a single dollar.

Another specious aspect of Measure D is lifting the requirement that committee members be residents of Mountain View. Proponents say that this is necessary in case the City Council cannot find suitable Mountain View resident landlords. Measure V requires that there be no more than two out of five members who are landlords or property managers — it does not require that there be two. Surely there are plenty of qualified Mountain View residents who are capable of ensuring fair treatment for both renters and landlords.

If you are still not convinced, the California Apartment Association has announced that if Measure D passes, it will drop support for its own even more misleading and self-serving November ballot initiative. This must mean that Measure D accomplishes their objective of undermining the current law.

Measure V is working well and protecting renters as intended. Measure D weakens rent control in Mountain View and is a gift to landlords. We are voting no on Measure D.

Ronald and Dorothy Schafer are Mountain View homeowners.

What's on 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.

► See **REDO**, page 15

An investment in local higher education

VOTE YES ON MEASURES G AND H

By Bill James

All of our excellent local schools deserve our committed financial support, and I urge voters to support measures G and H on the March 3 primary ballot.

Measures G and H will enable Foothill-De Anza Community College District voters to invest in the continued success and financial stability of Foothill and De Anza colleges. Specifically, Measure G would authorize up to \$898 million in bonds to upgrade and repair aging classrooms and labs, and to acquire and construct new facilities. Measure H would raise \$5.6 million annually for each of the next five years through a \$48 annual parcel tax.

District voters regularly approve (by comfortable margins) bond and parcel tax measures to support our local elementary and high school districts, and we should vote to approve both measures G and H for very similar reasons.

First, Foothill and De Anza are our local schools. They serve mostly local students and their campuses are closely integrated with our local community. Both campuses host performances, educational programs, camps, sports events, speeches and classes attended by members of the community who are not enrolled as students.

Also, like our local public elementary and high schools, Foothill and De Anza provide services that are critical to the social, political and economic well-being of our community. There was a time when a solid K-12 education was sufficient to get a decent-paying job and participate fully in civic life, but increasingly experts consider a K-14 education or beyond necessary to achieve financial stability and participate fully in our economy, especially in a high-cost area such as ours.

Foothill and De Anza are

REDO

► Continued from page 14

and for years to come.

Please join us in preserving our community's rent control law by addressing its flaws, strengthening its most successful provisions, and avoiding a costly and bitter campaign this fall. Please vote yes on Measure D in the March 3 primary.

Margaret Abe-Koga is mayor of Mountain View.

Guest Opinion

similar to our local K-12 schools in another way: They need the money. Like many of our local schools, Foothill and De Anza have aging infrastructure that needs to be repaired, updated and expanded. Also, the high cost of living in our area has left many students without enough to eat or a place to sleep, and as in our K-12 schools, it is increasingly hard to recruit and retain faculty and staff.

The good news is that Foothill and De Anza are also a good investment, and a good value. The cost to attend a UC or CSU school is five times higher (or more!) than Foothill and De Anza. Moreover, Foothill and De Anza offer students the option to complete a two-year degree, pursue vocational training and/or take advantage of programs that guarantee acceptance at a UC or CSU to finish a four-year degree. In fact, De Anza is the biggest feeder school for students transferring into the UC and CSU systems. Local school

counselors will tell you there is no surer path to a UC or CSU degree.

Finally, like our K-12 schools, the excellence achieved by both Foothill and De Anza, and the options they afford our kids, contribute greatly to the value of homes and other properties in the district. Both schools consistently are ranked in the very top of their class of similarly sized community colleges in statewide and even national rankings. These are schools we can and should be proud of — and it's smart to invest in their continued success.

For all the above reasons, I hope you'll join me, the Santa Clara County Democratic Party (which I lead), the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale, and numerous current and former elected officials and community organizations in supporting measures G and H on March 3. Our local community colleges and their students deserve our support!

Bill James is chair of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, which has endorsed measures G and H.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

IRONWOOD HAIR COMPANY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN662301

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Ironwood Hair Company, located at 917 E. Arques Ave., Suite 2, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JENNIFER CRUZ-JIMENEZ

180 Newbridge St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2020.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 7, 2020.
(MVV Jan. 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 2020)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER
ESTATE OF: ROBERT W. CARROLL
Case No.: 20PR187490

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERT W. CARROLL aka ROBERT WILLIAM CARROLL.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: RICHARD LEE SAGE in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

The Petition for Probate requests that: RICHARD LEE SAGE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before

taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on February 10, 2020 at 9:01 a.m. in Dept.: 13 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Carl A. Sundholm, Esq.
Law Offices of Carl A. Sundholm
750 Menlo Avenue, Suite 100
Menlo Park, California 94025
(650) 473-9050
(MVV Jan. 24, 31; Feb. 7, 2020)

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To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three samples of your journalism work to Editor Renee Batti at editor@AlmanacNews.com.

The Almanac

Behind the scenes with Max Tachis and Roneet Aliza Rahamim

LOCAL THEATER POWER COUPLE DISCUSSES LIFE AND LOVE, ON STAGE AND OFF

By Karla Kane

In their first production together, Max Tachis' character had to put his head under Roneet Aliza Rahamim's character's dress where, he recalled, due to their elaborate period costumes, it kept getting stuck.

"And the rest is history!" Rahamim said with a laugh.

"My heart got stuck as well," joked Tachis.

Many shows and one wedding later, the two have proven to be successful partners, both on the stage and in life. "Taking Steps," which opened Jan. 17 at the Pear Theatre, is their eighth production together, and their first as newlyweds.

After dropping off Hamilton, their 10-year-old Chihuahua mix, with Rahamim's parents before a long night of rehearsal, the pair met with the Weekly over tea and hot cocoa to discuss their love of the stage — and each other.

Anyone who frequents the local theater scene will recognize the dynamic duo. Perhaps you saw Rahamim in her award-winning leading role in "The Diary of Anne Frank" with Palo Alto Players, or Tachis as Crumpet the Elf in "The Santaland Diaries" with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley? Last year, they co-directed, co-produced and co-starred in an ambitious, critically acclaimed production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" at the Dragon Theatre in Redwood City.

"That was a really wild experience," Rahamim said, of the rewarding but demanding project. "It's a lot of work, and there's a lot of pieces flying in every direction."



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Roneet Aliza Rahamim and Max Tachis rehearse a scene from "Taking Steps," the latest production at The Pear Theatre in Mountain View.

The two officially met in 2014 at "Amadeus" auditions at City Lights in San Jose (although Rahamim had seen and admired Tachis in a prior show) and struck up a friendship, pushed along by a mutual friend and castmate.

"She said, 'I think you should be dating Max. I think that's a good idea.' And she would not let up at all," Rahamim said. "So we were just slowly tuned into each other and it all worked out."

For most couples, moving in together can require an adjustment period. Living and working together can have an even steeper learning curve. Aside from the scheduling of dog care when

both are busy with productions, Tachis and Rahamim have also contended with having very different working styles.

Tachis recalled a time soon after moving in together when they were carpooling to a mutual audition, with Rahamim wanting to discuss every detail aloud as he silently panicked.

"I'm like a squirrel. I take it and I kind of hide it somewhere and I go and I deal with it on my own for a while. That's how I process certain things, character-wise," he said. "Roneet is very outward, bouncing ideas. We just had to work out a schedule. 'This is Max time and then this'll be Roneet

time and this'll be Max and Roneet time.' I think we've got it dialed in now."

They sometimes fantasize about starting a company of their own — in an abandoned roller rink that could become a theater in the round, for instance, or a space that could be a coffee shop by day and venue by night. But the Midpeninsula natives are also well aware of the challenges Bay Area living poses to those pursuing the arts.

Rahamim grew up in Palo Alto, went to New York City to study acting, then returned west.

"I came back knowing that I wanted to be more involved in the theater scene and really make a go of it with acting," she said. "It's so much more expensive to live here, but there's something really special about the theater community that I think is really unique, that has made me want to stay."

After a slew of day jobs, including at a bike store and a flooring shop, she now works from home in Campbell for a small start-up. Tachis, who works for Facebook, grew up in Redwood City and stumbled upon theater as a student at Canada College.

"I met actors for the first time there and decided that is what I want to do," he said. "So I dropped out and decided I would work during the day and fuss around with these theater companies at night."

Because they're usually so busy with theater — either together or in overlapping productions — when they took a brief break from the stage after their August wedding, they found themselves slightly flummoxed by the downtime at home.

"We were like, 'Ah, let's play real people tonight,'" Rahamim said, imitating exaggerated formality. "Should we open up a bottle of wine? What would you like to watch on the TV?" That is to say, I think for the majority of the relationship, someone's been in rehearsals."

"Taking Steps," their current production, is a farce by Alan Ayckbourn — full of mistaken identities, plans gone awry and physical comedy, and set in a Victorian mansion in the English countryside.

Tachis plays the anxiety-ridden solicitor attempting to help sell the possibly-haunted house, while Rahamim plays a runaway bride who's locked in a closet for much of the show. Both relish the chance to flex their British accents, as well as their silliness skills.

"The conceit of the show is that the set is entirely flat. Stairs are painted on the ground, so we're not actually going upstairs," Rahamim explained. "People are existing in the same space even if they are in separate rooms on separate floors of the house."

She said she hoped audiences have as much fun watching it as the cast has had working on it. "Because we're having a blast."

In the future, Rahamim would like to try her hand at directing something Tachis has written.

"I think I would really enjoy it because I have a different insight into how the writing came to be and so I would want and see if that's a good match. The idea of putting your partner in the role of translating your work," Rahamim said. "We enjoy working together for sure." ▣

■ INFORMATION

What: "Taking Steps."
Where: The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.
When: Through Feb. 9.
Cost: \$30-\$34.
Info: thepear.org.

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FOOD FEATURE



Chef Chu's celebrates 50 years in Los Altos

'THE HARDEST THING IN THE RESTAURANT WORLD IS LONGEVITY'

Story by Elena Kadwany
Photos by Sammy Dallal

When Lawrence Chu opened his first restaurant in what used to be a coin-operated laundromat in Los Altos in 1970, he had a grand vision. He dreamed of replicating his 12-item Chinese takeout menu in cities across America — a Panda Express before there was a Panda Express.

That dream fizzled over the years as Chu, a Chinese immigrant who arrived in San Francisco in 1963, put down deep roots in Los Altos. He slowly took over the entire San Antonio Road building, the restaurant steadily supplanting a

dry cleaners, a vacuum repair shop, an insurance office. He married Ruth Ho and they had five children. He joined the Los Altos Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and was later named "Los Altos of the Year." Chef Chu's became a beloved dining destination for generations of local families as well as celebrities, politicians and dignitaries.

Chef Chu's passed a major milestone in the restaurant industry this month: a half-century in business. If you ask Chu how his two-story, 250-seat restaurant has persisted for 50 years, you'll hear a series of personal proverbs repeated over

► See **CHEF CHU'S**, page 18



Clockwise from top: Chef Lawrence Chu stands in the kitchen of his eponymous restaurant, a local institution celebrating its 50th year in business; Peking duck surrounded by steamed lotus buns; prawns heaped on a bed of orange slices are accompanied by glazed walnuts.

CHEF CHU'S

► Continued from page 17

and over. There's his signature, "treat every day like it's grand opening day," as well as some variation of "focus on one thing and you'll be successful" and

"love your family."

But perhaps the answer is that the 76-year-old lives and breathes his restaurant — so much so that the two are inseparable, that his name and the restaurant's name are interchangeable, that he describes the restaurant as a member of

his family. (Embroidered on the pocket of his chef whites is "Chef Chu's" and in much smaller text, "Lawrence.")

"When you're with Chef Chu, you can't get away from Chef Chu. He wakes up in the morning, talks about Chef Chu, works all day, and then he can go to bed

and talk about Chef Chu," said Larry Jr., Chu's oldest son, who now manages the restaurant. "Although sometimes it feels like it's a curse that you can't get away from, also it's a huge blessing because now we're here 50 years later."

To say that Chu is energetic is an understatement. He's still at the restaurant every day, working the dining room, talking to the more than 500 customers who dine there daily and reminding his 70 employees that even if he turns his back for a moment, "God is watching you." He has no intention of retiring any time soon. He's a prolific storyteller: a straightforward question about the restaurant's history quickly turns into a lengthy, passionate tangent about Chinese cooking.

Chu, who was born in Chongqing and raised in Taiwan, is not a professionally trained cook. He "learned how to eat before I learned how to cook," he said. He loved going to the market in China with his stepmother and watching her scrupulously select chickens for family dinners. He went on to study photography and design in Hong Kong, where he ate out often.

"I never thought I would become a chef but I'm ... a guy (who) loves good food," he said. "Who doesn't like food? Tell me."

His family eventually left China for the United States, and Chu followed several years later. His father was an architect — he designed the iconic San Francisco restaurant Empress of China, among others, Chu said — and a restaurant owner, running Mandarin House in Menlo Park. By day, Chu studied architecture and design; by night, he worked as a busboy at Trader Vic's in San Francisco, where he fell in love with the restaurant world. On his days off, he'd learn in the Mandarin House kitchen.

When Chef Chu's first opened in Los Altos, the small takeout restaurant served dishes like pork buns, mushu pork, kung pao chicken, chop suey and sweet and sour pork. (Today, the most popular dishes include Beijing duck cooked in a cast-iron oven, chow mein, broccoli beef and potstickers, of which the kitchen churns out up to 1,000 each day.) Chu put an emphasis on customer engagement, designing an open kitchen that would allow him to interact with diners.

He grew a loyal, local customer base. A Feb. 9 anniversary banquet the restaurant is hosting, which includes a champagne reception with Chu and a special menu, has sold out. The \$300-\$500 tickets benefit the Los Altos History Museum.



Lawrence Chu speaks with son Larry Chu Jr. as the Chef Chu's kitchen prepares a catering order on Jan. 22.

THE 34TH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY

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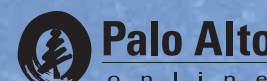
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There were two turning points in the restaurant's early history, he said. First, when they were able to expand the restaurant's footprint, and second, when San Francisco critic Jack Shelton featured Chef Chu's in his direct-mail restaurant reviews. Chu remembers Benny Goodman and Herb Caen coming in soon after — celebrities of the moment who would give way to the likes of Justin Bieber, Barry Bonds and Steve Jobs.

Another turning point came in the early 2000s, when Chu called on his oldest son to work in the family business. Chu and his wife had banned the children from working at Chef Chu's when they were young, insisting that their long days and hard work would give their children the freedom to choose any career they wanted. They pushed them into speech and debate, theater and sports instead of the restaurant.

"My mom was definitely adamant about us having all the choices — which is why they moved to the United States, for the choice, the opportunity to live the American dream," Larry Jr. said. "My dad worked hard. Restaurant hours are super hard."

On a fateful visit home from Larry Jr.'s sports marketing job in Hong Kong, he said his father sat him down and said, "I need to know what your intentions are." He ultimately decided to return because "I could never imagine Los Altos, this community, without Chef Chu."

Larry Jr., just as energetic and effusive as his father, is now the general manager, handling the front of house duties while his father is in the kitchen. As a kid, he noticed his father's absence — at family vacations, basketball games, school events — but now he said he understands the value of such a singular work ethic. He credits his father with serving accessible Chinese food that opened the door for the success of more regional Chinese cuisines in America, like hot pot and international chains like Din Tai Fung. He describes Chef Chu's as an "American-Chinese" restaurant, but not an Americanized one. All of the restaurant's chefs are from China, he noted.

Larry Jr. bristled at a recent New York Times story that attributed a decline of Chinese restaurants in New York City to the owners' American-born and educated children choosing less grueling, higher-paid jobs. The other Chu siblings found careers in film (John Chu famously directed "Crazy Rich Asians"), real estate and parenting.

He felt "insulted" by the article, he said.

"It sets the table that running a Chinese restaurant, what my dad has done for 50 years, is somehow less important than

being a lawyer or being a police officer or being a VC at a hedge fund," he said. "It's hard work but it's honest work. It plays a big role in people's lives. There are so many people that come here and say, 'I had my baptism here and now I'm bringing my kids,' or, 'I had my rehearsal dinner here and now my daughter is having hers.'"

"Those are the things we work for and make us feel valued," he said.


Larry Jr. is now the father of a 9-year-old, the third and youngest Larry Chu, whose basketball team he can't coach because he has to be at the restaurant. I asked Larry Jr., what if his son decides he wants to work in the restaurant?

"I'd say, 'Let's set you up for success. Let's teach you all the things my dad taught me to do: Treat every day like grand opening day. Focus on one thing and you'll be successful.'" ❏

Email Elena Kadvaný at ekadvaný@paweekly.com



Diners wait for a table along a wall lined with framed photos of Chef Lawrence Chu with celebrities and dignitaries including Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, Benazir Bhutto and Justin Bieber.

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Employment

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COURTESY OF MAUR FILM

Daria Kashcheeva's animated short "Daughter" tackles a strained relationship.



LION FORGE ANIMATION

The animated short film "Hair Love" is nominated for an Oscar.

MOVIE OPENINGS

Coming up shorts

THIS YEAR'S BEST OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORTS
FOCUS ON FAMILY

★★★ (Century 20 and Aquarius)

Anyone who has ever participated in an Oscar pool or "guess the winners" contest knows that victory often comes down to wild-card categories like Best Animated Short and Best Live Action short. If you're looking for an edge in guessing the winners, or bragging rights as the show unfolds ("I saw all those"), you're in luck. Starting now, you can head down to your local theater and take in programs that include all of this year's Oscar-nominated live-action and animated short films.

There's been a lot of buzz over this year's "Best Animated Short," which includes the nominated "Hair Love," a sweet and sunny film written, directed and produced by former NFL-player-turned-filmmaker Matthew A. Cherry. Previously released as a pre-feature bonus to "The Angry Birds Movie 2," this colorful, hand-drawn 2D entry deals with the personal and

cultural meanings of hair and family relationships, tested when an African American father must do his young daughter's hair for the first time. Cherry told Good Morning America that he wanted to normalize that vision of an African American father doing his daughter's hair. "Often times black men get a bad rap in not being involved in their kids' lives, and I really wanted to showcase a strong black family unit and show that dads are present," he said. (Former NBA star Kobe Bryant, who died earlier this week, was the first African American to win an Oscar in this category in 2018 for writing and narrating the animated short "Dear Basketball" after pivoting from sports.)

Other nominated films include the Czech film "Daughter," which also considers a father-daughter relationship — but this one's under strain. A perfect cinematic tone poem, Daria Kashcheeva's film makes sharp use of sound effects to underscore evocative and finely textured puppet animation. Kashcheeva proves equally adept at the realistic and the fantastic in telling this story of love and regret, and nimbly uses camera motion to aid in the film's emotionally devastating effect.

Pixar veteran Rosana Sullivan helms the San Francisco set "Kit-bull," a riff on the Aesop fable "The Lion and the Mouse." Here, the lion is an abused pitbull and the mouse a stray kitten, the latter overcoming its fear and accepting the friendship of the former. Listen carefully for the distinctive sound of a nearby BART train in this playful, somewhat lo-fi animated tale.

Shades of Van Gogh texture the French entry "Memorable," the story of a painter losing his mind but perhaps not his marriage to neurodegenerative disease. Both trippy and poignant, Bruno Collet's stop-motion-animated film, more than any other in the program, takes advantage of the form to imagine the impossible — and the unthinkable — in visual terms. Lastly, "Sister," from Chinese-American stop-motion animator Siqi Song, explores the complicated family dynamics and personal yearnings of 1990s China, where siblings were a rarity. Best in show goes to "Daughter," but the very worthy "Hair Love" seems poised to take the gold.

Oscar prognosticators are mostly picking "Brotherhood" as the likely "Best Live-Action Short" winner. A co-production of Canada, Tunisia, Qatar, and Sweden, it's the story of a Tunisian shepherd rattled by the return of his prodigal son. The shepherd's wife and two other sons happily embrace the young man's return — complete with pregnant, hijab-shrouded wife — but his tormented father struggles mightily to accept the situation. The Belgian film "A Sister" keeps it simple. It's a potboiler with a familiar premise: emergency dispatcher attempts to save the life of a caller in distress. French-Tunisian comedy "NEFTA Football Club" — about two young boys who stumble upon a stash of cocaine — is pure O. Henry, a pithy tale with amusing characters and a kicker of a twist.

"The Neighbor's Window" offers a poignant, if obvious, version of the old adage that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. Shot like "Rear Window," it's a voyeuristic comedy-drama about a New York couple observing their across-the-street neighbors. The best of the bunch, however, is "Saria," a U.S.-produced drama that recreates, entirely convincingly, the tragic events that unfolded three years ago at the Virgen de La Asuncion orphanage in Guatemala. Wrenching and beautifully acted by a cast of orphans turned nonprofessional actors, "Saria" powerfully pulls you into its reality. Ranging between 7 and 25 minutes, these films make the case that, when it comes to storytelling, size doesn't matter.

Not MPA rated. One hour, 23 minutes, and one hour, 44 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

NOW SHOWING

1917 (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo (Not Rated)

Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Bad Boys for Life (R) ★★ Century

16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Casablanca (1942) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

Dolittle (PG) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Ford V Ferrari (PG-13)

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Frozen II (PG) ★★★

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

The Gentlemen (R) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Gretel & Hansel (PG-13)

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

JoJo Rabbit (PG-13) Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Jumanji: The Next Level (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Just Mercy (PG-13) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Knives Out (Not Rated)

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

The Last Full Measure (R)

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Little Women (2019) (PG) ★★★1/2

Century 20: Fri.-Sun. Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

The Maltese Falcon (1941) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Fri.-Sun.

Oscar Shorts 2020 (Not Rated) Aquarius

Theatre: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Parasite (R) ★★★1/2 Aquarius

Theatre: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

The Rhythm Section (R)

Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

Spies in Disguise (PG)

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (PG-13)

★★1/2 Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.

The Turning (PG-13) Century 16: Fri.-Sun.

Century 20: Fri.-Sun.

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa

Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16

Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20

CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For information: 493-0128) tinyurl.com/Pasquare

ShowPlace Icon: 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View tinyurl.com/iconMountainView

Stanford Theatre: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) Stanfordtheatre.org

★ Skip it
★★ Some redeeming qualities
★★★ A good bet
★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.




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Mountain View Rotary Club

2020 Crab Feed

 **Saturday, February 1, 2020**
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The Mountain View Buddhist Temple
575 Shoreline Blvd. (Across from Safeway)
Donation: \$60/person - \$20 kids 3-10 yrs

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MOUNTAIN VIEW ROTARY CRAB FEED

The Mountain View Rotary Crab Feed includes live music with all-you-can-eat Dungeness crab, greens, penne pasta, fruit salad and fresh bread. Proceeds are donated to local charities. Feb. 1, 4:30-7:30 p.m. \$20-\$60; discount for children ages 3-10. Mountain View Buddhist Temple, 575 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. mountainviewrotary.org

THEATER

'A Doll's House, Part 2' Jeffrey Lo directs Lucas Hnath's comedic play that picks up right after the end of Henrik Ibsen's original play, "A Doll's House." Jan. 31-Feb. 2; dates and times vary. \$22-\$46; discounts available. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. paplayers.org

'Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type' Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type," a comedic musical based on Doreen Cronin's beloved children's book. Through Feb. 16; dates and times vary. \$14-\$16; discount for children. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org

'Mapping of the Mind' Los Angeles-based Jewish Women's Theatre returns to Oshman Family JCC with three new shows, starting with "Mapping of the Mind," where humor and hope are found within the struggle of mental illness. Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$30; discount for members. Freidenrich Conference Center, Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltochamber.com

'Oslo' Winner of the 2017 Tony Award for best play, "Oslo" tells the true and widely unknown story of how a Norwegian diplomat and her husband planned and orchestrated top-secret meetings between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, culminating in the historic 1993 Oslo Accords. Through Feb. 16; dates and times vary. \$20-\$38. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org

'The Pianist of Willesden Lane' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents "The Pianist of Willesden Lane," a true story about a young Jewish pianist escaping Nazi-occupied Austria at the outset of World War II. Concert pianist Mona Golabek recounts her mother's poignant saga of hope and resilience to illustrate the power of music. Through Feb. 16; dates and times vary. \$25-\$55; discounts available. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

'Taking Steps' Director Troy Johnson and Bay Area comic actors take on Alan Ayckbourn's farce "Taking Steps," where chaos unfolds in a haunted Victorian house. Through Feb. 9; dates and times vary. \$20-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

High School One-Act Play Festival Mountain View Center for the Performing

Arts presents the 2020 High School One-Act Festival, which brings four short, professionally produced plays that are directed and acted by students. Feb. 7-8; 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15; discount for students. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

'The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes' Theater company Back to Back explores a world that's dominated by artificial intelligence with "The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes." Feb. 5-8; times vary. \$15-\$40. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

CONCERTS

'The Passion of Joan of Arc' Orlando Consort, the early-music British quartet, sings Guillaume Dufay's chanson with lyrics by Christine de Pizan, whose poem about Joan of Arc dates to the early 15th century. Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$52; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Vladimir Feltsman Russian pianist Vladimir Feltsman plays works by dissident composers of his homeland, from Alexander Scriabin to the forgotten composers that Scriabin influenced. Feb. 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15-\$68; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Harlem Quartet Embracing jazz, Latin and contemporary music, the Harlem Quartet performs works by Dizzy Gillespie, Billy Strayhorn, Wynton Marsalis and more. Feb. 9, 2:30-4:30 p.m. \$15-\$55; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

National Forum of Music Wroclaw Philharmonic Acclaimed violin virtuoso Bomsori Kim joins Poland's National Forum of Music Wroclaw Philharmonic under the baton of Giancarlo Guerrero. Jan. 31, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15-\$148; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Talisman 30th Anniversary Concert For its 30th anniversary concert, Stanford University's Talisman a cappella group is joined by its alumni from the past three decades to showcase the voices that have contributed to the group's growth. Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$40; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Tiffany Austin Bay Area jazz vocalist and composer Tiffany Austin returns to Tateuchi Hall to pay tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Free. Tateuchi Hall, Community

School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

Fortnightly Music Club Concert The Fortnightly Music Club hosts a concert featuring works by Mozart, Jake Heggie and Carl Nielsen. Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. fortnightlymusicclub.org

MUSIC

Free Organ Recital Weekly noontime organ recitals on the two Flentrop organs at All Saints Episcopal Church. Each recital will include at least one work by J.S. Bach. Tuesdays through May 26, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Free. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. asaints.org

Open Mic Performers sing in front of a supportive audience and meet fellow musicians and artists during Open Mic Mondays at Red Rock Coffee. Ongoing; Mondays, 7 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org/livemusic

TALKS & LECTURES

How the U.S. Destroyed the Marshall Islands Los Angeles Times investigative journalist Susanne Rust provides a presentation on how nuclear waste from the U.S. made the Marshall Islands uninhabitable. Feb. 8, 4-6 p.m. Free. First Baptist Church of Palo Alto, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto. facebook.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 and one of three picnic areas. Dates vary through May 23; times vary. \$180-\$275; prices vary between packages. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

'Cointraptions' "Cointraptions: Classic Coin-Operated Machines" explores what life was like before the era of credit cards with classic coin-operated machines, including gambling devices, a mutoscope, vending machines and more. Through Feb. 16; Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. The Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

'Surf Sequence' "Surf Sequence" explores Ansel Adams' relationship with water in different forms with a series of spontaneously captured surf images.

Through May 18; times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events/848/84847

CSMA Art Faculty Exhibition This exhibition includes artworks 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/mohr-gallery/upcoming-shows

DANCE

'Feed the Future' This year, Arts with a Heart presents "Feed the Future: End Hunger Now," raising awareness of food insecurity in Silicon Valley's communities through dance. Feb. 7-9; times vary. \$20-\$40. Castilleja School, 1310 Bryant St., Palo Alto. artswithaheart.org

High Release Dance in Concert High Release Dance is a collaborative group in which dancers take turns choreographing primarily modern works. Pieces range from highly abstract modern compositions to intricately designed jazz routines. Feb. 7-8, 8 p.m. \$15-\$25; discount for students. Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. highrelease.org

FILM

Teen Movie Night Los Altos Hills Youth Commission hosts a teen movie night featuring an action-adventure film for all middle and high school students. Feb. 7, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos City Council, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltoshills.ca.gov

FOOD & DRINK

Los Altos First Friday Los Altos First Fridays are community-building events held during the evenings of the first Friday of the month in downtown Los Altos. It is an opportunity to shop, dine and explore what downtown has to offer. Feb. 7, 6-8 p.m. Free. State Street, Los Altos Hills. losaltoschamber.org

Seasonal Baking Kids ages 7 to 11 are invited to make Groundhog Day-themed treats using ingredients from Hidden Villa's farm. Feb. 2, 2-4 p.m. \$30. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Friends of Library Used Book Sale Friends of the Los Altos Library hosts a book sale with their 30,000+ inventory

of books, including audiobooks, CDs and sheet music. Feb. 7-9; times vary. Free. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoslibraryfriends.org

Mountain View Library Book Sale Friends of the Mountain View Library hosts a book sale to raise money for the Mountain View Library's programs. Feb. 8-9; times vary. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

SPORTS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

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. \$1.50 monthly fee. Graham Middle School, 1175 Castro St., Mountain View. facebook.com

AUTHOR EVENTS

Adalyn Grace Adalyn Grace joins author Tomi Adeyemi to talk about her new fantasy novel, "All the Stars and Teeth." Feb. 5, 7-9 p.m. \$5-\$23. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Carmen Maria Machado A finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the Shirley Jackson Award, Carmen Maria Machado drops in at Kepler's Books for her new, critically acclaimed memoir, "In The Dream House." Feb. 1, 7:30-9 p.m. \$5-\$30. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Julian Guthrie Julian Guthrie, this year's Silicon Valley Reads author, talks about her latest book "Alpha Girls," a biography about four women who scored the deal of their lifetime while competing in the male-dominated world of tech capital. Feb. 8, 4-5 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

Nick Bruel Nick Bruel is the author and illustrator behind the New York Times bestselling series, "Bad Kitty," which follows the misadventures of a troublemaking house cat. Feb. 4, 6-7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Diane Ravitch Former U.S. assistant secretary of education and author of "Slaying Goliath," Diane Ravitch, talks about the shortcomings of privatized and public schools, as well as Common Core. Feb. 6, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10-\$40; discount for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

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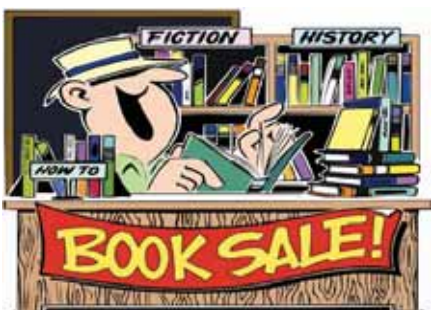
Marketplace

The Mountain View Voice offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

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Come to the **FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW LIBRARY BOOK SALE** for great bargains!

Bring this ad to the book sale and get a **FREE BOOK!**



Saturday, February 8
9 am - 9:45 am Member Preview
10 am - 4 pm All Shoppers

Sunday, February 9
11 am - 4 pm All Day Bag Sale \$5.00

Bookmobile garage behind the Mountain View Public Library More information: www.mvlibraryfriends.org

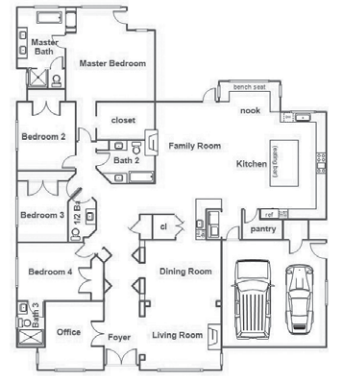
Open Super Bowl Sunday 2-3 PM!



Stunning Newer Executive Home in **COMPASS** Coveted South Los Altos Location!

1931 Alford Ave. Los Altos 94024

Nestled on a quiet tree-lined street, this newly built (2013) gorgeous executive home includes 4 bedrooms and 3.5 full designer baths all on one level and located ideally close to top Cupertino schools and all commutes! This exquisite 3,057 +/- sq. ft. open floor plan includes 2 master suites, separate living and formal dining room & large office (or 5th bedroom) with 5 internet lines built in located on the expansive 10,000 +/-sf beautifully landscaped lot with majestic oak and pine trees!



Enjoy cooking in the bright chef's kitchen with coved ceiling, custom lighting, quartz countertops, large island with abundant solid cabinetry, Restoration Hardware finishes, high end stainless silver finished Thermador appliances, built-in Miele coffee system, hot and filtered water dispensers, wine refrigerator & expansive great room and Nano wall door with views of the large paver-stone patio and park-like backyard! Ideal for entertaining & perfect for growing families or couples downsizing!



Designer luxury upgrades includes large formal entry with dome stained glass skylight & porcelain tile flooring, 12 foot ceilings, custom baths with quartz vanities and stone tiles, craftsman finishes and crown molding throughout, 6-zone heating and AC cooling with separate thermostats in each room, designer lighting, closet organizers, central vacuum, wide plank European oak flooring, Hunter Douglas blinds, whole house speaker system, extra storage and car charger in the finished 2-car garage!

Close to top Cupertino schools: Montclair, Cupertino Middle and Homestead High

Offered at \$3,868,000 www.1931Alford.com



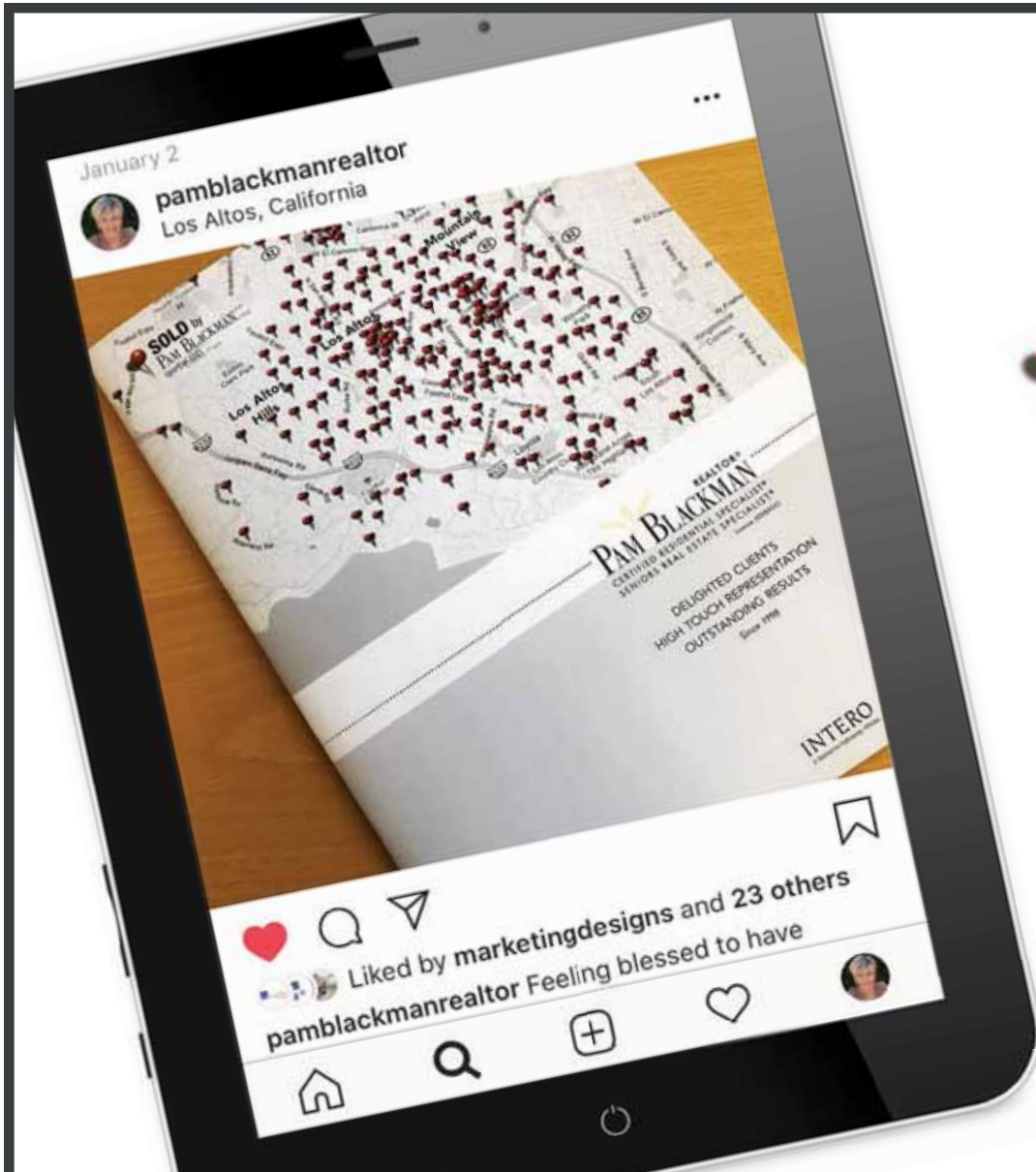
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142 Kellogg Avenue, Palo Alto

Modern Technology, Supreme Luxury in Old Palo Alto

Gorgeous Italian design blends seamlessly with the very best in modern luxury and technology in this 6-bedroom, 5-bath home, boasting 3,250 sq. ft. of living space (per permits) over three levels on a lot of 5,000 sq. ft. (per county) in sought-after Old Palo Alto. Recently completed in September 2019, no expense was spared in crafting this exquisite residence. Hardwood floors, walnut doors, sculpted wall panels, and marble baths enrapture the senses and surround you in elegance. Spacious formal rooms ideal for entertaining, a flexible floorplan, soundproofing, and seamless indoor/outdoor living spaces ensure this home meets the demands of a modern lifestyle. Plus, CAT 7 wiring puts everything you need in the palm of your hand, as appliances, home security, thermostat, and entertainment are all controlled via smart phone/tablet. With a location close to everything Palo Alto has to offer, and with access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools, this home is the epitome of Silicon Valley living.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.142Kellogg.com

Offered at \$4,988,000

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

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

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

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

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

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RECAP OF MOUNTAIN VIEW REAL ESTATE 2019

- Average Price Exceeded \$2.2 Million
- Prices down for first time since 2009
- 54% Sold Over List Price



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