Surfers walk up the beach at Tourmaline Surfing Park in North Pacific Beach before the City closed all beaches, parks, and trails on March 23.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

Surfers walk up the beach at Tourmaline Surfing Park in North Pacific Beach before the City closed all beaches, parks, and trails on March 23.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE
COLDWELL BANKER

HOSTED

750 York Court

Completely renovated and move in ready 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 979 sq ft.

In Escondido Horizon Ocean View! 2 bedroom plus den with Murphy bed, 2.5 baths located in La Jolla School area. Kitchen and baths were completely remodeled in 2012. 2 side by side parking spaces with storage in large private patio. Walk to North PB shops, restaurants, and beach $799,000

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IN ESCROW

863 Agate #3

IN ESCROW Horizon Ocean View! 2 bedroom plus den with Murphy bed, 2.5 baths located in La Jolla School area. Kitchen and baths were completely remodeled in 2012. 2 side by side parking spaces with storage in large private patio. Walk to North PB shops, restaurants, and beach $799,000

Marianne Kendall (619) 708-3523 marianne@lovapb.net ORIN120463

4011 Lamont St. 3A

Offered at $589,000

• 2 bed/ 2 bath, 979 sq ft.
• New waterproof plank flooring
• New paint
• Top floor corner unit

Marie Tolstad (619) 708-1444 matolstad@gmail.com orin132064

THE CONRAD PREBYS FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT FURTHER STRENGTHENS UC SAN DIEGO HEALTH’S POSITION TO SAFELY CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY DURING THE ANTICIPATED SURGE DUE TO COVID-19

Pradeep K. Khosla, “The Conrad Prebys Foundation has stepped up to help with our efforts in the battle against COVID-19.”

The challenge grant will double the fund-raising impact for every dollar given to the fund, a dollar will be matched by the grant, up to $350,000.

“Since March became aware of COVID-19, UC San Diego Health made immediate efforts to secure the necessary medical and surgical supplies to protect and prepare our front line health care workers,” said Patty Mageent, CEO UC San Diego Health. “This generous matching gift further strengthens our position to safely care for the community during the anticipated surge. We are deeply grateful for this support during this worldwide health crisis.”

For more information, visit campaign.ucsd.edu/impact/coronavirus

PB PLAN GROUP GOES ONLINE

Pacific Beach Planning Group, which typically meets the second Wednesday of the month in the PB Library Community Room, held its first regular group online meeting April 8.

“It went very well, No problems,” said PBPG chair Karen Rand.

“We successfully reviewed the development plans for a project on Wilbur Avenue and voted unanimously and enthusiastically to approve. Also, Assemblymember Todd Gloria gave us a fairly thorough update on recent events at the state level, and he was very generous with his time when answering questions.”

Rand said PBPG meetings every second Wednesday “will be held by teleconference until further notice. Residential construction is still taking place in San Diego, and the City is still processing permit applications, so we are working to do our part to help the permit process flow. We will continue to hear presentations on other matters too, like Trolley Station updates and various community events.”

Rand added PB Planning Group’s agendas are available a few days before each meeting at ppbplanning.org.

COVID-19 IMPACT ON SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE

In its weekly email update, The San Diego Workforce Partnership has released these figures on the impact of coronavirus:

• 224 total layoffs reported to the Workforce Partnership since March 10 (up from 168 last week)

As anticipated, the region saw COVID-19 significantly impact many companies and their workforce, with layoffs effective immediately for the majority of employers.

• 32,774 total reported employees affected (up from 21,800 last week)

This includes 19,794 in the Hospitality and Restaurant & Bar industries. This is an estimate based on the notices received by the Workforce Partnership, although the full impact to employers and the region’s economy is still unknown:

• Data from the U.S. Department of Labor: In each of the past two weeks, Californians submitted over 20 times the average number of weekly unemployment claims.

“The continued increase in layoffs points to the stark shift in how businesses must function as a result of social distancing rules,” said Peter Callstrom, president/CEO of San Diego Workforce Partnership. “While the numbers are indeed intimidating, it’s impossible to know what the future trajectory will look like. Instead, it points to the current nature of our region’s reality, as well as the demand for resources to support people who are unemployed.”

Workers can access information about resources and services by visiting workforce.
LA JOLLA Bird Rock: New Construction in 2020
6bd/6ba, 7,654 sf. $5,750,000
COMING SOON! Agent: Natalie McGhie.

LA JOLLA Lower Hermosa: Rustic Mediterranean Villa
COMING SOON! 6bd/4.5ba, 4,034 sf. $3,950,000 - $4,295,000

LA JOLLA Heights: 2 masters, quiet & serene
4bd +1 Office / 4.5ba, 3,777 sf. $3,950,000 - $4,100,000

LA JOLLA Shores: your escape from the Hustle & Bustle
3bd/3.5ba, 2,494 sf. $3,495,000

LA JOLLA Hidden Valley: Quaint ranch style.
REduced! 4bd/3ba, 2,372 sf. $1,699,000

LA JOLLA Lower Hermosa: Development opportunity w/ approved plans for a Contemporary Estate on Camino De La Costa
Agent: Natalie McGhie. $5,250,000

LA JOLLA Muirlands: One of the best views in La Jolla!
4bd/3.5ba, 3,401 sf. $1,950,000 - $2,100,000

LA JOLLA La Jolla Village: walk to UCSD, stores, restaurants
PENDING! 2bd/2.5ba, 1,074sf. $649,000 - $665,000
Agent: Kim Caniglia
Thank you for your support La Jolla!
10% OFF FOR PICK UP ORDERS
10% OFF FOR PICK UP ORDERS

Open Daily from 4pm to 8pm

166 has the potential to reduce the
mortality of COVID-19 by limiting the hyperinflammation and ARDS
associated with severe cases.”

ARDS is a frequently lethal lung
condition caused by excessive in-
flammation for which there are no
effective therapies beyond support-
ive care.

LA JOLLA COMPANY
INITIATES COMMUNITY LINK

"La Jolla Link, an online resource created with CPG Design for the
benefit of the La Jolla community, has been created by La Jolla Town
Council in keeping with its mission to serve as a community forum and
information exchange, while providing a resource for businesses to
let customers know they are open and how residents can support them,” said LJTC president Ann
Kerr Bache. “If you are a service
provider, restaurant, or any other type of business who would like

let customers know you are open and be included in La Jolla Link, send an email to lajollalink@gmail.com.

“We plan to work with other
town councils and community or-
ganizations to spread the word on behalf of our communities during this difficult time,” added Kerr
Bache. To stay informed of com-
munity happenings, visit lajollatowncouncil.org.

LA JOLLA COMPANY INITIATES CLINICAL TRIAL FOR COVID-19 DRUG

MediciNova, with San Diego corporate offices at 4,275 Executive
Square, has announced plans to initiate a clinical trial of MN-166 (budilast) for COVID-19. Acute
Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). The study will be conduct-
ed by Yale’s Advanced Therapies Group co-directed by Dr. Richard
Bucala, chief, Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology at Yale
School of Medicine.

“We are very excited to partner with MediciNova to pursue this
novel approach for the treatment of lethal inflammation in COVID-19
patients,” said Bucala. This study is especially gratifying because MN-166’s inhibition of MIF activity was
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How to Manage Stress Through Music

(StatePoint) With routines upturned and health concerns top of mind, many people are feeling an extra amount of stress these days, too much of which can be bad for one’s mental and physical health.

However, music has many mood-boosting, stress-relieving benefits. Here are four ways to incorporate more of it into your life without even leaving the house:

• Too much time spent scrolling through social media can induce anxious feelings. Allow music to provide a healthy distraction from digital devices. Carve out a block of time each day to practice your instrument.

• Get a fun, easy and most importantly, stress-free introduction to music-making with the right tools. By connecting a Casio keyboard with lighted keys to the Chordana Play App or using the app’s keyboard, beginners can gain a better understanding of music study. The app displays the music score and piano roll notation for built-in songs and MIDI files, allowing you to select which tracks to play with your left and right hands. With the ability to slow the tempo and transpose to a key that’s easier to play, you can practice at your own pace. Plus, a scoring system lets track your progress.

• Social distancing doesn’t have to be anti-social. Connect with fellow musicians from the comfort and safety at home by hosting a virtual jam session for the added stress-relieving benefits of socializing with friends, old and new.

• Expressing yourself creatively is one of the best tools for kicking stress to the curb, and making music in no exception. Once you feel comfortable with the basics, you may feel empowered to write your own melodies or even develop them fully into songs.

In these unusual times, music can benefit your mood and mental health by serving as a valuable creative outlet, a means for practicing mindfulness and a great way to connect with others.

Casa de Mañana

Located on the Coast Walk overlooking La Jolla Cove, Casa de Mañana is truly a one-of-a-kind retirement experience. Enjoy resort-style amenities like oceanfront dining, scheduled transportation, fitness center, art studio, 24-hour wellness center, assisted living services and more. Casa offers a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities, educational classes and special events. Relax in the sparkling pool and spa or dine in the nearby La Jolla Village shops and restaurants. At Casa de Mañana we take care of the housekeeping, maintenance and dining services. Casa’s friendly and attentive staff takes care of daily tasks so you can concentrate on living well and pursuing your passions. All this for one inclusive monthly fee. No entrance fees required!

Learn why Casa de Mañana has been voted La Jolla’s best retirement community year after year. Contact us at 800.959.7010 or casademana.org.

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE SENIOR LIVING

Established in early 2008, Jean Brooks (UCSD Graduate) and Todd Brooks (Air Force Veteran, US Air Force Academy Graduate) had the desire to develop a world by the sea. Pacifi c Beach, Clairemont (Mount Street Area) medical facilities and the beach. Casa de Mañana we take care of the housekeeping, maintenance and dining services. Casa’s friendly and attentive staff takes care of daily tasks so you can concentrate on living well and pursuing your passions. All this for one inclusive monthly fee. No entrance fees required!

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CASA DE MAÑANA offers award-winning retirement living in a historic setting on the La Jolla coast. Here, the views are breathtaking all times of day. Down-to-earth, inclusive, engaging and warm, it’s all the best of Southern California living. With a rich collage of exhibits, lectures, theatre, art and music nearby, Casa de Mañana is a world by the sea. It’s resort-style living and old-world charm that’s surprisingly attainable. A history overlooking the Pacific, Casa de Mañana has stories to tell. Come write your own.

Casa de Mañana

849 COAST BLVD. LA JOLLA, CA 92037
CALL US AT 800-959-7010.
CasaDeManana.org

We’re an equal opportunity housing provider. CA License #374603439
Cafes can bring out the best in people. Businesses too. Which is being proven daily with the coronavirus pandemic through the generosity of local small-businesses donating to their employees, caregivers, hospitals and first responders.

Two La Jolla small-businesses – Rickaroons at 679 Turquoise St. in North PB and Single Fin Surf Grill at 3844 Mission Blvd. in Mission Beach – have been leading the way in responding to the health-care crisis.

Organic coconut energy bar entrepreneurs, the LeBeau family recently committed to helping healthcare workers.

"Hospital staffs everywhere are going to be stressed these next few months," said company spokes-person Grant LeBeau. "Our goal is to show community support by committing to ongoing weekly donations to the staff of four local emergency rooms at some of our biggest area hospitals."

"Although Single Fin is a for-profit business, there are no profits to be made (right now), so we have switched our business plan to focus on keeping our employees employed," said restaurant spokes-person Michael Beltran. "We seek philanthropic-minded individuals or corporations who would like to provide specially designed packages to feed 20-300 essential workers who are on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic."

Noting Rickaroons has also received support from Pressed Juicery, Laird Superfood, Local Krave, Cafe Moto, FATCO, Sun Bum, Kopari and FATCO. Dark Horse, and Cafe Moto, as well as grocers and other essential workers specifically to front-line workers, as well as healthcare workers, the restaurant is adding meals that were delivered to many local hospitals. So we shifted our business to cater meals that were delivered to many local hospitals. So we shifted our business to cater meals for healthcare workers, the restaurant is adding meals that were delivered to many local hospitals.

Continued LeBeau: "We have a place on our website, rickaroons.com, where customers have been supporting us. For every box they buy – we match that. People can rally around and make a difference without having to leave their homes."

"We will be taking orders online at singlefinfood.com for 20-100 people and delivering within the City of San Diego," said Beltran. "If you can't contribute 20 meals, then contribute a few meals that will be added to other orders and delivered. Last week we prepared over 600 meals that were delivered to local businesses including children's health care workers at UCSD La Jolla's Emergency Room and Infusion Center."

"This is our slow season, so the money we make now pays our employees," noted Beltran. "That money went away overnight. We just want to keep people employed. So we shifted our business to cater specifically to front-line workers, as well as grocers and other essential workers. We take donations for the food. We prepare each meal and deliver them to the unstung heroes of this pandemic."

A sampling of other beach-area businesses helping out first responders and others on the front lines during the crisis include:

- Local business owners, Tony Hall and Doug Gans of Torrey Holistics, have donated more than 7,000 N95 face masks and over 10,000 hand sanitizers to various health centers, local organizations, customers and staff since mid-March. With shortages of medical supplies around the country caused by the COVID-19 international health crisis, Hall and Gans saw an opportunity to directly help their community, the medical workers on the frontlines, and those most vulnerable.

- The Torrey Holistics family and I wanted to make sure that our staff and community stay safe in these unprecedented times," said Tony Hall, co-owner and founder of Torrey Holistics. "Through my network, I was able to get the necessary items to support the people on the front lines who are working tirelessly to serve and protect San Diego."

Torrey Holistics has announced a portion of April sales will be donated to senior centers. For more information, visit torreyholistics.com.

- Pure Bliss Bikinis, which makes sustainable women’s swimsuits from recycled plastics, is offering their "incredible swimsuits" from his mask-making efforts.

- Juicery, Laird Superfood, Local Krave – have another 12 planned, though that can go on longer if they receive additional community support.

- San Diego-based nonprofit, has partnered with Social Tap San Diego to provide free meals to County frontline health care workers. Donations and gifts at $50,000 or more will directly to providing much-needed meals as hospital cafeterias are now operating at a diminished capacity.

"Like most of the world right now, we're challenged to come up with creative ways to support our community during this unprecedented time," said Warren Smith, president of SD Loyal. "We want to show support for our partners like Rady Children's Hospital who have switched their efforts to mask-making in a high-risk environment and could benefit from a mask from San Diego, let us know." For more information, visit pureblissbikinis.com.

- Lotus and Luna at 1552 Garnet Ave., which sells women's jewelry and accessories from Thailand, will donate a second face mask to a healthcare worker or essential business professional for personal use for every mask purchased from them. "If you're looking for a cloth-mask option for your essential outings, check out @shoplotusluna's bio at lotuslunadona.com/selections/face-masks," said Discover PB, the community's business improvement district.

- Team Phun at 685 Turquoise St., which makes custom merchandise and branded apparel, said they've been "so busy helping first responders during this crisis that we have not been active on social media. Our entire team has been actively helping the men and women on the front lines supplying masks, PPE, and other items to fight this virus with products including hand sanitizers and non-branded masks. We can also prepare home-delivered gift baskets and other items for employees working remotely."

- Grant LeBeau, from Rickaroons, gives nurse Rose Colonello a care package donation at Scripps La Jolla on April 15. Rickaroons has made 10 hospital donations and has another 13 planned, though that can go on longer if they receive additional community support. For more information, contact brant@socialtapeatery.com.

Breakfast Republic committed $45,000 to do this endeavor. As of April 10, the group has donated over 3,300 meals.

- The GoFundMe campaign launched by Breakfast Republic has raised over $12,000 in an effort to provide free meals to medical workers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Breakfast Republic (part of Rise & Shine Hospitality with locations in Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, and Liberty Station) has decided to make this an objective to feed laid off workers and frontline medical workers during this pandemic. The eatery is providing free meals to medical workers at the forefront of child care workers, those most vulnerable.
Business is booming at Green Gardens Nursery in Pacific Beach

Customers check out some vegetable plants at Green Gardens Nursery. PHOTO BY JACK GATES

There are lines of eager customers waiting to get in. Standing six feet apart, of course. Many in protective. And shoppers are not allowed inside the main building.

“We are fortunate to be open,” said Green Gardens Nursery manager Skylar Eppler, “and right now we’re seeing a huge increase in feed-yourself gardening. Customers are swooping up all sorts of veggie plants, herbs, fruit trees, planter boxes, and soil.”

Many Pacific Beach businesses have shuttered their doors because of the coronavirus. But Green Gardens Nursery on Cass Street at Beryl Street is open and thriving.

“We’re in that ‘essential business’ category because of food, we’re selling vegetable plants and seeds, fruit trees of all kinds and herbs,” said Eppler. “Business has increased by 100% overall. Because many people aren’t working right now, they have time on their hands and many are turning to edible gardening. We’re selling everything from A to Z. Apple trees to zucchini seeds.”

Eppler admits he and his 10 employees would rather be self-isolating like most people. But, he added, “We’re lucky to have the opportunity to work. Finding the balance is the ultimate goal, keeping ourselves safe from the virus, keeping the customers safe, yet trying to stay in business.”

In fact, Eppler pointed out he hasn’t had to let go of any of his employees. “I’ve added shifts for them because so many customers want to grow their own produce right now.”

While many racks are empty at grocery stores, there are racks and racks full of vegetables, herbs and fruit trees surrounding the Green Gardens property. Eppler explained there are five times more veggie and herbs racks than a month ago.

“We used to get veggie and herb deliveries maybe twice a week. Now we’re getting deliveries every day.”

Green Gardens has been a Pacific Beach landmark since 1978, but the manager said he’s never seen such a quick boost in business. “People are looking for things to do. We have queues of customers waiting to get in on the weekends.”

There are guidelines for shoppers. Customers must wait in line with a safe distance apart. Only four customers are allowed inside at a time. Employees are wearing masks. And all sales are done at an outside table. “I’m trying to make sure both staff and customers are comfortable.”

Food gardening is nothing new during tough times. “Victory Gardens” were popular during World War II to help reduce pressure on the public food supply. They were a morale boost. Those Victory Gardens provided hope for better things to come.

Sound familiar?

Restaurants and businesses open at Westfield UTC

Westfield UTC has closed to shoppers to combat the COVID-19 pandemic; however, some retailers that provide essential services and restaurants offering take-out and delivery are still open for the community at 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 125.

Westfield UTC’s $600 million makeover has been completed and has welcomed prevalent brands such as Apple, Ted Baker, Indochino, Rayban, Hermès, Kate Spade, Design within Reach, Lorna Jane, Under Armour, Jo Malone London, Kendra Scott, Marine Layer, Rodd & Gunn, Saje Natural Wellness, Superdry, and UNTUCKit. Alo Yoga and other first-to-market brands are coming soon.

The property’s health-and-wellness offering, already including an expanded 24-Hour Fitness Super Sport Club, has also welcomed San Diego’s first SoulCycle and Peloton as well as One Medical and Forward.

Available UTC restaurants offering take-out and delivery:

• Corner Bakery Café: Open 8 a.m.-3 p.m. daily for takeout and delivery only.
• Din Tai Fung: Open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily for takeout and delivery only.
• Elixirs: Open 5 a.m.-4 p.m. daily for takeout and delivery only.
• Noodles & Company: Open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. daily for takeout and delivery only.
• Queenstown Bistro: Open Mondays-Saturdays 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sundays 9-3 p.m. for takeout and delivery only.
• Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews: Open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily for takeout and delivery only.
• Seasons 52: Open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. Delivery available until 7 p.m. Curbside and takeout access til 8 p.m.
• Shake Shack: Open 11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily for takeout and delivery only.
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• Wells Fargo: Open Mondays-Fridays 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m.-noon, closed Sundays.
• Lenscrafters: Open Mondays-Fridays noon-6 p.m.

Continuing to take aggressive steps to deliver relief to San Diegans affected by COVID-19, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry announced on April 11 over $300,000 in private donations to kick start a new partnership that will expand the City’s Small Business Relief Fund and encourage more community support for small businesses as the demand for economic relief rises.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and these businesses need our support more than ever,” Faulconer said. “With the help of generous corporate partners and San Diegans alike, we are expanding our Small Business Relief Fund to keep more businesses afloat during these turbulent times.”

Cal Coast Credit Union, GoFundMe and Qualcomm have each contributed $100,000 to launch a new initiative between the City, Cal Coast Cares Foundation and San Diego Grantmakers to encourage corporate partners and individual San Diegans to donate to the Small Business Relief Fund. The fund was created at Faulconer’s urging to provide grants and micro loans to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Cal Coast is honored to partner with the City of San Diego to help local small businesses that are struggling with the people, businesses and communities we serve.”

The announcement comes less than two weeks after thousands of business owners flooded the City’s website to apply for economic assistance made possible through the Small Business Relief Fund.

City, major companies launch new fund for small businesses

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FRIDAY · APRIL 17, 2020 BEACH & BAY PRESS / LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS
Frustrated surfers want to paddle out but beaches remain closed

By Thomas Melville

In early February, surfers, sunbathers, and sightseers swarmed Ocean Beach on a glorious 75-and-sunny weekend that melted the winter weather with a warm Southern California bear hug. On the beach, the annual OB Surf Classic contestants lounged and cheered on their bros asProcedure

By Dave Schraba

ow that all California schools have been closed for the remainder of the academic year due to COVID-19, San Diego Unified School District’s approximately 6,000 teachers and more than 121,000 students have been forced to more quickly adapt to online education.

SDUSD had a soft opening for its new online system involving numerous teaching platforms on April 6. The district is going completely online following completion of student and staff instruction on Monday, April 27.

“We’ve been transitioning in to the virtual distance learning online platform making sure students have their devices (computer, tablet, or phone). We’ve been more about enhancing the capabilities of teachers on my staff. We’re in the soft launch of distance learning and really getting the week done by kids right now is being graded. It will be starting the 29th.”

MBHS English and social sciences instructor John Keast, who teaches ninth and 12th grades, is one of many teachers getting enhanced instruction on the Canvas and other online learning systems. He claims it was an idea whose time was coming, even before now.

“Canvas is used in community colleges, state universities, the UC system, and nation- and world-wide,” said Keast. “I’ve actually been beating the drum on this for the last two years, putting all my work online as a practical matter.”

Keast added numerous of his students were taking week-long sports breaks from their studies, which necessitated his putting their assignments online “I told them, ‘It’s your job to check what you missed.’”

The district’s online education software launch has thus far focused on familiarizing teachers with online delivery for their lesson plans, and engaging students in a meaningful way before graded instruction resumes April 27. All classes are designed to help teachers navigate the wide range of online tools available.

Roughly 30 different instructional classes have been offered daily to assist teachers in operating their new online classrooms, drilling down into programs including SeeSaw, Canvas, and Google Classroom. R

The district-wide effort is being led by resource teachers from the Instructional Technology Department, as well as 20 classroom teachers. This “teachers-training-teachers” approach allows for efficient instruction and sharing of best practices in a more familiar setting.

A parent of two Mission Bay High students, a junior and a freshman, who did not want to be named, said the homeschooling experience “has been probably more hands-off than others. One of my kids is on Zoom most mornings and some afternoons, and when he isn’t, he is pretty inundated with schoolwork, as he usually is.”

The parent said it hasn’t been too tough of a transition for her eldest boy, for whom, “Life has just continued from home instead of physically in the classroom.” But for her younger son, “It is a different story. He has had a bit of work from some teachers via the Canvas/Google Classroom. School apps and others. But he has had to supplement on his own due to next-to-no communication. “It has been frustrating as there are days where he doesn’t have much at all. Hopefully that will change in the coming days as the teachers get up to speed. This is a new experience for all of us, and all and sundry seem to be happy and adapting.”

Keast pointed out distance learning has other pluses. “Bringing up an advantage is that I can riddle my online assignments with hyperlinks to make sure they understand things. It’s a much more comprehensive way to address skill-building activities because nothing gets left out.”

Added Keast of online instruction, “By having a database of online learning resources, which is subject-specific, is a way to increase the amount of teaching time and decrease paper. Students don’t have to hall around 60-pound backpacks full of books and binders. That’s unsustainable – and it’s unnecessary.”

The drawbacks of online education?

“Suddenly, there is a class divide with access to devices (computers),” said Keast, adding, “The district made a smart decision to make computers available to all our kids.”

Roughly 30 different instructional classes have been offered daily to assist teachers in operating their new online classrooms, drilling down into programs including SeeSaw, Canvas, and Google Classroom.
An Open Letter from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Your Water Providers

To the communities we serve,
These are difficult times, carrying great uncertainty and many challenges. However, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and its 26 member public agencies continue to deliver safe, high-quality and reliable water supplies to homes and businesses, just as we have done for nearly a century.

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Metropolitan and your local water agencies are working together, combining our vast resources and talents, to maintain critical services to the communities we serve.

Sincerely,
Gloria D. Gray, Chairwoman

mwdh2o.com
San Diego Hunger Coalition leads collaborative action to feed children during coronavirus

In response to currently escalating food insecurity, precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, San Diego Hunger Coalition has created the Hunger Free Kids COVID-19 Response Team to address the immediate needs of school districts throughout San Diego County as they work to keep our children nourished during the current crisis.

The Hunger Coalition has joined forces with the San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative (led by UC San Diego’s Center for Community Health), the Chronic Disease and Health Equity Unit of the County of San Diego’s Public Health Department, and Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP), which leads the San Diego Farm to School Task Force.

The San Diego Foundation has asked San Diego Hunger Coalition to assume a leadership role in utilizing funds donated to the $8 million COVID-19 Community Response Fund that have been earmarked for child nutrition assistance. The Hunger Coalition is responsible for identifying needs, soliciting requests, and awarding grants to school districts from a $300,000 fund provided by The San Diego Foundation. Multiple small grants ranging from $5,000 to $20,000, administered by the Hunger Coalition, will help meal programs obtain the equipment, supplies, and safety standards required to will help school districts safely feed as many low-income children as they can reach.

San Diego Schools’ Role in Hunger Relief

One of the biggest sources of food assistance for low-income families is the federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program. According to a 2019 San Diego Hunger Coalition food assistance landscape assessment, federal youth meal programs account for 23% of all food assistance in San Diego County. This is double the output of all the region’s food banks and pantries.

With school closures, this vital flow of nutritious meals has slowed to a mere trickle.

“We have seen incredible courage and innovation on the part of school district nutrition service directors countywide,” says Anahid Brakke, executive director of the San Diego Hunger Coalition. “They have sprung into action and are now distributing pre-bagged meals, drive-thru style to parents in their cars, with no additional funding or guidance from the state and federal government.”

The Hunger Coalition says the money is there for food, however, school districts are facing incredible challenges in getting these available meals to families who need them because they don’t have the funding for the new equipment and supplies needed to transition from lunchroom to curbside meal service. The San Diego Foundation’s funds, stewarded by San Diego Hunger Coalition, will address these needs and jump-start the flow of federally funded school meals back into San Diego’s hunger relief system.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

FEATURED BUSINESS: Rohde Plumbing Company

Erling Rohde Plumbing started in 1910. It is the longest run, family-owned plumbing business in La Jolla and San Diego. The company now in Bird Rock has been operated for the last 37 years by the grandson of the founder, Michael Glancy. Mike returned from Vietnam in the ‘70s and decided to seize the opportunity to work in a “good trade.” He is also a surfer and wanted to stay close to the ocean. Mike says his company offers two valuable traits: honesty and knowledge. Rohde Plumbing’s specialties include water heater replacement, toilet, faucet, backflow protection, underground leaks including water, sewer, and gas pipes, and Ray-Pac boiler repair and/or replacement. They have earned their stellar reputation for providing genuine, caring customer service.
La Jolla Village Merchants Association holds remote meeting

By DAVE SCHWAB

La Jolla Village Merchants Association president Brett Murphy started out the business improvement district’s first remote meeting on April 8 with a message to members.

“These past four weeks have been pretty terrible for a lot of people, and we don’t have a date when we will be getting back to work,” said Murphy. “We’ve been strategizing with our fellow merchants. We want – and we need – to do everything to help businesses recover during this uncertain time. On the bright side, I can be helpful to a lot of you.”

Murphy, co-owner of La Jolla Sports Club, pointed out he was forced to close March 16. “I’m living the same life you are,” he said. “I had to close my club down and layoff 60 employees, and since then we’ve been busy establishing a food bank for them.”

The fitness facility operator said he’s applied for all possible small-business loans being offered at local, state and federal levels, and urged other LJVMA members to follow suit.

“Go through your existing lender,” Murphy urged. “Fraud is really rampant right now. We (LJVMA) will help you navigate through all that.”

Concluded Murphy, “Know that COVID-19 will change our way of life. Together, we can determine what that looks – and feels – like.”

Mayoral candidate, District 1 Councilmember and Council President pro tem Barbara Bry joined the April 8 merchants’ meeting.

“I’d like to thank you (LJVMA) for being proactive and not letting the health emergency stand in the way of your meeting, figuring out how to use technology and social media to engage the community and support small businesses,” said Bry.

Addressing homelessness in La Jolla, Bry said she visits the Village every other day to do personal business and has noticed homeless, particularly on Girard, have a higher profile now on the less-busy streets.

“I’ve asked for Porta-potties to be set up at the rec center and in the library parking lot,” Bry said, adding she has also appealed to San Diego Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team for help.

“T’m going to be asking the HOT Team to be proactive in La Jolla,” she said. “If you need to send the HOT team to deal with someone let Steve Hadley (aide) know.”

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
Strong emotional responses toward those with conflicting opinions

By Natasha Josefowitz, Ph.D.

R

cently I have noticed that I get more upset about what I used to at people with political opinions that differ from mine. Not only do I react negatively to their opinion, I react negatively to the person expressing it. This never used to be the case: I was always open-minded, even accepting differences as a positive encounter. What has changed? It does not occur to me to be disapproving about some-
tone’s taste in art or music. If I like classical music and post-impressionist paintings and they prefer r& minimalist art, it is not

An editorial note to our readers and advertisers

While we must grudgingly accept the new normal within our community for at least the next few weeks, we are determined to make the best of it. So, please be aware that San Diego Community Newspaper Group will maintain our commitment to providing you with news and information to help you see the good news of the week. We plan to continue our normal publication schedule.

We ask that you also keep us posted on the good news in your neighborhood by sending it to tom@sdcnews.com. Knowledge is power for us all, and as we spend less time in face-to-face dialogue with each other, publications like ours can help maintain the sense of community we share.

We need to share the good news with each other so that things at the orchestra during the premiere of Stravinsky’s ‘Rite of Spring’ today is considered a classic. An exhibition in Paris of early impressionists in the early 1900s was panned: today their artwork sells for millions.

Some beliefs that were common a generation ago are no longer acceptable, and so it is with econ-

omics, psychology, even literature. What used to be considered mainstream is objectionable. The banned books of a century ago are now in school libraries. Child labor was common then too; today it is illegal. It was only in 1920 that women got the right to vote in the United States. What I may call avant-garde today might be old hat tomorrow. What do we reject now that will be seen as mainstream in a few dozen years?

Political decisions can affect my life, whereas people’s tastes in the arts do not. So I take politics to heart, irrespective of the political and cultural trends of the past or what may be seen as acceptable in the future. It is the “now” that matters. It is what is impacting me today that I care about. It is not only others individual’s polit-

ical beliefs that I am beginning to disdain: I find I have a new rigid-

ity about which newsprint to follow and which newspapers to read, because they each express a po-

litical stance, which I will agree or disagree with.

I have begun to wonder about this unintentionally, because I am not the only one reacting. I see my friends becoming quite bellig-

erent when confronting people with an opposing perspective.

I wonder why there is such an-

tagonism. Perhaps it is because we live today with an uncertain future. The world’s tendency to-

wards electing leaders to the far right or far left, the looming cli-

mate change that will impact our lives and those of our descendents, predictions of severe droughts, floods, fires, the extinction of entire species, the increasing inequality of the standards of living throughout the world—all these make us uneasy and even

frightened.

When our environment ap-

pears to be dangerous, it makes us feel vulnerable. Feeling un-
safe, we tend to retreat into safe-

ty: safety is being with others like

us. We are more secure within our
group, where there is support and agree-

ment.

This is a return to tribalism.

The need to belong is more im-
potent than the need to agree with all the moral and ethical stan-
ces our tribe has embraced.

So we bend our belief systems to

our tribe’s beliefs. We bend them far

enough that when we are confronted

by others with conflicting beliefs, we

see the other people as wrong.

We bend our belief systems to

our tribe’s beliefs. We bend them far

enough that when we are confronted

by others with conflicting beliefs, we

see the other people as wrong.

"Don’t kill the messenger" is es-

pecially relevant today. I know I need to separate the message from the messenger, the content from the person. Instead of being unhappy at the uncer-

tainness of people I am fond of, I will appreciate them for who they are, for what they do, for their accen-

tuated personality, again and again.

Because I am not a part of their partisan affiliations. This may be food for thought for you, my readers, too.

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PB self-help groups impacted by COVID-19

By DAVE SCHWAB

Like most other organizations, two local self-help groups, North Shores Alano Club and God’s Garage in Pacific Beach, have both gone virtual with their 12-step meetings.

“We are closed to the public right now, though the club is usually open to paid members who can come in and hang out,” said an anonymous spokesper-

son for the Alano Club at 4861 Cass St. “We can no longer have in-person gatherings, so we just have one big room, and we are observing social-distancing requirements.”

Added the North Shores Alano Club spokesperson, “We are now providing virtual meetings with a Zoom platform.”

Pastor David Nagler of Christ Lutheran Church, which over-

sees God’s Garage at 4811 Cass St., said 12-step, self-help groups meet there including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Heroin Anonymous. One of the well-

known groups meeting there is the Dawn Patrol, which meets at 7:30 a.m.

"Those groups are not meeting right now in-person," said Nagler. “We were very concerned be-

cause we had people who are not able to be out of their meetings. So we left it to the leaders of each group to decide if they would meet if they could provide practical, safe so-

cial distancing, though most of the groups now are meeting online.”

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It goes without saying that things are different right now. Please don’t hesitate to reach out. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay in touch.

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Pacific Beach Elementary student’s courageous battle with leukemia continues

By SAMANTHA WEBSTER

A few months ago, we introduced you to Ace Pringle, the first-grader from Pacific Beach Elementary who is battling Multiple Phenotype Acute Leukemia. Since then, Ace has been going through chemotherapy treatments and hoping for remission.

Recently, Ace’s doctors recommended that he get a bone marrow transplant.

With a bone marrow transplant, the Pringle family has a few different options to get a donation. They could sign up for the national registry, look into stem cell research, or find a donor. Just this Tuesday, the Pringle family found out that Ace’s 3-year-old brother, Crue, is a perfect match.

“These next steps are going to be difficult, but the fact that Crue’s a match is huge,” says Ace’s father, John Pringle.

Ace was homeschooled before the San Diego Unified School District stopped in-person classes due to COVID-19. Now, because of the shift to online learning, Ace has been able to rejoin his first-grade class on Zoom.

“It’s been nice for Ace to join his classmates,” says John Pringle. “He enjoys connecting with all his classmates all on one screen.”

“Never would I have imagined that all the kids would have this opportunity to do online learning,” adds Amber Pringle.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed Ace to learn with the rest of his class, the virus has had an adverse effect on his parents. John and Amber, both small business owners who put their careers on hold to care for Ace, were just getting back to work before the virus reached the city.

Over the past few months, the Pringle family has received assistance from family and friends. “We’ve really had a lot of support and we’re extremely thankful to everyone who has helped out,” says John Pringle.

Like the rest of the city and the nation, the Pringle family are staying home and keeping safe. Additionally, they are celebrating the fact that Crue will play a crucial role in helping his brother.

For now, the family hopes that Ace will soon be in remission so that they can go ahead with the bone marrow transplant.

To help support Ace and his family, consider donating on their GoFundMe page at gofundme.com/ace-pringle-leukemia-fundraiser.

Woodstock’s Pizza, located at 1221 Garnet Ave., Woodstock’s Pizza Pacific Beach has launched a fundraiser called Double Your Dough – Beach has launched a fundraising initiative in partnership with The Salvation Army.

“Never would I have imagined that all the kids would have this opportunity to do online learning,” adds Amber Pringle.

Woodstock’s, PB, operated by Laura and Jeff Ambrose, is still open for carryout pick-up and delivery. The Ambroses said they’ve managed to avoid layoffs so far, primarily by asking their college-age employees with financially supportive to give their hours to employees who are solely dependent on their wages from Woodstock’s. For more information, visit restaurantj.com/ca/san-diego/woodstocks-pizza-pacific-beach/.

SAN DIEGO HUMANE SOCIETY RECEIVES BIG GIFT

SDHS has received a $50,000 matching gift from Charles and Carol Baum, which will double donations made to the organization during April. The gift was made in memory of the Baums’ beloved pets Chelsea, Winston, Sullivan and Jordan.

The gift will provide critical support for SDHS during this time of need. As the community responds to COVID-19, animals are still entering SDHS’s care daily.

Donations will ensure that the organization is able to continue providing shelter, lifesaving medical care, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, animal-cruelty investigations and more.

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FROM MY GARDEN – In troubled times, gardens are good for the soul

By LINDA MARRONE

These days, just like most of us, I am spending a lot more time at home and for me that gives me more time to spend in the garden. Plants and nature have a wonderful effect on my soul and they help me reflect on all the positive aspects of nature and not just the scary ones.

Recently, I called Green Gardens Nursery in Pacific Beach (4910 Cass St., 858-483-7846) to see if they were open and much to my heart’s delight, they are! I love it when I can help local businesses, especially during these trying times. The Nursery is usually open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily but you may want to check on times before you go, just in the event that things change.

If you can’t make it in, they are offering free local deliveries on orders $50 or more or you can call in your order and pick it up at the curbside. To respect public distancing, they are allowing only four people at a time inside, to keep everyone safe. My delivery included a variety of pansies, violas and spring flowers, along with a bunch of assorted lettuces and four-inch pots of thyme, oregano and of course, my favorite fairytale flower, foxgloves. Spring is the perfect time to plant and even a small pot of flowers, herbs or a house plant can lift your spirits.

Small rectangular box that I keep on the patio outside my kitchen was filled with lettuces and arugula in late winter (thanks to Chrisy at Green Gardens who planted them for me) and it yielded greens to add to salads for months since most leaf lettuces will continue to produce leaves as you snip off their outer ones.

Lettuces enjoy the cooler weather, so there is still time to pick up small lettuce plants in 6-packs at the Nursery and plant them in containers or in your garden before it gets too hot. Containers filled with herbs are always a welcome addition to both your outdoor garden and a sunny windowsill.

I have a small basil plant growing on my kitchen windowsill and it has thrived for months. The freshly torn leaves were a welcome addition to pastas and many other dishes for most of the winter and they added just the right summery touch to a homemade pizza Margarita last week – well semi-homemade since I used frozen puff pastry as the crust.

I planted my panies and violas in containers and all around the garden, along with the foxgloves (Digitalis purpurea). In February, I also planted a few 6-packs of the hybrid foxglove, “Foxy” and they are just beginning to show signs of sending up their enchanting flower spikes. Foxy has a smaller flower spike than most foxgloves, which grows to about 2 to 3 feet in height. I find this type of foxglove perfectly suited for container gardening.

My recent purchase of the foxglove “Excelsior” came in 4-inch pots and it is a hybrid I am not as familiar with that Lake at the Nursery suggested. “Excelsior” will have flower spikes that will grow up to 6 feet in height and they come in the usual shades of white, pink and lavender.

All foxgloves love well-drained soil and mine grow in areas with morning sun and partial shade. I water them as they begin to dry out and as the growing season is hot with either Eleanor’s V-11 Plant Food or with fish emulsion a few times. They can also be planted in the fall for the next spring but will require frequent watering, even after they establish.

As their flower spikes grow, secure them with bamboo stakes, so that they don’t break. Hummingbirds and bees flock to foxgloves, but if you have children or pets that might nibble on leaves, do not plant them in your garden because their leaves are toxic. Keep the area around your foxgloves baited for slugs and snails with non-toxic snail bait such as Sluggo, since the slimy little creatures love to eat their leaves and unfortunately they don’t seem to affect them all.

As I was getting ready for spring earlier this year, I updated the virtual tour of my ever-changing garden, which has been my passion for over 30 years. Since our local garden tours have been put on hold for now, you can take a tour of my garden on LindaMarrone.com. Enjoy, I hope it lifts your spirits and gives you hope for brighter days ahead.

The truth about masks and how to make them at home

It is recommended that you double the material which will filter out more particles but it can make it harder to breathe. I made one for myself that went over my ears and one for my husband that had elastic adjustable in the back of the head.

The next one I made had 3-4 pleats on both sides. It is the easiest one to make but it is not as tight. You can add a filter to this but that makes the pleats harder to sew. It is better to insert a slit in the back for the filter and then you can throw it away after each use. After each use, you want to wash the mask in hot water. It could also be made with ties or elastic. I tried making one using hair ties that go over the ears and that one was very comfortable for my face shape. When I used elastic, I preferred to make it adjustable. I also liked the pattern where you can leave each side open and insert the filter there.

The other consideration is the nose. I tried using pipe cleaners, floral wire, and also took off the metal part on those old painter’s gloves or pre-symptomatic and not to wear a mask. I asked around to see what others are doing to help with masks. Fivevelows twofish says they are making a total of 1,500 masks a day using the materials they have on hand. They are making a total of 1,500 masks a day using the materials they have on hand. They are making a total of 1,500 masks a day using the materials they have on hand.

I never thought I would need to make a filter, or a pocket for a filter. I am not a fan of wearing a mask but I would prefer wearing one with a pocket for adding a filter. Fiber Artist Marty Chapman is donating masks to caregivers at East County assisted living facilities. She has asked anyone who wants to donate to send it to the fabulous textile museum, Vision’s Art Museum in Liberty Station.

If you need to leave the house and you don’t have a mask, then the CDC has simple face-covering directions to make on their website. One mask is made with a piece of cotton fabric or part of a T-shirt and the other is a no-sew method with a bandana. They recommend using a coffee filter as a filter. Check it out along with all their other recommendations at CDC.gov.

If you would like to share your favorite flower, please email me at aheadinc@cox.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the coronavirus, most events have been canceled until further notice.

Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in San Diego. Learn more about our Hat Designer, Teacher & Blogger at DianaCavagnaro.com

FRIDAY · APRIL 17, 2020
BEACH & BAY PRESS / LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS
Obituary: Katie MacFarlane – Mission Bay High grad who performed with Jazz Band, Swing Choir

Mission Bay High School alumnus Katie MacFarlane, 36, a 2001 graduate, died Tuesday, April 7 from a sudden illness that may have involved complications of COVID-19.

“Although it has been said she passed due to the pandemic, that remains unknown,” said MacFarlane’s sister, Trayce Cerwick. “She passed so quickly that at this time we are still looking for answers ourselves.”

Added Cerwick: “But, even if corona is not the cause, I believe it did play a role in her death. The isolation itself allowed her illness to go undetected, and by the time she was in the ICU it was too late, her organs were completely shut down.”

“It is with a heavy heart sharing that a beloved graduate of MBHS, Katie MacFarlane, has died,” posted Mission Bay Music on its Facebook page. “She was an amazing actor, vocalist and dancer, performing multiple times at the San Diego Sacramento Jazz Jubilee and Thanksgiving Jazz Festival, and was known in San Diego for her rapid decline. She took a COVID-19 test but it proved inconclusive.”

Walraven said he regrets that the virus “will not allow a family get-together during a tragedy like this. It’s a terrible feeling. My heart goes out, not only to the people who’ve passed from COVID-19, but to everyone else who has died naturally, and their families have to go through this as well.”

Survivors include Katie’s mother, Jeanne MacFarlane of San Diego; a brother, Andy Walraven of Los Angeles; sister Trayce Walraven Cerwick of San Antonio, Texas; and a nephew, Justin Cerwick of San Antonio.

Katie was predeceased by her father, Dr. Robert D. MadFarlane, whom she loved and was known in San Diego for his work in addiction medicine.

In honor of COVID-19 victims and in solidarity with other parts of the nation that have suffered the heaviest loss of life, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer has directed all City-operated buildings and facilities to fly flags at half-staff to pay tribute to every person who has lost their life to the coronavirus.

“The City of San Diego is flying flags at half-staff in tribute to every American, Californian and San Diegan who has fallen to COVID-19 and in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in hard-hit places like New York,” Faulconer said. “The sudden passing of so many fellow Americans from a pandemic disease is unparalleled in modern history. It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the continued loss of life and I ask that you join me by keeping the departed in your thoughts and prayers.”

Over the weekend, the United States passed the grim milestone of 20,000 deaths from the illness, New York, in particular, has been the heaviest hit, recording more than 9,000 fatalities so far – the most of any state. Last week, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo described the impact as worse than the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and lowered the state’s flags to half-staff.

Recent reports have indicated San Diego’s early and aggressive action to slow the spread of the coronavirus may be helping to “flatten the curve” of local COVID-19 cases. While Faulconer has begun to express cautious optimism, he continues to urge vigilance, echoing warnings from public health officials that a premature easing of orders that mandates physical distancing might contribute to a second wave of infections.

For updates on City of San Diego services, programs, links to helpful information and steps the public can take to help reduce the spread of the disease, please visit sandiego.gov/coronavirus.

For information regarding COVID-19 cases and directives from County of San Diego public health officials, please visit coronaviru-sd.com. Text “COSD COVID19” to 468-311 for text alert updates.

A statewide “Stay-at-Home” order is in effect until April 30. For more information on the order, including what’s closed, what’s open and which industries are exempted by the state, please visit COVID19.ca.gov.

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Mayor Faulconer directs flags to half-staff to honor COVID-19 victims

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FOR SALE!
1041-1045 Garnet Ave
3 Storefronts
Offered at: $1,495,000

Ideally located far west on Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach’s famous shopping and dining district, these three units are productive assets in a location that will never go out of style. Situated on an approx. 6,250 SqFt lot, the property is currently configured as three leasable units of similar size, each with storefronts on Garnet Avenue. At least 7 private parking spaces are available behind with alley access and gated parking lot. Units are currently occupied with long-term and month to month leases.

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5231-5245 La Jolla Mesa
$1,495,000 (List)

Great location in North Pacific Beach that borders La Jolla, is within the La Jolla school district, and enjoys immediate proximity to Gelson’s Grocery Store and many more conveniences. Property is a corner lot of 7,216 sqft and consists of 5 residential units including 4 one-bedroom, one-bathroom apartments and 1 two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment. There is alley access on the south side and off-street parking on the north side currently configured as five parking spaces.

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Office & Retail Spaces for Rent

4645 Cass St. (Corner of Emerald)
Suite 102B: Perfect one or two person office. Furnished. Includes electric. Flexible lease terms. $750/month; non-NNN.

Suite 105: Approx. 450 SF open floor plan, double front glass doors-great retail space, ground floor. Bright, skylight and coffee counter with sink. $1,575/month; non-NNN.

Very desirable high-traffic location. SE corner of Emerald & Cass St., across from PB Post Office, Very secure, private and bright.

Contact David Mannis at (858) 750-5631 or david@sdcnn.com
Real estate agents still working, but using virtual tours to stay safe

By DAVE SCHWAB

Real estate agents are still showing and selling homes, but moving forward remotely to observe mandated COVID-19 social-distancing requirements.

VIRTUAL HOME TOURS

Real estate agents are using internet tools, applications like FaceTime, Zoom, and Matterport, to not only conduct meetings but transact business.

“Open houses are going virtual at least for now because we’re not allowed to have an open house,” said Ocean Beach resident Catrina Russell, of Coldwell Banker West. “So you’re going to be seeing different open-house virtual tours where people can actually log in, and we can walk them through the entire house answering any questions.”

Point Loma’s Rosamaría Acuna, of Berkshire Hathaway, said her top priority has been to “educate clients on what’s happening and how everyone involved needs to be safe.”

“We give the buyers all the information up-front with photos, emails, and everything online,” said Acuna. “Then, if they’re really interested, we would schedule an appointment for (home) access.”

ADJUSTING AND ADAPTING

When home tours are scheduled, often after a bid is actually made by the buyers, social distancing is observed under Realtors’ close control and scrutiny.

In fact, the switch from in-person to remote high-tech in real estate was taking place before the health crisis, noted Russell.

“We were already heading with a lot of this in that direction anyway,” she said. “I’m using those (internet) tools. If people (Realtors) don’t adjust — they’re going to be gone.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
My family has lived in PB since 1941 and in that time, PB has weathered many storms and has come through it stronger. When this storm passes, I look forward to the deeper roots our amazing community will have grown.

"Storms make trees take deeper roots."
- Dolly Parton