

# The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 21, 2022 | VOL. 58 NO. 7



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## Woodside High teacher shares first-hand account of campus lockdown during swatting incident

By Angela Swartz

**S**tudents sat at desks quietly taking practice SAT and SAT tests on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at Woodside High School. They were in the midst of the school's annual "College and Career Day" when one teacher noticed a custodian come and lock their door.

The teacher approached the custodian and asked what was going on. "We're going into lockdown," the custodian replied. This was the beginning of about two hours of police presence on the campus while the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office swept classrooms for what turned out to be a false "swatting" call.

Police said they received a call on the morning of Oct. 12 that there was a possible active shooter on campus. At 10:58 a.m. the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office sent out an emergency alert that police were sweeping the school, located at 199 Churchill Ave. in Woodside, as a precaution. They

noted in the alert that there was no active threat and everyone was safe.

A teacher told The Almanac that shortly after this there was an announcement from Principal Karen van Putten over the loudspeaker that the school was on lockdown, and she noted that there didn't appear to be an actual threat.

The Almanac reached out to the teacher, who agreed to be interviewed about their lockdown experience only if their name was withheld in the story. The Almanac agreed in order to give readers an insider's account of the day's events.

College and Career Day is not a typical day for the school. None of the students are in their typical classrooms: some were out on visits to local four-year colleges like University of California at Santa Cruz or San Francisco State University. Others were on campus taking the PSAT and

See **LOCKDOWN**, page 17



Magali Gauthier

A threat made against Woodside High School coincided with College and Career Day on Oct. 12, when many students were taking SAT or PSAT tests.

## Three vying for one seat in Woodside Town Council's District 2

By Angela Swartz

**T**wo newcomers are challenging Woodside Town Council member Brian Dombkowski for the newly created District 2 seat this fall. Steve Lubin, a lifelong Woodside resident, and Elizabeth Kaske, who moved to town recently from Menlo Park, have thrown their hats in the ring.

The Town Council, which is currently a seven-member body, will make the move to five members when it switches from the old "from-district" to a "by-district" elections system beginning on Nov. 8.

Only two council members will be elected for new four-year terms, even though the terms



for council members Brown (District 3), Dombkowski (District 2) and Sean Scott are all expiring. Brown is running unopposed. Scott now lives in District 1, which will be on the ballot in 2024. He could choose to run then, but he is not eligible for any of the seats on the ballot this November, according to Town Manager Kevin Bryant.

The town recently sent its proposed housing element to the state after being charged

with designating at least 328 units of new housing over the next eight years through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), a large jump from just 62 last cycle. Its proposed plan heavily relies on accessory dwelling units (ADUs), but includes some multifamily housing. The town recently received a letter with state feedback on the plan.

Planning for housing, the future of the town center and controversy over the town's decision to declare itself a mountain lion habitat and freeze all Senate Bill 9 projects were among the topics that were top of mind to candidates who live in District 2, which encompasses parts of Emerald Hills east of

Interstate Highway 280 and borders Huddart Park.

Measure A, an initiative to allow two sites in the Town Center area to be considered for outdoor community gathering spaces that passed last year by just four votes, is also still on candidates' minds. The town is awaiting additional information from the applicants to develop a parking lot in town center, said Bryant. Technical studies will be required for the review are underway. It has not yet been set for its first public hearing, he said.

The Almanac conducted interviews with the three candidates late last month, asking them about all these issues and more.

### Brian Dombkowski

Brian Dombkowski, 51, has been on the Town Council since 2018. He is CEO of Sand Hill Global Advisors.

Dombkowski, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees from University of Wisconsin at Madison, describes himself as the middle of the road candidate since he's neither new to town nor lived in Woodside his whole life, like the other two candidates.



Brian Dombkowski

See **WOODSIDE COUNCIL**, page 18

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*Congresswoman*  
**Anna Eshoo**



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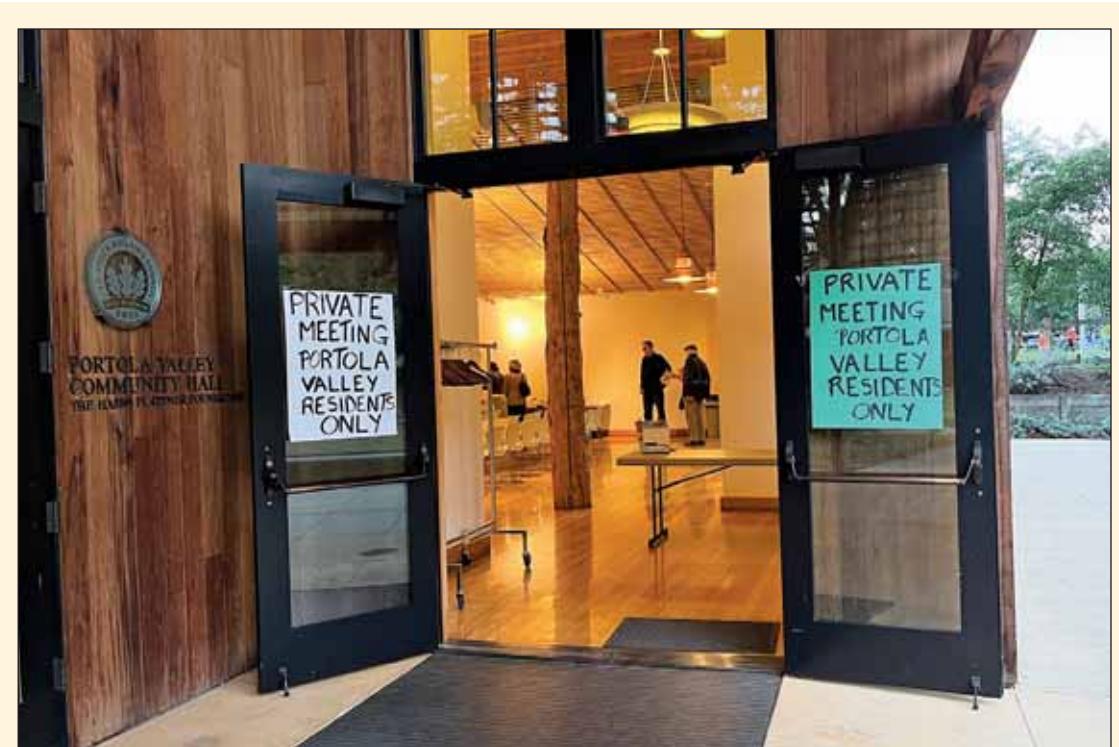


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# Local News

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Cameron Rebosio

Signs posted on Portola Valley Town Center's doors at the Portola Valley Residents' council candidate forum on Oct. 13.

## Dispute over press access at Portola Valley candidate forum

Event organizers disagreed over allowing Almanac reporter to attend election event at Town Center

By Cameron Rebosio

A candidate forum for the Portola Valley Town Council race on Oct. 13 attempted to exclude journalists and all non-residents of Portola Valley. This reporter showed up on behalf of The Almanac, with support from some residents — including one of the event's

sponsors — to observe and report on any news relevant to the upcoming election for three council seats.

The nonprofit Portola Valley Residents hosted the forum at the Town Center. All five candidates attended the forum for a meet-and-greet with the audience, followed by an open-mic Q&A moderated by resident

Judith Murphy. The event was described as a "private meeting."

I waited at the door wearing my press pass until I caught someone's attention, who directed me to Neil Weintraut, an organizer of the event. I began to ask if there was a way I could attend the event quietly,

See **DISPUTE**, page 14

## PV candidates talk electric appliance mandates, housing and term limits at exclusive forum

By Cameron Rebosio

The nonprofit group Portola Valley Residents hosted a Town Council candidate forum at Portola Valley's Town Center on Oct. 13, exclusively for residents of Portola Valley. All five candidates attended the forum for a meet-and-greet with the audience, followed by an open-mic Q&A moderated by resident Judith Murphy. The event was described as a "private meeting."

The Almanac's reporter was initially barred from entering the forum but then was allowed

to cover the event with the support of one of the event's sponsors.

The event drew a full house, with some residents standing at the back against the wall. Residents were encouraged to ask questions and their names were pulled from a bucket, where residents had written them on a ticket that certified they were a resident of Portola Valley.

Resident Jerry Secrest asked candidates if they would rescind requirements in Portola Valley for electric appliances rather than natural gas ones. Almost

all of the candidates stated that while they were in favor of household electric appliances for environmental reasons, they didn't support mandating electric appliances for all residences. Candidates Mary Hufty, Judith Hasko and Craig Taylor all said that they would support encouraging the use of electric appliances in Portola Valley, but also support retaining existing gas appliances.

"(Electric appliances) are the way to go from an environmental standpoint," Craig Taylor said.

Mayor Craig Hughes, who

is running for reelection, said that the ordinance in place to adopt California's Green Building Code does not apply to residents' existing gas appliances, but would only mandate the use of electric appliances in the 253 new units slated for Portola Valley in the next housing element cycle, a requirement that he supports. Candidate Dale Pfau took a similar stance, saying that he would defer to the state on the issue, but added that more research is needed.

Resident Andy Browne told the candidates that Portola Valley is in need of a diversity of

incomes through more housing opportunities, and asked for the candidates' stances on the topic.

Hughes said that the entire state is "chronically short" on housing and that it is critical to support diverse housing opportunities when companies aren't staying in California since there aren't enough workers. Hufty agreed that housing was critical, and said she wants to hit the ground running on building more housing without delay if elected.

"I miss the old Portola Valley

See **PV CANDIDATES**, page 11

## Menlo Park City Council tables plan to remove parking on Middle Avenue

By Cameron Rebosio

Residents at the Menlo Park City Council meeting Oct. 19 spoke out about the city's plan to remove parking on both sides of Middle Avenue, with some residents saying it was the first they'd heard of it.

Amid increased worry about the safety of bicyclists, Menlo Park city staff proposed making changes to Middle Avenue to prevent accidents, including those caused by people in parked cars suddenly opening their doors. Staff asked the council for direction on adding several safety measures for bikers and pedestrians to Middle Avenue, and to adopt a resolution that would remove parking from one side of Middle Avenue, install a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Middle Avenue and San Mateo Drive, and temporarily close Blake Street to vehicle traffic at Middle.

Council members began the discussion by suggesting that they go forward with the stop sign at San Mateo Drive and the closure of Blake Street, while tabling the discussion of removing parking. Some residents fully supported this, saying that outreach had been minimal to those affected, while others said that they didn't want to slow the progress of the resolution.

One resident, Neil Wulf, questioned if taking away parking would violate ADA requirements.

He also said that he felt completely blindsided by the topic on the agenda.

"I just feel like there's been so little effort put into notifying and working with those who actually live on Middle and that are going to be impacted with this project," Wulf said. "It's really made us lose trust in the city."

Other residents argued that there was a lot of outreach to the community and that those who wanted this shouldn't be penalized because others weren't aware of the project.

Resident Brendon Visser said that the city did a large amount of outreach and that a "small but vocal" minority didn't see it. Visser said he was disappointed that the City Council was "backtracking" on the removal of parking when it previously said it would prioritize safety.

Wulf said that he was the one to notify the staff at Little House senior center about the possible parking elimination, which he found surprising. Peter Olson, CEO for Peninsula Volunteers, which runs Little House at 800 Middle Ave., confirmed this. He said it felt unfair to not include local businesses and residents in the conversation.

"I'm here to speak for the small vocal minority, the seniors in our community who use those programs (such as Little House),"

See **MIDDLE AVENUE**, page 9

## California State Propositions Pros and Cons Presentations In-Person and Zoom

October 26, 10:30 am • In-person  
Veterans Memorial Senior Center  
Village of the Coasts  
1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City

October 26, 7:00 pm • In-person and Zoom  
Redwood City Public Library  
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City



Register for Zoom Event

Miércoles, 26 de Octubre, 7:00 pm  
Presentación presencial en la sala comunitaria de la  
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1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City

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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City  
2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City

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### TOWN OF WOODSIDE

#### Notice of Availability/ Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

#### Public Review Period:

October 13, 2022, through November 12, 2022

**Project Title:** 988 Godetia Drive Land Division  
LDIV2020-0001; CEQA2020-0001

**Project Description:** The 988 Godetia Drive Land Division project proposes to divide one existing legal parcel of record (APN: 068-301-100) into two legal parcels (Parcel A and Parcel B). The existing property is 4.96 acres. Proposed Parcel A would be 1.97 acres and proposed Parcel B would be 2.98 acres. The applicant's purpose in applying for the subdivision is to create an additional legal parcel that can be developed with a single-family residence and accessory structures. No development is proposed as part of this application.

**Project Location:** 988 Godetia Drive (APN: 068-301-100)

**Lead Agency:** Town of Woodside, P.O. Box 620005 (Mail)  
2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062

**Contact Person:** Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner  
Tel. (650) 851-6790 / Fax. (650) 851-2195

**Public Hearing:** The Woodside Planning Commission meeting to consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration is scheduled for **December 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. via Hybrid Meeting**. Notice of the Planning Commission public hearing will also be provided in a newspaper of local circulation, to neighbors within 300 feet of the project, and to all organizations or individuals who have previously requested such notice in writing.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at Woodside Town Hall, located at 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside, California 94062, and in the links below under Supporting Documents - <https://www.woodsidetown.org/planning/ceqa-review-%E2%80%93-mnd-988-godetia-land-division>

Please submit any written comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration by **5:00 p.m. on November 12, 2022** to Sarah Filipe at [sfilipe@woodsidetown.org](mailto:sfilipe@woodsidetown.org) or by mail at the Town of Woodside, at the address listed above.

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The Almanac is published  
every Friday at

**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to [AlmanacNews.com/subscribe](http://AlmanacNews.com/subscribe) to start supporting The Almanac today.

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#### CRIME BRIEFS

##### Redwood City man dies in woodchipper accident

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office has identified the man who died after falling into a wood chipper in Menlo Park on Oct. 11.

He was identified as Jesus Contreras-Benitez, a 47-year-old resident of Redwood City. A GoFundMe page posted by Lorena Cerillo to support his family said: "He was a loving father, grandfather, husband, and friend and was the head of his household here and (for) his parents in Mexico. He was a handyman at heart and is very well known for his willingness to always help others and was a very family-oriented man."

As of Tuesday, Oct. 18, over 975 donations had been made, raising a little over \$76,000.

At an Oct. 11 Menlo Park City Council meeting, Council member Drew Combs, who represents the neighborhood, expressed his condolences to the family and friends of the victim, and said that his thoughts are with city staff, police, emergency responders and residents that were at the scene.

The Menlo Park Police Department responded at 12:53 p.m. to reports that a tree trimmer had fallen into a wood chipper on the 900 block of Peggy Lane in Menlo Park's Suburban Park neighborhood. Contreras-Benitez died on the scene from his injuries, according to a press release from the Menlo Park Police Department. The Menlo Park Fire Protection District and the San Mateo County Coroner's Office also responded to the incident.

The Cal/OSHA Division of Occupational Safety and Health is his death.

—Cameron Rebosio

##### Five arrested for providing alcohol to minors

Menlo Park police officers and California Alcoholic Beverage Control agents made five arrests on Oct. 15 for furnishing alcohol to minors as part of the Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation.

The program targets adults who purchase alcohol for people under 21 years of age, according to a statement from the Menlo Park Police Department.

"Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol," the release said. "The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol."

If the adult agrees to purchase alcohol for the minor, they're arrested and cited for furnishing alcohol to the minor, for which the penalty is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

"The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors," police said. "Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of drunk driving crashes than adults. Studies also show that when youth are able to access alcohol, the chance of criminal activities increase."

—Malea Martin

#### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

##### Atherton's Halloween Spooktacular is Oct. 28

The Atherton Library and town will host its first Halloween event since 2018 on Friday, Oct. 28, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The last event took place before construction of the new civic center began and the COVID-19 pandemic's onset.

This year's event is spearheaded by the library and Atherton Police Officers Association and will take place at the library, 2 Dinkelpiel Station Lane.

There will be decorations donated by an Atherton resident throughout the civic center. Activities include a costume contest, bounce house and trick-or-treating.

##### Trick-or-Treat Street

Menlo-Atherton High School is hosting its annual Trick-or-Treat Street on Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 5 to 8 p.m. Trick-or-Treat Street includes trick-or-treating, games, prizes, music, candy and more.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 18

# Woodside housing element doesn't pass state muster just yet

One local housing advocate is encouraging the town to make a good faith effort to plan for more housing

By Angela Swartz

**W**oodside has joined the ranks of other Bay Area cities and towns that have had their housing elements initially rejected by the state, receiving feedback to make changes and resubmit it for approval later this year. It is one of six jurisdictions in San Mateo County that has received response letters rejecting their initial drafts.

In an 18-page letter sent to the town on Friday, Oct. 14, the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) notes areas where Woodside needs to provide more specificity on its housing plans, including about the 80 units of proposed housing at Cañada College.

"The draft element addresses many statutory requirements; however, revisions will be necessary to comply with state law," the letter states. The letter asks for more details and analysis across the entire plan.

Cities and towns that don't adopt a compliant housing element could face legal repercussions and stiff fines, state officials have said.

Along with Woodside, the cities of Foster City, San Mateo, San Bruno, Redwood City and Colma have received feedback on their drafts. Redwood City was the first local city to hear back from the state on its plan in July after submitting its draft in April.

Woodside's plan includes 401 new housing units, which adds a buffer above and beyond the 328 units the town is required to plan for as part of the 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation. It is a big jump from previous requirement to plan for 62 units during the last eight-year cycle.

The draft was submitted to the state on July 16 and HCD

had 90 days to offer feedback. A compliant draft of the housing element has to be approved by the town by Jan. 31, 2023.

In order to meet the January deadline, the town would need to submit a compliant draft by the end of November to give HCD 60 days to review the next draft. The town will need to revise the draft amid major changes to its Planning Department in the next two weeks. Planning Director Jackie Young is retiring on Oct. 31 and the Town Council plans to hire a consultant at its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 25, to handle revisions to the draft.

Mountain View received a 12-page letter from the state with feedback on its element in late September with more pointed critique of its plans.

## Town and housing advocate's response to the letter

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Shaw said in an email that, based on the feedback, "there is a lot to work through in the HCD comment letter ranging from granular minutiae to quite broad comments."

"Putting together the response is going to require a tremendous amount of time and effort," he said. "However, I am confident that the staff and Town Council will produce an appropriate response to HCD."

Mayor Dick Brown noted that the letter asked for a lot of detail, as opposed to simply saying "we don't like this." He acknowledges the changes will take a lot of work.

Bryant said the town expected a long letter asking for a lot of different things, based on what other towns and cities ahead of Woodside in the process have seen.

"They get really down into specific comments; I'm not

surprised by it," he said.

Jeremy Levine, a policy manager for the housing advocacy group the Housing Leadership Council, said in the first review, HCD is giving Woodside and jurisdictions the chance to justify their plans. He expects HCD will give more specific feedback once the town provides more analysis.

"The parts they (Woodside) attempted to comply with fell far short of meeting the requirements of the state," he said. "HCD can't critique analysis that the city didn't do. ... This is a letter that basically says Woodside is almost starting from scratch in the housing element. ... This is a problem that many jurisdictions in San Mateo County are facing."

"If Woodside were to act with strong political will to create a plan that was realistic, took real steps to turn city owned property to multifamily housing, and was serious about meeting its housing need, it would be completely possible it could create a good plan and submit it by Jan. 31," he said. "If it continues to pursue a status quo policy, and the town treats it (the housing element) like an opt-in game, Woodside is going to have some trouble. It's trouble of their own making."

He notes that policy advocates such as himself have written letters to the town with specific feedback on how it can improve the plan, but the town hasn't taken much of those recommendations into account.

## ADUs

The plan replies heavily into Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), with plans for residents to build 180 units by 2031.

HCD says the element must include more analysis, along with policies and programs that incentivize the production of ADUs at the affordability levels assumed in the element.

Depending on the analysis, the element must commit to monitor ADU production and affordability throughout the planning period and implement additional actions if the town fails to meet its target numbers within a specified time period, such as six months, HCD wrote.

## More high density zoning needed

To be considered feasible

for low-income housing, there needs to be at least 20 units per acre in Woodside, according to the state.

Woodside's draft housing element allocates units for lower income on sites that will be rezoned with densities of up to 10 dwelling units an acre, meaning the element does not currently support those assumptions.

In addition, if rezonings are not completed by Jan. 31, 2023, then the element must include a program to make zoning and development standards available during the planning period.

## Cañada College site

The state says the town

must clarify if there is an existing development application for the new housing at Cañada College. San Mateo Community College District officials have said publicly that there is no project in the pipeline because it doesn't yet have funds to construct the units.

If there is a pending project, the element must describe the proposed affordability based on proposed sale prices or rents or other mechanisms to ensure affordability such as deed restrictions and demonstrate their availability in the planning period, according to the state. If there is no currently pending application, the element must analyze the

See **WOODSIDE HOUSING**, page 15

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Magali Gauthier

Community members participate in an ADU workshop hosted by the town in Independence Hall in Woodside on Sept. 22.

# Four strive to fill three seats on the Menlo Park fire district board

Candidates talk diversity, finances and district's relationship with Atherton

By Cameron Rebosio

Two incumbents and two newcomers are striving for a spot on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's Board of Directors. Board President Chuck Bernstein and Board Member Robert Jones are running for reelection, with candidates Gary Bloom and Dionis Papavramidis seeking to join the board. The fire district provides emergency services to Atherton, East Palo Alto and surrounding unincorporated communities as well as Menlo Park.

Candidates responded to The Almanac's questionnaire, making a case for why they're the best fit for the fire board, while also addressing key issues related to financial oversight, emergency planning and how to best work with cities and towns within the district's boundaries.

## Chuck Bernstein

Incumbent Board President Chuck Bernstein has served on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's (MPFPD) Board of Directors for nearly a decade



now, but he believes there's still work to be done.

Bernstein works as an educator, serving as the president and founder of Early Learning Institute, an educational organization based in Palo Alto. He also teaches literature and economics and business within the program, as he has a Ph.D in languages, literature and linguistics and an MBA, both from Stanford University.

Bernstein has also served oversight roles for a multitude of organizations. He is a current member of San Mateo County's Countywide Oversight Board of the Former Redevelopment Agencies — which controls over \$400 million in former redevelopment agency properties

— and a former member of Menlo Park's Budget Advisory Committee and the CERT Advisory Board.

Bernstein said that he is the best candidate for the job due to his diligence, financial experience, leadership experience and willingness to serve.

If reelected, Bernstein said he aims to improve the quality of information the board receives from district staff. Bernstein said that in the past, the MPFPD has made decisions based on incomplete or incorrect information from the staff.

"We board members have not insisted on participating in critical decisions because of our fear of being accused of micromanaging and probing 'in the weeds,'" Bernstein wrote. "However, the devil is in the details, and we were content, far too often, with letting the devil win."

He said he has learned from his experience that it is essential to "trust but verify" when provided with information by district staff. Bernstein provided examples, saying that the district moved to a four-day

workweek without approval from the board. Bernstein believes a public agency should be open five or six days a week. He also does not agree with senior management having two months of paid vacation, as they're essential to the district and cannot take two months away from work.

"It is mostly the decisions we did not make and that were delegated that I regret," Bernstein wrote.

Bernstein also said that the district has "more than adequate" revenue from taxes, and while he doesn't predict an issue with monetary shortages, he does see a problem with employee compensation. According to Bernstein, the MPFPD has the highest average compensation per person of any government agency in California, which he said should not continue.

One problem the board has faced recently is a fractured relationship with Atherton. The town discussed separation from the district in 2020, over complaints that with its higher property values, its tax revenue

was making up the majority of MPFPD's funding, without receiving commensurately higher services or benefits.

Bernstein said that he would want to deal with the situation by meeting with constituent agencies once a year, and said he has had a productive conversation with Atherton earlier this year. Bernstein said he planned to meet with Menlo Park on Oct. 20 and is scheduling a meeting with East Palo Alto.

Bernstein said that the dispute was over finances, not the quality of the service the MPFPD was providing, and that he was also unhappy with some of the district's priorities in the budget.

"(The MPFPD) does not serve the cities, town, and county that comprise it; it should serve its residents," Bernstein said. "However, to ensure effective and efficient services to residents, it should cooperate with its constituent (and neighbor) agencies, as well as the parallel agencies."

Bernstein's website can be found at [chuckbernstein.org](http://chuckbernstein.org).

See FIRE DISTRICT, page 16

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# Menlo Park releases final impact report on Meta's massive Willow Village project

Report addresses air quality, housing and native burial preservation

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park has released the final version of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Meta's Willow Village development, which is now available for public review. The project will redevelop 59 acres with up to 1.2 million square feet offices and 1,730 homes.

Meta, formerly known as Facebook, has plans to build the ambitious mixed-use development with office and residential uses along with a hotel, retail and commercial space, a dog park and a publicly accessible park in the Belle Haven neighborhood. The main development would be built along Willow Road between Hamilton Avenue and Ivy Drive, according to the application.

As the project winds its way through the development pipeline, the amount of square footage dedicated to office and hotel use has not changed.

Commercial and residential use grew to over 87,000 square feet and residential use has increased to nearly 1.5 million square feet in the final report, the largest use of land in the project.

One of the major differences between the draft EIR and the final version is a proposed tunnel project at Willow Road. Meta had planned to build an undercrossing at Willow Road for bicyclists and pedestrians as a part of the required community amenities, but it was removed from the proposal. The EIR has now changed to indicate the tunnel as a possibility, rather than a certainty, and the undercrossing can now be built at the discretion of Facebook.

Construction at Willow Village is now expected to cause the removal 781 existing trees — 276 of which are heritage trees — with plans to plant about 1,780 trees.

Of the planned 1,730 units of housing, about 18% of those

units will be below-market-rate units, translating to 312 units of affordable housing, according to the final EIR document. Willow Village also plans to bring in a net increase of 4,332 new jobs, which is expected to generate 419 new residents in Menlo Park, according to the analysis.

The report also highlights mitigation measures surrounding the Native American burial and archaeological site at Hiller Mound where Facebook plans to develop. The draft EIR addressed the possibility of disturbing native burial sites, and said that the risk was unavoidable. The developer said that they would work around the site as much as possible.

Monitors from each consulting tribe will be allowed to be present at the location of work that disturbs ground at the site and there will also be confidential and pre-designated areas for the reburial of Native American remains

found during the construction of Willow Village.

The developer will also appoint a tribal monitoring coordinator to create easy communication between the construction team and tribal monitors on all necessary aspects of the project.

With the mitigation efforts, the impact on human remains is expected to be less than significant, the report said.

Additionally highlighted in the final EIR, emissions have gone from significant and unavoidable to less than significant with mitigation, specifically with cancer-causing agents.

The final EIR is currently available for review and comments. Send written comments to Planning Manager Kyle Perata by email or letter until Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. View the EIR at [beta.menlopark.org](http://beta.menlopark.org). ■

Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).

## MIDDLE AVENUE

continued from page 5

Olson said. "To not engage the CEO of a senior services provider in your community is shocking to me. They are often the forgotten and the unheard."

Other residents felt it unfair that the council delayed a decision that they had fought for.

"To only approve two fairly small items with that plan and send the rest back to the drawing board doesn't feel fair," resident Misha Selon said. "I understand the parking issue is controversial, and it sounds like some people were caught unaware. I encourage the council just consider the outreach that was done, and not necessarily whether some people perhaps didn't notice it."

Council member Drew Combs was vocally against taking any action on removing parking without making sure every affected resident knew. However, Council member Jen Wolosin said that she was uncomfortable deferring the decision to an unknown return date.

The council voted 4-0 in favor of installing the stop sign at San Mateo Drive and closing Blake Street as a part of a pilot program while tabling the removal of parking for another meeting at an unspecified date. ■

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# Four competing for three seats on Ravenswood City School District board

By Angela Swartz

With longtime Ravenswood City School District (RCSD) governing board member Ana Maria Pulido not seeking reelection, at least one new member will join the board this fall. There are three seats are up for election and two incumbents are in the race.

Board President Mele Latu, Vice President Tamara Sobomehin, along with former candidate and teacher Laura Nuñez and newcomer Manuel R. López, an aerospace engineer, are seeking office on Nov. 8. Latu, Sobomehin and Nuñez said they formed a slate called "Ready Set Ravenswood" to combine their diverse experience.

All four candidates support development of the vacant former Flood School campus in Menlo Park into affordable housing for teachers and staffers. The Flood School site has become a cornerstone of a political fight around Measure V, a ballot measure that would prevent multifamily housing development on the flood school site without a general election vote. There has been heavy debate over a proposal by the district to build 90 units of affordable housing for teachers at the vacant campus, which is located in an area zoned for single-family homes and would be directly impacted by the measure. The district is looking to lease the site to develop for staff housing.

The Almanac interviewed the four candidates via questionnaire, asking them about issues ranging from the district's finances, developing the Flood School site, declining enrollment and more.

## Mele Latu

Mele Latu, 31, works in development and was appointed to the school board in 2020. She previously ran for the board shortly before her appointment.



Mele Latu

Latu, who holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Johnson & Wales University, has lived in the district for over two decades. She has over 10 years of experience working in East Palo Alto. She was previously a program coordinator for One East Palo Alto for over four years, according to her LinkedIn profile.

"I've spent my life learning and working alongside East Palo Alto leaders like the late Dr. Faye McNair-Knox, Uncle Bob Hoover, Dr. Omowale



Satterwhite, MamaDee Uhila, and more to build a better East Palo Alto," she said. "I've learned about community building and leaning into our community to build up future leaders. As I grew up in this community and tapped into local programs I realized the importance of education and building an environment that supports the whole child. I love that Ravenswood has made adjustments to meet our families where they are and to build a district that our children and families deserve."

She credits the current board with negotiating and implementing one of the biggest pay increases for teachers in the district to date (10% last school year).

Latu said her top three priorities, if elected, are: improving the educational ecosystem within the district, "financial-proofing" the district, and expanding the district's early childhood development programs to serve children 6 months and older.

She supports developing the Flood School site, which she says will bring more affordable housing to the region.

The district was one of the latest in the region to drop its mask mandate. Case counts in East Palo Alto were also higher than the rest of San Mateo County during much of the pandemic. Latu said that the school board made the right decision during a time that was appropriate for the district.

The declining enrollment rate is a major concern and the district is proactively working to improve enrollment, which has been lost to families moving out of the area or switching to charter schools, she said.

According to Superintendent Gina Sudaria, the district is actively recruiting families through outreach, community meetings, advertisements and family workshops.

## Manuel R. López

Manuel R. López, 34, is an aerospace engineer at Palo Alto-based Teal Drones who has lived in the district for nine years. This is his first time running for the school board.

López was raised in Bogotá, Colombia. He moved to the Bay Area to study at Stanford University, where he earned master's and doctoral degrees in the aeronautics and astronautics

department. He has a 2-year-old daughter and is concerned that public school options in the area are not very competitive.

"My family and I enjoy the relative proximity to superb parks, recreational centers, libraries and Stanford," he said. "I am very grateful that my mom, who speaks Spanish exclusively and lives near me, can form friendships with neighbors and be understood at shops around her. Based on conversations with teachers, parents, and administrators at the district's schools, I feel very fortunate that everyone involved in our children's education genuinely cares for their wellbeing and is eager to improve continuously."

He said Ravenswood's standardized test results do not currently reflect district teachers' dedicated work.

"We do need to measure how we, as parents, teachers, and voters, are preparing our children to become future leaders and effective contributors," he said. "As a board member, I can direct efforts toward finding ways to track our children's academic success in a more meaningful way, so we can hold ourselves accountable for consistent and continual improvement for all children."

He has three priorities for the district, if elected:

- Pay teachers competitively by raising starting salaries from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

- Foster extracurricular programs for high ambition students, for example: math, chess, arts, music clubs that participate in state, national, and international organizations or competitions

- Foster parent engagement and integration: "I am sure many parents want to get engaged in fundraising and volunteering efforts. Upwards of 75% of the children of our district are considered English learners. ... We need to ensure that parents are aware of what would make their children competitive college applicants. As a first generation immigrant myself, I know this information is just not easy to come by in languages other than English."

Of the Flood School site, he said: "The more we can do to provide options for them to live close to where they support our children, the better."

In terms of the enrollment decline, he wishes that the district wasn't facing the problem of figuring out what to do with

the schools it had to close. He would like to see more outreach to attract new parents to the district.

He'd like the school board to implement measurable metrics to track progress on strategic priorities.

"The board has shown it is very compassionate, culturally aware, and knows how to run schools," he said. "They have executed an impressive financial turnaround and are making the right calls to keep a balanced budget in the face of slowly declining student enrollment. They convinced voters to pitch in to improve facilities and increase educators' salaries, and the funds are being handled transparently and responsibly."

Website: [lopez-for-rsdc-2022.com](http://lopez-for-rsdc-2022.com)

## Laura Nuñez

Laura Nuñez, 32, is a teacher at East Palo Alto Academy and a former school board candidate. She ran in 2018 with Tamara Sobomehin and lost by fewer than 50 votes. She also applied for the appointment when Stephanie Fitch left, Mele Latu was ultimately appointed.

She is a Ravenswood Education Foundation board member. Her family moved to East Palo Alto in 1997 and she only lived elsewhere during her college years. She graduated from Ravenswood schools and Eastside College Preparatory School. She holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, master's degree from Notre Dame de Namur University.

"My entire life has been a radius of five to 10 miles from East Palo Alto," she said. "My entire family is invested in this community. ... We love this community and its rich mix of cultures. We have worked towards making a better future for ourselves, our community and now, my own daughters."

She is running on the Ready Set Ravenswood slate because she believes the candidates are the most qualified, noting they collectively have 40 years of experience working in education, 57 years working in the community and say they have touched over 20,000 students' lives.

She would like the board to work with staff to make sure that students are being taught at grade level and that the district has plans for students who might not be at grade level yet.

She said it's unacceptable that the district has been trying to work with the city of Menlo Park and the residents in that area to come to an agreement about the Flood School campus, but once they are close to an agreement,

something else that has come up.

"The Flood School site is district property," she said. "Some district staff drive two hours each way to work, this is not sustainable. When the district surveyed the staff, there was a huge demand for district housing, and affordable housing is needed in this area."

She credits the board with hiring Superintendent Gina Sudaria and maintaining a strong rapport with the Ravenswood Teachers Association.

"The 10% raise for teachers was long overdue. With this raise, the district was able to bring the teacher salaries from the worst paid in the county to above average," she said.

She noted that the Ravenswood Education Foundation has provided bridge financing to make sure that the district can pay for this raise for the next three to five years.

In regard to decreased enrollment, Nuñez said that in the past, schools were not educating students as well as they should have.

"The current administration is doing a fantastic job changing that and making sure that the students are ready for the next phase," she said. "It makes sense that in the past, families preferred to send their students to charter schools. I look forward to being part of the team that changes that trend. Ravenswood is doing great things, and once the community sees the excellence that is happening in Ravenswood schools, they will want to send their children to RCSD."

Her previous work with nonprofits includes StreetCode Academy, the Boys and Girls Club and EPA.net.

Website: [readysetravenswood.org](http://readysetravenswood.org)

## Tamara Sobomehin

Tamara Sobomehin was elected to the school board in 2018. She has volunteered and worked in the Ravenswood community for over 20 years.



Tamara Sobomehin

Sobomehin, chief education officer for StreetCode Academy, an East Palo Alto nonprofit that offers free courses in coding, entrepreneurship and design, has lived in the Ravenswood district for seven years. She has four children, in preschool through high school, and is currently working toward her Ph.D. in education from Stanford University. She holds a master's degree in education from University of Texas at Arlington and a bachelor's degree from Stanford.

See **RAVENSWOOD BOARD**, page 11

**RAVENSWOOD BOARD***continued from page 10*

"I was born and raised in a community very similar to Ravenswood," she said. "I was the first in my family to graduate college. I've experienced the naysayers and the deficit politics. Yet through it all, I've experienced the power that care, creativity and connection can yield over any circumstance. That is what I want to continue to bring to Ravenswood. This is my home and this is life work for me."

Her three goals, if reelected, would be fostering transdisciplinary education, using valid tools to assess students based on personal academic and social needs of students and encouraging joyful learning.

She would like to push for the board to more intentionally design school systems that recognize and align with the distributed nature of learning and intelligence.

Of the development of the Flood School site for affordable housing, Sobomehin said: "Affordable housing empowers social sustainability by creating opportunities to support the retention, stabilization, and well-being of teachers, staff, and others wishing to live in the local area. Exploring this opportunity is exciting as it is

an example of how our society's agencies and systems can work together to share resources and create healthy, thriving communities."

She said declining enrollment has been a "significant challenge" for the district. Rising costs of living, lack of affordable housing, and additional options for enrollment through free and tuition-based private schools, charter schools, and the Tinsley transfer program, which requires Peninsula school districts to accept transfers of some minority students from the Ravenswood district into their districts each year, have all contributed to the enrollment dip.

"However, we are starting to see enrollment in the district stabilize and we have established a fiscally solvent budget with a healthy reserve," she said. "We are offering specialized academic programs to support our current students as well as students across the broader community, and we have spurred the return and re-enrollment of some of the families who previously left our district as a result."

Candidate website: [readystravenswood.org](http://readystravenswood.org). ■

*Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).*

**PV CANDIDATES***continued from page 5*

that had a more diverse housing supply and I'm dedicated to getting this done," Hufty said.

Taylor said that Portola Valley needs to consider multifamily housing, stating that "when the plumber moves out, a plumber doesn't move back in." Taylor said that Portola Valley is not an option for people of many income levels and careers.

Hasko and Pfau agreed that there should be more housing in Portola Valley, but said that the state mandates are not the way to achieve this.

"We need more diverse housing opportunities in town," Hasko said. "Are the state mandates the way to get there? No."

Hasko said that she wants to support aging in place and local workers, and Pfau said that the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers, which assigns the number of new units Portola Valley must plan for over the next eight years, are wrong, and the town's safety element needs to be prioritized before any new housing is built.

Resident Alice Shenk asked candidates for their opinions on instituting term limits for Town Council members.

Pfau said that he believed in

a term limit of four to eight years, after which people can stick around with institutional knowledge to assist the council in decisions. Hufty agreed that two terms would be enough for council members because changes in power would make changes in the town.

"Why would we want a few people to know all the secrets?" Hufty asked.

Taylor also said that he supports term limits so that council members don't burn out. He said that if people stay on the Town Council too long, by the time they leave they don't want to contribute institutional knowledge to the new council.

Hughes and Hasko said that they did not endorse implementing term limits on the Town Council. Hughes said that Portola Valley can often see several election cycles without anyone running for a seat and that knowledge of the intricacies involved in running the town comes with time and experience. Hasko said that there should be a balance, but Portola Valley has a strong sense of tradition.

Residents of Portola Valley will be voting to fill three Town Council seats in the Nov. 8 election. ■

*Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).*



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# Atherton forum: Candidates talk policing, Menlo College housing and pedestrian safety

By Angela Swartz

Housing at Menlo College, policing and road safety were all top of mind to the four candidates — incumbents Mayor Rick DeGolia and Vice Mayor Bill Widmer and two challengers, Greg Conlon and Stacy Miles Holland — for the three seats on the Atherton City Council during a forum at the Atherton college on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

About 35 people attended the forum put on by the Menlo Civic Engagement Coalition, a group of students working to increase student civic interest and voter participation, and the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County. Menlo seniors Diana Guardado and Joshua Villalva moderated the forum. The students posed prepared questions along with questions from the audience.

In August, the town submitted its draft housing element, a road map for accommodating future development over the next eight

years, which included a major jump in the number of units required. The town expects to get comments back from the state by early November. The town's plan relied heavily on homeowners building backyard accessory dwelling units and splitting lots.

Menlo College Dean Melissa Michelson noted in a press release for the forum that Menlo College students, as well as resident faculty and staff, are Atherton's largest voting bloc, about 500 of the town's 5,000 overall eligible voters.

"That means votes from the Menlo College community can decide this election," Michelson said.

## Housing at Menlo College

The town's draft housing element includes 40 units of staff and faculty housing on Menlo College's campus, which President Steve Weiner said the college needs.

Widmer, a former adjunct professor at the college, said that it's

in the town's interest for Menlo College to build more housing on campus. Widmer said there are several residents who are interested in potentially donating to make the project happen. He noted that the recent dorms on campus don't count toward its state housing goals because they don't have individual showers and kitchens.

"We were quite upset about that," he said.

DeGolia said that Menlo College needs housing for staff and the council wants to support the school to make that happen.

"It's about money," he said. "We met with two developers that are interested in that (project). It's a funding issue, but it's doable. ... There's nowhere more important than at schools to build housing, so they can live locally and not have to commute."

## Pedestrian safety

Widmer brought up that the City Council will vote at a Wednesday, Oct. 19 meeting,



Angela Swartz

From left, Atherton Vice Mayor Bill Widmer, Stacy Miles Holland, Mayor Rick DeGolia and Greg Conlon during an Oct. 18 City Council candidate forum in El Camino Hall at Menlo College.

after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline, to support a project to install bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along a 1.5-mile segment of El Camino Real, between Selby Lane and Valparaiso Avenue, by repurposing the third lane or on-street parking for new bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The council will also vote on submitting a grant application to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for project planning funds. It will cost \$1.6 million to fund the project

study and initial environmental review.

DeGolia said he doesn't necessarily support changing the width of El Camino Real to two lanes because there are no stores or businesses that you can walk to in Atherton, and it could lead to more traffic congestion.

Miles Holland shared anecdotes about feeling unsafe walking the streets of Atherton with her toddler.

"Lots of families drive kids to

See **ATHERTON FORUM**, page 16

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# 50 Faith Leaders Say NO to Measure V

We are leaders from different faith traditions, but we all share a deeply held belief in pursuing basic fairness, recognizing our interdependence, and protecting the environment. We are faith leaders, but we are also local parents, tenants, and homeowners who, like you, care about our neighborhoods.

On November 8, Menlo Park residents will vote on Measure V, a measure that seeks to "preserve and protect" the status quo by obstructing a plan to produce 90 affordable homes for teachers and classified school staff.

Today, we lift our collective voice in a resounding NO on Measure V. Why? Because our faith teaches us to pursue fairness by caring about our neighbors and working toward the common good. Our faith reminds us that society is responsible for ensuring everyone can access the vital conditions for well-being, not just some.

Unfortunately, the high cost of living makes this vision increasingly unattainable not only in Menlo Park, but across our region. Because housing costs have far outpaced local incomes, a large portion of our workforce must trek from outer suburbs, keeping younger generations from living near and caring for their elders, limiting teachers' time with students due to long commutes, and forcing our gardeners, nurses, restaurant workers, and firefighters to

spend hours on the road instead of at home with their families. We must insist on more inclusive housing policies that temper rising costs and allow people at different income levels to work, live and prosper in our neighborhoods.

Our faith also teaches us to recognize our interdependence. The lack of affordable housing impacts us all; when housing costs are too high, we all lose. We lose gifted teachers in our schools. We lose local retailers who cannot retain workers. We must work together to solve the collective problem of unaffordable housing in order to ensure the civic and social fabric of our community.

Finally, our faith compels us to care for the environment essential to all life on Earth. When folks can afford to live near their jobs, they create less traffic and consume fewer climate-warming fossil fuels, ensuring cleaner air for all. Affordable housing enhances the health and well-being of our neighbors and our planet.

Measure V does not pursue fairness, recognize our interdependence, or protect the environment. It maintains a status quo that is unfair, unhealthy, unsustainable, and inconsistent with our faith traditions. Rather than outsourcing solutions to other communities, let's make Menlo Park a beacon to the region by welcoming new neighbors who need affordable, stable homes in order to flourish.

## Vote No on Measure V.

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Fellowship Redwood City  
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Rev. Michael Cronin, Island United Church  
UCC Foster City  
Rev. Melissa Douaire, UCC

Dr. Tovis Page, Unitarian Universalist

Rev. Andrea V. Howard-Washington, Baptist  
Rev. Ann Duncan, United Methodist  
Deacon Lauren P. McCombs, Episcopal  
Rev. Sun Hee Kim, United Methodist  
Rev. Katie Goetz, United Methodist  
Rev. Pamela Gehrke, Unitarian Universalist  
Rev. Courtney Geibert, Lutheran  
Rev. Melissa Thomson, Unitarian Universalist  
Rev. Nina Irene Kalmoutis, Unitarian  
Universalist  
Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones, Unitarian  
Universalist  
Rev. Rowan Fairgrove, EPS  
Rev. Terri Echelbarger, MCC  
Rev. Ben Meyers, Unitarian Universalist  
Rev. Jorge Bautista, Iglesia Unidos in Cristo  
Rev. Paul Baines, Church of God in Christ  
Minister Donna M. Warfield, Maranatha  
Christian Center  
Rev. Dave Samelson, United Methodist

Ad paid for by No on Measure V — Menlo Park Neighbors for Affordable Homes, sponsored

by Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County, Committee major funding from:

Karen Grove  
John A. Sobrato  
John Matthew Sobrato



## RESOLUTION NO. 2254 (2022)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY  
SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

## Lands of Pistol &amp; Khorsand

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.

- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

**IT IS RESOLVED** by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: November 9, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025  
& via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i.).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The General Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

## Exhibit A

EXHIBIT A  
PROPOSED ANNEXATION TO  
THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
LANDS OF KLEIN, LANZA, REED  
URBANOWICZ, AND CARSTENS

THOSE CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE MOST NORTHEAST CORNER OF THAT CERTAIN 1.622 ACRE PARCEL AS SAID PARCEL IS SHOWN ON "RECORD OF SURVEY OF A PORTION OF RANCHO EL CORTE DE MADERA FOR ORA V. WALKER" RECORDED OCTOBER 20, 1961 IN BOOK 139 OF MAPS AT PAGE 27, RECORDS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY; THENCE SOUTH 14° 04' 03" WEST 349.21 FEET; THENCE NORTH 70° 56' 00" WEST 113.90 FEET TO A POINT ON A NON-TANGENT CURVE, CONCAVE TO THE NORTHWEST, THROUGH WHICH A RADIAL LINE BEARS NORTH 40° 02' 00" WEST; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG THE ARC OF A 202.98 FOOT RADIUS CURVE THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 27° 00' 00" AN ARC DISTANCE OF 95.65 FEET; THENCE TANGENT TO LAST SAID CURVE SOUTH 76° 58' 00" WEST 148.45 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A TANGENT CURVE, CONCAVE TO THE NORTH; THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE ARC OF A 200 FOOT RADIUS CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 44° 32' 00", AN ARC DISTANCE OF 155.45 FEET; THENCE TANGENT TO LAST SAID CURVE, NORTH 58° 30' 00" WEST 58.77 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 35° 35' 00" WEST 20.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 58° 30' 00" WEST 30.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 35° 35' WEST 100.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 58° 30' WEST 150.80 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF LOS TRANCOS CREEK; SAID LINE ALSO BEING THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT PER RESOLUTION NO. 1039, RECORDED DECEMBER 8, 1986; THENCE ALONG SAID EASTERN BOUNDARY OF WBSD AND SAID CENTERLINE OF LOS TRANCOS CREEK NORTH 60° 16' 29" EAST 30.17 FEET; THENCE NORTH 10° 15' 50" EAST 72.13 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID EASTERN BOUNDARY OF WBSD NORTH 59° 33' 16" EAST 75.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 05° 15' 00" EAST 62.07 FEET; THENCE NORTH 20° 00' EAST 105.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 8° 00' EAST 127.00 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID EASTERN BOUNDARY OF WBSD NORTH 59° 33' 16" EAST 84.24 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID CENTERLINE OF LOS TRANCOS CREEK SOUTH 75° 55' 57" EAST 673.26 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

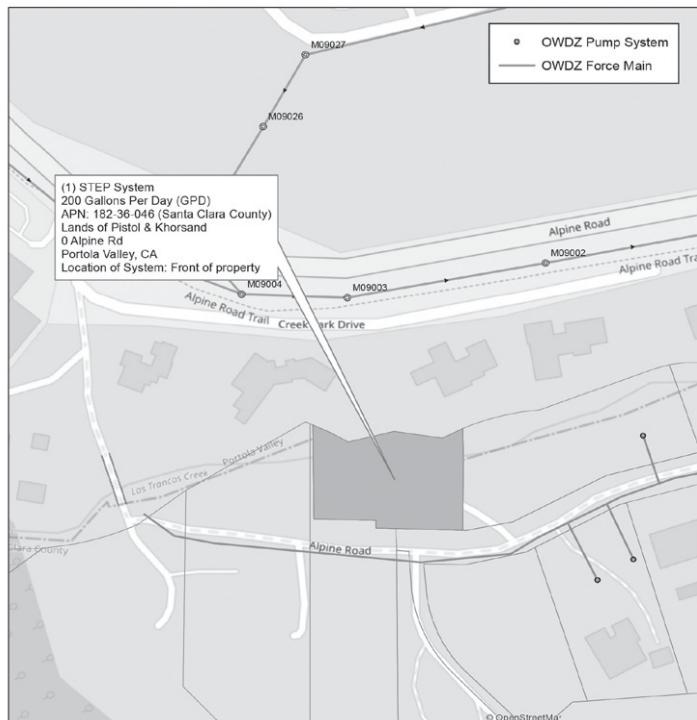
SAID LANDS INCLUDE A 50-FOOT RIGHT OF WAY FOR OLD ALPINE ROAD AS SAID DEDICATION IS SHOWN ON AFORESAID RECORD OF SURVEY.

CONTAINING 7.10 ACRES, MORE OR LESS

APN'S 182-36-018 182-34-096 -SB 546  
182-34-053 182-34-044  
182-34-045 182-34-029



## Exhibit B

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
EXHIBIT "B"  
SITE LOCATION  
0 ALPINE RD  
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA  
GRINDER SYSTEM

## DISPUTE

continued from page 5

but halfway through my question he took me by my shoulder and started leading me to the door.

"You posted an article saying you knew this and you still showed up," Weintraut said.

Once outside, I encountered a group of residents who were upset about the press being banned from entering the forum. Two of those residents included Town Council member Maryann Derwin and resident JoAnn Loulan, executive director of the Democratic Messaging Project, both of whom had spoken out against the exclusion of non-residents in the lead-up to the forum.

Derwin and Loulan went in to speak to two people at the door, who Derwin says were members of Portola Valley Residents, before leading me into the forum.

"JoAnn Loulan and I would not hear of (press being banned) and argued with the folks at the door, most ungraciously on my part, and they relented," Derwin wrote in a statement that she posted on The Almanac's Town Square.

I sat between Loulan and Derwin in the front row, where Weintraut approached us. He repeatedly asked if I knew I was not permitted to enter and came in anyway. Derwin and Loulan attempted to tell him that they had brought me in.

"I repeatedly interrupted to explain that it was me and JoAnn who were the defiant ones, not Cameron, and annoyed, the gentleman told me to stop interrupting," Derwin wrote. "I called him an as\*\*le at which time he jumped up, grabbed his iPad, turned it on "record" and pounded me in an insane attempt to admit that I did in fact call him an as\*\*le, which I did."

Derwin added that she stands by the comment.

Weintraut attempted to get me to say that I had defied him, to which I replied that others at the door told me I could come in. He then demanded a front-page retraction of "an article" that was factually incorrect. He did not clarify which article was allegedly inaccurate.

In the end, Weintraut allowed me to stay in the meeting. Residents asked questions about mandating electric appliances and the overdue city audit, among other topics, while I took notes.

"Looking back, I am unsettled by the fact that had JoAnn and I not been willing to fight for Cameron, the sponsors of the community event would have succeeded in barring the press in a shameful act of chipping away at democracy in Portola Valley," Derwin wrote. ■

Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).

**WOODSIDE HOUSING**

continued from page 7

feasibility for new residential development and availability of the site during the planning period including affordability assumptions on the large site (over 10 acres) and redevelopment potential, state officials said.

**'This is a letter that basically says Woodside is almost starting from scratch in the housing element.'**

JEREMY LEVINE, HOUSING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL POLICY MANAGER

Given that Woodside included the Cañada site in its last housing cycle, the element must include actions that commit to facilitating development and monitoring approvals, like coordination with the applicant to approve remaining entitlements, supporting funding applications, expediting approvals, and rezoning or identification of additional sites if the applications are not approved, the letter states.

HCD officials say the housing element must indicate whether the development will be restricted to students or open to faculty or available to anyone interested.

Bryant said it's clear the town needs to work with Cañada to better define the housing plan at the college. He said he's like the town to find a partnership (grants or partnership with an affordable housing nonprofit) that yields them the housing they need for staff.

About adding housing at the school, Brown said "We need it and Cañada College needs it."

**SB 9 sites**

The element identifies Senate Bill 9 lot splits as a strategy to accommodate part of the moderate and above-moderate income RHNA. The state wants the town to provide analysis that must include experience, trends and market conditions that allow lot splits.

To address this requirement, the town could survey property owners to gather interest in development in the planning period. The analysis must also address whether the existing use will not constitute an impediment for additional residential development. For example, the analysis should describe whether the use will

continue or discontinue; how parcels were selected; account for land use controls such as development standards; potential for parcelling if applicable; age and condition of structure.

**More details needed on housing needs, resources and constraints**

The element must include the town's ability to investigate housing complaints and remedy them or engage in fair housing testing, according to the letter. The element states that outreach consisted of Town Council meetings, webinars and commission meetings, but does not describe efforts to reach out to protected classes about existing fair housing laws and regulations, HCD wrote.

Woodside's element includes some data on integration and segregation at the regional and local level; however, it must include an analysis of patterns over time. The element must also analyze segregation and integration both locally (comparing areas within the town) and regionally (comparing the town to the region), HCD wrote.

The element must include contributing factors to the severity of fair housing issues

in town, such as community opposition to affordable housing, housing discrimination, land use and zoning laws, lack of regional cooperation, location and type or lack of affordable housing and lack of public or private investment in areas of opportunity or affordable housing choices, according to the letter.

The state is also asking the town to describe and quantify the results of the prior element's programs and evaluate its effectiveness.

A draft of the housing element can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/woodsidehousingelement](http://tinyurl.com/woodsidehousingelement). Read the letter from HCD at [tinyurl.com/WoodsideHCDletter](http://tinyurl.com/WoodsideHCDletter). ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

**OBITUARIES**

Local residents who died recently include **Bobbe Jordan**, 86, a Portola Valley resident, on Sept. 23.

To read the full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at [almanacnews.com/obituaries](http://almanacnews.com/obituaries).

**Bobbe Jordan**

March 2, 1936 – September 23, 2022

She was born and raised in Piedmont, CA with 3 younger brothers. After Piedmont High, she went to UCSB and earned a degree in Biology. While there she met the amazing Bob Jordan who claimed to have 'saved her from drowning in the shallow end of the pool.' As his wife she became mother of four lucky children, Tim, Kevin, Jill, and Becky.

She raised her own kids along with running an in-home daycare that opened her home and heart to all of Portola Valley's children. Bobbe rarely sat down, hosting athletes and students from abroad. Bobbe also had a strong love for the outdoors. She enjoyed traveling near and far, whether in Lake Tahoe, Sedona or visiting state and national parks. She loved tapping into her imagination influenced by the work of Muir, Steinbeck, and Bob Jordan. Bobbe shared her limitless love of life with close friends, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She lived by her values shaped by faith and love of nature. Step lightly on the earth. Don't judge a person until you've walked a mile in their shoes. Leave a place better than when you arrived. We will meet again Bobbe, maybe on Windy Hill.

Services will be held November 12th 11:00 at Our Lady of the Wayside and a Joyful Celebration of a Great Life will follow at Portola Valley Town Center.



PAID OBITUARY

**Joan Larimore**

February 3, 1941 – August 30, 2022

Joan Larimore a fine art painter dies of cancer at 81.

"To find truth one needs both brain and heart." This is a quote from the artist's commentary on hexagram 61 from the book, *Visionary I Ching*. Joan used the I Ching for much of her life and did a series of paintings based on the 64 Hexagrams, which were used as illustrations for a new book, the *Visionary I Ching* by Paul O'Brian. Joan's paintings were indeed the product of her heart and her brain.

Joan Larimore studied art at San Jose State University in California. In 1962, she said, "we have to change the visuals," and she proceeded to do just that. She was part of the visionary artists movement that included the Grateful Dead and Ken Kesey among others.

She showed her paintings all over California, 1976 saw a show of her works at the San Francisco palace of fine arts. Over the years, Her works were exhibited in various shows up and down the west.

At one point Joan drew a cartoon of herself painting, with the caption "where will it all end?". She has ended, but her work is vibrant and alive.

Joan was born in Oregon and her family moved to Hayward, California in 1947. She lived mostly in Northern California and died in Stockton, California on August 30, 2022.

**Dr. Eugene Anthony Baciocco**

April 26, 1936 – October 4, 2022

Dr. Eugene Anthony Baciocco passed away peacefully at home on October 4, 2022 after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Eugene "Gene" Baciocco was born on April 26, 1936 in San Francisco. His life was, in many ways, the culmination of an American Dream. Gene's parents, Eugenio and Amelia Baciocco, were hard working Italian immigrants who instilled their hopes for life in America into their only child, "Genie." Highly valuing a good education, they scrimped and saved so that their Genie could go to the best Catholic schools. Gene lived up to his parent's hopes by earning the highest entrance score at St. Mary's College in Moraga, which granted him free tuition. Gene then pursued his medical studies at Creighton University in Omaha. It was during his third year at Creighton, in 1961, that Gene met the love of his life, Joanna Nickman from Pleasanton, NE.

Gene and Joanna married in April of 1964 at St. Margaret and Mary's Church in Omaha and were newlyweds at Minot Air Force Base, ND where Gene fulfilled his military duty as a flight surgeon. The young couple then moved to San Francisco for Gene's Orthopedic Surgery Residency at St. Mary's Medical Center. In 1970, Gene started his own practice, Peninsula Orthopedic Associates in Daly City, CA.

Gene became known as a very respected orthopedic surgeon. He was both Vice Chairman (1985-1987) and Chairman (1987-1991) of the Department of Orthopedics at Seton Medical Center as well as an Associate Professor and Clinical Instructor at UCSF's Orthopedic Program. For Gene, it was an honor and a privilege to practice Orthopedics and both his colleagues and his patients held him in their highest regard.

Gene is survived by his wife Joanna of 58 years, four children and their spouses, Gina and Geoffrey "Duff" Baldwin, John Baciocco and Jennifer McNichol, Juliet and Randy Spurrier, Jennifer Baciocco and Mark Siri, and his 10 grandchildren: Beau, Will, Kaitlin, Henry, Colin, Dominic, Jack, Amelia, Joanna and Charlie. He is deeply missed and lives on through each of them.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Menlo Park at 1pm on Saturday, November 26, 2022. Reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages a donation to the non-profit that Gene passionately supported, the Lloyd W. Taylor Orthopedic Education and Research Fund at St. Mary's Medical Center Foundation: [www.supportstmaryssf.org](http://www.supportstmaryssf.org)

PAID OBITUARY

**FIRE DISTRICT***continued from page 8***Gary Bloom**

Gary Bloom believes he'll be the best candidate for the fire district board due to his extensive experience with both business management and hands-on emergency services.

**Gary Bloom**

Bloom is a retired CEO with experience overseeing organizations and managing budgets. He has also served on boards for public companies and nonprofits as well as advisory groups.

In addition, Bloom is a volunteer for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Unit, Menlo Park Fire's California Task Force 3 Urban Search and Rescue team and an EMT for Rock Medicine,

an organization that provides medical care at Bay Area events.

One of Bloom's priorities is community preparedness in the case of an emergency. Bloom has previously called a natural disaster "inevitable" for the district.

"The recent hurricane in Florida proves that the community can never be too prepared for a natural or man-made disaster," Bloom said.

Bloom also said that he'll prioritize the relationship between ambulance providers and the district, and he has previously said that he wants ambulance service to be provided from within the district to combat long wait times.

He also said that he wants the MPFPD to focus on diversity and equity in their staffing. He spoke at the board's Sept. 20 meeting as a community member to say that the board wasn't providing enough attention to the Diversity, Equity and

October 21, 2022  
3rd Quarter 2022

**AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER**

Este aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable, por favor lea el aviso en español si va aquí incluido. Si el aviso en español no va incluido aquí, contacte al sistema de agua para pedir una copia

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

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

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 52 ppb in well #1 and 140 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb.

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

**What should I do?**

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

**What happened? What is being done?**

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

The Company has been working with State agencies and the City of Menlo Park to complete the planning of a manganese treatment facility and construction has begun at the Company's property.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this public notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For further information contact:

Secretary-Treasurer Telephone 650-321-2723  
Email: oconnorwater@gmail.com

O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Co., System 4110019  
P.O. Box 1375, Palo Alto, California 94302-1375

Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee, where the future of the committee was being considered.

"I think this is a terrible missed opportunity to send a really strong message to the community and a really strong message to every employee in the district about how important (diversity) is," Bloom said in the meeting.

The board ultimately decided to retain the committee.

While Bloom said he doesn't have access to all records related to the district's finances to comment, he said that it seems the district has sufficient funding to provide high-quality services.

After discussing Atherton's consideration of separating from the fire district with two Atherton City Council members, Bloom believes that the situation could have been prevented, and that future conflicts can be prevented through clear communication.

"The situation could have been avoided if the board focused more directly on the relationship with the various city councils," Bloom wrote.

He said that the board needs to engage more directly with various city councils in order to prevent a similar situation. Bloom suggests regularly scheduled meetings with council members so that everyone has a voice and understands how the fiscal elements of the fire district interact with day-to-day operations.

Bloom's website is [garybloomforfireboard.com](http://garybloomforfireboard.com).

**Robert Jones**

Incumbent Board Member Robert Jones has served for five years and said he can tackle issues from a practical and strategic standpoint to prioritize both inclusivity and the standard of service.

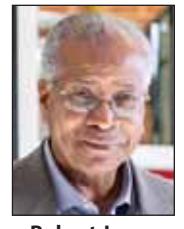
Jones has a rich history of involvement in the development of affordable housing as a retired executive director and founder of East Palo Alto Community Alliance and Neighborhood Development Organization (EPA CAN DO). He has also served on the board of Jobtrain (previously OICW) and project developer for Eden Housing. Jones was the recipient of a fellowship from the Housing Association of Northern California to learn the technical aspect of affordable housing development for 18 months.

If reelected, Jones said that he would have a continued focus on diversity and inclusion, as well as continuing to develop the Fire District Community Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and the board's strategic plan with an emphasis on accountability.

Jones said that he believes the board of directors should have permitted the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee to hire a consultant. Jones said that the consultant could have assisted the committee in analyzing data and equity indicators to move toward greater diversity in the fire district.

Financially, Jones said that the

MPFPD always operates within its budget, but he has concerns about how financial reports are managed and reported.

**Robert Jones**

As a solution, Jones recommends an annual board strategic planning and accountability structural review process. He hopes that the board can set aside money, if available, for capital improvement projects in the future since the district is in a good financial position.

Addressing Atherton, Jones said that he believes the MPFPD and Atherton are currently in agreement that the the district has done well protecting the residents of the town.

"The fire district is committed to continuing this service not only to the town of Atherton but to all the other cities and county portions within the Menlo Park Fire Protection boundaries," Jones said.

Jones does not have a campaign website.

**Dionis Papavramidis**

Papavramidis did not respond to The Almanac's multiple attempts to contact him. According to his Facebook profile, he was born in Athens, Greece where he attended college and now lives in East Palo Alto. ■

*Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).*

**ATHERTON FORUM***continued from page 12*

school because it's not safe to walk to school," she said, noting that road safety should be one of the town's top priorities now that construction of the new civic center is complete.

**Policing**

Villalva brought up that many students of color at the school

have been pulled over by police without justification. He asked what steps the council would take to reduce this type of racial profiling.

Widmer and DeGolia said Atherton Police Chief Steve McCulley has been a leader in anti-profiling policies and training.

Widmer said racial profiling is wrong, along with mistreating people with mental illness.

"I would love to hear from anybody who thinks they've been stopped inappropriately," he said. "It's important you do report this."

DeGolia said he hadn't heard of the issue, but doesn't doubt it and said he'd like to build more of a relationship with Menlo College students so they feel comfortable bringing up important issues like this.

Conlon suggested that the town have a liaison who consults with the school on an ongoing basis.

Miles Holland emphasized that it shouldn't be victims' responsibility to report profiling and that police should be proactive in finding out about incidents like Villalva described.

**More on the election**

Menlo College is hosting a polling place for the Nov. 8 election in the Russell Center on campus. Eligible voters from anywhere in San Mateo County can drop off their mail-in ballot at the voting center, or use the voting machines. ■

*Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).*

# Employment

The Almanac offers  
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To learn more or get a quote,  
please call 650.223.6597 or email  
[digitalads@pawebly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawebly.com).

**LOCKDOWN***continued from page 1*

SAT standardized tests. Students who score highly on the PSAT can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship to help pay for college.

Van Putten sent the following message to families of students who took the tests on Oct. 12:

"First and foremost, we would like to offer our apologies that the hoax and subsequent interruptions occurred at all, let alone during an important test," she said. "We understand that students experienced difficulties and their performance on the test could be affected. ... Though we are not sure what options (the) College Board will offer to students, Woodside will cover any costs and host retakes as well."

The College Board, which develops, administers and scores the tests, advised the school to take the following steps, according to van Putten:

■ Send all materials for students who began the test to the College Board for scoring.

■ Submit an irregularity report per College Board practice (which the school has done). The report explains that the entire campus experienced a "secure campus" for 90 minutes. During this time, doors were locked, students were not able to leave, and law enforcement officers canvassed every room on campus to "clear" the room during the test.

The College Board will review the reports and will send a letter and email to students who were affected to share the options available to them, van Putten said.

Any student who would like to request that their test not be scored can contact College Board's phone for parents and

students at 1-888-225-5427. The College Board recommends calling. They may choose to share the specifics of the irregularity report shared above.

**Sweeping of the school**

The teacher who spoke with this publication said colleagues who were approached by police said officers were mostly calm and peaceful. Others took a more aggressive approach by pounding on doors and shouting, some walking into classrooms forcefully with their weapons raised, they said.

"There were several students who found the experience challenging emotionally," they said. One student was in tears and had to be excused from the test and sent to the nurse's office, the teacher said.

The Almanac has reached out to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office for comment on their officers' approach to entering classrooms.

The teacher said their classroom, in which they continued proctoring the test with another teacher during the lockdown, was not cleared by police.

Some students on field trips visiting colleges reported they were concerned for their friends on campus or for their parents who were guest speakers on campus for the day, the teacher said.

The Menlo-Atherton High School student newspaper, the M-A Chronicle, wrote about the threat at Woodside High and reported that some students who were taking PSAT or SAT tests were particularly anxious that they could not contact their families during the lockdown,

because, according to the College Board's protocol, they aren't allowed to use their phones. One

Woodside student told the M-A Chronicle that she wrote a note to her family on a Post-it Note that she loved them during one of the testing breaks for fear that she wouldn't be able to speak to them again.

Nanette Pasion, Woodside's health aide who works in the school's health office, said lockdowns can cause a lot of fear of the unknown for students and staff. Although in this case it was a secure campus, not everyone actually knew that, she said. She was surprised more students didn't come to her in the days following the incident.

She didn't have any students with her during the incident, but said after the school was cleared two stressed students came to her. Although they were not having panic attacks, they asked to go home.

**Similar reports at other schools**

Five other Bay Area schools got threatening phone calls on Oct. 12 as well.

South San Francisco High School and Lincoln High School in San Jose reported receiving similar swatting calls on Wednesday morning.

NBC Bay Area reported that there were also unfounded threats made toward George Washington High School in San Francisco, one high school in Fremont and McClymonds High School in Oakland.

Jacob Trickett, the Sheriff's Office's Investigations Bureau commander, said that police are actively investigating the Woodside High incident and working with regional law enforcement to determine any possible relation to other events.

**Lockdown drills at schools**

In early October, the Las Lomitas Elementary School District governing board approved comprehensive safety plans for La Entrada Middle School and Las Lomitas Elementary School. It removed full scale drills and simulations, and it will no longer conduct unannounced drills with students, to adhere to trauma-informed practices and protect the social-emotional health and wellness of students.

"Students and staff may

experience anxiety when anticipating and participating in drills," according to the elementary school safety plan. "School leaders should take explicit steps to minimize the impact of drills on students and staff."

Additionally, staff training and preparation for lockdown and secure campus incidents are not done outside of school hours and in collaboration with police, Las Lomitas officials said. ■

*Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).*

# Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

SEQUOIA REALTY SERVICES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-275683

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Sequoia Realty Services, located at 1629 Main Street, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
SEQUOIA REALTY SERVICES GROUP, INC.  
1629 Main Street  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
CA

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/26/2008.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 22, 2022.

**GOLD SHIELD SECURITY SERVICES**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292156

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Gold Shield Security Services, located at 1990 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
RONNIE LOUIS LINCH  
1990 Santa Cruz Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2022.

**(ALM Oct. 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 2022)**

**MAGNOLIA PROPERTIES**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292407

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Magnolia Properties, located at 131 & 141 South Magnolia Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030, San Mateo County; Mailing Address: 262 Michelle Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080.

Registered owner(s):  
PACIFIC WEST RESOURCES, INC.  
2820 Hillside Drive  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
State of Incorporation: CA

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 11, 2022.

**(ALM Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 2022)**

**8A'S COFFEE**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292373

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

8A'S Coffee, located at 1760 Bay Rd. Apt. 21, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
SANDRA YANETH OCHOA  
1760 Bay Rd. Apt. 21  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2022.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 4, 2022.

**(ALM Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 2022)**

**Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email [asantillan@pawebly.com](mailto:asantillan@pawebly.com) for assistance with your legal advertising needs.**

**The deadline is Monday at noon.**

## THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

**ATHERTON**

**23 Belbrook Way** \$14,500,000  
Sun 2:00-4:00  
Coldwell Banker Realty  
650-400-2933

**FOSTER CITY**

**921 Lurline Drive** Call for price  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30  
JLee Realty  
650-857-1000

**LOS ALTOS**

**1600 Corte Via** \$3,488,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30  
DeLeon Realty  
650-900-7000

**LOS ALTOS HILLS**

**27340 Julietta Lane** \$5,988,000  
Sat 1:30-4:30  
DeLeon Realty  
650-900-7000

**MENLO PARK**

**1868 Valparaiso Avenue** \$5,988,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30  
DeLeon Realty  
650-900-7000

**222 Oak Court** \$2,598,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30  
Keller Williams Realty  
650-690-2858

**PALO ALTO**

**2129 Emerson Street** \$3,488,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30  
DeLeon Realty  
650-900-7000

**1030 Palo Alto Avenue** \$7,995,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30  
DeLeon Realty  
650-900-7000

**485 Ferne Avenue** \$3,488,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30  
DeLeon Realty  
650-900-7000

**154 Wayside Road** \$2,548,000  
Sat 2:00-4:00  
Coldwell Banker Realty  
650-400-2933

**177 Alamos Drive** \$8,995,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00  
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty  
650-485-3476

**100 Alamos Road** \$6,588,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30  
DeLeon Realty  
650-900-7000

**5925 Alpine Road** \$4,650,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30  
DeLeon Realty  
650-900-7000

*Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T). Agents: submit open homes at [AlmanacNews.com/real\\_estate](http://AlmanacNews.com/real_estate)*

**WOODSIDE COUNCIL***continued from page 1*

"I've built a lot of relationships up and down the spectrum," said Dombkowski, who has lived in town for 17 years. "It's a transformational moment for Woodside. ... Experience is necessary and an open mind that we do need to evolve to meet the needs of our citizens."

The decision to freeze SB 9 projects, a new law that allows owners to split their lots to build duplexes in town, was a mistake, Dombkowski acknowledged. He now sees SB 9 as an opportunity for seniors aging in place to split their lots.

So far the town has received zero SB 9 applications, but has gotten some inquiries, said Town Manager Bryant in an email. Woodside does have design standards that officials have said make it infeasible to build SB 9 units in town (for example, the additional units are limited to 800 square feet).

"Through the lens of the housing element SB 9 looks a lot more attractive," Dombkowski said.

The council received a lot of pushback from residents with regard to building more housing in the town center and property owners were completely uninterested, so it is not part of this housing cycle's plan, he said. Neighbors described two- to three-story buildings as skyscrapers. He said he does see lots of opportunities for senior housing in the town center in the future.

If reelected, Dombkowski's top three priorities are:

■ Housing, which he called the No. 1 most transformational and polarizing issue in town. He describes this as a "jarring moment" for the town.

■ Measure A: Allowing for outdoor dining to become a permanent fixture of Woodside

■ Safety: Trying to constantly make improvements and to address wildfire, safety and

security issues and circulation as they come up. "We're (the council) always learning from our mistakes and trying to do better. When the issues come up I'm going out and talking to people. ... I always meet with anyone who wants to meet with me."

To residents who were unhappy with the council's vote to redraw districts and move from a seven to five member council, Dombkowski said the town had to do so under the potential threat of a lawsuit.

"Once you go by-district then you have to draw lines," he said. "We had to redraw things with an equal number of people. There was no mathematical way to get to seven."

Website: [brianfortowncouncil.com](http://brianfortowncouncil.com)

**Elizabeth Kaske**

Elizabeth Kaske, 40, a partner at the company Ernst and Young, moved to Woodside from Menlo Park last year. Kaske holds an accounting degree from the University of Minnesota and an MBA from Northwestern University, and serves as vice president of the Woodside Elementary School PTA.

"I bring a fresh perspective to the town," said Kaske, whose son is a second grader at Woodside Elementary. She said she is pleased town officials have begun to discuss with school staff how they can support them more and have planned a joint event soon. She would like to see more crosswalk safety measures put in place in front of the school.

With regard to the town's housing element, Kaske said she doesn't think the draft the town submitted will be supported by



Elizabeth Kaske

the state.

She noted there is a misconception among residents that building low-income housing in town means homeless people or criminals will be moving in. She noted that there is staff turnover at schools because of the high cost of living.

"I would love to shift the dialogue about affordable housing to focus on what can enhance and improve in town rather than (putting it in) lots on the outskirts of town and hope they don't get built upon," she said.

In regard to SB 9, Kaske said she thinks the town wasted time and resources responding to its ban on the mountain lion issue, especially given that she doesn't think it will really impact the town since there have been no SB 9 requests.

If elected, her top three priorities would be:

■ Improve transparency: She said the town is sorely lacking in how it conducts town business. She'd like the council to more respectfully hear the voices of constituents.

■ Housing element: She'd like a more inclusive plan with properties that would actually be able to be developed. She'd also like to see housing for teachers, government staff and firefighters.

■ Safety: She wants more work put into safe routes to schools. She said her son rides in a sidecar to school and she wants him to be able to safely ride a bike to school by himself someday.

She applauded town officials for doing a good job of maintaining the town's rural charm and community. The rural setting is one of the reasons her family decided to move to Woodside.

She wants to see town officials do a better job of engaging the community.

"Folks' perspectives that are different aren't respected or heard," she said of the council. "Scoffing at remarks or shutting people down. Council members' job is to represent constituents."

In particular, she was skeptical of the so-called "Shawkowski" plan — named for its authors Dombkowski and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Shaw — that is essentially the housing element plan that was sent to the state rather than the one the Planning Commission created.

She would have liked to see "something that took into account more voices than two of the council members (who) came up with a plan."

Website: [kaskeforwoodsides.com](http://kaskeforwoodsides.com)

**Steve Lubin**

Steve Lubin, 73, an architect, grew up in Woodside and has served on committees in town, from the Planning Commission to the Architectural and Site Review Board.

Lubin, who holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon, said his experience with building would bring a skillset not present on the council, which does have members with legal, business and financial experience. He and his wife Thalia are architects and they designed the Woodside Community Museum.

In terms of planning for more housing in town over the next eight years, Lubin said he would have liked to see the town bring residents into the conversation earlier, noting that there's a perception in town that a clique on the council makes up their minds in private and pushes things along rather than opening up for input early on.

Lubin said he wants to see housing closer to the town center, along with housing at Cañada College, depending on what part of campus is proposed for it.

He said he doesn't think the community has healed from its divisions last year over Measure A. He'd like to see an update to the town center plan before major changes happen in that area.

The town last explored a town



Steve Lubin

center area plan in 2013, but it didn't pick up steam because town staff didn't have the bandwidth or expertise to take on the work, he said. The town didn't update the town center area plan in 2014, but the process led to implementing safe routes to school recommendations, according to Bryant.

Lubin's top three priorities, if elected:

■ Town center plan: He wants to have an updated town center plan that aims to make it more pedestrian friendly

■ Housing element: His goal is to create a housing element that doesn't "shuffle housing off to the periphery" and with a compact village closer to the town center. He said he agrees that the state is imposing onerous conditions on Woodside.

■ Open space: He'd like to see the town better manage its wildflower preserve. He said using part of the grassland at Barkley Fields and Park in the Woodside Hills near Interstate Highway 280 in the housing element plan goes against the town's general plan. "The mindset of the current council is much more transactional rather than looking at physical capabilities," he said.

Lubin doesn't believe that there will be many SB 9 projects built in town. He said that although the state needs more housing he is against the law, which he called "enforced sprawl."

"The mountain lion thing was silly; it was grasping at straws," he said. "It brought a lot of ridicule on the town and (garnered) the attorney general's attention."

Website: [steveforwoodsides.com](http://steveforwoodsides.com) ■

*Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).*

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS***continued from page 6*

This year, Trick-or-Treat Street will be on Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event takes place at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

Go to [lship.org/events/trick-or-treat-street](http://lship.org/events/trick-or-treat-street) for more information and to see photos from past years.

**Las Lomitas district boost substitute teacher pay**

The Las Lomitas Elementary School District governing board raised its substitute teacher pay rates during an Oct. 5 meeting. Officials say the move will help attract and retain subs, as districts across the state face shortages.

The district had not reviewed the substitute teacher rates since November 2020.

"You will remember that last year and already at the beginning of this year, we are definitely struggling with a lack of substitutes as (are) all school districts, and we reviewed a variety of ways that we might be able to alleviate that concern," Superintendent Beth Polito told the board. "(Human Resource Specialist) Shante (Dillon) did a study of similar districts and rates

that are being paid for substitutes and what you have in front of you tonight is an opportunity to get up to par with what other school districts are paying for substitutes so that we can hopefully secure more help."

Las Lomitas subs will now make \$96 for up to 1.5 hours or two consecutive teaching periods. They will earn \$144 for over 1.5 hours, up to four hours or three consecutive periods (four if one is a prep period). For over four hours of work, they will earn \$240.

Rates are effective retroactive to Oct. 1.

In the Menlo Park City School District, substitute pay starts at \$200 per day and it was last raised in fall 2021.

The Woodside Elementary School District pays \$210 a day, \$150 for a half day in the morning and \$100 for half day in the afternoon. A long-term sub (after 15 consecutive days) makes \$275. Preschool subs make \$145 and long-term subs

make \$145 per day.

The Ravenswood City School District pays \$275 a day, according to Chief Business Officer Will Eger.

—Angela Swartz

**League of Women Voters' upcoming election events**

The League of Women Voters' South San Mateo County branch is hosting voter information events throughout October to keep residents informed about state propositions.

The branch covers the communities of Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City and Woodside.

Upcoming events, all of which are in-person and held in Redwood City, are three pro and con presentations about California State Propositions on the Nov. 8 ballot.

■ Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 10:30 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Ave.

■ Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. at Redwood City Public Library, 1044 Middlefield Road

■ Sunday, Oct. 30, noon, at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City, 2124 Brewster Ave.

For more information, visit the League of Women Voters' South San Mateo County webpage at [my.lwv.org/california/south-san-mateo-county](http://my.lwv.org/california/south-san-mateo-county).

—Malea Martin

## Vote Dombkowski for Woodside Town Council

The Almanac Editorial Board

With two out of three Woodside Town Council seats uncontested in this election, it's great to see three passionate and engaged candidates competing to represent the new District 2, which encompasses parts of Emerald Hills east of Interstate Highway 280 and borders Huddart Park.

The fact that the newly redrawn districts reduce the town's traditional seven council seats down to five, creating larger districts, makes it even more important that voters get a say in who will represent them for the next four years.

All three candidates, incumbent Brian Dombkowski, architect and town

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

volunteer Steve Lubin, and Woodside Elementary School PTA vice president and accounting firm partner Elizabeth Kaske have housing — easily the most polarizing and complicated issue facing Woodside at the moment — among their top priorities.

Kaske offers financial skills and a newcomer's perspective, having recently moved to Woodside from Menlo Park. Her desire to serve her new hometown is admirable, but we think she would be a stronger Town Council candidate if she first turned her drive for civic service

toward one of the town's advisory committees. With a little more experience and knowledge of the workings of Woodside's town government, we think she could become a formidable council candidate in the future.

The choice between Lubin and Dombkowski is harder. Lubin is a lifelong town resident who offers a deep knowledge of the town's land use and development history, having had a hand in several big projects over the years. He helped design the Woodside Community Museum with his wife Thalia, and has put in many years of service on several town committees dating back to 1975. His dedication to serving the town is longstanding and without question.

In his first term on the Town Council, Dombkowski has demonstrated his willingness to roll up his sleeves and put in the work to steer the town through a contentious issue. His open-door policy for meeting with constituents is admirable and very necessary. We think he has shown the ability to read the temperature of the town and come up with compromise solutions, like the revised housing element proposal he crafted with council member Chris Shaw, dubbed the "Shawkowski" proposal. His pragmatic approach of not letting the perfect become the enemy of the good seems best suited to this fraught moment for Woodside. We recommend a vote for Brian Dombkowski for Woodside Town Council. ■

### GUEST OPINIONS: PRO & CON

## League of Women Voters encourages 'No' vote on Measure V

By Connie Guerrero

The League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County opposes Menlo Park Measure V.

The mission of the League of Women Voters is to make democracy work and to support effective representative democracy. In eliminating a function of elected City Council representatives to make zoning changes and instead put zoning changes to a public vote, Measure V reduces the effectiveness of city government.

Our league has adopted a full range of housing positions. We oppose Measure V for the following specific reasons, which are based on those positions.

■ Election requirements are a barrier to new housing and thereby can increase the cost and uncertainty of housing proposals. Our league believes Menlo Park needs new housing and, therefore, needs to avoid barriers and added costs to housing production.

■ The measure does nothing to moderate or otherwise affect the demand for housing. Our league believes there needs to be a balance between job-generating land uses and housing supply. This measure does not provide any means or measures that result in a balance. Our league believes the city of Menlo Park can do better to balance both and believes that there are options to minimize potential negative impacts while meeting housing

demand throughout the city.

■ The state and pro-housing groups have acted to not only eliminate barriers to housing construction but also to limit local discretionary decision-making. The proposed measure risks such future nullification.

We understand that Measure V came to be out of frustration with the consideration of one housing project. We believe Measure V is not the solution to this frustration. We support higher densities along major transportation routes and believe development should be guided by an adopted general plan and supporting zoning rules that are regularly reviewed for consistency. We believe Menlo Park could do better with its general plan and zoning regulations.

We encourage robust public engagement regarding potential zoning changes as well as related development regulations and design standards that minimize impacts on adjacent uses.

Our league would welcome forums to examine the entire city job production capacity and housing options to create a balance as well as to identify development regulations and design standards that minimize impacts. We would join with the city, other community organizations and neighborhood groups in support of such forums. ■

*Connie Guerrero is president of the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County*

## Measure V protects residents from high-density development

By Henry Riggs

It's not surprising when residents, even volunteer council members, misunderstand a zoning issue. The ramifications of a zoning ordinance — like the one that defines single family neighborhoods — seem shrouded in complexity, and it's hard to know for sure when something isn't more than it says.

It helps to know that Menlo Park, like other Bay Area cities, is required by the state to identify areas where dense housing (apartments) can be built in the next eight-year cycle. So staff searches the zoning maps looking for something to change. Large lots near the train station or in shuttle-served new development areas are smart. Small lots tucked in more remote neighborhoods get thrown in too, as self-described housing advocates say new apartments need to be spread around the city. The council is under pressure to find as many lots as possible.

Measure V is much simpler than these advocates would have you believe. Foremost, it doesn't "block" anything, including dense (apartments) housing. It does require a confirming vote if developers or the City Council (or more accurately, three council members) want to upzone a lot without regard for the residents in that neighborhood.

So far, the test case and original trigger for Measure V is that the owners of a lot nestled within Suburban Park want to build a whole lot of apartments, in conflict with long-existing zoning. Ninety, instead of 12 or so, among these typical small, 5,000 square-foot lots. The owners, the Ravenswood School District, asked a developer (Alliant Strategic) to build a money-making project, the biggest they

could fit. But they told the press it would be "100% affordable housing." They also said flatly that the units are not reserved for teachers or staff, and that they have a goal of profiting off the development, which would suggest market rate units. Huh?

The neighbors would have been OK with 60 units crammed in there — hardly a NIMBY reaction, the equivalent of five homes on their typical lot. And these wouldn't be just two-story buildings, they'd be at least four stories. Oh, and there's no "minimum size" project to pencil out. Local developers would build any number, 12, 45, 60, 78, 90 — it all works. And now state law says 78 units will fit without a zoning change if it's for teachers and staff.

So what kind of project, affordable or revenue? It can't be both. I've managed just such projects, I know the math. But three council members — all part of Karen Grove's Menlo Together clique — already signaled they would push through this zoning change for 90 units.

This is why neighbors need Measure V. Peter Ohtaki understands this because he served on council back when neighbors were heard (he's running again for council). Our town should not be a dictatorship by clique. That's why you deserve to vote before a hamfisted "housing solution" is wedged into your neighborhood.

When you read an expensive campaign flyer saying Measure V is "aimed at teachers," don't buy the Menlo Together clique spin. Measure V is your chance to vote, nothing more or less. ■

*Henry Riggs is a Menlo Park resident, an architect and construction manager, and has served on the Menlo Park Planning Commission since 2005.*

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.



## RESOLUTION NO. 2255 (2022)

### RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

#### Lands of Davidson

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.

D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

**IT IS RESOLVED** by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: November 9, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025  
& via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The General Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

#### Exhibit A

##### EXHIBIT "A"

Date: May 26, 2022  
Annexed to: West Bay Sanitary District  
Name of Annexation: West Bay Sanitary

##### Geographic Description

Lands of Davidson

All that certain real property, situate in the Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, being all of Lot 2, Block 4 and a portion of the right of way of Shoshone Place (50 feet wide), as shown on that certain map entitled "Tract No. 774 Arrowhead Meadows Unit No. 4th", filed in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County on March 17, 1959 in Volume 50 of Maps at Pages 45, 46, 47 & 48, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of West Bay Sanitary District Resolution No. 1211, said point also being on the South right of way line of said place and the Northwest corner of said lot;   
Course 1.) North 03°30'00" West, 25.00 feet to the centerline of said Shoshone Place, thence, Course 2.) Along said centerline, North 86°30'00" East, 135.00 feet to the center of Shoshone Place cul-de-sac, thence,   
Course 3.) Leaving last said centerline, South 27°00'00" East, 40.00 feet to said south right of way and the Northeast corner of said lot, thence,   
Course 4.) Along the Northeast line of said lot, South 48°01'15" East, 210.17 feet to the East corner of said lot, thence,   
Course 5.) Along the Southeast line of said lot, South 48°34'47" West, 175.00 feet to the Southeast corner of said lot, thence,   
Course 6.) Along the South line of said lot, North 84°00'00" West, 80.00 feet to the Southwest corner of said lot, thence,   
Course 7.) Along the Westerly line of said lot, North 27°44'43" West, 140.44 feet to the Westerly angle point of said lot, said point also being the Southeast corner of said resolution, thence,   
Course 8.) Along last said westerly line and the Easterly line of said resolution, North 14°00'00" West, 130.00 feet to the Point of Beginning containing 1.23 acres, more or less.

For assessment purposes only. The description is no a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.

APPROVED  
SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY  
FORMATION COMMISSION  
455 COUNTY CENTER  
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 2

#### Exhibit B

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
EXHIBIT "B"  
SITE LOCATION  
20 SHOSHONE PLACE  
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA  
GRINDER SYSTEM



## VIEWPOINT

### LETTERS

Our readers write

### Vote for Sathvik Nori for SUHSD trustee, Area D

I urge you to vote for Sathvik Nori for trustee of the Sequoia Union High School District, Area D seat. He is the candidate who knows the needs of the SUHSD and its students best.

He worked tirelessly with the SUHSD board during the COVID pandemic and is deeply engaged with San Mateo County juvenile delinquency prevention and youth service commissions. I have seen firsthand his thoughtful judgment, work ethic, and ability to come up with innovative solutions to the challenges of educating our highly diverse student population.

My views are shared by many qualified policymakers. Sathvik is endorsed by state Senator and M-A parent Josh Becker, Assembly member Marc Berman, county supervisor candidate Ray Mueller, former SUHSD Superintendent Jim Lianides, county Supervisors Carole Groom and David Canepa, a host of current and former trustees of the Menlo Park City School District, and several Menlo Park and Atherton council members, to name a few. Current SUHSD trustees Rich Ginn and Carrie DuBois also support his candidacy.

Sathvik is passionate about ensuring that all students in our district are engaged and challenged at school. I encourage all eligible voters to join those of us who know Sathvik and give him your vote.

Julie Quinlan

Former M-A PTA co-president and Foundation for the Future Executive board member

### Measure V would protect single-family zoning

A "NO on Measure V" campaign worker came by my house. She explained the issue in a very clear way. She said that teacher housing at Flood Park was not the real issue. She said the real issue was residential zoning for single-family neighborhoods.

Her argument was that it was unfair that some people get to live in a single family neighborhood when others could not. A No vote would encourage our City Council to eliminate single family zoning in other residential neighborhoods. A Yes vote would tell our City Council that Menlo Park residents want to continue having single family residential neighborhoods.

Dave Gildea

Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

## Gathering 'Momentum'

Artist Bruce Beasley gives virtual reality physical form in new show at Pamela Walsh Gallery

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

If you have ever drawn a doodle or design in the air with your finger, then wished it could have been captured in solid form, you would find a kindred spirit in Bruce Beasley. Using the capabilities of virtual reality allowed the Oakland-based Beasley to do just that, and the resulting sculptures and collages are now on display at the Pamela Walsh Gallery in Palo Alto.

Entitled "Momentum," the exhibition consists of two recent series; Aeolis, which are three-dimensional metal sculptures and Aurai, two-dimensional collages that correspond to the Aeolis series. The show, on view through Nov. 23, is a bit of a departure for the gallery, which usually focuses on paintings, prints and works on paper.

Walsh said that a visit to Beasley's West Oakland studio compound "completely blew my mind" and was the impetus for a solo exhibition in her gallery. "Bruce and I developed a strong, professional relationship, discussing the evolution of his long, prolific career, the philosophy behind his creative practice and the vital role of technology and innovation in his recent works, including the Aeolis sculptures and the Aurai collages."

"Bruce is still going strong after six decades and has remained curious, continuing to find new

ways to express his visual language," she added.

The venerable Beasley has the distinction of being one of the youngest artists — he was about 23 at the time — to have a work included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art. He was recently honored with a 60-year retrospective at the Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey.

Beasley, now 83, has enjoyed a lengthy and successful career due in no small part to the fact that he has always embraced change and innovation. Born in Los Angeles in 1939, he attended Dartmouth College briefly before transferring to University of California at Berkeley. He arrived at a pivotal time, when classmates like Peter Voulkos were experimenting with materials and techniques that resulted in a revival of interest in the medium of sculpture. His early work took advantage of the industrial scrap that he found around his Oakland warehouse, but soon he was experimenting with cast aluminum.

With the mantra that "technology is handmaiden to creativity," Beasley then explored cast acrylic sculpture created through computer-aided design (CAD), a tool that he has also used to capture his motions in virtual reality

and bring the resulting shapes to life for his Aeolis and Aurai series. He is probably best known for his large-scale public pieces, created in the 1970s and 1980s, that are constructed of burnished stainless steel. ("Vanguard," located in front of Stanford University's Law School, is a local example).

The artist is quick to point out, however, that technical innovation is not his primary motivation. Like most sculptors, he is in a constant battle with gravity and, specifically, how to make heavy objects that seem light and airborne. At the heart of his work, he said in an email interview, is "the emotional language of shape" which he addresses using material, color and texture.

The sculptures that comprise the Aeolis series are inspired by Homer's epic poem, *The Odyssey*, although they are not intended to be a narrative expression of the story. In brief, Aeolis gave Odysseus a leather bag containing all the winds but the west wind during his prolonged, 10-year journey home after the Trojan War. The gallery visitor does not need this backstory to understand or appreciate the sculptures, which convey an overwhelming sense of movement. The nine sculptures of varying sizes and surface treatments (stainless, cast bronze and nickel-plated) consist of lengths of metal that twist, turn, fuse into one another and combine to create a cohesive whole. Some have a vertical orientation, as the elements join and rise to an inevitable apex. Others, like Aeolis 14 (the pieces are individually numbered) are on a horizontal plane. Beasley wants viewers to bring their own interpretation and ideas to the pieces and, for me, this piece called to mind a sprinter about to propel forward.

The light, looping, gestural forms found in Aeolis 12 seem antithetical to sculpture made of cast bronze but that is just what the artist was hoping to achieve. Beasley said, "I use VR (virtual reality) to explore shapes because



Courtesy Pamela Walsh Gallery

The large-scale sculpture "Aeolis 7" serves as the focal point of "Bruce Beasley: Momentum." The piece stands nearly 8 feet in height.

it is very spontaneous and allows me to use my own physical gestures to create shapes in a way no other process does. But it is a kind of ghost world where they begin, but I insist the sculptures move out of and into the world we inhabit."

This is a stunning installation, with the white walls and gray stands providing a neutral backdrop for the strong forms and shapes of the sculptures. The smaller pieces, displayed so that the viewer can walk around them, form a path to the focal point, Aeolis 7. This is a commanding presence, standing almost 8 feet in height, with curving strands that erupt from the base, become tangled and fraught in the center, only to rise like triumphant arms at the top. Although we cannot touch the smooth surface (oils on the hand are detrimental), we somehow instinctively know what it would feel like. Noted Beasley, "Sculpture has more practical limitations than painting, but sculptors feel there is a deeper connection for both the creator and the viewer that comes from sculpture being a part of the same actual haptic (pertaining to touch) world as ourselves."

A counterpoint to the three-dimensional pieces (but also part of the same VR creative process)

is a series of six collages entitled Aurai. These gray-and-white wall pieces resulted from the artist making marks captured by VR that were then cut out and pieced together on paper. Once he had achieved the form and fluid movement he set out to capture, the collages were printed in ink on Dibond (aluminum composite) panels. They are technically considered prints with limited editions.

Like their 3D counterparts, the collages have shapes that resemble ribbons of silver, curling, climbing, twisting, turning and, sometimes, joining. Beasley described the process that resulted in the collages: "They are parts of images that came out of the rather complicated process of moving sculptures out of the VR space. It's as though they said, 'Hey, look at me,' and so I did and they led to those pieces. They are art works that made their appearance from another process and I am glad they did."

"Bruce Beasley: Momentum" is on view through Nov. 23 at Pamela Walsh Gallery, 540 Ramona St., Palo Alto. For more information, visit [pamelawalshgallery.com](http://pamelawalshgallery.com). ■



Courtesy Pamela Walsh Gallery

Bruce Beasley used virtual reality to create the looping, graceful shapes for his recent Aeolis sculpture series, which includes this piece, "Aeolis 14."

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# Food & Drink

## Stirring up memories

First-time Redwood City author releases  
Thai cookbook memoir 'Come Eat, Grandma!'

By Kate Bradshaw

**T**here's a Chinese proverb that says, "It takes 10 years of practice for 10 minutes of performance."

For VC Tang, a Thai woman who grew up in San Francisco and now lives in Redwood City, the proverb rings true as to how her debut book, a cookbook-memoir called "Come Eat, Grandma! Recipes and Stories of Thai Home Cooking" came together.

Writing the first draft of the book took her only about six weeks, she says, but the work of connecting with and building an identity from her Thai roots is a process that's taken decades.

The book, which will be released at the end of October, weaves together recipes and stories with brightly colored illustrations that evoke the warmth and coziness of home cooking. Both the cooking and writing that went into developing the manuscript for the book helped Tang learn more about herself and her family during an isolating time.

For years, she balanced non-profit work with her passion for cooking Thai comfort food at home. When the pandemic hit, she found herself cooking more and wanting to do something to combat the rise of anti-Asian hate she was seeing in the community. She was also inspired by the elders she'd gotten to know as a tai chi practitioner and member of her Thai temple community, many of whom were remarkably adept at soldiering on with their daily lives. So she turned to the kitchen.

"I don't think I'm alone in saying a lot of people found refuge in their kitchen during the pandemic," she says.

### LEHUA GREENMAN



*"It's important to remember that we all have magic inside us."*



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She had recently quit a job and was embarking on a creative sabbatical. At the time, she says, she would cook a new recipe and then sit down with her mom to eat it and tell stories.

"It would almost be like a music jam session — the stories would just come out of both of us," she says. As they picked loose pieces of Dungeness crab with dipping sauce at home, the two unearthed long-forgotten morsels of memories, she says.

Tang's parents immigrated separately from Thailand to San Francisco. Over the years, she got into cooking partly out of her desire to help her mom access foods from her motherland. Her mom, she says, was an "OK cook" — as a middle child of nine, her responsibilities around the household growing up had revolved more around cleaning than cooking. She would have occasional cravings for certain foods, but as a busy dressmaker and custom tailor in San Francisco, she didn't always feel like making a trip across the city to get them.

Accessing both the ingredients and the techniques to prepare Thai food hasn't always been easy, but thanks to increased importation and efforts by California farmers — specifically Hmong farmers in the Central Valley, she says — it's now a little easier to track down ingredients like holy basil, Chinese mustard greens and fuzzy melon. And the rise of YouTube has helped her learn more about the techniques used in Thai cooking, she adds.

As a child of immigrants, she says, it took her a long time to reconcile that her motherland and her home are different places.

What finally enabled her to make peace with that tension was years of work to connect with her roots, she says. "The difference kind of just fizzled away."

She compares the process of learning about her heritage to climbing a mountain. Learning to cook Thai cuisine was one mountain, while learning the Thai language was an even steeper mountain. She also spent time traveling throughout Thailand independently and working with the youth performing group at the Berkeley Thai Temple as part

of her self-directed immersion into the culture.

Throughout her childhood, one constant for her was the Thai temple, where she attended a weekend and summer school program from kindergarten on. Her education there, she says, was "like an apprenticeship degree in Thai culture." Many of her peers' families owned Thai restaurants, so there was always food in abundance, alongside lots of music and dancing, she recalls.

Families that sent their children to the temple "were just super proud of who they were," she says. "I really consider that one of the hugest blessings in my life, to have had this time capsule of a place educating me alongside my American classroom education."

And while she's come to embrace her Thai heritage, she also accepts and appreciates other parts of herself, she says. "This is a huge part of who I am, but it's actually not all of who I am."

For instance, she's come to appreciate what she calls "adjacent" cuisines — similar but not quite the same, like Cantonese food. She writes in her book that growing up, there were a number of Southern Chinese flavors



Magali Gauthier

VC Tang adds mushroom soy sauce to sauteing ingredients while preparing a recipe called "My mom's fresh chili salmon" from her new cookbook.

her mom sought out, which used to give her pause because they weren't Thai. Later, she learned she'd had a grandmother who was Chinese.

"I grew up in San Francisco telling the world that I wasn't Chinese. And then, to only to be told as an adult that, wait, I actually am in many ways ... it's like my ancestors playing this huge prank on me," she says.

The book was put together by an all-Thai creative team, she says, including work by illustrator Emily Ramai Kim and editing and layout by Ja Arun Ravine. On one page, Kim's illustration of a container of soup on a hospital bed tray accompanies a recipe for yen ta fo, seafood noodle soup in pink broth, which Tang recalls was the dish her grandmother wanted most when she was in the hospital recovering from a heart attack. In another part of the book, a bag of groceries spills out onto a counter beside a pot simmering with beef noodle soup,

"an easy, go-to meal for a single, working mom," Tang writes.

To launch her book, she's hosting a book signing and party at the Park James Hotel in Menlo Park Oct. 30, with a reception sponsored by Farmhouse Thai Cuisine. She's particularly excited to share the cookbook with her "aunties" — women elders who have mentored her over the years — and fully expects them to critique and discuss the details of certain recipes with her, she says.

"We're so spoiled in the Bay Area — (Food is) just such a great doorway into understanding each other and communities," she says. "It was the doorway to understanding myself too."

To purchase tickets for the book signing and party or to preorder the book, visit [tinyurl.com/vctang](http://tinyurl.com/vctang). Learn more about the book at [stirfrystories.com](http://stirfrystories.com) or follow Tang on Instagram at @stirfrystories. ■

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Magali Gauthier

VC Tang, author of the new cookbook "Come Eat, Grandma! Recipes and Stories of Thai Home Cooking," in Redwood City on Oct. 7.



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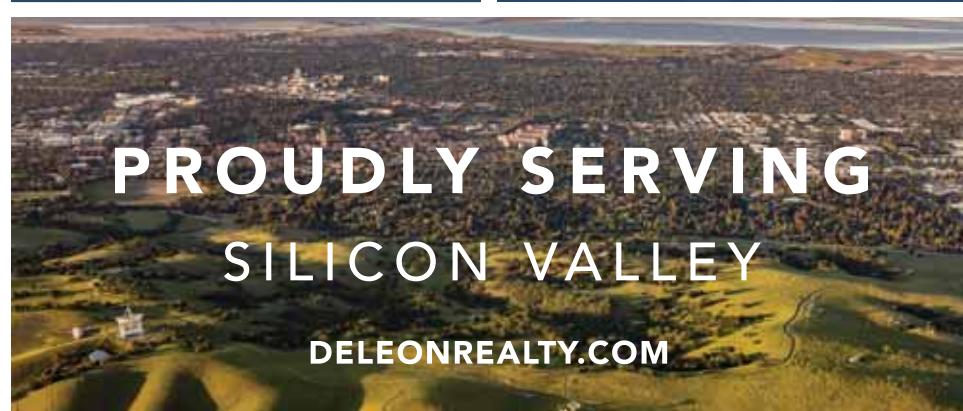
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