

# The Almanac

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

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## Menlo Park's Measure V poised for defeat as voters overwhelmingly reject zoning restrictions

By Cameron Rebosio

Measure V, Menlo Park's single-family zoning ballot initiative, is headed for defeat after a contentious and expensive campaign.

As of noon on Nov. 9, only 2,601 yes votes, or 40.3%, were reported by the San Mateo County Elections Office, while no votes were ahead 3,856 votes, or 59.7%.

Measure V, a citizen-sponsored initiative on the November ballot, aimed to restrict the Menlo Park City Council's ability to rezone single-family lots to higher density.

If it passed, the city would have to put any rezoning of lots zoned "R1" to a citywide vote in a regularly scheduled election. Proponents of the ballot measure say that will give residents a voice in what happens to their neighborhoods, as opposed to letting the City Council make decisions. Opponents warn it will block future development, particularly of low-income

housing, in most of the city.

The election over Measure V has been contentious, and No on V is one of the area's highest-funded campaigns, raking in over \$400,000.

Representatives for the campaign against the ballot initiative were excited over the results on election night, and said that they are eager to see the final vote count.

"We're pleased and we hope that it holds," campaign volunteer Karen Grove said. "And we're pleased to be together and celebrating each other as well."

Nicole Chessari, who has spearheaded the effort to pass Measure V, said Tuesday night that she was eager to see updated results.

"I think it's still early and I don't know what the results will show, so we are still anxious to see how it shows up," Chessari said. ■

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



Angela Swartz

Menlo Park voters dealt a defeat to Measure V, which would have taken away the City Council's power to rezone single-family lots.

## Hasko and Taylor pull ahead in Portola Valley Town Council race

Challenger Hufty holds narrow lead over incumbent Hughes for third seat

By Angela Swartz

Planning Commissioners Judith Hasko and Craig Taylor, along with retired family physician Mary Hufty, are leading the race for the three seats on the Portola Valley Town Council, election results Wednesday morning show. Mayor Craig Hughes had been slightly ahead of Hufty early on election night, but Hufty overtook him by the end of the evening.

Hughes and Hufty were separated by just 21 votes as of Wednesday, Nov. 9. Hufty, who also ran for council in 2020, had

738 votes (17.8%) over Hughes at 717 votes (17.3%). The Almanac has reached out to the county elections office to determine how many ballots are outstanding in the race.

"I've congratulated Judith and Craig T., since their lead looks big enough it'd be hard for them to drop out of top three," Hughes said in a statement on Wednesday morning. "It's neck-and-neck between Mary and me, and with lots of votes outstanding, I remain confident that I'll take the lead back and end up victorious ... but we'll see!"

Hasko led with 1,213 votes, or

29.3%. Taylor had 886 votes, or 22.4%.

"I'm very honored to be in the lead at this point and I look forward to seeing the final results when they're available," Hasko said shortly after 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair Dale Pfau trailed in last place with 584 votes (14.1%).

Hughes said around 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday that although he was neck-and-neck with Hufty, he expected his lead to hold.

Public discourse in Portola Valley has been heated in recent months. Rebecca Flynn, who

runs the town's online social network PVForum, said that a few people in town are on a moderated status "because they have shown themselves to be unable to post respectful messages." Pfau and Hughes sparred over the reasons behind Pfau's removal from the Wildfire Preparedness Committee earlier in the year and controversial content on Pfau's Twitter account, which featured a photo of Watergate felon G. Gordon Liddy as his profile picture.

"I think being the incumbent helps and hurts; this was clearly a contentious election," Hughes said. "Voters have clearly

rejected Dale's message."

Initial election results include vote-by-mail ballots received in the mail as of Friday, Nov. 4, and vote-by-mail ballots returned at Vote Centers and Drop Boxes on or before Nov. 4. They also include all Vote Center ballots.

A Political Action Committee aimed at unseating current council members raised \$40,000 and endorsed Hasko, Hufty and Pfau for council.

In August, the Town Council approved a settlement to resolve a lawsuit against the town claiming its committee members

See **PV COUNCIL**, page 17

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 21 | FOOD & DRINK 22

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Liza Spiridon

Gregory Ammen and Grace Spiridon died in a Redwood City car crash last Friday, leaving behind 7-year-old twin daughters who survived the collision.

## Couple killed in Redwood City car collision leave behind twins

Gregory Ammen and Grace Spiridon were 'high school sweethearts'

By Leah Worthington

The local community is mourning the loss of the parents of twin girls who were killed on Nov. 4 during a major car collision.

The couple, who met in middle school, were "high school sweethearts," said one family member.

Gregory Ammen, 44, and Grace Spiridon, 42, Palo Alto natives and residents of San

Carlos, died in a major collision involving two cars and seven passengers just before 8 p.m. last Friday. Ammen and Spiridon were turning left onto Finger Avenue from El Camino Real when they were hit by another car traveling at high speed, according to Michael Ammen.

Their 7-year-old daughters, Madison and Olivia, also in the car at the time, were transported to Stanford Hospital with minor injuries and released

Nov. 6. The other car contained a 17-year-old driver and two passengers who suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

The couple lived with their daughters in Eaton Hills, according to Gregory's younger brother and the girls' uncle, Michael Ammen. Gregory Ammen was an audio engineer at Dolby, and Spiridon worked at Google.

See **CAR COLLISION**, page 19

## Incumbent Mayor Betsy Nash leads for Menlo Park City Council District 4

By Cameron Rebosio

Incumbent Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash is leading the race for Menlo Park City Council District 4 against Peter Ohtaki. The district includes downtown, Allied Arts and a southern segment of El Camino Real.

Nash has received 845 votes, or 59.26%, to Ohtaki's 581 votes, or 40.74% as of 11 a.m. on Nov. 9.

Ohtaki was the incumbent when he competed against Nash for the District 4 seat in 2018, which Nash won. Nash has stated



Betsy Nash



Peter Ohtaki

that her priorities for Menlo Park are housing, street safety and climate change, whereas Ohtaki is focused on traffic congestion, reopening Menlo Park following COVID-19 and perceived issues with the state duplex law, SB 9.

On Wednesday afternoon, Nash said that she was happy about the results thus far, and that she had enjoyed campaigning and having the opportunity to interact with residents.

"I really enjoy connecting with people and talking to everyone so I did go door-to-door," Nash said. "My focus remains on the priorities of affordable housing, climate change and safe streets." ■

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

## Menlo Park Council member Ray Mueller takes big lead in race for San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

By Cameron Rebosio

Semi-official election results as of Wednesday afternoon show Menlo Park City Council member Ray Mueller with a sizable lead in the race for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors District 3 against San Carlos City Council member Laura Parmer-Lohan.

As of noon on Nov. 9, Mueller had 18,781 votes, or 64.3% to Parmer-Lohan's 10,436 votes, or 35.7% of the count.

District 3 is the largest district in San Mateo County by area, encompassing seven cities and 20 unincorporated areas. The district ranges from Pacifica south almost to Santa Cruz on the coast and inland communities including Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside and West Menlo Park.

Mueller has said that his priorities are housing, education, infrastructure and putting a focus on the coastal towns in the district as well as inland cities. Parmer-Lohan said she was focused on mitigating the effects of drought, addressing wildfire risk and reproductive rights.

Parmer-Lohan, a member of the LGBTQ community, emphasized in her campaign the diversity she would bring to the board,



Ray Mueller



Laura Parmer-Lohan

which has been overwhelmingly straight, white and male throughout its history.

"I want to thank the residents of District 3 for participating in this historic election," Parmer-Lohan said. "I'm really proud of what we've accomplished." ■

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



Andrea Gemmet.

A ballot drop-box at Burgess Park in Menlo Park, Nov. 8.





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**CRIME BRIEFS**

**Two women robbed by armed man on Bayfront Expressway**

Two women were robbed by an armed suspect in Menlo Park on Nov. 2, according to police.

The robbery was reported around 7:15 p.m. near the railroad tracks at Bayfront Expressway, also known as state Highway 84.

Officers found the two women, ages 35 and 39, who reported being approached from behind by a suspect who elbowed one of them in the stomach and took out a firearm, causing her to fall to the ground, police said.

The suspect grabbed a purse from one woman and took a backpack from the other and fled toward the marshland area off of Willow Road, according to police.

One of the women was taken to a hospital to be treated for a complaint of pain to her stomach and was later released.

The suspect remains at large and was described as a Black man around 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall and wore all black clothing and a black ski mask, police said.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call Menlo Park police at (650) 330-6300 or a tip line at (650) 330-6395.

**\$40K in Burberry handbags stolen**

Five men who entered a Burberry store at Stanford Shopping Center allegedly threatened employees and stole an estimated \$40,000 worth of handbags on Nov. 5, Palo Alto police said.

Police received a call on Nov. 5 at about 6:58 p.m. regarding an in-progress shoplift at Burberry at the shopping center, which is located at 180 El Camino Real. The men, who were not armed, entered the store and took several handbags. They threatened to hurt store employees and pushed a security guard, but no one was injured, Sgt. David Lee said.

The shoplifters were described only as 20-year-old men wearing gray hooded sweatshirts and black masks. They remain at large. No suspect vehicle description is known.

Anyone with information regarding this incident to call the Palo Alto Police Department's 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to [paloalto@tipnow.org](mailto:paloalto@tipnow.org) or sent by text message or voicemail to 650-383-8984.

—Bay City News Service

**Jewelry stolen in Atherton burglary**

Someone stole jewelry from an Atherton home on Nov. 4, according to police.

At around 8:54 p.m. someone smashed a rear window at a home on the first block of Knoll Vista, the Atherton Police said in a Nov. 5 press release.

Police are investigating the burglary, but they do not have any suspect information or information on the suspect's vehicle.

Police are asking residents in the area of Knoll Vista Avenue to check their surveillance video and report any possible leads to 650-688-6500.

—Angela Swartz

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# Slate leads in Ravenswood City School District board race

By Angela Swartz

A slate of three candidates — made up of two incumbents and a newcomer — are leading the race for the three open seats on the Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees, according to election night results. The newcomer, educator Laura Nuñez, leads the pack.

President Mele Latu, Vice President Tamara Sobomehin and former candidate Nuñez of Ready Set Ravenswood were beating out Manuel López in the early rounds of election results.

“I am awaiting the final results. I know there are a lot of ballots that are still being counted,” said Sobomehin in an email. “I’m recalling the election four years ago and newspapers announcing incorrect ‘winners’ before all the votes were represented. Win or lose, our district is fortunate to have folks who are interested in serving the youth of our community and invested in their achievement. I’m looking forward to the final count!”



Magali Gauthier

Vote center worker Maia Goel shows James Payne where to cast his ballot at Onetta Harris Community Center in Menlo Park in 2020.

Nuñez led with 1,587 votes as of Wednesday afternoon, or 32.2% of the vote, followed by Latu at 1,233 votes (25.1%) and Sobomehin at 1,224 (24.9%). López trailed with 868 votes, or 17.7%.

“The early results do tell me that I could have done a bigger effort in campaigning,” said López in a Wednesday morning statement. “Based on feedback from voters, academic excellence is a high priority for them and it was refreshing

for them to hear reasonable proposals on the topic. I am grateful for the support I received despite not having placed signs in the streets or knocked door-to-door.”

The county was expected to release an updated vote tally on Thursday, Nov. 10, after The Almanac’s Wednesday afternoon press deadline. ■

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

# DeGolia, Widmer and Miles Holland pull ahead of Conlon in Atherton council race

By Angela Swartz

Incumbents Rick DeGolia and Bill Widmer, along with Environmental Programs Committee Chair Stacy Miles Holland, led in a four-way race for the three seats on the Atherton City Council by the end of election night.

Mayor DeGolia is the top vote-getter so far with 31.5% or 1,232 votes. Vice Mayor Widmer had 29.3% or 1,152 votes. Miles Holland has 20.8% or 815 votes.

The other candidate, longtime resident Greg Conlon, trailed behind with 18.3% or 716 votes.

Initial election results include vote-by-mail ballots received in the mail as of Friday, Nov. 4, and vote-by-mail ballots returned at vote centers and drop boxes on or before Nov. 4. They also include all Vote Center ballots.

On Tuesday night, Widmer said he is “cautiously optimistic” about his lead so far. He noted there are still votes to count, but he was impressed with the number of ballots brought to the drop box at the civic center.

DeGolia said on election night

the results look good for him, but there are still more votes to count to determine if Conlon or Miles Holland is elected.

“If this lead holds, I’ll be joining Atherton City Council next year,” said Miles Holland in a Wednesday statement. New council members are typically seated in December, after election results are finalized.

“Whatever the outcome, I have never felt more connected to my community. It’s been wonderful meeting so many of my Atherton neighbors, and I’m more inspired than ever to serve our town,” she said.

Whomever wins will play a part in shaping the town’s housing element, a road map for accommodating future development over the next eight years

including a significant increase in housing units that must be planned for. The town received extensive feedback from the state on Oct. 31 on its draft element, which relies heavily on homeowners building backyard accessory dwelling units and lot splits.

Candidates said combating climate change, street safety and reducing residential burglaries in town were also important issues to them.

The county plans to release its latest vote tally before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10, after The Almanac’s Wednesday afternoon press deadline. ■

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



Greg Conlon



Rick DeGolia



Stacy Miles Holland



Bill Widmer

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



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# Atherton councilman says state gave town an 'F' for housing element draft

Bob Polito said the council knew its plan would not be approved

By Angela Swartz

When Atherton City Council came together for a study session on Nov. 2 to discuss how to respond to the state's feedback on its draft housing element, one council member urged his fellow members to do more to try to satisfy the state's demands.

The town received a letter from the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on Oct. 31, noting that the town is overestimating how many Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and duplexes it will help produce over the next eight years. Council member Bob Polito said that town staff and consultants told the council "from day one" that the plan would not be approved by HCD. He said HCD's response was essentially giving Atherton an "F" grade.

The council included multifamily housing overlays in an earlier version of Atherton's draft housing element, which must plan for 348 additional units under the state's 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation, a jump from the 93 units it was assigned the

previous cycle. The council scrapped those multifamily housing plans in July following complaints from residents about a shift away from life as a single-family home community.

"Am I the only one of our council members that thinks there should be consideration of a Plan B instead of moving forward with something that's going to fail again?" he said. "We're just kicking this can down the road."

Council members Elizabeth Lewis and Bill Widmer worried in September that a Plan B with multifamily overlays would undercut its current ADU-focused plan. Council member Diana Hawkins-Manuelian, like Polito, also wanted to see backup plans.

"I'm like a lot of people that think the state is 'overreaching' into local land use issues with SB 9 (et al) and the entire RHNA process, and that maybe the next election cycle will include some relief via referendum," Polito said in an email to The Almanac after the meeting. "But I think there is real danger for the town to not make every effort to produce an approved housing element, and do so promptly."

Polito said "YIMBY" group lawsuits, invalidation of the town's general plan and threats of so-called builder's remedy projects that sidestep local zoning rules all pose "significant

risk" for Atherton. He said his colleagues now need to consider a Plan B that will almost certainly include multifamily housing.

Polito, who stepped in last year to fill in when former Vice Mayor Mike Lempres moved to Paris, is not seeking office this fall and will leave the council in December. He has said that he believes a handful of well planned, high-quality multifamily projects would be vastly better for the town than the plan the council currently supports. He said in September that he would support his fellow council members in the current draft housing element until the state rejects the submission.

"Trying to achieve the state's requirement of 348 new housing units via SB 9 lot splits and hundreds (literally) of new ADUs with as little as a 4 foot setback to a neighboring property will generate negative consequences throughout the town that are way beyond what anyone realizes," he said in a Sept. 7 email.

Widmer said he thought the town's grading was more likely a "C-." He said it seems the state mostly wants more details and analysis completed.

"Parts of the letter are overly harsh," he said. "Some parts are an overreach on (the state's) part."

Mayor Rick DeGolia said he was "pleasantly surprised" by

the content of the letter, agreeing with Widmer that it seemed like the state is focused on the town gathering more analysis.

"The council has judged that if a developer must purchase land in Atherton, then it is nearly impossible to deliver affordable housing because the cost of land is so expensive," DeGolia said in an email. "That leaves Atherton with the opportunity to enable affordable housing with multifamily development on school properties and to create programs to incentivize people to build and rent ADUs at affordable rates."

DeGolia said it remains to be seen whether this strategy will succeed, but he described it as the "best (and only) bet" to provide affordable housing in an area with high land costs.

At the Nov. 2 meeting, Lewis asked staff if there had been any traction on lawsuits against the state by any coalition and what punitive actions the state has taken against jurisdictions without achievable plans.

Town Attorney Mona Ebrahimi acknowledged Lewis' frustration with the increased housing quotas, but courts seem to be backing HCD.

"There's nothing promising I could tell you that would lessen the burden," Ebrahimi said.

Town consultant Barbara Kautz said the results are much worse if the courts take over the

process. Kautz said the press and courts have portrayed cities and counties unhappy with their RHNA numbers as "the bad guys."

Consultant Diana Elrod has been following the housing element process for years and said that the town's letter this year was average length. Letters are about eight times longer than they were in the past, they said.

During the public comment period, Greg Conlon, who ran for the City Council but did not appear poised to win one of three seats up for election, said he doesn't understand why the council hasn't "raised hell" about its assigned number of units being too high.

"Somebody needs to take a hard look at those numbers," he said.

## Multifamily housing

Planning Director Lisa Costa Sanders said that, based on the letter, HCD wants Atherton to add multifamily housing, by right, with objective design standards.

A staff report notes the town may need to revisit multifamily overlay zone sites and additional sites for housing as part of the resubmitted housing element in order to reach compliance.

HCD considers a density of

See **ATHERTON HOUSING**, page 20

## Incumbent Brian Dombkowski takes big lead in Woodside Town Council race

By Angela Swartz

Mayor Brian Dombkowski pulled far ahead of the two other candidates for the District 2 seat on the Woodside Town Council, according to election night results.

Dombkowski had about 61.7% of the votes or 174 votes as of Wednesday afternoon. Two other candidates, Steve Lubin, a lifelong Woodside resident and longtime town volunteer, trailed far behind with 20.9%, or 59 votes, followed by Elizabeth Kaske with 17.4%, or 49 votes.

"I am honored to have received such strong support from the voters," Dombkowski said in a statement a little after 9 p.m. on Tuesday. "Over the course of this campaign I have

had so many invaluable conversations with constituents. There's a lot of heavy lifting ahead of us and I will continue to roll up my sleeves on behalf of our town to get it done."

Initial election results include vote-by-mail ballots received in the mail as of Friday, Nov. 4, and vote-by-mail ballots returned at Vote Centers and Drop Boxes on or before Nov. 4. They also include all Vote Center ballots.

The three-way race is for the newly redrawn District 2 seat, which represents parts of Emerald Hills east of Interstate Highway 280 and borders Huddart Park.

The Town Council, which is currently a seven-member body, is making the move to five members when it switches from the old "from-district" to

a "by-district" elections system beginning on Tuesday, 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 all have terms that are expiring. Brown ran unopposed.

Scott now lives in District 1, which will be on the ballot in 2024. He could choose to run then, but he wasn't eligible for any of the seats on the ballot this November, according to Town Manager Kevin Bryant.

Whoever is elected will play a part in shaping the town's housing element. The town is charged with designating at least 328 units of new housing over the next eight years through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), a



Magali Gauthier

Yuliya Lazaro fills out her ballot at a vote center at the Woodside Village Church on Nov. 8.

large jump from just 62 last cycle. The state sent extensive feedback on the draft, which relies heavily on accessory dwelling units (ADUs), but includes some multifamily housing.

The county plans to release its

latest vote tally before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10, after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline. ■

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



# Bernstein, Jones and Bloom leading in Menlo Park Fire Board race

By Cameron Rebosio

Chuck Bernstein, Robert Jones and Gary Bloom are poised to take the three seats up for election on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

Four candidates ran, with Dionis Papavramidis trailing the leaders. The fire district provides emergency services to Atherton, East Palo Alto and surrounding unincorporated communities as well as Menlo Park.

As of noon on Nov. 9, Bernstein was leading with 7,862 votes, or 33.3%, followed by Jones with 6,866 votes, or 29.1%, and Bloom with 6,385 votes or 27.1%. Papavramidis had 2,475 votes or 10.5%.

Bernstein, an incumbent board member, has said his priorities are to build a district-wide network of volunteers, improve the financial standing of the district and increase the diversity of its staff.

Jones, also an incumbent, said he would focus on diversity in the district, along with developing both the fire district's

community disaster preparedness and response plan, and the district's strategic plan and accountability structure.

Bloom is one of two newcomers in the race, and he's said if elected he'll focus on community preparedness, the district's relationship with ambulance companies and diversity and equity. East Palo Alto resident Papavramidis, the race's other newcomer, did not campaigning and did not reply to The Almanac's attempts to reach him. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.*



Chuck Bernstein



Gary Bloom



Robert Jones



## Pinewood School

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# Incumbent Miller takes decisive victory in Woodside fire district race

By Malea Martin

Early election results show that incumbent Woodside Fire Protection District board president Matt Miller won by a landslide against retired attorney Lloyd "Rusty" Day.

The vote tally as of Wednesday shows that Miller had captured 75.9% of the vote (2,709 votes), well ahead of Day at 24.1% of the vote (859 votes).



Matt Miller

Miller has spent the last eight years leading the district. He told the Almanac that he ran for another term to see that work come to fruition — and that there's still more to be done.

"We're right in the middle of the process to do the tough work to update the critical wildfire maps in our district," Miller told The Almanac following the early vote count. "Both that process and the result of those maps, and changes to how we

run the fire code will be important to the safety of the district over the next years."

With the construction of a new Station 7 in Woodside and the remodeling of the existing Station 8 in Portola Valley on the horizon, Miller added that he looks forward to seeing those projects finished.

Miller expressed gratitude to the voters, as well as to his opponent.

"I'd like to thank Rusty Day for the contributions he's made to raising awareness of fire safety in the district," Miller said. "I respect anyone who runs for office in this political climate."

The fire district, which serves the towns of Woodside and Portola Valley, and the communities of Emerald Hills, Ladera, Los Trancos and Vista Verde, operates three fire stations, in Woodside, Portola Valley and Redwood City's Emerald Hills neighborhood. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
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— Hal Plotkin, *subscribing member and senior scholar, Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME).*





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# College student winning race for Sequoia high school district board

Sathvik Nori graduated from Menlo-Atherton in 2021

By Michelle Iracheta and Leah Worthington

Sathvik Nori, a commissioner on the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Commission, is on track to become the youngest member of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees. He leads the race to represent the board's Area D with 3,411 votes (55.6%) to competitor Jo-Ann Byrne Sockolov's 2,728 (44.4%) in semi-official results as of Wednesday.

Nori said that as the only candidate who is a product of the district, he has a unique insider perspective of the problems facing teachers, students and their families. He graduated from Menlo-Atherton High

School in 2021.

"The school board, at the end of the day, the buck stops with them," said 19-year-old Nori before the election. "It's really important for the school board to be in touch with what's going at local schools and what's going on with teachers and the community."

Sockolov, who has more than 20 years of experience in public education and served as the Redwood City Education Foundation's first executive director, ran on a platform of fiscal oversight, teacher talent acquisition and retention, finding innovative education and teaching strategies and adding support resources that level the playing field for students facing social and economic challenges.

Nori said the school district, for the most part, does a good job serving its students. Yet during his four years at Menlo-Atherton High School, he saw firsthand how an educational achievement gap plagued the district, where students from disadvantaged backgrounds often fell behind in their academic performance. The gap was exacerbated by the pandemic, he said. It's an issue he wants the board to focus on.

Now a Stanford sophomore studying computer science, Nori said his top priorities include adding an array of diverse academics and increasing community engagement and teacher retention.

"A lot of these classes would be good to help students who maybe

don't like traditional subjects like math, English, reading or science," Nori said. "They might find that they really like aerospace engineering, business or sports management."

The COVID-19 pandemic was isolating for many and revealed how the district was not as responsive as it could have been to input from various committee members or parent groups, he said. The district would benefit from a Parent Advisory Committee so that parents feel that their voices are being heard, Nori said.

One of the biggest concerns facing school districts in the Bay Area is that of teacher understaffing.

"The district needs to take a look into more creative

compensation tools, such as helping teachers afford to buy homes or have down payment assistance to help them afford to live in the area," Nori said. "Attracting and retaining the best quality educators is really what translates into actual results in the classroom."

Nori racked up a number of endorsements, including from Sen. Josh Becker and county Supervisors Carole Groom and David Canepa. ■

—Andrea Gemmet contributed to this report.

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## San Mateo County supervisors discuss options for sheriff's oversight committee

By Mengyuan Dong/  
Bay City News Service

San Mateo County publicly discussed possibilities to establish an oversight committee for the county Sheriff's Office for the first time during its Nov. 1 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Supervisors asked staff and an ad hoc committee to return to the board with a proposal that would involve an inspector general and a board. It was the first time the board discussed sheriff oversight publicly.

The County Attorney's Office and Fixin' San Mateo County, a local grassroots organization advocating for Sheriff's Office

oversight, gave presentations on the possible models and benefits of oversight, followed by comments from supervisors and the public.

The discussion was in the wake of Assembly Bill 1185, which passed in the fall of 2020 and took effect in 2021. The legislation allows California counties to create citizens' oversight boards and suggests fact-finding, transparency and community engagement within the process. To date, AB 1185 has had limited application. However, seven counties, including San Francisco, Sonoma and Sacramento, have implemented some alternative form of oversight broadly consistent with AB

1185's messages.

"Today, we really take the first step as a board to look at our options and what other communities have done," said Supervisor Dave Pine.

David Silberman, the chief deputy county attorney, introduced three existing models created by other counties.

Model one represents a form of the inspector general, who focuses on investigating specific incidents and complaints of excessive force and discrimination against the Sheriff's Office. Model two requires an inspector general and an advisory commission, both active and independent. That model is used in Sonoma County,

where the commission is called the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach. The third model creates only an oversight board without an inspector general.

Although it still takes time to determine which model works best for the county, Jim Lawrence, Fixin' San Mateo County's chair, stressed the urgent need for an oversight system.

"If we have some type of surveillance providing best practices... if we could just eliminate one of those deaths, I think we should do it," he said, reminding the board about people who died due to law enforcement.

An oversight system would

especially help better protect racial minorities, said Nancy Goodban, the organization's executive director, during her presentation at the meeting. According to the organization's data, Black people are nine times more likely to be arrested than white people in San Mateo County, and Hispanic people are twice as likely to be arrested.

There has been increasing interest in oversight both regionally and nationally since George Floyd's death in 2020. At least 220 counties and cities have some form of civilian oversight in the U.S., Goodban said.

Public comment during the

See **SHERIFF OVERSIGHT**, page 16

## Hayden, Peiffer, Westervelt lead in Woodside Elementary School District race

By Malea Martin

Initial election night results show incumbent Jenny Hayden, along with newcomers Amanda Peiffer and Brett Westervelt, in the lead for the three seats on the Woodside Elementary School District board.

Hayden held 26.5% of the vote (547 votes), Peiffer was second with 24.6% (509 votes) and Westervelt was third with 19.4% (402 votes), according to semi-official results posted in the early morning on Nov. 9.

"I'm optimistic," Hayden said of the results so far. "Amanda has a sizable lead and Brett has

a lead too, so I'm hoping that the split of votes remaining to be counted are in the same split."

The three current leaders ran together in a slate, hoping to accomplish their goals such as implementing the district's recently adopted strategic plan, catching up on a large backlog of deferred maintenance and bringing some normalcy back to their small, tight-knit school community following the pandemic.

"We think that the school is great already," Hayden said. "There's certainly always improvements to be made, and we don't want to change the school drastically. Any places

where we can do things better, I think we'll be looking to do that."

William Dunn, an airline pilot and California Air National Guard Officer who sought to bring "diverse ideas, viewpoints and values" to the school board if elected, holds fourth place with 15.6% (322 votes).

"Last time I glanced at it it looked like turnout was really low," Dunn said of the early results. "I certainly hoped for more turnout. I'm not going to mask disappointment," he said of his current standing.

"It's been a learning experience," Dunn said of his first run for office. "It's kind of a growing



Magali Gauthier

Bill Mann drops off his ballot at a vote center at the Woodside Village Church on Nov. 8,

opportunity."

Candidate Rick Yost, a former U.S. Army Officer who ran on a platform of bolstering campus security, is currently in fifth

with 13.9% of votes (288 votes). ■

Email Staff Writer Malea Martin at [mmartin@mv-voice.com](mailto:mmartin@mv-voice.com)



# Environmental review of Meta's huge Willow Village project heads to Menlo Park council

By Cameron Rebosio

A major mixed-use project proposed by Meta could advance this month, as Menlo Park City Council members consider the environmental review of the massive, mixed-use Willow Village project.

The Menlo Park Planning Commission reviewed the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) last month, recommending eight conditions in order for it to win approval.

Despite dumping real estate leases in other cities and laying off a reported 13% of its employees this week, Meta still has plans to redevelop 59 acres near its Menlo Park headquarters with up to 1.2 million square feet of offices and 1,730 units of housing.

Meta, formerly known as Facebook, plans to build the ambitious mixed-use development with office and residential uses plus a hotel, retail and commercial space, a dog park and a publicly accessible park in the Belle Haven neighborhood. The main development would



Courtesy Facebook/Signature Development Group

Facebook's plans for Willow Village include affordable senior housing, shown in this rendering.

be built along Willow Road between Hamilton Avenue and Ivy Drive, according to the application.

Meta addressed the fears caused by its termination of several leases, saying company officials "remain very committed to well-located,

high-quality, highly amenitized space," and that the Willow Village project was a prime example of that.

One condition laid out by the Planning Commission was a guarantee of the operation of community amenities, like the grocery store, which will serve

the neighborhood.

Commissioner Cynthia Harris also proposed the recommendation that Meta must guarantee 60 months of rent subsidy instead of the 24 months proposed in the staff report, which said that's the minimum amount of time needed for a grocery store to become self-sustainable.

The language of the EIR currently states that Signature, one of two developers for the project, will build up to 1,730 units of housing in the Willow Village development, as well as up to a certain number of hotel rooms. The Planning Commission recommended that these numbers be considered minimums instead. Signature is also asked to commit to providing 100% of "gap" funding for affordable senior housing, which is a component of the housing proposal.

The commission also requested that the developer provide a Transportation Demand Management plan that reduces the expected number of trips into Menlo

Park by 1,000 vehicle trips.

The commission expressed concern that the campus would not bring the promised vibrancy to the neighborhood, and that it could become an isolated area that was mostly for employees of Meta.

"The real concern for me is that this is going to be not a hub for a vibrant community across all of Menlo Park, but it's actually going to be an island oasis," said commission Chair Chris DeCardy.

The commission discussed Meta taking ownership of the section of Willow Road in order to be able to make improvements surrounding the connection of Meta to the rest of the community, but it was determined that it was not within the commission's power to request this.

The City Council is set to discuss the EIR at its meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15, and take public comment. ■

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

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# Forensics team analyzing buried car for DNA connection to other crimes

Police confirm Mercedes belonged to Atherton man with long and violent criminal past

By Angela Swartz

Forensic specialists didn't find any human remains in a mysterious car found buried in the backyard of a home on the 300 block of Stockbridge Avenue in Atherton, but they are continuing to analyze parts of the vehicle for DNA to see if there is a connection to any other crimes, police said in a Nov. 3 press release.

Atherton police also confirmed that the Mercedes Benz convertible belonged to previous homeowner Johnny Bocktune Lew, who had a long criminal history that included murder and insurance fraud.

Detectives are waiting for the results of DNA testing and conducting interviews with Lew's relatives, said Atherton Police Sgt. Daniel Larsen in a Nov. 3 email to this news organization. San Mateo County Crime Lab investigators didn't find any human remains in the car, according to police.

Police said Lew received a \$86,729 insurance payout for the 1991 Mercedes Benz 500 SL, which was reported missing to the Palo Alto Police Department in 1992. Police believe that the vehicle was possibly buried for insurance fraud.

The car, buried 4 to 5 feet deep, was unearthed by landscapers

working on a project in the yard on the morning of Oct. 20.

Cadaver dogs picked up the scent of human remains in the vicinity of the car.

As The Almanac reported, Lew was convicted of the murder of Karen Gervasi, a college student with whom he was having an extramarital affair, in 1965.

The second-degree murder verdict was overturned by the California Supreme Court in 1967 due to an error in admitting hearsay statements.

In the 1977, Lew was sentenced to five years to life in prison for shooting and killing Marsha Dwyer, an 18-year-old freshman



Courtesy Reid Conti

The Mercedes Benz convertible that landscapers found buried in an Atherton yard on Oct. 20 was fully excavated and taken away, accompanied by police, on Oct. 22.

at University of California at Los Angeles, and the attempted murder of her father Leslie Dwyer in February 1970 at the Dwyer family's Westchester neighborhood home, according

to a Santa Monica-Southside Advertiser article. ■

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

## George Roy Liddle

April 13, 1927 – September 29, 2022

George Roy Liddle passed away at his home in Menlo Park on September 29th, at the age of 95. George was born on April 13, 1927, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the second child of George Ralph Liddle and Mary Elizabeth Liddle (née Lyle). Included in the family were older brother John and younger sister Eve.

George excelled at sports: he played in the 1942 Iowa state high school basketball championships, and he also played quarterback, for the Franklin High School Thunderbolts.

In the summer of 1944, before his senior year, the family moved to Pasadena CA, where George attended Pasadena Junior College, Lower Division (high school), then attended Pasadena JC as a freshman. George then enlisted in the US Navy, and he was accepted into a program for naval aviation training. The war ended, and George was sent by the Navy to Tulane University for his sophomore year. Upon discharge, he entered Stanford University on the GI Bill, where played lineman on the varsity football team. He graduated with a B.S. in Biology in 1949. The Stanford Graduate School of Business was his next stop, from which he graduated in 1951.

While in graduate school, he met the love of his life, Elise "Boots" Schieffelin, who was wrapping up her undergraduate studies at Stanford. They were married on October 10th, 1953, and remained married for 69 years(!). Their children: John, Susan, George Jr, and Marshall.

George worked as a stock-broker for a series of firms: Dean Witter, Irving Lundborg, Clark Dodge, Kidder Peabody, and UBS. He also served for decades on the Bergen Brunswig board of directors. Further, he served as Councilman for the City of Menlo Park.

He is survived by his loving wife Boots, four children, and six grandchildren (Galen, Ariel, and Wes Summers, and Caroline, William, and Alexander Liddle).



PAID OBITUARY

## Ann Matthews

October 9, 1935 - September 3, 2022

Ann (Slonecker) Matthews, was born on October 9, 1935, in Gig Harbor, WA to Helen and William Slonecker. Her childhood was spent in Bremerton, WA, where Ann and her three brothers remember barrage balloons rising up from the elementary school yard. After two years of junior college in Bremerton, Ann graduated from San Jose State University in California with a teaching credential, returning home to Bremerton to teach kindergarten. It was while visiting a friend in the Naval Hospital that she met and eventually married John F. Matthews II on June 25, 1960, in the Bremerton Naval Chapel.

After a honeymoon in Japan, the newlyweds moved to College Terrace and Ann started teaching kindergarten at Ladera School, the beginning of a long career inspiring children to make art and play outdoors, culminating in 15 years at Trinity School at St. Bede's Episcopal Church where she retired in 2000 with a heartfelt send-off from generations of families touched by her warm and nurturing spirit.

John and Ann moved into their home on Aliso Way in Ladera in August of 1963 where they raised their two daughters, Mozy and Megan, and lived happily for 59 years. Two years spent living in Italy in the mid-70s forged lifelong friendships and a deep love for all things Italian for the whole family. In addition to being a beloved wife, mother, teacher, and artist, Ann was also a children's book author and operated a silk screening business out of her home studio where she designed T-shirts, tote bags, and aprons for the LRD, local schools, sports teams, clubs, and businesses.

Ann valued family, friendship, art, and international culture above all else. Before social media, there was Ann Matthews. Everywhere she went, Ann collected friends. With a warm smile and a "Ciao Bella!" Ann's ability to meet, discuss, and get involved was unparalleled. To have known her, was to love her. She will be missed by friends and relations across the globe. Ann is survived by her loving husband, John, daughters Megan and Mozy, son-in-law Jose, granddaughters Siena and Maya, brother Bill Slonecker and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Annie's Life is being planned at the Ladera Community Church in the spring. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her honor to the San Mateo County Libraries. To make a dedicated gift, please visit <https://investinsmcl.org/donate/>



PAID OBITUARY

## SHERIFF OVERSIGHT

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meeting endorsed the idea of creating an oversight system. Many residents said an oversight board would help repair the strained relationship between the sheriff and communities.

The proposal also gained support from 16 current and former mayors, as well as several city councils, town councils and 23 community organizations, according to Fixin' San Mateo County's report.

Although the board deemed the discussion a study session without making an official decision, the supervisors unanimously expressed willingness to move the idea forward with the third model of establishing an oversight commission without an inspector general.

Supervisor Warren Slocum, one of the proposal's sponsors, said his team planned to travel around the county to hear residents' voices about undertaking oversight and then bring back recommendations to the board. He also expected to involve the participation of the new sheriff, Christina Corpus, who's taking office in January.

Oversight has been in the spotlight of discussions in other counties in the Bay Area. The Marin County Board of Supervisors greenlit the formation of entities to provide independent oversight of the county Sheriff's Office in August, while the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors rejected the idea of creating an independent oversight board in the same month. ■



# At Google's campus, state and local leaders urge greater efforts to conserve water

By Kiley Russell/  
Bay City News Service

A group of state and local water system officials gathered at Google's Mountain View campus recently to tout the benefits of conservation as California faces the likely prospect of a fourth consecutive year of drought.

Standing amid landscaping and office space designed to reduce potable water use by 60% compared to similar facilities, participants repeatedly emphasized the need for across-the-board water use reduction throughout the state.

"It's the third straight year of a bad and worsening drought," said California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot at the Sept. 29 event. "Our climatologists predict that as we move into the winter, we can expect another, fourth, dry year."

Climate change is wreaking havoc on the state's environment and its hydrologic cycles, Crowfoot said.

"What we're learning is that those of us like California that have a Mediterranean climate are experiencing more and more extreme weather — the dries are getting drier and the wets are getting wetter," he said.

He praised Bay Area residents for reducing water consumption, which the region did by more than 17% in July

compared to the same month in 2020. Statewide, residents reduced water use by nearly 7.5% for July.

"My message today is thank you and keep it up," Crowfoot said.

But Crowfoot said that conservation alone won't protect the state from drought and climate change and noted that over the next 20 years, hotter and drier conditions will likely reduce the amount of water available in California by about 10%.

The state is working with local water agencies like the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which organized Thursday's press conference, to diversify water supplies by expanding water recycling, recharging groundwater basins, reducing water waste and capturing and storing precipitation during the rainy season, he said.

Regulators are working to develop standards for efficient use of water, provide incentives for water re-use and to support rural communities that are most vulnerable to water supply shortages, said Sean Maguire, a member of the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Water Board provided \$3.3 billion last fiscal year to expand access to safe drinking water statewide and \$347 million in Santa Clara County since 2017 for wastewater projects, Maguire said.

Maguire emphasized the need for collaboration by government, the private sector and individual residents to help the state endure its ongoing water woes.

"We all need water and we're all in this together," he said.

This year's state budget set aside \$2.8 billion to support drought resilience, improve conservation and protect drinking water supplies, including \$400 million in grants to urban water systems for water efficacy projects and \$260 million for water re-use and recycling efforts.

"Too much in California our water system is one-way. We just do not have enough re-use and recycling, and this is a part of that plan to get us there," said state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park.

Locally, the Valley Water board recently amended the district's water waste ordinance to allow it to enforce state regulations that ban irrigation of decorative grass on commercial, industrial and institutional properties.

Valley Water also called for a mandatory 15% water use reduction in 2021 and offers rebates of up to \$3,000 for residential customers and up to \$100,000 for commercial and multi-family customers who want to switch to drought-tolerant landscaping.

The water agency also offers rebates up to \$400 for people who install a

"laundry-to-landscape" gray water system.

"We're looking to individuals, we're looking to households, we're looking to businesses both big and small to kind of join in the battle against droughts and floods and the variability we have in California's water supply," said Valley Water board director Gary Kremen. ■

## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Nancy Elizabeth Valentine**, 91, a Portola Valley resident, on Oct. 19 and **Ann Matthews**, 86, a Portola Valley resident, on Sept. 3.

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

### Neal Dow Coberly, Jr.

March 12, 1932 – October 8, 2022

Neal Dow Coberly, Jr. of Atherton, California, died peacefully on October 8, 2022 at the age of 90. His full obituary may be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/NDC-obit>. Neal is survived by his wife, Janet; his brother, Bill; his children, Peter (Kim), Bruce (Haylee), Lauren (Renaud), and Elizabeth (Ethan); and his grandchildren, Alexandra, Coby, Maile, Scott, Alexander and William. A celebration of life will be held in the new year.



PAID OBITUARY

### Robert Montez

March 21, 1936 – October 31, 2022

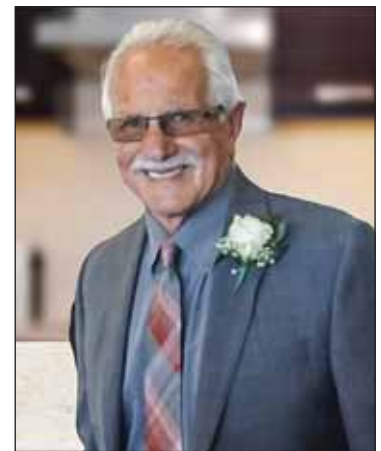
On the evening of October 31, 2022, Robert "Bob" Montez passed away peacefully at home at the age of 86.

Robert was born in Hayward, Calif. to Ygnacio and Sylvia Montez and was the oldest of seven children. In 1958, he married his high school sweetheart, Francine, and together they raised four children, Michael, Bobby, Maureen, and David.

He served in the Marine Corps for eight years and later became a respected officer for the Palo Alto Police Department, a job he loved and held proudly for over 20 years. After retirement, he worked and volunteered at several community organizations, including Channing House and The Sequoias retirement communities, the Palo Alto Neighborhood Disaster Assistance, and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation where he went above and beyond to greet patients and help them find their way around the clinic.

Robert was known for his mentorship, sense of humor, warm smile, and abundance of love for his friends and family — especially his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and pets. Robert was also known to share a story or two of his police work and his Hayward High football team. Everyone he encountered felt lucky to know him and he will be greatly missed.

A service will be held at 11am on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Palo Alto, at 3233 Cowper Street.



PAID OBITUARY

## PV COUNCIL

continued from page 1

violated the Brown Act, calling the decision an unfortunate but necessary move to stave off expensive litigation.

Whomever is elected will play a part in shaping the town's housing element. The town is charged with planning for at least 253 units of new housing over the next eight years through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). Portola Valley has approached planning for housing using multiple strategies, including growth in the number of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in town (making up a third of the plan); planning for housing at churches and adding housing at The Sequoias senior living facility; opt-in rezoning; and planning for housing on town-owned lands.

The town received feedback,

via a letter, from the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Wednesday, Nov. 9, after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline, according to Town Manager Jeremy Dennis.

The county planned to release its an updated vote tally before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10. ■

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



Magali Gauthier

Lauren Bochnowski fills out her ballot at a vote center in the Town Center in Portola Valley on Nov. 8.



# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

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)

ROBINSON & COMPANY REALTORS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292471  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Robinson & Company Realtors, located at 3603 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ROBINSON FINANCIAL CORPORATION  
3603 Alameda De Las Pulgas  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation  
State of Incorporation: California.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/1/1980.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 17, 2022.  
(ALM Oct. 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18, 2022)

TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D #4  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292378  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Tacos El Grullense C&D #4, located at 575 Ralston Ave., Belmont, CA 94002, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D #4 INC.  
10 Danford Court  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
State of Incorporation: CA  
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 5, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292386  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Tacos El Grullense C&D, located at 60 31st Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D INC.  
10 Danford Court  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
State of Incorporation: CA

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/14/2018.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 6, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

TACOS EL GRULLENSE #1  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292381  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Tacos El Grullense #1, located at 1243 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
TEG-CKD INC.  
10 Danford Ct.  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
State of Incorporation: CA  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/19/2017.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 5, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

HINENI: JEWISH AND NATURE BASED GRIEF SUPPORT  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292568  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Hineni: Jewish and Nature Based Grief Support, located at 801 North Humboldt Street, Suite 405, San Mateo, CA 94401, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
JON AVRAM SOMMER  
801 North Humboldt Street, Suite 405  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
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 October 26, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

GULFSTREAM DRILLING 1978  
GULFSTREAM DRILLING 1979  
LEEDY DRILLING VENTURES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292527  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Gulfstream Drilling 1978, 2.) Gulfstream Drilling 1979, 3.) Leedy Drilling Ventures, located at 7 Lloyd Drive, Atherton, CA 94027, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
WILLIAM JAMES MASSEY, JR.  
7 Lloyd Drive  
Atherton, CA 94027  
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 October 25, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

WOODSIDE MAIL OFFICE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292506  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Woodside Mail Office, located at 2995 Woodside Road Suite 400, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
WOODSIDE VENTURES CORP  
2995 Woodside Road Suite 400  
Woodside, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation  
State of Incorporation: CA.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/24/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 24, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

File No. M-292147  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
WOODSIDE MAIL OFFICE  
2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400  
Woodside, CA 94062  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
09/13/2022.  
UNDER FILE NO. M-292147  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
MAIL OFFICE OF AMERICA, INC.  
2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400  
Woodside, CA 94062  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY a corporation, State of Incorporation: CA  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on October 27, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

ABC CHAUFFEURED LIMOUSINES-SEDANS  
ABC LIMOUSINES-SEDANS-VANS-  
WORLDWIDE TRANSPORT  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292593  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ABC Chauffeured Limousines-Sedans, 2.) ABC Limousines-Sedans-Vans-Worldwide Transport, located at 15 S Bayshore Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94401, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
D E M Enterprises Inc.  
15 S Bayshore Blvd  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/28/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 28, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

VIRUS GEEKS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292619  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Virus Geeks, located at 330 N Brand Blvd, Glendale, CA 91203, Los Angeles County; Mailing Address: 951 Mariners Island Blvd, San Mateo, CA 94404.  
Registered owner(s):  
MATRIX DIAGNOSTICS INC  
320 N Brand Blvd  
Glendale, CA 91203  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/13/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 01, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 2022)

AMERICA'S GARAGE DOORS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292565  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
America's Garage Doors, located at 1622 Michigan Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
RALPH GOMEZ JR.  
1622 Michigan Ave  
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 10/03/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 26, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 2022)

GEOFFREY'S DIAMONDS & GOLDSMITH  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292562  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Geoffrey's Diamonds & Goldsmith, located at 1312 Laurel St #102, San Carlos, CA 94070, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
GEOFFREY'S DIAMONDS  
681 Alexandra Ct  
San Jose, CA 95125  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation, State of Incorporation: CA  
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 26, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 2022)

## Assemblyman Mullin headed to Congress to replace Rep. Jackie Speier

By Bay City News Service

California Assembly Speaker pro Tem Kevin Mullin is headed to Congress, holding a sizable lead in the initial results of Tuesday's election to replace longtime Democratic stalwart Jackie Speier in her District 15 seat representing the Peninsula and parts of San Francisco.

Mullin had nearly 56.5% of the vote compared to about 43.5% percent for San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa, according to initial semi-official results Wednesday.

Mullin, 52, was elected to the Assembly in 2013 after serving on the South San Francisco City Council and is the son of former state Assembly member

Gene Mullin.

Speier, who is retiring after nearly 15 years in Congress, endorsed Mullin, who worked for her when she was in the state Senate.

Canepa, who served eight years on the Daly City City Council before joining the county Board of Supervisors six years ago, congratulated Mullins following the release of the initial results Tuesday night.

"Running for Congress has been the most exciting year of my life and I'm so proud of my team. We fought hard and we never gave up. Congratulations to Kevin Mullin, we wish him the very best of luck and look forward to working with him on the most pressing issues our nation faces," Canepa said. ■

## Judge denies last-ditch efforts by Theranos defendants to avoid sentencing

By Susan Nash/  
Bay City News Foundation

In a one-two punch on Monday, Nov. 7, a federal judge rejected efforts by Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes and her business partner and ex-lover Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani to avoid their imminent sentencing dates.

Holmes, convicted of four counts of wire fraud based on her misleading statements about the now-defunct company's blood-testing technology, had moved for a new trial based largely on a surprise visit paid by the prosecution's star witness, Adam Rosendorff, to her residence in August of this year.

Rosendorff, apparently hoping to meet directly with Holmes, instead spoke with her partner, William Evans.

According to Evans, Rosendorff said that at the trial he "tried to answer the questions honestly but that the prosecutors tried to make everybody look bad." Rosendorff appeared distressed and said that he "felt like he had done something wrong."

U.S. District Judge Edward Davila held a limited evidentiary hearing in October to explore whether Rosendorff's statements reflected any misconduct by government prosecutors or meant that he had not testified truthfully during the trial last year.

In his Monday order, Davila found that Rosendorff, who

returned to court to testify in person at the evidentiary hearing, testified credibly that the government was "comprehensive" and not "cherry picking or being selective" when it presented his testimony at trial.

Rosendorff's testimony at the evidentiary hearing undercut Holmes' interpretation of his comments to Evans and "would defy any efforts to construe a specific instance where the government had misrepresented evidence."

Therefore, Davila wrote, "a new trial is not warranted."

Holmes also sought a new trial based on prosecutors' arguments to the jury during Balwani's case, to the effect that Balwani had "a lot of influence" over Holmes. Holmes argued that this position by prosecutors undermined any finding as to her own personal knowledge and fraudulent intent with respect to her representations to investors.

Davila wrote in his order that the prosecutors' arguments were not "inconsistent with those the government made in" Holmes' trial and that it was unlikely that a new jury hearing about prosecutors' statements would reach a different conclusion, pointing to Holmes' own testimony that "Balwani did not force her to make any of the statement to investors or journalists" that were the basis for her conviction.

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



**CAR COLLISION**

*continued from page 5*

Ammen and Spiridon “loved their daughters more than anything in the world,” according to Michael, who said the couple also enjoyed hiking, biking, live music and exploring the outdoors.

“Greg always put Grace and his family first,” Michael Ammen said, describing his brother as “a source of kindness and light and love in the world.” The couple, known as ‘The G’s’ by their friends, “were the light of every party they went to,” he added. “They were social magnets bringing people from all over (work, school, wherever) together for fun.”

Ammen and Spiridon, who grew up in Palo Alto, went to the same middle school, but the romance didn’t spark until they were at Palo Alto High School, according to their friends. Ammen graduated from Paly in 1996 and Spiridon was part of the Class of 1998.

Maura McCarthy, a longtime friend of Spiridon’s, described a mutual crush and several dates between the two that blossomed after college and grew into a lifelong partnership, admired by friends and family alike. “They really held each other in such high esteem and regard and it

was really nice to see — a model relationship for me,” McCarthy said.

She said Grace “really embodied her name” and said her friend used to help her with math homework, share snacks during bike rides to soccer practice and, later, welcome McCarthy into their home for the holidays.

“We shared a pair of Doc Martens in junior high,” she said laughing. “We had the same shoe size and pooled our allowance. I’d get them some days of the week, and she’d get them others.”

McCarthy described Spiridon as more of a sister and an integral part of hers and many other lives. “I’m shattered,” she said. “It’s hard to think about my life — any memory from college, high school, whenever — without Grace in it.”

Stephanie King, a friend of more than three decades, described Spiridon as a great baker, a hard worker and the “quintessential mom.” From middle school basketball games and their first concerts as teenagers to birthday mixtapes and mother-daughter dinners, she recalled decades of shared memories with Spiridon, whom she said was well-loved and a beloved friend to all who knew her.

She said Ammen and Spiridon were the type to go above and beyond for each other and their

daughters, planning camping trips and elaborate surprise birthdays.

“The fact that they were taken away like this is heartbreaking,” she said. “This is just such a horrible tragedy, and you just feel for Grace and Greg’s parents who have lost their children. And for the girls who are growing up without their parents.”

King said taking care of the girls had become a driving motivation for friends and family alike.

“I want them to have as many opportunities as possible,” she said. “These girls should never want for anything because they had their parents taken away from them.”

A GoFundMe organized by Spiridon’s sister, Liza Spiridon, has already raised more than \$185,000 to support the twin daughters.

“The world lost two beautiful souls, and leaves two amazing girls without parents,” Liza Spiridon wrote in the fundraiser. “We would like to honor them by setting up resources for the care of their wonderful 7-year-old girls.”

Michael Ammen, who has two kids of his own, said he was “overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from Greg and Grace’s numerous friends and the community as well.” He said they’re “taking it one day at a time” but

are grateful to their friends and family, including Ammen and Spiridon’s parents who live in the area.

“There is an incredibly strong support structure in place for the girls,” he said.

Redwood City Mayor Giselle Hale and Police Chief Dan Mulholland released a joint statement Monday afternoon.

“On behalf of the Redwood City City Council, we extend our deepest sympathies to the two young children who tragically lost their parents,” Hale said in the statement. “Grief and stress counseling have been made available to students and families, and to first responders who provided emergency assistance at the scene.”

“This remains a very active, ongoing investigation and more information will be released as soon as it is available,” Mulholland said. “There are no words to express the magnitude of this loss. We are all mourning this tragedy together.”

The couple is survived by Ammen’s parents, Chris and Adrienne Ammen; brother, Mike Ammen; Spiridon’s mother, Nana Spiridon; sister, Liza Spiridon; and many other friends and family members. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
Leah Worthington at  
lworthington@rwcpulse.com.*

**THERANOS**

*continued from page 18*

Davila also denied a third motion by Holmes seeking a new trial based on prosecutors’ failure to produce certain emails about the loss of the Theranos patient database.

Earlier in the day, Davila denied Balwani’s motion for a judgment of acquittal. Balwani was convicted of all 12 counts of wire fraud, including the four counts involving patients on which Holmes was acquitted and the three on which the jury in her case did not reach a unanimous verdict.

In sweeping language denying Balwani’s motion but describing the case against both Balwani and Holmes, Davila wrote that the evidence “supports the jury finding that Mr. Balwani’s and Ms. Holmes’ objective was to secure investor money to support the company through fraud.”

Although Holmes was not convicted of conspiracy to defraud patients, Davila wrote that a reasonable jury could also find “that Mr. Balwani and Ms. Holmes agreed to defraud patients to gain money.”

Holmes is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 18.

Balwani secured a three-week delay until Dec. 7 to allow more time for a pre-sentencing investigation report. ■



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**ATHERTON HOUSING**

*continued from page 8*

at least 20 units per acre as a “default” density that counts as meeting affordable housing requirements; however, the town isn’t required to zone for density at that level to achieve certification. The town can create density at lower levels, provided that the town is able to show projects at these lower densities are feasible for affordable housing production under RHNA.

The following were previously considered and approved locations for zoning overlays by a majority the City Council:

■ The property at 23 Oakwood Blvd., approximately 1.52 acres which borders Redwood City, was set at 16 units per acre. It passed 3-1-1, with DeGolia voting no and Widmer abstaining.

■ The property at 97 Santiago Ave., approximately 1.42 acres, was set at 6 units per acre. 3-2, with Lewis and DeGolia opposed.

■ The property at 170 Atherton Ave. in West Atherton, which is about 4 acres, was set at eight units per acre. Three council members voted yes, while DeGolia and Hawkins-Manuelian abstained from voting.

■ The property at 290

Polhemus Ave. near Alameda de Las Pulgas and Stockbridge Avenue, is approximately 5 acres, was set at eight units per acre. The overlay was approved unanimously.

**ADUs and SB 9**

Town staff note that Atherton will also be required to create an ADU monitoring and reporting program to show affordability success. Staff has already explored this with the local nonprofit HIP Housing, which provides home sharing services.

The town expects to have its ADU resident survey completed

in early December, said City Manager George Rodericks.

DeGolia said he is 100% “Yes in My Backyard,” referring to building ADUs, not the pro-housing movement of the same name.

Kautz said the town faces the issue of whether ADU units fall into the low-income housing category. She also noted that HCD is “very suspicious of any community claiming a significant number of SB 9 units.”

SB 9, the state duplex law that took effect in January, requires local agencies to grant ministerial approval to certain lot splits and up to two primary units on each resulting lot, with 4-foot minimum side and rear setbacks. SB 9 projects do not need to be approved by the Planning Commission or City Council, and are handled by town staff without discretionary review or a hearing.

The state may demand to know exactly where those units are going to be located, and may not accept the plan without multifamily zoning at 20 units per acre.

through the HCD letter, paragraph by paragraph, to articulate what is being asked of the town; advise whether the requests are grounded in state statute; and determine how the town can address the issues raised in the letter, Rodericks in an email. From that meeting, there will likely be some policy direction questions raised by council that staff will need to analyze and report back to the council on before the council provides direction.

During a second study session on Thursday, Dec. 15, the council will try to narrow down the policy issues that will then be presented at a couple of community meetings and distributed neighborhood meetings.

“The hope is to work toward a refined document for adoption at the end of January and submission to the state,” Rodericks said. “But, if we don’t get there, we’re at least well on our way toward more public engagement, refined and committed policies, and a document in the works.”

Watch the Nov. 2 meeting on the town’s YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/TownOfAthertonCA](https://youtube.com/c/TownOfAthertonCA). ■

**Next steps**

The City Council will have a special meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 5:30 p.m. Staff will go

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

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## 'The most important things in life'

Painter's broad range is highlighted in '#eatpraylovepaint' show at Bryant Street Gallery

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

The title of Elena Zolotnitsky's solo exhibition at Bryant Street Gallery, on view until Dec. 23, is "#eatpraylovepaint," and it is a fitting hashtag for an artist who is passionate about the medium of painting.

Zolotnitsky, a native of Moscow who now lives in Oakland, has been painting for almost 40 years. In an email interview, she said that she grew up admiring the work of Flemish artists Johannes Vermeer and Pieter Breugel. More contemporary influences include Richard Diebenkorn, Luc Tuymans and Paul Cézanne. "These are at my core so to speak. Everybody else comes and goes," she noted, adding "Have you noticed how your likes change depending on where you are in life, or what you are becoming?"

Gallery owner Karen Imperial was drawn immediately to

Zolotnitsky's paintings. "She's a very good painter and I wanted to give her a show because I thought it would be well-received," Imperial said. "It's representational and in the past I have focused more on abstraction."

Not only are the paintings representational but they also span three distinct categories: still-life, portrait and landscape. Quite often artists find that they excel in one area and focus on it for an entire career. Zolotnitsky said that "painting itself is the main subject" and that "I like to think of my artworks as 'sonnets' conveying my admiration for life, art, beauty and enchantment in a format of painting."

She is clearly enchanted with the temporal beauty of flowers, as can be seen in the simple elegance of "Yellow Rose" and "Beyond Blue." In these canvases, mature

roses in shades of orange and red and contained in plain vases take center stage. Rendered in loose, brushy strokes, the flowers are given enough form to be recognizable without unnecessary detail. These are quiet nature studies in which the saturated colors take on a translucent quality that can usually be found in works made with pastels.

The artist has a special technique for achieving "softness and calm," which involves the use of oil paint on mylar. Zolotnitsky said that she was first exposed to the use of mylar through the work of another artist. She decided to try it and loved how the end product had a "sleek sheen." She said that she felt it produced a "modern look" but not without lots of challenges. "Because of how sleek it is, you have to find your way in every one of your paintings. I find the media to be vibrant and lively."

Nine of the paintings in the show are part of the Extinct Series and feature empty chairs as subjects. When I shared with the artist that I found these paintings to be enigmatic, ghostly and full of memory, she was pleased. "Those are the exact emotions I strive to evoke," she said, adding, "By definition 'extinct' to me means nostalgia. And since the chairs mainly represent the characters who were at some point sitting in them and now no more — it was a good start."

The empty chair is an oft-used trope for loss and emptiness. In some of the paintings, this singularly symbolic object is painted in a realistic manner. We can imagine the feel of the material in "Red & Redder" and "Turquoise Perfect." These are comfy pieces of furniture where a grandparent might sit and read. "Feeling of Being," on the other hand, appears to be constructed of wood and is very stiff and upright. Other works like "Disappearing Act" and "Safe Haven" seem to be in the process of fading before



Courtesy the artist

"Against the Light (Satin Wedding)," oil on paper by Elena Zolotnitsky, seems to have more of a specific narrative than some of the painter's other portraits, with a serene setting contrasting with the tension of how the subject is portrayed.

our eyes, perhaps as a distinct memory of a loved one will eventually recede from our minds. In "Majestic" and "Made to Order," the form of the chairs disintegrates almost completely, leaving just a whisper of a memory.

"I have been told that my paintings of chairs were presenting 'vacancies' as if the person had just left or was about to return," said Zolotnitsky. How the viewer perceives them will probably be guided by where you are in your life. In any case, they are beautifully executed, evocative and thought-provoking.

There are three full-face portraits of women with long faces and symmetrical features. Painted in a generalized way, the viewer might wonder if they are all the same woman. But Zolotnitsky explains that the portraits, like her other work, are "archetypes — when the chair isn't really a chair, a flower isn't really a rose and a face isn't really a portrait." She went on to say that the face is really just a starting point — "a structure, a form is the space in time."

One portrait does seem to have more of a specific narrative. "Against the Light (Satin Wedding)" depicts a woman holding what appears to be a dress to her naked chest as she turns to look out at the viewer. She sits on the edge of a bed and the reflection of her back can be seen in a mirror in the background. The colors are soft and the whole look of the scene is reminiscent of many Impressionist paintings with similar subject matter. The indistinct rendering of the face,

the tension in the torque of the body engenders a disquiet that is palpable. Zolotnitsky agreed, "The whole scene of serenity is, I thought, in contrast to the girl's doubt and anxiety."

Two landscapes, "High Noon" and "Blueberry Hill," probably come closest to the description of being abstract. In "High Noon," soft hues of orange and gold are used to depict a hill with hiking trails leading to a sun-filled horizon. The artist has allowed some of the mylar to peek out from the sky, adding a blue note. Here we can see how carefully the artist must work, applying oil paint to such a slick surface. When asked if her short, direct strokes are purposeful, Zolotnitsky replied, "Absolutely! Everything is purposeful, even if it is intuitive. You are just so lost in the moment that the tools are the only way to the light."

After viewing the show it is easy to see why Zolotnitsky selected the hashtag, which she has been using for years. "It emphasizes the contrast between the world's social media madness and individuality. In order to not lose oneself in the modern time of technology, Instagram and (hashtags) — not to forget about the most important things in one's life. One of those for me is painting."

#eatpraylovepaint is on view through Dec. 23 at Bryant Street Gallery, 532 Bryant St., Palo Alto. [bryantstreet.com](http://bryantstreet.com). ■

Email Contributing Writer  
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[nonnenberg@aol.com](mailto:nonnenberg@aol.com).



Courtesy the artist

With pieces such as "Beyond Blue," painter Elena Zolotnitsky draws out a translucent quality from the saturated colors, giving the oil paint an effect similar to pastels.



# Food & Drink

## Dessert destinations

New cakes, patisserie and pastry-forward coffee shops abound

By Kate Bradshaw

As the weather takes a turn for the chillier and nightfall hits earlier, the Peninsula has come through for locals with a number of new outposts offering innovative baked goods and sweets, from cardamom croissants at Menlo Park's Canteen to mille-crepe cakes at Los Altos' Lady M; from petit fours at Lavender 'n Cream to ube pandesals and barfi at K&B Cafe.

### Canteen, Menlo Park

Canteen Coffee Shop, located inside the Springline development in downtown Menlo Park, has officially opened. The cafe, by Greg Kuzia Carmel, the chef behind Camper on Santa Cruz Avenue, is located inside CANOPY, a co-working office space at the new 6.4-acre housing, office and retail complex.

It's the first restaurant in Menlo Park's new Springline development to open to customers.

At a visit last week, the coffee shop offered a range of espresso and specialty drinks and baked goods by Mountain View's Midwife and the Baker, including cardamom and almond frangipane croissants, cranberry and roasted apple scones, and pumpkin muffins.

Food items coming soon include a quiche with honey and mint-spiked yogurt, a tuna salad niçoise, a Japanese-style egg salad croissant-wich and a truffled grilled cheese sandwich. Open daily on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Canteen also has a part two in the works: a separate restaurant in the same development situated along Oak Grove Avenue that will offer wine, cocktails and snacks.

Other offerings coming to the development are Andytown

Coffee Roasters, Barebottle Brewing Co., Burma Love, Che Fico, Proper Food, Robin and Mirame.

*Canteen, 1300 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Instagram: @canteenmpk*

### Lady M, Los Altos

After a trial run with a Los Altos pop-up, Lady M is putting down roots there, and the high-end cake boutique's mille crepe cakes are now on permanent offer.

The popular New York City-based confectioner launched a pop-up at 4598 El Camino Real in Los Altos in late 2019.

As of Oct. 22, the space has been transformed into a dine-in boutique, offering a variety of mille crepe cakes in flavors like pumpkin nuage, checkers, green tea, tiramisu and butter pecan. The cakes are made from layers of cream and crepes stacked on top of each other, creating a moist, rich texture.

Cakes are sold whole or by the slice and are not cheap, with each slice coming in at around \$10 and most 9-inch cakes priced at more than \$100.

People are encouraged to come earlier in the day for a larger selection of cakes because they often sell out, according to Lady M spokesperson Monica Kenny.

"We are excited that our customers at Los Altos can have the elevated Lady M experience of sitting down and enjoying our luxury confections with their choice of signature Lady M beverages," Kenny said in an email.

Beverages include Harney & Sons teas, coffee and espresso drinks, and rose and green tea lattes.

Since it was founded in 2001, Lady M has expanded to more than 30 locations globally with locations in San Jose, Southern California, the East Coast, and Singapore, Hong Kong and Beijing.

*Lady M, 4598 El Camino Real, Los Altos, 323-825-8888. Instagram: ladymcakes.*

### Lavender 'n Cream, Redwood City

Now open for breakfast and lunch, Lavender 'n Cream is a cozy patisserie with light-purple accents nestled in Redwood City's Marsh Manor shopping center in the former location of Eva Sweets.

The bakery opened last month, according to Joseph Petraki, who runs the patisserie with his parents, Lara Faddoul and Edgar Petraki. Edgar Petraki is a trained pastry chef who worked for the past couple of decades in various pastry shops and bakeries before he opened his own family patisserie in Montreal called Sprinkles. The family recently moved to California from Montreal, Joseph Petraki says.

The bakery offers French pastries, cookies, croissants, cakes, mousse, cupcakes, eclairs, tarts and petit fours — plus custom orders. For customers who eat in, the patisserie also serves French-press coffee and tea in teapots so that customers can serve themselves at their tables.

The menu includes items such as breakfast croissants with fillings like egg, ham and cheese, plus salads, sandwiches and Mediterranean pies stuffed with spinach, cheese or ground beef, according to Petraki.

Two specialty items that he expects to stand out to customers are a lavender-flavored cake and a Cortina cake, a chocolate cake with Diplomat cream. Also on offer are birthday kits, which include all the sweets one would need to celebrate a birthday like cake pops, Rice Krispies treats, cookies, macarons and cupcakes, he adds.

They also plan to have seasonal specialty items, such as a yule log or a tree made of cookies for Christmas and chocolate bunnies for Easter.

So far, the patisserie has earned positive feedback from the community, Petraki says. "They seem very enthusiastic to see what we have."



Kate Bradshaw

A Midwife and the Baker almond croissant and matcha latte at Canteen.

*Lavender 'n Cream, 3716 Florence St., Redwood City, 650-257-3026. Instagram: @lavender\_rc.*

### K&B Cafe, San Mateo

Sisters-in-law Kamal and Bianca Johal are bringing Indian and Filipino flavors with a California twist to their new San Mateo cafe, K&B Cafe. The eatery offers a range of Indian sweets made in-house, as well as Filipino pastries, breakfast foods and espresso drinks.

The family has a long history in the 25th Avenue neighborhood. Kamal says her mother-in-law retired from the post office on W. 25th Avenue, while her father-in-law previously ran a liquor store on the same street. Meanwhile, Bianca grew up just north in South San Francisco.

"There's a lot of family history here for us," Kamal Johal says.

One of their vendors is Wyldflour, a mother-son Filipino baking business that began during the pandemic. Amiel Baesa of Daly City says that after he graduated from culinary school at Le Cordon Bleu's Los Angeles campus, he started working with his mom, Myrna, who had influenced his cooking since he was a kid. They began to make empanadas together, which they sold to friends and family.

"I'm really happy she's my business partner," Amiel Baesa says.

It wasn't until 2020, when Baesa decided to bake ube pandesal, that their business began to really take off. He posted a photo of the bread on Instagram and the next day, someone asked to buy 200 pieces of it. After that, they were booked with requests every day for six months, he says. From there, he and his mom started going to festivals, pop-ups and markets to spread the word. Now they've got their first gig as vendors, supplying K&B Cafe with Filipino pastries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The ube pandesals are made with three fillings — Nutella, cheese and matcha cream cheese, which are hard to find elsewhere, he says.

Their empanadas are filled with pork sisig and wagyu garlic beef. Their newest flavor is an ube empanada with Filipino sweet pork sausage, egg and papaya relish.

"It's cool to see that Filipino food is being more exposed to the national scene," he says. "Being Filipino, it's an awesome feeling. I'm happy that people are enjoying our food."

For Kamal Johal, Amiel and Myrna's family-oriented focus at Wyldflour resonated with her family business' mission at K&B Cafe.

K&B Cafe also offers Indian sweets including barfi, which, she says, has a fudge-like texture but is not as rich or sweet.

"It's a homey environment, all about the community, small businesses and helping each other out," she says.

*K&B Cafe, 38 W. 25th Ave., San Mateo, 650-315-2189. Instagram: @K&BCafe.*

*Wyldflour, 650-867-7570. Instagram: @wyldflour.sf. ■*



Courtesy Joseph Petraki

Lara Faddoul behind the pastry counter at Lavender 'n Cream, a new patisserie in Redwood City.

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