Pleasanton’s ‘Queen of Horse Racing’

Wasserman reflects on career, critical time for sport in California

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Telling stories to persuade

Carmine Gallo has a simple message for business owners: Tell stories.

Gallo shared that message with a mentoring group founded 16 years ago by Joe Christiano, retired CEO of Kelly Moore Paints. Christiano introduced Gallo to the group noting it was the first time he'd presented a speaker with credentials as a Harvard instructor, best-selling author, keynote speaker, former journalist, contributor to Forbes and Inc., and “communications guru.” Gallo has lived in Pleasanton for years and works from a downtown office overlooking Main Street.

His talk focused on the art of persuasion. He cited one researcher who said workers spend about 40% of their work time trying to persuade co-workers or bosses about something. So, they ought to learn to do it well.

Gallo drew on history, starting with Aristotle and then mixed in brain science. The ancient Greek philosopher wrote that in decision-making, 10% was ethos (credibility), 25% logos (facts) and 65% pathos (emotional connection). The brain science comes into play when Gallo cited researchers who have determined that when people make an emotional connection their brains connect, and they tend to agree.

If the goal is persuasion, then that pathos connection is critical.

That’s why Gallo, a recognized expert on communication, emphasizes telling stories with an emotional tug instead of relying on the facts. The facts are important and should be used to support the story. He reminded the attendees that, long before the printed word or electronic media, people sat around the campfire or kitchen table and told stories. He argued that’s how our brains are designed to connect with each other.

Gallo has interviewed and interacted with many very successful people. In his latest book, “5 Stars” (as in Five Stars), he dug into what it took for the Four Seasons or the Ritz Carlton to reach that status.

He shared what he encountered when he went to Seattle for a major speech. He’d call ahead to the hotel to check arrangements and, during that conversation, the person discreetly interviewed him. When he walked up to check in, he was greeted by name and when he got to the room there was a hand-written note from the manager, a fruit tray and a cookie with his book cover frosted on it.

That’s personal service. One of the people he interviewed is retired Cisco CEO John Chambers. During that conversation, Chambers revealed that Cisco routinely evaluates potential directors and vice presidents for their communication skills − that’s how important the organization believes effective communication is. Incidentally, during Chambers’ long tenure, Cisco’s sales grew from $70 million to more than $40 billion.

When it comes to business, he suggested three types of stories. First is the unique story that differentiates your business. He interviewed the Australian woman who founded Canva, the online design studio. She was a frustrated college student trying to teach others how to use Adobe illustrator, an expensive and widely distributed program. The goal with Canva became building a web-based suite of easy-to-use tools that anyone could use to design attractive documents, presentations and other items.

She tells that story over and over again because it is core to her brand.

Gallo’s second recommendation is case studies using actual customers that also build both emotional connection and credibility. His third is telling brand-specific stories.

He recently spoke with an Amazon executive who shared a couple of interesting items. Data is huge for Jeff Bezos, but when data conflicts with anecdotal evidence, he routinely relies on the anecdotes. And, surprisingly, there’s no PowerPoint or bullet points for presentations. Instead, Bezos requires a six-page narrative that lays out the proposal and the rationale.

Gallo stressed that mission statements are important and should permeate the organization and be its guiding light. He said words define us − both individually and in business. He circled back to Aristotle, citing the rule of three. Every story should have a beginning, a middle and an end.

He shared a video of Apple CEO Tim Cook and pointed out how Apple makes it easy for consumers by minimizing choice: three colors, three models.

To watch videos of Gallo’s interviews or learn more about him and his services, please see www.CarminGallo.com or search on YouTube.
ASKED AROUND TOWN

What do you enjoy most about going to the Alameda County Fair?

Jose Luis Recoder
Business owner
I really enjoy the musical concerts. I like that they feature older bands that I’m familiar with instead of just the newer musical groups and style of music that I don’t particularly care for.

Dusty Mapson
Medical sales
I enjoy going with friends to watch the horse races. It is a great opportunity to catch up with them while enjoying the fair atmosphere and the races, which are an inexpensive form of entertainment. Of course the horses I bet on never win, but that really doesn’t matter.

Jessica Oquendo
Nurse
The food, of course. The junkier and crappier the better. For example, I particularly love the deep-fried Oreos. The fair is the only time all year that I eat like that.

Michael Wallin
Sales
I enjoy spending time with my family, enjoying the great evening weather and betting on the horses — or more accurately, donating money to Alameda County, because I never win. Ever.

Colin Miller
Sales
I really enjoy beating all of the little kids at the carnival games, like shooting water into a clown’s mouth. The best part is the happy and surprised look on their faces when I give them the prize I just won, which is usually a plush toy or something of that nature.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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City Council supports plan for redesigning downtown parking lot

Also: City’s 125th anniversary, LGBTQ Pride proclamation, Gatetree Circle complaints

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton City Council approved plans for redesigning and expanding the city’s downtown parking lot on the old railroad corridor between Bernal Avenue and Abbie Street on Tuesday night.

The 4-1 vote after nearly two hours of public discussion and three failed motions represented a reluctant endorsement by the council majority of city staff’s initial designs after being unable to find an acceptable compromise to better balance competing interests of maximizing parking and trail width on the narrow, 75-foot-wide property.

“One of the reasons I’ve really struggled with it is because both points are valid,” Mayor Jerry Thorne said during the hearing at the Pleasanton Civic Center.

The debate hinged on the new trail that would span the length of the property alongside the parking lot, whether it should be 8-9 feet wide as staff recommended for a slow-speed recreational pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists or 12 feet wide or more as the cycling community wanted for a multi-use regional transportation trail.

The problem given the property dimensions and other site challenges was that the wider the trail, the fewer new parking spots could be added — at least 33 fewer new spaces to accommodate a 12-foot-wide trail, according to city staff.

The council majority, agreeing that 8 feet was unsafe as too narrow, directed staff to proceed with the design that maximizes new parking but look for ways to cut back on landscape buffers, retaining wall width and even lose several parking stalls to make the trail a minimum of 9 feet wide throughout.

“Having sat on the Downtown Specific Plan (task force) for a little over two years, I can tell you that every meeting the issue of parking came up,” Thorne said. “Maybe there doesn’t have to be a lot of landscaping and what have you, and maybe we can maximize parking and have a trail that’s usable.”

Councilman Jerry Pentin, an avid bicyclist and cycling advocate, cast the dissenting vote.

“We should have looked at this as a transportation corridor first, and a parking lot second,” Pentin said. “(The trail) is just not wide enough...It will be a sidewalk, and I don’t think we’re accomplishing our goal if that’s what we end up building.”

Meet Churchill

The upcoming show in the Museum on Main’s Ed Kinney Speaker Series, “An Evening with Winston Churchill,” on July 9 at the Amador Theater still has tickets available for the 2 p.m. matinee, though the evening show is sold out.

The famed British statesman will be portrayed by scholar and actor Kevin Radaker, who is traveling from Indiana to share his talents and insights about Churchill with the Pleasanton community.

For tickets, go to www.museumonmain.org or call 462-2766. Museum officials reminded attendees that the main Amador parking lot on Santa Rita Road is closed for the solar panel project.

A helping hand

Summer can be an especially difficult time for homeless people in the Bay Area, as soaring temperatures often present serious health issues and other concerns.

To help ease the burden, local nonprofit Tri-Valley Haven has organized a special donation drive through Monday. People are looking for items such as water bottles, Gatorade, visors, Ensure, Power Bars, water, sleeping bags and any personal items.

Donations are still being accepted, today and Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tri-Valley Haven offices at 3663 Pacific Ave. in Livermore. To learn more, email ralph@trivalleyhaven.org.

PDA hires Cadrette as new executive

In-house candidate to succeed departing Olson in August

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton Downtown Association has announced a leadership change, with the Board of Directors appointing Tiffany Cadrette as the organization’s new executive director, effective Aug. 5.

The PDA’s events and communications manager for the past three years, Cadrette is an in-house selection to succeed longtime executive director Laura Olson, who is departing later this summer after more than nine years at the helm.

Cadrette said she is honored to earn the opportunity to lead the organization tasked with promoting downtown Pleasanton while working with the business owners, key stakeholders and community leaders.

“Pleasanton is a unique and special community and deserves to have a vibrant and thriving downtown.”

Haggerty won’t seek re-election

Retirement opens Tri-Valley seat on county board

By JULIA BAHM

Longtime Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty announced last week that he plans to retire after next year when his current term runs out in January 2022.

Haggerty has spent the last 23 years on the Board of Supervisors, currently representing District 1, a 440-square-mile swath of Alameda County encompassing the cities of Livermore, Dublin, most of Fremont, and settled with cattle ranches, wine country and businesses like Lawrence Livermore and Sandia laboratories, and Tesla Motors.

“I’ve been in public service for probably over 30 years now,” Haggerty told the Weekly last Friday about his decision. “My children over the 30 years have put up with a lot, and I think that it’s just time that I spend a little time with my kids. They live back East and that’s a lot of travel.”

Haggerty is currently serving his sixth four-year term on the Board of Supervisors; he was first elected to the board in 1996. Since then, he has become particularly known for his work on transportation issues like the Warm Springs BART extension.

“His leadership on transportation issues is unsurpassed,” said Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne.

Haggerty’s glass has been described as being half full, though the Weekly has heard concerns that he is being replaced too soon.

“Scott has been an incredibly valuable member of this Board, and we will miss him,” said Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne.

Haggerty has represented the Tri-Valley for over two decades, and has been a key figure in the community, particularly in the area of transportation.

“While we recognize the value of his service and the contributions he’s made to the community, we also recognize the need to welcome new leadership and new ideas,” said Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne.

See PARKING on Page 8

See HAGGERTY on Page 7

See PDA on Page 9
Aly & AJ among highlights of county fair’s second week

Sister pop duo to perform classic hits, new sounds at Saturday concert

By Ryan J. Degan

Alameda County Fair-goers looking for an infusion of 80s-inspired synth-pop are in luck because the sister pop duo Aly & AJ are coming to the fairgrounds on Saturday, promising to bring “wall-to-wall music” with them.

The sisters — Alyson “Aly” and Amanda “AJ” Michalka — may be most recognizable from their Disney Channel acting days or early 2000s music hits like “Potential Breakup Song,” “Like Whoa” and “Chemicals React,” and while they plan to perform their familiar songs in Pleasanton, the duo will also mix in recent hits off of their newest EP “Sanctuary.”

“We’ve really enjoyed the tour so far, and we’ve been able to play a lot more of our new music. It’s a great mix of old and new music ... and we bring a lot of high energy and costume changes to shows” Aly told the Weekly during a phone interview Monday ahead of the group’s tour stop in Vancouver. “We’ve been really looking forward to playing at the fair.”

Their fourth album, Aly & AJ describe “Sanctuary” as a five-song introspective look at identity and social consciousness, saying the subject matter of each song has moved past previous focuses on break-ups and turned inward to focus more on the self.

“We’re really proud of (Sanctuary);” it’s been really great to play our newer music during live shows,” AJ added. “I feel like it really sets up the live show ... We’ve created a collection of music that really elevates us and the importance of self-reflection.”

Aside from their musical careers, Tri-Valley residents may also recognize the sisters from their acting careers, both of whom made early appearances in Disney Channel original movies. Aly has played roles on the CW shows “Hijinks” and “Zombie,” and AJ on the ABC sitcoms “The Goldbergs” and “Schooled.”

During their tour, Aly & AJ have been taking the time to advocate for a cause near and dear to them, partnering with nonprofit The Trevor Project to provide information booths and help provide crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to young people in the LGBTQ community and ending the practice of conversion therapy.

Aly added that a big motivation behind choosing to support The Trevor Project was in part because of their growing fan base in the LGBTQ community. "To support these fans and create an inclusive space, as well as in celebration of Pride Month, fans are encouraged to bring rainbow flags to the show. Aly & AJ are on the tail end of their North American tour, after Pleasanton they only have four cities left on their schedule before taking a trip across the Atlantic for a five-show tour in western Europe. Aly & AJ will be performing at the Alameda County Fair Amphitheater, 8 p.m. this Saturday.

The sisters are but one highlight of special events and shows coming to the Alameda County Fair for its second week from Wednesday to Sunday. Upcoming special events at the fair this week include:

• Today, Canadian rock band Loverboy takes the stage.
• Saturday, prior to Aly & AJ taking the stage, the fair will feature its popular Cocktail Fest, Hat Contest, Super Cross Nationals competition and LGBTQ “Out at the Fair” celebration.
• Sunday, Super Cross Nationals continue, Asia Pacific Celebra- tion begins and LA rock band Lifehouse.

—Bay Area News Service

BART board imposes new fare hikes

Directors change tune to OK increases after initially disagreeing on plan

The BART Board of Directors reversed course last week and approved three fare hikes following initial disagreement on fare increases.

The inflation-based hikes go into effect every two years starting 2022 without an increase, BART officials said during the rate discussion June 13. According to a report presented to directors by BART staff, the 1980s and 1990s were characterized by long gaps between increases, followed by fare hikes of 30% and 45%.

The new series of increases are meant to continue the program of regular, moderate fare hikes approved in 2003 and 2013. BART derives most of its revenue from fares.

BART board members also approved a budget for fiscal year 2020. The board voted 8-1 to approve the budget, with Director Liz Ames casting the lone dissenting vote.

Before the initial vote on fare hikes, Ames and Director Debra Allen both expressed concern that increasing the cost to ride BART would further discourage ridership, which has been in steady decline.

“I didn’t want to focus on this right now; I want to focus on rider decline,” Ames said.

Director Rebecca Saltzman said she couldn’t see her way clear to approving fare increases while not also increasing parking fees at BART stations.

“We continue to increase fares while continuing to leave parking fees flat,” Saltzman said. “I really think we need to revisit having incremental increases to parking fees.”

Following the decision initially to keep fares flat, outgoing General Manager Grace Crunican said, “This changes everything for us.”

BART staff built the budget at least partly on an eight-year cycle of fare increases that would have raised $400 million, according to a report presented to the board. BART Director Robert Raburn said keeping fares the same is “like quitting your job and then walking into the bank and asking for a loan.”

The $11.7 billion budget includes $947.3 million to pay the agency’s roughly 3,400 employees, as well as $262 million to buy new train cars, $201 million to repair tracks and other structures within the system, money for new police officers and fare evasion prevention efforts and $167 million to improve earthquake safety, among other things.

The board also voted last week to issue up to $600 million in new bonds and directors approved a pilot program to test the effectiveness of giving 20% per-trip discounts to low-income riders.

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Swalwell gearing up for first presidential debate next week

Tri-Valley congressman among 20 Democrats taking stage over two days

By Ryan J. Degan

Presidential hopeful and Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell has made the cut for the Democrats’ first presidential debate and will look to have a breakout moment to distinguish himself in front of a national audience next week.

Swalwell, a 38-year-old Dublin native in his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives representing Pleasanton and the rest of District 15, is joining a crowded lineup of 20 candidates who will share the stage over the two-day debate held in Miami, which is scheduled to air on NBC, MSNBC and Telemundo next Wednesday and Thursday (June 26-27), 6-8 p.m. PDT each night.

The East Bay congressman will be taking the stage on the second day of debates (June 27), where he will go up against nine other candidates — in order to accommodate the large number, 10 candidates will take the stage on the second day of debates (June 27), where he will go up against nine other candidates — in order to accommodate the large number, 10 different candidates will take the stage each day — including more prominent candidates former Vice President Joe Biden and Sens. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). “Support is growing for my campaign to go big on the issues we tackle, be bold in the solutions we offer, and do good with the way that we govern,” Swalwell said after he qualified for the debate in April. “I’m grateful that I’ll have a place on the debate stage to discuss ending gun violence, providing affordable healthcare for all while finding cures in our lifetime, ensuring all communities have top-notch schools, and making sure student loan debt isn’t a lifetime burden.”

Major candidates taking the stage on June 26 include Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and former U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke (D-Texas).

Since announcing his candidacy in April, Swalwell has made presidential integrity, government transparency, education and healthcare central pillars of his campaign, but ending gun violence and enforcing gun reforms has been his top priority.

To support his gun reform platform, on Monday afternoon Swalwell announced his comprehensive framework for “ending gun violence,” doing so during a press conference near the national headquarters of the National Rifle Association in Fairfax, Va.

During the announcement, Swalwell laid out his plan which includes banning civilian possession of military-style semi-automatic assault weapons, buying back weapons that are already in circulation, expanding mental health services to reduce suicides from firearms, increasing protection for people suffering from domestic abuse, and implementing background checks for all firearm and ammunition purchases, to name a few provisions of his plan.

“We’re done letting the bullying, tweeting minority that leads the NRA dictate whether Americans live or die,” Swalwell said in a statement. “We’re done relying on thoughts and prayers — it’s time to act.”

HAGGERTY

Continued from Page 5

Springs BART extension. In February, he was unanimously elected to a two-year term as chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, a position he previously held from 2009-11.

The 62-year-old Tri-Valley native was raised in Fremont and now lives in Livermore with his family. He used to represent Pleasanton for years on the county board until the last redistricting cycle.

Haggerty also holds board seats with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Association of Bay Area Governments and the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Authority, in addition to being a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority and Tri-Valley Transportation Council.

The last 18 months of Haggerty’s tenure will be “action-packed,” he said, including trying to complete Valley Link commuter light rail system that will extend public transit between the Dublin-Pleasanton BART stop and the North Lathrop ACE Train station, which he believes “will get done,” building a new fire station along the Altamont and undergrounding power lines running down Tesla Road in Livermore.

He also hopes to “figure out how to get families who are working, and families who are not working, living in their cars, into housing” during his remaining time in office.

As for his successor, Haggerty said, “I hope the supervisor that comes in will continue to focus on housing, transportation, but I think the biggest crisis is the issue of homeless and mental health.”

At least one East Bay political figure is already eying Haggerty’s seat: State Sen. Bob Wieckowski (D-Fremont), who currently represents southern Alameda County and parts of Santa Clara County, announced last week that he plans to run for the open spot in the 2020 election. Wieckowski’s declaration came just a week after he dropped out of consideration for the 15th Congressional District seat currently held by Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin), who is a U.S. presidential candidate.

Haggerty’s supervisioral seat will first appear on the ballot in the primary election next March. If a candidate receives over 50% of the vote, they will win outright; if not, the top two finishers will advance to a runoff in the general election in November 2020.

Representing District 1 “has been a joy of my life,” Haggerty said, adding that now’s “time to hand it over to somebody else. It’s been an extreme pleasure to represent the people in the Tri-Valley.”

Caring means helping you know the signs of a stroke.
World Environment Day Celebration

Local students honored for ‘dirty’ deeds with Go Green Initiative

By Julia Baum

Pleasanton youths doing the literal dirty work for building a greener future — like sifting every day through piles of garbage — were commemorated during the annual World Environment Day Celebration at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Pleasanton.

The June 6 awards ceremony and luncheon was hosted by the locally based nonprofit Go Green Initiative, which works on environmental issues around the world.

Go Green recently partnered with the city of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Unified School District to develop a summer internship for nearly several dozen local high school and college students. All of the 33 interns are Pleasanton residents; half of them are in high school and the other 17 are in college.

Cassidy Walker Jones, a senior at Amador Valley High School, was among the students honored at the luncheon. Walker Jones, who is also interning this summer for Go Green, told the Weekly that she’s “always been into the green thing ... I like being able to make a change that’s going to matter.”

This is the second year that Walker Jones has lent a hand at her school. “I love working with members but I also want to help make Amador more energy efficient,” she added.

Over the course of nine weeks this summer, the interns will spend up to 15 hours each week applying their newly found knowledge of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager (ESPM) on various projects to help to benchmark the energy usage of PUSD- and city-owned buildings. The ESPM is considered the national industry standard for energy benchmarking.

The project targets multiple goals outlined in the Pleasanton Climate Action Plan, including reducing city and community energy use.

Six PUSD staff custodians joined the students onstage and were also honored for helping with the district’s new integrated waste management policy. Working together since last year, staff and interns have completed waste audits at more than a dozen city-owned facilities and all 15 PUSD campuses.

Almost 2,000 pounds of garbage, recycling and compost materials were sorted, bagged and weighed during the first quarter of 2019 with the assistance of Go Green to help determine how many recycling and organic waste bins each school would need to comply with the policy.

Micaela Ochoa, PUSD deputy superintendent of business services, thanked the custodial team “for their enthusiasm, collaboration and support in making the district’s integrated waste management policy a reality.”

The luncheon was the opportunity for by setting an example “to support a more sustainable future for generations to come.”

Local students honored for ‘dirty’ deeds with Go Green Initiative

PARKING

Continued from Page 5

The city-owned lot on the south end of downtown, located between Main and First streets, currently contains 59 diagonal spaces in a dirt/gravel strip in the so-called transportation corridor — former Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way running through downtown that the city purchased from Alameda County in 2008 to increase parking and trail connectivity.

With corridor improvements being developed in phases as funding allows, the council in 2017, as part of prioritizing more public parking throughout downtown, supported a proposed project to redesign the Bernal-to-Abbie section of the transportation corridor to create a lot more similar to the Firehouse Arts Center parking lot that was also built in the old railroad corridor.

City officials have allocated $3.2 million for the project, and city staff and contractor HMH Engineers are ready with partial designs (known as “65% complete plans”).

Their plans call for installing a two-way drive aisle, a 90-degree parking configuration on each side, a concrete walkway and landscaping improvements while creating a total of 140 parking spots, an increase of 81 stalls.

The project would also include a retaining wall, site lighting, electric vehicle charging stations, drainage improvements, stormwater treatment, curb, gutter, asphalt pavement and striping, according to Engineer Steve Kirkpatrick, the city’s director of engineering.

When city staff took the plans to the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee for review in March, committee members thought the design was too unevenly favored parking over cyclist and pedestrian needs, specifically opposing the trail’s 9-foot width, with four pinch points at 8 feet wide, according to Kirkpatrick.

The staff design concept took its lead from the Firehouse parking lot construction in 2011, which added an 8-foot-wide concrete trail, although other city guiding documents call for a minimum width of 10 feet with buffers for a multi-use trail, Kirkpatrick said.

The committee voted in March to recommend the project be redesigned to “consider both parking and bicycle/pedestrians more equally,” he said. Though not formally endorsing a specific new layout, the committee did discuss widening the trail to 12 feet by mixing 90-degree and parallel parking — instead of all perpendicular, as city staff urging — for 107 spots overall.

With the competing recommendations, city staff wanted the council to weigh in Tuesday night and decide whether to advance the 65% complete plans for finalization or send staff and consultants back to the drawing board to create a new layout with a wider trail.

Kirkpatrick pointed out several key factors at the site don’t really allow engineers to create a layout on city property that widens the trail to 10-12 feet without losing dozens of parking stalls, including a slight slope, a Kinder Morgan gas pipeline below ground and the fact the available city land is only 75 feet wide (compared to the Firehouse lot, which is 100 feet wide).

Staff did present the council with alternatives to consider such as a smaller lot, diagonal parking (31 new spots), eliminating landscape buffers, or the mixed perpendicular—parallel parking suggestion from the committee (48 new spots).

But the council majority considered the parking lot too great if widening the trail to 12 feet, so after struggling to find a workable compromise, they ultimately told staff to find ways to reduce landscaping around the trail to get the minimum width of 9 feet — and saying engineers could remove up to 10 parking spots if necessary to accomplish the goal.

“Nobody’s happy, so that means we did our job,” Thorne quipped after the vote on the fourth and final motion attempt.

With the council direction confirmed, city and consultant engineers will work to finalize designs by the fall so the project could be sent out to bid and begin construction by the winter or spring. If that timeline holds, the renovated parking lot would reopen during summer 2020, according to Kirkpatrick.

In other business

• The council opened the meeting with a ceremony recognizing the 125th anniversary of Pleasanton’s incorporation as a city — which occurred on June 18, 1894.

The public ceremony, which followed a dessert reception in city hall, included a historical overview of the incorporation process, recognitions from county, state and federal officials, and Pleasanton teen Lauren Hedges performing her original song “Our Home” for the occasion.

The council’s ceremony served as the kick-off event for Pleasanton’s “Summer of Celebration,” with a slate of programs and activities in honor of the city’s quasquicentennial.

• Council members presented a proclamation declaring June as LGBTQ Pride Month in Pleasanton.

• They also anointed Jeffrey Williams as Pleasanton’s 2019 Ambassador, a program partnership with the Valley Humane Society to recognize one local pup as the city’s canine representative for the year.

• During non-agenda comment, the council heard from a handful of Gateview Circle residents critical of the decision to designate their neighborhood as a drop-off and pick-up point for families in the fall during the school district’s Amador Valley High parking lot closure.

The council adopted the city’s two-year operating budget (with $192.3 million in expenditures for 2019-20 and $196.1 million for 2020-21) as well as the city’s four-year capital improvement program (CIP), with $168.3 million worth of projects between 2019-20 and 2022-23.

The budget and CIP, which were initially reviewed by the council during a public hearing two weeks ago, were approved as part of Tuesday night’s 17-item consent calendar.
Nonprofit Alliance names Young as first president/CEO
Co-founder previously served as board chair

By Julia Baum

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance co-founder Kathy Young was recently appointed as the organization’s first president and CEO. Young, an executive director for the past 12 years with the Fannie & John Hertz Foundation, served as TVNPA board chair prior to being promoted to her new role.

“I’m incredibly proud of the nonprofit community that’s grown up through TVNPA,” Young said in a statement. “TVNPA has created a network of connections that brings nonprofits together to share best practices, collaborate and learn from industry experts.”

Young’s history with TVNPA stretches back to 2014, when she and fellow community leader Mony Nop bumped into each other on an elevator and started collaborating on an idea to unite local nonprofits and help them strengthen and expand their services. That random encounter ultimately led to the founding of TVNPA, which represents more than 300 nonprofit groups throughout Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Joaquin counties, and hosts a number of free monthly programs as well as an annual panel, speakers forum, and the “Stronger Together” nonprofit festival.

“Because our monthly programs are free, TVNPA benefits are accessible to all nonprofits regardless of budget constraints,” Young said.

Young hopes to increase TVNPA’s reach in the community while helping their members do the same. “My main priorities are to raise awareness of nonprofits and of the services they provide, connect nonprofits to prospective donors and volunteers, expand TVNPA’s membership base, and increase participation in TVNPA from businesses and consultants who can help nonprofits grow,” she added.

Olson spoke highly of Cadrette as her successor in the PDA statement announcing her upcoming departure.

“While very bittersweet to say goodbye, I couldn’t be happier to have Tiffany assume this role. She is smart, energetic and passionate about downtown. The future is bright for all of us,” Olson said.

A Pleasanton native and former executive with Visit Tri-Valley and UNCLE Credit Union, Olson has led the PDA since April 2010, spearheading new and recurring special events to bring residents and visitors downtown along with advocacy efforts on the behalf of the organization.

She will be relocating with her children to Gadsden, Ala., with her final day with the PDA set as Aug. 2 — the day of Pleasanton’s 125th Anniversary Celebration, the PDA’s marquee event in 2019.

Olson is credited with creating popular PDA events such as the Brew Crawls, Holiday Spirit Stroll and Forkful. She also represented the organization on the city’s Downtown Specific Plan Update Task Force and on the California Main Street Alliance Board of Directors, including three years as its board president.

“Pleasanton is my hometown and my desire has always been to see our downtown thrive in every way so that it will remain the authentic heart of our beautiful town,” Olson said. “I am proud of the work we have accomplished, and I am excited to see all that is to come for downtown Pleasanton.”

Cadrette will be taking the reins during a crucial time for the PDA. An organization tasked with promoting downtown Pleasanton and enhancing its viability, the PDA is funded through annual assessments paid by for-profit businesses within the Downtown Pleasanton Business Improvement District (BID), as well as through financial support — direct and indirect — from the city government and via sponsorships and fundraising events such as Concerts in the Park.

PDA leaders have been advocating city officials this year to begin working on updating downtown’s BID structure — which Olson said hasn’t been amended in three decades — to create a more stable and predictable funding source for the PDA.

The council agreed to include those BID structure discussions in the city’s priority work plan for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years, but in the lowest priority category, for city staff to work on only as time allows.

Cadrette will also be starting her tenure as the city works to finalize adoption of the updated Downtown Specific Plan.

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Daniel Francis Brown, a long-time resident of Pleasanton, CA, peacefully passed away from heart failure on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto. He was 89 years young.

Dan was aware that he had completed all that was required of him on earth. He was in no pain, and just before he passed, Dan opened his eyes and saw that his immediate family was with him, namely his sisters and brother-in-law, Kathleen, Margaret and Wayne.

Having visited with his family and countless AA buddies over the previous several days, Dan left believing in his higher power and that he would again be with those who had passed before him, especially Tori-Lynn Lithgow and Alicia Morales (his step-daughter and grand-step daughter).

Dan was also preceded in death by his father (Daniel Francis Brown, Sr.), mother (Ethel Lucille Cliff), brother (Douglas Cliff Brown), and grand nephew, Galen Alexander Baldwin.

He is survived by his son, Keith Daniel Brown Smith, sisters Kathleen Ann and Margaret Mary Brown; brother-in-law, Wayne Gordon; nephews, Daniel Edward, Erik Harald and Mark Douglas Baldwin; niece Hannah Brown Gordon; grand nieces and nephews, John Daniel, Matthew Winston Alexander, Elana Rose Kathleen, Zelda Mae, and Ezekiel Charles Baldwin.

Dan was in the Class of 1947 at Hayward High School. He then joined the US Air Force (1948-50), during which time he served at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. For the next 20+ years, his jobs centered around welding and construction. In the early 1970s, Dan and his wife at the time (Mary JoAnn Brown) purchased the Phillips Deli, which was on East Avenue in Livermore. Several years later they purchased the Granada Deli on the other side of town. Over the years he had several nicknames. During high school, it was “jitterbug” in honor of his dancing skills and his after-school penchant for ‘cutting a rug’.

Dan was a friend of Bill W. continuously for 46+ years, being “Perfectly Imperfect!” After gaining his freedom from alcoholism by working the steps and having a spiritual awakening, Dan began to help others, himself. He shared with numerous others the same solution.

Dan was a great example to others, and a wonderful friend, mentor, sponsor, straight shooter (there are not many left), and had perfect ‘Dan-isms’ (one liners) that would get you to look at your own behavior. He will be forever remembered!

A Memorial Celebration of Dan’s life will be held Saturday, June 22, 2019 beginning at 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served, i.e., a main course will be provided, side dishes and desserts will be appreciated. Location: Pleasanton Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

In lieu of flowers, please make a Memorial Contribution to a charity of your choice.

Community Pulse

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

June 16

Vandalism
- 9:39 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stonedige Drive

Drug violation
- 5:17 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

DUI
- 6:05 p.m. at Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue

Theft
- 1:57 p.m. on the 2000 block of Stonedige Mall Road

Burglary
- 12:14 p.m. on the 4800 block of Garner Avenue

Assault/battery
- 10:09 a.m. on the 6200 block of Stonedige Mall Road

June 15

DUI
- 10:45 p.m. at Vine Street and Rogers Lane

Drug violation
- 9:53 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Burglary
- 8:40 p.m. on the 300 block of St. Mary Street

Shoplifting
- 7:18 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Sex offense
- 1:56 p.m. on Pleasanton Avenue

June 14

Drug violation
- 8:10 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Auto theft
- 1:28 p.m. on the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

June 13

Theft
- 8:01 a.m., 4700 block of Murwood Drive

DUI
- 9:32 p.m., 1400 block of Stonedige Mall Road; shoplifting

John William Bordes

October 18, 1943 – June 2, 2019

John “Jack” William Bordes, age 75, passed away on June 2, 2019 in Meridian, Idaho. Born and raised in Livermore, California, he was the son of Mary and William “Bill” Bordes.

John leaves his wife of 47 years, Nancy Bordes, their son Jeffery Bordes and his wife Tarrina, daughter Amy Vandagriff and her husband David, son Christopher Bordes and his wife Shannon, and 9 grandchildren: Kaylee, Eric, Shaun, and Bryan Vandagriff; Jonah, Kyle, and Natalie Bordes; and Julian and Ella Bordes. John and Nancy lived in Pleasanton until 2018 when they relocated to Meridian.

John attended St. Michael’s School, graduated from Livermore High School and San Francisco State University. He proudly served in the U.S. Army, which led to a career of more than 30 years with the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department.

Spending time with his wife and family was most important to him and included camping, visiting their cabin, and traveling. Following his retirement, he and Nancy traveled extensively, visiting over 45 countries. He especially enjoyed trips to Disney World and Universal Studios with the grandchildren. John loved to collect clocks while traveling, especially cuckoo clocks. John was an avid reader who also enjoyed all things Harry Potter, which he shared with his children and grandchildren. He was very close to his sister, Judy, her husband, Bob, and their children, Kate Perry and Jim Hintz, as well as his cousins and travel companions, Jay and Karen Guichard.

John was preceded in death by his parents (William and Mary) and sister, Judy Hintz and his beloved dog, Jessie.

Services will be held Saturday, June 29th at 11am, at St. Michael’s Church in Livermore. The family will have a private burial at St. Michael’s Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations in John’s name can be made to the East Bay SPCA, Valley Humane Society, Bay Area German Shepherd Rescue or the charity of your choice.
Crucial time for downtowns across Tri-Valley

A
downtown has an important role in a community’s economic and social development. Downtowns are historically the epicenter — the heart — of a community and they play a key role in commercial, cultural and civic activities.

Community leaders and residents here understand this, which is why this is a critical time for downtowns in the Tri-Valley.

In Pleasanton, a task force has worked 2-1/2 years to update the city’s Downtown Specific Plan, looking to preserve the historic character and enhance the economic vitality of the area. The planning, though, hit a snag late last month when the task force majority voted to reject the City Council’s review and direction on several issues.

It cast a shadow over the final meeting as some task force members said they were “being asked to rubber-stamp the council plans, not ours,” and lamenting that they haven’t been able to deliver what the people want. The debate heads to the Planning Commission next Wednesday for review and input and will then be advanced to the council for final consideration in August or September.

Contentious downtown planning is not limited to Pleasanton. Neighborhood Livermore has been working for the completion of its downtown planning for 17 years. Now elected officials and community leaders who have literally spent years collaborating on a plan are again bating a minority group who are aiming to put an initiative on the ballot, delaying the planning.

This group and the one from 2018 are coincidentally backed by the publisher of The Independent newspaper. At issue is the location of a hotel — elected officials, community leaders and merchants want the hotel next to the Bankhead Theater, the opposition groups want a park there and the hotel located on the west side of South Livermore Avenue.

We feel this issue has already been voted on. While seeking reelection as mayor in 2018, John Marchand voiced strong support for the downtown plan. He won with more than three-quarters of the votes. Another downtown plan supporter, Trish Munro, was elected to the council for the first time. Incumbent Councilman Bob Woerner, also a backer of the plan, received more votes than both of the remaining candidates combined.

Even with its enviable downtown, Danville also has its challenges, including lack of parking. A new parking lot with a price tag of roughly $92 million just opened, providing an additional 131 spaces, but finding a parking place is still a problem during busy times.

Meanwhile, knowing the value of a downtown, San Ramon and Dublin are moving forward with creating true downtowns for their communities.

San Ramon’s City Center opened last year and appears to be well-received; it is packed on a daily basis. There is more in store for this area off Bollinger Canyon, and we look forward to seeing the next phase developed.

The Dublin City Council has a Downtown Specific Plan, augmented by a “streetscape plan” approved in 2017. As Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon have done, Dublin is seeking input and feedback from residents.

Our downtowns are the heart of our communities, and their vitality is imperative to the economy of each city or town, and the Tri-Valley as a whole. So let’s not delay the reimagining and reinvigorating of our downtowns.

LETTERS

Memorial Day ceremony

Dear Editor,

The 2019 Memorial Day celebration held in Pleasanton was a wonderful event and all the volunteers deserve a tremendous amount of appreciation and recognition for the work that they did. All of the speakers were exceptionally good this year.

That said, I was very disappointed in the failure of the band to play the music associated with the various military branches during the course of the ceremony, as was their historical practice.

In prior years, members of the same branch of the service would stand up when the band played their song/hymn. This military music allowed the opportunity for the veterans to acknowledge or recognize each other’s service and to possibly swap some old stories on when/where they served on active duty.

This year, that opportunity was not provided, but the orchestra leader did the best he could. After virtually all of the guests had left, the orchestra leader took the initiative and led the musicians through the various military hymns.

And when the Marine Corps hymn was played, I came to attention and rendered a proper salute. Semper Fi Marines and all members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

—James ‘Deke’ Griffin

Where was our mayor?

I was disappointed to learn that Mayor Jerry Thomes did not join a dozen East Bay mayors last month in signing a letter requesting that Alameda County release funds from an untouched reserve to provide mental health services for the homeless.

I understand the request was driven by mayors in larger cities that have significant homeless populations and would therefore receive the bulk of the nearly $30 million in funding. However, by not signing the letter, Mayor Thomes — and Livermore Mayor John Marchand — may have sent a message to the entire Bay Area that our community doesn’t care about addressing this regional problem.

It’s time to set aside any political justifications for not taking action on what has become a significant crisis. I also would like to see coverage in the Pleasanton Weekly to help residents understand the mayor’s decision.

—Joe Strong

What’s your opinion?

Send a Letter to the Editor to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.
Simply put, Jeanne Wasserman is the “Queen of Horse Racing” in Pleasanton.

The director of racing for the Alameda County Fair horse racing meet, as well as the head of the Pleasanton Off-Track Betting (OTB) facility, Wasserman is a true success story of hard work and perseverance producing results and thriving in what is largely seen as a male-dominated profession. "I don’t feel that it has been tough," Wasserman said during a recent interview ahead of the 2019 county fair in Pleasanton.

"I maintain a high standard, respect the hard-working people that work at the OTB, in the stables and on the racetrack and I feel the respect is given back to me," she added.

"I’ve worked hard to get where I am, and I am very dedicated to making horse racing the best it can be at the Alameda County Fair. If you treat people right, they will usually treat you right."

Wasserman has held a multitude of jobs in horse racing, working her way from an entry-level position to running the show in Pleasanton.

In 1986, she started working in program concessions at the then-new Pleasanton Satellite Wagering facility, located at that time in the Hall of Commerce. She had been working at Golden Gate Fields and Bay Meadows selling a tip sheet that was owned by her husband at the time.

By April 1994, Wasserman was offered a full-time spot as a program seller, and later that year in October, the existing OTB facility opened (it is located right off Valley Avenue at Gate 12).

From there she continued to advance.

By early 1997, she had passed the satellite supervisor license exam and was working in the control room at the OTB. In October 1997, Wasserman was promoted to day shift supervisor, and then the next year, then-Alameda County Fair manager Peter Bailey offered Wasserman the position of interim manager of the OTB.

"My favorite time of year is when live racing takes place during the annual Alameda County Fair," Wasserman said. "It’s so great when the horses return to Pleasanton. I love seeing the horses work out in the morning, the races in the afternoon and the crowd going wild while cheering their horse to the wire."

Wasserman said she does her best to create a family-type feeling among her employees, so it’s only fitting some of her best memories have to do with her immediate family.

Both of her daughters — Gina and Kara — have worked with the fair, with Gina still doing some graphic design for the races. In 2016, Wasserman was surprised when Kara was proposed to by boyfriend Raul in the Winners’ Circle during the races. The two married last year. 

By Dennis Miller

Wasserman reflects on career, critical time for sport in California

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She started taking on responsibilities in the grandstands during the live racing meet in 1999. By 2009, she was given the title and responsibilities of director of operations for the live racing meet during the annual fair. In 2013, she picked up the added duty of overseeing the stables, and finally in 2014, she was rewarded with the title of director of racing.

Being the director of racing for the largest of the Northern California summer fair meets can be a daunting task. Given the deteriorating relationship between all parties in horse racing, it doesn’t make things any easier.

Instead of being overwhelmed with the constant and growing in-fighting that is on the verge of destroying the sport, Wasserman focuses on the good times — like the Pleasanton meet.

Clockwise from far left: Jeanne Wasserman, director of racing at the Pleasanton fairgrounds, is in the midst of another busy and fun season of horse racing at the Alameda County Fair. (Photo by Mike Sedlak). Asked about her favorite moment ever on the job, Wasserman points to being on the Pleasanton track when jockey Russell Baze earned his 12,000th career win. (Photo by Bill Vasser). A look back at a race from the 2018 county fair: this 2019 fair racing meeting continues its run with three days of live racing today through Sunday. (Photo courtesy of Alameda County Fair).
“Working at the races has always been a family affair for me,” Wasserman said.

Of course, there has been countless memories involving racing, but she said one stands above the rest. On July 6, 2013, Russell Baze — the all-time winning jockey in North America — won his 12,000th career race, in Pleasanton. Wasserman was on the track with Baze for the post-race ceremony.

“That I had the chance to stand next to Russell on the track and congratulate him was an honor and so exciting,” she said.

Because of the contacts she has made through horse racing, Wasserman has had the chance to experience some wonderful trips. In 2011, Lara Sawaya, the executive director at HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Racing Festival, came to the Alameda County Fair to watch an Arabian race that the festival sponsored, Wasserman explained. “Lara really liked the Pleasanton track and invited me to come to the championship race in Abu Dhabi in November of 2011. This was the first of eight trips to Abu Dhabi in November each year, with the last trip being in 2018.”

The trips to Abu Dhabi led to other experiences, as well as a chance to enhance her resume internationally.

“I was also the guest of the festival for conferences in Poland, Rome and London,” Wasserman said. “At the conference in London, I was honored to be a panelist speaking on the topic of ‘Women in Horse Racing.’”

As someone who loves horse racing, the issues over the last 10 years have taken their toll on Wasserman, as well as many others. But as usual, she tries to keep a positive outlook.

She has been part of the generation of horse racing industry that has endured the closing of tracks, as well as the number of horses depleting as barns move out of California.

“I remember the last day, the last race, at Bay Meadows as I stood there watching the race. It hurt to see Bay Meadows close, which also stopped the San Mateo Fair race meet,” Wasserman said. “While I was not there for the closing of Hollywood Park, I did watch the last race from the OTB in Pleasanton. It was sad to see Hollywood Park close. It was sad when the Vallejo and Stockton Fairs stopped live horse racing.”

Racing in California is just not what it used to be, but there is still horse racing. Things change, time goes on.

“Wasserman points back to the glory days of racing in Northern California when there were two major tracks — Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields — as well as a full slate of summer fair meets.

And she does so with a smile. “I think back to the days when the Bay Area used to go back and forth between Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields, and then have the summer fair racing,” Wasserman said. “There were so many opening days at a racetrack. There is nothing like opening day at the track. And that is what I want to remember — each opening day, especially at the Alameda County Fair.”

Her enthusiasm about racing has helped hold together an ever-shrinking staff — both at the OTB and during the live racing meet at fair time.

“And that’s her legacy. “I hope people remember that I cared,” Wasserman said. “Having started as a program seller and worked my way up to director of racing, I hope I’ve given other women the ambition to advance in their racing careers. ‘I always say, ‘I love my job,’ and I truly mean it.”

Wasserman with her family in the winner’s circle at the Pleasanton fairgrounds.

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Wasserman with her family in the winner’s circle at the Pleasanton fairgrounds.
Shakespeare cometh to the Tri-Valley

Two companies putting their own twists on the Bard

By DOLORES FOX CARDIELLI

Fans of William Shakespeare may rejoice as warm weather brings the Bard to two outdoor venues this summer.

The ever inventive San Francisco Shakespeare Festival returns to Pleasanton to present its Free Shakespeare in the Park, this year with “As You Like It: a new musical.”

This comedy is about the love between Rosalind and Orlando, who meet in the corrupt Court of Duke Frederick. To avoid political persecution, they must flee separately into exile before they have a chance to explore their budding relationship.

While developing this new musical version of “As You Like It,” we asked ourselves and our community, “What does the Court represent? What does it mean to be Forest?” What does it mean to be a new musical?”

“Shakespeare himself put five songs in the show originally. We are building on what is already there,” Ennals said. “But ours is a bit more modern; it’s an indie rock musical.”

Nine of the songs are composed by Oakland duo, the Kilbanes — Kate Kilbane and Dan Moses — who have composed musicals and written songs for Shakespearean performances. An additional two songs are provided by festival resident artist Phil Wong.

The play is being updated, Ennals noted, taking out old jokes that needed to be explained and adding songs to make it more enjoyable for the audience.

The production opens at 7 p.m. next Saturday (June 29) at Amador Vineyards.

Free Shakespeare in the Park shows draw crowds, so it is suggested folks arrive early with friends and family and bring blankets or low chairs and a picnic to enjoy before the performance. A 15-minute “Green Show” takes place at 6:30 p.m., which provides a lively introduction to “As You Like It” that is fun for all ages.

Also this summer, Livermore Shakespeare Festival is presenting “Othello” and an abridged and revised version of “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare,” to be performed outdoors at Wente Vineyards.

Othello will be set in post-Civil War America to explore the tragedy sparked by race, love, honor and ultimately, betrayal. The story tells of a black Army general and hero, who is desperately in love with his Caucasian wife, and lags, the ensign, who manipulates everyone around him, ultimately leading to multiple tragedies.

Shakespearean actor Michael Wayne Rice, who is directing the production, and troupe founder Lisa A. Tromovitch hope the production will lead to a wider community dialogue on race and gender relations in our lives.

“Othello” could be a contemporary TV drama,” Tromovitch said. “It’s amazing how we’re still in the same struggle other eras faced as we strive to become confident in our ability to live together, as a community of different races, genders and gender identities, etc.”

“A real community recognizes that differences do and will occur but don’t have to be founded in animosity,” Rice said. “Community story is more powerful than the individual story.”

He hopes that at post-show discussions people will speak freely about their feelings.


What’s happening around the Valley in music, theater, art, movies and more

New exhibit features Bay Area parks

California Art Club partners on “Outdoor Treasures”

The Harrington Gallery opened a major exhibit last week, “Bay Area Parks: Outdoor Treasures,” in partnership with the California Art Club San Francisco Chapter.

An exhibit of works inspired by Bay Area parks and landscapes, the media range from watercolor and pastels to oils and acrylics, and the subject matter spans from the coastal beauty of Point Reyes to the majestic redwood forests of Muir Woods to the slopes of Mount Diablo.

“This exhibition is a unique opportunity to see how the beauty of California landscapes inspires and enthrals artists,” Harrington Gallery director Alena Sazade said.

She also noted that 75 pieces from 55 artists were selected, and the artists are both emerging and established.

The California Art Club, founded in 1909, supports traditional fine arts in the fields of painting, drawing and sculpture, while also promoting California heritage with historic and environment-related painting events and special themed exhibitions.

Two events were scheduled in conjunction with the exhibit, which is open through July 20 during regular gallery hours, as well as during intermissions at the adjacent theater.

Young @ Art: “The Parks We Love!”, a special class for ages 5-11, took place earlier this week.

The other event is Coffee with the Curator, “Painting Bay Area Parks,” from 3-4 p.m. on Tuesday (June 25). Tickets are $8 and may be purchased at the box office for the fun and informative afternoon with award-winning East Bay plein air painter Paul Kratter. Known for his strong compositions and the fresh and spontaneous feel of his works, Kratter will lead a tour, talk about the exhibit, and answer questions. Refreshments included.

The Harrington Gallery is located inside the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. For more information, visit www.firehousearts.org or call 931-4849.

“Adventures is Out There,” by Nancy Torres.
Eighteen students from nine Tri-Valley high schools were honored for their essays, poetry and short stories in a contest sponsored by the Tri-Valley Writers, a branch of the California Writers Club. The students were recognized at a special ceremony in the Livermore Library on May 19.

“The high school writing contest is an important part of our work,” contest coordinator Patricia Boyle said. “We are proud of all students who entered their work.”

The contest had 87 entries by 66 students from nine local high schools, Tri-Valley Writers vice president Marilyn Dykstra said. Speaking to the finalists during the ceremony, she noted that much of writing is rewriting and rewriting. “We encourage you all to persist,” she said.

Keynote speaker was Vilhuma Shetty, a recent graduate from California High School and author of the book, “An Adolescent’s Guide to ME/CF/S: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.” She noted that if people are passionate and want to change the world, writing is one way to do it. “Writing has always been something so magical to me,” she said.

Essay winners honored were: First place, Lipi Buch, “A Eulogy for Insecurity” (Dublin); second place, Katherine Mudge, “Frankly, I’m Uncomfortable” (Amador); third place, Jacob Zhou, “Starrs” (Dublin); honorable mention, Neha Prasad, “The Force” (California); honorable mention, Anika Nicolas, “National Parks Are Worth Preserving” (Amador Valley); and honorable mention, Shangxi Wu, “How I Built Up Confidence to Speak in Public” (Amador).

Poetry awards went to: First place, Anna Chuang, “To Be Thin” (Amador); second place, Claire McNerney, “Phased” (Foothill); third place, Connor Dao, “Aggravated” (Dublin); honorable mention, Melanie Kim, “The Great Beasts” (Monte Vista); and honorable mention, Gita Supramaniam, “Wherefore Art Thou Unpredictable” (Dougherty Valley). Short story award recipients were: First place, Arushi Avachat, “California” (Foothill); second place, Anjali Zyla, “Imagining Us” (Monte Vista); third place, Anna Niu, “The inevitable passage of time” (Dougherty Valley); honorable mention, Eva Shen, “Lost Translation” (Dougherty Valley); honorable mention, Nurleen Hitti, “Tomorrow” (Granada); honorable mention, Nizarja Dungwatana-wich, “Fear” (Livermore); and honorable mention, Jennifer Huang, “Words I Didn’t Say” (Dougherty Valley). ■ —Dolores Fox Ciardelli

**Students save symphonic sounds**

Orchestra volunteers give concerts at elementary schools

By Patricia J. Boyle

More than 1,800 students in kindergarten through fifth grade experienced the delights of a live symphony orchestra this spring when the Livermore-Amador Symphony performed at school assemblies.

Thirty volunteers presented concerts at Hearst and Mohr elementary schools in Pleasanton, and Dougherty and Frederiksen elementary schools in Dublin. Music director Lara Webber conducted, and the orchestra’s harpist brought her instrument to share with the students.

High school student and cellist Alexander Canicosa-Miles, a winner of the Livermore-Amador Symphony’s 2018-19 Competition for Young Musicians, joined the orchestra as well. In addition to classical music, selections included “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “Star Wars: The Force Be With You,” music guaranteed to delight the young audiences.

“The symphonic sound filled the multi-purpose rooms with rich harmonic sounds full of rhythms appreciated by elementary students,” symphony board member Carol Boster said. “One could watch them wave their arms quietly to the beat or tap their laps, or even lightly clap to the piece.’

The Livermore-Amador Symphony, conducted by Lara Webber, engages student at Hearst Elementary School this spring.

The programs were tied in with the Common Core curriculum and emphasized critical-thinking, imagery and storytelling through music. “The concerts were about music as a language illustrating the similarities in grammar and phrasing to spoken language,” Webber said.

“Music can ask and answer questions, create conversations that tell stories and convey emotions. Features included our marvelous young soloist Alexander, age 15, playing Haydn and Paganini. He connected with the kids directly with his beautiful playing and answering questions,” she continued.

“Members of our orchestra also played several solo cadenzas, including our harpist Constance Koo. Music ranged from Rossini’s ‘William Tell’ Overture to music of Bizet, Faure and Star Wars. The students sang with us and eagerly participated, singing back melodies and rhythms when prompted by the orchestra.” ■

Edgar’s mother, Patricia Boyle, immediate past president of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch, has been writing about the Livermore-Amador Symphony for seven years.

**View art, taste wine**

The livermore Performing Arts Center is hosting “Art & Wine Interwined” from 1:30-4:30 p.m., next Saturday (June 29) in the Barkhead Theater lobby, with wine tastings by the “Go Figure” exhibit and wine tastings for $2 each or three tastes for $5. Wine is from McCrae Vineyards, Boa Ventura Vineyards, White Crane Winery and Mia Nipote, and the event will include live jazz by Wombo Combo with Andrew Mathers. “Go Figure” celebrates the diversity of spirit, style and emotion expressed in the human figure through the eyes of 26 artists including the “Pictures 4 People” project by E. Trent Thompson. Many of the works of art are for sale. The exhibit closes July 7. The Barkhead Theater is located at 2400 First St. in Livermore.

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District needs to fix funding system for school sports

Extracurriculars are key in developing students into well-rounded adults

Last week I wrote about how the reorganization of the athletic director positions at both Amador Valley and Foothill were detrimental to the high schools’ extracurricular programs. This week I would like to touch on both the importance of extracurricular programs as well as the funding.

According to some longtime coaches, around 2008 the Pleasanton Unified School District stopped helping fund each school’s athletic programs. That in turn prompted a new program that in theory perhaps makes sense, but not in reality.

The plan is that each sports program is designed to be self-funded, but the reality is this doesn’t come close to happening. There is an estimated cost for a sport and that cost is divided by the number of athletes playing the sport.

For instance, football is around $500 per student for the season with a sport like cross-country just a touch below $300. The rest of the sports usually fall somewhere in between.

The fees are considered a volunteer donation and a student cannot be denied playing the sport because their family can’t afford the fee. In today’s times, it’s a great policy as families are fighting to stay afloat in a city like Pleasanton.

The problem is the plan makes sense in theory, but the reality is a lot of families have stopped or don’t pay the fees because they know they don’t have to pay.

Think about it — if your child plays three sports, you are probably going to be north of $1,000 for their athletic life, and that’s just for the ability to play. That doesn’t factor the athletic gear your child needs.

To be honest, I get it. If your child is not going to play much, why would you want to write the check when others simply choose not to contribute? When each team falls massively short, then the current lifeblood of high school sports — the booster clubs — step in.

These booster clubs work their tails off to raise money for their programs and they do a wonderful job. Good people doing something for all the right reasons. But that gets old and tough as knocking on doors trying to round up donations is hard work.

Booster clubs should be there to supplement the athletic programs, not be the source of the funding. New scoreboards, new uniforms — those are things the boosters should be focused on, not having to make sure the programs exist.

It gets tougher and tougher to fund the sports, and along with numbers diminishing for a variety of reasons, it’s another nail in the coffin of prep sports.

As a person who has always enjoyed watching and covering high school sports, that’s just a shame. But it goes much deeper than just the joy of athletic competition. The lack of extracurricular activities directly affects the maturation of the students.

Something sorely missing in this generation is a lack of social skills. Blame it on technology if you choose, but it seems like kids today spend more of their waking time staring at their phones than they do interacting personally.

Let’s be honest, this is a school day does nothing to enhance interpersonal communication skills. It’s a simple day — go to class, go home and study. This doesn’t carry on through college. Lather, rinse, repeat.

One day they are going to wake up in their mid-20s and have little to no interaction skills. I believe that being involved with after-school activities — be it athletics, band or other groups — is every bit as important as anything in the classroom. Book-smarts need to be combined with social development to have the well-rounded young adult.

In sports, being on a team promotes teamwork toward accomplishing a common goal. It teaches dealing with adversity, as well as the benefits of hard work. Not everyone can win every time they play, but through athletics it is taught that you give your best effort and you can walk away with your head held high. Most importantly, it teaches discipline.

This must be the same for programs such as band, We the People or any other extracurricular activity.

Are those not lessons that should be carried over to everyday life? Classes teach book-smarts while extracurricular activities teach life lessons. These are both part of the development of the teenager and should be viewed as equally important.

We need to get funding for all programs done, and it needs to come at the district level.

I venture to say if there was a legitimate oversight committee of the school district — yes, I would be very happy to be a member, but I know I will get nowhere close to ever being on a committee like that — the funding for athletics and other activities could be found.

We need people on the outside looking in at what has become our school district. I fully believe operational expenses could be streamlined into something that would benefit the students. And in the end, isn’t that what the focal point should be? Let’s put the interests of the students out front.

We need to get a system in place that works, and we need to get it soon or high school athletics — and perhaps all extracurricular activities — will be gone. If that happens, we as a society will suffer.

Editor’s note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact Miller or submit local high school sports scores, game highlights and photographs for his weekly Pleasanton Preps column, email him at aceomag@aol.com.
GRIEF
Please call Eleanor at 846-8708 if St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge
SUNFLOWER HILL
Concert in the Park at 7 p.m. on
Thomas Blues Revue is bringing
Fundraisers
Mediterranean food for purchase,
This business is conducted by Farishta Qadar,
registered by the following owner: Farishta
The following person(s) doing business as: Farishta Qadar, owner.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 23, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2019).

Family
MONDAY MAKERS Young makers aged 4 to 10 are invited to a new arts and crafts series from 9 to 9:45 a.m. every Monday at the Sunflower Shopping Center on Stonedige Mall Road, by the Play Area. A new project is featured each week, everything from decorating bird houses to making your patriotic gear in time for Fourth of July celebrations. There is no registration fee and makers get to take home their projects each week.

Support
AQUIS COMMUNITY HEALTH PREVENTION SERIES AQUIS Community Health presents Operation Prevention 6:30-9 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25 at AQUIS Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave. Get an inside look at the changing perceptions of substance use and new drug trends among teens in the Tri-Valley. This seminar uncovers the myths, the risks and the consequences of peer pressure and the misuse and how the opioid epidemic is impacting our spaces. Spaces are very limited, so please make your reservation today.

Sports
FREE BIKE REPAIR DAY The Livermore Public Library will host the Bike Mobile for free bike repair day on Saturday, June 22, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The Bike Mobile staff provides free bike repairs, teaches mechanics and safety, and provides free bike accessories and decoration supplies. They will serve as many people as possible, however the first 20 people are guaranteed assistance.

Community
FRIENDS OF THE PELENTON LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be held at 6 p.m. on June 24, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Belden Ave. The Annual Membership Meeting, open to all current members, will be held. Everyone is invited to bring a bag of gently used books, CDs and DVDs to include in our August media sale.

To place an ad or get a quote, contact
Nico Navarrete at 650.223.6852 or email digitalads@pawek.com.
Pleasanton (April 29-May 3)
Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: $575,000
Highest sale reported: $3,665,000
Average sales reported: $1,134,000

Dublin (April 29-May 3)
Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: $425,000
Highest sale reported: $1,915,000
Average sales reported: $1,188,000

Livermore (April 29-May 3)
Total sales reported: 27
Lowest sale reported: $589,000
Highest sale reported: $1,650,000
Average sales reported: $756,000

San Ramon (April 29-May 3)
Total sales reported: 27
Lowest sale reported: $300,000
Highest sale reported: $1,134,000
Average sales reported: $1,006,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DUBLIN

10710 Ion Ln $795,000
- Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/2.5 BA
- Kris Moxley 519.9080

4515 Amati Pl $1,100,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 4 BD/4 BA
- Linda Frey 519.8078

7101 Mei Fong Ct $1,600,000
- Sun 1-4
- 5 BD/5.5 BA
- Kris Moxley 519.9080

Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/2 BA
- Lisa Stirling 519.9285

5935 Springdale Ave $749,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/2 BA
- Kris Moxley 519.9825

7634 Stoneoak Dr $988,000
- Sat 2-4
- 3 BD/2.5 BA
- Cindy Gee 963.1984

4062 Walnut Dr $599,000
- Sat 2-4
- 3 BD/3 BA
- Kevin & Bernetta West 359.9600

5802 Arthur Dr $1,300,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 4 BD/2.5 BA
- Fabulous Properties 980.0273/519.8226

869 Castlewood Pl $2,490,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 4 BD/2.5 BA
- Sun Fox 872.1275

4472 Comanche Way $739,000
- Sun 1-4
- 4 BD/2.5 BA
- Blaise Lafford 846.6500

6009 Hansen Dr $1,349,000
- Sat/ Sun 1-3.5
- 4 BD/3 BA
- Lisa Apansol & Lisa Rubino 378.2523

3333 Prairie Dr $1,850,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 4 BD/3 BA
- Gina Papar 200.0202

392 Trenton Cr $998,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 4 BD/3 BA
- Eva Dragen 690.2133

1018 Via Di Salerno $2,490,888
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 4 BD/3.5 BA
- Fabulous Properties 980.0273/519.8226

2654 Willowen Way $1,235,000
- Sat 1-4
- 4 BD/2.5 BA
- Gina Papar 200.0202

1915 Foxswallow Cr $1,380,000
- Sat/ Sun 1-4
- 5 BD/3 BA
- Kris Moxley 919.8080

3210 Glendale Ct $1,389,500
- Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/2 BA
- George McMan 908.1798

LIVERMORE

2116 Neptune St Call for price
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/3 BA
- Blaise Lafford 846.6500

259 Nimbus Common $768,000
- Sat/ Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/2 BA
- Cindy Gee 963.1984

5472 Starflower Way Call for price
- Sat/ Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/3 BA
- Mary Jane Billoswich 519.6435

2558 Merlot Ln $1,399,000
- Sat/ Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/3 BA
- Fabulous Properties 980.0273/519.8226

4388 Chaucer Ct $1,225,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 5 BD/3.5 BA
- Lynne Ancien 925.786.3765

2238 Vintage Ln $1,699,000
- Sun 1-4
- 5 BD/4 BA
- Blaise Lafford 846.6500

PLEASANTON

829 Division St D $409,000
- Sun 2-4
- 1 BD/1 BA
- Lynne Ancien 998.1308

186 Junipero St Call for price
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 2 BD/2 BA
- Fabulous Properties 980.0273/519.8226

1473 Kolln St $919,000
- Sun 10-1
- 3 BD/2 BA
- Kris Moxley 519.9080

6236 Robin Ct $899,900
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/2 BA
- Lisa Stirling 519.9285

53 Golf Rd $2,278,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/3.5 BA
- Gina Papar 200.0202

1471 Maple Leaf Ct $1,589,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 5 BD/3 BA
- Tara McGuire 460.7853

1673 Oriente Ct $2,345,000
- Sat/Sun 1-4
- 5 BD/3.5 BA
- Stephanie Jenkins 969.3318

8303 Regency Dr $2,388,000
- Sun 1-4
- 3 BD/3 BA
- Cindy Gee 963.1984

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

LIV 3488 Chaucer Court, Livermore
OFFERED AT $1,225,000
Open Saturday & Sunday 1-4pm

ESTATES COLLECTION IN LIVERMORE
- 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths
- 2,523 sq. ft. living space
- Premium lot = 12,441 sq. ft.
- Three car garage
- Excellent location with no rear neighbors
- Close to freeways and shopping centers!

Lynne Ancien
925.786.3765
lynee@lynnecnien.com
DRE # 01418699

6127 Bella Oaks Court, Livermore
OFFERED AT $1,450,000

VINEYARD LIVING AT VINEYARD GATE
- 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths
- 4,009 sq. ft. living space
- Large lot = 11,555 sq. ft.
- Three car garage
- Tons of upgrades with owned solar!

See HOME SALES on Page 20
Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors®. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.

PLEASANTON LUXURY AGENTS

4625 SECOND STREET
PLEASANTON

Stunning custom home in downtown Pleasanton on a double lot located in the heart of 2nd Street. Imagine 5,760+/- Sq. Ft. of “Modern Industrial” design. Remodeled in 2015 featuring 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, a large gourmet kitchen connected to the family room and privatedining area. Enjoy the lifestyle of downtown living in true luxury. There is no other home like this in Pleasanton.

Visit www.46252ndStreet.com for more.

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Listed for $3,288,000

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MURTAGHTEAM@COMPASS.COM

SOLD IN 2019

1941 CLOVER CT $3,575,000
1093 SHADOW HILLS CT $2,389,000
3987 N. LIVERMORE AVE $2,360,000
7856 LAFAYETTE CT $1,755,000
5117 MOUNT TAM CIR $1,650,000
5147 MUIRWOOD DR $1,403,000
629 WINDMILL LN $1,360,000
5245 NORTHWAY LN $1,262,000
5562 BLACKBIRD DR $1,231,000
4852 DRYWOOD ST $1,113,950
2371 BAY MEADOWS CIR $927,000
5250 RIVERDALE CT $900,000
5269 SPRINGDALE AVE $869,000
11829 KILCULLIN CT $650,000

5293 SPRINGDALE AVE
PLEASANTON

Located in one of Pleasanton’s sought after Westside neighborhoods, this rarely available single story on a corner lot is just what you have been waiting for. There are 3 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms with 1,488+/- Sq. Ft. of living space; features include vaulted ceilings, recessed lighting, ample storage, private patios & atrium.

Open Sat 6/22 & Sun 6/23 | 1:00p-4:00p
Listed for $749,000
HOME SALES
Continued from Page 18
4954 Forest Hill Drive Sea Palm LLC to S. V. Bhambri for $1,265,000
2577 Glen Isle Court S. J. Inguez to N. & N. Jain for $1,205,000
5983 Hansen Drive Larsen Family Trust to R. & S. Varghese for $1,120,000
7603 Maywood Drive M. Shamouel to Mushreeve Trust for $1,300,000
4357 Mirador Drive B. & D. Shokfi to M. & J. Boushaid for $1,130,000
3053 Paseo Granada W. Hu to K. & Y. Liu for $1,420,000
3651 East Ruby Hill Drive Guetersloh Living Trust for $3,665,000
5843 Kingsmill Terrace K. & R. Amante to C. & T. Nguyen for $1,915,000
6805 South Mariposa Lane QI LLC to V. & S. Bhumakkanavar for $770,000
7566 Mindy Mae Lane J. Neumark to A. & S. Sarwar for $1,500,000, 00
2109 Montrose Court R. & G. Brar to J. & T. Malhotra for $1,575,000
7546 Newfields Lane Chuang Liu Family Trust to N. & S. Rajamani for $1,380,000
4368 Panorama Drive H. Ao to S. & P. Veragudipati for $1,188,000
7599 Silvertree Lane A. Power to L. Witherby for $638,000
4626 Valley Vista Drive J. & F. Lim to N. & A. Khamna for $1,371,000
5669 Walnut Street Calli Trust to G. & M. Patel for $1,175,000
200 Valletta Lane 3N Land & Bldg Fund Reit-Inc to M. & S. Pak for $914,000
2221 Via Espada M. & M. Evans to N. & U. Gohil for $1,175,000
3442 Smokeettle Commons Drive Johns Trust to J. & Y. Shah for $575,000
2757 Glen Isle Court Carter Trust to Sea Palm LLC for $880,000
1813 Altair Affinity R. & R. Shapiro to Anthon Family Trust for $1,650,000
3137 Arcadia Common #1608 A. Toouli to D. & R. Bailey for $635,000
347 Basswood Common #150 Rockman Trust to H. & R. Yang for $662,000
4281 Ballmawr Drive A. Kenny to Hofman Trust for $1,110,000
1372 Bluebell Drive W. Scott to Bahr Trust for $680,000
3343 Caldeira Drive Godowski Family Trust to S. & M. Rajan for $1,290,000
1701 Corte Sueno D. S. Sharma to S. & R. Bobba for $774,000
2415 Detert Street Rief Family Trust to J. & J. Morgan for $1,175,000
3061 Rivers Bend Circle Cowley Trust to A. & N. Oreal for $1,140,000
5921 Running Hills Avenue K. & M. Chambers to S. & C. Narayanaratnat for $655,000
5361 Scenic Avenue Davidson Trust to D. Van Gelder for $650,000
844 Sunset Drive E. & B. Ganz to K. & G. Deane for $750,000
905 Venus Way R. & M. Lawrie to J. & W. Sauls for $950,000
2755 Wellington Drive J. & J. Mcintyre to M. & L. Romano for $795,000
San Ramon
2875 Alcosta Boulevard #178 LCN Investments to N. Flores for $300,000
9085 Alcosta Boulevard #231 C. Law to A. & A. Powlar for $418,000
9085 Alcosta Boulevard #375 Zhang Family Trust to T. & O. Marchenko for $440,000
301 Alora Court D. Van95 Morrison Living Trust to N. & K. Schwartz for $1,000,000
660 Argyle Court V. Pillai to Lakshmanan Trust for $1,350,000
9943 Broadmoor Drive A. & P. Jella to B. & A. Rajarjy for $910,000
9895 Brunswick Way D. McCarty to K. & B. Richards for $1,006,000
6239 Byron Lane T. Zheng to C. & S. Weng for $928,000
4840 Calais Drive M. & R. Varghese to K. & R. Chen for $928,000
2846 Calais Drive K. Makki to L. & E. Salas for $1,025,000
2651 Casella Way Mastro Living Trust to S. & H. Chewars for $1,495,000
152 Castleton Court L. Nguyen to E. & J. Fatchi for $1,035,000
3139 Christopher Way Walsh Family Trust to A. & J. Liu for $1,035,000
4060 Dunbarcon Circle J. Pount to D. & C. Herrick for $1,349,000
2895 Fountainhead Drive A. Aanassavas-Bames to L. & R. Mitchell for $755,000
419 Foshia Lane B. Mckown to Boyd Trust for $1,100,000
10072 La Paz Avenue P. & A. Oconnor to G. & B. Borella for $1,089,000
3068 Lakemont Drive #3 D. Comerton to A. Magdl for $715,000
800 Mornington Court A. & S. Yuan to A. & P. Menon for $1,260,000
368 South Overlook Drive Xavier Trust to S. & N. Fang for $589,000
9953 San Luis Avenue M. & J. Packer to P. & S. Majumdar for $960,000
6393 San Tomas Place P. Patzirarman to S. & M. Parmar for $1,558,500
2029 Sorrelwood Court Cunningham Trust to Moser Trust for $1,460,000
1441 Stoney Creek Drive Muzzy Family Trust to D. & G. Pate for $1,160,000
1305 Sutter creek Lane L. Clutts to J. & G. Garspas for $752,000
2047 Tarragon Rose Court A. & T. Padilla to A. & A. Raja for $973,000
6015 Westside Drive Beng Family Trust to A. & K. Aushik for $1,868,000
Source: California Resources
Like us on Facebook  bhgtrivalley.com  BRE#01157088

53 Golf Road – Pleasanton – $2,278,000
Gorgeous & meticulously maintained home nestled on one of Castlewold’s most desired streets. The unique, functional floor plan features three bedrooms & a Jack-and-Jill style bathroom on the ground floor. The lushly landscaped yard features a large patio area w/ a spectacular fireplace. Short drive to historic downtown Pleasanton, 580 freeway and the ACE train.

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4PM

5792 Hidden Creek Court, Pleasanton – $2,395,000
Move-in ready with the modern conveniences! This beautiful home offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with a 2-car garage. The modern gourmet kitchen has granite counters, gas stove, a large granite island, upgraded kitchen cabinets, & beautiful hardwood floors. Conveniently located near the ACE train, downtown Livermore, the 580 freeway and parks, bike, jogging trails. Must see this gorgeous home!”

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4PM

3353 Prairie Dr – Pleasanton – $1,850,000
Gorgeous home nestled in Foothill Knolls, which is one of westside Pleasanton’s most desired and rarely available neighborhoods. This lovely home has been totally remodeled and is move-in ready. Nearby historic downtown Pleasanton & easy access to highways 580 and 680 as well as to the ACE Train station and BART. High ranking Foothill High School is within a very short walk.

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4PM

7434 Stonedale Dr – Pleasanton – $988,000
This gorgeous executive home in a highly desirable west side area of Pleasanton. Newly remodeled with high end appliances, flooring, state of the art temperature-controlled fireplace, custom gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appliances, gleaming quartz countertops, wet bar, and remodeled bathrooms. Must see this gorgeous home! Close to shopping, BART and award winning schools. It is amazing!

OPEN SAT 1-4PM

5792 Hidden Creek Court, Pleasanton – $2,395,000

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3353 Prairie Dr – Pleasanton – $1,850,000

Open Sat & Sun 1-4PM

7434 Stonedale Dr – Pleasanton – $988,000
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to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Association for making our grand opening a success.

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7434 STONEDALE DR., PLEASANTON
GORGEOUS UPDATED TO THE MAX. Must see this lovely home! Quartz counters, laminate through out. New remodeled approx 175,000 worth of upgrades, lovely yard with views! $988,000
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4 bed & 4 bath, approx 3600, gorgeous 2 years new home with amazing VIEWS of Mt. Diablo and Valley! Upgraded to the max! Award winning school, Call for apppt! 512,989,000

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NEW PRICE

1170 Pineto Place, Ruby Hill
5BR, 5.5BA, 5684+/- Sq. Ft. 1/2+/- Acre Lot. Offered at $2,675,000

899 Oak Manor Way, Pleasanton
4BR, 4.5BA, 5249+/- Sq. Ft. 1+/- Acre Lot. Offered at $2,699,000

NEW PRICE

6977 Atlas Peak Drive, Dublin
4BR, 4.5BA, 3445+/- Sq. Ft. Offered at $1,548,888

COMING SOON

1192 Paladin Way, Ruby Hill
5BR, 6BA, 6359+/- Sq. Ft. 1/2+/- Acre Lot. Call for Pricing

COMING SOON

4497 Niland Street, Union City
4BR, 4BA, 3367+/- Sq. Ft. Call for Pricing

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207 Heligan Lane #7, Livermore
3BR, 3.5BA, 1548+/- Sq. Ft. Offered at $689,000

MONTAGE COMMUNITY

166 Selby Lane #9, Livermore
2BR, 2.5BA, 1379+/- Sq. Ft. Offered at $639,000

PENDING

5459 Black Ave. Unit #2, Pleasanton
2BR, 2BA 1345+/- Sq. Ft. Offered at $649,000

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