

Pleasanton Weekly



Voting ends
on Sunday!

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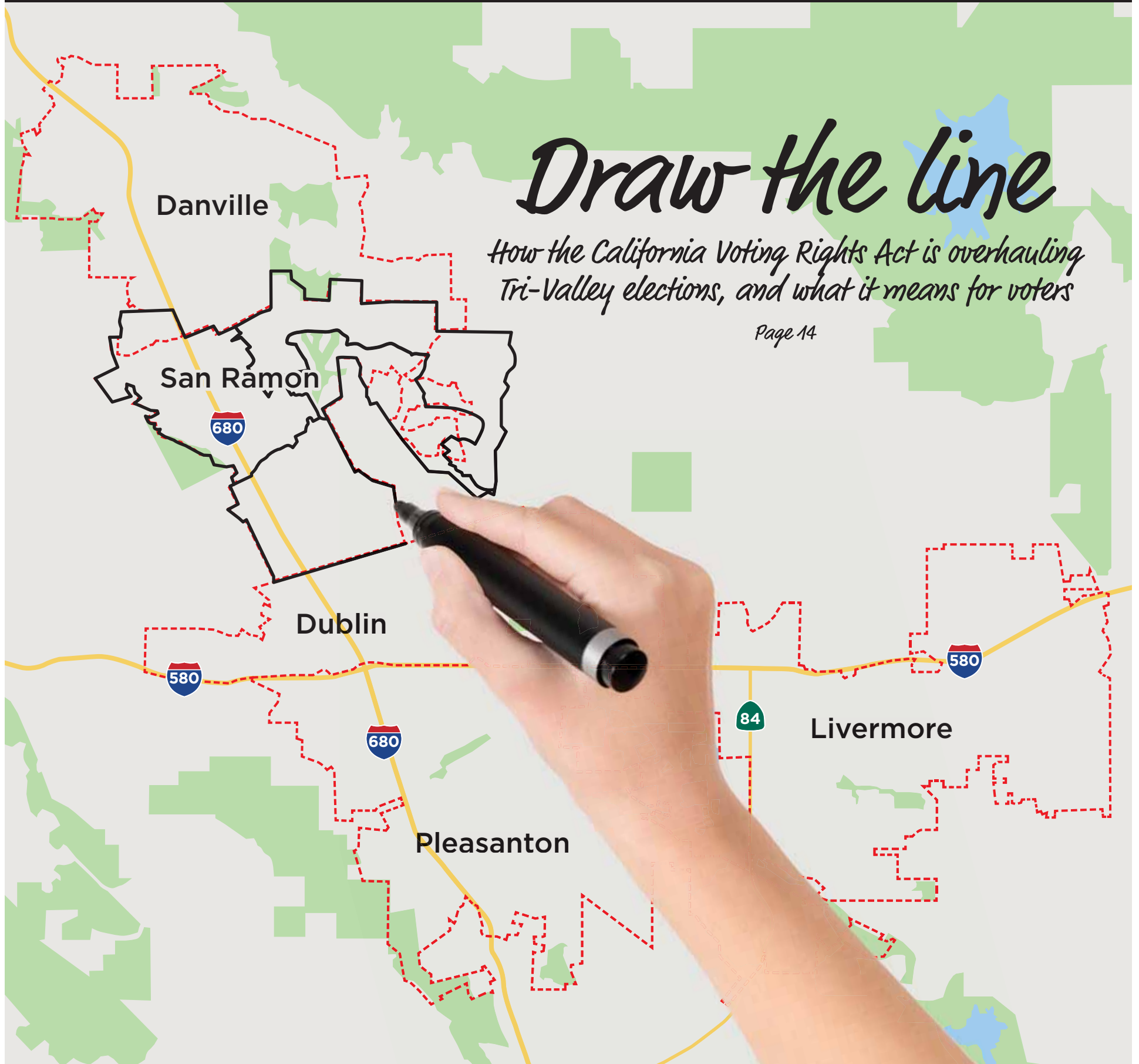
VOL. XX, NUMBER 17 • MAY 17, 2019

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Draw the line

*How the California Voting Rights Act is overhauling
Tri-Valley elections, and what it means for voters*

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TIM TALK



By TIM HUNT

Stoneridge Mall losing its luster for some

Stoneridge Shopping Center, a shopping mecca for generations of Livermore Valley residents, is losing its luster for some patrons.

I met with two ladies who are longtime Stoneridge shoppers, Rachel McElhinney of Pleasanton and Diane Ries Keller, formerly of Pleasanton now living in Livermore. They shared their experiences and concerns with the kiosk operated by Vine Vera, an Israeli-based company selling skin care products. It's located near Macy's where the mall is fairly narrow so shoppers are readily available to their salespeople.

Typical complaints on the internet and from the two local ladies are the very aggressive sales tactics used by the staff that typically involve persuading a shopper to try free sample and then holding on (literally and figuratively) to the person and striving to upsell them with a variety of expensive products.

Rachel shared some internet sites that were full of complaints about the company. One real sticking point is a no-refund policy. That coupled with high-pressure sales tactics rubs many consumers the wrong way. The company became such a problem in New Zealand malls that major operator Westfield kicked them out across the country.

She believes the salespeople target older people and described them as aggressive as panhandlers. Before reaching out to me, she had brought the matter to the mall management's attention and received a \$50 gift card.

In one of her emails to mall management, Rachel wrote, "I attended a Women's Bible Study meeting last week and mentioned my experience at Stoneridge Mall. Every one of the women had a similar story of being harassed. The next day I got my hair cut and again I brought up my experience at the mall. All of the women and men at the salon had been assaulted by these vendors who won't take NO for an answer."

"Warnings and fines have not curtailed the harassment at Stoneridge Mall."

"It has gone on for years. I think Simon Co. has a responsibility to remedy this situation quickly. It

is a disservice to shoppers, and to other stores, as it drives people away from the mall. Every time I've been harassed, I've cut my shopping short and returned home. It's easier to shop online and avoid being hassled by the vendors who are way out of line."

When I reached out to mall management to discuss the issue, the Stoneridge public relations agency returned my call and asked that I refer Rachel to them so they could look into the matter. They had no further comment. She was taken aback at the request to contact management, something she had done by email and by phone several times this year.

Diane's story, which she wrote in her book "A Wife's Caregiver Saga: Facing Frontotemporal Dementia," describes a 2012 incident with her late husband before his disease worsened. Kevin wanted to go Christmas shopping so they went to Stoneridge with plans to meet up after an hour. He didn't show up. With the help of a friend, she found him at the cosmetics booth with several bags.

Upon returning home, she looked in the bags and was astonished to find many receipts totaling more than \$7,000. When she went back to return the cosmetics the next day, she was told "no refunds." The saleswoman, as Diane wrote, screamed at her.

Eventually, with the help of the mall manager, she received a refund for all the items other than the \$175 shaving cream because their dog chewed the box.

What would concern me, if I were Stoneridge management, was Rachel's comment that the buzz in several of her women's groups they were "all going to Walnut Creek" now that Broadway Plaza has completed its renovations.

Driving about an hour round-trip to avoid the local mall is sending a powerful message to the management — as is Rachel's comment about online shopping. ■

Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years. He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His "Tim Talk" blog appears twice a week at PleasantonWeekly.com.

About the Cover

Many local government agencies around the Tri-Valley — with Pleasanton among the exceptions — are transitioning to district-based elections for council/board seats, instead of at-large elections, after facing petitions citing protections under the California Voting Rights Act. Learn more about the recent trend inside, on Pages 14-15.
Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XX, Number 17

New Listings

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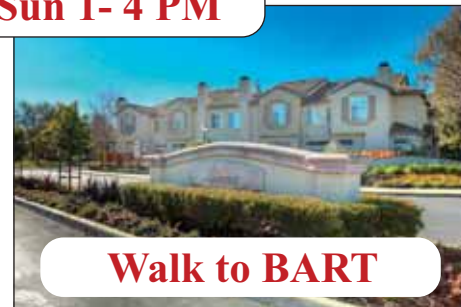
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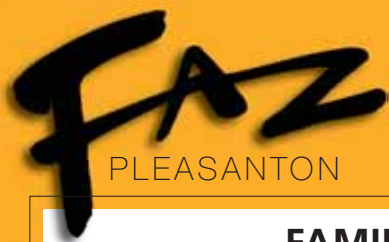
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Coverage of Local Government

Series on Ben Curry's drowning
by Ryan J. Degan, Jeremy Walsh and
Gina Channell

Columns

"Around Pleasanton" by Jeb Bing

Agricultural Reporting

"Hive Minds" by Erika Alvero

Coverage of Local Government

Series on Chabad Center for Jewish Life
by Jeb Bing and Jeremy Walsh

Coverage of Youth and Education

Series on PUSD enrollment by Erika Alvero
and Julia Brown

Editorial Comment

"School district, sheriff's office stonewalling
unacceptable" by Gina Channell

Breaking News

"BART votes down Livermore extension"
by Jeremy Walsh



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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How often do you think about your childhood home?



Becky Dennis

Board member

I do think about my childhood homes a lot. I even went back via Google Maps and took screenshots of our family's various former residences. And Google car photography let me walk down memory lane to my old schools. Fun!



Teri Morris

Student

I may not be the best person for this question because we moved every two years once I was about 6 years old. Until that time, we lived in one home and I do have some memories of it — mostly of playing with my friend who lived across the street.



John Lotoszynski

Retired

My childhood home was in Canada. I really only think about it when it gets cold here in Pleasanton. And whenever that happens, I always say I'm never going back to Canada. Never!



Ellen Lazarus

Retired

I didn't think about it very often until both of my parents were deceased. Now that they are no longer here, I think about my childhood home a lot, as it contains so many fond memories of my parents. I find it comforting to reminisce that way.



Karen Lotoszynski

Retired

I almost never think about my childhood home. It was in Ohio, and the only thing I really miss and remember about it was being able to go sledding in my yard. Obviously I can't do that here in Pleasanton.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2019 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

DIGEST

Run to Remember

Police supporters are set to come in droves to Shadow Cliffs in Pleasanton this weekend to honor and support those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The California Peace Officers Association is holding its annual Run to Remember on Sunday morning, with all proceeds from the event supporting the California chapter of the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), a non-profit that assists with rebuilding the lives of surviving family members and affected coworkers of police killed on-duty.

The fundraiser features a 10K run and 5K run/walk (with entry at \$45), plus a one-mile kids' run for \$25 per child. To register for the 11th annual Run to Remember, call 209-795-7832 or visit www.itsyourrace.com.

Adobe docent tours

Learn the rich history of the Amador Valley encapsulated at Alviso Adobe Community Park in docent-led tours taking place in May and in June.

The site is historically significant for three eras: its Native American beginnings, the days of Spanish Rancho and the mid-20th century when it was a popular dairy. Today is another era as it gains popularity as a community park.

The free tours, from 12-3 p.m. this weekend (May 18-19) and June 15-16, will point out artifacts from each of the three historic eras. Exhibits include the milking barn visitor center; the restored adobe, built in 1854; and a re-created bunkhouse, which provides a view of the living space of the workers at Meadowlark Dairy.

To reserve a time slot, call 931-3479 or email alvisoadobe@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Home improvements

Tri-Valley homeowners thinking about renovating their properties can learn more about how to start their home improvement project during a free workshop on Saturday at Inklings featuring a property appraiser and representatives from the Contractors State License Board and city Planning Division.

Topics covered will include: Is a permit required? How to select a handyman or contractor. What improvements add value? Do-it-yourself versus contracting out — what to consider. There will also be time for Q&A.

"Don't let your home become a money pit. Having the right information before you start will save both time and money, whether it's a simple project or a rebuild," workshop organizers said.

The session will run from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register at HomeownerWorkshops.wordpress.com. ■

Tennis teams protest parking proposal at Amador Valley High School

Coaches call using tennis courts as temporary parking lot during construction 'insulting'

By JULIA BAUM

A concept to park several hundred cars on Amador Valley High School tennis courts while a solar panel structure is built in the front parking lot during the start of the school year has sparked a backlash.

Some members of the Amador Valley athletic community have called the plan poorly conceived and are demanding that Pleasanton Unified School District go back to the drawing board after the idea of using school tennis courts as a temporary parking lot was introduced at last week's

school board meeting.

"It is insulting for PUSD to propose turning AVHS tennis courts into a parking lot, however temporary that may be," Amador Valley boys tennis coach Danny Yee said in an email to district administration, including the Board of Trustees and Superintendent David Haglund.

Amador Valley girls tennis coach Claire Chinn, whose team plays during the fall and would be most directly impacted by the parking switch, commented in the same email chain, saying it does the "bright and resilient" student

body no favors to "indulge them."

"It concerns me that we are responsible for sending the students out into the world as capable adults, but indulge them as though they are not problem solvers and aren't capable of tolerating frustrations," Chinn said. "These are remarkable young people. Allow them to come up with their own solutions for transportation during this process. Honor them with a challenge."

District spokesperson Patrick Gannon told the Weekly, "The one campus parking option was listed along with many others that were

being investigated as potential solutions to minimize the impact of the project on the surrounding neighborhoods."

"At this point, no decision has been made, and there are ongoing discussions with the city and school site focused on finding the best plan forward," Gannon added.

More than 400 parking spaces will be out of commission for about 4-1/2 months while the Amador Valley parking lot facing Santa Rita Road is re-oriented and

See **PARKING** on Page 10

The state of Dublin Unified

Marken: District on 'great trajectory' after year of uncertainty

By JULIA BAUM

Since taking the reins barely a month ago as interim superintendent of Dublin Unified School District, Dave Marken has already overseen a number of significant developments in a short period of time.

The departure of former superintendent Leslie Boozer and a Board of Trustees down to barely a quorum have tested the district's resolve over the past year, but Marken said they are now on a "great trajectory" as the search for a new leader gets underway.

A former Dublin school administrator and Newark superintendent, Marken emerged from retirement in April to lead DUSD on an interim basis through the end of the school year, following Boozer's sudden separation days earlier. Marken said he "didn't have any immediate desire to go back into this world" but felt connected to the community where he had "served the big, big part of my career."

Since then, Marken has been living a "nomadic" existence between hotels in the Bay Area and weekends at home in the Central Valley while working to help stabilize the district.

"It's a little nomadic, I am not necessarily used to it but it's working at this point," he said during a recent interview with the Weekly. "If I can help them get through this time, we will see what transpires through the superintendent search."

That search is "on a pretty fast track" since the window for



DUSD

Interim Superintendent Dave Marken opened up about the turmoil experienced by the Dublin Unified School District as well as his optimism for positive progress ahead.

feedback from DUSD staff and families closes in a matter of weeks. San Francisco consulting firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates was recently brought on board to facilitate the process with an "aggressive timeline" as the deadline to connect with teachers, administrators and parents approaches.

"Their No. 1 priority is to get input from those stakeholder groups," Marken said. "We have basically 3-1/2 weeks left, so our plan is to get all of those (interviews) done by then. Then they start to compile a list of candidates, and it's probably in its preliminary stage but it's on a pretty fast track because we have a shorter window."

Several people have approached Marken about submitting his own candidacy for the

permanent position; he hasn't ruled out the possibility but said going through the process is a valuable experience for the district.

"They need to get input from all of the stakeholders — the teachers, the classified administrators, parents, students — and put together a profile of what they want in their superintendent," he said. "At that point, then I'll make my decisions based on what the community wants and what would be best for myself and my family."

The challenge of filling two empty positions on the five-seat Board of Trustees also continues to loom over the district, which Marken said "creates unique opportunities because in order to

See **MARKEN** on Page 10

Paratransit overhaul?

City weighs shifting ADA rides to LAVTA, refocusing senior service

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton is contemplating some major changes to its paratransit service, though city officials reiterate it's still early in the public consideration process and no final decisions have been made.

The Pleasanton City Council last week endorsed the final "Mobility Forward" report, a consultant's analysis co-sponsored by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) to study paratransit services across the southern Tri-Valley communities. The document concludes with a handful of key recommendations, including for Pleasanton to shift service for adults with disabilities to LAVTA and refocus its in-house program to seniors-only.

Though there is likely months of public debate before any of those proposals reaches a final vote before the council and LAVTA, city leaders are clear that the time to have those conversations is now in order to protect the viability and enhance the quality of paratransit in Pleasanton without reducing service levels for users.

"We're at a point in time when we look at (LAVTA's) cost per trip versus our cost per trip, it's just not even close. And it's time for maybe the responsibility to shift to LAVTA," Councilman Jerry Pentin, one of the city's representatives on the LAVTA Board of Directors, said during the May 7 council meeting.

See **PARATRANSIT** on Page 9



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School board mulling survey on new bond measure

PUSD considers asking voters for \$120M facilities bond on 2020 ballot

By JULIA BAUM

A potential school facilities bond measure on next year's ballot generated a fair amount of discussion during the Pleasanton school board's regular meeting last week.

No action was taken that evening, but district officials will continue pursuing a district-wide survey for feedback on priority projects, much like the process used in 2016 for Measure 11.

The Board of Trustees deliberated back in March if Pleasanton Unified School District voters would support a possible \$120 million bond measure for next year, less than four years after they approved the \$270 million Measure 11 bond and with a number of the major Measure 11 projects, like the Lydiksen Elementary School remodel, still unfinished. They agreed to decide eventually whether to issue a public poll to gauge voter support.

District leaders have been equating the possible new bond measure to a tax extension because the tax rate for

property owners (\$20 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation) would be the same as the rate owners are paying now related to previous bond measures in 1988 and 1997, which is set to wane after 2020.

PUSD previously said that a new bond would present "an opportunity to fund approximately \$120 million" in unfunded projects like upgrading Vintage Hills Elementary and replacing the portable classrooms and science labs at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools.

The district approved their Facilities Master Plan last year but need an estimated \$846 million to finish projects for all 15 campuses. A little more than \$145.5 million remains in funding to allocate for projects on the Measure 11 list.

The district could wait until November 2020 for placing the potential bond measure before voters, according to consultant Adam Bauer, who added, "but we are expecting a lot of noise" for the presidential election. "The other thing about the

polarization of our politics is that likely increased turnout than in November 2018," Bauer said during the May 7 board meeting.

Bauer also noted that "A survey will be helpful to understand your community's tax rate sensitivity," even if the district decided to wait until 2022 to approach another bond measure.

Board President Valerie Arkin said she supported the polling but questioned how it would be received by voters.

"In our last bond, we did make a point in our marketing to the public that this bond was expiring so their tax burden will go down, and now we're kind of backtracking on that," Arkin said.

PUSD staff will present an updated list of possible bond projects by next month; polling would take place between Aug. 23 and Sept. 6. The board would have until early December to decide on the measure for the March 2020 primary election. ■

City recognizes new commission, committee members

By JEREMY WALSH

The city of Pleasanton has welcomed its newest slate of city commissioners and committee members.

The Pleasanton City Council hosted the oath-of-office ceremony for 10 members — either new or reappointed — during its regular meeting May 7 in the council

chambers. That event came three weeks after the full council endorsed Mayor Jerry Thorne's recommendations for committee and commission appointments.

Leading the way in the spring appointments was Brandon Pace, who is joining the Planning Commission as an alternate member who will participate in meetings but only get

a vote when one of the five regular members is absent or recused.

Pace takes the seat left vacant when Justin Brown was elevated to a full regular seat on the Planning Commission after David Nagler's resignation last fall.

The Human Services Commission recognized four appointments: Harshkumar Gohil and Joe Carlucci (promoted from alternate) for regular terms, Patty Powers as alternate and Kelsey Lem as youth member.

The Parks and Recreation (Joanie Fields, second term), Library (Cindi Sabatini, moved from alternate) and Housing (Kate Duggan, alternate) commissions each saw one appointment, as did the Economic Vitality Committee (Steve Baker, second term).

With two appointments each were the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee — Todd Nelson, second term; and Sharon Piekarski, promoted from alternate — and the Committee on Energy and the Environment, with Bruce Daggy as a regular member and Robert Gan as a youth member.

And with five appointments was the Youth Commission: Nikita Jadhav (at-large, second term), Nishant Jain (at-large, second term), Arushi Avachat (high school member, second term), Ashwin Srivam (middle school) and Zaynah Shah (middle school).

Members who didn't take the oath of office at last week's ceremony will be sworn in at a later time. ■

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Hundreds gather for vigil on anniversary of Ben Curry's death

Family thanks community for support during 'an unbelievably difficult year'

By RYAN J. DEGAN

On the one-year anniversary of the on-campus drowning death of San Ramon Valley High School freshman Ben Curry, hundreds of loved ones and supportive community members gathered in front of the Danville Library to hold a candlelight vigil and honor the memory of the Danville teenager.

Ben's parents, Karen and Tom, as well as his sister Katrina, were present at the May 8 event, each giving brief comments to the crowd on the impact Ben had on their family and thanking the community for the outpouring of support their family received in the aftermath of young Ben's death.

"As you can imagine, it's been an unbelievably difficult year and its a year we would not have been able to get through without all of you," Karen told the audience. "We are so

appreciative for all you have done and continue to do for us ... We could not possibly name all of the people who have been by our side in so many ways over the past year."

"It was a godsend to be able to think about people thinking of us, caring about us and wanting us to be able to deal with what had happened," Tom added. "I love you Ben, and not a day goes by that I'm not reminded of the depth of my love for you."

At the vigil, attendees read aloud notes of how Ben had touched their lives highlighting the lasting impact Ben had on the people he came into contact with.

"I know it's not always easy to know what to do or what to say to people who lose all that Ben was to us, but I truly don't know how I would have made it through this past year without the compassion

that you all gave in (one) way or another," Katrina said.

Ben Curry drowned during his physical education class in the SRVHS pool on May 8, 2018. Some time during class Ben slipped underwater and became unresponsive, but he was not discovered submerged in the pool until the start of the next class, after the school's lunch-period.

In the wake of the drowning, the Contra Costa County Coroner's Office and District Attorney's Office found no signs of foul play nor criminal negligence with regard to the boy's death, deeming that his drowning was an accident.

The Curry family is currently contesting the no-negligence finding, and on Nov. 27, filed a lawsuit against the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, claiming that negligence and willful misconduct



RYAN J. DEGAN

Hundreds of loved ones and community members gathered in front of the Danville Library on May 8 to commemorate the life of Ben Curry.

resulted in the freshman's death.

The suit alleges that not only did the SRVUSD fail to install proper safety policies to prevent Curry's

death, but that the boy's physical education teacher failed to properly supervise the class, which was comprised of 57 students. ■

Jury awards \$2B to Livermore couple who developed cancer

Company appealing latest high-price verdict in another Roundup lawsuit

An Alameda County Superior Court jury on Monday awarded more than \$2 billion in damages from Monsanto Co. to a Livermore couple who claimed the company's Roundup weedkiller caused both of them to develop cancer, according to a spokeswoman for the plaintiffs' lawyers.

The award to Alva and Alberta Pilliod included \$1 billion each in punitive damages and \$55 million in compensatory damages for economic and non-economic losses for their non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"We've been fighting cancer for nine years. It was caused by Roundup. We can't do the things we used to do and we really resent Monsanto for that," Alberta Pilliod said at a news conference.

"We thought it was incredibly safe. We wish that Monsanto had warned us ahead of time and there was something on the label that said 'danger, may cause cancer.' We would not have used it," she said.

The couple's case is the third to result in a verdict against Monsanto and is the largest judgment thus

far against the agribusiness company, now owned by Bayer AG of Germany.

The three cases are the first to go to trial nationwide among more than 13,000 lawsuits filed in state and federal courts against Monsanto by people who say exposure to Roundup, the world's most widely used herbicide, contributed to their cancer.

The jury in the Pilliod case found that Roundup was a substantial factor in causing the couple's cancers and that Monsanto sold a defective

product, failed to warn consumers of the dangers and was negligent.

The punitive damages, according to the verdict, were for "malice, oppression or fraud" on Monsanto's part, defined in the jury instructions as including willful and knowing disregard for human safety.

Monsanto's parent company, Bayer AG of Germany, said it plans to appeal. Bayer bought Monsanto last year for \$63 billion.

"We have great sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Pilliod, but the evidence in this case was clear that both have long histories of illnesses known to be substantial risk factors for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma," Bayer said in a statement.

Bayer pointed to a conclusion by

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup, is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans.

Alva Pilliod, 76, and Alberta Pilliod, 74, were diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2011 and 2015. They testified they sprayed Roundup on weeds on several properties for three decades and believed it was safe because the product labels and television advertisements did not warn of a cancer risk.

The Pilliods' lawyers contended during the Oakland trial that Monsanto suppressed or did not show the EPA some unfavorable studies, influenced and sometimes ghostwrote favorable studies. ■

—Bay City News Service



Sunflower Run



10K/5K/1mile Run
June 9th, 2019
652 Main Street
Pleasanton, CA
94566

This event benefits Sunflower Hill (sunflowerhill.org), a non profit organization creating a sustainable and intentional residential community for individuals with special needs – similar to senior living. The community not only supports life-long living opportunities, but social, vocational, educational and recreational programs to ensure a full and productive life.

Run Options 10K & 5K
Both flat and fast that include a portion of the Arroyo Trails, part paved and part trail. *For all ages and abilities.*

1-Mile Sunshine Run
On paved road down Main Street. *For Kids 12 & under, athletes with differing abilities, or anyone desiring a shorter course.*

Entry Fees (includes tech event t-shirt)
5K/10K (Adults 18 & Over): \$40
5K/10K (Youth 17 Under): \$20 1-Mile Sunshine: \$10
After June 7th Additional Late Registration Fee: \$5

To Sponsor or Register: sunflowerhill.org/events/sunflower-run



PPIE

Record-setting Run for Education

The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation's seventh annual Run for Education last month set an event fundraising record with \$113,000 net. Some 3,000 people (including Oakland A's mascot Stomper) attended the Run for Education on April 14, which featured 5K, 10K, 15K and Kids' Challenge events starting at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The funds will support librarians, reading and math intervention specialists, support counselors and more at Pleasanton Unified School District campuses.

NorCal Night Market back next weekend

Asian-themed bazaar returns to Pleasanton for a second year

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Potato swirls, drinks in light bulbs, fusion foods and a diverse variety of traditional Asian street foods that combine cultures and taste buds are all hallmarks of the NorCal Night Market, which is set to return to the Alameda County Fairgrounds for a second year in a row next weekend.

Organized by 626 Night Market, which produces large night

markets throughout the state, the NorCal market is set to bring more than 200 vendors providing Asian-themed food, merchandise and art for attendees of all ages.

“Bring on the memories. Whether you spent your childhood at night markets in Asia, met your true love at one of our events in California or decided to have FWBs (Food With Benefits) forever, bring on the memories and create new

ones,” Night Market spokesperson Holly Nguyen said in a statement. “Our events feature a diverse offering of food and shopping vendors, live performances and music on our entertainment stage, an art walk, games and more for the whole family.”

Inspired by the famous open-air nighttime bazaars of Asia, event organizers say the NorCal Night Market is a place for the community

to come together to eat, drink, shop and socialize with one another in a fun environment.

This month’s special activity highlights include the sixth annual Horizon hip hop dance contest — only on May 26 — dazzling lights illuminations, photo booths, close-up magicians, a flower wall and more. A colorful art walk will also be featured, with works of some of the Bay Area’s most talented artists.

The NorCal Night Market will be bringing its wares to the Pleasanton fairgrounds next Friday through Sunday (May 24-26) from 3-11 p.m. each day. Tickets can be purchased online or in cash at the event for \$5. Parking will be available on the fairgrounds for \$10.

The Night Market is also set to be back at the fairgrounds for a second weekend starting July 26 and again for a third on the weekend of Sept. 20.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.norcalnightmarket.com. ■

PARATRANSIT

Continued from Page 5

The Tri-Valley paratransit study, led by consultant firm Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. with support from city and LAVTA staff, included service data review, stakeholder input and industry analysis to determine the best options for paratransit services in Pleasanton, Sunol, Livermore and Dublin going forward.

The city-operated Pleasanton Paratransit Services (PPS) offers transportation for seniors who are 70 years old or older and for adults with disabilities. The rides include door-to-door service and group trips Mondays through Fridays from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LAVTA, which provides paratransit

for Livermore, Dublin and unincorporated Tri-Valley through its Wheels Dial-A-Ride program, also fills PPS’ off-hours gap or steps in when Pleasanton has reached maximum capacity during normal hours. Unlike Pleasanton’s service, LAVTA paratransit only offers rides to disabled adults, but the daily service window is longer.

LAVTA is also fresh off winning the statewide Outstanding Transportation Agency of the Year Award for 2019 from the California Association of Coordinated Transportation.

The consultants found that residents who use Pleasanton paratransit are very happy with the service, but ridership has been down significantly in recent years, according to Richard Weiner from Nelson/Nygaard. On the flip side, the city’s

operating costs have nearly doubled since 2011-12 and remain well above LAVTA’s Wheels Dial-A-Ride per-passenger rate.

In addition to high costs, other concerns for Pleasanton paratransit include driver retention, data reporting inconsistencies and the fact the city makes a significant financial contribution to fund the service, according to Weiner.

As a result, the “Mobility Forward” report reaches three key conclusions to improve paratransit in Pleasanton.

Leading the way is the recommendation to transfer Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) service from the city to LAVTA — a proposal that still needs to be vetted and approved by both agencies’ governing bodies.

In addition to the funding question, that move would primarily address the problem that PPS service to ADA-eligible riders not does not fully meet all federal requirements, as well as it would allow Pleasanton to return to its core mission of serving local seniors, according to the consultants.

In line, the report’s second recommendation is to refocus PPS as a city-based program for older adults only.

As part of that restructuring, the consultants urge Pleasanton to investigate alternative service delivery models, implement new operational efficiency options, revise its data collection and monitoring practices, and update its service policies.

The final recommendation for Pleasanton calls for the city, in

partnership with LAVTA, to implement a Tri-Valley coordinated transit strategy for seniors and people with disabilities.

The City Council members were generally receptive of the report and recommendations during their initial review on May 7, expecting more in-depth discussions of concrete proposals in the months ahead.

Mayor Jerry Thorne said he wanted to make sure shifting Pleasanton’s ADA service wouldn’t overburden LAVTA — something Vice Mayor Karla Brown, Pleasanton’s other representative on the LAVTA board, didn’t seem too concerned about at an initial glance.

The LAVTA board is scheduled to review the “Mobility Forward” report at its regular meeting on June 3. ■

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Studies show 12 wine-growing districts

Potential for vineyards exists as far as San Ramon Valley

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Two scientific studies commissioned by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association show 12 identifiable growing districts within the 260,000-acre Livermore Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA).

Analyses of topography, soils and microclimates across the region also showed the majority can be better classified as a warm Region III, not a hot Region IV as many wine industry experts previously believed.

"Knowing that only 4,000 acres of the AVA are planted to grapevines, and that many of those acres are concentrated in one district, it may be that wine-making in the Livermore Valley AVA is still in its infancy," said Phil Wente, a fourth-generation winegrower at Wente Vineyards. "And that's after more than 160 years of history. Many distinct combinations of district, varietal, rootstock, viticultural and enological practices remain to be explored."

Wente led the effort to establish Livermore Valley as an AVA in 1982 and was instrumental in the recent project to define the 12 districts. Funding for the studies came from the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Patrick Shabram Geographic Consulting of Loveland, Colo., drew the new districts based on a study of the Livermore Valley's soil and topography by Coastal Viticultural Consultants of Angwin, and Shabram's own study of

meso-climate patterns of the valley.

The wine association is sharing the district concept to emphasize the diversity and potential of Livermore Valley.

"For years, growers and vintners have anecdotally talked about the differences between the far western side of the AVA and the eastern side, the differences between the valley floor and the hillsides, the variation in soils and the differences from one vineyard to another," Livermore Winegrowers

executive director Chris Chandler said. "We've needed to get beyond anecdotes and general observations."

The new districts average 22,000 acres each and are defined by a combination of climate, soil, geology and slope. They have been named Tesla, Ruby Hill, Crane Ridge, Altamont, Mendenhall Springs, Vallecitos, Sunol, Palomares, San Ramon Valley, Mt. Diablo Highlands, Valle de Oro and Amador Valley.

Maps, a flyover video and materials describing each district are on the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association website, www.lvwine.org/library.php. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Offering hope

Hope + Future International, a nonprofit founded by Pleasanton native Jessica Binzoni (left), strives to support people and families displaced in combat zones, but living outside of refugee camps, by focusing on education and individual development — which she sees as key to the long-term solution. Binzoni, a 2006 Amador Valley High graduate, currently leads the nonprofit and lives in Northern Iraq, where the need is immense as one in four people are refugees. The public is invited to learn more about Hope + Future and its work in Northern Iraq when Binzoni presents and answers questions at 7 p.m. on next Thursday (May 23) at Inklings, 530 Main St. Read more about Binzoni's story in columnist Tim Hunt's "Tim Talk" blog online now at www.PleasantonWeekly.com.

PARKING

Continued from Page 5

the structure is being installed. Approximately 50 parking spaces for staff will be available on the first day of the 2019-20 school year, according to PUSD.

Work is scheduled to begin in June after school lets out but expected to last through October, concerning many Amador Valley neighbors and families about how the loss of parking will affect everyone.

The possibility of parking on the campus blacktop between the gym and football field in addition to using the tennis courts for primarily staff and possibly student parking came about when a similar idea to use the junior varsity softball fields was recently floated but rejected.

The blacktop could possibly park around 132 vehicles, according to district facilities and construction staff. An estimated 200 or more vehicles could park on campus if the blacktop area and three tennis courts are used; the blacktop and six tennis courts could fit an additional 100 vehicles.

Refurbishing the tennis courts for an estimated \$80,000 would be less expensive than repairing the softball field, according to PUSD. But Amador Valley tennis members and supporters called tearing up the courts "disrespectful" to community members who privately donated to help maintain their facilities when the district did not have the funds.

"(Former tennis coach) Don Anger donated approximately \$80,000 to have the courts resurfaced just two years ago," said Susana and Peter Krulevitch in an email. "We find it so disrespectful to him and his family to have the tennis courts destroyed to accommodate parking for three months. What message does this send to the Anger family and other community members that invest in our schools?"

"There must be other options to consider, such as remote parking with shuttle buses, or additional bus routes," they said, and also questioned where the girls tennis team would practice and hold matches during that time, and whether PUSD would pay for alternate facilities and

transportation to those sites.

Private busing or contracting with Bay Area Traffic Solutions for traffic management are being explored but staff said other ideas like renting parking space at the nearby Alameda County Fairgrounds would cost too much and present liability issues. The city is also considering adding loading and unloading zones on Del Valle and Black avenues.

Delaying construction isn't possible because of the Proposition 39 funding deadlines tied to the project, according to PUSD staff, who previously said expediting work was also previously written off as "very costly in such a short construction window and would only knock off about two weeks from the final completion date."

The total project is estimated to cost about \$650,000, which will come from Prop 39 funding. The district would save approximately \$1.8 million in energy costs over the 25-year lifespan of the solar panel structure, while also improving pedestrian safety, providing covered parking and reducing the school's carbon footprint. ■



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MARKEN

Continued from Page 5

pass any item you have to have unanimous decisions."

Two candidates are running for one of the seats in next month's special election for Trustee Area 4, and another election could be scheduled for November to add the other new member to the board. From there, Marken said it's all about building trust, transparency and coherence, and moving forward among staff, administrators, parents, students and the board.

"It's a multi-faceted situation," Marken said. "Over the last couple of years, the district has parted ways for a variety of reasons with a number of administrators, so that creates a strain on the organization, absolutely."

"All of those things are very interesting dynamics in trying to end

the school year on a positive note, which we believe that we're doing," he added, including the Measure E parcel tax renewal just approved by Dublin voters and recently finalized negotiations with the classified staff and teachers union.

Marken said the passage of Measure E is proof that the community hasn't lost sight of its priorities amid the administrative upheaval.

"It shows several things; in a year of uncertainty, our community still believes very strongly in its programs, in its schools, in its students," he said. "That's a very strong testament because clearly this year has been a difficult year, a year of some uncertainty, so we have been able to help bring some folks together and ... we're very excited about it."

Measure E succeeding — weeks after completing tense labor negotiations — was crucial for gaining momentum on other issues

"because absent of that, could potentially require some cuts that will now not have to be made" and departments can finally start planning together, according to Marken.

Lately, that's meant a number of meetings with the DUSD community "doing a lot of building and work on all of our schools," he said. "It's a great trajectory; it's really actually kind of exciting."

"When there is uncertainty as has occurred in our district ... what happens is people tend to revert into silos," Marken said.

"They look inwardly and they just do their job," he added. "So we need to get coherence in all of our departments, provide some hope. I wanted to end the year making sure that people felt hopeful, that they could begin to renew trust in each other and in the district, which includes a level of transparency." ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Police: Arson suspect arrested after crashing into gas pumps

A 34-year-old man suspected of setting three cars and a building on fire in Dublin was arrested early last Friday morning after crashing into convenience store gas pumps in Livermore, authorities said.

Michaelis Brown was taken into custody after colliding with the pumps at a 7-Eleven store on the corner of Las Positas and South Vasco roads, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Dublin police initially put out an alert after a suspicious car was seen slowly circling businesses in the area of 6400 Sierra Court at about 12:30 a.m. Friday.

The car, a black Toyota Camry, failed to pull over when police arrived and officers chased it onto westbound Interstate 580 and northbound I-680 before ending the pursuit.

A short time later, the California Highway Patrol located the same vehicle traveling east on I-580 near the Airway Boulevard exit.

The CHP tried to pull over the suspect car, but once again the driver failed to yield and drove at speeds of up to 115 mph.

The suspect's car exited at Vasco

Road and eventually made it to Las Positas Road, where it went through a parking lot and while it headed south in the northbound lane, it rammed a CHP cruiser, police said.

After that, officers lost sight of the car and the chase was terminated.

A witness later contacted the CHP to report that a Toyota had crashed into the gas pumps at the 7-Eleven at South Vasco and Las Positas roads. The driver fled, but the CHP located the man — later identified by police as Brown — and took him into custody without further incident.

No injuries were reported.

When Dublin police returned to the area where the Toyota was first reported, in the 6400 block of Sierra Court, they found three vehicles engulfed in flames.

They also found an exterior wall to a rental car business on fire. The Alameda County Fire Department responded and extinguished both blazes.

Damage to the cars is estimated at \$200,000, police said.

Evidence relating to suspected arson was found on Brown as well as in his car, according to investigators. Brown was placed under arrest for the pursuit, assault with a deadly weapon and arson.

In other news

After receiving multiple graffiti messages threatening mass violence on May 9 at California High School

in San Ramon, school district staff said that it was a peaceful, if not much less populated than usual, day at school on May 9.

While a considerable police presence was found both on and around the campus, many parents decided to keep their children away from school anyway — approximately 80% of Cal High students did not report to school on May 9, according to San Ramon Valley Unified School District spokesperson Elizabeth Graswich.

"It was a very peaceful, calm and positive day at the school," Graswich told the Weekly. "We are incredibly grateful to our students who have been coming forward with information to help with the investigation. The message has been clear that they want to have a safe school environment. They are the heroes today."

The first threatening message was found in the boys' bathroom on campus on May 1, and read "Cal will be shot up 5/9. Final warning," exactly one week later an additional threat was found in a different boys' bathroom on May 8 that read "Tomorrow, library will be shot up first, then courtyard and then myself" and was followed by a racist comment, according to Cal High principal Chris George.

While the FBI lent its support to the school district and the San Ramon Police Department, the

investigation is ongoing with no suspect having yet been publicly identified.

"I cannot commend our students enough for their support today. Since making the announcement this morning regarding the additional threat, we have had many students come forward either in person or through the anonymous tipline reporting information. We are working very closely with San Ramon Police to follow up on each

and every one of these reports and will communicate with staff and parents should we identify the person responsible for the graffiti," George said in an email to parents sent on May 8.

George added that additional counselors have been made available for students as well as staff and encouraged anyone who has information to contact him at 803-3210. ■

—Ryan J. Degan and
Bay City News Service

Marie Boss

August 8, 1923 – May 1, 2019

Marie Boss, 95, died peacefully with her daughters by her side. Born in San Francisco to Theophile and Caroline Cerles, she grew up in Orland, attended Dominican College, and was a long-time teacher.

Marie loved music, art, travel, people and life.

She is survived by beloved family: daughters Judy Del Tredici, Nicki Sauer; grandchildren Tom (Delanie), Christina (Ken), Lisa (John), Michelle, Chris (Jenn), Jennifer, Aaron (John), Eric (Lynette); great-grandchildren Drew, Nick, Lizzie, Marcus, Calvin, Beatrice. She was predeceased by husband Louis, sons Joe and Michael, and sons-in-law Richard and Bruce.

Memorial: June 1, 1:00, SGI-USA Buddhist Center,
3834 Opal St, Oakland

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

May 11

Vandalism

- 12:20 p.m. on the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 10:51 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

DUI

- 11:26 p.m. at Bernal and Valley avenues

Fraud

- 1:12 p.m. on the 5400 block of Corte Paloma

Drug violation

- 3:22 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive
- 11:18 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Burglary

- 11:16 a.m. on the 6400 block of Hansen Drive

Alcohol violation

- 12:29 a.m. at Franklin and Stoneridge drives

May 10

Drug violation

- 11:20 p.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Alcohol violation

- 10:05 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Weapons violation

- 9:20 a.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Drive

May 9

Theft

- 4:44 a.m., 3000 block of Casadero Court; auto theft

- 5:56 a.m., 5700 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto
- 10:03 a.m., 6100 block of Hansen Drive; theft from auto
- 7:36 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Assault/battery

- 6:52 p.m. on the 5400 block of Greenfield Way

Graffiti offense

- 8:07 a.m. on the 900 block of Main Street

May 8

Theft

- 10:53 a.m., 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 1:43 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road
- 4:12 p.m., 7400 block of Palm Court; theft from auto

- 9:45 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

Alcohol violation

- 7:27 p.m. at Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard
- 7:31 p.m. on the 4200 block of First Street

Assault/battery

- 6:17 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

DUI

- 4:21 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Robbery

- 1:43 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Graffiti

- 1:41 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Fraud

- 1:09 p.m. on the 3000 block of Yuma Way

Burglary

- 11:16 a.m. on the 7600 block of Maywood Drive



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Anne Marie Tadlock

April 21, 1941 - May 4, 2019

Anne Marie Tadlock passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Sunol Creek Memory Care in Pleasanton, CA at the age of 78.

Anne Marie was born on April 21, 1941 to Doris and Vincent Lariviere of Southbridge Massachusetts. She was a 1959 graduate of Notre Dame High School.

At the age of 19, she moved out west to San Francisco to pursue a career as a flight attendant. However, that never materialized, and she began to work for Standard Oil as a secretary. It was there she met, and later on, married Thomas Earl Tadlock. They both lived in various bay area cities, before finally settling down in Pleasanton, CA. After the birth of her two children, Anne Marie became a homemaker and enjoyed sewing and making crafts. She was a devoted wife and mother. She enjoyed spending time with friends and family and traveling to New England every October to visit family and enjoying the fall foliage. Her hobbies included gardening and watching TV, especially her soap opera "The Young and the Restless", various shows on HGTV, and watching A's, Warriors and 49er games. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her son Steven Tadlock, daughter Cheryl Bethe, son-in-law John Bethe, sister Janice Jenkinson and two brothers, Ronald and Gerald Lariviere. She is preceded in death by her husband Thomas Tadlock and parents, Doris and Vincent Lariviere.

A gravesite service was held at Monument Hill Memorial Park, in Woodland, CA on May 9. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to the American Heart Association or to Hope Hospice.



PAID OBITUARY

Spring ballet *presents* timeless favorites

'Swan Lake' and 'Rodeo' offer beauty paired with energy

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Valley Dance Theatre will showcase the beauty of classical ballet as well as contemporary delights at its annual repertory production, "Spring Rep," next weekend at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The performance will have excerpts from Tchaikovsky's traditional classic, "Swan Lake," as well as Aaron Copland's modern ballet, "Rodeo," accompanied by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra.

"The two contrasting, yet enduringly popular pieces — the elegant beauty of 'Swan Lake' paired with the vibrant energy of 'Rodeo' — make a fitting close to Valley Dance Theatre's season as the company prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary next year," artistic director Betsy Hausburg said.

One of the best loved of all ballets, "Swan Lake" portrays romance, drama and tragedy. It is the story of a young maiden, Odette, who is cursed by the evil sorcerer, Rothbart, to live as a swan and able to take human form only by moonlight. True love has the power to break the spell, but when Sigfried

pledges his love to the white swan, Rothbart sends his daughter, Odile, disguised as the black swan. Tragedy follows.

"The ballet is known not only for the 'Entrance of the Swans,' which will be performed by 16 Valley Dance Theatre dancers, but also for the tour-de-force dancing required by both the white swan and a black swan conjured by Rothbart," Hausburg said. "Anna Mount of Valley Dance will perform both roles, partnered by returning guest dancers Jacob Casey and Maxwell Simoes."

"Rodeo," on the other hand, which premiered in 1942, is all about cowboys, their girlfriends and the famous Hoedown. The lively and dramatic sounds of Aaron Copland's well-known score is the background to a simple love story set in the 19th century ranchlands of the American Southwest.

The music of "Rodeo" has endured, performed as a ballet and orchestra only, and has also been used as background on stage, in television programs and commercials, and for the opening ceremony of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.



JERWIN CHUA

Ballet dancer Anna Mount performs in excerpts of "Swan Lake," which will be part of Valley Dance Theatre's "Spring Rep" production May 25 and 26 at the Bankhead Theater.

"Spring Rep" performances are at 7 p.m. next Saturday (May 25); and at 2 p.m. next Sunday (May 26). The Bankhead Theater is located at

2400 First St. in Livermore.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$14 for students 17 years and younger, with a 10% discount for groups of

10 or more. Purchase tickets online at www.bankheadtheater.org; by phone at 373-6800; or at the theater box office. ■

Children's Chorus performs Saturday

'Portraits' concert celebrates music in everyday lives

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Cantabella Children's Chorus is performing its spring concert, "Portraits," this Saturday, showing music in everyday lives, celebrating childhood, and leading the audience to visualize familiar portraits.

"I really like this program — the inspiring text, the singing testimony of Greg Gilpin's 'Why We Sing,' and 'How Can I Keep from Singing.' It's all so motivating," artistic director Eileen Chang said.

One serious note will be Eric Nelson's "When Memory Fades," which is counterbalanced by "Mash Potato," a love poem from "Play with your Food" by Paul Carey.

The young men of Cantabella will perform alone singing "Vive l'amore," a song about guys drinking and talking about love that has been known to bring down the house with its dramatics.

Also on the program is "Baby Shark." "This is a kid's song, but the choir really, really love it," Chang



TOM CAYTON

Cantabella Children's Chorus is giving its spring concert this Saturday, portraying music in everyone's daily lives.

said.

Scott Kenison, executive director of the Bankhead Theater, will conduct one song, after being chosen by last year's winner of the Pick-a-Song fundraiser.

"The children sing so perfectly, I hope I don't mess them up," Kenison said.

Cantabella Children's Chorus performed parts of this concert with the Santa Cruz Chorale

recently and received a thank you note from member Robert Ley.

"The kids were fabulous, an inspiration ... your singers give us hope for the future," Ley wrote.

"Portraits" performances are Saturday at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. The training choirs are featured at 1 p.m. and the performing choirs at 4 p.m. Tickets for each performance are \$25, and \$7 for under 18. ■

'Everyone Sang'

Choirs join for jubilant performance

The Mission Peak Chamber Singers are joining with the First Presbyterian Chancel Choir and the East Bay People's Choir — a combination of more than 100 singers, a brass ensemble and percussionists — for a grand celebration of the human spirit called "Everyone Sang."

The title comes from a 1919 poem written to honor the end of World War I, a jubilant commemoration of the power of singing to unite people and heal divides.

The Mission Peak Chamber Singers was formed as the Ohlone Chamber Singers in 1980 then became an independent nonprofit group in 2014 after community colleges withdrew support for

choral arts. Now they are dependent on donors, fundraising and concert ticket sales, and gratefully give back the gift of music.

Each year's season begins with "Christmas at the Mission" in December, followed by lighter musical fare in March and a finale in May, which is Sunday's concert.

The one performance will be at 4 p.m. this Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth St. Tickets at the door are \$25 adults; \$15 children and students.

For more information about Mission Peak Chamber Singers, visit www.chambersingers.org. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Recipients announced for character awards

Luncheon will honor residents for making a difference

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

From a photographer to a generous couple to a 14-year-old battling a rare disease, this year's Community of Character Juanita Haugen Award winners exemplify the program's values of "Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity."

Christina Gray, Jee-Yeon and Wallace Wong, and Andrew Holmes will be honored at the annual Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday (May 21) at the Veterans Memorial Building. The Community Organization Award is going to Museum on Main.

The lunch is open to the public at a cost of \$40. Make reservations at the Chamber of Commerce website, www.pleasanton.org.

Christina Gray

Gray lives in Pleasanton with her husband, Lonnie, and their children, Ethan and Lauren. She started her photography business, Bella Luna Studios, in 2005.

As her family and business grew, she began to volunteer her photography skills to non-profit organizations including CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, First Tee, Tri-Valley Turkey Burn, Chamber of Commerce, AXIS Community Health, Ed Kinney Foundation and Make a Difference for Pleasanton. She has also volunteered for six years as a Reflections Program judge in the photography category.

In 2015, Gray published an original cookbook, "Be Free Cooking — The Allergen Aware Cook." This was a new way to engage with the community, and especially the school her children attended, Mohr Elementary School.

During the last two years, she has taught a writing and food workshop at Mohr she developed for second-graders. In April, she launched the



Christina Gray

Rising Star program, inspiring young students to write and "publish" their own books for the school library and coordinated an Author Day.

When Hurricane Harvey hit in 2017, Gray worked with the local chapter of Kids Against Hunger to organize a meal-packing event with 240 volunteers who packed 60,000 meals.

She is also a Harvest Park sixth-grade volleyball coach, Phantom League U13 softball coach, and a member of the Pleasanton Unified Public Safety Committee.

Jee-Yeon and Wallace Wong

The Wongs are incredible friends to many in Pleasanton, where they have lived for 15 years, and serve as great examples to their children Kaitlyn (15), Zachary (12), Ryan (10) and their friends.

The Wongs have volunteered in many organizations and have participated in service projects. Their children have worked to raise money to help homeless people.

Wallace is a Farmers Insurance agent with an office in the historic Pleasanton Hotel. He has served in Rotary, YMCA and other organizations. He is known for having high ethical standards, which are what he expects of himself, his family and his community, according to awards organizers, and is a living example of good character.

Jee-Yeon is a friend to all who come into contact with her. She opens her home to newcomers in the community, inviting them to join her in cooking and sharing a meal.

Wallace and Jee-Yeon live the character values every day. They are kind and courteous; they are compassionate and caring; and they live responsible, respectful lives and



Wallace and Jee-Yeon Wong

inspire others to do the same.

Andrew Holmes

Holmes, 14 and an eighth-grader at Harvest Park Middle School, says his experience battling a rare disease has inspired him to find ways to give back to his community.



Andrew Holmes

When he was 8, Holmes had an excruciating headache and fell semi-unconscious. At Children's Hospital Oakland, he had surgery to stop a massive brain bleed, which turned out to be a rupture of a brain arteriovenous malformation, or AVM.

Holmes was treated with targeted radiation, which works slowly, and caused him to have brain swelling and hemiplegia, or extreme weakness on his right side, so he was unable to walk or use his right hand or arm. He started fourth grade in a wheelchair, but with ongoing therapy, he has been able to walk again, using a leg brace, and to get some right arm movement back.

He loves playing baseball and must catch and throw with the same hand, just like the former major league player Jim Abbott. Holmes' favorite place to be is watching his Oakland A's.

Holmes is committed to raising awareness about AVMs and rare diseases. He wrote a letter to Supervisor Nate Miley to have Rare Disease Day commemorated in Alameda County, has testified before the California State Legislature and has participated in rare disease awareness efforts in the U.S. Congress.

"My life is challenging, but my mom always told me when I start to feel sorry for myself, do something for others," he said.

Holmes said he appreciated the Child Life Department at Children's Hospital bringing him toys and games every day during his long stay, and he also enjoyed its Bingo Nights with great prizes. So in 2016, he started an annual holiday toy drive,



Museum on Main

plus he has held two spring toy drives with Pleasanton Little League. He has collected more than one thousand toys for the hospital.

Museum on Main

The Museum on Main began in the historic house at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, and it moved into the old city hall building on Main Street in 1985. It is a wonderful cultural resource downtown, welcoming newcomers, longtime residents and visitors.

The museum features permanent and temporary exhibits, guest lecturers, tours for schools and other

community groups, and educational programs. It is responsible for collecting and caring for historic documents, photographs and artifacts that tell the stories of Pleasanton and surrounding areas.

The museum has many volunteers who assist with greeting the public, helping in the office, facilitating public programs, serving as docents and guides for the popular annual Ghost Walk tours, and helping manage the archives and collections as well as holding fundraisers.

The award is in tribute to its many volunteers as well as its dedicated staff and board. ■

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Elvis onstage

"G.I. Blues: The Songs of Elvis Presley" will be a special Memorial Weekend concert at 7 p.m. next Sunday (May 26) at the Firehouse Arts Center. The show features Jim Anderson & the Rebels, who re-create the sound, songs and memories of Elvis Presley with his old hits including "Heartbreak Hotel," "Hound Dog," "Don't Be Cruel," "Jailhouse Rock" and many more. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Go to www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848, or purchase at the theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Draw the line

How the California Voting Rights Act is overhauling Tri-Valley elections, and what it means for voters

By Ryan J. Degan

Many local elections in the Tri-Valley are in the midst of a major makeover, and come 2020, voters in the area will find a variety of changes on their ballots as a result.

In response to petitions citing the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), government agencies throughout the Tri-Valley have been transitioning from their previous practice of at-large voting to district-based elections. This process is being pushed by organizations stating that at-large elections cause racially polarized voting and threatening litigation if local governments do not make the change.

Under district-based elections, for say a City Council, the city's boundaries will be divided into distinct geographical districts, each being represented by one elected council member. During elections, residents will only vote for the lone seat designated for candidates who live in their geographical area, as opposed to the current practice where residents vote for all available candidates at-large.

So far, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD), San Ramon City Council, Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), Livermore City Council, Dublin Unified School District (DUSD), Danville Town Council and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District either have made the change already or are in the process of transitioning from at-large to district-based — although Danville and the SRVFPD have been able to postpone their decision until after the 2020 election.

"We're not doing this to throw anybody out of office; we're not doing it to give anybody an advantage. It's a long-term reform, you have to keep your eye on the long-term objective," said Scott Rafferty, a Walnut Creek-based attorney and a longtime proponent of district elections.

The Pleasanton City Council and Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) are among the remaining Tri-Valley agencies unaffected by the district-election trend around them.

Most recently, the aforementioned San Ramon Valley agencies were petitioned to switch to district elections by a group represented by Rafferty called the Bay Area Voting Rights Initiative, threatening litigation unless the agencies comply.

The petition claimed that local governments are in violation of the CVRA, which finds that at-large elections impair the ability of voters in protected classes — people who are members of a race, color, religion or language minority population group — to influence the outcome of an election.

"This is not an attempt to displace incumbents, but rather to make a seat at the table for the Asian community and possibly for any other neighborhoods that have been chronically underrepresented," Rafferty said in his petition.

"But it is more critically an



RYAN J. DEGAN

Walnut Creek-based attorney Scott Rafferty (pictured) is representing the Bay Area Voting Rights Initiative in its efforts to convert the local government agencies of the San Ramon Valley from their current practice of at-large elections to district-based.

opportunity to make local government in the San Ramon Valley more truly representative, to revitalize the engagement of the community in jurisdictions whose elections have been neglected, and to create opportunities for a new generation of political leaders that is as diverse as the growing population of the Valley," the attorney added.

The hope, according to Rafferty, is that when protected classes become the majority population in their own geographical district, they can elect a representative that more accurately represents their interests and ensure that their voices are heard.

Rafferty added that these San Ramon Valley agencies were specifically petitioned due to their relation to the Dougherty Valley, a region in San Ramon with a high population of Asian-American residents.

Both the DUSD and city of Livermore were petitioned by Malibu-based attorney Kevin Shenkman — in 2017 and 2018, respectively — on behalf of a group called the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, who also threatened litigation. Although in his petition, Shenkman specifically cited the lack of Latino representation in these agencies as a primary motivator for enforcing the change.

This leaves the Pleasanton City Council and PUSD Board of Trustees as two of the remaining agencies in the Tri-Valley to still practice at-large elections — the Dublin City Council, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and Zone 7 Water Agency also still elect at-large — and so far have not shown imminent intention to change their election method.

"The city of Pleasanton is aware that some of our neighboring

Tri-Valley agencies have transitioned to district elections. City staff is also exploring whether this option makes sense for our community in the near-term," Pleasanton city attorney Dan Sodergren told the Weekly.

"This topic hasn't been discussed as there hasn't been interest or concerns raised," said PUSD spokesperson Patrick Gannon, who added that the district is focused on more immediate projects.

Rafferty declined to comment on future plans for petitioning other Tri-Valley agencies, saying that his efforts right now are focused on empowering the people in the Dougherty Valley.

Changing the equation

District-based elections are common when publicly elected agencies span large areas and multiple communities — think the Alameda County Board of Supervisors or Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees, for which Pleasanton residents elect a singular representative for their region.

But splitting up smaller communities on an individual basis was unheard of in the Tri-Valley until DUSD, with roughly 25,000 registered voters in all, began its process in 2017 to divide Board of Trustees seats into five distinct trustee areas within DUSD boundaries.

The geographic breakdown would ensure that each key region of that city, notably West Dublin and East Dublin, would have regional representation on the board going forward, as district election supporters argued. But reducing individual trustee election areas also changes the electorate math, which some contend can have consequences.

For example, the DUSD board

tried to appoint a provisional trustee, Nini Natarajan, to fill the Trustee Area 4 seat in December after former trustee Joe Giannini resigned. But that appointment was overturned and the seat left vacant due to a provision in state law that allows voters to challenge and demand a special election instead.

Such a petition needs to be signed by 1.5% of voters in the election area, so when DUSD subdivided its boundaries into smaller trustee areas, the petition threshold for Trustee Area 4 — with its 4,877 registered voters — was only 74 voter signatures to force the special election, which is now set for June 4.

The math is also changed for recall petitions to remove an elected official from local government office. Though the petition percentages remain the same (between 10% and 30% of registered voters, depending on election area size), the number of actual signatures needed can be significantly reduced due to the lessened electorate count in the smaller election district.

These figures affect smaller areas such as San Ramon and Danville (which have populations estimated around 76,000 and 43,000, respectively) much more significantly than larger jurisdictions such as Alameda County (1.66 million residents) and San Jose (1.03 million) that have long had district-based elections.

Responding to the petition

Of the San Ramon Valley jurisdictions, so far the SRVUSD is the lone agency to have finished the process; however, the city of San Ramon and DSRSD are nearing the end and plan to publish a final map of their districts within the next month.

The SRVFPD has agreed to make



CITY OF SAN RAMON

The San Ramon City Council (from left) Scott Perkins, Dave Hudson, Mayor Bill Clarkson, Phil O'Loane and Sabina Zafar. The newest member of the council after her win at-large in 2018, Zafar is San Ramon's first-ever woman of color elected to the council.

the transition after the 2020 U.S. Census, and Rafferty has stated that Danville will consider making the change pending an analysis of population data from the 2020 census.

Rafferty himself has been a long-time proponent of district-based elections, saying he has lobbied for voting rights since 1975. His involvement in petitioning San Ramon Valley agencies to make the change is not his first foray into litigation over the issue, as he previously spearheaded the efforts to change the West Contra Costa Unified School District's elections.

Members of Bay Area Voting Rights Initiative are much more protective of their identity, their anonymity being necessary due to the harassment members have faced in the past, Rafferty said.

"We're an unincorporated association, we'd be a much more public association but ... some of our members have been harassed," he told the Weekly. "In both this district (the SRVUSD) and West Contra Costa there have been people, who have both in the meetings and outside the meetings, been very difficult to some of our group members who have spoken out... We've also had some very aggressive personal attacks."

At public meetings held discussing the transition, many San Ramon Valley agencies have had low public turnout, and the majority of those who show up have expressed negative views on what some have called Rafferty's "demand letter" forcing them to make the change.

The CVRA went into effect in 2002, however many local agencies — or at least those found in the Tri-Valley — have been unwilling to voluntarily make the switch to district-based elections. In fact, out of the seven agencies currently using or in the process of transitioning to district-based elections, none made the switch without having been petitioned to do so.

One major point of contention

critics highlight is the reduction of voting opportunities residents will suffer as a result of being confined to their one designated district.

Using the SRVUSD as an example, the change will essentially mean residents will only have the opportunity to vote for one trustee every four years, instead of two or three trustee positions every two years, as is the case under at-large voting.

"The Voting Rights Act was (meant) to help people, but when you look at our board that means that individuals in our community will only be able to vote for school board trustees every four years now. They will lose a voting opportunity to make their opinions known about what's going on in a school district, and that's wrong," SRVUSD trustee Ken Mintz said at his district's Dec. 17 board meeting.

Another fear for some public officials is the potential loss of cohesion and teamwork among governments due to officials choosing to only represent the needs of the constituents who live in their slice of the city, instead of the wider community as a whole.

"I've always felt that I've always represented San Ramon. I don't represent (my neighborhood) ... I represent all of you," San Ramon Councilman Scott Perkins said during his city's review of the transition. "We all took an oath to represent the Constitution of the state of California, which says I represent the community that I live in. (And) I've worked with people from all over town and we have different views on lots of things."

Also, all population and demographic data gathered by the San Ramon Valley agencies has been done using information from the 2010 census, and regardless of how they divide their jurisdictions, districts will most likely need to be redrawn once more up-to-date information is collected from the 2020 census — a fact that many officials lamented.

"We are getting shoved into this and the worst part about it is we are being told to use a 10-year-old census, which makes no sense at all," San Ramon Councilman Dave Hudson said during a public discussion at City Hall.

With a good amount of opposition to district-based elections, why haven't agencies tried their chances in court?

According to San Ramon city attorney Martin Lysons, the CVRA is a particularly powerful provision of the state government that exposes agencies to difficult litigation if they practice at-large voting. He added that so far no California municipality has ever successfully defended at-large elections when faced with litigation and the consequences for failing are severe.

For example, when the city of Palmdale unsuccessfully challenged a request to change to district elections, they ended up paying \$4.5 million to the plaintiffs and still switched to district elections, Lysons said.

"This can cripple cities financially ... the cost if we lose would be astronomical," San Ramon Mayor Bill Clarkson said last fall.

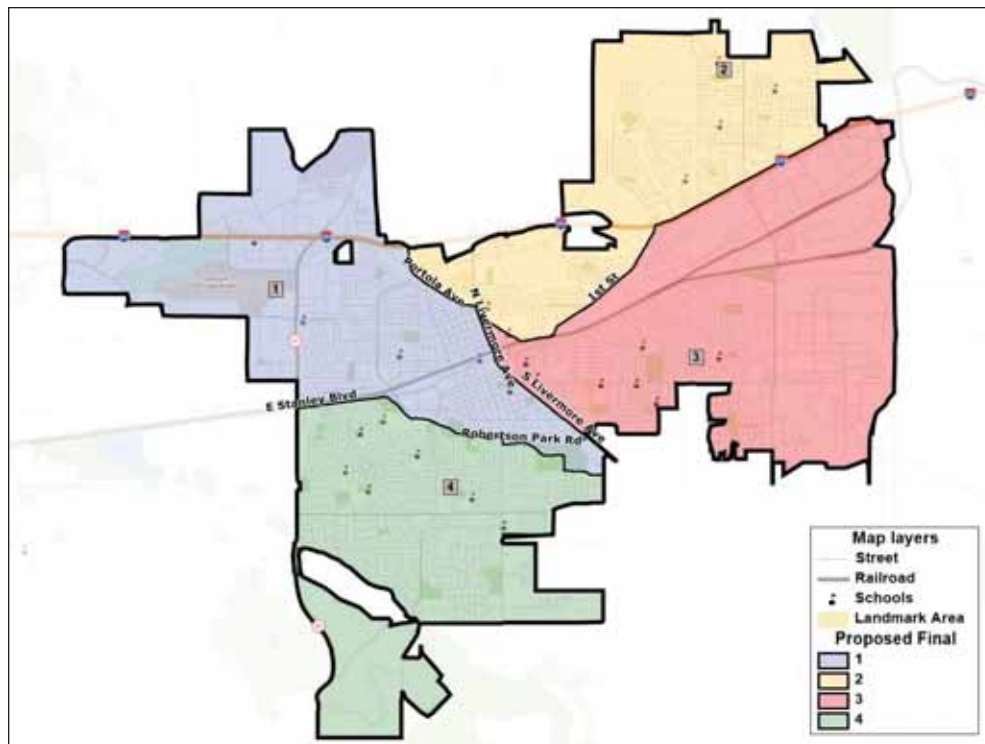
In the end, Rafferty maintained that his client's intentions are for the betterment of local government and the empowerment of marginalized groups, saying that district elections will make local governments more effective and representative in the long term.

"District(s) are going to be stronger because they will be more in touch with their community," Rafferty said. "It complies with the law and that is going to be a positive change. It's a long-term reform, and it's the right thing to do." ■

Editor Jeremy Walsh contributed to this story.

To view more of the Tri-Valley district election maps, see the online story at PleasantonWeekly.com.

The city of Livermore has switched to district-based elections after it was petitioned by a Malibu-based attorney. Here, Livermore has been divided so each sitting council member represents a separate slice of the city, with the mayor's position still being elected at-large.



CITY OF LIVERMORE

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Opinion

LETTERS

Protect downtown Pleasanton

Dear Editor,

Bigger is not always better! We must act quickly to preserve the historic architectural character of our unique downtown before it's gone forever.

According to the Pleasanton 2017 survey, residents suggested to revitalize Pleasanton's downtown by:

- "Developing a town square with open space, landscaping or a fountain."
- "No high-rise residential."
- "Leaving the Civic Center area open, airy and interactive for families."

Yet, actions speak louder than words. The Pleasanton City Council is focused on aggressive building and residential expansion into our downtown areas.

Endorsed changes:

- East Peters Avenue: "Up-zoning" from commercial to "mixed-use transitional" at 125% FAR. Four times what is currently zoned.
- Existing Civic Center: New building heights at a staggering 46 feet and up to three stories, with approximately 75% of the space allotted for

buildings or other structures.

Just a block away from Main Street, these architectural changes are "disproportionate" and "out of scale." It sets the stage for more high-density buildings.

Massive buildings and housing that can be built in other areas of our community is not the best solution for our distinctive downtown. We must instead, refocus and think about the revitalization and preservation of our downtown Pleasanton areas to engage our residents.

Do you feel the same way? Express your concerns to the Pleasanton City Council at CityCouncil@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Help preserve our historic Pleasanton's downtown architectural charm. Otherwise Pleasanton will be no different than our surrounding communities. And that is not why I moved here!

—Kelly Mokashi

How the Chamber supports our local community

Why do 800-plus companies in the Tri-Valley remain members of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce? It is simply based on the mission and the three "Cs". The Chamber is organized to benefit business by being:

- The Catalyst for business and

economic growth.

- The Convener of leaders and influencers.
- The Champion for a stronger and healthy community.

Over 60% of the revenue the city receives is from the taxes received from the local business community. If you like the amazing "free" community benefits we receive from our police and fire departments, community parks, community events and social services, please thank the local business community.

How does the Chamber deliver benefits in our community? Ask companies like Pleasanton Glass Company, Precision Auto Repair, Stoneridge Shopping Center, KKIQ, ClubSport/Bay Club, Four Points by Sheraton, Double Tree by Hilton, Costello CPA, Marriott, Bay Valley Medical Group, Charles Huff Architect, Yorkshire Roofing and JHS CPAs, LLP — who all have been members between 30 to 53 years.

The Chamber focuses on three goals promoting a "value proposition" supporting the community.

- Building leaders to support businesses: Governance with a volunteer Board of Directors; charitable 501(c)3 foundation.
- Engaging business members: Membership development, partnerships and friendships; committees, seminars, new business ribbon-cuttings.
- Delivering local benefits: Special events and fundraising; New Woman's Luncheon 2019; business development network groups; public policy vision; skilled workers; housing; transportation; business services.

Thank you to our amazing Pleasanton residents that support our businesses and "Buy Local."

—Herb Ritter,
Chamber board chair

When will 'Me Too' movement come to RPEA?

The California State Legislature addressed the "Me Too" issues in September 2018, but Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) is still placing public retirees in the path of potential harassment.

The Capitol marched those offenders out, but RPEA marched them back in at T Street. RPEA endorsed CalPERS board member Margaret Brown, who has a history of alleged harassment based on previous employee statements. (Former Weekly reporter) Glenn Wohltmann wrote about the lawsuit on Sept. 24, 2010. It was updated on Sept. 26, 2010. This story says:

"The lawsuit claims Brown made sexually inappropriate comments to (Jim) Faith and other employees and 'was nothing less than a foul-mouthed, demeaning, threatening and bombastic supervisor.'"

Not only am I appalled at the behavior and the records of these individuals, I am also outraged at the Retired Public Employees Association.

I have personally witnessed Margaret's snarky remarks during public sessions. How can retirees support people for such an important public office that places their own people at risk? RPEA should never endorse any candidate that is not credible by "Me Too" standards.

Now, RPEA is considering candidates for the CalPERS Retiree seat. One previous state employee J.J. Jelincic, who has a history of sexual harassment issues at work, is being considered for RPEA endorsement.

This is just the tip of the iceberg! We want and need sustainability with our pensions. J.J. Jelincic is not the answer; neither is Margaret Brown.

—Martha Penry,
Retired CalPERS member

Amador tennis courts aren't for parking cars

I am utterly shocked and dismayed upon hearing the proposal to convert AVHS tennis courts to temporary parking lot for a few months during the Amador solar project duration.

While this may sound a simple alternative, the impact this would cause to the AVHS team — who are EBAL and NCS champions this year — is immense and would definitely have a larger impact on the athletes at AVHS for years to come.

The proposal will deprive the young athletes from being able to practice not just for these few months, but for the entire year and maybe more. This might portray lack of importance to sports at the school level and would discourage/demotivate our young athletes from participation in sports.

My son is a freshman at Amador who plays for the varsity team and joins several other players at Amador courts all through the year to practice his favorite sport. My younger son too joins them with an aspiration to be in the team some day. Tennis at Amador helps not just the JV and varsity teams at AVHS but many more children in the community.

I urge the administration to carefully consider other alternative options, and I sincerely hope the current proposal of converting the tennis courts at AVHS to parking lots is called off.

—Muthuvel Arumugam

Tennis Letters

The Letter from Muthuvel Arumugam was among about a dozen notes the Weekly received — that were also sent to the Pleasanton Unified School District — via email pertaining to the Amador tennis court parking debate. The other Letters were too long to publish given space constraints this week, but all shared similar sentiments to Arumugam's message.

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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TAKE US ALONG



Down Under: Maxwell and Jessica Norman, with sons Jonah (10) and Andrew (7), visited Sydney during spring break and brought the Weekly along for this photo near the Sydney Opera House with the Harbour Bridge in the background.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



UPCOMING MEETINGS

City Council

Tuesday May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PUBLIC HEARING:** Consider Fiscal Year 2019-20 allocation of the Housing and Human Services Grants and Community Grant Program Funds and approve the Action Plan for use of Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds

Committee on Energy and the Environment

Wednesday, May 22 at 5:00 p.m.
Operations Services Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Select Subcommittees for Climate Action Plan Update, East Bay Community Energy Evaluation, and Water Supply Alternatives
- Climate Action Plan Update

To explore more about Pleasanton,
visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Amador volleyball, tennis teams win section titles

The Amador Valley High School boys volleyball team completed an incredible two-week postseason run by winning the North Coast Section championship.

In the finals on May 9, the Dons knocked off Monte Vista 25-21, 25-22 and 25-18.

It was a great performance by the entire team, especially the starters: William Sadler (9 kills, 2 blocks), Jacob Kim (9 kills, 1 ace), Logan Miller (8 kills, 4 blocks), Luke McFall (8 kills, 3 blocks) and Taylor Melendrez (3 kills, 1 block).

Other great performances came from Colton Brooks (playing as libero, not his regular position), Nolan Gill (playing back row instead of libero), Andrei Rekes, Sawyer Brookhart, Blake Bouchard (6-point serve run), Devon Kost, Micah Kiang and Justin Hanson (just brought up from JV).

To get to the finals, the Dons first beat James Logan in the quarterfinals 25-11, 25-17 and 25-23.

Strong performances in the quarters came from Miller (10 kills, 4 blocks), Sadler (9 kills, 4 blocks), McFall (9 kills, 5 blocks, 2 ace serves), Kim (3 kills, 1 ace, great sets) and Gill (multiple serve receives and great passes).

Next was a 25-23, 25-27, 25-18 and 25-19 win over Heritage in

the semifinals. The win was led by Sadler (8 kills, 5 blocks), McFall (10 kills, 8 blocks, 1 ace), Kim (3 kills, great sets), Miller (7 kills, 6 blocks) and Brookhart (6 kills).

NCS tennis

The Amador Valley boys brought home the NCS team tennis championship with a thrilling 4-3 win over Redwood in the finals.

Redwood took the top-three singles matches, but the Dons rallied with a win from Eswarsai Ramineni at the No. 4 singles, then swept the doubles to win the title.

The teams of Robert Heeter/Brett Miller, Nithilan Muruganandham/Vishal Muthuvel and Manas Aavula/Idan Belau got it done to get the banner for Amador.

The run to the finals included a 7-0, semifinal win over Dougherty Valley and a 7-0 thumping of Mission San Jose.

For the crosstown rival Foothill, the Falcons tennis team got off to a fast start in the NCS tournament with a 6-1 victory over Heritage and a 7-0 defeat of San Ramon Valley before falling to Redwood in the semifinal round.

In the Heritage match, Akash Patel, Ani Poruri and Abhi Eedara took their singles matches, and the teams of Dylan Weiglein/

Alex Yang, Matt Haskell/Praveen Senth, and Ian Dong/Alex Kwon swept the doubles.

Moving back to Foothill's courts, Shreekar Eedara, Patel, Poruri and Abhi Eedara defeated the Wolves in the singles, and Yang/Adam Linette, Weiglein/Senth and Haskell/Vince Barletta finished the shutout in the doubles.

Foothill softball

The Falcons won twice last week to take the title of the East Bay Athletic League playoffs and keep their perfect season alive.

In the first game of the playoffs, Foothill beat Carondelet 6-0.

The Falcons got on the board in the third inning when Hope Alley sent a one-out, 1-0 pitch over the left-field fence with Caelin Cavanaugh on for a two-run lead. Haley Hayes followed with a single and scored on a Courtney Beaudin hit to make it 3-0.

The Falcons added three in the fourth with Alley driving in Cavanaugh, then scoring in a hit from Nicole May. After stealing second, May scored on another hit from Beaudin to round out the scoring.

May tallied up 11 strikeouts in the game putting her season total over 200.

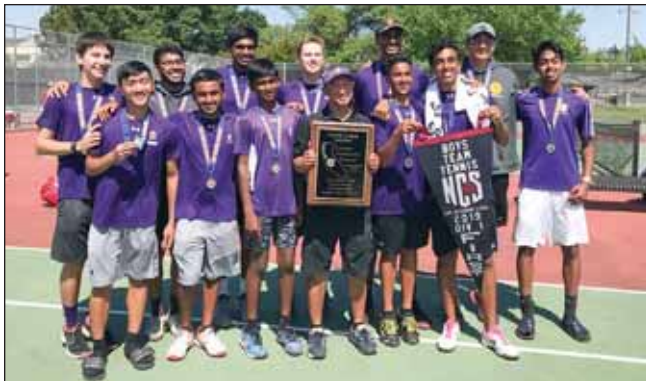
In the finals of the EBAL tournament, Foothill beat Amador 10-0, scoring four runs in the third and six more in the fifth. May struck out eight in the win, allowing just two hits — those coming to the Hildebrand sisters Mia and Maddie.

Both Pleasanton teams advanced to the NCS tournament, with No. 1 seed Foothill defeating Mt. Eden 12-0 and fourth-seeded Amador beating Berkeley 4-3 in the first round. The results of their next games were pending as of press time. ■

Correction

Due to an editing error, the May 10 "Pleasanton Preps" column incorrectly stated the softball teams began their NCS tournament last week. The Weekly regrets the error.

The Amador Valley Dons celebrate after winning the NCS team tennis title.



COURTESY OF DANNY YEE

Pleasanton hosts Special Olympics

The Amador Valley Athletic Boosters hosted the annual Special Olympics East Bay Track and Volleyball Tournaments last Saturday with 13 track teams and 10 volleyball squads. In support of the competing Special Olympics athletes, more than 350 local volunteers helped put on the event, including student and parents from Amador Valley and Foothill high schools, and Hart, Harvest Park and Pleasanton middle schools, as well as from the National Charity League, Boys Team Charity, Young Men's Service League and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



KEN MANO

Camp Connection Summer 2019

Camp Gan Israel

(925) 846-0700 | cgitrivalley.com | rabbijosh@jewishtrivalley.com
June 24-July 19 | Ages 5-14

Camp Gan Israel of the Tri-Valley offers a fun filled Jewish camp experience with hiking, art, sports, outdoor survival and field trips galore! At Camp Gan Israel, every camper is viewed as a unique individual. We look forward to welcoming you to the Gan Israel Family.

Entering Kindergarten- 1st grade: Ketanim Division staff are chosen for their experience with younger children. Group size is 12 maximum with a high camper to counselor ratio. Activities include daily sports, cooking, water fun, science, nature, crafts, challah baking, Jewish music, yoga, specialty shows, and more!

Entering grades 2-6: Our Gedolim Division campers will enjoy traditional camp activities with exciting thematic programming, day trips and outdoor adventures, 2 late nights with camp songs and roasted marshmallows. Activities include daily sports, archery, cooking, boating, science, hiking, crafts, challah baking, day trips, specialty shows and more!

Entering grades 7-8: Perfect for the camper who would like to supplement their sleepover camp experience or experience a taste of sleepover camp in a day camp setting. Our "Tzofim Division" will enjoy full day trips and one overnight. In addition, Tzofim campers will have the opportunity to partake in special workshops, mentoring programs with the Mini Gan Campers, athletic and outdoor adventure activities, and more!

Critter Camp at Valley Humane Society

3670 Nevada Street | Pleasanton
(925) 426-8656 | www.valleyhumane.org

Join Valley Humane Society for Critter Camp this summer, a fun, fur-filled humane education program offering an exciting variety of animal activities, games, crafts, special guests, and hands-on learning opportunities. Week-long day camps for kids age 6-14 start June 10, with leadership opportunities for teens age 15-17. Sign up today!

Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFTZ!

7690 Quail Creek Cir. | Dublin
(925) 271-0015 | www.KidzKraftz.com

Focus on sewing stylish, wearable clothing, accessories, craft and jewelry projects, while introducing children to fashion design concepts, sewing techniques, basic pattern manipulation and fashion illustration. Sewing machines and notions provided. FREE fabric for first day of the camp. Pizza party on last day of the camp. Early Bird Registration Special, as well as many discount options available.

Pleasanton Pediatric Dentistry

1443 Cedarwood Lane, Suite D | Pleasanton
(925) 846-KIDS (5437) | www.PleasantonPediatricDentistry.com

Discover why kids LOVE us and parents TRUST us! Our passion is to make kids feel comfortable during their dental visit. Services: Infant Oral Care; Kids, Teens, Young Adults; Sedation; Dental Emergencies; Special Needs Children. We strive to create a fun-filled environment where children feel at home! With three kid friendly locations in Alameda, Oakland & Pleasanton we're conveniently located to better serve your family needs. We make kids smile!

Stratford School

http://stratfordschools.com/summer-camp

Summer@Stratford — Discover Where the Extraordinary Begins

Stratford School infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and academic curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience for Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School.

Preschool/PreK (age 2 ½ – 4) Weekly themes come to life as Young Campers learn, explore, and engage in imaginative activities that promote STEAM learning. Each session is designed around inquiry-based projects that develop foundational skills in phonics, math, motor skills, music, social skills, and more!

Kindergarten Prep (age 4 – 5) Jr. Campers will develop the skills necessary for success in Kindergarten like phonics, fluency, math, printing, and social skills. Afternoons will feature fun, hands-on, STEAM-based activities that incorporate art, science, and music.

Elementary (entering grades 1 – 5 next school year) We take our enriched academic preparation and themed project-based learning to a whole new level! Students will collaborate to tackle real-world problems by utilizing cross-curricular academic principles (Math, Science, and Language Arts) and new concepts in a fun and engaging way. Specialized courses at select campuses also available in Tech and Engineering, Writing and Math, Language, Culture, Science, and Sports.

Middle School (entering grades 6 – 8 next school year) Middle School programs are designed to educate and provide academic, social, and emotional skills. Math and Language Arts concepts will be covered, in addition to developing life skills needed for Middle School and beyond. Afternoon options will allow students to explore their interests as well as continue to learn new concepts.

Write Now! Summer Writing Camps

Pleasanton/Palo Alto
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750 | Emerson: (650) 424-1267
www.headsup.org | writenow@headsup.org

Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Hacienda School of Pleasanton and Emerson School of Palo Alto. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing, and Presentation Techniques. Visit our website for more information.

For more information about these camps, see our online camp directory at www.pleasantonweekly.com/camp_connection/

In Concert

EVERYONE SANG From 4 to 6 p.m. on May 19, for this final concert at First Presbyterian Church, Fourth and L Street, Livermore, the Sanctuary Choir and EBPC brings together over 100 singers, a brass ensemble, and percussionists for a grand celebration of the human spirit. Titled after a 1919 poem written to commemorate the end of World War I, “Everyone Sang” is a jubilant commemoration of the power of singing to unite people and heal divides.

LIVE COMIC BOOK PERFORMANCE “DOUBLE JUMPERS” From 7 to 9:30 p.m. on May 18, at Characterz Cafe, 5424 Sunol Blvd., there will be a show by nerds for nerds. This show is performed by talented voice over artists. This comic book is comedic and action packed (and not suitable for children). Join two groups of heroes as they fight perilously to find their way back home.

Talks

MARRIAGE NIGHT EVENT LIVE STREAM Best-selling authors Les and Leslie Parrott and Francis Chan will

share how to deepen your marriage relationship in a live stream event at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 17 at GraceWay Church, 1183 Quarry Lane. The evening starts with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the teaching sessions from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

AUTHOR TO SPEAK TO WRITERS ABOUT MEMOIRS At 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 at the Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, Linda Joy Myers, the author of two prize-winning memoirs, will speak about memoir writing. Check-in is at 1:30 p.m. The session is open to people who make advance reservations and pay a fee at the door. Cost for CWC members is \$14; for non-members, \$18. Student fees are \$6 for members and \$10 for non-members. Reservations can be made by sending an e-mail to reservations@trivalleywriters.org.

Fundraisers

ADOPT A MILITARY CARE PACKAGE Pleasanton Military Families will host their “Adopt A Box” table at the Pleasanton Farmers’ Market, on Saturday May 18, on 55 West Angela Street. The community is invited to stop by to make a donation that will help send care packages to deployed men and women around the world. All proceeds support our troops. Visit pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org for more information.

BINGO BASH At 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 at St. Augustine’s Church Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave., there will be a Bingo Bash fundraiser with proceeds going to Children’s Hospital treatment of Cooley’s Anemia and other ICF Charities. Reservations are required by May 28. RSVP to Patty at 462-2191 or email her at pattybrick814@gmail.com.

Dance

HO’IKE AND LU’AU At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindberg Ave., Livermore, Halau Makana Lani presents Ho’ike and Lu’au. Accompanied by faith Ako. Tickets are \$40 per person for adults, \$20 for youth 10 and under. Tickets are available in advance only; no tickets will be sold at the door. Ticket includes a lunch plate. Visit wegothula.com for more information.

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Busy Bruin

Hi, I’m Bruin, a 2-year-old Chihuahua mix, and I’m a workaholic. There’s no way I could sit on a couch all day, nobody got time for that. I’ve got to chase my toys, work on my training, patrol the house, sniff out those treats and explore the world. I’m pretty independent too. I’d prefer a home where I can be the center of attention. Looking for a go-getter to run circles around your life? It might just be me! Come meet me at the East Bay SPCA in Dublin (4651 Gleason Drive) Wednesdays to Sundays. My adoption fee is waived.

VALLEY DANCE THEATER Valley Dance Theatre will showcase the beauty and excitement of ballet at its annual repertory production entitled Spring Rep. Performances will take place on Saturday, May 25, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 26, at 2 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Live musical accompaniment will be provided by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$14 for students 17 years and younger, with a 10 percent discount offered for groups of 10 or more. Tickets may be purchased online at bankheadtheater.org; by phone at 373-6800 or in person at the theater box office Box office, Tuesday thru Saturday, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and for two hours prior to show time.

Classes

FAMILY CAREGIVER EDUCATION: EXPLORING LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES When facing the incapacity of a loved one, reliance on professionals will ensure that families receive the most accurate information about options and protection. To help family caregivers navigate common questions, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 18 at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin, Cynthia Thorp, Esq., a local elder law specialist, will share information on this topic. Preregistration is requested. Please call 829-8770, or email debbiee@hopehospice.com.

Support Groups

LUPUS AND FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP The group meets at 12 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month, at the Weekes Library, 217300 Patrick Ave., Hayward, (off Tennyson Road). Contact janetip510@yahoo.com.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) TRI-VALLEY CONNECTION SUPPORT GROUP From 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. on Wednesdays, at St. Clare’s Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tri-Valley Connection Support Group, meets for education and support for those experiencing a mental illness. Visit nami-trivalley.org, or contact Kelley Thorpe Baker, at (714) 296-3444.

GRIEF SUPPORT MEETINGS The death of a loved one is a shattering experience. It leaves us in a state of shock, confusion, pain and sadness, but you do not have to suffer alone. We invite you to participate in our grief support meetings at 7:30 p.m. on May 23, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25 and August 8 at St. Elizabeth Seton, 4005 Stoneridge Drive. Please call Eleanor at 846-8708 for more information. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) TRI-VALLEY FAMILY/CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP (PLEASANTON) From 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month, at 5674 Stoneridge Drive, #114, families network, encourage, and support each other through the challenges of advocating and caring for adult loved ones who are diagnosed with a severe mental illness. Resources and information are provided as well. There is no cost.

Seniors

‘NEWCOMER’S WELCOME’ The Friends of the Pleasanton Senior Center are sponsoring a “Newcomer’s Welcome” from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Love Your Skin Beauty
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 558293

The following person doing business as: Love Your Skin Beauty, Elena Crandell, 4230 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Elena Crandell, 4230 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Elena Crandell, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein September 5, 2018. Signature of Registrant: Elena Crandell, Owner/Esthetician. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 23, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019).

Sun-Star Builders
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 558503

The following person doing business as: Sun-Star Builders, 2748 Willowren Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Dennis Klein, 2748 Willowren Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Dennis Klein, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein April 13, 1995. Signature of Registrant: Dennis Klein, owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 26, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 10, 17, 24, 31, 2019).

A&M Handyman Services
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 558769

The following person(s) doing business as: A&M Handyman Service, 3231 Vineyard Ave., #72, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Arnulfo Martinez, 3231 Vineyard Ave., #72, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein October 1, 2018. Signature of Registrant, Arnulfo Martinez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 3, 2019 (Pleasanton Weekly, May 17, 24, 31, & June 7 2019).

JNJ Security and Investigation; Office Express JNJ Gardening; Express Fencing JNJ Gardening
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 568967 to 558969

The following person doing business as: JNJ Security and Investigation; Office Express JNJ Gardening; Express Fencing JNJ Gardening, 4061 East Castro Valley Blvd. #64, Castro Valley, CA

94552, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: JackDaniel Flores Borja, 4061 East Castro Valley Blvd. #64, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by JackDaniel Flores Borja, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business names listed herein July 1, 1999. Signature of Registrant: JackDaniel F. Borja, owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 9, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, 2019).

Rejuvenation Spa at Hub
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 558215

The following person(s) doing business as: Rejuvenation Spa at Hub, 5341 Owens Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hub Rejuvenation LLC, 3130 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 240, San Ramon, CA 94583. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein August 18, 2017. Signature of registrant, Hamed Adibnatanzi, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 22, 2019 (Pleasanton Weekly, May 17, 24, 31 & June 7, 2019).

Siegel Commuunications
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 559018

The following person(s) doing business as: Siegel Communications, 7172 Regional Street, #364, Dublin, CA 94568, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Spencer Siegel, 7172 Regional Street, #374. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant, Spencer Siegel, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 10, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 17, 24, 31 & June 7, 2019.)

Bailey’s Crane Service
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 559034

The following person doing business as: Bailey’s Crane Service, 9131 San Leandro St. #110, Oakland, CA 94603, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Joseph Bailey, 9131 San Leandro St. #110, Tracy, CA 94603. This business is conducted by Joseph Bailey, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein May 1, 2019. Signature of Registrant: Joseph Bailey, owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 10, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, May 17, 24, 31 and June 7, 2019).

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your legal advertising needs.

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Your home on stage

In right hands, rooms become light, bright and airy

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

When prospective buyers look at your home, remember this: There is no second chance to make a first impression.

“Our goal is to highlight your home so you can get the best possible price,” explained Pleasanton resident Holly Flores, co-owner of Picture Perfect Staging.

First she meets with clients — and often their Realtors — in the home.

“We walk from room to room,” Flores said. “We figure out what we can utilize that is already there. Sometimes they have nice things, but they have way too many.”

She directs homeowners to move extra furnishings into the garage, as well as removing accessories and clutter.

“We want buyers to focus on the home itself, the size of the room,” Flores said.

Their first look at a home is often in photographs, which are most effective when rooms have large art.

“We want to grab them at first glance,” Flores said.

Large bookcases require special treatment, she said, so they don’t look “busy.”

“I say, scale down to 20 to 25 books, usually hardbacks,” Flores said. “We will have a shelf of books, then a shelf with greenery, then skip a shelf.”

“Staging is trying to make a home look light and bright and airy,” she said, at least here in California.

Unique decorative items also have to go because they don’t work well with decorative pieces that will be brought in.

“Empty houses are my favorite because we can really design the entire house from beginning to end,” Flores said.

They usually estimate their price based on square footage.

“A 2,000-square-foot home that is occupied and might just need art, accessories and towels, runs around \$800-\$850 and that includes the consultation,” Flores said.

The Realtor often pays the fee, depending on the commission rate.

“The cost for an empty house depends on how many rooms we are staging,” Flores said. “Typically we do kitchens and bathrooms — anything with counters — and the living room, family room and the master bedroom.”

“Sometimes in homes that are occupied, if people don’t want to pay to bring in a lot of furniture, we just do the front room. At least the first impression when opening that door is good.”

They know every item available in their storage facility.

“If we are doing a 2,000-square-foot house, it takes six hours to pack for that — match this bedding, put something on these nightstands — then the staging itself takes two-and-a-half to three hours,” Flores said.

“When you are not working, you’re shopping for more things,” she added.

See **STAGE** on Page 22



COURTESY PICTURE PERFECT STAGING

Stagers make rooms look light, bright and airy. Cleaning up clutter is the first step.

829 Division Street #D, Pleasanton | Offered at \$409,000

Location ~ Location ~ Location

This adorable 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo is located near Historical Downtown Pleasanton. It features: updated kitchen with granite counters, white cabinets and stainless appliances. Spacious living room with built in shelving and high ceiling. Updated bathroom with elegant tile and lots of storage. Warm and spacious bedroom with high ceilings, large closet with organizers and mirrored closet doors. Laminate flooring, neutral paint and lots of natural light. Its cozy patio is surrounded by lush green trees, perfect for relaxing and enjoying the hill views. Covered carport with storage and inviting community pool. Close to: shopping, restaurants, ACE Train, BART, freeways, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Downtown Pleasanton and so much more.



OPEN SAT/SUN 2-4PM

4326 Bristolwood Road, Pleasanton | Call for Pricing

COMING SOON



Located in the Desirable Westside of Pleasanton!

This adorable single-story home features 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, updated kitchen, low maintenance front yard, 2 car garage, near Pleasanton’s distinguished schools. Close to: playground, restaurants, Stoneridge Mall, schools, freeways, BART, ACE Train and so much more.

If you are thinking of buying or selling, let me know. I’d love to help.



Joyce Jones

REALTOR, CA Lic. #01348970

925.998.3398

joycejones4homes@gmail.com | joycejones4homes.com

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Approx. 3,906 – 4,463 Sq. Ft.
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925.200.4146

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Single-Family Homes
Approx. 2,451 – 3,200 Sq. Ft.
From the Mid \$1.5 Millions
925.200.1633

DANVILLE

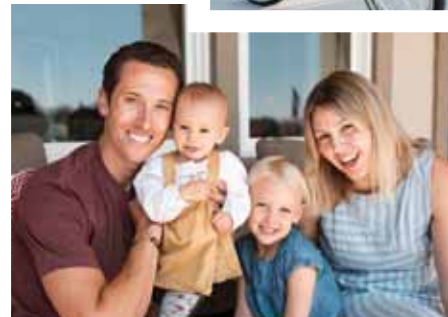
RED HAWK

Single-Family Homes
Approx. 3,230 – 4,540 Sq. Ft.
From the Low \$2 Millions
925.200.4587

TRACY

ELISSAGARAY RANCH

Single-Family Homes
Approx. 2,405 – 3,531 Sq. Ft.
From the \$600,000s
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3114 LANSDOWN COURT, PLEASANTON



4 bd/3 ba, 2,471+/-sqft, 6,955+/-sqft lot
CALL FOR DETAILS

5982 VIA DEL CIELO, PLEASANTON



5 bd/3 ba, 3,200+/-sqft, 11,210+/-sqft lot
CALL FOR DETAILS

4862 WOODTHRUSH RD., PLEASANTON



4 bd/3 ba, 2,146+/-sqft, 7,300+/-sqft lot
CALL FOR DETAILS

5099 MONACO DRIVE, PLEASANTON



4 bd/3 ba, 2,985+/-sqft, 10,010+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,549,000

4758 MCHENRY GATE WAY, PLEASANTON



3 bd/2 ba, 1,611+/-sqft, 7,570+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,099,000

2115 TANAGER COURT, PLEASANTON



6 bd/4 ba, 3,456+/-sqft, 9,966+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,399,000

4457 SUTTER GATE AVE., PLEASANTON



4 bd/2.5 ba, 2,125+/-sqft, 6,984+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,229,000

24 CENTENNIAL WAY, SAN RAMON



4+ bd/3 ba, 2,474+/-sqft, 9,148+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,220,000

4270 MAIRMONT DRIVE, PLEASANTON



4 bd/2.5 ba, 1,802+/-sqft, 6,630+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,139,000

6964 CORTE ANTONIO, PLEASANTON



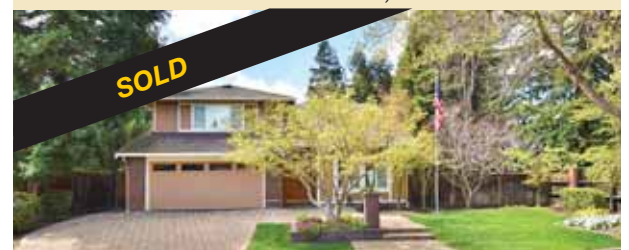
4 bd/3 ba, 2,813+/-sqft, 14,810+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,599,000

5816 CORTE MARGARITA, PLEASANTON



5 bd/3 ba, 2,616+/-sqft, 6,500+/-sqft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,499,000

2776 HARTLEY GATE CT., PLEASANTON



4 bd/3 ba, 2,179+/-sqft, 11,757+/-sqft lot
SOLD FOR \$1,280,000

“Tim listed and sold our house. His team from the stagers, photographers, cleaners and office staff were first class. The whole emotional experience of selling our home of 35 years was only possible because of Tim. We highly recommend him!!!”

Cindy MacDonald, Calle Alegre, Pleasanton

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.



OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

BRENTWOOD

739 Richardson Dr **\$709,000**
Sun 1-4 3 BD/2.5 BA
Jo Ann Luisi 583.1106

DUBLIN

4254 Clarinbridge Cr **\$525,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 1 BD/1.5 BA
Fabulous Properties 980.0273/519.8226

7390 Stagecoach Rd **\$949,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/2.5 BA
Stacy Gilbert 487.4887

LIVERMORE

1479 Fallen Leaf Dr **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2.5 BA
Miranda Mattos 336.7653

1874 Railroad Ave #118 **\$739,000**
Sat 1-4 3 BD/3.5 BA
Blaise Lofland 846.6500

5754 Arlene Way **\$935,000**
Sun 1-4 4 BD/2 BA
Jo Ann Luisi 583.1106

5489 Carnegie Lp **\$1,248,000**
Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Linda Futral 980.3561

2238 Vintage Ln **\$1,729,000**
Sat 1-3/Sun 1-4 5 BD/4 BA
Blaise Lofland 846.6500

PLEASANTON

829 Division St #D **\$409,000**
Sat/Sun 2-4 1 BD/1 BA
Joyce Jones 998.3398

4002 Nice Ct **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 2 BD/2 BA
Gina Piper 200.0202

4575 Carver Ct **Call for price**
Sun 2-4 3 BD/2 BA
Dave & Sue Flashberger 463.0436

6853 Massey Ct **Call for price**
Sun 2-4 3 BD/2 BA
Dave & Sue Flashberger 463.0436

5246 Meadowwood Ct **\$1,099,000**
Sat 1-4/Sun 11:30-3:30 3 BD/2 BA
Joseph Mendes 963.2366

6745 Menlo Ct **Call for price**
Sun 2-4 3 BD/2 BA
Dave & Sue Flashberger 463.0436

4472 Comanche Way **\$749,500**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/2.5 BA
Blaise Lofland 846.6500

5192 Independence Dr **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Gina Piper 200.0202

3114 Lansdown Ct **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

7638 Maywood Dr **\$1,600,000**
Sat/Sun 2-4 4 BD/3 BA
Douglas Buenz 785.7777

5099 Monaco Dr **\$1,549,000**
Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

4540 Muirwood Dr **\$1,095,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/2.5 BA
Gina Piper 200.0202

1826 Palmer Dr **\$1,625,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Andrea Rozran 858.4198

3830 Phoebe Ct **\$1,650,000**
Sun 2-4 4 BD/3 BA
Dave & Sue Flashberger 463.0436

1217 Piemonte Dr **\$2,188,000**
Sun 1-4 4 BD/3.5 BA
Susie Steele 413.9306

904 Sherman Way **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Blaise Lofland 846.6500

589 Tawny Dr **\$1,289,000**
Sat/Sun 2-4 4 BD/3 BA
McDowell Real Estate Group 209.0343/596.8731

665 Varese Ct **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Fabulous Properties 980.0273/519.8226

1018 Via Di Salerno **\$2,490,888**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Fabulous Properties 980.0273/519.8226

4862 Woodthrust Rd **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

1915 Foxwallow Cr **\$1,400,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 5 BD/3 BA
Kris Moxley 519.9080

6290 Laura Ln **\$2,838,000**
Sat 1:30-4:30 5 BD/5 BA
Susie Steele 413.9306

8303 Regency Dr **\$2,448,000**
Sat 1-4 5 BD/3.5 BA
Cindy Gee 963.1984

1535 Rubino Ct **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 5 BD/6 BA
Fabulous Properties 980.0273/519.8226

1093 Shadow Hills Ct **\$2,399,000**
Sat 1-4 5 BD/5.5 BA
Julia Murtagh 997.2411

750 Sunny Brook Way **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 5 BD/4 BA
Gina Piper 200.0202

23 Twelve Oaks Dr **Call for price**
Sun 2-4 5 BD/3.5 BA
McDowell Real Estate Group 209.0343/596.8731

5982 Via Del Cielo **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 5 BD/3 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

1329 Via Di Salerno **\$3,698,000**
Sun 1-4 5 BD/4.5 BA
Crystal Jackson 413.3676

448 Bunker Ln **\$1,989,000**
Sun 2-4 6 BD/4.5 BA
Douglas Buenz 785.7777

448 Bunker Ln **\$1,989,000**
Sun 2-4 6 BD/4.5 BA
Douglas Buenz 785.7777

SAN RAMON

384 Eastridge Dr **\$455,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 1 BD/1 BA
Lily McClanahan 209.9328

1129 Rosamund Dr **Call for price**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/4.5 BA
Cindy Gee 963.1984

STAGE

Continued from Page 19

Recently they staged a home that was occupied, including by five cats and some rescue dogs.

"You have to pretend like you don't have animals. We have them board for a little bit," Flores said, quoting the saying: "If you can smell it, you can't sell it."

"Tact is one of the biggest things," she noted. "You want the homeowner very comfortable with you. You are coming in and turning things upside down and doing things they may not be ready to do. You help them see what will help them in the end."

Holly entered the staging profession after years in customer service at AT&T, which she said honed her personal skills.

"My mom had been staging, and I knew I wanted to do it," Flores said. "And I always loved 'staging' my home — I was always changing it around."

She and her best friend Christal Arroyo took courses, became accredited staging professionals, and now have more than 15 years of real estate and staging design experience. They also keep up to date on design trends.

They opened Picture Perfect Staging a few years ago, and most of their customers come from Realtors.

"Or people come to an open house and really like the decorating," Flores said.

After clients are in their new homes, they may call again.

"A few have said, 'Come to my new home and help me pick colors and furniture.'" ■

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Just Listed!



3830 Phoebe Court, Pleasanton

Gorgeous 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and a den. Stunning granite and alder wood kitchen. Backyard pavilion with fireplace, kitchen and sparkling pool. *Offered at \$1,650,000.*

Just Listed!



6745 Menlo Court, Pleasanton

Love at first sight, lovely one level home with almost 1,600 sq ft. Beautifully remodeled kitchen and bathrooms. *Priced in the low \$1,000,000's.*

Just Listed!



4575 Carver Court, Pleasanton

Simply adorable one level home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, granite slab kitchen and remodeled bathrooms. Wonderful backyard with covered patio including outdoor TV. *Priced in the low \$900,000's.*

Just Listed!



6853 Massey Court, Pleasanton

Wonderful court location. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Beautifully updated kitchen and elegant cabinetry. *Priced in the mid \$900,000's.*

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OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-4

4 BD | 3 BA | 3,179 SF

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Largest Gibson Model in Desirable Ventana Hills Neighborhood in Premium Location! Five Bedrooms, Three Bathrooms and Approximately 3179 Square Feet. Spacious Master Suite with Fireplace and Retreat (6th Area for Office, Nursery or Exercise Area). Hardwood Flooring New Carpeting and More. Enjoy Views from the Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen, Family Room and Backyard Overlooking Beautiful Mission Park and of Pleasanton Ridge. Large Covered Side Yard Access Area. Entertainers Backyard with Inground Pool & Spa, Built-In BBQ Area. Also Enjoy Sipping Wine on the Viewing Deck or Just Reading and Taking in the Park Views. Walk out the Back Gate and be at the Park in One Minute and it's a Short Walk to Downtown and Award Winning Schools!

2238 VINTAGE LANE, LIVERMORE



OPEN SATURDAY 1-3 & SUNDAY 1-4

5 BD | 4 BA | 4,137 SF

OFFERED AT \$1,729,000

Country Style Farmhouse Style Home on Premium Estate Lot! This Spectacular Custom Home is a Hidden Treasure and Truly a Must See! Enjoy Reading, Sipping a Cup of Tea or a Glass of Your Favorite Livermore Valley Wine in the Swing on Your Own Covered Front Porch. Amazing Private Grounds with Beautiful Landscaped Areas, Mature Trees, Vegetable Planter Box Area, Lawn Area, Built-In Pool, Spa, Waterfall, Outdoor Kitchen BBQ Area with Cozy Fireplace. This Home has Character and Welcomes You in with a Gracious Entryway, and Adjacent Formal Living and Dining Rooms. High Ceilings, Wainscoting, and Window Seats. Open Kitchen Includes Walk-In Pantry, Center Island and Breakfast Bar. Adjacent Family Room Has Built-In Cabinets, Gas Fireplace, and French Doors to Rear Grounds. First Floor Master Suite with Adjacent Office. 3 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms Upstairs. Separate Guest Suite with Full Bathroom Above the Garage. Can Serve as Bonus Room. Smart Home Technology and More.

5792 HIDDEN CREEK COURT, PLEASANTON



SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

5 BD | 5.5 BA | 4,434 SF

OFFERED AT \$2,395,000

Upgraded Avalon Model in Desirable Bridle Creek on .36 Acre (15,838 sq.ft.) Lot! Built in 2002 by Greenbriar Homes. Premium Secluded Location at End of Quiet Court, Backs to Creek & Open Space, Private Rear Grounds with Inground Pool/Spa and BBQ Area. Five Bedrooms, Five Full Bathrooms, One Powder Room with 4434 Square Feet. Gourmet Kitchen Opens to Spacious Family Room. Spacious Master Suite. 2 Fireplaces. Downstairs Guest Suite, In-Law Quarters with Private Bathroom and Entrance or Could be Bonus Room. Beautiful Brazilian Cherry Flooring & New Carpeting. Great Schools, Walk to Downtown, Mission Hills Park, Oak Hills Shopping Center and Convenient Commuter Access. Five Minutes to Castlewood Country Club (Social or Golf Membership Available), Dining, Swimming Pool, Tennis, Bocce and Two Golf Courses! Call us for a Private Showing.

1874 RAILROAD AVE. #118, LIVERMORE



OPEN SATURDAY 1-4

3 BD | 3.5 BA | 1,780 SF

OFFERED AT \$739,000

25681 BARNARD STREET, HAYWARD



OPEN SATURDAY 1-4

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,719 SF

OFFERED AT \$749,888

4472 COMANCHE WAY, PLEASANTON



OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-4

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,474 SF

OFFERED AT \$749,500

1036 BARTLETT PLACE, PLEASANTON



5 BD | 3 BA | 3,179 SF

SOLD FOR \$1,745,000

451 JUNIPERO STREET, PLEASANTON



4 BD | 2 BA | 1,919 SF

OFFERED AT \$1,247,000

7961 PARAGON CIRCLE - LAGUNA OAKS



4 BD | 3.5 BA | 3,886 SF

SOLD FOR \$2,040,000

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another broker. The above information, is based on data received from public sources or third parties and has not be independently verified by the broker, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty. If important to readers, readers are advised to verify information to their own satisfaction.

OPEN SAT/SUN 2 - 4



7638 Maywood Drive

Stunning remodeled 4 BR, 3BTH home with resort like yard and designer upgrades
Offered at \$1,600,000

OPEN SUN 2 - 4



448 Bunker Lane

Elegant Mediterranean home with 6 BR, 4.5 BTHS, and large private .65 Acre lot.
Offered at \$1,989,000

PENDING SALE



4836 Ganner Court

Premium 4 BR, 3 BTH Birdland home with pool, hardwood floors, and large cul-de-sac lot
Call for price

PENDING SALE



6350 Alisal Street

2800 sq ft one story on FLAT 1.5 Acre lot with detached bonus rm, huge shop area, and more!
Offered at \$1,600,000

JUST SOLD



3562 Ballantyne Drive

Remodeled Fairlands area home with 4 BR plus bonus room, 2.5 BTHS, and large private yard.
Offered at \$1,239,000

JUST SOLD



3867 Picard Avenue

Gorgeous luxury estate remodeled throughout with 5 BR, 3 BTH, pool, 1/3 Acre flat lot, & more!
Sold for \$2,275,000

See these homes at 680Homes.com

Pleasanton Market Update

Spring is here. The sun is out. There is energy. Buyers are out. We are seeing good activity. Long story short, it is a very typical spring market we are seeing right now with inventory up and pending sales up. People are happy. It is a great time right now in the real estate market.

Let's take a little deeper dive into some of the stats. Inventory is up sharply in Pleasanton for single-family homes. At the end of March there were 82 homes for sale in Pleasanton. That is up from 50 at the end of February, and 42 last year. So inventory is a little higher than it was last year.

Pending sales are also up sharply. 64 pending sales in the month of March, versus 36 in the month of February, versus 76 a year ago. Good activity. We are seeing more inventory, more pending sales. That is indicative of a healthy market.

Closed properties are up as well with 47 in March, compared to 33 in February, and 61 last year. So the market is still not quite as hot as it was last year at this time, but it is still by all measures a very active and strong market at this point.

The median price in March for closed sales was \$1.3 million. That is up sharply from \$1,130,000 in February, almost a 10% increase there. In March of 2018, a year ago, the median sales price for that month was \$1,325,000 ...

Go to 680Homes.com/blog to read the rest of this article

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\$62M+ Sold in 2018

Just Listed



2001 Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton
10 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 7,000 Sq Ft | 36 Acres | 29 Acre Vineyard
2.5 Acre Building Site Development Opportunity \$7,499,000

Just Listed



1759 Spumante Place, Ruby Hill
5 Bed | 4.5 Bath | 6,403 Sq Ft | 0.54 Acres
\$3,248,888



Pending



1841 Spumante Place, Ruby Hill
5,450 Sq Ft | 0.55 Acres | Representing Buyer & Seller | \$2,749,000

Pending



301 Kalthoff Common, Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates
8,626 Sq Ft | 17.42 Acres | \$3,688,888

Sold



1695 Germano Way, Ruby Hill
7,330 Sq Ft | 0.63 Acres | \$2,835,000

Listed & Sold



203 Vallecitos Road, Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates
22 Acres | Represented Buyer & Seller | \$1,738,000

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Just listed Gorgeous Custom Estate in Ruby Hill



Open Sunday 1-4pm

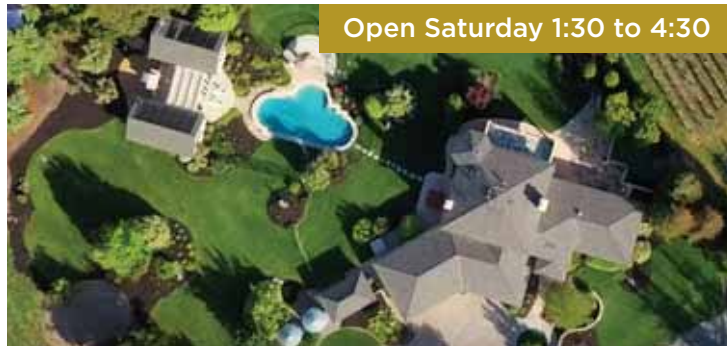
1217 Piemonte Drive, Pleasanton

Gorgeous Custom 4 Bedroom 3.5 Bathroom 3817 Square Foot Estate in Ruby Hill Country Club on over a 26,000 Square Foot lot. This nicely updated home with Classic Architectural details throughout is the perfect blend of Comfortable Elegance embracing both indoor and outdoor living. With a lovely Master Suite ideally located on the main floor this could be your forever home. This is absolutely the home you have been waiting for!

Price \$2,188,000

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.

Serene Custom Estate Nestled on 2 Flat Acres.



Open Saturday 1:30 to 4:30

6290 Laura Lane, Pleasanton

Absolutely Gorgeous 4000 Square Foot + Solar Powered Custom Estate with an 896 Square Foot Pool House and a Breathtaking Pool all nestled on 2 Flat landscaped acres with the comforts of Country Living but the ease of being City Close. Not far from Callippe Preserve Golf Course and Downtown Pleasanton, this 5 Bedroom 3 Full and 2 Half Bathrooms has Privacy and Peaceful views whether you are sitting on your own Master Bedroom Balcony or Entertaining in your backyard or Cozying up to your Outdoor Fireplace on a Summer Evening. This is a Forever home and one you have to experience in person to truly grasp how special it is!

Price is \$2,838,000



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Our Recent Activity...



21314 Gary Drive, Unit 307, Hayward
2 Bed 2 Bath 1,025 Sq Ft
\$529,000



4850 Saginaw Circle, Pleasanton
3 Bed 1.5 Bath 1,130 Sq Ft
\$650,000 Multiple Offers



4878 Houlton Court, Dublin
4 Bed + Bonus 3.5 Bath 2,851 Sq Ft
\$1,290,000 Multiple Offers



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DRE 02066213

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THE ADDRESS IS PLEASANTON

THE EXPERIENCE IS ALAIN PINEL



ALAMO \$4,700,000

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BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,838,000

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Susie Steele | 925.413.9306
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PLEASANTON \$2,399,000

1093 Shadow Hills Court | 5bd/5.1ba
Julia Murtagh | 925.997.2411
License #01751854
OPEN SATURDAY 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$1,400,000

1915 Foxswallow Circle | 5bd/3ba
Kris Moxley | 925.519.9080
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OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00



LIVERMORE \$1,248,000

5489 Carnegie Loop | 4bd/3ba
Linda Futral | 925.980.3561
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OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



LIVERMORE \$935,000

5754 Arlene Way | 4bd/2ba
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OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



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Jessica Johnson | 408.455.1697
License #01723385
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00



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739 Richardson Drive | 3bd/2.5ba
Jo Ann Luisi | 925.583.1106
License #10399250
OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



SAN RAMON \$455,000

384 Eastridge Drive | 1bd/1ba
Lily McClanahan | 925.209.9328
License #01975835
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON PRICE UPON REQUEST

5982 Via Del Cielo | 5bd/3ba
Tim McGuire | 925.462.7653
License #01349446
OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON PRICE UPON REQUEST

3114 Lansdown Court | 4bd/3ba
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LIVERMORE PRICE UPON REQUEST

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License #01260301
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