

Pleasanton Weekly

Council OKs
downtown plan

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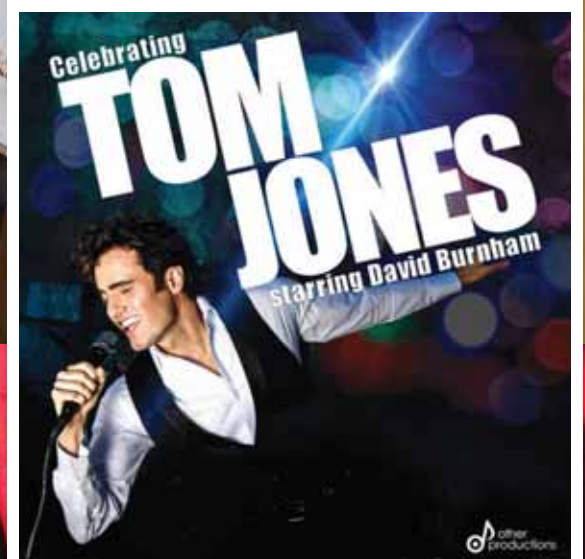
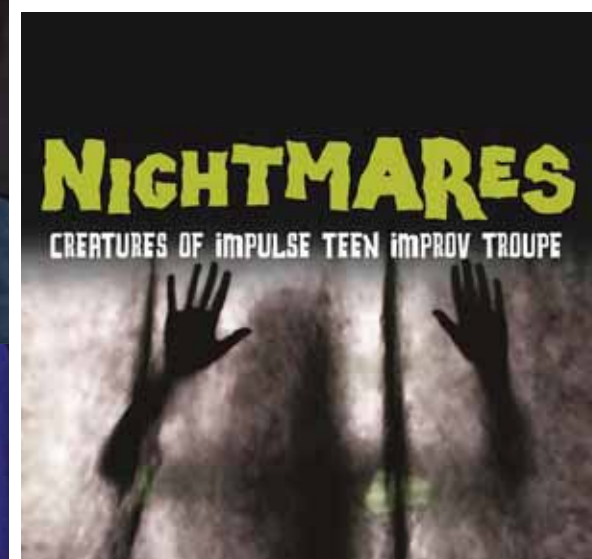
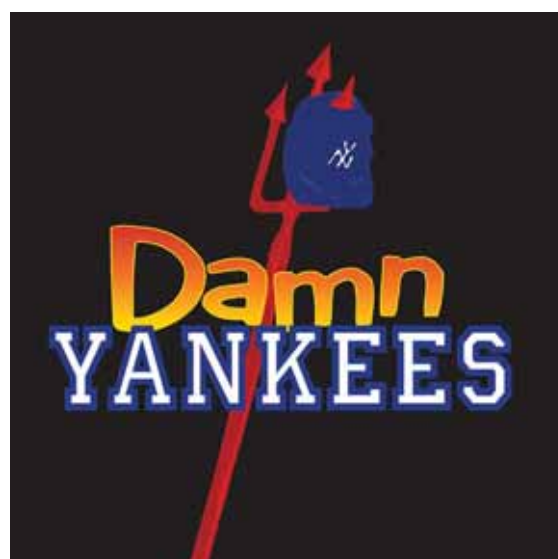
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WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Firehouse Arts Center kicking off 10th season

Lineup features tried and true favorites as well as new experiences

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Making the impossible possible

With the 2020s just four months away, Pleasanton city traffic leader Mike Tassano sees the coming decade much better for commuters and a relief for clogged roads around the city.

In remarks to the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, Tassano cited three major projects making their way to the finish line:

- Highway 84, a four-to-six-lane link between the I-580 and I-680 freeways, will be completed in 2023.

- Express toll lanes on northbound I-680 south of Pleasanton, from Highway 237 to Highway 84, will be completed next year.

- Valley Link, a commuter light rail train linking the first phase of a transit line between Lathrop/Manteca and the eastern Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station, could start its first section of service in 2024.

Tassano, who earned a degree in civil and transportation engineering from San Jose State in 1999, a year after he joined the Pleasanton staff, is now responsible for all aspects of the traffic division of the city's Community Development Department. These range from neighborhood meetings like the ones before agreeing to install speed bumps on Independence Drive to working with state engineers in designing another flyover to connect westbound I-580 to southbound I-680.

When Tassano joined the city's traffic team, I-580 over the Altamont Pass and through Pleasanton was one of the 10 worst commutes in the Bay Area. Toll lanes were 16 years away. Since their opening in February 2016, with Tassano involved in the planning, I-580 is no longer on that list.

Through May for fiscal year 2018-19, those express lanes recorded over 7.8 million total trips, Tassano said. Gross revenue was \$12.2 million in tolls with \$2.5 million more in violation fees and penalties, more than enough to cover the freeway's operating budget of \$5.1 million. The surplus goes back to the Alameda County transportation agency to be used on other freeway projects.

Highway 84

This long-planned thoroughfare will link I-580 to I-680. State, county and city leaders turned the first shovels full of dirt in 2012, starting the \$122.4 million, five-phase

construction project.

The final phase is now underway.

Tassano said the new Highway 84 expressway, scheduled for completion in 2023, is integral to reducing cut-through traffic in both Pleasanton and Livermore. Since the relocation of Highway 84 from downtown Livermore to Isabel Avenue on the city's western edge, Livermore's city center is thriving.



Mike Tassano

I-680 express lanes

Construction of the northbound I-680 express lanes from Highway 237 to Highway 84, which began in April 2018, is scheduled for completion in 2020. Design work for a second phase that will extend those lanes to Alcosta Boulevard in Dublin/San Ramon also will begin in 2020, with completion scheduled for 2026

Valley Link

Anticipating that the BART Board of Directors would renege on its long-standing agreement to build the rail line to Livermore, Tassano said cities in Alameda and San Joaquin counties had already received authorization from the state legislature to build a Valley Link rail service to connect BART service from the east Pleasanton station to cities in San Joaquin County, including Tracy and Lathrop.

"That system is now one-third funded with \$600 million toward the total cost of \$1.8 billion," Tassano said. "That's far less than what BART had once planned to spend even though its electric cars probably couldn't make it up the Altamont Pass grade."

Valley Link would be a single rail line with turnouts powered by a diesel engine. Its link in Pleasanton will be a parallel station, allowing commuters to cross over to BART trains. Its trains locally will operate primarily on the Alameda County-owned former Southern Pacific railroad right-of-way.

Tassano said initial design and environmental work is underway with a final design due in 2021, construction scheduled to start in 2022 and the line opened possibly as early as 2024. ■

About the Cover

The new season at the Firehouse Arts Center spotlights many genres of entertainment, including bluegrass music by The Special Consensus, fun musicals, teen improv and a cabaret show Celebrating Tom Jones. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XX, Number 31



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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

If you discovered your home on fire but you had time to race inside to save just one thing (assuming all people and pets were already out), what would it be?



Emily Scholz
Adoption/foster programs manager

All I would want are the urns containing the ashes of my beloved deceased husband Phil and of my beloved deceased cat Minty. They are the only items in my house that are of extreme significance to me, that cannot be replaced, and it is meaningful to me to keep them close.



Shane Bohan
Realtor

If you had asked me this question 20 years ago, I would have said my photo albums. But today it would be my computers, that have all of my photos stored on their hard drives. And if I could grab something else on my way out the door, it would be a bottle of wine made from my own home-grown grapes.



Lauretta Higgins
Retired social worker

I would get the photos of my beloved deceased husband, including the very first one of the two of us taken together. They are all on display together in my living room, on top of a chest of drawers.



Mike Higgins
College student

I'd grab my backpack because I always make sure it has everything I need in it — my laptop, a hammock, my entire camping set-up and a pillow. It also has my diabetes medication. So long as I have my backpack, I'm good to go for quite a while.



Rebecca McLaughlin
Middle school teacher

My phone. It has the contact information for every person I would need to get in touch with to tell them I love them and to let them know I'm safe. My phone also has every memory and beloved photo, as well as recordings of my kids singing, and video clips of birthdays and many other precious and funny moments.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

10th best in state

Achieving recognition as one of the safest communities in the country, Pleasanton has been ranked as the 10th safest city in California to raise a child and the 30th safest in the United States.

Nationwide security company Safewise recently compiled a list of the “50 Safest Cities to Raise a Child” in the nation, using data compiled from FBI violent and property crime report statistics.

The firm gave cities a “safety score” based on the number of violent, property crimes and sex offender residents in the area, as well as graduation rates, median income and other data. Using these statistics, Safewise found that Pleasanton had a safety score of 90.81.

Nearby San Ramon ranked exceptionally well, earning the distinction as the safest city in California to raise a child and the 10th safest in the nation.

Library sale

The Friends of the Pleasanton Library will hold a week-end-long “Book and Media Sale” today through Sunday at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Volunteers will present thousands of well-organized, nearly new books of all genres as well as CDs, DVDs and other fun items after months of organizing donations from the public. The selection includes popular recent novels and thousands of books for kids as well as books in various languages.

The sale begins 6-9 p.m. today, with entry reserved for members of Friends of the Pleasanton Library. Memberships will be available at the door.

The Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., open to all. On Sunday, the sale runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features books by the bag.

Supporting OHK

Open Heart Kitchen will host the Heart of California Party, a benefit dinner and auction, on Sept. 13 at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Proceeds will be used to continue OHK’s mission of feeding the hungry in the Tri-Valley.

A sangria reception and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner by Beets Hospitality and live auction at 7 p.m. Autonomous Region will provide live music for dancing.

Tickets are \$125 each or \$1,250 for a table of 10 and available at donate.openheart-kitchen.org/2019fundraiser. ■

City Council endorses new Downtown Specific Plan

Impassioned debate caps public hearing cycle; final ordinance adoption due next month

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton City Council has signed off on updates to the Downtown Specific Plan and associated policy documents, with city regulations and objectives for the downtown business district and surrounding neighborhoods for now and into the future.

The three-hour-plus hearing on the wide-ranging legislative package in the council chamber Tuesday night, like much of the public debate throughout the DSP process, focused on a handful of specific issues such as maximum building height, new housing, balancing competing priorities, parking and the future of the current Civic Center site.

The council majority mainly sided with the positions on points of contention that they supported when they held initial discussions on key DSP topics in the spring — positions that in the end were largely endorsed by the Planning Commission but differed from recommendations of the DSP Update Task Force.

Those included stricter development standards for projects throughout the 307-acre DSP area such as maintaining the current building height and story maximums for the downtown commercial district and capping new building limits at two stories in the residential and mixed-use transitional zones and three stories in the

new mixed-use downtown zone.

With downtown building height still a major talking point in the community, Mayor Jerry Thorne opened the council comments attempting to dispute misinformation about the proposed regulations.

“There has been some confusion out there about four-story buildings ... Is there any four-story buildings anywhere in this plan?” the mayor asked of city staff, knowing “no” was the answer. “Thank you.”

After hearing reports from city officials and nearly an hour of comments from citizen speakers on all sides of the issues, the council voted 4-0 to approve resolutions for the environmental clearances, updated DSP and associated policy

documents as well as introduce ordinances for zoning designation changes and municipal code updates.

Councilwoman Julie Testa recused herself from the discussion Tuesday after the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission concluded earlier this month that she lives too close to the DSP boundary.

The ordinances will return to the council for second reading and final adoption next month.

The DSP package is aimed at updating city regulations and goals for the commercial, residential and publicly owned properties throughout the downtown planning area.

See **DOWNTOWN** on Page 8

Hart’s heart

Fast-acting residents aid runner suffering from cardiac arrest

By RYAN J. DEGAN

While on a run on Stanley Boulevard outside of Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton earlier this year, Albert Hart suffered sudden cardiac arrest just a week before his 28th wedding anniversary.

A dangerous situation no matter the circumstance, Hart’s brush with death could have been much closer were it not for the efforts of some good Samaritans, off-duty Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department cadets and CPR-trained lifeguards.

“This story should serve as inspiration for anyone who is able to learn CPR to do so. There is no better example of how important the bystander link is in the chain of survival,” said LPPFD deputy fire chief Joe Testa, who stressed that passersby choosing to act saved Hart’s life.

Fellow firefighters, rescuers and members of the community braved scorching heat last week to attend an award ceremony at Shadow Cliffs Lake, where Hart thanked each person involved in his rescue and Testa gave awards of merit to the rescuers.

“I consider this a tragedy in some sense, but it is truly a blessing because now it has given me the opportunity to think about the things that are important in life,” Hart told the congregation of roughly two dozen attendees Aug. 15. “And to take that moment to help somebody in need,



RYAN J. DEGAN

Albert and Trish Hart thanked their rescuers, who allowed them to spend their 28th anniversary together, during LPPFD recognition event last week.

never just go by, don’t assume somebody else is going to stop.”

On June 15, the 59-year-old Hart was doing some endurance training with a friend near 2500 Stanley Blvd. The Harts, who live in Marin, often travel to Pleasanton to train because of the availability of running routes along with open water swimming.

But that day outside Shadow Cliffs, Hart went into a sudden cardiac arrest. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Hart’s friend Albert Dyrness flagged down Bill and Juliana Schirmer, who called 9-1-1 and started CPR.

While driving by, off-duty LPPFD cadets Cody and Jason Stearns saw the serious event, pulled over and took the lead on CPR duties while the group waited for an ambulance.

Fortunately for Hart, the Schirmers’ 9-1-1 call also triggered PulsePoint, a smartphone app that alerts CPR-trained residents when there is a cardiac arrest victim nearby, enabling them to jump into action and use their training — an app that Testa praised as a more than significant contributor to Hart’s survival.

See **HEART** on Page 10

PUSD ranked as best in county

Amador, Harvest Park, Fairlands also No. 1 on school lists

By JULIA BAUM

An online research organization known for methodically ranking and reviewing schools and school districts around the country issued top honors to Pleasanton Unified School District and several of its campuses last week.

Making a jump from last year, PUSD climbed from its previous No. 17 standing to become rated the No. 11 public school district in California for Niche.com’s 2020 Best Schools Ratings. PUSD was also named the best public school district in Alameda County by the website, and No. 10 among California school districts with the best teachers.

Amador Valley High School ranked first and Foothill High placed second as the top two Alameda County public high schools, and Harvest Park ranked first among public middle schools in the county, according to Niche.

All nine PUSD elementary schools placed in the top 20 in the public elementary school category for the county, including Fairlands Elementary coming in first for public elementary schools in the county.

“While this is just one measure

See **RANK** on Page 10

Council to debate ax-throwing lounge

Limitless Axes & Ales hopes to open in Valley Plaza by end of year

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton City Council will decide the fate of a new ax-throwing lounge proposed off Santa Rita Road after Vice Mayor Karla Brown on Tuesday called for a full council review of the Planning Commission's permit approval for the recreational game venue and bar.

Aiming to capitalize on the growing popularity of ax-throwing as a hobby or evening-out activity, Michael Hill — who also operates Limitless Escape Games in Livermore — plans to open Limitless Axes & Ales in the Valley Plaza shopping center, inside the tenant suites currently occupied by Monument Car Parts.

The commission approved Hill's permit request in a 4-1 vote last week, a decision subject to a short period for any person to appeal or for a council member to call for a review. The latter occurred Tuesday night during the council's regular meeting.

The ax-throwing lounge was included among a recap of planning and zoning approvals on the council's consent calendar, but Brown asked that the Limitless permit be pulled for future council consideration, saying she'd heard from residents and business owners concerned about the new venue.

"I did that after talking to many of the local businesses in the area ... The residents want to come and the businesses want to come (before the council)," Brown said.

A timeline for the council hearing was not immediately clear.

Ax-throwing, which is more common in Canada and the eastern

United States, involves individual participants in fenced-in lanes tossing an ax toward target rings on a wooden board to accrue points based on the blade's distance from the center. With some highly competitive tournaments broadcast on ESPN and streaming platforms, ax-throwing has also been showcased locally the past few years at the annual Scottish Games.

Limitless Axes & Ales proposes to become the first ax-throwing lounge in the Tri-Valley.

The Pleasanton Municipal Code does not specifically contemplate an ax-throwing lounge as a commercial use, but city staff classified it akin to a bowling alley, pool hall and indoor bocce court — a business category that requires a conditional use permit approved by the Planning Commission.

The conversation before the commission on Aug. 14 centered on the proposed location, safety standards and operational strategy of the proposed lounge, according to assistant city manager Brian Dolan.

Limitless Axes & Ales would occupy Suites A and B in the multi-tenant commercial building at the western edge of Valley Plaza, which is located at the northwest corner of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue.

In the 4,300 square feet, the lounge would feature seven throwing lanes, a bar serving beer and wine, seating areas, a lobby and restrooms. Each lane would be fenced in to prevent thrown axes from going into other lanes or elsewhere in the building.

There would be two throwers at a time, hurling the ax end-over-end toward different targets watched by a "coach," an employee who would provide step-by-step directions and safety oversight. A viewing area behind the lane could accommodate up to 10 people total.

Hill presented to the commissioners about his operational plan for Limitless Axes & Ales and answered their questions about proposed safety standards and other topics, according to Dolan.

The commission also heard from two residents of the nearby Danbury Park area who raised concerns about an ax-throwing lounge opening close to their neighborhood, Dolan said.

In the end, the commission voted 4-1 to approve the use permit and associated operational conditions as recommended by city staff, while also adding a condition limiting alcohol sales to two servings per patron per hour.

Commissioner Nancy Allen dissented, generally opposed to the lounge opening in a neighborhood shopping center (rather than, say, an industrial park) and the potential danger of the activity, especially when coupled with drinking.

The operator hopes to open the business by the end of December.

A manager at Monument Car Parts — the tenant currently operating in the space (1809 Santa Rita Road, Suites A and B) — said last Friday the store remains in business and he had no information on lease negotiations nor a potential closing or relocation. ■

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TAKE US ALONG



Milestone anniversaries: Pleasanton residents Annette and Randy Green celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary in Ireland with Debbie and Tim Stillabowers, cousins from Indiana marking their 41st anniversary. Here the group posed with the Weekly in Adare at the Trinitarian Abbey, originally founded in 1226.

City manager receives double-digit raise

Council also confirms pay bump for city attorney

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho earned a 12% salary increase and city attorney Daniel Sodergren took in an 8% raise on Tuesday, with the City Council citing glowing performance reviews and a need to bring both employees' pay closer to the market averages.

Fialho, who has led the city government in his position for the past 15 years, will now receive an annual salary to \$255,452. Sodergren, who was hired in May 2016, now has an annual salary of \$226,800.

The council members unanimously approved the recommended salary adjustments for both men following a 20-minute conversation Tuesday night, after Councilwoman Julie Testa requested the items be pulled from the consent calendar for full public discussion at the regular meeting.

Mayor Jerry Thorne, in his written staff

reports before the meeting, commended Fialho and Sodergren for accomplishments on the job and pointed out that neither has received a pay raise since 2017.

In the city manager's case, he voluntarily passed on raises in prior years during and after the recession to help ensure the city's fiscal stability, according to Thorne. As a result, his salary level has been the lowest for city managers in the Tri-Valley, and pay increases for all other Pleasanton city employee groups have outpaced Fialho's, including top-tier management positions directly below him.

"While the recommended salary will not attain the market average, it will position the city manager's salary closer to the average market and alleviate internal compaction," the mayor wrote.

Neither Fialho nor Sodergren received a performance evaluation or new compensation consideration last year — which Thorne said Tuesday was an oversight by the council. The council completed their reviews in July and advanced the proposed salary increases from closed-session.

The mayor noted that Fialho and Sodergren each still remain below the market average in the area for their positions even after the new raises. ■



Nelson Fialho



Daniel Sodergren

Watchdog group endorses spending of county Measures B/BB funds

I-680 express lanes, Highway 84 expansion among projects supported

By JULIA BAUM

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) received a clean bill of health this month in an annual third-party audit that examined management of Measure B and Measure BB transportation sales tax funds during the fiscal year 2017-18.

Dollars generated by the two voter-approved sales tax measures over the past year "were spent in accordance with the intent of the two transportation sales tax measures," Tess Lengyel, deputy executive director of planning and policy for ACTC, said in a statement.

The report was released Monday by the Independent Watchdog Commission (IWC), which reviews and evaluates both funds each year to ensure they are used as intended for transportation improvements.

An update on projects and programs funded by Measure B, the half-cent sales tax passed by voters in 2000, and Measure BB, which increased the sales tax to one cent in 2014 and expires in 2045, is also in the report.

In total, ACTC received \$154.5 million in Measure B revenue, according to the report, and expended \$149.6 million on an array of investments and projects. The commission also took in \$153.5 million from Measure BB revenue and spent \$122.9 million of that.

Among the Tri-Valley area transit projects

funded this year by Measure B included \$23.2 million expended for improvements on the Interstate 680 Sunol express lanes.

Local transit and road projects that Measure BB funded last year was \$4.9 million for the Highway 84 widening from south of Ruby Hill Drive to I-680, and improvements on the Highway 84/I-680 interchange.

Another \$6.4 million in Measure BB revenue was also used for construction of the Iron Horse Transit Route, which involves multi-modal upgrades in the city of Dublin from Dougherty Road to Scarlett Drive including adding new vehicle and bike lanes, plus new bus stops and bus pull-outs.

In 2014, Alameda CTC issued \$137 million of Measure B bonds to help close a short-term funding gap while a number of major capital projects in the Measure B expenditure plan were wrapped up. The bonds added \$26.5 million of costs associated with debt repayment this year and "will continue to incur this same amount each fiscal year until the last bond matures in March 2022," according to the agency.

The annual report, including the executive summary, audited financial statements and compliance reports of all agencies receiving Measure B and Measure BB funds, is available online at AlamedaCTC.org. Hard copies can be requested through email at aayers@alamedactc.org. ■

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DOWNTOWN

Continued from Page 5

Some of the revisions are designed to better align city regulations and priorities across policy documents while others are new proposals with an eye on the short- and long-term futures of downtown, according to city officials.

The first comprehensive update to the DSP since 2002, the legislative package is the outcome of the work by city staff, consultants and the task force of city leaders, downtown stakeholders and other volunteers over 18 public meetings, along with incorporating input from

the public, since 2017.

As the DSP process wound down, the public debate took three sharp turns, starting in February when the task force majority shifted gears from members' previous leanings on several design and zoning items compared to the initial draft DSP released last November.

The council chimed in, at city staff's request, to give direction on those points in April and May, but then the task force voted 4-3 at its final meeting May 28 to reject the council's direction and recommend its Feb. 26 plan instead.

The differing recommendations featured agreement on a significant

bulk of proposed policies and guidelines, but the task force majority preferred certain development standards be less stringent than the council majority had endorsed, among several other topics.

Presented with both options, the Planning Commission weighed in on the package as a whole in June, with the majority largely siding with the council over the task force on pending points.

Commissioners also went out of their way to argue the DSP update did not go far enough in addressing parking availability in downtown — a major concern for many business owners, residents and patrons.

That set the stage for the legislative package going before the council on Tuesday night.

The public hearing, which ended just after 10:15 p.m., featured a staff report that yielded dozens of questions from the council, comments from 19 citizen speakers and individual council votes on each pending point of contention before sweeping votes on the entire DSP package.

Resident comments spanned the spectrum, from criticisms of specific aspects of the plan to opposing the DSP updates on the whole to support offered overall or for certain items.

"To say I'm disappointed in this process is an understatement," Jan Batcheller, a task force member, said to open public comment. "City staff and their consultants controlled the agenda and the entire process."

"It seems to me that we should be more concerned about the character of buildings than the height, within reason," she added. "In addition, we discuss height in feet above the ground and not number of stories."

Former mayor Tom Pico also called the DSP process "flawed" and promised "there's going to be a war" if city officials try to move the city offices to Bernal Park property.

"(The plan) is built on a sand foundation that says we're going to move the city hall to the Bernal property. And that will never happen," Pico said. "The citizens will not approve an office complex on the Bernal Park. That wasn't our vision."

"You are on the way tonight to provide specific guidelines ... that are clear and balanced, both to preserve the charm of downtown and help improve its commercial and economic vitality," said Kelly Cousins, president of the slow-growth group PleasantonVoters.com.

"We, over time, have ruined our downtown in the last couple of years," Margo Tarver added. "We shouldn't have three-story buildings out to the perimeter of the property, over-towering a small one-story restaurant. It's just beyond my comprehension what has happened here, and I don't want it to continue."

The debate then returned to council members for straw votes on specific line items in the plan, a combination of affirming their original guidance from the spring and deciding on new issues that arose in the final weeks.

Key development standards for new projects in the four zoning districts were confirmed in line with earlier council leanings. Vice Mayor Karla Brown dissented.

The council approved maintaining the existing policy for the downtown commercial district — 40-foot-tall and 300% floor-area ratio (FAR) maximums with two stories encouraged but a three-story maximum.

The limits in the residential district are 30 feet tall with two stories maximum; a 36-foot-tall, two-story maximum with 125% FAR for the new mixed-use transitional zone; and 46 feet with three stories

maximum and 300% FAR for the new mixed-use downtown district — a zone that would apply only to the current Civic Center site and vacant city property across Old Bernal Avenue if voters support relocating the library and city offices to the Bernal Park and creating a "Town Square" with new development on that downtown site.

The council unanimously affirmed its preferred ban on ground-floor residential on commercial properties fronting Main Street and in the mixed-use downtown zone.

The task force majority had concurred on building heights as measured in feet but did not support story limits, and they suggested discouraging but not prohibiting ground-floor residential on Main and side streets.

On parking, the council voiced support for a working group already meeting among the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) to find parking supply solutions, but council members also stood behind the city's downtown parking strategic plan.

The council also confirmed the debate on whether to reassign two properties — the Shell station parcel at Ray and First streets and the Barone's restaurant site on St. John Street — to label them as open for possible residential, commercial or mixed-use redevelopment.

Council members approved a residential overlay for the Shell site, including the direction for staff to consider a planned-unit development (PUD) request for a residential building with two stories of units above grade-level parking stalls if all is not taller than 30 feet. Brown dissented.

For the Barone's property, the majority still opposed a residential overlay but supported a "mixed-use transitional" overlay label. Brown dissented.

On the task force's call for a "right to do business" ordinance, which the council majority did not support, they opted to add language to the DSP at the PDA's request to say the city considers downtown businesses that follow the rules are not a nuisance.

On new residential development in the commercial or mixed-use transitional districts, the council sided with the task force and commission to allow a less-intensive design review process for projects that meet all city policies and downtown guidelines, rather than always requiring a more-involved PUD process. Councilwoman Kathy Narum dissented.

At Narum's urging, the council added to the DSP package a prohibition on new tobacco retailers in the downtown area as well as language to the civic center concept that the potential project subject to voter support could be done in phases, with a first phase seeing the library shift to Bernal and city hall offices move into the current library building. ■

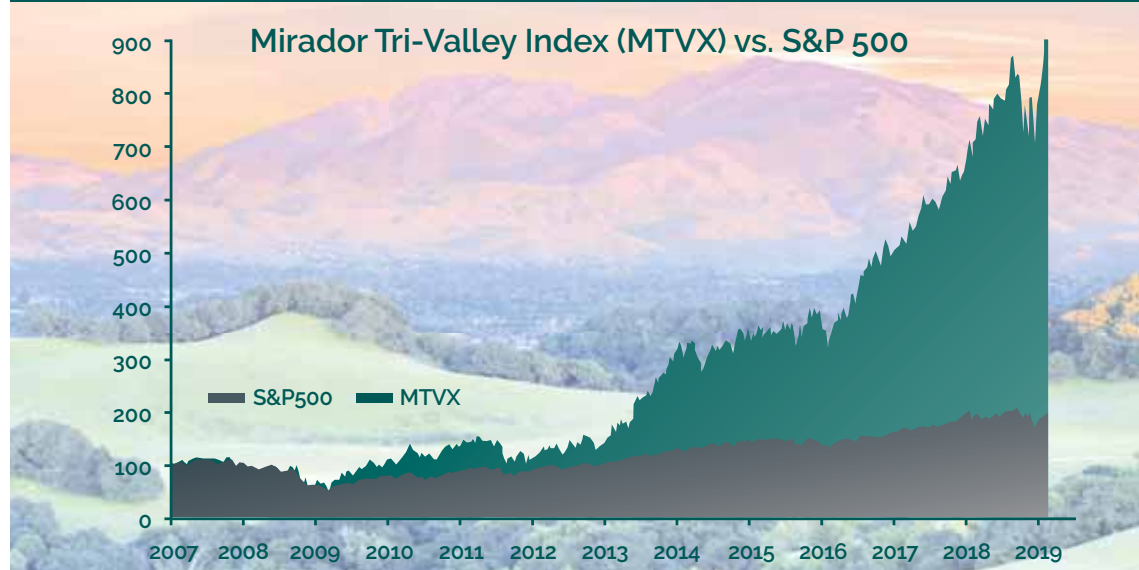
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WHOLESALE OPEN TO PUBLIC

Amador club earns Next Generation Recycler Award

Waste industry honors teens' earth-friendly efforts

By JULIA BAUM

Budding environmentalists from the Amador Valley High School Local Leaders of the 21st Century Club were recently recognized for their good green deeds by receiving the prestigious Next Generation Recycler Award.

Last week, officers from the club attended the California Resource Recovery Association annual conference in Rancho Mirage and accepted the award, which is "specifically designed to promote the next generation of recyclers or zero-wasters in California," according to Monica Devincenzi, Republic Services and 2019 conference program co-chair.

"It is awarded to an individual young person or youth group that sets themselves apart from their peers in promoting waste prevention, recycling, composting, zero waste or buying recycled,"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officers from Amador Valley High School Local Leaders of the 21st Century Club accept the Next Generation Recycler Award at California Resource Recovery Association annual conference in Rancho Mirage.

Devincenzi said in a statement.

Pleasanton Garbage Service nominated the students for their "help with waste audits of a full day's lunch waste at every school from Jan. 5 to Feb. 13, 2019" as part of enacting the Pleasanton Unified School District's

integrated waste management policy.

"During those six weeks, club members helped students and staff at 9 elementary, 3 middle and 3 high schools audit over 2,300 lbs. of trash, recycling and organics," the company said in their nomination

letter. "They worked closely with Pleasanton Garbage Service to ensure they could advise all PUSD schools on what items were recyclable and compostable."

Former club vice president Bryan Luo, now a freshman at UCLA, and several other past officers thanked PGS for the nomination, as well as club adviser and local nonprofit organization Go Green Initiative founder Jill Buck, "who connected us with (adults in our community), establishing multigenerational solidarity — an environment where adults and students are all connected — which was really crucial to the success of our project."

Local Leaders is a program run through the Go Green Initiative that aims to help high school students understand how critical infrastructure such as energy, food, water and waste are shaped and maintained. ■

HEART

Continued from Page 5

The PulsePoint alert reached the ears of nearby lifeguards McKenna Stevulak, Joseph Jerome Rafael Ledezma-Villalva, Jeremiah Howland and Anthony Nguyen who were in the possession of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The

group used the device to deliver a defibrillation shock before paramedics from the LFPD and Paramedics Plus arrived on scene to take Hart to the hospital for further care.

Hart would recover and was released from the hospital eight days later — the day after his wedding anniversary. He is set to celebrate

his 60th birthday later this month.

"There really aren't words that are sufficient when somebody saves a life. I mean, what can you say? There isn't really a gift you can give somebody who saves a life," said Trish Hart, Albert's wife. "Thank you for saving my husband's life and for saving my life."

During last week's ceremony,

Albert Hart thanked the brave efforts of his saviors and said that their actions restored his faith in humanity.

"I am truly blessed to be here and it gives me really good faith in what humanity does," he said. "In this day and age with all of the stuff we hear about in Dayton and El Paso and people can't come into our country, you guys gave (my faith) back to me."

"This miraculous recovery was only possible because of the individuals who chose to learn CPR and those who know CPR and downloaded the PulsePoint app," Testa said. ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tobacco referendum

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office on Tuesday confirmed enough signatures were collected on the referendum petition seeking to overturn Livermore's new city ordinance to ban the sale of flavored tobacco, as well as severely restrict businesses from selling vaping paraphernalia and establish a city tobacco retailer license program for the first time.

The petition, backed by Bay Area vapor product company JUUL Labs, needed 5,269 valid signatures to compel the council to consider either canceling the ordinance or putting the issue on the ballot citywide.

The council is tentatively scheduled to discuss the tobacco referendum petition during its Sept. 9 regular meeting, according to city clerk Sarah Bunting.

City recruitment

The Pleasanton City Council is currently recruiting applicants for positions available on local advisory groups.

There is one adult position on the Youth Commission, four regular vacancies on the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee and four spots open on the Economic Vitality Committee (business at-large, commercial real estate broker, commercial real estate developer and financial services).

Applications are due next Friday (Aug. 30). Contact the City Clerk's Office at 931-5027.

The city is also searching for its next literary arts ambassador, a volunteer position that works closely with the civics arts division. Applications are due Sept. 3.

LAVTA award

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority recently received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence Award in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 23rd year in a row.

The award recognizes LAVTA's efforts related to its 2018 comprehensive annual financial report.

The association's program assesses whether the financial statements of participating agencies provide the detail necessary for users of the information to adequately evaluate the financial health of the organization. To read LAVTA's financial report, visit www.wheelsbus.com.

Prevention seminar

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance is offering a sexual harassment prevention seminar from 8:30-11:15 a.m. next Thursday (Aug. 29) at the Hively offices at 6100 Owens Drive in Pleasanton.

Starting this year, all for-profit and nonprofit organizations statewide with five or more employees must provide sexual harassment prevention training for their employees, and this seminar satisfies that requirement.

To learn more on Thursday's session, visit www.tvnpo.org. ■

RANK

Continued from Page 5

of quality, we are thrilled that these ratings reflect the excellence we strive for as a district team and realize in our schools and classrooms," Superintendent David Haglund said in a statement. He also thanked the district's "amazing team of administrators, educators, support staff, families and students for being integral parts to our success."

Rankings and ratings on Niche are determined by using a variety of factors including publicly available data sets, statistical methods, advanced algorithms, and reviews that are submitted on their website from students, parents and residents.

Other Tri-Valley schools that fared well in this year's results include Dublin High School, which took fourth place among best public high schools in Alameda County. Both Dublin Unified School District (No. 3) and Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (No. 8) ranked among the top 10 public school districts in the county.

To see complete ratings and rankings, visit niche.com. ■



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Goodguys returning to county fairgrounds this weekend

Pleasanton poised for final car show of summer

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Get ready for the sounds of engines roaring and the smell of rubber hitting pavement, because the Goodguys Rod and Custom Association is returning to Pleasanton today through Sunday for a weekend full of cool cars, cool people and good times.

The Goodguys 33rd West Coast Nationals presented by BASF will bring to the Alameda County Fairgrounds more than 3,500 street rods, customs, muscle cars and trucks made through 1972 from all over the United States to be viewed during the fairgrounds' last car show of the summer.

"Participants all over the U.S. will make the annual pilgrimage to the 'must attend' event on the annual Goodguys schedule," Goodguys spokeswoman Betsy Bennett said. "At the 33rd West Coast Nationals presented by BASF fans will get a close-up glimpse of just how eclectic the modern-day hot-rodding scene is ... It is a trip back in time for many. The sight of all those cars in one place is a car lover's utopia."

Bennett added that the core



The Goodguys 33rd West Coast Nationals is this weekend.

message of Goodguys is just having a fun time with good people and cool cars. From the curious local resident looking for a fun weekend activity to the hardcore enthusiast on the hunt for their dream ride, the Goodguys car show aims to boast an environment for car lovers of all stripes.

Headlining the weekend's festivities is the West Coast AutoCross Shootout presented by FiTech. The popular race will feature drivers competing on a closed performance racecourse, testing their vehicles speed and handling for

the enjoyment of the crowd.

The fastest 16 cars will compete in two eight-car Shootouts on Saturday, with the winner of each shootout winning a ticket to the 2019 AutoCross Finale (the Duel in the Desert) held in Scottsdale, Ariz., in November.

This weekend's car show will also feature the return of popular events and activities such as the Nitro Thunderfest, kids corner, featuring multi-million-dollar custom big rig tractor trailers exhibit, swap meet and car corral, and the BASF America's Most Beautiful Street Rod award, as well as food booths and musical entertainment.

General admission tickets are \$25, kids 7-12 pay \$10. Goodguys members and active or retired military members who have their military ID receive \$5 off general admission price. Fairgrounds parking is \$10.

The Goodguys 33rd Coast Nationals presented by BASF gates are open today and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the fairgrounds. For more information, visit www.good-guys.com.

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Livermore downtown referendum raises serious questions

It's been impossible this summer to shop, dine or even walk in Livermore without being badgered to sign a petition.

Very aggressive signature-gatherers are still everywhere, and the most recent campaign is to get

Livermore voters to sign a referendum petition to, according to one signature-gatherer, "get a bigger park downtown."

Just a few months ago, an initiative petition was circulated by Citizens for a Livermore Central

Park, led by key members from Better Livermore and the well-funded PAC Friends of Livermore. Enough signatures were collected to put an alternative proposal for downtown, the "Central Park Plan," on the ballot.

Signatures for a referendum are currently being collected by a new group called Protect the Central Park Vote, which is, for the most part, led by the same people behind Citizens for a Livermore Central Park, Better Livermore and Friends of Livermore. They want to bring a referendum to voters to halt development of a hotel and basically overturn the city-approved plan for downtown.

To quote Yogi Berra, it's *deja vu* all over again.

Last year, the same group of people using the name Vibrant Livermore gathered enough signatures for a referendum on the City Council's adopted downtown plan. Instead of delaying the project, the council voted to reverse its previously adopted version and made changes based on the referendum, such as the height of the hotel. This plan was approved earlier this year.

But height of the hotel wasn't the point of the 2018 referendum and the group organizers did not get all that they wanted. Therefore, we have yet another referendum and more signature-gatherers.

Regardless of what the signature-gatherer was told to say, the newest referendum is not about a bigger park.

This referendum is about placement of a new hotel in downtown, on the east side of South Livermore Avenue or the west side.

On the east side, which is where the city's approved plan has it, it would go next to the Bankhead Theater, where it has been envisioned in the Downtown Specific Plan since 2004. If it is located on the west side, it would leave space next to the Bankhead for a large, regional performing arts theater at some point in the future, which we believe is a goal of a predominant member and major funder of the aforementioned groups — Joan Seppala, who also owns the Independent newspaper.

The downtown initiative, which qualified for the ballot, is to get the group's alternative "Central Park Plan" before the voters. (Keep in mind, though, that the "Central Park Plan" is more of an idea at this stage, as it has gone through no public input or hearings during its creation, and there has been no traffic or financial analysis. Those reports

will be available online ahead of Monday's council meeting.)

The Central Park Plan concept is different from the city's formal plan in a few ways, but most notably that the hotel is moved from the east side to the west side of South Livermore Avenue and a three-story parking garage is drawn in next to the Bankhead. Central Park advocates also want to reduce the number and size of the housing units, making them 84 "micro-units" as opposed to 130 various-sized units for diverse income levels.

According to Protect the Central Park Vote representative Tamara Reus, the Central Park Plan calls for "a black box theater, with flexible seating, that can accommodate small and mid-sized groups, with a maximum square footage of 30,000 square feet. It may include, as ancillary uses, a restaurant, meeting rooms, retail, office space, educational and cultural uses."

To put this in perspective, the Bankhead Theater is 34,000 square feet.

The main goal with the newest referendum is to stop progress on the hotel. The day after the City Council sealed a development agreement with a hotelier to build a hotel on the east side, the Protect the Central Park Vote group started the process of collecting signatures from registered local voters to qualify for a referendum on the development agreement. According to Reus, this was necessary "to protect the vote is not annulled by the council's decision to move forward with its plan while the initiative is pending."

If the referendum petition is successful and qualifies for the ballot, it will delay construction of the hotel even further and it will likely appear on a ballot alongside the initiative measure so residents could vote on each downtown proposal.

Two referendums and an initiative led by a group of individuals representing Friends of Livermore / Vibrant Livermore / Better Livermore / Citizens for a Central Park / Protect the Central Park Vote?

Confused? That might be the point.

The confusion is perpetuated by the spin being placed on the ideas of the Central Park advocates and furthered by ads paid for by Protect the Central Park Vote and by stories in the Independent.

Political spin is not a new thing. It plays on emotion and shows only the side it wants. It's expected with government relations consultants, public relations firms and lobby

groups. But it's disheartening to see it in a local newspaper.

Ads are fair game; whoever is paying for an ad can say whatever they want, for the most part, and leave out what they want. However, considering the likely source of funding for said ads (Friends of Livermore, Better Livermore, etc.), one might surmise there is little, if any, actual money being paid. Opposing groups would most likely not be given any discounts.

Then there is the opinion under the guise of news.

For example, a recent front-page Independent headline read, "Referendum launched to protect Livermore voters' right to choose." This headline interjects opinion and emotion into what appears to be a news story because of the placement on the front page. While this would be appropriate on an Editorial page, on the front page it goes against journalistic practices and ethics.

To sum this up, if 10% of registered Livermore voters — 5,269 — sign this petition, a referendum will be placed on the November 2020 ballot to overturn the plan for Livermore's downtown that a group of citizens, community leaders and business owners spent over two years creating and will undermine a specific plan that has been in place since 2004 and further delay a well-supported, approved project. It will also likely prompt dueling downtown plans on the ballot, creating even more confusion and strife.

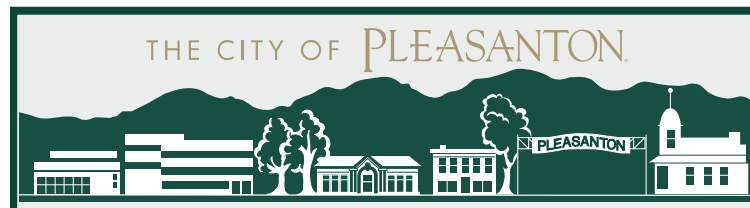
The signature gatherers are paid per signature, with funding from Protect the Central Park Vote. There is nothing illegal or even unethical about having people paid per signature, but they are not unbiased as their goal is to get Livermore residents to sign so they are paid.

Think twice before signing. Ask questions of the signature-gatherers before adding your name to their petition. Do your own research. Know your sources, and their possible agendas. And if you have already signed and are now having "signature remorse," you can rescind your signature with a written request for the withdrawal with Livermore's city clerk. ■

More online

Check out more reactions to the referendum debate at PleasantonWeekly.com, including "Guest Opinion: Debunking the Central Park Plan petition in Livermore" and "Letter to the Editor: What you don't read in the Independent."

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Planning Commission

Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- **PUD-58, Austin/Meadowlark:** Approve public street name for Austin/Meadowlark at 3459 Old Foothill Road.
- **PUD-133, Saravana Chilla:** Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan to demolish an existing residence and construct three new detached single-family homes and related site improvements at 3987 Stanley Boulevard.
- **PUD-134/P18-0332/P18-0334, Hirst for Anabi Real Estate Development, LLC:** Applications at the approximately 0.91-acre 7-Eleven and Shell service station site located at 3760 and 3790 Hopyard Road for: (1) rezoning from the C-N (Neighborhood Commercial) District to the PUD-C (Planning Unit Development – Commercial) District; (2) PUD Development Plan to demolish the existing 7-Eleven convenience store, auto service building, and Shell service station canopy and construct an approximately 3,034-square-foot 7-Eleven convenience store, 1,290 square-foot drive-through car wash building, an approximately 3,311-square-foot Shell self-service station canopy, and related on- and off-site improvements; and (3) Conditional Use Permit to operate convenience store with the sale of alcoholic beverages and a drive-through carwash in conjunction with an existing service station.

BE A PART OF THE PUBLIC PROCESS – VOLUNTEER FOR A CITY COMMISSION

In April and September of each year, the Mayor and City Council recruits and appoints residents of Pleasanton to a variety of boards and commissions, allowing them to contribute to and influence decisions affecting the city, providing advice and feedback on important community issues. Applications are now being accepted for the following:

- Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee**
Four vacancies
- Civic Arts Commission**
One vacancy: Youth Member
- Economic Vitality Committee**
Four vacancies: Business At Large, Commercial Real Estate Broker, Commercial Real Estate Developer, and Financial Services
- Youth Commission**
One vacancy: Adult Representative

For more information or to apply, please visit cityofpleasantonca.gov/boards

Applicants must reside within the Pleasanton city limits

Applications are due August 30, 2019

Interviews with the Mayor will be held in September

For additional information contact the Office of the City Clerk at 925-931-5027

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

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LETTERS

Quiet pillars of kindness

Dear Editor,

There are so many awful things going on in the world: shootings, natural disasters, international unrest, hateful words, dishonesty and despicable behavior by adults that should know better. So, what can we, in our community, do to combat this negativity?

We can smile at people we see, hold the door open for others, let someone get in front of us in line, help someone carry their bags, pay for the person behind us at the

drive-thru ... we can be kind.

We can be kind, even when it's hard.

We have many public individuals in our community that do just that — elected officials, leaders of organizations and recipients of awards. But we also have many quiet pillars of kindness; people who make a difference in our community every day, just by being themselves.

One is Ms. Erin, who runs the pottery studio for the city of Pleasanton. Ms. Erin consistently shows kindness to everyone in her studio, with her genuine smile and authentic warmth. She shows us that our

work doesn't have to be perfect, we can be as creative as we want, it's OK to get messy, we don't have to "stay within the lines" for our artwork to be amazing, and we all deserve respect.

Both of my kids recently wrapped up a pottery camp with Ms. Erin. I am so grateful to the city for supporting the work she does. I am so grateful to her for sharing her kindness and caring spirit with our community.

You don't have to be loud to make a difference in Pleasanton. All it takes is a smile. We can all be quiet pillars of kindness, just like Ms. Erin.

—Christina Nystrom Mantha



17th Annual Independent Watchdog Committee

Report to the Public FY2017-18

Measure B and Measure BB Sales Tax Activities

In November 2000, Alameda County voters approved Measure B, which extended the County's 1986 half-cent transportation sales tax to 2022 and set forth a 20-year Expenditure Plan to enhance the County's transportation system. 2000 Measure B also established a Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) to review all Measure B expenditures for compliance with the Expenditure Plan.

The IWC concludes that 2000 Measure B and 2014 Measure BB tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the two measures during FY2017-18, except as noted on the last page of the full report. However, opportunities for improvement remain.

In November 2014, Alameda County voters approved Measure BB, which increased the County's half-cent transportation sales tax to one full cent, extended the tax through 2045 and set forth a 30-year Expenditure Plan for essential transportation improvements in every city throughout the County.

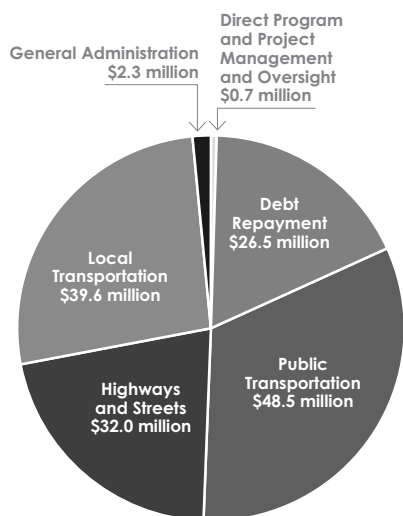
2014 Measure BB established an Independent Watchdog Committee (IWC) that reports its findings annually to the public to ensure appropriate use of sales tax funds and provides oversight by reviewing Measure B expenditures and Measure BB expenditures and performance measures. The IWC does not opine on other funds the Alameda CTC

manages and/or programs. The IWC replaced and assumed responsibility for CWC activities in July 2015.

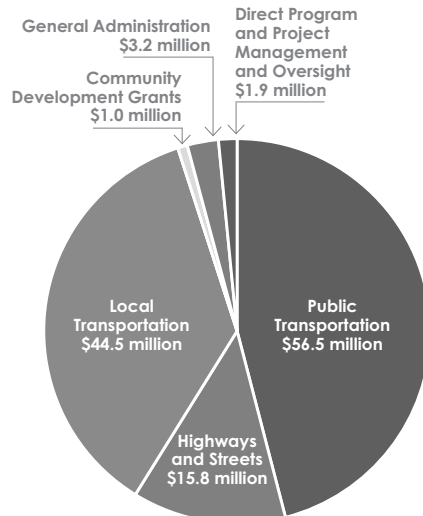
This 17th annual report covers expenditures and IWC activities during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 (FY2017-18). The full report is available at www.AlamedaCTC.org/IWC2019Report.

Summary of Revenues and Expenditures

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is responsible for administering the Measure B and Measure BB transportation sales tax measures. In FY2017-18, Measure B revenues for Alameda CTC totaled \$154.5 million, and audited expenditures totaled \$149.6 million. Measure BB revenues totaled \$153.5 million, and audited expenditures totaled \$122.9 million in FY2017-18.



FY2017-18 Measure B Project and Program Expenditures



FY2017-18 Measure BB Project and Program Expenditures

Measure B and Measure BB Funded Programs

Alameda CTC allocates approximately 60 percent of Measure B and 65 percent of Measure BB funds on a monthly basis to programs by formula and through competitive grants to Alameda County, cities and transit operators.

In FY2017-18, Alameda CTC expended \$83.6 million in Measure B funds and \$81.8 million in Measure BB funds on programs, including local streets and roads, mass transit, special transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, bicycle and pedestrian safety and community development projects to improve access to jobs and schools.

Measure B and Measure BB Funded Projects

Alameda CTC allocates approximately 40 percent of Measure B and 35 percent of Measure BB funds to specific capital projects.

In FY2017-18, Alameda CTC expended \$36.5 million of 2000 Measure B funds and \$36.0 million of 2014 Measure BB funds on capital projects for transportation infrastructure improvements, such as highway and transit improvements, local street and road enhancements, intermodal and other local projects.

Independent Watchdog Committee Activities

IWC members performed the following activities from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

- **Ongoing Programs and Capital Projects Monitoring:** The IWC monitors specific programs, capital projects and issues of concern.
- **Review of Independent Audit of Alameda CTC:** The IWC reviews the independent auditor's plan for the audit before it begins and reviews the draft audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report regarding Measure B and Measure BB revenues and expenditures.
- **Audit and Compliance Report Review:** The IWC members review audited financial statements and compliance reports, including performance measures, received from Measure B and Measure BB direct local distribution (DLD) recipients to ensure expenditures comply with the requirements in the applicable Expenditure Plan.
- **Issues Identification Process:** IWC members may request and receive information from DLD recipients and/or Alameda CTC staff if they have concerns regarding Measure B and Measure BB expenditures. The committee may also review issues regarding Measure B and Measure BB expenditures identified by the public.
- **Annual Report to the Public:** Each year, the IWC establishes a subcommittee to develop the annual report to the public regarding Measure B and Measure BB expenditures and to discuss distribution of and outreach for the annual report.

How to Get Involved

Independent Watchdog Committee meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in vacancies on Alameda CTC's advisory committees, contact Alameda CTC. Visit www.AlamedaCTC.org or contact the IWC at IndependentWatchdog@alamedactc.org to learn more. Follow Alameda CTC on:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlamedaCTC
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AlamedaCTC>
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/AlamedaCTC

Firehouse Arts Center

Lineup features tried and true favorites

BY DOLORES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The Heart of Rock & Roll: A Tribute to Huey Lewis & The News" returns to the Firehouse Arts Center on Jan. 10-11.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Country-American duo Maybe April (Katy DuBois and Alaina Stacey) will bring harmonies and romantic spirit to town Oct. 19.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bestselling author Nic Stone will present an Author Talk at the Amador Theater on Oct. 18 along with Daniel Handles, aka Lemony Snicket.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Singer-songwriter and guitar player Stephen Bishop will perform his iconic '80s hits, including "On and On" and "It Might be You," when he opens the new season Sept. 7.



Magician Alex Ramo for a master of illusion

The Firehouse Arts Center is launching its Season 10 — a lively combination of old favorites, new experiences, musicals and Pleasanton's own teen improv troupe.

Stephen Bishop, a singer-songwriter from the '70s-'80s, kicks off the 2019-20 season Sept. 7.

"He had a couple of big hits — 'On and On' and 'It Might Be You,'" Firehouse Theater supervisor and programmer Rob Vogt said. "It will be the first time for him, and it should be fun. You can reminisce with Stephen Bishop."

Another new act, Eagles tribute band Midnight Flyer, is appearing Sept. 14-15, with an opportunity to celebrate the past at the city's arts center in downtown Pleasanton.

"This will be the first time for them," Vogt said. "There is a huge rock 'n' roll audience out there."

A week later, the Firehouse will host a new innovative dance performance. Concert harpist Anna Maria Mendieta is presenting her Tango del Cielo — Tango from Heaven — a multi-media program designed to conjure up the smoky cafes of Argentina, the bullfights of Spain, and the jungles of South America.

"She will bring in musicians to

join her on harp and strings and percussion, then bring in a pair of tango dancers and flamenco dancers," Vogt explained. "On top of that will be black-and-white silent film projection, for a really fun evening."

Vogt has scheduled the entertainment for the Firehouse Arts Center since it opened in 2010, and he observes closely which shows are most successful. He holds a focus group each year to get feedback from customers, and he attends the Western Arts Alliance conference, which showcases available entertainment.

"We are always trying to share some new talent and expose our audiences to new experiences," he said. "We are starting off in September with a bang."

A 10-year anniversary celebration is in the works for October 2020.

Returning favorites this season include Mark Broussard, a soulful rhythm and blues singer songwriter from New Orleans, who performs Sept. 28.

"His New Orleans roots really influence his sound, and we are very excited," Vogt said. "Four years ago, he performed with a trio. This time he will be with a full band."

Greg Kihn, a rock 'n' roller from the 1980s, is also returning to perform his music and tell tales,

accompanied by Robert Berry, on Nov. 23.

"He actually is going to do a 'storyteller's show,' a fun thing about his experiences in the industry," Vogt said. "He was a pretty big rock 'n' roller in the day, and he has stories about Mick Jagger, Bruce Springsteen, Ozzy Osbourne and all those guys."

The music will be "unplugged," meaning not a full band and using no amplification.

"There is a different dimension to the performance," Vogt said. "It will be his hits and more background behind it."

"Those kind of shows work well in our space because it is so intimate," he added.

The Firehouse Theater has 220 seats, which Vogt considers when booking acts.

A perfect fit, he said, will be Broadway star David Burnham celebrating the music of Tom Jones on Feb. 14.

"He's been here before with a straightforward cabaret — Broadway show tunes — but this is really paying tribute to the showman Tom Jones," Vogt said. "It will have more of a full band — his last show had a piano accompaniment."

The Special Consensus (TSC) is

kicking off 10th season

favorites as well as new experiences

FOX CIARDELLI

also returning Jan. 17.

“If you like bluegrass music, this is one of the best bluegrass in the country,” Vogt said. “They were just honored with their second Grammy nomination last year. I’m always excited to have them back.”

Vogt is also excited to try something new in March: Just before St. Patrick’s Day, the Firehouse Theater will host the Real Irish Comedy Fest.

“All the comedians are coming from Ireland to share a little Irish cheer,” he said. “We haven’t had a good comedy show here in a while, and it’s kind of a fun theme. They’ve been around the Bay Area for a couple of years now, but this is the first time they will be performing at the Firehouse.”

Another something different is Alex Ramon, a magician who does the “Impossible,” on Oct 12-13. The Firehouse Theater is a good venue to see the master of illusion up close.

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is presenting two shows at the Firehouse this season. “The Fantasticks,” the longest running musical in the world, will be onstage Nov. 2-17. “Damn Yankees,” another Broadway mega-hit, comes April 25 to May 10.

“Those will appeal to a lot of folks out there,” Vogt said.

This season, the Pleasanton Youth Theater Company will be offering “Frozen Jr.” from Dec. 13-22, followed by “Honk Jr.” on March 20-29, at the larger Amador Theater since the casts include many children.

“‘Frozen’ will appeal to a lot of the youngsters in our community who have seen the movie and will want to be in the show,” Vogt said.

Local offerings also take center stage at the Firehouse, including performances by teen improv Creatures of Impulse. The teens are presenting an improvised horror show dubbed “Nightmares” on Oct. 24-26; holiday shorts in “A Long Winter’s Tale,” on Dec. 5-6; and an Improv Face-Off from Feb. 20-22. The troupe will also present “Once Upon a Time,” a totally improvised teen medieval musical, from May 14-16.

The High School Musical Collaborative is performing a variety of music during the season, including the seventh annual Holiday Youth Music Festival on Nov. 30. Auditions take place this week.

“Some shows sell better than others,” Vogt said. “We do try to introduce new music and new

experiences that maybe our audiences haven’t heard before.”

Audiences can enjoy old favorites during the holiday season. Returning are Jeff Bordes and Friends with their “New Orleans Christmas” on Dec. 14, and Will Durst and company with “The Big Fat Year-End Kiss-Off Comedy Show” on Dec. 27. The Pleasanton Community Concert Band performs its fall concert Oct. 20; the winter concert is Nov. 24, this year with Holiday Season Movie Music.

“Some audience members are more willing to take a risk or try something new — and some prefer the tried and true,” Vogt said. “I think it’s important to bring in shows like Tango del Cielo, new shows for our audiences.”

For complete listings of Season 10 and other activities taking place at the Firehouse Arts Center, go to www.firehousearts.org or visit the box office at 4444 Railroad Ave. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pleasanton’s own trumpeter Jeff Bordes and Friends will present their annual holiday show, “Jazzy New Orleans Christmas,” on Dec. 14.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

will thrill audiences Oct. 12-13 at the Firehouse Theater, a good intimate venue.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tango del Cielo: A Blend of Tango, Flamenco and Latin Jazz, a multi-media program that showcases fiery Spanish compositions as well as sensuous tangos, will thrill audiences Sept. 21-22.

Livermore Shakes

has new venue for summer 2020

Bard changing vineyards after five years of Shakespeare-in-the-round at Went

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore Shakespeare Festival is leaving Went Vineyards after five years of performing Shakespeare-in-the-round outdoors at the winery.

Founding artistic director Lisa Tromovitch expressed gratitude toward Went for hosting them for “the past five years of laughter, love and drama.”

Next year the Shakespeare company moves down the road to a more traditional stage at Darcie Kent Vineyards, another family owned and run winery.

“Darcie and David Kent have been friends of Livermore Shakes for many years,” Tromovitch said. “Their daughter Kailyn was an early intern with the company many years ago. ... The family relationships and sense of community in Livermore have made our company possible these past 17 years.”

Livermore Shakespeare in the Vineyard began in 2002 in a

parking lot at Concannon Vineyard. The program moved to Retzlaff Winery for 2004-07, then returned to Concannon, setting up in front of its Queen Anne-style Victorian, from 2008-14.

But acoustics were strained, Tromovitch said, as the audience grew, and in 2015 the company moved to Went Vineyards Estate Winery and Tasting Room for a five-year experiment, increasing the seating capacity to 300 by performing “in-the-round.”

“I loved it,” Tromovitch said, adding that it was the only Bay Area theater in-the-round, which brings audience members closer to the stage. “Some didn’t like it — and some came around.”

Malcolm Rodgers is designing the set for Darcie Kent, adjacent to the barrel room.

“We will be yards from the actual grapes,” Tromovitch said. “The stage is in front of you, and to the right and left there are vineyards. It is just beautiful.”



GREGG LE BLANC/CUMULUSLIGHT.COM

Sydney Schwindt in “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)[revised],” which Livermore Shakespeare Festival performed along with “Othello” this summer, its last at Went Vineyards Estate.

Being set against the barrels will improve the acoustics, she said, explaining that outdoor theater is always tricky due to sounds from wind, owls and traffic.

“I don’t like miking actors; they should be able to be heard,” she said. “I like to hire actors who have voice training.”

Microphones, however, are placed along the edge of the stage.

“Every time we move, we have to look at the natural sound

barriers and where is the sun setting,” Tromovitch said. “The new site has a barrel room on the side, a great wind break right there. We still have to deal with a little bit of the sun — the last 20-30 minutes we might have a glow in the sky but not the sun in our eyes.”

Outdoor theaters also have lighting challenges, and sets need to be put up for each performance then taken down; props and costumes must be tucked away each night, away from rain, sprinklers and daytime winery visitors. Livermore Shakes moved into a new office on Railroad Avenue in Livermore in June, which includes a rehearsal space, costume and props storage, and a shop to make sets.

“The premise is actually that in Shakespeare’s day it was always outdoors — although in England people were used to being cold and wet,” Tromovitch said with a laugh. “Now we expect air-conditioning.”

The audience has continued to grow since 2002, one reason for the moves, and the new venue will seat a few more than 300.

“Approximately 39% of our audience comes from outside the Tri-Valley — San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, Tracy, Fremont,” Tromovitch said. “It’s special to have

your outdoor theater in a winery.”

The company gives about 20 performances per season, starting in late June or early July and running through the beginning of August.

This season they performed Shakespeare’s “Othello” as well as “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised],” written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield.

“I like experimenting with new things, and I think a lot of

our audience members like new experiences,” Tromovitch said. “Younger audiences certainly want new experiences, and they won’t return if you don’t provide something exciting.”

Five years ago, Livermore Shakes began a 10-week program to introduce all Livermore school district second-graders to Shakespeare. This has resulted in youngsters bringing their parents to the performances, Tromovitch said.

At Darcie Kent Vineyards, picnicking before the show will be encouraged.

“The picnic area under the beautiful pepper tree is tucked into the L-shaped wraparound porch of the tasting room,” Tromovitch noted.

For more information, visit livermoreshakes.org. ■

“Parting is such sweet sorrow.”

—William Shakespeare, “Romeo and Juliet”



Image courtesy of Darcy Kent Vineyards

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Teen musician returns from European tour

Flutist is recipient of Pedrozzi Foundation scholarship

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore flutist David Davisson, a recipient of the Pedrozzi Foundation's 2019 Charles Amirkhanian Music Scholarship, recently returned from a European tour with six other members of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

They performed at six venues in four countries, and a critic from Berlin's Tagesspiegel called their performance "brilliant and absolutely electrifying."

Davisson, a flutist, was a principal member of the Livermore High School Symphonic Band and performed with several local orchestras

prior to joining the Youth Orchestra in 2017.

He attributes his "grit," more than his talent, for his success as a musician, saying it is grit — defined as perseverance and passion for long-term goals — that drives him to practice three to four hours a day.

Davisson said while performing for the first time at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco he had a moment of clarity that led to his decision to pursue music as a career rather than a hobby. He is planning to attend Rice University's Shepherd School of Music for a degree in flute performance,



STEFAN COHEN, SFSYO

Music director Christian Reif with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, including (third from right) David Davisson, recipient of a scholarship from the Pedrozzi Foundation.

helped by the Pedrozzi Foundation scholarship.

He is one of 115 students who received scholarships given to Livermore students by the foundation, a

total of \$443,500 this year.

A philanthropic Livermore couple endowed the Charles Amirkhanian Music Scholarship with a \$100,000 donation in 2016, named

in honor of the native Californian who was a composer, percussionist, sound poet and radio producer, and who co-founded the "Other Minds Music Festival" in 1992. ■

Tickets on sale for popular Ghost Walk

Spirits of city's past come alive at Museum on Main event



MOM

Museum on Main has tickets on sale for its popular Ghost Walk, an annual Halloween season tradition.

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Ghost Walk — the spooky jaunt down Main Street with guides to point out haunted sites — has opened this year's ticket sales for the event that takes place right before Halloween.

Sponsored by Museum on Main, the annual two-hour guided tour has become more popular each year, with 1,200 attending and spots filling out well in advance.

"Ghost Walk has successfully brought the haunted side of Pleasanton to 'life' through the stories and experiences collected from psychics, ghost hunters and shop workers over the years," museum director Jim DeMersman said. "Ghost Walk is more spooky than it is scary. It's not a haunted house type of program where people jump out to scare you."

Teen members of Pleasanton's Creatures of Impulse are returning to portray the historic figures who haunt downtown.

"The improv team is a great addition to Ghost Walk," DeMersman said. "They are so fun playing the many roles of the downtown ghosts, and we are pleased they will be back again this year."

Tours will depart the museum every 30 minutes between 6-8 p.m. Oct. 18, 19, 25 and 26. The Ghost Walks take place rain or shine, so participants are urged to dress appropriately. Costumes are highly encouraged.

Tickets are \$18 for adults; \$13 for children 12 and under. They may be purchased at www.museumonmain.org by calling 462-2766; or at Museum on Main, 603 Main St. ■

30 wineries join Wine Harvest Celebration

Livermore Valley Labor Day weekend event in its 38th year

The Livermore Valley Harvest Wine Celebration once more is set for Labor Day weekend, with 30 wineries participating, from noon to 5 p.m. next Sunday (Sept. 1).

Tickets are \$40 in advance at www.LVwine.org and \$45 at the event. Twenty sites will waive tasting fees on Monday, too, for those who purchased a wristband.

During the popular festival, wineries showcase Livermore

Valley wine, fresh food vendors, local artisans, crafts and music, for ticket holders to experience the true personality of each venue.

Highlights of this year's event include the following:

- Cool off with Frozé (frozen rosé) at Embodied Wines.
- Learn how to cast a fly-fishing rod at Caddis.
- Taste wine still in development,

directly from the barrel at el Sol Winery and Mitchell Katz Winery. • Nella Terra Cellars and Elliston Vineyards will be pouring their wines at Fenestra Winery.

Each ticket includes wine tasting at participating wineries, a commemorative Livermore Valley Wine Country GoVino wine glass, wine discounts and special activities. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Chorale announces 2019-20 season

'Celebrate the Splendors of Choral Beauty'

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley's premier chorus for 50 years, has announced its 2019-20 concert season, "Celebrate the Splendors of Choral Beauty," with three concert sets and the annual Sing-It-Yourself "Messiah."

The "Messiah" will be the first performance, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6. Tickets are \$15.

The next weekend will be "A British Christmas: Celebrate with Carols from the Choir of Kings College, Cambridge," featuring the music of Stephen Cleobury, Arvo Part, David Willcocks, Carl Rutti, John Tavener, Vaughan Williams and John Rutter. The two performances include a traditional audience sing-along.

The first concert is at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St. in Livermore, with a reception immediately following. The second performance is at 3 p.m. Dec. 15 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1385 S. Livermore Ave.

in Livermore.

Next in the chorus' season is "Celebrate the Night: Dreams, the Moon and Stars," at 3 p.m. March 15 at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Featured songs include Johannes Brahms' "O Schöne Nacht"; Eric Whitacre's "Sleep"; Daniel Elder's "Three Nocturnes"; Morten Lauridsen's "Sure on this Shining Night"; Stephen Foster's "Beautiful Dreamer"; Harline/Washington's "When you Wish Upon a Star"; Mercer/Mancini's "Moon River"; and pianist Daniel Glover featured in Ludwig van Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata."

The season finale will be "Celebrate Composers Significant Birthdays in 2020: from 75 to 450!" at 7:30 p.m. May 9 at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. in Pleasanton.

The great British composer John Rutter is 75 and some of his most popular songs will be featured: "For the Beauty of the Earth," "All Things Bright

and Beautiful" and "The Sprig of Thyme" with Cantabella Children's Choir.

Also celebrated will be Ludwig van Beethoven at 250 with his riveting "Hallelujah from the Mount of Olives"; and the Notre Dame Cathedral will be honored, with excerpts from the "Solemn Mass" of Louis Vierne, who was born 150 years ago and served as organist at the cathedral.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. High school and college students are \$10, and children are free. Purchase tickets at www.valleyconcert-chorale.org, or call 866-4003. Chorus auditions

Valley Concert Chorale is scheduling audition appointments for experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music and who would like to be a part of the 2019-20 concert season. Auditions will be held Mondays, Sept. 9 and 16. To schedule an appointment, call 866-4003. ■

Roberta "Bobbie" Garland

January 19, 1927 – August 7, 2019

Roberta "Bobbie" Garland passed away peacefully following respiratory failure, surrounded by her loving family. She grew up in Pasadena, graduated from UC Berkeley in Fine Arts, and continued her interest and talents in the arts her entire life. Newly married to J. Jepson Garland, Bobbie worked at the Wind Tunnel at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (part of Cal Tech, our dad's alma mater), then moved to the Bay Area to raise her family. As an empty nester, she expanded her skills in desktop publishing at Menlo College Admissions and Alumni offices, and then branched off into her own business. Bobbie loved family, friends, church, music, sports, and travelling the world. She sang in choirs from a young age, played piano and guitar, and was a SF symphony season ticket holder for many years. Bobbie enjoyed playing and watching tennis, golf, and skiing; and was an avid fan and supporter of local teams the Warriors and the Giants, as well as her kids' sports and music endeavors. Bobbie volunteered in many organizations, including PTA, UMA, CAR, Kiwanis, and as a church deacon. She relocated to Pleasanton about six years ago to be closer to family, and greatly enjoyed her Stoneridge Creek community. Bobbie is survived by her sister Mary Pond; her four children Nancy Garland of VA, Susan Garland Foti, Cindy Garland Timby (Chris), and Tom Garland (Mari) of CO; four grandchildren Francesco Foti, Jennifer & Amy Garland, and Corey Timby; and many nieces and nephews. We already miss her strong faith, common sense, dry humor, and joy in life. A celebration of her life was held on August 17, at the historic chapel at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 5th Street, Livermore. Donations may be made to the American Lung Association at <https://www.lung.org/>.



PAID OBITUARY

Irma M. Reichmuth

December 3, 1925 – August 16, 2019

Irma M. Reichmuth, a long-time resident of Pleasanton, died peacefully on August 16, 2019 at the age of 93. She was born on December 3, 1925 and raised in Frick (Canton Aargau) Switzerland.

In 1949 Irma, along with her sister Martha, immigrated to the United States residing in Washington State then relocating to California. Soon after, Irma met her future husband Albert Reichmuth at a Swiss social and married in August 1953 making their home in Pleasanton. Irma loved to cook and had a passion for baking, especially Swiss pastries. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298.

Irma will be remembered for her bright smile – a devoted mother and devout Catholic who will truly be missed by her family and friends.

Irma is survived by her loving sister Martha, children Betty, Fred, Rosemarie (Michael), Marie Louise, grandchildren Christina, Larry, Mason (Brittany) and great-grandchildren Elizabeth, Olivia, Tatum, Lucy and Daisy. Irma was preceded in death by her husband Albert in 2005, sister Antoinette and recently her brother Anton (Tony).

A service to celebrate Irma's life will be on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Graham-Hitch Mortuary located at 4167 First Street in Pleasanton. Reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, a memorial may be made in Irma's name to a charity of your choice.



PAID OBITUARY

POLICE BULLETIN

Vaping sting: PPD cites retailers for selling to underage decoy

Pleasanton police issued citations to four local businesses for allegedly selling vaping tobacco products to an underage decoy during a special enforcement operation that tested all licensed tobacco retailers in the city.

In addition to checking whether the retailer would sell flavored tobacco or e-cigarettes to someone under 21 years old, officers also inspected each of the 29 businesses to make sure they had required signs posted about not selling to underage people and confirmed that each had a valid tobacco license, according to Lt. Maria Munayer.

The department declined to publicly identify the four businesses cited for violations.

"We are not releasing the names of the businesses at this time," Munayer told the Weekly. "The business owners are being held to account for selling tobacco products to an underage decoy. We acknowledge their need for privacy as they focus their immediate attention on retraining staff to avoid repeat offenses in the future."

The department conducted the sting operation Aug. 12 and 13, motivated by the increasing popularity of vaping among youth in the Tri-Valley and nationwide, according to Munayer.

Plain-clothed police officers from the special enforcement unit accompanied underage decoys for site visits at the 29 tobacco retailers, where the decoy attempted to buy flavored tobacco or e-cigarettes, she said.

While a majority of the Pleasanton retailers followed the law and did not sell to the decoy, four businesses were caught and cited for selling or furnishing tobacco to a person under 21, according to Munayer.

"We will continue to proactively address the illegal sales and purchase of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes through similar sting operations," the lieutenant said. "In partnership with the Pleasanton Unified School District, we are committed to the health and safety of the youth in our community and will be steadfast in our efforts to increase awareness about the harmfulness of vaping."

In other news

- Pleasanton police officers recently arrested a man accused of committing a residential burglary last month in Danville.

On Aug. 9, police in Pleasanton arrested 38-year-old transient man Christopher Gary on a warrant for allegedly breaking into a Danville home in July. Danville police said they engaged several surrounding law enforcement agencies to assist in locating and arresting Gary.

Danville Police Chief Allan Shields said he was grateful for the efforts of Pleasanton's officers, and credited the partnership the two agencies share — along with Danville's partnership other police agencies in the area — and with the community at-large, for the overall declining numbers of commercial and residential burglaries in the region.

"We are very fortunate in the San Ramon Valley to have strong relationships, both with our community, and with our fellow law enforcement agencies," he said. "This has led to a very safe community for our residents."

On their Facebook account, Danville police officials said that the number of commercial or residential burglaries has been declining steadily since a 2015 high of 119, and during the first six months of 2019 Danville has only seen 15 commercial or residential burglaries occur. ■

—Pleasanton Weekly staff

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Aug. 18

Theft

- 12:03 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 12:28 p.m. on the 1100 block of Division Street
- 3:46 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 9:29 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft

Aug. 17

Burglary

- 11:41 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive
- 11:44 p.m. on the 2700 block of West Ruby Hill Drive

DUI

- 11:08 p.m. at Main and Division streets

Drug violation

- 7:18 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 8:29 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Alcohol violation

- 12:34 a.m. on the 4400 block of Railroad Avenue
- 8:22 p.m. on the 4500 block of First Street

Theft

- 9:14 a.m., 5700 block of Gibraltar Drive; auto theft
- 2:12 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Assault/battery

- 12:34 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Aug. 16

Theft

- 7:20 a.m., 5100 block of Hopyard Road; theft from auto
- 2:27 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Burglary

- 12:02 p.m. on the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

Alcohol violation

- 12 a.m. on the 4400 block of Railroad Avenue

Domestic battery

- 10:51 p.m. on Persimmon Circle

Aug. 15

Robbery

- 4:01 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Theft

- 9:41 a.m., 4700 block of First Street; theft from structure
- 1:52 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:55 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting


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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

GASIT golf funds support Yount Memorial Scholarship

I have always been a firm believer in giving back to your community, and that's a big reason I spent years on the board of the George A. Spiliotopoulos Invitational Tournament (GASIT), working on raising scholarship money for high school students in Pleasanton.

George was a Pleasanton businessman who owned the Cheese Factory, spent time on various civic committees and was always willing to do what was needed to help people.

Upon his passing in 1985, his friends decided to take George's annual golf tournament that was a day of fun for friends and turn it into a fundraiser for scholarships for Pleasanton students.

In the 40 years of GASIT, over \$1.1 million was given to graduating seniors from Amador Valley, Foothill and Village high schools.

As the years went by, it got tougher to raise money and seemingly every charity organization was having a golf tournament. The competition for both corporate money and players was huge, and in 2011 the decision was made to end the

glorious run of GASIT.

Earlier this year, as all our scholarship commitments were paid off, we had to decide how to disperse the remaining money. Some was used to pay tribute to George, both at the Museum on Main and the old Cheese Factory Building (still in the works), but there was a substantial amount of money left.

Ultimately it was an easy decision as our group decided to present \$25,000 to the Matthew Yount Memorial Scholarship.

Yount, a 2011 graduate of Foothill, was attending Cal Poly and was an excellent golfer at both schools. He went to Spain on a study abroad program and while there in 2013 he died in a drowning accident.

His parents, Greg and Sandy Yount, wanted to carry on Matthew's legacy by having a golf tournament, and a 3-stick (only three clubs) event at the Pleasanton Golf Center was the end result. Greg is involved with the Lions Club in Pleasanton, an organization that would help out during the GASIT dinner each year, and after Matthew's passing, they jumped at the chance to help Greg.

"When Matthew passed, he had a lot of friends that were good golfers so that's where we wanted to go," Greg said. "The Lions really wanted to do it."

The tournament raises scholarship money for students from Amador, Foothill and Village, as well as Cal Poly, which is where Spiliotopoulos went to school, so it was a natural fit for GASIT to gift the money.

It was this year at the fifth annual tournament on Aug. 9, where the \$25,000 check was presented. The first year of the event they had 50 golfers, and maybe another 30 attendees for the post-tournament festivities. This year there was 90 golfers and 70 more for the dinner.

The scholarship runs through the Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc., an organization that collects all the applications and works as a clearing house for groups such as the Younts.

From there, Greg looks at the applications, then conducts interviews with the students. There are certain things he is looking for in addition to need-based applicants.

"I want someone that wants to give back to the community," Greg explained. "Someone that wants to be a teacher, policeman or fireman generally jumps to the top of the list for me."

As far as Cal Poly students are concerned, the money goes to students in the study abroad program that need financial assistance.

The yearly awards are based on the money raised the previous year in the golf tournament. Back in May, Greg presented \$17,000 total in scholarships.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tony Macchiano and Ron Capilla of GASIT present \$25,000 check to Greg Yount for the Matthew Yount Memorial Scholarship.

Spend an hour with Greg and you feel the passion he carries to honor Matthew, leaving it as the type of organization that is easy to get behind. Also, by being a 9-hole tournament, it doesn't wipe out an entire day, rather starting at 3 p.m.

"It's really just a couple hours of fun," Greg said.

The tournament is set for late July next year (I will have information on the event some time in June of next year in this space), and there are several options in which you can participate.

Golf and dinner, as well as dinner-only tickets, are sold. There are also sponsorship options available, such as a major sponsor or a tee sponsor. There is an auction at the dinner and the organization is always looking for auction items.

Contributions may be made to the Matthew Yount Memorial Foundation. Contact Greg at yountbz@yahoo.com or 200-9579.

Football season starts

Local football teams get started this week, with Amador Valley traveling to Antioch and Foothill playing host to San Leandro at Amador. Both games are set for 7 p.m. kickoffs today.

Look back here in the next couple of weeks to get insight to the Dons and Falcons programs this season. ■

Editor's note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact Miller or submit local high school sports scores, game highlights and photographs for his weekly Pleasanton Preps column, email him at acesmag@aol.com.

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Heartfelt Spaces
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 561325

The following person doing business as: Heartfelt Spaces, 18400 Cotton Court, Castro Valley, CA 94552, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Nancy Costa, 18400 Cotton Court, Castro Valley, CA 94552. This business is conducted by Nancy Costa, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Nancy Costa, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 18, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2019).

Blessed Beauty 925
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 561817

The following person doing business as: Blessed Beauty 925, 239 Main St., Suite D, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Serina Martinez, 2821 Shadow Glen Dr., Modesto, CA 95355. This business is conducted by Serina Martinez, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Serina Martinez, owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Aug. 1, 2919. (Pleasanton Weekly, Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2019).

O&L Professional Detailers Dublin
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 561523

The following person(s) doing business as: O&L Professional Detailers Dublin, 6405 Golden Gate Drive, Dublin, CA 94568, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Omar Villasenor, 3767 Vineyard Avenue, #19, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Juan Carlos Villasenor, 3596 Utah Street, Suite A, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Omar Villasenor; Juan Carlos Villasenor, Co-partners. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein July 22, 2019. Signature of Registrant: Omar Villasenor, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 24, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, August 2, 9, 16, 23 2019).

The-Thomas-Collection
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 561997

The following person doing business as: The-Thomas-Collection, 3465 Dublin Blvd., #410, Dublin, CA 94568, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Thomas T. Thomas, 3465 Dublin Blvd., #410, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by Thomas T. Thomas, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Thomas T. Thomas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, August 16, 23, 30, September 6, 2019).

LearningMint Inc.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 562283

The following person doing business as: LearningMint Inc., 11501 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 200, Dublin, CA 94568, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: LearningMint Inc.,

11501 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 200, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by LearningMint Inc., a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Harish Bhat, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 13, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, August 23, 30, September 6, 13, 2019).

Peking Restaurant
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 562205

The following person doing business as: Peking Restaurant, 4510 Las Positas Road, Livermore, CA 94551, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: GK Unlimited International Inc., 4510 Las Positas Road, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by GK Unlimited International Inc., a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: George Li, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Aug. 12, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 2019).

Livermore Downtown Arco
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 562204

The following person doing business as: Livermore Downtown Arco, 216 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, CA 94550, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Mimi & Daughters LLC, 1862 S. Terracina Drive, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by Mimi & Daughters LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein July 4, 2019. Signature of Registrant: Harsha Ganazla, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Aug. 12, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 2019).

Law Tech
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 561835

The following person doing business as: Law Tech, 3327 Sorrel Downs Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Charlotte D. Salomon, 3327 Sorrel Downs Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Charlotte D. Salomon, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein Oct. 12, 1995. Signature of Registrant: Charlotte D. Salomon, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Aug. 1, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 2019).

New World Music Academy
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 561560

The following person doing business as: New World Music Academy, 4430 Willow Road, Suite M, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Music N Beyond, Inc., 178 Nanterre St., Danville, CA 94506. This business is conducted by Music N Beyond, Inc., a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Amit Sachdeva, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 25, 2019. (Pleasanton Weekly, Aug. 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 2019).

PET OF THE WEEK



ALLIE'S PALS

Cool Chloe

Chloe is a full-figured girl whose previous household included three active children, so she's used to a busy atmosphere. She's 4 years old, a bit on the chatty side and fond of attention. She'd be the perfect companion for the upcoming cooler weather. If you'd like to know more about Chloe, who is available for adoption through Allie's Pals Cat Rescue, contact Terri at 487-7279.

Concerts

MAGIC MOMENTS At 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23, Magic Moments is bringing 1950s to 1980s tunes to Concert in the Park at Delucchi Park on First Street.

Festivals

38TH ANNUAL HARVEST CELEBRATION IN LIVERMORE VALLEY WINE COUNTRY On Sunday, Sept. 1, on Labor Day weekend, Livermore Valley wineries celebrate the exciting crush season and 38 years of the Harvest Wine Celebration. Each winery hosts activities including wine tasting, arts, crafts, and music. Go to lwine.org to view the all of the participating wineries, activities, and other details.

Talks & Lectures

TRI-VALLEY'S AMAZING WILDLIFE Armchair Travelers, a monthly

program, will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12 in the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Ray Rychnovsky will present "The Tri-Valley's Amazing Wildlife." Rychnovsky will share photographs of egrets, herons, hawks, deer, ducks, and other animals he has observed at Shadow Cliffs, Stoneridge Creek Park, and other locations. Adults are invited to this free program on the second Thursday of each month .

Fundraisers

PYP CHARITY ON TAP 2019 At 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 8, at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., join the Pleasanton Young Professionals for an afternoon of food, music, games, silent auction, and more. All proceeds to benefit the Makers Space at Sunflower Hill.

BINGO, BOURBON AND BBQ From 5:30 to 11 p.m. on Aug. 24 at the

Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., please join us for a fun night in support of two amazing Pleasanton City employees currently battling cancer. The night will include music, dinner, drinks and great raffle and game prizes. All fundraising proceeds will go towards the Henricksen and Jacob families. Bingo game will start at 7 p.m.

TVNPA CELEBRATES FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) is hosting a fundraising dinner to celebrate the organization's fifth anniversary. The event takes place from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12 at Blue Agave Club, 625 Main St., and will feature live music from LK Project, a silent auction and raffle. The event is open to the public and tickets are \$100 each. For more information about the event, including sponsorship opportunities, and to purchase tickets, visit tvnpa.org.

THE 8TH ANNUAL TASTE OF PLEASANTON RESTAURANT & SHOP WALK FUNDRAISER

From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 24, visit over 18 participating shops and restaurants to enjoy a fantastic variety of small bites and beverages while strolling and shopping downtown. This fundraiser benefits projects and charities supported by the Pleasanton Lions Club. Please redeem your ticket(s) for a Passport at our Will Call office on the event route at 312 St. Mary Street Suite A. Visit brownpapertickets.com.

Family

PLAY BALL A'S FREE COMMUNITY EVENT From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Aug. 24, at Fallon Sports Park, 4605 Lockhart St., Dublin, the Oakland A's are bringing the fun to Dublin. Join the A's for a friendly game of baseball at this free family event. Kids and adults of all ages are invited to come play ball and participate in a variety of baseball and softball skill stations and activities. No experience or equipment required.

GINGERBREAD PRESCHOOL FALL CLASSES NOW ENROLLING Gingerbread Preschool has been a staple in the Pleasanton community for over 50 years. The school year program is a part-time, recreation program that provides children an opportunity to experience a classroom setting prior to Kindergarten. Gingerbread Preschool offers classes for children ages 2 to 5 years old along with Parent and Me options. We are now enrolling for the Fall 2019 session from Aug. 26 to Oct. 18. Please call 931-3430 for more information or visit gingerbreadpreschool.org.

Food & Drink

FORKFUL From 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14 join us for our third annual Forkful event in downtown Pleasanton. Stroll through downtown, stopping at over 15 participating locations to taste their perfect forkful of food. Upon arrival, each event guest will enjoy a sparkling wine reception at check in where they will receive their commemorative fork and event program to guide them through the tasting experience. You must be 21

Employment

TECHNOLOGY

Micro Focus LLC is accepting resumes for the position of Software Designer in Pleasanton, CA (Ref. # MFCPVAZS01). Analyze, design, program, debug and modify software enhancements and new products used in local, networked or Internet-related computer programs, primarily for end users. Mail resume to Micro Focus LLC, Attn: Jim Brooking, 5325 Elkhorn Blvd, Suite 343, Sacramento, CA 95842. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.



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and older to participate in this event. Event is rain or shine, no refunds.

TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS BBQ 2019

At 6 p.m. on Sept. 18 in Barone's Backyard, 475 St. John St., The Chamber's Business & Community Political Action Committee invites you to its annual BBQ. The event is open to the public.

Lessons & Classes

VIRTUAL REALITY AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 24 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Virtual Reality uses a computer, headset, and sensors to immerse you directly into a three dimensional, computer-generated world. Travel around the

world, to distant planets, and even back in time without ever leaving the library.

Support Groups

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA CAREGIVER CLASS

From 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 26, at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin, the Living With Dementia: Person-Centered Care and Enhancing Well-Being Class will be held. In this class caregivers will learn how person-centered care and a focus on the components of well-being can contribute to the personal identity and overall health of both the family caregiver and the individual living with dementia.

Please pre-register with Jill Smith, RN, at jills@hopehospice.com or call 829-8770.

Home & Garden

TRI-VALLEY COMMUNITY HARVEST

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 24 meet up at 5800 Parkside Drive, and we will harvest fresh backyard fruit for donation to local soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and the food bank. Typical harvests take about 3 hours and travel no more than 25 miles from the starting location. They will have all the necessary equipment, including buckets, picking-poles, ladders, clippers, and crates with us. Come prepared to be outdoors for 3 hours. Renee Huber at 789-0804.

Marketplace

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Real Estate

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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DANVILLE

2007 Scarlet Oak Pl **\$1,600,000**
Sun 2-4 5 BD/2 BA
Peter & Mari McDowell 209.0343/596.8731

DUBLIN

7126 Cross Creek C **\$569,950**
Sun 1-4 3 BD/2 BA
Joel Engel 580.5106

6842 Brighton Dr **\$868,888**
Sat/Sun 1-4 4 BD/2 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

LIVERMORE

2008 Rovello Lp **\$978,900**
Sat/Sun 10-5 3 BD/3 BA
Ben Vogelsang 510.719.0499

2338 Sheffield Dr **\$1,519,950**
Sat 1-4 4 BD/3 BA
Joel & Cindy Engel 580.5106/580.5107

2238 Vintage Ln **\$1,649,000**
Sun 1-4 5 BD/4 BA
Blaise Lofland 846.6500

PLEASANTON

186 Junipero St **\$835,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 2 BD/2 BA
Fabulous Properties 519.8226/980.0273

6058 Allbrook Cr **\$949,900**
Sun 2-4 3 BD/2 BA
Sue & Dave Flashberger 463.0436

5147 Angelico Ct **\$949,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 3 BD/2.5 BA
Tim McGuire 462.7653

318 Lone Oak Dr **Call for price**
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Blaise Lofland 846.6500

6853 Massey Ct **\$900,000**
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2598 Secretariat Dr **\$879,000**
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Anne Athenour Martin 200.5272

165 Sylvia Cr **\$969,000**
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Anni Hagfeldt 519.3534

848 Independence Ct **\$1,575,000**
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5610 Leah Ln **\$2,098,000**
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Kylene Grippi 200.4146

1644 Tanglewood Ct **Call for price**
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2341 Greenberry Ct **\$1,089,000**
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2512 Fountainhead Dr **\$549,000**
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Find more real estate information at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate



Ventana Hills Neighborhood

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Pleasanton

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10,419 SF lot court location single level

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1PM-4PM

5147 Angelico Court, Pleasanton
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OPEN
SAT/SUN
1PM-4PM

6842 Brighton Drive, Dublin
4 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,689± SqFt | 6,502± SqFt lot
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OPEN
SAT/SUN
1PM-4PM

2512 Fountainhead Drive, San Ramon
2 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 954± SqFt | 1,287± SqFt lot
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2341 Greenberry Court, Pleasanton
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2373 Sandpiper Way, Pleasanton
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,736± SqFt | 7,114± SqFt lot
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2756 Willowren Way, Pleasanton
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1715 Beachwood Way, Pleasanton
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PENDING
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6397 Calle Altamira, Pleasanton
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PENDING
IN 5 DAYS

1401 Elliot Circle, Pleasanton
2 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,345± SqFt | 5,314± SqFt lot
Offered at \$849,000



PENDING

5099 Monaco Drive, Pleasanton
4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,985± SqFt | 10,010± SqFt lot
Offered at \$1,528,000



PENDING

1471 Maple Leaf Court, Pleasanton
5 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,788± SqFt | 7,800± SqFt lot
Offered at \$1,589,000



SOLD
\$11K OVER
ASKING

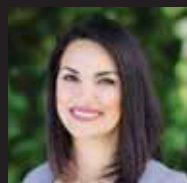
3836 Appian Street, Pleasanton
3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1,726± SqFt | 3,636± SqFt lot
Sold for \$1,100,000

"Tim McGuire was our agent in the purchase of our new home in Pleasanton. We were from out of the area. Tim spent the time to understand the type of property we were looking for, quickly zeroed in on candidate properties, then gave us detailed insight into the value of each we looked at. Once we found the right one, Tim guided us through the offer process, and paved the way for a fast and smooth close of escrow. Great experience with Tim McGuire and his team!"

—Don Greer, Norante Ct., Pleasanton



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JUST LISTED

5177 Springdale Ave
Sharp updated 4 BR, 2 BTH home with upgrades and a private yard with filtered views of the hills
Offered at \$1,000,000



JUST LISTED

Mohr Estates
Upgraded one story 4 BR, 2.5 BTH home on a huge 1/2 Acre lot with outdoor kitchen & more!
Offered at \$1,950,000



JUST LISTED

7299 Tulipwood Cir
Charming one story 4 BR, 2 BTH home with Hardwood floors & granite kitchen
Offered at \$979,000



COMING SOON

Chateau Estates
Gorgeous 5 BR, 4.5 BTH home on .62 Acre lot with pool, spa, & sports court, & kitchen
Offered at \$2,419,900



JUST LISTED

Victorian Inspired Custom
Expansive 6 BR, 4 BTH home with modern amenities plus detached studio over garage
Offered at \$2,890,000.



PHEASANT RIDGE

7287 Royal Oaks Ct
Elegant 5 BR + Office, 4.5 BTH luxury home on flat 1/3 Acre lot with views of the ridge
Offered at \$2,250,000



JUST LISTED

Like New - Less than a Year Old!
Sunny modern town-home with 3 BR, 3.5 BTHS, hardwood floors, 2 car garage, and more!
Offered at \$750,000



THE PRESERVE

West Pleasanton
Beautiful luxury home with room to spare. 6 BR, 5.5 BTHs on a private .55 Acre lot with views
Offered at \$2,395,000

**Planning on Selling 2019 or 2020?
Now is the time to plan.**
Call us today for a no-obligation Strategy Session to get you the highest possible price.

Doug Buenz
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Amanda Bowen

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WE LIST, WE SELL, WE CLOSE!

318 LONE OAK DRIVE, PLEASANTON



OPEN SATURDAY 1-4PM

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,588 SF **CALL FOR PRICING**

2238 VINTAGE LANE, LIVERMORE



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM

5 BD | 4 BA | 4,137 SF **OFFERED AT \$1,649,000**

4472 COMANCHE WAY, PLEASANTON



PRICE REDUCED!

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,474 SF **OFFERED AT \$719,000**

4973 DOLORES DRIVE, PLEASANTON



PENDING!

4 BD | 3 BA | 3,000 SF **OFFERED AT \$1,499,500**

1874 RAILROAD AVE. #118, LIVERMORE



JUST CLOSED!

3 BD | 3.5 BA | 1,780 SF **SOLD FOR \$715,000**

5792 HIDDEN CREEK COURT, PLEASANTON



SOLD!

5 BD | 5.5 BA | 4,434 SF **SOLD FOR \$2,325,000**



Pleasanton
2856 Gray Fox Ct
 5 Bed 4.5 Bath 3,878 SQFT
 \$2,495,000



Danville
2007 Scarlet Oak Pl
 5 Bed 2 Bath 3,200 ±SQFT
 \$1,600,000



Pleasanton
1644 Tanglewood Ct
 4 bed 2 Bath 2,066± SQFT



Pleasanton
20 Golf Rd
 4 Beds 5 Bath 4,149± SQFT



Pleasanton
23 Twelve Oaks Dr
 5 Bed 3.5 Bath 4,233± SQFT



Pleasanton
589 Tawny Dr
 4 Bed 3 Bath 2,369± SQFT

• •
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Our mission is to help everyone find their place in the world. Compass is continuing to expand our California presence through new partnerships with local firms Alain Pinel Realtors®, Paragon, and Pacific Union International. Aided by our technology, service, and access to more agents in the region, you can now go further in your home search.

Pleasanton/Livermore Valley
900 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 | 925.251.1111

COMPASS

Open Saturday



Open Sat 1-4

2338 Sheffield Dr, Livermore

4 bed + bonus room, 3 bath
3,030 sq ft on 14,902 sq ft lot
Offered at \$1,519,950

South Livermore's Finest Custom Neighborhood
"Wine Country Living"

Classic style, tastefully appointed and completely updated - a designer's home! Immaculate and perfect move-in condition describes this lovely property. Some of the many custom features include a large open foyer with volume ceilings, lots of natural light, gorgeous wood floors, plantation shutters, crown molding & designer paint. Downstairs bedroom is currently used as an office, full bath on main level, laundry room with lots of storage. Don't miss the gourmet kitchen with white cabinets, stone counters, subway tile backsplash, stainless steel appliances and center island. Kitchen and family room have views to the expansive private backyard. The backyard is a perfect setting for entertaining - and will easily accommodate larger party gatherings. Enjoy the pergola, several seating areas, built-in BBQ, lush gardens, lawn areas, and the sport court. There is space for your RV/boat storage plus a 3 car garage. No HOA.



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- Combined team sales over \$250M
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- Arrive Real Estate Group. is a woman-owned and operated business, partnering with the brokerage firm Side, Inc.



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DeAnna Liz
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NEW LISTING



3155 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton
4BR, 5.5BA, 5437+/- Sq. Ft. Call For Pricing

COMING SOON



1527 Honey Suckle Court, Pleasanton
5BR, 5BA, 6572+/- Sq. Ft. Call For Pricing

PENDING



1192 Paladin Way, Pleasanton
5BR, 6BA, 6359+/- Sq. Ft. 1/2+/- Acre Lot. Offered at \$3,299,000

PENDING



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

NEW LISTING



1707 Orchard Way, Pleasanton
4BR, 2.5BA, 2087+/- Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$1,349,000



COMING SOON



3633 Dunsmuir Circle, Pleasanton
3BR, 2BA, 1940+/- Sq. Ft.
Call For Pricing



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Team Leader/Realtor



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Team Leader/Realtor



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