

Pleasanton Weekly

Seniors
Living Well

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VOL. XXI, NUMBER 18 • AUGUST 7, 2020

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Senior Center keeps folks connected

Social and tech programs continue as well as curbside lunches Page 9



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AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

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TIM TALK



By TIM HUNT

Pivoting, piloting science programs to serve students

When Caleb Cheung and the board of the Quest Science Center in Livermore mapped out a plan for 2020, it was full of pilot programs. And that was before the pandemic.

The March shutdown has made it a year of even more experimentation as Cheung pivoted to mostly virtual programs. He also launched face-to-face, week-long programs for small groups of students this summer. Cheung joined Quest in February as its first full-time employee.

When schools closed and people sheltered at home, the Quest team figured out there was a crying need for good information. So, they enlisted some of their professionals to write articles to explain key points. That grew into a weekly newsletter and the first pilot program — Quest@Home.

The webpage is updated weekly with resources targeted at helping parents engage with their kids around science. The target age is middle school, although Cheung believes activities can extend to high school and elementary students. The page suggests science apps and other free resources.

One summer initiative is a two-hour, week-long science camp done digitally. Participants receive a box with supplies and then participate in the Zoom call. One lesson focused on electricity and magnetism, while another had students building a speaker.

Cheung noted, "It's not a cookbook where you do five steps and have a completed product. They need to do trial-and-error to figure out the engineering and design challenge. It encourages experimenting and tinkering."

He believes the program could scale up in the fall as an after-school offering.

Quest also launched a nature exploration program for small groups of students that met at Del Valle Park and Sycamore Grove Park. The "Nature Explorers" program taught kids to observe and look for connections outdoors in the biological world. They learned about plants, animals, insects and how they related together. Participants kept a nature journal with notes and sketches as they were encouraged to learn to ask good questions.

The fourth summer program grew out of a spring request from

ninth- and 10th-grade parents who wanted to keep their students engaged around math. The original plan was for volunteer tutors, but the pivot involved a one-hour Zoom session with students given an open-ended challenge or puzzle that was math-related. They would develop algebraic formulas and then create their own puzzle. Two high school interns have been working with the students and do breakout groups for individualized coaching.

A core Quest value is partnerships.

One that had been taking shape in the spring involved the Tracy Boys and Girls Club, which has large after-school and summer programs. This summer their Zoom attendance had been falling so Cheung suggested he provide some live demonstrations for their STEM week. Demos ranged from Cheung doing science magic from his home office to using frozen nitrogen in the back yard of a board member's home. Attendance quadrupled, he said.

Another initiative involves community science. It was launched at the Horizons Science Conference for girls last winter where participants built CO2 sensors. Cheung sees a community filled with the sensors providing real time data on air quality.

One intriguing community project could revolve around the huge windmills in the Altamont Pass. The vision is for an app to take families on a tour and teach them about the windmills, the conflict with the raptors and some local history. It could even evolve into a scavenger hunt where families move from location to location and watch videos and then record information. The goal is to make it interactive and fun.

The same is true for a computer-generated art project that is targeted for the lobby of the Bankhead Theater. It involves a software program that generates art that then can be printed out. The big vision would have interactive computers so people could design their own art and then take it home.

Cheung and the board, which is filled with retired Lawrence Livermore and Sandia scientists and engineers, are using this year and next to plan what type of exhibits and activities to include in the science center. They plan to build a science center in 2024 in the heart of the downtown Livermore. ■

About the Cover

Barbie Arioto and Holli Strain volunteer to hand out meals in front of the Pleasanton Senior Center on Sunol Boulevard. The Senior Center has closed to visitors due to the pandemic, but many programs are still being run to help support senior residents, including drive-thru meal pickups. Photo by Ryan J. Degan. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXI, Number 18

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Monday, August 17, 2020
from 6 – 8 p.m.



Vinnie Bacon



David Haubert

REGISTER TODAY AT: PleasantonWeekly.com/candidate-forum

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND DOWNTOWN

At what age do you think you will consider yourself to be 'old'?



Jeff Falcon

Business owner

I'll consider myself old when I can't remember the question you just asked me. By the way, what did you just ask me?



Cathy Falcon

Chief financial officer

I think when I turn 86, I will consider myself old — and everyone else I know will consider me old, too. I plan to go out and buy a comfortable rocking chair and learn to knit. Until that day comes, I don't plan to spend another moment thinking about aging and/or becoming old.



Fuji Ooppapan

Server

I will consider myself old at 65, as that is when I expect to be able to retire, collect Social Security benefits and look forward to just enjoying the rest of my life. My perception of "old" definitely changes as I age. What I used to think of as "old" when I was younger is no longer what I would consider "old" at all.



MaryBeth Hanley

Scientist

At this point I believe at 70 I will feel old. But 20 years ago, I thought the age I am now, was "old." The older I get, the more I realize what I used to think was "old" really is not old. At the end of the day, I think "old" is more a state of mind than a number. Which means if I remain positive, feel youthful and remain active, I won't consider myself "old" for many, many, many years.



Damon Yeargain

Information security analyst

I don't think I will feel old until I retire someday. Considering I have a very young son whose college tuition I will have to pay for beginning in 12 years or so, I won't be retiring any time soon. Which is great because it means I won't consider myself "old" until many years from now.

— Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Filing deadline

The main deadline for prospective candidates to file their nomination papers is later today; go to PleasantonWeekly.com for coverage on deadline day and watch for the outcomes in next week's paper. Individual candidate profiles have also been running online only at this stage.

Pleasanton has multiple candidates for City Council, mayor and school board seats, as do city, school and special district elections throughout the Tri-Valley.

The candidacy filing period runs until 5 p.m. today (Aug. 7). The deadline will be extended five calendar days, to next Wednesday (Aug. 12), for challengers only in an election in which an eligible incumbent chooses not to run or doesn't file by today's deadline.

That extension is expected to happen for PUSD Board of Trustees, where Trustee Valerie Arkin is planning to run for City Council instead of re-election to school board. But there will be no extension for Pleasanton council and mayor because the incumbents are termed out and therefore not deemed eligible, per the city clerk.

Munro not running

Livermore City Councilwoman Trish Munro confirmed that she is not running for City Council District 3 this fall — the city's first election under district-based voting.

Munro, who is in the middle of her first four-year term, was elected at-large two years ago but she lives in a part of the city that falls into the new District 3 (as does Councilman Bob Coomber, whose term is up this year but is not seeking re-election).

As a result, to continue serving in a regular council position beyond 2022, Munro would have had to run for District 3 this year — since she has no plans to move out of her family's longtime home. But she opted against a campaign this fall for multiple reasons.

"I have no doubt that I can find a way to help this community that I love and make it better (after 2022)," Munro told the Weekly. Read more at PleasantonWeekly.com.

'Together Now'

Interfaith Interconnect, a collaborative of more than 20 faith congregations in the Tri-Valley, is holding a virtual gathering "Together Now" this Sunday (Aug. 9) from 5-6 p.m.

To learn more, visit the Interfaith Interconnect Facebook page. A video-recording of the event will be made available at a later time. ■

Council OKs pedestrian-friendly redesign at key Bernal Avenue intersection

Traffic-calming project includes second left-turn lane and area enhancements

By JULIA BAUM

A final design concept to overhaul a corner of Bernal Avenue on the edge of downtown Pleasanton into a more pedestrian-friendly intersection with improved traffic flow was unanimously approved by the City Council on Tuesday night.

Plans have been in the works since last year to add a second left-turn lane from westbound Bernal Avenue at the intersection where Sunol Boulevard merges into First Street, where the Pleasanton Unified School District office is located.

Citing worsening traffic delays on Bernal, the city approached PUSD at the time about right-of-way acquisition for approximately 5,400 square feet of district property, which would allow the addition of a second left-turn lane at Bernal onto southbound Sunol. Three design schemes and accompanying budgets were also presented.

The council in a 3-0 vote ultimately approved the first design alternative, which will expand the intersection north into PUSD property, and cost a total estimated \$2.75 million. Mayor Jerry Thorne was

absent from the council's Zoom meeting on Tuesday night, while Councilwoman Julie Testa recused herself from voting due to her home's proximity to the project site.

Senior civil engineer Adam Nelkie said the first option "has the best geometrics for the intersection" as well as the lowest construction costs and does not require building any large retaining walls.

Several heritage trees along the district property line on Bernal that are in declining health will also be removed to make room for the project but replaced with

appropriate drought-resistant native landscaping.

Enhancements will also be added, like a sign incorporating the historic school bell on district property at the intersection's northeast corner, and creating a gateway feature for the area with a monument sign at 4725 First St. The materials used may include "rustic brick" as well as white stucco and Corten steel. Fencing around the district property will also be replaced with the new standard black wrought iron fence.

See **COUNCIL** on Page 8

Trying to make the cut

Hair stylists protest to reopen under health order

By JULIA BAUM

Despite completing thousands of hours of training including best sanitation practices and using the latest and greatest tools for disinfection, stylist Jennifer Hatcher, who normally rents a chair at Maven & Co. on Valley Avenue in Pleasanton, told the Weekly that the state has refused to let them reopen for outdoor service, much less inside.

"The problem is with the state (cosmetology) board; they're the ones threatening fines of up to \$10,000 and suspending licenses for three years" if salons flaunt any regulations, Hatcher said.

Hatcher was among a small group of hair stylists and salon owners who protested to reopen their businesses at the Alameda County Public Health Department in Oakland late last month. She said she hasn't cut a single strand of hair since the county-wide shelter-in-place order amid the COVID-19 crisis started on March 16, which forced the salon to temporarily shutter.

Currently, Hatcher cannot even give any dry haircuts, which she estimates "makes up less than 15% of our clientele" at the full service salon, but has still disqualified her and other stylists from receiving unemployment.

"I just want it to be very clear from a hair stylist's perspective — we're not throwing a tantrum. We feel we can do it safely," she added. "It feels like a need, it really does, and the disparity in that opinion is part of the problem. Hair stylists in general, our industry is not looked upon with the most prestige ... but



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maven & Co. Salon in Pleasanton recently added station dividers, as well as sanitation stations, with an eye toward eventually reopening for indoor service.

we're professionals and very clean and safe. We feel strongly we can provide for our guests."

Pleasanton has already seen popular hair styling businesses like Gary Patrick Salon draw to a close after more than 30 years in business because of the pandemic, according to a stylist who posted the news on social media last week. Opening first in Pleasanton in 1989, the salon eventually expanded to San Francisco before closing both locations and opening its current spot on Main Street in 2003, a downtown staple until the

shelter order hit earlier this year.

When Maven & Co. does reopen, Hatcher wants to be able to offer clients a range of services including highlights and extensions in a proper setting indoors instead of outdoors, as was briefly allowed in neighboring Contra Costa County until the end of June.

"A \$55 haircut doesn't require getting sprayed down in a parking lot; it's not an appropriate offer," Hatcher said. "It chips away at the

See **HAIR SALONS** on Page 7

Livermore reviewing East Ave. corridor

Provide ideas for improvements at workshop next week

By RIYA CHOPRA

The city of Livermore is hosting its first virtual workshop to receive community input on the East Avenue Corridor Study next week.

The study is focused on enhancing mobility and safety on the segment of East Avenue, between South Livermore Avenue and South Vasco Road. Throughout the course of three community workshops, the city aims to identify traffic-related issues within the corridor and discuss options for improvements.

"The study was already identified to start when a tragic accident occurred midblock along East Ave.," city engineer Cheri Sheets said, referencing the traffic collision that killed pedestrian Yaneli Morales one year ago this week. "This prompted the city to expand the study to include lighting and further enhancements to safety for all modes of travel."

The first workshop, which is scheduled to be held over Zoom next Wednesday (Aug. 12) starting at 6:30 p.m., will introduce the project and its scope to the community before delving in to some preliminary findings and community input.

See **EAST AVENUE** on Page 6

Patient criteria change for COVID-19 testing at fairgrounds

Asymptomatic residents now must fall into specific categories

By JEREMY WALSH

The COVID-19 regional testing site at the Alameda County Fairgrounds introduced new criteria to determine residents eligible to receive the assessment, effective this week.

The testing site remains open to symptomatic residents and those who have been in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, but now asymptomatic residents must fall into specific job- or health-related categories in order to qualify — as well as a caveat that people with pre-existing health conditions or older age (but asymptomatic) are no longer on the eligible list for testing like they had been before.

As always, they must be a resident of Pleasanton, Dublin or Livermore and 10 years old or older.

“Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare will be following the new testing criteria at the Regional COVID-19 Testing Site in accordance with the California Department of Public Health and Alameda County Public Health Department’s updated testing guidelines,” Pleasanton city officials said last weekend.

The program, which opened on April 27 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, is a partnership among the

three cities, Stanford-ValleyCare and the fairgrounds.

Currently, the site is operational from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays through Fridays with a testing capacity of 240 per day (1,200 tests per week). No appointment or physician referral is needed, and there are no out-of-pocket expenses onsite.

There were 12,136 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 193 deaths related to the virus countywide, according to ACPHD data on Wednesday. Of those positive cases, 522 were in Livermore, 242 in Pleasanton and 139 in Dublin.

For those interested in a COVID-19 test at the fairgrounds, Stanford-ValleyCare officials describe COVID-19 symptoms as including fever, chills or repeated shaking; cough or sore throat; shortness of breath; loss of taste or smell; muscle pain; headache; runny or congested nose; diarrhea; or nausea and vomiting.

No longer on the testing-eligible list, in line with state guidelines, are asymptomatic people who were previously eligible due to age or a chronic health condition, according to Pleasanton city officials.

Previously, anyone 65 years old or older could get a test without

symptoms, as could a pregnant person or a patient with a blood disorder, kidney or liver disease, diabetes, compromised immune system, or heart, lung or neurological disease.

As of this week, asymptomatic residents must fall into one of these categories, according to Stanford-ValleyCare officials:

1. Live in higher risk congregate care facilities including skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, correctional facilities or homeless shelters.

2. Work in the health care sector who have frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. The health care sector includes hospitals; skilled nursing facilities; long-term care facilities; ambulatory surgery centers; health care providers’ offices; health care clinics; pharmacies; blood banks; dialysis centers; hospices; and home health providers.

3. Work in a congregate care facility, including shelters for people experiencing homelessness and residential care facilities for the elderly.

4. Provide care to an elderly person or a person with a disability in the home, including a person

providing care through California’s In-Home Supportive Services Program.

5. Work in the emergency services sector who have frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. The emergency services sector includes police and public safety departments, fire departments and emergency service response operations.

6. Work in a correctional facility.

7. Patients requiring pre-operative/pre-hospital admission screening.

8. Patients being discharged from hospitals to lower levels of care.

Also eligible are asymptomatic residents who work in one of the following sectors who have frequent interactions with the public or who work in an environment where it is not practical to maintain at least six feet of space from other workers on a consistent basis:

1. Individuals who work in the retail or manufacturing sectors.

2. Individuals who work in the food services sector including grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, and grocery or meal delivery services.

3. Individuals who work in the

agricultural or food manufacturing sector including food production and processing facilities, slaughter facilities, harvesting sites or facilities, and food packing facilities.

4. Individuals who work in the public transportation sector including public transit, passenger rail service, passenger ferry service, public airports, and commercial airlines.

5. Individuals who work in the education sector including public and private childcare establishments, pre-kindergarten programs, primary and secondary schools, and colleges and universities.

As in the past, all insurances are accepted and will be billed, but there will be no out-of-pocket costs. Those without insurance will have the cost of testing waived, and cash pay fees are waived, officials said.

Test results may take up to 72 hours, but may be available sooner. Patients will need to provide a phone number or email address to receive results and follow-up information.

Enter through the fairgrounds Gate 12 located off Valley Avenue. Signage will direct drivers. Other signage will also be posted outside the gate if the day’s testing capacity is reached before noon. ■

Fairgrounds expanding drive-in entertainment

By JEREMY WALSH

The Alameda County Fairgrounds is doubling down on the drive-up entertainment model this summer.

Fairgrounds officials have announced that the drive-in movies and food truck series have been extended through Labor Day weekend, while they’ve also added new music shows and educational programming — all ways to offer socially distanced entertainment options in Pleasanton amid the COVID-19 pandemic that forced the annual county fair to be canceled for the first time in over a century.

“Vehicle-based events are

becoming the industry standard to keep communities safe and also provide them a way to escape and enjoy each day,” Angel Moore, the fair’s vice president of business development, said in a statement Tuesday. “The Alameda County Fairgrounds is excited to be a part of this positive way to engage the community and our annual fair guests.”

Moore pointed out that attendees are required to wear masks any time they’re outside of their vehicles, and signs are posted around the grounds reminding guests of key rules and guidelines under the Alameda

County Public Health Department’s current health order.

The “Under the Stars: Drive-In Movies” series, which kicked off in June and has shown classic movies on Friday and Saturday nights since, has been extended through Sept. 5. The movie schedule is generally updated on a weekly basis, and tickets often go quickly.

The fairgrounds has also hosted food trucks offering fair food favorites and other meal options on Fridays and Saturdays. The series will continue through Sept. 5 and has been rebranded from “Grab-n-Go” to now “Grab-n-Stay” — with picnic

tables spaced out over six feet apart or guests encouraged to eat in their cars.

Added to the entertainment slate as well are fresh drive-in concerts and new live DJ shows and educational programming.

“A Weekend of Country” will offer three acts performing each night this weekend live onstage, with audience members watching from their vehicles. Moonshine Crazy and Locked N Loaded Music will play tonight and Saturday evening, while Ryan Scripps will perform tonight and Sin Wagon on Saturday.

Sublime with Rome is set to

perform on Aug. 21 and 22.

The “Live DJ Drive-In Concerts” will start tonight with Blunts & Blondes, HES\$H and Triple F, and continue with Subtronics with Calcium and Level Up on Aug. 29 — but that show is already sold out.

Then on Aug. 16, the fairgrounds is hosting “Wildlife Adventures: A Safari Experience,” described as an immersive drive-in educational program with proceeds going back into animal rescue organizations, according to Moore.

For tickets and other information on all of the vehicle-based events, visit alamedacountyfair.com. ■

County supervisors send new sales tax proposal to November ballot

Alameda County residents will decide in November whether they want to pay an additional half-cent on top of the current 9.25% sales tax in the county.

County supervisors adopted a proposed ordinance unanimously last week at their meeting in Oakland to send the question to voters.

The proposal could raise about \$150 million each year for the life of the tax, which would be 10 years. The tax would go into effect on April 1, 2021.

Money would go toward essential county services such as mental

health, housing, addressing homelessness, and among other services, job training.

“With the COVID crisis and so many out of work in our county, our system will have to do more with less money,” Supervisor Wilma Chan said in a statement on July 28. “The tax increase is necessary to provide essential safety net services.”

Five cities in the county already have a sales tax of 9.75%. In those cities, the sales tax would be 10.25% if the measure is approved.

The measure has been in the works for over two years and

hundreds of people have worked on it, said Sharon Cornu, executive director of St. Mary’s Center, a non-profit in West Oakland that strives to improve the quality of life for seniors and others.

Cornu said they’ve seen seniors pushed into homelessness.

“There are skyrocketing housing costs,” she said, which has led to homelessness for some.

Cornu said the tax helps people who would otherwise be displaced, some of whom have lived in the county their whole lives. ■

—Bay City News Service

EAST AVENUE

Continued from Page 5

The second planned workshop would solicit community feedback on three different draft alternative concepts and possibly rework another, hybrid possibility. A third and potentially final workshop would follow to present the hybrid alternative to the community, according to city staff.

Possible components of a solution highlighted on the project website include adding high-visibility crosswalks, medians, speed feedback signs and other traffic solutions. The site also lists the pros and cons associated with each solution.

The East Avenue Corridor Study was initiated as part of Livermore’s Active Transportation Plan, as the heavily traveled corridor has a discontinuous bicycle lane and the sidewalk is encumbered with many utility poles, according to city officials.

Data collection and evaluation for the study has been underway since April; recommendations are expected to be brought to the City Council by the end of this year.

The city is conducting a public survey to evaluate current conditions on the corridor. The online survey, as well as general information about the East Avenue project, can be found at www.eastavecorridorstudy.com. ■

'Teenage Rx' short film warns youth about opioids

LPPFD, schools, nonprofits team up on video about prescription drug safety

By JULIA BAUM

Responding to a rise in opioid deaths and overdoses among young adults over the past several years, the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPPFD) and a number of organizations from both communities recently banded together to create "Teenage Rx," a newly released documentary that shares "a strong message on the risks and impacts" of teen opioid use.

Much attention has been given to the problem of street drugs like cocaine and heroin but "Teenage Rx" aims to educate people — and especially teens — about what LPPFD officials called the "avoidable outcomes" of using prescription drugs.

"There is a common misconception among teens that misuse of prescription drugs is generally safe because the medications were prescribed by a physician," LPPFD officials said in a statement Monday. "However, the reality is that misuse of these medications can result in a fatal overdose or lead to a lifetime of substance use that has an enormous negative impact on family and community."

Noting a more recent "increase in responses to young adults suffering

the tragic consequences of opioid overdose," including several deaths in the community, a group of LPPFD personnel started meeting in late 2018 to discuss how they could stop the problem. It was then decided to bring in the help of local experts and youths to create a video highlighting the seriousness of prescription drug abuse.

"As a first responder, you lean into a problem. The idea was born out of the 'Every 15 Minutes' concept and evolved with the partnership formed when working with the experts," LPPFD Capt. Rod Leijten said.

"Teenage Rx" was locally produced and came together with support from the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, Pleasanton and Livermore Valley school districts, Axis Community Health, as well as National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse founder April Rovero and Patti Frei, whose son Chase, a Foothill student, died of an overdose three years ago. The documentary also got a helping hand from students with the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Foothill High School, where filming took place.

The nine-minute narrative follows

several Foothill students throughout the day and depicts a number of illegal sales of prescription drugs on campus.

The drama reaches its peak when an intoxicated girl passes out during classes and LPPFD personnel are summoned to the scene. Facts and information about prescription drug use and how to get help are shared in popup bubbles throughout the film, which also features an interview with Frei near the end.

"We were happy to have our Foothill Visual and Performing Arts Department collaborate with our partners at the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department to focus on such an important topic and issue in our community and across the country for our youth," Pleasanton Unified School District officials said in a statement. "We hope that this film will be a resource and a starting point for important conversations and education around teen addiction for our students and families and how we can, as a community, address this issue."

"Teenage Rx" can be viewed on the LPPFD Facebook page at facebook.com/livermorepleasantonfd. ■

HAIR SALONS

Continued from Page 5

integrity of our professionalism and the quality of our services to where it's not feasible to offer them to our guests. It's not a fair act to ask that of them and then charge them what we need to charge them."

The state's proposed solutions for outdoor salons are also impractical, Hatcher argued, noting that conditions like the sun and wind make stylists' jobs harder. She also said the safety regulations issued "were, broadly wear sunscreen, don't trip on electric cords, and watch out for lightning storms. It was insulting and absurd."

"How is being outside in an uncontrolled environment more sanitary than our space?" Hatcher said.

The salon has added station dividers and sanitation stations, removed its lounge area, and invested in air purifiers, blue lights and sanitizing wands — all in the name of client health and safety. "That, to us, seems so much more sanitary than on a sidewalk in a lawn chair," she added.

Hatcher also said the logistics of "dragging our salon chairs down an elevator every day in 100-degree heat is just nonsense; it's just silly."

An underground market for illicit haircuts has also sprung up due to the extended closures, potentially exposing both stylists and their clients to the virus, according to Hatcher, who has received multiple

requests for at-home services.

"I could probably count 10 stylists off the top of my head who I know are doing house calls," she said.

Following the July 22 protest in Oakland, Hatcher said the state Board of Barbering and Cosmetology had a hearing scheduled earlier this week. The hearing's purpose was to receive input from stylists and salon owners about reopening, but Hatcher said local businesses need a strong advocate to help make that happen.

To that end, Hatcher said she and the other stylists at Maven & Co. have been trying unsuccessfully to connect with Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley and see whether he will go to bat for them.

The local economy "has remained at the forefront of my mind" since the start of sheltering in place but the

county is at the state's mercy, Miley told the Weekly in a statement.

"The current plight of hair salons and personal services reflects the difficult intersection between county and state regulation during this pandemic," Miley said. "While my office prioritizes this issue and has directly been in touch with Public Health multiple times for updates regarding when and how personal services will be allowed to re-open, Alameda County continues to currently be monitored by the state due to our rate of positive COVID19 cases as reported by Public Health."

Though there is no timeline "yet as to when the pause will end," Miley said he intends to "fully support reasonable and safe personal service practices" when the county is ready to move forward. ■

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/E. SCHOLZ

Kick it with Kaia

Kaia is gorgeous, and she knows it! This sassy girl loves to strut her stuff. Join this 1-year-old domestic medium-hair on the catwalk. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, they are coordinating adoptions by appointment with approved adopters. Email info@valleyhumane.org.

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Pleasanton PD promotes three

Lt. Gamez, Sgt. Albert, Sgt. Dawson

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton Police Department recently elevated three employees in its latest round of promotions from among the ranks of its sworn police force.

Now Lt. Reginaldo “Roy” Gamez was promoted from sergeant, while officers Nick Albert and Ryan Dawson each attained the rank of sergeant.

“We are proud to watch them develop as leaders while they continue serving our Pleasanton community,” PPD officials said last week in a social media post announcing the promotions, along with a photograph of the three men standing apart and wearing face coverings in line with COVID-19 protocols.

Lt. Gamez, a native of San Jose and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps,



Posed in a socially distanced manner and wearing masks due to COVID-19 are (from left) Sgt. Nick Albert, Lt. Reginaldo “Roy” Gamez and Sgt. Ryan Dawson.

joined Pleasanton PD as a police officer in 2005 after working for the Riverside County Sheriff’s Office. He was promoted to sergeant in 2016.

During his time in Pleasanton, Gamez served as a school resource officer at Amador Valley High School, was an adviser for the Police

Explorers program and supervised the department’s special enforcement unit. He is also on track to earn a master’s degree in law enforcement public safety leadership in the coming weeks.

Sgt. Albert was raised in Pleasanton and is an Amador Valley alum. He served in the U.S. Army and worked for the Oakland Police Department before joining PPD as an officer in 2011. He is the president of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association and a member of the East County Tactical Team.

Sgt. Dawson, a native of San Diego, has worked for PPD since 2007, including time previously as a school resource officer at Foothill High and currently as a member of the department’s crisis negotiation team. ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Plan Comm opening

The Dublin Planning Commission has an unscheduled vacancy after Commissioner Scott Mittan resigned last month, and is seeking a replacement with a term expiring in December 2022.

Mittan stepped down from his position on July 17 because he moved out of Dublin. He was originally appointed to the Planning Commission in January 2015.

The Planning Commission acts as an advisory body for the Dublin City Council, and is made up of seven members — five full-term commissioners and two alternates.

Applications must be submitted by Aug. 14 at 5 p.m. Visit www.dublin.ca.gov.

School waiver

State epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan on Tuesday outlined the state’s waiver process for K-6 schools that seek to hold classes in person even if they are in a county on California’s COVID-19 coronavirus watch list.

Pan, the former health officer for Alameda County, said K-6 schools can apply for a waiver to begin in-person instruction if they are located in a county that meets several criteria in spite of being on the state’s watch list.

Individual schools must submit a site-specific plan to keep students and staff safe, taking into account input from interest groups like labor unions and parent organizations. Those schools must then publicly post their plan and submit it to their local health officer to apply for a waiver.

California Department of Public Health officials will then review each application on a case-by-case basis.

—Bay City News Service

Virtual walkathon

Aiming to increase awareness for hepatitis B, the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University and its supporters — such as 15-year-old Pleasanton twins Arya and Esha Cyril, youth advocates for the group — have organized participants for a virtual walkathon being held worldwide through Monday (Aug. 10).

With a message of “stand united against hepatitis B,” the walkathon encourages people to walk or hike around their neighborhood and take a picture in which they held a message or symbol showing why the cause is important to them. To learn more, visit joinjade.org/about.

Bobcat Bridge open

Though originally slated to take several weeks, repairs on the Bobcat Bridge at Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore were recently completed in just several days.

Work on the pedestrian span near the entrance at Wetmore Road started July 20 and was scheduled for three weeks but finished in three days, according to the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Renovations included replacing deck planks across the entire span of the bridge. ■

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

Vice Mayor Kathy Narum asked about starting construction sooner instead of waiting as is planned until summer 2022.

“Given that traffic is one of the biggest issues that residents are concerned with, and the financial situation at the school district, is there any way to get this under construction in the summer as opposed to waiting

for 2022,” Narum said. “What would it take, or is it even feasible to move this up a year sooner?”

City Manager Nelson Fialho said that even an expedited process “takes four to six months for the design element to get either way through, and that’s assuming that we can turn and get these review elements all the way through.”

“As much as I would love to try ... we don’t believe we’re going to be able to make that happen,” Nelson said.

Narum then inquired whether the completion of work on Highway 84 will “give some alleviation on 680 and Bernal with residents getting off at Highway 84 instead of cutting through Pleasanton.”

Traffic engineer Mike Tassano replied that he was “excited for the protected intersection,” but even more about the progress being made on Highway 84 and the Interstate 680 express lane.

“Those are projects that, even though Caltrans doesn’t like to admit it, they are capacity enhancing, which means that is fewer vehicles that are looking for local cut-through routes,” Tassano said.

Construction on the Bernal-Sunol-First intersection is set to start in late 2021 with major work getting underway in summer 2022. The council also unanimously approved a \$361,200 contract with HMM Engineers for related design and biddable construction document preparation Tuesday evening.

In other business

- A presentation about the city’s 2020-21 capital improvement program (CIP) budget included both an update from city staff and their assurance that plans for the Vineyard Avenue Trail are on track.


Every two years the council adopts a CIP to ensure the city’s capital improvement and infrastructure needs are met.

City staff recently conducted a midterm review of the CIP to assure funds are available for approved projects; to change, add or cancel projects “so they are consistent with the current funding, workloads and scheduling;” and generally assure that everything meets council priorities and community expectations.

That review prepared by Fialho, assistant city manager Brian Dolan and finance director Tina Olson was shared Tuesday night.

The council accepted the report and posed few questions except for Councilwoman Karla Brown, who asked about the status of a planned

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Planning Commission

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Consistent with State and County Orders regarding the COVID-19 pandemic this will be a virtual meeting. Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available August 5, when the agenda is posted on the City’s website at: cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp

- P20-0618, Robert Matheson, 6 Winding Oaks Drive
Application for Design Review approval to construct an approximately 4,875-square-foot, single-story residence with an approximately 883-square-foot attached garage and an approximately 2,158-square-foot detached garage/shop. Zoning is Planned Unit Development – Hillside Residential/Open Space (PUD-HR/OS) District.
- P19-0563, Leticia De Brito for Dermody Properties, 4225 Hacienda Drive
Application for a blanket Conditional Use Permit to allow warehouse uses in a portion of an existing building at 4225 Hacienda Drive. Zoning for the property is PUD-I/C-O (Planned Unit Development - Industrial/Commercial and Office) District.
- P19-0128 and P19-0129, Public Storage, 3716 Stanley Boulevard
Workshop to review and receive comments on applications for Design Review and Conditional Use Permit to modify an existing self-storage facility (Public Storage) as follows: 1) demolish seven existing storage buildings and office; 2) construct a 900-square-foot office; 3) construct a 9,750-square-foot one-story storage building; 4) construct a 194,377-square-foot three-story storage building; and 5) construct related site improvements. Zoning for the property is C-S (Service-Commercial) District.

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

Seniors Living Well

Inside:

- An epidemic of loneliness
- Satisfying nutrition needs
- Real estate tips for seniors

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Senior Center keeps folks connected

Social and tech programs continue as well as curbside lunches

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Pleasanton Senior Center is normally a bustling place with folks pouring through the doors weekdays for classes, talks and lunches or to browse through the Peddler Shoppe's handcrafted items.

Closed since mid-March due to the pandemic, the gathering place's spirit continues as staff and members explore how to keep everyone engaged.

"We're trying to keep up our programming but had to shift to virtual," city recreation supervisor Rachel Prater said.

Almost immediately, the center began offering 11 a.m. Tuesday Talks with Friends on Zoom, which are proving to be popular, she said. This week, participants shared their pets. Coming up are "In the Kitchen" with Nicole Peters on Aug. 11; "Mind your Memory" with Susan and

Margaret, Aug. 18; and "Favorite Vacation Memory," Aug. 25.

"We wanted to find a way people could see each other face to face," Prater said. "When the facility was open, we had so many people coming in just to socialize. We always had a puzzle and people coming in for coffee or to grab a book."

Staff members started telephoning those who had frequented the center, just to chat and to get ideas about what people might enjoy right now.

"What I have loved about working at the Senior Center is being able to talk to the folks who come in and hear their stories," Prater said. "Now we are getting to know them on a different level, like hearing about their garden."

People are finding new activities according to their interests, she observed. Many of the crafty people who keep the Peddler Shoppe filled



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers, including Gina Marie Woodard in unicorn garb, stand outside the Senior Center during curbside lunch pickup in April to entertain and encourage the diners with dances and inspirational signs.

with inventory have been opening up Etsy shops online.

"I was really impressed," Prater said.

The Senior Center on Sunol Boulevard continues its weekday lunch program for those 60 and older using curbside service. The nutritious lunch, which costs \$3, normally provides a chance to join friends in the dining room but now at least it is delivered to cars with a

friendly word and smiling eyes over the masks. The menu is available in the "EDGE E-Newsletter," which can be found through the city website, www.cityofpleasantonca.gov. For reservations, call 500-8241.

EDGE also has information about the Friendly Calls program and links to fitness videos, games, entertainment and more, including "Name that Tune" on Zoom the third Thursday of each month.

The Senior Center also continues with Pleasanton Paratransit, to drive those ages 70 and older to medical appointments and grocery shopping on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Senior Center Watercolor Group led by Robin Violette meets once a week on Zoom, and last month presented a virtual art show for downloading. Tom Reif leads the Personal Technology Users Group of computer enthusiasts as they enjoy discussions and demonstrations. Contact information is listed in EDGE.

"An interesting aspect is that with groups that have been going on for years, someone who moved out of state is able to join us again," Prater said.

The Senior Center still has staff working onsite, including Prater; recreation coordinator Shawn Harris, who coordinates virtual programs for seniors as well as RADD (Recreation for Adults with Developmental Disabilities); paratransit dispatcher Gloria Lewis; and senior program assistant Evelyn Widmann, who works

part time. They alternate days onsite so two rarely work together, but if they do, they stay in their own areas.

"We greet phone callers and get emails here," Prater said. "If someone wants to join Zoom but doesn't know where to start, a team member will pick up the phone and talk them through it."

She recalled a 94-year-old front desk volunteer who, after the closure, was determined to learn to Zoom.

"The first couple of times she was struggling but she figured it out," Prater said.

The Friends of the Senior Center, a nonprofit organization that focuses on raising funds, has joined in the brainstorming about what to offer. When they thought of holding a rock-painting social time on Zoom, they sponsored it.

"They paid for kits, with a couple of rocks with paints and paint brushes," Prater said. "Everyone joined up and painted rocks together."

"We're trying to think outside the box here," she added with a laugh.

Community services manager Jay Ingram, who oversees the human services division of the Senior Center, said conversations are ongoing at the department level of the city about what changes might come out of the pandemic.

"We're actually in discussion now on what does the fall look like," Ingram said, "assuming we can come back some time in the fall or



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tuesday Talks with Friends meets on Zoom with special guest librarian Karen Leary leading a session called "Let's Talk Books."

See SENIOR CENTER on Page 11

An epidemic of loneliness

Seniors face heightened feelings of isolation due to ongoing pandemic, health restrictions

By RYAN J. DEGAN

In a time when isolation can mean the difference between healthy living and potential exposure to the coronavirus, many senior residents living on their own — who may have already been susceptible to acute loneliness — have been having a particularly rough go of it.

Residents aged 65 and older have been classified as an at-risk population during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with the virus significantly more deadly among older residents, according to the Alameda County Public Health Department.

The danger posed by the virus has made it necessary for senior residents to avoid crowded public places, put off running everyday errands and even stop seeing friends and family in-person, creating a situation where many seniors feel alone and cut off from their own community.

“I think we’re pretty fortunate. You know we have our own house and our expenses aren’t too much, and we have been taking advantage of some of the (senior programs),” said Pleasanton resident Bob Wahrer, who is set to turn 91 miles old this week. “Not being able to see people ... the isolation of not being able to see anybody, not being able to go out, is tough.”

Bob said he is fortunate in that he lives with

his wife of 67 years, Jan; however, that doesn’t mean that the pair haven’t felt isolated from their community due to the pandemic and subsequent shelter-in-place order.

“Not being able to go anywhere, and even if you get there, you don’t know if you are going to be able to accomplish anything — that’s one of our biggest concerns right now,” he said.

Not necessarily a new issue for seniors, widespread feelings of isolation and loneliness that have been compounded by the pandemic might have existed long before the outbreak.

According to a report released by the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation in October 2018, 45% of seniors felt lonely on a regular basis — a feeling that when left to fester can have a similar impact to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, according to the report.

Robert Taylor, executive director of the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, said these feelings of isolation and loneliness commonly abound in seniors who have retired from their jobs and have faced the recent death of a spouse, friend or other loved one.

“That’s a pretty typical scenario for seniors facing isolation. In our program, we usually see seniors doing particularly well until a spouse or very close friend passes away and then we have people who think they don’t



GETTY IMAGES

Public and nonprofit agencies in the Tri-Valley have been striving to tackle isolation among seniors during the time of coronavirus, including by offering phone or online check-ins as well as informational helplines.

really have anybody else. They haven’t really cultivated a network of support,” Taylor told the Weekly.

“Add health issues that come into play, and they lose the confidence to be a part of their community or really to just leave their home,” he added.

Further highlighting the fact social isolation and loneliness not only leads to mental health concerns like depression, extended periods of being alone or homebound can also lead to a number of physical health difficulties.

To help seniors break free from isolation, Taylor said the No. 1 starting point is to reach out to someone and let them know they need a little support. Reaching out to an old friend,

family member, a neighbor, local church affiliate or senior support group are all good places to begin.

“I would tell (seniors) to contact us,” added Mercel Amin, administrative director for Senior Support. “We are a big team of passionate individuals, and we are really here to service the underserved and seniors. Especially now, but year-round, because they are so underserved throughout the year.”

Amin told the Weekly that Senior Support has a number of programs to provide assistance to older residents, ranging from grocery delivery and in-home counseling to

See **LONELINESS** on Page 15

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SSPTV

Volunteers line up grocery bags to be delivered to homebound seniors who are normally given rides to grocery stores.

Calling all homebound seniors

Senior Support Program is reaching out to help

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

As sheltering in place finishes its fifth month, Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley works to make sure no one is left to fend alone.

“We are still doing food drops for isolated seniors who have no family or no ability to get to the stores at all,” friendly visitors coordinator Pam Silliman reported. “We are trying to promote Meals on Wheels for them so we know they’ll have someone to check on them as well.”

She also makes sure that she or her volunteers mail cards and notes as well as making telephone calls in lieu of the usual visits in person.

“We send out a newsletter every other week if they have access to email,” Silliman said. “I’ve been printing out and sending parts of that to my seniors.”

The newsletters include tips on things to do at home and emergency telephone numbers.

She said the list of seniors she watches out for has grown since shelter in place began, and Friendly Visitors is currently helping 130.

“We are adding more every month,” Silliman said. “It’s a word of mouth kind of thing. I’d love to be able to do more if they know about us.”

“Lots of seniors don’t really know we can do things to assist them,” she added. “They think everything is closed but we’ve stayed open every day. If we can’t handle what they need, we pass it to a case manager.”

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley has facilities adjacent to the Pleasanton Senior Center on Sunol Boulevard, and food bags are prepared there for distribution once a month with staples as well as other donated goodies and fun items.

“We’ve added toilet paper to every one of our drops,” Silliman said.

Volunteers have been providing rides for



SSPTV

High school students created Father’s Day cards to bring joy to dads who are contacted by the Friendly Visitors program.

seniors who need to go to the doctor or other appointments outside Pleasanton, which is served by paratransit.

“We can drive outside the city and that has been really good for the seniors,” Silliman said.

She can also advise on general help such as how to get a prescription picked up.

“I am looking for more seniors and more volunteers,” she said. “We’ve gotten calls from wonderful neighbors who have helped homebound seniors.”

She also works with high school students, who made cards for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, and she is working on setting up pen pals.

The program also is putting together an exercise video to distribute to seniors to use at home, and gathering recipes to get creative with common pantry items.

Silliman urges people to let her know about a senior who could benefit from help.

“The more seniors, the better,” she said.

Contact her at Psilliman@ssptv.org or phone 931-5379. ■

SENIOR CENTER

Continued from Page 9

sometime afterwards.”

“It is important to continue services,” he said. “Each department will have discussions.”

The city of Pleasanton has customers “cradle to grave,” he noted, and strategic planning is important to bring back suspended activities and services. Gingerbread Preschool’s opening

for Aug. 24 has been pushed back.

Ingram said probably the reopening of Senior Center activities will be done in phases.

“We’ll have to figure out what that looks like,” Ingram said. “The senior population is not a population we want to rush back. We will be strategic about this.”

“We are driven by county orders and the city’s comfort with it,” he added. “We will take a strategic, careful and thoughtful approach going forward.” ■



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Senior nutrition, food insecurities increase due to COVID-19

Meals on Wheels severely impacted; program adapts to social distancing

By EMMA HALL

Deanna Steinhauer reminisces of a time before COVID-19.

She had been inspired to join Meals on Wheels locally as a volunteer during retirement. It was a service her parents relied on, after he mother fell ill and then became paralyzed after a stroke; her father took care of her mother during those times and used the Meals on Wheels program for assistance.

As a volunteer with Spectrum Community Services' Meals on Wheels program since February, Steinhauer used to deliver meals directly to seniors and form a unique connection that only comes with talking to her clients.

But now, because of social distancing, those interactions have been halted.

These days, to deliver emergency meal kits, Steinhauer slips on her gloves and puts on her mask. She remembers her relationship with a male client who had difficulty walking. As a result, she would simply walk into his home, put the meal on his table, and talk.

Their conversations were personal. They're what Steinhauer misses the most.

"I wish I could say this was the last week (that we have to social distance) because that would be so much better," she said. "But I don't think we'll go back until everybody else does. I don't really see an end in sight."

Despite the limitations, Steinhauer said she is grateful that Spectrum's Meals on Wheels is still helping seniors.

The new normal

Carrie Oldes, the program manager at Spectrum, described how COVID-19 has impacted the service. The program runs 16 rounds a day, and minimally according to Oldes, needs 16 people to help her deliver meals. However, because of a decrease in volunteers, the program has only two volunteers and scrambles to figure on who will run each route.

"The need is still there for help," she said.

No matter the challenges, though, the program still delivers hot meals to clients every day.

"Without us, for many of them, we're their only lifeline," Oldes

said. "So if we don't go see them, they're not going to see another human being that day."

The absence of personal interaction has been hard for volunteers and clients. Arguably, the personal interactions between them is what is treasured the most by the program.

Nevertheless, the program, clients and volunteers alike understand that adopting social distancing is vital for everyone's safety.

"I don't know if we'll go back to where we went into their houses," Steinhauer said. "I think it will always be that we drop it off at the door. I don't know if the clients want us coming in and exposing anything to anybody."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated seniors are at the highest risk for severe illness. In fact, eight out of every 10 COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. have been individuals 65 or older. And with the state of California hitting record highs for COVID-19 deaths, Spectrum's Meals on Wheels have taken precautions.

"It's what we have to do, and they appreciate us taking those protocols. They're older and they're nervous about being around people," Steinhauer said.

According to Alicia Morales, the division director of the Alameda County Social Services Agency Division of Aging and Adult Protection, all older adults 60 and above may qualify for food assistance. Working with the county and other services, Spectrum's Meals on Wheels program has expanded to make sure every senior in need is taken care of during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior nutrition

Traditionally, a Meals on Wheels client is at least 60 years old and unable to leave their home. Although, because of COVID, the service ranges out to any senior who can give the program a call.

"The COVID-19 crisis has created an unprecedented surge in food insecurity throughout the county," Morales said during a public service announcement in May. "Senior nutrition programs have seen a 100% increase in requests for meals and grocery deliveries since the shelter-in-place



LARRY ROSA

Top: Spectrum Community Services volunteer Deanna Steinhauer practices social distancing with a senior client who is receiving a meal provided through the Meals on Wheels program.

Bottom: Steinhauer grabs the prepackaged meal from her car to deliver to a Meals on Wheels client.

went into effect."

Krista Lucchesi is the program director of Mercy Brown Bag, an organization that provides groceries for Spectrum on meal deliveries; specifically the program works with low-income seniors in Alameda County.

Lucchesi noted that since COVID-19 hit the Bay Area, there has been a 45% growth of senior clients. Seniors who have never needed the service in the past are calling on Mercy Brown Bag's assistance.

With the surge of more seniors needing meals, Morales stated that Alameda County's senior programs will serve over 1 million meals this year that align with proper senior nutrition.

"Proper nutrition is critical to

promoting physical and mental well-being," she said.

Lucchesi stated that maintaining a healthy diet can prevent cognitive problems, falling, balance difficulties and muscle weakness.

"For us, when we talk about senior nutrition, it overlays with the fundamentals of any good nutrition," she said. "We want to make sure they have enough protein because protein is used for your brain, muscles, overall to keep you strong."

Keeping this in mind, Mercy Brown Bag looks for low sodium products, softer foods that accommodate dental issues and lean proteins. Even with high prices for protein products, Mercy Brown Bag is still able to purchase these items for their clients.

"We want people to have enough as possible that's vital to be strong and thrive," Lucchesi said.

Spectrum's Meals on Wheels and Mercy Brown Bag are determined to do what they can to assist the seniors of the Tri-Valley and Alameda County. Even so, Lucchesi said they can't do it alone.

She encourages residents to check in on their older family members, to see how they're doing and be a part of their communities, especially during these times, where seniors fear leaving their homes because of COVID-19.

"We feel like that community connection, especially if you're scared and staying home, is the piece that is affecting their health as well," she said. "We're doing what we can ... but it takes a village." ■

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Real estate tips for seniors

Home purchase, refinance and reverse mortgage options for older residents

By DAVID STARK

Seniors have lots of options — and even some advantages — when it comes to financing the purchase or rehabilitation of a home.

“It’s actually easier for retired people right now to qualify for a mortgage because they don’t have to go through the extra steps we’re doing for everyone else to verify they are still employed,” said Audrey Boissonou, president of the California Association of Mortgage Professionals (CAMP).

Marge Bottari, who serves on the CAMP Board of Directors, emphasized that seniors seeking any type of home purchase financing or refinancing will still need to document they are creditworthy. Seniors may need to produce some special paperwork such as award letters for pensions or other retirement plans and documentation of Social Security payments.

Boissonou said even with these requirements, “It’s just as easy to qualify for a convention loan for someone that is retired versus someone who is currently employed.”

Senior homeowners who want to remodel their home to make it safe and comfortable to age in place have choices for how to pay for that work.

Boissonou said refinancing a home to access



David Stark

equity is an option some homeowners are exploring if they need cash but don’t want to disturb their current investments.

A “reverse mortgage” is another option available exclusively for seniors.

“It’s a way of accessing part of the equity in your home in the form of a loan that you don’t need to make payments on for the rest of your life as long as you live in the home,” Bottari said. She explained borrowers still need to pay property taxes and insurance and maintain the home.

Bottari said it may be easier to secure a reverse mortgage than a home equity line of credit, adding, “It gives you access to the equity in your home in a way that’s not as strict as other loans.”

“Reverse mortgages have become a hot topic these days because people’s part-time jobs have gone away and people are worried about additional income,” she said.

Bottari indicated funds from a reverse mortgage can even be used to purchase another home.

The logistics of applying for a loan during COVID-19 is evolving to protect the health of all parties involved. Bottari said that loan officers are still able to meet face-to-face with clients while following social distancing protocols but much of the transaction can be conducted virtually.

“Usually it’s one live meeting with the

borrower and then at the closing with a notary; everything else can be handled online,” Bottari said.

A financing solution to either purchase or fix up a home or tap any equity in the home needs to fit the homeowner. Finding the right fit means doing some homework. To get the process started, “You just need to talk to a good loan officer and have a conversation,” Bottari said. ■

Editor’s note: David Stark is public affairs director for the Bay East Association of Realtors, headquartered in Pleasanton.



GETTY IMAGES

Senior homeowners have plenty of options, and even some advantages, in the current real estate market.

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (May 18-29)

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$645,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,853,000
Average sales reported: \$1,192,500

Livermore (May 18-29)

Total sales reported: 23
Lowest sale reported: \$310,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,285,000
Average sales reported: \$783,478

Dublin (May 18-29)

Total sales reported: 11
Lowest sale reported: \$525,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,385,000
Average sales reported: \$1,132,727

San Ramon (June 15-26)

Total sales reported: 43
Lowest sale reported: \$515,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,520,000
Average sales reported: \$1,110,581

Source: California REsource

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LONELINESS

Continued from Page 10

more social wellness events. Perhaps most relevant to the topic at hand, Senior Support's Friendly Visiting Volunteer Program, which pairs volunteers with seniors for socialization and companionship.

Friendly Visiting is conducted primarily via telephone with volunteers calling in to check on seniors and spending some time to chat about whatever topic comes to mind — be it family, health issues, world events or just happenings around town. Prior to COVID-19 the program also included home visits, however those have at least temporarily been disbanded due to the virus.

Volunteer opportunities are always open at Senior Support, for its Friendly Visiting and numerous other aid programs, according to staff, who added that volunteers often get as much out of the experience as clients do.

"This is a great time to volunteer to help and assist seniors," Taylor said. "Every single one of our Friendly Visiting clients absolutely loves it when they have someone to call them on a regular basis, and I would say volunteers also give us really positive feedback. It makes their day, and they feel like they've helped somebody, which they have."

For their part in breaking isolation, the Wahrsers have been keeping busy with projects and yard work around the house, and will occasionally have visits from their daughter and granddaughter from Livermore. Additionally, they subscribe to various Senior Support programs, including

its food delivery service.

They will also go on short drives or walks through their neighborhood park as a way to get out of the house and move around — activities that staff from the Senior Support say is vital in seniors maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

"It's a lot of 'Well, what do we do tomorrow,'" Bob said.

Alameda County Public Health, which also has been striving to tackle isolation among seniors during the time of coronavirus, has a number of helplines for seniors.

"Sheltering-in-place is critical to the health of older adults who are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19, but it can be overwhelming. Remember that physical isolation does not have to be socially isolating; there are connections that can be established or maintained," Faith M. Battles, assistant agency director for Alameda County's Adult and Aging Services, said in a recent public service announcement video.

"Stay connected with family and friends through phone or video calls to brighten your day, have a plan for who can help with food medicine or other supplies. Be sure to move your body every day with exercise to boost your mood and increase our energy," she added.

Residents can call the county's 24 hour friendship line at 1-800-971-0016 to chat with a volunteer or learn more anti-isolation strategies. If a resident is in need of more urgent care, they can call the county's Crisis Support Services line at 1-800-273-8255. For an emergency, call 9-1-1. ■



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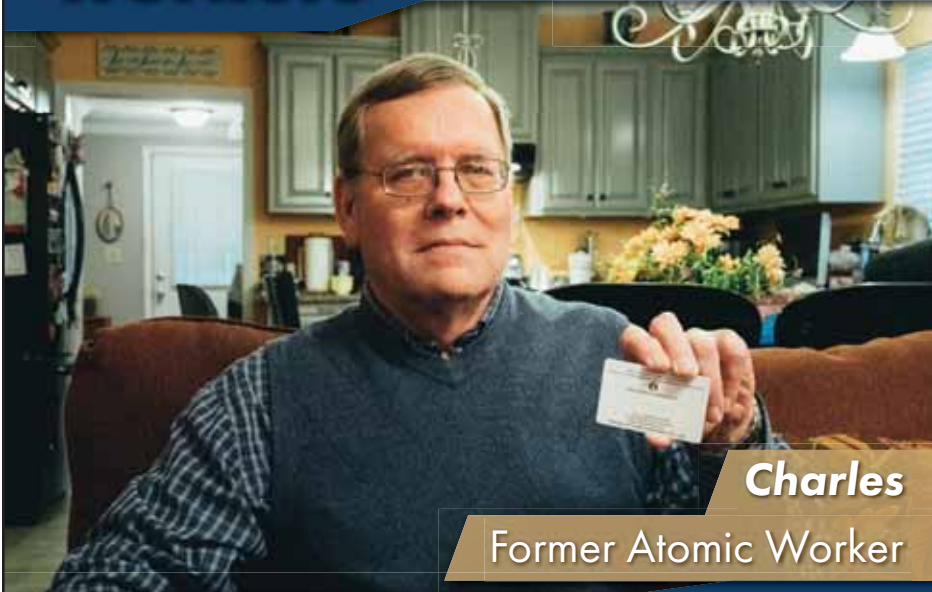
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Tri-Valley seniors calendar

Music

NAME THAT TUNE Join Vicky on Zoom the third Thursday of every month for the "Name that Tune" program. The next event is Aug. 20 at 1 p.m. For more details, visit www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Travel

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL Virtually visit Yellowstone National Park. Contact the Pleasanton Senior Center for details at 931-5385 or go to www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Talks & Lectures

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS For more information on this program, call 510-832-3040

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY USERS GROUP The Personal Technology Users Group is for all computer enthusiasts. It includes discussions, lectures, demonstrations and a question-and-answer period. This event will be held virtually on Aug. 27. For more information, email pleaseniorg@gmail.com.

BILLS MADE CLEAR-DECIPHERING MEDICAL BILLS Recent Foothill High graduate and Harvard University-bound Alexander Chen has launched a student-run

initiative called Bills Made Clear to help citizens understand their medical bills. The online webinar will feature of panel of experts in patient advocacy. Aug. 8, 2-4 p.m. RSVP to billsmadeclear.org.

Support Groups

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Weekly support groups provide resource information and assistance with life transitions. Two support groups meet weekly. Mondays, 2-3 p.m. and Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. For more information, contact 931-5385.

MEALS ON WHEELS Home delivered meals for residents 60 years old and above. Call 931-5385 for more information.

DRIVE-THRU EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION Pre-packaged emergency food bags, boxes and/or produce is distributed on a first come, first served basis. Drive-thru only and masks must be worn. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Conversation

TUESDAY TALKS WITH FRIENDS Join the Friends of Pleasanton Senior Center for a weekly themed Zoom chat. Some weeks include special guests. This

See **CALENDAR** on Page 17

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CALENDAR

Continued from Page 16

week's was "Share Your Pet on Camera." Next week's (Aug. 11) will be "In the Kitchen" with Nicole Peters. Held Tuesdays, 11 a.m. Visit www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

FRIENDLY CALLS For a friendly conversation and wellness check, sign up with the city of Pleasanton by calling 931-5365.

Senior Center

LITTLE LIBRARY The Senior Center Little Library is going curbside in the parking lot. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER CLOSURE The Pleasanton Senior Center is currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. They continue to offer transportation (70+) for grocery and medical appointments, senior lunch curbside to-go meals (60+), Friendly Calls and a variety of virtual programs. Contact 931-5365 for more information. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

101 and 'No Regrets'

Two members of the local DAR Jose Maria Amador Chapter from Pleasanton — regent Cindi Newbold and registrar Jane Ullrich — took part in the No Regrets Tour when it came through the Bay Area recently with World War II veteran Sidney Walton, 101, from San Diego, accompanied by his son Paul Walton.

Walton, one of the country's oldest World War II veterans, said he is making his No Regrets Tour for people to meet him due to his own lifelong regret that he never met a Civil War veteran. So far, he has visited 32 states meeting with governors, mayors and state representatives. Last year, he met Gov. Gavin Newsom in Sacramento.

Due to COVID-10 concerns, Walton traveled to the Bay Area in a Buick

Enclave specially wrapped with photos of him past and present. A caravan formed in San Jose, stopped at San Francisco City Hall, and continued on to Mill Valley City Hall.

"My participation in the No Regrets Tour offered a safe and meaningful opportunity to honor not only Sidney Walton, but all of our WWII veterans," Newbold said. "I believe it's important to our veterans to have evidence that their fellow citizens remember their sacrifices and remain grateful for that service to our country."

Walton joined the Army at 21 to fight Hitler nine months before Pearl Harbor, and fought in the China, Burma and India theaters with the 34th Infantry, 8th Division. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



DAR

Local DAR chapter regent Cindi Newbold (left) and registrar Jane Ullrich (right) pose with World War II veteran Sidney Walton, 101.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Livermore PD seeks public's help in suspicious death case

Police are continuing to investigate the suspicious death of a Livermore man whose body was found in a local hotel room on Memorial Day weekend, and they released new photographs on Monday of four people they want to identify and interview in connection with the unsolved case.

The victim, identified publicly by police for the first time on Monday, was 24-year-old James Vincent Naples.

Naples was discovered dead inside a room at the SenS Extended-Stay Residence on Airway Boulevard on the afternoon of May 24 by police officers who were responding to the hotel for a welfare check on a room, according to Livermore police Officer Taylor Burruss.

There were no obvious signs of criminal activity or a medical emergency, so his death was deemed suspicious, Burruss told the Weekly at the time.

More than two months later, Naples' death remains unsolved — so too his cause of death, according to Burruss, with the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau final report still pending due to toxicology testing results.

Livermore detectives are now seeking the public's help in identifying four people depicted in surveillance photos released on Monday. Their role in the case was not revealed.

"Detectives would like to speak to each of the four subjects with regards to this investigation," Burruss said.

Anyone with information about any of the four individuals or about Naples' death can contact Livermore PD at 925-371-4790; callers may remain anonymous.

In other news

- Retired Pleasanton police chief David Spiller took over as Menlo Park interim police chief last Friday, replacing former chief Dave Bertini, who announced his departure during a Menlo Park City Council discussion on police reform in June.

City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson announced Spiller's hiring on July 30, which was Bertini's last day on the job.

"Chief Spiller has led a distinguished law enforcement career and is known for cultivating a spirit of cooperation and community building between his officers and residents," Jerome-Robinson said in a press release. "I'm fully confident in Chief Spiller's ability to lead the department professionally and with the utmost integrity, transparency



and commitment through this time of transition."

Spiller began his law enforcement career with the city of San Diego's police department, then worked for 11 years with the Mountain View Police Department, according to Jerome-Robinson. In 2002, he joined the Pleasanton Police Department and became police chief in 2011, retiring in November.

After retiring from Pleasanton, he worked with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Office of Internal Affairs as a member of the organization's Deadly Force Review Board.

"I have spent my entire adult life in public service and I look forward to continuing to serve," Spiller said in a press release.

- An Alameda County Sheriff's Office technician was charged last week with multiple felony counts for allegedly smuggling methamphetamine and a cellphone to an inmate currently incarcerated in Santa Rita Jail in Dublin for a murder case.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office filed 10 felony charges on July 29 against Shannon Taylor — who works for the ACSO and who is currently out of custody — including three counts of bringing drugs into a jail, four counts for possession for sale of a controlled substance, two counts of sale of a controlled substance, and one count of transportation of a controlled substance, according to court records.

"Shannon Taylor's actions not only violate the law, but also the trust the public places in those working within the justice system," DA Nancy O'Malley said in a statement.

"My office will ensure that both defendants are held to account. They not only broke the law, but also put the health and safety of inmates and staff at the jail at risk," O'Malley added. "It is deeply troubling that an employee of the sheriff's office engaged in this degree of criminal conduct, and I commend the excellent investigation that uncovered the crimes."

Taylor was arrested on June 17, following an "extensive

investigation" which revealed the defendant "on multiple occasions illegally brought a cellphone and methamphetamine into the jail and furnished it" to a Santa Rita Jail inmate, according to O'Malley. A search of Taylor's body and her purse allegedly yielded methamphetamine, and 39 grams of heroin were found during a subsequent search of her home in Antioch.

"It is alleged that the two were working together — she furnishing the methamphetamine for him to sell in the jail and sharing in the proceeds of the sales," O'Malley added.

The inmate, Leonard Jones, was scheduled for arraignment for the new case on Friday. Four years ago, Jones was convicted of attempted murder for a 2013 shooting, but had not been sentenced yet, when he was then charged with the murder of another person two months earlier.

Taylor is expected to be arraigned on Aug. 14.

- A 52-year-old woman is in custody and has been charged with murder for allegedly killing her newborn boy and leaving him in a bag in Castro Valley more than 30 years ago, Alameda County sheriff's officials said Monday.

Lesa Lopez, a resident of Salida in Stanislaus County, was arrested for a case that began on May 15, 1988, when two youths discovered the lifeless body of a newborn baby inside a bag at the top of a creek embankment near Madison and Seaview avenues.

Investigators determined the boy was alive at birth and was the victim of a homicide, but despite outreach to hospitals and local media outlets in the days and weeks after the body

was discovered, no arrest was made at the time, according to the sheriff's office.

In 2005, DNA evidence was identified from the crime scene by the sheriff's crime laboratory, with a female DNA profile entered in the national Combined DNA Index System.

This past June, forensic genetic genealogy research, combined with DNA analysis of trash discarded by Lopez, allegedly led investigators to identify her as the prime suspect in

the killing of the baby boy.

On July 23, investigators contacted her at her home and she said she hid the pregnancy from her family and friends and described what happened on May 15, 1988, sheriff's officials said. She was booked into Santa Rita Jail on \$2 million bail and was set to return to court on Wednesday for a plea hearing on the murder charge filed by the DA's office. ■

—Embarcadero Media staff and Bay City News Service

Eugene Leroy Sawatzky

December 11, 1933 – June 23, 2020

Eugene (Gene) Leroy Sawatzky passed away peacefully on June 23, 2020 near his longtime home in Pleasanton, California after a long and brave struggle with complications due to a stroke. He was 86 years old.

Gene was born in Oklahoma to John and Agatha Sawatzky on December 11, 1933. As the youngest of eleven children, he was an infant when his family emigrated from Oklahoma to Merced, California during the Dust Bowl.

There he attended grade school, middle school, and Merced High School. After high school, in an effort to gain independence, Gene moved to Calaveras County, California to live with his older sister, Agatha. It was there and then when he met, fell in love with, and married the love of his life, Carolyn (Carol) Lorraine Acosta. Soon after, they had three daughters (Melonie, Jackie, and Robin) and subsequently moved to Morgan Hill, Campbell, and eventually settled in Pleasanton, California.

Gene and Carol had a great love affair for over sixty years and in many ways they lived the American Dream. Gene was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, provider, and friend. Gene enjoyed being with extended family and friends, hosting backyard barbecues, card games and croquet matches. He was also a master mechanic. You could often find him at his work bench in the garage taking things apart and rebuilding them, engineering gadgets to help with home life, or crafting toys for his children and grandchildren. Throughout it all, Gene was often quick to smile, offer a beer and make wise-crack remarks in ways that demonstrated his affection for those around him.

Gene began his career as a welder, continued as a mechanic, and finished as a union cement truck driver. He was a hard worker, often working two jobs to make ends meet with his growing family. What Gene admired most in people was their work ethic, because it reflected the fortitude of his humble upbringing and the spirit of the American Dream.

After retiring, Gene and Carol traveled all across North America and Europe, including some memorable trips to Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, and Italy. They loved to camp, and did so all over California where they would fish, play card games, and make s'mores. They also loved to spend time in nature at their property in West Point, California. As the years passed, his devotion to Carol was most clearly demonstrated by the decades of loving care he provided Carol throughout her long illness.

Gene was also a caring grandfather to his seven grandchildren (Matthew, Danny, Lynn Ellen, Marissa, Zach, Ben, and Elle). He built treehouses in the yard, a go-cart from wood and parts he had on hand, and made slingshots for each of them. When he could, Gene taught them to fish, to love afternoon baseball games, and to enjoy nature!

Eugene will be remembered for his wit, humor, work ethic and great love for his wife and family. He will be terribly missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either the National Parkinson's Foundation or the Sierra Club.

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Pleasanton Weekly
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571276

The following person doing business as: Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306. This business is conducted by Embarcadero Media, a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein February 15, 2009. Signature of Registrant: Peter Beller, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 9, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 2020.)

Tri Valley Taxi
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571030

The following person doing business as: Tri Valley Taxi, 4900 Hopyard Road, #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Ali Naqi Akbari, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by Ali Naqi Akbari, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 1, 2013. Signature of Registrant: Ali Akbari, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 29, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2020.)

Flex Locksmith
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571330

The following person doing business as: Flex Locksmith, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Ali Naqi Akbari, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by Ali Naqi Akbari, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein June 20, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Ali Akbari, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2020.)

DeSoto Cab of Tri Valley
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571331

The following person doing business as: DeSoto Cab of Tri Valley; Yellow Cab; Pleasanton Taxi; Dublin Taxi; Livermore Taxi, Sunol Taxi, DeSoto Cab Dublin; DeSoto Cab Pleasanton; DeSoto Cab Livermore; DeSoto Cab, 4900 Hopyard Road, #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Ali Naqi Akbari, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by Ali Naqi Akbari, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 30, 2007. Signature of Registrant: Ali Naqi Akbari, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2020.)

Yellow Cab Company
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571332

The following person doing business as: Yellow Cab Company; Yellow Cab Pleasanton; Yellow Cab Dublin; Yellow Cab Livermore; Yellow Cab Co; Yellow Cab Sunol; Yellow Cab Co Dublin; Yellow Cab Co Pleasanton; Yellow Cab Co Livermore;

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Yellow Cab Co of Tri Valley, 4900 Hopyard Road, #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Ali Naqi Akbari, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by Ali Naqi Akbari, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 30, 2007. Signature of Registrant: Ali Naqi Akbari, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 10, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2020.)

DeSoto Access Transportation
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571377

The following person doing business as: DeSoto Access Transportation, 4900 Hopyard Road, #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: DeSoto Access Transportation LLC, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by DeSoto Access Transportation LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 1, 2013. Signature of Registrant: Ali Akbari, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2020.)

Orange Cab Co
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571378

The following person doing business as: Orange Cab Co, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: American Cab & Orange Cab Co LLC, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by American Cab & Orange Cab Co LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 1, 2013. Signature of Registrant: Ali Akbari, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2020.)

Liberty Cab
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571379

The following person doing business as: Liberty Cab, 4900 Hopyard Road, #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: DeSoto Cab Company LLC, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by DeSoto Cab Company LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 1, 2013. Signature of Registrant: Ali Akbari, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2020.)

DeSoto Cab Company
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 571380

The following person doing business as: DeSoto Cab Company, 4900 Hopyard Road, #100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: DeSoto Cab Company LLC, 367 Earhart Way, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by DeSoto Cab Company LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 1, 2013. Signature of Registrant: Ali Akbari, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 13, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2020.)

Opinion

LETTERS

Vaping

Dear Pleasanton City Council,

We keep on looking at the numerous health issues on vaping, but we seem to ignore the idea of social justice. Vaping ads influence all different types of ethnicity — African Americans, Hispanics and even Asians.

The majority of our Pleasanton residents are either white or Asian American/Pacific Islanders. The tobacco industry supports Asian American store owner's business associates by offering special retail sales on materials.

Shops like supermarkets and pharmacies are essential businesses. Retailers selling flavored vapes are not an essential business.

I understand if retailers say they never sold to the youth before. There are police reports in which tobacco retailers sell tobacco to underage teens. You may seem unconvinced, and although you may not see it, teens are still getting a hold of vape pens, somehow, somehow.

I remembered a Pleasanton high-schooler telling me that in a gym, teens found a hole to hide all of their vapes. It took the custodian days to find it. It's like what Obi-Wan Kenobi said in "Star Wars" Episode 4, "Your eyes can deceive you, don't trust them."

With school reopening being a legitimate possibility, our bold plan can go wrong any second. If just one kid without a mask catches the virus, we can have a catastrophe on our hands. With teachers and principals already urging students to keep their masks on, it is only a matter of time until that one kid who decides to vape catches the virus, and boom, our whole plan is foiled.

—Connor Lam,

Eighth-grader, Harvest Park MS

Supporting Jerry Pentin for mayor

As a combat veteran and the father of a two-tour combat veteran of the war in Afghanistan, I must comment on the recent letter in support of Karla Brown for mayor of Pleasanton.

While veterans appreciate any support from community members, there is an enormous difference between Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin.

While Karla does sometimes attend Bingo events at the Pleasanton Veterans Memorial building, for 15 years Jerry Pentin has attended almost every homecoming event for deployed local service members. He has participated in many packouts over the same period where we prepare "care packages" that are shipped to our deployed service members. He has attended annual fund raising events at Barone's along with other related veteran events in Pleasanton.

Most notably, Jerry Pentin regularly makes financial contributions in support of all these events.

And while Karla Brown comes from a family of veterans, Jerry Pentin is a Marine Corps veteran. One of Jerry's brothers was killed during Operation Desert Storm.

Finally, in January, when Karla Brown had an opportunity to begin a city process to consider a housing plan that could offer hundreds of housing units with preferences for veterans, teachers and first responders, Karla Brown voted not to consider any plan. Jerry Pentin and the majority of the City Council voted to start the planning process.

I support Jerry Pentin for mayor of Pleasanton.

—Doug Miller

A weak warning

The message to the citizens of Pleasanton is not only perturbing, but also poorly constructed. After watching the video, "Mask Up, Pleasanton," I was disappointed in the lack of effort put into a significant warning.

Mayor Jerry Thorne's failure to inform residents about the benefits of face masks is quite shocking. The 54-second video consists of cliched phrases and shows no educational information regarding the reasoning behind wearing masks. Recent statistics and news updates concerning the pandemic were not included.

Some of the contributors were even shown wearing facial masks incorrectly after hastily putting them on. Thorne was shown for seconds in the beginning of the video and did not mention anything about masks.

Government officials should be aware of the responsibility to protect their communities. Ultimately, Mayor Thorne shows his true colors as a weak leader through the poor production of "Mask up, Pleasanton."

—Seungju Ahn

Goodbye, dear friend

When I learned of Barry Schrader's passing, I thought about how our friendship developed over the years. I would follow his articles in the Livermore papers and he would follow mine in the Valley Times and the Pleasanton Weekly.

Our bond was the history of these two great towns. We even showed up at each other's tours listening and learning old tidbits of information that we hadn't already obtained from old copies of the Livermore Herald and the Pleasanton Times.

We often joked, and made a friend's pledge, to not report on each other's respective towns. We talked about how the two towns had many things in common: both farming communities, the towns were both "out in the boonies" and there were many common family links within the two.

My only regret is that we never

met for regular breakfast meetings to throw around ideas and facts, and to "get it right!" I know we would have been there until the closing hours, chatting it up as much as time allowed.

We had two things in common: Our wife's first names, Kay, and our quirky sense of humor. Rest in peace my dear friend. We will have a great talk in the hereafter.

—Charles Huff

Pedaling for a cause

I am a proud resident in Pleasanton and also — to be introducing myself — I am a Mexican deaf father of four. For this project, two sons and myself would like to raise awareness and support to Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) plus women deaf organizations by pedaling for the fundraiser of Pacific Coast Trail starting this Aug. 6 at Santa Cruz Boardwalk to Santa Monica Boardwalk on a seven-days cycling (event) for a great 350 miles of cause with my deaf sons 16 and 8 years old.

This is a 100% funded to Deaf Women of Color (DWC) at www.deafwomenofcolor.org, a money raising for Deaf Women of Color youth program. Since I am a staunch supporter of higher education, leadership and athletics moreover, we also are feminists — our family tenet is to help marginalized people of color. As a result, we would like to pedal for the Deaf Women of Color fundraiser to support its mission statement from Santa Cruz to Santa Monica.

In addition, I encourage the deaf service organizations such as DCARA and Tri-ValleyCounties GLAD, GLAD HQ to spread the words and support this cause. In the amount, I am hoping for \$3,500, considering the avenues like donations and crowd-funding. Thank you.

—Elvis Zornoza

Policing discussion

Having listened to all the speakers at the recent City Council web meeting about policing concerns, it may be appropriate to suggest a response from all current candidates running for open seats, this November ... first.

Before any attempt to satisfy concerns with appropriate actions, it is necessary to hear what the candidates understanding of the issue represents within our community. These candidates claim to provide a better future and the community provides health benefits ... and more, to allow that to progress.

Certain city leadership should not pretend to know what is best for all residents to keep their name in print. As we mature as a community, services are shifted and voices are dismissed due to the lack of understanding/neglect and/or ignorance.

—Peter Miller

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during May 18-29 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and June 15-26 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 4165 Cortina Court** Jain Family Trust to X. & L. Su for \$850,000
- 4528 Fisher Court** G. & M. Gomez to G. & H. Roogi for \$950,000
- 7806 Honors Court** Scott Living Trust to Y. & C. Chen for \$1,350,000
- 4266 Muirwood Drive** T. Saleh to J. & W. Le Roy for \$805,000
- 1990 Nicosia Court** Yu Family Trust to J. & J. Olesh for \$1,720,000
- 7629 Olive Drive** S. & S. Balicanta to L. Gregorio for \$1,225,000
- 5760 Shadow Ridge Court** Seitz Family Trust to W. & J. Brodsky for \$1,935,000
- 4160 Silver Street** Gallagher Family Trust to N. & R. Moura for \$933,000
- 3327 Sorrel Downs Court** R. Fetherston to A. & C. Radhakrishnan for \$1,699,000
- 668 Abbie Street** Wagerman Trust to A. & M. Lubold for \$1,830,000
- 3206 Belvedere Court** Marquardt Living Trust to A. & M. Sambhi for \$2,230,000
- 6143 Corte Trancas** R. Borris to D. Chase for \$799,000
- 3482 Cumberland Gap Court** N. Brom to J. & A. Sathe for \$975,000
- 7971 Foothill Knolls Drive** Ceglio Family Trust to T. Nguyen for \$2,100,000
- 671 Sycamore Road** Lewis Trust to L. & M. Bargar for \$1,160,000
- 211 Tomas Way** Volking Living Trust to

- A. & L. Raja for \$935,000
- 3941 Vine Street** G. Zhang to A. Yow for \$645,000
- 2315 Westbridge Lane** S. Lee to Diaz Trust for \$2,853,000

Livermore

- 713 Austen Way** N. & J. Pestana to K. & C. Campbell for \$1,200,000
- 1018 Baltusrol Road** R. Borchard to D. & A. Burton for \$780,500
- 5609 Carnegie Way** L. & G. Bugbee to M. & G. Nowak for \$1,225,000
- 1963 De Vaca Way** Millennium Trust to Birch Tree Prop Solutions LLC for \$485,000
- 3922 Devon Place** Turteltaub Family Trust to K. & R. Neff for \$1,285,000
- 5624 Idlewild Avenue** K. Goff to L. Liming for \$715,000
- 440 Modoc Place** R. Stevens to P. & R. Atkinson for \$785,000
- 975 Murrieta Boulevard #9** Giles Studio Inc to H. Zang for \$310,000
- 1673 Placer Circle** C. & M. Azevedo to G. Bal for \$1,025,000
- 1437 Roselli Drive** Klein Family Trust to J. & C. Melendez for \$780,000
- 2496 Spyglass Hills Road** K. & N. Fouts to M. & T. Guettouche for \$820,000
- 3639 Thornhill Drive** R. Ravenstad to J. Page for \$1,265,000
- 4184 Torrey Pine Way** J. Tyson to C. & A. Collard for \$580,000
- 1144 Camelia Drive** Sloan Trust to S. & G. Redler for \$820,000
- 156 Daisyfield Drive** K. & L. Yiannikos to S. & G. Klinder for \$905,000
- 5916 Idlewild Avenue** Bank Of New

- York M 2005-9 to Redbridge Ents LLC for \$577,000
- 5431 Lenore Avenue** K. McMahon to S. Allen for \$813,000
- 1083 Locust Street** A. & J. Chen to C. & M. De Jesus for \$680,000
- 1470 Melanie Way** Troutman Family Trust to T. & B. Harris for \$990,000
- 556 Morgan Common** K. & B. Rootz to J. & B. Madera for \$602,500
- 1108 Napa Court** Moschetti Living Trust to M. & M. Demar for \$750,000
- 1036 Spring Valley Common** C. Denaro to J. & Q. Esguerra for \$510,500
- 1385 Windsor Way** Rosenthal Family Trust to Thysell Survivor Trust for \$1,025,000

Dublin

- 7203 Cronin Circle #132** Person Living Trust to T. Shaikh for \$600,000
- 8358 Cypress Court** T. Bolger to L. & A. Martinez for \$780,000
- 2625 Ducale Court** M. Skladany to A. & K. Solipeta for \$1,385,000
- 11264 Rothschild Court** Primas Family Trust to J. & R. Valenzuela for \$1,269,000
- 11549 Soledad Court** L. & C. Caldira to R. & J. Taylor for \$1,215,000
- 3966 Stillwater Court** M. & Z. Sheikh to N. & A. Kavuluru for \$1,235,000
- 4227 Clarinbridge Circle** C. Kallman to O. Ng for \$525,000
- 6402 Dijon Way** Haschemi Living Trust to W. Li for \$685,000
- 6037 Galena Court** Calatlantic Group Inc to M. & K. Patel for \$989,000
- 8698 Galindo Court** B. Sexton to D. & B. Sexton for \$890,000

- 4225 Loyalton Road** Tri Pointe Homes Inc to E. & T. Azubuike for \$830,000

San Ramon

- 6811 Aberdale Circle** G. Chavali to B. & T. Roy for \$1,043,000
- 211 Alamos Place** M. & A. Pagliuca to K. & S. Sullivan for \$995,000
- 2132 Amaryllis Circle** Lai Trust to M. & V. Ponnathpore for \$865,000
- 1520 Cutter Court** D. & G. Dinman to D. Valdez for \$839,000
- 131 Lipton Place** Stout Trust to N. Agrawal for \$925,000
- 169 Lucy Lane** Li Living Trust to N. & G. Kolluru for \$1,305,000
- 2320 Millstream Lane** C. & G. Ong to V. & P. Lohia for \$866,000
- 100 Monasterio Court** Iddings Family Trust to Y. & J. Conry for \$900,000
- 4708 Norris Canyon Road #205 P.** Lattoni to K. Lutz for \$635,000
- 210 Oakham Court** D. Doles to F. Masri for \$1,256,000
- 122 Shadowhill Circle** D. Desoto to W. Chang for \$915,000
- 2873 Springdale Lane** J. Beermann to S. & J. Palkar for \$955,000
- 620 Sunflower Court** V. & M. Parker to M. & S. Srivastava for \$1,340,000
- 32 Tareyton Court** L. Wu to P. & K. Jonnavittula for \$1,090,000
- 50 Victory Court** K. Chidambaram to V. & A. Thilakkumar for \$1,147,000
- 238 Westvale Court** K. & E. Lee to S. & M. Turner for \$970,000
- 555 Wycombe Court** A. Gupta to N. & S. Sakhi for \$2,520,000
- 2420 Ascension Drive** A. & C. Chang to

- M. & T. Fung for \$1,260,000
- 2893 Bethany Road** T. Chauhan to B. & S. Panigrahy for \$1,400,000
- 4507 Butterfly Creek Road** N. & S. Qamar to A. & N. Khan for \$1,280,000
- 620 Cobblestone Drive** W. Petaccio to G. Qidwai for \$1,530,000
- 306 Daybreak Court** A. Fujii to A. & K. Helffrich for \$670,000
- 25 Dogie Court** M. & P. Pawlowski to K. & J. Gonzalez for \$1,215,000
- 5228 Fioli Loop** Murphy Family Trust to R. & G. Prothia for \$870,000
- 332 Goldfield Place** S. Blair to H. & H. Lee for \$1,065,000
- 2390 Jasper Hill Drive** Nguyen Trust to T. & R. Supramaniam for \$1,252,000
- 556 La Copita Court** Sessler Family Trust to F. Kerridge for \$515,000
- 560 La Copita Court** M. & J. Muranaka to H. & S. Lee for \$620,000
- 2163 Longleaf Circle** C. Jpmorgan to K. & S. Kadadi for \$1,560,000
- 219 Lyndhurst Place** U. & K. Muthukumar to Park-Hur Family Trust for \$2,400,000
- 2870 Millbridge Place** J. & L. Berson to P. & A. Muruganathan for \$1,070,000
- 1014 Nancy Lane** V. & K. Belitskiy to V. & A. Rallapalli for \$842,000
- 4704 Norris Canyon Road #205 J.** Smallman to J. & J. Paggao for \$637,000
- 7489 Northland Avenue** Tobin Family Trust to P. & S. Liao for \$972,000
- 118 Paddington Court** M. Zuniga to C. & L. Leung for \$1,190,000
- 63 Rainbow Bridge Way** Lewis Family Trust to Lin Family Trust for \$1,225,000

Source: California REsource



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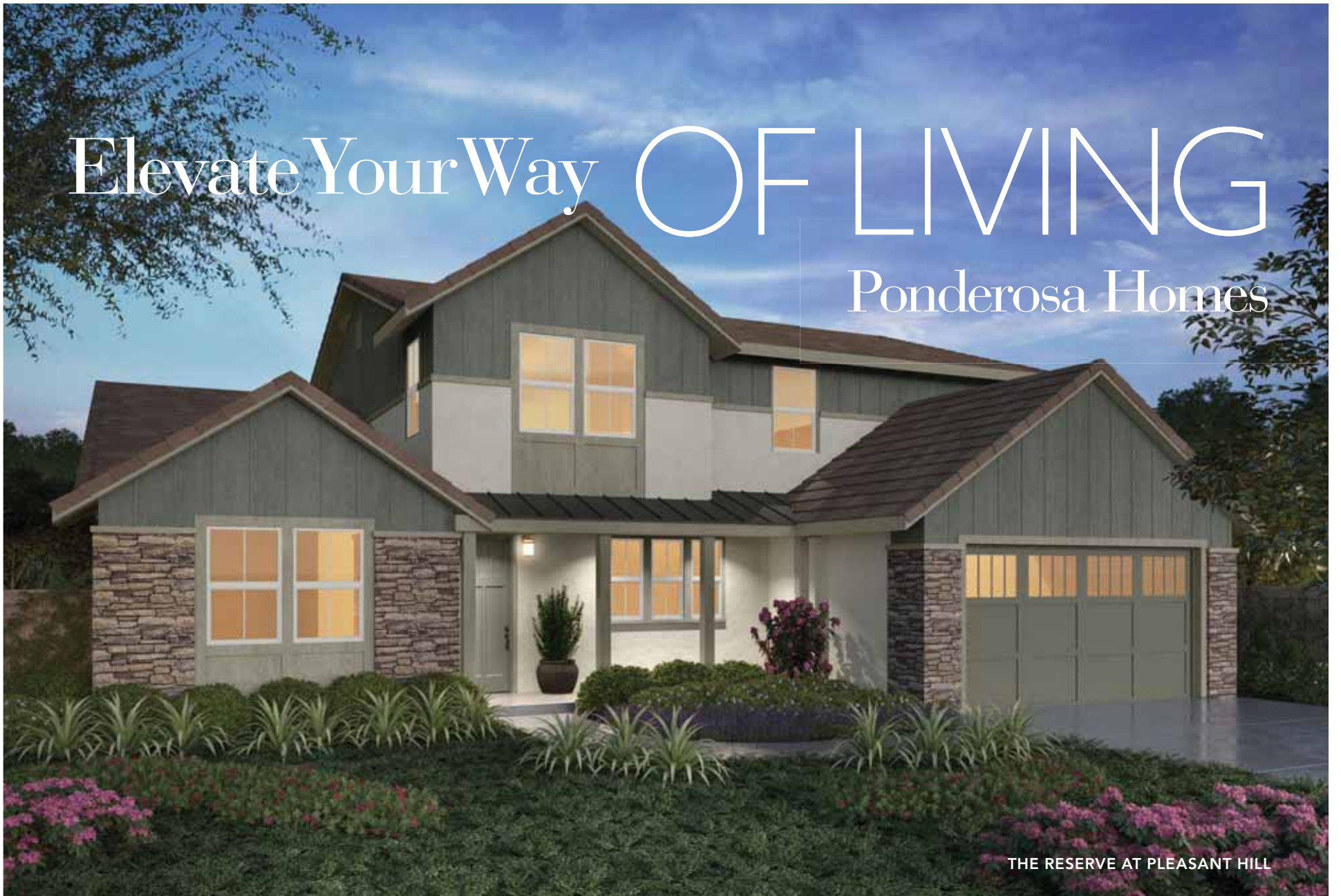
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SOLD



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\$2,120,000

SOLD



2529 Tanager Drive, Pleasanton
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\$1,360,000

SOLD



1033 Riesling Drive, Pleasanton
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\$1,305,000



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