

# Pleasanton Weekly

Staying  
Healthy

FALL 2020

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VOL. XXI, NUMBER 23 · SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

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## Go to the doctor

Hospital officials warn against postponing regular exams, procedures over fear of virus

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AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

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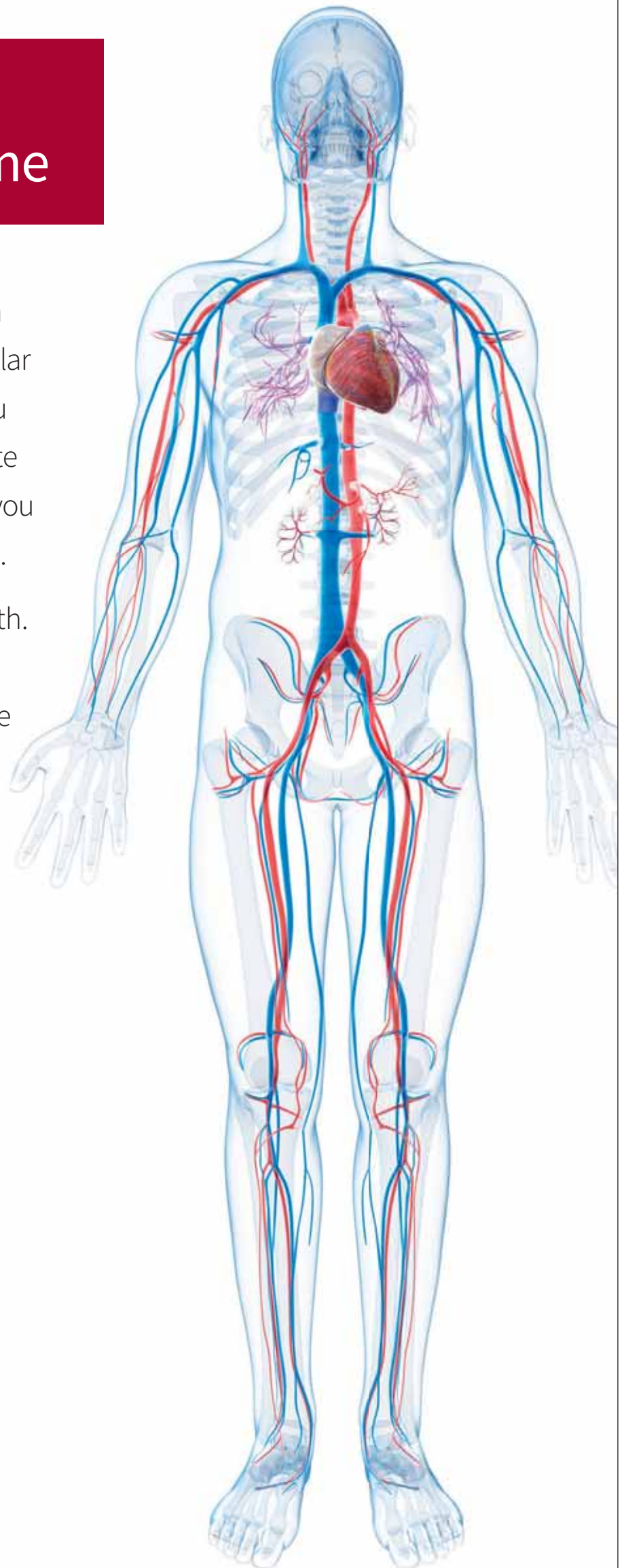
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# VALLEY VIEWS



By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

## Still processing 9/11

Where were you when the Twin Towers fell?

This question reflects the consciousness of Americans, similarly to how the older generation asked, "Where were you when Kennedy was shot?"

Pew Research shows that for President John F. Kennedy's death, 95% of Americans born before 1955 remember. For the 9/11 terrorist attacks, 97% of those who were 8 years old at the time have total recall.

Sept. 11, 2001, was a Tuesday, and the Pleasanton Weekly had been publishing for a year and a half. I was leaving late for work that morning because a contractor was arriving to begin a kitchen remodel at our home in south Walnut Creek.

"Did you hear the news?" he asked when we answered the door.

We had not, but we quickly turned on the TV and watched the horror unfold. The drive to work south on Interstate 680 was surreal as I listened to the radio and glanced at the other drivers in the light traffic, knowing we were all somewhat in a state of shock.

The paper goes to press Wednesdays and that week, for the issue of Sept. 14, the subject for the cover story was a Pleasanton couple, Ruth and Kurt McAninch, who were air traffic controllers. This story was no longer appropriate. Instead we combed the city for public displays of mourning, including the flag being lowered to half-staff at City Hall. The story on the McAninches was delayed a week and updated to reflect their feelings and new challenges.

My son was then 30, living in Berlin, and was flying that very day to New York City to visit friends. He woke up from a nap to hear an announcement that air space was closed over the United States. His was one of 38 jumbo jets diverted to Gander, Newfoundland, where they sat on the tarmac for 10 hours while the locals figured out the logistics of caring for their 6,500 surprise visitors. He was allowed one call that night, phoned us, and we in turn contacted his friend in New York and girlfriend in Berlin.

My daughter was at San Diego State and we were supposed to fly down that weekend, which of course was canceled. Now I wonder why we didn't drive down to

be with her. Maybe things seemed too discombobulated with our son stuck in Gander and the whole world suddenly turned on end.

For the Nov. 9 Weekly that year, I wrote about Pleasanton resident Theresa Aimar who hailed from New York where her large extended family still lived. When she heard that Manhattan's economy was suffering, she rented an apartment on 59th Street and called out to family and friends to join her to go spend money.

She told me haunting tales of funerals everywhere, the absence of honking by impatient drivers, and the atmosphere near Ground Zero. National Guardsmen were everywhere, even on duty to protect inside FAO Schwartz.

New Yorkers she talked to asked if the news had been covered in California. She assured them we all regarded it as a national tragedy, not just theirs, and we were all suffering.

Although the terrorist attacks brought out the worst in some as prejudices surfaced, they brought out the best in others, as we sought to focus on our similarities and ways to keep peace in this new strange world. Interfaith groups hosted gatherings to foster understanding.

Sept. 11, 2001, was more than an event; it was the beginning of a new way of life for Americans. Normally "new beginning" is an optimistic phrase, but in this case the era heralded in unwieldy and intrusive security measures, unending wars for our military, new fears and a loss of innocence.

Our reactions to the events of 9/11 have drawn our attention away from problems we should be addressing, such as climate change and inequalities that include 821 million people going to bed hungry each night.

The number of Americans who have died of COVID-19 — 189,000 as of this writing — may far outnumber the 3,000 killed on Sept. 11, but both have been life-changing. The pandemic wears away at us day by day, while the 9/11 attack was a sudden and vicious trauma that we are still processing and mourning. ■

*Editor's note: Dolores Fox Ciardelli is Tri-Valley Life editor for the Pleasanton Weekly. Her column, "Valley Views," appears in the paper on the second and fourth Fridays of the month.*

### About the Cover

Tri-Valley hospitals, including Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare in Pleasanton, are urging residents not to postpone routine or recommended medical appointments and procedures during the pandemic, after noting a decrease in patient turnout since March. Photo by Mike Sedlak. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXI, Number 23



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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN



## Karla Brown Mayor of Pleasanton

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MAYOR

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6. **SAFETY** is critical to our quality of life. I support retaining our outstanding police officers and adding mental health professions when needed.
7. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** Rage soccer/coach, PUSD site council & volunteer, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Hively, cancer recovery, Sister City and much more.

Paid for by Karla Brown for Mayor 2020 FPPC#1427228

## Where were you, and what did you think, upon finding out about the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001?



**Oscar Rodriguez**  
Server

I think everyone knows exactly where they were on 9/11. I was 17. When I heard that the first plane hit, I believed it was an accident. But the moment I heard about the second plane, I knew it was an attack on our country. I felt pain, anger and confusion. So many emotions.



**Stephanie Losee**  
Corporate head of content

I'm from Long Island, originally, but was living in San Francisco on 9/11. I was lying in bed, and my husband and I were awakened at 6 a.m. by a call from a local friend who knew we were from New York. At first I thought it was a plane crash. Then when the second plane hit, I knew it was a terrorist attack, and I thought the world was coming to an end.



**Rick Hamilton**  
Clean energy project developer

I was helping my brother pour a foundation on Mammoth Mountain in California. By the time the news reached us, we knew it was an attack. I felt terrorized.



**Teri Morris** Retired

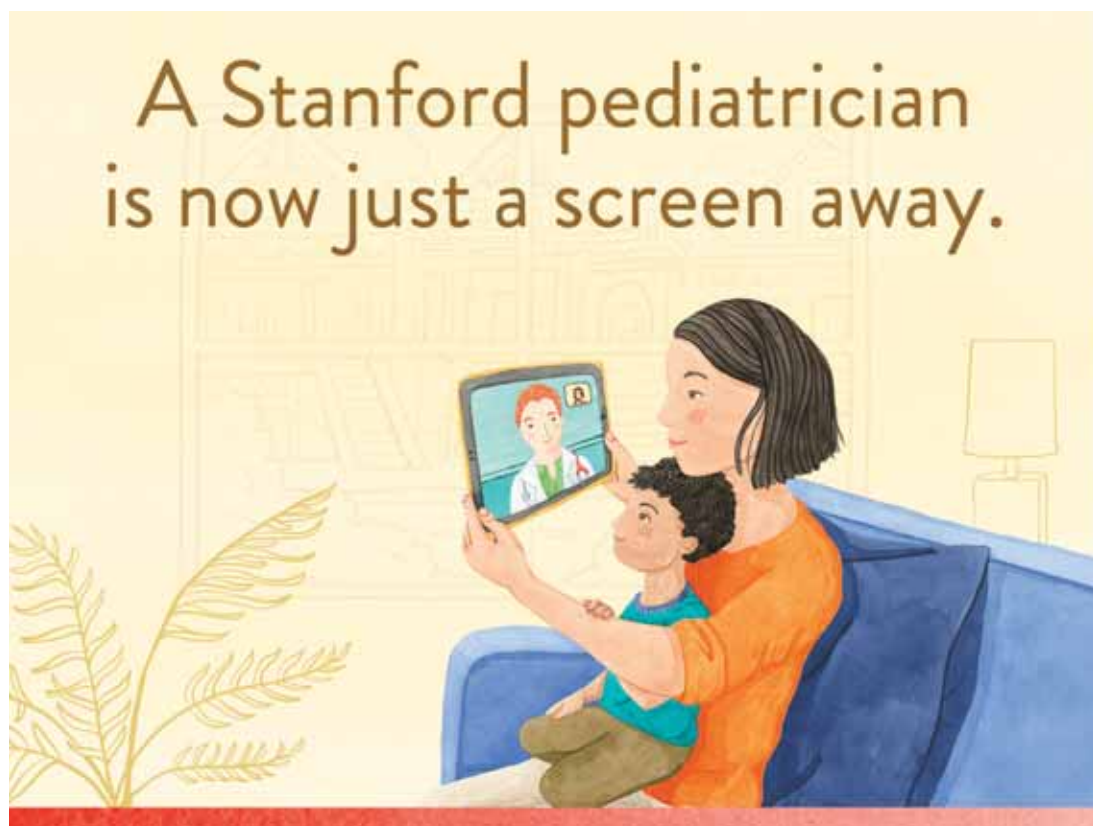
I was in my office on the phone when my ex-husband called from our store on Wall Street, in Lower Manhattan, to tell me he was OK. I turned on the TV as the second plane was hitting the South Tower, and it took a couple of minutes for it to sink in that both towers were hit and we were under attack. An atrocious moment in time I'll never forget.



**Will Anzenberger** Director of development

I turned on the TV to discover that a plane had struck one of the Twin Towers. There was still a ton of confusion as to what was going on. Once I got to work though, I quickly discovered there had actually been terrorist attacks. Everyone with family and friends back East, including me, was very worried and distracted all day. On my way home, I received a call from a friend telling me that two people from our hometown had died on Flight 11.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis



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Have a Streetwise question? Email [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com) to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2020 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

## DIGEST

### Remembering 9/11

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department is set to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with a livestreamed event this morning.

Viewable via [lpfd911event.com](http://lpfd911event.com), the event is scheduled to feature a flag-raising and remembrance broadcast by LPFD dispatch.

Las Positas College in Livermore will also hold its annual 9/11 remembrance ceremony online due to the pandemic, starting at 11 a.m. today.

The LPC event includes a rendition of the national anthem performed by student Alejandra Quezada-Sermeno, with the Golden Gate Young Marines honor guard presenting the colors. LPC President Dyrell Foster will then deliver opening remarks, followed by a keynote address from retired Marines Lt. Col. Robert J. Darling, author of "24 Hours Inside the President's Bunker, 9/11/01: The White House."

To learn more, visit [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu).

### PUSD forum

The Pleasanton Weekly is moderating a forum for the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees candidates online via Zoom on Sept. 21 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Five candidates are running for three at-large positions on the board: retired teacher Mary Jo Carreon, incumbent Trustee Steve Maher, e-learning professional Kelly Mokashi, IT consultant Chong Wang and incumbent Trustee Jamie Yee.

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation are partnering with the Weekly on the forum. Register at [tinyurl.com/PUSDforum2020](http://tinyurl.com/PUSDforum2020). To suggest questions, email [gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com).

### Meeting postponed

The city of Pleasanton has postponed the City Council's next community meeting on policing in Pleasanton, according to city spokesperson Cindy Chin.

The reason for delaying the Sept. 17 meeting wasn't immediately clear.

The next in a series of city meetings on social justice reform and community policing in response to civil unrest after the George Floyd killing, the planned council session is set to focus on a revised implementation plan for key strategies from the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing — first created by former President Barack Obama in 2014.

For more information, visit [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov). ■

## Man charged with killing girlfriend in dispute at house in rural Livermore

ACSO alleges 38-year-old confessed to crime, surrendered after tense negotiations

By JEREMY WALSH

A man was arrested for allegedly killing his girlfriend at a ranch property in rural Livermore, eventually surrendering after tense negotiations with authorities on Sunday afternoon.

Gregory Jonathon Stephens, 38, has been charged with murder and a special allegation of firearm use following the shooting death of Kellie Henry — who could be seen lying unresponsive on the floor inside near the front door while Stephens was holed up in the house, according to the Alameda County

Sheriff's Office.

Henry, 51, was pronounced dead at the scene after sustaining "numerous" gunshot wounds, according to ACSO officials.

"The victim was in the process of ending relationship with suspect," ACSO Sgt. Ray Kelly told the Weekly.

Stephens, who remains in jail custody, allegedly admitted to



Gregory Stephens

authorities that he killed Henry.

The situation unfolded just before 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at a house in the 9200 block of Tesla Road in unincorporated Livermore, located near the Cross Road intersection in the Livermore Valley wine country.

Sheriff's deputies were responding to a report of a man having shot and killed his girlfriend during an argument, according to Kelly.

The sergeant alleged that Stephens contacted other family members and confessed to the shooting, and the family members in turn called 9-1-1 while Stephens was

threatening suicide after the killing.

Deputies arrived at the rural property and while walking around the house observed a woman — later identified as Henry — down on the ground and unresponsive inside with apparent gunshot injuries, while Stephens was seen moving in and out of the house, according to Kelly.

"The suspect was believed to be armed and it was believed there were multiple firearms in the home," Kelly said.

See **HOMICIDE** on Page 8

## Pleasanton city candidate forums



### Policing reform, affordable housing, pandemic among prominent topics at mayoral debate

By JULIA BAUM

An online forum featuring candidates for Pleasanton mayor last week touched on key local issues including support for small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, affordable housing and development, and policing reform and oversight.

Candidates Karla Brown, Monith Ilavarasan and Jerry Pentin participated in the 2-1/2-hour livestream event Sept. 3 — which also featured a separate debate for City Council candidates after the mayor portion. The two other candidates on the mayoral ballot did not attend.

Presented by the Pleasanton Weekly in partnership with the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, the forum was hosted live via Zoom (with a video-recording available afterward) and moderated by Weekly publisher Gina Channell and editor Jeremy Walsh.

Some of the biggest issues of 2020 featured prominently during the hourlong mayoral forum, including the global COVID-19 health crisis and its impact on residents and local businesses.

"What we can do to help these residents, and to ensure they do not get displaced, is to have a rent moratorium ... and ensure that we have resources

available for them to be able to pay off their rent or mortgage," said Ilavarasan, a tech product manager and 2010 Amador Valley High School graduate running for city office for the first time.

"One other key way that we can help (businesses) is to do a similar thing for businesses in terms of rent forgiveness to ensure that the high rent prices they're paying doesn't force them out of business at a time when revenues are low," he added.

Pentin, a second-term city councilman, highlighted his recent council motion to quadruple the amount of financial relief for local businesses through the city's \$3 million COVID-19 relief micro-loan program and said "that's going to bridge the gap as different businesses come out of COVID-19."

"When it comes to the rent gaps, we've instituted a program that we earmarked \$500,000 to get people to bump their loans to \$2,500," Pentin said. "It's not meant to pay your rent for months but it's meant if you can't pay your rent, it helps you with the gap."

Brown, who is also in her eighth year on the City Council, shared her past work and stance on the issue: "One of the

See **MAYOR** on Page 9

### Housing, transportation take top billing as City Council hopefuls debate

By JULIA BAUM

The pool of seven candidates for Pleasanton City Council answered questions about top local issues including East Pleasanton development and the Valley Link rail project at an online forum last week.

Candidates Nancy Allen, Valerie Arkin, Jack Balch, Randy Brown, Jarod Buna, Zarina Kiziloglu and Chiman Lee participated in the 2-1/2-hour livestream event on Sept. 3 organized by the Pleasanton Weekly and Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce — which also featured a separate debate for mayoral candidates before the council portion.

The year's biggest issues took center stage during the 90-minute council forum, including the candidates' views on the east side and Stoneridge Mall area, and how they would identify development locations in order to meet the city's anticipated regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) obligation of 4,000 to 5,000 new housing units.

Brown, a local Realtor who currently chairs the chamber's Board of Directors, said the council needs to "look at the entire city and have a balanced plan to try to grow and fill those RHNA numbers."

"We could put together a task

force and look to see what's available, and try to balance that out," Brown said. "We don't want to have any one area to be overburdened with too much growth and stress on the infrastructure. It would cause traffic issues, it would cause issues with the schools, so we need to look at the city as a whole and, again, balance it out to fulfill those numbers."

Brown said he didn't "believe in trying to fight the state on that," but the city could "try to challenge them and work with them, because we are different than San Francisco but...we're going to have to make that plan before the state takes that control away from us."

Buna, an attorney and Amador Valley High School alumnus, noted "some legal requirements here that require us to include affordable housing in Pleasanton," and called East Pleasanton "our best opportunity" for development.

"It is the best place for us to create a new environment, a second downtown that includes both retail and housing, and housing that can be affordable to those families that want to come back to Pleasanton," said Buna, who first ran for council back in 1996 as a teenager.

Buna continued, "Stoneridge

See **COUNCIL** on Page 10

# Ken Mercer Sports Park chosen for city's first all-abilities playground

All-new accessible design will replace current play area

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton is closer to having its first all-abilities playground after the City Council unanimously approved moving forward with the design phase at its meeting last week.

For the past three years, residents with special-needs family members have told the city about the need for an all-abilities playground in the community.

The playground will be located at the site of the current playground near the softball fields at Ken Mercer Sports Park. City staff recommended Mercer Park after extensive community input because it “already has most of the necessary infrastructure” to build an all-abilities playground faster and for less money.

The current playground was scheduled for renovations in the next one to two years, and would be completely replaced then with an all-abilities design to accommodate more users including disabled children.

An all-abilities playground was the unanimous top priority for the

Parks and Recreation Commission's 2019-20 budget cycle, and adopted as a priority capital improvement program (CIP) project by the city council just a couple months later.

Community members told staff during earlier planning stages that some desirable elements for an all-abilities playground include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access, ample parking, restrooms, and “no conflicting uses.” Placing the playground at Mercer might require additional handicapped parking spaces, as staff noted “parking opportunities are limited.”

Following a staff presentation during the council's online meeting Sept. 1, Councilwoman Karla Brown noted the city's spacious and well-known Patelco Sports Complex did not appear at the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration.

“We see at the Bernal Patelco Park, lots of open space; there is a wonderful play structure,” Brown said. “It does meet many of your requirements for parking but it was not one of the two selected to go to Parks and Rec. I wonder if

you can tell me why.”

City assistant director Michele Crose said staff “looked at all of the major parks — Val Vista, Bernal, Ken Mercer and the area known as Staples Ranch, as well as a couple of other locations in Pleasanton” but found parking was problematic and “the uses were too heavy already.”

“What we were looking to do was find the locations that checked as many boxes as possible in those desired attributes. Bernal, one of the most difficult areas to check that box was parking and conflicting uses,” Crose said. “With Patelco Sports Park, it's incredibly popular and it was discussed in staff, and the question came up at Parks and Rec Commission as well, and that same understanding was that the uses were too heavy already.”

Councilwoman Julie Testa said she was “surprised” Patelco wasn't “explored to a greater degree.”

“I can't imagine that Patelco is more over-utilized than our (Mercer) Sports Park, that place is just always packed,” Testa said. “My frustration is that what we would be doing is replacing a park at a sports park instead of just creating a new resource. I'd love to have that new resource without losing something, and I would think that Patelco would be a good place to find that new opportunity.”

Pleasanton resident Stephanie Rauscher, whose son has cerebral palsy, told the council during public comment that she felt “very passionate about this project.”

“Growing up here, he had limited

access to the playgrounds here, so this is a very personal project for me. There's many kids who would benefit from this playground,” Rauscher said.

Though “surprised” by the selection of Mercer Park for the playground, Rauscher agreed with the decision and said the site was “used widely,” and has accessible parking and bathrooms “which is super important.”

Rauscher continued, “I know a lot of you brought up why Patelco wasn't part of the decision process. As a parent, my question was, well why wasn't this addressed when you originally designed Patelco? Why wasn't it an already ADA-accessible park when it was originally designed?”

Rauscher also called the parking lot at Patelco “a hot mess” and said she has waited upwards of 20 minutes to pick up her child after soccer there some nights. “Unless you're going to access more parking on the other side of Bernal, I don't think that's even an option,” she said.

Rauscher continued, “Going forward, I feel like Ken Mercer Park is probably the best suited in regards to budgeting, accessibility and the fact that people know about that park. I feel like (the playground) would definitely get a great use at the park, and that's what we want as a community.”

Prior to casting their votes, the council members shared their excitement for the new playground.

Councilman Jerry Pentin called it a “wonderful project for

Pleasanton” and Vice Mayor Kathy Narum said it “gives me goosebumps that we're setting this in motion for these children to really have a place to be able to play and not be hindered by a disability.”

Referring to Rauscher's comments, Testa said, “I think it's very exciting and the question is a good one — why didn't we look at this, why didn't we consider this in the past? It would've been a wonderful addition to Patelco when it was built. The decision to put it at the sports park is a great one; I'm excited to see it materialize.”

Brown called Pleasanton “an inclusive community” and said that “everybody deserves the right to play on a playground, for heaven's sakes, and it's kind of embarrassing it's taken us so long to get here.”

The CIP budget has \$400,000 earmarked for hiring a master plan design professional to begin work on the project, according to public documents. The estimated total project cost is approximately \$4 million.

In a related Mercer Park item that same night, the council also signed off on the recent replacement of a concession stand built in the early 1990s by the Pleasanton Girls Softball League, in partnership with the city. According to staff, the concession stand “was at the end of its useful life and did not comply with current health code requirements for serving heated food.”

The outdated structure was replaced earlier this year with a “prefabricated masonry building” to the cost of approximately \$453,873. ■



CITY OF LIVERMORE

## 'Mask Up for Livermore'

Local government agencies in Livermore are teaming up on a new “Mask Up for Livermore” campaign, a comprehensive effort to encourage people in Livermore to wear masks (that cover the mouth and nose properly) to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The campaign will include social media engagement next week from all three agencies: City of Livermore, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Community members can post their masked photos using the hashtag #MaskUpForLivermore. Shown: Mascot from Lawrence Elementary School masks up for Livermore.

## Police investigating after body found near Pleasanton trail

Circumstances still unknown; autopsy pending

By JEREMY WALSH

Authorities are continuing to investigate after a decomposing body was discovered near the Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail in southwestern Pleasanton last week.

The male decedent, whose remains were discovered on Sept. 3, had not been identified as of Wednesday morning and a full autopsy was still pending, according to Pleasanton police Lt. Erik Silacci.

“We are in the early stages of this investigation and at this point, it is unknown if there was any foul play involved,” Silacci said.

The initial discovery was made around 5:30 p.m. Sept. 3, after the Pleasanton Police Department received a report about a body near the eastern portion of the

Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail, east of Interstate 680.

The body was located in a brush area a number of yards away from the trail path, according to Silacci. “It was not visible from the trail. You would have to wander off this trail a little bit,” the lieutenant said of the location.

Officers responded minutes after the call and confirmed that the person -- who was male -- was deceased, according to Silacci. He said the degree of decomposition made it appear the body could have been there for multiple weeks or more.

“This person had been out there for some time,” Silacci told the Weekly on Wednesday.

Detectives are also still trying to determine the circumstances of the

death. PPD's criminal investigations unit remained at the scene through last Friday morning, and has been receiving assistance from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office crime lab and coroner's bureau, according to Silacci.

Silacci told the Weekly on Wednesday that many key questions were still pending, including the victim's identity, his cause of death and how long he'd been dead before his body was discovered. A full autopsy was scheduled for later this week. The full coroner's report should shed more light on the death, according to the lieutenant.

Anyone with information about the case can contact Silacci at 925-931-5100. Reference case No. 20-28577. ■



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**2 \$1**  
LBS



DUCK (with head & feet)

**2.89**  
LB



CHICKEN THIGH MEAT (boneless & skinless)

**2.69**  
LB

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# Major makeover coming to Pleasanton bus stops

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

By JULIA BAUM

Major improvements are coming to nearly 20 bus stops in Pleasanton serving Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority's (LAVTA's) Rapid Route 10R.

The "Pleasanton Rapid Transit Corridor Enhancement Project" aims to upgrade public transit facilities along the Santa Rita Road, West Las Positas Boulevard and Owens Drive corridors with "vital amenities to improve the transit experience."

Key features include new Rapid-style passenger shelters, bike racks, benches, enhanced lighting, real-time signs and trash cans.

The new shelters "will complement the premium Rapid bus service now operating along the corridor between downtown Pleasanton

Real-time signs will be included at new bus shelters

and the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station," LAVTA officials said, adding their design will also complement the current look of the shelters located in Hacienda Business Park.

Pleasanton City Councilwoman Karla Brown, who also sits on the LAVTA Board of Directors, said in a statement, "This project has been in the planning stages for some time and I am very excited to see construction underway and am looking forward to seeing it finished."

Fellow City Council member and LAVTA director Jerry Pentin said, "The amenities at these bus stops are a significant upgrade over what is in place now and will definitely enhance the rider experience. We appreciate the financial support from the Alameda County Transportation



Rendering illustrates how approximately 20 LAVTA bus stops in Pleasanton will look after receiving upgrades this year.

Commission on this project."

The \$1.6 million project is primarily funded by \$1.4 million in Measure B funds and \$212,000

in local Transportation Development Act funds. Work should be completed by the end of the year, LAVTA officials said. ■

## County updates COVID-19 health order

Indoor haircuts now allowed, but manicures and other services must stay outdoors

Getting a haircut indoors is now permitted in Alameda County under the new health order that took effect last Friday.

While hair salons and barber-shops can now operate indoors, local providers of nail and skin

care and non-medical massage still cannot, according to the Alameda County Public Health Department's new order.

Grocery stores can admit crowds up to 50% of their capacity, while most other retailers may now allow

customers indoors up to 25% of their capacity.

Outdoor dance classes and go-kart racing may resume, and outdoor mini golf courses, batting cages and driving ranges can reopen, but bounce houses, ball pits and shared playground structures remain off-limits.

State guidelines may allow other activities to resume in jurisdictions on the Purple Tier of permitted activities, where Alameda County finds itself, officials said, but counties may impose stricter guidelines than the state, and Alameda County is doing that.

Last week, state officials shifted from a monitoring list to a four-tier, color-coded system for reopening the economy.

The Purple Tier indicates COVID-19 is still widespread.

The state's new Blueprint for a Safer Economy changes the requirements for some activities. Some that were previously banned were allowed and others had new restrictions placed on them.

For a list of the activities allowed and prohibited, visit <https://covid-19.acgov.org>. ■

—Bay City News Service

## HOMICIDE

Continued from Page 5

Members of the sheriff's crisis intervention unit (CIU) and special response unit (SRU) then responded, and authorities deployed special technology — drones and robots — and a K-9 unit to the scene, according to Kelly. An East Bay Regional Park District Police Department helicopter provided support, as did the Livermore Police Department and California Highway Patrol.

CIU negotiators made phone contact with the suspect to establish communication. "After several successful conversations back and forth, CIU was able to de-escalate the volatile situation," Kelly said. "The suspect agreed he would come out of the home without causing further harm."

Stephens emerged from the home with his hands up at about 5:15 p.m. and was detained without further incident, according to the sergeant.

Deputies then entered the house, cleared the scene and

located Henry, who was pronounced dead. Evidence suggested "she had been shot numerous times inside the residence," according to a probable cause declaration filed by the ACSO.

No other victims were located, Kelly said.

After his arrest, Stephens "provided an admonished statement to detectives in which he confessed to the murder of victim," according to the ACSO probable cause declaration.

"Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Kellie," ACSO officials said on Monday upon identifying the victim publicly.

Stephens has been booked into Santa Rita Jail in Dublin.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office charged Stephens on Tuesday with murder as well as a special allegation of intentionally discharging a firearm causing great bodily injury and death.

It was not immediately clear whether the defendant had yet been arraigned or entered a plea in the case. ■

### DUSD forum

Candidates in the contested races for Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees are participating in an online forum next Thursday evening (Sept. 17), presented by the Pleasanton Weekly in partnership with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club.

The forum will feature Trustee Area 4 candidates Gabi Blackman (incumbent) and Michael Utsumi (challenger) and Trustee Area 1 candidate Kristin Pelham (challenger) participating together in the same forum from 6-7:30 p.m. Area 1 challenger Dr. Dawn Nwamuo is unable to attend.

Registration for the Zoom forum is required via [dublinchamberofcommerce.org](http://dublinchamberofcommerce.org). To suggest a question for the moderators, email Weekly publisher Gina Channell at [gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com).

### At Dublin still alive

The Dublin City Council altered course last month and switched its denial of the hotly debated At Dublin development project to "without prejudice" — meaning the same developer could rework the proposal and bring it back for staff, public and council consideration in the future.

When the council majority originally opposed the project back in June, they said they wanted to do so "with prejudice" so the developer would have to fully reapply and start the process over with a new concept.

At the request of Councilman Shawn Kumagai, the council agendaized revisiting the denial process and on Aug. 18 voted 3-2 to deny without prejudice. Vice Mayor Arun Goel and Councilwoman Melissa Hernandez dissented.

### ACTC survey

The Alameda County Transportation Commission, seeking resident input on what to prioritize in the next 10-30 years, has released a new online "Countywide Transportation Priorities Survey."

"While we don't know what the future will look like during and after the pandemic, these strategies can help us build a transportation system that works for everyone in the short- and long-term," ACTC officials said.

The goals for the Alameda County transportation system are accessible, affordable and equitable; safe, healthy and sustainable; high-quality and modern infrastructure; and economic vitality, according to the agency. Find the survey via [www.alamedactc.org](http://www.alamedactc.org).

### Pool open

Pleasanton's Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center this week started accepting reservations for limited public lap swim at the Black Avenue facility. People will be permitted to reserve swim lanes for lap swim and fitness purposes only. Recreational use is not yet allowed.

To learn more, visit [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov). ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

On March 3, 2020 Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and subsequently issued Executive Order N-25-20 suspending provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconferencing and members of the public to observe and offer comments telephonically or electronically. The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Channel 29 and streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton> and <https://www.tri-valleytv.org>

**City Council**

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

- Receive update on 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Process, and review and provide direction on key planning considerations for the Housing Element Update including the overall project approach and scope of work, and direction to proceed with solicitation for consultant services for the Housing Element Update

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## MAYOR

Continued from Page 5

things, I'm going to say I was very frustrated with the council majority, is when the original plan came forward for a very small amount, which was \$2,500 for a two-year loan — and it was a loan, not grant — for our small businesses.”

“That's why ... the rest of the \$3 million sat stagnant, because the cost of doing the paperwork and time wasn't worth \$2,500,” Brown said, adding that she was in the minority on the matter at the time. “Very few people took advantage of (the program), so we significantly raised the number. That was wholeheartedly supported by the council.”

“We do have emergency rent assistance; I know small businesses themselves are calling me and thanking me for helping them out,” added Brown, who like Pentin is terming out from a regular City Council seat but is eligible to run for the mayoral post.

Questioning on community policing and social justice reform prompted a variety of responses from the candidates about the specific types of actions and policies they would support and recommend to bring positive change to the Pleasanton Police Department.

Pentin brought attention to the council's recent actions like hosting “a number of listening sessions, and in our last council meeting we had our chief come and make recommendations based on their police manual and their policies. And we had a unanimous council vote to support the chief's recommendations.”

With a pilot mental health crisis team program in the works, Pentin said he preferred a model that “keeps a sworn officer onsite.”

When it came to the idea of implementing a citizens oversight committee for the police department, Pentin added, “I think we have an oversight committee: It's called the City Council.”

Brown said she supported reviewing PPD policies in relation to an item to fund \$1.3 million in body cameras and use of tasers in May but that “Councilmember Pentin said absolutely no.”

“Six days later, George Floyd died at the knee of a police officer and now everybody's talking about policies that should've happened way before Mr. Floyd died,” Brown said, adding that she supports Pleasanton's police officers but they “shouldn't be asked to do more than they're trained for.” She was also in favor of supplementing the police department with mental health support.

Ilavarasan said he supported an oversight commission and that it was important “to include all members of the community,” including mentally disabled individuals and people of color.

“A citizen oversight commission allows the ability for a diverse group of people to have diverse perspectives in terms of their interactions with the police department, and allows us to have a more holistic grade of representation for the services and how the community has reacted to different situations,” Ilavarasan said.

Because a mental health response plan would require additional funding, Ilavarasan said he would prioritize reallocating the next series of funding to that program, if elected.

The three candidates each said they support the proposed Costco store on Johnson Drive, with Pentin supporting the entire surrounding Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone package but Brown and Ilavarasan did criticize parts of the proposal.

Pentin called it a “great opportunity to grow that part of Pleasanton” and said “the other benefit of this is we get two hotels.”

“We need the hotels in Pleasanton for business and the different events. We have the opportunity to grow that part of Pleasanton, which isn't growing, and that is something we should work towards,” Pentin said.

Brown said she declined to take a stance on Measure MM in 2016 when it came to the ballot because “I wanted the residents to decide.”

“It was controversial not because it brought a Costco to Pleasanton, but because of the pre-funding needed for the roads and infrastructure,” Brown said.

Of the cost-sharing agreement for infrastructure work, Brown added, “It concerns me that the travel industry, including the hotels, is right now so slow that Marriott may or may not be interested in that transaction. And if Marriott pulls out, you can imagine that the traffic will come down, we'll have to re-do the numbers and see if we still have a project.”

Brown continued, “But for Costco, and Costco alone, it is still moving forward, with the exception of the environmental impact report studies and the two lawsuits. I'm disappointed that the city and their environmental impact report wasn't complete enough to stand up to the challenge of our residents and an attorney review, and so now we're going for a second round of questioning on those reports, and so we'll see.”

Ilavarasan called the Costco lawsuits “a vocal minority pushing back” but said he did not support “the broader economic development zone initiatives.”

“I don't think we need two hotels right next to Costco to increase the congestion there and, also, due to the effects of COVID-19 and the travel industry depreciating over the past few months

and for the next year. I don't think that's a super-wise decision to push through at this point in time,” Ilavarasan said.

“On the Costco in particular, I think we need to do what we can to push it through,” he added. “If we can extract more concessions from Costco to help supplement some of the transportation infrastructure that we need to build to support them, I think we need to push forward and support that.”

The issue of affordable housing rendered a greater variety of responses, with some candidates advocating for local control while others championed for more projects to benefit lower income households.

“It's common around Pleasanton to hear local control, but it only works if the people who are in control locally fight for what the residents want,” Brown said. “What we need is more affordable homes, and affordable can be many things.”

State lawmakers recognize the housing crisis in the Bay Area, Ilavarasan said, and “their intention is to try to address that issue, but we as a local government need to get ahead of that and build for incomes of all scales.”

“If the local population doesn't show a political drive to build increased affordable housing, then the state recognizes that and then attempts to push us in that direction,” he added.

Whether proposing splitting up a single-family lot into smaller parcels or building more micro-units, Brown said state-proposed solutions like Senate Bill 1120 — which seeks to expand California's accessory dwelling unit law — aren't practical for local decisions and that “local control with local people you trust is the answer.”

Highlighting his experience on the council's Legislative Subcommittee and hashing over various housing bills with state lawmakers in the past, Pentin said the city

has done a great job of collaborating with the state but needs to stay abreast of housing demand if they want to keep decision-making at the local level.

“One thing is for sure we are going to see more housing production bills come to the legislature — if we don't plan our own future in Pleasanton, and take care of our own business, the state will do it for us,” Pentin said.

Pentin, Ilavarasan and Brown also shared their opinions on topics such as safe drinking water, campaign fundraising, transportation projects and how to lead a diverse group of council members to a decision that benefits the entire Pleasanton community.

The Pleasanton mayoral election is on Nov. 3, with five candidates on the ballot seeking the two-year elected term to succeed Mayor Jerry Thorne, who is terming out. Candidates Tom Turpel and Druthi Ghanta declined the invitation to take part in the Weekly's forum. ■



## Senior Care Webinars

Join Hope Hospice for a series of educational webinars on topics important to seniors and those who care for them. Senior individuals, family care partners, and professional caregivers alike are welcome to register for any or all of these **free** online events.

**SEPTEMBER 16** *Dementia Care in the Covid Era*

**SEPTEMBER 24** *Take Control of Your Diabetes*

**OCTOBER 8** *Nutrition 101*

**OCTOBER 14** *An Introduction to Hospice and Answers to Common Questions*

**OCTOBER 21** *GEM States Model: A Discussion on Dementia Stages*

**Register at [HopeHospice.com/townhall](https://www.hopehospice.com/townhall)**

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

is not an option. In order to put these new homes in, you're going to have to add a school. There is no space near Stoneridge to add a school, so adding significant housing to the Stoneridge area is not an option."

Calling mixed-use development "a solution that many cities have integrated into their environments with great success," Buna also added the council "can be thinking about these spaces in a post-COVID environment that includes parks and open spaces."

Lee, a regional director at Corporate eWaste Solutions and former member of the city's Economic Vitality Committee, zeroed in on developers paying in-lieu fees to opt out of building affordable housing and said, "As a city councilmember, I would get rid of that fee or make it so high that it's just not practical for them to not build affordable housing."

Allen, a Pleasanton planning commissioner, concurred: "We could've built about 75 more homes if we built them as part of our inclusionary zoning versus taking in lieu fees, and we need to start doing that immediately."

Arkin, who currently serves on the Pleasanton school board, said she has "advocated developers providing land for a school" since the city's planning task force was in place and that "we need to keep concentrating on keeping our high quality schools, because that is the number one reason people move to Pleasanton."

When asked about the transportation and roadway projects they would prioritize within the city and the Tri-Valley region at-large, and whether those views have changed amid the pandemic and economic downturn and their respective impacts on jobs, commuting and government funding,

ValleyLink received wide support from most of the candidates, who also gave varying opinions on other transit items.

"The work environment is going to start moving towards remote ... but there's the demographic that can't do remote work, the laborers," Lee said. "I'm not so sure about ValleyLink because I read in the proposal that they're thinking about putting in these diesel trains."

Instead, Lee proposed looking at electric trains "or maybe electric buses with wi-fi on the route so we could save a half-billion estimated for the project."

Allen said that locally "we just need to see practical solutions that can improve circulation and reduce travel time — for example, adding a lane to Hopyard Road near Chick-Fil-A is something that's on the drawing board but not funded. That will improve traffic, it will make that area a lot safer."

"The big local question will be El Charro (Road), and what do we do with El Charro as East Pleasanton is built out," Allen added. "That will be very controversial, so it's critical we get the right data and we have strong public discussions so everyone can understand the tradeoffs in making that decision. And it won't be easy."

Arkin said a BART extension to Livermore "would be better than ValleyLink because people don't want to change systems from Valley Link and then get on BART." She also supported expanding the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) train, finishing Highway 84 to Livermore, expanding local bike lanes and improving traffic light timing in Pleasanton.

Balch, who also sits on the city's Planning Commission, said he wants to ensure that "while the state is facing its budget shortfall, we have secured the funds from the state to build the Stoneridge

Mall to 680 north interchange, because that is not subject to the (Costco-related) lawsuit."

"I've asked staff to make sure that whatever the city needs to do so those funds don't get reallocated by the state, we are doing now," he added.

Kiziloglu, a city Housing Commission member who cites affordable housing as her top campaign priority, said, "Vision 2050 Plan Bay Area has included the ValleyLink from Lathrop to here ... that will help, might help, with easing the traffic and being electrically charged, but it doesn't solve the housing crisis and the essential workers commuting long distances."

"I do support the Valley Link ... but it's not a fool proof project that can be done," Kiziloglu added. "There should be other things in conjunction with Valley Link in order to drop the number of cars on the road so we will have less of an environmental effect and more people are closer to their jobs."

With the COVID-19 health crisis and sheltering in place entering their seventh month in Pleasanton, the candidates shared their ideas for protecting local businesses and residents from the pandemic's negative impact on their finances, and how they felt about reopening.

The chamber "worked very hard to get downtown closed down to through traffic for the weekends and then opened up to restaurants and retail," Brown said of his role supporting local businesses that were forced to significantly reduce operations this year.

After commending the city for helping small businesses with rent assistance, finding grants and issuing zero-interest micro-loans through its \$3 million COVID relief program, Brown added, "What the restaurants have done by forming a coalition, I think is brilliant, and reaching out to the retail to try to do cross promoting with each other, and I think we can a better job with that as a city."

Allen called the pandemic "the worst crisis most of us have ever seen" and said she "also went to the (Pleasanton Downtown Association), and I asked what else we could do, and they said, 'We need a dedicated person to help us manage our pending permits,' so I got them someone from the planning department to be their single point of contact."

From that campaign, Allen said she "developed a preferential preference program, and everything is purchased locally, as long as I can get it for 15% of what I would get it online for, because we need to support our small businesses."

The city "has done a great job with the small business loans," but Lee also said there's "too much focus on the downtown area."

## PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

## Meet Stevie

Stevie is a terrific, 8-month-old Doberman Pinscher. He's very sweet and you can see in his soulful eyes that he connects with people and is happiest being by your side. He is a big puppy at heart and he's so cute and playful at his current weight of 60 pounds. He walks nicely on leash, already knows basic commands, and is house-trained and crate-trained. Contact LisaC@tvar.org at Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

"Downtown has a special privilege; we closed off the street, it helped out all of the restaurants, but what about the other businesses in Pleasanton? What have we done there?" Lee said. "We haven't really done a lot to really help them out, so I propose to start a task force of people that understand and knows how to navigate the COVID-19 rules and regulations."

"That task force could help guide the small businesses — that could be just a sole proprietor, they don't have the time to go navigate all these rules," Lee added. "Let's guide them, help them look for grants, look for loans and try to just open up and find solutions to open up."

The candidates also addressed what actions and policies they would take or recommend on social justice reform, as well as their thoughts on reallocating Pleasanton Police Department funds for mental health services and on forming a citizens oversight commission.

None of the candidates expressed support for defunding the police department, with some wanting to maintain the city's quick response time of four minutes or less for emergency service calls. Most also stated they did not support an oversight commission and said there would be too much potential for politicization. However, the addition of mental health professionals for crisis intervention was unanimously favored.

"I do believe that our City Council is our oversight board," Balch said. "I support the city council having a more active involvement in the role, and would allow direct accountability to the voters of Pleasanton by this method."

Buna said an oversight committee would invite "a very political element that adds to the complexity of solving the problem" and that having a more diverse council instead would be better.

"And there are problems, no doubt about it; there are diversity problems," Buna said. "But the mental health issue is not the only one. We're seeing across the country, people of color scared of the

police, and that's real, and it starts with leadership, and it starts with diversity."

Kiziloglu said, "What we've seen with the Black Lives Matter is something that we have to see, that this is part of our community as well. We're not isolated; we don't live in a bubble."

"We have to deal with the issue of housing and inequality, that's what they want, that's what we need to do, if it means police changing things," Kiziloglu said. "I'm not saying defund the police, but if it means changing things around, we should be able to work with them. It's only fair."

There is bias in the policing system but Lee said Pleasanton's force "has been doing well."

"I don't support defunding police, but I do support having a police policy review committee similar to our current committees that report and give advice to the City Council," Lee said. "I think that would be helpful where they could review all the policy, maybe all the cases that went through the police force, and make suggestions to the city council."

Arkin, whose brother is an active police officer of 30 years, said, "Having a high regard for our police and wanting oversight and transparency is not mutually exclusive." Though Arkin was undecided about having an oversight commission, she said "that could be something that we explore."

"Any public agency funded with taxpayer dollars has to have oversight and transparency," Arkin said. "Oversight by the City Council is absolutely needed, and unlike what some of my fellow candidates have said, there is no oversight by the City Council currently. That is not acceptable, and that has to change."

See all the candidates' responses, including their thoughts on the proposed Costco development on Johnson Drive, in the full forum video at PleasantonWeekly.com.

The Pleasanton City Council election is on Nov. 3, with seven candidates on the ballot battling for two at-large seats (four-year elected terms) with both incumbents termed out. ■



PPD

## New officers join Pleasanton PD

The Pleasanton Police Department recently welcomed two new officers to its force, both transferring to Pleasanton from other California departments. Shown at socially distanced swearing-in ceremony are Officer Luke Olson (left), a Sonoma County native who worked for the Brisbane Police Department for the past six years, and Officer Del Vaughn Billups (right), who had been a deputy-sheriff since 2012 with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department including his hometown of Los Angeles.

# Staying Healthy

## FALL 2020

### Inside:

- Anxiety is challenging kids Page 12
- Two healthy recipes to try Page 13
- How to deal with this smoke Page 14

## Go To The doctor

Hospital officials warn against postponing regular exams, procedures over fear of virus

By RYAN J. DEGAN

**W**ith the ongoing coronavirus pandemic keeping many residents in their homes in an effort to avoid the potentially deadly contagion, some Tri-Valley hospitals have noted a decrease in the number of patients making medical visits out of fear of contracting the virus.

Some people have even gone so far as to postpone medical needs and non-essential surgeries out of concern over COVID-19 exposure; however, local hospital officials want residents to know that they are still open to safely fulfill all medical needs and that proper policies and procedures have been put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“We currently have a backlog of patients who delayed their surgery. Some of these patients have unnecessarily made these already difficult months even more difficult for themselves by placing their health on the back-burner,” Dr. Saqib Hasan, a spinal surgeon

at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, told the Weekly.

While there are some cases in which it is safe and perhaps even advisable to postpone a surgery, Hasan said that every precaution has been taken to ensure that the hospital is sanitary and safe. He noted that certain complications can arise from postponing certain surgeries and patients need to consult with their physicians prior to making a decision.

“When it comes to surgery, there are some potential permanent problems from delaying care. For example, in spine surgery, muscular weakness from nerve compression can sometimes be irreversible if there is a prolonged delay,” he added.

Hasan did note that while there was a more noticeable dip in patients visiting the hospital at the beginning of the pandemic, recently there has been a steady increase in the volume of patients returning for various levels of care.

“In general, we want to make



MIKE SEDLAK

Tri-Valley hospitals like Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare in Pleasanton are urging residents not to postpone routine or recommended medical appointments and procedures during the pandemic, after noting a decrease in patient turnout since March.

sure our patients feel safe coming to the hospital and they aren't putting their health care needs on the back-burner, which can cause issues down the line. We are running a very safe, efficient hospital for patients to receive care,” Hasan said.

To keep patients safe from the virus when visiting, hospitals throughout the country have been practicing strict policies and procedures aimed at preventing the spread of the pandemic.

Pleasanton's Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare, for example, has implemented a number of policies geared toward combating the virus, policies primarily based off recommendations from county, state and local government health officials.

“We have an established interdisciplinary task force led by infection control practitioners, focused on developing response plans for infectious disease outbreaks (including COVID-19) in alignment with CDC recommendations,” Denise Bouillercce, ValleyCare's director of government and community relations, told the Weekly.

“(Stanford-ValleyCare) is continuously adapting procedures and policies based on new information and guidance from the county, state and local governments,” she added.

According to Bouillercce, at Stanford-ValleyCare policies enacted to protect hospital patients, visitors

and staff from the virus include:

- Visitor policy restrictions and expanded access to video visits limit the number of possible exposures.
- Universal masking and screening procedures for staff, patients and visitors
- Employees are tested for COVID-19 using methods developed by Stanford Medicine.
- Waiting rooms and clinics are arranged for physical distancing.

Stanford-ValleyCare and San Ramon Regional have also mandated that all patients are tested for the virus before their procedures, enhanced cleaning measures are in place and staff equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE), including gowns, gloves and masks.

“Every precaution is being taken, combining strong infection prevention processes, staff training, testing and ample supply of personal protective equipment. We are committed to universal protection and safety for every person who walks through our doors,” Hasan said about San Ramon Regional.

Hasan added that every patient and visitor who enters the hospital is screened for fever and other signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and hospital staff complete a coronavirus-related screening questionnaire every day as well as receiving temperature checks

when entering the building.

Diligent sanitation protocols are also followed at both hospitals, officials said.

“If you are in need of care or have questions about your health, please don't hesitate to reach out to us whether it's through the emergency room or through your physician. We have safe practices in place and your health is our No. 1 priority,” Bouillercce said.

Stanford-ValleyCare currently operates a public testing site at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Gate 12 located off Valley Avenue, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon — or while supplies last. The testing site is open to residents of Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin with no out-of-pocket expenses.

No appointment is needed to receive a test, which is available for residents who show symptoms or have been in close proximity with someone who has tested positive. Residents can learn more online at [www.valleycare.com](http://www.valleycare.com).

The San Ramon Valley's drive-thru testing site can be found at Bishop Ranch, 2600 Camino Ramon, in San Ramon. To make an appointment for a fast, no-cost test at any site in Contra Costa, residents can call 844-421-0804 or visit [www.coronavirus.cchealth.org](http://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org) — online scheduling is available at most sites. ■



SRRMC

San Ramon Regional Medical Center spinal surgeon Dr. Saqib Hasan (front) says hospitals are doing everything they can to keep patients safe from COVID-19.

# Anxiety is challenging many kids during pandemic

Mental health experts caution about too much screen time, loss of routine

By JULIA BAUM

Sheltering in place and remote learning are the new way of life for many Tri-Valley residents, and local mental health experts have recently stepped up to help parents and children better understand and recognize the potential risks and signs of anxiety related to long-term isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As residents pass the half-year mark since schools and many office buildings first closed to stop the spread of COVID-19, Dr. Jennifer Penney of Axis Community Health in Pleasanton told the Weekly that she has observed an increase in the need for mental health and counseling services.

“Usually depression and anxiety are the most common reason people come to counseling at Axis in particular, but we’ve seen such an uptick ... because of the pandemic taxing everybody’s resources and ability to cope,” Penney said. “We’re seeing that people who have never experienced depression before are now experiencing it, just due to the difficulty coping right now.”

According to the American Psychological Association, anxiety is “an emotion characterized by feelings of tension, worried thoughts and physical changes like increased blood pressure.” The disorder affects an estimated one in three youths and can manifest itself in many ways.

Local family therapist Vanessa Varrelman, who works mostly with elementary-age students, also reported seeing more young clients with anxiety in recent months.

“I would definitely say anxiety has increased,” Varrelman said. “I definitely think that anxiety has increased around the pandemic but also just having their routine disrupted. It stands to reason that anxiety would be increased because routines are disrupted.”

Anxiety appears in both young and older people, as well as depression, but experts said the conditions can present differently in children.

“For kids, it’s sometimes hard for them to articulate what’s going on. They have difficulty putting words to their feelings and experiences,” Penney said.

It’s not uncommon for parents to notice changes in their child such as acting out, an increase in aggression or irritability, somatic complaints about headaches or stomach aches, difficulty sleeping, nightmares, bed-wetting or not paying attention in class.

With many potential distractions at home while trying to learn via virtual platform, though, Penney said it’s important for parents to remember “it’s more that (the child’s) maybe not comprehending the material, such as a kid that was learning normally and now they’re spacing out during class or not watching their video for school.”

Parents can and are encouraged to help their child avoid too much screen time outside of online schooling but have struggled with finding the right amount. Many want their child to still socialize with their friends over Zoom and feel connected but also interact with their real surroundings.

“There needs to be a limit on screen time, but right now families are in a space where they’re trying to balance the kids’ need to be on screens more,” Varrelman said. “We’re all in the same space together trying to navigate it, figure it out. We can only go on what best practices are, and trial and error.”

Mannie Nimmo — one of the co-founders of the Pleasanton-based Z-Cares Foundation, which specializes in mental health first aid training and public education about youth anxiety and depression — said parents ask her “a lot” now how much screen time during a pandemic is too much.

“They spend extra time in their room, but they have to because of schooling. So it’s, ‘where does that excess come into play and

what are the differences?’ That’s one of the questions that I get asked a lot,” Nimmo said.

Structuring screen time is important, so Penney said “it’s important to schedule in time for talks with friends since they can only do it virtually right now” and just try to find the right balance between virtual and real world activities instead.

“It’s a very individual issue for families, so the most important thing is for families to sit down and talk about it directly,” Penney said. “I see black-and-white extremes oftentimes. Some families have open ended and no structure, or the flipside is the parents are very stringent and have very limited hours, which

See ANXIETY on Page 13

## Take a break from stress and anxiety

Library has books to educate, entertain and open new worlds

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Pleasanton Public Library has become a beacon of caring and sharing during the pandemic, as patrons old and new turn to it for information, education and pure escapism.

“We have all kinds of resources to help people find their next great read,” librarian Julie Eseltine said. “We are always happy to share our favorite books, and if we find out what they like and what their interests are, we can make recommendations.”

“If people are looking for ways to do self-care, if they need pointers on that topic, we have different things in the collection about taking care of themselves,” Eseltine added, citing books on healthy diet, meditation and trying yoga.

In normal times, the library had regular patrons as well as newcomers, and many would approach the desk to say they did not know what to read next, Eseltine said.

“We start with what you have read that you like, and can try and find books in a similar style or on the same theme,” she said. “Or we can expand on the topic from another perspective. There are all kinds of ways to get someone to their favorite book.”

When shelter-in-place began, the library expanded its online services, and now webpages offer suggestions, such as “Book Club Selections,” “Quirky Books” and “A Little Obsessed with Magical Realism” as well as recently reviewed books.

The library has kept its eight librarians full-time, as well as clerks and administrators, who alternate going into the facility and working from home to keep social distancing.

They staff the phone from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday each week to answer questions and recommend books the individual might enjoy. Inquiries can also be made via email. And librarians continue to advise patrons on how to set up their devices to download digital books as well as movies and documentaries.

The latest innovation, Eseltine said, is book bundles put together by staff.

“There is a menu of a dozen different selections, kids’ books in age ranges, adult materials, and Chinese materials and Spanish



NICK BINZONI

Librarian Susan Dickinson places books in the back of a vehicle for a patron who requested them on the website.

materials,” she said. “One group who really appreciates this is parents of kids who like picture books.”

The library normally circulates millions of items a year, Eseltine said, and curbside pickup, which began in June, has been a boon for readers.

“It is a system we’ve had to create, out of various parts of software, pivoting from our normal routines,” she said.

Patrons reserve books online, are notified when they are ready, and text when they leave for the library. Once there, the books are brought out and placed into the back of the vehicle. Returned books go through a four-day quarantine.

“The last number was 400 items per day newly placed on hold,” Eseltine said. “Our staff are embracing it enthusiastically. This is why we exist — to get resources for education and entertainment into the hands of people who want to use it.”

Anyone can log onto their website (via [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)) and get a library card within minutes.

“The best advice I’ve seen is to find things that make you happy, that transport you and give you a break if you’ve been feeling stress or anxiety,” Eseltine said.

Those who cannot go online can telephone 931-3400 to request books for curbside pickup. ■

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## Two healthy recipes to try

Cookbook author says family is thriving in the kitchen

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Christina Gray, Pleasanton photographer, author and real estate professional, also has made it her mission in life to develop healthy recipes and share them with others. And since the pandemic began, cooking has become a family affair with husband Lonnie and son Ethan, 16, and daughter Lauren, 14, both students at Amador Valley High School.

“The kids have had time to really dive into cooking and baking, and it was our most precious family time every day,” Christina Gray said.

For healthy meals, they came up with new recipes for chicken piccata and shrimp fettuccini, which are now in regular rotation.

“And if it can be skewered and put on a barbecue, we have done it,” Gray said. “That is an excellent way to keep things low in fat and calories but high in flavor.”

But Gray said the “meal winner” in her home during isolation has been a recipe she developed for the Sept. 11, 2014, “Chili

Cook-Off” in Dublin — which she won.

“This chili recipe is a great combination of both carbohydrates and proteins that come from vegetables, legumes and meat,” she added. “It freezes great, and if you’re a vegetarian you can easily omit the meat and substitute extra beans and vegetables.”

The list of ingredients is long, she admitted, but that is what makes it different from other chili recipes, which was important when entering the contest.

“It may look intimidating at first but it’s worth a family meal adventure to make it,” she said.

Gray published a cookbook in 2015, “Be Free Cooking — The Allergen Aware Cook,” which was named a bestseller for the year by Towne Center Books. She said the recipe from this book that gets the most compliments for being tasty is Tabbouleh Quinoa.

“This dish is a favorite of mine to make

See **RECIPES** on Page 14

## ANXIETY

Continued from Page 12

stresses out the parents and kids with trying to keep it at a minimum.”

By checking in with themselves about how they’re also feeling, parents can help their children better cope with remote learning and isolation, according to Varrelman.

“Kids’ success is a direct correlation with how the adults around them are handling it,” Varrelman said. “It’s equally as important for parents to be mindful and take care of themselves so that they can be a better support to the student. The thoughts and feelings (kids) have are directly related to the thoughts and feelings that parents are having about (COVID-19).”

Many of Samantha Nimmo’s peers in college are grappling with a daily case of déjà vu: “It’s good to have routine but at the same time, if you’re doing the exact same thing at the exact same time, every single day, that’s going to get really repetitive,” she said. “I’ve had a lot of people tell me they feel like they’re living the same day over and over and over again, and they’re bored.”

To stave off some of the monotony that can contribute to anxiety, Samantha Nimmo suggests “doing the same things you do every day but in different places” like a set amount of time for taking a walk or painting every day.

“Something different that you don’t usually do — it’s just a little change, but even that little change can really flip your whole day around,” Samantha Nimmo said.

Sometimes a specialist is needed, however, and whether for a child or grownup, finding professional help during a global health crisis is more difficult but not impossible. Steve Nimmo said Z-Cares recently revamped their mental health first aid training system to respond accordingly during the pandemic.

“The National Council of Behavioral Health, who certifies us, they came up with a Zoom solution to the training, so we were able to get that turned back on. We’re now again conducting mental health first aid trainings virtually on Zoom,” Steve Nimmo said.

“You miss a lot of nonverbal cues when you’re on virtual versus non-virtual,” Steve Nimmo said. “We can see from the shoulders up but we might not see the fidgeting hands

or feet wiggling around ... so I think you miss some of that.”

Virtual counseling doesn’t work for all patients, but Mannie Nimmo said it’s resonating with a lot of kids who have anxiety: “People with social anxiety, you’re not in a room with people, so you’re in your own home, your own space, you’re in a more comfortable environment, which can be helpful.”

“It’s been a mixed bag. On one hand, we have kids or adults who are either fearful to go out in public because of the pandemic or have agoraphobia and are just afraid of going out,” Penney said. “Some have chosen to put counseling on hold until they can be seen in person.”

Steve Nimmo recounted the recent successes of a Chicago therapist that he knows counseling patients over the internet.

“He did say a lot of the kids will like to go jump on Zoom and they do it from their own room, and they feel super comfortable about it,” Steve Nimmo said. “They might have a hard time even getting up and going into the office but it’s not so hard for them to open their computer in their room and have a conversation with them. That’s certainly the positive side of it, that they’re working in a comfortable space.”

Many experts agreed that they are likely to continue offering telehealth services after the pandemics, though Penney and Varrelman said some patients need or prefer in-person therapy, such as play therapy for small children.

Varrelman has offered some in-person treatment including play therapy for children during the pandemic, but under strict safety guidelines like wearing a face mask, practicing social distancing and disinfecting all toys as well as laminating or printing single-use worksheets.

Axis also switched to telehealth services within a week of sheltering starting; since spring, 17 licensed clinicians have conducted counseling sessions via video or phone. “That’s been the case since March and will continue until it’s determined to be safe to be indoors without masks,” Penney said.

For more information and resources about anxiety, depression and other mental health disorders, visit [www.zcares.org](http://www.zcares.org) or [www.axishealth.org](http://www.axishealth.org). ■



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# Smoke gets in your eyes? Not good

Wildfires bring another health threat to town

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Recent wildfires have been a particular challenge this year. Just when everyone thought the healthiest place was outside, suddenly it wasn't.

"The air quality impacts of these wildfires burning throughout Northern California are a testimony to the ongoing harmful impacts of climate change," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, as wildfires caused elevated levels of smoke pollution in late August. "It's important for us all to continue to be vigilant and stay indoors as smoke continues to impact the region."

Wildfire smoke contains fine particles that are respiratory irritants which, when inhaled deeply, can affect the lungs and the heart, according to the Alameda County Public Health Department. Exposure to high concentrations of these fine particles can cause a persistent cough, a runny nose, phlegm, wheezing and difficulty breathing.

ACPHD officials cautioned those with respiratory conditions, compromised immune systems or other significant health issues, but noted that exposure to wildfire smoke can affect healthy people, too. It can cause respiratory symptoms as well as reductions in lung function, including the ability to remove foreign materials from the lungs, such as pollen and bacteria.

When wildfire smoke is in evidence,

residents are advised to do following:

- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed.
- Keep indoor air cool or visit an air-cooling center.
- Set home and car ventilation systems on recirculate to prevent drawing in outside air.
- Stay hydrated by drinking water.
- Limit or avoid outdoor activities.
- Use an air filter, especially for household members with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory conditions, or elderly persons and children.
- Avoid using wood-burning stoves or fireplaces, lawn mowing, leaf blowing, burning candles and incense, barbecuing, smoking.
- If possible, leave the affected area for the duration of a heavy smoke event.

The air district also advises residents to keep polluted air out of their homes by caulking windows and using weather-stripping under doors. Windows and doors can be sealed with paper towels held in place with painter's tape.

If adults must go outdoors, they may benefit from wearing an N95 mask, according to Kaiser Permanente, which can block the fine particulate matter in smoke.

Kaiser also noted that irritation or swelling in the air passages may not be noticed until several hours after exposure to smoke. If impacted, it advises the following:

- Get plenty of rest and sleep; your energy

level will improve with time. Prop up your head on pillows to help you breathe and ease a cough.

- Suck on cough drops or hard candy to soothe a dry or sore throat.
- Take cough medicine if your doctor tells you to.
- Do not smoke or allow others to smoke around you.
- Avoid things that may irritate your lungs, which include cold, dry air or hot, humid air.

Call your doctor if you cough up yellow, dark brown or bloody mucus; if your coughing or wheezing gets worse; or if you do not start to feel better.

The air district continually monitors the air and posts Spare the Air alerts. Sign up for text alerts by texting the word "START" to 817-57; register for email AirAlerts at [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org); call 1-800-HELP-AIR; download the Spare the Air App; or connect with Spare the Air on Facebook or Twitter. ■

## RECIPES

Continued from Page 13

during the summer because the lemon and mint make it so light and refreshing," she said.

She also noted, "Not all lemons are the same: Some lemons are very sweet while others are tart. If you find your dressing is too tart, just add a pinch of sugar."

Gray said her cooking changed at first when sheltering in place began.

"The pandemic encouraged us to eat things mostly from the pantry or freezer," she said. "We tried to leave the house as little as possible so we even froze many of our vegetables so we would have them on hand."

They also baked "countless cookies and cakes."

"It was a bright spot in an otherwise scary situation of COVID-19, death, isolation and virtual schooling," Gray said. ■



CHRISTINA GRAY/BELLA LUNA STUDIOS

### Tabbouleh quinoa

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups water
- 1 cup quinoa
- 2 green onions, chopped

- 1/4 cup mint, chopped
- 1/2 cup parsley, chopped
- 1/2 cup cucumber, peeled and diced
- 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, halved

**Dressing:**

- 1/4 cup olive oil
  - 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
  - 1/4 tsp salt
  - 1/4 tsp black pepper
- In a medium pot, bring water to a boil. Add quinoa, stir well, cover and turn heat to low. Cook for 20 minutes or until liquid has been

absorbed. When quinoa has cooled, add the green onions, mint, parsley, cucumber and cherry tomatoes. Mix well.

In a small sealable container, add the dressing ingredients and shake well. Drizzle the dressing over the quinoa and mix. Serve warm or cold for a delicious meal.

(For added flavor, include cubed avocado or a sprinkle of cayenne pepper.)



CHRISTINA GRAY/BELLA LUNA STUDIOS

### Cook-off chili

**Servings:** 8

**Preparation time:** 45 minutes

**Cook time:** 60 minutes (simmer up to 2 hours)

**Ingredients:**

- 1 roasted and seeded pasilla pepper
- 1 lb ground beef (85% lean)
- 1 lb ground pork
- 1 tsp Most Powerful Stuff (brand of salt blend) or seasoned salt
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 large yellow onion, finely chopped
- 5 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 3 tbsp chipotle peppers in adobo: 2 tbsp of the liquid and 1 tbsp chipotle pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- 15 oz kidney beans, drained
- 15 oz pinto beans, drained
- 28 oz crushed tomato
- 1/2 cup water

- 1 tbsp white sugar
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp cacao, unsweetened
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp cumin
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Roast the pasilla pepper over an open flame, either on your BBQ or gas range. Blacken the skin on all sides. Once black, remove from heat and place in a paper bag or covered container (to help the blackened outer layer pull away from the flesh of the pepper). Once cool, carefully scrape away the black outer layer. Cut the pepper lengthwise and scrape the seeds away. Chop the seeded roasted pepper and set aside. (Roasting step can be skipped if necessary.)

2. Cook the ground beef and pork in a large pot over medium heat.

3. Add 1 tbsp Most Powerful Stuff or seasoned salt and mix well. Once cooked, drain the meat and set aside.

4. In the same pot, heat the oil over medium heat.

5. Add finely chopped bell peppers, onion, garlic and roasted pasilla

pepper and saute for about 10 minutes.

6. Add chipotle peppers, kidney beans, pinto beans, tomatoes and water. Stir well. The chipotle peppers in adobo are very spicy, so if you prefer less heat consider reducing or omitting this ingredient. Be mindful of the seeds, which are the spiciest part of all.

7. Add white and brown sugars, cacao, chili powder, cumin, salt and pepper. Add more or less to taste.

8. Add the cooked meat back into the pot and mix well.

9. Simmer on low for 60 minutes with the lid on. Stir frequently so the bottom doesn't burn.

The longer it simmers, the more the flavors develop.

10. For those who prefer meatless, this recipe is easy to modify so have fun with it. Add in your favorites — extra beans, bell peppers, fresh tomatoes, whatever your taste buds desire. You will have a hearty and delicious meal in any direction you take this.

11. Enjoy!

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2017 & 2018

# Sunflower Hill releases face mask awareness video

Aimed at helping adults with developmental disabilities navigate pandemic

By EMMA HALL

Sunflower Hill released an educational video last month expressing the importance of wearing a mask for adults with developmental disabilities.

The video was created alongside Sunflower Hill's online activities program. In response to COVID-19, Tri-Valley nonprofit has adapted to online-based education.

"It's important for us to know that we are not alone when learning a new skill," said Emily Corerria, the director of Enjoy Life More, an adult day program in Livermore. "This video is a useful tool to remind us that we can work through problems with a little help from our friends."

Sunflower Hill partnered with Robert Half, a global staffing firm with locations in the Tri-Valley and a longtime supporter of the nonprofit, for the recent video.

"When this year's program went virtual due to the pandemic, it was only natural to continue supporting the organization — but in a different format," Roy Cook, senior program manager at Robert Half, said in a statement. "By producing a video on the importance

of wearing masks, and presenting it in an educational and approachable manner, we hope to help Sunflower Hill's program participants and the community at large."

The video discusses the importance of wearing a mask and following health guidelines in public places, particularly in stores.

Rachel Clark, communications and administration manager at Sunflower Hill, hosted in the video with tips on how to social distance.

For example, she stated to imagine holding a pool noodle with your arms out, a strategy she said should help maintain a six-foot distance between people. She also talked about when shopping at a store to limit the things you touch and follow the signs of the store.

Overall, she emphasized that wearing a mask is a part of a team effort to protect one's self and others around them.

"It was important for us to create a face mask video resource for both our program participants and our new residents at Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch," Sunflower



Rachel Clark (left), communications and administration manager at Sunflower Hill, shares a peek behind the scenes on the set of the nonprofit's face mask video.

Hill Executive Director Edie Nehls said in a statement. "(We need) a platform for discussion about

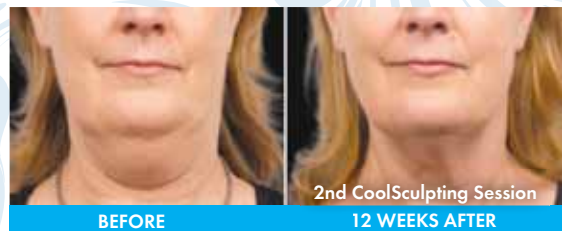
masking wearing and how that impacts social interactions. We created the video to ensure our

program participants continue to feel supported and confident both when going out in public." ■



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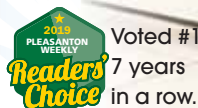


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# FROM A 'DESPERATE' TO 'RESPECTABLE' TOWN

A look back at Pleasanton's mythologized Wild West history

By AMELIA WILLIAMS/BCN FOUNDATION

Before it was home to the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Safeway headquarters and more than 80,000 Bay Area residents, the city of Pleasanton was a Gold Rush stopover rife with bandits and cattle, set amongst a grove of sycamore trees — it was then called Alisal, nicknamed “The Most Desperate Town in the West.”

Local historians say that may be a little dramatic.

Pre-contact, the indigenous Ohlone people populated the now-called Amador Valley and much of what is now “the Bay Area.”

The first Spanish missionaries arrived in 1772, but seemingly dawdled for a few decades before establishing Mission San Jose in 1797. For half a century or so, the population was sparse and life was quaint, even with many rancheros receiving land grants from the Mexican government and California's annexation to the United States in 1848.

Three major changes would impact Alisal's transition into Pleasanton — gold, war and railroads.

Ken MacLennan has been the curator of Pleasanton's Museum on Main for the last 12 years. The museum is housed in the former Town Hall building on Main Street, where legend and Wikipedia say desperados shot at each other and robbed miners of their daily hauls.

The museum hosts year-round exhibits of different eras in the city's history from its first inhabitants, the Ohlone people, to Spanish missionaries and Anglo settlers, to the impacts of both world wars.

The museum has little on the almost-mythic period of Alisal's existence, MacLennan wrote in an email, because “we have never had enough material (either artifacts of historical documentation) to support an in-depth exhibit about a period that was less than two decades and had almost nonexistent news coverage. Most of the lore surrounding the Pleasanton area in the 1850s consists of family stories that lack documentary support.”

“Lore” is apt.

Few documents exist to support Alisal's existence, and those that do MacLennan says don't make for a very compelling exhibition.

A Pleasanton Downtown Historic Context Statement from 2015 barely mentions it as a ranching community, incorporated into Alameda County in 1853. The Alisal Wikipedia page is seriously lacking in citations. Even the local newspapers dating from the 1860s and 1870s, according to MacLennan, referred to the area as Pleasanton. “Alisal” was used as an alternative name or alluded to as the prior name, now outdated with the influx of Anglo-Americans.

Still, the “Most Desperate Town in the West” lives on, if only in reputation.

After the end of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), among many other reverberating national changes, the United States cracked down on landowner residency (rather, lack thereof) on their ranches, and landowners could no longer run things remotely.

Opening up the territory to settlement brought, among others like the eponymous

Robert Livermore, three very important men to the area: the Bernal brothers, Augustin and Juan Pablo, and John W. Kottinger, Juan Pablo's son-in-law, who in 1864 would christen the town as Pleasanton after U.S. Civil War Union Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasanton. Yes, with two “o's.” Apparently, there was a typo at the clerk's office.

An early town store was built where the Pleasanton Hotel now stands, and there are paved streets named after the Bernals and Kottinger where there was once valley dust.

Despite the gold and new land laws, not many flocked to Alisal in the 1850s, the land of sycamores, or alders, as is the direct translation. Its proximity to mining sites, lack of political supervision and established horse-driving routes made it a great hideout for bandoleros, desperados and all manner of gun-slinging, sheriff-shooting criminals.

This is where the “desperate” reputation comes from, but MacLennan insists there isn't much to differentiate the Alisal shenanigans than any neighboring town.

“From the 1850s into the early 1870s, the valley was a favorite hideout for outlaws, since it was so thinly populated. Somehow this later got translated to the entire “West,” largely by people who wanted to play up the more dramatic aspects of local history. To be fair, Laddsville (later Livermore) had just as bad a reputation as Pleasanton did, and for the same reasons,” MacLennan wrote in an email.

The desperados in question are as mythic as the land they supposedly lived, robbed and killed on.

One of the earliest figures, Joaquin Murrieta, may be the most notorious.

MacLennan has not found any evidence that Murrieta, a Robin Hood figure of his time, committed crimes within the immediate Pleasanton area, but there are rumors his mother lived nearby.

For those not a fan of the Western genre, Murrieta inspired the first novel to be published in California, “The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta,” as well as the character Zorro.

History.com states he was killed by a special team of California Rangers on July 25, 1853. His head was severed and preserved in a large jar of whiskey so the rangers could collect the bounty on him. Allegedly, the head went on display at a San Francisco museum until the 1906 earthquake destroyed it.

With the new generation of residents in the Gold Rush era came new bandoleros, and newspapers to contextualize who these men were.

Murrieta had a nephew, known as Procopio or Red Dick, who was 12 at the time of his uncle's death by the rangers and who supposedly followed in his crooked footsteps.

There was also Juan Soto (no, not the baseball player), who an 1871 article in the Daily Alta California described as “the worst man of that class who has lived since the famous Joaquin Murieta,” though it looks like there may be a name-spelling error.

Soto died in a shootout with Alameda County Sheriff Harry Morse in 1871, and by then most of the desperados were dead, jailed



MUSEUM ON MAIN/COURTESY BCN

Giddyup! Four ladies wait in a buggy outside the Silver Pharmacy in Pleasanton, circa 1880s.

or back in Mexico.

MacLennan acknowledges that newspaper reporting at the time was far from the Society of Professional Journalists standards employed today and “you will occasionally find stuff that is made up.”

Life went on, quietly.

The local population didn't even reach 500 until what at the time was called the Western Pacific Railroad finished its construction through Pleasanton in 1869. By then, Kottinger had served as local town judge, stepped down to move to San Francisco, delved into real estate and returned to capitalize on the growing white population.

“In 1862, the railroad was announced, and the following year John Kottinger started selling plots near the planned route,” MacLennan said. “In 1868-69, the railroad was built after a hiatus, and Kottinger got together with his neighbor and fellow Bernal in-law Joshua Neal to draw up a town plan, which they filed with the county. The name on the town plan is ‘Pleasanton.’”

After that, some people might use the name “Alisal,” but by 1869, the town is definitely Pleasanton.”

And just like that, it seems, Alisal was no more. MacLennan believes the mysticism comes from Pleasanton's current economic prosperity, in part as the headquarters of multiple corporations and upstanding citizens. Its “respectability” is what allows the myth to live on.

“It's safe to go back to the ‘shoot ‘em up years’ as ‘shoot ‘em up years.’ We can treat it as entertainment, not something to sweep it under the rug, he said.

Who knows, maybe five years from now the Museum on Main will host a coronavirus exhibition documenting how the city transitioned through a new historic period.

“Curating that exhibit would be a challenging experience,” MacLennan said. ■

*Editor's note: Story courtesy of the Bay City News Foundation. To view the article in its original online presentation from last month, visit [localnewsmatters.org](http://localnewsmatters.org).*

## Niles Canyon Railway offering special trips

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Niles Canyon Railway will be operating special trips using a classic steam engine two weekends in September, after being closed down since March.

The all-volunteer train crew is eager to fire up the recently restored Columbia River Belt Line Railway steam locomotive, affectionately called the Skookum, which has been on loan to the Niles Canyon Railway for the last 18 months.

Excursions in the open-air cars will leave from the Sunol Depot at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturdays, Sept. 12 and 19; and at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Sundays, Sept. 13 and 20.

The fare for the daytime trains is \$30 for adults; \$20, seniors (62-plus) and children (3-12). The twilight train costs \$40, adults; \$30, seniors and children.

The Pacific Locomotive Association, which runs the railway, has posted special COVID-19 Health and Safety policies to be followed. Boarding areas will be set up for social distancing, and patrons are asked to arrive 30-45 minutes before departure.

Face masks are required, and no more



than 50% of the seats will be used. Enhanced cleaning and sanitization will focus on high-touch areas. Hand sanitizing stations are on some railcars, and restrooms will be available for hand-washing. The snack bar on the train will be closed, and no food or drinks are allowed on board.

The association also announced that this year's popular Train of Lights holiday event has been canceled, due to restrictions and the inability to properly plan. Since this was the main fundraiser for the organization, donations are appreciated.

To purchase tickets for the special excursions or to make donations, visit [www.ncry.org](http://www.ncry.org). ■

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Tri-Valley residents convicted of \$2M fraud scheme

Two San Ramon residents pleaded guilty last week to conspiracy to commit insurance premium fraud and other related felonies after the pair was caught evading more than \$2 million dollars in insurance premiums.

According to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, 57-year-old Selina Singh and 30-year-old Kabir Singh, both of San Ramon, were caught fraudulently misrepresenting employee construction payroll to insurance carriers in order to lower their insurance rates.

The Singhs also admitted an aggravated white collar crime enhancement for a loss exceeding \$500,000 through "a pattern of criminal activity," according to DA officials.

"Workers compensation coverage to protect employees from injury is mandatory in the state of California. Premium fraud creates unfair competition in dangerous industries, as law-abiding business owners are outbid by competitors that unlawfully evade the cost of coverage at the expense of their workers," DA officials said in a statement.

The pair were outed for their fraudulent activities after an employee severed their thumb while on a construction site — for the family's construction company Bara Infoware, Inc. — and Selina Singh

allegedly directed them to lie about the injury. According to the DA, Selina Singh told the injured employee to lie and say the injury occurred while working for the family's other company, Federal Solutions Group.

The injured employee responded by reporting the incident to the Monterey County DA's Office, who then launched an investigation and determined that this was not the first incident falsely reported by the Singhs.

In addition to the employee injured on the Bara Infoware, Inc. job site, investigators were also able to locate an injured employee that reported that Kabir Singh likewise asked them to not to report their injury and offered to pay their medical expenses instead of reporting the injury to company's insurance.

That employee was asked to report their injury through the Monterey-based Eagle Solutions, which was "used first to move money between Bara Infoware, Inc. and Federal Solutions Group, and then eventually directly to obtain workers compensation policies for non-construction payroll while running construction jobsites," Contra Costa DA officials said.

Investigators determined that the Singhs obtained government contracts, including construction contracts that require compliance with workers compensation laws, putting in lower bids by misrepresenting the construction payroll to insurance carriers in less dangerous industries operated by the family — such as clerical and consulting — in order to lower their insurance rates.

A forensic audit "concluded that

the scheme evaded over \$2 million of insurance premiums that law abiding competitors would have had to pay in seven years, in addition to over \$200,000 of evaded payroll tax owed to the state of California," Contra Costa DA officials said.

Kabir and Selina Singh pleaded guilty on Sept. 1 to conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, insurance premium fraud, and a white collar crime enhancement, which carry a maximum sentence of eleven years and eight months. Selina Singh also pleaded guilty to payroll tax fraud, which on its own does not increase the maximum sentencing possibility.

Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 19 at 1:30 p.m. in Contra Costa County Superior Court.

### In other business

- San Leandro police Officer Jason Fletcher was charged last week with voluntary manslaughter for killing Steven Taylor at a San Leandro Walmart store in April, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley's office said in a statement.

"The decision to file the criminal complaint was made after an intensive investigation and thorough analysis of the evidence and the current law," O'Malley said on Sept. 2.

A new state law requires that police officers use deadly force only when they "reasonably believe," given all the circumstances, that it's necessary to defend a human life.

Taylor was dead within a minute of when Officer Fletcher entered

the Walmart at 15555 Hesperian Blvd. about 3:12 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, in response to a report that a shoplifter at the store was holding a baseball bat.

"And justice was served," Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley said in a tweet. "May this be one of many appropriate filings against police who threaten, torment and take civilian lives."

It's the first time O'Malley has filed criminal charges against a police officer in a fatal shooting, said O'Malley spokeswoman Teresa Drenick. And Fletcher is among few officers to have been charged since the new state law regarding police violence took effect in January.

Prosecutors said Taylor had entered the store about 3 p.m. and picked up an aluminum bat and a tent and tried to leave without paying for them. Store security stopped him and asked him to return the items. Then a security guard at the store called 9-1-1 to report a theft and possible robbery.

Already nearby when he got the call, Fletcher was walking to the front entrance of the store as another officer arrived by car in the store parking lot, according to prosecutors. Fletcher then approached Taylor without waiting

for the second officer.

With his left hand, Fletcher allegedly tried to take the bat from Taylor's right hand, pulling out his gun at the same time. But Taylor held onto the bat and stepped away from the officer. According to prosecutors, Fletcher then struck Taylor twice with Taser rounds.

Prosecutors said Taylor was trying to stay up and was pointing the bat at the ground when Fletcher fired a bullet into Taylor's chest as the backup officer arrived. Taylor dropped the bat, turned and fell. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Fewer than 40 seconds had passed between when Fletcher entered the store and when he shot Taylor, according to prosecutors. They said it was unreasonable to conclude, after reviewing the evidence, that Taylor posed an imminent threat of great bodily injury or death to Fletcher or anyone else in the store.

Fletcher is to be arraigned in Alameda County Superior Court on Sept. 15. Fletcher remains on administrative leave, San Leandro police Lt. Ted Henderson said. An attempt to reach Fletcher last week was unsuccessful. ■

—Ryan J. Degan and Bay City News Service

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Sept. 6

#### Domestic battery

■ 12:24 a.m. on Vineyard Avenue

#### Drug violation

■ 1:25 p.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Court

### Sept. 5

#### Drug violation

■ 7:53 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

#### Theft

■ 11:24 a.m., 500 block of Tawny Drive; theft from auto

■ 11:54 a.m., 4900 block of Blackbird Way; theft from auto

■ 6:29 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 8:47 p.m., 4500 block of Sutter Gate Avenue; theft from auto

### Sept. 4

#### Theft

■ 3:52 a.m. on the 1200 block of Quarry Lane

#### Warrant arrest

■ 4:56 p.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

### Sept. 3

#### Theft

■ 8:22 a.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting

■ 9:48 a.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 1:21 p.m., 9400 block of Blessing Drive; theft from auto

### Sept. 2

#### Burglary

■ 8:06 a.m. on the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

#### Vandalism

■ 1:49 p.m. on the 7800 block of Kentwood Way

### Sept. 1

#### Drug violation

■ 8:06 a.m. on the 3200 block of Bernal Avenue

#### Theft

■ 8:19 a.m. on the 1600 block of Loganberry Way

■ 8:49 a.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft from auto

■ 10:48 a.m., 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

■ 2:56 p.m., 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard; auto theft

#### Trespass/prowl

■ 11:36 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

#### DUI

■ 8:44 p.m. at First and Neal streets

#### Burglary

■ 11:22 p.m. on the 7700 block of Oak Creek Court

### Aug. 31

#### Sex offenses

■ 1:08 p.m. at Canyon Way and Foothill Road

#### Drug violation

■ 8:01 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

■ 11:09 p.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

### Aug. 30

#### Auto theft

■ 9:46 a.m. on the 4100 block of Cid Way

#### Drug violation

■ 11:31 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

■ 1:03 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 2:27 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

■ 7:31 p.m. at Bernal and Valley avenues

■ 7:41 p.m. on the 2200 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 8:59 p.m. on the 6000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Vandalism

■ 12:48 p.m. on the 3000 block of Bolero Court

Read more crime news online at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com)

## George Glenn Skeith III

July 17, 1940 – September 1, 2020

Mr. George Skeith III died peacefully in the hospital on 9/1/2020 in Pleasanton CA. at the age of 80. George was preceded by his wife Sandra who passed in August of 2018. George is survived by his two sons George Skeith IV of Shelby NC and Scott Skeith of Pleasanton CA; daughter in law Angela Skeith and two grandchildren Madeline and Dane Skeith.



George was born on July 17th 1940 in San Diego CA to George and Jenevive Skeith. He attended High school in Santa Ana CA and married Sandra in 1963. George and Sandra had two boys who remember him as a loving father who taught them the value of hard work, resourcefulness and conservative values.

As a boy who's father was in the navy he spent his early years in Hawaii and Guam. George enjoyed hot rods and motorcycles. He taught his boys how to work on cars at an early age. They have fond memories of him telling stories of his Model A Ford and his youth in southern CA. He was also an independent business owner who ran a successful foundry in Santa Clara CA for 30 years. He was a loving husband to Sandra for 54 years and the family they shared will miss him deeply.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. We would like to thank the family and friends for their prayers, love and support.

PAID OBITUARY

# Opinion

## LETTERS

### Kelly Mokashi: The right leader for PUSD board

I strongly believe that Kelly Mokashi would make an excellent addition to the PUSD school board.

Kelly has strong leadership skills that will benefit our school board. She works hard to identify solutions for youth-based initiatives, while leveraging and strengthening community relationships. I have seen this personally by working closely with her over the past year, serving as fundraising co-chairs for Scouts BSA Troop 911.

In this role, Kelly has been instrumental in seeking additional fundraising options that have positively benefited our scouts. Last year, she secured a new partnership with Porky's Pizza Palace for our troop, which resulted in a very successful fundraising event that also provided support to a new, locally owned restaurant.

Additionally, she was the lead grant author that helped secure a new grant from our local Pleasanton Rotary. This grant helped our troop purchase essential camping supplies and equipment for our Scouts.

These are just two examples of how Kelly has worked hard to problem-solve creatively and work collaboratively with local Pleasanton organizations, while staying focused on who will benefit: our kids.

I feel Kelly has strong character attributes that will positively benefit our school board, especially during these challenging times. She is laser-focused on her commitments, and she will not lose sight of her responsibilities as a trustee for the PUSD school board.

—Yazmin Michail

### Jerry Pentin: A personality perfect for Pleasanton mayor

When you get to know Jerry Pentin, as I have as a friend and fellow community service volunteer, you learn he is prepared to serve you as an outstanding mayor.

Jerry is disciplined, smart and knowledgeable. He credits his service as a Marine Corps officer for teaching him the value of honesty, loyalty and devotion to duty. In 30 years of public service, he has devoted his considerable energy to his two terms on the Pleasanton City Council and

numerous boards, committees and commissions where he mastered the nuances of many major issue that he is likely to encounter as mayor.

Jerry will fight to retain local control of city government from state legislators and agencies while advocating for affordable housing. He will continue the city's support for its award-winning schools. He will advocate for sustainable budget management, city pension reform, cultural inclusiveness, a strong business environment and Pleasanton's ongoing commitment to parks, ridge lines, and bicycle and pedestrian routes for all.

Closer to home, he is a devoted family man and one of only three honorary members of Pleasanton North Rotary because of past work as club president and ongoing, hands-on participation in its numerous community services projects. Jerry Pentin is always there when you need him, which is why I support him for mayor.

—Gina Piper

### Karla Brown for mayor

Karla Brown will be an amazing and awesome mayor. After eight years on the council and active on many local boards and community organizations, Karla definitely knows what issues are important.

Karla has a history of thoughtfully balancing facts and reality. The pandemic is changing our lovely Pleasanton, we must do the same (or more) with fewer bucks. Our community is (wonderfully) becoming known for its cultural diversity, which constantly puts our kids into the top-tier schools.

Karla has a reputation for supporting smart and thoughtful growth, always supporting downtown and our business community.

Karla is capable and decisive. Our new challenges will be city finances and community safety.

Vote for Karla. Look at her record; it is impressive

—Tom Richert

### A bright future: Bob Woerner for Livermore mayor

The more I get to know Bob, the more impressed I am with his devotion to Livermore and the Tri-Valley. He's a proponent of fiscal responsibility and he works well with people.

Bob is clear thinking so he brings innovative ideas forward regularly. He has worked tirelessly as a City Council member for almost 10 years

while also requesting a pay cap for council members.

Bob Woerner will do a great job of continuing to keep Livermore thriving. He also happens to be a pretty nice person.

—Purnell Cook

### Support for Steve Maher

Since the late '90s, I have been a full-time teacher, part-time teacher, summer school teacher and substitute teacher in the Pleasanton Unified School District. In all those years I have never heard anyone complain or have anything negative to say about Steve Maher.

When Steve was my principal at Pleasanton Middle School, I found him to be an encouraging and positive leader. He was easy to reach and made himself available if you needed to meet with him. It does not surprise me he was elected to be on the school board.

He is a solid leader, and I fully support his re-election to the school board.

—Mark Muentz

### Endorsement for Jarod Buna

I have known Jarod since a very young age and feel that he would be a breath of fresh air in these trying times for City Council. He is a brilliant, intellectual, family man with lifelong Pleasanton roots.

He is Pleasanton proud and is what this city needs.

—Jacy Richards

### Monith Ilavarasan: Representing the under-represented

I am voting for Monith Ilavarasan for mayor. It's refreshing to see a younger, more diverse Pleasanton native who is passionate about progressive ideas.

With Monith as our mayor, Pleasanton can be a leader in providing accessible housing for essential workers such as teachers, grocery store employees, nurses, etc. He is also a vocal advocate for pairing mental health services with police. Monith is the only candidate who strongly advocates for these issues.

I think it is crucial that we move to make Pleasanton's representatives more reflective of the community. Support for these issues is a top priority during these difficult times. Vote for Monith Ilavarasan.

—Renée Miller

### Jerry Pentin puts others first

Many of you know Jerry because of what he has done on City Council for the last eight years, or how he has led projects such as the Firehouse Arts Center, Veterans Memorial Building or Callippe Preserve Golf Course, or how he has volunteered his time and money as a Rotarian. I

know him as a friend and for many years as his neighbor. He is one of the few people I can call at any hour with any need. And I have.

One Thanksgiving when my son suddenly became ill, we realized we would be unable to join my parents, aunt, uncle and cousins for our annual turkey dinner. My wife expressed how she had really been looking forward to a home-cooked, Thanksgiving meal. All the stores and our favorite restaurants were closed, and our options were sparse.

Knowing Jerry had been preparing in the kitchen all day, I called him up just as he was sitting down to eat with his extended family. He wasn't planning to serve any extra people, but I asked if he could save one plate of turkey for my wife. Without hesitation he said, "Of course," and soon I was feeding my whole family a Thanksgiving dinner.

I knew I could rely on Jerry that evening and I know I can rely on him to do what is best for all our community. I strongly support Jerry Pentin for Mayor as he so often puts others well ahead of himself.

—Bryan Gillette

### Jack Balch for City Council

As a mom of three elementary school kids in Pleasanton, it's so important for me to elect City Council members who are passionate about Pleasanton's future. We all want Pleasanton to be healthy, safe, prosperous and vibrant.

I'm so glad I found Jack Balch — his enthusiasm for Pleasanton just warms my heart (and anyone who has met him knows what I'm talking about). Jack is a genuine, honest and loves every inch of Pleasanton.

I couldn't be happier to support Jack Balch, and I encourage my fellow Pleasanton voters to support Jack this November. Jack has worked to support Pleasanton for many years — from his service beginning 11 years ago on the Parks and Recreation Commission to his service now on the Planning Commission.

Every time I have attended commission meetings with Jack, he listened — he really listened to everyone and worked hard to better our beautiful town. His passion for a great future for Pleasanton is clear and he brings experience, respect and thoughtful perspective to Pleasanton.

Please vote Jack Balch for City Council on Nov. 3.

—Amanda Brown

### Valerie Arkin for City Council

Pleasanton is fortunate to have Valerie Arkin as a candidate for the City Council.

Based on her many years with the Pleasanton school board, she will be a great City Council representative for Pleasanton residents. She has demonstrated a high degree of integrity, competence and understanding of

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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### Election letters

The Pleasanton Weekly will accept letters to the editor of up to 250 words on election-related issues until 5 p.m. Oct. 25. Letters are published based on order of receipt and space availability, among other factors. We will publish only one letter per person per election topic this fall — which means an author could write one letter on the Pleasanton mayor race and a second letter on City Council, but not two letters on City Council.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us, and anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. Send via email to [letters@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:letters@pleasantonweekly.com).

complex issues.

I have known Valerie for many years and can attest to her fairness, kindness and being respectful to all opinions. She is not accepting any money from developers or other special interests. She will represent the residents on issues such as preservation of the historic downtown, avoiding extreme development that does not fit with the infrastructure (traffic, water supply, etc.), and maintaining the excellence of Pleasanton schools.

We need Valerie Arkin on the City Council.

—Susan Reid

### Pentin for mayor

I am writing in support of Jerry Pentin for mayor of Pleasanton.

In these most difficult times, we need a mayor with great integrity and demonstrated leadership skills.

Jerry Pentin served honorably in the United States Marine Corps and it is easy to see where he developed his leadership, communication and decision-making skills.

Jerry has lived a life of service to our country and our community. He spent many years as a member of the Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission before serving two terms as a City Council member.

Just as important, Jerry has owned and operated a business in Pleasanton since 1982.

He is uniquely qualified to be our next mayor. But do not take my word for it. Look at the endorsements on his website, [www.votepentin.com](http://www.votepentin.com). Those endorsements demonstrate that Jerry Pentin works well within our community, neighboring towns in the Tri-Valley and within Alameda County.

Please join me in supporting Jerry Pentin for Mayor of Pleasanton.

—Dave Caldwell

### Kristie Wang for Livermore school board

I met Kristie in an adult school creative writing class. Not only is she an excellent writer, she is a committed parent and community activist.

Kristie shares freely about her life experience in an immigrant family coming to the U.S., learning English and eventually advancing to graduate study at Harvard.

She spearheaded the successful anti-vaping campaign and participates in anti-racism work for Livermore and the Tri-Valley. With Kristie's intellect for tough issues and a heart for the children we serve, I endorse Kristie Wang for Livermore school board.

—Heather Hammer

### Lions Wayside tree-cutting

I would like to talk about the removal of the fungus-infected eucalyptus tree in Lions Wayside Park. I believe that the Pleasanton officials have taken the proper decision regarding the removal of the tree.

I agree that the tree is one of the oldest and has great sentimental value

for many residents, but according to Cal/OSHA, around 100 people die from tree fatalities every year in the United States. It is unfortunate that the tree will have to end its long life, but it would be even worse if people become injured or fatally injured as a result of this fungus.

In addition, it is great that the officials are also making sure to check for other wildlife that are living in the tree before taking it down as well.

—Siva Tanikonda

### Balch for City Council

Join me in supporting Jack Balch for City Council. Jack is a bright capable young man who really loves this city.

The Balch family have been here for many years and have been supporting this city for a long time. I have spent time with Jack and gotten to know him well. He is a hardworking serious candidate and deserves your vote.

—Bob Philcox, former mayor

### Jerry Pentin: Prepared to become a great mayor

As a friend of Jerry Pentin, I have learned that he has the heart and head to become the next great mayor of Pleasanton.

His heart reflects his strong character, forged through experiences as a U.S. Marine and past president of the Pleasanton North Rotary. As a Marine, Jerry learned the meaning of Semper Fi, a pledge of loyalty to God, country and fellow Marines. He is sure to bring the values of duty, honor and integrity to meeting his responsibilities as mayor.

As a Rotarian, he exemplifies its values of "Service Above Self." They have expressed themselves locally the club's hands-on and financial support of essential community services and globally through Rotary International's initiatives to eradicate polio and to serve disadvantaged communities in many ways.

You only need to talk with Jerry for a few minutes to know he is knowledgeable and smart. His experiences during Pleasanton city councilman for eight years and participation in numerous committees, boards and commissions for more than 20 years shine through.

He holds carefully considered positions on all key issues affecting Pleasanton, but he also listens to alternative viewpoints and is flexible enough to modify his stances when it is in the best interest of the city and its residents.

For these reasons, Jerry Pentin has my vote. I hope he has your vote, too.

—Jim Brice

### Vote for Karla Brown

Please join me in voting for Karla Brown as our next mayor of Pleasanton. She has the strength, knowledge and experience to guide our city through these challenging times. As a two-term City Council member and as vice mayor, she has served us well

and has demonstrated her readiness for the next level.

Among other things on her platform (go to [www.Vote4Karla.com](http://www.Vote4Karla.com)), Karla is committed to maintaining her longstanding focus on slow growth, protection of the environment, and the preservation of our hillsides. She is accepting no political contributions from builders or developers.

You will find no mayoral candidate more qualified or passionate about serving Pleasanton than Karla Brown. She will be a great mayor and deserves our vote.

—Bill Lincoln

### Jack Balch for Pleasanton

I have had the pleasure of being Jack's co-worker for several years and have known him, and his family, to be honest, truthful and caring, even when it may come at a financial cost to him personally.

Jack has never wavered from his ethics and values when interacting with his co-workers and has brought the same ethical values to Pleasanton in his 11-plus years of service to our city. Through his work on the Parks and Recreation and Planning commissions, Jack has consistently voted for Pleasanton first and has demonstrated a commitment to our community that is unparalleled by any other candidate.

I encourage you to vote Jack Balch for City Council this November.

—Brian Turner

### Voting for Karla Brown, Nancy Allen, Valerie Arkin

Urban life is not for me. I moved from the urban East Bay to Pleasanton after witnessing a knife fight in Albany, where one of the men attempted to get into my car where my child and I were.

There was another incident where a bunch of juveniles pounced upon my car on Shattuck Avenue, while my child and I sat helplessly until another vehicle came to our rescue. The clincher was when my husband and I were on 6th and Cedar in Berkeley and someone shot out our car window causing a shower of glass to cascade all over me.

I wanted to live in a town where I would feel safe, where schools were not over crowded, where traffic was not a nightmare, where police departments were fully funded and crime was low so we moved to Pleasanton. I want to keep our town from the developers who could ruin everything.

This election will determine if developers will own our town of if the citizens will. I am supporting Karla Brown for mayor and Nancy Allen and Valerie Arkin for City Council because I know they want the same things I do. I hope you will join me; let us keep Pleasanton the kind of city where our families thrive.

—Janis Mulhall

### Mokashi is the right choice

When it comes to education, Kelly brings positive qualities, such as

passion and diligence to the table.

Kelly and I worked closely together for an online English company, Qsky ABC. She took on the tedious task of developing and designing the curriculum blueprint. She designed eight volumes, a total of 144 lessons, for Chinese students learning English as a second language through eLearning and distance learning formats, including the assessments.

She integrated American cultural customs and rituals relevant with American common expressions and grammar. Her willingness to learn and understand cultural differences of the audience (Chinese students located in China) helped bridge gaps so the Chinese students could have a better understanding of meaningful content. She also contributed to character attributes by providing the vision for content to enhance student learning.

Kelly's efforts were key to the execution and success of the online curriculum including various American cultural topics, such as traditional school activities, family life and social interactions. As a former teacher and curriculum writer, my experience educating Chinese students was made easy because of Kelly integrating her sharp and brilliant ideas.

Kelly emphasized passion about quality and integrity of the content for the student's relevance on a consistent basis. Her top priority has always been focused on the students' best interest as she has maintained a willingness to articulate what she believes in and stands firm on her core values.

There is no doubt Kelly would have a positive impact if elected to the PUSD school board.

—Mitchell Adams

### Buna for City Council

I've known Jarod for many years. He's a graduate of Amador Valley. We used to play football together and we have been friends ever since. He is one of the most responsible and trustworthy people I have ever met.

He has always been a leader. But still willing to listen to others and be open to a better way to do things.

—Josh Johnston

### Vote for Karla Brown Nov. 3

Local representatives affect our day-to-day lives by dictating policies that have a direct impact on us as citizens. Voting for a mayor who represents your values and will serve as a public voice for your ideas and beliefs is of the utmost importance.

Our small town of Pleasanton is fortunate to have an honest, ethical candidate running for mayor. Karla Brown has integrity and truly cares about Pleasanton and the well-being of its citizens. She has significant experience as former vice mayor, council member, business manager and involved Pleasanton citizen. As mayor, Karla will:

- Protect our scenic ridgelines in accordance with Measure PP passed in 2008.
- Refuse developer's offers for

campaign contributions, knowing they hope to influence her policies.

- Support our local heroes who ensure our health and safety: fire and police departments personnel, mental and physical health care professionals, and many others.

- Listen to citizens and gather information to make informed decisions in the best interest of Pleasanton and its residents.

Karla Brown is by far the best candidate for mayor. For more information, please visit [www.Vote4Karla.com](http://www.Vote4Karla.com).

—Julie Rasnick

### Jarod Buna is a leader

Recently Jarod Buna announced that he was running for the position of Pleasanton City Council.

I would like to take a minute to share what I know about Jarod. He is a leader. Jarod is intelligent, articulate, and an excellent communicator.

I first met Jarod when he was a student at Amador Valley High School, and I had the pleasure of coaching him as a football player and seeing him on daily basis in the hallways, on the campus, and in the classroom.

Even back then Jarod was a leader; recognized and respected by both adults and peers for his actions, hard work, and demonstration of his high personal standards of character and ethics.

We've stayed in touch over the years via FB and his successes as an adult in both his professional and family lives are very evident and don't surprise me at all.

Combining who Jarod is with his educational background and his professional experiences it is easy to visualize; Jarod Buna Pleasanton city councilman putting citizens, laws and codes first while always working with his fellow council members, staff and the public.

—Rick Sira

### Pentin supports small business owners

I'm asking you to vote Jerry Pentin for mayor. As a local small business owner in Pleasanton, it is imperative that we elect a mayor with experience and support for the small business community. As a business owner himself, Jerry knows that small business is the backbone to local economy and has a proven track record of support.

With COVID-19 causing so much economic hurt for so many local businesses, I trust Jerry to be the leader to help us recover from this tough year. His council experience over the last two terms and his passion for the city of Pleasanton make him the best choice as our next mayor.

I've learned since being introduced to Jerry six years ago that he genuinely enjoys giving back to the city he loves. As a Marine veteran, he understands the meaning of hard work and has the ability to make tough decisions.

When you cast your vote this fall, please consider Jerry Pentin for mayor.

—Dr. Ryan Spuller

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- Nancy L.

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## Concerts

**VINEYARD VIBES FEATURING MATT FINDERS AND FRIENDS** Enjoy the smooth sound of contemporary jazz originals by bassist and composer/arranger Matt Finders. A sextet comprised of local professional musicians, Matt and Friends entertain with their mix of blues, jazz, latin and funk. 6 p.m., Sept. 13. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**VINEYARD VIBES WITH LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA** Maestro Alexander Katsman accompanies soprano Krista Wigle and tenor Joseph Meyers in a program of classical musical songs both solo and duet. This virtual concert will be recorded live outdoors at Retzlaff Vineyards. 6 p.m., Sept. 20. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## Fundraisers

**MOONLIGHT ON THE MOUNTAIN VIRTUAL GALA** Save Mount Diablo's signature annual fundraising gala, Moonlight on the Mountain, is a celebration of Mount Diablo's beauty and support for Save Mount Diablo's preservation work. This year the gala has gone virtual. The gala will include favorite experiences such as entertainment, silent and live auctions, inspirational presentations and a live Fund-a-Need. 5:30 p.m., Sept. 12. Visit [savemountdiablo.org](http://savemountdiablo.org).

**TREASURE THE MOMENTS GALA** Lazarex Cancer Foundation presents Treasure the Moments Gala, featuring guest performance by Grace Leer, "American Idol" Top 10. Free to register and attend though donations are encouraged. 4-5:30 p.m., Sept. 20. Visit [lazarex.ejoinme.org/LazarexGala2020](http://lazarex.ejoinme.org/LazarexGala2020).

## Talks & Lectures

**TRI-VALLEY WRITERS SEPTEMBER MEETING** International best selling author Rachael Herron will teach writers how to get the attention their creations merit in a half-day virtual workshop titled, "How to impress the Gatekeepers". The session is open to all who reserve a place and pay the workshop fee. 2 p.m., Sept. 19. Visit [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org).

## Seniors

**VIRTUAL AWARENESS SEMINAR ON HOW TO AVOID FALLS** Presented by Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, this interactive resource webinar is designed to help those who wish to lower their risk of falling. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 22. For more information contact 931-5365.

**DEMENTIA CARE IN COVID-19 ERA** Hope Hospice specialists will discuss how dementia impacts thinking and

behavior, examine how this condition coupled with the necessary virus-prevention measures can further complicate the caregiving experience and provide strategies that can help care partners cope with these challenges. 10-11:30 a.m., Sept. 16. Visit [hopehospice.com](http://hopehospice.com).

**HEALTHY LIVING FESTIVAL VIRTUAL EVENT** United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County present the 17th annual Healthy Living Festival from home this year. Virtually visit the Oakland Zoo, enjoy live entertainment, and even work out. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 17. Registration required at [www.usoac.org](http://www.usoac.org).

## Fitness

**VIRTUAL FITNESS CHALLENGE** To support Pleasanton's nonprofit community hospital Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare, the challenge is to virtually walk, run, cycle, hike or swim from the Golden Gate Bridge to Yosemite National Park. Registration is open through Sept. 15. Register at [givevalleycare.org/StayApartFitTogether](http://givevalleycare.org/StayApartFitTogether).

## Family

**NILES CANYON RAILWAY STEAM LOCOMOTIVE** The recently restored Baldwin steam locomotive is on loan to Niles Canyon Railway. Don't miss

this rare opportunity to ride behind this unique steam locomotive through scenic Niles Canyon in open air cars. Sept. 12-13, 19-20. For more details, visit <http://www.ncry.org>.

## Home & Garden

**SAN RAMON NATURE FOUNDATION-EXPERT GROWERS' SERIES** Join Buzz Bertolero, "The Dirt Gardener" of TV and radio and former owner of Navlet's nurseries. In this lesson participants will virtually walk through a 53-year-old orchard and discuss the cultivation of a variety of fruit trees. Visit [SanRamonNaturePark.org](http://SanRamonNaturePark.org).

**RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN VIRTUAL GALA** The Garden will host its first ever Virtual Gala to honor world-renowned curator and succulent specialist, Brian Kemble, for his 40 years of service to Ruth Bancroft and her extraordinary public garden. The Gala will feature videotaped presentations by Kemble and live auction bidding to support the Garden's Children's Education program. 5-6 p.m., Sept. 19. To register visit [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/gala2020](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/gala2020).

## Candidate Forum

**DUBLIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES CANDIDATE FORUM** The Dublin Chamber of Commerce is partnering with GFWC Dublin San Ramon Women's Club to present candidates for Dublin Unified School District: Areas 1 and 4. This virtual event will be moderated by the Pleasanton Weekly. 6-7:30 p.m., Sept. 17. Visit [dublinchamberofcommerce.org](http://dublinchamberofcommerce.org).

## Government

**PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING** The Pleasanton City Council holds regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month, currently held virtually. 7 p.m., Sept. 15. Visit [cityofpleasanton.gov](http://cityofpleasanton.gov).

**LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL** The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month, currently held virtually. 7 p.m., Sept. 14. Visit [cityoflivermore.net](http://cityoflivermore.net).

**LIVERMORE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees holds regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of the month to conduct business of the district. Currently held virtually. 7 p.m., Sept. 15. Visit [livermoreschools.org](http://livermoreschools.org).



LFPD

## Comfort dogs support first responders

The Livermore-Pleasanton Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was fully activated in the early phases of the SCU Lightning Complex to staff information lines that were set up at the Cal Fire command center at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The CERT team guided residents to evacuation areas and resources as well as provided the most up-to-date information available on fire activity. Shown: Comfort dogs pay a visit to the 24-hour call center to support the first responders and CERT members.

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

Kumar Market  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 571743  
The following person doing business as: Kumar Market, 4305 Valley Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Ishani Goyal, 29036 Eden Shores Drive, Hayward, CA 94545. This business is conducted by Ishani Goyal, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein July 15, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Ishani Goyal, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 31, 2020 (Pleasanton Weekly, August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 2020.)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

Public Hearing Notices  
Resolutions • Bid Notices  
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate  
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**Deadline is Monday at noon.**

Call Gina Channell at 925-600-0840 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

## Marketplace

The Pleasanton Weekly offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email [digitalads@pawebly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawebly.com).

## THE SUMMER MARKET REMAINS HOT!

1808 Zenato Place, Ruby Hill

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5 BD + loft, 5.5 BA, 5,643 SF on .46 acre resort-styled yard and stunning views. Main level office and guest suite. Offered at \$3,125,000

2329 Silver Oaks Lane, Pleasanton

JUST LISTED



4 BD, 4.5 BA, 4,106 SF on .46 acres. Stacking glass wall for indoor/outdoor living. 180° view from Mt. Diablo to Altamont Pass. Over \$450k in upgrades. Offered at \$2,825,000

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# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## Realtor group raises funds for online learning

REAL supporting Chromebooks, internet access for Livermore students

By RYAN J. DEGAN

The Real Estate Alliance of Livermore (REAL) has once again launched its fundraising event to support schools in Livermore, with this year's online event geared toward providing local students with access to a laptop and the internet — both mandatory tools in today's coronavirus learning environment.

Adapting to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, this year's fundraiser was held online in the appearance of a wedding-registry styled website where contributors could specify how many Chromebooks, internet access and hot spots or other items they wanted to purchase.

"Every year we host a fundraiser to support the Livermore school district," REAL chairperson Barbara Benotto said in a statement.

"When we spoke with the school board this spring, we learned that the district loaned out over 3,000 Chromebooks to students in need for distance learning and it was still 80 laptops short. It became clear to us that our fundraising should be focused on giving all students equal access to technology," she added.

The REAL team also set up a "Dream Big School Drive" online silent auction, which

consisted of more than a dozen local businesses and Bay East Association of Realtors members donating items to auction off. Items donated include airplane and helicopter rides, a fancy purse with accessories, a golf adventure and a Tahoe get-away.

"This year's goal to raise \$25,000 to support student technology needs came at the perfect time to keep our students and teachers connected during distance learning," Philomena Rambo, spokesperson for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, said in a statement. "We are able to purchase hotspots for students without internet access, as well as Chromebooks and headsets for students who need to borrow devices to learn at home."

"Shout out to Barbara Benotto and her team for their enthusiasm and leadership that encouraged so many donations from the REAL and Livermore community," Rambo added. "Over the past few years, they have raised money to outfit new teacher's classrooms, fill student backpacks, provide a literacy enrichment program, and support the Livermore Shakespeare Festival's So Wise So Young program in our second grade classrooms. LVJUSD has a true partner in REAL." ■

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during July 6-10 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol and Aug. 3-7 for San Ramon.

### Pleasanton

- 535 East Angela Street** A. & K. Oneal to Young Trust for \$1,010,000
- 3218 Balmoral Court** Edlp Living Trust to K. & A. Rodrigues for \$1,151,000
- 5666 Belleza Drive** Ough Trust to N. Murugesan for \$820,000
- 3595 Brent Court** J. & S. Winter to S. & P. Clarke for \$1,069,000
- 5324 Brookside Court** L. & B. Marquie to A. & S. Banerjee for \$940,000
- 5409 Cameo Court** M. & E. Robrahn to M. & A. Fernandez for \$785,000
- 6716 Corte Del Vista** L. & M. Abad to E. & M. Robrahn for \$1,210,000
- 5589 Corte Sonora** O. Karimi to R. & P. Bhupatiraju for \$1,130,000
- 7822 Creekside Drive** Srkf Residential Prop LLC to S. & A. Hanyu-Deutmeyer for \$765,000
- 938 Crellin Road** Cloak Living Trust to H. & Q. Zhao for \$1,050,000
- 2248 Crestline Road** T. & K. Gillette to Chanframouli Family Trust for \$1,310,000
- 2046 Eilene Drive** L. Franco to H. & W. Peng for \$852,000
- 2839 El Capitan Drive** M. & E. Rocas to Y. & Y. Jin for \$847,000
- 3546 Felton Terrace** Gwerder Living Trust to Miller Trust for \$1,227,000
- 828 Genevieve Place** B. Amberden to L. & Y. Liu for \$1,385,000
- 1372 Hearst Drive** Paige Trust to L. & A. Macy for \$2,120,000
- 8001 Jorgensen Lane** Lide Family Trust to K. Shaheen for \$2,340,000
- 5376 Mallard Drive** Lovell Trust to K. & J. Mendonca for \$1,240,000
- 766 Neal Place** Murray Family Trust to H. & J. Jeon for \$1,200,000
- 7661 Paseo Santa Cruz** Miller Family Trust to M. & S. Ray for \$1,485,000

- 7706 Redbud Court** J. Wiest to M. & C. Ikemoto for \$1,107,000
- 4050 Rennellwood Way** Scott Trust to P. Kearley for \$930,000
- 523 Saint John Street** J. & K. Mendonca to M. Morgan for \$730,000
- 1155 Shady Pond Lane** So Trust to A. & K. Ansari for \$2,080,000
- 3831 Vine Street** A. & D. Bower to T. & V. Cocol for \$655,000
- 3469 Virgil Circle** Gilbert Trust to G. & K. Johal for \$1,256,000
- 1365 Whispering Oaks Way** P. & U. Kumar to S. & R. Nareddy for \$1,485,000

### Livermore

- 6436 Altamar Circle** T. Layfield to B. & M. George for \$828,500
- 786 Catalina Drive** T. & S. Halula to M. & B. Kesler for \$968,000
- 841 Chaucer Way** Sailors Trust to S. & B. Brown for \$1,030,000
- 851 Chippewa Way** M. & S. Gracio to A. & K. Nguyen for \$915,000
- 211 Clarke Avenue** A. & D. Stoller to S. & H. Martin for \$748,000
- 1865 Cordoba Street** Phillips Trust to S. & G. Deleon for \$925,000
- 455 Covellite Lane** J. Penney to S. & B. Kalepp for \$850,000
- 135 El Caminito** Grant Trust to P. & N. Barai for \$783,000
- 1753 Elm Street** R. Andrews to D. Hoyt for \$702,500
- 4539 Fairway Court** P. & R. Foerschler to M. & R. Santos for \$660,000
- 168 Gillette Place #102** J. Frost to Oleary Trust for \$640,000
- 686 Hagemann Drive** J. Perkins to S. & R. Branco for \$800,000
- 6325 Half Dome Way** E. Bychawski to S. & P. Sriram for \$838,000
- 2076 Hall Circle** Padilla Trust to S. & Z. Hitti for \$1,265,000

## Enjoy the Good Life - Retire in Pleasanton!



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**SALES**

Continued from Page 22

**689 North Livermore Avenue** M. & S. Riley to K. & M. Christopher for \$725,000  
**318 South Livermore Avenue #110** Real Freedom LLC to Rivera Family Trust for \$765,000  
**1727 Monterey Drive** M. & C. Summers to B. & K. Hileman for \$530,000  
**322 Nadine Street** Bolar Family Trust to A. & B. Starkey for \$825,000  
**3682 Oregon Way** C. & D. Saenz to N. & F. Hisbar for \$715,000  
**3815 Pestana Way** Crawley Trust to S. & S. Schantin for \$640,000  
**5739 Running Hills Avenue** D. Amador to T. & N. Trindade for \$786,000  
**2662 St Helena Court** St. John Living Trust to A. & H. Judge for \$1,350,000  
**577 Summertree Drive** Kirkland Family Trust to T. & L. Martinez for \$977,000  
**4167 Torrey Pine Way** Cotney Living Trust to A. & C. Gellner for \$765,000  
**881 Tranquility Circle #10** Shea Homes Inc to J. Nguyen for \$646,500  
**306 Turnstone Drive** J. Sheehan to A. & R. Lem-Luzzi for \$879,000  
**750 Vineyard Avenue** Price Family Trust to J. & A. Pingol for \$990,000  
**5674 Wisteria Way** B. & W. Tyler to J. & N. Barras for \$896,500

**Dublin**

**5908 Abbott Street** Brookfield Bay Area Hldgs LLC to A. Surakanti for \$1,181,500  
**4521 Alexander Valley Way** C. & A. Cruz to J. & J. Joshi for \$1,520,000  
**7000 Allegheny Drive** Russ Family Trust to L. & B. Sahgal for \$800,000  
**5856 Avellina Drive** C. & K. Kantz to S. & S. Rehmani for \$1,578,000  
**4093 Bothrin Street** N. & H. Takahashi to K. & A. Somoskovi for \$1,080,000  
**3671 Branding Iron Place** B. & R. Garcia to P. & R. Shrivastava for \$826,000

**8263 Cardiff Drive** Larsen Family Trust to J. & D. Liu for \$888,000  
**3999 Clare Street** C. & T. Carvalho to H. & F. Lo for \$888,000  
**4164 Clarinbridge Circle** S. Patel to S. & S. Luintel for \$648,000  
**6574 Conestoga Lane #63** Weir Trust to C. Carlson for \$475,000  
**6417 Dijon Way #67** Nelson Trust to A. & P. Sonti for \$575,000  
**6845 Doreen Court** D. & J. Campos to K. Bryan for \$650,000  
**3465 Dublin Boulevard #432** Wu Trust to S. & N. Jia for \$607,000  
**3385 Dublin Boulevard #144** R. Roy to Gupta Family Trust for \$615,000  
**4236 Fitzwilliam Street** M. & A. Husain to M. & O. Saychuk for \$725,000  
**7256 Kenwood Road** J. Pugao to F. & E. Calvert for \$1,230,000  
**5977 Lombard Street** Brookfield Bay Area Hldgs LLC to M. & J. Baltazar for \$1,126,000  
**3106 Maguire Way** C. & J. Clements to P. & A. Lnu for \$850,000  
**11638 Manzanita Lane** Richard Trust to N. & H. Kamaci for \$1,050,000  
**5216 Montiano Lane** M. Hamsafar to R. & P. Gupta for \$1,330,000  
**5821 Nugget Way** Calatlantic Group Inc to S. & M. Rawat for \$1,369,000  
**4497 Peacock Court** J. Juarez to A. & J. Shivashankaraiah for \$1,165,000  
**6736 Poplar Way** L. & C. Schauer to D. Walker for \$875,000  
**11374 Rampart Drive** Hess Trust to D. & K. Nuggeshalli for \$1,105,000  
**11620 Regio Court** Dufresne Living Trust to 11620 Regio LLC for \$1,000,000  
**3549 Rimini Lane** Tang Family Trust to K. Pilla for \$1,100,000  
**5012 Round Hill Drive** Mittan Living Trust to B. & R. Shah for \$1,609,000  
**4536 Sandyford Court** W. Heo to Y. Luo for \$740,000  
**3958 Scottfield Street** Pensco Trust Co LLC to S. & S. Prasad for \$850,000

**6170 Shadow Hill Drive** D. & C. Meier to H. & W. Zhu for \$1,006,000  
**4815 Volterra Drive** Sami Realty LLC to S. & R. Arora for \$1,425,000

**Sunol**

**11911 Foothill Road** L. McDonald to S. Chaudhry for \$1,600,000  
**2022 Kilkare Road** Smith Living Trust to B. Harrison for \$1,350,000

**San Ramon**

**6076 Alpine Blue Drive** L. & H. Enerio to R. & K. Divakar for \$1,346,500.00  
**3877 Aragon Lane** A. Ahlowalia to X. & G. Bellini for \$1,190,000  
**3019 Blackberry Avenue** A. & A. Stibich to N. Morando for \$895,000  
**9643 Broadmoor Drive** S. Lravani to H. & A. Abdelaziz for \$1,240,000  
**205 Cascadas Court** C. Mcaloon to J. & B. Szeto for \$1,530,000  
**3145 Cedarwood Loop** C. Pavana to D. & A. Verma for \$870,000  
**180 Copper Ridge Road** Nava Living Trust to J. Halden for \$595,000  
**3621 Crow Canyon Road** D. Schwartz to C. & L. Wu for \$614,000  
**150 Eastridge Drive** L. Mitchell to J. Clyde for \$445,000  
**2073 Echo Place** M. & K. Gratiot to S. & I. Choi for \$995,000  
**2049 Elderberry Drive** G. Leon to T. Bhuram for \$2,300,000  
**5276 Fioli Loop** I. Sharma to N. & N. Ahuja for \$895,000  
**345 Goldfield Place** C. & P. Thach to K. & T. Oh for \$1,265,000  
**2568 McLaren Lane** J. & J. Gaffey to P. & A. Natarajan for \$1,061,000  
**2707 Mohawk Circle** G. & J. Peterson to M. & B. Erkmn for \$1,235,000  
**3067 Montbretia Way** Jacob Ryan & Associates LLC to D. & K. Baboo for \$1,726,000  
**2062 Mornington Lane** Q. Zuo to J. Steel for \$1,300,000

**SALES AT A GLANCE**

**Pleasanton (July 6-10)**

**Total sales reported:** 27  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$665,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,340,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,130,000

**Livermore (July 6-10)**

**Total sales reported:** 28  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$530,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,350,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$812,500

**Dublin (July 6-10)**

**Total sales reported:** 31  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$475,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,609,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,000,000

**Sunol (July 6-10)**

**Total sales reported:** 2  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$1,350,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,600,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,475,000

**San Ramon (Aug. 3-7)**

**Total sales reported:** 31  
**Lowest sale reported:** 445,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,300,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,190,000

Source: California REsource

**10061 Nantucket Drive** Magill Living Trust to K. & R. Paulisich for \$1,375,000  
**100 Norris Canyon Place #B** Quilici Family Trust to J. & C. Martin for \$591,000  
**5272 Pembroke Way** R. & L. Law to E. & T. Demir for \$1,645,000

Source: California REsource



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1844 MARTIN AVENUE, PLEASANTON



4 BD | 3 BA | 3,303 SF

Custom Home Builders Own Home with Many Upgrades & Custom Features, Including Millwork & Window Casings! One Half Acre Premium Lot with Lake Views to the Front and Park-Like Grounds in the Back. Four Bedrooms, Three Bathrooms Includes Remodeled Master (Heated Floor) and Downstairs Bathrooms. Approximately 3303 Sq. Ft, Expanded Downstairs Office with Private Entrance (Originally and can be 4th Bedroom), Upstairs Relaxation/Home Schooling Area, Three Fireplaces. Circular Driveway, Front Porch Sitting Area, Private Rear Yard, Professionally Landscaped with Brick & Stone Patios & Walkways, In-ground Pool with: Integrated Tranquil Waterfall & Creek, Shallow Beach-Like Lounging Area and Raised Spa. Mature Trees, Garden/Potting Shed, Large RV Access Area and Separate Workshop. Newer 40-Year Dimensional Roof and Dual Zone Heat & Air Conditioning, Three Fireplaces, Energy Efficient Heat Generating Gas Fireplace (FR) and Three Car Garage. Attendance Area for Award Winning Schools, Convenient to Downtown, BART Station and the Livermore Valley Wineries!

**OFFERED AT \$2,079,000**

174 SUMMERTREE DRIVE, LIVERMORE



5 BD | 3 BA | 2,752 SF

Highly Upgraded & Expanded Murrieta Meadows Home! Premium Lot with Professionally Landscaped Private Rear Yard that Includes Solar Heated In-Ground Pebble Tech Pool, Spa, Waterfall, Built-In BBQ with Entertainment Bar & Fire Pit Area. Five Bedrooms, Three Remodeled Bathrooms, Approximately 2752 Square Feet, Expanded Large Gourmet Kitchen with Custom Cabinets, Thermador Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island, Two Sinks, Stone Countertops, Sub Zero Wine Refrigerator & Operable Skylights. Many Upgrades Includes, Acacia Wood Flooring, Crown Moldings, Plantation Shutters, Built-In Speakers, Security Alarm System, Subway Tile, Wainscoting, French Doors, Expanded Slider to Rear Yard. Playhouse/Pet Barn, Dual Zone Heating & Air Conditioning, Tile Roof. Great Location for Access to Downtown, Westbound Commute & Livermore Wineries!

**OFFERED AT \$1,289,000**

248 TOMAS WAY, PLEASANTON



3 BD | 2 BA | 1,600 SF

Completely Remodeled & Customized Single-Family Detached Home in Desirable Oak Park! Don't Miss This One! It's Better than New, Because It Has Everything & It's Ready for You Now! Over \$400K in Upgrades in Last 3 Years! Don't Miss Seeing the Comprehensive Features/Upgrades List. Remodeled Chefs Gourmet Kitchen, Remodeled Bathrooms, New Hardwood Flooring, New Windows, Wood Covered Vaulted Ceilings in Great Room with Recessed LED Lighting & Wood Beams, Indoor Laundry Room, Tile Roof, Completely Re-Landscaped with Paver Patio, Built-In BBQ and Newer Fencing! Walk to Main Street, Mission Hills & Neighborhood Park, Oak Hills Shopping Center (Raley's Plus), and Award-Winning Hearst Elementary and Pleasanton Middle Schools. Essentially a Custom Home in a Premium Location! For more info and to view the virtual tour & 3D tour @ 248Tomas.com

**SOLD FOR \$1,245,000**

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