

Pleasanton Weekly

County advances
into orange tier

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VOL. XXI, NUMBER 28 · OCTOBER 16, 2020

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Community group bands together
to improve school facilities

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TIM TALK



By TIM HUNT

United Way offers thoughts on state propositions

Amid the flood of campaign emails and postcards in the mail, I was struck by a voting guide issued by the United Way Bay Area.

The nonprofit group covers the entire Bay Area after its merger with United Way of the Silicon Valley in 2016. The voter guide covers seven statewide propositions and four county measures.

Some background is helpful. Back in the early 1980s, United Way was the nonprofit that big employers used for paycheck charitable deductions.

United Way allocated grants to "member agencies." There was just one member agency in the Livermore Valley, the Valley Volunteer Center. When it was named a member agency, it was front page news.

In this same time-frame, encouraged by Hacienda developer Joe Callahan, a group of us formed the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. We had the temerity to think local employees should have a local option to give in the workplace.

As the workplace continued to evolve, United Way and employers found far more employees wanted to designate their gifts for a specific organization instead of its umbrella fund. It had become a processing agency.

In this window, our foundation and United Way started cooperating and I served on both the Alameda County and big board of United Way. Those were the days when that board was, almost by definition, dysfunctional with about 75 members.

Since then, United Way evolved its mission to focus on reducing poverty in poor neighborhoods in its core area. Sadly, the Tri-Valley Community Foundation because of mismanagement by its president is now out of business.

In its current business model, the United Way leadership decided to venture into the political arena with positions on ballot measures. For instance, it favors Proposition 15 that would change the historic property tax rates established by Prop 13 in 1968. This would create the split roll and allow business properties to be reassessed annually. Proponents say it will put between \$7.5 billion and \$12 billion annually into local government and school agencies.

The measure is strongly backed by public employee labor unions concerned that their long-term salary

growth will be limited by soaring costs of public employee pension funds.

United Way also supports Prop 16 that would inject racial preferences into government contracting and higher educational institutions by repealing Prop 209 that banned them in 1996 (that passed by almost a two-thirds margin).

Proponents argue this will help Laxtinx and Black Californians who are under-represented in higher education institutions. It's ironic because high-achieving Asian-American students already face much higher standards to be admitted (see discrimination cases that are facing Harvard and Princeton). A questioning person might ask how well affirmative action has worked now that there's decades of history.

United Way also supports Prop 17 that would restore voting rights for ex-felons on parole as well as Prop 18 that would permit 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections if their 18th birthday occurs before the general election.

It opposes Prop 19 the property tax transfer that would allow homeowners 55 years and older to retain their property tax if they move to a new home. It is neutral on Prop 21, rent control and supports Prop 25 that would affirm the State Legislature's elimination of cash bail.

Locally, it supports Measure X in Contra Costa County that would raise the sales tax by a half cent for the county's general fund, as well as Alameda County's Measure W that would raise the already high county sales tax by another half cent to pay for county services such as mental health for veterans, homeless prevention programs and more shelters. It's notable that sales taxes are the most regressive form of taxation and hit poorer people such as those United Way is targeting much harder than wealthier folks.

I pulled the California Democratic Party's recommendations from its executive board and they aligned on six statewide measures, differing only on Prop 19 and Prop 21.

It's easy to see what perspective the United Way leadership brings to the table. I reached out for comment and did not receive a return call. ■

Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years.

About the Cover

From left: "We Are Pleasanton" founder Todd Utikal points out plans for renovating the Pleasanton Middle School athletic fields to Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund and principal Joe Nguyen. Photo by Ryan J. Degan. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How do you react when you see people walking around Main Street without a mask?



Dayna Fuller
Pilot-in-training

I don't like it. I know it's wrong. But I never call people out about it because I'm not a Karen. Instead, I'm just careful to keep my distance from them.



Daniel Hofius
Leasing and development

I don't react at all, actually. Who am I to judge whether someone should be wearing a mask or not? If I see someone unmasked, I just steer clear of them.



Dawn Howard
Court reporter

So long as they're at least six feet away from me, I'm fine with that. Unless I see a large group of people who are not wearing masks. I know that that is wrong and bad. I still don't say anything though.



Lance Pollastrini *Construction*

Well, I've had, and gotten over, COVID, so I understand the importance of wearing a mask. I try to mind my own business though, and not get in anyone's face about not wearing a mask. I do feel though, that with regard to COVID, people really should abide by all of the rules and guidelines because they definitely do seem to help reduce the spread of infection.



Russ Pollastrini
Business owner

It doesn't really bother me so long as they are at least six feet away from me. I do prefer, however, to see people at least making an effort to follow the rules and slow down the spread of the virus, and I avoid large groups of unmasked people.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email 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 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

Livermore PD chief

Livermore Acting Police Chief Jeremy Young has had his interim tag removed, with City Manager Marc Roberts announcing Wednesday afternoon that Young has been appointed as Livermore's permanent police chief.

A member of the department since 2014 when he was hired as a captain, Young "has a passion for community policing, transparency in law enforcement, and is committed to prioritizing diversity on the Livermore police force," according to city officials.

Young succeeds former chief Michael Harris, who retired in August. Read the full story online today at PleasantonWeekly.com.

Moonlight at Home

Noon today is the deadline to buy tickets for Sunflower Hill's Moonlight at Home online fundraising event with a meal option, which will take place 6-7:30 p.m. next Friday (Oct. 23). Tickets with no meals delivered are available until the start of the event. The Sunflower Hill Chalk Art Contest deadline has been extended to 5 p.m. Monday.

Moonlight at Home will include a celebratory toast and tour of Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch, the first affordable, residential community for adults with developmental disabilities in the Tri-Valley. The event also will feature a delivered meal from Fraiche Catering; comedian Regina Stoops; heartwarming videos of residents arriving at their new homes; and an online auction. Learn more at sunflowerhill.org.

VFW scholarships

Pleasanton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 is soliciting applicants for two fall scholarship programs, essay competitions for students that begin at the local level and move all the way up to nationals.

For high school students, the VFW Voice of Democracy provides an opportunity to express themselves regarding democratic and patriotic themed topics. The prompt is: "Is this the country the founder's envisioned?"

For the middle school VFW Patriot Pen contest, the topic is "What is patriotism to me?"

Entries are due to VFW Post 6298 by midnight Oct. 31. Contact Greg Swartz at 925-596-1807 or visit www.vfw.org.

Spooky displays

The Weekly is looking to photograph some of the best Halloween decorations across the Tri-Valley during the lead-up to our Oct. 30 paper.

Send us location information by Monday: jwalsh@pleasantonweekly.com. ■

County advances to state's orange tier after improved coronavirus infection rates

Planned new health order would allow indoor dining, other activities for first time since March

BY RYAN J. DEGAN
Alameda County was upgraded to the orange tier in the state's COVID-19 blueprint on Tuesday, another improvement that sets the stage for the lessening of certain restrictions on indoor businesses in the future.

Alameda County Public Health Department officials announced later Tuesday that they plan to draft a new health order that will take effect in two weeks and allow limited indoor dining and other activities for the first time since March.

County officials said reaching the orange tier — which means the

county currently has a "moderate" COVID-19 infection as opposed to the previous red tier "substantial" rating — was achieved due to residents coming together countywide to slow the spread of COVID-19. But they also cautioned that the virus is still very much present and social distancing policies still need to be strictly followed.

"We are glad to see improving case rates and decreasing test positivity, including among our communities of color, but we caution residents that cases can rise very quickly, as we saw during the summer surge," said Dr. Nicholas Moss,

Alameda County's interim health officer.

"Especially with flu season coming, if we see spikes in COVID-19 cases and a rise in hospitalizations, we will take action to limit the spread and protect public health including resuming restrictions if needed," Moss added.

According to the state's four-level, color-coded "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" criteria, Alameda County reached the orange tier after recording between one and 3.9 cases per 100,000 per week and documenting a COVID-19 positive testing rate between 2%-4.9% (with a "health

equity metric" between 2.2%-5.2%) over seven days. Both metrics were achieved for two consecutive weeks.

As of Tuesday, ACPHD has reported 22,216 confirmed cases and 431 confirmed deaths from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. In the Tri-Valley, Livermore has reported 965 cases, followed by Pleasanton with 476 and Dublin with 298. Countywide, the percentage of tests that return positive rests at 4.5%.

No new activities allowed under the orange tier were yet permitted in Alameda County as of Tuesday, as

See **COVID-19** on Page 12

City cancels holiday parade

Health order cited; televised tree-lighting in the works

BY JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton city officials pulled the plug on the 2020 Hometown Holiday Parade on Tuesday, canceling the annual December event due to the pandemic shelter order.

The "difficult decision" was reached by city leaders and members of the Hometown Holiday Parade Committee in light of the Alameda County Public Health Department's shelter-in-place restrictions prohibiting large group gatherings during the COVID-19 crisis, according to city spokeswoman Cindy Chin.

A televised tree-lighting ceremony is in the works to broadcast on Dec. 5, the original parade date.

"The annual holiday parade and tree lighting is a treasured Pleasanton tradition," Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho told the Weekly.

"Unfortunately, the county health order still prohibits city-sponsored public events of this size. With over 5,000 spectators and parade entrants participating annually, it's just not possible for the city to host a gathering of this size," he added. "From the onset of COVID-19, the city's priorities have been and will continue to honor the county and state health directives, public safety, and the health and welfare of our community."

This marks the second year in a row without a holiday parade for Pleasanton. City officials called off

See **PARADE** on Page 7



JEREMY WALSH

Tenant improvements are underway inside the empty supermarket space in the Vintage Hills Shopping Center, with Grocery Outlet recently signing a lease to take over the unit.

Grocery Outlet plans to open store in Vintage Hills center

Retailer leases long-vacant former New Leaf unit

BY JEREMY WALSH

Grocery Outlet appears on its way to opening a store in Pleasanton after leasing the supermarket space in the Vintage Hills Shopping Center that has sat empty since New Leaf Community Markets left nearly four years ago.

It remains unclear when the new grocery store will welcome customers, but signage posted outside the unit at 3550 Bernal Ave. confirms tenant improvements are underway inside and that the company has applied for an alcohol license.

Representatives for the Emeryville-based chain of discount supermarkets declined to comment on the retailer's move into Pleasanton when contacted this week. With dozens of stores across the Bay Area and Northern California, among other locations, Grocery Outlet's only Tri-Valley location is on Railroad

Avenue in Livermore.

City spokeswoman Cindy Chin confirmed that the city is aware of the new lease and Grocery Outlet's desire to update the interior and signage for the building, though no applications have been filed yet.

"Since this would be a new grocery store, consistent with the prior tenant's use, no new use permit is required. We are expecting submittal of tenant improvement plans relatively soon for interior changes, which once approved would allow that work to proceed," Chin told the Weekly.

"Grocery Outlet proposes to re-paint portions of the exterior facade, which will require a staff-level minor design review permit approval; new signage for the store will also be approved at the staff level," she added.

The supermarket tenant space is the largest unit and designed to

anchor the small neighborhood shopping center at the corner of Bernal and Vineyard avenues.

Santa Cruz-based retailer New Leaf occupied the space for just under four years until closing its Pleasanton store in early 2017. Before New Leaf opened, the unit had been empty for nearly 15 years after the old Romley's supermarket shut down. A faded New Leaf sign still greets customers turning in to the shopping center from Bernal Avenue.

The Vintage Hills Shopping Center also lost Platinum Fitness as a major tenant in recent years, and Blush Organic Frozen Yogurt vacated a corner unit there in February. A handful of other smaller units remain occupied, with the primary active tenants in two medium-sized spaces being child care and education centers on either side of the supermarket. ■

Pleasanton school board mulls E-10 alternatives

Trustees restate their intent to build the new campus as planned

By JULIA BAUM

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees debated the merits of pausing plans to build the future \$48 million school for grades 4 and 5 at the Donlon Elementary site or staying the course during its regular meeting last week.

No action was taken but most of the trustees agreed moving forward with building the new school was necessary, if only to fulfill their promise to voters to build it several years ago.

"We were pretty explicit at the time about the \$35 million being for a new school, so even though I wasn't enthusiastic about a new school at the time, that's what I said," Trustee Joan Laursen said at one point during the Oct. 8 meeting.

One of PUSD's marquee projects funded through the \$270 million Measure II bond, the board began reconsidering construction of the district's yet-unnamed 10th elementary school — dubbed "E-10" — back in the spring. Staff was asked to re-evaluate the project because "enrollment growth has not developed in the same pattern than originally projected when E-10 was planned," according to a staff report.

One alternative would mean not

building the school at all, which staff said "would not solve the current overflow problem and not meet the district's objectives."

Enrollment for students in transitional kindergarten (TK) to fifth grade is expected to reach 6,453 by next school year, and grow to about 6,552 in 2025-26 (without East Pleasanton development). There are about 5,950 students currently enrolled in grades TK-5 this year.

"While some of this dip may be a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the expected enrollment growth has not materialized and should be considered in the reevaluation," staff said.

The E-10 site would house about 500 students and, when combined with the current school, "would be able to handle the students in the Donlon boundary" area, which is also the district's most impacted. The current Donlon school would be reconfigured into a TK-3 campus.

Trustee Valerie Arkin attributed the enrollment decrease to COVID-19, calling it a "blip."

"I would imagine some of those students, at least, will come back at some point," Arkin said. "The demographic projections, which we've based all of our projections on, have said two new elementary

schools. We're experiencing a little dip that might just be a hiccup for now, but I think one of the things to consider though is the regional housing allocations that will come out next year with the city."

An additional \$14 million in construction expenses since the school was originally planned also gave some board members pause. Board President Steve Maher wondered if the extra \$14 million could "be used to increase the capacity ... and then we give the \$35 million back."

Assistant superintendent of business services Ahmad Sheikholeslami said, "If we were not to sell \$35 million of our bond and we were going to look at a different way of solving some of the capacity and overflow issues, then we would reprioritize the rest of the bond dollars and we would look at those outside."

Sheikholeslami said Fund 40 and developer fee funds "would be able to support that," later adding, "that's about \$9 million we're bringing in from those funds, and then we would have to reprioritize some of those projects."

Operating costs of a new school are another factor requiring re-evaluation, staff said. The district currently operates nine elementary schools, with between 560 to 760

students at each site. Critical basic operational costs such as administrative and support staff are an estimated \$850,000.

Staff said the district is "currently projected to be in deficit spending and will require further reduction in 2023-24 when the new school is planned to open. Adding the additional operational costs to the budget will further exacerbate the district financial situation."

Trustee Jamie Yee asked, "When we talk about these operating costs, don't we already sort of have it? Because technically we already have those students, so we already have the revenue from their students. We're just moving to another site; is that not the right thinking?"

Each school has a "basic underlying package" for operations including principal salaries and janitorial services, Sheikholeslami said, and "when you have a new school, you need that package that goes along with running it."

"Some of that could be mitigated; it could be mitigated with the way we run Donlon and E-10, and potentially looking at some shared services," he added.

Arkin called the operating costs "kind of a moot point," noting that more than \$750,000 had already been spent on planning and other services.

"We've already had the conversation, basically, because we voted on the bond language and the voters approved it," Arkin said. "The voters approved a new school, then the operating costs go along with, and as such, we have to budget for it. The sunk costs almost pay for a year's worth of operating costs, and that's what we would lose if we didn't move forward."

The board's "No. 1 job is fiduciary responsibility" and "we're pulling from other areas where we could be using the funds for other purposes," Trustee Mark Miller said.

Miller argued the other options — either adding capacity to Donlon, Lydiksen and Fairlands elementary schools, thereby reducing student overflow without boundary changes, or changing attendance boundaries and increasing capacity — are "quite a bit less than doing the new school, but also providing probably a better capacity adjustment than what we have with the E10 school."

In recent meetings with the city of Pleasanton, Miller said the district learned developers will not pay for a new school in the east side area.

"We're going to need money to build a new school over there, and that would mean if they start building that out in 2023, when do we

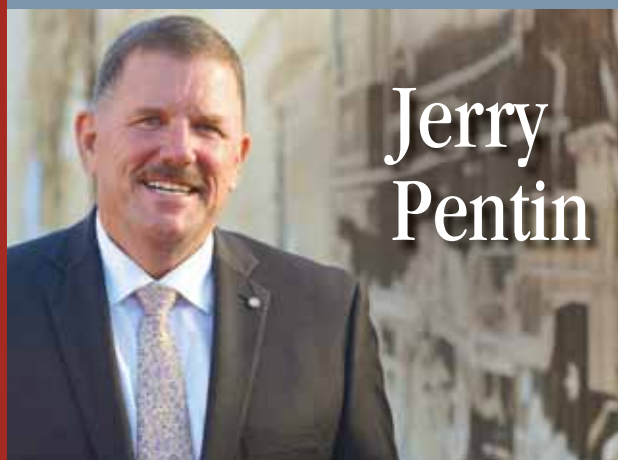
See E-10 on Page 12

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Council approves new Tasers, body cams for Pleasanton PD

Also: 15% cap on food delivery app fees, 'urgent repairs' on WLP Blvd., annexation talk postponed

By JULIA BAUM

The Pleasanton City Council unanimously approved a nearly \$1.5 million purchase of upgraded body cameras and Tasers for local law enforcement during its regular meeting last week.

The five-year agreement between the city of Pleasanton and Axon Enterprise, Inc. includes "a comprehensive service package that includes all hardware, operational and analytical software, training and electronic evidence storage," plus a report on the department's policy regarding body cams and stun guns, according to city staff.

The body cameras automatically turn on whenever an officer activates their Taser, draws their firearm from its holster or the sound of a gunshot is detected by the camera.

Body cameras have been worn by the Pleasanton Police Department since 2012, but only in the past four years have officers been required to turn them on whenever they interact with the public. The department's policy was revised in 2016, several months after a man was shot and killed by a Pleasanton police officer during an altercation.

The officer was later cleared of criminal charges but the revelation that his department-issued body camera was not operating at the time of the fatal encounter sparked controversy as it resulted in no known video of the shooting.

Councilwoman Julie Testa shared having "a lot of concerns" about the Tasers during the Oct. 6 meeting, while Pleasanton resident John Bauer — whose adult son Jacob died while in Pleasanton PD custody in 2018

— asked during public comment "are Tasers really necessary" after arguing their deployment locally was "only successful eight times in five years."

Councilwoman Karla Brown asked PPD officials about Tasers being deployed 11 times by officers in 2018, and "why would that be the one standout year" for the department.

Each incident from that year was "thoroughly looked at" after undergoing administrative review "and found to be within policy," according to Capt. Larry Cox.

"That year was a little bit of an anomaly. I can't answer as to why the increase, but it was a little bit of a kind of blip on the radar," Cox said.

Brown also wondered if officers "embrace the idea of improved cameras."

Cox said the force recognizes the value of "the breadcrumbs that the body cameras leave," adding there are "some very good features on the remote viewing that we can use to our advantage."

Councilman Jerry Pentin inquired whether officers are required to be Tased while in training to "see the effects" first-hand on a person. Cox said "it is recommended" but voluntary, though he estimated "the majority" of officers in training do experience being hit by a Taser round.

"If the department did not have Tasers, what would that mean or how would that affect use of force?" Vice Mayor Kathy Narum asked.

Cox replied he would be afraid about officers being "forced to go a little bit more hands on, maybe potentially rolling around on the ground or elevating it."

"It's not even an elevation; it's the same level of force as, say, a baton," Cox added. "The concern with that is a baton has the ability to cause much more long-term injury to a subject, so really the implication could be potential, more injury to subjects or police officers."

Narum said she was "dumbfounded" by the fact that officers reported being able to get a suspect under control two-thirds of the time "just by activating the Taser" and never using it.

Cox referred to Tasers as a "de-escalation tool" that can be used to "gain cooperation without using any force, if necessary."

Testa later disagreed with that characterization and said, "A threatening deterrent is absolutely not de-escalation."

"It may accomplish de-escalating the situation, but if you have someone who is in a mental health crisis, who doesn't have the cognitive capacity to understand the threat, that's when de-escalation

should be considered, and it's a completely different concept," Testa said.

Pentin countered, "It is de-escalation if these new Tasers will convince someone to be apprehended without any additional force."

The contract, which was approved with a 5-0 vote by the council, will be included in PPD's annual operating budget at a total cost of \$1,498,970.

See **COUNCIL** on Page 10

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PARADE

Continued from Page 5

the 2019 procession due to inclement weather that weekend, though a public tree-lighting ceremony took place days later.

"While the holiday parade will not proceed this year as planned, we

encourage residents to join us virtually for the tree-lighting celebration in December," Fialho said Tuesday. "More importantly, the city looks forward to resuming the parade in 2021."

More details about the forthcoming tree-lighting TV special will be shared at www.hometownholiday.com soon, according to Chin. ■

Firehouse presents Aaron Goodvin

Country music's rising star Aaron Goodvin will stream live at 6 p.m. this Saturday in a concert offered by Firehouse Arts Center and Kinkead Entertainment. Goodvin's performing career took off after releasing his self-titled debut album in 2016. He continued with three top-10 singles, one of which, "Lonely Drum," achieved multi-platinum status. Goodvin is known for his ability to connect with his audience and deliver a show-stopping performance. Tickets are \$10 general and \$20 for a backstage pass allowing patrons to chat virtually with Goodvin after the show. The link will remain live for 24 hours for repeat or delayed viewing. For tickets, visit www.firehousearts.org.



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NNSA administrator visits new facilities at Lawrence Livermore, Sandia labs

Also: R&D 100 award, supercomputer upgrade, Nobel Prize winner with LLNL ties

BY CIERRA BAILEY

Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration and U.S. Department of Energy under secretary for nuclear security, spent two days at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories amid the expansions of programs and facilities underway at each campus.

At LLNL on Sept. 29, Gordon-Hagerty broke ground on a state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center, according to a press release detailing her visit.

"The new EOC will consolidate emergency operations management, fire alarm monitoring, communications and response technical support into one location to streamline emergency management

at LLNL," she said.

The new center is part of the NNSA's pilot program to streamline delivery of commercial-like construction projects. City, county, state and federal emergency personnel will have access to the new facility, which is also set to provide survivability from earthquakes, better accessibility to response staff during an emergency and self-sustainability for up to 72 hours without a resupply of fuel, food or water.

Gordon-Hagerty also helped dedicate the new polymers lab, the first facility at LLNL's new Applied Materials & Engineering Campus. A collection of three buildings, the campus will feature 3D printing, advanced manufacturing, brazing and welding, office space and other

capabilities in addition to the polymers lab that was completed in July.

"One of my key priorities has been recapitalizing and modernizing NNSA's infrastructure, some of which dates back to World War II," Gordon-Hagerty said. "As evidenced by delivery of this campus, we have an excellent example for rapid infrastructure recapitalization. I appreciate and admire the close partnership between the NNSA organizations, Lawrence Livermore and private industry."

The Expand Electrical Distribution System (EEDS) project at LLNL was completed back in August, four months ahead of schedule and \$1.1 million under budget. Gordon-Hagerty acknowledged the accomplishment during her time at the lab.

"This project is one of the critical milestones for the NNSA's Strategic Integrated Roadmap, which has a goal to modernize utilities across all sites by 2038. I'm also proud of the continued track record of excellence in NNSA and laboratory project management, as this project has come in under budget and ahead of time," she said.

The project, which was initially set at a budget of \$33.8 million and came out with a final cost of \$32.7 million, expands and supplements the existing electrical distribution along the east side of the lab, provides a new electrical connection to the Sandia campus, increases electrical reliability, provides redundant power to LLNL and offers necessary infrastructure to meet future mission needs.

The following day, Gordon-Hagerty toured the newest facility in nuclear weapons systems engineering at Sandia.

After 18 months of renovation, the Sandia Programs Engineering and Assembly Research (SPEAR) facility opened this summer and expands Sandia's capacity to assemble and electrically test nuclear weapons components and systems for the nation's nuclear stockpile, according to a separate release from Sandia.

The 10,000-square-foot facility includes a laboratory for functional electrical testing of weapons assemblies. Comprehensive data from tests performed at the SPEAR facility will allow systems engineers to determine if weapons systems meet

U.S. Department of Defense requirements and to refine the hardware accordingly.

"This new facility presents an exciting opportunity for Sandia's nuclear weapons modernization programs," Gordon-Hagerty said. "The SPEAR facility represents a significant investment in Sandia's weapons-systems engineering capability in California that will be critical to meeting the hardware delivery demands of our partners across the nuclear security enterprise."

In other business

• Last week, Gordon-Hagerty issued a statement congratulating the co-recipient of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics, Andrea Ghez, who previously worked with LLNL researchers to help create the Center for Adaptive Optics.

"Ghez helped lead the revolution in adaptive optics by working with LLNL researchers to develop and demonstrate the technology, create major improvements and catalyze advances nationwide," the under secretary said in the statement.

Ghez, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, shares half the Nobel Prize with professor Reinhard Genzel of University of California, Berkeley, for their "discovery of a supermassive compact object at the center of our galaxy," according to The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The other half of the prize was awarded to Roger Penrose of the University of Oxford "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity."

• The trade journal R&D World Magazine recognized LLNL researchers with an R&D 100 award for their new technique called versatile cold spray (VCS), which has been developed through a partnership with Virginia-based company TTEC Thermoelectric Technologies.

The new VCS technique deposits a broad range of brittle and glassy materials, including functional materials such as thermoelectric devices and magnets, onto any substrate, according to an LLNL press release. With this year's win, the lab has earned a total of 170 R&D 100 awards since 1978.

• Funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act has allowed LLNL, chipmaker AMD and San Jose-based IT company Supermicro to upgrade the supercomputing cluster Corona, providing additional resources to scientists for COVID-19 drug discovery and vaccine research.

The Corona high performance computing system — named for the total solar eclipse of 2017, not the coronavirus — is used for unclassified open science applications. Since the pandemic began,

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See LABS on Page 9

Dublin council adopts Climate Action Plan 2030

City looks to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, achieve carbon neutrality by 2045

By JULIA BAUM

The Dublin City Council unanimously adopted the Climate Action Plan for 2030 and Beyond (CAP 2030) last week, putting into motion the city's blueprint for a greener future with reduced local carbon emissions and ultimately achieving carbon neutrality by the next quarter century.

Dublin is "on track to meet our 2020 goals" for lower emissions, and meeting a state-mandated deadline this year, Shannan Young, environmental coordinator of Dublin environmental services division, told the Weekly.

"The actions in the updated Climate Action Plan were adopted to help us meet the 2030 goals and to get us on target to meeting the more aggressive carbon neutrality by 2045 goal," Young said.

The city is looking to lessen its greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution through nearly two dozen measures listed in the CAP 2030. Called its "keystone strategy," Dublin aims to provide 100% carbon-free electricity to every resident receiving electricity through East Bay Community Energy, and encourage the use of more renewable energy sources including wind, solar and hydropower.

Officials also hope to reach

carbon neutrality by 2045, and emit only as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere that can also be absorbed by carbon sinks like plants and soil.

Transportation is responsible for more than half of Dublin's GHG emissions (60%), so Young said, "We'll be working to facilitate electrification of vehicles and electrification of our power supply, shifting away over time from natural gas towards renewable power."

Some steps have already been taken to cut back on Dublin's GHG output and encourage alternate modes of transportation. A partnership with the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority was formed to test shared autonomous vehicles between the eastern Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station and local jobs centers through a pilot program currently underway, and

Young said staff hopes to see the city "rolling out shareables like bikes, scooters" at some point.

"One of the big goals or ideas would be finding ways to facilitate transportation other than by single-occupancy vehicles," Young said. "If we still have gridlock, that's not adding quality of life ... even if it's an electric vehicle."

Conventional recycling programs will continue to have a part in the city's greener outlook, but Young said the issue of eliminating edible food waste from landfills — where it releases methane, which is more potent but shorter lived than carbon dioxide — is now getting more attention.

"The idea is to divert as much edible food from the waste stream and redirecting it towards those in need or actually having the food consumed," Young said. "Here

in the Bay Area, we have green waste, I think pretty much in every community. You put food waste into the green bin and that's composted, but it's really working to expand the adoption of those practices and prevent food waste."

Young continued, "Also there's a pretty big procurement piece, cities have to procure the compost and use it in their municipalities. Our focus would be more on the organic waste reduction and reduce

the use of single use products like silverware, rather than focusing on recycling programs, though those will still play a role."

The city's emissions data for 2020 should be available by spring, according to Young.

The Climate Action Plan 2030 and Beyond is available at Dublin-CAPUpdate.com. For more information, contact the City of Dublin Environmental Services Division at 833-6630. ■

LABS

Continued from Page 8

the system has become a tool for LLNI's COVID-19 work, particularly for researchers attempting to discover and design antibodies capable of binding to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

• The Department of Homeland Security, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre issued a joint alert on May 5, warning that hackers were exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic as part of their attacks. Since then, Sandia Labs and Boston-based firm BioBright LLC have partnered to improve the security of synthetic biology equipment.

"In the past decade, genomics and synthetic biology have grown from principally academic pursuits to a major industry," Corey Hudson, Sandia's computational biology manager, said in a recent statement.

Sandia and BioBright, a company that provides secure data collection and analysis to biotech and pharmaceutical companies, are working to develop better security to account for the industrial risks associated with this new commercial field using Emulytics, a research initiative developed at Sandia for evaluating realistic threats against critical systems. ■

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COUNCIL

Continued from Page 7

In other business

• The council also signed off on \$232,072 of “urgent roadway repairs” on West Las Positas Boulevard between Hacienda and Stoneridge drives.

Posted on the meeting’s consent agenda, Narum requested a separate staff presentation on West Las Positas because so many residents had asked why the road work was needed.

The section of roadway in question was built over a former marsh and lagoon area consisting of “soft,

compressible soils with high moisture content that lead to the damage as the soil layers swell and compress,” according to the staff report. Staff also said roadway construction has added more loads over the soft soil, “causing localized soil swelling and settlement.”

This spring “significant settlement” was noticed in the road, and crews installed signs and worked on temporary leveling. However, staff said the repairs “became greater than the capacity of the streets department to efficiently handle.”

Staff said the work “is only a temporary measure until a more permanent solution can be implemented.”

A request for qualifications process to find a consultant for planning and preparing permanent repairs will take place by spring. The temporary repairs are expected to be completed by November.

• Food delivery apps like Uber Eats and DoorDash are now limited on how much they can charge Pleasanton eateries on commission fees during the pandemic, after the council adopted a new temporary ordinance on Oct. 6.

The urgency ordinance establishes a “temporary 15% cap on commission fees charged by third-party food delivery companies on local restaurants during the declared emergency

due to COVID-19.”

According to city staff, “recent public health restrictions imposed by state and county public health authorities ... has resulted in a severe loss of income to Pleasanton restaurants, especially those that have not been able to implement the infrastructure or staff needed for takeout and delivery services or which may not have suitable space for outdoor dining.”

“Particularly during COVID-19, many consumers are using third-party food delivery services to place orders with local restaurants which charge the restaurants up to 30% of the purchase price of the order,” staff said. “Placing a 15% cap on these delivery

charges will help to manage the costs incurred by Pleasanton restaurants while supporting the financial structure of the food delivery services.”

The ordinance went into effect immediately.

• A public hearing scheduled for Oct. 6 concerning the annexation of a trio of properties just outside city limits was postponed without discussion.

The Pleasanton City Council was originally poised to potentially strike an agreement with Livermore city officials as part of a “cooperative approach” to planning for potential future development of the three parcels owned by Pleasanton Gravel Company. ■



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Volunteer programs win statewide environmental award

Association lauds Adopt a Creek Spot and Living Arroyos

By JULIA BAUM

Tri-Valley Adopt a Creek Spot and Living Arroyos were honored this week for their efforts to restore and beautify local waterways and presented with the statewide Outstanding Sustainable Stormwater Program Award.

Presented by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), the award recognizes volunteers for picking up more than 45,000 gallons of litter and planting nearly 7,000 California native plant species near local creeks and rivers.

Joseph Steelman, coordinator for both programs, called it “an honor to be recognized by CASQA for the work we are doing in the Livermore-Amador Valley.”

“What makes our programs stand out is the level of community engagement in the stewardship of our natural resources,” Steelman said. “Whether it is through our public volunteer events or our internship program, we are providing avenues for people to learn about and get involved in improving their watershed. I am proud of what we have accomplished in the past eight years and the community that has grown up around this work.”

Founded eight years ago by the city of Livermore’s water resources division, Tri-Valley Adopt a Creek Spot sees volunteers including families, businesses and community

organizations make a minimum one year commitment to regularly clean up litter at their adopted creek section. Many adopters also remove graffiti and mark storm drains to further enhance their section.

Volunteers manage a total of 13 adopted creek sections along Arroyo Las Positas, Arroyo Seco, Arroyo Mocho and Altamont Creek in Livermore, and St. Mary’s Creek and Arroyo del Valle in Pleasanton.

Living Arroyos was founded a year later and involves partnerships with the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, Zone 7 Water Agency, and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Riparian restoration work to enhance local streams is the primary focus of Living Arroyos, and the program’s weekend volunteer workdays gave residents the opportunity to help with creek bank restoration while learning about local ecology. College students and young professionals are also employed by the program.

Most volunteer activities for both programs are currently on hold during the pandemic, but people interested in joining can email info@livingarroyos to be added to an interest list. Learn about the programs on their websites: www.livingarroyos.org and www.trivalleycreeks.org. ■

Axis offers free screenings of ‘LIKE’

Film explores impact of social media on our lives

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Axis Community Health is offering free online showings of the documentary “LIKE” during the next three months to address concerns about increased screen time since the pandemic started.

Guidance from psychologists, educators and thought leaders about the impact of social media on our lives is woven creatively into the stories in the film, with the aim of supporting mental wellness among youth.

“We are excited to offer this resource online for people to view safely at home with their families, especially at a time when so many parents are concerned about increased screen time among their children,” said Heather Mackey, certified health education specialist at Axis.

“‘LIKE’ provides tools that can be useful for youth and adults alike,” noted Emma Gil, also an Axis

certified health education specialist. “We can all use a little help self-regulating our screen time.”

Gil and Mackey provide health and wellness education to tweens, teens and parents in the Tri-Valley through webinars and online groups.

Those who register to view the film will have it available on-demand for one week as well as access to a resource portal featuring a pre-recorded Q&A with the filmmaker, family discussion guide and tip sheets for parents, and more.

Viewing windows begin Oct. 21, Nov. 18 and Dec. 19. Registration, at <https://bit.ly/32vU5cr>, is free and is required to receive the screening link.

Axis Community Health, a non-profit organization, provides affordable medical, dental and behavioral health services for 15,000 local residents. For information, call 462-1755 or visit www.axishealth.org. ■

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- SAFETY** is critical to our quality of life. I support retaining our outstanding police officers and adding mental health professions when needed.
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DSRSD candidates running uncontested this year

Two seats all but confirmed; question mark remains about third

By JULIA BAUM

The Dublin San Ramon Services District switched to new by-division elections this year, but two of the three Board of Directors seats will be on the ballot uncontested while the third saw no candidates come forward during the filing period this summer.

The change to DSRSD's election system from at-large to area-based came last year after a petition citing the California Voting Rights Act prompted the transition. Now residents will only vote for the lone board seat representing their designated residential district, instead of electing from a pool of at-large candidates.

Residents will also only be able to elect one candidate every four years, instead of multiple candidates every two years like with at-large voting. There are now five designated divisions across the DSRSD service area, with three divisions up for election this fall.

DSRSD spokeswoman Lea Blevins told the Weekly that the board seat for Division 5 in eastern Dublin had no candidates file for the ballot, so



Rich Halket



Marisol Rubio

it will be filled later by appointment by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Division 1 on the western side of the district and Division 3 in the eastern Dougherty Valley are on this year's ballot, though neither candidate has any opponents — incumbent Director Rich Halket for Division 3 and newcomer Marisol Rubio in Division 1.

"The by-division elections are a new process this year for DSRSD, and we are currently waiting to hear back from the county for more details on when and how the Board of Supervisors will fill the vacancy," Blevins said.

DSRSD newcomer Rubio — who ran for State Senate in March but missed the runoff — said she's campaigning for the Division 1 seat,

"Because I deeply care about our conserving our natural resources and understand the climate crisis we face," and "to put my science background to work for the benefit of the people of Dublin and Dougherty Valley in San Ramon."

With a bachelor's degree in molecular and cell biology from UC Berkeley, Rubio said, "Now more than ever, we need creative scientific, cost-efficient solutions to meet our increasingly complex water demand."

"Since 2008, we have a 20% reduction in water through the Delta and over the next 10 years we anticipate having droughts similar to those in 2014 and 2015 once every 10 years," Rubio said, adding that she would also use her training in DSRSD's Citizen Water Academy to work to "ensure that future generations have access to adequate supply and clean water."

Without any contenders on the horizon, Rubio is essentially an early victor in the election and able to think about her pending responsibilities as a district supervisor. Her priorities include providing "clean, affordable

water through an advanced, multi-barrier purification system" and building a "fiscally strong budget plan equipped to meet and maintain our growing water demand and infrastructure, while keeping our water rates steady."

Four-term incumbent Halket called it "unfortunate that we will not have a contested election in any of the three areas up for election this cycle," but said he continues to be "very interested in diversifying our water supply" during his next term, this time as the Division 1 representative instead of at-large.

"Currently DSRSD receives all of its water from Zone 7, and Zone 7 is 80-85% reliant on imported water from the state water project. This single point of failure concerns me," Halket said.

Halket said he supports "pursuing several projects at least until one or two rise to the top," including potable reuse, regional desalination and importing water from sources besides the State Water Project.

"To be clear these new sources would augment the current situation not replace it," he added.

Increasing wildfire threats and PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs are also "concerning" to Halket, who said the district is "prioritizing a revamp of its emergency response plans to address these issues."

"We are also investing in new equipment to better manage our water and wastewater systems in the event of long term power interruptions," Halket said.

A certified public accountant, Halket was first elected to the DSRSD board in 2004, and every four years after since then. Earlier this year he was appointed as liaison to committees for Tri-Valley Water, Zone 7 Water Agency and the cities of Dublin and Pleasanton.

Halket works for a solar energy systems manufacturer as a finance and human resources executive, and previously worked in public accounting, as well as spent a decade each in the enterprise software industry and hydrogeology consulting. He has a bachelor's degree in geology from Stanford University and a master's degree in hydrogeology from Washington State University. ■

COVID-19

Continued from Page 5

local health officials have discretion on reopenings, but ACPHD staff said they are in the process of drafting a new health order to allow for additional reopenings for the week of Oct. 26.

The indoor activities being contemplated to resume in Alameda County, which were allowable under the state's red tier guidelines but remained closed locally as a

precaution by ACPHD, include:

- Indoor dining up to 25% capacity or less than 100 people, whichever is less.
- Indoor worship services up to 25% capacity or less than 100 people, whichever is less.
- Indoor theaters up to 25% capacity or less than 100 people, whichever is less.
- Expansion of indoor retail and malls at up to 50% of capacity and permitting limited food courts.

Beginning this Friday, Alameda

County will also permit additional outdoor activities, including playgrounds that follow the state's guidance. Pleasanton officials said the city's 48 park playgrounds would reopen next week, on Oct. 21.

Previous red tier reopenings included indoor nail salon services and gyms, indoor personal services, indoor museums, and hotels for leisure travel. As of Tuesday school districts are also permitted to allow elementary-aged students to return to the classroom when schools are ready.

The county's announcement did "not necessarily" change existing plans to reopen some Pleasanton campuses this week for just some elementary students with high needs, such as those in special education or English learners, district spokesman Patrick Gannon told the Weekly on Tuesday, adding that "we were aware/hopeful that conditions would continue to remain stable."

Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund said in a statement, "Our entire team is working tirelessly to ensure that the required health and safety standards are met or exceeded, and that our staff, students, families and the broader community can be confident as we implement our plan to reopen."

Haglund added, "As we move forward, it will be important that we collectively own responsibility to keep our students safe. The more carefully we implement health and safety protocols at home and when

we are in the community, the safer students will be when at school."

PUSD scheduled a community town hall for yesterday and a special Board of Trustees meeting for today at 5 p.m. — both of which were after the Weekly's print deadline.

After the orange tier advancement on Tuesday, county officials urged residents to still be diligent with social distancing and wearing masks, especially with flu season right around the corner.

"Steps to reduce the chances of becoming sick with the flu are the same as those to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and include: wearing a mask, keeping at least six feet of physical distance from anyone you don't live with, limiting mixing with people outside your household, and washing your hands regularly," ACPHD officials said in a statement. ■

Editor's note: Reporter Julia Baum contributed to this story.





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E-10

Continued from Page 6

have to build a new school in that area. We really need to be thinking about saving," Miller said.

Instead, Miller proposed saving the \$14 million "for the east side, where we're really going to need it," and "to start adding capacity in places like Lydiksen where it's really going to be needed earlier than anything else."

Miller added he was OK proceeding with submitting plans to the Division of the State Architect before the end of the year but

didn't "think this is a very wise financial decision for the district."

"There are better ways to address the capacity, given the realities that we have today. I agree, when we did the bond, there was a different set of realities, and the realities we have today are not the same," Miller said.

Staff will return to the board with another report on the options and provide "more detailed analysis before a final decision on an option is made."

Construction is slated to begin next fall, if the project proceeds as planned. ■

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Oct. 10

Weapons violation

■ 1:55 a.m. on Gibraltar and Chabot drive

Vandalism

■ 10:10 a.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Theft

■ 2:20 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 5:20 p.m., 5300 block of Case Avenue; theft from auto

■ 8:30 p.m., 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Drug violation

■ 3:57 p.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive

Burglary

■ 8:51 p.m. on the 7200 block of Valley Trails Road

Oct. 9

Burglary

■ 9:40 a.m. on the 3700 block of Stanley Boulevard

Drug violation

■ 12:33 p.m. on the 5100 block of Johnson Drive

■ 2:52 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

■ 11:28 p.m. on the 6000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

■ 2:22 p.m., 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto

■ 4:51 p.m., 6100 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft

Sex offenses

■ 5:28 p.m. on Meadowbrook Court

Warrant arrest

■ 10:48 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Oct. 8

Graffiti offense

■ 9:42 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Fraud

■ 2:45 p.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Theft

■ 3:35 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

■ 9:55 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Vandalism

■ 4:56 p.m. on the 3900 block of McKinnley Circle

Drug violation

■ 11:25 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Oct. 7

Theft

■ 4:52 a.m. on the 1000 block of Harvest Circle

■ 11:37 a.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; auto theft

■ 3:43 p.m., 3400 block of West Ruby Hill Drive; theft from auto

Vandalism

■ 12:02 p.m. on the 500 block of Boulder Court

Drug violation

■ 4:00 p.m. on the 3300 block of Stanley Boulevard

DUI

■ 9:50 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Domestic battery

■ 11:33 p.m. on Hacienda Drive

Garland (Bill) Wooldridge

April 21, 1940 – September 5, 2020

On Saturday, September 5, 2020, Garland (Bill) Wooldridge of Pleasanton, passed away at the age of 80. Bill was born in Antlers, OK on April 21, 1940 to Delcie Carter Wooldridge and Raymond Wooldridge.

Bill grew up mainly in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he graduated from Edison High School and attended Tulsa University. He then served 2 years in the Army as Honor Guard and Tank Gunner which took him to Korea, where he enjoyed everything — except the food! He started his career at Noble Drilling in Tulsa, and then went on to Sioux Tools where he excelled as an industrial tool salesman for 20 plus years. Working at Sioux Tools brought him to the Bay Area of northern California, where he fell in love with the area and never left. He ventured out on his own and continued selling for another 20 years. You could always find Bill working in the yard or building something outside. He loved relaxing to the “oldies” music or watching a movie on the big screen.

He is survived by his loving partner of 26 years, Judy Holthe, his son Lance, daughter Jini Farrell (Mike), granddaughter Ashley, his sister, Pam Thomas (Bill), nieces and nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held later next year. Memorial donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans Charity.



PAID OBITUARY

Dr. Suwich “Sam” Sanwong, M.D.

นายแพทย์สุวิช แสนวงศ์

January 8, 1948 - September 27, 2020

Sam, a long-time Tri-Valley surgeon and emergency medical physician, died on September 27, 2020. Sam was born on January 8, 1948 in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand to Charnnarong and Pum Musigasarn and was adopted by his biological mother’s sister, Boontom, and her husband, Chao Sanwong. As a result of this arrangement, Sam has six biological and three adoptive siblings. A top student in Thailand, Sam graduated in 1965 from the prestigious high school Triam Udom Suksa School in Bangkok. He received a full undergraduate and medical school scholarship from the government of Japan where he earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from Tokyo Ika Shika University in 1972.

After completing his medical studies in Japan, Sam started his General Surgery residency training in the United States when he arrived in Denver, Colorado on July 4, 1972. It was that day he chose his American nickname as a tribute to Uncle Sam, a well-known personification of the United States. In 1977, Sam finished his training as Chief Resident at St. John’s Hospital in Detroit, Michigan where he also met his future wife, Joyce. The two married soon thereafter.

In 1980, Sam started working as a General Surgeon at the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Livermore, California. As an employee of the United States federal government who provided medical services to our veteran heroes, Sam was proud to become a citizen of the United States in 1985. In 1990, as a part of the VA Hospital “Take Your Child to Work Day” program, Sam was thrilled to present his recent achievement of using a small camera to look inside a patient’s body and show how this helped him prepare for surgery. In the early 1990s, Sam became double board certified when he completed the requirements for Emergency Medicine. He finished his medical career with Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare where he was a part of the Dublin and Livermore Urgent Care teams. He retired in 2019.

In 1981, Sam and Joyce moved into a brand new house in Pleasanton’s Country Fair neighborhood. This is the house Sam called home for the majority of his life and also where he raised both of his children, Olivia and Craig. Sam always made time to take his kids to places around Pleasanton including Friday nights at the Chuck E. Cheese near Stoneridge Mall where the family discovered the joys of Pac-Man and video games. Other local favorites included Thrifty’s ice cream counter, the Alameda County Fair, parades on Main Street, and tennis at AVAC. He also

liked taking his kids into nearby San Francisco to eat noodles at his favorite restaurant in Japantown and visit the California Academy of Sciences. He was a big fan of technology and was excited to buy one of the first Macintosh computers for his kids to use. Sam loved to travel and especially enjoyed taking his kids to

meet family in Thailand and classmates in Japan. More recently, in October 2019, he fulfilled a bucket list dream when he visited Petra, Jordan and toured the city’s famous archeological sites and temples. His final trip was in March 2020, when Sam returned to his childhood home, Ubon Ratchathani, to celebrate his son Craig’s wedding to Naing Mya Mon (from Yangon, Myanmar). In addition to these special trips, Sam enjoyed visiting our national parks, taking many cruises, and playing in slot tournaments at Las Vegas casinos. At home he liked to read, write lots of notes, watch sports (especially golf), garden, and spend time with his dog, Minty.

Sam’s death was a result of complications from a major stroke in the pons region of the brain (the brain stem region). Leading risk factors for this type of stroke include hypertension and diabetes. His family is still feeling shocked by his death and misses him so much.

Sam is survived by his loving wife of 43 years Joyce, daughter Olivia, son Craig, daughter-in-law Naing, four sisters, two brothers, and many nieces and nephews. His biological and adoptive parents along with two brothers and one sister preceded him in death.

Sam often used the popular Thai phrase:

ไม่เป็นไร

or may pen rai. This does not translate into a single English phrase or meaning, however an approximate translation could be a combination of: “it’s no big deal” + “you are welcome” + “don’t mention it.” May pen rai is meant to display an outward expression of calm. Whatever has happened cannot be reversed, it can only be dealt with, and problems are best dealt with in a calm and collected manner. 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. Sam’s family hopes each of you can honor his life by learning to embrace the spirit of may pen rai; by learning to embrace feeling calm despite whatever curveballs life throws at you.

If you knew Sam and would like to share a memory, the family would love to hear from you. Please send an email to: SanwongMemories@gmail.com



PAID OBITUARY

‘We Are Pleasanton’

Community group bands together to improve school facilities

By DENNIS MILLER

There are two kinds of people in this world — those who complain while not offering a solution to the problem, and those who look at situation and figure out what can be done to fix the problem.

Todd Utikal, and the “We Are Pleasanton” group he has put together, are firmly entrenched in the latter.

Utikal, his wife and two daughters live in Pleasanton, with one daughter in fourth grade at Walnut Grove Elementary School and the other in seventh grade at Harvest Park Middle School.

The longtime Pleasanton Rotarian and the owner of the SideTrack Bar + Grill in downtown was a supporter of Measure M in the primary election, a bond measure that was earmarked to provide funds for improvements in the Pleasanton Unified School District.

The bond was defeated in March, but the problem of much-needed improvements for Pleasanton schools remained.

Enter Utikal.

“I just wanted the focus to be — let’s do something,” he explained. “I want the community to see we can accomplish projects if we work together.”

Utikal began burning up the phone lines, talking with PUSD Superintendent David Haglund, as well as parents of students, with the goal to find the projects that needed the most attention.

Once he had a list of projects, Utikal put together We Are Pleasanton, a growing community group featuring several prominent

Pleasanton residents.

“I’m not good at a lot of stuff, but I can put the right people in the same room,” Utikal said.

One of the community leaders involved is John Sensiba, a well-known local businessman and civic and nonprofit volunteer.

“Todd called me and asked me to be involved,” Sensiba said. “We have been involved in Rotary for a while, and when he told me of the plan, how do you say no to that?”

Sensiba also acknowledged “We Are Pleasanton” embraces what has made Pleasanton great.

“It’s consistent with the modern leaders,” Sensiba added. “People like Ken Mercer are what I think of modern leaders of Pleasanton. (We Are Pleasanton) captures the spirit of those leaders.”

Utikal went out and got companies like Gates and Associates to produce renderings at no cost for potential school projects.

The first round of projects have been identified as a shade area for the quad at Amador Valley High School, as well as replacing the fields at both Pleasanton and Hart middle schools with synthetic, all-weather fields.

PUSD has stepped up too, matching \$27,500 for the Amador shade structure, with another \$500,000 set aside for the field projects — \$350,000 to Pleasanton Middle and \$150,000 toward Hart.

The district is also working to make sure the projects are in line to get the final approval from the Division of the State Architect in Sacramento.



Map shows design concept for the proposed all-weather athletic field at Pleasanton Middle School.

“It is a blessing to have people in the community step up — to have the energy like Todd,” Haglund said. “We have funds we can use for these projects, but not sufficient funds to do the whole project. Having groups with funds allows us to work and use our funds.”

Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services, came to Pleasanton just a year ago from Menlo Park where he had been for 13 years. He has been working hard along with Utikal to make the plans become a reality.

“We are just trying to take care of business and do it the right way,” Sheikholeslami said. “Not only will the fields give us playing space year-round, but it is a big support for our maintenance operation.”

An additional \$27,500 is coming from the leadership class at Amador, with matching funds coming from the Walker Family Trust, as well as a \$3,000 donation coming from the Pleasanton Rotary Club.

“That the kids stepped up from

Amador with the funds — it’s telling a Pleasanton story,” Haglund said.

“(Utikal) came up with the plan to improve the schools around Pleasanton, and it was something we had to jump on,” said Noah Marek, a senior at Amador and part of the leadership team for the Dons. “It’s been kind of a free-for-all at lunch as there are only five to six tables bunched together under the trees.”

We Are Pleasanton currently sits at \$90,000 of the \$225,000 needed for the shade structure at Amador.

“We hope to have all the funding for the shade structure by the end of the year,” Utikal said. “The fields would then be next.”

“This is showing you have a commitment from the community and the school district,” added Sheikholeslami.

First in line is the much-needed shade project for the Amador lunch area.

“It’s huge,” Amador principal Josh Butterfield said. “The way

our quad sits now, the tables are bunched together under trees trying to get some shade. The shade structure is not simply great for the students, but it will also help us create a much safer environment by having the tables spaced out.”

Butterfield and Foothill principal Sebastian Bull said they are amazed by and thankful for We Are Pleasanton as well as the synergy between PUSD and the group.

“Todd’s been leading the charge,” Butterfield said of Utikal. “It’s a testament to the type of community we have with the people that are involved.”

Bull said he is excited for what the future holds with the We Are Pleasanton and PUSD partnership. Foothill could be looking at a new performing arts theater, as well as renovation of the press box.

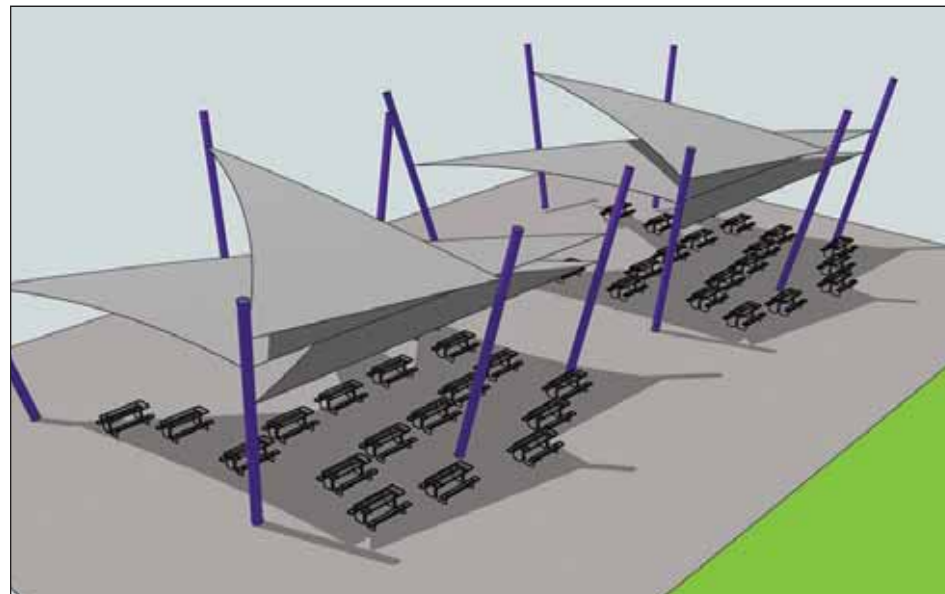
“It’s pretty cool,” Bull said of the group. “Ever since Ahmad has come on, he’s been awesome. He’s a hard worker and things are happening.”

Once the shade project funding is fully secured, the attention turns



RYAN J. DEGAN

The existing lunch quad area at Amador Valley High School, with tables bunched under trees.



WE ARE PLEASANTON

Design rendering of proposed new shade area at Amador Valley.

to the two field renovations/replacement, which Utikal estimates at \$4 million to \$5 million for each field.

While Hart's field is technically usable, Pleasanton Middle School's is much more precarious.

When the construction of Patenco Park on Bernal took place, it forced the ground squirrels toward Pleasanton Middle — and the result is obvious, with the ground giving way under foot in certain areas of the school's field.

Look at the rendering, and it is a sight to behold.

When done, Pleasanton Middle will have three baseball/softball fields, a 400-meter all-weather track with a regulation soccer field in the middle of the track and a cricket pitch. There are also plans in the works for seating.

The project at Hart will include an expanded parking lot, as well as a synthetic-field, a cricket pitch, baseball backstops, short fields for soccer, as well as room for other sports.

And most importantly for many users — the new Hart sports fields will include lights. The townhouses across the street have it written into their homeowners association that lights would be permissible at Hart.

The energy and drive Utikal's brought with We Are Pleasanton has rubbed off on the students.

Marek and other leadership students at Amador are looking into forming a We Are Pleasanton high

school affiliate that would work with the parent group to define improvements.

"In reality, the construction may not begin before I leave," Marek said. "But it feels good to leave something for others when you have gotten so much out of something, like we've gotten from Amador."

Moving forward Utikal is forming a steering committee that will prioritize needs for the schools. Sensiba, Joe Cristiano, Kelly French, Steve McCoy-Thompson, Bryan Gillette, Haglund, Sheikholeslami and Utikal would comprise the main steering committee.

They would be joined by more than 20 others in the community — teachers, parents, students and people in our community who just want to help the kids and our schools.

The nonprofit Pleasanton Partnerships in Education has created an account for the projects.

"PPIE is happy to serve as a conduit for the funds raised for this effort," said McCoy-Thompson, executive director of PPIE. "We have established a separate account, so the funds raised are not co-mingled and are allocated responsibly. We are also inspired by the contribution of the Amador Valley ASB for initiating the matching funds to build needed shade structures for our students."

For more information for We Are Pleasanton, reach out to Utikal either by phone at 925-413-3207 or via email at todd@sidetrackeats.com. ■



RYAN J. DEGAN

Assistant superintendent Ahmad Sheikholeslami and We Are Pleasanton committee member Joe Cristiano look at a hole on the Pleasanton Middle School athletic field last Friday.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH • 6:30 - 8 PM

Now You're Cooking with Culinary Angels

Virtual Cooking Competition, Auction & Raffle

Hosted By



Mel McKay

Juliette Goodrich

Three Tri-Valley restaurant chefs and Culinary Angels Chef Claudia battle it out during an exciting regional cooking competition using locally grown organic produce and pantry ingredients.

Proceeds provide healing, nutrient-rich meals to people going through serious health challenges.



GET TICKETS!

VISIT: CULINARYANGELS.ORG



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Abstract paintings distill nature's constant movement

County recognizes Usha Shukla for impacting the arts community

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Pleasanton artist Usha Shukla finds inspiration for her vivid abstract paintings from nature.

"In nature I feel this breath of fresh air that takes me back to my childhood," she said, recalling her grandparents' home in rural India. "It's like my past and present become one. I feel grounded when I go outside."

She moved to the United States in 1996 when her husband, Manu, started a new job, and at first she felt out of place and disoriented, she recalled.

"That is when I took sanctuary in nature," she said. "My interaction with nature gave me confidence and a sense of belonging."

They first lived in Fremont, and four years later moved to Pleasanton with their sons, Vyom and Viral.

Shukla had a graduate degree in English literature and a diploma in fashion design but a 2005 trip to Paris inspired her artistically.

"We went to the Louvre Museum and my head was spinning," she said. "Then I saw people by the river painting and I had in my mind that I wanted to be an artist or express myself through art."

When Vyom was about to graduate from Amador Valley High in 2010, Shukla threw herself into researching colleges, sharing her findings incessantly until Vyom finally said, "Why don't you go to college?" she recalled with a laugh.

She liked the idea and enrolled



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pleasanton artist Usha Shukla says she creates abstract paintings that distill the light, the intense colors and the constant movement in nature.

at Las Positas College. Among her courses was a watercolor class with a professor who encouraged her to continue her art studies.

Shukla went on to the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where she completed a graduate program, focusing on painting. Her art is now featured in exhibits, public places and private collections.

"Recently Children's Hospital in Boston bought a painting, and six

were bought for the courthouse in Dublin," she said.

Shukla is also active in art groups global, regional and local, including Pleasanton Art League and Livermore Art Association. Next week the Board of Supervisors is honoring her with a 2020 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award for her work, including as chairwoman of the PAL Art Circuit, which presents local artists' works at businesses.

She also is treasurer of the National League of American Pen Women, Diablo/Alameda Branch, and for the last two years has served as a juror for the national Congressional High School Art Competition for District 15.

These community activities complement the private hours she spends in her home studio creating her abstract pieces, some as large as 5 feet by 7 feet, using a unique process.

Inspired by the feeling of an outdoor breath of fresh air, Shukla invented a process for applying oil paint to canvas using a blower. She first diluted oil paint with solvent, then looked about for a blast of air to move the paint into the shapes she wanted.

"My husband was at work and I used his big leaf blower — he was kind of shocked," she remembered. "He went to Walmart and bought me a can of air."

After experimenting with a variety of blowers, large and small, she found a handheld one that works best.

"With air I can get organic shapes," Shukla explained. "I start with a color palette I choose before I start because when I am working I go into this meditative zone, and I don't want everything random. That is why my paintings are so harmonious."

"My head, heart and hand become one when I paint," she added. "My technical, emotional and physical side are in balance, so magic happens."

She states on her website, www.ushashuklaart.com: "The final visual is pure, ethereal, and cosmic with no physical references. My intention is to portray harmony, composition, color, and design found in nature."

In the spring, Shukla was about to go to India for a month-long art residency and was packed and ready to fly out March 6.

"Then the pandemic happened," she said. "I canceled my flight just 24 hours before, but I did not unpack my suitcases for two weeks."

"It was difficult for me because I was used to working alone, and then three people starting working from my home," Shukla recalled. "Initially I was gardening, cooking, baking, but after like two months I said, 'This is the new normal. I need to get back to work.'"

She began her latest series, "Silver Linings," which is inspired by sheltering in place and shows that even dull and depressing situations can provide emotional and physical balance.

"The limited color palette emphasizes the value of using limited resources to fill our lives with colors," Shukla said. "As an artist and very sensitive person, my emotions changed with time. Since I am not able to go out that often, I look through my window. All we need is some limited resources, not a lot of stuff, to be happy."

"We need to find a silver lining in everything," she added. ■

Comedian starring in 'Tailgate Tour'

Fairgrounds expanding its 'drive-in' offerings

The Alameda County Fairgrounds is reinventing the classic drive-in to present different types of entertainment to the community.

Comedian Iliza Shlesinger will present "Iliza's Comedy Tailgate Tour" from 6:30-8 p.m. next Friday (Oct. 23) at the Pleasanton fairgrounds with audience members listening to her on their car radios. Her "Tailgate Tour" kicked off Oct. 2 and includes nine cities.

Shlesinger, who was a guest host on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" in July, has five Netflix specials currently streaming, including "Unveiled and Elder Millennial."

While staying at home during the pandemic, Shlesinger and her chef husband Noah Galuten also launched "Don't Panic Pantry," a follow-along-at-home cooking show.

For the Tailgate Tour, vehicle passes are \$175-\$325; each vehicle



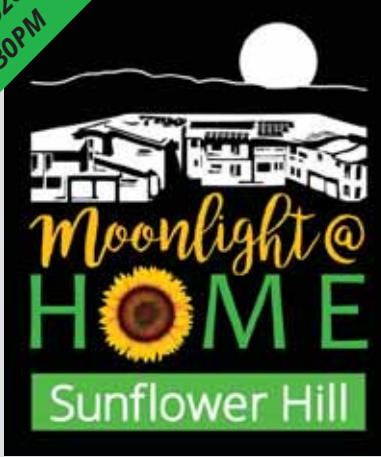
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Comedian Iliza Shlesinger.

is allowed from two to six passengers. For tickets and more information, visit www.iliza.com. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

October 23, 2020
6:00PM - 7:30PM




A special evening to celebrate Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch - the first affordable, residential community for adults with developmental disabilities in the Tri-Valley.

Virtual Evening Will Include:

- ★ Irby Ranch Virtual Tour
- ★ Optional Meal from Fraiche Catering
- ★ Auction, Raffles & Contests
- ★ Performance by **Kodi Lee**, *America's Got Talent* winner
- ★ Celebrity Emcee & Comedian, **Regina Stoops**

sunflowerhill.org/moonlight



New headphones for new school year

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Assistance League of Amador Valley changed its back-to-school giving this year, buying headphones for students instead of clothes.

Each year the group supports Operation School Bell, spending up to \$150 per child to make sure they have new clothes to go back to school. Volunteers traditionally have met children at Kohl's, one on one, to take them shopping and let them select their own clothes.

"The program has been incredibly satisfying for the children, their parents and the volunteers," said Roz Wright, board member for strategic planning.

In March the board recognized the "new normal," and surveyed the schools to find out how they could best spend their dedicated Operation School Bell funds. They discovered that this year students needed headsets with microphones for online distance learning.

"These headsets are comfortable and have good sound quality," Wright explained. "Using them, children are able to focus — without distraction — upon their learning and school work."

Assistance League of Amador Valley was able to supply 400 headsets with the money it had raised



COURTESY OF ASSISTANCE LEAGUE
Valeria and Adrian Morales model their new headphones received from Assistance League through its Operation School Bell program.

with fundraisers and from donations in the Amador Valley.

"We want our children to get the best education possible, and we thank our supporters for enabling us to make a significant contribution to our schools and children," Wright said.

"We are meeting the challenge of assisting others in the community even though we have had to modify our programs due to the coronavirus," public relations chairwoman Barbara Campos noted. ■

Culinary Angels holding cook-off

Chefs to compete using ingredients of nutritious food program

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The nonprofit group Culinary Angels provides nutritious meals for those facing serious health challenges, so when its staff wanted to raise money, holding a cook-off seemed like the perfect fit.

Angels chef Claudia Castillo Holley will compete in "Now You're Cooking" against three others: Michaela Ketchum from Pennyweight Craft Brewing in Livermore; Mona Sethi from Pans on Fire in Pleasanton; and Francis X. Hogan from Sabio on Main in Pleasanton.

"This fun foodie event will introduce participants to a variety of chef styles and recipes that represent their respective culinary stamp," Culinary Angels founder and director Lisa McNaney said. "It will also give viewers a glimpse into the mission of Culinary Angels and the relationship between food and health."

The competition will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. next Saturday (Oct. 24), and everyone is invited to view the fun. It will be emceed by KKIQ radio personality Mel McKay and feature interviews by KPIX anchor Juliette Goodrich.

The chefs will create meals using the same locally grown organic produce and pantry ingredients that



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Culinary Angels chef Claudia Castillo Holley.

are used for Culinary Angels food. Each dish will be judged for appearance, taste and best use of the ingredients by a local panel: Sam Kraft, manager of First Street Wine Company; Sblend Sblendorio, a shareholder with Hoge-Fenton; and nutritionist April Vaughn Shabazz.

Viewers are invited to vote on the best plate, and the winning dish will be featured on the Culinary Angels website.

Tickets to attend the event via Zoom can be purchased at www.culinaryangels.org. The fun will include cooking tips from the chefs, plus chances to win drawing and auction items. These include five days in a condo in Franklin, Tenn., outside of Nashville as well as themed baskets for gourmet and cooking, wine and dine, and a special Culinary Angels pantry basket.

Ticket prices are \$30 individual for one vote and one drawing ticket; \$50 for two votes and two drawing tickets; and \$300 for up to 12 people and six drawing tickets. ■

■



Frank & Muriel Capilla 60th Wedding Anniversary ~ October 16, 1960

Muriel,
62 years together, 60 years of marriage, 3 wonderful children, 2 great daughters in-law, 1 great son in-law and 8 very special grandchildren. As we've traveled through the years we have enjoyed a most wonderful life full of family, friends and community. Most of all we are still very much in love.
I love you Muriel. Happy Anniversary.
Frank



Recommendations for regional representatives

Here are the Pleasanton Weekly's endorsements of candidates for BART Board of Directors District 5, Alameda County Superior Court, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, State Assembly, State Senate and Congress. We reached our decisions based on email interviews on endorsements, and our review of past reporting and other research.

BART District 5

Make no mistake: This is the most crucial period in recent memory for BART, given the severe budget uncertainty caused by the steep ridership decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. The future of the agency as we know it might well hang in the balance in the coming years.

Pleasanton voters need to help elect a District 5 board representative focused on prudent fiscal decision-making while also committing to accomplish Tri-Valley priorities. That candidate is newcomer Mike Wallace.

A Castro Valley resident who has worked the past 10 years as a financial analyst for the Zone 7 Water Agency in Livermore and is a former member Alameda County Human Relations Commission, challenger Wallace has the skills to recommit BART to financial sustainability and service reliability.

Offering a necessary fresh voice on the nine-member board, we were struck too by Wallace's campaign messaging that aligns with the Tri-Valley's goals for BART — to demand "a safe, clean and affordable transit experience."

Challenger Steven Dunbar from Livermore has run an invigorating campaign centered on important goals of making BART more open, accessible and sustainable, but he lacks the background in public agency finances that Wallace possesses and that will be critical for BART in the four-year term ahead.

For three-term incumbent Director John McPartland, we've been less than impressed by what seems to be a half-hearted campaign rooted in staying the course. He has not been responsive to us this election season, and most importantly, he failed to deliver a board majority to support full BART to Livermore in 2018 — the main priority for this portion of his district.

For the future of BART, vote Mike Wallace for Board of Directors District 5.

Superior Court Judge

Voters in the Tri-Valley get an opportunity to have their voices heard on the makeup of the Alameda County Superior Court this fall when they elect the successor to retiring Judge Carol Brosnahan.

We view attorney Elena Condes as the best candidate to become Alameda County's next judge.

Running on a platform to bring "experience, integrity and diversity to the bench," Condes will certainly represent those imperative attributes, and more, if elected.

Condes has worked for the past 26 years as a respected private criminal defense lawyer — an integral role in the legal field but one that is truly underrepresented on the Alameda County Superior Court, where by far most judges come from either prosecution side or civil litigation. Coupling with her contrasting professional background will be her diverse perspective as a Latinx woman, lesbian and mother and as she told us earlier this fall, "this wonderfully diverse county ... deserves a diverse court bench."

We also prefer the candidacy goals — both broad and specific — cited by Condes during this campaign, compared to her opponent, civil rights attorney Mark Fickes. And, we were more convinced by her argument during our endorsement process, which speaks volumes given the nature of the position at stake.

Vote for Elena Condes for Alameda County Superior Court.

LARPD Board

Nearly every Livermore resident and family know LARPD facilities well. Those of voting age this fall will help determine two at-large members for the district's Board of Directors.

One seat is guaranteed to change hands, with current Director Beth Wilson opting not to seek re-election.

To effectively guide the district through an important and difficult period amid the pandemic and economic downturn, we urge Livermore voters to recognize the value of relevant experience and elect incumbent Jan Palajac and newcomer Stacey Swanson.

Palajac's record on the board thus far makes her a clear choice for re-election. In her first term, she's provided good insights on park and trail projects and budget decisions, and she's served as effective board chair in tough conditions so far this year. We also appreciate her other

priorities such as trail connectivity and accessibility, as well as her background as a former city landscape architect in San Jose.

Of the four challengers on the ballot, likely fighting it out just for Wilson's seat, Swanson stands above the rest. A retiree from marketing, Swanson played a very significant, very public role in the effort to preserve the old Springtown Golf Course site several years ago. During that time and after, she cultivated working relationships with LARPD, the city and regional agencies. She has the community connections, background and local knowledge to lead from day one.

Vote for Jan Palajac and Stacey Swanson for LARPD Board.

State Assembly

State Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) is running for a second straight term representing the Tri-Valley and the rest of the 16th Assembly District.

Bauer-Kahan has impressed in the nearly 22 months since she was sworn into elected office for the first time, with a range of legislative accomplishments in the State Assembly including bipartisan bills on gun safety, climate change and streamlining government processes as well as leading the first-ever Select Committee on Women's Reproductive Health.

She has also represented Tri-Valley priorities well in Sacramento, including authoring a bill to better preserve Tesla Park southeast of Livermore and advocating in favor of local control amid the state housing policy debate.

Facing her on the Nov. 3 ballot is Joe Rubay (R-Alamo), who sits on the Alamo Police Services Advisory Committee. He is prioritizing COVID-19 recovery, transportation, the environment and returning political balance to the State Capitol. But with Rubay lacking elected legislative experience, we needed to see a more detailed campaign platform including specific achievable policy proposals.

Vote to re-elect Rebecca Bauer-Kahan to Assembly District 16.

State Senate

State Senator Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) is campaigning for a second full term after winning a special election in May 2015 as an Orinda councilman to fill the State Senate District 7 vacancy at the time.

In the five-plus years since, Glazer has proven himself to be a worthy legislator who prioritizes the needs and desires of District 7

constituents, even if it means voting against the party line from time to time. He is exactly the sort of thoughtful, independent decision-maker that the Tri-Valley deserves.

Glazer's track record of bipartisan legislative successes on topics like assault weapons, flavored tobacco and protecting small businesses speaks for itself, as do his key goals for the term ahead such as public education, the environment, advocating for local control and responsible budgeting.

Opposing on the ballot is Julie Mobley, a Danville resident running for public office for the first time who advanced out of the March primary as the lone Republican candidate with next to no campaign. Mobley highlights important topics such as business and school reopenings, infrastructure, reducing fire risk and public safety, but she offers few actionable policy proposals and has no prior legislative experience. The State Senate should not be an entry-level political position, especially in 2020.

Vote to re-elect Steve Glazer to Senate District 7.

Congress

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore), a former Dublin city councilman and Alameda County prosecutor, is seeking a fifth consecutive term representing Pleasanton and the rest of the 15th Congressional District.

In these uncertain times, District 15 needs a representative with legislative experience, deep ties to the Tri-Valley and institutional knowledge with sincere, actionable policy goals aimed at improving residents' quality of life. Based on those important criteria, Swalwell stands alone in this contest.

Like we wrote ahead of the primary in March, we hear the criticisms of certain readers lamenting Swalwell's rising profile in D.C. — the notion that he's focused on his national image, TV appearances or party standing, rather than discernible accomplishments in and for the Tri-Valley. Or, maybe they're just projecting because they don't like his politics or vocal presence?

Objectively, Swalwell is the only viable candidate on this ballot — and a highly qualified one at that. His opponent, Alison Hayden (R-Hayward), who has never held elected legislative office, appears to be running a campaign focused on fear-mongering and untenable ideas that aren't rooted in federal policy.

Vote to re-elect Eric Swalwell for District 15. ■

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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 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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LETTERS

Maher for school board

Dear Editor,

Every now and then, in a lifetime, you meet someone that you know will impact your life in a very positive way. Steve Maher is one of those people.

I first met him when Hart Middle School was opened and did a tour with him. His enthusiasm, his passion, his drive was incredibly present when he described how this school would serve his students, teachers and parents.

Since that time I've come to know Steve in a more professional role through a Pleasanton councilmember/PUSD trustee relationship. Years later that same enthusiasm, passion and drive are still prevalent, if not enhanced, as he embraces his role as president of the PUSD Board of Trustees.

Our school district, our students, our community, is blessed that Steve is still willing to serve after 40-plus years. I wholeheartedly support his candidacy for a second term as a school district trustee.

—Jerry Pentin,
Pleasanton City Council
(2012-present),
Candidate for mayor

Karla Brown for mayor

We strongly support Karla Brown for mayor of Pleasanton. She has proven time and time again over many years of service to be a champion for the people who live in Pleasanton. She does not accept money from developers, and she will fight to maintain quality of life in our beautiful little town.

We encourage you to support her as well. She is a tireless worker for the people who live here, and she will stand up for you just as she has done for us.

—Michael and Darlene Miller

Carreon is the best choice for PUSD board

Please vote for the candidate with the most current PUSD classroom experience! Mary Jo has first-hand knowledge of what the current distance learning experience is like for our students and teachers.

After 33 years in the classroom (winning several teaching awards during that time), she retired just this summer, and then within a month was running for school board and participating in the school re-opening task force. This shows how dedicated she is to our students and community.

Mary Jo has frequently shared her desire for open communication with the community, outlining plans for public input and committee representation on important issues. She's the only candidate I know with a dedicated phone line for your questions (925-750-8225).

Mary Jo Carreon will work hard to make PUSD the best it can be for students, parents and educators.

—Janet Sears

Jerry Pentin: A mayor with integrity

Jerry Pentin has been a dear family friend for almost 30 years, and I can say without a doubt that he is one of the most honorable, genuine and hard-working people that I know. I have witnessed his devotion and love for his family and friends, his commitment to community service, and his utmost integrity and respect for his positions on city committees, commissions and City Council to ensure he represents all Pleasanton residents.

What I admire most about Jerry, specifically as it relates to his civic responsibilities, is that he takes every issue brought before him and studies it from all angles — from extensive reading and research, to talking to community members — he does not take his responsibility to serve the residents of Pleasanton lightly and makes his decisions based on what is best for the entire community at large.

Jerry is a U.S. Marine through-and-through, and he demonstrates the core values of honor, courage and commitment in everything he does. I am extremely proud to cast my vote for Jerry Pentin for mayor of Pleasanton, and I hope that you will join me in doing the same.

—Cathy Ritter

Karla Brown: Top choice for Pleasanton mayor

I have been a planning commissioner for over 14 years, and have known Karla Brown for more than 12 of those. I met Karla when we were fighting to save our hills and ridgelines, and placing Measure PP on the Pleasanton ballot.

For Councilwoman Karla Brown, the council is hardly a part-time job; she has represented Pleasanton on 12 local boards and committees during her tenure. Additionally, she is a local business manager, has volunteered for our public schools and Tri-Valley Conservancy, and coached soccer. Her energy seems endless.

As a councilwoman for the past 8 years, Karla has been the voice of the people of Pleasanton often standing in the minority, voting to preserve our downtown from multi-story homes replacing commercial buildings, advocating for slower/smart growth to ease the burden on our schools and traffic, and fighting to preserve the hillsides and scenic ridgelines we have left.

Karla has proven her leadership, integrity and independence while on the council. She knows how to listen to all sides of an issue, ask the difficult questions, and find a

solution that is best for our community. As our mayor, she will continue to represent the interests of Pleasanton residents over outside/special interests.

Vote Karla Brown for mayor.
—Greg O'Connor,
Planning Commission member

Pleasanton POA endorses Pentin, Balch, Randy Brown

The Pleasanton Police Officers Association (PPOA) is proud to announce our 2020 City Council endorsements.

These endorsed candidates understand the critical role that law enforcement holds within our community. As our profession and organization continues to evolve, we are confident that these individuals will ensure first responders have the necessary tools and training to continually provide the quality of service we have all come to expect in Pleasanton.

Over the coming years, there will be many critical conversations had and decisions made that will shape the future of law enforcement in Pleasanton. It is imperative that our civic leaders approach these conversations without partiality and with a spirit of collaboration so that Pleasanton can remain one of the safest cities in all of California.

The PPOA endorses for mayor and City Council: Jerry Pentin — Mayor; Jack Balch — City Council; Randy Brown — City Council.

The PPOA strongly encourages everyone to vote on Nov. 3!

—Nicholas Albert,
PPOA president

Vinnie Bacon for supervisor

My name is Kunal Khaware, and I am a youth commissioner in Dublin.

Hi, my name is Annie Koruga, and I'm an organizer in Fremont who met Vinnie in 2018 while organizing for the midterms.

We wanted to let everyone know that the youth support Vinnie Bacon for Supervisor. We've both seen how hard Vinnie works to engage with constituents both as an elected and while campaigning. He knocks on voters' doors and is eager to listen to any concerns.

Vinnie has policies which put the community first. He's truly a clean money candidate, meaning he's only beholden to us — the constituents. He started the trend of refusing developer money in 2008, well before anyone else. He's not afraid to start a trend.

He represents the need for affordable housing, smart regional planning and environmentalism. Vinnie entered politics as part of the Sierra Club, protecting open space from rampant development. He is a strong

See **LETTERS** on Page 20

Main Street Special



Enjoy dinner in downtown Pleasanton during one of the "A Weekend on Main" events sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

Then enhance the experience by booking the Main Street Special at The Rose Hotel, a deluxe king room for two nights including an extensive continental breakfast and a souvenir bottle of French Cote des Roses wine for just \$399 (\$300 first night, \$99 second night) plus 8% tax, a \$590 value. Offer is limited, so gather your friends and take advantage of this unique offer. **Details at pleasantondowntown.net.**



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LETTERS

Continued from Page 19

proponent of the “Bay Area Green New Deal,” making him the candidate to vote for.

Overall, Vinnie is an incredible candidate and a phenomenal person. We hope you vote for him!

—Kunal Khaware and Annie Koruga

The definition of ‘special interest’

Mayoral candidate Karla Brown says she doesn’t take special interest money to help finance her campaign for mayor. Well, get a load of this.

She took what is likely the largest campaign donation in the history of Pleasanton politics from the Jamieson Company, the quarry operators in Livermore. They donated \$4,000 to Karla Brown’s campaign (in 2016). The Jamieson Company have been outspoken opponents of Pleasanton’s various attempts over many years to evaluate the potential for development of Pleasanton’s east side.

Councilmember Brown voted as recently as March of this year to not even consider to study the idea. Her vote was made in spite of the fact that the City Council had voted in March of 2019 to prioritize the East Pleasanton planning on the council’s two-year work plan.

From my point of view, a \$4,000 campaign donation is pretty “special” and indicates a lot of “interest” from the donor. Keep in mind that the vast majority of political contributions in the history of Pleasanton politics are less than \$100 and you can appreciate the significance of a whopping \$4,000 donation.

I’m all for keeping special interests out of Pleasanton politics; I wish Karla Brown agreed with me. The \$4,000 campaign contribution from the Jamieson Company to Karla Brown’s coffers is the very definition of special interests.

—Marty Birk

Elect Randy Brown

Every organization benefits from a new viewpoint and fresh perspective. The Pleasanton City Council has served our community well for several years. This election will see two of the current five leave office.

Our city will be well served by electing Randy Brown to the City Council. He is an established small business owner who has worked with a number of city governments. He has contributed significantly to Pleasanton with a number of civic and charitable organizations.

He has patience, understanding and very good judgment. He listens very well with the ability to understand and reach sound conclusions.

Please elect Randy Brown.

—Brad Hirst

Support for Karla Brown

Karla has shown and proven her leadership skills to suit her for

mayor. Her past and recent experience as a council member and a vice mayor have given her the ability to impact the city of Pleasanton in such a positive way.

She is a critical thinker when it comes to finding new ways and strategies to keep the city significant as it always is. Her plan not to support expensive recycled sewer water for drinking water is one of her projects of keeping the citizens of Pleasanton safer and healthier especially throughout times like these.

In my personal experience, I have worked with Karla through a nonprofit organization called Kids Against Hunger. Her beliefs and philosophy for the future of Pleasanton have proven to me and others as well that she can run for mayor and maintain the beauty of the city.

COVID-19 has caused not only this city, but everywhere around the Bay Area to struggle economically. But people like Karla Brown can create a difference in supporting local-owned businesses, essential workers and residents to help get them back on the right track. She is a great listener to our community and neighbors around Pleasanton.

I wish nothing but the best for Karla Brown. Vote Karla Brown for mayor!

—Cassius Carandang

Mokashi: Most qualified for PUSD school board

I met Kelly Mokashi nearly 20 years ago when I was a principal of an elementary school. As a school administrator, it was not uncommon for me to interact frequently, with many vendors and trainers, but Kelly has stood out as one of the best consultants our district ever had.

She worked in the trenches with our teachers to gain their trust, confidence, and respect to help them make curricular improvements, including the use of district-created new assessments, such as pre/post math tests and language arts/math portfolios.

Kelly not only worked with our teachers by leading PD trainings, grade level meetings, and in-class coaching, but she also facilitated monthly district level meetings, working directly with our coaches and administrators to devise district goals and district plans that were doable and realistic.

She transformed our district leadership culture that helped us work towards shared goals with a focused commitment from everyone, whereas previously our district administration tended to work more fragmented and independently.

It was not uncommon during leadership meetings for us to have debates and disagreements, but when Kelly was in charge, we always, eventually, came to a consensus that ultimately, we all could agree and act upon. I have witnessed first-hand Kelly’s leadership capabilities and visionary techniques that demonstrate how she works effectively when

making team-driven decisions.

Because of Kelly’s successful track record, I feel she is most qualified as a school board member for PUSD!

—Margarita Pennisi

Nancy Allen for City Council

Nancy Allen has my vote for Pleasanton City Council on Nov. 3. Her concerns cover all aspects of what a council member should promote: fiscal responsibility; responsible growth policies; reinvigorating our “small town” downtown; standing up for residents and small businesses; and working with the school district to maintain and enhance our academic excellence.

Serving on several committees, including the Economic Vitality Committee and spending the last seven years on the Planning Commission, have provided the experience that Nancy will use to be an effective member of the council. As an engaged and active commissioner, Nancy spends hours studying each issue, listens to citizens and renders well-thought-out and fair decisions. Candidate Nancy Allen will not accept donations from developers.

I look forward to watching Nancy fulfill her promises to protect against unnecessary growth that our infrastructure cannot support. Her commitment to preserving our historic downtown by helping businesses recover and by supporting vibrant retail are necessary to the health of our economy. Nancy has opposed ground floor residential on Main Street and pledges to fight any changes that might erode our small-town character.

Pleasanton’s uniqueness is what brings people here to live and visit. Nancy Allen will help keep it unique by working with other council members and by listening to the thousands of residents who love our town.

—Christine Bourg

Vote for Dad

I am writing to ask the citizens of Pleasanton to elect my Dad, Jerry Pentin, as mayor.

We need a mayor who is honest, informed and dedicated to what is best for our city. We need a natural leader who will be stalwart through the challenges our city will face, and Jerry is that mayor. Most importantly, he does not spin the truth or waiver from his principles, and that is key in this mayoral election. His many local, regional, state, and federal endorsements agree with me.

Jerry has always put the country, community, and his family before himself. He served in the United States Marine Corps where he learned true grit and ultimate dedication. When selecting your next mayor, consider the candidate who served our country.

Jerry taught me to practice service-above-self and to take pride in and give back to my community from an early age. He has been an

active member of our community for 25-plus years, including as a member of Rotary, the Callippe Golf Course Committee, Parks and Recs Commission, Planning Commission, several civic subcommittees and eight years on the City Council. He studies the issues from both sides before making an informed decision — never taking a shortcut.

In his role as my Dad, I cannot ask for more. He has always kept me front and center in his life, and I know his dedication to Pleasanton has been to make it better for our future generations.

Vote for Dad!

—Joi Pentin

Carreon for school board

As a former colleague of Mary Jo’s, I can say unequivocally, she is an excellent choice for a member of the PUSD school board.

Mary Jo is passionate about education in every way. She truly puts students first.

Foremost, she will be diligent in working with others in best interests of all. Mary Jo will work hard to obtain these goals for the PUSD. She works well with others, which is an important asset.

Mary Jo has no personal agenda for wanting to be on the school board; only to make this school district the best it can be. She has been endorsed by Alameda County Board of Supervisors members, Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus, The Independent newspaper, APT and the Alameda County Democratic Party.

Vote for Mary Jo, and your voice will be heard.

—Michelle Weeks

Policing in Pleasanton

I was very disappointed in the oversight option chosen by a 4-1 vote (Julie Testa dissenting) by the Pleasanton City Council as part of our city’s implementation of 21st century policing.

Specifically, the choice of a Police Chief’s Advisory Board (CAB) establishes a body that lacks both independence and authority. The summary from the council agenda report states that the CAB is “implemented by a chief of police,” and “acts as a sounding board for a chief of police regarding community needs and concerns,” but the CAB “does not have the authority to investigate, review, or otherwise participate in matters involving specific police personnel or specific police related incidents.”

The City Council’s failure to provide a civilian oversight board with the necessary preconditions to make it effective is even more concerning given the fact that, by the council’s own admission, this was the first time in 24 years that a deep dive had been done on the policies and procedures and use of force practices of the Pleasanton PD.

I also regret that the voices of so

many of Pleasanton’s young citizens who called into the City Council meetings in large numbers to express their views and concerns were totally ignored. And, finally, I regret that we are still without a process that enables our most impacted community members like John and Rose Bauer to have their voices elevated.

—Ward Kanowsky

Valerie Arkin support

I strongly recommend Valerie Arkin for Pleasanton City Council. Valerie has worked tirelessly over many years for our community as a board member of PUSD and she has demonstrated her commitment and leadership skills while serving.

Over the next years, many thoughtful decisions will need to be made about the growth of our beautiful city. Valerie does not accept money from developers and therefore will not be indebted to them in the future.

There is only one clear choice for Pleasanton City Council! I encourage you to support Valerie Arkin.

—Victoria Glenn

Endorsing Karla Brown

I am unable to walk and instead, rely on my wheelchair and family to get around town. Late last year, local Pleasanton friends had a fundraiser for me to raise money to convert my handicapped van to one that I can personally drive.

Karla Brown became aware of this and helped promote this effort by having a commemorative Josh Burger Day in Pleasanton, supported by the City Council members and mayor. She also promoted the Eddie Papa’s portion of this fundraiser.

Through Karla and the city and many generous friends, I am now well on my way to converting my van for driving. Now, if she could end this pandemic...

—Josh Burger

Jack Balch for City Council

As someone who grew up in Pleasanton and has now chosen to raise my family here, it is important for me to elect someone who has passion for a vibrant, safe and healthy Pleasanton future. Jack Balch has all of these, and has demonstrated time and time again his commitment to our community.

Jack’s 11-year experience as a parks and recreation commissioner and planning commissioner will serve him well as a member of Pleasanton’s City Council. Jack understands the past, has contributed to what our fine city has become and his decisive leadership will help ensure our future.

Having seen Jack in action on the Planning Commission, it is evident that he has the best interest of Pleasanton at heart. He is prepared, knows the issues, seeks and respects public input and takes his role

seriously understanding the future impacts of decisions.

With Jack on the City Council you get a thoughtful, enthusiastic leader passionate about our beautiful town.

Please join me in voting for Jack Balch for City Council on Nov. 3.

—Amy Shannon

PFAS or P-SLOW?

With smoke from nearby fires and airborne pathogens affecting our air quality, it is easy to forget about our water quality. This is why I appreciate utilities planning manager Todd Yamello's presentation during the Pleasanton City Council meeting on Sept. 1. He explained the issue of PFAS contamination in local groundwater wells and the possible solutions being considered.

Though not entirely comprehensive, our current scientific knowledge of PFAS water contaminants is fairly well-established. Yet, the question of what the best course of action to take at the local level remains. Major concerns include funding and the project timeline extending into 2023.

This is an issue of both science and democracy. As with all scientific research, the analyses and reports necessary to inform policy decisions take time. The democratic processes for implementing these policies also take valuable time.

The city of Pleasanton can spend millions on a water treatment project, but still not address the root of the contamination issue without complementary state and federal regulation of PFAS in consumer goods. It's a frustrating situation, and residents watching these developments can feel helpless to take action for community health and safety.

Still, I am confident in the city's comprehensive approach to this problem and receptiveness to public engagement. I commend all the staff and councilmembers involved in evaluating and acting on the issue, as well as the people choosing to stay informed and supportive of their work. I truly value everyone's calmness, open-mindedness and honesty.

—Elaine Yang

Karla Brown is the real deal

Other mayoral candidates may claim to be against rampant growth, but the voting record against slow and smart growth speaks for itself.

Over the past eight years as a council member or vice mayor of Pleasanton, Karla has been waiting on the planning of the east side until accurate regional housing numbers come forward. This is the most prudent and thoughtful approach. Approving a large scale development of million-dollar-plus homes is not a realistic solution for creating state mandated affordable housing in Pleasanton.

Karla's consistent record on slow and smart growth planning is a testament to her commitment to preserving our quality of life.

In short, Karla is the best

candidate to protect our town from sprawl. Find out the facts, follow the campaign funding and ignore the spin. Year after year, Karla has demonstrated that she has the proven record of voting for slow and smart growth. Karla Brown is the real deal!

—Brian Pullen

Bob Woerner for Livermore mayor

We all know that given the course of this pandemic and likely economic downturn, our community will need a solid, proven leader who understands business and financial management to get us through these challenging times.

Only one candidate has that experience, Bob Woerner. He is currently a member of the City Council and the vice mayor. He has experience with balancing city budgets, collaborating with the community on city priorities and has a proven track record of delivering real solutions.

Both these men running for mayor are wonderful members of our community, but Bob has the experience that is a necessary to get us through these challenging times. We don't have time for a learning curve; we need a proven leader and that stability he brings from day one.

Please vote Bob Woerner for mayor of Livermore.

—Laura Batti and John Hogan

Yes on Prop 14

I watch GvHD take hold to many over 40 years with leukemia patients to these brave patients trying to save their life with no way to treat them until now with MSC (mesenchymal stem cells). I watched many patients give their lives to science research for a chance of cures, which we had successes ... 40 years forward, if you get CML, CLL you have 98% of treatment or cure. CAR T and other treatments

Two points: The federal funding for embryonic research is not very well supported, and you can not put a pricetag on the patients who are willing to put their life on the line for hope and a chance. Stay in the game California; do not be shortsighted. (yeson14.com)

—Andrew Blidy

I support Mary Jo

There is no question that we are experiencing strange and frightening times. School, as we have known it for so long, feels like a distant memory. The future is uncertain, and the fundamental role our schools play in the growth and development of our children is clearer than ever before.

In this moment, we need school board representatives who have the actual knowledge and on-the-ground experience to make decisions that will protect and serve our community. Mary Jo Carreon is, without a doubt, the candidate who can rise to this challenge.

As a parent and a teacher, Mrs.

Carreon has spent her life learning what is best for kids and schools. She understands what it takes to educate, nurture, support, and connect with students and their families. This has been her life's work, and her positive impact on this community runs deep.

Mary Jo is absolutely the right person for the school board position at this time. Let's give her the chance to continue her good work on behalf of all those in PUSD.

—Talia Petit

Karla will represent Pleasanton

I strongly support Karla Brown for mayor of Pleasanton.

She does not accept campaign donations from builders and developers who may expect favors in return. She does support projects that address our needs and respect the character of our unique community. She was the only candidate who voted against multi-story housing in our historic downtown. She, along with the majority of residents, opposed the massive east side development.

Karla has always shown respect for the public and fellow council members who may have differing opinions and she will continue to do so in the important role of representing Pleasanton as our mayor.

—Brian Bourg

Integrity for our residents: Vote for Allen, Arkin and Karla Brown

It is imperative to ensure the integrity of our residents is maintained when considering who to vote for in our city government. Now is the time to remember that as residents, we must consider which elected officials will make sure that our voices will be heard when making governing decisions for the city of Pleasanton.

If you believe this also, then vote for Karla Brown for mayor and Nancy Allen and Valerie Arkin for City Council.

Karla Brown has a reputation for making decisions that protect and preserve our historic downtown and has a proven record for making key decisions that favor what is in the best interest of our residents.

Valerie Arkin has been known for making fiscally sound decisions in the best interest of our students as a current trustee for the PUSD school board. I am confident she will do the same as an elected member of the City Council.

Nancy Allen currently serves on the Planning Commission, and she has been known to do her research and stick to the core facts when making key decisions. With her current campaign, she echoes her advocacy for Pleasanton residents, when she states, "we must and can do more to serve our needs for our workers, seniors, and special needs groups."

We need elected officials who have strong characters to maintain the integrity of what is in the best interest for our residents. Vote Karla Brown for mayor, and Nancy Allen and Valerie Arkin for City Council!

—Kelly Mokashi, Candidate for PUSD board

We need Karla Brown as mayor

Karla Brown supports common-sense initiatives such as safety, smart growth, clean environment policies and preservation of our historic downtown.

She also listens to citizens and is eager to learn about other community issues. As residents of the Gates, we and our neighbors have been keenly concerned about subsidence issues due to the Zone 7 wells impacting soil water levels. Our houses are literally sinking into the earth. It costs each homeowner anywhere from \$30,000 to \$110,000-plus to get foundation experts to lift our houses.

No other City Council member showed concern about the plight of Gates homeowners as Karla Brown has done. Karla cares about our neighborhoods.

Elect Karla Brown for mayor of Pleasanton. She is a skilled leader and caring human being. She is in the race not for personal ego or personal gain but to improve the quality of life in our town.

—Deborah Grossman

Arkin for City Council

Why does a person choose to perform public service for her community when it involves the inevitable consequences of making tough decisions? Why does a person seek what can at times seem like a thankless job? The reason is love.

Valerie Arkin is running for Pleasanton City Council out of the love that she has felt for our community since arriving here in the mid-1990s. She has given to our city in countless ways.

I have known Valerie Arkin for 25 years, first when she was the coordinator of the YMCA Guides and Princesses program for fathers and kids in the Tri-Valley. She grew

the group from 30 families to over 300, helping create cherished life-time memories.

I still notice Valerie volunteering at book sales for the Pleasanton Library, even though it's been six years since she completed her term on the Library Commission.

Valerie selflessly served on the Pleasanton school board for the past 12 years, while raising her three children and volunteering at Mohr, Harvest Park and Amador Valley.

Valerie has proven experience, a team attitude and always stands up for what she believes. You can count on Valerie to value everyone's opinions, not just the special interests. And she has a healthy sense of humor, never taking herself too seriously.

I know Valerie to be a woman of integrity, honesty and decency. Valerie's commonsense positions are based on love for our community.

Please vote for Valerie Arkin for Pleasanton City Council.

—Jeff Nibert

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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

UPCOMING MEETING
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
• Approve modifications to the City's Down Payment Assistance Program to increase maximum loan amount, restructure the loan terms, and adopt a shared appreciation loan policy for repayment

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

Concerts

VINEYARD VIBES - A VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES Musicians of the Livermore Amador Symphony perform a variety of beautiful chamber music rooted in English and American folk songs and dances encompassing a range of imagery, expression and fun. 6 p.m., Oct. 18. Visit livermorearts.org.

ILIZA SHLESINGER'S COMEDY TAILGATE TOUR With five specials currently streaming, Iliza Shlesinger is one of today's leading comedians with fans who create and wear their own Iliza-inspired swag to her shows. Her nine-city trek brings her to the Alameda County Fairgrounds on Oct. 23. Tickets on sale now at iliza.com. The fairgrounds are located at 4501 Pleasanton Ave.

DRIVE-IN CONCERT EXPERIENCE Virtual Events announces a new electronic music drive-in concert featuring Boombbox Cartel with support from Stuca RemK. 8 p.m., Oct. 24. Visit driveins@vitalmanagement.com.

Opera

TRIPLE THREAT - ARIAS AT HOME Livermore Valley Opera presents a Triple Treat of three online concerts. The concerts are free and will premiere on LVO YouTube channel. After each premiere, the concerts will

remain on the YouTube Channel for repeat viewing. 6 p.m., Oct. 24. Visit livermorevalleyopera.com.

Theatre

EUGENE O'NEILL — OCTOBER SURPRISE The "Lost Plays," three one-acts of O'Neill's early career will appear on their website as video performances. "Abortion" on Oct. 17. 5 p.m. For more information, visit eugeneoneill.org.

Talks

HOPE HOSPICE PRESENTS FREE GRIEF WORKSHOP Hope Hospice annually offers a special Handling the Holidays workshop to teach healthy coping strategies to help the bereaved during this difficult time. Space is limited and currently held virtually. 7:30 p.m., Nov. 12 and Dec. 7. Contact 829-8770.

WEBINAR ON DEMENTIA Dementia-care expert Teepa Snow created a unique way of understanding and talking about stages of dementia which will be discussed in this webinar. 10-11:30 a.m., Oct. 21. Visit hopehospice.com.

Family

VIRTUAL GHOST WALK 2020 Meet the ghosts of Pleasanton's past in this uniquely spooky annual event

held by Museum on Main. This year the event is moving to Zoom as two ghosts guide a virtual tour of downtown Pleasanton's most haunted locations. 7 p.m., Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 31. Visit museumonmain.org.

JOAN'S FARM AND PUMPKIN PATCH Old West town, farm equipment museum and picnic tables. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday until Oct. 31. Visit joansfarm.com. 4351 Mines Rd., Livermore.

NILES CANYON RAILWAY Celebrate October with special railway train rides through the canyon. Oct. 17-18, 24-25. Visit ncry.org.

PIRATES OF EMERSON — DRIVE-THRU HAUNTED HOUSE Batten down the hatches, the Pirates of Emerson brings a new adventure for 2020, the drive thru experience at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Oct. 15-17, 22-24, 29-31. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Writers

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS OCTOBER MEETING Pauline Wiles will present "Websites that Wow Readers-How to Create or Update Your Online Home" at the Tri-Valley Writers October meeting. Wiles will explain how to simplify the project and avoid common pitfalls. 2 p.m., Oct. 17. Visit www.trivalleywriters.org.

Seniors

VIRTUAL ESTATE PLANNING PRESENTATION This virtual presentation will be led by Shirley M. White, an attorney who focuses her law practice on estate planning. Topics include trusts, wills, durable powers of attorney and more. 1 p.m., Oct. 22. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov or call 931.5340.

Fundraisers

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM Tri-Valley Haven has transformed it's program to safely provide holiday items and food to the thousands of residents in economic need by providing pre-bagged food and a gift cards while practicing social distancing and CDC guidelines. November 23rd

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Meet Jedd

Jedd is an intelligent, confident and active 4-year-old German Shepherd. He'd love to spend the day with you outdoors going on hikes to the beach, or anything else you have planned. If you're looking for an exercise buddy, this boy will surely inspire to keep you moving. Jedd would prefer to be the only dog in your life. Prospective adopters would benefit from positive reinforcement training to help manage his manners and ensure a successful partnership together. Visit eastbayspca.org.

is designated for a turkey pick-up and December 12th for holiday gift giving. For more information visit trivalleyhaven.org.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY EAST BAY GALA Volunteers of the American Cancer Society are applying their creative energies to address health inequalities during the pandemic with a novel and engaging online gala experience via YouTube. 7 p.m., Oct. 17. The event website is open for registration and donations at eastbaygala.org.

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER This year the annual walk is shifting gears as a celebration involving vehicles parading to the American Cancer Society Alameda offices. Local teams are encouraged to deck out their cars for this event. 10 a.m., Oct. 17. Visit makingstrideswalk.org/bayareaca.

PLEASANTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB Pleasanton Figure Skating Club is the first high school figure skating club in the West Coast. The club, a combination of both Amador Valley and Foothill High School students, is hosting a raffle to support their competitions. For more information visit ml6194.wixsite.com/pleasantonfsc. The raffle is 3 p.m., Oct. 19.

MOONLIGHT AT HOME Dress up in your favorite party attire and join via Zoom to toast, tour, dine and enjoy a night together to raise funds to support the mission and vision of Sunflower Hill. The virtual event will

feature a tour of the newly completed Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton, a special pre-recorded performance by America's Got Talent winner, Kodi Lee, meal options and much more. 6-7:30, 10.23.

Teens

PLEASANTON VFW ANNOUNCES 2020 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION The Pleasanton Veterans of Foreign Wars has announced two scholarship programs this fall. High school and middle school students are invited to participate in a themed essay. The deadline is Oct. 31. For more information visit vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

AXIS PRESENTS FREE ONLINE SCREENING OF "LIKE" What are the hidden costs of social media? "Like" is a documentary about the impact of social media on our lives that explores these questions. Registration is free. Oct. 21. Visit <https://bit.ly/32vU5cr>.

Quilting

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS YARD HOP Amador Valley Quilters will host a 3 location Yard Hop Fabric sale with masks required and socially distancing practiced. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Oct. 16 & 17. For more information visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Cooking

NOW YOU'RE COOKING Join this virtual culinary event as three Tri-Valley restaurant chefs and Culinary Angel chef Claudia battle it out during an exciting regional cooking competition. 6:30-8 p.m., Oct. 24. Visit culinaryangels.org.

Food Bank

THE MARKET AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE The Market, a monthly event held by the student government at Las Positas College, offers free bagged food to the entire community. Groceries are distributed through a drive-through model to minimize contact. Patrons are asked to open the trunk when they arrive and wear a mask. 12 p.m., Oct. 20. 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Lot C in front of Building 1600.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

CIRCLE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 572529
The following person doing business as: CIRCLE, 5976 West Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Mohammad Habib, 6885 Payne Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Mohammad Habib, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Mohammad Habib, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 31, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2020.)

Coastline Academy
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 572925
The following person doing business as: Coastline Academy, 235 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Coastline Automation, Inc., 371 Ridge Way, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, Delaware. This business is conducted by Coastline Automation, Inc., a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein August 1, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Matthew Harvey, Secretary/CTO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 11, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 2020.)

ConfidenTingz
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 573194
The following person doing business as: ConfidenTingz, 5654 Owens Dr., #103, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Davina S. Svay, 5654 Owens Dr., #103, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Davina S. Svay, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein August 14, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Davina S. Svay, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 23, 2020 (Pleasanton Weekly, October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2020.)

Perry Automotive
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
573549
The following person doing business as: Perry Automotive, 3282 Shawn Way, Hayward, CA 94541, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Jack L. Perry, 3282 Shawn Way, Hayward, CA 94541. This business is conducted by Jack L. Perry, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein January 1, 1999. Signature of Registrant: Jack L. Perry, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 6, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, October 16, 23, 30, November 6.)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County. Deadline is Monday at noon.

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

Employment

Engineer Info Security

Ellie Mae, Inc. seeks Staff Engineer, Information Security in Pleasanton, CA to provide direction on Cybersecurity architecture, engineering, & technology. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com Ref: 33853

To place an employment ad or get a quote, call 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawekly.com.



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6322 CORTE ESPERANZA, PLEASANTON



5 BD | 3 BA | 3,091 SF
Ponderosa-Country Fair II

Highly Upgraded Ponderosa Home in Quiet Court Location! Premium Lot with Professionally Landscaped Grounds, Private Rear Yard that Includes Pebble Tech Pool & Spa. Five Bedrooms, Downstairs Suite. Bonus Room (5th Bedroom Option), Approximately 3091 Square Feet, Three Fully Remodeled Bathrooms, Large Remodeled Gourmet Kitchen with Custom Cabinets, Wolfe & Subzero Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island, Stone Countertops. Many Recent Upgrades Including Wood Flooring, Crown Moldings, 3 Car-Garage, Tile Roof. Great Central Location for Access to: BART, Stoneridge Mall, Downtown, Commute & Livermore Wineries!

OFFERED AT \$1,799,888

806 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY, PLEASANTON



5 BD | 5 BA | 4,455 SF
Bridle Creek Neighborhood

Popular "Hillstar" Model in Desirable "Bridle Creek" Neighborhood! Five Bedrooms (Downstairs Spacious Guest Suite), Plus Office (6th Bedroom), Large Upstairs Master Suite, Large Bonus/Media Room, Five Bathrooms, Spacious Gourmet Kitchen, Approximately 4455 Square Feet, Three Car Garage, Premium .35 Acre Lot, Private Rear Grounds with Solar Heated In-Ground Pool & Spa, New Interior & Exterior Paint, New Carpeting, Newer Perimeter Fencing, Premium Location-Enjoy Sycamore Creek Walking Trail. Walk To: Nearby Mission Hills Park, Main Street and Enjoy Downtown Amenities. Five Minutes to Castlewood Country Club, Commuter Friendly South Pleasanton Location. Attendance Area for Award Winning Schools! Don't Miss This One!

CALL FOR PRICING

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.



Meet Amy Mayerson

We want to share a bit about our team with you! This month we are excited to talk about Amy Mayerson! She is an experienced REALTOR® with our team. She is energized by sharing her wealth of knowledge to help people's dreams come true. In her free time Amy can be found cheering on her kids in sport, teaching yoga, hiking outdoors, or at a theme park proudly sporting the newest and sparkliest Disney ears.

See What Clients are Saying:

"Julia helped up sell our home in Livermore (above asking) and then purchase a home in Pleasanton all during shelter in place. Julia was extremely helpful with market knowledge and negotiations. She knows the tri-valley market very well and what it takes to get an offer accepted. Her right hand, Amy Mayerson was amazing and available night and day for any question or to schedule showings we wanted to see quickly. We appreciated the open lines of communication and willingness to talk us through any little thing that came up. If you're looking for an agent Julia and her team are the way to go."

Amy Mayerson

(925) 200 - 5022

AMY.MAYERSON@COMPASS.COM

MURTAGHREALESTATE.COM

DRE # 02069902

Julia Murtagh

& ASSOCIATES

- Dan H. | October 2020

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Julia Murtagh

& ASSOCIATES

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Amy Mayerson, Julia Murtagh,
Kristy Heyne & Veronica Peter

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DEANNA & LIZ ARMARIO VENEMA HOMES TEAM



LUXURY ESTATE



4132 Parma Court, Ruby Hill
Offered at \$4,988,000

NEW LISTING



573 Malbec Court, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,699,000

PENDING IN 9 DAYS



3741 Newton Way, Pleasanton
Offered at \$2,295,000

PENDING IN 7 DAYS



1151 Mataro Court, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,449,000

PENDING IN 6 DAYS



2720 Camino Segura, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,449,000

PENDING IN 7 DAYS



21 Stow Court, San Ramon
Offered at \$1,445,000

PENDING IN 9 DAYS



3988 Stanley Boulevard, Pleasanton
Offered at \$1,394,000

PENDING IN 6 DAYS



2070 Pointsettia Street, San Ramon
Offered at \$1,079,000

PENDING IN 8 DAYS



4082 Rennellwood Way, Pleasanton
Offered at \$949,000

SOLD



2130 Pomezia Court, Ruby Hill
Sold at \$1,975,000

COMING SOON



4023 Francisco Street, Pleasanton
Call for Pricing

COMING SOON



809 Sylvaner Drive, Pleasanton
Call for Pricing

DeAnna 925.260.2220
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ArmarioVenemaHomes.com

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DANVILLE BLACKHAWK ALAMO WALNUT CREEK**

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DeAnna Armario
Team Leader/Realtor



Liz Venema
Team Leader/Realtor



Kim Hunt
Director of Operations/
Realtor



Amanda Davlin
Transaction Coordinator
Team Assistant



Lisa Desmond
Realtor



Michelle Kroger
Realtor



Alexis Venema
Realtor



Cove Corey
Realtor



Amanda Sarich
Realtor

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Brianna Armario
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Diego Cardoso
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~ Kottinger Ranch Sellers, July 2020

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Dave Flashberger | 925.463.0436 | DRE 01243871



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Gagan Singh | 925.212.3478 | DRE 01405437



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10 Meritage Common, Livermore
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