

Pleasanton Weekly

**Confession:
36 years later**

Page 5

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20
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VOTE BY TUESDAY

Crowded city, school candidate lists dominate ballots across Tri-Valley • Page 12

- 5 | **NEWS** Urging 'ghoulish but not foolish' Halloween
- 7 | **NEWS** Pandemic hits Livermore parks budget hard
- 16 | **OPINION** Readers sound off in final election letters

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VALLEY VIEWS



By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

Busy weekend ahead

When is Halloween not quite Halloween? In 2020.

The holiday seems normal in some respects, such as folks going all out with their decorating. One of the season's most fun activities for families around here is perusing the neighborhood for spooktacularly decorated houses.

But the fun usually reaches its apex the evening of Oct. 31 with trick-or-treating for kids and much hilarity for older party people. This year it falls on a Saturday with a full moon so seemed destined to be the ultimate Halloween. Plus daylight saving time ends that night, which would give everyone an extra hour of fun. But now ...

Adaptations to social distancing have been impressive. Museum on Main is presenting excellent Virtual Ghost Walks, and the Pirates of Emerson at the Alameda County Fairgrounds revamped its scares so patrons could cover and cringe from the safety of their cars.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that traditional trick-or-treating, where treats are handed to children who go door to door, is considered high risk. It is cringe-inducing to think of a common candy bowl with little hands plunging in, especially those of kids who may not be wearing masks, which then makes you wonder how careful their family is about hand-washing.

But it is only considered moderate risk if more creative ways are used to give candy from a distance. A grabber? A toss? Devising some sort of candy slide? And parents can quarantine the candy for a while.

My 8-year-old granddaughter still hosted her annual Halloween party, which as always included her family of four and me in their backyard. This year grandma was kept distanced, with my own little table and chair, and my pumpkin muffin wrapped in plastic. I only observed the games (pin the hat on the witch, bean bag toss into a Halloween bucket) and the dunking for apples.

I brought my traditional contribution of spiders made using little chocolate donuts with pretzel legs and M&M eyes. Have you ever tried to break a pretzel to use the rounded part as a spider leg? It ain't easy, I can assure you. I end up carefully nibbling a lot of pretzels because I

found after three years of experience that is the most effective way.

Added to the excitement of this weekend's Halloween and the end of daylight saving time is Election Day.

What is scarier this week — Halloween or the elections? While our national elections captivate the entire world, the local elections affect us more directly, which is why the Pleasanton Weekly staff have focused on the community's candidates and issues.

This year Californians have 12 propositions to study and vote on. Propositions have always annoyed me because isn't making laws the job of the Legislature? Should I therefore vote No on each one? It is tempting but I always find myself studying them carefully, part of me pleased with this exercise in direct democracy.

California started voting on propositions in 1911, part of a Progressive Era movement and intended to reduce the huge political influence held over legislators by the railroad conglomerates and other private interests, according to KQED.

But today's critics say that big money interests hold sway over this process, too. It takes money to get petitions signed to get propositions on the ballot. Then comes the deluge of television advertising, also expensive.

Back to Halloween. Readers have posted locations of decorated homes worth a drive on our website. These include a house on Mendenhall Court in the Meadows with "crazy haunted house style decorations"; the corner of Kamp and Helen drives; and homes on Seahawk, Singletree and Calle Reynosa. Sea Eagle Court was described as "awesome and fun." Is Christmas getting some competition here?

By the way, CDC classifies as "moderate risk" an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest with everyone wearing masks and remaining 6 feet apart. It also states, "If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised." Yikes!

And about that full moon. For the first time since 1944, the 2020 Halloween full moon will be visible all around the globe. This one-world togetherness is something else to celebrate.

In summation: Enjoy the full moon, don't forget to set your clocks back, remember to vote — and Happy Halloween. ■

About the Cover

With Election Day finally arriving on Tuesday (Nov. 3), a reminder of all that is at stake locally for Pleasanton and the rest of the Tri-Valley in this general election is laid out inside on Pages 12-13. Cover design by Doug Young.

Vol. XXI, Number 30

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Mayoral Candidates Comparison <small>(Obtained from candidate's website and public announcements)</small>	Jerry Pentin	Karla Brown	Monith Iavarasan	Tom Turpel
Pleasanton Weekly Endorsement	✓			
East Bay Times Endorsement	✓			
Livermore Independent Endorsement		✓		
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Endorsement	✓			
Pleasanton Police Officers Association Endorsement	✓			
Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Local 1974 Endorsement		✓		
Mayor, City of Pleasanton Endorsement	✓			
Vice-Mayor, City of Pleasanton Endorsement	✓			
Congressman (15 th District) Endorsement	✓			
State Senator Endorsement	✓	✓		
County Supervisor (District 1) Endorsement	✓			
County Supervisor (District 4) Endorsement	✓	✓		
Pleasanton Unified School District Board President Endorsement	✓			
Sierra Club		✓		
City of Pleasanton Commissioner / Committee Endorsements	25	6		
Endorsers (Total people listed on website)	230	184	7	
Years on City Council	8 years	8 years		
City of Pleasanton Boards / Commissions / Task Forces Member	20	12		
Planning Commission Member	4 Years			
Parks & Rec Commission Member	6 Years			
Mayor's Award Recipient	✓			
Chamber of Commerce "Excellence in Business" Award Recipient	✓			

I am also grateful for the endorsement from future-voter, Ruby, 2nd grader at Walnut Grove Elementary.



Paid for by Jerry Pentin for Pleasanton Mayor 2020 | FPPC#1427132

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN



Karla Brown for Mayor of Pleasanton

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7. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** Rage soccer/coach, PUSD site council & volunteer, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Hively, cancer recovery, Sister City and much more.

Paid for by Karla Brown for Mayor 2020 FPPC#1427228

How did you, or how are you planning to, accomplish the task of voting in this year's election?



Check Deckert

Parks and recreation commissioner

Well, since I walk my dog often downtown on Main Street, it was easy to drop my ballot off in the 24-hour dropbox in front of City Hall. I received an email less than 12 hours later from the county, letting me know it had received and counted my ballot.



Rich Galley

Director of field operations

I signed up to permanently get a ballot delivered to my home address so that I can vote via absentee ballot. I do that every year and therefore don't even have the option of voting in person. It's very convenient.



Rick Zielinski

Business owner

I am planning to vote in person on Election Day at my favorite polling location — the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church on Stoneridge Drive. I hope to bump into some friends and neighbors while I'm there. From a safe social distance, of course.



Marjorie Ketzler

Semi-retired

I ordered the mail-in ballot delivered directly to my mailbox. I filled it all out and plan to place it in the dropbox in front of City Hall.



Grace Gundermann

Student/server

I chose to do the mail-in ballot. I like the convenience of it because I'm very busy, and I feel like it is the safest and most reliable way to vote, and to make sure my vote gets counted.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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DIGEST

Winds and shutoffs

The end of last weekend saw high winds across the Bay Area and state that also spurred a round of PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs that affected more than 350,000 customers statewide but not as many in the Tri-Valley as initially anticipated.

In Alameda County, there were more than 16,000 customers estimated to be impacted by the shutoffs, with the biggest zone among the Tri-Valley seen in Dublin where about 700 customers were affected — mainly in the Schaefer Ranch and California Highlands neighborhoods. Pleasanton saw about 500 customers impacted, while PG&E reported only four in Livermore.

The winds reached gusts of 70 mph or more in some areas in the Bay Area, along with sustained winds at times of up to 40 mph, which all told prompted a red flag warning that spanned multiple days. No wildfires or significant damage connected to the wind event were reported in Pleasanton.

Dublin commissions

Dublin residents are being sought by the city to fill vacancies on five commissions and committees.

The Heritage & Cultural Arts, Human Services, Parks & Community Services, and Planning commissions, and the Senior Center Advisory Committee are all in need of qualified applicants residing in the city of Dublin to fill the positions. All appointments are four-year terms.

The mayor recommends all appointments, which are subject to City Council approval. Appointments are expected to be made at a council meeting in January.

Prospective applicants must complete and submit an application by Nov. 30 at 5 p.m. to the City Clerk's Office at 100 Civic Plaza. Postmarks will not be considered. Learn more at dublin.ca.gov.

Religion Chat

Interfaith Interconnect is hosting its second virtual Religion Chat via Zoom from 5-6:15 p.m. Nov. 11.

The event, which is free and open to all, will center around the discussion topic of "How does your congregation help to bridge the different political or social justice views within in?" The speakers will be Imam Dawood Yasir of the Muslim community and Gaurav Rastogi of the Hindu community.

The Zoom link is accessible via mceastbay.org/chat. ■

36 years later: Former classmate confesses to murder of Pleasanton's Tina Faelz

Prisoner's admission written in letters to parole board, family, victim

By GINA CHANNELL

Convicted killer Steven Carlson has confessed to the murder of 14-year-old Tina Faelz as she was walking home from Foothill High School in Pleasanton on April 5, 1984.

The confession comes six years after Carlson was convicted of stabbing Faelz 44 times with a kitchen knife as she



Tina Faelz

took a shortcut home from school, walking on a path that connected through Aster Court to Lemonwood Way and through the Interstate 680 underpass to her Valley Trails home.

Carlson, who was 16 at the time of the murder, had maintained his innocence all these years, including after his conviction. However, in recent letters shared by Faelz's family with the San Francisco Chronicle, Carlson admits to the killing.

Carlson gave the prison officials permission to share the letters

— a nine-page "insight" statement written for state parole commissioners, a letter to the Faelz family and one to Tina — with the Faelz family, who released them to the Chronicle.

"This letter of my deepest apologies is way over due," Carlson wrote in one letter, which includes many typos. "I was living in denial



Steven Carlson

for many years; not being able to believe or take responsibility for brutally murdering you on that day of April 5, 1984. I want you and your family to know you did absolutely nothing to deserve what I did to you. That's what makes this murder so callous and horrific."

The case was cold for more than two decades, but in 2011, authorities announced that DNA investigations begun in 2007 linked a spot of blood found on Faelz's purse to Carlson.

See **CONFESSION** on Page 10



RYAN J. DEGAN

Pleasanton resident Laura Harris and her family didn't let the pandemic stop them from decorating their home, which she says is a popular spot for neighbors to bring their kids.

'Ghoulish but not foolish'

Officials urge residents to have fun, safe Halloween amid COVID-19 pandemic

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Halloween has arrived in the Tri-Valley, and while many traditional events and activities have been curbed due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, many residents will still be trying to salvage the spooky holiday for their costumed ghouls and goblins.

While traditional Halloween parties and free form trick-or-treating are — strongly — discouraged in the face of highly contagious COVID-19, local and county officials have outlined celebratory options for residents that will help enjoy the season as safely and responsibly as

possible.

"The city of Pleasanton wants you to have a safe and spooktacular Halloween. Trick-or-treating and outside parties are high-risk activities, so please consider these safe and fun ways to celebrate Halloween this year," Pleasanton city officials said in a special Halloween safety video. "Let's make it a fun and safe, ghoulish but not foolish Halloween."

First things first: Large Halloween parties, haunted houses, indoor mazes and just gathering in large groups in general are out for 2020, according to the Alameda County Public Health

Department, which stated that these events are classified as "very high risk" and are banned by state and local officials.

Traditional trick-or-treating, while allowed, is also a high-risk activity and discouraged because it increases contact with people outside of a resident's household who may not be as careful about COVID-19 prevention, according to health officials.

"Focusing on decorations, limiting activities to the people you live with, and virtual costume parties or contests will help keep

See **HALLOWEEN** on Page 6

County OKs more indoor activities

Indoor dining, bowling, movies all allowed with capacity limits

By JULIA BAUM

Local public health officials confirmed details for indoor activities that were allowed to expand or reopen last Friday under a new health order after Alameda County entered the orange tier of the state's color-coded COVID-19 monitoring system earlier in the month.

Recently decreased case and positivity rates were stable enough to "continue moving at a measured pace to open or expand activities permitted under the red tier and some activities that are permitted under the orange tier," the Alameda County Public Health Department said in a statement.

"Naturally socially distanced" indoor activities such as bowling alleys and climbing walls may open for business, and also limited indoor dining, movie theaters and worship services. Capacity may be up to 25% or less than 100 people, whichever is less.

As of last Friday, indoor shopping malls and retail may have up to 50% of capacity and limited food courts, while indoor gyms and fitness centers are allowed up to 25% of capacity; indoor pools are prohibited from

See **REOPENINGS** on Page 8

Parents of missing teen plead with community to help #FindSydneyWest at vigil

Former Pleasanton resident Syd West last seen in SF on Sept. 30

By RYAN J. DEGAN

The Pleasanton community joined together for a socially distanced candlelight vigil last week to put out the word and help find Pleasanton native Sydney “Syd” West, who has been missing for more than three weeks.

Held at Lions Wayside Park near downtown on Oct. 22, family members, friends and concerned citizens came out to talk about the 19-year-old former Foothill High School student and support the mission to #FindSydneyWest.

“Sydney, wherever you are, you find your way home,” her father, Jay West, said at the vigil. “We want you with us more than anything in this world. We want you with us, and we are holding out hope that you are OK and that you are coming home.”

“Sydney is an incredibly creative, highly intelligent, beautiful young woman and she’s expressive

through her art and her music. I think that’s what made her special, that’s what makes her noticeable,” he added. “We’re trying to educate people about who she is and her likeness to get that message out.”

Nearly 100 residents turned out for the vigil on Oct. 22, responsibly social distancing from one another — with the exception of the occasional hug of support among loved ones — and wearing masks while listening to recordings of Syd West singing and sharing stories.

Syd West returned to the Bay Area for college after her family moved from Pleasanton to North Carolina several years ago. According to her father, she was last seen near the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco during the early-morning hours on Sept. 30.

Her father added that she is considered at risk due to struggles with anxiety and a recent battle with depression.

“The objective of this gathering is to spread the word and to create hope,” Jay West said. “Our family is a few, but together we are many. And the nature of how Syd

disappeared, you know a targeted search of Crissy Field is likely to not bear fruit. So we need lots of help to bring her home.”

Jay West, joined by wife Kimberly, added that while there haven’t been any recent sightings of Syd, the family remains hopeful and has hired a private investigator to assist in the search currently being conducted by the San Francisco Police Department.

The West family also requested residents keep an eye out and spread the word as much as possible, especially through using social media and the #FindSydneyWest hashtag.

“So many of the people here have been so incredibly supportive, putting up fliers around town and posting on social media. You know, keep doing it. I remember so many stories over the past two and a half weeks of people being found because of a flyer on a bus. Stories that warm our hearts and give us hope that we are going to bring her home,” Jay West added.

Syd West is described as white, 5-foot-10-inches tall and weighing 130-135 pounds, with blue eyes



RYAN J. DEGAN

Kimberly and Jay West held a vigil in Pleasanton on Oct. 22 to help get out the word about their missing daughter, Syd West.

and light-brown hair (worn in a bun on the top of her head that morning). She was last seen on Sept. 30 wearing black leggings, a teal hoodie and her favorite old slip on Vans (dark green and black print). She may have been carrying a black backpack and may or may not be wearing corrective eye glasses.

Anyone with information on West’s disappearance can contact SFPD at 415-575-4444, or text a tip to TIP411 (847411) with “SFPD” at the start of the text

message. Those with connections to Syd West in North Carolina can also contact her hometown sheriff’s office at 919-245-2909.

To follow updates on the case on social media, visit the Find Sydney West Facebook page, follow on Instagram at find_sydney_west or use the hashtag #FindSydneyWest.

Family members also mentioned that a GoFundMe page will be set up in the near future to help the family with travel and investigative costs, as well as a reward if that is deemed necessary. ■

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HALLOWEEN

Continued from Page 5

our communities safe this season, especially our children. Together, we all need to do as much as we can to protect ourselves and those around us,” ACPHD spokesperson Neetu Balram, said in a statement.

To help encourage safe celebrations, Pleasanton city officials released a series of ideas that any resident can participate in for a responsible holiday.

They encourage residents, either on or prior to Halloween, to carve and decorate pumpkins outside with people who are in their social bubble. Just remember to keep at least six feet apart while wearing masks and to not share any supplies.

To show off a household’s spookiest and most creative costumes, groups are encouraged to host or participate in a virtual costume party or contest with friends, family and neighbors.

For those who feel a desire to strut around in their costume, there are still plenty of local pumpkin patches around where city officials recommend roaming around with housemates and family members. Again, they say just be sure to maintain social distancing and to wear a mask whenever leaving the home.

Taking a suggestion from the Easter Bunny, city officials also recommend that instead of traditional trick-or-treating, parents create a scavenger hunt around their home or yard for kids to search for

Halloween treats.

Smaller scale trick-or-treating can also be achieved in communities with certain safety precautions put in place, according to county health officials, who have suggested that one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to physically distance can be effective.

Those who do not want to participate in their neighborhood trick-or-treating may wish to turn off their front lights or could consider posting a sign warding away any unwanted visitors.

Some general safety tips still apply for reducing the spread of COVID-19, according to county officials, who remind residents to wear masks when leaving home, keep their distance from others who don’t live in their household and to stay home if feeling sick.

County officials have also suggested that residents wear a themed cloth mask, as a costume mask is not a substitute. Additionally, residents may want to avoid wearing a costume mask over a protective one because it may make it difficult to breathe.

“These holidays are no different than the rest of the year when it comes to reducing the spread of COVID-19,” Balram said.

Residents can learn more about preventative measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19 online at covid-19.acgov.org. ■



RYAN J. DEGAN

While the coronavirus may prevent most traditional celebrations, many Pleasanton residents have not let it dampen their Halloween cheer and have gone all out on decorations

PUSD board considers trust fund for retirement liabilities

Staff: Benefits include better return, flexibility to pay annual OPEB costs with principal

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton Unified School District is considering a high-yielding trust fund as a long-term strategy to manage its debt associated with retirement benefits, following a staff presentation at the Board of Trustees' regular meeting last week.

By establishing a trust with the California Employers' Retiree Benefits Trust Program, run by the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), the district could see a return rate of 6%, as compared to 1% in the Alameda County treasury, thereby earning more on its funds. Currently the district has around \$6.7 million in their Fund 20 that could be moved into the trust.

Assistant superintendent of business services Ahmad Sheikholeslami told the Weekly after the Oct. 22 board meeting, "(PUSD) can use those earnings to pay its annual cost, grow the fund, and add to the fund with the ultimate goal of having the earnings pay for the annual costs. This will all

depend on our OPEB strategy."

Sheikholeslami added, "If the district was in a financial crunch, it could use the principal to pay for its annual OPEB costs."

An actuarial report recently prepared by San Diego-based Nyhart Actuary & Employee Benefits lists the district's total liability for accrued other post-employment benefits (OPEB) including medical and dental plans at \$22,318,146.

Suraj Datta, national healthcare director for Nyhart, said the district's liability most recently was \$33 million, up from \$29.3 million for the prior reporting period, and that healthcare costs and retirement rates are expected to drive up OPEB costs in the future.

Sheikholeslami said, "This is what it costs us operationally on an annual, year to year basis. As costs increase and our employees retire, this (report) shows those annual costs for us."

Through the year 2051, PUSD's total projected pay-as-you-go costs are \$101.3 million. The district's current liabilities for next

year are \$1.49 million; costs will peak at \$4.49 million by 2036. For most of that time, the average annual growth rate is expected to be about 8.5%.

Sheikholeslami said a trust is one way "this helps us plan for the future" and "to reduce this liability and help the district."

"This will be critical in the out years as these liabilities increase for the district," he added.

During the discussion, Trustee Joan Laursen said, "These expenses are not expenses that change in any way by establishment of this trust ... we are paying the medical benefits that we offer up until our retirees reach the age of 65, so whether or not we put this in a trust, we still have that pay as you go amount every year, which is projected to grow. Investing in a trust does not change that, correct?"

Sheikholeslami clarified "it's a strategy so that we can better manage that."

"The use of the funds can be utilized to pay for those obligations,

if needed," he added. "It's not like it's locked in there forever. What you want to do in the long run is have enough investment in there that you can pay for your annual costs from that investment."

In the short-term, PUSD would begin to reduce its liabilities and earn more money on its investment, "but it'd be, again, that long-term strategy to help reduce costs operationally on an annual basis for the district," Sheikholeslami said.

Laursen said, "So really the biggest risk is currently, now, we're in a very low yielding investment that does not help us pay these costs over time, but it's also very safe; there's little volatility in that. In the trust, we would be -- in exchange for locking this in -- we would be able to invest in a higher earning asset, but there

is investment risk at that same time."

Sheikholeslami said "typically they have different strategies," but explained right now the district's liability "is not reduced because you can do whatever you want with that, so the liability is not reduced, the district's position in the market ... that liability is there on the books."

He further explained, "When you put it in a trust fund, you actually reduce your liability, so at \$33 million, whatever you put in, then that discount rate will help drive it further down. So when you show your books to anyone who's looking at the district's position, they'll be, 'Oh, this is a school district who is prudently taking care of its obligations.'"

See **SCHOOL BOARD** on Page 9

Pandemic hits Livermore park district budget hard

LARPD cuts jobs, restructures in face of financial strain

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) has taken a financial hit during the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in the implementation of a restructuring plan, which included a round of layoffs among other budget cuts.

"Since the stay-in-place order happened, we have not had the ability to program at the level that we were actively programming at," said Mathew Fuzie, the district general manager who has also now absorbed the role of public information officer. "Our budget was approximately \$23 million, and the effect on our budget is approximately more than \$5 million in revenue."

Fuzie said that restructuring staff was just one cost-saving measure the district has taken to balance the budget. After evaluating all departments, the district recognized that there wasn't enough work for the employees who were directly involved with programming or sales, which have slowed down significantly due to the pandemic.

"We went through a layoff process to determine which positions would be kept and which would be let go," Fuzie said. "It resulted in not only the complete reduction of our seasonal workforce but it resulted in us reducing our workforce by 27 full-time employees."

The LARPD Board of Directors was involved in the process to implement the restructure. Board Chair Jan Palajac designated an ad hoc committee for budget-related issues, which worked with staff to help make restructuring decisions. They then put together a report and brought it to the board for approval.

The board unanimously accepted the plan during a public Zoom meeting on Sept. 22, and the restructure went into effect on Oct. 4.

Fuzie said the district has kept on a number of programming employees on a part-time basis and as programming begins to ramp back up in the future, they will likely bring more part-time hires onboard.

"We are scalable," Fuzie said. "We're able to ramp up and ramp down as needed, and that's the way our budget is designed." The district operates on a service-based budgeting system, which allows them to budget according to the level of service they provide.

"One important point is that we didn't just cut the service providers, we actually cut all aspects of our structure, including assistant general manager," Fuzie said. "We actually reduced our admin and our overhead and looked at our budget holistically and took it as an opportunity for us to be as lean as possible."

Other cost-saving measures the

district took included freezing all salary and wage increases and eliminating a cost-of-living adjustment from the budget. Fuzie said they will likely also reduce the number of paid holidays but that hasn't yet been approved by the board.

Although cutting back on programming and services has created a financial hardship for the district, the journey back toward some normalcy is in sight as the Alameda County Public Health Department announced earlier this month that the county has moved into the orange tier of the state's four-tier Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

This move allowed LARPD to reopen its playgrounds to the public as of Oct. 16. The orange tier, which is the second least restrictive tier on the scale, indicates that the county risk level is moderate based on test positivity and adjusted case rate.

In a statement announcing the opening of its playgrounds, the district warned that play structures still pose a risk of potential COVID-19 exposure and are a "use at your own risk amenity."

LARPD is encouraging the community to follow health and safety guidelines while using playgrounds, including wearing a mask, maintaining distance and hand washing, among other recommendations. ■

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Fundraising for Pleasanton candidates holds steady during final election days

Contributors include business and labor groups, both local and outside

By JULIA BAUM

In the final weeks leading up to the Nov. 3 general election, most Pleasanton candidates aspiring for local public office positions in several races either held steady or made up for lost time when it came to fundraising, according to campaign finance disclosure forms recently filed with the city clerk's office.

In the primarily three-candidate race for Pleasanton mayor, current council members Jerry Pentin and Karla Brown finished far ahead of newcomer Monith Ilavarasan in terms of campaign contributions — both during the most recently reported period from Sept. 20 to Oct. 17, and for the entire year.

Pentin generated a current total of \$43,429 in both monetary and non-monetary contributions for his campaign. A recent additional influx of \$5,141 in donations included \$1,000 from the Lincoln Club of Northern California PAC and \$250 each from the Cigar Parlor and owner Joe Haddad.

The Alameda County GOP gave \$300, and former Zone 7 board director Dick Quigley donated \$100 to Pentin. Chris Beratlis, owner of Beratlis Bikes, also granted

temporary use of his business location to serve as Pentin's campaign headquarters — a monthly rent value listing \$500, for a total of \$1,500 during the election season.

Karla Brown finished the reporting period with \$33,550, and recently raised another \$6,551. The Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters and an organization called "Tri-Valley Real Estate Group" each gave \$1,000 to Brown during the most recent reporting period, while Pleasanton Garbage Service operations manager Anthony Macchiano donated \$750 and PGS owners Gina Cardera and Robert Molinaro donated \$500 and \$750, respectively.

Ilavarasan, a tech product manager and Amador Valley High School alumni, raised the bulk of his \$7,835 in total campaign funds, most recently — \$5,905 — from residents throughout the Bay Area.

Tom Turpel, who is also on the mayoral ballot, had paperwork filed on the city website stating his intention to not expend any funds.

Planning Commissioner Jack Balch topped the field of seven candidates for most funds raised so far during the campaign for two seats on the Pleasanton City Council.

Balch recently received another \$2,395 in the most recent filing period — including \$1,000 from a San Francisco banker and \$200 from Vice Mayor Kathy Narum — for a current total of \$37,770 in contributions.

Narum also gave \$125 to Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Randy Brown's campaign, which raised a current amount of \$22,093. The Lincoln Club of Northern California PAC donated \$750 towards Brown's council bid as well.

Several labor groups contributed to the council campaign of Valerie Arkin, who currently serves on the Pleasanton school board, and raised a total \$7,716 since entering the race this summer. Arkin reported \$3,648 in recent campaign donations on her Form 460.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 595 PAC in Dublin gave \$500 to Arkin, while Operating Engineers Local Union #3 in Alameda and the Oakland-based Northern California Carpenters Regional Council gave \$700 and \$300, respectively. Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local #3 in San Leandro also gave \$150.

The ACT NOW PAC in Dublin donated \$100 to Arkin's campaign, and both Karla Brown and school board candidate Kelly Mokashi gave \$50 each.

Planning Commissioner Nancy Allen finished the election raising \$450 in community donations, for a current campaign tally of \$14,210. First-time candidate Chiman Lee raised \$650 in the last fundraising period, bringing his current campaign total to \$7,000.

Housing Commissioner Zarina Kiziloglu had papers on the city's website declaring her intent to not receive any contributions or have any expenditures for the election.

Attorney Jarod Buna did not list any donors or received contributions from anyone but did spend \$6,104 campaigning so far this year. Buna most recently spent \$3,604 — the majority was for signs and materials, and the remaining \$220 for Facebook ads.

Donations for candidates seeking one of three open seats on the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees election remained modest comparatively. First-time candidate Chong Wang finished with more than \$15,500 in total

contributions for the year, though all but \$300 was raised before the most recent reporting period.

Former PUSD teacher Mary Jo Carreon recently raised \$3,725, standing currently with a total of \$11,245. The Association of Pleasanton Teachers and California Teachers Association contributed most of those recent funds — \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively.

Board President Steve Maher did not have financial disclosure forms from this year readily available on the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office website. Incumbent Jamie Yee and newcomer Mokashi did not have anything available from the most recent reporting period.

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Business and Community PAC, which donated to all three races, has raised \$10,250 throughout the year. Most recently, the PAC received \$5,934 in contributions, including \$500 from Pleasanton Garbage Service, and \$100 from Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Trustee Tim Sbranti.

Overall, the Chamber's BACPAC spent \$8,646 during the election. ■

Early 2021 reopening planned for Sunol Glen Unified

Students should return some time in January, supe says

By JULIA BAUM

Sunol Glen Unified School District is making plans to reopen early in the new year, though the Board of Trustees hasn't set a firm date yet, Superintendent Molleen Barnes told the Weekly on Tuesday.

When other local school districts began sharing they were going to hold off reopening until after

the holidays some time in January, Barnes said parents and teachers in the K-8 district agreed "it did seem prudent" to do the same.

Administration is continuing to work with the teachers union and "hammer out details" for reopening, including a hard return date.

"We were given a reopening plan checklist Oct. 6 with direction that

schools could reopen, so there's a lot of families and staff that are very anxious to have school reopen," Barnes said.

However, a recent survey approximately 77% of SGUSD parents responded to found that nearly half — 47% — wanted their children to continue distance learning, while the other 53% wanted their

children in the classroom.

A lot of parents have presented questions such as whether their child will have their regular teacher when they return to campus, and though "those variables could change," Barnes said the district is working "to be sure that we're being very respectful to everybody's thoughts on this."

She added that SGUSD is continuing to work on its reopening plan, including ensuring that distance learning is a viable option for families who choose to not send their child back to school.

According to Barnes, the teachers union was also recently asked to draft their own plan, and were given the district's sample for referral. ■

Zone 7 directors reject fee increase

Board takes action to 'help get business moving'

Citing an effort to support the local economy through hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors unanimously rejected a 1.7% connection fee increase last week.

Forgoing the fee increase would "help get business moving in the Tri-Valley," Board Vice President Angela Ramirez Holmes said after the Oct. 21 decision.

The Municipal & Industrial (M&I) Connection Fee Program was started in 1972 so Zone 7 could assess water connection fees to new development. The funds are used for water system expansion projects that are required

to meet increased water demands caused by new development.

A connection fee study conducted several years ago also developed fees that are meant to ensure development "pays its own way." An inflationary index has been used to adjust the fees annually ever since.

Last month, the Zone 7 Finance Committee recommended not increasing the connection fees for next year due to financial impacts of the pandemic and sheltering orders on development. The board agreed with the committee's recommendation that connection fees remain the same for the entire year of 2021. ■

—Julia Baum

REOPENINGS

Continued from Page 5

opening. Outdoor non-contact fitness classes may have up to 20 people including the instructor.

Wedding and funeral services can also expand to accommodate up to 25% of venue capacity or 100 people, whichever is less, starting last Friday.

The recent decreases are "the direct result of Alameda County's residents and businesses following the health officer orders and safety guidance," health officials said. "To make further progress through the tiers, we all must continue to take actions to limit the spread of COVID-19," including wearing face coverings in public, limit socializing with people from other households, and staying six feet apart when they do, washing

hands frequently, and staying home when sick.

Businesses must enact and residents must observe COVID-19 safety measures. COVID-19 information and guidelines are available at covid-19.acgov.org.

To date, ACPHD has reported 23,471 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 462 deaths caused by the virus throughout Alameda County during the course of the pandemic. That includes 1,004 positive cases in Livermore, 513 in Pleasanton, 326 in Dublin and 12 in Sunol since March.

The outbreak at Pleasanton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center appears to be stabilizing

The COVID-19 death count at the skilled nursing facility on Neal Street stands at 12 residents and at least one employee, according to state data. The total number of

employee deaths from COVID-19 is not publicly known at this time, as the state only reports exact case totals above 11, as a de-identification strategy, so lower totals are labeled as "less than 11."

There have been 91 cases total at Pleasanton Nursing and Rehab — 49 confirmed in residents and 42 in employees. It is tied for the second-worst COVID-19 outbreak at an Alameda County skilled nursing facility, when measured by resident deaths, and sixth-worst based on overall resident cases, according to the state data. ■

Editor's note: Editor Jeremy Walsh contributed to this story.

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SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from Page 7

At one point, Trustee Valerie Arkin remarked, "We're going to have to pay, doing this long term planning is a good idea. I'm not quite sure if I'm seeing more downside to it."

Sheikholeslami replied, "I do not see a downside in any way, shape or form...it's one time dollars, we worked hard to save this. We know we have a liability and we have an obligation for the long-term structural integrity of the district. This is a very prudent and wise way of going about it."

Trustee Jamie Yee called the plan "a long time coming" and said she had "asked about doing something with our OPEB liability for many, many years."

Yee then asked, "The only way that we could reduce our expenses to OPEB is if we changed our benefit package, right?"

Sheikholeslami confirmed the district would need to make changes in future benefits, and said "those things have been discussed among leadership, some initial steps have been made."

"What we need to recognize, OPEB costs are basically deferred compensation," he added.

"It takes away from the district's ability to provide compensation today because it is paying for compensation in the future, in terms of retiring."

In other business

The board unanimously agreed to issue a \$15 million tax and revenue anticipation note (TRAN) without any discussion Oct. 22.

Similar to a traditional bond, a TRAN is a short-term loan for school districts that can be used to fix a cash flow problem when expenditures are needed before tax revenue is received.

Deferred state funding and PUSD's share of property tax collections are expected to create "a cash flow shortfall during fiscal year 2020-21 created by timing differences between its anticipated expenditures and estimated receipt of revenues," according to public documents.

To offset financial impacts, the district will participate in the California Education Notes Program, which offers "slightly lower" underwriting costs compared to other pools, and "pledge a portion of the revenues expected to be received by or accrued to the district during fiscal year 2020-21

to the repayment of the TRAN." Officials added, "However, the TRAN will be a general obligation of the district payable from its General Fund, and to the extent pledged revenues are not available, the TRAN will be paid from other legally available moneys(sic) of the district.

Program participation will market the district's TRAN with those of similarly-rated school districts. PUSD also won't be obligated to pay the TRAN of other districts participating in the program, nor will they be liable for districts that fail to pay their own TRAN. ■



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Danville cancels weekend street closures due to COVID-19 concerns

One block 'created almost a Mardi Gras type of atmosphere'

Faced with repeated COVID-19 health order violations by a handful of downtown Danville establishments, and capped by an Oct. 17 fight within a section of Hartz Avenue closed to allow outdoor restaurant operation, the town of Danville will cancel the weekend closure of the street for the immediate future.

At a special meeting Tuesday morning, the Danville Town Council, along with Police Chief Allan Shields, said the weekends-only closure of Hartz Avenue between Diablo Road and Prospect Avenue that started in June ended

beginning Oct. 24.

Shields and others said police and town staff had seen "gross violations" of, and gotten complaints about, a lack of social distancing and mask wearing among visitors, as well as alcohol being served separately from meals and live, amplified music, which are not allowed.

Shields said the businesses — three or four have had repeated problems, he and others said — have been talked to multiple times, and kept saying they would comply with the rules, only to revert to violating them again.

"We've appealed to all of our businesses ... to voluntarily comply with the health order," Town Manager Joe Calabrigo told the council Tuesday. He also said closing that one-block portion of Hartz Avenue has, at times, "created almost a Mardi Gras type of atmosphere" there.

Though Danville officials said they know the street closure benefits the various establishments along Hartz Avenue in the heart of Danville's downtown, Councilwoman Renee Morgan said the sort of revelry has prompted complaints to the town, forced repeated

warnings by police and has gotten the attention of county health officials isn't what town officials are looking for during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has brought Danville unwanted attention recently for recording relatively high numbers for new COVID-19 cases — 35 in the town over the past two weeks.

That Contra Costa County would be entering the state's less-restrictive "orange tier" allowing businesses to host more people and provide more services makes doing everything possible to increase compliance that much more

important, council members said.

Councilman Newell Arnerich stressed it is the bad actions of a few businesses that are forcing the actions that affect many.

"We have a few bad actors ... but we have a responsibility to protect the public, and the businesses that are doing a great job," Arnerich said.

Public safety, Councilman Robert Storer said, is the top priority.

"We have no other alternative but to leave the street open," Storer said. ■

—Bay City News Service

Visit Tri-Valley's new campaign invites everyone to 'Let the Fun Begin'

Gameboard-themed initiative encourages recreational activities in region

To support the safe return of leisure visitors to local restaurants, wineries and hotels, Visit Tri-Valley just launched its "Let the Fun Begin" campaign, a gameboard-themed effort "designed to engage the return visitor, first-timer, visiting friends and family, and road-trippers to take their next vacation close to home this year."

Last year, the Tri-Valley region brought in nearly \$80 million in tax revenue. Tracy Farhad, president and CEO of Visit Tri-Valley, said, "While our efforts are focused on helping the Tri-Valley's tourism industry recover from the

shelter in place order, we're mindful that our first order of business is making sure we step out of our isolation bubbles safely."

"Our counties were first to close in California and slow to reopen with your health in mind, because we take this pandemic very seriously," Farhad added.

The campaign features a sweepstakes through Nov. 22 for the Let the Fun Begin Giveaway; the winner will receive a two-night weekend stay at the Aloft Dublin-Pleasanton and \$400 in gift cards for local restaurants, wineries and beer trail stops.

Keeping in line with the message of "Safety First. Making Memories a Close Second" on Visit Tri-Valley's website, all 40 of the organization's member properties are now in the California Hotel and Lodging Association, which includes additional protective personal equipment supplies for staff and guests, as well as educational materials and access to CHLA's "Clean & Safe" Certification program and reopening guidelines.

More than 80% of Visit Tri-Valley member hotel rooms are now Clean & Safe certified.

"We know the visitor will be

choosing travel destinations that are taking noticeable precautions against COVID-19," Farhad said. "CHLA's Clean & Safe certification program gives the visitor clear evidence that our hotels have gone through a rigorous process to ensure their guests are safe as they venture out on overnight getaways."

Visit Tri-Valley's new website has also adapted to Visit California's Responsible Travel Code, which reminds everyone to wear a mask and "to show respect and responsibility when traveling to our region.

"We are very excited to finally welcome back all visitors to the Tri-Valley," Farhad said. "Now, we want to continue to lead the way in reopening our economy safely, without putting the health of our residents or visitors at risk. It's time to feel good about traveling again. We can have fun and respect our beautiful region at the same time."

To learn more about the Let the Fun Begin campaign and giveaway, as well as the Clean & Safe Certification program, visit www.visittrivalley.com. ■

—Julia Baum

'Justice for All' episode focuses on domestic violence

DA O'Malley spotlights Family Justice Center on TV30 program

Domestic violence is the central topic in the newest episode of TV30's "Justice for All," hosted by Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

"We put particular focus on domestic violence so that we can help those who are being victimized, help communities to address, recognize and bring an end to domestic violence," O'Malley said in a statement.

The episode, which debuted last week, highlights the award-winning Alameda County Family Justice Center with special guest Sabrina Farrell, assistant DA and executive director of the center.

"The Family Justice Center was created in 2004," O'Malley said. "Now a victim can go to one building, one place, and have all their needs addressed. It's been a very important component of what we do and how we were able to operate."



Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley (left), host of "Justice for All" airing on TV30, discusses domestic violence with guest Sabrina Farrell, assistant DA and executive director of the Alameda County Family Justice Center.

The center serves as a model for comprehensive collaborative care for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and child abuse while also giving particular attention to children who have been in a home where there is domestic violence, according to TV30.

In all, there are five domestic violence shelters in Alameda

County, including the Tri-Valley Haven shelter in Livermore.

"Justice for All," produced by Tri-Valley Community Television, is airing on Comcast Channel 30 or AT&T U-Verse via Chanel 99 as well as streaming live and via video on demand on the station's website at tv30.org. Check the website for air dates and times. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

CONFESSION

Continued from Page 5

During Carlson's trial, a former friend testified that on the day Carlson murdered Faelz, Carlson was bullied and tossed into a dumpster at Foothill High School after a confrontation with members of the football team. Carlson claimed he didn't intend to kill Faelz but was intoxicated and angry over the confrontation earlier that day.

In one letter, Carlson wrote, "I remember being full of rage at the way all my classmates were laughing at me, and the damage my parents room was in and how my dad was going to whip up on me after they found out about the party I threw," he wrote.

"Everything happen so fast. I remember going to kitchen and grabbed a butcher knife. I walked across the street into the field at the 'gully' that's where at the time

was Tina Faelz."

"I don't remember the stabbing motions," Carlson also wrote. "I just remember standing over her bloody body holding a bloody knife."

Carlson, who in 2011 had a criminal record that included convictions for drug crimes and a lewd act on a 13-year-old girl, was arrested and charged with the murder. He was tried as an adult although he was under 18 years old when the crime occurred.

An Alameda County Superior Court convicted Carlson of first-degree murder in 2014. He was sentenced to 26 years to life in prison.

In 2017, a three-judge Court of Appeal panel reduced the conviction to second-degree murder, saying prosecutors hadn't proved the element of premeditation and deliberate intent needed for a first-degree murder conviction.

Denied parole this year, Carlson's next parole hearing will be in 2023. ■



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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

DA: Safeway settles price-gouging case over hand sanitizer markups

Safeway, Inc., has agreed to settle a consumer protection case with two local district attorneys for price gouging with the sales of certain hand sanitizer brands early in the coronavirus pandemic, prosecutors announced Tuesday.

Spearheaded by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, the investigation revealed Safeway began selling Raff Distillerie hand sanitizer and Ocean Fresh pump gel hand sanitizer after the onset of the pandemic and marked up each item more than 50% over its wholesale cost, in violation of the emergency order issued by Gov. Gavin Newsom in April to prevent price gouging, according to local prosecutors.

The settlement calls for Safeway to pay more than \$140,000 in penalties and restitution to resolve the case without admitting liability. Prosecutors said the company, which had long corporate ties in Pleasanton, quickly corrected the pricing problem when called to its attention.

"The violations at issue here are serious by their very nature. Little can be more serious than a violation of a governor's emergency order during a state of emergency. The ongoing pandemic has affected the lives and personal hygiene practices of millions of people in California," said Contra Costa County DA Diana Becton, whose office was also involved in the investigation.

"Public health officials were advising constant hand-washing to prevent the spread of the virus. If soap and water was not available, hand sanitizer was recommended as the next best thing. These are the items that Safeway sold or offered for sale at 'unconscionably excessive' prices," Becton added in a statement.

"During this unprecedented crisis, my office continues to remain

vigilant in ensuring that Californians are able to purchase consumer goods, particularly health-related items such as hand sanitizer, at prices that do not exceed the amount allowed by law," Alameda County DA Nancy O'Malley said in a separate statement. "Anyone who believes he or she has been subject to unlawful pricing should immediately contact my office."

Safeway representatives could not immediately be reached for comment.

The investigation began after a resident called the Contra Costa County DA's consumer fraud hotline in May to complain about suspected price gouging at a Safeway grocery store in Concord.

The ensuing investigation, conducted by the Alameda County DA's Office, determined Safeway sold Ocean Fresh pump gel hand sanitizer at \$9.99 (a markup of \$4 per unit, \$1.01 higher than allowed under the governor's order) while Raff Distillerie hand sanitizer was sold at \$5.99 (a \$1.84 markup per unit, 47 cents higher than allowed), prosecutors said.

"When the pricing issue was brought to Safeway's attention, they immediately responded and corrected the prices to comport with the governor's order. The investigation did not reveal any other actionable price gouging violations by Safeway," Becton's office reported.

The settlement requires Safeway to ensure its prices comply with state law, including any emergency orders from the governor, according to prosecutors. Without admitting liability, Safeway was ordered to pay approximately \$81,000 in civil penalties and costs, and \$62,000 in restitution.

Safeway, Inc., which still lists company headquarters in Pleasanton, is now a subsidiary of Albertsons Companies, based in Boise, Idaho.

Complaints about price gouging at any business during the pandemic can be sent to price-gouging@acgov.org or DA-Report-Fraud@contracostada.org, depending on the county.

In other news

- A 20-year-old Modesto man died after crashing his motorcycle into a construction truck parked to the side of Interstate 680 near Sunol on Tuesday morning, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The decedent's identity has not yet been released publicly by the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

The incident unfolded around 6:30 a.m. Tuesday on northbound I-680 north of Andrade Road, according to the CHP.

The motorcyclist rode his Suzuki bike into a construction zone and rear-ended an unoccupied Chevrolet pickup truck that was parked in the center divider area and belonged to a construction company working in a marked lane closure, the CHP reported.

Witnesses said the rider drifted into the closure lane and then slammed into the back of the truck without appearing to take evasive actions, according to the CHP. The rider, who was wearing a helmet, was thrown off the motorcycle and landed in the No. 3 lane of I-680, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The crash and subsequent investigation caused lane closures during the morning commute.

The CHP asks anyone who may have witnessed the crash, or the circumstances leading up to it, to call the CHP-Dublin office at 925-828-0466 and speak with Officer Tyler Hahn.

- The Livermore Police Department is looking for the public's help in tracking down those responsible for vandalizing more than 20 cars on Locust Street between Rincon Avenue and North P Street early Sunday morning.

Police officials posted on social media that the incident occurred possibly around 2 a.m. Sunday and caused damage to cars parked on the street.

"Please check your cameras, talk to your neighbors, and contact us with any possible leads. These residents and the Livermore Police Department thank you for taking the time to help," police said.

Anyone with information about the case can reach out to the LPD non-emergency line at 925-371-4987.

- Pleasanton police shared on social media about arrests over the weekend involving a stolen vehicle with stolen mail inside.

The situation occurred on Sunday morning when officers spotted a reportedly stolen Nissan sedan with Nevada license plates parked outside the Starbucks on Bernal Avenue, according to police. The vehicle had multiple bags of mail stolen from several neighboring cities.

The Pleasanton PD Facebook account recounted that, as Sgt. Chris Niederhaus describes it, "The suspects never got a chance to enjoy their coffee."

PPD did not release details about the suspects or charges.

- Livermore police reported responding to a commercial burglary in progress and discovering drugs and guns after stopping the suspect vehicle nearby on Friday night.

The investigation unfolded around 9 p.m. when officers went to the 4900 block of Southfront Road on a report of a possible commercial burglary in progress, with a description of the suspect vehicle leaving the area.

Officers saw the vehicle in the surrounding area and made a traffic enforcement stop. They contacted a 31-year-old Fremont woman inside the vehicle and were allegedly able to connect her to the burglary. Officers were also able to identify her male counterpart and later sought a warrant for his arrest, LPD officials said on social media.

"During a search of the suspect's vehicle, officers recovered a short-barrel, AR-15 loaded with a 50-round drum, two Glock handguns, one with a silencer, over five ounces of methamphetamine, over two ounces of heroin, two grams of fentanyl. Officers also recovered the stolen property from the commercial burglary," LPD said.

The female suspect was arrested on suspicion of multiple charges and later booked into Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. Neither suspect's identity

was released publicly.

- A newly awarded \$70,500 grant for the Livermore PD will be used to decrease deaths and injuries on local roads, officials announced last week.

"These are trying times, and now more than ever, it is important that we are at the forefront of traffic safety," said Livermore PD Sgt. Justin Lash in a statement. "This funding allows us to educate and enhance the safety of all residents."

The one-year grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and will fund traffic safety programs and patrols "with emphasis" on alcohol and drug-impaired driving prevention, and raising awareness of the state's hands-free cell phone law, and traffic rights for bicyclists and pedestrians.

"Through education and behavior changes, we hope to create an environment that is safe and equitable for all road users in our community," Lash said.

Community education on distracted driving, speeding, driving under the influence, and bicycle and pedestrian safety are also included, as are awareness and education about the primary causes of crashes such as: excessive speed, failing to yield or stop at stop signs/signals, and improper turns or lane changes.

The grant will also be used for "collaborative efforts with neighboring agencies on traffic safety priorities" and officer training and/or recertification in the following areas: standard field sobriety test, advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement and drug recognition expert. ■

—Jeremy Walsh and Julia Baum

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Oct. 25

Drug violation

- 12:52 a.m. on the 6000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 2:03 p.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Trespassing/prowling

- 8:36 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Oct. 24

Drug violation

- 1:45 a.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Shoplifting

- 6:16 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Oct. 23

Assault/battery

- 2:01 a.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Auto theft

- 8:49 a.m. on the 7000 block of Commerce Drive

Warrant arrest

- 8:55 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Oct. 22

Vandalism

- 6:49 a.m. on the 4000 block of Ghiotti Court
- 2:27 p.m. on the 5000 block of Owens Drive

Theft

- 7:24 a.m. on the 300 block of Happy Valley Road

- 8:03 a.m., 5600 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

Burglary

- 8:17 a.m. on the 4200 block of Sheldon Circle

Assault/battery

- 8:59 p.m. on the 6200 block of Camino Del Lago

Oct. 21

Warrant arrest

- 1:09 p.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Auto theft

- 1:46 p.m. at Santa Rita Road and Navajo Court

Assault/battery

- 5:43 p.m. on the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

Drug violation

- 6:52 p.m. on the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

Oct. 20

Vandalism

- 2:39 a.m. on the 2800 block of El Capitan Drive

Rape by force/fear

- 5:25 a.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Fraud

- 11:40 a.m. on the 3500 block of Gresham Court

Theft

- 12:05 p.m., 4400 block of Mohr Avenue; theft from auto
- 5:38 p.m., 1200 block of Hearst Drive; theft from auto
- 6:54 p.m., 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting



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Crowded city, school candidate lists dominate ballots across the Tri-Valley

By JEREMY WALSH

Election Day is just around the corner, though tens of thousands of Alameda County residents have already cast their votes by turning in their mail-in ballots to election officials early amid concerns about postal processing delays and packed polling places during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office has dozens of secure dropbox locations across the county to collect vote-by-mail ballots between now and Tuesday, available to any registered voter in Alameda County including Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin. That includes the prominent box outside of Pleasanton City Hall at 123 Main St.

For Tri-Valley voters in San Ramon, Danville and Alamo, the Contra Costa County Elections Division has them covered too, with secure ballot dropboxes in their communities.

Both counties also have in-person early voting locations open today through Monday, with physical distancing and other health protocols in effect. Regular polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday (Nov. 3) for Election Day for final in-person voting or vote-by-mail ballot submittal.

Full details are on the election websites for Alameda County (www.acvote.org) and Contra Costa County (www.cocovote.us).

And there's plenty to decide in this general election.

Voters across the Tri-Valley face crowded candidate lists for their mayors, city/town councils, school

boards and special districts.

There are notable runoffs after the March primary for positions like Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 1 and Alameda County Superior Court, as well as final decisions on regional representative seats at the state and federal levels.

Both counties have new half-cent sales tax measure proposals up for votes, plus localized ballot questions for certain Tri-Valley communities.

Statewide, voters are deciding 12 propositions on a range of topics including rideshare drivers' employment status, commercial property tax assessment rates, affirmative action, cash bail, rent control and consumer privacy rules — to name a few.

Oh yeah, and there's that commander-in-chief showdown between Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger, former vice president Joe Biden.

Here's a reminder of what is at stake locally for Pleasanton and the rest of the Tri-Valley in this general election:

MAYORS AND COUNCILS

The local political landscape across the Tri-Valley could significantly change in this general election, with 50 candidates on mayor or Town/City Council ballots combined among Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville — one of the deepest, most diverse fields ever for the region.

Pleasanton alone has five residents on the ballot for mayor and seven others running for the two regular City Council positions, with all three seats guaranteed to change hands due to term limits.

With Mayor Jerry Thorne serving his eighth and final year, voters have two familiar elected officials and two political newcomers — plus a fifth candidate who's on the ballot but bowed out of the campaign — from which to choose as the city's new mayor for the two-year term ahead.

Sitting council members Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin are each seeking to remain on the dais as mayor, with both terming out from regular council seats this year after serving two consecutive terms.

In addition to each other, Pentin and Karla Brown are facing first-time candidates Monith Ilavarasan (a technology product manager and Amador Valley High School alumnus, class of 2010) and Tom Turpel (a digital marketing manager and Pleasanton native himself).

Fellow newcomer Druthi Ghanta, a Foothill High alumna who works as a health engineer and scientist, decided to step away from the mayor's race for personal reasons in the summer but only after she qualified for the final ballot.

For the pair of at-large regular council seats, four-year terms each, there are seven candidates with a range of personal, professional and

public service experience.

The list features current planning commissioners Nancy Allen and Jack Balch, three-term Pleasanton school board Trustee Valerie Arkin, local real estate professional and current board chair for the Chamber of Commerce Randy Brown (no relation to Councilwoman Brown), attorney and Amador alum Jarod Buna, city Housing Commissioner Zarina Kiziloglu and former Economic Vitality Committee member Chiman Lee.

Livermore voters will be electing a new mayor citywide, as well as deciding two regular council seats under the city's first-ever election with district-based voting.

Competing to succeed Mayor John Marchand, who is terming out, are real estate professional and former Livermore police officer Mony Nop, a first-time city candidate, and second-term City Councilman Bob Woerner. Livermore's mayoral term remains two years at-large.

Vying to represent southeastern Livermore as part of City Council District 3 are two political newcomers: community organizer and photography business owner Brittni Kick and medical account manager and Livermore native Pete Patterson. This is the position currently held by Councilman Bob Coomber, who opted not to seek re-election this year for health reasons.

Incumbent Councilman Bob Carling is running unopposed on the southwestern District 4 ballot, seeking a second straight term on the council.

Dublin residents are electing a new mayor from three candidates and two regular council members from among nine candidates this fall.

Current council members Arun Goel and Melissa Hernandez — who each decided to run for mayor instead of a second council term — are squaring off against each other along with local political newcomer Regina Pangelinan. The mayoral seat is opening up with third-term Mayor David Haubert running for Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 3.

Hoping to succeed Hernandez and Goel on the City Council is a long list of candidates: Human Services Commissioner Shawn Costello, insurance broker Lucrecia DeLeon, businessman Razi Hasni, engineer and educator Sherry Hu, Human Services Commission alternate member Michael McCarriston, technology investor Sri Muppidi, Planning Commission alternate Dawn Plants, scientist and cloud architect Kashef Qaadri and former planning commissioner Samir Qureshi.

All city of Dublin positions are at-large: mayor as a two-year term and council at four years.

San Ramon has six candidates competing to succeed Mayor Bill Clarkson, who is terming out after nine years. The list includes

sixth-term Councilman Dave Hudson, first-term Councilwoman Sabina Zafar, chief medical officer Dr. Dinesh Govindarao, small business owner Aparna Madireddi, small business owner Susmita Nayak and businessman Sanat Sethy. The two-year mayoral term remains at-large.

In San Ramon's first election under district-based voting for City Council seats, four candidates are on the ballot for District 3 — tech professional Varun Kaushal, professor Reza Majlesi, community organizer Sameera Rajwade and Parks and Community Services Commissioner Sridhar Verose. This is the position currently held by Phil O'Loane, who opted against seeking re-election.

For District 1, four-term Councilman Scott Perkins is running against public health professional Luz Gómez. San Ramon does not have term limits for its four-year City Council seats.

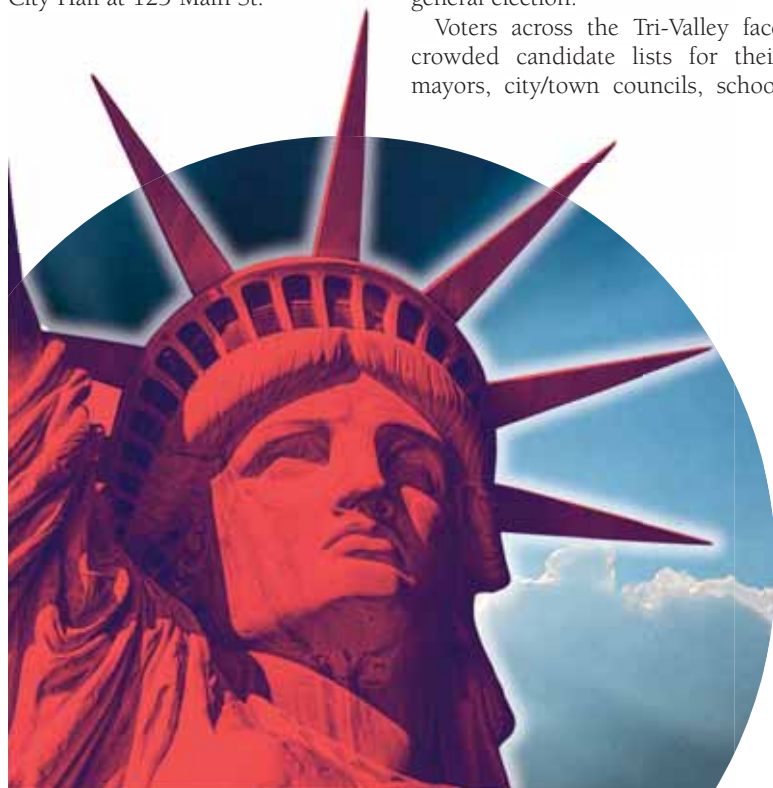
Danville voters are choosing from nine candidates for three at-large positions on the Town Council. At least one seat will change hands for sure, with Councilwoman Lisa Blackwell deciding not to run for a second term.

On the crowded ballot are 25-year incumbent Councilman Newell Americh, second-term Councilwoman Renee Morgan, business owner Mohamed Elsherbini, Senior Advisory Commissioner Dave Fong, tech engineer Nasser Mirzai, business consultant PJ Shelton, former parks commissioner Turner Stanton, businessman Allen Timmons and retired Oakland police officer Kevin Traylor.

Danville's council terms are four years long, with no term limits. The town does not directly elect its mayor.



The official dropbox outside Pleasanton City Hall for mail ballots (completed and signed) for the general election. The early-voting location open the next five days.



SCHOOL BOARDS

With hotly contested ballots down the line, each of the four Tri-Valley local school boards is guaranteed to see at least one seat turn over this November.

In all, nine positions (each four-year terms) are on ballots across the Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon Valley and Livermore Valley Joint unified school districts.

Pleasanton Unified School District has three at-large positions on the Board of Trustees on the ballot, including the seat currently held by Arkin who is running for City Council instead.

The candidate list features incumbents Jamie Yee (three terms) and Steve Maher (one term) and three newcomers — retired Alisal Elementary teacher Mary Jo Carreon, e-learning education professional Kelly Mokashi and IT consultant and parent volunteer Chong Wang.

The **LVJUSD** election has five candidates for two at-large board positions, with incumbent Chris Wenzel opting not to seek re-election.

The candidates are incumbent Chuck Rogge seeking a fourth term and challengers Yanira Guzmán (career coach/educator), Kandiss Hewing (human resources specialist), Asa Strout (business analyst) and Kristie Wang (public policy advocate).

Dublin Unified has two contested elections for school board under by-trustee-area voting.

Running for Trustee Area 1 are physician Dr. Dawn Nwamuo and Kristin Pelham, an SRVUSD special education teacher who lives in Dublin. This is the seat held by Trustee Amy Miller, who did not

seek re-election.

In Trustee Area 4, incumbent Gabi Blackman is competing against parent volunteer Michael Utsumi.

DUSD Area 3 incumbent Catherine Kuo was unchallenged.

San Ramon Valley Unified voters are participating in their first by-trustee-area election for school board seats.

In Trustee Area 2, five-term incumbent and current Board President Greg Marvel is running against local business owner and former SRVUSD committee member Shelley Clark and local parent Priscilla Graft.

Competing in Trustee Area 3 are community volunteer Laura Bratt, project manager Kumar Nallusamy and San Ramon Valley Education Foundation board member Scott Roberts. This is the position currently held by Mark Jewett, who opted not to seek re-election.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Perhaps the most contentious race in the Tri-Valley is the runoff election between Haubert and Fremont City Councilman Vinnie Bacon for Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 1.

The two experienced elected officials are vying to succeed retiring Supervisor Scott Haggerty representing District 1, which includes the cities of Livermore and Dublin, most of Fremont and portions of unincorporated Sunol and Livermore and Amador valleys.

- Trial attorney Elena Condes and civil rights attorney Mark Fickes are facing off for the Alameda County Superior Court Department 2

position opening up with the retirement of Judge Carol Brosnahan. They were the top two finishers in the three-candidate primary election in March.

- District 16 Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) is running for a second term against real estate appraiser Joe Rubay (R-Alamo).

- State Senator Steve Glazer (D-Orinda), who seeks a second full term for District 7, faces political newcomer Julie Mobley (R-Danville), whose professional background is in engineering but who listed mother as her ballot designation.

- U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) is competing for a fifth consecutive term against special education teacher Alison Hayden (R-Hayward). Congressional District 15 includes Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and a portion of Danville.

In Congressional District 11, which includes Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo and most of Danville, U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) is bidding for a fourth term against real estate professional Nisha Sharma (R-Danville).

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- For BART Board of Directors District 5 (which includes Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore), third-term incumbent John McPartland faces two newcomers with Livermore ties — Livermore resident Steven Dunbar, who works for local bus manufacturer Gillig and has experience on his city's Community Asset Management Plan Outreach Committee, and Castro Valley resident Mike Wallace, who works as a financial analyst for the Zone 7 Water Agency.

In BART District 1, which includes the San Ramon Valley, first-term incumbent Director Debora Allen is facing two challengers from Walnut Creek: health care marketing manager Jamie Salcido, who also sits on her city's Transportation Commission, and preschool director and linguist Emmy Akin.

- The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors has two at-large seats being contested in the general election, including the position held by Director Beth Wilson who isn't running. The five candidates are incumbent Jan Palajac and challengers James E. Boswell, Mike Ralph, Stacey A. Swanson and Richard Tarbell.

- The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors has three seats on the ballot, including the position held by Director Dominique Yancey, who opted not to seek re-election. The four candidates are incumbent H. Jay Kerr and Matt Stamey and newcomers Thomas Gallinatti and Michelle Lee.

- The Central Contra Costa

Sanitary District (Central San) Board of Directors, which includes much of the San Ramon Valley, has six candidates vying for three at-large seats on the sewer board: incumbents Paul Causey, Jim Nejedly and Tad Pilecki and challengers Barbara Hockett, Nathan Jaquez and Mariah Lauritzen.

- For Contra Costa Community College District Ward 2, which includes parts of Alamo, incumbent Vicki Gordon is running against two challengers: former Diablo Valley College president Judy Walters and former DVC student John Michaelson.

- For its first election year under by-division voting, Dublin San Ramon Services District had unchallenged races for Division 1 (only newcomer Marisol Rubio filed) and Division 3 (only incumbent Rich Halket). No one submitted candidacy paperwork for Division 5, so that seat is awaiting future appointment by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

- Also uncontested were the two Tri-Valley seats on the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees, with only incumbents Ed Maduli (Area 7) and Tim Sbranti (Area 5) filing for the election.

LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

There are three local measures on Tri-Valley ballots in Alameda County, and two others for those living in the Contra Costa County portion of the Valley.

Most prominent in Alameda County is **Measure W**, a proposal put on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors to institute a new half-cent sales tax countywide "to provide essential county services, including housing and services for those experiencing homelessness, mental health services, job training, social safety net and other general fund services," according to the ballot question.

This new tax, which would be in place for 10 years and generate an estimated \$150 million per year, requires a simple majority to pass, according to County Counsel Donna R. Ziegler.

Measure V is also on ballots countywide, though it only applies to unincorporated areas such as Sunol, Castro Valley, Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview and San Lorenzo.

This proposal asks voters to extend the existing 6.5% tax rate through June 2033 for the "utility users tax" collected for specified services in the unincorporated communities that provides an estimated \$12 million per year that could fund county services for those communities such as sheriff, library, planning and code enforcement, according to the ballot question.

Measure V would retain the current exemptions and exclusions, including exemptions for low-income and lifeline utility users. The tax

would expire next June if not approved by a majority of voters Nov. 3.

The Alameda County Fire Department is again asking voters in unincorporated Alameda County (except Fairview) — for the second election in a row — to authorize issuing \$90 million in bonds to fund fire facility projects in the unincorporated communities, including parts of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore outside of those cities' jurisdictions.

On the ballot as Measure X, the fire safety bond would implement a new property tax of \$16 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation in ACFD's unincorporated service area to repay the bond debt. The measure requires approval from two-thirds of voters in order to pass.

That supermajority threshold proved pivotal when ACFD proposed the same bond measure in the March primary. On the ballot that time as Measure D, the proposal fell 95 votes short of passing — with 66.37% of voters in favor, just below the two-thirds level required.

Over in Contra Costa County, San Ramon Valley voters will help decide **that county's Measure X** — a proposed half-cent sales tax countywide that aims to raise an estimated \$81 million annually for 20 years to fund county hospital operations and community health centers, fire and other emergency responses, and social safety-net services.

The new sales tax would pass with support from over 50% of voters in the general election.

And in Alamo, residents are voting on Measure W, which seeks to raise the county's financial appropriations limit for Alamo Parks and Recreation to \$1.75 million (with subsequent cost-of-living adjustments) without raising taxes. This measure also requires a simple majority to pass.

Polls will be open across the Tri-Valley from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day (Nov. 3); that is also the final day to submit your vote-by-mail ballot. ■

FULL ELECTION COVERAGE

The Pleasanton Weekly has in-depth coverage of Tri-Valley contests available via our "Election Guide 2020" at PleasantonWeekly.com. There you'll find individual profiles about city and school candidates, videos and coverage of our eight candidate forums, group election profiles about special district and regional elections, and more.

We will also be your go-to destination for coverage of Tri-Valley election results, from early returns on Election Night to tally updates in the days and weeks afterward all the way through to final certification expected in late November.



JEREMY WALSH

ty Hall at 123 Main St. is one of dozens across Alameda County accepting vote-by-mail now through Election Day. Absentee ballots can also be turned in at any or any regular polling place on Tuesday.

Kid-savvy editor puts 'BOO' into holiday

Sponsors help her celebrate a hands-free Halloween in the Tri-Valley

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

What could be more fun than a surprise basket of Halloween goodies appearing on the front porch?

Fearing Halloween would be a disappointment this year, Carrie Williams, who is publisher and editor of Macaroni Kid Pleasanton, decided to prepare "boo baskets" for 100 to 300 children who could then pass on the fun.

"Everything is being canceled for a year," Williams said. "It's been a year of canceled events for kids."

Her publication, found at pleasanton.macaronikid.com, is a hyper-local online newsletter that runs notices about free events for children and families, and includes fun stories as well as crafts, Williams explained. Recent Pleasanton issues have included happenings such as Boo at the Oakland Zoo and local pumpkin patches.

Different Macaroni Kid websites focus on communities across the country, and share fun stories as well as crafts. The publishers also brainstorm with each other about how to serve their audiences.

"Macaroni Kid publishers felt we had to do something for the kids for Halloween," Williams said. "We put our thinking caps on, and said let's do some boo baskets."

Boo baskets and bags have become popular in recent years. People assemble packages with little treats and leave them anonymously by a front door with a note: "You've been boo'd." Recipients pay it forward by doing the same for two neighbors until everyone on the street has been boo'd.

It's an easy, fun activity for the whole family, Williams noted, both receiving the treats and the excitement of surprising others. Boo baskets often include cutouts of ghosts or signs to be hung outside to let others know you have been boo'd.

Williams reached out to her advertisers to contribute to the baskets since she knew they were having difficulties these days getting their messages out. Seven joined the effort.

Each basket had some candy plus goodies like rings and bubbles, and the sponsors gave fun items like coupons for discounts, free martial arts lessons and hand sanitizer.

"I made sure it was a full bucket," Williams said.

She also included two cute empty boo bags, so recipients could in turn fill the bags with goodies and surprise two other households.

"I delivered some to my subscribers, and some to my moms'

Want to boo, too?

To "boo" friends and neighbors, first gather some Halloween goodies, such as candy, stickers, erasers, etc. Put the treats into a decorated bag or container, and include the message: "You've been boo'd! Happy Halloween!"

The fun part about boo'ing is that it is a surprise. Leave the boo bag on the doorstep, ring the bell and skedaddle.

groups," Williams said. "It was something fun. I just wanted to reach out to kids."

Her children, JT, 11, and Jackson, 9, helped, too.

They were born in Tucson, which is where Williams, as a young mother, first heard about Macaroni Kid from her friends.

"I was the organizer for a moms' group, and I would pull from their calendar," she recalled.

When Williams and her family moved to Pleasanton in 2015, she became publisher of Macaroni Kid Pleasanton, which serves the Tri-Valley. She sends out the newsletter once a week and has close to 4,000 subscribers. She enjoys getting out to spread the word.

"I go to farmers markets in Livermore and Dublin," she said. "I can do as little or as much as I want, and I love doing Macaroni Kid and going to events."

Williams especially enjoys it when moms approach her who already know and love Macaroni Kid.

"They act like I'm a rock star," she said with a laugh. "It's pretty awesome."

After she distributed the 100 boo baskets recently, she was inundated with notes of thanks and photos of happy kids from the recipients and from those who helped.

"My kids and I had fun putting them on doorsteps," wrote Diana Barnes. "If you need help again let me know."

"Thank you for letting us help! My neighbors loved them!" Ashley Tedmus reported.

Williams also surprised her own neighbors with boo baskets.

"I have a neighbor across the street who said she didn't know I did Macaroni Kid," she said.

"I only did 100 this year, and it was a lot of work," she added. "But I may do more next year. It was so much fun." ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Top to bottom: Jackson Williams, 9, is ready to help distribute boo baskets with his mom, Carrie Williams.

Lukila, 4, and Caleb, 6, are the happy recipients of boo baskets.

Carrie Williams, publisher of Macaroni Kid Pleasanton, gathered goodies for, assembled and gave out 100 boo baskets to spread Halloween cheer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Each basket had a sign to hang on the front door to let everyone know the household had been boo'd.



Left to right: Emily Oblath, Katie Fogerson, Matt Berry and Ed Folsom.

Livermore Library honors Volunteers of the Year

Four chosen for their exceptional service to library community

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Livermore Library recently recognized several outstanding volunteers who have provided exceptional service to the community.

Emily Oblath has been named the Livermore Public Library's 2020 Volunteer of the Year. For about four years, Oblath has volunteered Saturday mornings in the library's Create Lab, a popup makerspace designed for children in grades K-6.

Oblath was one of the first volunteers to join the makerspace in 2016. She learned how to use the Create Lab equipment, including a sewing machine and a Cricut Maker, so that she could assist children in their use. She also assisted with other library projects when needed.

Katie Fogerson has been selected as the Livermore Public Library's 2020 Young Adult Volunteer of the Year. She began in the summer of 2018 and continued the following year. Fogerson served on the library's Teen Advisory Board for two years, and she has provided much-needed assistance in the library's

after-school STEM classes, patiently helping young participants complete projects.

Fogerson, a junior at Granada High School, enjoys her history and science classes and plays bass clarinet in the band. She would like to attend medical school and pursue a career as a forensic pathologist.

'Oblath has volunteered Saturday mornings in the library's Create Lab, a popup makerspace designed for children.'

Ed Folsom has been chosen as the Livermore Public Library's 2020 Volunteer of the Year in Support of Literacy. He has volunteered at the Rincon Branch Library with the Homework Help Center since 2010, guiding and assisting students of all ages and grade levels, motivating them with his enthusiastic and

encouraging approach.

In more recent years Folsom has also volunteered with the library's adult literacy program. When working with a child or an adult, Folsom is known for understanding that learning can be hard work, especially for those with other things going on in their lives that increase the challenge.

The Friends of the Livermore Library (FOLL) have selected **Matt Berry** as its 2020 Volunteer of the Year. Berry, with his can-do attitude and organizational skills, has been a critical part of the organization for many years but even more so during the challenges of the past year.

In addition to his regular treasurer duties, Berry researched, selected and migrated the website www.friendsoflivermorelibrary.org to a new web platform, plus he transitioned the group to a new bank when the old branch closed.

While the COVID-19 pandemic put a temporary pause on most of the library's volunteer opportunities, future opportunities will be posted at livermorelibrary.net. ■

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Community Focused Garden Design'

Garden Club hosting special speaker for November meeting

The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club is set to host Kate Frey, who is noted for designing gardens focusing on nature, at next month's meeting.

Interested members of the public as well as club members are welcome to attend, at 7 p.m. Nov. 12 on Zoom. A short business meeting will be followed by Frey's presentation.

Frey will speak on "Community Focused Garden Design." A slideshow will include examples of the principles and practices of creating sustainable gardens that are places of delight for humans and wildlife.

She specializes in the design of sustainable organic habitat gardens that reflect the soils, climate conditions and biodiversity of their locations while providing abundant, year-round habitat for pollinators.

Dolores Bengtson, publicity chairwoman for the club, noted that members are willing to help those



Kate Frey

in the community learn more about gardening.

"Just talking with the owners of the local gardening stores, they are experiencing a surge in gardening interest they haven't seen in a long time," Bengtson said. "That surely explains why our Zoom meetings are experiencing such public interest."

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club members continue maintaining the Livermore Hansen Park Rose Garden, using masks and social distancing, as well as the Pleasanton Sensory Garden next to the Senior Center. Also a crew continues to care for Eden Garden, harvesting organic produce for local food banks.

Members of the public may contact Jeri Stark at president@lavgc.org to receive contact information for the Zoom meeting. For more information about the club, visit www.lavgc.org. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

THANK YOU!

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Endorsements recap

Here again are the Pleasanton Weekly editorial board's recommendations for the Nov. 3 election.

Pleasanton Mayor: Jerry Pentin
Pleasanton City Council: Nancy Allen, Jack Balch
Pleasanton School Board: Steve Maher, Kelly Mokashi, Chong Wang
Livermore Mayor: Bob Woerner
Livermore City Council District 3: Brittni Kiick
Livermore City Council District 4: Bob Carling
Livermore School Board: Yanira Guzmán, Asa Strout
Livermore Park District: Jan Palajac, Stacey Swanson
Dublin Mayor: Melissa Hernandez
Dublin City Council: Samir Qureshi, Michael McCorrison
Dublin School Board Area 1: Kristin Pelham
Dublin School Board Area 4: Michael Utsumi
San Ramon Mayor: Dave Hudson
San Ramon City Council District 1: Scott Perkins
San Ramon City Council District 3: Sridhar Verose
Danville Town Council: Newell Arnerich, Renee Morgan, Dave Fong
SRVUSD Board Area 2: Shelley Clark
SRVUSD Board Area 3: Scott Roberts
San Ramon Valley Fire Board: H. Jay Kerr, Michelle Lee, Matt Stamey
Alameda County Supervisor District 1: David Haubert
Alameda County Superior Court: Elena Condes
BART Board District 1: Debora Allen
BART Board District 5: Mike Wallace
Contra Costa Community College District Ward 2: Judy Walters
State Assembly District 16: Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
State Senate District 7: Steve Glazer
Congressional District 11: Mark DeSaulnier
Congressional District 15: Eric Swalwell
Alameda County Measure V (utility users tax extension): Vote Yes
Alameda County Measure W (new half-cent sales tax): Vote No
Alameda County Measure X (\$90 million ACFD fire bond): Vote Yes
Contra Costa County Measure W (Alamo parks appropriations): Vote Yes
Contra Costa County Measure X (new half-cent sales tax): Vote No

LETTERS

Endorsement for Haubert

Dear Editor,

I am writing to endorse David Haubert for county supervisor. For the past (six) years, Dave has been the mayor of Dublin and people who know Dave best and see him on a daily basis, can speak to his dedication, hard work, tireless enthusiasm and his passion for becoming the next county supervisor.

Before being the mayor of Dublin, Dave was a member of the Dublin school board who put in countless hours to improve the Dublin schools. He also cares very much about improving the homeless situation, traffic, clean air and equality for all. Dave is a family man and a member of the Catholic faith.

I urge you to vote for Dave as I am confident, a vote for David Haubert is a vote for improvement. He will get the job done and done right.

—George R Radu

Protecting our environment is Bauer-Kahan's priority

As a retired doctor, my top priority is healthy air, clean water and plenty

of open space for everyone. Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, an environmental attorney, deserves kudos for her accomplishments in the environmental arena during her first term.

She passed a law increasing penalties for illegally dumping garbage and polluting our communities. She worked to electrify California's ports to eliminate area air pollution. She helped small farmers to reduce their water consumption and protect local drinking water. As climate change has intensified our wildfires this fall, she has fought to reduce greenhouse gases. Fittingly, the Sierra Club just awarded Bauer-Kahan a perfect 100% rating for her voting record on the environment.

A vote for Bauer-Kahan is without question a vote to protect our environment for future generations.

—Lisa Chang, M.D.

Arkin for City Council

If the fine citizens of Pleasanton want a hard working, honest council member who actually listens to the concerns of her constituents, they need to look no further than Valerie Arkin.

Imagine my surprise several years

ago when, facing an important issue with the PUSD, I emailed the entire school board and Valerie was one of only two people who actually took the time to write back! It was obvious she had read my lengthy email and had many thoughtful comments.

Since then I have only continued to be impressed with her dedication and hard work. She is a person who truly wants the best for the community. Another notable thing about Valerie is she is not afraid to listen to opposing views, which is something that is sorely needed in these turbulent times.

Pleasanton will be better for it if Valerie Arkin is elected to City Council.

—Patricia Sande

Karla Brown for mayor; Allen, Arkin for council

Pleasanton voters have an exceptional group of candidates for City Council positions on Nov. 3. Karla Brown for mayor, and Nancy Allen and Valerie Arkin for council.

Between them these aspirants have performed decades of outstanding service in our community. In their various positions all have been extremely responsive to voters who value slow, planned growth, a vibrant downtown and great schools.

We face an unprecedented future in the coming months and years, so we must elect candidates with the experience that will help to keep our city healthy and prosperous.

Again, vote Brown for mayor and Allen and Arkin for council on Nov. 3.

—Laura Danielson

Jack Balch and Randy Brown for City Council

I support Jack Balch and Randy Brown for City Council, Pleasanton.

Jack spent 11 years serving our community on the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Jack collaborates with residents; I have experienced this when Lund Ranch II was being discussed with the Planning Commission. Jack listened to understand the issues, not everyone on the Planning Commission did this, particularly his opponent for City council.

Randy has a solid understanding of what our city needs, he has served as a board member and chair of the Chamber of Commerce. This experience and being a small business owner gives him an excellent perspective on what our community needs for residents and businesses.

Jack and Randy are focused on the needs of Pleasanton which are:

Having strong schools; keeping Pleasanton fiscally strong; ensuring the safety of our community; creating a vibrant and attractive place to live and work and smart planning for state mandated growth.

—Vicki LaBarge

This teacher does her homework before voting

Although a retired school teacher, I continue to be connected with students, teachers, and parents. Quality public education is my passion and I only support those who share the same focus. I voted for Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan in 2018, in part, because our schools were a top priority.

She delivered by passing a law to bring California's spending up to the national per-pupil average or higher and remains committed to guaranteeing universal preschool. She is working to keep college affordable for every child, including passing a law removing income exclusions which penalize families on CalWORKs.

When COVID-19 forced school closures, she fought to direct millions from the state budget to the California Department of Education to close the digital divide for children statewide who are struggling to learn remotely.

I heartily endorse the reelection of Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan. Our schools need her!

—Linnea Burnette

Civil campaigns and the race for District 1 supervisor

When I was watching the CBS "Sunday Morning" program, I was pleased to see the joint Twitter message put out by Utah gubernatorial candidates Spencer Cox and Chris Peterson. Candidates should be able to disagree without being disagreeable.

The District 1 supervisorial race is one of the nastiest in the Bay Area. Mayor Haubert's incessant attack mailers are full of lies and distortions. When East Bay Times reporter Joseph Geha asked Haubert if he should have been more forthcoming about a significant contextual omission in one of his campaign attacks, Haubert replied, "I'd have to think about that more. I don't know the answer to that." Is that the best that you can do, Mr. Haubert?

When officeholders/candidates put the community and constituents first, we all benefit. I applaud the joint statement by Bacon and Haubert on the North Livermore Valley solar projects.

I urge voters to focus on the important issues in the supervisorial race — not the mudslinging from an apparently desperate candidate. Get the facts and make an informed choice.

—Carol Cook

Bauer-Kahan delivered on her campaign promises

I had high hopes for Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan when I voted for her in 2018 and she has absolutely delivered — 150%.

I voted for Bauer-Kahan in 2018 because she promised to fight for

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a cleaner environment, champion new gun sense laws, and provide better access to healthcare. Within her first 100 days, she delivered on those promises, introducing a package of legislation that did precisely that. In her second year in office, she authored new bills to clean our air and water, preserve our open spaces, and protect our children from harmful vaping.

An elected official who has the integrity to keep her promises? (That's the real deal.) She gets my vote, again.

—Stephanie Sandberg

Politics over the public health

Shame on you, mayor and council, putting politics before the health and safety of our community.

For months, unmasked demonstrators have crowded the medians at Hopyard and Valley every Tuesday and Thursday. Coolers, bottles, jackets, signs and a boombox, litter the island. These people are breaking multiple laws, and putting the public at risk. I value our constitutional right to assemble, but it must be done safely, within the confines of the law.

They are violating Municipal Code 11.58.030, prohibiting "lingering or loitering" on these medians.

Also: they're gathering, without masks, and without distancing, violating city, state and county rules.

Pedestrians crossing this intersection, are forced within inches of unmasked, shouting demonstrators, risking transmission of the coronavirus.

Pleasanton mandates masks and social distancing, but with no citations or consequences, so the law is meaningless, and the demonstrators are taking advantage of that. Livermore, Dublin and other cities enforce the rule with citations and fines, but Pleasanton refuses to do so.

Meeting minutes reveal that the council repeatedly voted to keep it off the agenda. Why? With the election near, they are afraid of upsetting anti-mask supporters. Two members, Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin, are currently running for mayor.

Shame on you, council members, for putting politics ahead of the health and safety of those you were elected to serve. Shame on the PPD for failing to enforce laws they have sworn to uphold.

New city motto: Pleasanton: Masks are optional, and COVID is welcome!

—Will Lipman

A vote for Randy Brown is a vote for us

I am a 30-year resident of Pleasanton with over 25 years' experience in 18 Tri-Valley nonprofits. Now in my eighth year as a Pleasanton human services commissioner, I have seen first-hand how critical it is to have council members who understand the real human consequences of major decisions made at the council level.

Fortunately, in Randy Brown we have a candidate who brings a

passion for just that: championing our residents.

In the decade since Randy moved to Pleasanton, he has focused on getting to know the needs of the people who live and work in Pleasanton — including, perhaps most importantly, our most vulnerable populations.

Randy's experience with the health care, housing and welfare needs of seniors, children, the disabled and veterans — combined with his business expertise and thoughtful approach to decision making — will be crucial to our community's continuing viability as we navigate our COVID-altered world.

Please join me in voting for Randy Brown for City Council.

—Susan Hayes

Vote David Haubert for Alameda County supervisor

David has 18 years of experience at the municipal and school district levels serving the last six years as mayor of Dublin. He also currently serves on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the Livermore-Amador Valley Transportation Authority, and the Alameda County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo).

David would be the only supervisor from eastern Alameda County. David's proven leadership and demonstrated ability to listen to the community in solving problems make him eminently qualified to serve as our county supervisor.

—Dennis Gambs
Zone 7 director

Woerner — the experience to get things done

As we work together to create a more balanced and inclusive community life, we need experienced leadership. We need leadership that is willing to represent, protect and nurture all our citizens.

Bob Woerner has demonstrated his collaborative, facilitative style of leadership and repeatedly shared his knowledge and expertise on behalf of the city of Livermore. He has a proven track record of success negotiating on behalf of our city, building relationships, fostering collaborative partnerships and saving the citizens millions of dollars.

Bob is someone we can turn to in times of crisis. For many small organizations, the pandemic left us without a path forward. Bob championed using \$2 million to reimburse small local businesses for materials needed to cope with COVID-19.

Livermore is in good shape compared to other cities during this crisis due to the sound management of our city staff, council and mayor. Bob Woerner is an important part of this great team.

I'm voting for Vice Mayor Bob Woerner for mayor. "The proof is in the pudding," as my mother says.

No doubt we have challenges now, and more ahead, but our ability to adapt and grow together as a city will be affected by the choices we make at

the ballot box. I'm voting for someone with experience, someone whose work we have seen and benefited from over the past several years, Bob Woerner.

Bob isn't afraid to shake things up, propose new ways of doing things, and get things done!

—Lisa A. Tromovitch

Endorsing Valerie Arkin

My husband Ted and I would like to publicly endorse Valerie Arkin for City Council.

This is a challenging time period to get our city on track for a successful next decade. We feel that Valerie is the right person for that job. She is very objective and fair in her opinions, and we feel she will be a good influence in making decisions for Pleasanton.

We have known Valerie and her family since we moved to Pleasanton 20 years ago. We feel Valerie is open minded and approachable about any topic. Her experience on the school board will be very valuable in

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/E. SCHOLZ

Meet Peets

Like that easy-going friend with whom you love to get a cup of coffee, Peets is chill pal who will happily while away the morning hours with you. Invite him over for a coffee klatch and he'll stay for the rest of his nine lives. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, they are coordinating adoptions by appointment with approved adopters. If you are interested in adopting Peets, reach out via email at info@valleyhumane.org for more information.

helping to guide decisions for Pleasanton families.

—Cathy S. Rigel

Bauer-Kahan has risen to the challenge

While these past eight months of the pandemic have been incredibly

difficult for all of us, I am grateful to have a leader who has fought successfully in Sacramento to keep our community healthy.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan worked hard to obtain more COVID-19 test kits for our county,

See **LETTERS** on Page 18

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 17

voted to approve a new law that brought \$1.1 billion to our cities and counties to respond to COVID-19, and has advised thousands of constituents about the changing face of the pandemic through countless informational town halls and interviews with health experts.

She worked to obtain more PPE for our community's essential workers, including hospital nurses and doctors, and has voted to support special funding for our struggling small businesses, ensuring that critical dollars needed to fight COVID-19

are brought from the Capitol to our Assembly District.

This has been the challenge of a lifetime, but I am happy to cast my vote for someone who has risen admirably to that challenge.

—Maxwell Norman

Valley Link has a friend in Bauer-Kahan

While many of us work remotely during COVID, this has been just a brief pause in the Bay Area's normal transportation snarls. Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan supports transportation solutions that will connect people, housing, and jobs

— solutions that will eliminate hours spent every day in cars on crumbling roads, reduce poor air quality, and improve quality of life.

Valley Link is the only viable green solution to connect the Central Valley and the Tri-Valley to the rest of the Bay Area. It will reduce the vehicle miles traveled each year by 99.4 million and hugely reduce greenhouse gases from commuters driving solo.

Because Bauer-Kahan is committed to obtaining funding from Sacramento for Valley Link, I am voting for her to ensure a cleaner, brighter future for the Tri-Valley.

—Kellie Essary

Haubert for supervisor

I am speaking on behalf of the many students throughout Alameda County who support Mayor David Haubert for Alameda County Supervisor, District 1.

Dozens of students are actively supporting and volunteering for the Team Haubert campaign. Mayor Haubert is a genuine man who is invested in benefiting his community, and his work has not gone unnoticed. He regularly reaches out to voters, hears their voices, and advocates for change.

David's commitment to ensuring students have an excellent education to his "18-Point Social Justice Plan" exemplifies his dedication to public service, especially to the future leaders of Alameda County. He was elected to the Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees and increased test scores, renovated schools, and put the students' education and well-being as his No. 1 priority.

Haubert has personally helped me find my calling, whether that is getting me in touch with industry leaders or talking to me about his personal work experiences. He is devoted to the citizens of his community and will continue his hard work if he is elected Alameda County supervisor.

On the other hand, I am concerned about his opponent, Vinnie Bacon, who calls himself the "Clean Money Candidate" but has numerous FPPC violations. Even more concerning is the voicemail that Mr. Bacon left Mr. Dhami, threatening his position within the OAUDC for supporting David. It was shocking and disappointing to hear an elected official trying to suppress a citizen's voice.

The choice is clear; vote for David Haubert for supervisor!

—Victor Wu

Why Karla Brown for mayor

With a block of three on our City Council who have served for many years on Parks/Recreation Commission and two who served on the Planning Commission, we residents have an opportunity to make a statement: "No more begging."

A fence was erected around our neighborhood Tennis and Community Park playground to place two new tennis courts. Your block should

have stopped process before it occurred. The covering process of St. Mary's Creek at Wayside Park was a shameful display/con job.

Bicentennial Park/Century House over the last eight years has been a used car lot in front, off Santa Rita Road, and a park on the back side for a large neighborhood. Yet, people have to beg to save their park because the city now wants to make most of the park a parking lot. With it said to be a treasure to the community, you are part of the block that could of fooled us.

When the trees were cut around the bend going southbound on Valley Avenue at Busch Road in front of the light, you had first opportunity to understand the situation. Never a question, Jerry. Karla Brown understood and took care of, although it took one more accident.

You may be a smart guy, and I respect you. The whole community is at stake, not just items due to favoritism. It will be Karla Brown this time around for me. Vote Karla Brown!

—Peter Miller

Bauer-Kahan's 'go bag' includes a powerful new bill

I packed my "go bag" last month and I know who to blame. PG&E's long history of neglecting its infrastructure means we are constantly under threat of wildfires, evacuations, and disruptive PSPS events.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan is making great strides to keep us safe by holding PG&E's feet to the fire and make it accountable for this mess. She has introduced the Utility Accountability and Wildfire Prevention Act (AB 2356), which will allow district attorneys to sue utilities who fail to comply with safety regulations.

Because she has taken no campaign contributions from PG&E, I know she will act in the best interests of our community. She's got my vote.

—Olivia Vanier

We need leaders who can cross the aisle

At the end of the day, what matters in Sacramento is who can get the job done for our community by working effectively across both sides of the aisle.

Our community got very lucky. In Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, we have an effective leader who has worked tirelessly with all her fellow state representatives, regardless of party, to pass new laws to protect our district. Just look at her record.

She has passed 15 pieces of legislation, every single one receiving bipartisan support, including bills to strengthen gun safety, improve access to health care, protect the environment and more. She was chosen in her very first term to serve as the Assembly's assistant speaker pro tem, a leadership position that recognizes her unique ability to bring the parties together to achieve important goals for the good of our entire community and our state.

In these tricky times, no woman is an island. A vote for Bauer-Kahan is a vote for bipartisan leadership. A vote for Bauer-Kahan is a vote for bipartisanship.

—Bill Oliver

Bauer-Kahan champions Valley Link

The Bay Area's horrific transportation problems require careful, intentional solutions that will doubly serve to combat climate change. Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan continues to champion Valley Link as the optimal answer that will bring employees who live in the Central Valley to their jobs in Livermore and the Tri-Valley.

Valley Link will get rid of traffic gridlock by taking hundreds of thousands of commuters driving solo in cars off our highways and hugely improve our community's air quality. It is absolutely the answer we need right now. Bauer-Kahan has pledged to continue fighting for funding for this project, so my vote is with her for a cleaner, greener Tri-Valley.

Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan is one of the most responsive, available representatives I have ever known and well deserves your vote.

—Helen Machuga

Carbon monoxide detectors — noisy end of life

"Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" — May still be good for your older smoke detector, but many modern ones have 10 year batteries, instead.

Manufacturers and others are now recommending that smoke detectors be replaced after 10 years. (Before that you may want to clean yours with a vacuum.) The same replacement guide applies to carbon monoxide detectors, unless otherwise specified.

CO is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It can kill you or make you woozy before you know it. CO detectors have been required in all new and existing homes and apartments in California since 2011 in addition to smoke detectors.

Most CO detectors only last five to seven years, although some now last 10. Most have a built in timed end-of-life function that gives a signal to tell you you must replace it. Mine went off in the middle of the night!

The instructions or a web search may tell you that the sounds are different. The back panel of my Kidde model explains their alarm is four quick beeps that repeats every five seconds. If this happens, you may have a life threatening condition. Treat it as a real.

This brand's "Detector End of Life" signal is two beeps every 30 seconds. That means the detector has "expired," and must then be replaced. Better to be safe than sorry.

I also recommend you mark the side of the detector with the date to replace, or to replace the battery, on masking tape with a magic marker.

—James E. Art

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

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File No.: 573194
The following person doing business as: ConfidenTingz, 5654 Owens Dr., #103, Pleasanton, CA 94588, 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.)

Pleasanton Weekly; PleasantonWeekly.com; TriValleyViews.com; DanvilleSanRamon.com
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File No.: 573665
The following person doing business as: Pleasanton Weekly; PleasantonWeekly.com; TriValleyViews.com; DanvilleSanRamon.com, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, California. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein February 15, 2009. Signature of Registrant: William S. Johnson, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 2020.)

Anderson Plumbing
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 573637
The following person doing business as: Anderson Plumbing, 4300 Black Ave., #614, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Sam Anderson, 5152 Twin Creek Court, Antioch, CA 94531. This business is conducted by Sam Anderson, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein March 18, 2020. Signature of Registrant: Sam Anderson, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 8, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2020.)

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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Support for We Are Pleasanton movement just keeps growing

Also: Local swimmer helps set record in intense team triathlon

Two weeks ago in the Weekly I wrote a cover story about the group We Are Pleasanton and their efforts to raise funds for school projects that are in serious need.

The first three identified projects are a shade structure for the lunch area at Amador Valley High, as well as replacing the athletic fields at both Pleasanton and Hart middle schools.

The group is spearheaded by Side-Track Bar + Grill owner Todd Utikal and is growing in numbers, including at least five local residents since the story ran on Oct. 16!

This group is everything our schools need. There are many people in Pleasanton — me included — that do not trust bonds when they appear on the ballot.

With We Are Pleasanton, that doubt is erased. While working with the Pleasanton Unified School District to identify problems, the group sets out to not only raise the funds, but also works on the bids to make sure they are getting the best bang for their buck.

They have set up a partnership, so to speak, with Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) to channel the donations into an account.

The shade structure is estimated to cost \$228,500, with \$90,000-plus raised so far. The most impressive donation thus far is the \$27,000 donated by the leadership class at Amador.

The fields at the two middle

schools I can speak to with personal knowledge, having walked the fields recently.

Hart has been an issue for some time as when my son played for the Pleasanton Lacrosse League, Hart was our allocated field. The field was so bad, as a club we were forced to rent the football field at Foothill for our league games on the weekends. That was over nine years ago, and the fields are no better.

PMS used to be decent, but once the construction began on Patelco Bark off Bernal Avenue, the ground squirrels were forced toward PMS and just destroyed the entire complex.

The fields are unsafe to walk on, yet alone play anything. When recently touring the complex, we needed to look down wherever we walked to avoid holes.

We Are Pleasanton is taking everything in the right direction and is something that will be a big plus to the students of Pleasanton.

Please visit www.wearepleasanton.com to find out more information, volunteer to help or make a donation.

Breed hits another milestone

Earlier this fall, I wrote about former Amador Valley and Cal-Berkeley swimmer Catherine Breed and her incredible record swim across the Monterey Bay.

In the story I mentioned about her upcoming insane Uberman relay

race where she would team with two other people for a swim-bike-run competition.

Breed started the event out at 11:20 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 9, jumping in the water at Catalina Island, then swimming 21 miles to Palos Verdes in 10 hours and 13 minutes.

Once she reached shore, Breed then handed off James Lawrence, who jumped on a bike for a 400-mile ride from Palos Verdes to Death Valley, that he covered in 27 hours and 59 minutes. Lawrence took one 10-minute break.

After Lawrence finished, Casey Robles took over for a 135-mile run from the Death Valley area, ending at the summit trailhead of Mt. Whitney 33 hours, and 20 minutes later.

Robles only took a couple of brief breaks along the way. The total time for the group — 71 hours, 32 minutes — set the relay record by a staggering 40 hours!

If you think Breed took a break after her swim, guess again.

“Once I finished the swim, I became part of the support team,” she said. “I went to the hotel, took a shower, then got in the van. I slept about five hours in four days.”

She even took a turn running with Robles at times.

Breed is done with her open water competition until next summer — of course she’ll keep training — but will spend the winter as an avid skier. Early plans for next summer include



RYAN J. DEGAN

Columnist Dennis Miller (right) tours the Pleasanton Middle School field on Oct. 9 with (from left) We Are Pleasanton founder Todd Utikal, PUSD Superintendent David Haglund and PMS principal Joe Nguyen.

a triathlon that Lawrence holds in Utah, as well as a pair of marathon open water swims in New Zealand. ■
Editor’s note: Dennis Miller is a

contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact him about his “Pleasanton Preps” column, email acesmag@aol.com.

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Castlewood Women’s Club raises \$25K+ for REACH

The Castlewood Women’s Golf Club raised more than \$25,000 last week in a charity golf tournament benefiting Tri-Valley REACH, a local nonprofit that provides affordable, quality and safe homes for adults with developmental disabilities. “This donation is absolutely wonderful and makes a significant impact for REACH continuing to provide independent living opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities,” the REACH board said in a statement afterward. Shown at the Oct. 20 fundraiser are (from left): Renee Kantor, Christian Talavera, Dawn Pombo and Kay King.



DAWN BARRAZA



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Client Services

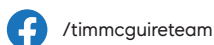
"Tim McGuire sold our home during the COVID shutdown. Tim and his team orchestrated everything necessary to get the job done including paint, landscaping, handyman work, decluttering, staging, cleaning, etc. Because of the shutdown there were severe limitations on home tours and much uncertainty. Undaunted, Tim handled the marketing and sale with very little stress to us. We received a very fair offer above asking price soon after putting the house on the market. We couldn't be more grateful for his professionalism. He is trustworthy, competent, compassionate, and simply a pleasure to work with. In a 5 star world, Tim gets a 10!"

Moire Creek, Pleasanton



www.timmcguireteam.com | 925.462.SOLD (7653)

View our website
Scan with your smartphone camera



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THE
BLAISE LOFLAND
REAL ESTATE GROUP
CONNECTING PEOPLE & PROPERTY



Blaise Lofland



Kelly McKaig



Amanda Bowen



Jacinda Lofland

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DRE 00882113

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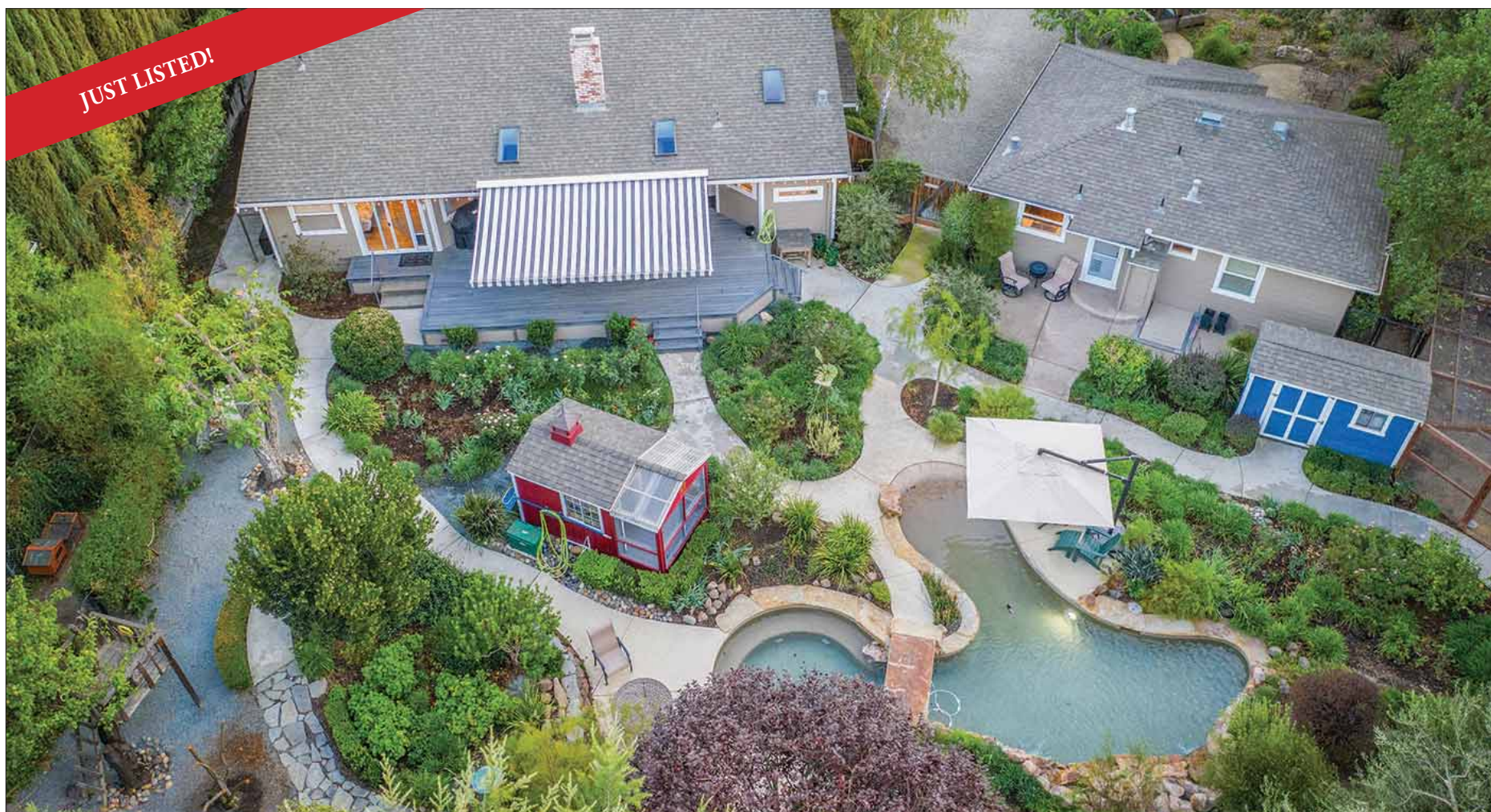
blaise@blaiselofland.com

Equal Housing Opportunity, Equal Housing Lender and Equal Housing Mortgage Lender



WE LIST, WE SELL, WE CLOSE!

COUNTRY LIVING WITH CITY AMENITIES & CONVENIENCES!



572 SYCAMORE ROAD, PLEASANTON

MAIN HOUSE: 3 BD | 2 BA | 1,800 SF

GUEST HOUSE: 2 BD | 1 BA | 800 SF

Two Impeccably Maintained Homes with Two Addresses on One Half Acre Parcel. Best of Both Worlds-Country Living with City Amenities & Conveniences! Connected to City Sewer & Water (All Fees Paid). Main House - Built in 1998 -3 Bed, 2 Bath- Approximately 1800 Square Feet, Country Farm-House Architecture Designed by Charles Huff, Architect. Guest House-2 Bed, 1 Bath approximately 800 Square Feet, Completely Remodeled-Down to Studs-2019. Attendance Area for Award Winning Schools!

Main House: 572 Sycamore Road — Upgrades Throughout, Spacious Great Room, Open Floor Plan, Vaulted Ceilings, Rock Faced Gas Fireplace Insert, Modern Kitchen with Wolfe Range, Generous Nook, Hardwood Floors Throughout, Utility Room With Walk-In Pantry, Oversized Two Car Garage (Quality Built-In Cabinets & Epoxy Flooring), Country Front Porch, Large Rear



Deck Access Creates Expanded Indoor/Outdoor Living Space (Automated Large Retractable Awning), Video Surveillance System (owned), Outdoor Hot/Cold Shower & Pet Shampoo Station, Chicken Coop. www.570Sycamore.com

OFFERED AT \$1,699,500

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.

EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

BY KATIE MOE | ARRIVE REAL ESTATE GROUP



JUST LISTED

3614 CHILLINGHAM COURT, PLEASANTON
2,104 Sq Ft | 4 Bed | 2 Bath | Pleasanton Meadows | Offered for \$1,299,000



PENDING PRE-MLS

1183 KILLARNEY STREET, LIVERMORE
1,650 Sq Ft | 4 Bed | 2 Bath | Sunset East | Offered for \$980,000



NOW PENDING

4071 BLACOW STREET, PLEASANTON
1,567 Sq Ft | 3 Bed | 2 Bath | Represented Buyer | Offered for \$1,169,000



NOW PENDING

3152 CASTLE ROCK LOOP, DISCOVERY BAY
3,578 Sq Ft | 4 Bed | 3 Bath | Pool & Spa | Lakeshore | Offered for \$799,000

ARRIVE GIVES BACK: ANNUAL WARM COAT DRIVE

We invite you to donate clean and gently used coats to support local women and children's shelters.



SATURDAY, NOV 7



9AM - 11AM



4151 W LAS POSITAS
PLEASANTON



KATIE MOE

FOUNDING PARTNER | REALTOR®

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Your home. Our mission.

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

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

COMPASS

PLEASANTON Acreage, Private Casita, 13 Car Garage

1562 Foothill Road

4 BD - 5 BA - 4,708 + 800 SqFt Casita - 2+ Acres with Private Vineyard - 13 Car Garage/RV or Boat Storage

Nestled in West Pleasanton, this 4700+ Sq Ft single-story home quietly backs to old-growth Oak trees on over 2 acres. This custom estate is luxuriously appointed with designer glass walls, vaulted ceilings, walls of windows overlooking the stunning property, a central dual-sided fireplace, and a private bathroom for each bedroom.

The detached 800 SF Casita has its own bathroom and kitchenette.

A private boutique of aged Cabernet grape-vines are yours to harvest and perhaps even design your own label. Additionally, this 2+ acre property offers a sparkling, heated pebble tech swimming pool, lighted basketball court, and a vintage water tower, adding to the character and ambiance of this stunning property.

You will be amazed by the garage capacity which can store up to 13 cars, a boat or RV.

Call today for your private showing. Now Available for \$3,800,000



WALNUT GROVE Waterfront Property

17396 Grand Island Road

3 BD - 2 BA, 1,708 +/- SqFt

Paradise Found just outside the San Francisco Bay Area. As you cross the small bridge, you are welcomed onto the private island, where the busy-ness of life seems to melt away. Imagine a place where boating, spectacular sunset views, and fishing become your new normal. This custom home is raised and overlooks the Sacramento River with **50 feet of waterfront property**, complete with owned-solar, private well, and septic. This home will become your shelter, your oasis, your home-office, and your favorite place to be. If you've been thinking about making a change to a simpler way of being, this just might be the nudge you've been waiting for. **Listed at \$1,140,000**



A Year at a Glance in Real Estate Home Sales

Did you know, that compared to this time last year...

1. Home Sales are UP 9.4% (almost 21% stronger than Fall 2019)
2. Inventory of existing homes on market is DOWN 19.2%
3. Average 30 year fixed rate hit another record low at 2.8% (compared to 3.9%)

Simply stated, In the world of Real Estate, Fall appears to be the new Spring!



"Can't say enough good things about working with Kris Moxley and her team. From staging to marketing to scheduling, she was top notch. Her knowledge and experience made the process so smooth and we are THRILLED with the results. Thank you Kris Moxley!"

— Dan and Marlene, Pleasanton Sellers

CENTRAL PLEASANTON

Coming Soon

4BD - 3 BA - 1/3 Acre

Over 2000 SF of living space resting on a third of an acre.

- Vaulted Ceilings
- Remodeled kitchen with granite counters and white cabinetry
- Updated bathrooms
- New flooring throughout
- Sparkling pool with waterfall feature and child safety fencing.
- Side yard access
- Close to award-winning schools, parks and shopping. **This is one you will not want to miss... Stay tuned!**



PLEASANTON PENDING with 20 Offers Over Asking



5834 Corte Margarita
3 BD - 2 BA - 1,882 SqFt - 11,039 SqFt Lot
Listed at \$1,300, 000

DANVILLE PENDING with Multiple Offers Over Asking



391 Glen Arms Drive
3 BD - 3 BA - 2,104 SqFt - 25,850 SqFt Lot
Listed at \$1,315,000

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