

# Pleasanton Weekly

City's virtual holiday celebration

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## Holiday Fund campaign now underway

Six core nonprofits to benefit from this year's contributions

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# TIM TALK



BY TIM HUNT

## City reacts to pandemic by offering previously unimaginable services

Local government leaders have been working in uncharted territory since the governor locked down the state in March.

Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho, speaking to the Pleasanton Men's Club last week, remarked that the city senior staff routinely does emergency drills once or twice a year, but those focus on natural disasters such as floods, fires and earthquakes. A worldwide pandemic is new and what's even more challenging is there's no timeline for return to whatever is normal.

In his talk, Fialho went back 14 months to put some perspective on the situation. Pleasanton celebrated its 125th anniversary in June 2019 and wrapped up the fiscal year June 30 with a nice surplus and a healthy budget. Unemployment was less than 2% and reflected a healthy economy that was humming along.

That continued until the pandemic hit and the lockdown took effect. That reaction/shutdown phase resulted in most city staff working from home from mid-March until September when city leaders started working to help in the recovery.

Fialho was particularly proud of the partnership the city developed with Stanford-ValleyCare to operate a drive-thru test site at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. He said he believed without the city's initiative there would not have been a site in the valley. About 1,000 people are tested each week, and it ran without any county financial support until September. The cities of Livermore and Dublin also came on board.

It was one of the pandemic-response items that he said he could never have imagined. The same goes for developing a short-term program to house homeless people. That resulted in the city renting hotel rooms. Residents were served one meal daily by Open Heart Kitchen and CityServe provided toiletries and case management.

He estimated the cost at \$3,150 per resident per month, very efficient compared to San Francisco's program that is costing \$8,000 per month. I volunteer with Miracle Friends, a program of Miracle Messages, that pairs a volunteer with a homeless person sheltering in a San Francisco hotel so I knew the San Francisco

cost. That program is scheduled to wind up Dec. 21. The Pleasanton program ran for 3-1/2 months and wound down when the shutdown order was modified. Residents worked with CityServe and other providers on transitional housing.

It was this program that Fialho said he could never have imagined Pleasanton operating, but that's how the pandemic changed what was normal. In response to a question, he said he participated in the one-night homeless count two years ago. That showed that most of the homeless people in Pleasanton were living in their cars and then going to work and returning in the evening to park behind a building or in a parking lot. It counted about 80 people.

Fielding a question from the audience about Oakland's thought of housing homeless people from there at the fairgrounds, he said the city has flatly told the county officials no. The city's agreement with the county specifies that any non-fair use on the fairgrounds must have city approval.

The city staff members who had been working from home now have returned to the office in a hybrid schedule that divides departments so half of the team is in the office at any one time. And last week, the library reopened with limited hours and a grab-and-go approach.

As you would expect some revenue streams — hotel tax — have shriveled up, while others such as property tax (the largest single revenue source) remains strong. He noted that people continued to buy cars that helped the sales tax, which took a hit because the mall and other retailers were either shutdown or limited in hours.

Fialho said he expected the week-end closure of Main Street to become an annual event from spring into fall. He said the restaurants love it, while the retailers don't like it all. It wrapped up so the retailers could have a break during the critical holiday season. It will be up to the new City Council next year to decide whether to move forward with it. ■

*Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years. He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His "Tim Talk" blog appears twice a week at PleasantonWeekly.com.*

### About the Cover

Today marks the launch of the 2020-21 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, which will benefit six local nonprofits during their time of need this winter amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Cover design by Kristin Brown.

Vol. XXI, Number 33

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- **Mr. Arman B:** Livermore, 3 bed+ SFR, up to \$850K
- **Ms. Angel D:** Dublin & Livermore 2 bed+ TH, up to \$650K
- **Mr. Pavan K:** Pleasanton, 3 bed+ SFR, up to \$1.05M
- **Mr. Eugene E:** Livermore, 4 bed+, up to \$1.3M
- **Mr. Madhu S:** Danville, 5 bed+, 2010+, up to \$2.3M
- **Mrs. Iris K:** Pleasanton, 3 beds+, up to \$1M

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## How are you planning to spend Thanksgiving this year?



### Kelly Gaich

*Bartender*

I have one friend who is in my social bubble. We get together every weekend in order to watch football. We are planning to get together, eat Thanksgiving food and catch a game.



### Demetra Jaffin

*Laboratory specialist*

We are spending Thanksgiving with just my immediate family this year, which is much smaller than our typical large extended family get-togethers. It will be different, but it's the safe way to celebrate and that is very important right now.



### Orson Waters

*College student*

I don't get what all the fuss is about. I'm planning to have Thanksgiving with my family, and after that to go out with all of my good friends from high school, since it is so rare for us to see one another now that we are all away at college. We plan to have a great "Friendsgiving" together.



### Rebecca McLaughlin

*Teacher*

We will be driving to an Airbnb, dogs and all. It's in San Clemente Beach. We want to keep our Thanksgiving celebration small and relaxing this year.



### John Weinberger

*Paralegal*

Well, it has always been my annual tradition to travel to New Jersey in order to spend Thanksgiving with my sister and her family. This year though, I think it is a really bad idea to travel and to spend time indoors with lots of people. So instead I'm planning to stay put, and just make and eat a whole lot of stuffing. It's really the only Thanksgiving food I truly enjoy.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### Flu shots for vets

The Pleasanton Public Library is set to host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach Team on Monday morning to facilitate free flu shots for veterans.

All participants must make appointments in advance with the library and be pre-registered with the VA Palo Alto Health System. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call 925-373-4700 for information on local registration.

For the flu shot clinic in the library parking lot, veterans with appointments should drive up to the designated area and provide their names and the last four digits of their Social Security numbers. VA Palo Alto staff will verify registration for care before administering flu shots, city officials said.

The event runs from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Monday (Nov. 23) at the library at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 925-931-3400 to learn more.

### Geocache game

The city of Livermore has launched a free community activity, a geocaching adventure with Lmore the Basset Hound (or "Asset Hound") designed to be COVID-safe for participants of all ages.

Lmore has hidden five caches throughout Livermore so residents can learn about community-owned assets such as roads, traffic signals, pipes, buildings, and more. Geocaching is a modern-day treasure hunt for all ages.

"The cache will have a QR code to a fun quiz and a clue and coordinates to the next location," officials said. "Anyone who finds all five caches before Jan. 5 will be entered in a raffle to win fun prizes."

Find the instructions and gamecard at [www.livermoreassets.net/geocache-2020](http://www.livermoreassets.net/geocache-2020).

### Rise Against Hunger

Lynnewood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton is hosting a virtual 5K and 10K walk, run or bike fundraiser for Rise Against Hunger today through Sunday.

"We cannot meet to package the 10,000 meals we normally do at our events. Yet we still want to make a difference for the children in underdeveloped countries by providing donations for life-changing programs that support them," church officials said.

Participants can take their own walk, run or hike ride to support the event any of the three days. "Come by the church and say hi. Event bibs, buttons, snack bars, water and a friendly wave await you," officials said. The church is located at 4444 Black Ave. To learn more, visit [lynnewood.org](http://lynnewood.org). ■

## Tri-Valley pulled back into state's purple tier amid COVID surge

Alameda County's regression all but halts PUSD's Jan. 4 elementary reopening date

By JEREMY WALSH

Citing rising rates of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in counties across the state, the California Department of Public Health placed Alameda County into the most-restrictive purple tier of the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy this week.

The move, which saw Alameda County regress two tiers from orange ("moderate") back to purple ("widespread") after the state documented an adjusted rate of seven cases per 100,000 people in the county, resulted in the end of indoor dining,

worship services and gym activities for the time being, as well the closure of bars and reduced indoor capacity for retail stores and shopping malls.

Other business activities such as personal care services, hair salons and barbershops can still operate indoors with safety and social-distancing modification, under the state guidelines. Restaurant dining and group worship, among other activities, are allowable outdoors with protocols in place.

County officials hope news of the regression will inspire bold, consistent action by residents to take the

necessary steps to help stem the potential spread of the coronavirus amid the recent case surge, according to Dr. Nicholas Moss, who was promoted to the permanent role of county health officer on Tuesday after nearly four months in the position on an interim basis.

"We need Alameda County residents and businesses to, once again, rise to the challenge and help flatten the curve," Moss said. "Stay home for the holidays, wear face masks, maintain at least 6 feet of distance, wash your hands frequently, and get your flu shot. Now more than ever,

we must protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors with these simple strategies. We all must recommit ourselves to the safety measures that helped us lower case rates in September and October."

The Pleasanton Unified School District now anticipates not being able to reopen elementary school campuses for in-person classroom instruction on Jan. 4 in light of the county reverting back to the purple tier.

While most of the focus was on

See COVID-19 on Page 10



Aerial shot shows Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone site southeast of the I-580/I-680 interchange. Costco and a hotel developer are aiming to build on the 20-acre vacant portion (in yellow oval) near the top right of the photo.

## Judge rules for city in Costco suit

Court says Pleasanton's follow-up EIR was adequate; appeal period in play once order is finalized

By JEREMY WALSH

An Alameda County Superior Court judge last Friday ruled against the petitioners suing the city of Pleasanton for a second time over environmental approvals for the proposed Costco and overarching Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone, potentially ending the lawsuit and clearing the way for the project to move forward — though an appeal period is still in play.

The lawsuit filed in March by the Pleasanton Citizens for Responsible Growth, a group spearheaded by former city

councilman Matt Sullivan, challenged the adequacy of the city's second round of environmental review that occurred after a settlement in PCRG's prior lawsuit in 2018 and that the City Council approved in February in the hopes of advancing the project.

At issue in the hearing last week was whether the city adequately considered the cumulative air quality and traffic impacts on the JDEDZ caused by three proposed or pending projects in neighboring Dublin: the IKEA store, Kaiser Permanente medical campus and At Dublin, according

to Pleasanton city attorney Dan Sodergren.

"At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge (Frank) Roesch ruled in the city's favor and denied the petition for writ of mandate. Judge Roesch found that there is substantial evidence to support the analysis contained in the Recirculated Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the (JDEDZ)," Sodergren told the Weekly.

The ruling, which is still subject to a final order by Roesch to

See COSTCO on Page 10

## PUSD may scrap plans for 'E-10' school

Trustees reverse on sending design specs to state for approval

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton Unified School District is considering scrapping plans for the planned new school for grades 4 and 5 at the Donlon Elementary site — dubbed the "E-10" school — and starting over with a newly developed alternative proposal to address overgrowth issues, following extensive discussion among the Board of Trustees last week.

The change of direction at the Nov. 12 meeting comes a month after staff and the majority of school board members previously agreed the best course of action was building the E-10 school as planned and submitting project specifications to the Division of the State Architect for approval.

Known as "Option E," the newest alternative proposal would increase capacity at Lydiksen Elementary to accommodate expected growth increases in the district's enrollment area west of Interstate 680, as well as "rebalance" the five elementary sites in PUSD's northern area by making "slight boundary adjustments and some capacity increases" between four to six classrooms.

With the exception of Mohr Elementary, which would remain at its current capacity, about 700 to 800 students would be enrolled at each

See E-10 SCHOOL on Page 11

# Wang, Guzmán aim to bring ‘positive change’ to LVJUSD

Livermore’s new school board members set to be sworn in Dec. 15

By CIERRA BAILEY

Two newcomers with ambitious goals celebrated wins in a five-candidate election for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Education.

Voters chose public policy advocate Kristie Wang and former Tri-Valley teacher and parent volunteer Yanira Guzmán to fill two at-large seats on the five-member school board.

With the vast majority of ballots counted, Wang leads the way with 18,246 votes (26.04%) followed by Guzmán for the second seat at 15,529 votes (22.16%). That positioned the pair to unseat incumbent Chuck Rogge with 12,212 votes (17.43%) in third place, as well as challengers Kandiss Hewing in fourth (12,057 votes; 17.21%) and Asa Strout (11,867 votes; 16.94%). One seat was already guaranteed to change hands with incumbent Chris Wenzel opting not to seek re-election this fall.

Wang and Guzmán are set to be officially sworn in during a board meeting on Dec. 15, but before that, they will be participating in training and orientation meetings to help prepare for their new roles.

Wang, who gained recognition as a leader of the anti-vaping movement in Livermore, said that upon taking



Kristie Wang



Yanira Guzmán

her place on the board, her top priority will be to work toward reopening schools safely.

Prior to winning the election, Wang said she spent several months researching how schools in other communities reopened, including which strategies worked and which didn’t. She also attended public virtual town halls and school board meetings in other districts to get a sense of how other areas are approaching reopening.

“I want to see us more ready to go,” Wang told the Weekly.

“When things do get better — and it’s going to get better at some point, whether it’s in a month or six months or a year — at some point we’re going to be ready to bring students back in and I just want us to be ready for that. I don’t want to wait until that time and then start planning, I want to plan now for that day,” she said.

Wang is also thinking beyond just getting students back on campus. She said she wants to work on addressing mental health issues and learning gaps that have been exacerbated by the pandemic when students eventually return to in-person learning.

“I think about four days after the election, I did an all-day training on youth mental health because that’s really a big issue right now,” she said. “I see my own kids and other kids I know who previously didn’t have mental health issues and are developing them and so for kids who already had them to begin with — and I’ve talked to some of the parents of those students — this is very serious.”

Wang said that her second and third priorities are to focus on advocating for money for the district’s budget and to help guide the schools through the national conversation on civil rights, including recruiting more teachers of color to the district and reevaluating the U.S. history and social studies curriculum.

“I want to look at what the textbooks are, what the curriculum is and where we can really bring a more complete picture for all the kids that leave our school system,” she said.

Guzmán said that her No.1 priority is improving communication and access to information between the

district and parents. She explained how she addressed a recent lapse in communication following a survey the district distributed to get parent input about a hybrid learning model.

“Part of that message went out bilingually but another part did not. So, to compensate for that, I did a quick and dirty video in Spanish trying to highlight the big points and posted that out to my social media,” Guzmán told the Weekly.

She said that closing the gaps in communication will allow parents to better advocate for themselves and their children.

“There are other languages within our community other than Spanish, so really making sure that the people who don’t necessarily have the language skill set get the required information because it affects them and their children and their families,” Guzmán said.

In addition to improving communication through language, she said she wants to explore different methods of distributing information.

“Email is a very middle class type of way of communication, so how do we make sure that other communities get the information? How can we use social media to our advantage? How can we use WhatsApp? These are other forms of communication that are popular in other

communities and we need to tap into that,” she said.

While she recognizes that she represents the entire Livermore community as a member of the board, Guzmán said that the initial motivation to run for office came about upon noticing how students from low-income and non-English-speaking families were being affected by the pandemic.

“I ran because I saw our community in a crisis — and not just Livermore — but I did run for the low-income, the immigrants and the non-English speakers because COVID is hurting these communities much more disproportionately than others and that’s not OK with me,” she said. “It’s not OK with me that our entire community is hurting but it’s not OK with me that some people are hurting more.”

Guzmán added that her end goal as a board member is to ensure equity and access for everyone, saying, “I’m really trying to advocate and push that if we work together, we can make positive change.”

Two of their competitors — human resources specialist Hewing and information technology business analyst Strout — shared words of encouragement for the board members-elect.

See LVJUSD on Page 11

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# Officials: Keep holiday get-togethers small, short, stable and safe

Bay Area health officers issue holiday, travel safety tips amid COVID surge

By RYAN J. DEGAN

While Thanksgiving is typically a time for family and friends to come together and enjoy each other's company, Bay Area health officials are imploring residents to celebrate responsibly next Thursday and take every effort to help stem the spread of the coronavirus.

With COVID-19 cases spiking throughout the U.S., health officers from the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz, as well as from the city of Berkeley, recently issued travel safety tips for residents to safely enjoy Thanksgiving and the entire holiday season.

Officials have further encouraged creative solutions for celebrating the holidays, such as virtual get-togethers for families and having safe, physically distanced get-togethers with members of the same household or social "pod."

"With cases rising around the country, and beginning to increase a bit here in Contra Costa County as well, we all must come together and keep up our efforts to reduce transmission," Dr. Chris Farnitano, Contra Costa County's health officer, said in a statement.

"When people who live in different houses or apartments are together at the same time in the same space, risk of COVID-19 spreading goes up, even when the people are relatives or friends. Please celebrate safely this year and protect yourself and your family by including masks, keeping a distance, and staying outdoors," Farnitano added.

Residents who gather with groups who live outside of their household or social pod — even extended family members — significantly increase the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19,

which has recently seen a significant resurgence throughout the state.

According to Gov. Gavin Newsom, as of Monday, California has seen its quickest increase in new cases statewide over the last 10 days since the pandemic began in March — resulting in additional closure restrictions for every Bay Area county.

In light of the recent spike in cases, regional health officials say the safest way for residents to celebrate this holiday season is virtually or with members of their own household.

People are encouraged to start new holiday traditions, share a virtual meal with family and friends, decorate their homes, participate in drive-by events, see a drive-in movie or visit outdoor holiday-themed art installations.

"Any activity outside of your

household increases chances of exposure to the virus. Be selective and space out which public activities you choose. If gathering with your small, stable group is most important, consider forgoing or delaying other activities such as a haircut or indoor dining to reduce your overall exposures and protect your group," the Bay Area health officials said in a joint statement.

If residents do elect to celebrate in-person, then they are advised to keep it small, short, stable and safe.

In-person gatherings should follow all social distancing guidelines, including masks, and be limited to no more than three household groups of people — residents are strongly discouraged from participating in multiple gatherings with many different households. Gatherings are also advised to last no longer than two hours.

Health officials recommend that

gatherings use single-serve disposable containers for meals; however, residents can also serve from a single container if it is done by a single person who washes or sanitizes their hands frequently and wears a face covering.

Residents are also advised to remain outside as much as possible and to avoid singing, chanting or shouting.

Travel, both locally and regionally, is also strongly discouraged by health officials who say that travel significantly increases the risk of spreading COVID-19.

"California just surpassed a sobering threshold — one million COVID-19 cases — with no signs of the virus slowing down," Newsom said in a statement. "Increased cases are adding pressure on our hospital systems and threatening the lives of seniors, essential workers and vulnerable Californians. Travel increases the risk of spreading COVID-19, and we must all collectively increase our efforts at this time to keep the virus at bay and save lives."

See **HOLIDAY** on Page 11

## PDA encourages residents to 'Shop Small — Support Local'

Program aims to promote downtown businesses during holiday season

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton Downtown Association, in collaboration with the city of Pleasanton, has unveiled a new program to encourage Pleasanton residents to shop, dine and otherwise support local businesses this holiday season.

"Shop Small — Support Local" builds upon the traditional Small Business Saturday movement that happens each year, an expansion that aims to help local businesses in Pleasanton amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Tiffany Cadrette, the PDA's executive director.

"We are asking our community to make the pledge to Shop Small

and Support Local," Cadrette said in a statement. "When you Shop Small you do something big! Shopping locally keeps dollars in our economy. When we support our local businesses, our sales taxes are reinvested right here in Pleasanton. For every \$1 spent at a small business, \$0.67 stays in the community."

While Small Business Saturday, sponsored nationwide by American Express, will still be featured in Pleasanton on Nov. 28, PDA and city officials saw a need to reimagine and extend the support campaign to last the entire holiday season, according to Cadrette.

"Now more than ever, it is vital

we support the small businesses who make such valuable and distinct contributions to our community and local economy," she said. "Shop Small — Support Local 2020 is a celebration of small businesses ranging from retail stores and restaurants to fitness studios and salons, and everything in between."

Participating downtown merchants will be distributing custom Pleasanton tote bags and other special offers. For a full list of businesses, visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net/ShopSmall](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net/ShopSmall).

PDA officials also noted that the city government recently created a new "Downtown Pop-Up" program

to allow downtown businesses to use on-street parking spaces for expanded outdoor commercial activities this fall and winter now that the weekend Main Street closures have ended.

"These downtown pop-ups are intended to allow merchants to augment the allowance of limited indoor dining capacity, and will have the advantage of being able to operate throughout the week, not just on weekends," PDA officials said.

Interested businesses can learn more about the application process and participation requirements by visit the "Planning" webpage on the city's website, [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov).

cityofpleasantonca.gov.

"Buying locally ensures our city stays extraordinary and the place to go," Cadrette said. "Local merchants get to know our local tastes and select merchandise with the local community in mind. You get personal attention. You feel connected."

"Our businesses make us special and give us a strong sense of loyalty for our city," she added. "The more unique we are as a community, the more we attract visitors, which benefits everyone. Shopping locally also keeps dollars in our economy. When we support our local businesses, our sales taxes are reinvested right here in Pleasanton." ■

## Glazer backs audit efforts of BART inspector general

New whistleblower hotline for fraud and waste also being planned

By JULIA BAUM

Tri-Valley State Senator Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) recently shared his support for BART's first inspector general mission to root out waste, fraud and abuse in the regional public transit agency.

Released late last month, Inspector General Harriet Richardson's report states that BART management is impeding her ability to conduct a "risk assessment" of their offices, which would be used to aid her work.

Richardson's districtwide evaluation aims to "identify areas to audit that will provide the most opportunity for improvement and make the best use of our limited

resources. However, BART management halted our progress and we are currently working to resolve the issue."

In a statement, Glazer, who wrote the legislation which created Richardson's office in 2018, urged BART management to work with Richardson.

"The BART Board of Directors should view the inspector general as someone who will assist them in remaining accountable to the public and their riders," Glazer said. "There shouldn't be



Steve Glazer

any management roadblocks. They should embrace the inspector general's important work."

Richardson said she was accused by management of asking questions outside her purview, even though her office's authority is not limited to certain parts of the agency.

BART officials responded in a statement that the agency "welcomes independent oversight and is fully committed to ensuring the independent role of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) including access to staff and documents."

"BART management supports the OIG's risk assessment initiative and the general manager has

made clear to all staff that the assessment is proceeding and to cooperate with all OIG audits and investigations," officials said. "The OIG's audit plan is a high priority for BART as we look to identify any opportunities for efficiencies and to respond to claims of waste, fraud and abuse."

Richardson confirmed at the Oct. 29 Ad Hoc Audit Committee meeting that "after discussions with some board members and BART management, the general manager advised me on Oct. 16 that we can proceed with the risk assessment. I expect to be able to report our progress on that in our next quarterly report."

A new whistleblower hotline is also being launched and will be made available to all BART employees and the general public.

"This hotline can be an invaluable tool for BART and its employees as we move toward a more efficient and accountable transit system that is so vital to the Bay Area's economic and social well-being," Glazer said.

Fraud, waste and abuse concerns may be reported confidentially and anonymously online at [www.bart.gov/OIGhotline](http://www.bart.gov/OIGhotline) or by phone at 510-464-6100. A third-party provider routes all reports to ensure anonymity for callers who prefer to remain anonymous. ■

# Measures W, X down to the wire

Sales tax back ahead at 50.08%; fire bond dips to 66.74%

By JEREMY WALSH

The proposed half-cent county sales tax, Measure W, jumped back into a narrow lead days after slipping behind, while the Measure X fire bond kept clinging to its slight advantage, according to the most recent election results from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

The current tally sees 357,238 votes (50.08%) in favor of Measure W compared to 356,116 votes (49.92%) against the

measure that requires a simple majority to pass — a margin of 1,112 votes.

The results update released on Nov. 12 marked a turnaround for Measure W, which had led narrowly in all returns since the Nov. 3 election before slipping into a trailing position with the Nov. 10 results update (50.07% No to 49.93% Yes). But the approximately 15,000 more ballots tabulated in the interim gave the lead back to the Yes side.

The results to date represent the vast majority of eligible ballots, but some small remaining amount of vote-by-mail, provisional and conditional ballots remain to be processed. The county said the next results update would be out this afternoon.

A proposal put on the ballot by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Measure W would establish 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.

The new tax, which requires a simple majority to pass (50% plus one vote), would be in place for 10 years and generate an estimated \$150 million per year.

The other tight local ballot measure in the county is Measure X, the Alameda County Fire

Department's \$90 million fire facilities bond proposal that was on the ballot in unincorporated communities, except for Fairview.

Needing approval from more than two-thirds of voters, Measure X stands just 0.07 percentage points ahead with 38,664 votes in favor (66.74%) and 19,264 votes against (33.26%).

It's a familiar case for ACFD, which saw the same \$90 million bond measure in this year's primary election come down to the wire before ultimately falling 95 votes short of passing once all ballots were counted. The bond was on the March ballot as Measure D. ■

# Gordon-Hagerty out as NNSA chief

Resignation comes a month after Livermore tour

By JEREMY WALSH

Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty resigned this month as the U.S. Department of Energy under secretary for nuclear security and administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees both national labs in Livermore.

The announcement on Nov. 6, which included no specific reason for her resignation, came less than five weeks after Gordon-Hagerty spent two days in Livermore touring various facilities at both Lawrence Livermore National

Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories.

Gordon-Hagerty, who was selected by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in February 2018, was the first woman to hold the national position. A physicist by training, Gordon-Hagerty worked at LLNL earlier in her career, which included multiple stops in the public and private sectors.

“As administrator, Ms. Gordon-Hagerty oversaw the modernization of NNSA's infrastructure and

the strengthening of its world-class workforce. She also made significant strides in improving NNSA governance and management and demonstrated a sincere dedication to the 50,000 men and women serving in the national security workforce,” NNSA officials said in a brief statement Nov. 6.

No reason was given publicly for Gordon-Hagerty's departure, but The Hill reported the resignation came amid tensions with U.S. Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette.

U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.),

chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, released a statement offering support for Gordon-Hagerty as “an exemplary public servant and remarkable leader.”

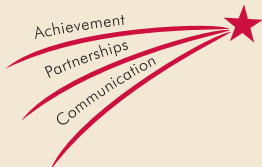
“That the secretary of energy effectively demanded her resignation during this time of uncertainty demonstrates he doesn't know what he's doing in national security matters and shows a complete lack of respect for the semi-autonomous nature of NNSA,” Inhofe said.

To succeed Gordon-Hagerty,

federal officials selected principal deputy administrator William Bookless to serve as acting NNSA administrator. His appointment aims to ensure “the continuity of NNSA's vital mission to sustain the safety, security and effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent and strengthen our national security,” according to the NNSA.

Bookless, who has 35 years of experience in nuclear security, had long career ties in Livermore, working more than three decades as a senior physicist at LLNL. ■

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# Dublin: Hernandez wins mayor seat; Hu, McCorriston on council

By JULIA BAUM

Following a historic election year and crowded City Council race, Dublin's next mayor and two council members said they are ready to lead Dublin through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery in just a matter of weeks.

After serving one term on the council, Melissa Hernandez is Dublin's new mayor-elect, earning 49.87% of total votes — 13,572 to date — to maintain her first place since Nov. 3 over fellow Councilman Arun Goel, according to the latest results from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

The election totals reported by county officials thus far represent the vast majority of eligible ballots cast, and though a small number of ballots remain to be processed countywide, the margins appear too significant for any trailing Dublin candidates to overcome.

In a statement posted on social media, Hernandez — who is set to be sworn in at the Dec. 15 council meeting along with newly elected council members Sherry Hu and Michael McCorriston — thanked “every Dublin voter who cast a ballot and participated in this historic election.”

“Although remaining ballots that are received by mail will continue to be counted, I am truly humbled and



**Melissa Hernandez**



**Sherry Hu**



**Michael McCorriston**

grateful that the current results show I have been chosen by you to be your next mayor,” Hernandez said.

“I am ready to lead Dublin through our recovery and I pledge to continue to put your interests first, and to empower the community in working together to address the challenges ahead,” Hernandez added. “I greatly value the conversations and work we have done thus far, and I look forward to collaborating with you on Dublin's future.”

Hernandez, like Goel, opted to run for mayor instead of seeking re-election to a second term on council this fall. The councilwoman had campaigned for Alameda County Board of Supervisors at the beginning of 2020, finishing in third place in the March primary election and narrowly missing out on a spot in the two-candidate runoff Nov. 3 — an election ultimately won by outgoing Dublin Mayor David Haubert.

In the mayoral election, Goel received 39.83% of ballots cast (10,839) in the three-candidate race. First-time candidate Regina Pangelinan received 10.01% of the vote (2,724), while 81 voters — 0.3% — opted for write-in candidates.

Goel, whose time on the council will end next month, did not respond to request for comment as of press time. He also ran for mayor two years ago, from a safe seat on the council, but lost to Haubert.

Among the nine candidates who campaigned for two open seats on the City Council, newcomer Hu took the most votes for a total 12,321 (26.32%).

According to city officials, Hu has received more votes than any candidate ever to run for Dublin City Council.

“However, this year, we had the highest voter registration in Dublin ever, too (34,631),” officials said. “In 2018, a non-presidential year, we had about 28,000 registered voters, and Jean Josey received 9,181 votes. It was a higher percentage of votes cast (about 32%), but there were

fewer people running against her.”

The revelation was openly welcomed by Hu, who told the Weekly, “On the Election Night, when we found that I received the most votes among the nine candidates, my team and I were thrilled,” adding she was “very grateful for the trust and support of the Dublin residents.”

“I want to let residents know that I will always listen to them and be accessible to them,” said Hu, an engineer by trade who was running for city office for the first time. “My future work priority will be to ensure smart and sustainable growth, provide public safety and security, help local businesses, bring high paying jobs and support high-quality education.”

Hu also said she will “work with the leaders, functional experts, and community to find win-win solutions for the problems.”

With 7,555 votes (16.14%), McCorriston pulled ahead of the other seven candidates to win the second seat on the council.

“The recent spike in COVID-19 cases will likely result in a more restrictive operating environment imposed by the county,” said McCorriston, a finance professional who also serves as an alternate member on the city's Human Services Commission.

“My immediate priority will be to

work with our local businesses and other civic leaders in the Tri-Valley to find safe, sustainable solutions to preserve our local economy, while also ensuring that sufficient services and programs are made available to residents during this difficult period,” he added.

Also on the forefront of McCorriston's priority list “is to effectively address housing affordability in our city.”

“We need to find strategic solutions that do not exacerbate our traffic problems or further tax our infrastructure,” McCorriston said. “As Dublin will soon reach its buildout capacity, it is imperative that development efforts going forward create long-term benefits to our community, while considering the preservation of open space and natural resources.”

The other council race finishers were Planning Commission alternate Dawn Plants in third place at 12.86%, followed by Sri Muppidi at 12.45%, former planning commissioner Samir Qureshi at 10.82%, Kashef Qaadri at 7.33%, Human Services Commissioner Shawn Costello at 5.4%, Razi Hasni at 4.82%, and Lucrecia Deleon at 3.60%. Less than a quarter-percent of voters chose to write in a different candidate. ■

## COVID-19

Continued from Page 5

the closure of indoor dining and other business restrictions after Gov. Gavin Newsom's announcement on Monday, a subsequent statement from the Alameda County Public Health Department and comments from PUSD Superintendent David Haglund elaborated on the impacts to local school districts that have not yet reopened, like PUSD.

“Effective Nov. 18, no additional schools may open for in-person instruction, and Alameda County is not offering a waiver process for elementary schools. Schools that are not open are encouraged to utilize the State's school-based small cohort guidance,” ACPHD said in its statement late Monday afternoon. “Any school that currently has students attending classes in person may continue to do so.”

PUSD, which had been working toward reopening elementary school campuses for hybrid in-person learning for students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade on Jan. 4, is now faced with the strong likelihood of that date being postponed indefinitely, especially if Alameda County's COVID rates don't improve — and improve quickly.

“The move out of the purple tier may not come until we have achieved data from a less restrictive tier for several weeks. This will require us to shift our current plans for January, pending future ACPHD guidance,” Haglund said in a statement

to the PSUD community on Tuesday afternoon.

“While this is disheartening, it should serve as a vital call to action for us to adhere to current health guidance as the holiday season approaches. The ways in which we adjust activities and behaviors will pave the way for a return to some kind of normalcy,” Haglund added.

Haglund, likewise, encouraged families and employees throughout PUSD to follow local and state guidelines to help improve COVID-19 conditions. He assured stakeholders that district officials would keep on working toward the eventual reopening of school campuses, while also prioritizing health and safety of students and staff as well as expanding its small cohort student support programs.

“As we have always done, the team will closely monitor the local health conditions and provide updates regarding the future reopening of schools,” the superintendent said, adding:

“Please know that we care deeply for the physical and mental well being of each of our students and employees. We understand that this news will not be received well by many, given that the related needs are significant and the consequences impactful. We are doing our very best to navigate this health pandemic with respect and thoughtfulness.”

For the latest information on Alameda County's COVID status, visit [covid-19.acgov.org](https://covid-19.acgov.org).

Alameda County joins 40 other counties statewide in sitting in the

purple tier as of press time Wednesday, part of what Newsom described as the state “pulling the emergency brake” on its reopening plans, as reported below by Bay City News Service. Contra Costa County is also in the purple, meaning the entire Tri-Valley is in the most restrictive tier.

“Every age group, every demographic, racial, ethnic (group) in every part of the state, we are seeing case rates increase and positivity rates increase as well,” Newsom said during his Monday afternoon briefing on the pandemic. “We are seeing community spread broadly.”

While the virus' spread across California is on the rise, Newsom argued the state is far more equipped to handle the surge than it was in the early months of the pandemic, when beleaguered states bid against each other for necessary items like ventilators, surgical gowns and other personal protective equipment.

Newsom contended the state's preparation for the virus' next surge as well as progress in vaccine trials from companies like Moderna and Pfizer should be cause for some optimism in combating the virus in the coming months.

“Bottom line is, we're moving from a marathon to a sprint,” he said, adding that there is a “proverbial light at the end of this very long, dark tunnel.”

Newsom and state Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly acknowledged that some local-level officials have questioned the efficacy of closing businesses in an

effort to stop the virus' spread when private social gatherings have often been the cause of rising case rates.

Ghaly suggested that activities like sit-down dining at restaurants, particularly indoors, and working at an indoor office building are just as likely to result in the virus spreading as attending a private gathering.

“Those are the ideal situations for COVID to spread and the situations we know we want to try to avoid,” Ghaly said.

The governor also publicly apologized Monday for attending a birthday party at the French Laundry earlier this month, saying that he contradicted the guidance he's given discouraging social gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to a report from the San Francisco Chronicle, Newsom and his wife, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, attended the 50th birthday party for Jason Kinney, a longtime political adviser, on Nov. 6 at the Michelin star restaurant in Yountville, located in Napa County, which was in the orange tier at the time.

The dinner included at least 12 people, according to the Chronicle report, which Newsom said on Monday was “a larger group than I had anticipated.”

“I made a bad mistake ... Instead of sitting down, I should have stood up and walked back to my car and drove back to my house,” Newsom said. “I need to preach and practice, not just preach and not practice ... I've done my best to do that. We're all human, we all fall short sometimes.” ■

## COSTCO

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follow soon, effectively concludes the lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court, although the petitioners would have up to 60 days to appeal the decision to the state's Court of Appeal, according to Sodergren.

“While we are disappointed with the preliminary ruling, we're still awaiting a final judgment from the court and will assess next steps once we receive it,” Sullivan told the Weekly on Monday afternoon.

Under consideration since 2014, the JDEDZ is the local regulatory framework laying out how redevelopment could occur for a new Costco Wholesale store with a gas station, two hotels and other projects at prominent property just south of the I-680 and I-580 interchange. The project was previously paused by a ballot measure in 2016 and the prior PCRG lawsuit, in addition to this second lawsuit by the citizen group.

The timeline of the proposed Costco project and design review application, as well as the already approved plans from a hotel developer to build two hotels with 231 rooms in the JDEDZ area, remain unclear.

“There is a 60-day appeal period that has to expire before we can move forward with anything of significance related to the JDEDZ. There is no additional comment from the city,” city spokeswoman Cindy Chin told the Weekly. ■

## E-10 SCHOOL

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elementary school in the district.

Trustee Joan Laursen praised the new alternative, saying she was “really glad to see this additional option.”

“Unfortunately, I think it’s time; we need to actually look at boundary adjustments,” Laursen said. “We do already know we have near-term growth at Stoneridge Mall because those things have been approved and are going to go forward.”

The new option also calls for setting aside \$35 million from future Measure 11 bond sales and using that money to build either a 10th elementary school or a K-8 school as part of a future East Pleasanton project, with land provided by the developer, district officials said.

One of PUSD’s landmark projects, the E-10 school would be funded by the \$270 million Measure 11 bond, whose project list included a new elementary school. The board-approved project called for splitting the existing Donlon property into separate campuses — with the existing school reassigned to transitional kindergarten through third grade and a new 4-5 school being built on the other end of the site.

The board began reconsidering plans for E-10 school last spring and asked staff to take a closer look at the project, prompted by enrollment growth that hadn’t developed as expected when the new campus was first planned.

Assistant superintendent of business services Ahmad Sheikholeslami told the board that the new plan “would take us for the next at least four to five years, so we’d be in good shapes in terms of capacity.”

“The monies we set aside for that, with the land and the developer

fee, would then provide the district enough funds to build either a full K-5 or even potentially a K-8 school,” Sheikholeslami said.

Laursen later added, “It does mean people are going to say you spent money on the design of the (E-10) school. That is true, but we also planned for some of that, for the money to be spent on the process of planning for that school.”

One audience member who phoned in to the board meeting said the E-10 project was over-budget and problematic, including a lack of visitor parking in the area and no plans for street improvements.

“It became an extremely tight site with E-10 and Donlon sharing a football sized field for their playground,” Kendra Mayott said. “E-10 was not the best solution. It was the best solution for the time, for two years ago, and Pleasanton has already changed, so please consider these things as you look at these options.”

Trustee Valerie Arkin asked if it would be a viable option “to just put it on hold for, say, a year or possibly two years.”

Sheikholeslami replied, “We did look at that and the reason we didn’t bring that forward, we felt like the board’s desire was to proceed and build, and proceeding at this moment forward would be the best in terms of costs of the project.”

Noting that construction costs typically increase every year and the current bid market is good, “if we were to take advantage of that, by the time these projects came out of DSA, that would be helpful,” Sheikholeslami added. “If we delayed it, we could even see construction costs that are higher, especially in that two year time frame. Especially if we didn’t submit it to DSA, that would even

further delay the project.”

Superintendent David Haglund said, “I think that’s really specific to the growth near Stoneridge Mall, because that won’t get put on hold, so we’ll have a capacity issue that we’ll need to be ready to deal with.”

Arkin said putting E-10 on hold made sense because “we’ve seen a decline in enrollment right now ... some of it’s got to be COVID-related, in my mind. At some point, enrollment could increase again.”

Option E “does recognize that we need some capacity increases, especially at Lydiksen,” Sheikholeslami said. “The other issue is the rebalancing of the schools. We’re imbalanced, so if Donlon was built and all the kids in Donlon area attended Donlon, you would now have a Mohr, or an Alisal, or others really drawn down in enrollment. It’s kind of looking at that and trying to solve some of the issues with trying to modify the boundaries.”

Board President Steve Maher stated, “If we put it on hold, the costs don’t go on hold; they keep escalating, unfortunately. So in two years it could be another \$15 million. It’ll keep going up and won’t be going down.”

District staff confirmed construction costs do rise year to year, normally 3% to 4% per year, but those increases are harder to predict with the current global economy and COVID pandemic.

Hearing that, Maher said, “And I’m not sure where we’d get that money.”

Maher also asked whether the additional money used to increase Lydiksen enrollment or other sites would be Measure 11 revenue.

Sheikholeslami confirmed that “a portion may be” and said the district is currently pulling from developer fees and its “Fund 40.”

“We’d basically look at all our

funding and all the project scopes, and bring back an updated implementation and budget plan which would include Measure 11 dollars and those two other funds ... but would make sure of the Measure 11, that \$35 million set aside from future bond sales for that new elementary school that we’ve discussed,” Sheikholeslami said.

What Arkin said she didn’t like about the new alternative option “is that it looks like our existing schools are just going to get a lot bigger, which I’ve always been against. The impact to the students at the schools, not to even talk about increased traffic around neighborhoods.”

Instead, she suggested “maybe look at the facility master plan again and do another update. That would be something to do in the near future along with the demographer update.”

With the city’s help, the district could negotiate a school as part of an East Pleasanton development project, according to Arkin — who is in one of her final PUSD meetings after her election to the City Council this month.

“I think the \$35 million we have in our bond really should be helping the northwest area of our city, where we’re having the overflow issues and where we’re having the most impact with enrollment right now,” Arkin said. “COVID has changed a lot of things; increasing capacity right now, it sounds like we don’t really have to do that right now. That’s why I thought putting it on hold ... that made the most sense to me.”

Arkin added, “If I had to say, I would say continue as planned and build E-10. I understand the other alternatives ... I just think it’s not going with what the voters approved here.”

Trustee Jamie Yee pointed out that the board “promised the community an elementary school, but it doesn’t really work out now as much because we don’t have the money to build it, to run it.”

“That’s the biggest problem with going forward with E-10, and while it does give us classrooms where we need it, we also need classrooms at Lydiksen,” said Yee, who will soon be stepping off the school board after losing her re-election bid this month.

Yee continued, “I don’t believe we should build a school and put the district in financial jeopardy, that doesn’t really make sense to me” before concluding “Option E probably hits most of the concerns that we have ... while still thinking into the future.”

Trustee Mark Miller said Arkin made “a really good point around the Facility Master Plan.”

“My recollection with the Facilities Master Plan is our No. 1 goal with elementary school students was the neighborhood school — that was the thing we were really looking for,” Miller said. “I feel like Option E best addresses the neighborhood school. With E-10, you’d have people coming across the freeway from Stoneridge Mall to go there, and I don’t know if that’s a great idea.”

Miller also agreed “it’s going to be the cheapest option, and if we can act quickly on that.”

However, based on his conversations with a city liaison, Miller said “(a developer) might be able to give us the land if they have the proper density ... but other than developer fees, they’re not going to pay for a new school.”

PUSD staff will look further into Option E and reverse its plans to submit E-10 plans to the DSA for consideration, per board direction last week. ■

## HOLIDAY

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The states of California, Oregon and Washington have all gone so far as issuing travel advisories, strongly recommending that visitors entering or leaving their states self-quarantine for at least 14-days.

Perhaps most importantly, if residents must travel they are advised to plan ahead.

For car trips, residents should not sit in a vehicle with people outside of their household. It is also recommended to avoid airplane travel due to the potential spread of the virus; however, viruses tend to not spread easily on flights because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes, local health officials said.

They also noted that for flights, it is likely that residents will be sitting within six feet of others for long periods of time and airplanes may be more crowded than usual for the holidays.

“If you have COVID-19

symptoms, get tested and wait for a negative test result before you start your trip. Even if you test negative for COVID-19, you should not travel if you’re feeling ill as you may spread another infection,” they added.

Some Tri-Valley residents have already found creative solutions for celebrating Thanksgiving, like Pleasanton’s Sue King-Irwin whose family is going to be bringing their traditional celebration outside.

“Since we do not ‘socially bubble’ together, this year we are planning an outdoor meal ... at my sister’s house in Santa Rosa. Her adult kids gave her an outdoor burner for winter social gatherings, so we should stay warm,” King-Irwin said.

Planning to enjoy a slightly smaller Thanksgiving gathering than usual, King-Irwin will gather with between four to six members of her family — and while not all of them belong to the same household, they will be able to maintain social distancing by eating outdoors.

“I am excited to see my sister and my niece, but I’m also a little nervous. If it rains outside, I’m not sure what we are going to do. I’m also sad because usually we have a big potluck and everybody brings something, but we’re not doing that; we’re doing take-out,” she added. “And we won’t be able to hug, for me that’s huge.”

Pleasanton resident Ruth Van Art has likewise made plans to celebrate Thanksgiving in a socially distanced manner, and will be eating outdoors at her son’s home in Oakland.

“We think this arrangement will satisfy both our desire to be together, and our need to be safe. In case of much-needed rain, we have tarps and poles to create a cover for our outside tables,” Van Art told the Weekly. “Maybe this idea will appeal to others.”

To learn more about holiday and travel safety tips and to receive updates on the coronavirus pandemic, residents can visit the Alameda County Public Health Department online at [www.covid-19.acgov.org](http://www.covid-19.acgov.org). ■

## LVJUSD

Continued from Page 6

“I am confident that the two of them will be able to successfully address the issues my campaign presented, and that is what is most important when it comes to who is elected to the Livermore school board,” Strout said after extending congratulations to the winners.

“I’m so proud of Livermore,” Hewing said. “Our community did their research and chose the best candidates for the board. Kristie and Yanira are intelligent women who will put our students’ best

interests at the forefront of all of their decisions and policies.”

Hewing also said that she is proud of the campaign that she ran and she “would not change a thing,” despite falling short of a victory. Although Strout said that he was disappointed about not winning a board seat, he plans to continue serving the community through his nonprofit Unify Livermore.

Rogge, who will be leaving the board next month after losing his bid for a fourth consecutive term, declined the Weekly’s request for an interview this week. ■



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# 2020 Holiday Fund campaign now underway



## Six core nonprofits to benefit from this year's contributions

By JEREMY WALSH

Today marks the beginning of the 2020-21 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, a fundraising campaign that will provide vital financial assistance to six core Tri-Valley nonprofit organizations amid the COVID-19 pandemic this winter.

Again this year, the Weekly is partnering with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, so all Holiday Fund donations will be tax deductible — and eligible for corporate matching — and so 100% of the funds will go directly to the nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

Tri-Valley organizations benefiting from the 2020-21 Holiday Fund will be Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Valley Humane Society and ValleyCare Charitable Foundation.

“We are asking our readers to turn their thoughts toward those in need, like we do each and every holiday season. This year we have a special focus on organizations that are providing key safety-net services for the community during the coronavirus crisis,” said Gina Channell, publisher of the Pleasanton Weekly and president of the Embarcadero Media East Bay Division.

“This pandemic has left many residents seeking assistance from local nonprofits, and we hope our Holiday Fund will offer a financial boost to these organizations at a time when the need is paramount,” she added.

Channell said the Weekly team also acknowledges that six Holiday Fund beneficiaries is fewer than in past years, explaining that the economic and social realities of the pandemic played a significant role in this year's decision to direct funds to particular service areas.



HOPE HOSPICE

Debbie Emerson hosts interactive webinars for Hope Hospice.

“Because we are entering a holiday season like no other in our history, with new concerns about how much will be donated and the number of people experiencing food insecurity, homelessness and health concerns, we had to make some tough calls this year when selecting the nonprofits that will receive the unrestricted grants,” she said. “We are hopeful that the pandemic and its impacts are behind us soon and we can return to a more robust list of recipients.”

The 2020-21 Holiday Fund will run from now until the second week of January. Donations will be directed to, and handled by, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which will also provide all administrative support for the campaign and allow donors to benefit from its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status for tax purposes.

The Weekly will donate marketing services and advertising space. As always, every dollar donated will go to the designated groups — with each beneficiary receiving an equal share of the total amount raised.

Learn more about the six nonprofits below, and please consider contributing this holiday season.

### Axis Community Health

The Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical and mental health services for people and families with a low income or uninsured, Axis Community Health strives to promote the well-being of all community members by providing them with quality, affordable, accessible and compassionate health care services.

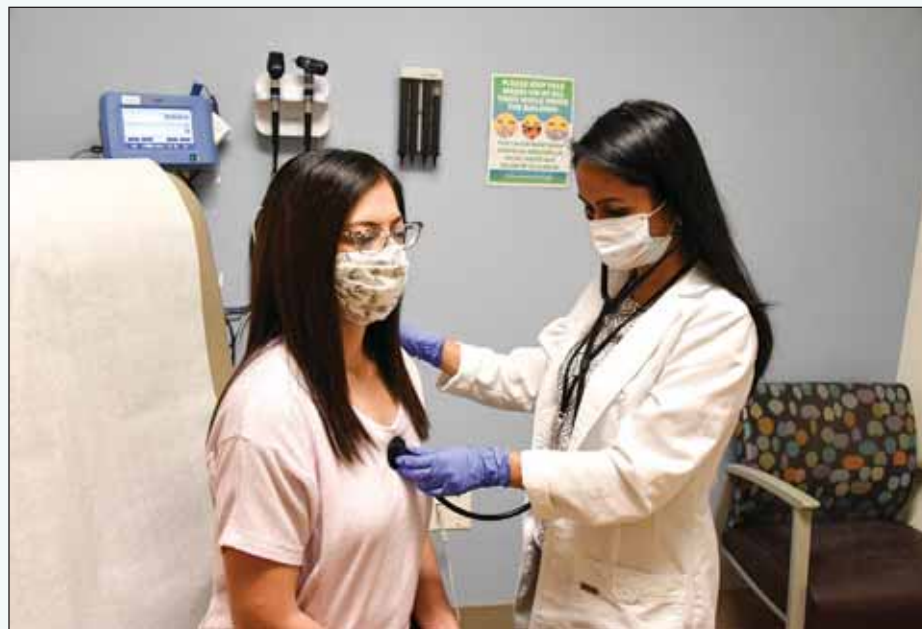
Not surprisingly, the nonprofit has seen the need for its services increase during the pandemic, according to CEO Sue Compton.

“Axis depends on community donations from the Holiday Fund to support the medical care we provide for 15,000 low-income residents,” Compton told the Weekly. “There has never been a greater need for that support than now, as Axis faces an unprecedented health crisis. Our staff are working harder than ever to help our most vulnerable patients, the elderly and those with chronic illnesses, stay healthy.”

Among its new programs during the pandemic, Axis recently began offering free COVID-19 testing in Livermore for its current patients, all health care, frontline or essential workers, and any uninsured resident or those without a primary care provider — in coordination with the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and Asbury United Methodist Church.

Compton said Holiday Fund monies will be used to buy bluetooth-enabled blood pressure monitors for elderly patients with hypertension.

“Data will automatically upload into our electronic health records system, allowing our medical team to monitor these highly



BELLA LUNA STUDIOS

Family nurse practitioner Priyanka Thapa (right) examines a patient at Axis Community Health clinic.

vulnerable patients while they are safely at home and catch any changes in health status early on,” she added.

### CityServe of the Tri-Valley

With a mantra of “Care. Coordinate. Connect,” CityServe of the Tri-Valley focuses on caring for people in crisis including experiencing homelessness, coordinating resources among the faith-based community, nonprofits, businesses and public agencies, and connecting volunteers with nonprofits in the Tri-Valley that need support.

Compassion is at the core of CityServe, especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani.

“The impact of the Holiday Fund is that it gives us the additional funding needed to support families and individuals who have lost their jobs, struggle to make ends meet with their children at home and/or have faced reduced work hours,” she told the Weekly.

“The Holiday Fund allows us to brighten someone's day when we can say, ‘Yes, we can help you with that.’ It brings hope during the holiday for many people and we are grateful to be a beneficiary of this amazing blessing. Thank you to all who contribute,” Beitsch-Bahmani said.

### Hope Hospice

Working to support patients and their loved ones with exceptional care, compassion and dignity during end of life, Hope Hospice and Health Services focuses on physical care as well as emotional, spiritual and social needs of patients as well as educational services for patients and their families.

“The pandemic affected our community and the world on so many levels,” CEO Jennifer Hansen told the Weekly.

“Of course, the increasing number of human lives lost to this virus is crushing, and we grieve with all those families. But the

impact is seen in other societal layers as well, such as drastic employment reductions and even closed businesses as safety measures enacted to slow the spread of COVID-19 have touched commerce,” she said.

Hansen noted that pandemic and economic downturn have impacted charitable giving as well, with Hope Hospice's donation intake “down significantly” in 2020, in part hurt by the cancellation of regular and special fundraising events — including the nonprofit's planned 40th anniversary celebration.

The Holiday Fund will help fill some of that void.

“Money raised from these important events, along with regular giving, supports our bereavement program, Family Caregiver Education Series, and dementia-care education. The Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund helps keep these services available to the community at no cost,” Hansen said.



OHK

Liz Streng prepares healthy hot meals for Open Heart Kitchen.





## Nonprofit food providers adapt to help supply holiday meals

Services focus on Thanksgiving groceries for families to create their own dinners, memories

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Nonprofit groups that traditionally provide large in-person meals during the holidays have been forced to find creative ways to help feed families in need during the coronavirus pandemic.

While traditional communal meals on Thanksgiving have largely been canceled, according to many Tri-Valley nonprofit organizers, food insecurity has only grown in light of the COVID-19 crisis, so groups have adapted by providing takeout services and groceries for families who may need a little extra support this holiday season.

(St. Raymond Catholic Church)

in particular has always had a food pantry but this year it has really been beefed up because of the demand," Janet Songie, co-chair of Community Outreach Thanksgiving Dinner, told the Weekly. "Folks can contact the church and fill out some simple registration to receive food."

Each year the Community Outreach Thanksgiving Dinner would typically host a Thanksgiving Day meal at St. Raymond's in Dublin, but like so many, the group was forced to cancel its beloved tradition due to the pandemic.

"It's disappointing because so many people are already homebound but (canceling) is for everyone's safety. We are giving it our all and hoping

that by next year we are back to our normal routines," Songie said.

In response to the cancellation, Songie's group has focused its efforts on promoting other nonprofit organizations throughout the region that are providing food services.

Those groups include the Children's Emergency Food Bank, Valley Bible Church in Pleasanton (this year in conjunction with Valley Community Church), St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore, Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven and Culinary Angles.

Songie added that her group also donated to the aforementioned groups the seed money usually spent on St. Raymond's Thanksgiving dinner.

One of those recipients, Valley Bible Church, also traditionally holds a meal event around Thanksgiving for residents, which it has canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic; however, church officials have adapted by donating Thanksgiving food baskets to residents.

"We're teaming up with Valley Community Church, and they are collecting the food and packing it out for me," said Kim Chew, director of the food pantry at Valley Bible Church. "I think everybody is missing out on their community, but our prayer is that the time that people are spending with their immediate family will be sweeter."

Launched in 2008, the food pantry at Valley Bible Church traditionally offers food baskets full of groceries for families to create their own holiday memories, but this year has seen a significant jump in the number of families picking up baskets.

Chew said that the usual 40 families served has risen to more than 100 this year.

"This year the agencies that usually do Thanksgiving dinners are not serving because of COVID. So there's this huge demand where most people are staying home when they might normally go stay with relatives or something like that," Chow said.

Residents who want to be placed on a waitlist for the Valley Bible Church food pantry's Thanksgiving food baskets can email [foodpantry@vbc.online](mailto:foodpantry@vbc.online).

Food pantries throughout the region have seen increased use, with Tri-Valley Haven's pantry for example seeing more patrons — particularly first-time visitors — since the pandemic began.

"Regularly we have our own Tri-Valley Haven food pantry that is open during weekdays, and the need for that has definitely increased ever since March and we serve about 50 families a day. It's all outdoors so that



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Many residents have stepped up to donate groceries for food pantries, such as the Boy Scouts Troop 947, who held its Scouting for Food drive on Nov. 14.

we can proceed with CDC guidelines and maintain social distancing," said Samantha J. Valdez, communications specialist at Tri-Valley Haven.

"There's definitely people who have arrived at the food pantry thinking, 'Oh, this is my first time; what do I need to do?' I would say a lot of the increase we've seen is due to people having a loss of income," added Christine Dillman, Tri-Valley Haven's director of development.

Located at the Mar Thoma Church, (418 Junction Ave. in Livermore), the food pantry primarily relies on donations from residents and local grocery stores. It is open Mondays through Wednesdays 1-5 p.m., Thursdays from 1-7 p.m., and Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. Call Tri-Valley Haven for more information at 449-1664.

"We're (also) partnering with Open Heart Kitchen to take over the food distribution program that had begun at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, and so that's wonderful. From what I understand, it is a driveup and they will just open their trunks and load them with food," Dillman said.

Donations are particularly welcome now, according to Tri-Valley Haven spokespeople, who've said that the nonprofit industry is not immune to the economic downturn resulting from the pandemic.

"I think something that's different during COVID is that we've had to purchase food. Over the summer, we had to spend about \$15,000 on a food order which we normally do not do," Dillman said.

"There has definitely been, because of the possibility of a second lockdown coming in, very low donations from the stores," Valdez added. "We haven't had meat and milk and eggs in weeks. Very little produce so right now we've been pretty reliant on the government dropoffs every month."

For Thanksgiving specifically, on Sunday (Nov. 22) Tri-Valley Haven's annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop is set to return, giving residents the opportunity to donate frozen turkeys, gift cards or cash for families in need throughout the region.

This year, to celebrate its fifth annual Mony Nop Turkey Drop, the Mony Nop Real Estate Team will be donating \$5 for every turkey collected.

"Growing up in famine in a third world country myself, I know how it feels to go to bed hungry," Realtor Mony Nop said of the event. "I wanted to help so our team created the Mony Nop Turkey Drop. This event is a fun and simple way for members of our community to give back to those that are less fortunate during the holidays. With the support of our great communities, we hope that no one will go to bed hungry during the holidays."

Tri-Valley Haven staff will be found collecting donations from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday in front of Livermore's City Hall Building, 1052 S. Livermore Ave.

While there are still plenty of options for food-insecure families to receive groceries and meals to create their own Thanksgiving memories, some nonprofit workers are also concerned about the lack of community togetherness and potential isolation many individuals will face without in-person holiday meals.

"For our outreach to the homeless, it's important to talk about (feelings of isolation or loneliness and ask) how are you feeling? Are you connected to your family? How do you feel during the holidays? And just trying to have conversations about it," said Christine Beitsch-Bahmani, CEO of CityServe of the Tri-Valley. "We're nervous because with the pandemic and the holidays in general, we see higher suicide, we see higher depression and anxiety, and then you add a pandemic and illnesses on top of that."

"If people feel like they are in need of something during the holidays, they can always reach out. We are very customized, so if they come and have a need, we can show them different programs going on," she added.

Residents can learn more about programs for food security and emotional wellness by visiting [cityservecares.org](http://cityservecares.org) or calling CityServe at 222-CARE. ■



## CHRISTMAS

AND

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## Pleasanton's virtual holiday celebration

### Tree-lighting ceremony video debuts Dec. 5

By JEREMY WALSH

The city of Pleasanton has unveiled the schedule for its weeklong virtual holiday celebration early next month that will culminate with the Dec. 5 debut of its tree-lighting ceremony video recently recorded downtown.

Forced to cancel the traditional Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Parade due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shelter order, city officials pivoted to a series of special events with social distancing in mind, including a holiday sweater contest on social media, a holiday lights tour map of town, and of course, the video produced with Tri-Valley Community Television.

"The pre-recorded live broadcast will feature holiday cheer and entertainment from the award-winning a cappella group, Business Casual, and the annual tree-lighting countdown with the City Council and special guest Santa Claus," city spokeswoman Cindy Chin said in a statement Tuesday.

City officials announced last month that it would be shifting toward a socially distanced celebratory model in light of the pandemic, including canceling the in-person parade down Main Street for the second year in a row — they pulled the plug on the 2019 event

due to inclement weather.

The newly confirmed five-day celebration will begin on Dec. 1, with the city encouraging people to share their favorite holiday cookie recipe (with a photo and brief explanation) on social media, tagging the city's official accounts.

The next day, the city is hosting a virtual holiday sweater contest, calling on residents to wear their favorite holiday sweater or attire and again share with the city via social media on Dec. 2. Library and Recreation Department staff will decide a winner.

On Dec. 3, the city wants people to share on social media about their favorite holiday movie, and even consider organizing a watch party at home with the family or remotely with friends or extended family.

Launching on Dec. 4 will be the city's "Holiday Lights List," which will provide residents with a catalog of residential holiday light displays to drive by through Dec. 27. In order to register to appear on the list, people should sign up via [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com) by next Friday (Nov. 27).

The "Virtual Hometown Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting" television special will premiere on TV30 at 7 p.m. Dec. 5, as well as online that evening at [www.tv30.org](http://www.tv30.org). ■



## One-of-a-kind gifts

### 'Handmade for the Holidays' art fair goes online

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Handmade and one-of-a-kind gifts by nearly two dozen artists are for sale at the new "Handmade for the Holidays" online art fair, which opened Nov. 13 and runs through Dec. 24.

The event, hosted by Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, features fine arts, ceramics, jewelry, handmade greeting cards and block print art as well as a variety of fabric and textile products, such as tie-dyed pieces and wearable art.

"These are quality items that are not mass-produced," visual arts manager Anne Giancola said. "Plus there's a real sense of camaraderie and community support when you purchase something that was made by another individual."

Participating local artists include

Barbara Stanton, Amy Greenberg, Karen Fleschler, Judith Kunzle, Karen Barry, Lisa and Ron Rigge and many others. In addition, there will be products on sale from Prezzies, KathieStudio, Paper Sweetly, Isobel Green, and Julia Minasian of Seriously Imbided Jewelry by Julie Gordon.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Typically the Holiday Art Fair is held inside the Bankhead Gallery, where attendees would meet the artists and choose gifts in person, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the gallery has been only open on a limited basis to view the current

exhibit.

To attend the virtual sale, go to [LivermoreArts.org](http://LivermoreArts.org). Links will connect to each artist's online store.

"You support the artist and know your dollars will stay in the community," Giancola said. ■



## Free Grief Support Services

For people who have experienced the death of a loved one, the winter holiday season can be painful. Grieving a loss at this time may intensify feelings of loneliness from isolation during the pandemic, or anxiety about being asked how you are coping with the loss of your loved one.

Hope Hospice invites you to engage in our complimentary support groups, even if your loved one was not on our hospice service. For your safety, we are meeting online via Zoom.

**Handling the Holidays Grief Workshop**  
December 7, 2-3:30 p.m.

**Spouse/Partner Loss**  
January 12-March 2  
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

**General Grief**  
January 12-March 2  
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Loss of a Child**  
February 3-March 24  
Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m.

**For Teens**  
February 3-March 24  
Wednesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.

**For Children**  
By individual appointment.

**Register by calling (925) 829-8770**



CHRISTIAN STEINER

## Pianist, fiddler join benefit gala

Renowned pianist Jon Nakamatsu (shown) and Celtic fiddler Natalie McMaster will join the artist lineup for the "Best of the Bankhead" virtual benefit for Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center at 6 p.m., this Saturday (Nov. 21). They join comedian Paula Poundstone, ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro, smooth jazz legend Keiko Matsui and more. Nakamatsu, winner of the Van Cliburn Competition, was the first to perform a full concert on the Bankhead's original grand piano in 2007 and helped with the selection of the new Steinway grand piano installed last fall. Live and silent auction items have also been added. Tickets for the catered evening are no longer available but to purchase the "Pay What You Want" event-access-only tickets for a suggested \$25 minimum, go to [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). To purchase drawing tickets, call the box office at 373-6800.

## Passing on the memories

Seller feels at peace as young buyers settle in old family home

By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

Selling the old family home is hard — especially when it is a stunning Victorian on Second Street — but it helps when the buyer is the young family across the street.

"I'm very, very happy for them," said Cheryl Benson, who moved into the house in 1985 with her husband John and their young daughters, Sydne and Jordon.

John, 73, died one year ago, and Cheryl decided to move away from the daily memories and downsize, not an easy task. The historic two-story home was filled with Benson's accumulations of a lifetime including treasures from her mother's home in Wisconsin.

"I got a lot from my mom's house," Benson said. "She had great taste. John and I drove there, packed up a van and drove cross country. When he drove up the driveway he said, 'You're on your own. Find a place for it.' And I did."

The Second Street house, a Colonial Revival with 12-foot ceilings and many of its original features, was built in 1893 for Pleasanton pioneer Joseph Arendt on the corner

of Second Street and what is now Arendt Way. It has 5,000 square feet including the full basement and is situated on two-and-a-half city lots resplendent with towering palm trees and lush foliage. The backyard has a swimming pool and cabana.

Benson grew up in Wisconsin and after high school traveled by train for a two-week vacation with an aunt and uncle in Fremont. She ended up staying and attending San Jose State College, getting an apartment nearby. She met John while grocery shopping at Lucky.

"He was stocking milk, and he looked at me with a twinkle in his eye that he always had," she recalled. "May of 1967 was our first date. We went to his roommate's graduation party."

"I turned 21 in September of 1968, then he gave me an engagement ring," she remembered.

After college, she was a flight attendant for United Airlines, working out of Chicago for six months, then transferring to San Francisco International Airport. The couple did a lot of traveling before they came to Pleasanton in 1974 for

John to manage the Hungry Hunter restaurant on Hopyard, and Cheryl worked as a cocktail waitress.

"Then it was cows," Benson said with a laugh. "We sat in the parking lot — a slab of cement — and said, 'Where the heck are we?'"

They bought a home in the Valley Trails neighborhood and had two daughters, then moved to their first home on Second Street when Sydne and Jordon were 7 and 5, she said. They loved the location and the house.

Next door was an abandoned old Victorian that the little girls found kind of creepy. But it had been brought up to code and had a swimming pool, so when it went on the market a few years later, the Bensons checked it out, found it beautiful and made the move.

The neighborhood was wonderful for raising children as more families moved in, Benson said.

"Second Street is wide and long, and they can ride bikes," she noted.

Benson worked at East Bay Flower Co. in Danville for a long time, then at Towne Center Books for 16 years.

"I'm a book reader so that was very convenient," she said.

She also took years of dance classes at the Veterans Memorial Building, swam 50 laps a day and played racquetball.

John Benson became an advertising photographer with a studio in San Francisco, and they continued to enjoy their home as the girls left and had their own families.

"John and I did all the fun work outside, planted flowers all the time," Cheryl Benson said. "We did a lot of work inside and out and had a ball."

But then John became ill and died Oct. 22, 2019.

"John and I lived there for 35 years in that house — I didn't want to be by myself with all the memories," Cheryl Benson said. "And it was too big."

But she did not want to leave downtown Pleasanton. After searching with her daughters she settled on an apartment on the other side of Main Street nearer the library.

"It's quiet and there's a little yard on the side," Benson said.

She never did put up a for-sale sign on her old home and disliked when people came to look at the house and talked about changing things.

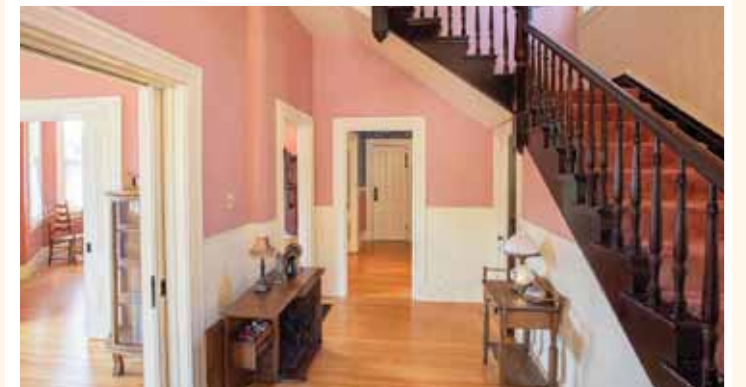
Meanwhile the Matt and Tina Gaidos family who had four children were renting the house across the street. They had become friends and often visited to swim.

"Now they came across the street and bought our house," Benson



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Benson family — (from left) Sydne, Cheryl, John and Jordon — on the front porch with its plaque from the Pleasanton Heritage Association.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Many of the original features have been preserved inside the historic home, and it had some restoration and was brought up to code in the 1970s.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 1893 Victorian on Second Street was a wonderful home for the Benson family for 35 years. Now the Gaidos family has moved in.

said. "The four kids were so excited. They went upstairs and picked out their rooms. They can still play on the street with all their friends."

Sydne and her children have moved into the Gaidos family's former Second Street rental while her military husband is serving in Korea, so Cheryl often takes the short, pleasant walk through downtown to visit her. Jordon and her family live near the fairgrounds, so they are all near one another.

As Benson mourns and copes with the restraints due to the pandemic, she reflects on the blessings in her life, living by her daughters and their families.

"I have to go with the flow right now, and think positive for myself," she said.

The house has been part of three historic Pleasanton homes tours,

Benson said. The Pleasanton Weekly featured it in a Home & Garden special section in 2003 and noted its two porches, one near the front door and the other by the kitchen.

"The front porch is for morning coffee," Benson was quoted as saying, "and the side porch is for my afternoon reading."

More recently she liked to sit on the side porch and listen to music.

"That became my perch," she said. "People would come and talk."

The buyers have invited her to use the porch any time.

"Matt and Tina said, 'Your perch is there for you,'" Benson said. "I walk, and then I go in the side gate on Arendt and up the steps."

"I'm very blessed to have lived in Pleasanton all this time," she added. ■

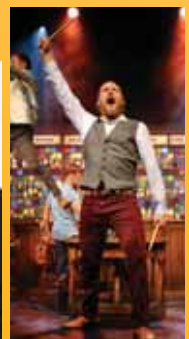
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## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Nov. 13

#### Warrant arrest

■ 1:38 p.m. on the 600 block of Junipero Street

#### Assault/battery

■ 6:01 p.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

#### Theft

■ 6:34 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 6:52 p.m., 1300 block of Brookline Loop; auto theft

#### Drug violation

■ 9:30 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

#### Burglary

■ 10:12 p.m. on the 3700 block of Marlboro Way

#### Domestic battery

■ 10:12 p.m. on Vintage Circle

Nov. 12

#### Theft

■ 9:53 a.m., 7000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

■ 10:59 a.m. on the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

■ 11:13 a.m., 7100 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto

■ 3:38 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 7:38 p.m. on the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Weapons violation

■ 1:36 p.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Nov. 11

#### Vandalism

■ 12:04 a.m. on the 5000 block of Owens Drive

■ 2:58 a.m. at Pimlico Drive and Thistle Way

■ 10:25 p.m. on the 500 block of Springhouse Drive

#### Burglary

■ 2:58 a.m. at Pimlico Drive and Thistle Way

#### Warrant arrest

■ 1:01 p.m. on the 6000 block of Corte Encinas

#### Drug violation

■ 1:03 p.m. on the 1600 block of Paseo Laguna Seco

#### Theft

■ 2:51 p.m. on the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive

■ 6:48 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Robbery

■ 11:40 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Nov. 10

#### Auto theft

■ 2:07 p.m. on the 5000 block of Owens Drive

#### Fraud

■ 2:44 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Nov. 9

#### Robbery

■ 3:02 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

#### Burglary

■ 8:59 a.m. on the 4200 block of Vervais Avenue

#### Theft

■ 1:22 p.m. on the 5900 block of Kolb Ranch Drive

■ 3:33 p.m. on the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

■ 8:35 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Nov. 8

#### DUI

■ 4:23 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

#### Fire

■ 5:24 a.m. on the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

#### Shoplifting

■ 2:23 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 3:23 a.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

## Roderick (Rod) O'Brien

February 23, 1945 – October 2, 2020

Rod passed away peacefully with family by his side in Pleasanton, California on October 2, 2020. Born in Chicago, Illinois on February 23, 1945, he would later graduate with a Bachelors' degree in Psychology from Loyola University. He married his high school sweetheart, Diane Souder, in 1964. They raised three boys in Chicago and Clinton, NJ. After college, Rod worked at Illinois Bell and AT&T – before retiring to Fallbrook, California in 2000.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Diane O'Brien and son, Sean O'Brien. He is survived by his other children, Liam O'Brien and Roderick O'Brien, and grandson, Griffin O'Brien. For more information and posting memories, please go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/obrien.sr>

PAID OBITUARY

## Lila Dorothea McAlhany

December 19, 1927 – November 11, 2020



Lila Dorothea McAlhany, a 51-year resident of Pleasanton, passed away on Wednesday, November 11th, after a six-month battle with cancer. She was 92 years old.

Lila was born December 19, 1927, in Watsonville, and was the only child of Howard and Agnes (Hansen) Meade. She grew up in Santa Clara and Los Gatos and graduated from Los Gatos High School in 1945. Desiring to be a nurse, she applied for and was accepted to the US Cadet Nurse Corps which provided tuition, room and board for her to attend the Nursing program at Santa Clara County Hospital which was operated in conjunction with San Jose State University. After graduation in 1948 she worked for several years in San Francisco as a Registered Nurse before joining the Air Force, where she obtained the rank of Captain and spent two years in Alabama and then two years in Germany where she met her husband, James C. McAlhany. They were married in 1961 in Switzerland and returned home to California in 1964. Lila worked at several hospitals and clinics in San Leandro, Oakland, Danville and Pleasanton, working for 17 years at Kaiser Permanente's Pleasanton facility before retiring in 2007.

Lila enjoyed being an active member of the Jose Maria Amador Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and American Legion Post 237. She was also a member of Alameda Oak Leaf Chapter #8 of Eastern Star for 66 years. She enjoyed spending time with a large circle of friends and in the earlier years of her retirement enjoyed traveling.

Lila will be deeply missed by her family and friends. She is survived by a son, Craig McAlhany and a daughter, Karen McAlhany, both of Pleasanton. She was preceded in death by her husband James, in 1994.

The family would like to thank the remarkable healthcare professionals at Kaiser's Cancer Center in Dublin. They are all truly dedicated and compassionate people.

Friends and family are invited to a visitation on Friday, November 20th, from 10 am – 2 pm at Graham-Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton. At her request no service will be held. Burial will be at a future date at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno. In lieu of flowers she had requested that donations be made to a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

# Employment

### Translator – Software

Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Liaise with company-wide developers, product mgrs, and quality assurance teams to determine needs, requirements, projects, and deliverables for product translations. To apply, please mail resume to ATTN: Jessica Thurston, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please refer to Job #20637.96.



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650.223.6597 or email [digitalads@pawebly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawebly.com).

## Theater

**BECOMING ELEANOR ROOSEVELT** New Deal Theater presents "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt," portrayed by three actors at different stages of her life. The premiere takes place live with a Q&A afterward with the actors and directors. Nov. 19-Dec. 19. Visit [newdealtheater.org](http://newdealtheater.org).

## Concert

**BEST OF THE BANKHEAD 2020** The "Best of the Bankhead" virtual

benefit event will celebrate the arts and acknowledge all the live entertainment missed as a result of the pandemic. The event will be hosted by LVPAC Executive Director Chris Carter and emceed by Freddy Silveria appearing live from the Bankhead stage to feature cameo video performances by some of the most popular artists who have appeared at the Bankhead since it opened in 2007. Tickets for the event include dinner and wine delivered to attendees' homes prior to the event. 6 p.m., Nov. 21. Visit [lvpac.org](http://lvpac.org).

## Family

**DINOSAUR ADVENTURE** Bring the entire family to a Dinosaur Adventure Drive-Thru and take a prehistoric tour featuring 80 life-sized dinosaurs. See a 40 foot T-Rex, 30-foot Brachiosaurus, Triceratops, Velociraptors and more all from the comfort and safety of your vehicle. Nov. 12-29. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

**2020 TRI-VALLEY TURKEY BURN** The 2020 Tri-Valley Turkey Burn is going virtual to enable area residents of all ages to enjoy a healthy and safe Thanksgiving Day holiday. Now in its sixth year, the family fun run, walk or stroll, sponsored by Pleasanton North Rotary (PNR), will feature new twists to assure participant safety in the midst of the Covid-19. Nov. 26-29. Visit [trivalleyturkeyburn.org](http://trivalleyturkeyburn.org).

## Festivals & Fairs

**HANDMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS** Nearly two dozen artists from throughout the Tri-Valley will offer handmade and one-of-a-kind gifts at the new "Handmade for the Holidays" Online Art Fair this season. Hosted by Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, the new event will feature a wide range of art works including fine art, ceramics, jewelry, handmade greeting cards and block print art. A variety of fabric and textile products such as tie-dyed pieces and wearable art will also be featured. Nov. 13-Dec. 24. Visit [livermorearts.org/online-gallery](http://livermorearts.org/online-gallery).

## Lectures

**FILM PREMIER: THE RETURN OF THE PINE CANYON PEREGRINES** Once extinct in the Bay Area, Peregrines, the masters of the sky, have made a dramatic comeback with help from a remarkable team of bold biologists and determined volunteers. Join to see this uplifting story spanning more than 100 years of the falcon's rise and fall. Film premier 4 p.m., Nov. 20. Visit [savemountdiablo.org](http://savemountdiablo.org).

**FREE ONLINE SCREENING OF LIKE** Axis Community Health presents a free screening of "LIKE," a documentary about the impact of social media on our lives. Registration is free and is required in order to receive the screening link. Visit <http://bit.ly/32vUScr>. Dec. 9.

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

**PAVING THE WAY: A VIRTUAL CONVERSATION, FOUR WOMEN, FOUR JOURNEYS** Our special guests include a former white house advisor, an innovator with 69 patents, an award-winning educator and a STEM and drug safety advocate. 4 p.m., Dec. 1. Visit [quest-science.org](http://quest-science.org).

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Those Smoky eyes

Smoky is a purrfect mix of playful kitten and lap cat. His playful antics with a stuffed mouse will give you hours of entertainment and afterwards, he'll be looking for you to provide a warm spot for his nap. 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 Smoky, email [info@valleyhumane.org](mailto:info@valleyhumane.org).



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/E. SCHOLZ

## Fundraisers

**END OF HARVEST BENEFIT** This special event will be held on the grounds of The Lineage Collection, home to The Steven Kent Winery and will feature a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Francis X. Hogan from Sabio on Main in Pleasanton, preceded by oyster appetizers from Bodega Bay Oyster Company. Tables of four to six persons will be located on site as participants enjoy the live music of the Lavender Fields Band. Ticket sale proceeds will benefit The National Brain Tumor Society and Culinary Angels. Nov. 21, 1-4 p.m., 5443 Tesla Road, Livermore. Contact Nancy@TheLineageCollection.com.

**FAMILY PHOTO DAY BENEFITING GOODNESS VILLAGE** \$50.00 session fee is a donation to Goodness Village, a concept encompassing not just housing, but community building and meaningful employment. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 28. Visit [ninapomeroy.com/fpd-cv](http://ninapomeroy.com/fpd-cv).

**TRI-VALLEY HAVEN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM** Tri-Valley Haven has transformed it's program to safely provide holiday items and food to the thousands of residents in economic need by providing pre-bagged food and gift cards while practicing social distancing and CDC guidelines. Nov. 23 is designated for a turkey pickup and Dec. 12 for holiday gift giving. For more information, visit [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org).

**NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE - PLEASANTON CHAPTER** The Pleasanton Chapter of the National Charity League, Inc. has started its annual membership drive. Membership is open to women with daughters currently in the sixth grade who reside in Pleasanton. Applications for membership are only accepted during the annual membership drive from now through Jan. 15. Contact [nationalcharityleague.org](http://nationalcharityleague.org).

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** Operation Christmas Child volunteers are preparing to collect shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 16-23. Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts filled with school

supplies, hygiene items and fun toys to children worldwide for more than two decades. To participate visit [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org).

## Trivia

**FESTIVE TRIVIA NIGHT** Join for a fun night of festive Shakespeare and general knowledge trivia. Sign up as an individual or team. Approximately 90 minutes of brain bending fun and engagement. 6 p.m., Dec. 3. Visit [livermoreshakes.org](http://livermoreshakes.org).

## Outdoors

**WILDCATS TALK AND HIKEPARK** Curious about the cats that live in and around Sycamore Grove Park? Join Ranger Seth and learn all about their history and habitats. Reservations required. 12 p.m., Nov. 21. Visit [larpd.org](http://larpd.org).

**EVENING WALK AT SYCAMORE GROVE PARK** Join Ranger Danny for an easy stroll after the park closes to find nocturnal critters. RSVP by calling 960-2400. 5:30 p.m., Nov. 28. Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Rd., Livermore.

## Blood Drive

**THE RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION SITES** As the pandemic wears on, blood, platelet and plasma donors are as essential as ever. Make an appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma with the Red Cross by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), 1-800-733-2767 or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Nov. 16-30.

## Government

**LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL** The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month, currently held virtually. 7 p.m., Nov. 23. Visit [cityoflivermore.net](http://cityoflivermore.net).

**DUBLIN PLANNING COMMISSION** The Dublin Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Nov. 24. Visit [dublin.ca.gov](http://dublin.ca.gov).

### NOTICE OF 30-DAY PERIOD FOR FINAL EA COMMENTS

The Department of the Army has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts that could result from implementing the Real Property Master Plan Update at the Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in Dublin, California.

The EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) are available on the internet at [www.jacobs.com/EA1](http://www.jacobs.com/EA1). Due to Coronavirus restrictions, hard copies of the documents will not be available in public libraries. Printed copies of the EA and FNSI can be sent through mail as hard copies or printable CDs upon request. Point of Contact, Mr. Robert Pike, can receive requests for mailed materials.

Written comments submitted by December 19 will be considered prior to the Army concluding this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Written comments should be directed to: Robert Pike, NEPA Coordinator, Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division, Building 233 California Avenue, Fort Hunter Liggett, CA, 93928 or by email at: [usarmy.hunterliggett.imcom-central.mbx.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.hunterliggett.imcom-central.mbx.nepa@mail.mil)

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

Achievers Home Loans  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 574002

The following person doing business as: Achievers Home Loans, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Jasbir S. Gujral, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Jasbir S. Gujral, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein May 18, 2004. Signature of Registrant: Jasbir Gujral, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2020.)

Achievers Realty  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 574005

The following person doing business as: Achievers Realty, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Jasbir Gujral, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Jasbir Gujral an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Jasbir Gujral, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2020.)

Help U Sell Achievers  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 574004

The following person doing business as: Help U Sell Achievers, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Meena Gujral, 3171 E. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

This business is conducted by Meena Gujral, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Meena Gujral, Broker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 23, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 6, 13, 20, 27).

Aje's Japanese Steak House  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 574026

The following person doing business as: Aje's Japanese Steak House, 6770 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Nomad MGL Inc., 2588 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150, California. This business is conducted by Nomad MGL Inc., a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Tuya Altangerel, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 2020.)

Briner & Associates Investigations  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 574191

The following person doing business as: Briner & Associates Investigations, 3263 Vineyard Avenue #48, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Robert Allen Briner, 3263 Vineyard Avenue #48, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by Robert Allen Briner, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Robert Allen Briner, Qualified Manager-Private Investigator. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 30, 2020. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 2020.)

Call (925) 600-0840 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

## It's the most wonderful time of the year ... to buy and sell

Despite reputation, November and December actually provide positive opportunities for real estate transactions

BY GINA CHANNELL

People tend to wait until spring to put their house on the market or start house-hunting, having heard November and December are lousy months to buy or sell a house.

But the many benefits to buying or selling during the holiday months actually make it a perfect time.

"The fourth quarter can be a successful time for both buyers and sellers in the residential markets. Q4 sellers are serious and motivated. This together with less competition can provide a prospective buyer with an edge," said Will Doerlich, broker/owner at Realty ONE Group Today in Pleasanton and a past president of Bay East Association of Realtors.

This year, there are several points that might prompt buyers and sellers to move forward during the last two months of 2020.

With lower interest rates, prospective buyers who have sidelined themselves might consider becoming active again.

And more buyers means there is also an opportunity for sellers.

Sellers might think people are less likely to see their home in the midst of their hectic holiday schedules. That can definitely be true, but most people have more time off around the holidays.

And if a buyer is house-hunting instead of curled up under a blanket in front of a fire, they are serious. Many winter buyers are working against a deadline, whether it's an expiring lease, relocation or a contract on their current home.

The holiday seller is also likely to be serious and motivated. So what a buyer might lack in choice of available homes could be balanced



GETTY IMAGES

out by dealing with a more flexible seller.

Most sellers have a compelling reason for putting their house on the market during the holidays. They might be facing a relocation and want to get their kids settled before the new school term. Or they might just be feeling some stress if they listed their home in the fall and it's still languishing post-Halloween, making them just a little more anxious and eager to deal.

Many sellers might also want a contract in hand for tax advantages. If it's a rental property on which they incurred a loss, they are likely to want to take the deduction this calendar year.

Tax advantages go both ways. Home ownership brings numerous tax perks, from deducting mortgage interest to property taxes. Keep in mind, though, that changes to the tax law capped the property tax deduction at \$10,000 and deduction of interest on mortgages up to \$500,000, down \$1 million.

Private mortgage interest (PMI) and closing fees might also be deductible. Always double-check with a tax expert or accountant about any tax questions.

Another advantage to buying during winter months is that you might get a more realistic view of the house and can check for issues that you'd notice only during colder, wet weather — like a door that swells shut or a leak. These are less likely to catch during warmer, drier months.

Of course, don't forget that issues that crop up more during summer will be less accessible — such as how well the air conditioning works. Make sure that the home inspector

does a thorough job on those fronts, too.

Speaking of home inspectors, since November and December are generally slower months, you will likely have easier access to professionals like inspectors, movers, real estate agents and mortgage brokers. They are less busy during the holiday season because, again, there are just not as many home sales happening.

In addition, motivated real estate agents and lenders might share your desire to get it done and in the books before Jan. 1 rolls around.

As the song says, it's the most wonderful time of the year, and the emotional aspect of the holidays can help sellers. Holiday buyers are going to be caught up in the "hearth and home" season.

Buyers thinking of family and holiday gatherings can be the emotional nudge to motivate a purchase, or even the purchase of a larger home than they might otherwise have, with an eye toward family, friends and the future.

Sellers should remember to present their home with this in mind. Keep decorations simple and small so the room gets the attention. Set the mood by lighting a fire and having a smell of sweets and cider wafting through the halls, and even offer treats to the holiday house-hunting guests. ■

### SALES AT A GLANCE

#### Pleasanton (Sept. 8-10)

**Total sales reported:** 9  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$800,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,368,500  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,059,000

#### Livermore (Sept. 8-10)

**Total sales reported:** 17  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$490,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,000,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$820,000

#### Dublin (Sept. 8-10)

**Total sales reported:** 10  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$532,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,753,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$906,250

#### San Ramon (Oct. 5-9)

**Total sales reported:** 29  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$415,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,650,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,135,000

Source: California REsource

### HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Sept. 8-10 for Pleasanton and Livermore (partial list).

#### Pleasanton

**6024 Corte Montanas** T. Hwin to V. & S. Patil for \$1,125,000  
**4332 Fairlands Drive** B. Pitcaithley to S. & A. Terentyev for \$840,000  
**2530 Glen Isle Avenue** Thompson Family Trust to Q. & O. Shi for \$1,059,000  
**6308 Inspiration Terrace** Bap Properties LLC to Fire Of God Ministries Inc for \$3,368,500  
**4190 Rennellwood Way** Becker Living Trust to J. & Y. Ko for \$941,000  
**1821 Rheem Court** T. Feng to S. & W. Wu for \$1,188,000  
**3788 Rocky Mountain Court** H. Huang to Avery Property Management LLC for \$800,000  
**6884 Singletree Court** J. Mangold to T. & M. Kulkarni for \$1,000,000

**248 Tomas Way** Swoboda Living Trust to Rosenhan Trust for \$1,245,000 for \$1,178,000

#### Livermore

**1149 Butte Court** K. Porter to Chao Trust for \$820,000  
**558 Cedar Drive** Nunes Living Trust to M. & M. Rice for \$880,000  
**2289 Chateau Way** Bird Living Trust to Tucker Family Trust for \$1,181,000  
**3174 Danielle Court** Thomas Survivors Trust to Nash Trust for \$2,000,000  
**5726 Edelweiss Way** Bauer Living Trust to S. & B. Purushothaman for \$1,160,000  
**2768 Elston Street** Labarbera Family Trust to J. & K. Tan for \$1,350,000  
**1435 Fox Creek Court** A. Croos to A. & M. Sharma for \$900,000  
**164 Heligan Lane #17** C. Hooshangi to E. Yup for \$629,000

Source: California REsource

### Get the Home of your Dreams for the Holidays

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#### 2813 Barouni Court, Livermore

5 BD, 5.5 BA, 4,400 SF on .45 Acre

Pool & Spa, Firepit, Outdoor Kitchen. Gym/Studio w/Bath above detached garage. \$350k+ in stunning updates. Backs to vineyards. Offered at \$2,483,000

FRENCH COUNTRY ESTATE



#### 3831 Antonini Way, Ruby Hill

5 BD, 5.5 BA, 5,278 SF on .49 Acre

Sprawling estate with 2 Bedrooms on Main Level, Executive Office, Bonus Room & Mud Room. Offered at \$2,800,000

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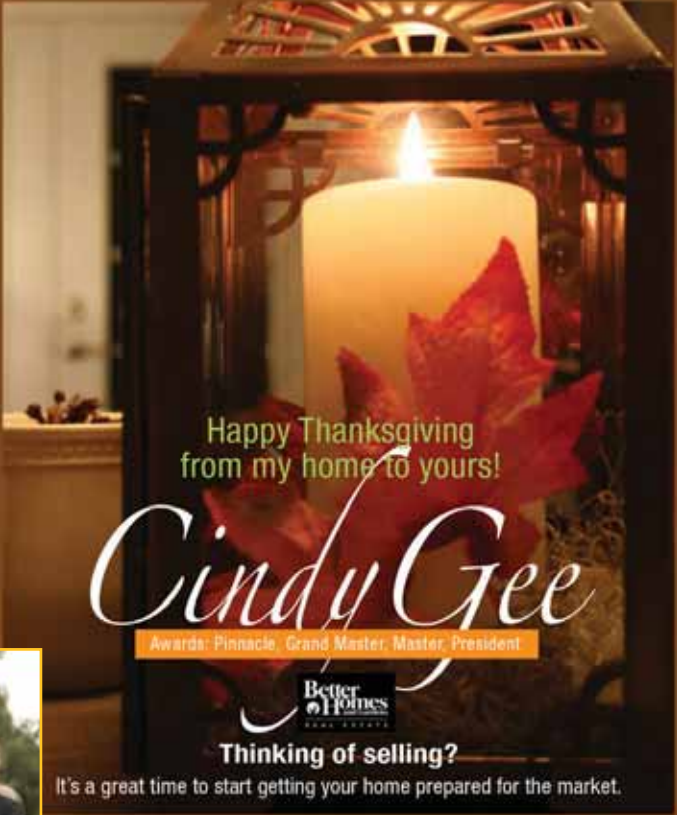
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3521 Mitchell Court  
Pleasanton SOLD: \$2,150,000

**SOLD**

Cypress Oaks

3526 Mitchell Court  
Pleasanton SOLD: \$2,250,000

**SOLD**

Cypress Oaks

7354 Tine Place  
Dublin SOLD: \$1,375,000

**SOLD**


Whitish Oaks


3284 Mammoth  
Pleasanton SOLD: \$1,325,000

**SOLD**

3 Pleasanton, Alameda

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**1151 Central Avenue, Livermore**  
3 BD | 3 BA | 3,424 sq.ft. | 2.08 acre lot NEW | \$3,488,888  
Sub-dividable into a total of 5 lots

Call for details, great development opportunity!  
Virtual tour - <https://tour.jacoballenmedia.com/tours/x8ucv5>



**818 Kalthoff Common, Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates**  
5 BD | 5.5 BA | 4,500 sq.ft. Represented Seller | \$3,450,000  
SOLD in 6 Days with Multiple Offers  
Virtual Tour - [tinyurl.com/yy2xvxmg](https://tinyurl.com/yy2xvxmg)



**223 Nottingham Place, Danville**  
4 BD | 3 BA | 3,488 sq.ft.  
Represented Buyer  
SOLD | \$1,900,000



**1688 Pine Street, Unit W1205, San Francisco**  
2 BD | 2 BA | 972 sq.ft.  
LISTED at \$ 1,398,888



**1993 Nicosia Court, Pleasanton**  
5 BD | 3 BA | 3,851 sq.ft.  
SOLD OFF-MARKET Represented Buyer | \$ 2,100,000

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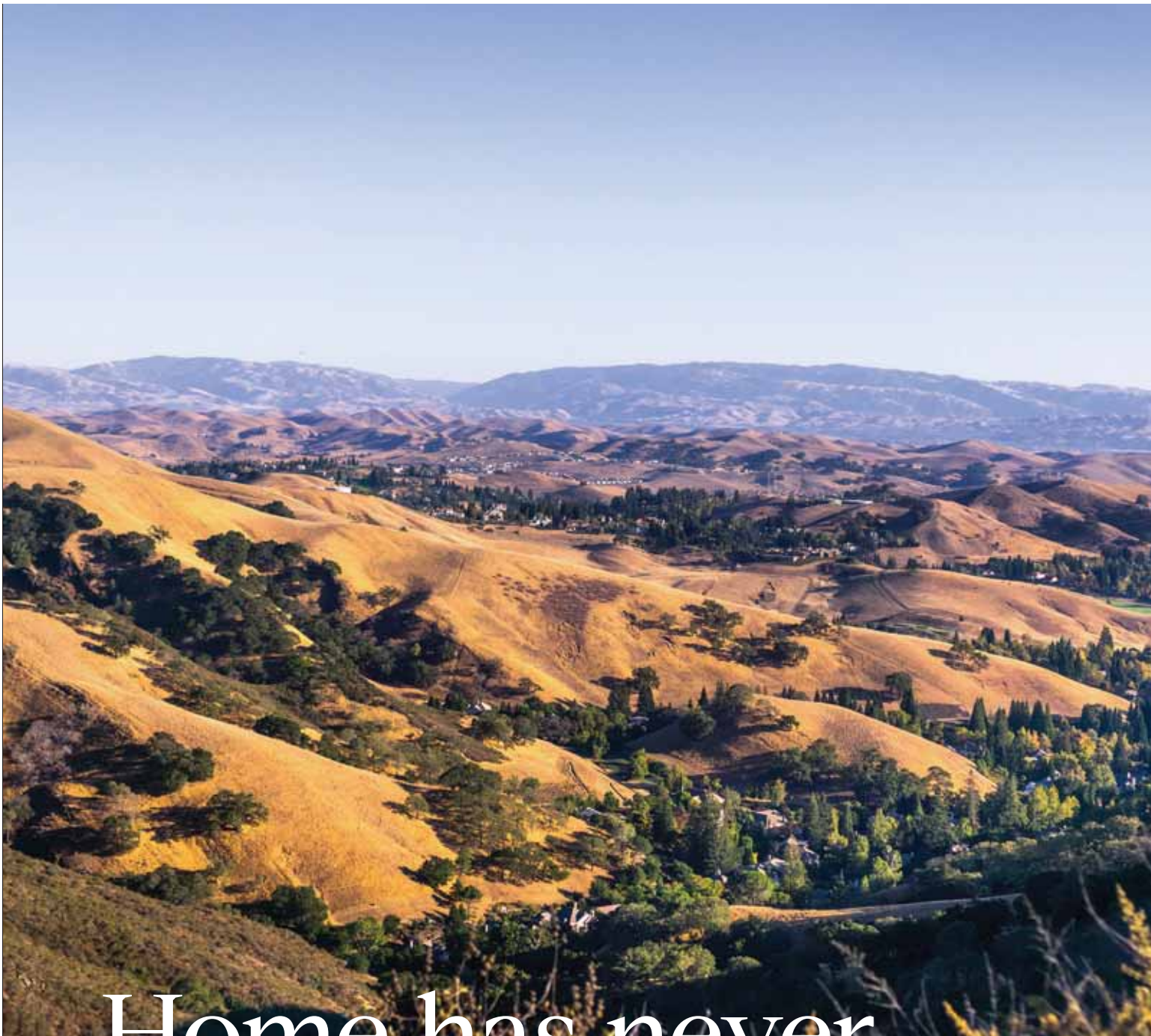
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