

Pleasanton Weekly

Real Estate
Preview 2021

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Starting to reopen (again)

Some businesses can resume as state lifts regional
COVID order, reverts county to prior purple tier

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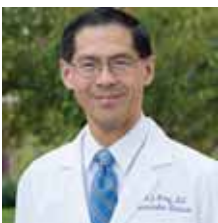
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During the pandemic, your heart care remains essential. Join us for a discussion of Atrial Fibrillation (AFib), including signs, symptoms, and the latest treatments. AFib is the most common irregular heart rhythm, affecting over two million Americans. It can lead to stroke and heart failure if left undetected and untreated.

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James Longoria, MD
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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Anniversary debut

For more than two decades, this 700-word slot on Page 3 was reserved for the musings of the Pleasanton Weekly's editor. As the paper turns the page on another year after celebrating its 21st anniversary yesterday, now is the right time to return to that tradition.

Well, part-time anyway.

Today marks the debut of my new "What a Week" column, a spot for me to reflect biweekly on goings-on in the Tri-Valley with a tinge of opinion, even more subjectivity, and most importantly of all, perspective.

I'll be sharing this space with our Tri-Valley Life editor Dolores Fox Ciardelli and her popular Valley Views column. Fans (and even the curious detractor) of freelancer Tim Hunt can continue to read his Tim Talk blog twice a week on our website, and we plan to feature him as a guest opinion author on our Opinion page as interesting local topics in his wheelhouse arise.

Honestly, I had been a bit hesitant to develop a print column since taking the reins as editor four years ago, for several reasons.

I had big enough shoes to fill, both publicly and internally, succeeding Jeb Bing ("Mr. Pleasanton" himself); on top of that, I'd have to try to match the mastery of his Around Pleasanton column? But as Jeb reminded me on more than one occasion in retirement, Page 3 really should belong to the editor.

I actually wrote a regular column before I came to the Weekly.

My managing editor at the Lake County Record-Bee threw new reporters into the proverbial fire in more ways than one — including, to my chagrin, requiring us to pen a weekly column among our hectic reporting duties.

There I was, all of 22, fresh out of American University still clinging to journalism school ethics theory as gospel, tasked with creating an opinion column in a community I wasn't all that familiar with. Though just 100 miles away from Benicia, Lakeport was a far cry from my Bay Area hometown.

So I wrote about sports. Those Just Sayin' columns were a lot of fun, but I realize now that really wasn't the assignment. I didn't take full advantage.

Part of my hesitance recently — just like it was back then — also had to do with the style of writing. I come from a hard news background: crime stories, government meetings, court cases, profile interviews. That's my bread and butter,

as you've seen here over the years.

A community column has never seemed a comfortable genre.

Then, as a hard-line reporter at heart, there was confronting the whole "opinion" taboo.

As a young buck (says the 32-year-old), I used to take the firm stance that journalists shouldn't have opinions. I now understand that's probably unproductive, and frankly infeasible.

We need to develop our own personal perspectives to evolve as people, and to help American society and humanity evolve. On the professional side, as journalists it's important to acknowledge any internal biases (conscious and subconscious) and how that might impact your reporting. And correct the course, as needed.

As I've grown as an editor, I've learned that objective isn't necessarily the same as unopinionated. More like uninfluenced. The treatment recommendation from your doctor is their objective medical opinion. A juror decides guilt or innocence, in their view, based on the facts of a case. Some may even argue elected officials are tasked with making objective decisions.

Now for a journalist, opinions are going to exist, and that's OK. They can't, however, be pervasive in your news coverage.

What matters in the journalistic endeavor is that the finished product is objective. In our case, the reporting process and final news article are free of bias, grounded in fact and present relevant perspective (oh, engaging prose and imagery are vital as well).

The characteristics are the same with a column: facts, fairness, perspective. Except that it clearly centers on the author's opinion; although, I expect what you'll see from me will be more subjective story-telling about Tri-Valley topics than hard opinions.

And with that, I finally embrace Page 3.

These are the times to try new things in life, after all — just look at my locks at the top of the page; try as my wife might to convince me before, you think I'd ever actually considered growing out my hair for a year before this pandemic? We should find inspiration, motivation and a little fun anywhere we can.

One down; hopefully hundreds to go. What a Week. ■

Editor's note: Jeremy Walsh has been the editor of the Pleasanton Weekly since February 2017. His "What a Week" column runs on the first and third Fridays of the month.

About the Cover

Christine Butler, owner of Salon 645 in downtown Pleasanton, is ready to welcome customers back indoors Tuesday after the changes to the COVID-19 business restrictions. Photo by Ryan J. Degan. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXII, Number 1

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Coverage of Youth and Education
Series on Amador Valley High School transcript probe and fallout by Jeremy Walsh and Julia Baum

Breaking News
"PUSD transcripts: Investigator finds two improper alterations, no systemic problem" by Jeremy Walsh

Profile Story
"Amazing Voyage" by Jeb Bing

Feature Story
"The gentle giants of Mount Diablo" by Ryan J. Degan

Editorial Comments
"Livermore downtown referendum raises serious questions" by Gina Channell
"Did a bunny book really lead to superintendent's ouster?" by Gina Channell

"District-based elections do not make sense here" by Gina Channell

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Have you ever accidentally hit 'Reply All' to an email?



Olga Chernoff
Systems analyst

No, never, ever. I am extremely careful when it comes to things like that. Especially because I've seen other people do that, and experience all sorts of embarrassing and sometimes even detrimental consequences.



Natalie O'Connor
Financial aid consultant

Oh sure. I once hit "Reply All" in response to an email from my son's teacher, to all of the parents in his class, asking for volunteers for a band performance. I offered to not only volunteer, but to bring and play my trombone, which I had not played in years. All of the parents kept asking me to play, so I had to — and I sounded awful.



Paul Lazarus Sales

I've had a few cringeworthy experiences with that. I once hit "Reply All" by mistake in response to an "extended family" group email from my niece who had just had a baby. I only intended to respond to my sister. So my niece saw my remark about the baby being "a little funny-looking." She still won't speak to me. Meanwhile, the baby became adorable within just a few weeks.



Rocko Leone
Pharmaceutical sales

I'm usually pretty careful about these things, but once hit "Reply All" to a work-related group email, wherein I referred to my admin as "an idiot." She was on the email distribution list. I apologized profusely and truly regret the incident to this very day. I hope others learned from my mistake.



Rina Sobel
Human resources

Absolutely not. I've seen it happen so many times to others, with bad consequences, so I am very, very careful to never do that.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

32 years ago

This Saturday will mark the 32nd anniversary of the day Dublin teen Ilene Misheloff went missing while walking home from Wells Middle School.

Though her disappearance has remained unsolved since that fateful afternoon on Jan. 30, 1989, Dublin police recently probed for any possible connection between Misheloff's case and the 1988 cold-case kidnapping and homicide of Hayward girl Michaela Garecht, which investigators believe was solved last month with charges being brought against previously convicted murderer David Emery Misch.

"At this time, we do not have any evidence linking David Misch to the disappearance of Ilene Misheloff, but Dublin Police will be working with Hayward PD, Fremont PD and the FBI to determine what evidence was collected and if any of that evidence can assist in the Misheloff investigation," Dublin police Capt. Nate Schmidt told the Weekly.

The annual Ilene Misheloff candlelight vigil and walk has been canceled for this year due to the pandemic, but Ilene's father Mike Misheloff and Dublin Police Chief Garrett Holmes are releasing a brief recorded statement for the anniversary this weekend, Schmidt said.

Clipper START

A new pilot program offering reduced fares to low income passengers on the Wheels bus system started this week.

Known as Clipper START, the program's card is not a transit pass but instead offers discounts for single rides on 22 participating Bay Area transit systems, including the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority.

The Clipper START discount on Wheels buses is 20% off of the regular \$2 one-way fare, and is automatically applied whenever the card is used. Visit www.clipperstartcard.com.

Youth Speech Contest

Three local Rotary Clubs — Dublin, Pleasanton North and Tri-Valley — are inviting local high-schoolers to put their oration skills to the test at a re-envisioned, COVID-safe, virtual club-level version of the Richard D. King Annual Youth Speech Contest.

"The competition, which recognizes the value of public speaking skills for emerging youth leaders, will provide ninth- to 12th-grade students an opportunity to write an original five-minute speech, based on the theme of 'Rotary Opens Opportunities,'" Rotary officials said.

Entries are due by Feb. 7. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2021RotarySpeechContest>. ■

Starting to reopen (again)

Some businesses and activities can resume as state lifts regional stay-at-home orders, reverts Alameda County to purple tier

BY SUE DREMANN, RYAN J. DEGAN AND JEREMY WALSH

The California Department of Public Health ended regional stay-at-home orders on Monday morning, effective immediately for all regions statewide, including the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley and Southern California, health officials announced on Jan. 25.

The end of the state's regional orders will return the state to the previous county-by-county colored tiered system under its Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The color-coded tiers indicate which activities and businesses can open based on local case rates and test positivity, with yellow being the most lax tier and purple the most restrictive.

"We may be past the winter surge, but COVID-19 is still with us," said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County's health officer. "We are only in the early stages of our vaccination campaign, and the virus has shown us it is capable of returning again and again. That means that, even as we cautiously reopen, we must continue to do the things we know work to keep each other safe."

In communities placed in the purple tier, including Alameda County, business activities such as outdoor dining and indoor personal services could resume immediately with required modifications on Monday, but they remain subject to any additional restrictions required by local jurisdictions.

"I feel like once the announcement was made I started to have a lot of clients reaching out," said Christine Butler, owner of Salon 645 on Main Street in Pleasanton.

"I am 100% confident in our safety precautions; I really don't think there is anything we can do to be safer," Butler told the Weekly on Tuesday. "We're limiting the number of people allowed in the salon. We're of course making sure that everybody is wearing masks and staying six feet apart. We have partitions (between stations), air purifiers, we sanitize everything that anyone can touch."

The regional stay-at-home orders were based on the intensive-care unit capacity within five sections

across California made up of multiple counties. A drop to below 15% of the available ICU beds in a region triggered the stay-at-home order. Each regional order urged Californians to stay home except for essential activities, which helped lower disease transmission levels and reduced the burden on the hospital system.

ICU capacity projections for all regions over the next four weeks are above 15%, the threshold that allows regions to exit the order. The Sacramento region exited the order on Jan. 12 and the Northern California region, such as Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and Lassen counties,

See **REOPEN** on Page 9



The new swimming pool at Granada High School is three times as big as its predecessor. It was among a series of athletic facility upgrades recently completed at the campus and funded through the district's 2016 bond measure.

Granada athletic renovations complete

\$16.6M project funded by LVJUSD's Measure J bond

BY CIERRA BAILEY

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District celebrated the completion of new state-of-the-art athletic and aquatic facilities at Granada High School this month after nearly two years of construction.

The \$16.6 million renovation — which includes a new pool, two sand volleyball courts and a new classroom building with a weight room, physical education classroom, wrestling room and dance studio — is one of several district

projects paid for with Measure J funds.

"For years we've been working with athletic facilities that were not equivalent to the quality of our programs," Granada principal Matthew Hart said.

"We were working with athletic facilities that were made for a school of 1,200, but we're a school of 2,300," he continued, adding that the new facilities now match the size of the school as well as the quality of sports programs they offer.

Measure J is a \$245 million facilities bond approved by Livermore voters in 2016. "The bond will be used to modernize classrooms, repair aging infrastructure, renovate facilities, improve school visibility, increase access for individuals with disabilities, upgrade hardcourts and improve overall safety and security," bond program director Kim McNeely told the Weekly in an email.

The Granada project broke

See **GRANADA** on Page 6

Bonanno named to Livermore council

Unanimous decision follows public interviews of 17 applicants Monday

BY CIERRA BAILEY

Retired scientist and second-term Planning Commissioner Gina Bonanno has been appointed to the Livermore City Council, returning the city's governing body to a full five-member roster, which is now also majority women.

"In two short years, we have gone from a council that was five guys — three of them named Bob — to a council that is now not," Liver-



Gina Bonanno

more Vice Mayor Trish Munro said, calling attention to the new diversity on the dais after the council voted unanimously in favor of Bonanno on Monday night.

Councilman Bob Carling agreed with Munro, saying Bonanno's appointment is a "great step forward for all of us."

In addition to her previous professional career as a scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Bonanno has served as

See **BONANNO** on Page 7

Pleasanton council approves renewable energy options

Brilliant 100/Renewable 100 picked as defaults under EBCE; residents can opt out, stick solely with PG&E

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton residents will now have the option of receiving carbon-free electricity in their homes after the City Council unanimously adopted several service levels from East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) last week.

Before voting at the Jan. 19 meeting, Mayor Karla Brown said, “The idea of choice is important to give our residents that choice and that range of options, all the way up to 100% renewable carbon-free.”

The city’s municipal accounts will receive the default service level of Renewable 100, while residential and commercial customers will receive Brilliant 100 and customers on CARE/FERA medical baseline programs will be enrolled in “Bright Choice.”

Depending on the option chosen, customers may have a power bill that is less, more or equal to PG&E service.

Bright Choice provides 38% renewable energy with 85% carbon-free energy rates approximately 1.5% lower than PG&E, while Brilliant 100 provides 40% renewable energy with 100% carbon-free at

equal rates. Renewable 100 provides 100% renewable and 100% carbon-free energy at rates one penny per kWh more than PG&E.

In 2019, the city joined EBCE, the not-for-profit public agency that provides clean and renewable electricity to residents in Alameda and San Joaquin counties.

“As the city updates its Climate Action Plan 2.0 to be carbon neutral by 2045, the roll out of the EBCE service is a step toward achieving overall greenhouse gas emissions reduction in Pleasanton,” Brown said in a statement after the council hearing.

Customers will automatically begin receiving electricity from EBCE in April but still have the choice to opt-up or opt-down to different service levels with EBCE. They can also continue purchasing power directly from PG&E, which will remain in charge of power delivery, grid maintenance and billing management.

Alex DiGiorgio, public engagement manager for EBCE, told the council that customers can change their service levels “as often as their billing cycle, more or less.”

“The only real restriction is if

people opt out of PG&E after their first 60 days of service, by PG&E’s terms and conditions, they’ll have to wait for a year before they could return to EBCE,” DiGiorgio said. “If they opt out before the 60 days of service (are up), then it doesn’t apply.”

Information about the opt-up or opt-down and opt-out options will be sent to residential and business customers in the coming weeks, city officials said.

In other business

- The council agreed to lower the limit along parts of Stoneridge Drive from 45 mph to 40 mph, among other traffic-related items addressed on Jan. 19.

Each year the city’s traffic engineering division reviews and update speed limits as needed.

A recent engineering and traffic survey found support for changing the posted speed limit from 45 mph to 40 mph on Stoneridge Drive between both Stoneridge Mall Road and Johnson Drive, and Johnson and Hopyard Road.

Critical speeds and roadway conditions were conducive for reduced speed along both stretches

of Stoneridge, according to staff, though state law prohibits lowering the speed from 40 mph between Johnson and Hopyard for any reason.

Though consent agenda items are normally considered routine in nature and voted on in one council motion, Councilwoman Kathy Narum asked “if we can agree that we’ll survey that section immediately from Foothill to Stoneridge Mall Road to see if it makes sense to lower that down to 40.”

City traffic engineer Mike Tassano said, “Those are actually the only two sections of roadway on Stoneridge Drive that are currently 45. The small section you’re asking about between Foothill and Stoneridge Mall Road is actually already 40mph.”

“But to your point on would we go and do that, we would — and in fact we did,” Tassano added. “The one section was actually surveyed in 2019 and it was below the critical speed then. But I didn’t want to just bring that one section, so when we did this next section, we combined the two to bring them both to you.”

A one-time cost of \$2,000 to replace existing speed limit signs is funded through the annual traffic

buttons and line markers capital improvement project.

- Oversized vehicles will no longer be allowed to park on a residential street near the Interstate 580 off-ramp in northern Pleasanton, after the council unanimously approved the move last week.

Vehicles over 20 feet in length are now prohibited from parking on the north side of the I-580 freeway soundwall on Pimlico Drive, just east of Brockton Drive.

According to staff, the north side of Pimlico Drive has “consistently experienced parking of oversized vehicles such as recreational vehicles, moving trucks, oversized commercial vehicles, and long trailers.”

As a result, “residents have raised concerns that this section of Pimlico has become a location for vehicle storage which has subsequently resulted in debris and garbage left behind in the area.”

Signs will be posted giving notice of the new parking restrictions along approximately 1,500 feet of the north side of Pimlico Drive. There are no new costs associated with the changes, and are included in the city’s operating budget. ■

PUSD outlines organizational goals for 2020-21 school year

Achievement gaps, student intervention among top priorities

By JULIA BAUM

An annual organizational workshop last week gave Pleasanton Unified School District’s two new trustees a more in-depth understanding of the various protocols, roles and responsibilities involved in representing and interacting with the community at-large.

No major developments arose at the two-hour online meeting on Jan. 21, which included a staff presentation and board discussion, but retired teacher Mary Jo Carreon and education consultant Kelly Mokashi — both who were sworn in to the Board of Trustees last month — told the Weekly after the meeting that they were appreciative as board newcomers for the experience.

“I’m actually very grateful that the district is very willing to work on

team building,” Carreon said. “I’ve gone to some workshops as a new board member and they said not all school districts do this.”

The administrative cabinet also went over the district work plan — which acts as a guide for the district’s goal-planning process and also provides “primary evaluation metrics” for PUSD leadership — and five organizational goals continuing for the 2020-21 school year.

Those goals involve closing achievement gaps, improving student interventions, bolstering district policies and procedures, enhancing employee recruitment, development and retention strategies, and improving customer satisfaction and strategies for stakeholder engagement.

A subset of key objectives, key performance indicators, and specific

actions are listed for each goal. For example, the top listed goal calls for PUSD to “leverage personalized learning strategies and growth assessments to close achievement and opportunity gaps, as evidenced by CAASPP, district assessments and other metrics.”

Each goal also lists a subset of key objectives, key performance indicators, and specific actions to fulfill.

After several decades in the classroom, being a trustee is giving Carreon a new perspective on district matters, she said.

“When (the work plan) talks about learning, I never knew that was part of the organizational plan, so as a teacher I thought, ‘why are we doing this?’” Carreon said. “Now I’m seeing how it’s closely aligned to improving student achievement. I

see more of a global vision.”

Mokashi said she has “seen past successes of the norming process for effective team functionality,” and appreciates the norming process, stating that “it will further foster open communication and dialogue amongst each other, with the district, and as a collective board.”

During the meeting, Mokashi was hesitant to change email communication protocols — “especially during the pandemic, because it is really important to be accessible to our community members” — but said there are “some potential benefits for consistent messaging, just as long as the communication protocols still allows for each board member to communicate directly with stakeholders as well.”

The board also approved updates

to the PUSD governance handbook, which outlines the board’s roles and responsibilities as well as protocols for situations like voting during meetings and addressing public concerns. The handbook was last updated in November 2018.

Basic revisions were made such as updating the current district demographics and adding the newest board members names on the title page, but is otherwise the same document as two years ago.

A section on PUSD governance protocols was also reformatted “to improve content flow,” including titles added or moved for clarity, and a governance calendar for annual tasks such as approving course outlines and accepting audit reports was also revised. ■

GRANADA

Continued from Page 5

ground in February 2019, and while the initial plan was for the facility to be operational by the start of the 2020-21 school year, the schedule was extended due to a groundwater issue, according to McNeely. However, with students currently learning remotely amid the coronavirus pandemic, the scheduling delay did not impact any planned uses for the facilities.

“We’re really exactly on time because I’m kind of judging the opening by when it will be useful

to students and had we opened in September of this (school) year — that would be cool, I guess — except that it doesn’t really matter because students will be able to use it when they’re allowed to come back,” Hart said.

The new pool, which is three times bigger than the old one, offers additional lanes for practice and swim meets and satisfies the length requirements for water polo competitions. A cost-efficient filtration system, community pool house and changing area are among the other aquatic improvements for the project, according to the district.

“Before, no one would have hosted anything at our pool because it lacked some of the basic requirements of swim meets. And now, it’s very well-stationed to provide that support for people,” said Hart, adding that there is now potential for league finals and divisional events to be hosted at the home of the Matadors.

“We are incredibly excited for the project to be completed and for our athletes to begin utilizing these amazing facilities,” Granada athletic director David Moore said in a statement announcing the project’s completion.

“We are grateful for the community’s support of high school athletics and recognition of the important role athletics plays in the lives of our student athletes. The new facility is something that all athletes — both past and present — can take pride in. We cannot wait for all of our teams to begin working hard in a space that will help them achieve their goals,” Moore added.

Construction is also underway for a new Athletics & Aquatics Complex across town at Livermore High School. The scheduled completion date for the sports complex is spring 2022 and the pool is set

for completion by summer 2023, McNeely said.

Other large-scale Measure J funded projects taking place throughout the district include a new two-story classroom building at East Avenue Middle School and a new classroom building, gym and drop-off/parking lot at Joe Michell K-8 School.

The bond also afforded video projection and voice enhancement systems to be distributed to every classroom in the district along with data infrastructure updates and the installation of security cameras throughout the district. ■

Familiar names on short list for open DSRSD board seat

Former Dublin councilman, ex-city candidates among 5 finalists

By JULIA BAUM

The list of candidates to fill the Division 5 vacancy on the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors was whittled down to five people last week after the board reviewed the seven applications received for the open position.

Several recognizable names were selected for interviews with the board next week, including former Dublin City Council member Arun Goel as well as Samir Qureshi and Kashef Qaadri, both of whom ran for the council in the Nov. 3 general election but finished on the outside.

Information technology manager Dean Barnes and retired civil engineer John Koltz were also short-listed for the interview panel in the hopes of representing DSRSD's Division 5, which includes the district's easternmost service area in east Dublin, just east of Hacienda Drive.

Another past Dublin City Council candidate, Razi Hasni, and resident Glen Florey also submitted applications for consideration but were not chosen for the next round.

Instead of holding a special election, the DSRSD board decided last month to fill the empty seat by appointment through a formal application process. The vacancy arose when nobody filed to run for the Division 5 seat in the November election — the first since the district switched to by-division representation two years ago.

The board's decision to hold the application period came after swearing in new Division 1 Director Marisol Rubio and Division 3 incumbent Rich Halket to their new terms at the Dec. 15 meeting.

Longtime Dublin resident Barnes said in a statement to the district, "I am invested in the community through volunteering and with my family. If selected, I intend to be a valuable addition by bringing my skills, experience, and professional nature to the board and look forward to new learning experiences."

Goel, who recently finished serving four years on the Dublin City Council, said his education and experience as a flood control design engineer for Alameda County "allows me to view issues at DSRSD from a unique perspective."

"I feel I can add value to the district and the community, while playing an important role in the decision-making processes leading to improving the current water quality, supply, recycling, and sewage disposal," Goel said.

Koltz cited several decades in wastewater design and public utility experience among his other qualifications for representing Division 5, including volunteer service in the community.

"Hopefully, the combination of public and private experience has broadened my perspective and allowed me to patiently listen to my peers and the public, while

maintaining my competence in support of the planning, engineering, operations, and maintenance of a municipal utility," Koltz said.

Qaadri said, "As a scientist, I have studied and witnessed the impact of global warming and believe it is imperative we work with the state to explore watershed management strategies to protect water resources."

"Based on my healthcare background, I have directly studied the public health impact of several types of contaminants," Qaadri added. "I would spend my time and energy to understand the threats to the water supply and seek opportunities to advance water supply protection, affordability and sustainability."

Qureshi, an executive in sales operations, said, "My analytical and financial background will be a great asset to the Board of Directors position. I feel that having to manage large teams with complex business issues will also be a great fit to help with any business-related challenges that the board members have to manage."

Interviews with the remaining five candidates will be held at the regular board meeting on Tuesday (Feb. 2), starting 6 p.m. The chosen candidate will be sworn in immediately after the interviews and deliberations conclude and participate in the remainder of the meeting that night. ■

BONANNO

Continued from Page 5

chair of the City Asset Management Program Committee and a member of the Livermore Planning Commission since 2015.

The new appointee was formally sworn in at a special meeting on Tuesday evening to fill the regular council seat vacated by Bob Woerner upon his ascension to mayor, finishing out the at-large council term that expires in December 2022.

"I believe the council's overarching priorities should be to provide effective, inclusive and compassionate leadership along with the theme of unity and community spirit," Bonanno said as part of her response to the council during the public interview panel on Monday evening.

Each finalist was interviewed during the online meeting and asked a single, two-part question: "What are the most important priorities for the council to tackle over the length of your term and why should we consider you for this position?"

Bonanno added that she believes

the most "immediate and urgent priority" for the council to tackle is leading the community through the coronavirus pandemic and its recovery, including focusing on public health measures, providing timely and accurate information to the public and helping the hardest hit businesses "get back on their feet," all while maintaining the financial stability of the city.

A 20-year Livermore resident, Bonanno also cited asset management and infrastructure maintenance, addressing homelessness, updating the city's General Plan and ongoing projects like the Valley Link rail system as important priorities facing the council over the next two years.

"I believe my years on the Planning Commission as well as on the Asset Management Committee, the downtown steering committee and the library board provide me with a broad and deep understanding of city governance, city services, finances and the complexities of a city whose population is nearing 100,000," she said, adding that in these roles she's exhibited the ability to be

"a thoughtful decision maker, an effective communicator and an attentive listener to members of the public."

The council, which had been down to four members after voters elevated Woerner to mayor in the November election, decided earlier this month to interview all 21 people who applied for the vacant council position. However, only 17 applicants opted to participate in the interview process, which was originally scheduled for Jan. 19 but delayed until Monday following the death of Munro's father.

After each applicant was given up to five minutes to answer the two-part question, the sitting council members chose their top three candidates and submitted them to the city clerk who tabulated their responses and shared them with the public. All four council members selected Bonanno as their No. 1 choice.

The other top four candidates were Village High School teacher Evan Branning, life and business coach Abigail Helfer, University of California at Merced student Faith Nordvik and Mendenhall Middle School teacher Kyra Pervere. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

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

City Council

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- Provide direction on City Council priority "Continue to Participate with Regional Agencies on Studies of Water Supply Alternatives Including Potable Reuse", CIP 18151 funding allocation of \$300,000 for Tri-Valley Potable Reuse Studies, and authorize the City Manager to inform regional agencies of City Council action
- Review and Update of the 2019-2020 City Council Work Plan

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- City Council 2021-2022 Two Year Work Plan Prioritization Process
- Selection of Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Assignments

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- City Council 2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process
- Discuss Evaluation Process and Meeting Format for Fiscal Year 2021/2022
- Housing and Human Services Grant Program Review
- Selection of Commission Chair and Vice Chair for 2021

COMMISSION RECRUITMENT

The City Council recruits and appoints residents of Pleasanton to a variety of boards and commissions, allowing them to contribute to and influence decisions affecting the city,

providing advice and feedback on important community issues.

Applicants must reside within the Pleasanton city limits.

For additional information contact the Office of the City Clerk at 925-931-5027

Applications are now being accepted for an unscheduled vacancy on the

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA (HACA) HOUSING COMMISSION

Applications are due by Monday, February 1, 2021

The Commission is composed of 12 members: one from each of the nine cities that HACA serves, one representing the unincorporated areas and two HACA tenants. The HACA's Governing Board, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, ratifies nomination to the HACA Housing Commission as recommended by the respective city council.

HACA operates a number of programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with the HACA's mission to deliver housing, housing assistance and related services to low-, very low-, and extremely low-income persons; elderly persons and persons with verifiable disabilities, to enable them to live as independently as possible within their economic resources; and to persons who are not elderly or do not have verifiable disabilities, for the time necessary to enable them to become self-sufficient and economically independent.

Apply online on the City of Pleasanton website at <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/depts/clerk/boards/default.asp>

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

Niles Canyon Railway crew rescues cow stuck in ravine

Bovine freed by helping hands, heavy machinery

By JULIA BAUM

With the help of neighbors and some machine power, Niles Canyon Railway volunteers rescued a cow on Sunday that slid down a hill and got stuck at the base of the slope, mere feet from the historic railroad tracks.

“At a time when we are increasingly socially isolated from our neighbors, it is heartening to know that there are those who watch out for each other, and will take time out to lend a hand or backhoe when the need arises,” railway representatives said in a statement.

Two volunteers were in the area that day to clean up a large oak tree when they spotted the adult cow beneath a barbed wire fence. The bovine had “lodged itself between a couple of solid rocks at the base of the slope, 15 feet from our railroad tracks,” according to officials.

Railroad general manager Stephen Barkkarie, who lives in nearby Sunol, was also contacted around 10 a.m. Barkkarie was enjoying his day off and planning to spend



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Niles Canyon Railway volunteers and neighbors used a backhoe to rescue a cow stuck in a ravine last weekend.

the afternoon playing music with friends when he got the call.

“They said they came across a stricken cow, evidently it had fallen through the fence on the property” above the tracks and then fell down the hillside about 100 feet, Barkkarie told the Weekly.

“It got caught between a couple of rocks and was really halfway upside down, so it couldn’t get back on its feet,” Barkkarie said.

“Tumbling down a 100 foot cliff tends to break them up; they usually don’t survive,” Barkkarie added. “Fortunately, the fall was somewhat gentle and the fence actually slowed the cow down. It really had all the best conditions.”

When the cow didn’t return with the rest of the herd the evening before, the owner and some other people went out searching but gave up after dark. That means the cow

“probably laid there through the night,” Barkkarie said.

A list of neighbors’ contact information maintained by the museum for such emergencies was used to contact the owner after finding the cow on Sunday morning.

The owner and four cowboys arrived shortly after midday to assess the situation, followed by Barkkarie around 1 p.m. Barkkarie arrived with the organization’s backhoe that is specially equipped for traveling on railroad tracks.

With a potentially injured animal weighing hundreds of pounds in an area inaccessible to both vehicles and ranchers on horseback, officials said that “short of airlifting the cow using a helicopter, there were no easy solutions to the problem.”

The group of nine quickly went to work threading several nylon soft slings under the cow, and attaching the slings to the bucket of the backhoe.

The owner opted to keep the cow off its feet for the time being and hauled it back home for a

closer examination.

“She was a little bit distressed and exhausted trying to get out of there by herself,” Barkkarie said. “They could’ve rolled her over and helped her stand up but given the conditions, she was exhausted and had a questionable leg.”

A railroad maintenance push car was used to hoist and then transport the cow on the tracks for a quarter of a mile to an access gate through the adjacent property — then hoisted again on to a waiting trailer. Luckily, the neighbor was working on the property at the time and gave the group access.

Approximately five hours were spent saving the cow that day but Barkkarie “still made it in time for appetizers” with friends.

Plus, “I got to regale them with the tale of the cow rescue,” he said.

The cow was not severely injured by the accident and appears to be back on her feet. “I could see that cow up there on the side of the hill today,” Barkkarie said of his commute earlier Tuesday. “She was white, so pretty hard to mistake.” ■

Fire station overhaul underway

\$9.2M project expected to take most of year

By JEREMY WALSH

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department moved out of Fire Station No. 3 on Santa Rita Road this Monday, relocating to a temporary facility blocks away for most of this year while the old station is torn down and rebuilt.

The station property at 3200 Santa Rita Road, at the northeast corner of West Las Positas Boulevard, will be significantly overhauled, with major exterior changes in addition to interior and operational upgrades from the building redesign.

“The existing building has reached the end of its service life, requiring its replacement for a multitude of reasons, including seismic issues and needed

underground repairs,” LFPD deputy fire chief Joe Testa said in a statement.

Another problem, according to Pleasanton city staff, was that the nearly 50-year-old station had an open dorm/bunk area and bathroom facilities, rendering it infeasible for firefighters of both genders to work out of the building.

Key changes arriving in the new, two-story building include revamped apparatus bays, living quarters and other interior improvements, along with a contemporary exterior architectural design, an outdoor patio and new perimeter landscaping. Plans also called for the two existing driveways on the Santa Rita Road side to be consolidated into one wider

driveway while the driveway on West Las Positas Boulevard will remain in the same location.

One of five LFPD stations in Pleasanton, Fire Station No. 3 is owned and maintained by the city of Pleasanton — just like the stations in Livermore are owned by that city. The station rebuild was identified as a priority by the Pleasanton City Council, and the construction contract was awarded to Oakland-based Mar Con Builders, Inc., in August.

The estimated pricetag is just under \$9.2 million, which includes design and construction of the new building, plus funding the temporary station among other costs. Construction is expected to last about 10 months.



CITY OF PLEASANTON

Redesign concept for LFPD Fire Station No. 3 on Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton.

“It was critical that the project maintain continuity of fire service to the community while the city rebuilds Fire Station 3 to meet the operational needs of a modern day fire department. I anticipate construction to be completed by the end of year,” Steve Kirkpatrick, the

city’s director of engineering, told the Weekly.

LFPD has established a temporary fire station several blocks away at the corner of Stoneridge and Rheem drives that will be staffed throughout the construction phase. ■

BART seeks new life for its old train cars

Public encouraged to submit ideas for reusing retiring fleet

By JULIA BAUM

After nearly 50 years, BART is retiring all of its legacy train cars and is now seeking ideas from the public to find new use for an undetermined number of them.

Last week, the public transit agency launched an official call for proposals through a newly released pre-qualification application process, marking “the first phase of the project to donate legacy fleet cars to the public,” officials said in a statement.

BART said it is “giving museums, nonprofits, agencies and the general

public a chance to extend the lives of decommissioned train cars in creative and innovative ways.”

Most of the retired train cars — many of them dating back to 1972 — will be recycled and used for parts, including wheels, axles and traction motors that can still be used to maintain BART’s existing fleet. A total of 775 new Fleet of the Future cars will replace the old trains.

While ideas like sinking retired carbon steel subway cars into the ocean as part of an artificial reef have been tried, officials said the aluminum composition of BART cars

“prevents this from being feasible.”

Likewise, BART also operates on a “non-standard gauge or track width that wouldn’t work in most places,” making selling off the cars to be reused by other systems less possible.

Pre-qualified applicants will advance to the next phase of request for proposals. Those who present viable proposals will have as many cars as they request made available.

Some key criteria for obtaining a legacy car include “the project must not cost BART any money once the car has been prepared for delivery.”

Selected applicants must pay the costs of transporting the train car from BART’s property to their own (including flatbed truck and crane rental), which is estimated to cost \$8,000 to \$10,000 per car.

“It is important to us that the future of these cars continue to be a great representation of BART and that their use is appropriate. We’ve developed these guidelines for anyone interested in purchasing the cars,” officials said.

A project selection committee will review applications and select proposals that meet all required criteria,

including a final disposition plan once the project is completed.

Notifications for successful pre-qualifications will be sent in June, with awards of proposals scheduled for December and the first cars being transferred to awardees in 2022.

The application system is located at bart.gov/legacycars. Applicants are encouraged to review the “Pre-Qualifications for Proposals” brochure about the proposal process, timeline and car measurements before submitting.

The pre-qualification applications deadline is March 12 at 5 p.m. ■

REOPEN

Continued from Page 5

never entered the order.

The majority of state counties are still in the strictest tier, also known as the purple tier, including all Bay Area counties. Individual counties could choose to impose stricter rules, state officials noted.

"Under no circumstances should anyone view the state action today as a reason to let down their guard. We have made progress, but we need to continue what we are doing to keep our families and communities safe," said Dr. Chris Farnitano, Contra Costa County health officer. "It is just common sense."

Across the state, the number of available ICU beds is increasing into the double digits despite fears by health officials of a precipitous spike in COVID-19 cases after the winter holidays. Officials imposed the regional order to prevent the spike in cases from overwhelming the health care system. The disastrous increase did not appear to take shape as they had feared.

"Californians heard the urgent message to stay home as much as possible and accepted that challenge to slow the surge and save lives. Together, we changed our activities knowing our short-term sacrifices would lead to longer-term gains. COVID-19 is still here and still deadly, so our work is not over, but it's important to recognize our collective actions saved lives and we are turning a critical corner," Dr. Tomás Aragón, director of the California Department of Public Health and state public health officer, said in a statement.

All counties in the state, including in the Bay Area, are in the purple tier except for Mariposa, Alpine, Sierra and Trinity counties, according to a state tier map.

For Alameda County, its adjusted daily new COVID-19 case rate per 100,000 was 28.9 and its testing positive rate was 7.7% as of Tuesday, according to the Alameda County Public Health Department.

Countywide, there were 906 deaths attributed to COVID-19 and

71,298 confirmed cases on record as of Tuesday. The case count included 3,656 in Livermore (fifth-most for a city in Alameda County), 1,868 in Pleasanton and 1,341 in Dublin, according to ACPHD.

With the switch back to the tier system, business activities allowed to reopen with modifications in Alameda County in the purple tier include hair salons and barbershops, hotels and lodging for recreational travel and personal care services such as massage and nail salons. Also, grocery stores can increase capacity to 50% and other retail can increase capacity to 25%.

Now allowed to operate outdoors with modifications include restaurants, wineries, tasting rooms, gyms, museums, places of worship and cultural ceremonies, campgrounds, family entertainment centers, movie theaters, cardrooms, race tracks, zoos and aquariums.

A few residents took part in reauthorized outdoor dining in downtown Pleasanton on Tuesday morning and afternoon ahead of the rainstorm, while indoor personal services saw more patron action this week.

"The clients are relieved I think and very excited. It's great," Butler said.

"As a salon, we do hair, but it's more about relationships with people as well. Especially during the pandemic there has been such a lack of people being able to be social and be with one another. I think that's what our clients have been missing the most, just that therapy time with their stylist," she said with a laugh. "And we enjoy it just as much as they do."

"We're feeling very happy," Salon 645 stylist Makayla Reisma said of the reopening of indoor salons.

"It's been really hard (not being able to work full time)," Reisma said. "I was really grateful that we were able to get unemployment and be able to use that because otherwise I think a lot of us would have been in trouble."

Added Butler, "Sometimes you don't really know what you have until it's gone. I'm looking forward

to a better 2021. I feel like we're on the other side of the hill and things are only going to get better."

With Monday's shift to the tier system, school reopenings still fall under the state's separate framework and guidance.

Small private gatherings of no more than three households, for a limited time, are permitted outdoors under state guidance with physical distancing and mask requirements. County officials urged residents to engage in such gatherings with caution, and they discouraged Super Bowl parties for the big game on Feb. 7.

"California is slowly starting to emerge from the most dangerous surge of this pandemic yet, which is the light at the end of the tunnel we've been hoping for. Seven weeks ago, our hospitals and front-line medical workers were stretched to their limits, but Californians heard the urgent message to stay home when possible and our surge after the December holidays did not overwhelm the health care system to the degree we had feared," Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state's Health and Human Services secretary, said in the statement.

Because case rates remain high across most of California, the state's "Hospital Surge Order" remains in place to prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed. The partial lockdown or "Limited Stay at Home Order," which limited nonessential activities between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., also expired Monday.

While there are positive signs that the virus is spreading at a slower rate across the state, it is still spreading, state officials said.

"It is still critical that Californians continue to wear masks when they leave their homes, maintain physical distance of at least six feet, wash their hands frequently, avoid gatherings and mixing with other households, follow all state and local health department guidance and get the vaccine when it's their turn," they said in a press release.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said on Monday that the state would move to an

age-based prioritization after health workers, first responders, essential workers and people ages 65 and older have been vaccinated. Newsom noted that people ages 65 and older make up 75% of the deaths from COVID-19.

California, in collaboration with local health departments and health care facilities statewide, took multiple actions to support hospitals and slow the surge in cases and hospitalizations in addition to implementing regional stay-at-home orders, according to the release.

Here is a list of those actions:

- Added more than 4,100 medical professionals, many from out of

state, to facilities across California to ease the burden on front-line health care workers.

- Provided personal protective equipment and ventilators and help with oxygen supply.

- Helped hospitals expand their capacity by opening 16 alternate-care sites for recovering COVID-19 patients.

- Implemented a statewide order to make it easier to transfer patients from overcrowded hospitals to those with more space and staff.

- Prioritized vaccines to health care workers so that fewer workers fall ill to the virus to keep staffing levels more stable. ■

Guenter Johann Drewes

December 8, 1934 – January 12, 2021

Guenter Johann Drewes, a longtime Pleasanton resident, entered into rest on January 12th, 2021. He was a beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, Opa, brother, brother-in-law and friend.

He leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Luise, daughter Diane Bowers, husband John, daughter Susan Michael, husband Gene, granddaughter Kelly Bowers, grandsons John Bowers, Gary Michael, wife Amber, David Michael, fiancée Courtney, Daniel Michael and great-grandson Thomas Michael. He also leaves behind his brother Helmut, wife Cathe, brother Reinhold, sister-in-laws, Karin, Phyllis, and Gerda as well as many other family and friends. Guenter was preceded in death by his parents Hinrich and Erna, brother Horst, nephew David, sister-in-law Helga, father-in-law Fritz, mother-in-law Grete and brother-in-law Gunter.

Guenter was born in Germany on December 8th, 1934. He was one of four boys; twin brother Helmut, brothers Reinhold and Horst. Guenter and Luise met in Germany and were married in May 1957. They followed his parents and brothers to the United States from Germany in August of the same year. They resided in Oakland, California; then San Leandro before moving to Pleasanton in 1971.

Guenter served two years in the U.S. Army, nine months after coming to the United States. He was stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska. He became a United States citizen in 1965. After serving his country, he continued working in his trade as a painter, a trade he learned in Germany. He was a member of the Painters Union Local No. 3, retiring in 1997.

He was a true master craftsman; hard-working, honest, generous and dedicated to his work and trade. In his free time, Guenter enjoyed reading and watching television programs related to history, current events, architecture, landscapes and geography. He had a love of steam locomotives, trains and wildlife. He enjoyed feeding the hummingbirds that visited his backyard and loved watching them from his beloved recliner. He also was frequently entertained by the mischievous squirrels that scurried around the yard. He enjoyed visits from family members who often brought the family dogs and on occasion, a bird. He was a true animal lover.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the many calls from family and friends, for the doctors and nurses from Kaiser who truly cared about his health and well-being. We would also like to thank MaryJane and Agata from Kindred Hospice who managed his treatment and care with kindness and compassion.

Per Guenter's request there will be no funeral service. His family will honor the requests he made and remember his life privately.



RYAN J. DEGAN

Dublin's Jordan Pitts and Brian Drogosch stopped at Pastas Trattoria, one of their favorite Pleasanton restaurants, on Tuesday to take advantage after some outdoor dining began to reopen downtown.

PAID OBITUARY

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Pleasanton PD says goodbye to longtime Capt. Craig Eicher

The Pleasanton Police Department will bid farewell to longtime Capt. Craig Eicher when he retires at the end of the week, drawing a career that lasted more than three decades to a close.

"Well, 32 years is a long time," Eicher told the Weekly on Tuesday. "I've had a great career here. It's been fabulous working for the city I live in and helping make it a better place."

"One of my mottos throughout my career is to leave things better than I found them," Eicher added.

A member of PPD since starting as a reserve officer in 1989, Eicher's final day with the department will be today (Jan. 29), according to city officials.

Eicher was hired a full-fledged police officer with PPD in 1991 and said he's "worked pretty much most of the positions in the department"

since then, including bike patrol, field training and detective before shifting into supervisory roles as sergeant and lieutenant. He was promoted to captain about nine years ago, and he served as interim police chief for more than six months in 2019 and 2020.

"My favorite time was when I was in investigations," Eicher said. "I was a burglary detective that had the opportunity to work a wide variety of cases" that extended to crimes like extortion, and even homicide.

Eicher said he was also one of the first members in PPD to use DNA in solving property crimes in the late 1990s.

Since becoming captain, Eicher has overseen the department's investigations and operations division. Throughout his time with PPD, Eicher participated in the FBI National Academy, earned a master's degree in organizational leadership from St. Mary's College, and helped develop programs like peer support, the body-worn camera system and the city's "Homeless Outreach Program."

He's also received a variety of awards and commendations from the city, and was a guest speaker at the International Leadership Association in Chicago. Additionally, Eicher founded the Pleasanton Police

Officers Charitable Foundation and served as president of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association for several years.

The department and community has "greatly benefited" from Eicher's service over the years, Police Chief David Swing said in a statement.

"His leadership and community involvement set a standard for others and ensured PPD was seated at the table of solutions for many pressing needs," Swing said.

Eicher — who sits on the Pleasanton Chamber Foundation Board as well as the Pleasanton Community Character Collaborative Board of Directors — said he and his wife are planning to stay in Pleasanton, where he lived throughout his entire career. Though he hasn't entirely decided what he'll do after retirement, Eicher said he'll "probably stay involved in local nonprofits."

He also plans to spend time with family, and has made plans with his wife "to start doing more traveling than we have."

With the world still on lockdown during the pandemic, there is one activity that Eicher looks forward to after it was canceled last holiday season due to public health concerns over COVID-19.

"My father-in-law does the

Widmer World Christmas display, and we've been doing that for the last 20 years," Eicher said. "We'll continue doing that. In fact, our plans now are to make it bigger and better. This year, our plan is to make it better than the prior year."

In other news

- The owner and three employees of a Livermore-based construction company have each received a jail sentence for charges related to the death of another employee at a Daly City work site in 2018, San Mateo County prosecutors said Monday.

On July 27, 2018, employees of Platinum Pipeline Inc. were excavating a trench at a home development in Daly City when the trench collapsed and crushed another employee who was working below, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Due to a nearby power line that prevented workers from sloping the trench, one side of the trench was dug vertically. However, workers did not install shoring — the process of bracing the walls to prevent collapse — and the unprotected wall broke loose.

The victim was Abel Saucedo, 33, who left behind three young children and their mother.

Platinum employees David Allen Silva, 52, Joseph Silva, 51, and Eulogio PerazaParra, 45, were charged with a felony of causing death of an employee. David and Joseph Silva (both foremen) and PerazaParra (a crew boss and excavator operator) were present at the Daly City site when the collapse occurred. All three pleaded no contest to the felony and received a two-year probation sentence with 90 days in jail on Friday.

Platinum Pipeline's owner, Manuel de Freitas, 40, was not present at the time of collapse, but was on site earlier in the day, prosecutors said. He pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of causing an employee death and received a one-year probation term with a 90-day jail sentence.

The family of the victim received \$1.2 million in restitution, according to the district attorney's office, with the majority covered by insurance.

Platinum Pipeline was unavailable for comment as of press time.

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the state's workplace safety agency, also cited the company \$242,600 in 2019 for failing to protect its employees. ■

—Julia Baum and Bay City News Service



Craig Eicher

Jacqueline Jeanne Elkins

September 28, 1926 – January 20, 2021

Jacqueline Jeanne Elkins passed away peacefully after a brief but valiant battle with the coronavirus. She touched many lives with her kindness, determined spirit for living and her spontaneous sense of humor and quick wit. She was an avid reader, watercolor artist and loved to play bridge. She was also known to be an excellent cook and enjoyed anything chocolate.

Jackie was born and raised in St. Louis, MO where she later met her husband Allan Elkins while attending Washington University studying fine arts. Allan and Jackie moved to Little Rock, AR in the 1950's and then later retired to Eden Isle in Heber Springs, AR, where they loved to play golf and enjoyed traveling the world. She was also active in the Presbyterian Church.

Jackie was preceded in death by her husband in 1992. She was also preceded in death by her son, Polk Andrew Elkins in 2002 and daughter, Christine Anne Elkins in 2013, and is survived by her two sons, Allan David Elkins of Ivins, UT and Stephen Robert Elkins of Pleasanton, CA and their spouses. She is also survived by her loving friend and former roommate, Dorothea Fournier of Dublin, CA.

Jackie moved to Northern California in 2013 to be in the care of her son, Stephen, after the death of her daughter Christine, Stephen's twin sister. In 2016, she moved into the Creekview Health Care Center in Pleasanton, CA in their memory care unit. During that time, she received the utmost in care and loving attention from the entire Creekview staff, who worked tirelessly to give her around the clock comfort, as they truly loved her.

At Jackie's request, she will be cremated, and there are no funeral services planned.



PAID OBITUARY

POLICE REPORT

Jan. 19

Theft

- 5:20 a.m., 6100 block of Corte Padre; auto theft
- 9:38 a.m. on the 4700 block of Hopyard Road
- 5:54 p.m., 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft

Burglary

- 9:34 a.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Graffiti offense

- 6:08 p.m. at Main Street and Del Valle Parkway

Drug violation

- 5:54 p.m. at Johnson and Owens drives

Jan. 18

Domestic battery

- 12:25 a.m. on Hopyard Road

Burglary

- 7:08 a.m. on the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

Theft

- 4:40 p.m. on the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:23 p.m. on the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Jan. 17

Graffiti offense

- 11:06 a.m. at Abbie and Whiting streets

Theft from auto

- 5:52 p.m. on the 3000 block of Tonopah Circle

Jan. 16

Theft from auto

- 1:04 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 1:30 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 5:53 p.m. on the 2600 block of Sanderling Way

Jan. 15

Vandalism

- 6:45 a.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 9:34 a.m. on the 5200 block of Genovesio Drive
- 12:51 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

Theft

- 8:00 a.m., 4200 block of Vervais Avenue; theft from structure
- 10:52 a.m. on the 3700 block of Thistle Way
- 1:43 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road
- 4:12 p.m. on the 5400 block of Black Avenue
- 4:18 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Domestic battery

- 9:13 p.m. on Rosewood Drive

Jan. 14

Theft

- 7:56 a.m. on the 4200 block of Vervais Avenue
- 12:54 p.m. on the 4900 block of Mohr Avenue

Graffiti offense

- 9:15 a.m. on the 500 block of Kottinger Drive

Vandalism

- 9:31 a.m. on the 5000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Burglary

- 10:55 a.m. on the 1400 block of Cedarwood Lane

Drug violation

- 3:06 p.m. at Owens and Chabot drives
- 10:47 p.m. at Bernal Avenue and Meadowlark Drive

Warrant arrest

- 6:11 p.m. at Bernal Avenue and Nevada Court

Anita Braz Silva

August 21, 1931 – January 18, 2021

Anita Braz Silva was born on August 21, 1931 in Madeira, Portugal. She peacefully entered into rest on January 18, 2021 in Fremont, California. She was a Portuguese immigrant who resided in California for 59 years with her family. She was an avid cook who loved to share her Portuguese cuisine with anyone who entered her home. She is survived by her sister Lourdes Caldeira, her children Charlie Silva, Maria Ussery, Phyllis Sousa, Deolinda Caldeira and Theresa Stucky, her fourteen grandchildren and twenty-two great grandchildren.



PAID OBITUARY

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

BY GINA CHANNELL

Town Square changes to improve quality, encourage participation

Several changes to Pleasanton-Weekly.com's popular reader forum, Town Square, will be implemented over the next few weeks in an effort to reduce disrespectful commentary and encourage broader, more diverse community participation.

The new policies build on an experiment implemented last August, when all commenters were required to register as a condition of posting, a change that has now been made permanent.

As a result of the registration experiment, the tone of comments improved and some of the more problematic posters stopped commenting, but it had the effect of giving more visibility to those who posted the most frequently. These are often among the comments that are also long and not seeking constructive dialogue with others.

After seeking feedback and input from readers and holding a virtual community meeting, the Town Square editors considered additional changes, which are in the process of being implemented.

The most significant change, which will be completed in several weeks by Embarcadero Media's software developers, will create a "pre-moderation" function that will automatically delay the posting of

comments by newly registered users until a moderator has reviewed and released them to the site. That preview process will remain in effect until a moderator clears that user to post directly to the site.

Similarly, existing posters can be switched to pre-moderated status if a moderator determines they are undermining the goals of Town Square by attacking other commenters, repeatedly violating the Town Square terms of service or not sticking to the topic.

An added benefit of this new system is that it should virtually eliminate spam, since spam always comes from a newly registered "user" and will be subject to deletion before readers see it.

Other changes, which are being implemented on Town Square this week, include a length limit of 2,000 characters (about 200 words), an end to the "like" a comment function and a new requirement that posters use the same screen name for all their comments. At the discretion of the moderator, posters who make consecutive or an excessive number of comments and are dominating a discussion may have their comments deleted.

The "like" upvoting feature has been removed because of extensive

abuse by some commenters who circumvented our automated checks to prevent repetitive voting from the same user.

We felt an obligation to do its part to better manage Town Square in light of the widespread abuses of social media both locally and across the country.

Town Square is intended to be a place where residents can share their opinions, debate local issues and give their feedback on our reporting. But like other social media platforms, it is also used by those trying to manipulate public opinion, create false narratives and incite distrust of institutions, including the media.

On a local level, we had already been evaluating how to improve our Town Square online reader forum and ensure that we weren't aiding and abetting those who sought to polarize and divide the community through misinformation.

However, substantive content and political views expressed by commenters have never been a factor in moderation decisions and won't be in the future. We don't care what your position is on local issues. As long as the comments are made with respect for those with differing opinions, aren't snarky or sarcastic and are not presenting false

information, we believe the more diversity of views the better.

Moderating is an art, not a science, and we have and will make mistakes. But our collective goal as a community should be to talk about issues with civility and, when appropriate, passion, without attacking those who are honestly and respectfully expressing different opinions.

Here is a summary of the changes being made:

- All new Town Square posters will automatically be "pre-moderated" before their comment goes live on our site.
- The "up-voting" function that allows anyone to "like" a comment will be removed.
- "Screen" names of a poster will need to be consistent across all topics.
- The length of comments will be limited to 2,000 characters, or about 200 words.
- Extremely short comments of 200 characters (about 30 words) will also generally not be allowed.
- The frequency of commenting by a poster will be limited. No poster will be permitted to make consecutive comments on a topic.

More information and detailed explanations of the changes are available at PleasantonWeekly.com. ■

LETTERS

Supporting Tim Hunt and the Weekly

I read the Weekly cover to cover and have observed a sudden uptick of Letters attacking Mr. Tim Hunt and to a lesser extent the Weekly. Apparently Mr. Hunt's opinion column is biased hate-filled fear mongering divisive rhetoric overflowing with half truths and illogical inferences! Huh? Some Letters have asked for his column to be eliminated from the Weekly.

I have read both Mr. Hunt and the Weekly for many years and have not seen a negative thread to his opinion columns or the Weekly for that matter. I stay informed by reading numerous credible news sources (the Weekly is one of those) and find Mr. Hunt's comments are fact-based when making a point. Mr. Hunt composes a measured column, and I strongly feel the above mentioned accusations are simply ludicrous.

In our wonderful country, there is an alarming surge of censorship, de-platforming, group think/speech

and book banning. This frightens me greatly. I will always fight for free speech and I stand with Mr. Tim Hunt and the Weekly. I do not agree with every opinion that Mr. Hunt writes about; however, banning his weekly column would be another assault on our glorious First Amendment.

—Kris Kvale

Tim Talk

There have been several readers critical of Tim Hunt's column. One reader reasons that giving praise to President Trump for the fast-track development of the COVID vaccine doesn't excuse him from the 379,000 deaths from the pandemic (total now 420,000-plus).

Deaths from a pandemic are inevitable. Does that reader believe that those people would not have died if another president were in office? From what I have been reading, it is the lack of preparation for distribution and inoculation by some states, notably California and New York, that has contributed to some additional deaths.

Another reader commented that Tim Hunt's assertion that our youth

would be damaged by Gov. Newsom's policy to keep schools closed for classroom attendance was hate filled rhetoric. For some, the truth is not what is clearly stated by many educators and psychiatrists; the truth is what they believe it to be. As I write this, Gov. Newsom is beginning to open our schools.

I understand that people have different points of view, but, please, let's not call those whose opinions we don't agree with, "hate-filled rhetoric." Just back up your opinion with information from experts you believe are right. The reader, then, has the option of whom to believe

—Charles Meier

Reopen schools, but...

I was disturbed by the simplistic premise outlined in the Jan. 15 Pleasanton Weekly "Tim Talk" article. Nobody is saying children aren't being hurt by not being in school. However, blaming "teachers unions" without addressing the very real risks is not helpful.

Children are not immune from infection but don't necessarily get seriously ill. Unfortunately, they can transmit it to other school children,

family, teachers and school staff who could be at high risk due to underlying health problems.

I strongly disagree with Tim's premise that educational risk "dwarfs the total of deaths due to virus." Ask the 420,000-plus families who have lost loved ones so far if they agree with this presumption.

As for teachers who, yes, are represented by teachers unions, like everyone else they care about their own and their families' health and welfare. In addition, in spite of the implications in the article, they also care very much about their students from both a learning standpoint and a health and welfare standpoint.

It would be irresponsible to reopen schools without adequate protections for students and staff. What would the plan be to replace teachers and staff who become infected from the virus? I guarantee there are not qualified teachers to fill the breach.

Finally, the formula for reopening should be designed by epidemiologists and health care professionals if not at the national then the state level. It should be based on science not politics.

—Craig Kelso



TRI-VALLEY
Repertory
Theatre

COURTESY OF TRI-VALLEY REP

Stages remain dark for community theater

Tri-Valley Rep manager does not foresee productions in 2021

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

"Annie" is waiting in the wings. Last spring Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre had just announced the cast for its summer 2020 production of the popular musical when the dancing shoes were stopped cold in their tracks.

"We were also finishing up rehearsals for 'Damn Yankees,' which was going to open at the Firehouse Arts Center in April," recalled production manager Kathleen Breedveld. "We had already choreographed and blocked the entire show, and were going into the staging aspects, when the theaters shut down March 15."

The theater group already had paid royalties for "Annie," to be performed at the Bankhead Theater, as well as other shows on the horizon. Breedveld went into overdrive to get refunds and was successful except for "Annie," which she then postponed a year.

"But it does not look like it is going to open in 2021," she said.

When theaters reopen, at first they will probably use fewer seats, she explained.

"With such staggered seating, we couldn't possibly afford to

produce it," she said. "It wouldn't cover the royalties let alone the sets."

Now Breedveld is aiming for 2022 but feels that is not a guarantee due to the financial situation with cities and theaters.

"They aren't even giving any date for Broadway for 2021 yet," she said.

Lindsay Pearce, a former star with Tri-Valley Rep had just landed the lead role of Elphaba in "Wicked" on Broadway when it shut down, she noted.

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, a nonprofit corporation, began as Pleasanton Playhouse in 1984. For many years it had a black box theater on Serpentine Lane in Pleasanton; its last production there was "Shout" in 2012.

The troupe lost its lease on that venue eight years ago and moved to another site on Serpentine with three offices and a dance room.

"But unfortunately we can't use it now, we are not allowed in," Breedveld said. "We are paying full rent on a place we can't use."

"We are so fortunate that we

have had Robert and Marilyn Weiss who have been donating the cost of the rental," she added. "We would not be here without large donations from them and also donations from season patrons, who have been sticking with us."

The community theater group has grown to producing musicals several times each year. It also holds children's summer camps and a Broadway Chorus in the spring at Valley Community Church.

Breedveld became involved with Pleasanton Playhouse years ago when her son took part in its productions. Then in 1997 she became production manager, a volunteer position, and in 2008 was offered the paid positions of artistic director and company manager.

These days she keeps busy writing grants.

"I just jump on any opportunity I can, but right now there is not a lot of money out there," she said.

Donations can be made on the website, www.trivalleyrep.org, or by mailing to Tri-Valley

Repertory Theatre, P.O. Box 1445, Pleasanton 94566. Contact Breedveld at kbreedveld@trivalleyrep.com.

She looks forward to producing "Annie" in 2022 after the two-year hiatus, although it will look different than originally planned. Two of the leads have moved out of state, and the orphans will be two years older.

"Damn Yankees" would have to be a whole new show, she said, because sets designed especially for the Firehouse Theater stage are no longer intact.

"We'd already done the rehearsal, and it was an outstanding show," she said.

Breedveld raved about the facilities at the Firehouse Arts Center and the Bankhead Theater, where they perform according to the size of each production, and she noted the venues have excellent staffs.

"Both of those spaces are just fantastic — it's an idyllic situation," she said. "And the generosity of the city of Pleasanton should never go unnoticed."

"Les Miserables,' 'Mary Poppins,' 'Mamma Mia' and 'Jesus

Christ Superstar' were the biggest sellers we had at the Bankhead," she said. "The biggest at the Firehouse was 'Guys and Dolls.'"

Tri-Valley Rep was drawing 12,000 people annually, but now the future holds uncertainty.

"Last I heard, a lot of the companies that rent large sets have gone bankrupt," Breedveld said.

She is also anxious about repercussions from California Assembly Bill 5, which extended employee classification status to some gig workers.

"We have always paid actors a gas stipend, but now we are not allowed to give anyone money. All designers, directors and operators and crew members are included in the equation," she explained, which would mean benefits. "The tax implications are disastrous for all non-professional theater companies as we go back into performing."

After 39 years of operation, she fears the theater company may close due to COVID-19 and state legislation, she said.

But she said she continues to plan for future productions, adding, "I thrive on stress." ■

Ng earns Girl Scout Gold Award

Project is enrichment videos website for kids with special needs

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Jocelyn Ng, a junior at Foothill High School, recently earned her Girl Scout Gold Award for coding her own website, Inclusion Education, which allows easy access for children with special needs to her animated enrichment videos.



Jocelyn Ng

Ng said she started brainstorming for this project in 2019 when she was a sophomore, wanting to host events for special needs children that would allow them to connect with the community and learn through hands-on experiments.

With the pandemic she could no longer host in-person events, and her plan was shut down, but she continued to brainstorm.

"I had to find a way to make an impact on my community that was

safe," she recalled. "I combined two concepts that I am really passionate about: STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and working with children."

She said the biggest inspiration for the project was her sister, a special needs student in Pleasanton.

"My idea started when I noticed my sister had trouble engaging in her daily online classes and she was not able to pick up all of the concepts that were taught in her class," Ng said. "I decided to create animated videos of reading stories, teaching science experiments, learning counting and instructing students on how to grow their garden."

"Through these educational enrichment videos, I was able to make online learning a fun and hands-on experience that could be done in the safety of your own home," she continued. "I wanted my project to have a lasting impact and I was able to do this through

the online website I created."

"Finding what I was truly passionate about channeled my determination to make my community a better place," she added.

Ng, the daughter of Bill Ng and Wendy Yang of Pleasanton, has been a member of Girl Scout Troop 30821 since its founding seven years ago. She said she has enjoyed the troop's community service opportunities, such as packing food at the Kids Against Hunger warehouse to be sent to developing countries; picking up trash near a lake; and volunteering at a race.

For her Silver Award, she and some other Scouts hosted a fire safety event with the fire department that was geared toward elementary students. It was held in downtown Pleasanton in May in 2018.

Her project website is inclusion-education.github.io/website. ■

Museum fundraiser goes virtual

Wines and Valentines offering silent and live auctions

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Museum on Main is holding its 14th annual Wines and Valentines fundraiser virtually this year instead of gathering for the traditional festive, heart-strewn event at The Club at Castlewood.

Participants will gather online for the festivities at 7 p.m. Feb. 12 to enjoy the evening's program, a live auction, a Fund-A-Need Drive and some virtual games, all to support the programs of Museum on Main.

"While we will miss being in-person and the unique 2-bit quarter auction this year, we are excited for the unique opportunities a virtual event provides — and for those wondering what to do with their quarters, save them for our 2022 Wines and Valentines," Executive Director Jim DeMersman said.

This year two ticket prices are available:

- \$50 per person to attend
- \$75 per person to attend and have wine and dessert delivered or available for pickup at the museum. This option is only available for residents in the Tri-Valley: Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol, San Ramon and Danville.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Don Hewitt felt the love in the air at Wines and Valentines in 2019 at Castlewood. This year's fundraiser is being held virtually due to the pandemic.

Otherwise people are invited to attend from anywhere. Also the silent auction is open to anyone, not just those who pay to attend. It opens at 6 a.m. this Monday (Feb. 1) and runs until 6:45 p.m. just before the live event begins.

The live auction during the event will be available to ticketed participants only. Items in both auctions can be previewed by visiting the event page at Paybee, accessible at www.museumonmain.org.

The Museum on Main's Fund-A-Need campaign this year will focus on supporting children's

educational programs, such as MoM's Preschool Reading Time, the Junior Volunteer program, school and scout tours, and Family Days. These are presented either free or at a low cost to ensure the broadest possible participation from the community.

For more information and tickets, visit the website or call 462-2776.

The museum, 603 Main St. in downtown Pleasanton, is currently closed to the public; updates about reopening are on the website. ■

Art group announces 'New Dawn'

Seeking artists for first online exhibit

The Livermore Art Association invites artists to submit 2D and 3D original pieces for its celebration of a "New Dawn," to run on its website, www.livermoreartassociation.org, from Feb. 25 to March 31. Entries will be accepted Feb. 1-15.

This first online exhibit and sale for the association will be a platform to show artwork and to offer

it for sale since such opportunities for artists have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Artwork may be relevant to the "New Dawn" theme — a sunrise, a budding flower, a new puppy, etc. — but art not related to the theme is also welcome.

There is no entry fee, and there will be no judging or awards.

Livermore Art Association will handle online sales, arrange for transfer of purchased items, and retain a 20% commission.

The show prospectus and entry form are on the website starting on Monday (Feb. 1). Contact Meghana Mitragotri at meghana.ms@gmail.com with questions. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



BOB BRONZAN

Robert Lopez as Nathan Detroit and Morgan Stinson as Miss Adelaide in "Guys and Dolls" at the Firehouse Theater in November 2018.



BOB BRONZAN

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presents "West Side Story" at the Bankhead Theater in October 2012.



ROBERT SHOLTY

Nikita Burshteyn as Jesus in "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Bankhead Theater in January 2017.



ROBERT SHOLTY

Russell Mangan as Judas in "Jesus Christ, Superstar" at the Bankhead Theater in January 2017.

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

A new home

Hi, my name is Cedar! I'm a 5-year-old German shepherd who just made the journey over from Oklahoma to become a California resident. I'm a big, playful guy who's eager to learn and have fun. I already know "sit" and "shake." After some playtime, I'll be ready to snuggle up with you on the sofa. I'm looking for someone dedicated to positive reinforcement training to help me learn better leash skills. To help with this, my adopter will receive a complementary online private training session from the East Bay SPCA. Contact eastbayspca.org.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 575623
The following person doing business as: Casa Blanca, 1620 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Mahmoud Elwishahy, 3728 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Mahmoud Elwishahy, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Mahmoud Elwishahy, Business Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, January 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 2021.)

Damon Millar Insurance Agency FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 575654
The following person doing business as: Damon Millar Insurance Agency, 5321 Hopyard Road, Suite I, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Damon M. Millar, 2542 Gregson Ave., Tracy, CA 95377. This business is conducted by Damon M. Millar, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Damon Millar, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 2021.)

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

Marketplace

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

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawebly.com.

Employment

The Almanac offers advertising for Employment, as well as Home and Business Services.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawebly.com.

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Theater

BAY AREA ARTISTS The Artist in Residence Program at Tao House in Danville, in which Eugene O'Neill produced his masterpieces, provides a working retreat for developing or established playwrights, scholars, or critics of the performing arts. Fellowships are given to persons focused on the performing arts for whom a space of time to work without distraction would be beneficial. Apply for next year's session by Jan. 31. Visit eugeneoneill.org.

Festivals & Fairs

LIVERMORE ART ASSOCIATION Livermore Art Association (LAA) is excited to launch a wonderful and robust online art show and sale "New Dawn" where artists are invited to submit 2D and 3D original art. The show will be hosted on LAA's website and will run from Feb. 25-March 31 with no entry fee. LAA will handle all sales online and will retain a 20% commission. Visit livermoreartassociation.org.

Talks & Lectures

AXIS PRESENTS FREE WEBINARS "Girls With Ideas-Finding Her Voice" is a series of six lessons about how to communicate and speak up. Open to girls 11-13. 3:30-4 p.m. Now through Feb. 21. To register visit axishealth.org/online-events.

Writers

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS ZOOM MEETING In her talk, "Publishing: 2021 and Beyond, What Book Publishing Will Look Like in the New Normal," February's speaker Laurie McLean looks at the change forced on the industry by the pandemic. The session is open to all who reserve a place and pay the fee by Feb. 18. Email president@trivalleywriters.org. Zoom meeting 2 p.m., Feb. 20.

Fundraisers

MUSEUM ON MAIN'S WINE & VALENTINES FUNDRAISER The 14th Annual Wines & Valentines will be held virtually this year. Enjoy a live auction, a silent auction, a Fund-A-Need drive and some virtual games all to support the programs of Museum on Main. Tickets on sale now. For more information visit museumonmain.org or call 462-2776. 7 p.m., Feb. 12.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS Rotary International is an organization of business and community leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. To achieve that end, Pleasanton Rotary seeks to support

the human service needs of our community and is currently accepting grant applications until 5 p.m., Jan 31. For more information visit pleasantonrotary.org.

Crab Feed

ST. AUGUSTINE DRIVE-THRU CRAB FEED Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, this year's Crab Feed will be a drive thru at St. Augustine's Church in Pleasanton, Feb. 13, 3-6 p.m. Order tickets by 2.7.21. Visit knights-of-columbus-council-6043-875353.square.site. St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

SWEETHEART CRAB DASH The Rotary Club of Livermore Valley is proud to present the first ever Crab Dash. Crab Drivers will deliver fresh, cleaned, cracked, ready-to-eat Dungeness Crab, fresh from Alaska, right to your door. This unique fundraiser will not only be fun and delicious, but help the community. Each crab is \$25 and will be delivered between the hours of 4-8 p.m. on Feb. 13. Visit promoplace.com/spp/stores/crabdash.

Reading

LIVERMORE READS TOGETHER The No. 1 New York Times bestselling graphic novel trilogy, March, will be the featured books for the 15th Livermore Reads Together, the library's annual community reading program. Inspired by current events related to the Black Lives Matter movement, the library has chosen a book that is accessible to many readers, especially young adults. Visit cityoflivermore.net.

Seniors

SENIORS 60+ LUNCH PROGRAM Served curbside at the Pleasanton Senior Center, Mondays through Fridays 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Please call Open Heart Kitchen at 500-8241 for more information.

Food & Drink

TASTE TRI-VALLEY WEEK Restaurant Week is coming Feb. 19-28 to the Tri-Valley. Taste your way through the Tri-Valley during this 10-day culinary celebration highlighting the passionate people who make up the valley's deliciously diverse foodie scene. For more information visit visitrivalley.com/restaurantweek.

Business

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING The next regular meeting of the Pleasanton City Council is 7 p.m., Feb. 2, currently held virtually. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION The next regular Livermore Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues., Feb. 2, held virtually using zoom. For questions, contact the city of Livermore Planning Division 960-4450.

LIVERMORE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING The Livermore School Board regular meeting conducts business of the District, currently held virtually. 7 p.m., Feb. 2. Visit livermoreschools.org.

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL The Dublin City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, currently held virtually. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Feb. 2. Visit dublin.ca.gov.



VCCF

Dentists Against Cancer

Tri-Valley dentists Drs. Jeff Bueno and Tom Sellick recently donated \$5,000 through their Dentists Against Cancer nonprofit to the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation's "Women in Need Fund," which provides financial assistance to uninsured and underinsured women going through breast cancer treatment at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare. The dentists, both of whom lost their mothers to the disease, worked hard to garner donations in 2020 despite their annual golf fundraiser being canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shown from left: Shakhè Sulikyan, president and executive director of VCCF, receives the \$5,000 donation check from Bueno and Sellick.



Homebuying during 2021: Bedrooms and big yards

‘People need space to be able to work from home’

BY DAVID STARK

Bedrooms and backyards will drive real estate activity in Pleasanton during 2021.

Potential homebuyers from San Francisco, the Peninsula and the South Bay are flocking to the East Bay, and the Tri-Valley in particular, searching for properties that can do quadruple-duty as a remote office, a classroom, a gymnasium and a park.

“Size of a home will be one of the top items buyers will want in a home,” said Tina Hand, 2021 president of the Bay East Association of Realtors. “People need space to be able to work from home.”

During 2020, single-family detached homes sold in the Tri-Valley had more bedrooms than homes sold in other parts of the East Bay.

Of the homes sold in Pleasanton during 2020, approximately 30% had three or fewer bedrooms, 50% had four bedrooms, and the remaining 20% had five or more bedrooms. Homes sold in Fremont during the same period had fewer bedrooms: almost half had three or fewer bedrooms, while about 40% had four bedrooms and 10% had five or more bedrooms.

Asked if the conventional real estate wisdom of “location, location, location” will be replaced with “bedrooms, bedrooms, bedrooms,” during 2021, Hand said, “I still believe location will play a large part in buyer preference because buyers are seeking a specific location first and then looking at the number of bedrooms.”

Hand said room to roam will be just as important as the number of bedrooms. “Pleasanton has nice, good-sized homes on large lots, which is on the buyers want list. It’s not even a wish, it’s a want,” she said.



David Stark

The average lot size for homes sold in Pleasanton during 2020 was approximately one third of an acre. Along the I-680 and I-580 corridors, only Danville and Livermore had homes with larger lots.

Lot sizes in Pleasanton were about twice the size of those in most of Alameda County, including Newark, Fremont and Union City. Buyers will be drawn to the larger lots found in Pleasanton that may be better able to accommodate working and playing at home.

“As long as we’re under shelter-in-place, large yards are very desirable because we can’t vacation like we used to so a lot of people are turning their backyards into their own oasis,” Hand said.

Buyers will need to act fast and be prepared to pay top-dollar during 2021.

A home was on the market in Pleasanton during 2020 an average of 26 days, down from 31 days during 2019. The fast pace of home sales last year was exceptional given restrictions on real estate transactions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Real estate professionals and their clients have adapted to working safely during the pandemic, and homes in Pleasanton are expected to sell quickly during 2021.

The median sales price for a single-family detached home sold in Pleasanton during 2020 was more than \$1.25 million. Homebuyer demand, and the ability to secure purchase financing, are expected to drive prices up during 2021.

Hand said, “As long as interest rates remain historically low, which allows a buyer to afford a lot more house, buyers will still be out there looking.”

The record-setting sales prices during 2020 resulted from high demand and low supply. The home-seller experience during 2021 will be driven by the same market conditions homebuyers are navigating.

Hand said, “unless the seller is relocating outside of the Bay Area, if they can’t find



GETTY IMAGES

something to purchase locally, they may stay and keep their home off the market.”

A new option that could benefit both sellers and home buyers will take effect in April 2021. Proposition 19, approved by California voters in November 2020, allows some homeowners to transfer their current property tax basis to another home anywhere in California. This property tax portability is expected to create more housing

opportunities for homebuyers.

“I’m getting inquiries from clients about Prop 19 and how it benefits them,” Hand said. “More people are becoming aware that this may be a great time to sell because they can move somewhere else and take their tax base and downsize.” ■

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

COMPASS

This home is a 10!!



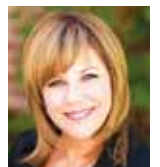
4168 Wells Street, Pleasanton

\$1,099,000 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms

Stunning single story with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms just a short distance to Downtown Pleasanton, schools and shopping. This beautiful home has all the bells and whistles including remodeled kitchen, bathrooms with heated tile floors and an amazing backyard with a covered patio and fireplace, perfect for entertaining! Shown by appointment only.

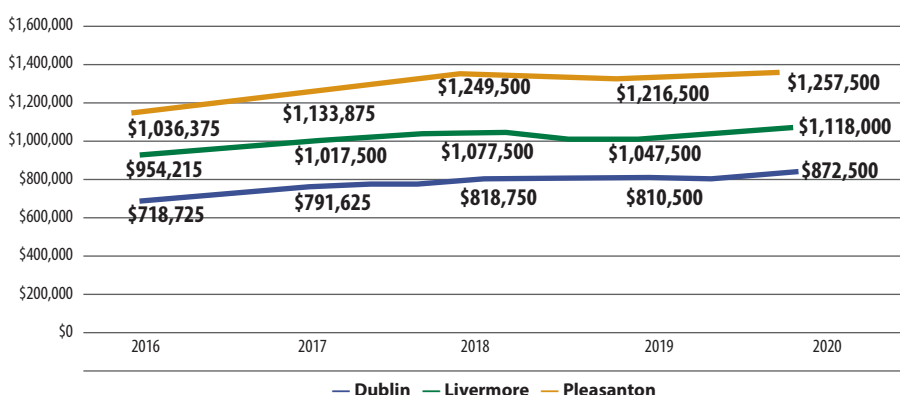
Linda Traurig

925.382.9746
linda.traurig@compass.com
DRE #01078773



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Median Sales Price – Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore



Courtesy of Bay East Association of Realtors.

Thinking of buying or selling in 2021? CALL CINDY!

**JUST SOLD - OVER 50,000
OVER ASKING. 7 OFFERS**



7253 Valley View Ct.
Luxury Townhome in Pleasanton.
Sold at \$957,000

PENDING - OVER ASKING!!!



2866 Alnwick #1, Livermore
2 bed 2 bath condo in Montage.
UPDATED with VIEWS!!!
Offered at \$638,000

COMING SOON



Lovely executive, update 1 story home,
4 bed 2 bath
Livermore off of Patterson Pass.

COMING SOON

Lovely condo in Dublin off of
Daughtery. 3 bed 2 bath
approx. 1260 sq. ft.
Updated and ready to move in!!

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"LET THEM PLAY!!!"**

Cindy Gee

925.963.1984

CindyGeeSold@gmail.com
DRE# 01307919



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Caring Professional Hardworking

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SO MANY BUYERS/NOT ENOUGH HOUSES!

It's the best seller's market ever. We are hearing of 20, 30, 40 offers on homes. The market has gone wild! Let's talk about getting your home sold before you miss this opportunity.



SOLD FOR \$1,801,000
3128 Paseo Granada, Pleasanton
3,091 SF on .16 Acre
Sold for \$176,000 over list price!



SOLD FOR \$2,300,000
6640 Amber Lane, Livermore
4,227 SF on .54 Acre
Sold \$100,000 over list before market.



SOLD FOR \$990,000
7275 Brighton Drive, Dublin
1,424 SF on .15 Acre
Sold \$65,000 over list price.



SOLD FOR \$1,662,000
746 Barleta Court, Livermore
3,362 SF on .24 Acre
Sold over list before going on the market.

Don't delay, this market might not hold, so as a seller the time is NOW. Please call me and let's get started.

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GLOBAL REAL ESTATE ADVISOR
925.519.8226 | susan@fabprop.net
FabulousProperties.net CalDRE#01713497



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Of the Year



Debi Zentner

Loan Officer of the Year 2020-2011

Office: (925) 426-8383 x 53

Cell: (925) 200-6381

debi@divmg.com NMLS # 241540

THANK YOU!

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. It makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

Melody Beattie

Last year certainly wasn't what we expected. I was truly grateful for the opportunity to work with great clients and friends in 2020. I hope 2021 brings you good health happiness, success, laughter and joy!

I am here (while maintaining social distance guidelines) if you have any questions about getting a new mortgage for your first home, helping your children obtain a mortgage for their first home, guidance in purchasing an investment property to help you prepare for retirement income, or refinancing your current home with a new lower interest rate or taking cash out to make it your "perfect" home.

I am here to help. Call me today for all your home financing needs. Take care and enjoy 2021.

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PLEASANTON – NOW AVAILABLE

4735 McHenry Gate Way

4 BD – 3.5 BA – 2,487 SqFt – 7,766 SpFt Lot

This remodeled and expanded Tri-Level home is located in the heart of Pleasanton. The kitchen has been beautifully updated offering granite counters, a generous island with a sink, ample storage, gas stove with a pot filler, a wine refrigerator, and opens to a bonus family room. The flowing floor plan with high ceilings provides a spacious feeling and a perfect gathering place for family and friends. The main level also offers a private office and half bath. Downstairs, you will find an additional family room, bedroom, full bath, and laundry. The upper level hosts an en-suite Master bedroom with an updated bath offering heated floors, dual sinks, designer fixtures as well as a walk-in closet. A private rear is a show stopper for entertaining along with its spacious side yard. Ideal location close to



Pleasanton's own Sports Park, the charming Downtown Area, as well as close proximity to 580, 680 and BART.

Proudly Presented at \$1,510,000

CALIFORNIA WATERFRONT

17396 Grand Island Road, Walnut Grove

3 BD – 2 BA – 1,728 SqFt – 11,029 SqFt Lot
50 Feet of Waterfront Property

When your Escape Becomes Your Reality. This custom 2-story home rests on over 50 feet of waterfront property just outside the San Francisco and Sacramento areas. Working from Home, boating, fishing and spectacular sunsets can be your new normal each day as this home becomes your staycation, your work from home reality and your favorite place to be. Offering 2 private docks, an attached private deck and private balcony off of the master retreat, all overlooking the panoramic views to the Sacramento River. The Delta town of Isleton offers a small waterfront community as well as a



convenient location with close proximity to both Sacramento as well as the San Francisco Bay Area.

Presented at \$1,140,000

COMING SOON to LIVERMORE – Available Mid-Februray

Sunset West Neighborhood

3 BD – 2 BA – 1,404 SqFt

- Remodeled Kitchen and Dining Area
- Expanded Living Room – Open to Family Room
- Dual-paned Windows
- New Engineered Wood Floors
- Additional Sunroom for office, gym, or playroom
- Private Backyard
- So much More!

Will be Presented in mid \$800,000 range



Springtown Neighborhood

4 BD – 2 BA - 1,488 SqFt – 6,300 SqFt Lot

- Central Air
- Newer Roof
- Side-Yard Access
- Re-Plumbed
- Walking Distance to Schools and Parks
- Close to Shopping

Will be Presented in mid \$700,000 range

PENDING in 5 Days with 5 Offers, All Over Asking

1428 White Stable Drive

4.5 BD – 4 BA – 4,157 SqFt

This home came on the market and went into contract before you could say "Yes Please!". The private interior courtyard with fireplace and French-door openings in almost every angle, the Quartz-adorned kitchen, and all of the decorator upgrades throughout, combined with the convenient proximity to Pleasanton's charming Downtown, the Alameda County Fairgrounds, walking paths, Ace Train, as well as an easy commute access all worked together to make this home a dream come true. This home was proudly presented at \$2,210,000, and received multiple offers, all over asking.

The Sellers were this home's original owners and had this to say: "Thank you so much Kris for having helped us go through this one of a kind process. While, very stressful and



emotional on my side...we are now ready to moveforward and explore newhorizons . We do value - and are grateful for - the professionalism that you have demonstrated all along this short but intense journey.We will certainly refer your expertise to our neighbors and acquaintances." - Michael and Fabienne

Presented at \$2,210,000



"I can't say enough good things about the experience. If you're planning to sell your home, I highly recommend Kris."

– Craig and Alisa B, Sellers

"What we love about Kris is that she has so much experience and knowledge from all of her years of experience she has in selling houses"

– Mark and Karen H, Sellers

"Kris was patient with our questions and attentive to our needs. Her confidence and experience gave us peace of mind... Most memorably, however, were all of the personal touches she provided along the way. We highly recommend Kris!"

– Patrick and Alicia W, Buyers

Kris Moxley

925.519.9080
moxleyrealestate.com
DRE 00790463
900 Main Street,
Pleasanton, CA 94566





2020 presented us with unique challenges and we are exceptionally proud of our agents who rose to meet those challenges. As the world struggled to cope with the new ways of conducting business, we quickly adapted and responded with new technology, allowing for safe and smooth transactions, and continued to deliver exceptional results in 2020. Our mission has always been rooted in community and heritage while aiming high to become leaders in our markets, attracting top talent in agents, and providing leading technology and marketing to achieve outstanding results for our clients. We want to thank our agents who have supported our endeavors and have made this year truly a success even in these trying times. Most importantly, we want to thank our clients for your trust and commitment and we look forward to continuing to be your trusted global real estate advisors.

2020 SIGNIFICANT SALE SPOTLIGHTS



2157 Canosa Court | Pleasanton
Sold \$6,100,000
 Stephany Jenkins | 925.989.3318
 sjenkins@venturesir.com
 CA Lic. No. 01311486



45901 Hidden Valley Terrace | Fremont
Sold \$3,737,815
 Joseph Sabe Jr. | 415.385.6442
 joseph@venturesir.com
 CA Lic. No. 01295925



1808 Zenato Place | Pleasanton
Sold \$2,905,000
 Susan Schall | 925.519.8226
 sshell@venturesir.com
 CA Lic. No. 01713497



2421 Lunada Lane | Alamo
Sold \$2,550,000
 Stacy Gilbert | 925.487.4883
 stacy@venturesir.com
 CA Lic. No. 01350631



624 Division Street | Pleasanton
Sold \$1,770,000
 Anni Hagefeldt | 925.519.3534
 anni@venturesir.com
 CA Lic. No. 01491116



1408 Chadbourn Court | Pleasanton
Sold \$2,221,175
 Melissa Pederson | 925.858.1984
 mpederson@venturesir.com
 CA Lic. No. 01002251



602 Blossom Court | Pleasanton
Sold \$2,200,000
 Carolynn Machi | 925.872.7761
 cmachi@venturesir.com
 CA Lic. No. 01021716



4422 Deer Ridge Road | Danville
Sold \$2,350,000
 Sally Martin | 925.998.4311
 sally@venturesir.com
 CA Lic. No. 00971198

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If you're thinking about selling your home, now is the time. Call us today to learn how our proven strategies can get you the highest possible price for your home.



4759 Sutter Gate Ave, Pleasanton
4bd/2ba | 1,766 sq.ft | 7,668 sq.ft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,225,000

PENDING IN
7 DAYS



**7635 Canyon Meadows Circle
Unit B, Pleasanton**
3bd/2ba | 1,257 sq.ft
Price Upon Request

COMING
SOON



2793 Calle Alegre, Pleasanton
4bd/2.5ba | 2,651 sq.ft | 11,325 sq.ft lot
Price Upon Request

COMING
SOON

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Tim McGuire
Broker
DRE 01349446



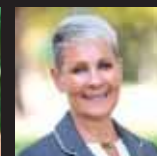
Mark James
Realtor®
DRE 00697341



Eva Tia
Realtor®
DRE 02072764



Lori Olson
Realtor®
DRE 02004247



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Nationwide**
Real Estate Team

**\$108
Million**
In closed sales volume
by our Team in 2020

700+
Families assisted
by our Team

What our Sellers are saying:

*"We selected DeAnna and her team for listing our home in Fremont and we were delighted to be able to sell our home inside of 4 days. For a home to sell at the price the seller wants, you need to have an agent who is **Passionate, Diligent, Responsive, and Honest.** We can say with confidence that DeAnna has all these attributes and we would definitely have her as our agent for any future real estate transactions. The selling process can be very stressful but DeAnna made sure to keep us in the loop on all aspects of the sales process."*

- Siddhartha & Megha

**Book a Complimentary
Zoom Consultation:**



Scan the code above to schedule a time-slot with one of our agents. Or give us a call and we'd be happy to schedule it for you: (925) 260-2220



DeAnna Armario
Senior Partner & Realtor
(925) 260-2220
DeAnna@Armariohomes.com
CA DRE #01363180

www.ArmarioHomes.com

459 Main Street Pleasanton



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\$82M+

volume since 2019

92

transactions since 2019

78+

years of local experience

Proposition 19

Taking Advantage of This Offering To Transfer To A New Property Within California

In November 2020, the state of California approved **Proposition 19**, which will make important changes to the property tax transfer rules for those aged 55 and over as well as parent-child property transfers of primary residences and parent-child transfers of other real property. Beginning in 2021, the new guidelines will replace the existing rules of Proposition 13.

Prop 19 allows a homeowner who is 55 years of age or older, severely disabled or whose home has been substantially damaged by wildfire or natural disaster to transfer the taxable value of their primary residence to:

- a) a replacement primary residence anywhere in the state,
- b) regardless of the value of the replacement primary residence (but with adjustments if replacement has a greater value),
- c) within two years of the sale and
- d) up to three times (or as often as needed for those whose houses were destroyed by fire).

Curious to learn more about Proposition 19 & how it will affect you personally? Give us a call at 925-400-7533, or visit BayAreaHomeFinder.com/Proposition19 to join our information list & receive updates.

Our Recent Activity

See How We're Helping Homeowners Just Like You!



Reserved For Your Home!
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925-400-7533



1087 Hawkshead Circle, San Ramon
Helping A Homeowner
Move Out Of State!



2667 Forino Court, Dublin
Helped An Empty Nester Take
Cash Off The Table & Downsize!



11554 Santo Court, Dublin
Helped A Homeowner Cash Out &
Move To Texas!



6195 Yardley Lane, San Ramon
Helped A Homeowner Upsize
& Stay Within The Area!



6262 Byron Lane, San Ramon
Helped A Homeowner Relocate
Within California!



3665 Norfolk Road, Fremont
Helped A Homeowner Relocate
Within California!



8530 Zandol Court, Dublin
Helped A Homeowner Cash
Out & Move To Tennessee!



3793 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon
Helped An Investor Take Cash Off
The Table!



807 Del Norte Drive, Livermore
Helped An Investor Take Cash Off
The Table!



3405 Norton Way, #1, Pleasanton
Helped A Local Investor Take
Cash Off The Table!



4419 Newman Place, Pleasanton
Helped An Investor
Take Cash Off The Table!

Want to know what your home will sell for today? Visit BayAreaHomeFinder.com/HomeValue for an instant valuation!

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A new year is a powerful occasion: It's a time when we reflect on our gratitude for the past and our hopes for the future. And it's a chance to welcome a fresh start to reinvigorate our enthusiasm for chasing goals and dreams.

Cheers to the New Year!
May 2021 be an extraordinary one!



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650+

Properties listed/sold

106%

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6 bd | 7 ba | 10,091 SqFt | 0.60 acres
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