

Pleasanton Weekly

Staying
Healthy
WINTER 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Feeling the burn (and cold)

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VALLEY VIEWS



By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

Vaccines and Valentines

Whew! I received my first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine two weeks ago and felt great relief once it was done.

First there was getting the appointment, which meant checking medical and county websites continually, and signing up on waiting lists. After an angst-filled week in a virtual waiting room, I was informed I could make an appointment for the next day.

After getting the shot, everyone waited in a holding area for 15 minutes in case of a reaction. I now had time to look around at all the masked vaccine recipients and at the tables of those administering it — and was overwhelmed by the significance of it.

For the next two days I slept long nights and took lengthy naps, but I don't know if this was fatigue caused by the vaccination or exhaustion due to the stress of trying to schedule it. Right up until I actually received the shot, I kept expecting it to be canceled due to lack of vaccine.

The rollout has been a disappointment, if not an outright shock. Folks in my age bracket are scrambling, and navigating the websites is tricky for some. I know Pleasanton residents who had to go to Emeryville and to San Carlos or even a couple of hours away to get their vaccines. Yet my sister-in-law who lives in Alameda was given an appointment in Pleasanton, as were others, including from the Peninsula.

Hopefully it will go more smoothly for the bulk of the population as a mega site is expected to open at the Oakland Coliseum on Tuesday. Closer to home, Pleasanton is working with the county and health care providers on logistics for a vaccine distribution site at the fairgrounds.

I will receive my second dose next Friday, but we won't be completely free from restrictions until we have herd immunity, when the virus reaches extremely low levels. Nonetheless, after a couple of weeks, quick hugs with the grandkids will be in order and we will get together more, although probably still outside.

I have a long list of maintenance errands to run, from getting a new watch battery to buying a sheet



of plastic for a bathroom light to purchasing a screen protector for my phone. Then there are medical issues like an annual eye exam and a teeth cleaning for me, and an overdue physical for the cat.

If everyone has a list of delayed chores like I do, we are going to all be pretty busy running around getting stuff done at some point. I am looking forward to seeing what I think of as the peripheral people in my life, not friends exactly but those who make it pleasant. Like checkers and other shoppers, and wait staff in restaurants. Zoom meetings have been great for my book clubs but I miss walking out to my car with the others, chatting, and maybe developing new friendships.

I can't decide if holidays light up my life these days or make it dimmer, being but shadows of former celebrations. I purchased Valentine cards online and mailed them to the grandkids with money inside. And I will drop off some heart-shaped pasta for them to use as they see fit — cooked for dinner? made into a salad? strung for a necklace?

The East Bay SPCA is hosting a Valentine's Day drive-thru event, called Smooches for Pooches, at 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin. Animal lovers are invited to drive through between noon and 2 p.m. Sunday to send some socially distanced love to the "sweetheart" animals in residence. Treats, including candy and an East Bay SPCA activities book, will be available for kids. Learn more and make a donation at eastbayspca.org.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone — and good luck getting that vaccine. ■

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

About the Cover

Pleasanton residents have had to adapt and get creative in order to stay fit during the coronavirus pandemic. Here Natalie Kiff exercises outside during a class at Brick Fitness in Pleasanton. Photo by Ryan J. Degan. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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Pretty one level home with a charming front porch. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, granite kitchen and lovely backyard.
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3745 VINEYARD AVENUE, PLEASANTON
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1087 Hawkshead Circle, San Ramon
Just Sold \$320K Over! Helped A Homeowner Move Out Of State!



6195 Yardley Lane, San Ramon
Helped A Homeowner Upsize!



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



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



3793 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon
Helping A Local Investor Cash Out!



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!



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



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



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

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What are your plans for Valentine's Day this year?



Lauren Fairchild
Server/student

I will be working downtown, serving couples who are in love. It'll be my first time working on Valentine's Day, and I'm really looking forward to it.



Sandy Marshall and Jeff Gave
Retired police officers

We don't have any special plans, as we have been celebrating Valentine's Day Every. Single. Day. Ever since Cupid shot his arrow at us during SIP!



Kelsey Littell
Civil engineer

I don't have any plans this year because of COVID. Instead, my husband and I will just have a nice, quiet night at home, with our dogs and a bottle of wine from 3 Steves Winery.



Austin Gipe
Mechanical engineer

I'll be spending this Valentine's Day at home with my beautiful wife and our dogs. And I plan to grill up a really nice steak for all of us.



Steve Ziganti
Winery owner

Our winery will be open on Valentine's Day. We plan to pour our Brut Sparkling Wine for happy couples who visit us during the day. In the evening, we are planning to spend time with friends, outdoors and socially distanced, at their home overlooking Lake Del Valle.

— Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Ex-Gael wins SB

Former Dublin High School football standout Alex Cappa is now an NFL champion after his Tampa Bay Buccaneers won Super Bowl LV by dominating the Kansas City Chiefs 31-9 last Sunday.

Cappa, who was a starting guard on the Bucs' offensive line all regular season, was unable to play in the Big Game after suffering a season-ending ankle fracture earlier in the playoffs, during Tampa Bay's NFC Wild-Card Round victory over the Washington Football Team.

A 2013 graduate of Dublin High who played collegiately at Humboldt State, Cappa just finished his third year in the NFL. He has been a member of the Bucs for his entire pro career.

Fair awards

The Alameda County Fair earned nine awards from the Western Fairs Association and eight from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions for innovation and excellence in competitive exhibits, agricultural programs and marketing in 2020 — a year in which no fair was held due to the pandemic.

The Pleasanton-based operation took first place for Community Outreach, Drive-In Entertainment and Facility Beautification Projects (for the Palm Pavilion remodel). The fair also won special recognition for Emergency Response Services for serving as Cal Fire base camp during the SCU Lightning Complex Fire.

The fair further received awards in a variety of categories covering competitive exhibits, innovative events, budget-friendly tactics and social media campaigns, as well as specific categories of Virtual Fair and Community Contests.

Park survey

Pleasanton residents are invited to give their input on playground renovations at Ken Mercer Sports Park East, as well as Tawny and Vintage Hills parks.

A short survey on design and color options being considered by Pleasanton city officials based on public input received to date is available until next Thursday (Feb. 18) at survey.monkey.com/r/PleasantonPlayground.

Further comments or questions regarding the playground designs can be sent to Matt Gruber, city landscape architect, at mgruber@cityofpleasantonca.gov or 925-931-5672. ■

Correction

Last week's article "Pleasanton City Council drops pursuit for potable water" incorrectly identified the Dublin San Ramon Services District. The Weekly regrets the error.

County delays Aramis solar farm appeal hearing for second time

Officials cite scheduling conflicts; new meeting date set for March 4

By CIERRA BAILEY

Alameda County officials have again postponed an appeal hearing for the large-scale solar power plant proposed for roughly two miles north of the city limits and Interstate 580 in unincorporated Livermore.

The Board of Supervisors is now slated to hear all four appeals over the Aramis project on March 4. County staff said the date has been moved due to scheduling conflicts for two of the supervisors.

This marks the second delay for

the hearing, which was originally scheduled for Jan. 12 but soon pushed to Feb. 18, partly to allow newly elected Supervisor David Haubert time to become more familiarized with the plans after he officially joined the board on Jan. 4.

The East County Board of Zoning Adjustments in November approved the plan to develop an estimated total of 580 acres of land, with 410 of those acres containing solar panels and support facilities.

The decision was met with four

appeals, including one from developer Intersect Power, challenging multiple zoning board-imposed conditions of approval. Three advocacy groups — Save North Livermore Valley, Friends of Livermore and Friends of Open Space & Vineyards — also filed separate appeals, each expressing objection to the chosen site and public approval process.

Opponents of the project argue that the development poses a threat to the natural environment of the rural area and violates

provisions of Measure D, which was passed by voters in 2000 and aims to preserve agricultural land and open space in eastern Alameda County.

The contentious solar plant has also received pushback from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Last month, the agency issued a letter to the zoning board that claims — despite the final environmental impact report concluding otherwise — the project could

See SOLAR on Page 6

State of the School District

Haglund looks back on historic year for PUSD

By JULIA BAUM

On the heels of a historic year, the second annual Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation's State of the School District was undeniably different from last year's pre-pandemic inaugural event, but the community's show of support was as strong as ever.

The year 2020 was one "of challenges, of conflict, and of change," Superintendent David Haglund said during the Jan. 27 event, which was livestreamed on Zoom and YouTube. "Yet, I have never believed more in the shared mission and vision statements that guide our collective work."

"We were called on to look inward and focus our energies while, at the same time, reaching outside of ourselves and our personal comfort zones," Haglund added.

PPIE Executive Director Steve McCoy-Thompson introduced the hour-long virtual event, which celebrated Pleasanton teachers and education staff and contrasted greatly with last year's in-person event held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel shortly before shelter-in-place orders took effect in Alameda County and the rest of the Bay Area.

About a month later, the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees closed all 15 sites and sent students home for remote instruction for the rest of the school year, giving the district and PPIE a sudden new focus on

assisting staff and students while in distance learning.

"While no one's fault and certainly outside of our ability to control, the responsibility for responding was thrust upon us," Haglund said during his address. "It necessitated new thinking, new strategies and forging new relationships."

Like other communities attempting to stop COVID-19 transmission, Haglund said "the closure of our schools presented significant challenges to the Pleasanton community."

"We locked arms together and did what was required. In many ways, we became the best versions of ourselves. We found the 'us' in 'PUSD,'" he added.

The district's various efforts to continue operating during the pandemic were shared in a highlights reel during the event, including ongoing meal service for students, tech support for teachers, and progress updates on construction projects at Lydiksen, Harvest Park, Foothill and Amador Valley.

Last year PPIE raised \$725,000 from local businesses and residents, enabling the district to hire "a broad range of positions that make a real difference for our students," McCoy-Thompson said, including intervention specialists, library support staff and high school support counselors. Funding also went to support the development of wellness centers at both Amador and Foothill high schools, as well as mock interview, business, and robotics programs.

Since then, the organization has also used funding for hiring

librarian assistants and technology specialists to keep libraries open all day to support students, and create a new wellness counselor position "to develop a comprehensive district-wide program to address rising stress and anxiety in our schools."

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown gave remarks on the city and district's collaborative relationship during the event, and said their close cooperation together "has been critical to serving our shared community."

"It is a partnership and we have been able to accomplish much but we continue to foster development and growth in support of our school district," Brown said.

Adding that Pleasanton schools "succeed because of the combined efforts of both the school district and the city, the parents and the students," Brown said much has been accomplished "but there is still much ahead."

"I look forward to the continued partnership and collaboration that we will work together and make Pleasanton schools even greater than they are already," she added.

The annual event also featured the 2020 Pillars of Pleasanton Awards, which recognizes businesses in the community that support Pleasanton schools through sponsorship, fundraising, in-kind support, and more. Winners this year include Richert Lumber, Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare, State Farm Insurance (Agent Larry Damaser), Porky's Pizza and Towne Center Books.

A recording of the event can be viewed online via www.pleasantonusd.net. ■

Amador student wins App Challenge

Shah's mobile app Maji gives real-time water quality analysis

By JULIA BAUM

In the process of creating a smartphone app that provides real-time information on the quality of local tap water, Amador Valley High School student Hiya Shah also won the Congressional App Challenge for California's 15th Congressional District.

"The reason I wanted to join this contest was I'm really passionate about education. I wanted to make water quality education more accessible and I thought this contest could be the perfect way to do so," Shah told the Weekly.

"Clear water does not mean good quality water — a clear glass of water could also be lethal," Shah said. "PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) have been discovered in some of our wells as well as lead in Amador's drinking fountain. We need to get more awareness about it and get more education about water quality."

Awarding prizes "to students who demonstrate exceptional computer science skills and apply those



Hiya Shah

See APP CHALLENGE on Page 6

Pleasanton's annual MLK Fellowship Breakfast goes virtual

Keynote speaker Epps encourages viewers to 'collectively punch above'

By JULIA BAUM

Tri-Valley community members were recognized for supporting racial equity and justice through their work at the 21st annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast last month.

Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, whose District 4 includes Pleasanton, was honored with an MLK Legacy Award at the Jan. 27 online event hosted by the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative, along with fellow award recipients Dublin High School student Denel McMahan and Interfaith Interconnect co-founder Ruth Gasten.

Though the breakfast was held virtually instead of in person like last year, attendees dined distantly that morning on bagged food items delivered the night before. An assortment of gifts including a copy of the book "The Day You Begin" by Jacqueline Woodson were also sent along with each meal.

The first line of the book — "There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you" — also refers to part of the event that featured small groups in breakout rooms, where each person could tell about a time when "there was no one like you in the room."

Amador Valley High School alumnus Jonathan Epps — who graduated in 2019 as valedictorian from Morehouse College, where King attended — gave a 15-minute keynote speech, during which he compared how the country's racial relations have both changed and remained the same since King was alive.

Also reflecting on growing up in Pleasanton, Epps said he and his



Nate Miley



Denel McMahan



Ruth Gasten

sisters were set up "extremely well for our futures," and that "we continue to benefit from the education we received there."

However, "we were not saved from the racism and microaggressions that afflict all too many black and brown people in this country," Epps added.

In closing remarks, Epps said, "Actualizing King's beloved community or one rooted in love, justice and equality amongst all of us is going to require all of us — every single person in this call here today and beyond — to collectively

punch above our weight."

Currently a senior at Dublin High, where he is also president of the Black Student Union, McMahan was one of three individuals who received the Legacy Award from the collaborative.

McMahan gained local recognition this past year for his activism, including when he turned an online dispute with an older man about equity into a moment of learning.

Involved with both the Diablo Black Men's Group and Tri-Valley for Black Lives, McMahan credited activists like King and Malcolm X with progress that has been made but said "there is so much work to be done."

"That's why I hope to be able to continue my activism through college and my adult life, because I believe that that's what we need more of, given our political and social climate," McMahan said.

Another honoree, Gasten, who

fled Nazi Germany with her family in 1939, is a co-founder of Interfaith Interconnect, which includes more than 20 different Tri-Valley faith organizations. The diverse group was influenced by King's quote, "People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other."

In accepting her award, Gasten said she was also struck by another quote of King's: "Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of education."

Miley also received the Legacy Award for his work starting the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC) in 1986, which "empowers older adults to improve their quality of life." He served as executive director for more than 20 years and then was elected board president in 2010. ■

Three hospitalized after Pleasanton house fire

Cause of Driftwood Way blaze under investigation

By GINA CHANNELL

Three people were injured in a house fire on Driftwood Way in Pleasanton last week.

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department arrived with the Alameda County Fire Department and the Pleasanton Police Department at 6:48 a.m. Feb. 4 and found heavy fire in the residence. Firefighters began battling the fire from the exterior, and then

transitioned into the residence to extinguish the fire.

During the firefight three residents were evacuated and treated at the scene for minor to moderate injuries before being transported to a local hospital, according to LPPFD.

Driftwood Way and adjacent residential streets were closed during the firefight, and some streets remained closed afterward as the

fire investigation continued.

The fire was brought under control at approximately 7:45 a.m.

The cause of this fire has not yet been determined. A joint investigation with the Pleasanton PD, Alameda Arson Task Force and the LPPFD is being conducted.

There were no reported injuries to firefighters. An early estimate of damage to the home and contents is \$850,000. ■



LPPFD

The aftermath of the destructive house fire on Driftwood Way last week.

APP CHALLENGE

Continued from Page 5

skills to supporting their community," the competition sees applicants submit their original apps in the hopes of gaining national recognition as a district winner.

Shah entered her mobile app Maji, which uses a smartphone picture of the water and field testing data to provide a real-time water quality estimate and filtration options.

"The goal is to make water quality information more accessible without the need for expensive, infrequent water loggers," Shah said.

According to Shah, the city of Pleasanton updates water testing data every couple of weeks "and does this by block."

The app configures the user's location, takes the closest water testing site and uses testing information from the site in conjunction with provided visual data to give "as much of a real time water

quality estimate as possible," Shah said.

After programming for some time, Shah did an internship at the local environmental nonprofit Go Green Initiative, where she was encouraged to combine her concern for the environment with her interest in technology.

"I've always read about water contamination, it's a critical issue, and I thought I could do something to help mitigate it," Shah said.

Eventually, she decided to enter the contest in Rep. Eric Swalwell's 15th Congressional District, which includes Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Livermore as well as parts of western Alameda County.

In a statement, Swalwell said he feels "confident about our community's future when I see what issues our students are already tackling."

"From making data about water quality easier to share to helping food banks during the pandemic,

these students created apps that offer real solutions to today's problems," Swalwell said.

Shah — who also founded peer-learning nonprofit TheCodeBakery, which teaches students computer science and artificial intelligence, with a particular focus on combating climate change — said she was "very surprised" to hear she had won the contest.

"I was very surprised, I wasn't expecting it at all but it's very encouraging to me to continue working on this app and continue to make water quality information more accessible," Shah said.

In April, Shah will present her project virtually for the national Congressional App Challenge finals.

Amador Valley sophomore Aryan Jain tied in second for "Attentive," along with Dublin High tenth-graders Anish Kataria and Krish Malik for "Dermalogix." Dublin High seniors Derek Xu and Vikas Ummadisetty took third place for "FoodEase." ■

SOLAR

Continued from Page 5

negatively affect certain threatened species including the California red-legged frog, the Central California tiger salamander and the endangered San Joaquin kit fox.

"Intersect Power stands firmly behind the quality of the Aramis project's biological survey work, which was conducted over multiple years by experts, and included protocol-level and focused surveys for amphibians and other taxa," the company said in a statement responding to concerns raised in the letter.

"There is no potential breeding habitat for California red-legged frog or California tiger salamander on the Aramis project site, and the comprehensive surveys did not detect any frog or salamander individuals. San Joaquin kit foxes also are not present at the site, and haven't been seen in Alameda County for decades.

Intersect Power sited the Aramis project on its particular plot of land because of its low potential for harm and its high potential for local benefits."

The energy company was also hit with a cease-and-desist order last month after lease negotiations fell through for a plot of land intended to be used for the project.

On behalf of Leland and Mary Stanley, the owners of one parcel totaling 38 acres sought for development as part of the original plans, San Francisco-based attorney Jacqueline Phillips notified Intersect Power counsel that "any and all negotiations between any of the Stanleys and any Intersect Power entity ... are hereby terminated. This decision is final."

Intersect's principal Marisa Mitchell told the Weekly at the time that although the company was "disappointed" by the outcome, they did not expect the project to be hindered by the exclusion of the Stanleys' land. ■

During a Heart Attack, Every Minute Counts



Know the warning signs:

- Chest discomfort, pain, or pressure that lasts for more than a few minutes, or that goes away and returns
- Upper body discomfort or pain, including in the arms, back, neck, jaw, or stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Lightheadedness, nausea, or vomiting
- Extreme fatigue
- Cold sweat

Chest pain is the most common symptom of a heart attack in men and women. Women are more likely to report some of the other common symptoms listed above. The hospital is still the safest place you can be in an emergency. Don't hesitate. Call 911.

Caring for your heart is essential, even during the pandemic. Make cardiovascular health a priority starting this Heart Month by exercising, eating a balanced diet, keeping up routine medical visits, and promptly addressing signs of illness. We are prepared to safely care for you.

Learn more about cardiovascular health at stanfordhealthcare.org/heartmonth



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Ex-councilman picked for DSRSD board

Goel represents Division 5, based in eastern Dublin

By JULIA BAUM

Former Dublin City Council member Arun Goel was appointed the new leader of Dublin San Ramon Services District Division 5 at the Feb. 2 Board of Directors meeting, beating out four other candidates to fill the vacant seat.

Immediately after virtually taking the oath of office, Goel joined the board for the remainder of

the meeting, also held remotely.

“My heart and soul is fully into serving this community,” Goel said.

After losing his bid for Dublin’s mayoral seat in the Nov. 3



Arun Goel

general election,

Goel applied to become the new representative of DSRSD’s Division 5, which includes the district’s easternmost service area in Dublin, just east of Hacienda Drive.

When nobody filed to run for the Division 5 seat in November -- the first election since DSRSD transitioned to at-large representation in 2019 -- the board decided to fill the vacancy by appointment through a

formal application process rather than hold a special election.

Goel, who holds civil engineering degrees with an emphasis on hydrology and hydraulics, was shortlisted for an interview with the board last month, along with 2020 Dublin council candidates Samir Qureshi and Kashif Qaadri. Information technology manager Dean Barnes and retired civil engineer

John Koltz were also selected for interviews at the board meeting.

As a flood control design engineer for Alameda County, Goel has experience and knowledge of groundwater supply, watersheds, drainage and biofiltration. His priorities on the board include “improving the current water quality, supply, recycling, and sewage disposal,” officials said. ■

Bauer-Kahan introduces climate change, gender equity legislation

Trio of bills focus on excess power supply, pollution data, gender-neutral language

By JULIA BAUM

A trio of bills from local Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) were introduced in the State Legislature last week, two focusing on climate change and the other addressing gendered language in the California Government Code.

Rolling blackouts left more than 800,000 California homes and businesses without power during a record heatwave last summer. As a result, Bauer-Kahan drafted Assembly Bill 427, which requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to create guidelines for the state to purchase excess power stored in solar-powered home batteries and electric cars.

“We owe it to Californians to use every tool available in our clean energy arsenal to mitigate these blackouts, while at the same time

reducing the state’s dependence on fossil fuels,” Bauer-Kahan said. “Figuring out appropriate guidelines to tap this massive unused energy source is simply common sense.”

The excess clean energy in consumers’ homes and cars “could have filled gaps in supply, during these times of high demand for power, by being aggregated and sold to the grid — helping to prevent devastating outages,” Bauer-Kahan said.

AB 426, known as the “Air Quality Analysis Act,” which allows local air districts to collect data from “indirect” pollution sources like warehouses and distribution centers, was also introduced by the Tri-Valley representative last week. The districts would also be allowed to evaluate the health impacts of the pollution sources on surrounding communities,

thereby helping “look for innovative ways to reduce toxic air contaminants and make our air more breathable.”

“Every community deserves safe and breathable air,” Bauer-Kahan said. “Communities should not have to be forced to choose between affordable housing and clean air. We should be doing everything in our power to find the sources of these harmful pollutants so we can in turn find solutions for communities.”

Jack Broadbent, executive director of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, said the district is “grateful” for AB 426’s introduction and “proud to sponsor this important bill.”

“In addition to causing regional pollution impacts, emissions from transportation and goods movement can cause significant local public health impacts to people

that live near large facilities such as warehouses and distribution centers,” Broadbent said. “AB 426 would allow the Air District to better understand these local emission impacts and work with facilities and local communities to improve local air quality.”

The Tri-Valley legislator also teamed up with Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis in introducing AB 378, or the “Gender Equity in Leadership Act,” on Feb. 1.

AB 378 “seeks to update woefully outdated and gender-specific code sections relating to the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Controller, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, and Board of Equalization,” and make all references to the office holder’s gender be neutral.

“Current language in our law that assumes our Governor or our

constitutional officers could only ever be a ‘he’ plays into the sexist bias that we in California have been fighting” Bauer-Kahan said. “Gendered language is neither precise nor accurate. Gender-neutral language reflects that anyone, regardless of gender identity, can serve at the highest levels of California government.”

Bauer-Kahan continued, “In 2021, we have our first elected female Lieutenant Governor, a female Controller, Treasurer, and Secretary of State. The majority of California’s constitutional offices are held by women, yet the California Government Code refers to those office holders as men.”

The bill would “systematically” go through the Government Code, “eliminating gendered language in reference to government officers, as well as other members of government and the public.” ■



NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY OF IRELAND

Rhythm of the Dance

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center is presenting Rhythm of the Dance, a performance recorded in front of a live audience that features award-winning dancers, excellent musicians and foot-tapping passion. Rhythm of the Dance, which is internationally rated as one of the most popular and busiest Irish step dance shows in the world, can be streamed online from March 1-21. The cost is \$23.50; purchase through www.LivermoreArts.org and a portion of the ticket sale will benefit the Bankhead Theater.

Dublin offers rent help

Up to \$6K or six months of lease

Dublin city officials have initiated a new residential rent assistance program for lower-income households experiencing financial distress and inability to pay rent due to the loss of income related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The amount of funding available to a renter would be based on an actual, demonstrated need and would provide up to \$6,000 per household or a maximum of six months of rent, whichever is less.

“Funds may only be used for outstanding, unpaid rent due on a current lease. The form of assistance will be a grant payable directly to the landlord,” city officials said.

To qualify, a person must be a Dublin resident with a loss of job or income due to

COVID-19, the lease in their name, a household income at or below 120% of the area median income, and be current on rental payments prior to March 17, 2020 and remain in otherwise good standing with the terms of the lease.

Applications can be completed online at www.dublin.ca.gov/2269 or downloaded and submitted to the Community Development Department, Housing Division, at 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568. Hard copies of the application are also available at 100 Civic Plaza.

Funding for the program is provided by the federal CARES Act Round 3 through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

Livermore unveils new eGift program

Encourages residents to shop local

By JEREMY WALSH

Livermore Downtown Inc. has partnered with the city, county and Yiftee to launch a new eGift program for those who buy from locally owned businesses in Livermore and the immediately surrounding areas in Alameda County.

Dubbed “Gift Livermore,” the program aims to incentivize residents to patronize participating businesses by giving those who buy one eGift an additional eGift as “a thank you for shopping local” — purchase an eGift for \$40 and get an additional \$15 eGift, or buy a \$75 eGift and receive an additional \$25 eGift.

“Gift Livermore helps our small businesses and our residents exactly when they need it most. By shopping locally we invest in what makes Livermore unique and we keep those dollars recirculating in the local economy where they generate more City funding. This is truly a win-win-win,” said Adam Van De Water, the city’s director of innovation and economic development.

“This is a clever opportunity, which greatly benefits small Livermore business owners and the public. It incentivizes people to shop locally and be rewarded,” added Mike Allen, who with wife Linda owns First Street Wine Company, which is participating in the new program.

Gift Livermore currently features 66 local businesses, according to its website. The list includes retail shops, restaurants, personal services, wineries and more.

A resident can receive a maximum of one thank-you gift per participating merchant, but there is no limit on the number of different merchants from which they can earn an eGift. The program encourages people to “buy from your favorites, but also try some of those that just may be a new favorite,” according to Rachael Snedecor, executive director of Livermore Downtown Inc.

The downtown association pitched the concept to the local

See **EGIFT** on Page 11

Foothill DECA team earns 167 awards at regional conference

Virtual event is ‘start to an amazing competitive year’

By JULIA BAUM

Foothill High School students swept a total of 167 awards and took home the prestigious glass at the DECA Northern California Career Development Conference last month.

“I am incredibly proud of each and every one of our DECA competitors,” director of training Emma Linn said in a statement. “They are motivated, talented, and hardworking individuals that I am honored to have the opportunity of training and working with these past two years.”

The virtual event, which took place Jan. 11-28, included “rigorous, industry-validated cluster exams” during the first week, followed by feedback from the judges.

When the second week arrived, students gave role-play presentations that showed their ability to respond to industry problems, as well as written presentations highlighting their research and long-term business plan development skills.

With so many awards, Foothill students had a 93% overall success rate, and 23 students in the top 3. They also placed in the top 10 in role play and written events during the ten day online conference.

Foothill DECA president Simone Pereira said, “NorCal was really exciting to pioneer on a virtual platform,” adding “it was great seeing all the chapters find unique ways in preparing their members for competition.”

The team called their performance the “start to an amazing competitive year,” including their next showing at the State Career Development Conference later this month.

Prior to the conference, four team members — Vishnu Nair, Michael Zong, Jason Yu, and Dylan Chidambaram — were recognized in the Western Region during the 2021 DECA Stock Market Game, an online competition involving finance, portfolio management and stock analysis.

More than 500 students were

tested on their practical and theoretical skills in real life business scenarios and subjects involving marketing, management, finance, hospitality and tourism, and more.

“The stock market game definitely encouraged our group to pay more attention to the world around us,” Zong said. “Overall, there were a lot of ups and downs, but I feel that strong communication and adapting our strategies to the current market situation allowed us to ultimately be successful.”

Nair, Zong and Yu placed 12th in the region, while Chidambaram finished in 17th place. The top 25 teams from each region will present their portfolios at the DECA Virtual International Career Development Conference in April.

Foothill DECA is seeking volunteers for the State Career Development Conference from Feb. 28 to March 2. Those interested in volunteering can contact foothilldeca@gmail.com. ■

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Young SRVUSD students return to campus

10,000 kids expected back for in-person learning over next seven days

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Wednesday was the first day back on campus for some of San Ramon Valley Unified School District's youngest students, as in-person learning returned to the district for elementary schools after nearly 11 months of remote-only instruction brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

Approximately 10,000 students are projected to return to their campuses over the next week according to SRVUSD Superintendent John Malloy, who oversaw the reintroduction of transitional kindergarten (TK) through second-grade students to the physical classroom.

"We have followed every precaution, we have worked through every requirement, and we have said to our families and to our staff that we are going to oversee (safety) very closely because we know that's so important in order for our kids to be safe and for our staff to be safe here at school," Malloy said while welcoming students back to Greenbrook Elementary School in Danville.

"We're excited that the kids are coming back today," he added.

After receiving the go ahead from



Danville mom Tammy DeClercq walks her triplets Cooper, Tenley and Tylie to their first day of in-person learning at Greenbrook Elementary School.

Contra Costa Health Services and reaching the criteria needed to re-open, TK-2 students were the first to return to hybrid in-person learning on Wednesday, while students in third through fifth grade and special day classes (SDC) are set to return on Feb. 17.

According to Malloy, approximately one third of students who are eligible to return to in-person instruction have elected to do so, while the families of the remaining two-thirds — about 20,000 students — have opted to stick with remote learning through the end of

the school year.

The superintendent also noted that most members of the San Ramon Valley Education Association (SRVEA) agreed with the precautions made to return to in-person instruction, with 92% of teachers approving the memorandum of understanding concerning their return.

"I think we're at a point based on that piece of information that — although there have been certain challenges along the way, people have shared their valid concerns about their safety — we have

worked really hard to meet all of those concerns and 92% acceptance speaks to me of the collaboration that has taken place," Malloy said.

Happy faces (or eyes, anyway) from students and parents alike could be seen during Wednesday morning's return to school, where families dropped off their children and were left with a sense that life may be starting to return to a point of normalcy not seen since the pandemic began.

Danville dad Brooks Landry, who dropped off two of his daughters at Greenbrook on Wednesday, said, "We've got a third-grader. And this is her (sister's) first day of kindergarten, so it's a unique way to have your first day. But we feel good, we're excited and we're ready for it."

"We had kind of a sleepless night; (the girls) were up because they were so excited. It's good to get them back into a routine," he added.

Landry praised SRVUSD for its efforts to return to school safely, as well as its dedication to keeping parents informed, saying "I think the district has done a fantastic job, they've kept us informed

every step of the way. We've had a lot of updates throughout the past year and that's been great."

Local mom Tammy DeClercq echoed the Landry families' excitement, saying it "felt good" to be able to drop her triplets off to their first day of in-person kindergarten.

"I think that it's been a long time coming, so they've had a lot of time to prepare," she said. "I feel like it's a little fast going into today, so it's been a little crazy the past two days. But I feel like they are prepared and were feeling good about safety precautions."

While the SRVUSD is the first public school district to return to in-person learning on a large scale in the Tri-Valley, district officials remain unsure of when secondary school students will be allowed to return to in-person instruction.

According to state guidelines, secondary school students may not return to in-person learning until the county moves out of the most-restrictive purple tier into the less-restrictive red tier — which is achieved when the county averages no more than seven new cases a day per 100,000 residents for five consecutive days. ■



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Smooches for Pooches

The East Bay SPCA will be holding its Smooches for Pooches event via drive-thru with social distancing this Valentine's Day on Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. at its Dublin shelter (4651 Gleason Drive) as well as at its Oakland location.

The event aims to be "a family-friendly drive-thru Valentine's Day event. Guests are invited to send love to furry animal Valentines. Candy, non-food treats, and a fun East Bay SPCA activity book will be available for kids to take home," officials said.

"To keep everyone safe, no walk-ups will be permitted, guests must drive-thru and keep masks on in the car, and all food items will be individually packaged for safety," they added. Though a free event, donations are welcome to support the nonprofit's humane education programs. Learn more at eastbay.sPCA.org/smooches-pooches.

Honoring Athenour

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton and its Scholarship Committee recently announced they've created a new scholarship for local students in honor of late Rotarian Bob Athenour.

Affectionately known as "Señor Bob," Athenour was a retired Amador Valley High School foreign language teacher who later worked as a travel agent and gave back to the community as co-founder of the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association and as an active supporter of Pleasanton Rotary and its Wheelchair Project. He died last August at the age of 91.

Becoming the club's fourth memorial scholarship, the award named for Athenour will go to "a student studying foreign languages, foreign language teaching, international cultural, political or business relations."

The deadline to apply for Rotary scholarships in 2021 is March 31 for high school seniors. Visit <https://pleasantonrotary.org> for details.

Literacy tutor

The Livermore Public Library is recruiting residents interested in volunteering as an adult literacy tutor.

"Can you see yourself helping an adult learn to read a medicine label, fill out a job application, write a letter, or study for the driver's license exam? If so, become a volunteer tutor and help an adult improve their basic reading and writing skills and achieve their goals. No previous experience is necessary," they said.

Prospective volunteers must attend a three-part virtual tutor training series this month, from 10 a.m. to noon next Tuesday (Feb. 16), Thursday (Feb. 18) and Feb. 23. For more information or to sign up, call 925-373-5507 or email literacy@livermore.lib.ca.us. ■

Survey: BART riders more satisfied now

Also: Agency receives \$103.7M; Link21 plan revealed for second transbay crossing

Roughly three-quarters of BART riders were satisfied with the transit agency's service in 2020, an increase of almost 30% over 2018, according to the results of an agency survey.

BART received responses from some 3,000 riders for its biennial customer satisfaction survey, which found that 72% of riders were very or somewhat satisfied with BART compared to 56% during the 2018 survey. Nine percent of riders were dissatisfied with BART in 2020, compared to 21% in 2018.

The 2020 version of the survey, fielded over a span of three weeks in October, reached 2,325 fewer riders than the 2018 version, due in part to an 88% decrease in ridership and a result, in large part, to the coronavirus pandemic.

With the transit agency's ridership now skewing more toward essential and transit-dependent workers, 75% of 2020 survey participants identified as non-white and 51% reported household incomes of less than \$50,000. In 2018, those numbers were 65% and 25%, respectively.

The survey's findings were presented to BART's Board of Directors on Jan. 28.

"These riders who took the survey, they are the riders who depend on BART the most," Board Director Rebecca Saltzman said. "They're primarily essential workers or people taking essential trips to doctor's appointments."

The survey found that 23% of BART's ridership would be unable to make the trip they were on without the agency's service and 53% of

riders do not own a car or motorcycle, up from 31% in 2018.

Riders criticized BART most frequently on the survey for the agency's efforts to address fare evasion and unhoused residents at stations, the presence of BART police officers and general personal security.

Board Director Janice Li suggested that issues of personal safety and security could be assuaged once BART's unarmed crisis intervention ambassadors are riding aboard every train during all hours of operation.

Li also argued that some riders may unfairly conflate unhoused residents at BART stations and public safety concerns.

"Folks in the public make assumptions that people are homeless, experiencing homelessness, are the same folks that are causing issues with public safety, which are the same folks who are fare evading," she said. "I don't believe that's true at all."

BART riders gave the agency somewhat positive marks for its efforts to keep trains safe since the start of the pandemic, with 79% of riders attesting that they were able to maintain at least six feet of distance from others for the entirety of their ride.

Mask wearing is also mandated among all BART employees and riders, but some survey-takers argued

that mask use is not enforced aboard trains as much as it should be.

"We hear those complaints, which is why we continue to work with staff to ensure that we are keeping our riders and our workers as safe as possible," Li said.

In other news

- BART will receive more than \$100 million in federal coronavirus relief funding following the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's first allocation of funding for transit last month.

The transit agency will receive \$103.7 million, \$55 million of which will be used to close BART's budget deficit for the 2020-21 fiscal year, which ends on June 30.

The rest of the funding will be used to cover part of BART's expected deficit for the following fiscal year, which the agency's budget officials have pegged at \$254 million before accounting for federal relief.

"These funds provide short-term relief, preventing layoffs and providing funds to keep our current service levels for our current ridership which is heavily transit dependent," BART General Manager Bob Powers said in a statement.

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations

Act of 2021 included \$14 billion for the country's transit agencies, which have struggled as the pandemic gutted ridership revenue.

- BART and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority recently unveiled a plan to build a second transbay rail crossing and increase rail connection throughout the Bay Area and Northern California.

The Link21 program will include multiple projects intended to make rail transit more accessible for residents in the Northern California megaregion, which includes 21 counties in the San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey Bay Area, greater Sacramento area and Northern San Joaquin Valley.

Link21 is centered around constructing a second transbay rail corridor between San Francisco and Oakland by 2040, according to officials with BART and the Capitol Corridor JPA.

A second Transbay Tube or other rail corridor, the Link21 program argues, would reduce crowding on BART and other rail transit services in the megaregion, reduce pollution from single-occupancy vehicles and cut down commute times for residents who live several counties away from their place of work. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

EGIFT

Continued from Page 9

public agencies as a way to support businesses hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated shutdowns and restrictions, as well as to offer some minor assistance and incentive to residents who shop local in the Livermore Valley, according to Snedecor.

"The city of Livermore and Alameda County have contributed funds to cover set up and merchant fees so that full eGift purchase funds will go directly to the businesses," she said. "To make this program even more exciting and beneficial, the city of Livermore and Alameda County have contributed funds for consumer incentives."

Livermore Mayor Bob Woerner added, "We really appreciate Livermore Downtown Inc. suggesting this program to the city. I hope you all enthusiastically support this at any level you can, enjoying and supporting our locally owned businesses."

To learn more, visit gift.livermore.com. ■

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Staying Healthy

WINTER 2021

Inside:

- Robot kitties for comfort Page 13
- Food allergy solutions Page 14
- Cancer care collaborative Page 15

Feeling the burn (and cold)

Winter weather doesn't stop Tri-Valley residents staying fit amid pandemic

By JULIA BAUM

Getting in shape is a common New Year's resolution for many people, but doing so during inclement weather while also sheltering in place poses unique challenges in 2021.

Several Tri-Valley fitness centers and personal trainers shared their advice and tips with the Weekly, as well as what it's like taking — and teaching — an outdoor gym class during the wetter months.

After closing suddenly for in-person classes and training by public health order 11 months ago, along with other local gyms and fitness studios, Razi Hasni, founder and owner of Joya Yoga in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, said his studio “did pretty well, we pivoted pretty quick into online fitness” because a full virtual lifestyle channel of theirs was already in the works.

The COVID-19 pandemic expedited development of Joya Soul TV, which now offers live streaming and on-demand classes, in addition to nutrition analysis and wellness workshops, by paying a monthly subscription. However, a number of Tri-Valley trainers are also holding open-air fitness classes in local parks, as well as specially assembled tents.

Outdoor classes for yoga and Pilates pose some challenges — “We've set the tent up with heating and lighting ... but it still has its drawbacks, it's still not the same as an indoor class,” Hasni said — but offer a much-needed sense of community by providing “the human connection, that's more important than anything else.”

“We're seeing more meditation-minded individuals, focusing on the wellness aspect of their health,” Hasni said. “The people that are coming are more interested in building strong, resilient immune systems. That's why they're coming, and they're vocal about it.”

“Even during the rain, we held outdoor fitness classes, you'd be surprised,” he added. “We had leaks in our tent but people came in. It helps them deal with the current situation.”

Alicia Ambrosini, manager of Brick Fitness Center in Pleasanton, said, “Transitioning to outdoor classes has been successful for us. People still need fitness, they need it physically, emotionally, mentally ... that's been the glue that has held our membership together.”

Since moving to outdoor classes last June, Ambrosini said, “Having a tent has been critical, given the weather, both the hot summer days and the rain and cold as well.”

“I've been inspired by our membership;

weather is not slowing them down,” she added.

While Brick offers virtual courses and training that people can do in the comfort of their home, Ambrosini said in-person classes offer a chance to unplug.

“People are on their screens all day long and tired, they're craving that normalcy,” Ambrosini said. “They're also having more success coming in person versus having to show up on a computer screen.”

“We hear it countless times — it's an outlet for them to get away from a screen, get away from another Zoom call,” she added.

Some people are reluctant to attend outdoor classes, but both Hasni and Ambrosini said it's very possible to create a gym at home with smaller mobile pieces of equipment such as kettlebells, barbells, jump ropes and resistance bands.

Even food cans can be used to substitute for kettlebells, “or anything else that's similar to the weights you're using,” according to Hasni.

Hasni also suggested creating “a space dedicated to spending time with yourself inside your home that will be conducive with you following through with a workout.” If you don't have an extra room, separating a workout space from your regular living space with a wall divider or curtain will also work.

“Enough space to put a yoga mat down without the hindrance of hitting a wall,” Hasni said.



RYAN J. DEGAN

Tri-Valley fitness centers and gyms have been flexing their creative muscles in order to adapt to social and business restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic, with some electing to host clients outdoors. Here, Natalie Kiff exercises outside at Pleasanton's Brick Fitness.

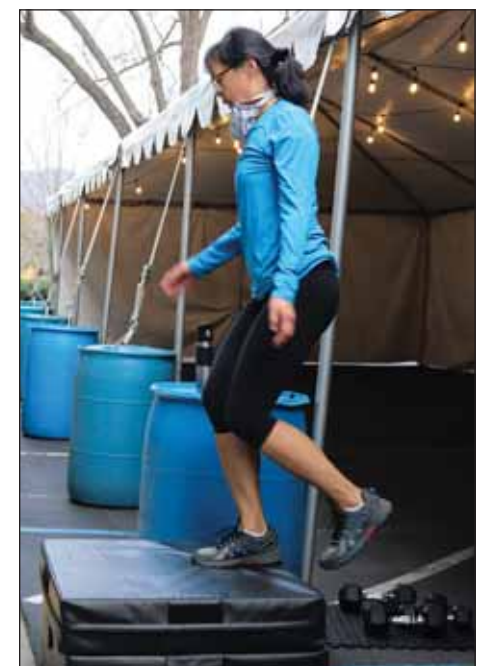
Ambrosini said her team is “encouraging everyone to be as healthy as they can in these trying times,” and reminded people to “hang in there and try and do the best you can. Get back to that routine.”

Even if it's just 15 or 20 minutes a day, Hasni said “just dedicate the time. Don't take your fitness for granted, this is the time to spend focusing on your wellness. Take your health by the bullhorns and take charge of it.” ■



RYAN J. DEGAN

Above: Dayna Aguirre and Sandeep Birla break a sweat in a tent set up in a parking lot area outside Brick. Right: Kim Marcelis partakes in an outdoor fitness class at Brick.



RYAN J. DEGAN



HOPE HOSPICE

Patients living with dementia respond positively to animatronic pets, especially as they go without the benefit of face-to-face companionship as the pandemic drags on.

Robot kitties comfort patients with dementia

Pets lessen impact of pandemic-related isolation, loneliness

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The elderly man, a Hope Hospice patient with dementia, sat with his new furry cat on his lap, stroking its fur and bonding, his daughter by his side. The feline was a robot pet, which Hope Hospice began giving to patients in December.

Then the man tilted his head toward his daughter and whispered, "You know this cat isn't real."

The daughter was taken aback. The animatronic cat was designed to comfort older adults in need of companionship and, given her father's cognitive decline, she wasn't sure if he would notice. After all, it did move and meow.

"Yes," the daughter responded. "It's just here if you feel like petting it."

"It's great," the dad told her. "I just wanted to make sure you knew it's not real."

This anecdote is a favorite of Gia Barsell, manager of dementia services at Hope Hospice, who is overseeing the distribution of the Joy for All Companion Pets. They are battery powered, and when stroked, they become alert and make realistic noises and small movements.

Made by Ageless Innovation, the pets are designed specifically for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of cognitive decline. A donation from NorCal Minis car club enabled Hope Hospice to purchase 20



HOPE HOSPICE

A donation has provided Hope Hospice with 20 animatronic cats that become alert when stroked and make realistic noises and small movements.

cats, and Barsell has given out five so far.

"I like to think that some of them maybe do think they are real," Barsell said. "Some have tried to feed them or put the cat's mouth in a water bowl."

But she said the pets do more than provide a furry companion.

"What these cats are doing is maybe bringing someone back to a pet they had when they were growing up or they had when they were in their own home, enjoying family life," Barsell explained. "It is not about the pet; it's about the memories."

"It may or may not be about the pet specifically but it is more about the emotions associated with the pet," she continued. "It reminds them of simpler times when they could sit and tactilely stroke their pet. They elicit positive emotions."

The cats have helped lessen the impact of pandemic-related isolation on patients with dementia, Barsell noted, who are prone to side effects from long-term social isolation and loneliness.

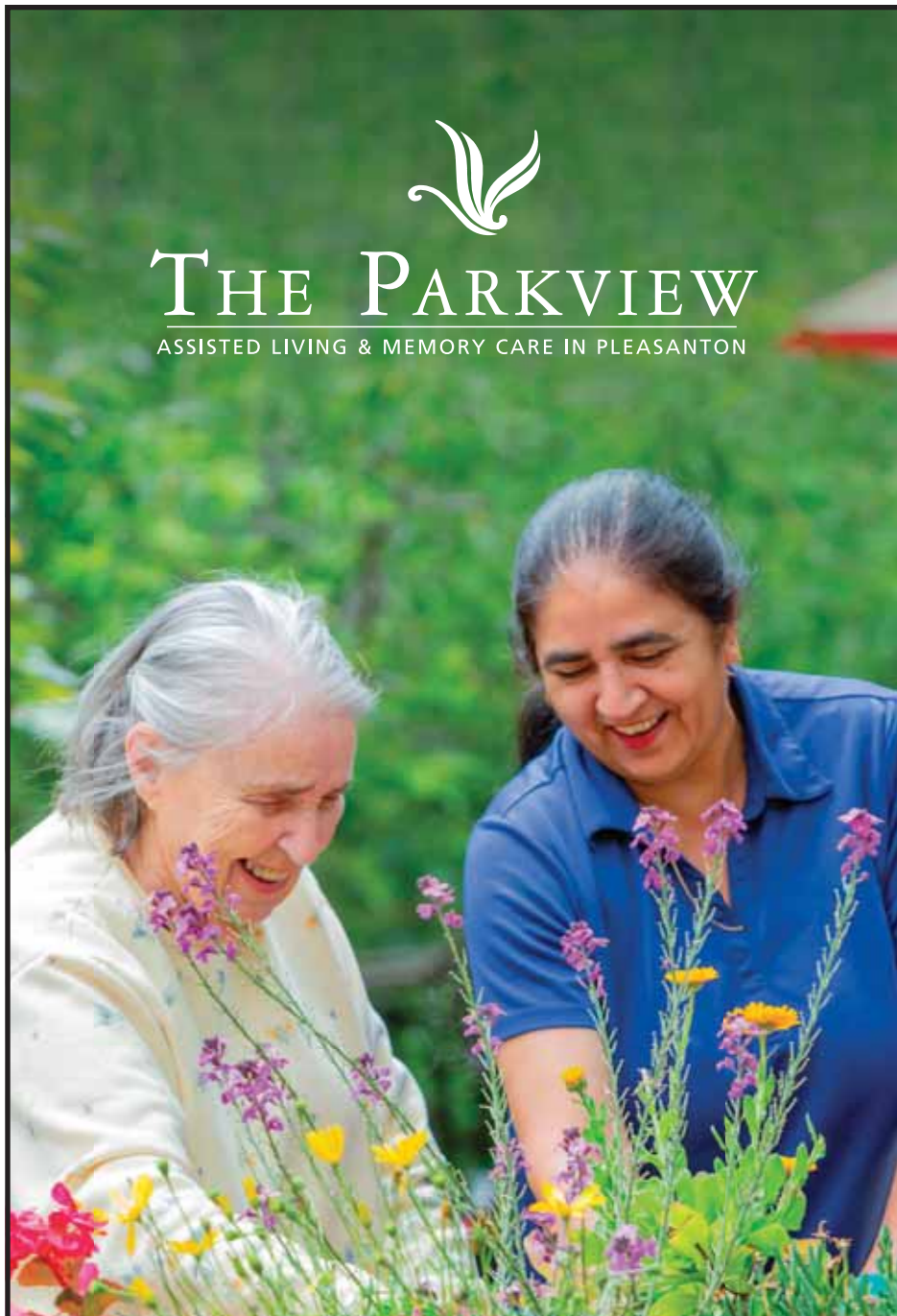
"Here we are, nearly a year into this pandemic, and our patients continue to go without the benefit of face-to-face companionship visits from our volunteers, and in many cases, even the patient's own family," Nikki Tildesley, manager of volunteer services at Hope Hospice, said. "They are truly suffering."

Plus, Barsell added, the pandemic has caused a change in routine, which causes these patients to struggle. Although pharmacological interventions may make an agitated patient easier to care for, Barsell questions whether that is best for the patient.

Clinical studies conducted with Joy for All Companion Pets have shown positive results in reducing anxiety and agitation. This resulted in more socialization with others, decreased episodes of delirium, and less need for medications.

One caregiver in a study reported on a patient who had been withdrawn, rarely interactive and frequently mumbled incoherently.

See **ROBOTIC PETS** on Page 14



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Tri-Valley clinic battles food allergy crisis

Latitude Food Allergy Care opens new facility in San Ramon

BY RYAN J. DEGAN

While the spread of the coronavirus has captured health headlines throughout the world, a more silent crisis of food allergies has also been on the rise in the U.S., and Bay Area-based Latitude Food Allergy Care has dedicated itself to caring for patients dealing with food hypersensitivity.

To help fight food allergies and serve patients in the Tri-Valley and greater East Bay, Latitude recently opened a new care clinic in San Ramon, offering patients the opportunity to assess, treat and even possibly prevent food allergies and the often dangerous reactions to them.

“Millions of people are desperate for answers to their food allergy questions,” said Kimberley Yates Grosso, founder and CEO of Latitude. “Our team set out to transform food allergy care by providing a place where patients and their families could finally make sense of their food allergies and find solutions with full support from food allergy experts and clinicians.”

“As members of the food allergy community ourselves, we know that specialized care is not only necessary but life-changing, and we are committed to making it accessible to all those who need it,” she added.

Founded in 2018 by Bay Area parents of children with food allergies, Latitude is unique in that, while most general allergists

can provide care to patients suffering from food allergies, their clinical team is led by board-certified allergists who have specified expertise focusing in on the treatment of food hypersensitivity.

“Patients come to Latitude searching for answers to their food allergies, with many having had no choice but to avoid foods their entire lives,” said Tessa Grosso, a community adviser at Latitude and a patient advocate for food allergy treatment. “As a food allergic patient myself, it is truly exciting to live the rest of my life with the ability to eat freely, and to create the same possibilities for other children, teenagers and adults in the food allergy community.”

Latitude has four clinics throughout the Bay Area located in San Francisco, Los Gatos/San Jose, Redwood City and now San Ramon, which have remained open for virtual and in-person visits.

One of the top ways Latitude provides care, according to co-founder Debbie Taback, is first and foremost ensuring that patients have an accurate diagnosis of what their allergies actually are.

Through a combination of skin and blood tests, clinicians can get an accurate diagnosis of the allergens that affect a patient. Then once an accurate diagnosis is reached, patients can sit down with allergists to create a treatment plan that best suits them.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tina Dominguez (PA-C, MMS), the East Bay clinical director at Latitude’s clinic in San Ramon, attends to a young client. Latitude offers a practice called oral immunotherapy, where clients are slowly desensitized to their food allergies.

“A lot of the time people come in and they say ‘I’m allergic to this list of 20 foods’ and we do the hard work with them to really determine what people are allergic to. Because oftentimes, and especially for young adults who may have been told something as a child, maybe these things that they have been avoiding for years and years may be fine,” Taback told the Weekly.

In some cases, Latitude can help even desensitize patients to their allergies to severely minimize or even remove symptoms that can result from exposure to allergens.

Herself a mother of three children who have suffered from various types of food allergies, Taback said her eldest daughter was diagnosed with an allergy to sesame that she was desensitized to through a practice called oral immunotherapy.

Oral immunotherapy is an innovative process based on evidence-based protocols from Stanford University, the University of California San Francisco, Baylor University and other leading research institutions that includes exposing patients to small doses of their allergies, helping patients build a tolerance and reducing the symptoms of accidental exposure to their allergies.

“My daughter is kind of an anomaly because at the 5-1/2-year mark after her treatment, she’s now completely tested out of her

allergy. She’s no longer allergic to sesame,” Taback said.

“With the desensitization process, the goal is to retrain the immune system to recognize the food as something safe. You do this in a very slow, monitored way and you progress from very very small amounts up to maybe a whole nut or several whole nuts (for patients with nut allergies),” Taback added.

The new San Ramon clinic is led by East Bay clinical director Tina L.R. Dominguez (PA-C, MMS).

The demand for organizations dedicated to treatment of food allergies has only grown, according to Taback, who said that the rates of food allergies reported among people has grown to epidemic proportions over the past decade.

“Allergies rates have absolutely increased over the past decade and are on a trajectory to continue to increase unless changes are made,” Taback said.

“There are some new guidelines that make sure babies are exposed to potentially allergenic foods at a very young age, whereas 10 years ago the advice was don’t give babies these allergenic foods until they are 3. Well those guidelines have turned upside down because we are trying to stem that tide of this epidemic of food allergies,” she added. ■

ROBOTIC PETS

Continued from Page 13

“With the introduction of the pup, the patient would smile, laugh, talk to and pick up the pet,” the care provider said. “Her son observed that, as a result, she was more responsive to him.”

“It’s taken off like wildfire — we’ve had so much success,” Barsell said. “We have not had one unsuccessful match yet.”

The robotic pets are preferable to live animals for this population not only due to their lack of maintenance but also because a patient may pet it too hard, resulting in a cat or dog defending itself and hurting the patient, she also pointed out.

The cats cost about \$110 each and, pleased by their success, Barsell is looking at puppies, for \$50 each. Hope Hospice

is seeking grant funding and donations to get the lap-dog models and continue the program.

One of the cats was placed in the common room of a facility, where it began to meow, Barsell said.

“We let the patient process it, and told her she could stroke it. As I put it in her lap, she leaned in it and snuggled it and said, ‘It’s purring.’ Sure enough, it had started vibrating,” Barsell said, a happy coincidence.

“They also bring their paw up to their mouth like they are licking it, and they show you their belly to get you to rub it. They are darling,” she added.

Some patients keep them at the foot of their beds.

“They pick them up when they want,” Barsell said. “It is an amazing gift, especially at this time of so much social isolation.” ■

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Stanford Medicine enters collaborative with Sutter Health for cancer care program

Joint venture includes creation of East Bay Cancer Center in Oakland

By RYAN J. DEGAN

Sutter Health and Stanford Medicine have launched a joint cancer care program that officials say will strive to expand access and state-of-the-art cancer services for patients and families in the East Bay.

The collaborative cancer program will pair Stanford Medicine's cancer programming with Sutter's integrated network of care, offering patients a comprehensive number of cancer-related services such as early detection methods, cancer care and support programs, as well as further enabling the groups to create a new outpatient East Bay Cancer Center, according to officials.

"We are thrilled to formalize our collaboration with Sutter Health and together bring the highest level

of cancer care to patients in the East Bay," David Entwistle, president and CEO of Stanford Health Care, said in a statement. "We believe the best possible care for patients involves an environment where patients and their families can have access to the full spectrum of early detection, cancer care and survivorship services close to their homes."

"Through an integrated approach and partnership, Sutter Health and Stanford Medicine will provide enhanced cancer care services in the East Bay," added Sarah Krevans, president and CEO of Sutter Health. "By working together, we can make an even greater positive impact on the communities we serve, including vulnerable populations, so that patients and their families can focus

on treatment and recovery."

In an effort to further improve upon cancer care for East Bay patients, the collaborative includes plans to develop an integrated, multidisciplinary outpatient cancer center in the region -- which Stanford staff say will be modeled on the Stanford Cancer Center South Bay in San Jose.

Proposed to be located on Sutter-owned land at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center campus in Oakland, the new cancer center would serve as a central hub for East Bay patients, providing complete cancer care that will carry patients from early screening through treatment and survival.

With an estimated completion date of 2024, the center would

include imaging, lab, infusion and radiation therapy services, and would also house physician offices and an ambulatory surgery center.

"The treatment of cancer is a rapidly evolving field," said Dr. Lloyd Minor, dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine. "The collaboration between Stanford Medicine and Sutter Health will provide a continuum of care for our patients, starting at the beginning with cancer prevention and screening as well as opportunities to participate in some of the world's most innovative cancer treatment trials."

"Stanford Medicine's physician-scientists are actively investigating new therapies and working to make sure that they are accessible to all patients in our community. This

collaboration presents a tremendous opportunity to expand patient access to cutting-edge cancer care, informed by the latest biomedical research," Minor added.

Stanford staff say the cancer center will offer a central hub for cancer patients in the East Bay, including for Tri-Valley patients beyond what is or will be available at Pleasanton's Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.

"Stanford Medicine has a large presence in the Tri-Valley, including for cancer care, at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare. Caring for patients close to home is fundamental to our approach, and we will be developing patient-centric cancer services in the Tri-Valley area, in coordination with all of our centers of excellence and our entire network," Stanford Health spokesperson Courtney Lodato told the Weekly.

According to Lodato, Stanford-ValleyCare does offer patients cancer care services; however, Stanford's current cancer center hub is located in San Jose. ■

Pleasanton Rides vans hit the streets

City paratransit via Black Tie underway

By JEREMY WALSH

The city's paratransit service has a new look — and a new operator.

Pleasanton Rides, the rebranded name for city service now provided by Pleasanton-based Black Tie Transportation by contract, launched operations earlier this month with the revamped vans starting to pick up local seniors to help fulfill their short-distance transportation needs.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to serve the Seniors of Pleasanton," Black Tie owner Bill Wheeler said in a statement this week. "The city of Pleasanton takes pride in the senior community, and Black Tie is proud to be the trusted transportation resource behind Pleasanton Rides. Partnering with Trakk for the mobility management technology has provided us a

best-in-class contactless reservation and fare-payment experience for our riders and their caregivers."

Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho added, "The city of Pleasanton is excited to continue serving our seniors through our senior transportation program now called Pleasanton Rides. We are pleased to partner with Black Tie, a homegrown Pleasanton business, to provide the best quality of service to our residents."

City officials decided last year to outsource its decades-old Pleasanton Paratransit Service for cost and operational reasons.

The City Council on Dec. 1 awarded Black Tie a three-year contract worth a total of \$896,400 to take over the management and day-to-day operations of the city's paratransit service. The program is funded via

the city's general fund, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Transportation Development Act 4.5 funds, and Alameda County Measure B and BB funds, according to city officials.

The newly rebranded Pleasanton Rides van fleet, which hit the streets on Feb. 1, were upgraded with a new vinyl brand wrap of the Pleasanton ridgeline, in addition to detailing and maintenance work, according to city officials.

Wheeler said last week's launch was "highly successful."

"The frequent riders were very pleased and excited with the new look and feel of the equipment and the care, concern and service provided by Black Tie's seasoned professional drivers," he added.

The program primarily serves



CITY OF PLEASANTON

A look at the revamped paratransit vans now operated by Black Tie under the program name, Pleasanton Rides.

Pleasanton seniors who are 70 years old or older. Adults who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act are also eligible for the paratransit details, but details for riders with more complex wheelchair or scooter transports are pending an agreement with the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, according to the Pleasanton Rides website.

Pleasanton Rides service during COVID-19 social restrictions will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fares remain the same as when under city operation; one way within Pleasanton is \$3.50 while travel to select destinations in Dublin, Livermore or San Ramon is \$4 per one-way ride.

New and existing riders can contact Pleasanton Rides at the new phone number, 925-398-1045. Customers can request rides, access the rider application or find other information via the new website, www.blacktietrans.com/pleasanton-rides. ■

Oakland Coliseum to open as COVID-19 vaccination site

Partnership between state, federal agencies

The state of California plans to launch a pilot partnership with federal officials to establish a community COVID-19 vaccination site at the Oakland Coliseum next week.

The state will collaborate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to operate the Coliseum vaccination site, part of a goal of President Joe Biden's administration to establish 100 large-scale vaccination sites nationwide in his first 100 days in office.

"The reason this site was chosen was the framework of making sure that communities that are often left behind are not left behind, they're prioritized in terms of the administration of these vaccines," Gov. Gavin

Newsom said at a briefing at the Coliseum on Feb. 3.

The state has already helped establish similar large-scale vaccination sites at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles and Petco Park in San Diego.

The Coliseum will have the capacity to administer some 6,000 doses per day once it opens on Tuesday (Feb. 16).

The Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Authority's Board of Commissioners, which oversees the property, and Oakland Athletics president Dave Kaval expressed interest last month in converting the Coliseum into a mass vaccination site, with Kaval targeting it to

open as soon as February.

"We've obviously been hosting people here for generations to come to baseball games and football games and basketball games," Kaval said. "Now folks can come out, actually get their shot and get vaccinated."

The Coliseum's use as a vaccination site comes as California's number of vaccine doses administered has surged in recent days, with nearly 3.8 million shots to date.

That has allowed the state to vault much closer to the national average of how much of its vaccine supply has been administered. Previously, California had been one of the slowest states in the country to distribute and administer its doses allocated

from the federal government.

The state also recently contracted with Blue Shield of California and Kaiser Permanente as third-party administrators of the vaccination effort and switched to an age-based prioritization for who gets vaccinated, targeting the state's oldest residents first.

"There's never been a time where partnership has been more needed than now," Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said. "And this partnership between the federal government, our great governor ... and local communities like Oakland and Alameda County is going to accelerate the delivery of vaccines and get us back to normal as quickly and as safely as possible."

Newsom said the state was

expected to receive 1,060,000 doses last week, but the federal stockpile of doses is still not equipped to adequately supply a state of California's size.

"No one is satisfied with the pace of distribution of these vaccines," Newsom said, noting that some parts of the state have had to cancel vaccination appointments due to a dearth of doses.

"Of course we have more work to do, but we have made demonstrable progress," he said, "and we will continue to build on that over the course of the next days, weeks and months until we eradicate and eliminate this disease." ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Pleasanton PD officer placed on leave for social media posts

A Pleasanton Police Department officer is on leave while an internal investigation is underway, officials confirmed to the Weekly last week.

The unidentified officer was placed on administrative leave last month after PPD administrators took notice of the officer's social media posts. Details about the exact content of the posts are unclear but local news outlets reported that one post placed the officer at a rally for then-president Donald Trump in Sacramento around Jan. 6, which was the day rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., in a failed attempt to stop the certification process of the presidential election.

In a statement, Pleasanton Police Chief David Swing said he was "unable to comment on the status of any personnel investigation for reasons of confidentiality and the law."

According to department policy, some forms of an officer's speech are protected such as "an employee speaking as a private citizen, including acting as an authorized member of a recognized bargaining unit or officer associations, on a matter of public concern."

However, PPD's other standards of conduct apply while on the job and off, and failure to conform can be cause for disciplinary action.

Speech that "tends to compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation or professionalism of the Pleasanton Police Department or its employees" is prohibited, including "statements that indicate disregard for the law or the

state or U.S. Constitution" and "expression that demonstrates support for criminal activity."

With "strong levels of trust and support from the Pleasanton community," Swing said he expects "our team to conduct themselves in a way that is reflective of the values of our organization and community."

"Those values include professionalism, dignity and respect for all people and cultures. If someone's actions are incongruent with those values we will take appropriate action to change behavior," Swing said.

There were no updates on the investigation as of press time Wednesday.

In other news

- Livermore police are investigating a shooting that happened on the night of Feb. 3, leaving two people with injuries.

The shooting took place around 8:43 p.m. in the general area of North Livermore and Railroad avenues, according to a statement from the Livermore Police Department.

Officials said a man was "hit by gunfire and sustained apparent non-life threatening injuries," while a woman in the same vehicle was minorly injured. Neither person was from Livermore.

No suspects are in custody but LPD said they "are actively following up on investigative leads," adding, "currently, the event appears to be related to an isolated incident." They also thanked the community "for having patience and understanding while we handle this investigation."

Anyone with video or information related to the investigation is asked to contact Det. Bloom at 371-4757.

- Pleasanton PD recently welcomed a new police officer to

its ranks, with Nate Cabral taking the oath of office to join the department.

Officer Cabral has close familial ties to law enforcement; his mother worked for the Oakland Police Department and his father works for Livermore PD.

Cabral was a member of the 169th Academy class of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Police Academy. Prior to that, he served as a cadet with Livermore PD starting in 2018. Cabral completed an associate degree in criminal justice from San Joaquin Delta College, where he also played for the football team.

PPD is currently recruiting for new personnel, according to department officials. For more information about employment opportunities, contact PPD's personnel and training division at 925-931-5210. ■

—Julia Baum and Jeremy Walsh

Ronald Sandberg

September 14, 1936 – January 18, 2021

Ronald Sandberg, long-time resident of Pleasanton passed away January 18th. Ron is preceded by his wife of 50 years Marlene Sandberg who passed in 2014. He is survived by his children Anne Bradford and husband Dan, and Kurt Sandberg and wife Jennifer, and his six grandchildren.

Ron was born in Laramie, Wyoming and he graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in June 1960. He journeyed to California for his first job at Lockheed and soon met Marlene and settled in Pleasanton. He enjoyed a long career at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory beginning in 1966. After 27 years of service, Ron retired to pursue his passion for hiking, traveling and woodworking.

Ron was a lifelong traveler and outdoorsman. He and Marlene traveled the world hiking across Great Britain, traversing the French Alps and walking the New Zealand countryside. He and Marlene spent their 50th wedding anniversary hiking the Canadian Rockies with their children and grandchildren. But, his true outdoors passion was Yosemite National Park. He and his family spent every summer hiking and backpacking Tuolumne Meadows, Tioga Pass, and Yosemite Valley. His kind generous spirit will be missed by his family and friends.



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POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 6

Theft

- 12:24 a.m., 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; auto theft

- 5:40 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

- 5:55 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 8:48 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

DUI

- 3:34 a.m. on the 5400 block of Black Avenue

Warrant arrest

- 4:43 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Burglary

- 7:27 p.m. on the 7900 block of Spyglass Court

Vandalism

- 11:06 p.m. on the 5000 block of Rigatti Circle

Feb. 5

Theft

- 12:34 p.m. on the 1500 block of Oak Vista Way

- 1:29 p.m., 5800 block of Owens Drive; auto theft

- 5:08 p.m. on the 3900 block of Cavestri Circle

Fraud

- 1:08 p.m. on the 3700 block of Crofters Court

Domestic battery

- 6:12 p.m. on Santa Rita Road

DUI

- 7:26 p.m. at Stoneridge Drive and Stone Pointe Way

Feb. 4

Fire

- 6:41 a.m. on the 7500 block of Driftwood Way

Theft

- 8:05 a.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft from auto

- 11:58 a.m., 4800 block of Hopyard Road; auto theft

- 7:31 p.m. on the 1200 block of Vintner Way

Fraud

- 4:28 p.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

- 6:14 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Drug violation

- 6:44 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Feb. 3

Theft

- 1:03 a.m., 5700 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

- 12:18 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 7:26 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 8:31 p.m. on the 1000 block of Serpentine Way

Graffiti offense

- 10:15 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

- 11:19 a.m. at Main Street and Del Valle Parkway

- 11:29 a.m. at Del Valle Parkway and Hometown Way

Trespass/prowling

- 2:10 p.m. on the 400 block of Boulder Court

Fraud

- 2:55 p.m. on the 1500 block of Foothill Road

Drug violation

- 5:01 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

- 5:42 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

- 8:11 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 6:32 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Feb. 2

Vandalism

- 10:03 a.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Embezzlement

- 4:00 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Shoplifting

- 4:26 p.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Rape

- 6:41 p.m. on Bernal Avenue

Weapons violation

- 10:14 p.m. on the 1700 Santa Rita Road

Feb. 1

Theft

- 1:14 a.m., 4500 block of Chabot Drive; theft from auto

- 2:39 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 3:00 p.m., 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 4:40 p.m., 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

Arson

- 7:38 a.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

Graffiti offense

- 2:13 p.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Assault/battery

- 4:47 p.m. on the 3600 block of Andrews Drive

Fire

- 12:21 p.m. on the 3100 block of Valley Avenue

Jan. 31

Warrant arrest

- 3:42 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Domestic battery

- 10:58 p.m. on Owens Drive

DUI

- 11:16 p.m. at Main and St. Mary's streets

Jan. 30

Warrant arrest

- 12:30 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

- 8:37 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

- 8:41 a.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; theft from auto

- 12:20 p.m. on the 800 block of Bonita Avenue

- 2:21 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

- 2:40 p.m., 4300 block of Rosewood Drive; auto theft

Vandalism

- 1:58 p.m. on the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

DUI

- 9 p.m. on the 5000 block of Muirwood Drive

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GUEST OPINION

By DAN WALTERS/CALMATTERS

How long will California economy languish?

As COVID-19 began surging through California a year ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency and ordered widespread restrictions on personal and economic activity to curb infection rates.

His actions immediately triggered a severe economic recession. California had been enjoying record-low unemployment just before the shutdown, 3.9% of the labor force, but within weeks the jobless rate quickly shot up to a record-high 16.4% as employers laid off workers.

Initially, there was a fingers-crossed hope that the recession would be what economists call a “V” — a deep plunge followed by an equally rapid recovery. However, as the public health crisis and the recession continued, it became apparent that it would be a “U” — a steep decline that reaches bottom, eventually followed by a gradual recovery.

Employment actually rebounded somewhat during summer and autumn months as Newsom loosened economic controls, although certain sectors such as tourism and travel continued to lag.

However, when infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths shot upward again late in the year — thanks, probably, to too many holiday gatherings — Newsom clamped down again, businesses closed and joblessness again increased.

The state’s official unemployment

rate (the percentage of the labor force not working) edged upward in December to 9% but when those who dropped out of the labor force or were involuntarily working part-time are included, the real rate is more like 15%.

Even without that adjustment, 9% is still very high and, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the third highest of any state. Only tourism-dependent Nevada and Hawaii are higher, with South Dakota and Nebraska at other end of the scale at 3%.

Overall, California has lost 1.5 million jobs in the last year of pandemic and economic turmoil, leaving a salient question hanging in the air: How long will California’s pandemic-induced recession continue?

The answer depends on two unpredictable factors — when and if vaccinations can tame COVID-19 and whether President Joe Biden and Congress pump additional billions, or even trillions, of borrowed dollars into the nation’s economy.

Newsom’s proposed 2021-22 budget projects, “Businesses are expected to continue to operate at limited capacity into 2021. Increased automation and a shift to online retailing will lead to permanent job declines in leisure and hospitality, retail, and other services.”

The budget also implies that the bottom of the “U” will continue for some time, saying, “Nonfarm employment for California is projected

to recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2025.”

The millions of Californians affected by the pandemic’s economic fallout are understandably worried about their futures and their angst is one of the drivers of a petition campaign aimed at recalling Newsom.

Whether from concern for his constituents or worries about a recall, Newsom is proposing “a broad-based recovery package to support businesses, individuals and job creation both during the pandemic and as the state recovers. It totals \$14 billion, including \$3.5 billion in immediate relief for individuals and small businesses disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.”

While Newsom wants fast action from the Legislature, its fiscal adviser, Gabe Petek, wants a more deliberate and skeptical approach, noting that “unlike the federal government — which can run a deficit to pay for fiscal stimulus — the

state must balance fiscal stimulus with other one-time and ongoing spending priorities.”

In other words, a dollar spent on Newsom’s economic recovery plan is a dollar that can’t be spent on something else — unless, of course, the governor and legislators are also willing to raise taxes. As the pandemic, the recession and the recall campaign evolve, big state stimulus expenditures will be one of the year’s more interesting issues. ■

Editor’s note: Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. He has written thousands of columns about California and its politics, authored books and has been a frequent guest on national television news shows, commenting on California politics.

CalMatters is a nonpartisan, nonprofit journalism venture committed to explaining how California’s state Capitol works and why it matters. Learn more at <https://calmatters.org>.

LETTERS

Outrageous decision on second-story ADUs

Dear Editor,

I would like to express outrage about a decision being made by our City Council.

Many of us own homes in Pleasanton. Does anyone think that if you stay within building permit guidelines you should be able to build a second story? Well it seems our City Council thinks that you should not be able to do so at all!

The state wants cities to implement accessory dwelling units (ADUs), including second-story units, to allow for more housing crunches to come. The Planning Commission came up with guidelines but our City Council rejected the Planning Commission’s guidelines and decided that no one can build any second stories with your

own property.

If you are as outraged as I am, write your City Council or show up at the Zoom Feb. 16 meeting and submit a speaker card.

Karla Brown is our mayor and driving this; Julie Testa is right there with her, as is Valerie Arkin. Jack Balch is the only one standing up for homeowners. This is not OK.

The guidelines per Planning Commission would not allow views to be blocked if there are no other two-story units in a housing tract along with other reasonable guidelines.

Watch the video meeting from Jan. 19. Seems that our mayor is only concerned with neighbor backlash rather than providing a home for mom.

—Vicki LaBarge

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 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- Adopt and waive second reading of Ordinance No. 2213 approving amendments to Chapters 18.08, 18.28, 18.32, 18.36, 18.44, 18.46, 18.84, 18.88 and 18.106 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code to comply with state legislation for accessory dwelling units *Councilmember Balch voted “no” on introduction
- Accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and other related audits for the year ending June 30, 2020
- Receive update regarding City’s COVID-19 response and recovery actions and provide direction on additional face coverings compliance
- Ratify Mayor’s appointments to the Planning Commission

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

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY/J. BEACHAM

Add this piece to your family

Jigspaw is a smart and eager puppy; she is people-oriented and quick to bond to her caregiver. Exercise and mental stimulation, preferably side-by-side with her adored owner, will be the key to Jigspaw's happiness. If you are up for the challenge and demands of an athletic, driven puppy, you'll be rewarded with a confident and versatile canine companion. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, they are coordinating adoptions by appointment with approved adopters. Email info@valleyhumane.org.

Public Notices

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

Public Hearing Notices • Resolutions • Bid Notices
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate
Lien Sale • Trustee's Sale

Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

Call Gina Channell at 925-600-0840
or email gchannell@pleasantonweekly.com
for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

Employment

Multiple Positions

10x Genomics, Inc. in Pleasanton, CA has multiple openings for Oracle Cloud Specialist (#OCS01); Oracle Cloud Finance Specialist (#OCFS1); Sr. Software Eng. in Test (#SET01); mail resumes to Attn: C. Pham, 6230 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 quoting job #

Multiple Positions (Product Designer)

10x Genomics, Inc. in Pleasanton, CA has multiple openings for Product Designer mail resumes to Attn: C. Pham, 6230 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 quoting job #PDS01

Senior Engineer

Ellie Mae Inc seeks Sr. Engineer, QA in Pleasanton, CA to be an active participant in planning & designing test framework features w the ability to view the automation framework from a product QA teams perspective. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com. Ref: 73739

To place an ad or get a quote, contact **Kevin Legarda at 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawekly.com**

Ballet

DIABLO BALLET VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE Diablo Ballet presents virtual performances of Balanchine & Beyond featuring the wedding scene from The Sleeping Beauty and George Balanchine's Who Cares? Feb. 19-21 and 26-28. Visit diabloballet.org/balanchine-and-beyond.

Concerts

JIM BRICKMAN SHARE THE LOVE CONCERT Spend the evening with your loved ones and Jim Brickman. Enjoy this 75 minute virtual concert from the comfort of home. Feb. 12-14. Visit jimbrickman.com.

MARDI GRAS MAMBO LIVESTREAM The parades and public revelry of Mardi Gras in Louisiana are on hold until 2022, but share the music and culture with a joyful performance from Creole country. Catch Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience Mardi Gras Mambo Livestream. Tickets are \$15 for a 48-hour access to the stream. 5:30, Feb. 13. Visit <https://boxoffice.mandolin.com>.

Opera

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA Livermore Valley Opera favorites soprano Sarah Cambidge and tenor Kyle van Schoonhoven will perform gorgeous duets from Puccini's Tosca and Wagner's Die Walkure. The beautiful music and texts are perfect for Valentine's Day. 6 p.m., Feb. 13. Visit livermorevalleyopera.com.

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 20% commission. Enter now through Feb. 15. 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.

SCIENCE ON SATURDAY Engineering solutions: A story of swabs and ventilators. This talk will describe and demonstrate how the ventilator works and its application in COVID-19 patients, including how the engineering design process guided the design of the ventilator. 10 a.m., Feb. 13. Visit st.lnl.gov/sci-ed/science-on-saturday.

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 and what has been the impact to editors and publishing pros working from home. The session is open to all who reserve a place and pay the fee by Thursday, February 18. Email president@trivalleywriters.org. Zoom meeting 2 p.m., Feb. 20.

HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST Tri-Valley Writers presents "My Story, My Vision," the tenth annual writing contest for local area students. The contest is open to students grades 9-12 in the Tri-Valley. Cash awards for first, second and third place winners. Submissions accepted Feb. 14 - April 4. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

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 462-2766. 7 p.m., Feb. 12.

Crab Feed

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CRAB FEED Food prepared by professional chef Lisa Gragg. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Feb. 19. Pick up at Foothill HS, 4375 Foothill Rd. For more information, visit foothillmusic.org.

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 4-8pm on Sat., Feb. 13. Visit promoplace.com/spp/stores/crabdash.

Pets

EAST BAY SPCA SMOOCHES FOR POOCHES VALENTINE'S DAY DRIVE-THRU This is a family friendly, free drive-thru only event. Donations are welcome to help support Humane Education programs. Enjoy sending some socially-distanced love to the animals. Candy and non-food treats for kids and a fun East Bay SPCA activity book to take home. 12-2 p.m., Feb. 14. For locations visit eastbayspca.org.

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 food scene. For more information visit visitrivalley.com/restaurantweek.

Seniors

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR FOR SENIORS The Dublin Senior Center misses you so join senior staff and friends on zoom. 10-11 a.m., Wed., Feb. 17. Email seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov for the Zoom link and password.

DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER-LOVE YOUR HEARTS DRIVE THRU Early action is important in loving your heart and saving your life. Pick up a reusable bag filled with information on cardiovascular health, including warning signs of heart attacks and strokes, tips to control blood pressure, and free swag. Free to those 50 years and better. Feb. 18, 12:30-1:15 p.m. Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.

Bingo

DRIVE-IN BINGO AT ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS Play Drive-In Bingo from the comfort of a car, truck or SUV in the Pleasanton OTB Parking Lot. Get the live game call over the radio and watch the ball camera live on Zoom with a smartphone or tablet. Buy in: \$35. Parking lot opens at noon and games begin at 1 p.m., Feb. 14. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

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@pawekly.com.

Tina Hand picked for second term as Bay East president

Real estate association installs 2021 leadership team at virtual event

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton real estate leader Tina Hand is serving another year as president of the Bay East Association of Realtors after being sworn into a second straight term during an installation ceremony held virtually late last month.

Hand, of Legacy Real Estate and Associations in Pleasanton, agreed to remain in her leadership role for 2021, as did all of the other Bay East officers to help the local real estate industry better navigate through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, according to association officials.

"I want to continue the theme we had during 2020 of communication and connection while also adding caring," Hand told the Weekly. "It's still membership first and how we can help them succeed and give

them the tools they need. Bay East staff is still available to help our members even while they work remotely."

Hand, who has more than 30 years in the real estate industry, brought a depth of experience when she first ascended to the president post at the beginning of 2020.

She served on Bay East's Executive, Strategic Planning and Local Government Relations committees. Hand also sits on the Board of Directors of the California Association of Realtors, and was the president of the Women's Council of Realtors of Southern Alameda County in 2017.



Tina Hand

"The COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges to the real estate profession during 2020," Bay East officials said in a statement.

"Hand's focus for 2021 will be promoting the Bay East core values: communication, integrity, vision, innovation and leadership, and helping Bay East members succeed during the COVID-19 pandemic," they added. "She brings real estate knowledge and leadership experience gained during her role as 2020 Bay East president."

With headquarters on Koll Center Parkway in Pleasanton and a satellite office in Alameda, Bay East is a trade association serving more than 5,800 residential and commercial real estate professionals in the region. The 2021 leadership team, which was installed

during a virtual event on Jan. 28, includes:

Officers

- President Tina Hand, Legacy Real Estate and Associates, Pleasanton.
- President-Elect Sheila Cunha, Legacy Real Estate and Associates, Pleasanton.
- Treasurer Steve Medeiros, REALTY Experts, Fremont.
- Past President Nancie Allen, MasterKey Real Estate Advantage, Fremont.
- CEO Tricia Thomas.

District representatives

- North County: Troy Staten, Compass, Oakland.
- Central County: Bill Espinola, Parkview Realty, Hayward.

• Tri-City: June Burckhardt, Legacy Real Estate and Associates, Fremont; Alison Hull, Realty Experts, Fremont; and Sumii Jhington, Realty Experts, Fremont.

• Tri-Valley: Tracey Esling, Compass, Pleasanton; DeeDee French, Diamond Properties, Livermore; Sandi Gomes, Pride Properties, Livermore; and Ed Gomes, Pride Properties, Livermore.

• At-Large: Joe Annunziato III, Annunziato and Associates, San Leandro; Viviana Cherman, Elation Real Estate, Pleasanton; Ron Lyster, Realty Experts, Fremont; Angela McIntyre, Compass, Oakland; Geraldine Ramirez, Bay City Real Estate Group, Pleasanton; and Nicholas Solis, One80 Realty, Brentwood.

• Affiliate Director: Tim Denbo, VirtualTourCafe, LLC, Pleasanton. ■

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 3-13 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

Pleasanton

- 456 Amaral Circle** B. Gillman to Mcentee Living Trust for \$1,150,000
- 5832 Avellina Drive** Carol & Greg Family Trust to T. & S. Sun for \$1,750,000
- 3912 Grand Canyon Court** Codey Family Trust to Avery Property Management LLC for \$800,000
- 6872 Herrin Court** S. & D. Persin to V. & R. Sekar for \$1,020,000
- 7432 Highland Oaks Drive** Y. Liu to Villegas Trust for \$1,175,000
- 3782 Kamp Drive** Hsu Living Trust to Yi Trust for \$1,020,000
- 7826 La Quinta Court** Boehm Family Trust to H. & S. Su for \$1,400,000
- 1151 Mataro Court** A. Murphy to M. & C. Shahani for \$1,535,000
- 8055 Mountain View Drive #H** Jeff Trust to Y. & K. Lee for \$610,000
- 899 Oak Manor Way** Yeh Trust to Bajjuri Trust for \$2,555,000
- 616 Palomino Drive** Calija Trust to J. Hu for \$424,000
- 3362 Prairie Drive** N. & S. Turner to S. & Y. Liu for \$1,999,000
- 2478 Raven Road** Staude Living Trust to H. & T. Chuang for \$1,220,000
- 4837 Saginaw Circle** Patel Family Trust to A. & S. McClimon for \$655,000
- 4099 Stanley Boulevard** R. Thiagarajan to Flyhomes Investments Ca LLC for \$850,000
- 1679 Tanglewood Court** Gerardini Trust to M. & K. Li for \$1,400,000
- 2015 Valley Oak Road** L. Li to Y. & Y. Lu for \$2,275,000
- 1078 Vintner Way** Lawrence Trust to A. & N. Rao for \$1,715,000
- 3583 Wind Cave Court** Chen Trust to H. & S. Hyun for \$1,170,000
- 5203 Zaro Court** Y. Shah to A. & T. Wong for \$1,020,000
- 4371 2nd Street** Hp Community Trust to Sillver Trust for \$1,585,000
- 459 Adams Way** Silver Trust to R. & B. Roudsari for \$2,490,000
- 5507 Baldwin Way** J. & K. Park to N. & D. Melnik for \$765,000
- 5448 Black Avenue** T. Zhang to S. & N. Gupta for \$715,000
- 5586 Black Avenue** A. Javaheri to A. & M. Karacuban for \$1,217,000
- 3024 Bolero Court** Bertrand Trust to S. & N. Goel for \$965,000

- 1413 Calle Enrique** Mcentee Living Trust to A. & Z. Ackerman for \$690,000
- 2720 Camino Segura** S. & C. Robertson to P. & T. Ramashekar for \$1,560,000
- 5834 Corte Margarita** A. & C. Bonsignore to S. & A. Nairajan for \$1,486,000
- 4189 Garatti Court** Pistole Family Trust to Danopoulos Trust for \$1,335,000
- 5166 Genovesio Drive** Kong-Pang Family Trust to J. & M. Cheng for \$1,163,000
- 2093 Greenwood Road** B. Meier to L. & S. Wang for \$1,500,000
- 5636 Hansen Drive** J. & C. Ward to V. & H. Majithia for \$1,236,000
- 7479 Highland Oaks Drive** D. & M. Barris to S. & R. Li for \$1,280,000
- 7904 Kemper Court** Chartrand Trust to P. & A. Zandian for \$1,480,000
- 220 Kottinger Drive** Crook Living Trust to Tipper Trust for \$850,000
- 5706 Melinda Way** Ponderosa Homes to S. & R. Mahajan for \$2,350,000
- 2690 Minton Court** Momand Trust to U. & R. Bharadwaj for \$1,403,000
- 1993 Nicosia Court** Couture Family Trust to Ruparel Trust for \$2,100,000
- 665 Palomino Drive #A** J. Viviani to E. Colon for \$610,000
- 5291 Ridgevale Way** Meyer Living Trust to S. & K. Johnson for \$772,500
- 3284 Runnymede Court** Caldwell Family Trust to J. & P. Kota for \$1,245,000
- 3793 Smallwood Court** Newton Family Trust to T. & C. Benioff for \$2,631,000
- 78 Sunflower Hill Way** Meritage Hms Of California Inc to E. & D. Yoo for \$1,280,000
- 4517 Sutter Gate Avenue** Zou Family Trust to D. & D. Liya for \$1,225,000
- 570 Sycamore Road** Burto Trust to Floyd Living Trust for \$1,850,000
- 584 Tawny Drive** Tipper Trust to M. & Y. Bai for \$1,300,000
- 3857 Vine Street** Weekes Trust to J. & S. Yi for \$700,000
- 676 Windmill Lane** Morgenroth Family Trust to L. & R. Adams for \$1,505,000

Livermore

- 340 Andrews Street** C. & C. Divinagracia to S. & M. Pritchard for \$795,000
- 1091 Batavia Avenue** R. & G. Langstaff to T. & A. Bronnikov for \$950,000
- 1392 Boxwood Court** C. & C. Thorpe to J. & D. Weber for \$1,015,000
- 795 Daisyfield Drive** J. & S. Winter to P. & A. Rathod for \$1,320,000

- 620 El Caminito** Beck Family Trust to N. & J. Chintalapati for \$928,000
- 709 Katrina Street** R. Pike to M. & S. Avila for \$900,000
- 2784 Kellogg Loop** C. & R. Balderas to S. Vittal for \$1,310,000
- 709 North L Street** L. Valenty to F. & S. Aleahmad for \$593,000
- 1087 Murrieta Boulevard #343** L. Clevenger to R. Ishikata for \$333,000
- 767 North P Street** Bunch Trust to M. Paras-Navales for \$650,000
- 3938 Princeton Way** K. & R. Mccartney to A. & M. Bingham for \$670,000
- 1832 Railroad Avenue #104** T. Kronzak to G. Smith for \$590,000
- 3027 Rivers Bend Circle** Belanger Family Trust to P. & W. Silva for \$1,300,000
- 2982 Sage Common** M. Ibarra to M. & R. Obenauf for \$830,000
- 1337 Spring Valley Common** K. & B. Peek to D. & K. March for \$575,000
- 392 Thrasher Avenue** M. Mohammad to T. & W. English for \$920,000
- 987 Via Seville** Crawford Trust to T. & J. Roza for \$920,000
- 2399 Wood Hollow Drive** S. Ploof to Ettore Trust for \$1,710,000
- 1393 Arrowhead Avenue** L. & J. Bier to T. & S. Raman for \$1,380,000
- 732 Barleta Court** C. & M. Seropian to L. & E. Leniashina for \$1,600,000
- 1325 Belfast Court** Magorno Family Trust to R. & G. Langstaff for \$1,175,000
- 1217 Blossom Circle** Bianchini Family Trust to A. & R. White for \$1,299,000
- 549 Brighton Way** Nmt Financial LLC to D. & S. Shockey for \$975,000
- 6810 Brookview Court** Harris Family Trust to D. Basra for \$1,275,000
- 1310 Calais Avenue** Pepper Trust to P. & M. Hwang for \$840,000
- 882 Camelia Drive** L. & M. Ballengee to K. & J. King for \$825,000
- 4042 Camrose Avenue** Eimerl Trust to T. & F. Levers for \$1,200,000
- 3775 Carrigan Common #Cmn** Stonich Trust to B. Tapja for \$540,000
- 839 Catalina Drive** L. & K. Taylor to A. & M. Burbaum for \$985,000
- 770 Catalina Drive** S. & A. Schwarz to J. & A. Tse for \$1,125,000
- 1577 Cielo Court** Amirkhas Trust to J. & H. Fific for \$1,825,000
- 5802 Felicia Avenue** Andersen Family Trust to C. & D. Blue for \$1,300,000

- 2135 Gabriella Lane** M. & J. Mulchahey to B. & L. Hua for \$1,800,000
- 2366 Gamay Common** Danann Homestead LLC to Wycke Family Trust for \$2,060,000
- 5405 Goldenrod Drive** K. & F. Maserà to S. & A. Srivastava for \$1,180,000
- 1514 Honeysuckle Road** R. & J. Javier to T. Hartana for \$850,000
- 356 Hummingbird Lane** W. Gleason to L. & E. Yreux for \$1,080,000
- 2567 Kelly Street** B. Bowen to Gomez Trust for \$750,000
- 1183 Killarney Street** A. & L. Montgomery to O. & T. Camp for \$1,000,000

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 3-13 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol, and Dec. 31 to Jan. 8 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton (Nov. 3-13)

Total sales reported: 49
Lowest sale reported: \$610,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,631,000
Average sales reported: \$1,236,122

Livermore (Nov. 3-13)

Total sales reported: 67
Lowest sale reported: \$333,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,060,000
Average sales reported: \$986,791

Dublin (Nov. 3-13)

Total sales reported: 45
Lowest sale reported: \$570,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,210,000
Average sales reported: \$981,666

Sunol (Nov. 3-13)

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$700,000
Highest sale reported: \$700,000
Average sales reported: \$700,000

San Ramon (Dec. 31-Jan. 8)

Total sales reported: 32
Lowest sale reported: \$403,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,700,000
Average sales reported: \$1,104,062

Source: California REsource

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.



PENDING ON FIRST DAY

3278 Omega Circle Pleasanton

4 BD, 3 BA, 2,317 SF + added loft,
on .02 acre resort styled
lot with pool.
Much sought after
Parkside location.

OFFERED AT \$1,550,000

COMING SOON



LIVERMORE
WINE COUNTRY

3267 Derby Court, Livermore

5 BD, 5.5 BA, Office & bonus
4,451 SF home w/ 732 SF apt over
garage on .38 Acre. Detached
3 car garage & wine shed.

OFFERED AT \$2,399,000

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

Venture
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INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Susan Schall
FABULOUS PROPERTIES

GLOBAL REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

925.519.8226 | susan@fabprop.net

FabulousProperties.net CalDRE#01713497



Thinking of buying or selling in 2021? CALL CINDY!

JUST LISTED!!



1372 Juliet Ct., Livermore

Amazing executive updated includes gourmet Kitchen, stainless appliances, hardwood flooring, new paint new carpet. 3 bed 2 bath. Dining room/could be 4th bed!!! Entertaining backyard!! Close to school approx 1687 sq. ft. on approx 6453 sq. ft. lot.

Offered at \$889,000

PENDING



2866 Alnwick #1, Livermore
Over asking \$638,000

COMING SOON

7769 Tuscany Dr.
Dublin, CA 94568
3 bed 2 bath updated condo



Top Producing
Residential Specialist
Proven Track Record Of Success



Realtor, Notary, GRI, CDPE,
Top Producer, Pinnacle Award

Cindy Gee

925.963.1984

CindyGeeSold@gmail.com
DRE# 01307919

Caring Professional Hardworking
Call Cindy for all your Real Estate needs... She will make it happen for you!



COMPASS

Meet Veronica Peter

Veronica Peter is an experienced REALTOR® known for educating and helping her clients navigate the notoriously competitive Bay Area real estate market with ease. As a Bay Area native and San Jose State graduate, Veronica has leveraged her Bachelors degree in Business and experience in sales to consistently outperform the market and generate the most profitable results for her clients.

Responsive, professional, and dedicated are a few attributes Veronica's clients have used to describe her. With a commitment to excellence and a deeply rooted passion for real estate, it's no wonder that she is ranked among the top 8% of premier agents on Zillow for client experience in 2020.

Most recently Veronica was recognized by Bay East Association of REALTORS® for outstanding performance in residential sales and was welcomed to the Achievement Club where she currently maintains President status.

Veronica Peter

(510)304-8710

VERONICA.PETER@COMPASS.COM

MURTAGHREALESTATE.COM

DRE # 02056842

THE
Murtagh
TEAM

See What Clients are Saying:

Veronica is not only hard-working, she is super perceptive and effective. She helped us buy our first home and was always right there for us every step of the way. She's knowledgeable about the nuances of the industry, but always made it all about us and what we wanted to do. She always advocated for us, is well-connected to helpful resources, and uses razor-sharp negotiating skills to get us where we wanted to be. She was also really fun and kind to work with, and never made us feel she was too busy for us, and I would recommend her to all my friends and family.

- Jennifer S. | January 2021



THE Murtagh TEAM

TRI-VALLEY REAL ESTATE

820 OAK MANOR COURT ▶ PLEASANTON

5 Bedrooms, Office + Media Room
4 Full Baths + 2 Half Baths
5,101+/- Sq. Ft.

Listed for \$2,750,000
OakManorCourt.com



4444 SANDALWOOD DR ▶ PLEASANTON

4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
2,134+/- Sq. Ft.

Listed for \$1,350,000
4444Sandalwood.com



**We are happy to be helping clients both prepare to sell and purchase their homes!
It's never too soon to start planning. We look forward to hearing how we can help you!**



Julia Murtagh | 925.997.2411
Amy Mayerson | 925.200.5022
Kristy Heyne | 925.321.1253
Veronica Peter | 510.304.8710
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Hello East Bay.

Nice to meet you.

We're the largest, locally owned and operated,
independent real estate company serving
Northern California communities.

Learn more at sereno.com

SERENO



Don't go in without a winning strategy.

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.

JUST SOLD



8233 Brittany Drive
4bd/3ba | 2,932 sq.ft | 12,350 sq.ft lot
SOLD FOR \$1,900,000

**30
OFFERS
\$351K OVER
ASKING IN 7
DAYS**



**7635 Canyon Meadows Circle
Unit B, Pleasanton**
3bd/2ba | 1,257 sq.ft
OFFERED AT \$659,000

**NEW
LISTING**



2793 Calle Alegre, Pleasanton
4bd/2.5ba | 2,651 sq.ft | 11,325 sq.ft lot
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000

**NEW
LISTING**

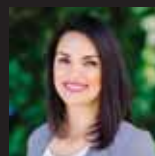
Beyond Full Service - A Concierge Approach to Real Estate



Tim McGuire
Broker
DRE 01349446



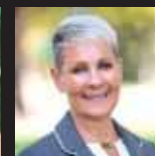
Mark James
Realtor®
DRE 00697341



Eva Tia
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Lori Olson
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The team that speaks your language.



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!



Top 1%

Nationwide

650M+

Successful real estate closings

650+

Properties listed/sold

106%

Sale price vs. list price

40+ Years

Real estate experience



Coming Soon

Price Upon Request

831 Bricco Court, Ruby Hill
6 bd | 7 ba | 10,091 SqFt | 0.60 acres



Coming Soon

\$928,888

3969 Twain Harte Road, Dublin
3 bd | 3.5 ba | 2,002 SqFt



Uwe Maercz

Broker Associate

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DRE 01390383

Sonali Sethna

Broker Associate

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DRE 01194792

usfineliving.com

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