

# Pleasanton Weekly

‘Earth Unfiltered’  
film festival

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## FUN FOR EVERYONE

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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Remembering Bob Butler

Many with long ties to the Pleasanton community are mourning the recent death of former mayor and councilmember Robert “Bob” Butler.



Bob Butler

Serving on the Planning Commission and City Council during crucial times in Pleasanton’s evolution of the 1970s and 1980s, Butler was a central figure when decisions were made and projects were approved that continue to have important impacts on the community we know today.

Hacienda Business Park. Ruby Hill. The mall. The Senior Center. Stoneridge Drive freeway interchange. Foothill Road developments. (Just to name a select few.)

“Bob Butler was an exemplary public servant, and the city of Pleasanton is better for his service,” City Manager Nelson Fialho said in a statement from the city last week announcing Butler’s passing.

“With a 15-year tenure on Pleasanton’s City Council, Bob was a champion for Pleasanton and played a major role in shaping our city into the outstanding place it is today,” Fialho said. “Through his thoughtful leadership, Bob helped to guide Pleasanton through a period of transformative growth that developed two hallmarks of our city — Stoneridge Shopping Center and Hacienda.”

The city lowered its flags at the Civic Center in Butler’s honor on Oct. 6.

When the news came out last week, one of the first things I did was go through our archives for past coverage of Butler. I’d never had the opportunity to meet him in person, and I certainly wasn’t around town during his council tenure (I was born five years before he left the dais).

Of course, his city service predated the Weekly, too, as we debuted in 2000.

Fortunately, an article our Tri-Valley Life editor Dolores Fox Ciardelli wrote about Butler five years ago was particularly illuminating and reflective, upon him receiving a 2016 Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award — an annual service recognition program here in town, named for another late former Pleasanton mayor.

Butler served for four years on the Pleasanton Planning Commission before being elevated to the City Council, where he sat from 1978-

93. That included a turn as mayor from 1982-83.

“I will never forget my first Planning Commission meeting,” Butler said in

Dolores’ 2016 article. “Foothill Road ridge development was on the agenda, and the meeting lasted from 7:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. My wife got so worried ... that she called the police.”

What a great anecdote.

Especially to someone like me, who has spent my share of occasions in a council chamber watching as the clock ticks past midnight — albeit in the age of text messages, to alert my wife.

Butler was a transplant to Pleasanton, initially relocating here from the Midwest in 1960. He and wife Mary-Ann (who died in 2009) had four children together. The couple were also charter members of the Pleasanton Community Concert Band when it formed in 1975; he played trombone, saxophone and percussion.

A veteran with two years of active duty in the Army and nearly three decades in the Army Reserve, Butler worked a full career with GE Vallecitos before “retiring” and opening a tax preparation business.

I look forward to reading much more about Butler’s personal, professional and public accomplishments after his family publishes a full obituary in the days or weeks ahead.

And perhaps Peter MacDonald, who worked as city attorney for Pleasanton during part of Butler’s council tenure, put it best in reflection of the late councilman.

“Bob Butler was probably the smartest councilmember I ever worked with,” MacDonald told me via email last weekend. “Bob came across as almost apolitical because he would acknowledge the other points of view, and then calmly explain how he was going to vote. He was respectful to other opinions, and respected for his clear thinking.”

RIP Bob Butler. ■

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

### About the Cover

Rendering shows “Option 2” — one of two design concepts under consideration by the City Council — for the planned all-abilities playground at Ken Mercer Sports Park. Image by RRM Design Group. Cover design by Doug Young.

Vol. XXII, Number 38

# PLEASANTON LISTINGS



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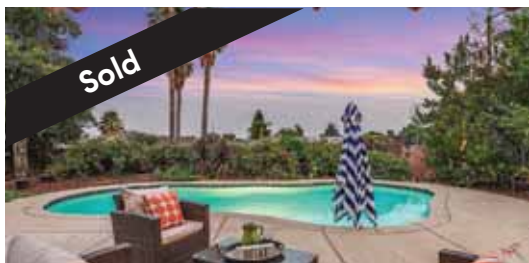
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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## When you see someone indoors not wearing their mask properly when masks are required, how, if at all, do you react?



**Beth Griston** *Retired*

Ordinarily, I avoid them and not say anything because I don't want to risk escalating the situation. However, if we are somewhere where avoidance is impossible, like next to one another on a plane, or if we were in close proximity to other high-risk individuals, like in a retirement home, I would probably feel compelled to ask them politely to fix their mask.



**Anna Gourgiotopoulou**  
*Lawyer*

I would tell them, "Please put your mask on and respect the people around you the way they are respecting you." And I would not be very polite about it. At all.



**Stefan Bartl**  
*Solar finance*

If I felt genuinely unsafe, I would ask the person to fix their mask. But if not, I would just leave it up to the business owner and his or her employees to enforce the rules.



**Nicole Thames** *Marketing*

I would be afraid to speak up because mask-wearing is such a politicized issue and I don't want to get into that with people. I feel that the onus is really on the business owner to take a stand and ensure their customers are following the rules. I also would try to create distance between myself and the improperly masked person because I like to avoid confrontation.



**Andrew Angeles and Candace Frazier**  
*Lawyers*

We would gently and politely ask the person to wear their mask properly over their nose and mouth indoors. If that doesn't work, we would look to the establishment to insist that their patrons comply with the rules.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### 'Week of the Stars'

The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) is hosting its "Week of the Stars" event from this Saturday through Oct. 24 to generate support for Pleasanton Unified School District students and educators.

The fundraising program includes a "Great Auction" being held online starting this Saturday (Oct. 16) at 9 a.m. There are also opportunities to make general donations to PPIE.

A "Teacher Appreciation" function allows residents to sign up for free and offer comments of praise for their favorite PUSD teacher. The nonprofit will then do a lottery drawing and issue gift cards to selected teachers.

Participating restaurants are also offering 10% off on dine-in or takeout meals during the "Week of the Stars." To learn more about the program, visit [ppie.org](http://ppie.org).

### SCS Property

Dublin city officials are virtually hosting their second visioning session on the future land-use and preferred development for the SCS Property, located between Tassajara Road and Brannigan Street.

The 77-acre site has been the subject of local debate for some time, including with the ultimately rejected At Dublin project concept.

The session, set for 7 p.m. Wednesday (Oct. 20), will focus on ideas shared since the August meeting and initial concept land-use plans in response. Visit [dublin.ca.gov](http://dublin.ca.gov).

### Sunol history

East Bay Parks is presenting an event at Sunol Regional Wilderness this Saturday (Oct. 16) from 12-4 p.m. on the long history of the parkland in southern Alameda County, "starting with the Ohlone Peoples who called the area home for millennia, and continuing through a century of ranching and homesteading."

The free event, hosted by naturalist Kristina Parkison, will celebrate the land's history with music, crafts, games and other activities. Call 510-544-3249. ■

### Correction

Last week's cover story "How to spend bond money" included an outdated completion date for Phase 1 of the Emerald High School project. The Dublin school board has adjusted the estimated opening date to fall 2023 (although signage at the construction site, including that depicted in the cover photo, still cite the prior date). The Pleasanton Weekly regrets the confusion.

## Fun for everyone: City Council reviews design options for all-abilities playground

Concepts for new Pleasanton amenity praised for 'color, creativity and whimsical nature'

By JULIA BAUM

After months of public input on two design concepts for Pleasanton's planned first all-abilities playground at Ken Mercer Sports Park, the City Council gave their own feedback last week.

"This is creative, this is like creating art," Mayor Karla Brown said after a staff presentation at the Oct. 5 council meeting. "It seems each playground is very unique and different, so we just want to make sure that there's some concept there, that we want to pay for this one day, and we want it to be just as beautiful as the designs are."

City officials started planning its first all-abilities playground four years ago, when families of relatives with special needs originally approached staff with the request, and have made it a top priority over the

past two years including approving and budgeting funds for the design process.

"We don't make decisions in a vacuum, we really reach out to our residents," Brown said. Along with building a website dedicated to the project that is updated regularly, the city also held six stakeholder meetings with different groups to discuss the playground.

Using "as much of the public input received as possible while also reflecting the character and feel of the community and park," staff said in a report that "the two designs are meant to be interchangeable so that items in option one can be placed in option two and vice versa."

Called "Pleasanton's Rise Playground," Option 1 is an "inspirational" playground that "encourages bravery, confidence, and the joy of

lifting up others."

"The idea behind this concept is to encourage each individual to rise up to their unique potential as well as to uplift others and find joy in that," project manager Gina Chavez told the council that evening. "You'll see a lot of elements that are related to rising up like sky elements including the sun and the clouds."

Celebrating "the park's green, lush setting and undulations," Option 2 — otherwise known as the "Pride of Pleasanton Playground" — "encourages users to discover nature through organic shapes, natural materials and textures, and a variety of adventures and challenges along the way," according to staff.

Interpretive play features that staff said "highlight the unique character of Pleasanton" are featured in Option 2, which also includes an entry area

with a replica Pleasanton arch also featured in Option 1. A large main play area with a replica of Kottinger Farm "or other key historic building in Pleasanton that could be interacted with in a variety of ways" has also been proposed for Option 2, along with nature-themed play areas outfitted with mounds, sand and sensory play items.

Though both concepts have different themes, each option includes additional accessible parking spaces, a drop-off and loading/unloading area, new parking stalls and a walking loop around the perimeter. Regardless of which design is chosen, the new all-abilities playground will replace the existing and outdated playground currently east of the softball field complex at Mercer Park.

See **PLAYGROUND** on Page 9



RRM DESIGN GROUP

Overhead rendering shows a design concept for the new skate park being proposed for Ken Mercer Sports Park in central Pleasanton.

## Skate park plans on a roll

Council weighs in on process driven by community

By JULIA BAUM

Seven years after Pleasanton city officials and residents started planning to build out the current skate park at Ken Mercer Sports Park, two proposed design schemes were unveiled to the Pleasanton City Council last week.

Starting in 2014, the city was identified as being "deficient in skate facilities" by a half-acre and began planning for a buildout. Last year staff presented the top locations for a skate park, with the west end of Mercer Park adjacent to the existing skate park ultimately being chosen.

Andrew Lambert, son of late parks and recreation commissioner David Lambert, has worked closely with the city on the project and said during the Oct. 5 public hearing that he's spoken with more than 40 local youth about it.

"Their voices might be small, but the numbers of Pleasanton youth that support this is outstanding," Andrew Lambert said, adding that "they have an opportunity to create something that is truly fitting for the Pleasanton skate community."

"If it wasn't for my father David Lambert, without him we would

not be having this meeting today about this incredible new skate park to benefit the next generation of Pleasanton," Andrew Lambert said.

According to a staff report, both skate park concept designs "are meant to be interchangeable so that items in option one can be placed in option two and vice versa," and "were created to maximize the use of the potential skate park space while retaining the existing skate park and other site features and amenities to the extent feasible."

See **SKATE PARK** on Page 8

## Rules for lifting local mask mandate

Groups will be able to set independent masking requirements

By SUE DREMANN / PALO ALTO WEEKLY

Eight Bay Area counties will lift the indoor mask mandates after a series of criteria are met, they announced late last week.

The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma and the city of Berkeley reached a consensus on criteria to lift health orders requiring the masks and to allow organizations to set requirements independently.

They will lift the indoor masking requirement in public spaces that are not subject to state and federal masking rules when all the following occur:

- The jurisdiction reaches the moderate (yellow) COVID-19 transmission tier, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and remains there for at least three weeks; and
- COVID-19 hospitalizations in the jurisdiction are low and stable, in the judgment of the health officer; and

See **MASKING** on Page 10

# Drought: Water rates for DSRSD customers to increase next month

Stage 2 water shortage rates will go into effect on Nov. 5, after a 'critically dry year'

By JULIA BAUM

With reservoir levels shrinking during another "critically dry year," Stage 2 water shortage rates will go into effect next month for customers in the Dublin San Ramon Services District's service area, after the Board of Directors approved the rate increase at its Oct. 5 meeting.

"The district is ramping up water conservation because we are concerned about water supply for next year," General Manager Dan McIntyre said in a statement on Oct. 7. "The drought is serious, and anything we can do to save water now is essential."

The cost of a unit of water (100 cubic feet or 748 gallons) will increase from \$1.32 per unit to \$1.66, effective Nov. 5. According to the district, which serves water customers in Dublin and San Ra-

mon's Dougherty Valley, "Without conservation, the average single family residence water bill is estimated to increase \$3.40 monthly (\$6.80 per bimonthly water bill)."

Officials said, "The increase in rates is a way to encourage customers to do all they can to conserve, especially those who use the most water."

Since last month, DSRSD has been operating under a Stage 2 water shortage emergency, mandating 15% water conservation and limiting the timing and frequency of outdoor irrigation. The Zone 7 Water Agency and cities of Pleasanton and Livermore have also recently required customers to cut back on their water use by 15% compared to 2020 use and placed limits on irrigation.

Outdoor irrigation will be limited to no more than three non-con-

secutive days per week, then one day per week starting Nov. 1 and lasting through Feb. 28. To reduce evaporation, watering is limited to between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Water leaks must also be stopped or repaired "upon discovery or within 24 hours notification by DSRSD." Potable water for washing hard surfaces such as buildings, fences and vehicles is prohibited, "except for building exteriors and fences for the sole purpose of repainting or repairs," and pressurized washers must be equipped with a quick action shut-off nozzle. Cleaning windows using a direct connection to potable water is also prohibited.

Commercial and construction businesses must also comply with the 15% water conservation mandate. Restaurants, cafes and other places serving or selling food may



CDWR

View of Lake Oroville from the South Fork showing extremely low water under the Enterprise Bridge this summer.

only serve water upon request, commercial kitchens must use pre-rinse spray valves, and hotels must offer customers the option to opt out of daily linen service.

Potable water also may not be used for construction and dust

control, and all potable water construction meters must be replaced with recycled water construction meters.

For more information about water conservation and water rates, visit [www.dsrdsd.com](http://www.dsrdsd.com). ■

# LPC requiring COVID-19 vaccine for in-person classes this spring

New district mandate does include provisions for medical, religious exemptions

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD) announced that for the upcoming spring semester, students attending in-person classes or any other activity at Las Positas College in Livermore must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide proof.

"It is the belief of the Board of Trustees that as a public agency, it is incumbent upon our district

to ensure our students are learning and our faculty and staff are working in the safest possible environment," CLPCCD officials said in a statement last week, adding that the board came to the decision after consulting with health officials and education partners throughout the state.

The vaccination mandate applies to all faculty and staff as well as students.

However, there are provisions

for medical and religious exemptions, according to CLPCCD. Those who have a verified medical or religious reason — as defined in federal or state laws and regulations — may be subject to additional safety protocols, which officials said will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Students are required to have their vaccination information or exemption approved before they are eligible to register for in-

person classes and must have received their final dose 14 days prior before becoming eligible to visit either Chabot College or Las Positas. In addition to in-person classes and activities, students must show proof of vaccination to access all on-campus services, including tutoring, the library and STEM Center.

Officials said that students planning to attend online-only classes for the spring 2022 semester who will not be visiting campus for any reason are not required to upload their vaccination information to register for courses.

To submit proof of vaccination,

students must upload a photo or scanned copy of their completed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 vaccination card. They can also submit proof by sharing their health data via CLEARED4 to their electronic health record or by uploading their proof through the QR code from the "Digital Smart Health Card" accessible at [myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov](http://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov).

CLPCCD said it will send updates to students' email addresses if additional information becomes available.

Registration for spring classes opens on Nov. 9, and classes are set to begin on Jan. 18, 2022. ■

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## 'Back to Broadway' at Firehouse

The Broadway spirit is set to take over the Firehouse Arts Center next weekend as David Burnham & Friends are performing at the downtown Pleasanton venue. Burnham, known for roles in "Wicked", "The Light in the Piazza" and "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat", is coming to town joined by "some of the Bay Area's favorite musical and theater performers in an evening looking back to the past and looking forward to the future of one of America's most longstanding and entertaining pastimes ... the Broadway musical," Firehouse officials said. The "Back to Broadway" show is scheduled for next Saturday (Oct. 23) at 8 p.m. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org) for tickets.



COURTESY OF FIREHOUSE ARTS

## County program to ease building of in-law units in unincorporated areas

Pilot to help develop 18 ADUs via lottery system; deadline to apply is Nov. 27

Housing officials in Alameda County have launched a program that aims to add 18 affordable housing units in unincorporated areas and to simplify the process of adding in-law units to single-family properties.

The pilot — called the accessory dwelling unit (or ADU) program — is expected to result in the development of 18 in-law units through a lottery system with a Nov. 27 application deadline, as demand is anticipated to be high.

The program follows a related move in San Francisco, where supervisors in March waived fees for building inspections, plan review, records retention and site surcharges for in-law units.

The Alameda County program will also offer free consulting and project

management services to more than 100 homeowners who want to build an additional housing unit on their single-family property.

It will initially serve the unincorporated areas of the county, specifically Castlewood, Happy Valley, Sunol, Ashland, Cherryland, Castro Valley, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and San Lorenzo, as well as the unincorporated areas near the cities in East Pleasanton, South Livermore and Hayward.

Officials hope to eventually offer the program countywide.

“We need to continue to explore creative housing solutions to support the stability and vitality of households throughout the county,” said Housing Director Michelle Starratt. “With ADUs, we can increase

naturally affordable housing stock by creating new homes in existing neighborhoods. By offering customized guidance, we can make sure that homeowners have the support they need to successfully build a new unit that is safe and legally permitted.”

Interested homeowners should submit an online application by Nov. 27. Property owners who meet baseline eligibility criteria will be entered into a random lottery and undergo a remote screening process in order of lottery number starting in November.

The county will partner with the non-profit group Hello Housing to administer the program. More information is available on its website at [hellowhousing.org](http://hellowhousing.org). ■

—Bay City News Service

## Chamber honoring community award winners

‘Pleasanton, Let’s Celebrate’ event downtown next week

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is set next week to recognize recipients of its 57th annual Community Service Awards, over a year later than originally planned after the onset of the pandemic canceled the first ceremony in March 2020.

“Pleasanton, Let’s Celebrate” — a community event outdoors in Barone’s Backyard in downtown — is also now part of the business support organization marking its 75th anniversary during 2021.

The ceremony will include posthumous recognition to Bernie Billen, winner of the 2020 Distinguished Individual Service Award, who died this past August after a long battle with cancer.

The award honored Billen for contributing to Pleasanton “through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts.”

Noted for her community spirit ever since she moved to Pleasanton in the 1970s, Billen was dedicated to a wide variety of organizations and activities such as the Pleasanton Downtown Association, the city’s Centennial Celebration in 1994, the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association and most recently Hively.

The other Community Service Award winners, who were also first announced last year, are as follows:

**Lifetime Achievement: Vic Malatesta.** “For individuals who have contributed to Pleasanton through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts over the whole of a career.”

Malatesta owned and operated Vic’s All Star Kitchen in downtown for 25 years until selling the restaurant to enjoy retirement. A longtime

supporter of Foothill High School athletics, Malatesta also previously chaired the PDA, the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Pleasanton.

**Chevron Teacher Award: Jonathan Grantham.** Given to a standout Pleasanton Unified School District teacher, the award honors Grantham for his dedication as director of bands for Amador Valley High School, a comprehensive program with 350 participating students involved in different types of bands and ensembles.

**Business Philanthropy: UNCLE Credit Union.** “For businesses that have provided philanthropic service beyond the scope of normal business activity.”

**Excellence in Business: BumbleBee Marketing Services.** “For businesses that have made a positive impact in the Pleasanton community through their achievement within the scope of normal business activity.”

**Green Business: East Bay Regional Park District.** “For businesses that promote sustainable environmental business practices throughout their organization for the benefit of employees, customers or the community.”

**Excellence in Service: Spectrum Community Services.** “For organizations that have contributed to Pleasanton.” Spectrum is a nonprofit that assists low-income individuals, families and seniors in the Tri-Valley.

The special event will run from 5-7 p.m. next Wednesday (Oct. 20) in Barone’s outdoor venue on St. John Street with hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Retroactive, known for playing high-energy music hits from Mo-

town to today, will be performing.

Tickets cost \$75 per person to attend, with tickets available at [www.pleasanton.org](http://www.pleasanton.org). ■

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# Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Livermore

‘Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart’

By CIERRA BAILEY

In an effort to promote the awareness of online safety and privacy, the city of Livermore recently declared October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

“This is an important part of the core mission of the city government, which is to keep the citizens safe,” Mayor Bob Woerner said at the City Council meeting where the proclamation was announced.

As part of this initiative, the city is also a participant in the 2021

Cybersecurity Awareness Month Champion program, which is a collaborative effort among businesses, government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, nonprofit organizations and individuals committed to the Cybersecurity Awareness Month theme of “Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart,” city officials said in a statement.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to shed light on security vulnerabilities, while offering actionable guidance surrounding behav-

iors anyone can take to protect themselves and their organizations, according to officials.

The city’s commitment to this effort includes offering residents a free cyber safety mobile app and more than 100 cyber safety resources on the city’s website that cover a number of topics like family cyber safety, cybersecurity career opportunities, reporting cyber crimes, phishing and scams, and cybersecurity for businesses.

During his State of the City ad-

dress this summer, Woerner cited establishing a new cybersecurity division among the city’s public safety initiatives. “This is one of the areas that we were talking about getting going on but now we’re doing it quite seriously,” he said during the June 24 virtual luncheon.

Cybersecurity became a critical priority for the city following a ransomware attack in late 2019 that shut down email, phones and computers at Livermore City Hall.

Now in its 18th year, Cyberse-

curity Awareness Month is a globally recognized event co-led by the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Key cyber safety tips the city recommends include:

- Enable multi-factor authentication to add an extra layer of protection to online accounts
- Use strong passphrases/password manager
- Perform software updates regularly
- Research before downloading anything new
- Check all privacy and security settings. ■

## SKATE PARK

Continued from Page 5

In both designs, the basic footprint of the existing skate park will remain intact but the surrounding curb will be removed “to improve accessibility, increase the size of the drop-in area (where park users start their runs), and otherwise repair and incorporate the existing facility into the new design.”

Both designs include areas for beginner, intermediate, and advanced skaters, as well as spaces for skate classes and workshops, plus access from both parking lots and landscaped buffers with shade trees around the skate park’s exterior. Overspill guards are being planned to “significantly reduce lighting from bleeding into other areas,” and staff also recommended shutting off the lights at 10 pm.

“Every neighbor that visited the community outreach meeting the other week at the skate park location supported lights,” Andrew Lambert said. “Every Parkside (Drive) resident that visited all supported the new and advanced lighting technology.”

He added, “Designers have promised us that the nearest house, which is over 500 yards away behind layers of trees and the Zone 7 building, will not be affected by a single ray.”

The first concept includes an 86,000 square foot skate park with 34,000 square feet of dedicated skatable area, plus sections for picnicking and relaxing, as well as shade structures, 20 additional parking, a drop-off and arrival area at the main parking lot, and would retain most of the existing trees.

“Concept Design 2” proposes 90,000 square feet of skate park

with 38,000 square feet of dedicated skatable area plus picnic, hangout, view and events areas, modern fabric shade structures, an extra drop off area/access point in the south parking lot, and 18 additional parking spots in the north parking lot.

Both concepts were praised by the council; most members like Kathy Narum said they would “rely on the skaters as to what they want, they’re the ones that are going to use it,” though Councilmember Jack Balch said he “did like Concept 2 and hearing Mr. Lambert, junior, talk about it as his preference.”

“I just felt that the rounded feel compared to the meandering paths and sidewalk that we already have on the frontside of Hopyard, really just carried that concept through,” Balch said, and added that he favored “preserving as much of the

trees, and the shade and the screening from Hopyard is important, but I think we should try to still reach for a little more parking here.”

Vice Mayor Julie Testa said, “I absolutely would stress the need for a restroom” as part of the plans. “While a quarter of a mile, the skateboarders can zoom there or, quite frankly, choose not to make the trip to the restroom, it would really be better for everyone to have a conveniently located restroom that would incentivize using it, and for the parents and the younger kids, I think is mandatory.”

Due to the expense, Narum said she would like the bathroom as an add alternative to the construction bid so the park is “done sooner than later,” while Mayor Karla Brown supported the bathroom in the package bid.

Toward the end of the hearing,

Brown said that Andrew Lambert “has been working on this for so many years” and supported naming the skate park after his father in the future.

“It also took a lot of patience for him to learn just how slow government really goes, and it does go slow,” Brown said. “He’s passionate about this for others, so he’ll probably be off at college by the time this is done. I hope he comes back to ribbon cut with us.”

One of the designs will be developed for final approval, and is expected to be presented for adoption in December or January. The skate park is being funded through the Skatepark Capital Improvement Program and currently has a \$400,000 design budget, with expenditures expected to be \$118,382. Construction funding has not been identified yet for the project. ■

# New election boundary process gets underway at DSRSD

Board launches remapping effort with first public hearing

By JULIA BAUM

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) kicked off the process for drawing up new election division boundaries with the first of three public meetings last week.

Before its next district election in a year, DSRSD must develop new boundaries for its five election

areas — also called “divisions” — “to reflect new data from the 2020 Census,” according to a statement from the district.

Two years ago, DSRSD started transitioning from an at-large to area-based election system under the California Voting Rights Act. While all five members of the

Board of Directors were previously elected by all voters living in the district’s entire service area including Dublin and San Ramon, constituents living in each division now elect just one representative to the board.

Spokesperson Lea Blevins told the Weekly that “an informational

presentation from a consulting demographer about changes in population” was given during the Oct. 5 board meeting, and several new documents were added to the district’s “Census Redistricting” webpage, where the public can submit suggestions for division maps.

Several proposed maps with op-

tions for reconfiguring the five voting division boundaries will be shown at next Tuesday’s board meeting, followed by another public hearing and possible final vote next month, though the board may schedule more meetings if needed.

Blevins said that “once approved, most likely in November, the new voting boundaries will be applicable for elections in November 2022.”

The next board meetings on remapping will be held in person at the DSRSD office in Dublin at 7051 Dublin Blvd., on Oct. 19 and Nov. 16, starting 6 p.m.

The redistricting deadline is April 17, 2022, as extended by Senate Bill 594.

For more information about the census redistricting process including supplemental documents, a community of interest submission packet and interactive map of DSRSD’s current division, visit [www.dsrdsd.com/about-us/census-redistricting](http://www.dsrdsd.com/about-us/census-redistricting). Email questions and comments to [contact@dsrdsd.com](mailto:contact@dsrdsd.com) or call Blevins at 875-2294. ■

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RRM DESIGN GROUP

Rendering shows “Option 1” — one of two design concepts under consideration by the city of Pleasanton — for the planned all-abilities playground at Ken Mercer Sports Park.

## PLAYGROUND

Continued from Page 5

Option 1 would include a rise plaza in the play space leading into a cloud mound climbing area, “and then that leads into a focal feature which is concentrated with an elevated structure that could be a bird, but could also be another element, and it has multiple types of climbers, slides, a zipline, and ramps coming off of it,” Chavez said.

Another feature in Option 1 that has received “a lot of attention” from the community is Rainbow Road, a multicolored path with different colors of the rainbow and musical instruments lining it.

On either end of the rainbow are a spinner rocking zone and fitness group area, before moving into an active play space with a large net climber and bank shot basketball, which includes various sized hoops instead of just one so that people of all abilities can play side by side. Quiet areas, additional picnic areas and a sensory play area are also incorporated in the design.

Both concepts received high praise from council members, though Option 1 was preferred in their comments, with the exception of the bird.

“I do kind of worry about the bird concept, which I think is really neat and unique, but just the practicality of it, the durability of it,” Councilmember Valerie Arkin said.

The bright colors and themes in Option 1 appealed to Councilmember Kathy Narum, but she said, “I have a little bit of concern with the bird, the maintenance of it. These things don’t do any good if they’re broken and not easily repairable.”

“That’s something I’d ask be considered as you move forward. We want the kids playing on this,” Narum said.

Brown said, “I think I’m going to fall to the side of concept one, which is more colors and more frivolous fun and more things to look at and things to touch,” but that she was “not a fan of the bird, sorry.”

“I’m certainly not a designer but I like the idea of this rainbow theme coming through, love the kites, the flying kites there,” Brown added.

Vice Mayor Julie Testa called the design unveilings “so exciting” and

said she had “a tremendous preference for number one” and its “color, creativity and whimsical nature,” but that “the bird needs to be more whimsical instead of bald eagle,” as depicted in the rendering, and suggested swapping it with a butterfly instead.

“It kind of conflicts with this whimsy and play and color and the wonderful Rainbow Road,” Testa said.

Testa also asked why both concepts have no water feature, which staff said they have been “very, very sensitive” about implementing during the recently declared local water shortage and 15% conservation mandate.

“It’s been very difficult for conversations because we understand that sensory for a lot of our special needs participants comes around that sand and water play,” staff said. “We have definitely heard a lot of families say they’d like the water feature, but staff is feeling very sensitive to the drought situation and the makeup of the recycled water in the park and how we’d logistically make that happen.”

Testa said she “would still beg to include a mister for cooling, and if it isn’t on during critical periods, then it isn’t on during critical periods.”

“It just brings so much joy; I think we would really be missing an opportunity,” Testa said. “Pleasanton is hot, it’s getting hotter.”

Councilmember Jack Balch said he was also “not a fan of the bird, but I also just want to caution that when we talk about a butterfly or something else, we’d almost just be switching the problem.”

“I’ll let designers design, quite frankly, but I think it’s an excellent concept of butterflies,” Balch said.

There are several opportunities for public input in the near future, including another playground survey planned early this month and another Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in November. A final conceptual design and project cost estimate will be rendered once all public input has been received.

Staff said there is currently enough funding for design but none has been identified yet for construction, and that the design estimate “will be utilized to identify the amount of funding needed for the construction of the project.” ■



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# New poll finds 71% of Bay Area residents think quality of life has declined

Most respondents say region is on the 'wrong track'

By KEVIN FORESTIERI /  
MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

Bay Area residents grappling with the high cost of living, growing homelessness and high taxes say the quality of life has sunk in recent years, with a record number looking to leave the region altogether.

The grim appraisal, captured in a survey by Joint Venture Silicon Valley in partnership with Bay Area News Group, shows a stark decline in public perception of the Bay Area since the COVID-19 pandemic began last year. Polling of residents across five counties, including Alameda and Contra Costa, found 56% of respondents are likely to leave in the next few years, up from 47% in 2020 prior to the pandemic.

The results show residents are frustrated with the perennial problems of Silicon Valley — high

housing costs, more people living on the street and consternation over droughts and wildfires — but that COVID-19 may have tipped people over the edge, according to Russell Hancock, Joint Venture's president and CEO.

"When you toss a highly infectious disease into the mix you get a smothering amount of anxiety," Hancock said.

The survey, which was conducted late last month, found that 71% of those who responded felt the quality of life in the Bay Area is worse now than it was five years ago. The opinion was felt strongest among people ages 50 to 64 and those making a household income between \$100,000 and \$250,000. The perception also changes based on political affiliation, with 92% of those leaning Republican believing that quality of life has declined.

Top of mind for Bay Area residents is the high cost of housing, which 76% of respondents described as an "extremely serious" problem, followed by general cost of living at 68%, homelessness at 66% and the increasing frequency of wildfires and droughts at 60%.

Among those seeking to leave the Bay Area, the vast majority (84%) cited the high overall cost of living as a major reason, followed by housing costs (77%), quality of life (62%) and the amount of taxes (58%).

Though the survey draws a correlation between the pandemic and rising levels of anxiety and discontent, 66% of those polled said they approved of how their employer responded to the pandemic.

And among those working from home, nearly all — 95% — say they want to continue working

remotely at least some of the time. Only about one in three respondents (34%) want to continue to work from home all the time and slightly more than a third (36%) want to work from home "most" of the time.

A large number of Silicon Valley employers, including tech giants like Google and Apple, have delayed a full return to the office until this January, leaving many employees to work from home for nearly two years. During the extended hiatus, the survey found 44% of those working remotely have felt their work-life balance has improved. That number sinks to just 20% among those who have had to continue working in person during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The abrupt switch to telecommuting has been a mixed bag. Respondents say they are saving time normally spent sitting

in gridlock traffic, and have far more flexibility in taking care of children and other family responsibilities during the day. On the other hand, the report by Joint Venture makes clear that it's taken a psychological toll, and that the majority of those working from home feel more isolated and alone than prior to the pandemic.

"Across income levels and most demographic categories, majorities of residents feel more stressed, say their families are more stressed, feel that it has become harder to stay connected with family and friends, and are more worried and uncertain about the future," according to the report.

Only a sliver of respondents (5%) said they wanted to make a full return to in-person work once the COVID-19 public health and employer restrictions have been lifted. ■

## MASKING

Continued from Page 5

• 80% of the jurisdiction's total population is fully vacci-

nated with two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson (booster doses not considered).

Alternatively, they could also

lift the masking mandate if eight weeks have passed since a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by federal and state authorities for 5- to 11-year-olds.

Currently, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties are all in the CDC's orange, or "substantial," tier, according to the CDC's County Check tool.

Most Bay Area health departments issued the masking requirements for their respective jurisdictions on Aug. 3, following a summer surge in cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

But with regional data showing that the surge is now receding, and with the Bay Area one of the most vaccinated regions in the country, Bay Area health officers agreed it is time to plan for a transition.

Lifting a local indoor mask mandate would not prevent businesses, nonprofits, churches or others with public indoor spaces from imposing their own requirements, however. COVID-19 easily spreads through airborne droplets, and face coverings remain highly powerful in preventing its spread, San Mateo County's public health department noted.

"Each jurisdiction will rescind its order when criteria are met in that jurisdiction. The criteria were developed to assist in determining the safest time to lift the indoor masking orders, based on regional scientific and medical consensus. The criteria also provide safety for school children, ages 5-11, who need the added protection of masks in the community to keep case rates low so they can remain

in school until they can be vaccinated," the counties' announcement said on Oct. 7.

"Contra Costa is coming back strong, thanks to so many of our residents making healthy choices, such as getting vaccinated, or doing the courteous thing and wearing masks in places where the risk of transmission is a little higher," Diane Burgis, chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, said in the county's statement. "I'm thankful for every resident who has done their part."

Dr. Chris Farnitano, Contra Costa's health officer, said in the statement it is no accident that transmission is slowing in Contra Costa County.

"Public health interventions, including the masking requirement, are working. We believe that health orders, along with vaccination, outreach and education are all adding layers of protection against COVID-19 in our community — and saving lives," he said.

Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County health officer, said "Masks and vaccines together have protected residents of Alameda County and the Bay Area during the summer wave. While we expect COVID-19 and flu to circulate this winter, with more people well-protected from severe illness by vaccination we will be able to loosen mask requirements safely."

People who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 must continue to wear masks in businesses and indoor public spaces, in accordance with state health guidance.

The state also requires face coverings for everyone, regardless of

vaccination status, in health care facilities, public transit and adult and senior care facilities. California's masking guidelines in K-12 schools would also not be affected by changes to local health orders.

The county health officers have to decide on metrics for reimposing indoor mask requirements should that become necessary, Santa Clara County Health Officer Sara Cody said during a Thursday morning press conference. They are jointly keeping an eye out for emerging new variants and assessing how the vaccines do over time with new variants, she said.

A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory committee is scheduled to consider an application from Pfizer-BioNTech to grant emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds on Oct. 26.

Cody said she has "enormous gratitude" to the public in Santa Clara County and in the region for following the COVID-19 protocols. Because of that, the region has gotten to the point of being able to potentially lift the mask mandates.

The fourth infection surge, which was fueled by the more communicable delta variant, was relatively blunted compared to other parts of the state and the country because residents have largely heeded the five ways to lower transmission: testing, vaccinations, masking, ventilation and social distancing, she said.

The public can track together with health departments how each county is doing by going to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and looking at the counties' COVID-19 websites. ■

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# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Preliminary IDs released for man and woman found dead in car on Pimlico

Pleasanton police have preliminary identifications for the two people who were found dead last month in a car parked on Pimlico Drive that had apparently gone unnoticed for weeks before the bodies were discovered.

Though final confirmation is pending from the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau, local detectives have identified the man and woman with a "pretty high degree of certainty" as Elijah Quichocho and Macy Key, according to Pleasanton police Lt. Erik Silacci. The decedents were Concord residents in their late-20s.

"The investigation so far suggests it was a drug-related overdose" for both causes of death, though that final determination is awaiting confirmation from toxicology testing results, Silacci told the Weekly on Tuesday. There has been no evidence of foul play in the case.

Online court records show that Key and Quichocho were involved in a domestic violence family law case that stalled earlier in the year, after Key filed a request with the Contra Costa County Superior Court for a restraining order against Quichocho in October 2020. The records indicate the two parties had a hearing dropped by the court on March 23 for undisclosed rea-

sons, though the case was still listed as active.

It remains unclear why the pair were stopped in a Pleasanton neighborhood for which they had no known ties, but evidence uncovered since their bodies were found Sept. 18 shows the Acura TSX was seen parked in the same spot on Pimlico Drive all the way back to late August, according to Silacci.

Based on the level of decomposition at the scene, it appeared the two adults had been dead nearly one month, according to Silacci. The formal date of death is pending.

Parked on the soundwall side of Pimlico Drive near the Kenel and Way intersection, the Acura TSX with the two bodies in the front seats was discovered around 9:45 a.m. Sept. 18 by a passerby who called 9-1-1 to report seeing a person apparently unresponsive in the car. Arriving officers ultimately confirmed two dead people were in the car.

Silacci said the positioning of the parked car on a side of the street without a sidewalk, as well as that both seats were leaned back, likely contributed to the fact the bodies weren't noticed sooner.

There were no obvious indications of foul play, external trauma or suicide in the vehicle or around the scene, according to Silacci.

The investigation remains open, and closure of the coroner's report could take months due to a case backlog and the fact the Pimlico situation has been classified as not foul play, Silacci said.

—Jeremy Walsh

### In other news

• Dublin Police Services is poised to introduce a traffic program aimed at deterring dangerous and illegal driving behaviors that increase the risk of collisions, according to a department spokesman.

Capt. Nate Schmidt announced last Friday that the department had received a \$65,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, for a program to run through September 2022.

"Impairment, speeding and other dangerous driving behaviors jeopardize the safety of other people on the road," Schmidt said in a statement. "This funding allows us to provide necessary traffic enforcement measures with the goal of reducing serious injury and fatal crashes on our roads."

Aspects of the program will include "DUI checkpoints and patrols specifically focused on suspected impaired drivers; enforcement operations focused on suspected distracted drivers in violation of California's hands-free cellphone law; and bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement operations focused on driver behaviors that put vulnerable road users at risk," Schmidt said.

"Enforcement operations focused on top violations that cause crashes: speeding, failure to yield, stop sign and/or red-light running, and improper turning or lane changes," he added.

Community education presentations, collaborative enforcement efforts with neighboring agencies, and officer training and recertifications are also included. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Oct. 7

#### Drug violation

- 10:07 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue
- 10:42 a.m. on the 4200 block of First Street
- 1:12 p.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

#### Theft

- 6:06 p.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

#### Warrant arrest

- 6:48 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Domestic battery

- 9:07 p.m. on Montori Court

### Oct. 6

#### Weapons violation

- 12:30 a.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Burglary

- 10:13 a.m. on the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

#### Theft

- 12:39 p.m., 1600 block of East Gate Way; auto theft
- 4:26 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

#### Vandalism

- 3:03 p.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Drug violation

- 8:21 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

### Oct. 5

#### Vandalism

- 7:28 a.m. on the 6600 block of Owens Drive

#### Criminal threats

- 12:35 p.m. on the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

#### Robbery

- 2:50 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

#### Shoplifting

- 4:40 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue
- 8:43 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Oct. 4

#### Theft

- 8:27 a.m. on the 4600 block of Herrin Way
- 10:22 a.m., 3200 block of Hopyard Road; theft of catalytic converter
- 4:33 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

- 9:02 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

#### Vandalism

- 11:54 a.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive
- 11:22 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

#### DUI

- 5:13 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Warrant arrest

- 9:59 p.m. at Valley Avenue and East Gate Way

#### Drug violation

- 9:59 p.m. at Valley Avenue and East Gate Way

### Oct. 3

#### DUI

- 5:07 a.m. on the 3600 block of Kamp Drive

#### Burglary

- 9:48 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

- 9:57 p.m. on the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

#### Theft

- 3:01 p.m., 4500 block of Chabot Drive; theft from auto
- 6:48 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive



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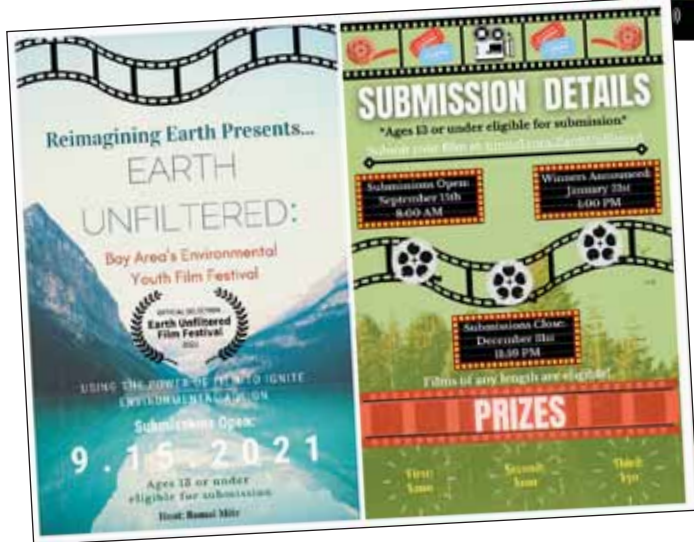
## ECO-HERO URGES YOUTH TO ENTER HER FILM FEST

Environmentalist/filmmaker hopes to inspire 13 and under to save Earth



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Above, Romal Mittr was featured on ABC7 as a 2021 Eco-Hero for her work that includes mapmaking to clarify global urbanization rates and record carbon footprint estimates. Left, Romal Mittr, almost 16, is hosting the "Earth Unfiltered: Bay Area's Environmental Youth Film Festival" for ages 13 and under.



BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

A picture is not quite worth a thousand words, noted Romal Mittr in her recent TEDx talk, "Reviving Earth's Heartbeat Before It Flatlines," part of an event at Humboldt State.

A recent study has found that a picture is actually worth 84 words, she continued.

"However, according to a for-ester's research, a video is worth 1.8 million words," she added. "Humans are visual beings. Videos

can connect and appeal to our different senses and keep viewers engaged."

Dublin resident Mittr, a junior at Quarry Lane School who will soon be 16, believes in the power of film as passionately as she cares about the environment and so is holding a film festival, "Earth Unfiltered: Bay Area's Environmental Youth Film Festival," for ages 13 and under. Submissions are due Dec. 31, and the winners will be announced Jan. 31.

"I'm always looking for youths

to become involved in preserving our environment," she said.

Mittr, who is president of her school's Environmental Club, has hosted 15 filmmaking workshops for youths, hoping to inspire them to use film to raise awareness of climate change and inspire action.

"Most of the workshops have been conducted online (due to COVID), but I have held a couple of local workshops in the Dublin Ranch Community Center," she said.

Mittr was recently recognized as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero, an environmental honor given to 20 youth worldwide who identify major challenges to the planet and suggest solutions.

She was chosen for her initiative, Reimagining Earth, which includes mapmaking to clarify global urbanization rates and record carbon footprint estimates.

Interested in filmmaking from an early age, a couple of years

ago Mittr produced a documentary, "No Matter How Rare," promoting advocacy efforts for rare disease patients, which was accepted into international film festivals. It is now streaming on Roku TV and Amazon Fire TV, and she donates proceeds to rare-disease-related charities.

"From my previous documentary experience, I realized the power that film has to catalyze change and I thought this (the film fest) could be a valuable asset to the environmental movement," Mittr said.

"I have found that young people are really interested in creating their own environmental stories and their short films. This media has really resonated with them," she added.

"I thought 'Earth Unfiltered' would be a great way to increase the spread of environmental messages and encourage youth to take an active interest in the upkeep of our environment."

The "Earth Unfiltered" film fest is open to all youth in the Bay Area, and films of any length are eligible. The first-place winner will receive \$200; second place, \$100; and third place, \$50.

Any device can be used for the filming, Mittr said, noting that movie-editing software is readily available through free apps.

She said she chose ages 13 and under to aim the film fest at students in middle and elementary schools.

"That's a good age for people to become story tellers, to shape the face of the future," she said.

Mittr plans to put together a committee of filmmakers she has met over the years to judge the entries.

"I am hoping we can possibly have a full festival event and showcase the winning films," she said.

For more information and to submit films, visit [tinyurl.com/EarthUnfiltered](https://tinyurl.com/EarthUnfiltered). ■

## County recognizes Dublin Arts Collective founder

Commission gives annual awards to those impacting arts community

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Alameda County Arts Commission recognized six individuals, including Dublin resident Vanessa Thomas, for their achievements and contributions impacting the arts community and county residents at the



Vanessa Thomas

Board of Supervisors' meeting Tuesday. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was closed to in-person attendance by members of the public.

Thomas was chosen from county Supervisorial District 1, which includes Dublin and Livermore. She was born in South Africa, is multiracial, and views herself as a catalyst for connecting people. Her involvement in community-based projects began in her teen-

age years in South Africa.

Thomas has made Dublin her home since 2013 and is co-founder of the Dublin Arts Collective. She is also an active supporter of the Pleasanton Art League, Livermore Art Association, Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour, Tri-Valley Cultural Tourism Working Group and Lapis Lazuli Art Club.

In 2019 Thomas was the recipient of the Mayor's Award for her volunteer contributions to the

community with the Dublin Arts Collective.

She is also a writer, a contributor to the Dublin Patch, a TEDx speaker, and the author of a children's book. She writes about, supports and promotes the artists and the art scene in the Tri-Valley area. She is an exhibiting artist, published floral photographer and the owner of an online floral photography site named Fables and Flora.

The other recipients of 2021 Alameda County Arts Leadership Awards are Lisa Bullwinkel, Gregory Conway, Kala Ghaty, Carl Larson and Angela M. Wellman. The six commendations were presented in conjunction with the county's celebration of October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

For more information, visit the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' website at [bos.acgov.org](https://bos.acgov.org). ■

# Train of Lights tickets on sale

Niles Canyon Railway preparing to host its enchanting holiday outings

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Niles Canyon Railway has opened ticket sales for its 2021 Train of Lights, a holiday delight for many who enjoy the evening 13-mile round trip between Sunol and Niles with refreshments, music and holiday lights aboard the antique coaches.

Masks will be required onboard and in the ticketing area for ages 3 and older. Passengers cannot have been exposed to COVID in the previous 14 days before departure or be exhibiting symptoms.

“We understand that this year will look and feel a bit different, but the Pacific Locomotive Association Inc., operators of the Niles Canyon Railway, is committed to doing everything in our power to

ensure a safe and memorable experience for all involved,” the website states.

Organizers also note that passengers must follow public health directives in place on the departure date, including possibly vaccine and testing. Customers will be notified via email if new restrictions are enacted.

This holiday season the trains are scheduled to depart from Niles at 4:30 p.m. and Sunol at 7:30 p.m. on select Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Nov. 19 to Dec. 28, but not Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The earlier departure in Niles allows passengers to enjoy the scenery of Niles Canyon on the way to Sunol and the train’s lights on the return trip in the dark.

This year all tickets must be purchased online at [www.ncry.org](http://www.ncry.org) and picked up from the ticket window before the ride. Children under 3 who will be sitting on a lap do not need a ticket. Boarding will begin 30 minutes before departure. The train pauses only briefly before beginning the return trip so passengers remain onboard.

Tickets include the following:

- General seating: \$30 each for unreserved seat in a regular passenger coach or open car.
- First class dome: \$60 each for a reserved seat in the Santa Fe 505 Dome Car with swivel seats and a lounge with an attendant.
- First class parlor: \$60 each for a reserved seat in the Southern Pacific 10040 Dining Car, appointed



CHUCK DECKERT/FILE PHOTO

A look back at a prior Train of Lights.

with the original Cuban Mahogany interior.

- Private caboose: \$650 flat fee. Santa Fe cabooses provide a special ride for groups of up to 24 people, with tables for refreshments, seats high up in the cupola, and a docent aboard to talk about the railroad.

Entire trains can also be chartered.

Trains run rain or shine, so passengers are cautioned to be prepared for cold and wind. Also small flashlights are recommended for the night trips. ADA accommodations are only in covered “open” cars; make arrangements with the railroad in advance for assistance. ■

# Valley Humane holding spooky Tails at Twilight gala

Spirited evening benefits animal welfare programs

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Valley Humane Society supporters are pleased they can again gather in person for the seventh annual Tails at Twilight gala, from 6-11 p.m. Oct. 29.

The evening raises funds to support animal welfare and community enrichment programs, while celebrating the bond shared with beloved companion animals.

This year’s spooktacular feast

will be held at Pleasanton’s Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave., with a champagne reception, passed hors d’oeuvres, a full no-host bar, and an elegant seated dinner to include a vegan Thai coconut curry, a pistachio-crust Alaskan cod, and wine-braised short ribs.

A lively auction, a wine pull, a boisterous round of Heads or Tails, and dancing will follow din-

ner. The bewitching assortment of auction items includes a case of Hall Winery wines with tasting passes, a two-night stay at Sunriver Resort in Oregon, and a trip for two to San Luis Obispo.

For guests who live in Pleasanton, the Ambassadors package offers the exclusive opportunity to have their pup named the city’s official Ambassador for 2022.

Tails at Twilight tickets are \$150

per person, available at [valleyhumane.org](http://valleyhumane.org). Proceeds benefit Valley Humane Society’s lifesaving animal welfare programs and life-enriching community services, such as Canine Comfort pet therapy, which offers therapeutic pet visitation to children with cancer, Alzheimer’s patients, veterans, and more.

Costumes are encouraged but optional for the Halloween-themed event, but masks must

be worn except while eating. All guests must show proof of vaccination or negative PCR or antigen test within 24-72 hours of the event. Working staff also will be masked.

The event has many business and individual sponsors including Give Hope sponsors Jeff and Doris Hank, and Platinum Paw sponsors the Pleasanton Weekly and Gina Piper with Elation Real Estate. ■

# Scary Art Show in Dublin

Exhibit presents creepy art — serious and humorous

Dublin Arts Collective and the F. CO. Gallery held an opening Thursday night for their Scary Art Show, the first of the kind to be held in Dublin, which runs through the end of October. An open call to artists resulted in a show with a range from sculptures and ceramics to paintings and photography.

“We are showcasing the arts community in Dublin and inviting participation from across the Bay Area,” said gallery owner and Dublin Arts Collective president Sawsan Wolski in her callout last month for artists, “and this is also an opportunity to highlight the need for gallery space in Dublin and to demonstrate the value that the arts adds in supporting both economic and emotional recovery.”

The announcement read: “What scares you? What secret fears do you harbor in the recesses of your mind? We’re looking for scary, creepy, spooky, unsettling art! Artwork on show will be hair-raising, humorous, or ‘deadly’ serious!”

Dublin poet laureate James Morehead also put out an open



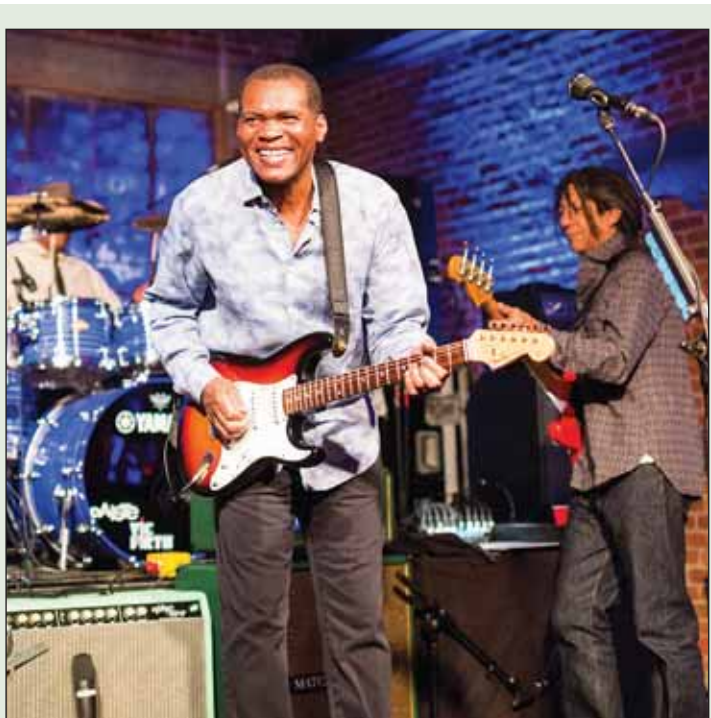
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Scary Art Show in Dublin solicited entries that are creepy and unsettling.

call for poets everywhere to produce Scary Poetry, and the winners, who hailed from Ireland, Colorado, Nevada and Massachusetts, were announced Thursday night.

The F. CO. Gallery is located at 7038 Village Parkway in Dublin. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. ■

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Notable artists return to Bankhead

Bankhead Theater continues its live entertainment with blues guitarist Robert Cray (shown), who returns for his fifth performance, at 7:30 p.m. next Thursday (Oct. 21); tickets are \$20-\$95. Sometimes called a modern blues poet, Cray is credited with generating a new generation of blues fans with his distinctive razor-sharp guitar sound on more than 20 studio releases. Jazz master Branford Marsalis and his quartet will appear at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25; tickets, \$20-\$118. Marsalis, acclaimed early as a saxophonist, is also a composer, bandleader and educator, crossing into the classical universe as well. For tickets or more information visit [www.LivermoreArts.org](http://www.LivermoreArts.org).

BY AGAMROOP KAUR

## To protect youth from COVID-19, our cities must take action on e-cigarette epidemic

While often seen as a problem of far away, the youth e-cigarette epidemic still rages locally. It is time for the San Ramon City Council to take a proactive public health stance on vape products.

When I decided to visit the Contra Costa County Office of Education to photograph some of the vaping devices that were confiscated from local schools, I did not expect to see such a wide variety of products that were once in the hands of youth. Every size, shape, and color one could think of (and more) were present.

After seeing only a fraction of what was confiscated from Contra Costa County students as young as sixth-graders, the case for change is not a hard one to make. While the problem of youth vaping is one that many often turn and look away from, it is very real here at home.

This issue is especially important as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent research by

Stanford School of Medicine and UCSF note the association between vaping, smoking and COVID-19.

The researchers highlight, "COVID-19 diagnosis was five times more likely" among youth who have ever used e-cigarettes only, and "7 times more likely among ever-dual users." Additionally, young people who used e-cigarettes only in the past 30 days were 4.7 times more likely to have symptoms.

This increased risk for COVID-19 among people who vape is due to reasons like e-cigarette aerosol and cigarette smoke suppress the immune system, making it harder for the body to fight infections.

In addition to the pandemic, as students have returned back to school, public health officials worry that there may be an increased use



of e-cigarettes. During the pandemic, the number of underage youth who reported vaping declined nationally. One national study, published in the American Journal of Public Health, found that the rate of 15-17 year old youth who reported vaping in the previous 30 days declined from 21% in January 2020 to 14% in June 2020.

Given that this decline may have been in part due to less access to retail stores or social sources, the worry lies that in returning to school there could also be a return to vaping due to an increased access to the sources and stores youth may have frequented prior to lockdown.

Ultimately, the ongoing pandemic and return to school highlights the need for tobacco and vape-free policies. The recent Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors decision recognized this, as the supervisors decided to maintain the ban on the sale and delivery of electron-

ic smoking devices and cannabis e-liquids in unincorporated areas.

However, simultaneously this decision can be seen as a call to cities, like San Ramon, who have yet to enact policy changes in working towards a healthier future for youth.

As a resident and student in San Ramon, I call on city councilmembers to join the county supervisors and neighboring cities in extending the ban on sale and delivery of electronic smoking devices and cannabis e-liquids to our community. In order to protect youth from COVID-19, the city of San Ramon must take fast action. ■

*Editor's note: Agamroop Kaur is a senior at Dougherty Valley High School. She is a public health advocate and board of director for the California Youth Advocacy Network YBOD, as well as a member of the Stanford REACH Lab YAB. Views are her own and do not represent the organizations.*

## LETTERS

### Protect the right to vote, everywhere

Dear Editor,

I am a retired nurse living in Pleasanton. The Freedom to Vote Act sets national standards for us to safely and freely cast our ballots and ensure every vote is counted. Our senators need to pass this Act on behalf of all Americans — whether they are rich or poor, disabled or able-bodied — without regard to their socioeconomic status or the color of their skin.

To allow certain areas of this country to place undue hurdles in the way of Americans who have the right to place their vote is wrong.

Yet, right now a relic of the Jim Crow Era, the filibuster, is being used to block the progress of this overwhelmingly popular and urgently needed legislation. The original Senate rules did not include the filibuster rule; historically, the filibuster "loophole" has been used to block civil rights legislation. This is shameful!

It is critically important to reform the Senate rules and fix the filibuster now. Our California senators, Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, must do everything they can to pass this critical Freedom to Vote Act and fix the filibuster immediately so that the promise of democracy does not fail.

—Diane Martinez

### Water reduction mandate

Many citizens of Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley have already reduced our water consumption over this past year, so with the current plan that was mandated by our city leaders, we are now being forced to reduce our use further based on an already reduced base rate.

This is very unfair.

And speaking of unfair, the last time we were forced to conserve water a few years ago, the citizens of Pleasanton did such a wonderful job that we were rewarded with a water price increase because the Zone 7 water district was not profitable enough due to our water conservation. Wait, what?! We cut back on our water usage and now we pay more? We were penalized twice!

Dead lawns, flowers, bushes and trees and higher costs for water. The lawn eventually came back to life, but last time we lost bushes and trees that had to be replaced and the replacement cost came from our pockets.

If our state and local leaders would create a long-term strategy for water supply and reduce the water that Nor Cal provides to So Cal, we would be much better off. This mandatory reduction in water use is a short-term solution without a long-term vision.

It is time for the state, county and local leaders to step up and create a viable long-term water solution. I am opposed to this mandatory reduction.

—David Ott

## THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



### HIGHLIGHTS

On March 3, 2020 Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and has issued Executive Order N-29-20 and approved AB 361 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 meetings will be streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>

#### City Council

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

- Public Hearing: Introduce and waive first reading of an ordinance adding a new Chapter 9.23 Organics Reduction and Recycling to the Municipal Code, adopting by reference the Alameda County Waste Management Authority Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance 2021-2 and adopting conforming amendments to Municipal Code Chapters 9.20 and 9.22 and Sections 20.26.20, 20.26.050 and 20.26.070
- Review Results of the 2021 Pleasanton Community Survey
- Introduction of Proposed Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton City Employees' Association/AFSCME Local 955 with Term Ending March 31, 2025
- Housing Element Update – Review and provide direction on the draft Preliminary Report for the 2023-2031 (6th Cycle) Housing Element Update and housing related policy items to be brought forward for future analysis and discussion

#### Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.

- Business Needs/Recovery Survey Discussion

To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)

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## PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

### An emotional trip to the 'Pleasanton Sports Memorial'

Larry Boldrini, Ian Lang and my dad Harry Miller added to plaque

This past weekend on Saturday, we had the Celebration of Life for my father Harry Miller, who passed away Aug. 10.

It was a tremendous afternoon and early evening, as former players, friends, family members and even some who just wanted to pay their respects came by, shared stories and raised a glass or two.

My Dad was one of four co-founders of the Ballistic United Soccer Club, but also coached youth baseball, basketball and even soccer at Amador Valley High School.

It was a great day, as those there will attest, but I wanted to draw attention to an event that happened a day before the celebration.

Last Friday, Oct. 8, there was a ceremony for my father, as well as Larry Boldrini and Ian Lang — three iconic people in the development and history of Ballistic.

Their names were added to a plaque on a large rock at the Ken Mercer Sports Park called the "Pleasanton Sports Memorial."

The memorial was dedicated in 1995 "to those individuals who gave unselfishly of themselves to Pleasanton and its sports programs."

It is followed by "We are forever grateful" and closes with the quote "For the good of the game and the good of the player."

There are now 24 names on the memorial, and as someone that

grew up in Pleasanton, it was such an emotional experience to see the names and realize they are all no longer with us, at least physically.

I didn't know everyone on the memorial, but I knew plenty and reading each name that I recognized brought back an image in my mind.

The amazing thing is that until the last six to seven months, I never knew the memorial existed, which I think was a crying shame. Part of the reason I am writing this is to make sure others know of this shrine to people who made the youth sports programs in this town so special.

We had a nice little ceremony Friday afternoon with about 50

people who came out to pay their respects to the three latest additions. Stories were shared, along with laughter and a few tears.

I feel it's important to get the names out so everyone can know who is on the memorial. Here are the names, in order of how they appear on the plaque:

Dick Michael, Hal Hurst, Ray Northam, Martin McCarthy, Dick Heinzl, Jo Anne Watson, Rich Munos, Jerry Herman, Joseph "Irv" Janke, Jim Olson, Woody Nethammer, Nick Del Boccio, David Palleson, Ron Strickland, Hank Gomez, Bob "Mister" Getty, Herb Loeffler, Larry Ely, Del Himango, Joyce Leonard, Cindy Free, Ian Lang, Larry Boldrini and Harry Miller.

There are other names that could be included for sure and if you are interested in learning more about the process, contact the city of Pleasanton's recreation department.

As for the latest additions, I must thank Ballistic United and club president Scott McMillin for pushing through and making sure the funds were raised to add the three names to the memorial. Ballistic, under McMillin's leadership, has been directed toward embracing the history of the club.

It's working. I saw it Friday night at the Sports Park, and Saturday at my Dad's celebration.

It was a feel-good weekend at a time where our family certainly

needed it — and for that, we appreciate everyone who made it work.

#### Foothill girls' volleyball

The Falcons pulled out a pair of big wins beating Monte Vista and California to take a one-game lead in the East Bay Athletic League last week.

Foothill prevailed over Monte Vista by a score of 17-25, 25-23, 25-21, 25-15.

The highlights came from Grayce Olson (32 kills, 13 digs, 9 service points), Katie Salonga (47 assists, 10 digs), Paige Bennett (14 kills, 18 digs, 8 service points) and Sruti Jonnalagadda (6 kills, 3 blocks).

Against Cal, Foothill brought home a 25-17, 25-21, 25-19 decision.

The top players were Olson (21 kills, 7 digs), Bennett (12 kills, 9 digs), Jo Modica (6 kills, 7 digs) and Kaycie Burdick (6 aces, 3 digs).

The two wins brought the Falcons record to 24-2 overall, and 13-1 in the EBAL.

#### Send in your results

Disappointed your son's or daughter's results are not in the paper? Be part of the solution! I can only report results I receive, so make sure you send me your results each Sunday by noon to acesmag@aol.com.

Just give me the scores and some highlights, and I will put them together! ■

### Hope 100 sets fundraising record

\$155,000+ for hospice support nonprofit

Returning after a pandemic-induced hiatus in 2020, this year's Hope 100 Golf Marathon last month raised a record amount — \$155,217 — for Tri-Valley nonprofit Hope Hospice.

The annual charity event, which saw 36 golfers play 100 holes in one day at The Club at Castlewood's Valley Course on Sept. 13, is designed as a strenuous outing to symbolize the challenges patients and families face at the end of life. It's one of the major fundraisers for Hope Hospice each year.

"Coming out of a hard year with several events canceled because of the pandemic, we weren't sure what could be accomplished. But the Hope 100 attracts a special group of generous golf aficionados who seem to return each year more excited to participate than the last," Hope Hospice CEO Jennifer Hansen said in a statement.

"We're so grateful to our event organizers and biggest champions, Jim and Kathleen Berriatua, for their leadership and philanthropic hearts," Hansen added.

Originally created in 2015, the Hope 100 honors former Cas-

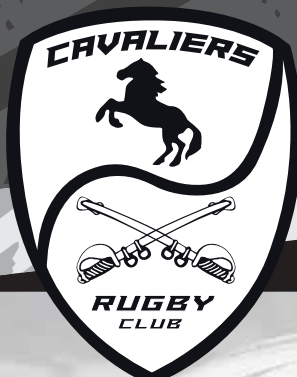
tlewood golf pro Piper Wagner, who died from cancer and received end-of-life care from Hope Hospice. This year's installment also paid tribute to the late Steve Thompson, a Bay Area native, co-founder of Jerry Thompson and Sons Painting and player in the original Hope 100.

Several members of Thompson's family played in the 2021 event. The sold-out fundraiser drew participants from across the Bay Area, but as far away as the East Coast as well.

The success of this year's event, setting a record high in donations for any Hope 100 to date, was that much more important to help fill the void Hope Hospice felt as a result of needing to cancel this annual fundraiser last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Marc Rovetti, director of philanthropy for the nonprofit.

"From a fundraising perspective, we desperately needed to hold the event this year," Rovetti said. "The fellowship with these dedicated players is, of course, a bonus. We enjoy reconnecting each fall." ■

—Jeremy Walsh



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# Rugby

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## Theater

**CIRQUE MECHANICS: BIRDHOUSE FACTORY** The Bankhead Theater Presents Cirque Mechanics: Birdhouse Factory, a factory where the workers are acrobats and the machines are circus props. Be amazed by a contortionist performing on a turntable powered by unicyclists, a trapeze artist powered by the spins of an acrobat inside a giant wheel and trampoline wall artists defy the laws of physics. 8 p.m., Oct. 23. Tickets \$20-\$98. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**PETER AND THE STARCATCHER** Las Positas College Theater Arts Department presents the Tony Award-winning play "Peter and the Starcatcher", the story of a miserable orphan boy who becomes Peter Pan. Oct. 29-31 and Nov. 5-7. Tickets \$10-\$20. Visit [laspositascollege.edu/theater/events.php](http://laspositascollege.edu/theater/events.php).

## Music

**2021 CONCERTS IN THE PARK** The Pleasanton Downtown Association presents Concerts in the Park, Sundays 4-6 p.m., at Lions Wayside Park, on the corner of Neal and First streets.

**PIANIST MARK ANDERSON AT THE BANKHEAD** Del Valle Fine Arts presents Mark Anderson, a Bay Area native and Steinway Artist who has appeared in concert halls worldwide. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 16. Tickets \$32-\$52. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**FREE POPS CONCERT** The Livermore Amador Symphony and Element 116, a Livermore teen jazz band, invite music lovers to bring picnics, blankets or seats to enjoy a free Pops Concert on the lawn in front of the Bankhead Theater. 3 p.m., Oct. 23.

**TRIBUTE TO BENNY GOODMAN AT CARNEGIE HALL** Rediscover the magical night Benny Goodman and his legendary band performed

at Carnegie Hall and redefined the meaning of popular music. 3 p.m., Oct. 24. Tickets \$20-\$75. Visit [livermoreperformingarts.org](http://livermoreperformingarts.org).

## Magic

**ALEX RAMON - "REAL MAGIC" AT THE FIREHOUSE** Alex Ramon "Real Magic" is world-class entertainment at its finest. Smile, laugh and be mesmerized with the whole family. 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Oct. 16. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org). Tickets \$22-\$32.

## Comedy

**COURTYARD COMEDY** Courtyard Comedy at the Bankhead presents Brian Maggi, a Bay Area comedy staple, host and creator of Adulted. 5:30 p.m., Oct. 22. Tickets \$20. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

## Exhibits

**EIGHTS TAKES: CALIFORNIA IMPRESSIONISM** The Harrington Art Gallery presents Eight Takes: California Impressionism" open now through Oct. 30 with nationally known Northern California impressionist artists. 4444 Railroad Ave.

## Halloween

**PIRATES OF EMERSON** The Bay Area's Halloween tradition Pirates of Emerson returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Get ready to scream at this walk-through haunted attraction. 7:05-11 p.m., now through Oct. 31. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

**GHOSTS OF DUBLIN** Brace yourself for an evening of spooky fun with a flashlight tour through the Dublin Historic Cemetery. See ghostly images of long dead pioneers in Old St. Raymond Church and peek inside the Kolb House. Event is recommended for ages 8 and up. 7:30-10:30 p.m., Oct. 22-23. Visit [dublin.ca.gov/1872/Ghosts-of-Dublin](http://dublin.ca.gov/1872/Ghosts-of-Dublin).

**YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN AT THE BANKHEAD** The Family Film Series at the Bankhead Presents the film, Young Frankenstein, rated PG. This Mel Brooks parody turns the classic horror story on its head. 3 p.m., Oct. 31. Tickets \$5.00.

**G&M FARMS PUMPKIN PATCH & CORN MAZE** The G&M Farms Pumpkin Patch in Livermore is so fun it was featured twice on the David Letterman Show. Bring the whole family. Oct. 1-31, closed Monday & Tuesday. Visit <https://gmfarms.com>. Tickets \$7-\$10. 487 East Airway Blvd.

**JOAN'S FARM & PUMPKIN PATCH** Joan's Farm & Pumpkin Patch in Livermore is open now through Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., closed on Monday's. Offering hay bale maze, picnic areas, pumpkin bowling and more. The Snack Shack offers hot dogs and pumpkin pie. 4351 Mines Rd. Visit [joansfarm.com](http://joansfarm.com).

## Fairs & Festivals

**LIVERMORE PRIDEFEST 2021** Includes performances from CHEER SF, drag show with Charity Kase & Ava LaShay and friends, a Pooch Parade and several other local performing artists for a full afternoon of entertainment. Masks are required at all times except for performers during their performance or while eating or drinking. 12 p.m., Oct. 16. Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR** The rescheduled 2021 Alameda County Fair is back with all the Fair favorites from Oct. 22-31. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

# Employment

### Lead iOS, Mobile Applications

Safeway Inc. hiring Lead iOS, Mobile Applications in Pleasanton, California. Subj. to pre-employment backg. check. Mail resume to Safeway Inc. 5918 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588, Attn: M. Ferreira & Ref. code: 20210917RS.

### Sr. Engineer, Software

ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc. seeks Sr. Engineer, Software in Pleasanton, CA to work closely with business analysts to analyze product requirements & estimating efforts. Apply at [jobpostingtoday.com](http://jobpostingtoday.com) Ref: 51747.

### Sr. Engineer, Data

ICE Mortgage Technology Inc. seeks Sr. Engineer, Data in Pleasanton, CA for Data Platform pipeline reqs gathering. Telecommuting permitted. Apply at [jobpostingtoday.com](http://jobpostingtoday.com) Ref: 47342

### DevSecOps Engineer

DevSecOps Engineer (Pleasanton, CA). Build & support Dvlpmt, Deployment, Delivery, Operations & Monitoring capabilities in delivering Cloud based solutions to our customers. Participate in the techn'l implmnt of DevSecOps framework across multiple bus. lines. Bachelor's deg. in Comp. Sci, S/ware Engg, or a rlted discipline & 2 yrs of exp of product dvlpmt support in the global setting as a member of DevOps or Build & Release team. Mail resumes to Panasonic Avionics Corporation, Attn: E. Moore (JK), 26200 Enterprise Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630.

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

### TECHNOLOGY

Philips Healthcare Informatics, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Technical Account Manager in Pleasanton, CA (Ref. #LAMA). Own, develop and maintain a strong long-term relationship with customers on a tactical level with heads of functional, IT, and clinical department. Liaise with Healthcare Account Managers on a strategic level and with Site Delivery Managers at operational level. Telecommuting permitted. Mail resume to Philips North America LLC, Legal Department, Barbara Bickford, 222 Jacobs Street, Third Floor, Cambridge, MA 02141. Resume must include Ref. #LAMA, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.



Today's local news & hot picks

Sign up today at [PleasantonWeekly.com/express](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/express)

## PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

### Meet Opie

Opie is available for a foster-to-adopt home or a foster home with large dog experience who will take care of him until he is adopted. He's a shy but very sweet, 4-year-old Whippet mix who was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He has been doing very well with the staff and volunteers who take him out regularly for exercise and socialization. If you're interested in helping Opie, email Tri-Valley Animal Rescue at [contact@tvar.org](mailto:contact@tvar.org)

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

Tri-Valley Steamer  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 582009  
The following person doing business as: Tri-Valley Steamer, 2311 Ivy Hill Way, Apt. 828, San Ramon, CA 94582, County of Contra Costa, is hereby registered by the following owner: Mustafa Ayubi, 2311 Ivy Hill Way, Apt. 828, San Ramon, CA 94582. This business is conducted by Mustafa Ayubi, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Mustafa Ayubi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 26, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2021.)

Occasio Winery  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 581975  
The following person doing business as: Occasio Winery, 2245 South Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94550, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Kinney Family Vintners, LLC, 2245 South Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94550, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein Jan. 1, 2009. Signature of Registrant: John Kinney, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Aug. 26, 2021 (Pleasanton Weekly, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 2021.)

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

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during July 19-23 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol, and Sept. 7-10 for San Ramon.

### Pleasanton

- 4432 1st Street** J. & R. Simonetti to Scholhamer Family Trust for \$2,230,000
- 4173 Amberwood Circle** L. Wood to S. & R. Dorbala for \$925,000
- 2804 Arronia Court** Johnson Living Trust to Y. & H. Wu for \$1,380,000
- 8034 Arroyo Drive #2** C. Cedeno to L. & C. Flores for \$522,000
- 3046 Badger Drive** Sunahara Family Trust to A. & P. Nath for \$1,250,000
- 140 Barias Place** J. Lee to C. & C. Wu for \$1,228,000
- 5561 Calico Lane** Shao Trust to R & S Patel Trust for \$2,450,000
- 2777 Calle Alegre** Williams Living Trust to A. & N. Grover for \$2,210,000
- 7690 Canyon Meadow Circle #B** Manley Trust to W. & N. May for \$665,000
- 4204 Casterson Court** Sherry Trust to K. & G. Waters for \$3,225,000
- 5989 Corte Espada** B. Daggy to Ji Feng Living Trust for \$1,300,000
- 829 Division Street #B** Dunkley Trust to R. Himawan for \$405,000
- 3926 Fairlands Drive** J. & F. Barbeau to P. & J. Nalla for \$1,666,000
- 1944 Fiorio Circle** R. Chapman to R. & S. Atyam for \$1,002,000
- 4213 Garibaldi Place** J. Fiore to X. Xu for \$1,040,000
- 7731 Knollbrook Drive** Gee Living Trust to S. Dacon for \$1,710,000
- 1473 Kolln Street** L. & I. Baird to K. & W. Hammond for \$1,200,000
- 3037 Leger Court** L. & W. Andrews to K. McDonald for \$1,675,000

- 4125 Lucca Court** Y. Wu to Y. Qu for \$1,055,000
- 4236 Lucero Court** R. Ravikanti to R. & R. Aduri for \$962,000
- 971 Madeira Drive** J. & V. Capote to S. & S. Sharma for \$1,666,000
- 8185 Mountain View Drive #B** Ohana Trust to A. Kalaimani for \$676,500
- 305 Oaks Bridge Place** Lamarche Trust to V. & K. Vemuri for \$2,100,000
- 673 Palomino Drive #B** T. Dahlmann to M. Honig for \$705,000
- 6789 Paseo Santa Cruz** Grasan Trust to P. & S. Samaddar for \$1,660,000
- 5270 Riverdale Court** Ulbrich Trust to D. & V. Sanghvi for \$1,200,000
- 3263 Runnymede Court** X. Chen to M. & S. Tan for \$1,688,000
- 5611 San Antonio Street** J. & D. Changeur to A. & Y. Paliwal for \$1,450,000
- 3988 Stanley Boulevard** Loving Trust to Bammer Family Trust for \$1,050,000
- 7577 Trotter Way** M. Morales to V. & D. Sathe for \$1,720,000

### Sunol

- 12062 Knob Hill** V. Harris to J. & J. Brumbeloe for \$620,000
- 3501 Little Valley Road** S. & M. Rodgers to R. & I. Mclean for \$2,200,000

### Livermore

- 6371 Almaden Way** A. & R. Batra to R. & S. Mundhada for \$1,050,000
- 4368 Arabian Road** K. & A. Nudelman to Macciola Living Trust for \$1,040,000
- 6738 Bear Creek Drive** W. & T. Roberts to R. & J. Lanners for \$1,344,500
- 161 Bellington Common #5** Highlevelacquisitions LLC to R. & R. Selvam for \$775,000
- 2425 Chardonnay Way** Bond Trust to L. & J. Buraschi for \$2,445,000

- 4348 East Avenue** Souvong-Oakgrove Trust to A. Lan for \$437,500
- 3485 Edinburgh Drive** T. Huff to A. & L. Demeur for \$1,505,000
- 1293 El Dorado Drive** C. Goltz to F. & A. Fajri for \$975,000
- 5069 Erica Way** W. Balthazar to A. & B. Brookbank for \$1,040,000
- 2552 Gelding Lane** C. Forral to M. & J. Vazquez for \$1,140,000
- 1645 Heather Lane** M. & D. Lynch to M. Burton for \$1,150,000
- 3896 Hillside Avenue** D. Wiesner to E. & G. Macey for \$1,470,000
- 2742 Hogan Place** K. & J. Peters to J. & C. Cahambing for \$1,750,000
- 4587 Jeannie Court** P. & J. Koning to V. & R. Medina for \$1,400,000
- 1490 Lillian Street** P. Velagandula to S. & W. Tang for \$1,314,000
- 6458 Magnolia Common** D. Jagannathan to C. & K. Krikorian for \$910,000
- 1835 Monterey Drive** K. & J. Lozano to K. & R. Vincent for \$600,000
- 1987 Monterey Drive** T. Champlin to M. Liu for \$625,000
- 1009 Murrieta Boulevard #105** G. & J. Patlan to D. Guglielmelli for \$385,000
- 760 North N Street** D. Taylor to K. Pronske for \$800,000
- 170 North N Street #108** M. & V. Packard to A. & D. Son for \$790,000
- 193 Northwood Commons** J. Myers to B. & D. Larkin for \$651,000

Editor's note: The full list of Home Sales reported in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol and San Ramon during this period can be found with the online version of this story at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com).

Source: California REsource

## SALES AT A GLANCE

### Pleasanton (July 19-23)

**Total sales reported:** 30  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$405,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,225,500  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,275,000

### Livermore (July 19-23)

**Total sales reported:** 40  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$385,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,445,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,020,000

### Dublin (July 19-23)

**Total sales reported:** 37  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$607,500  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,180,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,107,000

### Sunol (July 19-23)

**Total sales reported:** 2  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$620,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,200,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,410,000

### San Ramon (Sept. 7-10)

**Total sales reported:** 17  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$173,500  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,250,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,160,000

Source: California REsource

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### PLEASANTON

**1140 Hopkins Way** **\$2,249,000**  
 Sat 1:00-4:00 4BD/3.5BA  
 Compass 925-699-3122



**OPEN HOUSE: Fri. 10/15, 10AM-1PM & Sat. 10/16, 1-4PM**

**Desirable Ventana Hills Neighborhood**



**Janice Habluetzel**

925.699.3122  
 janice.habluetzel@compass.com  
 Janicetherealtor.com  
 Your Ventana Hills Resident Realtor.

Compass.com  
 DRE 01385523

## COMPASS

Pleasanton

### 1140 Hopkins Way

4 bedrooms/3.5 baths | 3016 SF/9779 SF Lot

Welcome to the coveted neighborhood of Ventana Hills. This 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath "Carmel" model is gorgeously updated throughout. This home boasts a remodeled eat in, gourmet kitchen with granite island, custom cabinets and stainless-steel appliances. Wait til you see the Thermador gas range and hood, perfect for cooking up large meals for family and friends. The home has 2 suites, primary on the street level and second suite upstairs. Both have updated bathrooms, a walk in shower in the primary and double sinks. Flooring includes hardwood flooring, new carpet and tile in kitchen and bathrooms. Perfect private lot that has a view of the Pleasanton Ridge, with a pool, with solar and a built-in outdoor Bull gas BBQ. The home includes plantation shutters, dazzling light fixtures in entry and dining areas, fresh interior paint through most rooms. Ventana Hills is located near the 680 freeway for easy access, Mission Hills Park, shopping and downtown Pleasanton is within walking distance.

**Offered at \$2,249,000**



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**PENDING**

**7508 FLAGSTONE DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,877 SF

**OFFERED AT \$1,674,000**

**PLEASANTON OAK PARK**



**JUST CLOSED**

**325 LONE OAK DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,600 SF

**SOLD FOR \$1,260,000**

**IRONWOOD**



**JUST CLOSED**

**1428 BRIONES LANE, PLEASANTON**

5 BD | 4.5 BA | 3,900 SF

**SOLD FOR \$3,025,000  
(REPRESENTED BUYER)**

**ROSE PARK**



**NEW LISTING**

**1564 POPPYBANK COURT, PLEASANTON**

4 BD | 3 BA | 1900 SF

**CALL FOR PRICING**

**LITTLE VALLEY**



**SOLD**

**3501 LITTLE VALLEY ROAD, SUNOL**

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,020 SF

**SOLD FOR \$2,200,000**

**ROSE PARK**



**SOLD**

**1558 POPPYBANK COURT, PLEASANTON**

4 BD | 3 BA | 1,900 SF

**SOLD FOR \$1,280,000**

**VINTAGE HILLS**



**SOLD**

**529 MALBEC COURT, PLEASANTON**

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,050 SF

**SOLD FOR \$1,560,000**

**VINTAGE HILLS**



**SOLD**

**802 CRELLIN ROAD, PLEASANTON**

4 BD | 3 BA | 1,942 SF

**SOLD FOR \$1,675,000**

**STONERIDGE**



**SOLD**

**7498 HILLVIEW COURT, PLEASANTON**

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 3,022 SF

**SOLD FOR \$1,925,000**

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another broker. The above information, is based on data received from public sources or third parties and has not be independently verified by the broker, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty. If important to readers, readers are advised to verify information to their own satisfaction.



# THE Murtagh TEAM

TRI-VALLEY REAL ESTATE

## 8160 MOLLER RANCH DR ▶ PLEASANTON

4 Bedrooms  
2.5 Bathrooms  
2,131+/- Sq. Ft.

Listed for \$1,698,000  
MollerRanch.com

Appointment Only



JUST LISTED

## 1045 DIVISION STREET ▶ PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms  
2 Bathrooms  
1,956+/- Sq. Ft.

Listed for \$1,399,000  
1045Division.com

Open House 1:00p - 4:00p  
Sat 10/16 & Sunday 10/17



JUST LISTED



Julia Murtagh | 925.997.2411  
Amy Mayerson | 925.200.5022  
Kristy Heyne | 925.321.1253  
Veronica Peter | 510.304.8710  
MURTAGHREALESTATE.COM  
JULIA.MURTAGH@COMPASS.COM  
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Our Priority***

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**OFFERED AT \$4,600,000**  
3266 NOVARA WAY, RUBY HILL



**PENDING \$1,499,000**  
1072 RIESLING DRIVE, PLEASANTON



**PENDING \$1,999,998**  
5210 DOOLAN ROAD, LIVERMORE



**SOLD \$2,370,000**  
530 DOLORES PLACE, PLEASANTON



**SOLD \$1,850,000**  
1532 LOGANBERRY WAY, PLEASANTON



**SOLD \$3,250,000**  
885 BRICCO COURT, RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON

**CLIENTS RATE US 5 STARS!**

*Here's what they are saying:*

"DeAnna had sold a house in the neighborhood at the highest possible valuation... She turned out to be the **best realtor that we've ever had!**"

She helped us remodel our house. Remodeling a home is a tough job. Her relations with the contractor made it a lot easier. It was cost-effective too. She had the house staged, arranged for inspection reports. The stagers did a very artful presentation!

... **We received multiple offers** along with a detailed understanding of each. We ended up receiving the best possible valuation for the home. The closing process did come with a twist or two that she helped navigate with good results. Overall, **we highly recommend DeAnna, and the team.**"



DeAnna Armario | 925.694.0806  
Brianna Armario | 925.694.0802  
DRE# 01363180 | DRE# 01967027  
Broker DRE# 02065804  
459 Main Street, Pleasanton



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## Walnut Grove ~ an Island Oasis on the "Delta"

- 3,634 sq.ft. of living space
- 3 Bdr plus a bonus room
- 15,638 lot
- detached 3 car garage with potential apartment above the garage
- 86 Ft of Waterfront access

**Presented at \$1,650,000**

### 17322 Grand Island Rd

**P**aradise Found just outside the San Francisco Bay and

Sacramento areas. As you cross the small bridge, you are welcomed onto the **private island**, where the busy-ness of life seems to melt away. Imagine a place where boating, spectacular sunset views, and fishing become your new normal. This custom home overlooks the Sacramento River with 85 feet of waterfront property. This home will become your shelter, your oasis, your home-office, and your favorite place to be. If been thinking about making a change to a simpler way of being, this just might be the nudge you've been waiting for.



## Pleasanton

### 1369 Briones Court

5 BD, 4.5 BA + bonus room | 4,005 SqFt.

**SOLD at \$2,915,000**

It was my pleasure to represent the Seller's in the sale of their home. They were able to sell quickly securing confidence to close on their new home.



*Are you ready to make a housing change?*



## Pleasanton

### 4550 Gatetree Circle

4 BD, 2 BA | 1,808 SqFt.

Presented at: \$1,515,000

**Sold for: \$1,815,000**

There comes a time when a seller has upgraded a home so much you just take in all the amazing features and acknowledge their hard work. This is one of those homes. I thank the sellers for allowing me the pleasure to be their agent!



## Danville

### 391 Glen Arms Drive

3 BD, 3 BA | 2,104 +/- SqFt | 25,850 +/- SqFt lot.

**SOLD at \$1,476,000**

This property, located near the heart of Danville's downtown area, backs to a creek, mature trees surround the home with a setting of utter tranquility. A classic breezeway entry welcomes you with a lovely shade tree & a brick courtyard. The home offered a generous side yard access with a detached garage.



Kris is a true professional. She made selling our house simple, easy and fun. Kris was a pleasure to work with and is very compassionate to the sellers needs. She is very thorough and returns phone calls right away. She has a calm and pleasant demeanor and is very caring. She is an extremely hard worker and is willing to do whatever it takes to sell. Kris is real and says it like it is. We would highly recommend Kris to fulfill your needs.

– Sellers-Ross and Sheri

**Kris Moxley**

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

**COMPASS**