

Pleasanton Weekly

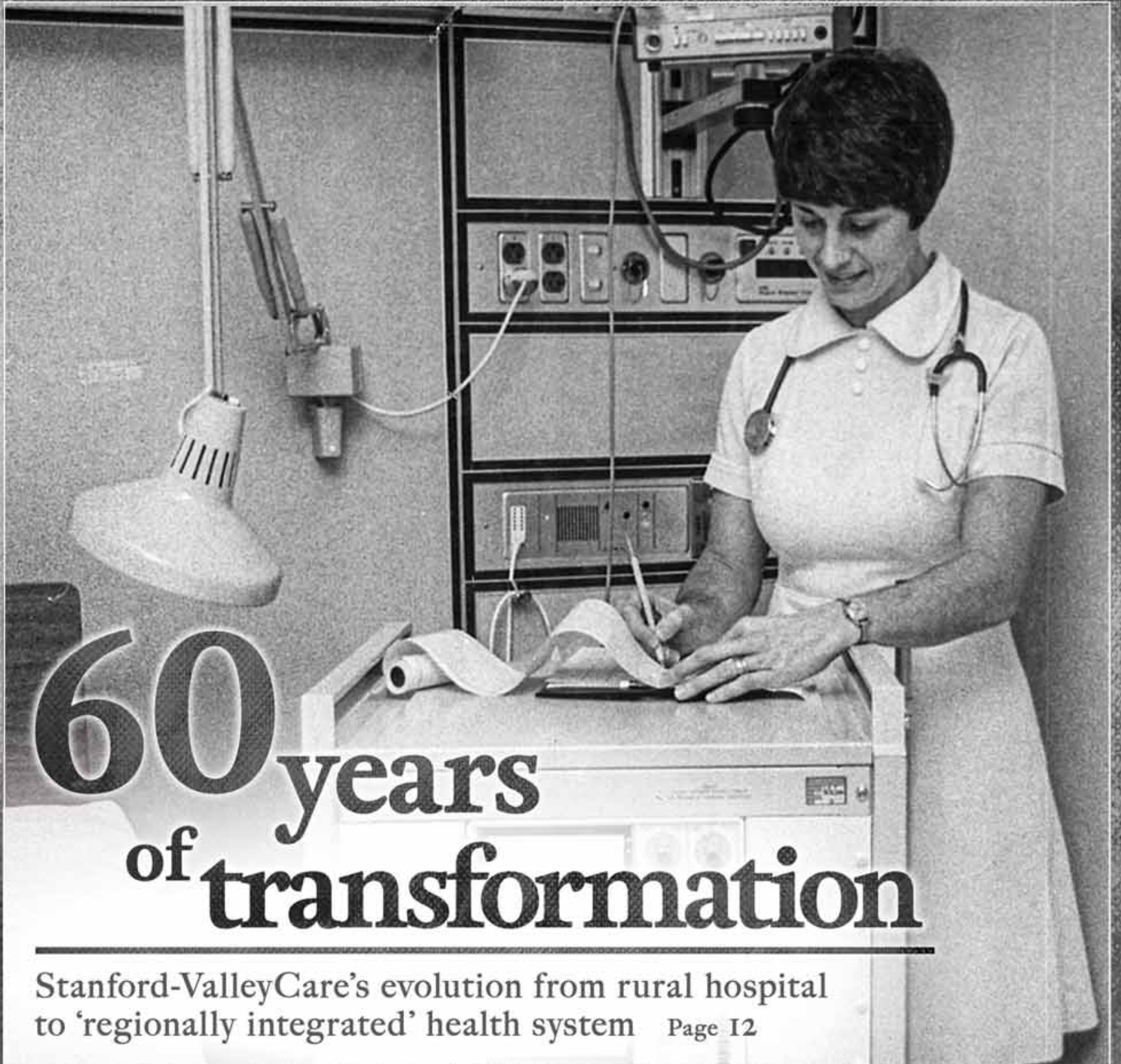
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60 years of transformation

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to 'regionally integrated' health system Page 12

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From the in-depth coverage that held local government and schools accountable to the events that brought us all back together, we want to celebrate the milestones that defined our year with you.



OUR PATH TO 2022

See our entire 2021 journey, visit: pleasantonweekly.com/emdesign/year-in-review-2021

Pleasanton Weekly



WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Becoming a dad

You're not going to hear from me for a little while.

My wife is imminently expecting our first child, and as soon as pre-labor begins, I'll be taking about a month off away from the Weekly to focus on new priority duties — fatherly ones. I've been working from home while on "baby watch" for the past week with the due date arriving this Saturday, but no news to report as of press time.

(That's just fine; take all of the time you need to get here healthy and happy. But maybe for your mom's sake, don't go too late...)

We're as ready as we can be. We took part in pregnancy centering sessions, completed multiple education courses on subjects like labor, breastfeeding and postpartum, heard the advice from family and friends, and read literature on the nine months and beyond.

It's a thrilling time for sure, in many ways.

And I'll be the first to acknowledge the obvious: I haven't shared about the pregnancy and our excitement at all in this space.

I'm just not the type to wear my personal life and emotions on my sleeve, but I won't cover it up entirely either. So while I might not have written about it or gone out of my way to volunteer updates, I've certainly been truthful — once we successfully cleared the first trimester — when getting questions like "do you have any kids?" "Not yet, but one's on the way."

That's in part because I understand and respect the reciprocal nature of our business. Journalists rely on sources being open and honest about important and sometimes deeply personal information when asked, so I aim to do the same.

You know, if you pressed me more on why I haven't written about the pregnancy, I'd probably also talk about how I don't want to come off as taking it for granted. (Things like fear of the unknown, not wanting to jinx anything, the ongoing pandemic and not wanting to face the vulnerability of being so excited and then something bad happens are all factors for me too.)

It's in my nature to be acutely aware that nothing is guaranteed.

The pregnancy journey cemented that mentality. While we certainly did not have as difficult a time as many couples endure, it wasn't easy for us either. Month

after month to no avail. Some false hope. Entering the initial stages of investigating fertility options, until success early in our second year of trying.

And if you really dug at me like a good journalist would, I'd likely reveal that another reason I haven't shared more at large is not wanting to deal with some of the public reaction.

I have a thick skin; almost a must to be an effective journalist. But that doesn't mean I always want to deal with the comments, especially on a personal level. And bear in mind, I'm not the only one who would take it personally, including our future child.

Even now I'm sure there's a reader or two feeling the urge to post a gripe or poke at me for something I wrote about becoming a parent, a moment that's supposed to be about pure joy.

They'll surely do so without their real name too.

Look no further than some of the comments on our news story from last month on the birth of Hank Swalwell. While many were positive and welcoming, plenty of nameless posters took political or personal swipes at his dad, U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell.

I know the local congressman is polarizing, and he certainly doesn't need me to defend him or his family, but I mean ... what kind of weak comments are those? Telling.

During their journey, a tweet Swalwell sent this fall stood out to me: A comment with a photo of all of the medical and personal products his wife had in the bathroom to help her with the physical recovery of childbirth.

It's stunning how our country continues to deprioritize family leave and affordable medical support, especially for the birthing parent.

With that I'll get off my soapbox. I hope you'll cut me some slack; it's my first time preparing to be a parent. But make no mistake: the next time you hear from me, I'll be a different person.

I can't wait.

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

A nurse completing a patient chart on paper in a 1960s Valley Memorial room shows just how much the hospital has changed. Photo courtesy of Stanford-ValleyCare. Cover design by Doug Young.

Vol. XXII, Number 47



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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How are you doing your Holiday shopping this year?



Mia Davis
High school student

I love going to the outlets in Livermore. I know it's crowded and the lines are long but I love the flurry of activity and seeing so many people out and about. It really puts me in the holiday spirit.



Miles Davis
College student

I'm buying everything online. I love the Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals that have remained in place since Thanksgiving. I've been able to get everything for everyone on my list, and all with free shipping.



Leo Karp
Retired

I gave my credit card to my daughter, with instructions to buy thoughtful, useful gifts for each of my grandchildren. Once she accomplishes that task she will come over with them and we will have a grand time wrapping everything nicely. That has become an annual ritual that we very much enjoy.



Wilma Karp
Retired

I am buying books for everyone, off of Amazon. I've been doing that every single year since the time when the only thing Amazon sold was books. I love browsing online for just the right book for each of my grandchildren. They are the only people I buy gifts for these days.



Louis Palmieri
Sales

I'm doing the millennial thing and seeking out experiential gifts for my friends and family, rather than material things. For example, I just booked a trip for my parents to go for a hot air balloon ride in Temecula because that's something they've always wanted to do.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Free library resources

The Pleasanton Public Library (PPL) has launched Career Pathways, a new collection of digital resources meant to encourage “lifelong learning and skill-building” for community members, including students, job seekers, and adult English language learners.

Existing library services and resources now include an expanded selection of free digital tools recently gifted by the California State Library for job training, professional development, test preparation, and skill-building. Users can access subscriptions to the Brainfuse JobNOW/VetNOW, Coursera, GetSetUp, Learning Express Library, and Northstar platforms for no charge, in addition to PPL’s other digital resources and print collections.

To learn more, visit www.pleasantonlibrary.org or call 931-3400.

‘The Power of Giving’

Some of the region’s best known nonprofit organizations were honored and named benefactors of the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund during an inaugural recognition event called “The Power of Giving,” held at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore last week.

Launched in the early stages of the pandemic, the fund raised and distributed \$183,000 to six local nonprofits: Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven, Senior Support of the Tri-Valley, and Spectrum Community Services (Meals on Wheels).

The Dec. 7 event was hosted by the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA), which also announced plans that evening to expand the grant program into an annual event.

Now 501(c)(3) organizations that serve the Tri-Valley communities of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon, Danville and Sunol are eligible to apply for grants between \$1,000 to \$5,000 four times a year. Donors can choose which type of organization they want their funds to support: direct service, arts and science, or “any organization of any type.” Funds will be distributed annually in March, June, September and December.

The Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF) is also partnering with TVNPA, and will administer matching funds for the program, while Marti and John Sutton will “continue as key matching funds partners.” Both parties are also matching the first \$25,000 raised at 150%.

For information, visit www.tvnfa.org/tvnf. ■

Livermore Airport Commission reviews noise complaints, operations at last 2021 meeting

Noise complaints in October: 362 from Pleasanton, 96 from Livermore

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Livermore Airport Commission held its last meeting of the year Monday afternoon, where the group welcomed the new air traffic control tower manager, Paul Griffiths, and received reports of airport operations, noise complaints and highlights from the past year.

Before joining the Livermore Municipal Airport, Griffiths was a frontline manager at the Monterey Regional Airport. Griffiths shared some details of his background with the commission

during the meeting.

“I’m certainly happy to be here and I will continue the safety protocols that our air traffic organization performs. I certainly have a long history of being an air traffic controller, a trainer, a supervisor, manager and of course, here I am now as the Livermore air traffic control manager,” Griffiths said.

“I’m very receptive to any feedback or anything that we can do as a community player in the safe movement of air traffic in and around Livermore,” he

added.

Following Griffiths’ introduction, airport manager Sean Moran presented a report on airport activity operations and noise complaints from the month of October.

The report compared the amount of operations and complaints to the previous month’s numbers as well as the numbers from the same month last year.

Moran said there were 14,894 operations for the month of October, a decrease of about 13% from the 17,185 operations reported for September.

However, operations were slightly higher for October of this year compared to the 14,537 operations in October of 2020.

Fuel numbers were up by about 2% for the month from 87,613 total gallons pumped in September to 90,235 gallons pumped in October.

The total number of gallons for this past October was up by about 11% from the 80,653 gallons pumped in October of 2020.

The number of based aircraft was

See **AIRPORT** on Page 14



FILE PHOTO

Fitness clubs, restaurants and other public indoor spaces across the state will be subject to a new mask mandate that took effect Wednesday. Alameda County, however, is exempt due to its already stringent mask guidelines.

Alameda County exempt from statewide mask mandate

ANA B. IBARRA / CALMATTERS

Californians are once again being required to wear masks indoors in public places regardless of vaccination status, but Alameda County is exempt due to its already stringent mask guidelines for indoor public settings.

Contra Costa and San Francisco counties are also exempt from the statewide mandate, allowing local policies to remain in place.

The renewed masking requirement that began Wednesday follows a 47% increase in COVID-19 case rates since the

Thanksgiving holiday and the arrival of new variant, said Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state’s health secretary.

The mask mandate will run through Jan. 15 and is specific to public settings, not private gatherings. Nevertheless, health officials recommend people get tested ahead of holiday gatherings and consider better ventilation by opening windows or convening outdoors when possible.

The mandate will mainly affect about 50% of the state population that lives in counties that

currently don’t have their own mask mandate, Ghaly said. Los Angeles and several Bay Area counties already have mask mandates for public settings in place.

Along with renewed mask rules, the state will also require that attendees at mega events — those of 1,000 people or more — who are unvaccinated show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within one day, if an antigen test, or two days for PCR tests. The state is also

See **MASKS** on Page 7

PUSD approves 4.5% CSEA pay raise

By JULIA BAUM

Pleasanton Unified School District’s classified staff members received a 4.5% salary increase for the 2021-22 school year after the Board of Trustees unanimously approved an agreement between the district and California School Employees Association last Thursday.

“It’s been a tumultuous time for school districts around the state,” Board President Joan Laursen said before voting at the Dec. 9 meeting.

“This is a contractual obligation, but nevertheless one in which we are grateful to our employees. It’s hard to hire staff at this time and part of our recruit and retain staff goals, so we’re pleased to be able to offer this raise to our classified employees.”

The pay bump is retroactive to July 1 and guaranteed as part of PUSD’s “me too” clause in bargaining.

The contract was finalized a month after the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, which represents PUSD’s certificated employees, received an identical pay bump, following months of tense negotiations and a union vote to authorize a strike at one point. District management and confidential employees also received a salary increase at the same time last month.

Cumulative costs of the

See **PUSD** on Page 11

After 35 years with Livermore, City Manager Marc Roberts to retire in June

City aims to hire replacement by May; recruitment already underway

By CIERRA BAILEY

Livermore City Manager Marc Roberts is set to retire in June, city officials announced in a statement Monday night.

Roberts has worked for the city of Livermore for a total of 35 years and has led the city organization as city manager for the past 10 years.

"I was lucky enough to work on everything from downtown revitalization, to reinvigorating our wine country and preserving open spaces surrounding Livermore, to enhancing the financial stability of the city so it could deliver all the services our community depends on every day," Roberts said in the city's statement.



Marc Roberts

"I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had over the decades to build teams of professionals who have accomplished a lot together and who have made Livermore the great place it is today. I'm looking forward to a long retirement here and will continue to enjoy this amazing community," he added.

Roberts began his career with the city as an assistant planner before he was promoted to associate planner. He was promoted to special project coordinator in 1995 when he developed the city's one-stop permit center, streamlining the permitting process and improving the experience for both staff and customers, city officials said.

In 1997, Roberts was promoted to assistant to the city manager and then community development director in 2000. In 2012, the then-City Council

unanimously appointed Roberts to city manager.

During his nearly four decades with the city, Roberts was instrumental in a number of significant projects, including acting as the project manager for the national award-winning South Livermore Valley Specific Plan, which helped grow Livermore wine country from six wineries and less than 1,200 acres of vineyards in the late 1980s to over 50 wineries and more than 4,000 acres of permanently protected vineyards and open space in 2021, according to city officials.

Former mayor John Marchand also highlighted some of Roberts' achievements during his time with the city.

"Marc was appointed city manager the same year I was elected mayor and it was an honor to work with him my entire term in office," Marchand said. "A lot has

been accomplished on his watch; over 60 new pieces of public art have been added, along with an emergency operations center, and a new council chamber.

He continued, "the first phase of Stockmen's Park has been completed — fulfilling a promise that the City made 59 years ago — and the first of three new parks in the downtown. Livermorium Plaza will be completed next year, Veterans Park is being planned and more parking is being added to the downtown, our residents' top priority. That's a lot to be proud of."

As city manager, Roberts oversees a \$139 million budget, \$91 million for capital improvement projects and 475 employees city-wide. He has appointed 15 executives and has worked with 24 council members and five mayors, including current Mayor Bob

Woerner, who reflected on Roberts' impact on the city.

"Livermore has benefited tremendously because of Marc's leadership over the past decade as city manager and even prior to that in his various roles," Woerner said.

"I am very thankful to have been able to work with him while on the council. He has done a great job of skillfully working with many different councils to keep us all focused on providing the Livermore community with a great quality of life. I also appreciate his giving us sufficient notice so we can have an orderly transition to a new city manager which we will now begin," he added.

City officials said that recruitment for a new city manager is underway with a replacement expected to be on board in May ahead of Roberts' departure set for June. ■

Pleasanton school board weighs in on new election map criteria

'Communities of interest' could play a central role in drawing trustee areas

By JULIA BAUM

The third in a series of public hearings about PUSD transitioning from at-large to by-trustee-area elections, where candidates are elected by voters in a specific geographic boundary, was held at the Board of Trustees meeting last week.

Staff gave an overview at the Dec. 9 board meeting of the most recent district demographics and criteria for developing a new map that would be used in PUSD trustee elections, starting in the

November 2022 general election.

When the map is finished, trustee board members will represent one of five areas divided in PUSD's enrollment boundaries, and be required to live in the area they represent. Instead of electing from a pool of at-large candidates, voters will be limited to electing a candidate who lives in their district.

The board will also be responsible for appointing a representative from that trustee area, in the event that no candidate declares

for a vacant trustee position.

Development criteria for a new trustee area map include election areas that are "compact," "contiguous," "predictable and not jagged," and also identifiable by using natural boundaries, major roadways, "and other boundaries identified by residents."

The trustees asked multiple questions about dividing up the trustee areas by grouping communities of interest together, including what characteristics can be used to define a community of

interest. Attorney William Tunick, who has been advising PUSD on the remapping process, said "there's a lot of different ways to talk about communities of interest."

According to Tunick, "A part of the district where all of the kids play AYSO soccer at a certain park in the district and others in the district play somewhere else" can be considered a community of interest, as well as large populations that share a language not spoken by the community at-large.

School districts can also sometimes address attendance boundaries but Tunick said, "This process is not about redrawing or doing anything with the attendance boundaries. The question is, do you want the trustee area to either mirror attendance boundaries or in a lot of cases, districts feel that it's actually helpful to split attendance boundaries."

Tunick added, "That's one situation where you might actually say

See **ELECTION MAP** on Page 11

Nearly half of Bay Area employers expect 3-day in-person workweek post-pandemic, survey finds

Nearly half of Bay Area employers expect employees to work in person on three days a week post-pandemic, a market shift that could result in roughly 1.1 million fewer commute trips per day, according to survey data released by the business group Bay Area Council.

The survey, conducted monthly since April, found that an average of 40.75% of Bay Area employers surveyed expect their workers to return to the office three days a week once the pandemic subsides.

Around 15% to 20% of employers said they expect their workers to return to in-person work five or more days per week while less than 5% of employers said they thought

their employees would only work remotely post-pandemic.

Between one-quarter and one-third of employers who responded to the survey in October and November also said that, for now, they expect their employees to work from home full-time. Both figures represented a plurality of respondents.

The survey's November results also found that 92% of employers had some level of confidence in a three-day in-person work week after the pandemic ends.

But while the broad reduction of in-person work is expected to lead to workers making fewer trips to their primary place of employment,

traffic across the region is already approaching or exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

November traffic across the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges sat at 86% of November 2019 levels, according to the Bay Area Council and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, while weekday Bay Bridge rush hour traffic surpassed November 2019 levels.

BART ridership, meanwhile, has rebounded somewhat on weekends, nearing 50% of the agencies' pre-pandemic baseline ridership.

On weekdays, however, BART ridership has held between 20% and 30% of pre-pandemic levels.

BART budget and planning officials have projected that the restoration of full pre-pandemic ridership may not be achievable until the end of the decade.

Kelly Obranowicz, the Bay Area Council's policy and regulatory counsel, said it will be "vital" that Bay Area workers return to the region's public transit systems in the coming months on the days they work in person.

"We are at a pivotal moment for Bay Area transportation -- if more and more people continue to drive by car to get around as we are seeing them do now, once we reach the new post-pandemic norm for in office work, Bay Area traffic will

hit levels we've never seen before," she said.

The Bay Area Council received responses each month from as many as 253 employers, with all nine Bay Area counties represented in each survey.

The industries included in the survey also tended to skew toward "professional" workplaces, representing roughly one-quarter of respondents. Most industries were included in each group of respondents, however.

Bay Area Council researchers noted that the survey data is not intended to represent the expectations of all employers in the region. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

Livermore begins planning vision for 2045

By CIERRA BAILEY

Want to know what Livermore will look like by 2045? Consider getting involved in the city's General Plan update.

The General Plan is a 20-year outline that guides city decisions about everything from transportation to services, parks and jobs.

The plan, expected to be completed in early 2024, gives the community a chance to re-evaluate policies and develop new ones to address shifts in local priorities, technologies and real estate market trends.

Citizens are encouraged to get involved. Visit imagineLivermore2045.org to sign up for the mailing list and find out

about upcoming community workshops.

The agenda for early 2022 includes studying land use alternatives and housing issues.

The city is currently in the midst of making \$152 million worth of capital improvements that include several major construction projects underway downtown, including a new parking garage at I Street that will provide 274 parking spaces and the L Street Garage with 460 spaces; and a new Livermorium Plaza featuring a 5-foot-diameter granite water ball fountain paying tribute to the artificial transuranium atomic element produced in 2000 by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

and Russian scientists.

Also underway is the widening of Vasco Road that adds a second northbound lane north of Garaventa Ranch Road through the Dalton Avenue intersection to improve traffic flow and make the route safer for cyclists.

Last fall the City Council selected 19 members of the community to serve on the General Plan Advisory Committee. This committee will meet on the second Wednesday of each month and as needed at other times during the General Plan Update.

The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend these meetings. Agendas can be found on the City Clerk Advisory Bodies webpage via cityoflivermore.net. ■



CITY OF LIVERMORE

The city of Livermore is inviting residents to get involved in the city's General Plan Update, which is done every 20 years and includes many capital improvements.

MASKS

Continued from Page 5

recommending that travelers get tested before and after trips.

The first statewide was imposed in 2020 and lifted last June.

After the state's June 15 reopening, vaccinated people were allowed to return to grocery stores, retail and other public settings without a mask — at least under state rules. People who were not vaccinated

still had to adhere to indoor masking. Telling the difference, however, was tricky: Ghaly acknowledged Monday that throughout the pandemic enforcement of these rules has been a challenge.

Ghaly said state officials are not considering any further restrictions or capacity limits on businesses at this time. "Is this the first step along the course we're familiar with...including closures? Absolutely not."

That's because, he said, despite

concerns of the new omicron variant and rising case rates, the state has effective tools at hand: vaccines and masks.

The type of mask makes a difference, Shafir said. With an improving supply chain, people should opt for surgical and N95 masks and ensure they fit well over the nose and under the chin.

She described California's current situation as a tale of two states: On one hand, some counties have

relaxed masking and low vaccine uptake, and on the other, there are counties with stronger vaccination rates where people have been masking continuously indoors, even after the state lifted its own requirements. In those counties "you have a slower increase of new cases. Not none, but there is less," Shafir said.

The state's seven-day average case rate as of Monday stood at 14.1 new cases per 100,000 people. On

the high end, Riverside and San Diego counties reported rates of 19.8, San Bernardino County is at 22.7, Inyo County 29.4 and Mono County 50.1, according to state data.

On the lower end, Los Angeles reported 13.3 new cases per 100,000 and San Francisco and Alameda counties reported rates of 8.5 and 7.6, respectively.

To date, 74,685 Californians have died from COVID-19. ■

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Holiday Fund

Each year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in our community. The Holiday Fund partners with the Three Valleys Community Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

This year's Holiday Fund recipients that will share in fund contributions are:

- **Axis Community Health**
- **REACH**
- **CityServe of the Tri-Valley**
- **Sunflower Hill**
- **Hope Hospice**
- **Valley Humane Society**
- **Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE)**
- **Open Heart Kitchen**

As of Dec. 12, 2021 219 donors have contributed \$53,460 to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

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Assemblyman Quirk, former longtime Livermore Lab scientist, won't seek re-election

Incumbent's decision opens key East Bay district centered in Hayward

Five-term East Bay Assemblyman Bill Quirk (D-Hayward) will not seek re-election, he announced last week.

Instead, he is going to serve as a full-time bridge between the research community and regulators and the State Legislature, he said in a letter Thursday to constituents, supporters and colleagues.

Quirk, who earned a doctoral degree in astrophysics from Columbia University, has served as a climate scientist with NASA and worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before his election to the Assembly.

"The greatest challenge the State of California now faces is the implementation of our greenhouse gas reduction goals and ameliorating the impacts of the Climate Crisis; I want to play a key role in accomplishing those goals," Quirk said in the letter.

"In meeting our climate goals, time matters, now more than ever," Quirk said.

He has big plans for his last year in office.

"I look forward to protecting the environment in my role as chair of the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee,"



JEFF WALTERS/OFFICE OF BILL QUIRK
State Assemblyman Bill Quirk on the Assembly floor in Sacramento on Jan. 30, 2020.

he said.

He's also looking forward to improving "California's environmental safety, streamlining regulations particularly in the cannabis industry, improving public access to state agencies proceedings, and criminal justice reform," he said.

During his nine years on the Public Safety Committee, the state has "made great progress on police accountability and sentencing reform," Quirk said.

He said he will continue to work to improve reforms in the regulation of cannabis, "so the legal industry will be able to

out-compete the black market."

He also plans to work to provide people with "greater access to meetings of state agencies, so people from around the state can comment on how regulations are developed without having to travel to Sacramento and other locations."

"Your intellect and common sense have brought real balance to the Assembly," Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said on Twitter after Quirk's announcement. "I admire that you have always been true to your beliefs." ■

—Keith Burbank, Bay City News

Gina Bonanno named Livermore's new vice mayor

BY CIERRA BAILEY

Gina Bonanno is Livermore's new vice mayor, following her appointment to the role by Mayor Bob Woerner during Monday night's regular City Council meeting.

Bonanno is replacing Trish Munro, who will now serve as a regular council member.

Each year the mayor appoints a council member to serve as vice mayor. In the absence of the mayor, the vice mayor assumes the mayor's duties and responsibilities for conducting City Council meetings, according to city staff's agenda report.

In even-numbered years, the vice mayor is selected at the City

Council meeting where election results are certified. In odd-numbered years, the vice mayor is appointed in December.

Bonanno was first appointed to the City Council in January, filling the regular council seat vacated by Woerner upon his ascension to mayor.

Before joining the council, Bonanno was previously a scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She also served as chair of the City Asset



Gina Bonanno

Management Program Committee and she was a member of the Livermore Planning Commission since 2015. She was in her second term on the planning commission before stepping away to join the council.

During Monday night's meeting, Bonanno said it is "an honor" to fill the role of vice mayor for the next year.

Before appointing Bonanno, Woerner presented a plaque to Munro, recognizing and thanking her for her service as vice mayor.

Monday marked the City Council's last regular meeting of the year. The next regular council meeting is set for Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. ■

Pleasanton Weekly.com

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Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at **PleasantonWeekly.com**

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More than 90% of BART employees fully vaccinated ahead of agency's deadline

Unvaccinated workers without valid exemption to face leave, disciplinary hearing

More than 90% of BART workers have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 ahead of Monday's deadline, with some 300 employees remaining unvaccinated, according to data provided by the transit agency.

As of Friday, 91% of the agency's board members, train drivers, station agents, police officers and other employees have proved their full vaccination status.

Another 1% of employees had received their first vaccine dose and were awaiting their second, while 317 employees — 8% of the agency's workforce — remained unvaccinated Friday, including 37 train operators and 15 BART police officers.

Updated rates including BART employees who got a vaccine dose over the weekend were not yet available as of Monday morning, according to a spokesperson for the transit agency.

The BART Board of Directors voted 8-1 in August to require all of the agency's nearly 4,000 employees to prove their vaccination status or provide a valid medical or religious exemption.

Board members argued the policy is necessary to keep the agency's employees and riders protected against the virus, especially children under 5 years old who are not yet vaccine eligible.

"No one is being forced to get the vaccine, but this policy states that being vaccinated is a condition of employment," Board Director Janice Li said during the Oct. 14 meeting.

Starting Tuesday, employees who have not proved their vaccination status or requested an exemption were to be placed on paid administrative leave until a disciplinary hearing can be held, according to a BART spokesperson.

Employees who get vaccinated while waiting for their hearing will have it postponed until they complete their vaccination series and ultimately canceled once they do.

Employees will also be able to continue working if they are in between their first and second doses by Monday.

The agency had received 149 exemption requests as of Friday. Employees with an active exemption request will be allowed to continue working as normal.

Employees who do not have their request approved will subsequently have seven days to get their first vaccine dose and provide proof to the agency.

BART officials worked with the transit agency's multiple labor unions to determine how to handle employees who refuse to get vaccinated. The agency has also hosted vaccination clinics for



BCN FOUNDATION

A BART train arrives at an East Bay station.

employees to make it easier to get a shot.

Under federal health guidelines, all BART riders and employees will still be required to wear a face

covering when in a BART station or on a BART train, regardless of their vaccination status. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation

Why does California have the highest jobless rate in the country?

GRACE GEDYE / CALMATTERS

Nance Parry says she's sent out more than 1,000 resumes since she got laid off in September 2019.

She's gotten one interview.

Just five weeks into what Parry thought would be a six-month contract, she was laid off from

a job as a document specialist for an engineering firm. She says she's sent out two to three resumes per weekday since but that's netted a grand total of one interview, leaving her to live off of a monthly \$1,200 Social Security check, \$1,030 of which is used to pay rent for her

apartment in Duarte.

"I've tried to survive, you know, paid bills and food and everything on \$200 a month after the rent is paid," Parry said. "I need to work."

She needs new glasses and electrical work done on her car, but won't be able to pay for either of those things until she gets a new job. Her landlord has tried to evict her three times, she says, and she's worried about what will happen when LA county's eviction protections end in January 2022.

"I don't know if I'm going to end up living in my car or what because without a job you can't get an apartment," she said.

Parry is one of roughly 1.4 million Californians who are out of work and looking for jobs. In October, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the state recorded a unemployment rate, the highest in the country, a distinction California shares with Nevada. October's national unemployment rate is several points lower, at 4.6%.

One contributor to the state's lagging employment situation is that California's large leisure and hospitality sector — made up of hotels, restaurants and more — hasn't rebounded as quickly as the rest of the country's. But other data suggest the news isn't all bad: There are lots of job openings and workers are

quitting their jobs in droves, which is often a sign that people are optimistic they can find a better job.

Even pre-pandemic, California's overall unemployment rate was usually slightly above the national rate. But the fact that so many Californians work in the leisure and hospitality industries — which saw massive layoffs in the beginning of the pandemic — contributes to the state's lagging employment recovery now. Leila Bengali, an economist at UCLA's Anderson School of Management, pointed out California's leisure and hospitality sectors employed almost 18% fewer people in September 2021 than pre-pandemic, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nationwide, the industry was just 9% smaller in September than it was pre-pandemic.

One explanation for the gap between the rate at which California's leisure and hospitality industry has recovered jobs and the rate at which the industry has recovered jobs nationally, Bengali said, is that international tourism, a large part of the state's economy, was particularly hard hit during the pandemic. Visitors buy lunches at cafes and stay in hotels; when travel dried up, those businesses bore the brunt.

"It's not a coincidence that two states (California and Nevada)


that are heavily reliant on tourism and entertainment have not done as well, given the demise of tourism and entertainment under COVID," said Manuel Pastor, a professor of sociology and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California.

New York, which also has a large tourism industry, has an overall unemployment rate of 6.9%. Florida, another high-tourism state, stands apart among high-tourism states with a 4.6% unemployment rate overall. The leisure and hospitality sectors in California, Nevada, New York and Florida have all added jobs back more slowly than the sectors have nationally.

Another potential explanation comes from research by Harvard economics professor Raj Chetty and several other economists, who found that low-wage workers who worked at small businesses in high-rent zip codes — of which California has many — lost their jobs at higher rates early in the pandemic than low-wage workers who worked in small businesses in lower-rent areas.

"If you lived in East LA, but you got on your bike and a bus to get over to Beverly Hills to work in a restaurant, or to clean a house or to take care of kids, a lot of that demand disappeared," said Pastor. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council
Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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>

- **Public Hearing** – Introduce and waive first reading of an ordinance to amend and extend, by one year, the Stoneridge Shopping Center Development Agreement governing an approximately 362,790 square foot expansion
- Ratify calendar year 2022 City Council assignments to various boards and commissions, and Vice Mayor selection
- Introduce and review draft Climate Action Plan 2.0 and draft Initial Study Negative Declaration
- Review and consider approving a long-term downtown parklet program

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ELECTION MAP

Continued from Page 6

'this is a community of interest, but we think it makes sense' ...so that there's not this concern about one trustee feeling like they have one school or one school only has one trustee."

Board President Joan Laursen asked if there is "anything we should steer away from and not consider when we're thinking about communities of interest."

"To the extent that we consider a racial or ethnic group as a community of interest, we want to be careful under the federal Voting Rights Act about splitting that community of interest," Tunick said. "It's more concerned about splitting some communities of interest when they may be protected by law."

"I don't know that there's necessarily a prohibited type of community of interest if we can explain some rationale for why we think that group of population

belongs together and might have common interests," Tunick added.

In addition to proposing the district's Spanish-speaking population and dual immersion language program participants at Vintage Hills Elementary be named a community of interest, Laursen said "some of the elementary boundaries split those communities a little bit."

"We have a socioeconomic schism that tends to overwhelm participation in terms of parental participation at our schools, so I'd like to make sure that we can have those folks represented in our trustee area," Laursen said.

Other factors suggested for consideration include distributing secondary schools "in a manner that maximizes election area overlap and avoids single trustee in a secondary school area," and also distributing elementary schools "in a manner that maximizes election area overlap."

Student Trustee Saachi Bhayani said she supports splitting up

PUSD's attendance boundaries "to make sure each trustee has multiple schools in their trustee area."

"Another thing I was thinking about is to ensure that multiple trustees also represent our secondary schools, such as our high schools and middle schools. That would be something good to have on the maps," Bhayani said.

Trustee Kelly Mokashi concurred and said, "It's important that we consider the attendance boundaries and we split that so that we're having better representation."

Trustee Mary Jo Carreon asked if a group of community members could make their own trustee area map for consideration, and Tunick said that "ultimately the board makes the decision," with some exceptions.

"You can't always keep every community of interest together because we have to worry about population balance and the other criteria," Tunick said. "At the end

of the day it's up to the board to say, 'we think this map best meets all of the criteria, maybe it doesn't keep all of the communities of interest together, or maybe it's not the most contiguous but we think this one does the best job of meeting all the criteria that we've looked at.'"

Staff has previously stated that the district could be ready for the general election in November 2022, when both seats currently filled by Laursen and Trustee Mark Miller will be open to challengers. Both Laursen and Miller have said they do not plan to run for reelection next year.

Two community workshops about the remapping process will be held on Jan. 11 and in early March. A series of regular updates will also be delivered at board meetings through then. Once the first proposed maps are introduced next month, an online application will be available for public use. ■

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PUSD

Continued from Page 5

collective bargaining agreement are more than \$3.5 million over the next three years, according to a staff report. According to district documents disclosing the agreement, PUSD "can meet its financial obligations and required reserve levels," and has included budget reductions of about \$3.25 million for the 2022-23 fiscal year, and another \$1.7 million for 2023-24, which were also approved by the board last month.

The ongoing increase will be funded with current Local Control Funding Formula, reserves and budget reductions. Staff said deficit spending will increase and that "the district is working to right size staff and reduce costs with the enrollment decline to reduce and eliminate out-year deficit spending."

Trustee Mary Jo Carreon asked if the district anticipates any layoffs of classified staff, and what kind of positions could potentially be cut.

Assistant superintendent of human resources Julio Hernandez said management is "meeting and exploring the possibilities of looking at layoffs or reductions in the school district" for certificated staff, as well as reductions with temp employees and others.

"As far as classified staff, we are also exploring that as well, but keep in mind that we are short-handed in some areas such as paraeducators in our special ed department, bus drivers, custodial," Hernandez said. "But that does not mean that we're not exploring that possibility, and we'll be making recommendations to the board on specific cuts in the future." ■



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60 years of transformation

Stanford-ValleyCare's evolution from rural hospital to 'regionally integrated' health system

STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

Six decades later, the site of Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare looks much different than when it was first developed.

By JULIA BAUM

From rural hospital to regional healthcare destination, Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare has come a long way from having just 46 patient beds when it opened in Livermore 60 years ago, to becoming what leaders call an “intentionally, regionally integrated” source for the latest and most modern medical treatment in the Tri-Valley.

Known at the time as Valley Memorial Hospital, those 46 beds were quite an improvement from the former 18-bed St. Paul Hospital, which had served both Livermore and Pleasanton back in the 1950s. As both communities outgrew the too-small facilities at St. Paul, local residents were eventually prompted to build the new hospital on Stanley Boulevard, using land donated by Kaiser Paving Company.

“One of the things I appreciate

most about our organization, when you think about its history, is that it belongs to the community. It's the result of people in our community determining they needed something better than they had at the turn of the late 1950s, early 1960s,” ValleyCare CEO Rick Shumway told the Weekly in an interview.

“For me, every single day, when I come to work, I take that very seriously,” Shumway said. “It's about making sure our community is served in the best possible way it can be, and I'm inspired by that activity that happened over 60 years ago. It keeps us moving forward, a guiding principle of what we're doing every single day.”

Valley Memorial officially opened on Oct. 2, 1961, and eventually increased its capacity to 110 beds in 1969. Since then, the non-profit ValleyCare Health System has grown into an expansive

medical network that included the purchase of a 23-acre parcel of land at the corner of Santa Rita and West Las Positas in 1974, where ValleyCare Medical Center would be later built, and culminated in its merger with Stanford Health Care in 2015.

“It's unbelievable to hear them, how far things have come, the direct results of that vision the community had years ago that's allowed us to become who we are today,” Shumway said. “There's a lot of people to be grateful for as a result of that.”

Shumway added, “You look back at the journey and it's amazing, it's always gratifying to know when something got started and people had an idea about how it could be, to meet those expectations after so many years and exceed those as well. That's really gratifying for me to think about.”

Though not around when

Valley Memorial Hospital originally opened, Dr. John Yee is a 40-year veteran of the ValleyCare system. Yee was first recruited in 1982 to be medical director for respiratory therapy, started his full-time practice a year later and has served in various positions at ValleyCare over time, including chief of medical staff when the Pleasanton campus opened in 1991.

“So I have seen the transformation from that time until now,” he said.

“One of the main reasons I picked this place and continue to like this place is its growth potential,” Yee said.

Yee recalled that “it was quite controversial to open the campus in Pleasanton because the regional hospital ... on Stanley Boulevard was funded by the monthly donation of our members, so the community donated to have a hospital. So there was a lot of support

from the community to this local enterprise.”

“The hospital even at that time was a kind of rural suburban hospital,” Yee said. “I was the first pulmonary medicine specialist to come into town and I was also the first board certified critical care medicine specialist.”

Though ValleyCare did not have many specialists at the time, “there was a very good core value,” according to Yee.

“It's a very caring hospital. We always feel like we take care of our friends and family in the hospital, and that core value has continued to today,” Yee added.

Shumway said it's “unbelievable” to see where Stanford-ValleyCare is today compared to six decades ago, but “if you rewind to a shorter time frame, over the last three years, the significance of what's been done here, I don't think can be overstated.”



STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

Before Valley Memorial Center was built, the now-defunct St. Paul Hospital served both the communities of Pleasanton and Livermore with just 18 beds during the 1950s.



STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

Construction for Valley Memorial Hospital broke ground in 1960, and officially opened on Oct. 2, 1961.



A third floor was added in 1969, and increased



STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

Before being purchased in 1974, the current Stanford-ValleyCare Medical Center site on the corner of Santa Rita Road and West Las Positas Boulevard in Pleasanton was just a bare 23-acre parcel.

“There was really a requirement that Stanford invest significantly into the organization as part of the agreement to allow it to become part of the health system,” Shumway said. “Stanford Medicine at-large views this as a critically important part of the organization, and as such has invested tremendously” by updating infrastructure, both internally and externally.

Since merging with Stanford Health Care, Yee said that “the evolution continues ... Stanford, as everybody knows, is well known for high tech, a lot of subspecialists, research, and that’s what happened to ValleyCare Health System locally.”

The hospital has been “through a transformation” over the last few years, Yee said. “The outside looks the same, but the inside is totally transformed — the information infrastructure, electronic medical records, CT, MRI scans -- — everything’s new. There’s a lot of investment into Stanford-ValleyCare and directly into the community.”

“With this influx of equipment comes an influx of specialists,” Yee added. “We’ve added a couple hundred faculty, medical staff in that

time, and the services we provide have expanded broadly. The hospital has gone through this transformation from a rural, sleepy hospital, and now we’re getting referrals from the outlying hospitals.”

Stanford-ValleyCare has made other significant strides in recent years, including offering patients 24/7 access to stroke-trained neurologists after receiving its certification as a Primary Stroke Center in 2019. This year, Stanford-ValleyCare was the first in California to use the Barricaid annular closure device, a special implant to help prevent reherniated spinal discs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Stanford Health Care’s full array of resources was at ValleyCare’s disposal.

“From a pandemic perspective, it’s been nothing but inspirational to see what this organization did,” Shumway said. “We expanded our capacity immensely and as part of Stanford we were able to bring COVID testing to the Tri-Valley.”

Shumway added, “When you look at what the original idea was, bringing two organizations together -- that’s something the community can be really proud of.”

Stanford-ValleyCare was pivotal in distributing the COVID vaccine by partnering with the city of Pleasanton and Alameda County to hold drive-thru clinics at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, and was one of the first places in the country to offer COVID vaccine trials, as well as test the effectiveness of remdesivir as a COVID-19 treatment.

“We took a leadership role in those operations and we’re proud of the community in that regard,” Yee said.

As a lung and intensive care doctor, Yee was on the frontlines from the very start of the pandemic and had some unusual distinctions among his colleagues. “When COVID first hit, I was actively taking care of patients,” he said. “I am in my late 60s, so according to the CDC, I’m at high risk, but as an intensive care doctor, that’s what they needed at the time.”

“I feel it’s an obligation and honor to be able to ante up in that moment. I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t scared. We were all scared at the time, not just me,” Yee added.

Before the first case of COVID was announced in the US, Yee said

they had formed a command center at Stanford-ValleyCare in preparation for the virus, and that he was called back to attend a leadership meeting while attending a Chinese New Year gathering one evening due to concerns about whether Stanford-ValleyCare had its first COVID case.

“A couple major things I was very proud about Stanford-ValleyCare and the people working here, less than a week before COVID hit, we had about six isolation rooms in the whole hospital for airborne viral isolation. In a couple weeks’ time, we increased it to over 50,” Yee said.

All of the ICU rooms were converted into air filtered, and Stanford-ValleyCare stopped doing elective surgery “because we didn’t know how many beds we’d need for COVID patients.”

Yee also had the unfortunate distinction of being Stanford-ValleyCare’s first physician to be put in isolation after being potentially exposed during the early days of COVID.

“Stanford’s famous for research. We have access to the latest and greatest diagnostics and

therapeutics,” Yee said. “I was sent home that night. In a month, Stanford virology was able to create a test, the PCR test that can test the DNA of the virus, and we can get (results) in the same night. So we benefit to be part of the Stanford Health System.”

More benefits for the Tri-Valley are on the horizon as Stanford-ValleyCare makes plans for future expansion, according to Shumway, including investment in different properties that “will be really advantageous to patients and people in the region.”

“Here in Pleasanton, we’re going to continue to build and grow, but also build and grow within the region and super region at large,” Shumway said. “We’re going to make sure we’re accessible to them and they have those options,” he added regarding residents in the Tri-Valley and beyond.

Shumway added, “We’re on a great pathway. We’re not in a position where we were a number of years ago where the question was about how strong a foundation we were. Now we’re in a strong position to accomplish things in front of us.”

While physical growth is a priority, Stanford-ValleyCare is also focused on increasing services such as cardiothoracic surgery, oncology, orthopedics and neurosciences, according to Yee.

“These are the major service lines that we’ve been pushing to grow. We’re able to do many different procedures,” Yee said.

Though technology has revolutionized many ways of treating patients at Stanford-ValleyCare, Yee said one thing hasn’t changed there during his four decades of practice. “It’s the heart of the people. They really care about the patient. This has never changed, even when we were small and had little resources,” Yee said. “And now with Stanford, the caring attitude has not changed.” ■



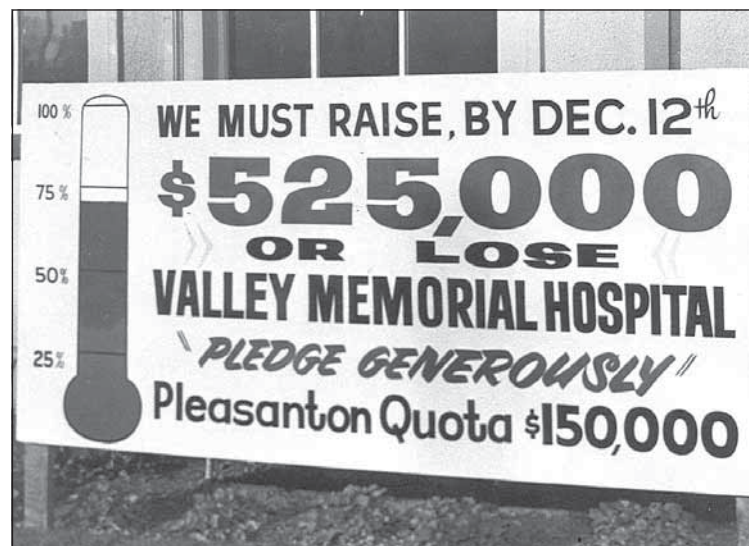
STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

An aerial view of Valley Medical Center from circa 1990.



STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

capacity at Valley Memorial Hospital from 46 to 110 beds.



STANFORD-VALLEYCARE

Residents donated significantly to the construction of Valley Memorial Hospital when it was first built.

Experts: Properly utilizing federal infrastructure funds will require public, private sector cooperation

‘We need to be able to demonstrate proof of concept on the ground (that) we can deliver stuff’

Effectively utilizing the \$4.5 billion the Bay Area is expected to receive from the recently passed federal infrastructure funding package will require significant cooperation between the public and private sectors, regional transportation experts said Thursday.

More than two dozen transit agencies currently operate across the nine-county region. That many cooks in the kitchen has historically led to difficulties in completing major infrastructure projects, transportation experts said during a panel discussion hosted by the business association Bay Area Council.

“If we’re going to ask for this money, we need to be able to demonstrate proof of concept on

the ground (that) we can deliver stuff,” Metropolitan Transportation Commission Executive Director Therese McMillan said.

The Bay Area is expected to receive its portion of the \$1.2 trillion funding package over five years to repair and upgrade aging roads, bridges, ports and electrical and water systems.

Transit projects across the country could also receive additional funding in the form of some \$210 billion in discretionary grants, which the U.S. Department of Transportation is expected to dole out over the next five years.

Bay Area transit officials have lauded the bipartisan funding package as an unprecedented level of support for the nation’s infrastructure.

On Thursday, McMillan; Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord); and Darlene Gee, senior vice president of the infrastructure design firm HNTB argued that the funding also presents “unlimited opportunities” to deliver on long-promised projects.

Doing so, Gee said, will require those involved in major infrastructure improvement projects to escape what she called “an endless doom loop of second guessing” that has, in the past, led to cost overruns and delays on major projects.

“Working together is a huge factor in making project delivery successful,” she said. “And then that working together not only has to be amongst a lot of different stakeholders and agencies, but it has to

be the collaboration of the public sector and the private sector — neither element can do it by itself.”

McMillan noted that that collaboration applies to funding as well.

“There is no major project in this region that will be totally funded by federal money,” she said.

DeSaulnier, who sits on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, said the funding will give the Bay Area the chance in the coming years to be a “national and international model” for completing large-scale infrastructure projects.

“We have such a wonderful opportunity for future generations to really deliver for them,” he said. ■

— *Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation*

Pleasanton Weekly

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AIRPORT

Continued from Page 5

steady at 477 for the month and only slightly down from the 483 reported for October of 2020.

According to Moran’s report, the airport received a total of 472 noise complaints for the month of October, an increase of 18% from the previous month.

Of those complaints, 362 of them came from Pleasanton, 96 from Livermore and 14 from Dublin and other surrounding communities.

Moran said that 72 of the total complaints were received as a result of airport operations that occurred between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The report also indicated that multiple complaints came from the same households. Of Livermore’s 96 complaints, 25 of them came from two households.

In Pleasanton, 148 of the total 362 complaints were from two households and of the 14 Dublin complaints, 10 of them came from two households.

Regarding complaints received due to nighttime operations, airport commission chair Adam Bertsch asked Moran if the amount of operations that occurred between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. for the month were available to review as those operations are likely to trigger multiple complaints.

While Moran said he did not have that figure on hand, it could be researched and included in future reports. Bertsch noted that the additional information could be helpful in reaching out directly to some of the operators and letting them know exactly what impact they’re having on the surrounding communities.



FILE PHOTO

The Livermore Airport Commission held its last meeting of the year this week, where the group received reports of noise complaints and highlights from the past year.

“We’ve spoken at some past meetings about organizing a bit more open communication around these complaints — that’s moving slowly — but more information helps us to organize that better,” Bertsch said.

To close out the meeting on an uplifting note, Moran’s last report was an overview of highlights from the calendar year for the airport.

A \$150,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) helped the airport implement a pavement management program for all pavement areas on the field, including runways, taxiways and parking aprons, according to Moran.

He said the airport was also able to return to full staffing levels this year as a result of continued progress made through public health measures such as vaccinations against COVID-19, accessibility to testing and

decreased COVID-19 cases.

“We were able to go back to the traditional full level of service that our airport was able to provide pre-pandemic,” Moran said, also acknowledging the work and dedication of the airport staff, the city’s public works department and the city attorney’s office.

Moran also shared in his report that Five Rivers Aviation — which provides hangars and other support facilities to the airport — is nearing completion of the second phase of its new full service fixed base operator (FBO) at the airport. When the FBO is complete, it will provide 45,000 square feet of additional hangar space for aircraft storage, which Moran said is “desperately needed in the San Francisco Bay Area region.”

“Hangar space is at a premium for a lot of our airports — both commercial service as well as

general aviation airports such as ours,” Moran said, adding that the additional storage also offers an economic advantage in terms of revenue from increased property tax for aircraft stored there.

Five Rivers Aviation also represented the Livermore airport and Tri-Valley region at the National Business Aviation Association Convention held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October, according to Moran.

In addition to the Five Rivers Aviation updates, Moran called attention to grant-funded infrastructure improvements to the Alameda County Sheriff’s Air Squadron based fleet at the airport, which includes a helicopter and two fixed-wing aircrafts.

Another highlight from the report is that businesses at the airport are making significant progress in recovering from pandemic impacts, particularly the flight schools which Moran said have seen an uptick in students taking advantage of opportunities to fly.

At the end of his report, Moran shared an optimistic outlook for the year ahead.

“We are coming out of this after two years and I’m confident and hopeful that as we enter into the year 2022, we will be able to see continued economic recovery and continued vitality for our airport as we showcase ourselves as an important asset to this region,” he said, adding that he is also hopeful that the airport will be able to host an open house next fall.

The airport commission will continue holding virtual meetings in the new year. The next regular meeting is set for Jan. 10 at noon. ■



Traditions



Behold the lights

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

One tradition that carries on — pandemic or not — is piling into the family vehicle to view the festive lights and decorations on homes in nearby neighborhoods.

This is a tradition for the intrepid decorators, who brainstorm all year about finetuning their displays, as well as for the visitors, who love seeing old favorites and also discovering what's new.

Twenty-three years ago, Livermore resident Alex Dourov, a holiday home decorator himself, took the guesswork out of driving around to see lights.

"When my family moved to Livermore in 1992, we relied on newspaper listings to find local homes decorated with Christmas lights," Dourov explains on his website. "The local newspaper was helpful but many times we would get lost or stumble on a 'stinker.'"

Finally in December 1999, Dourov created a database of displays in the Tri-Valley that were verified to make a night's viewing more enjoyable, and he posted the addresses with photos on his newly created website, www.lightsofthevalley.com.

"As people in other East Bay cities, then the Greater Bay Area cities submitted their homes for consideration to be added to the website, the website grew," Dourov said.

In 2011, the site became californiachristmaslights.com with searches for homes by geographic area plus extras such as "the house of the day."

"The website is used by a number of touring and limo companies in the Bay Area, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego areas including the Livermore Wine Trolley," Dourov said.

One of the traditional favorites in Pleasanton that gets better and

A Christmas tradition: putting up displays — and viewing them

better is Widmer World, 3671 Chelsea Court, which has its own website, widmer-world.com.

Another place that is an industry in itself is Deacon Dave's, 352 Hillcrest Ave. in Livermore, now holding its 38th display. It was closed last year in the best interests of its volunteers and visitors but has returned in all its glory. Its website is casadelpomba.com.

Dourov presents a spectacular showing at 467 Knottingham Circle in Livermore. He believes in interactive displays and lists 14 things for kids and adults to do, including the following:

- Play in the snow (bring a few quarters)
- Make the train smoke and whistle
- Help the penguins with their campfire
- Make the 6-foot-tall JOY sign dance to the music
- Call Santa on the Santa phone



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alex Dourov's home at 467 Knottingham Circle in Livermore is in full operation and celebrating its 30th anniversary. Dourov is also the creator of California Christmas Lights, a website that helps people plot their traditional forays to view the best displays in their area.

on the porch or take photos with Santa

- Control the animated Christmas tree

The website is a labor of love for Dourov, requiring about 100 hours per holiday season to update it.

"Each year the website receives hundreds of submissions, asking to be placed on the website," he said. "Only about one out of every 25 or so submissions is ultimately showcased on the website."

Dourov keeps in touch with displaying homeowners to make sure his information is current. For this year, about a dozen folks have moved out of state, he said, but others have been added.

The best thing about the tradition of viewing the lights is it can be done by young and old, hearty and infirm. And Dourov has pointed out that his website, with photos of each location, makes it possible even for the housebound. ■

Danville museum expands winter exhibit with 'Holidays in the Valley'

Display now open at Museum of the San Ramon Valley

BY JEANITA LYMAN

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is seeking to start a new tradition of branching out to explore the vast number of other winter holidays in this year's winter exhibit, which centers Chinese New Year along with local history and traditions surrounding Christmas in the region.

"We wanted to celebrate holidays in the valley, not so much just Christmas," said museum spokesperson John Keenan. "We went with Chinese New Year for one, because we had a pretty good relationship with the Chinese American School here in the San Ramon Valley, and they had a lot of cool stuff for us to look at and use."

Keenan added that Chinese New Year was a natural fit to showcase in this year's "Holidays of the Valley" exhibit, which has served as an expansion of the museum's "Christmas

Memories" themed exhibits in the past.

With a large Chinese community in the area historically and in the present day, as well as high profile Chinese New Year events in San Francisco, and smaller celebrations throughout the East Bay and San Ramon Valley, Keenan said that the holiday and its accompanying traditions were already familiar locally.

In the current exhibit, Keenan said the goal was to offer San Ramon Valley residents ways of more deeply understanding Chinese New Year traditions, by featuring a visual display of associated artifacts to view up close, and insight into their history and significance.

In addition to Chinese New Year displays, the museum is also showcasing artifacts from local history associated with Christmas traditions. One notable local figure and

tradition featured in the exhibit is Father Christmas, a distinctly local figure separate from Santa Claus who functions as a staple at Danville's annual Lighting of the Old Oak Tree.

Keenan said that although the man who'd originally established the tradition and acted in the role had left Danville decades ago, he and other residents still had memories of him, and the original Father Christmas outfit would be on display in the exhibit.

"He moved to New Mexico, and left because Danville was getting too big, and this was probably 25 years ago," Keenan said. "So he was sort of the original, from my period of living here, and that was a big deal. Father Christmas came and he lit the tree, and kids never asked that it wasn't Santa."

Another long standing tradition at the museum that is returning this



JOHN KEENAN

The iconic lion's head is one distinctive symbol of Chinese New Year showcased at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley through Jan. 2.

year is the Polar Express, a winter-themed model train that Keenan said has been displayed at the museum annually for as long as he can remember.

The "Holidays of the Valley" exhibit opened on Nov. 26, and is set to run at the Museum of the San Ramon

Valley at 205 Railroad Avenue in Danville through Jan. 2.

The museum is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 1-3 p.m., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, and from noon to 3 p.m. on Sundays. More information is available at www.museumsv.org. ■

'Jazz Girlz' debuts tomorrow

Harmony Fusion Chorus offers jazz narrative and variety of music

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Harmony Fusion Chorus, a local women's acapella show chorus, kept singing together every week online during quarantine and now the results, "Jazz Girlz," will premiere tomorrow on YouTube.

"Although we were not able to sing together in person due to COVID-19 restrictions, thanks to

Zoom calls, we remained fully engaged in learning new music and honing our skills," said Joanne Morrison, chorus board president. "We finally were able to return to in-person rehearsals this fall for our vaccinated members and finished work on our virtual show."

For years the chorus has presented a full musical show featuring

quartets, instrumental groups and youth choruses. Due to ever-changing COVID-19 restrictions, a live performance seemed unlikely this year, but this did not stop director Barb Vander Putten from finding a way to continue the tradition.

"I'm always fascinated by women who take matters into their own hands," Vander Putten said. "So

when I came across an article about women's jazz bands I knew I just had to write a show about it.

"I went down a rabbit hole on the topic, and the chorus jumped in with me, each contributing their own creativity and sense of fun to their videos that we combined to create our first virtual show," she continued. "It is just wonderful."

"Jazz Girlz," written by Vander Putten and chorus member Jenny Gurney, highlights the variety in jazz music performed by the all-women jazz bands of the 1930s and '40s.

The video features a narrative of history of the bands, songs performed by the chorus and the quartets with a Twist and Vocal Ease, with a couple holiday songs thrown in.

"We invite you to watch 'Jazz Girlz' on Dec. 18, available on-demand on the Harmony Fusion Chorus YouTube channel," Morrison said. "Enjoy a variety of music, learn some musical history, and have fun with us."

Harmony Fusion Chorus is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International. For more information, visit www.harmonyfusion.org. ■

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Silvia Pereira

September 6, 1933 – December 6, 2021

Silvia Pereira passed away peacefully on December 6, 2021. She was born in San Francisco, CA and at the age of 6 moved to Las Vegas, NV where she graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1950. After graduation she moved back to San Francisco to attend San Francisco State College. She met and fell in love with her husband of 56 years L.B. "Woody" Pereira. At San Francisco State, she was a member of AXA sorority and always kept in touch with her sorority sisters. While in college, she won the title of Miss Franciscan and Queen of the SF State College Fair.



Silvia believed in hard work, putting her family first and always looking at life with a positive outlook. After marrying Woody, they traveled the country while he served in the Air Force eventually settling back in the Bay Area. They moved to Pleasanton in 1964 where they became active in the community for many years.

Always having a passion for learning and education, she decided to go back to school to get her teaching credential. Silvia went on to substitute teach at Alameda County Juvenile Hall for over 30 years.

She was predeceased by her loving husband Woody, her parents, her brothers Remo and John Vinassa. She is survived by her daughter Pam Sangiacomo, sons Mitch Pereira (Rosemary) and Joe Pereira (Valerie). In addition to her children, she was a loving grandmother to Dominic, Tony, Angelina, Jackie, Marco and great-grandmother to Kamalani and Kaimana.

Services occurred on Monday, December 13th in Pleasanton. The family requests donations be made in her name to the Pleasanton Museum on Main www.museumonmain.org or Children's Home Society of Alameda County chs-ca.org.

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE BULLETIN

Man charged in cold case murder in Contra Costa County

Investigators with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office say they have solved a case from 25 years ago involving the killing of a waitress at a Crockett restaurant.

Danny Lamont Hamilton, 51, is charged with murder and related offenses in the killing of Priscilla Lewis, a 21-year-old Vallejo woman who was working at the Four Corners restaurant on Second Avenue in Crockett.

On Sept. 24, 1996, the restaurant's cook called 911 shortly before 10:30 p.m. after finding Lewis dead in the basement bathroom in the building, and investigators determined her cause of death was asphyxiation from drowning, according to the sheriff's office.

Last year, detectives submitted additional information to a crime lab for testing and a DNA match came back for Hamilton, who had been in the county jail in Martinez from 1999 to 2002 on unrelated sexual assault charges, sheriff's officials said.

He is currently in state prison in Southern California and was charged Wednesday in the killing.

"I would like to recognize the many Sheriff's Office homicide detectives and crime lab staff for their dedication and relentless work," Sheriff David Livingston said in a statement. "We continue

to investigate unsolved homicides in an effort to provide families, like that of Priscilla Lewis, with answers and some closure and to hold suspects accountable."

—*Bay City News Service*

In other news

• Tri-Valley law enforcement will keep an eye out for drivers suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at several sobriety checkpoints in Dublin and Livermore this weekend.

Dublin Police Services and the Livermore Police Department will both hold separate DUI and driver's license checkpoints at undisclosed locations within their respective city limits on Friday night (Dec. 17), from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment, as well as proper licensing that evening.

Both DPS and LPD will also have DUI patrols on Saturday (Dec. 18) from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. DUI checkpoints and patrols are usually done in areas that have a history of DUI-related collisions and arrests.

Driving under the influence of prescription and over-the-counter medications, as well as medicinal and recreational marijuana, is also illegal. Drivers charged with a DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, on top of a suspended license and jail time.

This year LPD has investigated 65 DUI-related crashes, resulting in one fatality and several people injured,

while DPS has investigated 22 DUI-related crashes including one resulting in a fatality and several injured people.

Funding for both programs is paid for by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

• A school shooting threat circulating on social media that caused alarm among the Foothill High School community last week is not believed to be credible, according to the Pleasanton Police Department.

"The threat was non-specific and wasn't made directly to Foothill High or any other schools in Pleasanton," Sgt. Marty Bildt told the Weekly on Tuesday. "Through our investigation, it was learned this same threat was made in other cities as well."

Bildt added, "We did have extra police presence on campus the next day at Foothill High School out of an abundance of caution."

Pleasanton Unified School District spokesman Patrick Gannon told the Weekly that "there was actually no tie to Foothill High," and that the threats were posted to Snapchat, but that Principal Sebastian Bull emailed parents "just to calm folks. With the recent school shootings, there was just a lot of anxiety."

No arrests have been made. Anyone with information about the social media posts is asked to call or text PUSD's anonymous tip line at 417-5199. ■

—*Julia Baum*

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available

Dec. 12

DUI

■ 5:52 a.m. on Foothill Road/Oak Creek Drive

Theft

■ 6:57 a.m. on the 4400 block of

Entrada Drive; auto theft

■ 5:28 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall road; shoplifting

■ 6:37 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; shoplifting

Alcohol violation

■ 9:04 a.m. on the 4400 block of Bernal Avenue

Burglary

■ 10:48 p.m. on the 200 block of Main Street

Dec. 11

Alcohol violation

■ 2:10 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 7:18 p.m. on the 700 block of Main Street

Arson

■ 4:56 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Burglary

■ 9:10 a.m. on the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Weapons violation

■ 10:44 a.m. on Vomic Road/Corte Calera

Dec. 10

Fraud

■ 9:32 a.m. on the 3000 block of Briggs Court

Theft

■ 9:32 a.m. on the 3000 block of Briggs Court

Drug violation

■ 11:01 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Dec. 9

Burglary

■ 2:12 p.m. on the 400 block of Bernal Court

■ 4:45 p.m. on the 4700 block of Hopyard Road

Theft

■ 8:12 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft from auto

■ 10:22 a.m. on the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive

■ 7:43 p.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto

Vehicle Tampering

■ 8:26 a.m. on the 3100 block of Randick Court

Fraud

■ 12:44 p.m. on the 700 block of Main Street

Warrant arrest

■ 3:34 p.m. on Chanterelle Place/Locust Street

Domestic battery

■ 5:36 p.m. on Gulfstream Street

Dec. 8

Burglary

■ 3:59 a.m. on the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

Drug violation

■ 2:57 p.m. on Chanterelle Place/Locust Street

Dec. 7

Burglary

■ 9:00 a.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

■ 11:21 a.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; bicycle theft

■ 1:34 p.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Court

■ 5:19 p.m. on the 1500 block of Oak Vita Way; theft from auto

Dec. 6

Theft

■ 10:24 a.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 3:02 p.m. on the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; auto theft

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Neighborhood Sports Bar & Kitchen
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 584367
The following person doing business as: Neighborhood Sports Bar & Kitchen, 234 Main Street, Suite B, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner, Scott M. Larson, LLC, 3614 Carlsbad Way, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Scott M. Larson, LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein November 1, 2021. Signature of Registrant: Scott M. Larson, LLC, Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021.)

Clean Sweep
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 584368
The following person doing business as: Clean Sweep, 4175 First Street, Livermore, CA 94551, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Scott Larson, 3614 Carlsbad Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Scott Larson, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Scott Larson, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 15, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, December 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021.)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SAI MUI LEONG aka KWOK KEUNG WONG, WINKY WONG
Case No.: RP21117751 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of SAI MUI LEONG also known as KWOK KEUNG WONG, WINKY WONG. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: KWOK KEUNG WONG in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that: KWOK KEUNG WONG be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before

taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 5, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in Dept.: 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Kwok Keung Wong, 5228 Ferrera Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588 (925) 399-9225, Pro-Per. (Pleasanton Weekly, 10, 17, 24, 2021.)

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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Foothill girls' win first game, Amador takes home tourney title

The Foothill High girls' basketball team picked up their first win of the season with a 40-38 victory over Washington on Dec. 9.

Avamarie Perry, a junior, scored the game-winning basket. Grace Caraballo played tremendous defense to hold Washington's top scorer to only nine points for the game.

The Falcons were led by sophomore Riley Young, who knocked down 24 points.

The win came without three starters — Kylie Yu, Savannah Montini, and Beti Terpstra. Terpstra is out for the season after tearing her ACL in the first scrimmage in mid-November.

Amador girls' basketball

The Dons captured the title at the Washington tournament, beating the host team in the finals the week of Dec. 1.

After beating Freedom and Castro Valley, the Dons took out Washington in the finals.

Rain Sarno was awarded MVP of tournament, and Gianna Ghio was awarded MVP of Amador.

Ariana Leomiti and Aulani Leomiti were awarded the Sportsmanship medal.

Foothill boys' soccer

The Foothill varsity boys are marred by injuries to start the season. Four potential starters hurt is

showing on the pitch.

While they fought hard, they lost 2-0 to Granada and 4-1 to Freedom. Rickie Cavazos scored the only goal on a header with his brother Fernando getting the assist.

Amador boys' basketball

The Dons grabbed a 68-61 win over Washington the week of Dec. 6.

Colton Cash led a hot-shooting Amador team with 25 points, while Alexander Martin single-handedly kept Washington in the game with 27 points.

Foster Keats had 11 points and Tyler Cheng added 10 to round out the top-scorers for the Dons.

Local gymnastics

Tiana Sumanasekera, a 14-year-old gymnast from Pleasanton, was named to the U.S. Women's artistic gymnastic team and to compete at the 2021 Junior Pan American Games and didn't waste the chance, winning a pair of gold medals.

The inaugural event was held Nov. 25 - Dec. 5 in Cali, Colombia. The USA team won the gold medal with 159.350 by outscoring silver medal Brazil by over 16 points.

Sumanasekera also won the gold in the women's vault finals in addition to her team gold and had the highest qualifying score in vault leading up to the finals.

Results needed

I want to thank those that reached out last week about getting the results for their respective teams into the Weekly.

The process is simple — just send me your results for each week by 12 noon on Sundays. Send all results to acesmag@aol.com and I will take care of the rest.

All I need is the score of the game, who you played, and the highlights. For basketball, the easiest method is to take a quick picture of both pages in the scorebook and add any important details of the game.

For soccer, send the goal scorers, assists, and any highlights like great defensive or goalie play.

In wrestling, if it is a tournament, send me how your wrestlers fared in the event.

As always, we are looking for pictures with the following qualifiers: we need IDs of the players as well as who took the picture.

One important thing: no photos from other media services.

Also, please send me a roster of the team as it allows me to have the correct spellings for all the athletes.

Finally, please be consistent with turning in the results, win or lose. As I have said for years, please don't be "that parent" who only turns in winning results.

The athletes work just as hard win or lose and deserve the credit each week. ■

Employment

Engineer II, Software

ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc. seeks Engineer II, Software in Pleasanton, CA to do coding for various data components in pipeline. Telecommuting Permitted. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com Ref: 42100

Senior Engineer, Software- UI

ICE Mortgage Technology Inc. seeks Senior Engineer, Software- UI in Pleasanton, CA. Utilizes modern web front-end & open source technologies to design, dev & unit test the app. Telecommuting permitted. Applicants who are interested in this position may apply <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/> Ref # 72845.

Business Support Specialist

Business Support Specialist, Roche Sequencing Solutions, Inc. Pleasanton, CA. Req Master's (or frgn eq) in Bus Admin, Bioscience or rtrd fld & 1 yr exp in job offrd or as Data Anlyt, Logtcs Anlyt, Bus Anlyt, Portflio Anlyt or rtrd pos in the life sci indus (or Bach & 3 yrs of exp). May telecommute 1 day/wk. Apply: <https://applyroche.com/202111-134159> (Job ID: 202111-134159).

Sr. Systems Engineer

ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc. seeks Sr. Systems Engineer in Pleasanton, CA to provide storage infrastructure support to handle multi petabytes of secured PII (Personal Identifiable Information) data running on NetApp storage and ensure 99.999% uptime. Telecommuting permitted. Apply at jobpostingtoday.com Ref: 71156

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Music

SAN RAMON SYMPHONIC BAND - HOLIDAY WINDS Kick off the festive holiday season with the San Ramon Symphonic Band comprised of over 35 talented musicians. 7 p.m., Dec. 17. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. Visit tickets.sanramon.ca.gov.

A FUNKY AND SOULFUL CHRISTMAS Jeff Bordes & Friends return to the Firehouse Arts Center for their Annual Holiday Celebration, a fun, funky & soulful twist on Christmas favorites with a nod of Santa's hat to New Orleans. 8 p.m., Dec. 18. Visit firehousearts.org.

VALLEY DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER Experience the magic of the Nutcracker as this annual Tri-Valley holiday event enchants audiences of all ages, bringing Tchaikovsky's well-known music and ballet to life with elegance and beauty. Bankhead Theater, Dec. 17-19. Visit livermorearts.org.

NOCHEBUENA: CHRISTMAS EVE IN MEXICO An all-star cast of music and dance in a dazzling presentation of the traditions and customs celebrated by the people in Mexico during the Christmas season. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20, Bankhead Theater. Visit livermorearts.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH DIRTY CELLO Blues meets bluegrass, at the Bankhead, with a faint twist of classical as this energetic string band performs down home blues with a wailing cello to virtuosic stompin' bluegrass. 8 p.m., Dec. 31. Visit livermorearts.org.

LEANN RIMES IN CONCERT International multi-platinum selling acclaimed singer and ASCAP award-winning songwriter, Leann Rimes, launches the "Headliners" series at the Leshher Center for the Arts. 7:30 p.m., Jan. 7. Visit lesherartscenter.showare.com.

For The Holidays

SANTA IS COMING TO PACIFIC PEARL Santa will be at Pacific Pearl shopping center in Pleasanton and families are invited to meet Santa Claus, share Christmas wish lists, and take free selfies with Santa. 2-4 p.m., Dec. 21. Visit shoppacificpearl.com. 2693-2733 Stoneridge Dr.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT STONERIDGE The ultimate holiday tradition is back: Photos with Santa at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Now through Dec. 24. For reservations visit simon.com.

THE GREAT YULE LOG HUNT Join Ranger Eric for the 26th annual hunt for the fabled Yule Log. Gather around the fire to make a Yule log to take home. RSVP to 925-960-2400. 2 p.m., Dec. 18. Sycamore Grove Park, 5035 Arroyo Rd., Livermore.

VISITS WITH SANTA AT CITY CENTER BISHOP RANCH Santa has been fully

vaccinated and little guests will have their own special bench next to Santa's throne. 12-4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, through Dec. 19.

ORNAMENT MAKING Make ornaments out of trees with Ranger Doug at Sycamore Grove Park. All supplies provided. \$10. Register at larpd.org. 2 p.m., Dec. 19. 5035 Arroyo Rd., Livermore.

WIDMER WORLD Presented by the Widmer family in Pleasanton, organizers are creating new scenes and lighting for the display. The show at 3671 Chelsea Court, Pleasanton runs through Jan. 5. Visit widmer-world.com.

DEACON DAVE'S IN LIVERMORE The 38th Annual Deacon Dave's Christmas Display is open until Jan. 1. Visit casadelpomba.com.

Exhibits

LEGO ARTISTS CELEBRATE CALIFORNIA Brickmaking was one of Pleasanton's first industries, so an exhibit of LEGO sculptures is a natural fit for Museum on Main, Builders from around the Bay Area show off original creations on subjects and themes related to California and the Tri-Valley area. Through Jan. 8. Visit museumonmain.org.

ITALIAN MOSAIC AT THE BANKHEAD THEATER The Bankhead presents, The 50 Faces Collection Italian Mosaic. The public is invited to experience this free remarkable exhibit 1-5 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays, through Jan 16. 2400 First St.

Talks

LIVING ROOM CONVERSATION ON FORGIVENESS Livermore Public Library hosts its third Living Room Conversation, a virtual guided interactive community discussion on forgiveness. Space is limited and registration required. 7-8:30 p.m., Dec. 21. To register call 925-373-5505.

COMICS WORKSHOP The Livermore Public Library hosts a virtual "How to Draw Comics Workshop" teaching students in grades 1-6 how to create their own comic book. Free supply kits available for pickup at all Livermore Public Library branches with registration starting on Dec. 27. Call 925-373-5500.

Seniors

TUESDAY TALKS WITH FRIENDS Join for a weekly Zoom chat every Tuesday at 11 a.m. with the Pleasanton Senior Center. For more details and to sign up to receive the zoom link, call 925-931-5365.

MEALS ON WHEELS Meals on Wheels provides home delivered meals for seniors 60+. Call 925-931-5385 for more information.

HOLIDAY GAME DAY Enjoy fun times in a social setting for adults of all ages. Card and board games are provided. 1-3:30 p.m., Dec. 28. \$2R/\$3NR. Robert Livermore Community Center. Visit larpd.org.

Veterans

VETERANS MEET WITH THE VA The Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Healthcare System's Mobile Medical Team will provide examinations, consultations, referrals, and flu shots for registered veterans. Drop-in, no appointments needed. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 20. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Support

DRIVE-THRU GROCERIES MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-6 p.m. Muslim Community Center East Bay, 5724 W. Las Positas Blvd., #300, Pleasanton.

OPEN HEART KITCHEN Free groceries Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., provided by Tri-Valley Haven and Open Heart Kitchen. 6140 Stoneridge Mall Rd., behind the Workday building.

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN FOOD PANTRY Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 1-5 p.m., Wednesdays, 1-7 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. 418 Junction Ave., Livermore.

INTERFAITH SHARING FOOD PANTRY Thursdays & Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore.

PET OF THE WEEK



TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

Introducing BAILEY!

He's the life of the party, an energetic boy who loves to play with toys, run and explore in the yard, and go for walks. He's sweet and friendly, enjoys lap time, and sleeps all night in a crate. A Spaniel/Papillon mix, young adult male, 13 pounds, neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue or visit tvar.org.

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS For those looking for support and information on how to cope with an adult loved one's mental illness, NAMI Tri-Valley offers a twice-monthly Family Support Group that is free with no registration required. Contact marsha@nami-trivalley.org or call 925-980-5331. Visit nami-trivalley.org. 7-8:30, Dec 27.

Government

PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL The Pleasanton City Council meets

the first and third Tuesday of the month, currently held virtually. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Dec. 21. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

CITY OF LIVERMORE PLANNING COMMISSION The next regular Livermore Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Dec. 21, held virtually using zoom. For questions contact The City of Livermore Planning Division 925-960-4450.

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PLAYBOOK

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- Post-game analysis
- Entertaining features
- Local sports trends



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SCAN AND SIGN UP FOR TRI-VALLEY PLAYBOOK



HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Sept. 20-24 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin and Nov. 8-12 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 358 Christina Court** Shamblin Living Trust to M. & H. Chakravarthy for \$1,221,500
- 9663 Crosby Drive** Tsui Trust to F. & Y. Liu for \$3,300,000
- 313 Del Sol Avenue** Keller Family Trust to Leis-James Family Trust for \$1,565,000
- 14 Grey Eagle Court** Janas Family Trust to K. Herning for \$2,465,000
- 3389 Harpers Ferry Court** P. McMullen to A. & A. Raheja for \$1,310,000
- 432 Matthew Court** Lamson Trust to P. & S. Vedula for \$2,800,000
- 108 Mission Drive** J. Zukoski to J. Morrow for \$680,000
- 4260 Pleasanton Avenue** R. Nickeson to Moe Trust for \$1,348,000
- 4167 Rennellwood Way** Vancleave 1994 Trust to Santhanalakshmi Trust for \$1,075,000
- 1982 Taboada Lane** Shinde Living Trust to S. & C. Wu for \$585,500
- 2532 Tapestry Way** M. Ansel to Kalavathi Trust for \$1,470,500

Livermore

- 587 Amberwood Way** R. Salas to Y. & K. Fick for \$1,387,500
- 576 Andrea Circle** Baker Family Trust to N. & V. Balabhadrapatruni for \$1,125,000
- 418 Andrea Circle** C. & R. Sanchez to A. Farnam for \$835,000
- 375 Basswood Common #2** E. & T. Kendrick to S. & D. Sanchez for \$785,000

- 2104 Bella Vista Place** Christen Living Trust to A. & C. Khamis for \$2,025,000
- 1316 Boxwood Court** A. & G. Swanson to S. Anam for \$1,323,000
- 1572 Calle Del Rey** Mccrary Living Trust to Y. & J. Ramos for \$900,000
- 1137 Caroline Court** S. Hararah to Redfinnow Borrower LLC for \$505,000
- 714 Catalina Drive** Lum-Lim Family Trust to Diem Trust for \$885,000
- 2284 College Avenue** R. & A. Paulin to C. Smith for \$1,185,000
- 979 Hollice Lane** D. & T. Cook to J. & J. Navalle for \$975,000
- 5452 Lenore Avenue** G. Benigno to P. Mineo for \$756,000
- 1345 Locust Street** P. Fee to J. Tan for \$835,000
- 1037 Miranda Way** S. & A. Mashlakian to K. & J. Aro for \$970,000
- 304 Misty Circle** Veladi Trust to P. & S. Ayyalasomayajula for \$979,000
- 1565 Oslo Court** Uribe Living Trust to B. & N. Beauchman for \$1,800,000
- 660 South P Street** S. & G. Janssen to Waymire Family Trust for \$1,500,000
- 785 Partridge Common** P. Mine to G. & M. Donofrio for \$586,000
- 146 Ponte Court** N. & G. Ammirato to Edward Fantozzi Trust for \$2,223,000
- 2410 Robinson Circle** D. & S. Agrella to H. & E. Mertens for \$750,000
- 1118 Tulane Court** D. & K. Sims to C. & J. Piekarczyk for \$1,395,000
- 1399 Windswept Common** E. Trujillo to K. & T. Gilman-Tisdale for \$950,000
- 1309 Windswept Common** K. & J. Jassal to S. & H. Ramachandran for \$945,000

Dublin

- 2411 Amantea Way** K. & J. Mccarthy to N. & A. Shaikh for \$2,050,000
- 6561 Bantry Bay Street** Huang Trust to A. & L. Annamaneni for \$945,000
- 7444 Brigadoon Way #130** R3 Holdings LLC to S. & A. Shende for \$900,000
- 7527 Calle Verde Road** L. & M. Nobida to P. & B. Shet for \$1,360,000
- 7395 Dalmally Lane #45** A. & R. Shimizu to Y. Sharma for \$723,000
- 3465 Dublin Boulevard #227** K. Cerniglia to A. & S. Randhawa for \$710,000
- 7145 Dublin Meadows Street #E** S. Venugeethan to Y. & B. Leung for \$655,000
- 7054 Dublin Meadows Street #A** V. Miller to J. Depiazza for \$315,000
- 7012 Lancaster Road** S. Popelar to M. & J. Zhang for \$532,500
- 3290 Maguire Way #114** R. Vangeti to Rajidi Family Trust for \$710,000
- 6555 Maple Drive** P. Eidson to D. & O. Kwon for \$1,175,000
- 7806 Mayan Court** N. Vighi to N. Shantharajappa for \$1,050,000
- 5073 Piper Glen Terrace** L. & K. Lo to J. & J. Kim for \$925,000
- 7865 Ridgeline Place** Chin-Ta Family Trust to P. Lakhotia for \$1,800,000
- 7430 Tehan Court** Wong Trust to Tsang Trust for \$650,000
- 3625 Whitworth Drive** L. Dunn to A. & A. Vaduva for \$1,050,000

- 2510 Amaryllis Circle** Am & M LLC to M. Fathi for \$302,000
- 3018 Butte Avenue** King Living Trust to B. Agrawal for \$1,200,000
- 3360 Camarones Place** I. & S. Shahid to T. & L. George for \$1,650,000
- 1778 Campanula Drive** Kang Family Trust to S. Shenoy for \$1,815,000
- 5024 Campion Drive** Bikkina Trust to Y. & Z. Xiong for \$1,899,000
- 296 Casper Place** Janah Investments Inc to Chang Living Trust for \$1,575,000
- 9780 Davona Drive** J. & R. Cone to J. & A. Hwang for \$1,423,000
- 3081 Enfield Street** S. Wu to V. & S. Jayanty for \$2,078,000
- 10 May Court** Home Light Homes Inc to Chokshi Family Trust for \$1,355,000
- 3203 Munras Place** V. Santos to M. & Q. Balmeo for \$1,150,000
- 2459 Paddock Drive** K. & K. Painter to S. & R. Vaithilingam for \$1,868,000
- 2005 Poinsettia Street** C. Cruz to P. & M. Kumar for \$1,510,000
- 3333 Sleeping Meadow Way** S. & S. Chung to R. & P. Arora for \$2,170,000
- 504 Summer Valley Court** Messerschmidt Trust to L. & A. Kollu for \$1,865,000
- 9457 Thunderbird Place** Knight Trust to S. & A. Kumar for \$1,800,000
- 54 Tom Court** K. & R. Grib to A. Dhanoa for \$1,355,000
- 818 Via Palermo** Faria Preserve LLC to Hashem Family Trust for \$2,575,500
- 828 Via Palermo** Faria Preserve LLC to P. & J. Patel for \$2,516,500
- 69106 Via Vicenza** Faria Preserve LLC to M. & S. Argueta for \$173,500

Source: California REsource

SOLD
Sold: \$3,225,000
2765 Lylewood Dr. Pleasanton

SOLD
Sold: \$3,200,000
8250 Regency Dr. Pleasanton

SOLD
Sold: \$2,870,000
8053 Regency Dr. Pleasanton

SOLD
Sold: \$1,710,000
7731 Knollbrook, Pleasanton

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SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Sept. 20-24)

Total sales reported: 11
Lowest sale reported: \$585,500
Highest sale reported: \$3,300,000
Average sales reported: \$1,348,000

Livermore (Sept. 20-24)

Total sales reported: 23
Lowest sale reported: \$505,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,223,000
Average sales reported: \$970,000

Dublin (Sept. 20-24)

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$315,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,050,000
Average sales reported: \$912,500

San Ramon (Nov. 8-12)

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$173,500
Highest sale reported: \$2,575,500
Average sales reported: \$1,612,500

Source: California REsource

Danville property set for condos and late owner's vision of an agricultural park

BY JEANITA LYMAN

After being uninhabited for more than a decade since its owner's death, Danville's last orchard at the vacant Borel property could be on track to becoming home to a new housing development that officials say would also fund the late Armand Borel's vision of an agricultural park on the property.

In September, San Ramon-based Trumark Homes filed a preliminary development application for a project that would consist of a 158-unit condo development on just over 7 acres of the northern portion of the property, while working to restore and preserve approximately 10 acres as an agricultural park in line with the vision Borel left in his final wishes for the property after his death in 2009.

The application remains in the preliminary stage, with no formal application yet filed with the town of Danville, according to

Nicola Shihab, spokesperson for the town government.

The proposal comes after more than a decade of turbulence behind the scenes of the vacant orchard at Fostoria Way and Camino Ramon in Danville, which is currently situated as an anomaly, between Interstate 680 on the west, and amid a range of shopping centers and housing developments that have sprung up in the years since the Borel property was just one of numerous orchards in Danville and the surrounding area.

Upon his death in 2009, Borel left the remainder of his family's property, just over 17 acres, to the East Bay Regional Park District, to be preserved as an agricultural park showcasing the area's history and the significance of the property as the final operational walnut farm in Danville.

See **AGRICULTURAL** on Page 21

AGRICULTURAL

Continued from Page 20

“This is a measure that reminds us that parks are forever, and that’s a good thing, because sometimes it can take forever to build a park,” Kristina Kelchner, the park district’s assistant general manager, said at an EBRPD board meeting back in May.

At the time of his will, Borel also knew that his request would entail selling off some of the property, despite this being an unusual move by the park district, as Kelchner noted. EBRPD went on to invest \$6.9 million in loans and claims against the property in order to keep the struggling Borel trust solvent, and to prevent foreclosure of the property.

The park district finally received the title to the property in 2019, following a decade of litigation involving the trust, enabling them to move forward with the request for proposals (RFP) process that would ultimately lead the district’s Board of Directors enter to an agreement of intent with Trumark Homes in 2020, and to vote on selling the northern portion, just over 7 acres, of the Borel property to the developer at the May 11 meeting this year.

Kelchner cited Trumark’s competitive offer, its willingness to provide non-refundable cash deposits to the district at several steps throughout the proposed development project, and its existing relationship with the town of Danville, as some of the reasons for recommending the board move forward with an agreement with them on the Borel property.

The parks district agreed to a price of \$31 million for the 7.2-acre portion of the property, with Trumark having the option of purchasing up to 7.49 acres for an additional \$1

million. In addition, Trumark agreed to assist the parks district with approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually in funding for long-term parks maintenance and operations. Kelchner emphasized the importance of the deposits, given the need to pay off debts on the troubled trust and property.

Following the vote on the purchase and sale agreement (PSA) with Trumark, the sale process entered a 45-day feasibility period through June, and is currently in the 18-month entitlement period, set to end in January 2023.

The terms of the agreement saw the parks district receive a \$100,000 deposit from Trumark upon the execution of the PSA, and an additional \$400,000 at the end of the feasibility period. Trumark is set to pay another \$600,000 deposit at the end of the first 180 days of the entitlement period this month, and an additional \$700,000 deposit at the end of the first year of the entitlement period.

“This has been a project that our legal counsel and others have spent a great deal of time,” EBRPD Trustee Ayn Wieskamp said ahead of the May 11 vote. “There were all kinds of things that were unexpected. You get a gift and discover, sometimes it’s a gift that keeps on giving you problems.”

“We’re trying to honor what Mr. Borel wanted for this property, and that is to have a park that’s going to be like Ardenwood, available to a community that has nothing like it, and will be used to help remember real agricultural years in that valley,” Wieskamp added.

Wieskamp made a motion to approve the PSA, San Ramon Valley Trustee Beverly Lane’s name, who was absent that night, citing Lane’s commitment to, and enthusiasm, for the future agricultural park at the Borel property.

“Don’t tell Beverly no,” Wieskamp said. “She knew how important this was, and she kept us all in the loop, but it was her fight.”

The board voted 5-1 to approve the PSA with Trumark Homes, with Ward 3 Trustee Dennis Waespi being the only one to vote against it.

The moment was a triumphant one for much of the board and staff, marking the end of the lengthy litigation and negotiation process that had preceded it, and offering some assurance that Borel’s vision of an agricultural park on the property could finally be on the horizon.

“I’m sure they’re going to remove some of those walnut trees,” said Lee Rosario, who represents Ward 2 on the parks board. “The walnut trees are incredible. Great pieces for art and construction.”

The origins of Borel’s walnut trees was a major event in the agricultural history of the San Ramon Valley. Alamo resident Myron Ward Hall first grafted a Persian walnut with the native black walnut, according to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Descendants from this first experiment were used to kick off what would go on to be hundreds of acres of orchards in the area, which continued to expand as late as the post-World War II years.

This was around the time the Borel family first entered the local walnut growing scene, with Borel’s mother purchasing the property and tending to an orchard in the beginning in 1945.

Armand Borel, the last of the Borel family to tend for and oversee the orchard, died after a lifetime of tending to the walnut trees and making a mark on the local community, notably as one of the founders of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

In addition to the rows of now untended walnut trees that stand as a reminder of this aspect of Danville’s agricultural past, the Borel property hosts the rescued San Ramon train depot, a water tower, and antique tractors. While Borel, who was 80 at the time of his death in 2009, was unable to care for the trees himself in his final years, the orchard remained productive, and he continued to oversee its operations.

Nonetheless, the property was already being eyed by developers prior to Borel’s death, as the surrounding area became increasingly urbanized and the walnut orchard became more and more of an anomaly in the area. Although Borel had been attached to the property, and was clear about his wishes to maintain its legacy as an agricultural park following his death, he’d grudgingly come to accept the prospect of development on some of the property.

“I guess,” Borel said to the Danville Weekly in 2007, when asked about the options for his property potentially being sold to a builder.

Although the execution of the PSA with Trumark by the parks district in May appears to mark the end of its struggle with the property and the beginning of plans to reinhabit it, it will still be some time before the agricultural park Borel envisioned is established – and before the 158-unit proposed townhome project set for the northern end of the property comes to fruition.

Shihab said Trumark’s preliminary application was on hold as of Dec. 1 until the developers submit a formal application. Following the preliminary application, she said Trumark has up to six months to file a formal application for development, before they would need to resubmit the preliminary application. ■

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HOLIDAYS

Our team wishes you all a
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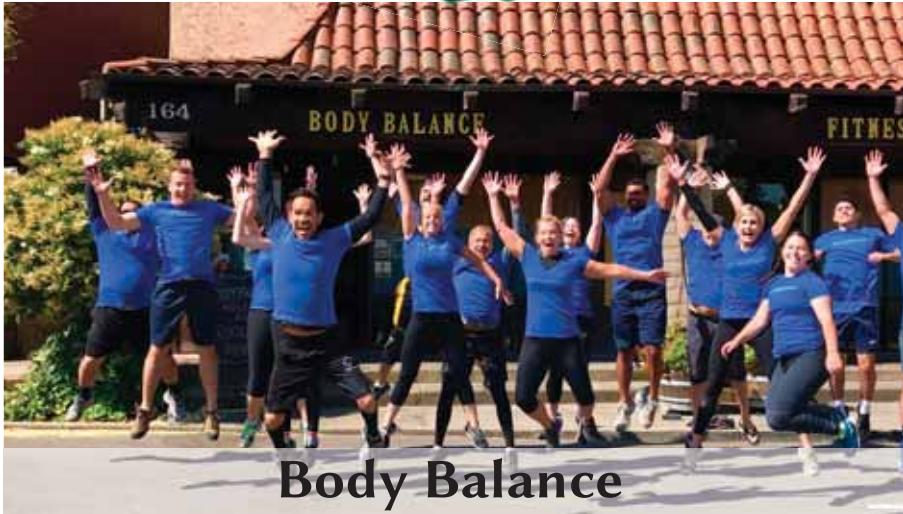


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This time of year it is more important than ever to support our small local businesses and community! While buying your Holiday Gifts this year, consider buying goods, services, and gift certificates from our locals. Here are some of our favorite local businesses that we are supporting this year!



Body Balance

"Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness - we appreciate you purchasing 10 gift cards and to help and support Pleasanton by shopping local"
-Body Balance Owners Kristi Reed & John Perez



Haps Restaurant

This year, we purchased client gift cards from owners Paris & Mike Conner, & longtime manager Lynn. Haps has been a staple for us to go to with friends & clients Chris & Cecile Seams, & celebrate family birthdays over the years. We have loved supporting Haps throughout the last 19 months.



Rubino Estates & Ruby Winery

Thank you Rubino Estates Winery & Ruby Winery for making all of our Holiday Dreams come true. Their premium wine bottles make the perfect gift, and their estates make the perfect venue!



KW Tri-Valley Realty

I have worked here for 10 years! Our owner Jennifer Haus is always accessible to myself & my team. We look forward to KW Red Day to give back & support local, this is us championing Kids Against Hunger.



New Year, New Listing!

482 Sangro Ct, Pleasanton

Coming Soon...

4 beds | 3 Baths | 2,806 sqft

18,258 sqft lot



KW TRI-VALLEY
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

Liz Venema
VENEMA HOMES TEAM

KELLERWILLIAMS
Luxury
INTERNATIONAL

VenemaHomes.com | Liz@VenemaHomes.com | 925.413.6544 | 660 Main Street, Pleasanton | DRE# 01922957

Available in January ~ Pleasanton



A Pleasanton Valley highly sought after one story home, the HOLIDAY Model. Formally charming best describes the entry of the home as it welcomes you in the homes open floor plan.

4 BD | 2 BA | 2,167 SqFt. of living space
side yard access | court location



Kris Moxley

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MERRY
Christmas
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Coming Soon



Available the end of January
Livermore

Close to the Downtown area,
schools and parks
3 BD | 2 BA | open beam ceiling in
family room | 1,344 SqFt. | side yard access

Coming Soon



In the Pleasanton
Downtown area

3 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,249 SqF.
attached 2 car garage | duet home
Offering updates & charm throughout with
its cozy family room, recessed lighting &
inviting patio area.

A warm Christmas
wish for peace,
cheer, happiness
and the best of the
coming new year.



Follow me to get up-to-date information on our local market.



Kris Moxley Real Estate

Moxley Real Estate

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