

Declining enrollment = declining revenue

School districts could lose millions of dollars, forcing budget cuts | page 12



5 | **NEWS** PUSD, unions ready for interest-based bargaining

5 | **NEWS** Ex-PPD sergeant charged with murder in DUI

14 | **TRI-VALLEY LIFE** Bringing drag culture to Valley

URGENT! BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

ALL
BLOOD
TYPES



Give blood. End the critical shortage.

Donate in January for a chance to win a winter getaway at a Ritz-Carlton resort in California. Our staff sincerely thanks everyone who can participate. We ask anyone who is healthy and eligible to make an appointment today.

▶ To schedule yours, visit stanfordbloodcenter.org or call **888-723-7831**

You can book your donation time at one of our blood centers or mobile blood drives throughout the Bay Area.

STANFORD
BLOOD CENTER 

VALLEY VIEWS



By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

A take on giving

People tell Ron Sutton they admire him for giving so much to the community. After all, he was the instigator of Pleasanton's Fourth of July celebration, the Ed Kinney Community Patriot awards, and ongoing Walk 'n' Talk outings on Saturday mornings, to name just a few of his contributions.

But Ron does not see himself as only a giver because he finds it so rewarding.

"People have said, 'You're nice for giving.' And I said, 'It makes me feel good. Isn't that selfish?'" he said with a laugh.

He is not the only one to feel this way, he added. Time and time again, others tell him that they get more than they give when they volunteer.

Ron knows plenty about volunteers and volunteering — he heads up the local nonprofit group, Make a Difference, Today & Always, which each January puts on the Make a Difference for Pleasanton Volunteer Festival. The event gives residents of all ages a chance to look over volunteer opportunities, talk to those who work with nonprofit groups that use volunteers, and see what fits. The festival went online last year, due to the pandemic, and, alas, this year it has been canceled altogether.

"With the news of the latest surges in COVID illness, we have sadly concluded that it would be irresponsible for us to host an indoor event that attracts hundreds of people over four hours in mid-January," emailed Jerri Long, who works with Ron on many community endeavors.

I talked to Ron and Jerri last weekend to learn more about the popular volunteer festival. They recalled that years ago they decided their goal was to help residents "get connected and stay connected," and this became the motto of Make a Difference.

The first volunteer fest was held in October 2010. The organizers gathered representatives from volunteer organizations throughout the Tri-Valley to hold the event at the library, and it was so successful that it even spilled outside.

"I remember the debriefing," Ron said. "We needed six tables in a circle to seat us all, and we had to scatter boxes of Kleenex around."

Kleenex? To handle their tears as they shared with emotion everyone's enthusiasm for making Pleasanton an even better place.

"An unexpected dividend was the

organizations' interaction, which was as important as the people coming in to sign up to volunteer," Ron remembered. "They all found out what the other people were doing."

They soon realized the weekend in October they'd chosen was also the Foothill High band review, a conflict for many residents, so they changed the date to January, near the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. This also is a time when people are thinking about how they may serve, Ron noted.

The festival grew in popularity, and in 2020 it moved to the roomier Pleasanton Senior Center and featured almost three dozen community service organizations. It also included safety and emergency preparedness displays and seminars.

"For me, it's been really exciting and fun to see how creative people are in their ways to help others," Jerri said. "Like Culinary Angels (which prepares meals for people fighting cancer) — what a wonderful thing to do."

She also cited Loved Twice, which collects gently used baby clothing to redistribute. And Horses Helping Hearts, whose volunteers turn animal feed sacks into shopping bags for sale to benefit horse rescue operations.

Last year the Make a Difference festival was held online, but the format didn't work well, Ron and Jerri agreed.

"It was a tight schedule — 13 different organizations did presentations," Jerri said. "But it was not the same as when people get together."

The idea now is to begin in September to plan for next year's volunteer fest.

"I can't emphasize enough that we really believe in service," Ron said. "Everyone is a giver or a taker. And we want to provide givers."

But he admits he is a giver and a taker because he finds giving so satisfying.

People who want to volunteer, of course, can always go looking for opportunities on their own although a pandemic may not be the best time for this. Hopefully, in 2023 the Make a Difference Volunteer for Pleasanton Festival will be back in all its heartwarming glory. ■

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

About the Cover

Pandemic-induced enrollment decreases could lead to a loss of revenue for school districts beginning next year, forcing budget cuts that will affect students and staff. Photo by Magali Gauthier. Design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXIII, Number 1



Dave & Sue
FLASHBERGER
DRE# 01243871 | 01001584 Realtor®, CRS, GRI, SRES

925.463.0436

Sue @SoldInAFlash.com

SoldInAFlash.com

COMPASS

ANOTHER PENDING SALE OVER ASKING!



21150 CANYON OAK WAY

5 Bedrooms | 4.5 Baths | 3,634 Sq Ft | 21,018 Sq Ft Lot

Stunning custom home nestled at the base of a nature preserve. *Offered at \$4,595,000*

COMING SOON IN VAL VISTA!



4 bedrooms, 2 remodeled baths and a ton of upgrades! Granite kitchen, new HVAC, roof, generator, dual-pane windows, plumbing and so much more! Beautifully landscaped with paver driveway, patio and covered arbor.

RENOVATION IN PROGRESS ~ COMING SOON!



5 Bedrooms | 3 Baths | 3,350 Sq Ft | 9,360 Sq Ft Lot

Coming Soon in Vintage Heights. Our team is completing a whole house renovation so the sellers can attain top dollar.

SOLD IN A FLASH ~ \$205,000 OVER ASKING!



4326 DENKER DRIVE, PLEASANTON

4 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1,831 Sq Ft | 6,500 Sq Ft Lot

Sold for \$1,655,000

RECORD BREAKING SALE ~ \$600,000 OVER ASKING!



1880 VIA DI SALERNO, PLEASANTON

6 Bedrooms | 4.5 Baths | 5,326 Sq Ft | 39,390 Sq Ft Lot

Sold for \$4,400,000

COMING SOON IN LIVERMORE



4 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1,400 Sq Ft

Our team is almost finished with this beautiful renovation project. Call us today to learn more about this home. *Priced in the high \$900,000's*

COMING SOON ON THE WEST SIDE OF PLEASANTON!



4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Baths | 2,444 Sq Ft | 6,650 Sq Ft Lot

Our team is completing this two-story renovation to get the sellers top dollar!

WANTED ~ HOMES FOR AMAZING PEOPLE!

- 2,800+ sq ft single-story in Pleasanton up to \$3,500,000
- 2+ bedrooms townhouse or condo up to \$1,100,000 in the Tri Valley
- 4+ bedrooms in east side Pleasanton up to \$2,500,000
- 5 bedrooms in Pleasanton up to \$2,000,000
- 3+ bedrooms in Pleasanton up to \$1,600,000

YOUR HOME DESERVES AN EXPERT

We can help you sell your home for the best price possible. Contact us to review our comprehensive home - selling services and complete marketing plan.

Have you developed any guilty pleasures that are helping see you through these COVID times we're living in?



Kim Anderson
Hairstylist

I've developed a habit of binge-watching lots of true crime shows like "S.W.A.T." during the evenings. These kinds of shows really help my husband and me to decompress at the end of the day, safely in our own home.



Colin Carmichael
Chief intelligence officer

Well, I've started drinking more cocktails at home and learning how to make new and unusual ones that I really enjoy trying out on family and friends. I can think of many worse guilty pleasures!



Jason Anderson (with baby Beckham)
Electrician

I've taken a liking to playing in fantasy sports leagues like hockey and football. I love competing on my own team, against friends and family.



Kerry Carmichael
Retail manager

I've been running and walking a lot more than usual, on outdoor trails at a safe social distance from others. This extra exercise makes me feel a whole lot less guilty about eating my favorite sweets and treats, like dark chocolate.



Karen Carmichael
Admin

I've been reading a lot more during COVID, and cooking as well. There is really nothing "guilty" about these pleasures though. I've really enjoyed trying out all sorts of new great recipes from the safety and comfort of my own home.

— Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com/subscribe to start supporting the Pleasanton Weekly today. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2022 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.



What is local journalism worth to you?

As we celebrate over 20 years as the Tri-Valley's most trusted news source, we also look ahead to **sustaining our award-winning journalism** in the decades to come.

With local retail advertising steadily declining around the nation, **the future of local journalism is in the hands of our readers**. Only with your direct support as a subscribing member can we retain our professional journalists and continue to provide insightful and engaging coverage of the community.

Please join your neighbors and friends in keeping strong journalism alive in your community.

For just \$12 a month, you can do your part to ensure that a free and responsible press continues to hold institutions accountable.



Learn more and sign up for membership at pleasantonweekly.com/join

DIGEST

Apply online for library access

Tri-Valley residents can now apply for an Alameda County Library eCard or have a Welcome Card mailed directly to their home. Members can stream art and craft classes through Creative Bug, as well as access grant directories and an expanded digital book and audiobook collection on several platforms.

Virtual programming and upcoming events including cooking demos and Lunar New Year programs also offer residents something new. Every new and full moon, library patrons can find new stories by calling the Listen Inn hotline: 1-833-990-BOOK.

In-person library services are also available. The Dublin branch located at 200 Civic Plaza has partnered with the Alameda County Law Library to give patrons access to legal databases and physical collections inside the library. Visit www.aclibrary.org to learn more.

Volunteer advocates needed

Tri-Valley Haven is looking for “dedicated, enthusiastic” volunteers who are interested in training to become sexual assault, crisis line, or legal clinic advocates. The 70-hour domestic violence and sexual assault volunteer training course starts on Feb. 1.

Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings over Zoom for approximately 10 weeks. Volunteers who successfully complete the training will be certified and required to volunteer one shift per month for one year. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Volunteer applications and advocacy descriptions are available at www.trivalleyhaven.org. For more information, call volunteer coordinator Shadab at: 449-5845 (ext. 2711), or email: shadab@trivalleyhaven.org.

Vacant seat on Advisory Commission

The Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging has a vacant seat that needs filling. The Advisory Commission works with staff from the county Area Agency on Aging to develop, plan, and administer programs that are meant to assist senior residents and their caregivers in Alameda County.

Advisory Commission members review funding requests from local community-based organizations, and provide funding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

The commission currently meets on Zoom for two hours on the second Monday of each month, starting at 9:30 a.m. For more information, email: shawn.wilson@acgov.org. ■

PUSD cabinet learning the ropes on interest-based bargaining

District and union reps getting ready to begin annual labor negotiations

By JULIA BAUM

Ahead of annual negotiations between the Pleasanton Unified School District and labor groups starting this week, the Board of Trustees recently received a crash course on a new approach to navigating negotiations between school administrators and staff members.

Following months of strained negotiations between the Pleasanton Unified School District and Association of Pleasanton Teachers, union members voted to authorize a strike in October. Called “a non-positional approach to negotiations,” the school district is considering adopting interest-based bargaining (IBB) as a conflict resolution model that would

“be used at all negotiation tables to various extents.”

“We are definitely not interested in engaging in the activities and actions of last year,” PUSD assistant superintendent of human resources Julio Hernandez said at the Jan. 14 board meeting. “This is an attempt by the district to try to figure out a pathway to minimize conflict and to create a system of positive resolution to possible conflict.”

Superintendent David Haglund called the training, “an opportunity to establish a problem-solving mechanism to deal with problems or conflicts across the organization.”

According to a staff presentation that evening, IBB is different from

traditional negotiations, in that “two parties have the issue in front of them and they identify all the interests that both parties have regarding this issue.”

When presented with a written proposal, staff said oftentimes one party doesn’t really understand why the other party wants that proposal. But by discussing their interests and exploring all options, “both parties’ needs can be met by discussing them together and really hearing what each other needs. First is having a response to a written proposal.”

When used, staff said IBB protects traditional rights and practices, improves the outcome of negotiations, and “enables both parties to achieve

shared goals and achieve individual goals.”

San Lorenzo Unified School District’s successful reconfiguration of the district at various grade levels was one example of how PUSD officials said IBB “can result in win-win outcomes.”

An IBB training workshop was originally scheduled on Monday but postponed due to illness, district spokesman Patrick Gannon told the Weekly. The district cabinet including the school board were set to attend the all-day training before its cancellation.

The district and APT will start negotiations for the 2022-23 school year today. ■



CITY OF LIVERMORE

Rendering shows design concept for Livermorium Plaza, now under construction in downtown Livermore and on schedule to open by the end of May, according to city officials.

Livermorium Plaza downtown on track for completion this spring

Amenity to honor community’s scientific contributions

By CIERRA BAILEY

The ongoing revitalization of downtown Livermore is making strides with the opening of Veterans Way in 2019, the completion and opening of Stockmen’s Park in 2020, a number of new small businesses coming to the area and most recently, a push forward by the City Council for the development of the wine country hotel.

Another milestone toward bringing the downtown plan to fruition is the upcoming opening of Livermorium Plaza, a new outdoor space that pays tribute to the creation of the element Livermorium, which was named for the city and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

On Jan. 7, city officials posted an update on Facebook about the project, confirming that “we’re still on target to complete

Livermorium Plaza by Livermorium Day on May 30, 2022.”

As of now, officials said remediation work is completed and Robert Bothman Construction Inc. will be starting underground construction and concrete improvements.

Located at the corner of South Livermore Avenue and First Street, the plaza will feature a 5-foot diameter granite water ball fountain, which represents the nucleus of the Livermorium atom, according to the city’s website.

In the ground surrounding the water ball will be 116 “electrons” represented by a combination of tree wells, accent lights and granite and decorative concrete discs. Both the water ball and granite disks will also be engraved with facts about Livermorium and other elements.

The plaza will also include shade trees, concrete seat walls, a grassy area and a lighting control system to allow for changing color schemes.

While the initial groundbreaking ceremony for the plaza took place in December 2020, work did not actually begin until the week of July 12, 2021. City officials said that the delay was due to the city’s decision to switch contractors after their previous contractor, Integra Construction Services, failed to meet the city’s insurance requirements.

The council voted last April to rescind the approximately \$3.5 million contract with Integra and switch to Robert Bothman Construction, which is also the contractor that completed

Ex-sergeant charged with DUI murder

Fatal collision occurred on highway near Sonora last week

By JEREMY WALSH

A man who worked for years as a sergeant with the Pleasanton Police Department is facing a murder charge and other felony counts after authorities allege he was drunk when he caused a fatal collision near Sonora last week.

The Tuolumne County District Attorney’s Office filed a criminal complaint on Monday charging Theodore W. “Ted” Young in connection with a head-on crash that killed another driver on the highway outside Jamestown on Jan. 18. Rebekah Gall, 27, died at an area hospital as a result of her injuries three days later.

“Our thoughts are with Rebekah’s family and our community as we all mourn another senseless tragedy caused by drunk driving,” the DA’s office said in a statement Monday.

Young, 63, of Sonora has been charged with murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, DUI causing serious brain injury and DUI



Ted Young

See LIVERMORIUM on Page 6

See MURDER on Page 9

Former city manager Fialho takes on CEO role with new nonprofit

Now serving as interim leader of Three Valleys Community Foundation

By JULIA BAUM

Former Pleasanton city manager and longtime community leader Nelson Fialho is stepping up to serve as interim CEO of the recently formed Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF), officials with the nonprofit announced on Monday.

Fialho, who retired from public service in November after serving the city government for 25 years, will lead and manage the foundation through a strategic planning process, and work closely with the board of directors, advisers and local partners “to develop processes and procedures that promote

trust and financial growth for donor funds and endowments as well as align with the organization’s core values,” according to a statement from 3VCF.

Calling the local nonprofit community “extraordinarily vibrant,” Fialho said it is important for him to “find a way to give back and to support the nonprofits in our region and the impact they are having.”

“We rely on our region’s nonprofits to address various community needs, including food insecurity, emergency shelter, mental health services, animal care, and even augmenting COVID

response and recovery — to name a few,” Fialho said. “The financial support system for these nonprofit organizations was fragile prior to the pandemic, but now, more than ever, the demand and need for these services is on the rise.”

Fialho added the foundation “can serve as a geographic anchor for individuals, corporations and local government to help those who need it most,” and that he is “honored to join this organization and excited to help our community realize this vision.”

3VCF Board Chair John Sensiba said the nonprofit is “incredibly lucky to have Nelson leading our organization.”

“His strong business acumen, leadership and financial management, combined with his knowledge of the local community and commitment to the residents of the Tri-Valley, make him an ideal choice to lead our foundation and to develop both collaborative and innovative opportunities that can assist our nonprofits,” Sensiba said.

More than a year in planning, 3VCF was launched in November and had been led until now by Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Executive Director Steve McCoy-Thompson, who will now serve on the board instead.

The foundation will offer “a local alternative to traditional, nationally-based donor advised funds (DAFS) and endowment fund services — with a special focus on local grantmaking and helping donors find worthy causes to support.”

Recent supporters include Alameda County supervisors David Haubert and Nate Miley, both who pledged contributions of \$50,000 each, as did the city of Dublin.

Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez said she is excited to partner with 3VCF for “such a unique, collaborative effort to pair local donors with non-profits and other support services.”

“There are so many in our community who need help, and the foundation will connect those



JEREMY WALSH
The new interim CEO of Three Valleys Community Foundation is Nelson Fialho, former city manager for Pleasanton.

who have means with those who need it most,” Hernandez said.

In addition to Sensiba and McCoy-Thompson, the 3VCF board of directors includes Sunflower Hill founder Susan Houghton, Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Trustee Tim Sbranti, Kenneth Cooper of Las Positas College, Margaret Liang of APAPA and Christine Wente of Wente Family Estates. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Starting him early: Pleasanton Weekly editor Jeremy Walsh and wife Elise welcomed their first child, Francis Terrence Walsh, on Dec. 23, 2021. Here, little Francis is already spending time catching up on headlines from his birth month.

To submit your “Take Us Along” entry, email your photograph to editor@pleasantonweekly.com. Be sure to identify who is in the photo (names listed from left to right), the location, the date and any relevant details about where you took your Weekly.

LIVERMORIUM

Continued from Page 5

Stockmen’s Park.

The Livermorium element itself was created by LLNL researchers and scientists from the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia, who worked together on synthesizing two new super-heavy elements, (114)

Flerovium and Livermorium. The latter — element 116 on the Periodic Table of Elements — was made by “bombarding curium targets with calcium at one-tenth the speed of light.”

Livermorium Day was established in 2013 by former mayor John Marchand to recognize the official naming of the element which occurred on May 30, 2012.

“As one of very few cities to be immortalized on the periodic table, we’re very proud to honor this achievement through Livermorium Plaza and look forward to the community enjoying all it will offer,” said City Manager Marc Roberts, who will get to see the opening of the plaza ahead of his retirement set for June, if the project remains on track for completion in May. ■

FROM PLEASANTON TO IDAHO'S TREASURE VALLEY

My wife and I raised our family in Pleasanton for over twenty-five years thinking we'd never leave. One trip to Idaho's Treasure Valley (Boise area) changed all of that.

If you or someone you know is thinking of making the move to Idaho, I would love to assist you!

BRIAN FOLEY
REALTOR®
208.713.9076
brian-foley@43re.com

Call or text me today!

Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE
43° NORTH

For information on relocating from out of state, new construction or resale, 1031 exchange or purchasing rental properties through a self-directed IRA, let me be your guide.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

PLEASANTON DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Share your input on Pleasanton's district-based elections and how the boundaries are drawn.

Upcoming Public Meetings

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3 - 7PM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - 7PM

CityofPleasantonCA.gov/DistrictElections

City alerts residents about increased coyote sightings at Dublin park

State officials recommend deterrence methods for residents

By JEANITA LYMAN

The city of Dublin issued a civic alert last week, warning residents and parkgoers of an uptick in coyote sightings at and around Emerald Glen Park.

“Alameda County Animal Services has reported to the City of Dublin that there have been more coyote sightings in the area of Emerald Glen Park, Tassajara Creek Trail and Central Parkway. Residents are encouraged to use caution when seeing a coyote,” the alert from the city on Jan. 18 said. “Animal Services is referring those who call to California State Fish and Wildlife, as the agency does not interfere with healthy wildlife.”

As a rule, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) does not trap or relocate coyotes, noting that this would just mean they’d gravitate to another neighborhood. Instead, they recommend residents take precautions, particularly when it comes to protecting small pets, and use deterrence methods aimed at keeping coyotes away from residential areas and people.

While it is rare for coyotes to attack humans, pets — particularly small dogs — are often vulnerable, according to the CDFW. They warn that small pets should not be left outside unsupervised

in areas prone to coyote sightings.

The CDFW warns that garbage and food can also attract coyotes, advising residents not to leave food outside, and to secure their garbage. For additional deterrence, the department recommends “hazing” techniques aimed at scaring coyotes in order to make them less comfortable with humans. These include making loud noises, throwing objects in their direction without directly hitting them, and chasing them.

The CDFW also recommends that residents use motion sensor lights and sprinklers around their properties as deterrence methods. ■



GETTY IMAGES

Dublin city officials have warned residents and parkgoers of an uptick in coyote sightings at and around Emerald Glen Park.

Livermore council reviews outreach, criteria for redistricting process

Next hearing to come Feb. 14; map adoption expected in March

By CIERRA BAILEY

The city of Livermore’s redistricting process is in full swing, with the second public hearing already under the City Council’s belt.

On Monday, the council heard two presentations — the first related to the ongoing public outreach efforts to obtain community input and the second more specifically about the process itself.

As part of the city’s outreach, officials are offering all materials related to redistricting in both English and Spanish and they provided the option to translate the hearing to Spanish in real time.

While the city recently drew its current district lines upon switching from an at-large to district-based election system, the city is required to update its district boundaries to ensure that the districts remain substantially equal and still protect the rights of members of communities of interest to vote for candidates of their choice.

Additionally, the 2020 census has been completed in the time since the current boundaries were drawn and based on the evaluation of the data, the council may find that there could be a need for some changes.

However, the city’s demography consultant, Michael Wagaman of Wagaman Strategies, told the councilmembers during the hearing that they also have the option to keep the existing boundaries as they are legally compliant with the criteria.

Wagaman also said during his presentation that considering communities of interest is significant to the process for purposes of fair representation. A community of interest is a population with common social or economic interests that should be in a single district, such as common

assets like schools, shopping areas, housing, employment, culture and language.

The city is providing online mapping tools for residents to review draft maps and to develop and submit their own map proposals. At the time of the hearing, officials said there had been about a dozen submissions of maps so far, however, not many had submitted communities of interest.

In considering the various map options, Wagaman advised the council in his presentation to strive for population equality and focus on the traditional criteria by drawing “contiguous districts that respect communities while using understandable boundaries and are compact when possible.”

At the same time, Wagaman advised the council to not use race as the predominant factor in their considerations.

Later in the meeting, Councilmember Trish Munro asked for clarification on how to best approach race in the process and Wagaman provided the example that, “if there is a community that is, among other ways, defined by being heavily Latino or heavily immigrant, etc. The law would generally say that community should be kept whole as it would be considered a community of interest.”

However, he said that if there isn’t an existing community that’s actually connected together but rather people dispersed throughout the city who just happened to check the same race or ethnicity box on the census and the city is making considerations based on that alone, then it would go against the rules and criteria.

Councilmember Brittnei Kiick

asked the outreach team to work on encouraging more residents to submit their communities of interest. “I’m hoping that we get some more communities of interest because that’s the key, not really streets or racial demographics,” Kiick said.

Councilmember Bob Carling expressed concern about “disfranchising a certain number of people,” because those who currently reside in Districts 1 and 2 did not vote for a councilmember in 2020 as the mayoral race is still at-large and Mayor Bob Woerner resides in District 1. Vice Mayor Gina Bonanno was appointed by the existing council to fill Woerner’s at-large council seat upon his ascension to mayor.

“If we move the boundary such that they now are in District 3 or 4, they also won’t vote for a councilmember in 2022, so I worry about that,” Carling said. The terms for Kiick, who represents District 3, and Carling, who represents District 4, do not expire until 2024.

Wagaman said that what Carling described is actually a common “side effect” of having staggered elections and is referred to as deferral. While he said that the council can consider deferral in its process, it can’t trump all of the other criteria.

While there was a public comment period during the hearing, there was only one speaker, Karl Wente, who briefly shared gratitude toward the City Council, staff and other officials for their work.

The city is still accepting proposed maps and communities of interest until Monday (Jan. 31) at 5 p.m.

Two more hearings are scheduled for Feb. 14 and March 14, and the council will be asked to adopt the final map at the March 28 regular City Council meeting. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 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> and <https://www.tri-valleytv.org>

- Continued from January 18, 2022 – Housing Element Update - Review and approve potential sites to be considered for future rezoning for residential development and inclusion in the environmental analysis as part of the Sites Inventory for the 2023-2031 (6th Cycle) Housing Element Update
- Overview of City’s Water Conservation Program and provide direction on the City’s Water Efficient Lawn Conversion Rebate Program
- Approve a Downtown Parklet Grant Program to assist businesses approved to participate in the Downtown Parklet Program

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

- Discuss Evaluation Process and Meeting Format for Fiscal Year 2022/23 Housing and Human Services Grant Program Review

City Council Special Meeting

Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

- Receive community input regarding district boundaries and composition for City Councilmember district-based elections and to provide direction regarding preferred configurations and changes to draft district maps

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

Zone 7 receives increased water allocation for 2022; mandatory conservation still in effect

State officials approve 15% allocation, up from 0% decree in December

By JULIA BAUM

Zone 7 Water Agency announced last week that an increased water allocation of 15% will be given for this year from the State Water Project, up from the initial 0% given by state officials last month.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) informed SWP contractors about the change

on Jan. 20. Officials from Zone 7, the Tri-Valley's water wholesaler, said in a statement that the increase "provides much-needed relief after the two driest years combined on record."

Approximately 70% of the region's water is bought and imported through the SWP. Last year, Zone 7 received 5% of its allocation and has been relying

on the groundwater basin, which holds imported water during wet years that Zone 7 then uses during dry years.

Storms that took place in October and December have since allowed about 380,000 acre-feet of water to be transferred into the San Luis Reservoir, located south of the Delta.

"While this increase in allocation offers some reprieve, it is important to keep our eyes on the ball," General Manager Valerie Pryor said. "This does not mean we are out of the severe drought by any means."

With the Tri-Valley already having dry conditions in January, Pryor said "we don't know what the rest of the year has in store," and that residents "must continue to conserve as we proactively plan for a third dry year."

Mandatory 15% conservation is



COURTESY OF ZONE 7

Additional water is now in San Luis Reservoir as a result of recent storms.

still in effect locally, and residents are asked to continue reducing their water usage by decreasing outdoor irrigation, which accounts for approximately 60% of household water consumption, according to Zone 7 officials.

Customers of California Water

Service, Dublin San Ramon Services District, and the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton are advised to check Zone 7's drought page at www.zone7water.com/drought for the latest drought information and city-specific water use restrictions. ■

Dennis Joseph Hart

April 20, 1957 – January 12, 2022

Dennis Joseph Hart, a Pleasanton native and resident of over 50 years, peacefully passed away on January 12th after a three-year battle with prostate cancer. Dennis was aged 64 and was surrounded by his wife, Leslee and children in their home in Pleasanton.



Dennis was born in Castro Valley, CA in 1957 and was the fourth child of seven kids to Thomas and Mary Hart. He graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1975 and after earning a B.A. in Criminal Justice from San Jose State University, Dennis was hired as a Police Officer for the city of Alameda in July 1979. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2002 and held many roles throughout his 30 years of service for the Alameda Police Department including Patrol Officer, Traffic Officer, Investigator, Patrol Sergeant, and Hostage Negotiator. Dennis retired in 2007, but his drive and enjoyment of police work led him to co-founding an investigative services company where he worked with cities across the Bay Area to conduct pre-hire background investigations for public safety employment candidates.

Shortly after becoming a Police Officer, Dennis married his high school love, Leslee Mohatt and the two recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last year. They have four children, Matthew (Erin) Hart, Jessica (Patrick) Dehl, Sarah (Adam) Zuur, and Zachary Hart along with seven grandchildren. The biggest joy of his life was being a loving husband, father, and grandfather ("Papa"). Dennis was so incredibly proud of his wife and family, and that happiness was felt every time he talked about them— whether it was about a recent accomplishment or even just a general life update— Dennis would be beaming regardless of the story.

Dennis was known for his humor, wit, selflessness, and sensitive heart. He had a deeply caring nature and enjoyed giving help to others rather than receiving it. Dennis had a passion for the outdoors, whether it was hiking, biking, backpacking, skiing, or golfing, he always had a desire to stay active. His favorite place to spend time was in Twain Harte, CA at his cabin alongside family and friends. Twain Harte held a very special place in Dennis's heart and was truly his second home. He was an active member in the community and served as president of the Twain Harte Lake Board Association during his retirement.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks for donations in Dennis's name to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

PAID OBITUARY

DA warns against at-home COVID test price gouging

Gov. Newsom issues executive order in effect through March

By GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley has issued a warning that her office will be vigilant in investigating and prosecuting cases of price gouging in the sale of at-home COVID-19 tests following Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent statewide executive order.

The governor's order, which was

issued earlier this month, generally prohibits anyone who sold at-home testing kits as of Dec. 1, 2021 from increasing the price of the kit more than 10% over the Dec. 1 price. Any sellers who have not previously sold at-home COVID-19 test kits may not sell them for a price that is greater than 50% of what they paid for the kit themselves. There are some exceptions.

The order is in effect until March 31, 2022.

The need for widely available, and affordable, COVID-19 at-home test kits has recently increased due to the omicron variant of the virus. Access to at-home tests are vital to the safety and well-being of Alameda County residents.

"The law prevents businesses or individuals from profiteering when we are in a state of emergency.

All residents of Alameda County must continue to have access to COVID-19 at-home test kits, especially with the heightened transmissibility of the omicron variant," O'Malley said. "My office will ensure that businesses adhere to the law and do not exploit consumers that are trying to protect themselves and their families."

Any violation of the executive order would be a violation of Government Code section 8665, which is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to six months, or both.

Victims of price gouging, or anyone who has information regarding potential price gouging, can file a complaint with the District Attorney's Office by emailing price-gouging@acgov.org or by calling 510-383-8600. ■

GRAHAM-HITCH
FD #429 MORTUARY
LOCALLY OWNED
AND OPERATED SINCE 1891

BURIAL & CREMATION
CELEBRATION OF LIFE
SERVICES
RECEPTION FACILITIES
ADVANCE PLANNING
MADE EASY
FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
OR IN-HOME VISIT CALL

DEANNA MOSER
925.846.5624
TO VIEW OUR FACILITIES VISIT:
WWW.GRAHAMHITCH.COM
4167 FIRST STREET,
PLEASANTON



The local news you care about
is one click away.

Receive information on what's happening
in your community by email every day.

Sign up today at PleasantonWeekly.com/express

Dublin Unified making mandatory adjustments to trustee boundaries

Board has until Feb. 28 to make final decision on election map

By JULIA BAUM

Data from the 2020 census was released last spring, and the Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees is now tasked with adjusting their trustee area boundaries so the population of each area is equally distributed.

Following a review of current trustee areas and recent census data,

officials said last week that “the district’s demographer determined that the current trustee area map is no longer in compliance with California Education Code section 5019.5 since the population in our trustee areas is no longer balanced.”

“As a result, the district is taking the steps needed to adjust current board member boundaries,”

officials said. “The goal of this boundary adjustment process is to create balanced areas of representation for all board members.”

The first Tri-Valley school district with an established by-trustee-area system of representation, the Dublin board must now approve new trustee area boundaries for the district, if needed, following

each federal census. Pleasanton Unified School District is currently transitioning from at-large to by-trustee-area elections, and San Ramon Valley Unified School District made the change ahead of the 2020 election.

Five years ago, DUSD started transitioning from an at-large system of representation to a

by-trustee-area system. Five board member seats were established as part of the process.

Census data is a “key element” the district said they are using to determine new boundaries. DUSD and other school districts with trustee area systems must review and adjust their trustee area map by Feb. 28.

Several public hearings and community meetings have been held recently, including a second presentation at the board meeting on Tuesday. The demographer’s suggested revised boundaries will be shared with the board next month. ■

MURDER

Continued from Page 5

with a blood alcohol content at or above 0.08% by someone with a prior DUI conviction. Prosecutors say Young pleaded guilty to misdemeanor DUI in late 2017, less than a year after he left Pleasanton PD.

He appeared in court on Tuesday, but his entry-of-plea was postponed to next month, according to Tuolumne County District Attorney Cassandra Jenecke, who is prosecuting the case.

Young’s defense attorney, Clint Parish, has not responded to a request for comment. The defendant remained in Tuolumne County Jail with bail set at \$1 million as of Tuesday afternoon.

The former longtime police officer worked more than three decades in law enforcement, including 29 years with the Pleasanton PD. His tenure ended as a police sergeant in December 2016, according to the city’s human resources department.

The Sonora-based Union Democrat was the first to report Young’s law enforcement history following the serious crash last week.

The collision unfolded at about 5:15 p.m. Jan. 18 when Young’s 2016 Toyota pickup was traveling northbound at approximately 45-50 mph on Highway 108/Highway 49 near Chicken Ranch Road outside Jamestown, according to the California Highway Patrol’s Sonora office.

The CHP alleges Young allowed his truck to drift to the left and across the double-yellow lines directly into the path of an oncoming 2015 Acura sedan driven by Gall. The two vehicles collided at highway speeds and Gall sustained major injuries.

Gall, a Modesto native who was living in nearby Oakdale with her husband and worked for the Tuolumne County government according to her Facebook account, was airlifted from the scene to Doctors Medical Center in Modesto. She succumbed to her injuries at 6:15 p.m. on Jan. 21, according to CHP-Sonora Officer Steve Machado.

Young, who was uninjured, was arrested in the immediate aftermath

of the crash on Jan. 18 on suspicion of felony DUI causing serious injury and was released from Tuolumne County Jail after posting bail soon after being booked, authorities said.

CHP officers then sought an additional arrest warrant for murder over the weekend after Gall died at the hospital and arrested Young again at approximately 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Machado said.

The DA’s office advanced the charges by filing a criminal complaint against Young in Tuolumne County Superior Court on Monday with four felony counts, including murder, as well as two special enhancements for inflicting brain injury and for having a prior DUI within the past 10 years. Prosecutors say Young was convicted of misdemeanor DUI for a September 2017 incident in Sonora.

Jenecke confirmed that Young’s arraignment and entry-of-plea hearing was continued to mid-February.

A policeman with more than 30 years of experience, Young was employed with Pleasanton PD from 1987 to 2016 first as an officer and later as a sergeant.

He worked a range of assignments with the department, including time with the narcotics division and the D.A.R.E. drug abuse education program in local schools. During his tenure, he was also half of a well-regarded police couple within the department; his now-former spouse still holds an upper management position at Pleasanton PD.

Xavier Scoggins, human resources manager for the city, confirmed Young’s last day as a police sergeant in Pleasanton was in December 2016 but declined to elaborate on the reason for Young’s departure, saying, “Our standard practice is to provide dates of employment and position held with the city.” The Union Democrat, citing a CHP-Sonora source, reported Young’s exit was a retirement.

Pleasanton police officials declined to comment on Young’s tenure and arrest, deferring to the city’s human resources department.

Young’s long public employment career also included time with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the East Bay Regional Park District Police Department. ■

Louis Csoti Moncton

August 5, 1935 – December 10, 2021

Louis Csoti Moncton passed away on Friday, December 10, 2021 at the age of 86.

Louis could no longer bear the chronic excruciating pain caused by lumbar degenerative arthritis and he was losing his mobility. In February 2021, Louis also suffered extreme pain and discomfort from cancer surgery.

Louis had always been a very strong, courageous, and disciplined man who was very active in sports and working out at the gym all his life.

Louis was born in Csanadapaca, Hungary. His birth name is Lajos Csoti.

He excelled academically and was a devout Christian.

Louis had a very charismatic personality and loved people and animals especially dogs.

Louis served in the military in Hungary and also fought in the 1956 Revolution while he was at the University in Budapest. During the Revolution, Louis had to flee to the Austrian border and eventually made his way to Canada for a new start and to continue his education. While in the University in Canada, Louis officially changed his name to Louis Csoti Moncton. He met his first wife Kathleen in Toronto where his son Anthony was born. Two years later, the family moved to California where his daughter Desiree was born.

The family enjoyed many happy years in the Bay Area.

Louis and Kathleen parted after 24 years of marriage.

Later, Louis married Jane and they were happily married for 31 years until his passing.

Louis was a successful and brilliant electro-mechanical engineer and engineering manager. His favorite places to work were Caterpillar and Lockheed.

Louis played soccer for most of his life and at least 20-25 years on local teams in the Bay Area. Louis also practiced karate for 20-25 years and achieved a 4th degree black belt.

Louis loved telling jokes to uplift his family and friends. He always felt that it was important to have a good sense of humor no matter what happens in life. Louis had a wonderful sense of humor and a remarkable story telling ability that everyone loved.

Louis was an excellent cook and had an incredible green thumb in the garden growing his own peppers and tomatoes.

Louis was also an avid reader and loved music especially classical, opera, and jazz.

Louis was a very spiritual man. He prayed and read the Bible every day. He gave God thanks and praise when anything good happened. Though there were hard times, he still had faith and hope in the Lord.

Louis is survived by his loving wife, Jane Csoti; his devoted children Dr. Anthony Moncton (and his wife Veronica Ramos) and Desiree Moncton. He is also survived by his first wife, Kathleen Moncton, as well as many relatives in Hungary.

Family and friends are invited to attend the service, reception, and celebration of life on Saturday March 19, 2022 starting at 11 am at St. Clare’s Episcopal Church in Pleasanton, CA, 94588. In the Celebration of Life that follows the service for Louis, family and friends will have an opportunity to share their stories about Louis.

Mask and proof of vaccination is required to attend the service, reception, and celebration of life.

Live streaming online access will also be available for remote viewing via Facebook and YouTube.

It is requested by the family that no monies, no flowers, and no cards are sent, only thoughts and prayers.

If some family and friends feel compelled to give, please send your donation to a charity of your choice that would benefit those who are most in need whether it is a person, animal, or our environment. Making this world a better kinder place is what would make Louis happy.

Thank you very much. Louis loved you all. We all miss him. This is a tremendous loss to us all.

We love you and miss you, Louis.

St Clare’s Episcopal Church
3350 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588
Phone: (925) 462-4802
Email: stclare@att.net

PAID OBITUARY

Ronald Charles Wallace

April 15, 1947 – January 3, 2022

Ron Wallace, 74 of Pleasanton, CA passed away on January 3, 2022, at his home, surrounded by his loved ones. He was diagnosed with Leukemia & lost his battle after 4 short months. Ron was born in Oakland, CA and attended local schools and played football at Fremont High, graduating in 1965. He went on to play football for San Francisco State & graduated with a BA in Business Administration & continued his education at Cal State East Bay & UC Berkeley. Following college, he enlisted in the Army and was very proud to be a veteran, supporting causes such as Stand-down. He went on to build a successful career in sales in the home furnishing industry for 47 years. He is survived by wife, Marjorie of 35 years, son Jason Banks, daughter-in-law Shannon, & grandson Nycob of Walnut Creek & daughter Jessica Darling, son-in-law Scott, & granddaughters, Delilah & Dakota of Pleasanton. Ron was a life-long baseball enthusiast & fan of the Oakland A's & SF Giants. Not only did he love watching the game, but he also had a passion for coaching. Ron also loved to travel, garden, fine wine, playing Bocce and spending time with his family & many friends, but his love for his grandchildren was immeasurable. Ron touched so many people's lives & loved them so dearly. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating blood to the American Red Cross, or donations to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or American Cancer Society.



PAID OBITUARY

Teri Rae (Murphy) Mankins

February 22, 1959 – January 18, 2022

Teri Rae Mankins passed away on Tuesday, January 18th 2022 after a hard-fought battle with breast cancer. Teri touched so many different people with her old soul and gentle heart.

Teri was born in Roaring Springs, PA. She was an Air Force "Brat," and lived in many different places until her parents moved to North Highlands, CA. She graduated High School and met her future husband at the tender age of 13. After graduating high school Teri enlisted in the US Navy where she served honorably until 1981. After leaving the Navy, Teri and her husband, Richard, moved to CA where she had a great 39-year career with one company although many names (ESL, TRW, Northrop Grumman) until retiring in June 2020. While Teri enjoyed many things such as travel and volunteer work with the Tri-Valley Mothers of Twins Club, above all she enjoyed spending time with her family and many friends. Some of the greatest vacations were simple things like camping and boating at Lake Folsom or houseboating with friends on Lake Oroville. Teri raised three wonderful children, Ann, Clint, and Neal in Pleasanton, CA with her husband, Richard, of 42 years.

Teri is survived by her husband, Richard; her wonderful loving children, Ann Gomez of Folsom CA, Clint Mankins of Pleasanton, CA, and Neal Mankins of Reno NV and granddaughter Murphy Lynne Gomez of Folsom, CA. Teri is also survived by her Mother Gloria Ann Murphy of North Highlands, CA, Sister Cheryl Parker of Santa Rosa, CA and Sister Jerilyn Dortch of Antelope, CA. Teri will be missed greatly and in the hearts of all the lives she touched.

Teri will be interred at the Veterans cemetery in Dixon, CA, in a private family gathering. In lieu of flowers or cards, donations to the American Cancer Society in Teri's name are appreciated



PAID OBITUARY

POLICE BULLETIN

House fire displaces Pleasanton family

An early morning fire on Monday displaced the residents of a Pleasanton home, fire officials said.

The blaze, reported about 4:21 a.m., started in the garage of the home in the 5200 block of Pleasant Hill Road, according to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

When firefighters arrived, they found the fire had spread to the house. Due to extensive smoke and fire damage, the home was deemed uninhabitable, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Solak said.

No injuries were reported. The home's residents were being assisted by the American Red Cross, Solak said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

— Bay City News

In other news

- Suspects believed to be part of an organized retail theft ring were arrested by Livermore police officers earlier this week, according to a statement from the department shared on Twitter.

LPD officials said that at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 16, the department's real time crime analyst alerted officers to a possible stolen vehicle at the San Francisco Premium Outlets.

The stolen white Mercedes was associated with a smash-and-grab burglary at Lululemon in Los Gatos and a strong-arm robbery at the Saks Fifth Avenue in Milpitas, according to the statement.

An LPD officer found the car parked and unattended at the outlet's north side parking lot. At the same time, officers received a report of a man with a gun on the opposite side of the shopping center.

However, LPD officials said it was later determined to be a prank call to redirect officers away from the stolen Mercedes.

A 24-year-old female suspect



PPD

An early-morning fire Monday on Pleasant Hill Road in Pleasanton left the home uninhabitable. The cause of the blaze, which started in the garage, is under investigation.

approached the Mercedes and was arrested for possession of a stolen car. A short time later, another officer spotted a 16-year-old suspect in the mall. As officers attempted to approach him, he ran through the mall. The juvenile was later arrested and officers found he had a loaded .45 caliber handgun.

The teenage suspect also had a key to a gray BMW that had also been reported stolen. Inside the BMW, officers found a loaded 9 mm ghost gun under the front driver's seat.

Officials said both the stolen BMW and Mercedes were also filled with stolen property.

Officers later located two other suspects — a 32-year-old man and a 28-year-old man — at a nearby hotel. According to LPD's statement, the 32-year-old is a parolee-at-large for armed robbery. He was arrested for possession of a stolen car, stolen property and parole violation.

At the time of arrest, officers found that the 28-year-old had stolen credit cards and methamphetamine in his wallet. He was arrested for identity theft, resisting arrest, drug possession and possession of stolen property.

LPD officials said all of the suspects are from Fresno.

— Cierra Bailey

- A Livermore man has been arrested in connection with a series of sexual batteries that took place over the past two months.

Starting on Dec. 5, Livermore Police Department's Criminal Investigations Bureau began investigating

several sexual batteries involving female joggers near the running trail on East Avenue and Vasco Road.

Over the course of two months, the team worked diligently, and ultimately was able to identify 35-year-old Livermore resident Willie Richardson as the sole suspect in the crimes.

On Jan. 18, the Criminal Investigations Bureau arrested Richardson during a traffic stop without incident. A search warrant was served at his home and detectives recovered items linking the suspect to the assaults.

Richardson was booked into Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail. He's facing four felony counts of sexual battery as well as one felony count of assault with intent to commit a serious sex crime.

"I'm proud of our team who worked tirelessly to identify the suspect and do our part to bring this suspect to justice. Now our community can rest a little easier knowing this man has been arrested," said Chief Jeremy Young.

The Criminal Investigations Bureau is working with surrounding law enforcement agencies to identify any additional victims.

Anyone with information about similar incidents can call the Livermore Police Departments anonymous tip line at (925) 371-4790.

This remains an ongoing investigation and the department will release more details as they become available. ■

— Gina Channell Wilcox

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available

Jan. 19

Missing Person

■ 7:27 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Theft

■ 9:12 a.m. on the 4300 block of Dorman Court; catalytic converter theft

■ 3:15 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting

Warrant arrest

■ 3:20 p.m. on Hopyard Road/West Las Positas Boulevard

■ 9:18 p.m. on the 2200 block of Royal Drive

Graffiti offense

■ 3:35 p.m. on Main and Abbie streets

Assault/Battery

■ 5:32 p.m. on the 7800 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

Domestic battery

■ 11:33 p.m. on Willow Road

Jan. 18

Theft

■ 9:45 a.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 5:35 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; catalytic converter theft

Drug violation

■ 1:36 p.m. on the 6000 block of Santa Rita Road

Warrant arrest

■ 6:51 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Sex offenses

■ 10:21 p.m. on the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Jan. 17

Warrant arrest

■ 12:15 a.m. on the 2600 block of Springdale Avenue/Stoneridge Drive

Theft

■ 4:16 a.m. on the 2400 block of Crestline Road; catalytic converter theft

■ 9:36 a.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

■ 10:08 a.m. on the 2100 block of Corte Richardo; auto theft

■ 11:07 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; catalytic converter theft

Assault/Battery

■ 8:30 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Fraud

■ 12:48 p.m. on the 7500 block of Rosedale Court

Drug violation

■ 10:05 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Jan. 16

Theft

■ 11:16 a.m. on the 2600 block of Chocolate Street; catalytic converter theft

■ 11:36 a.m. on the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Amador girls' soccer team keeping up with historically dominant teams

The East Bay Athletic League soccer race can be a grind and right now, the Amador Valley High girls' soccer team is making a statement.

In a league traditionally dominated by Carondelet and the Danville schools, the Dons are hanging in there.

The week of Jan. 17 was a perfect example.

On Tuesday of the week, the Dons took down a good Dublin squad 2-0.

Olivia Sobel scored the first goal and Natalie O'Sullivan iced the game with the second goal, her sixth of the season.

Elizabeth Fineberg saved four shots in the first half and with Amador's

defense locked in, Sydney Head had to save only one shot in the closing half.

Two days later, on Thursday, the Dons faced the aforementioned Carondelet, a team that came into the game 12-0 overall on the season.

The lone goal the Cougars scored came via a penalty kick in the first half that Fineberg made a sensational effort to stop. She finished the game with seven saves.

The Dons appeared to draw even late in the first half when Angel Akanyirige cracked a wonderful shot from 18 yards out, but the goal was called back after an offside call.

With the game winding down, the

intensity was high, and Carondelet's defense was backed up trying to clear the ball out of its third of the field.

An errant clear went to Amador outside back Sydney Stimson, who in turn launched a shot past the Carondelet goalie to tie the game.

Amador boys' basketball

The Dons had a chance to finally make up the championship game from the Arroyo tournament after it was postponed due to COVID issues.

Facing Irvington, the Dons turned in a sloppy performance with numerous turnovers and dropped a 65-47 game to Irvington.

Colton Cash singlehandedly kept Amador in the game scoring 21 points, including 16 of Amador's 19 first-half points. Bryce Osaki added eight points for Amador.

Wesley Burns had 21 to lead Irvington.

Foothill/Amador girls' basketball

Foothill finally got in their first EBAL game in the week of January 17 and came away with the 56-36 win.

Livermore came into the game



DAVE SHAW

Amador Valley's Emma Fuller (#20) takes the ball down the field during a game against Dublin. Amador won the game 2-0.

with only six players, missing several key players to either COVID or injury.

Shristi Rath, a senior and one of the leaders for the Falcons, turned in a monster performance scoring 22 points on a variety of slashing moves to the basket.

Point guard Avamarie Perry scored 11 points and masterfully ran the Foothill offense. Savannah Montini added eight points and hustle throughout the game.

Grace Caraballo had seven and sophomore Riley Young added six points.

In their second game of the week, the Falcons ran into cross-town rival Amador Valley, and the Dons got the best of the game, winning 39-31.

Foothill led 9-5 at the end of the first quarter, with Amador coming back to take a 17-15 lead at the half. The Dons led 27-24 at the end of three, but slowly pulled away in the fourth quarter, outscoring Foothill 12-7 in the final quarter for the win.

Gianna Ghio was spectacular, leading Amador with 15 points, while Riann Ghio added 10 in a supporting role.

Montini had eight for the Falcons with Teresa Thorbjornsen adding six, hitting a pair of beautiful three-pointers. ■

Editor's note: Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact him about his Pleasanton Preps column, email acesmag@aol.com.

Wrestler overcomes neck fracture to become EBAL star

BY DENNIS MILLER

Individual sports are the toughest. The athlete stands on an island with no one else responsible for their performance. You succeed or fail based on your ability.

As a result, those who excel in an individual sport are almost always a cut above others in terms of strength and mental toughness.

It takes a special kind of athlete to accomplish success individually.

It takes someone like Livermore wrestler Timothy Cowan.

Cowan is likely the top wrestler in the East Bay Athletic League and is shooting for a spot on the medal stand at the California Interscholastic Federation Championships Feb. 24-26.

But it hasn't been a smooth journey for the Livermore senior.

Cowan started wrestling in the third grade, choosing to follow in the footsteps of his father who wrestled in high school and college. He tried a variety of sports, but it wasn't long before wrestling stepped to the front of the line.

"In sixth grade I fell in love with wrestling," explained Cowan, who is committed to Cal Baptist, a powerful wrestling school that is a NCAA D-I program in Riverside. "I knew that's what I wanted to do."

As a member of the Tri-Valley Elite Wrestling club, Cowan honed his skills throughout middle school and entered high school as a young, but talented freshman.

A couple of months into the season

that all changed.

"My freshman year was crazy," said Cowan. "I got hurt midway through the season when I fractured my neck. The doctor told me not to wrestle again."

This is where the personal resolve kicked in.

"The first thing I said when we got in the car to come home from the doctor was that I wasn't giving up wrestling. I just couldn't give it up."

Cowan turned toward an intensive rehabilitation.

"I went to therapy and put a lot of hard hours in at the gym," explained Cowan. "I had to make my body stronger."

The individual aspect of the sport increased Cowan's drive.

"Being in an individual sport, it is all on me," said Cowan. "You can still rely on your team during the season, but if you put in the work, you can see the results."

By September he was given the green light to return to the mat for his sophomore season. But there was one more hurdle to clear after getting the doctor's blessing.

"It took a lot of convincing of my mom," said Cowan with a laugh. "In the end she knew what it meant to me to be able to wrestle."

Given a second chance Cowan made the most of it, winning the EBAL and North Coast Section title at 145 pounds. He then went 3-2 at the state meet and finished the season with a 41-10 record.

Big expectations were set for his



BRENDA CHAMBERS

Livermore High wrestler Timothy Cowan is back starring for the Cowboys after a neck injury earlier in his career.

junior year when he was hit by another setback — COVID-19.

"That was a bummer," said Cowan of sports being shut down. "It was tough. I was still training, but sometimes you feel like what am I training for."

Fortunately, a couple events came together and once again Cowan took advantage.

There was an unofficial state meet invitation held in Fresno where Cowan finished eighth at 152 pounds. Then he was invited to a showcase put on by USA Wrestling in Iowa. He finished fourth and earned All-American honors.

He drew on past experiences to get through the year.

"Everything I went through my freshman year helped me get through my junior year," said Cowan. "I wouldn't be where I am now without

the injury."

Which brings us to this year.

"I'm just hoping we have a state meet," said Cowan of the uncertain times we live in. "We've had to adapt with all that is going on. I am more disciplined with my weight because meets and tournaments can pop up at any time."

Wrestling at 160, Cowan is 19-3 right now and ranked No. 5 in the state. His losses have come to Mason Espinoza (Buchanan), Daschle Lamer (Crescent Valley, Oregon), and Angelo Posada (Poway - San Diego), the current No. 4 in California.

He has since avenged the loss to Espinoza (No. 6 in the state) and is eager to see Posada again at state.

"Every day when I wake up, I write down that I am going to win state," said Cowan. "You always have to have goals — you need reasons

why you are working so hard. Everything that has happened have been stepping stones for me."

Livermore High is rich in wrestling tradition, having been one of the top programs in California back in the 1980's and 1990's. Cowan is perfectly aware of the legacy.

"It's pretty cool to see the history of the program," said Cowan. "I am hopeful to be able to join those ranks."

To some, he is already there.

Clark Conover is one of the most decorated wrestlers to come out of the Cowboy program. He won multiple EBAL and NCS titles and medaled in the state meet.

After high school he won the California State Junior College Championship at Chabot, then moved on to Cal-Poly where he finished third in the then Pac 10 and advanced to the NCAA Championship.

He came back to Livermore where he coached at cross-town rival Granada. He is currently a vice-principal at the school and had the new wrestling facility at Granada named after him.

While not coaching any longer he still closely follows the sport. He has seen and talked with Cowan and is one of Cowan's biggest fans.

"Tim is one of the very best to come out of Livermore," said Conover. "I can't think of the last time someone like him has come out of Livermore."

Conover doesn't hesitate to tout Cowan's skills.

"The top-end talent is better now than back when I was wrestling," said Conover. "All of our Livermore alumni is behind him." ■



By JULIA BAUM

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series about how the pandemic has affected Tri-Valley public school districts.

Following a two-year stretch of leniency, Pleasanton Unified School District and other Tri-Valley districts face a potentially significant drop in revenue next year if the funding formula doesn't change to take into consideration a decrease in enrollment and effects of the pandemic on attendance.

The state uses average daily attendance (ADA) to calculate how much money each district receives. ADA takes into account not only enrollment but also how many students are in class every day.

Districts were also allowed to use their 2019-20 pre-pandemic attendance and enrollment to calculate their funding for the last two years. But

starting in the fall of 2022, funding is set to return to the enrollment and attendance formula. Because enrollment has declined, and attendance is complicated by pandemic-related quarantine and independent study, this could mean a significant drop in revenue.

"The pandemic has affected enrollment and attendance in school districts across the state, introducing complexities into the process," PUSD Superintendent David Haglund said.

PUSD spokesman Patrick Gannon told the Weekly, "The district has experienced an approximately 800-student drop from pre-pandemic times and are still funded and staffed based on 2019 numbers."

As of Jan. 12, enrollment at PUSD is 14,023 students, which Gannon called "a significant drop from pre-pandemic when we were (approximately) 14,500 to 14,800."

In his recently presented budget, Gov. Gavin

'The pandemic has affected enrollment and attendance in school districts across the state, introducing complexities into the process.'

David Haglund,
PUSD superintendent

Newsom proposes an amendment to how the funding mechanism, Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), apportionment is calculated to consider the greater of a school district's current year, prior year, or the average of three prior years' average daily attendance.

PUSD's absence rate pre-pandemic was approximately 3%. With the recent surge of COVID cases with the omicron variant, absences the first week back from the winter break in January average about 14% of the student population.

LCFF / property tax make up more than 74% of the district's revenue, with property taxes making up about 57% of the total LCFF apportionment.

"Currently we are being funded and, therefore, staffed under pre-pandemic enrollment, which means we're staff based on our enrollment in 2019, and we know that we have a significant drop in enrollment," Gannon said.

According to a Dec. 9 2021/22 budget update to the PUSD board of trustees, if funding is based on current enrollment, PUSD could lose about \$7 million in revenue beginning in 2022/23 due to the enrollment decline, a good portion of its budget. To put this in perspective, the 2021/22 budget is \$190.3 million, which includes roughly \$16.5 million in one-time pandemic-related funding.

However, Gannon said, "It's difficult to put a precise number on the impact to the budget just because there's so much that can change from now to May. All we can do is operate under what we know, which is the guidance that the (Alameda County Office of Education) is giving us, and

that we need to operate under the way we've been funded."

While the district does not know exactly how much money they will lose, Gannon said, "the one thing we do know for certain is that every school district in California and probably the country are going to have to make some staffing adjustments, which is incredibly difficult."

But some changes have already been made according to the Dec. 9 report, which stated, "While the district has made some adjustments to staffing in 2021/22 further right-sizing of staffing will be needed in the coming years."

To mitigate concerns about COVID and help maintain enrollment and attendance numbers, PUSD created Pleasanton Virtual Academy, a supported Independent Study Program that allows students to learn from home while providing the prescribed amount of live instruction required for each grade level.

"PVA provides a robust and flexible learning environment for students that is developed and implemented by our world-class PUSD educators," Haglund said.

Enrollment was already declining at San Ramon Valley Unified School District prior to the pandemic, according to officials.

"We are not looking at things right now through the lens of pre-pandemic versus during, and then post-pandemic," SRVUSD communications director Ilana Israel Samuels said. "As we have been watching this trend in enrollment patterns over the years, we have focused on budgeting effectively and maintaining our high standards for fiscal responsibility."



SRVUSD

A parent volunteer at Bollinger Canyon teaches second-graders how to animate Google slides in December 2021.



COVER STORY

Districts can be affected by budget cuts many ways including layoffs and the elimination of programs and services. The state has assisted districts through recovery this past year, including significant investments in K-12 education, though more ongoing funding has been allocated to districts with more at-risk students.

“For finances during the pandemic, it has of course been very helpful that the legislature has shielded us from revenue losses,” Samuels said. “We are still evaluating the full data on enrollment, but we are hopeful that the disruptions to attendance caused by COVID will begin to lessen soon.”

While ADA is used by the state to calculate the amount of funds paid to school districts each year, State Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) recently introduced Senate Bill 830, which would issue funding based on annual enrollment and bring in \$3 billion for California schools.

SRVUSD has been examining the bill, and “upon our initial evaluation, it is promising that it would provide us with supplemental funding to make up the difference in what we receive currently under LCFF due to lower enrollment,” Samuels said.

The current version of SB 830 includes what SRVUSD calls “a caveat” that districts would be required “... to use at least 50% of (wthis) supplemental education funding to supplement existing (local education agencies) expenditures to address chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy.”

“In a district like ours, where we already do an outstanding job preventing truancy and chronic absenteeism, 50% of the funding earmarked for this purpose would actually not be helpful for us as a solution to funding issues due to declining enrollment,” Samuels said.

After students returned to classrooms in the fall of 2021, attendance was also affected by strict protocols for remote

learning and isolation. Districts without an independent study option for students in quarantine were required to count them as absent, thereby losing attendance-based funding.

Newsom has proposed adding three options to the state budget to calculate funding -- current year enrollment, last year's enrollment, or a rolling three-year average. Based on a preliminary evaluation of Newsom's proposal, Samuels said, “The rolling three-year average would probably be the best option for SRVUSD.”

SRVUSD is still evaluating their current enrollment numbers, including processing independent study contracts for students.

“We have already taken the necessary budget actions to account for less revenue coming in, if it ends up that the state takes no action,” Samuels said. Those actions were shared with the Board of Trustees in the first interim financial report and approved last month.

“We will talk more as time goes on whether further budget adjustments are necessary,” Samuels said. “Overall, it's really too soon to tell how the future will play out, but we are prepared for multiple scenarios.”

Now it's a waiting game to see what happens with SB 830 and Newsom's budget.

“The way California's budget works, our budget planning is backwards because by law we have to provide employees notice if we're going to have to make reductions in March, and we don't know what the budget is actually going to be until May,” Gannon said.

The situation is “nothing new,” Gannon added, “but it puts school districts in a very difficult and uncomfortable spot. We're going to do the best we can and we'll try to think outside the box and be innovative.”

— Gina Channell Wilcox
contributed to this story.

Public school enrollment in California dropped by more than 160,000 between the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. Migration patterns and low birth rates contributed to the annual decline before COVID, but enrollment for kindergarten — which is not mandatory in California — shrank by approximately 61,000 students during the pandemic. Most of the overall enrollment decline is attributed to the kindergarten enrollment decline.

GRAND OPENING WEEKEND
ALMOST FAMOUS WINE LOUNGE
 2271 S VASCO RD, STE D, LIVERMORE, CA 94550

ON VASCO ROAD, IN THE HEART OF LIVERMORE'S URBAN WINE, SPIRITS AND BREWERY DISTRICT.

FRIDAY JAN. 28
WESTERN SWING
 CAROLYN SILLS COMBO
 w/ opener AARON BURNHAM
 DOORS 6PM | SHOW 7:30PM
 \$10 ADVANCE | \$15 DOOR

SATURDAY JAN. 29
BLUEGRASS
 AJ LEE & BLUE SUMMIT
 DOORS 6PM | SHOW 7:30PM
 \$20 ADVANCE | \$25 DOOR

+ check our calendar for more upcoming shows including our FREE THURSDAY live music series

TASTING ROOM HOURS THUR-SUN, 12-5 PM
 ALL SHOWS 21+ | TICKETS AT WWW.ALMOStFAMOUS.WINE | 925.344.5870

HIRED HANDS INC. Homecare
 Family owned and operated since 1994

2021 PLEASANTON WEEKLY Readers' Choice

Where the Client-Caregiver Relationship is Everything.

1994-2019
HIRED HANDS INC. Homecare
25 years
 Working With Bay Area Seniors
 CA License# 214700014

925-621-7650
 HIREDHANDSHOMECARE.COM

LIVERMORE — arts — BANKHEAD THEATER
WED FEB 9 @ 7:30 PM

Rockapella
 “Some say the best musical instrument of all is the human voice – if you've seen Rockapella you know that's the truth.” —USA Today

PIAF! THE SHOW
 “Miraculously captures Piaf's soul and timbre” — The New York Times
MON FEB 14 @ 7:30 PM

GET TICKETS NOW
LivermoreArts.org
 925.373.6800 | 2400 First Street, Livermore

Teen brings drag culture to the Tri-Valley

'Anybody can come to a drag show and feel welcome and included'

By CIERRA BAILEY

A 17-year-old senior at Amador Valley High School is introducing new audiences to drag culture by organizing and hosting monthly drag show events in Dublin.

Brock Uhl said that attending his first drag show with his mom in Alameda last June was a life-changing experience for him. "After my first drag show, I fell in love," he said.

At the time, he said he was the brand ambassador for World of Beer in Dublin and was involved in marketing and event planning. He said upon seeing drag for the first time, he immediately wanted to figure out how to bring the show to the restaurant and help popularize drag culture in the Tri-Valley.

"We have the LGBTQ community but I feel like it's a very hidden community, especially with a lot of the things we do," Uhl said. "So, by publicizing drag, my angle is to make attending drag shows as common as going to the movies or going to mini-golf."

Uhl said drag shows are a safe space for all walks of life.

"It's a space for people of all backgrounds and all identities, not just identities labeled LGBTQ, but anybody can come to a drag show and feel welcome and included and just leave the show with a smile on your face," he added.

After the show he attended, Uhl connected with one of the performers and organizers, Ava Lashay, who also happened to be a Tri-Valley native — and the rest was history. "It was really cool to bring Ava home to perform," Uhl said.

Since then, Uhl has successfully hosted a total of seven local shows, with the first five at World of Beer and the last two at Casa Orozco in Dublin.

Although he ran into a few challenges along the way, including COVID-19 restrictions, personal obstacles and World of Beer's decision in December to no longer allow the shows to be held at their establishment, Uhl said that he "never takes no for an answer."



COURTESY OF BROCK UHL

Above: Drag night performances are a form of live entertainment featuring various acts, including song, dance, stunts and skits. Performers from left: Iconica, MizzBee Hiven, Rosie Petals, Nia Politan, Hera Wynn and Ava LaShay. **Below:** Brock Uhl (crouched, front center) says his monthly drag show events in the Tri-Valley are "a safe space for people of all backgrounds and all identities."

"No' is like the death of me and I will find any loophole to turn it into a 'yes,'" Uhl said. "Ever since I was a kid, anytime I had a situation where I was told 'no,' I'd find a backup option," he added.

His own fortitude, bolstered by some encouragement from his mom, led him on a search for a new venue with less than a week before his sixth show that was already sold out. His quest ultimately led him to Casa Orozco. He said he received a call from one of the restaurant's co-owners and founders, Jesus Orozco, saying he was interested in learning more about the show. About an hour after they hung up, Uhl said Orozco called him back and told him, "It's a go."

While he didn't have all of the same resources and staffing available to him that he had at World of Beer, Uhl said he was able to rent a sound system from his school, rush order other

equipment and gather friends from school to help set everything up to bring the show to life at Casa Orozco.

"That was the most empowering moment for me — getting that show put together in such a short time," Uhl said. "I grew so much as a person by realizing that when one door closes, there are so many other doors that you can find and you just have to go knocking on every single one."

Uhl said drag shows are a form of entertainment intended to make people happy and that's why he's so enamored with them because he said that seeing other peoples' joy brings him joy in return.

"For me, my passion is helping people and putting smiles on peoples' faces. It's super meaningful just to make a little tiny impact on somebody's day," Uhl said, adding that his future dream job is to do event planning for Disney.



While he said the turnouts for his shows have been great so far, his goal is to expand the audience even further. "A lot of people don't know what drag is and a lot of people have never experienced a drag show," he said, adding that he wants to change that. "I want everybody to know it's there."

One of his goals for the near future, he said, is to connect with Livermore Pride and potentially collaborate with the organization.

Uhl's next drag night is planned for Feb. 16, where he said he will also be celebrating his 18th birthday which is on Feb. 15. Learn more by visiting "Events By Brock" on Facebook. ■

Wine & Valentines to support Museum on Main

15th annual fundraiser will again be held virtually

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Museum on Main's 15th annual Wines & Valentines fundraiser will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 11 to include live and silent auctions, a Fund-A-Need drive and games. The benefit will be virtual again due to the pandemic instead of the traditional in-person event at The Club at Castlewood.

"While we will miss being in-person and the unique 2-bit quarter auction this year, we are excited for the unique opportunities a virtual event provides," Executive Director Jim DeMersman said. "And for those wondering what to do with their quarters, save them for our 2023 Wines and Valentines."

The good news, he pointed out, is that the online event allows people to participate from locations outside Pleasanton — and from the comfort of their own homes.

The silent auction is open to anyone who wants to bid and begins at 6 a.m. Tuesday (Feb. 1), running until 6:45 p.m. the day of the event.

The live auction will be held during the event, available only to ticketed participants.

Items in both auctions can be previewed in advance by visiting the event page at PayBee, which is also accessible through www.museumonmain.org.

The museum's Fund-A-Need campaign this year again focuses on

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

Museum on Main is partnering with PayBee and Charity Works to produce this virtual event, and Republic Urban Properties and First Republic Bank are its Sweetheart Sponsors.

Tickets for the 2022 Wines & Valentines are \$50 per person. For more information, visit www.museumonmain.org or call 462-2776. The museum is located at 603 Main St. in downtown Pleasanton. ■



CHARLOTTE SEVERIN

Paintings by Charlotte Severin illustrate the changing scene outside her window at Yosemite Valley Lodge in December.

Severin speaking to Alamo-Danville artists

Snow in Yosemite inspires art, demonstration

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Pleasanton artist Charlotte Severin will be the featured speaker next month at the meeting of the Alamo Danville Artists' Society. Severin, who teaches Art Made Easy classes for the city of Pleasanton, will give a demonstration on painting snow on a full-sized sheet of yupo paper.

Severin recalled staying at Yosemite Valley Lodge in mid-December on a painting trip with a friend. On their first afternoon, they painted the outdoor scene from the comfort of their room.

"We had a view out of the lodge on the edge of the meadow, by the Merced River," Severin said. "Then it snowed all night and changed our view completely."

Her paintings from the second day illustrate the drastic change of scenery plus how she effectively painted the new-fallen snow.

Severin, who is a signature member of the California Watercolor Association, has had more than 30 solo shows and had led painting trips throughout California and overseas.

The ADAS meeting, which is open to the public, begins at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., in Alamo. For more information, visit adas4art.org. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Blues in the Night' at Firehouse

The Firehouse Arts Center is welcoming two popular Bay Area performers for "Blues in the Night" next Saturday (Feb. 5). Tia Carroll, named Female Blues Vocalist of the Year by the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame, grew up in Richmond, started out as a rock 'n' roll singer with a band called Yakety Yak, and went on to headline venues all over the world. Joining her is Delta Blues Star Frankie G, a blues guitar player in Antioch for more than 20 years who headed the East Bay band Killin' Floor for nine years. He also produces the annual Delta Blues Festival to raise funds for scholarships. Tickets for "Blues in the Night" are \$18-\$28. Go to www.firehousearts.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Night Owl" by Judy Clement Wall.

Art, poetry 'Side by Side' at Bankhead Gallery

Exhibit 'will sing to the heart,' says visual arts manager

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Artists and writers have collaborated to produce "Double Take: Art and Literature Side by Side," which opened last week at the Bankhead Theater Gallery. The exhibit blends the works of Tri-Valley artists, poets and writers, providing an experience to inspire multiple senses.

"The artwork on display will sing to the heart, evoke a flair for the dramatic, wax lyric, and offer a rhythmic cadence," visual arts manager Anne Giancola commented.

Livermore poet laureate Cynthia Patton worked with Livermore Arts on the exhibit, which has a poem or short verse framed and on display next to the art that it inspired. Or, in some cases, the artwork was inspired by a poem created for the artist.

Called an ekphrastic event, the poems on display

are vivid descriptions of a work of art. Through the imaginative act of narrating and reflecting on the "action" of a painting or drawing, the poet may amplify and expand its meaning.

Some of the art has a phrase or poem embedded, while a few of the pieces are close collaborations between artist and poet, reflecting a personal as well as an artistic relationship.

The exhibit closes March 27. A closing reception, free and open to the public, will take place from 1-3:30 p.m. March 19.

The Bankhead Theater Gallery is located in the lobby of the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. It is open from 1-5 p.m. Thursdays to Sundays plus available to patrons during performances.

For information about other events at the Bankhead Theater, visit www.LivermoreArts.org. ■

Talks

RAE DOROUGH SPEAKER SERIES

PRESENTS PETER SAGAL Peter Sagal has filled theaters across the country with "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!" since he joined the cast and became host in 1998. Peter speaks about the intersections of politics, civics, humor and entertainment and how they all draw from each other to create the American experience. 8 p.m., Jan. 28. Tickets \$20-\$95. Bankhead Theater. Visit livmorearts.org.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH THOMAS JEFFERSON Ed Kinney Speaker Series presents: Thomas Jefferson. Draftsman of the Declaration of Independence, he was the nation's first secretary of state, second vice president and third president. 2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Feb. 1. Tickets \$15-\$25. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit museumonmain.org.

LIVERMORE AMADOR GARDEN CLUB The regular monthly meetings of the Livermore Amador Garden Club are now on Zoom. The next meeting is Feb. 10. Visit lavgc.org.

HOPE HOSPICE WEBINAR The webinar "Navigating the Healthcare Environment and Advocating for Your Loved One" will help you understand your rights and learn to communicate effectively with healthcare professionals. 10-11:30

p.m., Feb. 10. Register for this free seminar at hopehospice.com.

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS Join Linda & Carl Sullivan as they take you on their colorful, crazy, quilt journey and their current obsession for pure color. Lots of show & tell and lots of quilts. 1:30-4 p.m., Feb. 12. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

WEBINAR MENTAL HEALTH LECTURE SERIES In this free Alan Hu Foundation webinar, "Promoting Psychological Health and Well-being Among Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder", Dr. Somer Bishop will discuss recent findings about depression in ASD, as well as potential new avenues for improving psychological health and well-being among adolescents and adults on the autism spectrum. 6:30-7:30, Feb. 15. Register by Feb. 14 at: alanhufoundation.org/events.

PLEASANTON TOASTMASTERS CLUB Toastmasters International, established in 1924, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to helping members improve their communication and leadership skills. Join online every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm. For more information visit pleasanton.toastmastersclubs.org.

Music

DEL VALLE FINE ARTS PRESENTS JON NAKAMATSU Jon Nakamatsu

soared to fame in 1997 as winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. A sought-after guest soloist, he has performed with such renowned orchestras as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berlin, Milan and Tokyo. 7:30, Feb. 5. Tickets \$16-\$52. Bankhead Theater. Visit livmorearts.org.

BLUES IN THE NIGHT, AN EVENING WITH TIA CARROLL AND FRANKIE G Let the voice of the Female Blues Vocalist of the Year Tia Carroll and the blistering guitar & vocals of Delta Blues Star Frankie G cure what ails you in this one-night-only musical event at the Firehouse Arts Center. 8 p.m., Feb. 5. Tickets \$18-\$28. Visit firehousearts.org.

ROCKAPELLA AT THE BANKHEAD Making a welcome fourth visit to the Bankhead, Rockapella will rock the house with just one instrument, their voices, but with an astonishing full-band sound. 7:30 p.m., Feb. 9. Tickets \$20-\$78. Visit livmorearts.org.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY Livermore-Amador Symphony Presents, The Brilliance of Youth, at the Bankhead Theatre. Discover the artistry and musical expression of extraordinary young performers from right here in our own backyard. 8 p.m., Feb. 12. Tickets \$12-\$37. Visit livmorearts.org.

YOUTH CHOIR REGISTRATION Register your child to sing with the East Bay Musical Society this Spring. The youth choir is open to anyone 14 years of age or younger. Rehearsals will be held February 10 -May 12. Visit eastbaymusicals.org.

Black History Month

LIVERMORE LIBRARY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH Books specifically written by Black authors will be honored in this special book display intended to introduce readers to Black authors with whom they might not be familiar. Book displays are available at all locations.

BLACK AUTHORS DISCUSS THE POWER OF STORYTELLING In celebration of Black History Month, the Livermore Public Library will host a conversation, via Zoom, on the power of storytelling with award-winning and local author Tina Jones Williams moderating the panel conversation. 7 p.m., Feb. 8. Access this link to view the live program: us02web.zoom.us/j/87826493999.

BLACK HISTORY JEOPARDY! Join the Livermore Public Library to play virtual Black History Jeopardy! Answer trivia questions that highlight Black excellence in a variety of fields. Special prizes will be offered to the winners. 7 p.m., Feb. 9. Visit us02web.zoom.us/j/86180536755.

VIRTUAL TALK WITH BLACK VINTNERS In celebration of Black History Month, the Livermore Public Library will host a talk and Q & A session with vintners Aaliyah Nitoto (founder of Free Range Flower Winery) and Phil Long (founder of

PET OF THE WEEK



TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE

Cookie

Cookie is a 13-pound Miniature Pinscher mix, a fun combination of inquisitive explorer and world class cuddler. She's a peppy little girl who loves to play and to thoroughly check out her surroundings, often dancing around on her hind legs. But when it's time to snuggle, she's right by your side. Cookie is 2-3 years old, house trained and crate trained. She gets along with other dogs but likely wouldn't mind being the only focus of her humans' attention. She is spayed, current on vaccines and microchipped. Visit tvar.org.

Longevity Wines). 7 p.m., Feb. 16. No registration is required. Visit: us02web.zoom.us/j/89765525755.

Exhibits

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE/MUSEUM ON MAIN EXHIBIT Pleasanton's Museum on Main and the Pleasanton Art League open their fourteenth annual showcase of the Valley's artistic talents with "Imagination Expressed 2022", featuring paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, jewelry and other works by members of the Pleasanton Art League. Through March 26. Visit museumonmain.org.

WATERCOLOR NATIONAL EXHIBIT The Harrington Art Gallery in Pleasanton is displaying the California Watercolor Association's 52nd National Exhibition featuring works by 85 premier painters. The exhibit runs through March 12. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

ART & LITERATURE TOGETHER Livermore Arts presents a collaboration with Cynthia Patton, Livermore Poet Laureate, to bring a pairing of art and literature to Livermore. The artwork on display will sing to the heart, evoke a flair for the dramatic, wax lyric and offer a rhythmic cadence. Free and open to the public, Thursdays - Sundays 1-5 p.m., through March 27. Bankhead Theater.

Festivals

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION Livermore Arts celebrates Lunar New Year Celebration-Year of the Tiger, through traditional Asian dances, cultural demonstrations, food and crafts. Free. 11 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Jan. 29. Bankhead Plaza.

Outdoor Recreation

RANGER-LED PROGRAMS-THE GRAY WOLF Join Ranger Dan and learn about the largest member of the canine family in North America, the Gray Wolf. 2 p.m., Jan. 30. RSVP at 925-960-2400 or dthomas@larpd.org. Sycamore Grove Park, 5035 Arroyo Rd., Livermore.

TRAIL BUILDING AT SYCAMORE GROVE Work with LARPD Rangers to prep the new 2 mile trail on the Patterson Ranch property. Must be at least 18 years old (14-17 okay with accompanying adult). 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 5. Visit larpd.org/volunteer.

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell Wilcox, Ext. 1171

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 1172

Tri Valley Life Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Livermore Vine Editor

Cierra Bailey, Ext. 6528

Editor Emeritus

Jeb Bing

Staff Reporters

Julia Baum, Ext. 1176

Jeanita Lyman, Ext. 1179

Contributors

Tim Hunt, Dennis Miller, Nancy Lewis, Chuck Deckert

ART & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown

Designers

Linda Atilano, Kevin Legnon, Paul Llewellyn, Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 1177

Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 1173

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 1178

Administrative Associate

Carolyn Chan, Ext. 1174

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation email:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

Employment

Senior DevOps Engineer

Safeway Inc. is hiring Senior DevOps Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. Subj. to bckgrnd check. E.O.E. Email resume to TA.Perm. Project@albertsons.com. Attn: A. Rivas

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

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Shape Up
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 585406

The following person doing business as: Shape Up, 5757 Sonoma Drive, Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Shapeuppleasanton LLC, 5637 San Carlos Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Shapeuppleasanton LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein October 1, 2021. Signature of Registrant: Shapeuppleasanton LLC, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 30, 2021. (Pleasanton Weekly, January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 2022.)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

Deadline is Monday at noon.

Call Gina Channell at 925-600-0840 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.



Real Estate Drought Means Another Hot Year for Buyers and Sellers

By DAVID STARK

Just as the continuing drought means warm days ahead, an ongoing drought in Pleasanton real estate means more hot market conditions.



David Stark

The heat comes from another year of limited choices for homebuyers throughout the East Bay and particularly in Pleasanton.

During 2021, the average number of homes listed for sale each month in the East Bay and in Pleasanton was at a five-year low. The lack of inventory was a result of few existing homes being placed on the market and limited new residential construction. Other factors, some global and some local, also contributed to the scarcity of homes for sale.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic meant many Pleasanton residents were working from home. For current Pleasanton homeowners, not having to endure a long commute to offices in the South Bay or Peninsula made living in Pleasanton even more attractive and made them less inclined to consider a move.

Simultaneously, Pleasanton homeowners

wanting to move during 2021 also realized they would be competing with many other buyers in a limited-inventory market.

Both factors resulted in current homeowners staying home, literally, during 2021, which meant few homes for sale in Pleasanton.

The handful of new residential projects underway or completed in Pleasanton during 2021 were unable to bust the drought and the demand for homeownership simply outpaced supply. Sales prices during these drought conditions set new records. The median sales price for a single-family detached home in Pleasanton during 2021 was more than \$1.6 million: a 31% increase compared with 2020.

Buyers had a surprising response to limited choices and high prices: they bought homes and bought them quickly.

Two factors contributed to strong home sales activity and short days-on-market: low mortgage interest rates and high bank balances. While some economists predicted interest rates will rise in response to inflation, throughout 2021, rates were still relatively low. Monthly payments for million-dollar homes in Pleasanton were reasonable enough



GETTY IMAGES

for buyers to go shopping.

They also had their own resources. One side effect from COVID-19 was many potential buyers did not take vacations or dine out during 2020 and 2021. This allowed them to save money for down payments.

Homebuyers were prepared when they entered the competitive Pleasanton real estate market during 2021. Their enthusiasm drove sales activity to a five-year high. There were 861 single-family detached homes sold in Pleasanton during 2021 compared with 686 during 2020.

Another factor that led to more homes being sold during 2021 is that buyers and sellers did not need to take a COVID-19 "time out." During the early spring of 2020, homebuyers and sellers had to wait for real estate activities to be deemed "essential," which wiped out several weeks of potential home sales just as the real estate season should have been accelerating. Buyers and sellers didn't have a similar pause during 2021 which helps explain the increase in home sales.

See MARKET on Page 18

THE LATEST AND GREATEST FROM ARRIVE REAL ESTATE GROUP



JUST SOLD!

3706 CROFTERS CT

Sometimes selling off market is in the best interest of the seller! Congrats to our sellers as they prepare for sunny days in Arizona.

COMING SOON FROM ARRIVE

We are working diligently with our sellers preparing homes for the market located in **Pleasanton Meadows** and **Del Prado**. Contact us today for details and timing regarding these gorgeous homes!



KATIE MOE

Founding Partner | Realtor
925.216.9083 | DRE #01507863
katie@arriveregroup.com



ARRIVE
REAL ESTATE GROUP

Looking to buy or sell,
we've got you covered.
Just ask Katie Moe



MOHSENI
REAL ESTATE GROUP
EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY SINCE 1999

\$125M+
volume since 2019
119
transactions
since 2019
41+
years of
local experience

Don't Miss The Boat, Sell in 2022

According to experts, interest rates are on the rise, prices are at an all time high and now is the time to sell. If you are considering moving soon, connect with us to:

- Learn the value of your property in today's RED hot market
 - Benefit from our no interest no fee loan Concierge program to spruce up your house and sell for a premium
 - Learn more about our bridge loan program to help you purchase your next home prior to the sale of your current
 - Get recommendation of qualified licensed & approved contractors to freshen up your house prior to sale
 - Find a real estate professional in other areas you may be considering to relocate in advance.
 - Work with us, work with the end in mind. Hear unbiased pros and cons
- We highly respect your privacy and safety in today's environment and hold our meeting confidential and if preferred, virtually.

As a thank you for your support over the past two decades, we are offering an absolutely no obligation consultation to any local sellers interested to know more about the current market condition. Give us a call today at 925.580.8011 or send us a text to book an appointment today... no sales pitch, no pressure, just good information. **references available from our past clients. **



3490 Hibernia Drive, Brookside, Dublin
3BD, 2.5BA, 1610sf. Brookside Townhome
Listed @ \$998,800
Pending with Multiple Offers
Call Steve at 925.580.8011 for more information.



2188 Donnell Lane, Jordan Ranch, Dublin
4BD, 3.5BA, 2082sf SFR
Just Listed! Impeccable, built in 2017
Offered @ \$1,399,000
Call Steve @ 925.580.8011 for a private showing or make an offer

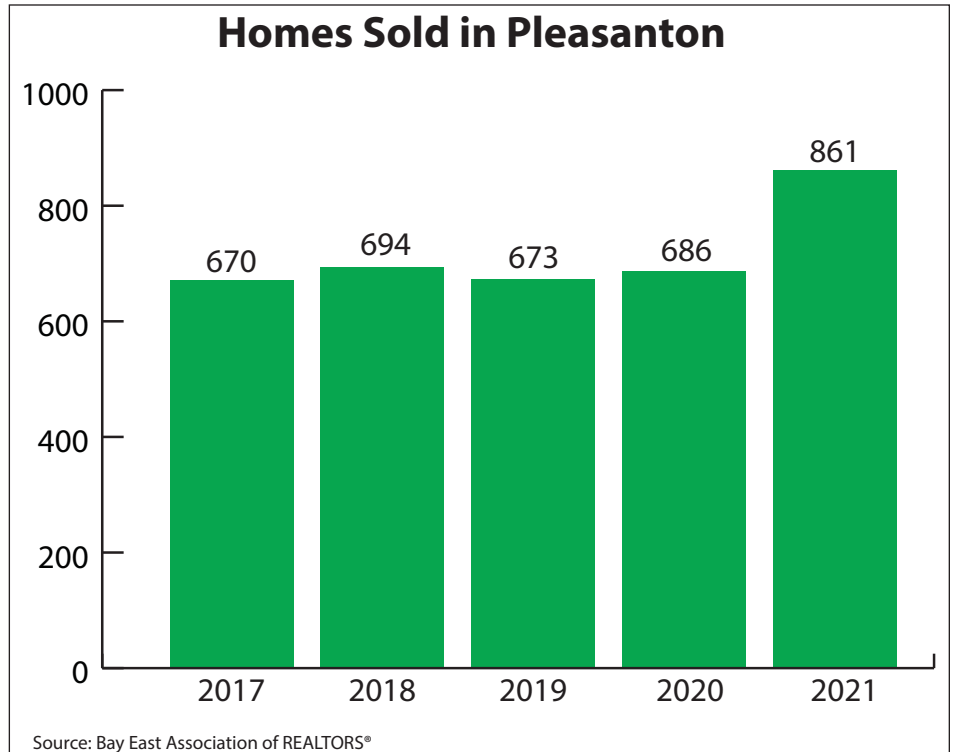


706 W. Sunnyside Ave, Campbell
5BD, 3BA, 2745sf SFR
3-Car garage, Built in 1996
Listed @ \$2.189M - Received pre-emptive
Call Steve @ 925.580.8011 to sell yours



11640 Fenwick Place, West Dublin
3BD, 2BA, 3-car Garage,
1589sf cosmetic fixer
Listed @ \$1.188M
Sold with 23 offers @ \$1.575M
Call Steve @ 925.580.8011 to sell yours

COMPASS 925.400.7533 | BayAreaHomeFinder.com
support@bayareahomefinder.com | DRE 01267039



KRISTIN BROWN

MARKET

Continued from Page 17

Buyers entered the market early during 2021 to quickly scoop up the few homes on the market. A home was listed for sale in Pleasanton last year for only 14 days during 2021 compared with 26 days during 2020. This fast pace indicates home buyers were not scared of high prices.

Real estate economists predict more drought conditions and a resulting hot market during 2022. Rising inflation and potentially higher

mortgage interest rates may take some buyers out of the market but demand will remain strong.

Current Pleasanton residents have enjoyed the benefits of working from home in a community that makes "stay-cations" feasible and enjoyable. Those conditions will continue during 2022, which may mean another year of limited choices for home buyers and high sales prices. ■

Editor's note: David Stark is Chief Public Affairs Officer for the Bay East Association of Realtors, based in Pleasanton.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Dec. 1-7 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol and Dublin and Dec. 20-23 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 6202 Alvord Way** L. Vaughn to J. & M. Nimbargi for \$1,325,000
- 424 Amador Court** Sullivan Trust to R. & A. Zysk for \$1,175,000
- 1303 Benedict Court** R. & B. Mcgaughy to R. & S. Mehta for \$3,365,000
- 206 Birch Creek Drive** E. Han to K. Chu for \$790,000
- 4531 Carver Court** G. & C. Ratto to Bay Area Executive Re & Dev Gr for \$1,100,000
- 6929 Corte Monterey** T. Butler to A. & J. Kota for \$1,950,000
- 4731 Corwin Court** P. Leone to Ab Housepert LLC for \$1,100,000
- 2872 El Capitan Drive** Z. Dooley to Y. & X. Huang for \$1,150,000
- 8132 Ensenada Drive #1** Robert Trust to Y. Cleaves for \$490,000
- 7894 Flagstone Drive** Castle Family Trust to D. & G. Annesse for \$1,855,000
- 4134 Francisco Street** Feimer Living Trust to N. & A. Maddula for \$1,355,000
- 5232 Golden Road** Augusta Trust to L. Wang for \$780,000
- 3616 Hawaii Court** M. & H. Hunt to K. & V. Gellanki for \$1,410,000
- 6538 Inglewood Drive** J. Song to R. & X. Wang for \$1,565,000
- 2570 Larricket Court** C. Ginn to Huang Family Trust for \$2,050,000
- 2793 Longspur Way** Smith Family Trust to S. & R. Subbagari for \$1,785,000
- 4002 Payne Road** Halsey Trust to S. & S. Sambaraju for \$1,585,000
- 7380 Stonedale Drive** M. Cheng to V. Gupta for \$1,137,500
- 3648 Terrazzo Court** Heidari Trust to Mirza Living Trust for \$3,000,000
- 7229 Valley Trails Drive** Soleta Trust to R. & V. Balasubramanyam for \$1,600,000

1880 Via Di Salerno Cerrato Trust to Ashunit Living Trust for \$4,400,000

Livermore

- 867 Alison Circle** Zupan Trust to S. & A. Das for \$1,300,000
- 745 Anna Maria Street** P. & G. Babel to V. & S. Rengasamy for \$1,120,000
- 105 Apricot Street** M. Faris to Y. & S. Park for \$944,000
- 902 Bellflower Street** B. & J. Vogel to E. & S. Pallesen for \$947,000
- 1342 Berlin Way** J. & S. Mutz to R. & B. Pollock for \$1,350,000
- 5375 Bianca Way** Massucco 2006 Trust to T. & N. Doshi for \$1,450,000
- 3916 California Way** K. & K. Wicks to Jarnagin Trust for \$450,000

Source: California REsource

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

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DUBLIN

2188 Donnell Lane **\$1,399,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 4BD/3.SBA
Compass 925-580-8011


PLEASANTON

7118 Corte Balboa **\$1,549,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-3:00 4BD/2.5BA
Venture Sotheby's International Realty 925-872-7761

*Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).
Agents: Submit open homes at
PleasantonWeekly.com/real_estate*

Tri-Valley Real Estate

7891 Perry Lane

-  5 Bedroom
-  3 Bathroom
- 2,538+/- Sq. Ft.
- .30+/- acre lot
- 7891Perry.com
- Appointment only

Listed at
\$2,049,000



JUST LISTED



WISHING OUR
CLIENTS & FRIENDS
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE
Murtagh
TEAM

MURTAGHREALESTATE.COM

COMPASS

Julia Murtagh | 925.997.2411

Lic. # 01751854

VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE



Keller Williams Tri Valley Realty is Celebrating our BEST year yet!
We are honored to be part of such an amazing company and contribute to that success!

1500
Families Served

\$1.71B
Total Sales

Market Share
10.1%
#1 in the Tri Valley!



The Venema Homes Team has been at the forefront of selling luxury homes in Pleasanton for many years. The team's shining qualities include their relentless work ethic, their kindness and enthusiasm for every client. Every buyer and seller they work for is treated with the utmost respect and white glove treatment. Just this year alone, this powerhouse team of women have garnered several awards and sold over \$122 Million in Real Estate. Team owner, Liz Venema, was one of the Top 1% of agents in the Northern California and Hawaii region of Keller Williams. The team was voted Pleasanton Weekly's Readers' Choice winners for Best Real Estate Team. They are also one of the Leading 100 real estate teams in the San Francisco Bay Area.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR Code for a FREE Home Valuation!



Liz Venema
Owner, Realtor
(925) 413-6544



Amanda Davlin
Director of Operations
(925) 922-1619



Alexis Venema
Realtor
(925) 963-5446



Lisa Desmond
Realtor, Listing Manager
(925) 352-5065



Michele Kroger
Realtor
(925) 785-3134



Sabrina Tirado
Realtor
(925) 578-4303



Bhavna Manning
Realtor
(925) 998-2388



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

VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE



482 Sangro Court, Pleasanton | Listed at \$2,295,000

Highest Price Ever Achieved In The Neighborhood. Wow!

PENDING for \$300k+ Over Ask Price With 11 Offers & 200+ Buyer Showings In 5 Days.



387 Lone Oak Court, Pleasanton

100+ Buyers Through The Open House!
3 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,653 sqft
\$1,449,000

2756 Curry Street, Pleasanton

3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,820 sqft
Call for pricing

1352 Harvest Road, Pleasanton

4 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,146 sqft
Call for pricing



337 Yearling Court, Pleasanton
Sold at \$4,200,000

Client Testimonial

"We did a lot of research before picking a real estate team and selected the top five in Pleasanton to interview. Liz was on vacation at the time but she sent Michelle for the interview and joined via Zoom. I was impressed about the fact that she took the time to set aside her vacation for us. Liz immediately alleviated the stressors that came with selling a house. She organized the stager, the general contractor, and everything. I've sold a couple homes before and it had never been so seamless. 100% without a doubt would refer Liz to family and friends. There isn't a day that has gone by in this process where my husband and I don't look at each other and say, 'Thank God we picked Liz'. We got top dollar for our home because of Liz and are very happy with the decision we made."

-Anne Whitaker, Yearling Seller

Highest Sale in the Neighborhood Ever Achieved!

Google, Zillow, & Yelp! Thank you!



VENEMA HOMES TEAM



sereno

Welcome 2022.

Sereno is proud to be the largest, locally owned and operated, independent real estate company in Northern California. We look forward to working with you as another prosperous year unfolds.

Join our journey: sereno.com

EAST BAY | SF PENINSULA | SILICON VALLEY | SANTA CRUZ | TAHOE | SIERRA FOOTHILLS



A Team That Speaks Your Language

Our Mission is to guide you throughout the home buying and selling process to ensure that your experience is as seamless and stress-free as possible.

We are committed to providing the highest level of quality service to all of our clients!

usfineliving.com

Top 1%
Nationwide

47+
Years Real Estate Experience

750+
Properties Listed and Sold

117%
Sales vs. List Price

\$750+ Million
Successful Real Estate Closings

“

I recently listed a property in Pleasanton with Uwe and Sonali. The experience was overwhelmingly positive! Their marketing strategy resulted in multiple offers received very shortly after the listing. They were always available to advise me and to guide me through the complexities of the paperwork involved with the sale. The property sold over list price and to buyers whom I consider a perfect fit for the property. They made the experience far less stressful than I expected it to be. I consider them friends and will definitely use their services again!

- Satisfied Seller, 1/24/2022

”

\$73M Sold + 41 Happy New Clients!

Thank you to all of our clients for your loyalty and support in 2021!

Uwe Maercz
Broker Associate
925.360.8758
uwe.maercz@compass.com
DRE 01390383

Sonali Sethna
Broker Associate
925.525.2569
sonali.sethna@compass.com
DRE 01194792



Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate.

Just Listed: Pleasanton



1846 Tanglewood Way, Pleasanton
 4 BD | 2 BBA | 2,146 SqFt. | The Holiday model | side yard access. A one-story home offers the highly sought after design with an open concept, located in the Pleasanton Valley neighborhood.
Listed at \$1,625,000

Did you know

- Bathroom Trends Study, found homeowners are updating to a luxury-spa design.
- Kitchen renovations show off Engineered quartz remains the most popular material. While granite remains the second-most popular material.
- Existing home sales rose 23% from 2020.
- Inventory is at a 4 year low.

Call Kris to help you prepare your home for this sellers market.



"I've known Kris for many years. She is a very reliable and responsible person who gets the job done in a professional manner. She is very prompt and her response time is quick. Being sensitive to your personal needs is what I like most! Kris is friendly, outgoing and you will be very satisfied working together with her!"

– Elizabeth

Sold
Representing the Buyers

682 Alameda, Livermore
 This Livermore home welcomes my buyers, thrilled to call this house their own. This highly updated home with a modern design offers 4 BD and 3 BA with custom features throughout.



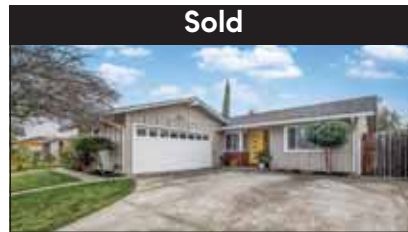
Pending

Livermore
 3 BD | 2 BA | open beam ceiling family room | 1,344 SqFt. | side yard access.
Listed at \$1,070,000



Sold

284 Mavis Dr., Pleasanton
 3 BD | 2.5 BA | 1,249 SqFt.
Listed at \$1,090,000
Sold at \$1,112,000



Sold

1598 Bluebell Dr., Livermore
 2 BD | 2 BA | 1,280 SqFt.
Listed at \$895,000
Sold at \$962,000



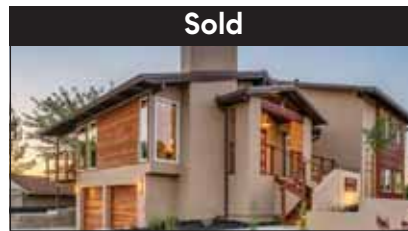
Sold

4550 Gatetree Cir., Pleasanton
 4 BD | 2 BA | 1,808 SqFt. of living space
Listed at \$1,515,000
Sold at \$1,815,000



Sold

4686 Sutter Gate Ave., Pleasanton
 3 BD | 2 BA plus an office | 1,963 SqFt.
Listed at \$1,585,000
Sold at \$1,685,000



Sold

4241 Bevilacqua Ct. Pleasanton
 4 BD | 3 BA | 2,253 SqFt. of living space
Listed at \$1,890,000
Sold at \$1,940,000

Coming Soon



*I would enjoy advertising your home in my next ad.
 Just call Kris.*



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



Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

