

Pleasanton Weekly

Costco ready to start key roadwork

Page 6

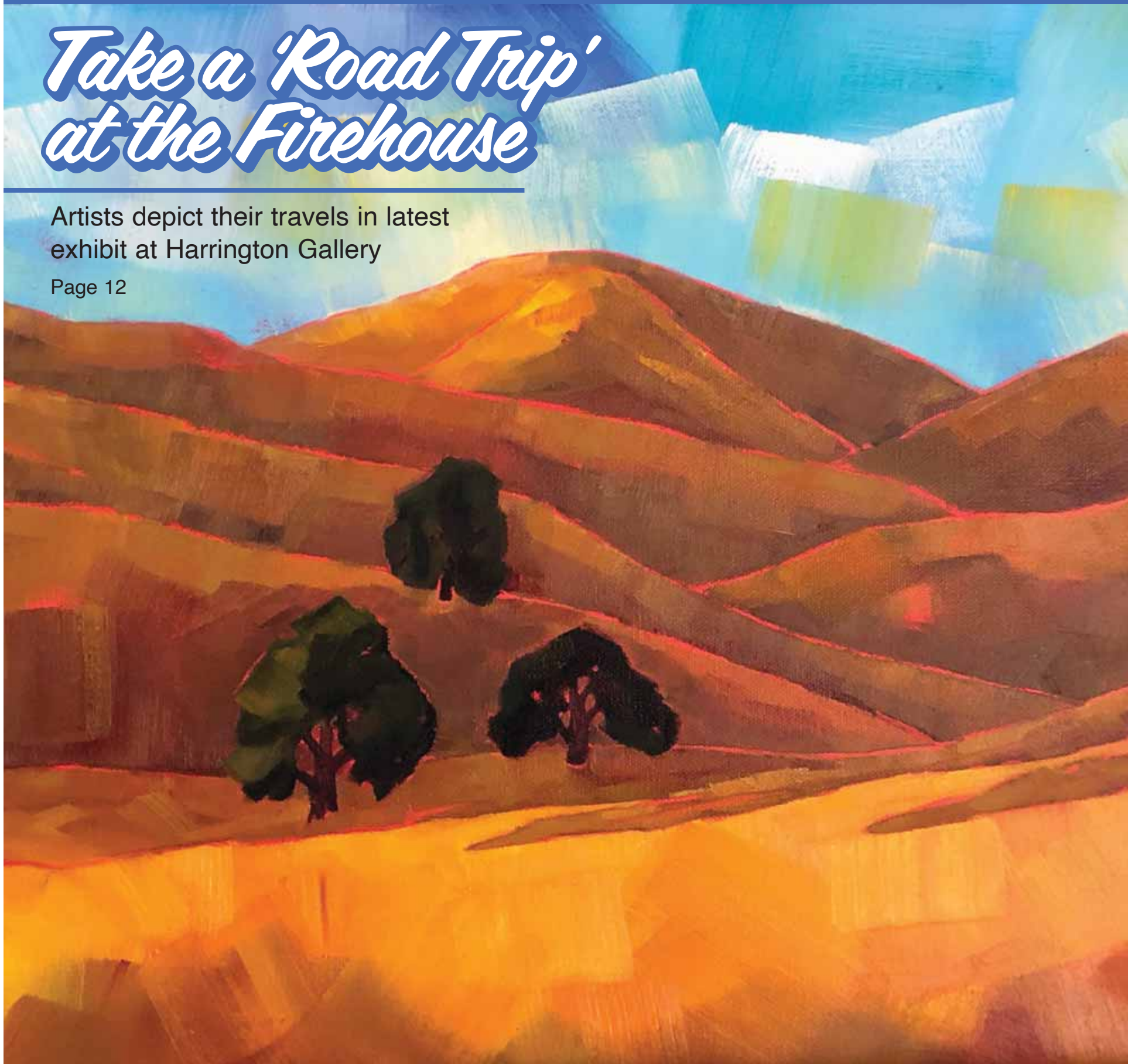
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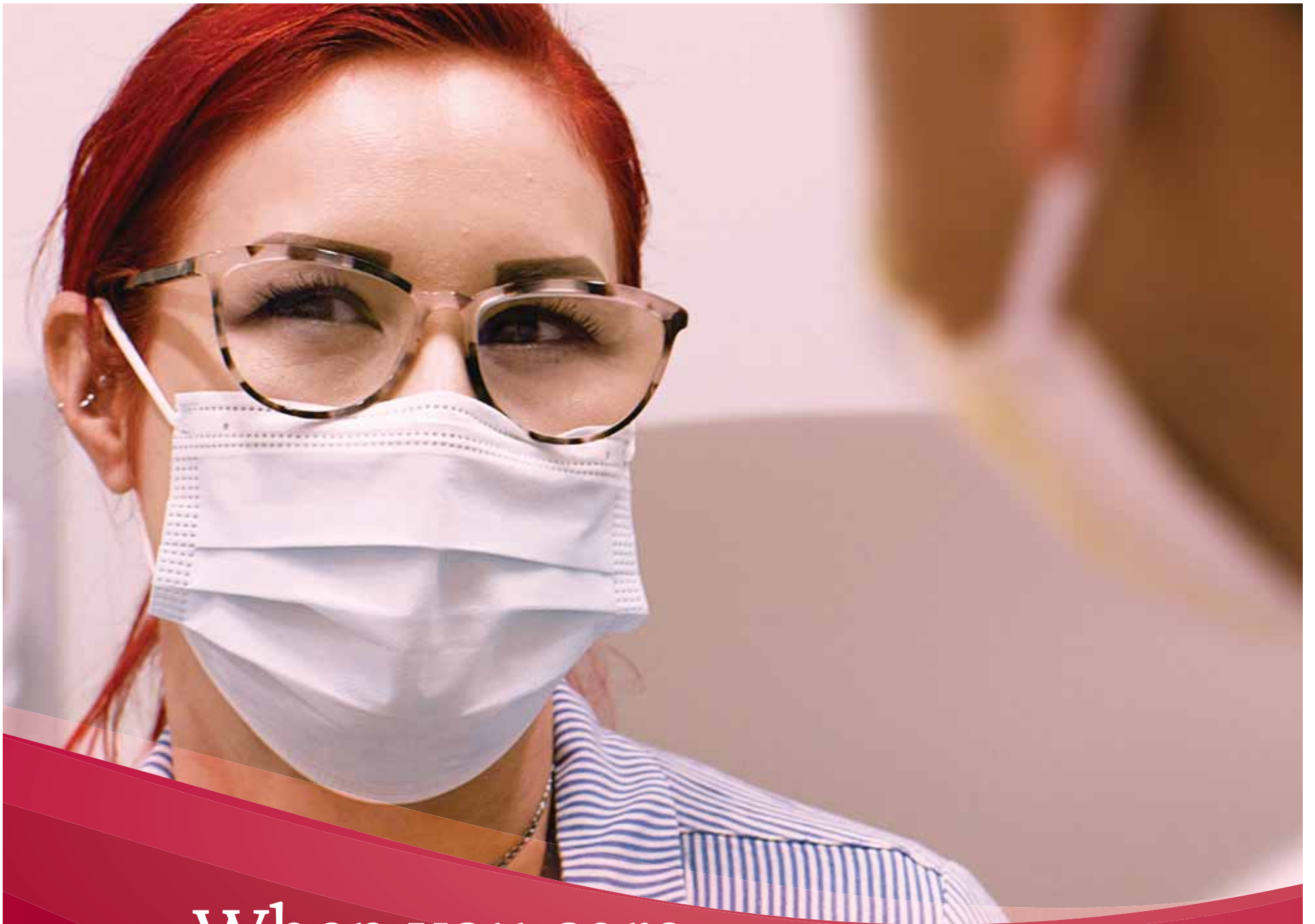
Take a 'Road Trip' at the Firehouse

Artists depict their travels in latest exhibit at Harrington Gallery

Page 12



- 5 | **NEWS** Residents speak up over housing at PUSD site
- 5 | **NEWS** Livermore downtown debate heating up again
- 14 | **PULSE** Tri-Valley native killed cycling to work in D.C.



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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Yet another bike fatality

‘S he was a bit of laughter, and a bright light who had so much more to give, and it was stolen because people with huge cars, huge trucks ... in this case they’re no different from a drunk driver, but we treat the drunk drivers and people who have blind spots differently. They both took somebody’s life because of their carelessness.”

That’s what Danville resident Mary O’Donnell told our reporter Jeanita Lyman last week during an interview about the death of her 40-year-old daughter Shawn O’Donnell, who died after being struck by a Mack truck while cycling to work in Washington, D.C., on July 20.

The story caught my eye in part because it happened in my old stomping grounds, although that area of Northwest D.C. was closer to George Washington University than up near my alma mater American University.

But more importantly, it was yet another case of a fatal crash that sure seemed preventable. The police report describes the truck as making a right turn even though the cyclist was riding in the roadway alongside.

Mary O’Donnell was spot on to advocate for more consistent criminal consequences for avoidable collisions that claim lives.

That could be an effective additional deterrent for fatal crashes (notice I don’t say “accidents”) across the board, whether involving just one car, multiple cars, a cyclist or a pedestrian/bystander.

Individual civil, insurance or emotional repercussions often don’t go far enough to influence societal change with such persistent problems. Or that’s my takeaway at least, as we continue to see victims lost to collisions where someone else is at fault.

While most readers say investigators and prosecutors should take a stronger stance on such crimes, and that may well be true in certain cases, the most impactful moves need to come at the legislative levels.

The way the law is written seemed to be the deciding factor in the Tri-Valley’s most prominent fatal cyclist collision last year.

Career NFL assistant coach Greg Knapp, 58, died in the hospital five days after being hit while cycling on Dougherty Road in San Ramon on July 17, 2021 when a vehicle drifted into the bike lane and struck Knapp. Cycling advocates lambasted the

lack of charges from the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office against the driver, whose name was not released publicly, especially when police confirmed the driver was glancing at his hands-free cell-phone in that fateful moment.

The key phrase there, under the law, being “hands-free.” Although, there’s a good argument to be made that prosecutors could have put the question to a jury instead of calling it on their own.

These are not easy decisions, and I don’t mean to imply otherwise. There is often so much at play for prosecutors, beyond simply the facts of the case, in terms of achieving their ultimate goal: proving a crime beyond a reasonable doubt to earn a conviction.

And what about when the facts aren’t so black and white, for police and the DA?

Recall the sad death of Christine Boyle cycling on Stanley Boulevard just across the Livermore border on Dec. 21, 2020.

There was a situation where police first deemed 63-year-old Boyle at fault for riding off the sidewalk into the crosswalk without yielding to a turning gravel truck, only to rescind their finding weeks later after uproar from bike advocates.

Livermore police issued a press release soon afterward admitting to misinterpreting the law around crosswalk cycling and all but clearing Boyle’s name (without using it, interestingly). In the end, “a primary cause could not be found in this collision.”

So many of these bicycle fatalities are etched into my mind from my 12-year journalism career.

One I’ll always remember, because the case was solved but the driver is still on the lam, happened five months after I started with the Weekly. Alamo resident Dan Taylor, 72, was killed on an orchard-lined country road in Winters in Solano County while riding in a timed interval bicycle race on March 26, 2014.

The CHP alleges the driver, Adriana Melendez (now 31), took steps to conceal the crash and then fled when she learned investigators were looking for her. She is still at-large. The FBI has a “most wanted” reward out for her whereabouts that is still active, \$10,000 for information leading to her arrest.

It would be great to see the Taylor family get their day in court and hopefully a bit more closure. ■

About the Cover

“Afternoon Magic” by Fayne Muldoon is among the paintings on display in “Road Trip,” the current main exhibit in the Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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Do you have any truly prized possessions that you would hate to have to give up?



Debra Lambert
Retired

I have many special pieces of artwork that I've collected from all over the world over the course of many years. And they mean a lot to me. But what trumps all of that is my great-grandfather's roll-top desk that is over 100 years old. Wherever I go in the world, that desk comes with me.



Stacy Brinkley
Manager

My dad's teddy bear that he had as a baby. My childhood dog chewed his ear off and ate some of the stuffing, but I love that teddy bear, especially since I don't have my dad any longer. I never travel without it.



Anthony Scott
Accountant

I don't have any particular attachment to things. Stuff just doesn't matter to me. So long as my beautiful wife Maria and our children are safe and healthy, and our respective parents are doing OK, I have all that I need and couldn't want or ask for anything more.



Jim McNamee
Customs broker

My father's flag. He was a Vietnam War vet. When he died, he had a military service and that flag was on display at his funeral. I take it everywhere with me, to every home I move to, all over the country. I treasure it, especially since my dad passed away.



Michelle McNamee
Brand ambassador

My grandparents had a very good friend who was in the Secret Service. She gave us various glasses that you could only get as a member of the Secret Service. So I have some glasses with the Secret Service metal emblem on them that she gave to us. Wherever I go, those glasses come with.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

REACH fundraiser

Local nonprofit Tri-Valley REACH, which provides affordable housing opportunities for adults with disabilities, is holding its annual fundraiser REACHing for Independence next month in Livermore.

“Join us for an evening of giving while enjoying the sunset amidst the scenic vistas of Livermore’s wine country. Nosh on gourmet wood-fired pizza and desserts while sipping McGrail Family Vineyards wines,” REACH officials said.

The event is set for 6-8:30 p.m. Aug. 11 at the winery at 5600 Greenville Road in Livermore.

Tickets, sponsorships and donations remain available (trivalleyreach.org/events) for the fundraiser that generates important money to help the nonprofit fulfill its mission “to help adults with disabilities to live, access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community.”

Goodness Village

Goodness Village, a homelessness support nonprofit that operates 28 tiny homes on the CrossWinds Church property in Livermore for those in need, recently received notice of a boost in state and federal funding.

State Sen. Steve Glazer helped secure \$5 million through the California Department of Social Services toward the Phase II, which will include a community center with a classroom, laundry room, large cooking space for micro-business opportunities and storage pantry.

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell’s efforts enabled Goodness Village to receive \$1 million from federal community project funds to support the nonprofit’s operating budget.

“This money will provide us with the opportunity to increase our reach at a time when the need is at an all-time high,” founder and Executive Director Kim Curtis said. “It will have an untold impact on people’s lives.”

Night Market back

The 626 Night Market is returning to the Alameda County Fairgrounds for this weekend, with the popular event inspired by the famous open-air nighttime bazaars of Asia open in Pleasanton from Friday through Sunday.

The festival is set to feature more than 200 local food, merchandise, arts and crafts vendors, along with games, music and entertainment attractions designed to appeal to all ages, organizers said.

The Night Market runs from 3-11 p.m. today and 1-11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For tickets and more information, visit www.626nightmarket.com. ■

Residents speak up to council against rezoning PUSD site for affordable housing

City sends Housing Element draft to state agency for review

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Several Pleasanton residents voiced their concerns regarding the 2023-31 Housing Element site list including the Pleasanton Unified School District headquarters property for potential affordable housing during last week’s City Council meeting.

For over a year, the city has been identifying sites for future rezoning and housing development to meet the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 5,965 new units — the list has been narrowed to 24 sites for inclusion in

the environmental analysis.

The site location for the Donlon Elementary School field was officially taken off the list by city staff after PUSD Superintendent David Haglund asked the city to remove it following months of community members advocating to save the field.

But now, a new location has taken the public’s interest — the school district headquarters located on the edge of downtown Pleasanton at 4645 and 4665 Bernal Ave. About 10 acres of the office would be earmarked for rezoning

as residential with a minimum of 81 new units and a maximum of 163, according to the Housing Element draft.

Many resident speakers said they felt that adding housing to downtown’s historic neighborhoods would take away a sense of community.

“Please do not rezone the property on First and Bernal for a tacky housing project,” Pleasanton resident Lloyce Jaunkalnieis told the council on July 19. “I feel our historic district is small and everything can erode it a little bit more. Once

taken away, you can’t get it back.”

As someone who has fought for historic preservation in Pleasanton before, Jaunkalnieis said that over the years it seems like the business side of downtown has been invading the historic east side. She said the district office rezoning would only add to that problem.

The city’s Housing Element, which is revised every eight years, requires the council to identify adequate sites through the General Plan and zoning process for future

See HOUSING on Page 9



The new classroom building at Amador Valley High School, a project funded by Measure I1, has been wrapped up this summer.

School board recognizes completion of Amador, Foothill classroom buildings

Trustees grant Haglund one-time authority to approve bid for Falcons stadium ADA project

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton school board approved of issuing a notice of completion for the construction of new classroom buildings at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools at the board meeting earlier this month.

The construction of the new buildings were funded as part of the Measure I1, a \$270 million general obligation bond that voters passed in 2016 to help address facility needs, safety and building modernizations.

John Chwastyk, executive director of facilities and construction, also presented to the board a final change order representing

the negotiation of all final costs on the project. According to the district report, including that final change order the total final project cost was \$18,402,045, which Chwastyk said is still within the project budget.

He added that his team was able to reduce the contractor submitted costs by about \$100,000.

“This is a successful finish to these projects at the contractor level,” Chwastyk told the board on July 14. “We still have some other details that we’re working out but ... they’re complete for all intents and purposes and we’re in the project closeout phase.”

The majority of the change

order was related to extending the time of construction for both projects because of several updates that came from either the pandemic or general enhancements that were made midway through the projects.

One of the main changes, Chwastyk said, was the new guidance regarding operable windows to allow for more fresh air flow in the classrooms to account for the pandemic.

That forced the district to change several windows in the classroom buildings along with the other electrical upgrades that

See CLASSROOMS on Page 8

Livermore downtown debate heats up

Supporters, critics speak on decision not to process petition

By CIERRA BAILEY

The contentious Eden Housing development planned for downtown Livermore continues to spur debate following the city’s decision to not process a resident-submitted referendum petition to overturn the City Council’s approval of an amended disposition, development and loan agreement (DDLA) for the project.

At the City Council’s regular meeting Monday, a number of residents — both supporters and opponents of the city’s decision — spoke out about the issue during the citizens forum portion of the meeting.

Community group Unify Livermore supports the approved 130-unit Eden Housing development and public park set to be built at the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and L Street.

The organization called upon residents to attend Monday’s council meeting and express support for city clerk Marie Weber who is being accused by proponents of the referendum of illegally refusing to process their petition. Weber and the city’s legal team deemed the council’s action as administrative, not legislative, and therefore not eligible for a challenge by referendum.

“The Independent ran an inflammatory unattributed opinion piece

See PETITION on Page 10

Council approves plans to continue Costco project in Pleasanton

Also: LFPD labor contract is finalized, mental health crisis program could begin in September

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council approved the revised traffic mitigation plans and proceedings to carry out the construction of a Costco in Pleasanton during its July 19 council meeting.

Jenifer Murillo, director of real estate at Costco Wholesale, told the council that off-site improvements are the leading factor in determining when residents will finally see the Costco store with gas station in Pleasanton. But now that the company is proceeding with the current construction bids, Murillo said residents can expect roadwork to begin within the next few months.

“We need to get a little bit of a head start for the off-site improvements, but we have started the design for the warehouse,” she said, adding that construction will be ordered to begin during dry season because of restrictions due to the creek next to Johnson Drive.

Pleasanton’s first-ever Costco store would be part of the city’s Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone, a project aiming to redevelop approximately 40 acres of land fronting Johnson Drive, near Stoneridge Drive and Interstate 680.

Costco is a landowner within the project area and is looking to construct a new store on the property. The project has been in the wings for nearly a decade in a public process that included an opposition measure that lost at the ballot box, two lawsuits and years worth of city review and council hearings.

Costco and the city received a

favorable ruling from the state appellate court over the final lawsuit earlier this year.

The project includes public street improvements to reduce the impact of traffic from the new land-uses. In 2018, the city agreed to reimburse a portion of the design and construction costs with traffic impact fees and a portion of the sales tax revenues generated by the proposed Costco store, with Costco fronting a portion of the overall roadwork costs — in addition to its own share.

The council decided to continue moving forward with construction at a higher cost and acquiring the right-of-way needed to construct the traffic mitigation measures. The overall estimated costs have increased from \$21.47 million to about \$33.5 million since 2017 “due to the time elapsed since the agreement was executed,” according to a city staff report.

The report states that the bids received in April were significantly higher than the planning level estimate prepared in 2017 and discussed within the 2018 agreement.

Because of the increase to the original cost estimate, city staff included cost overruns — which occur when unexpected change in the project budget ends up increasing the total project cost — in their update to the council last week.

Those cost overruns led to changes to the city’s agreement with Costco including an amendment that will “modify the cost overrun provisions of the 2018 Agreement so that instead of

being required to make direct reimbursement of the Cost Overruns within 60 days of approving the final Cost Certification, a portion of the Cost Overruns will be included in the loan amount.”

The loans will be included in the reimbursement agreement between the city and Costco for design and construction of the roadwork

City engineer Steve Kirkpatrick told the council that when the project is complete, city staff will review a final cost certification that he says is projected to be lower.

“We have a 10% construction contingency, which is almost \$2 million,” Kirkpatrick said. “A lot has gone into these plans so we expect the final cost estimate to be or the final cost certification to be a little bit less than you see.”

Vice Mayor Valerie Arkin did express some level of concern about any possible additional costs that could come from construction, but Kirkpatrick assured her that splitting the cost overruns with Costco will help cover any additional costs.

In other business

- Councilmembers approved the updated labor contract between the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and the local firefighters union.

The proposed tentative agreement between the department and the union includes 13% worth of general wage increases spread over 3-1/2 years, a paramedic premium increase pay from 8% to 10%, short-term staffing policies

and a comprehensive drug- and alcohol-testing policy.

“I hope that this will be the start of a positive productive partnership so that they’ll continue to provide excellent services to our community, especially now as we enter into the fire season,” Councilmember Kathy Narum said.

- The council approved a second reading of specific language on how the department will use the armored vehicle and robots during community events.

Councilmembers first endorsed an ordinance last month that will continue allowing the city’s police department to use military or specialized equipment for regular and promotional use.

- Pleasanton will be entering into an almost \$779,000 agreement with the Bonita House so the organization can provide clinician services for the “Alternate Response to Mental Health” pilot program.

The program first started in the summer of 2020 after Pleasanton residents expressed support to strengthen the response to those in mental health crisis by sending mental health clinicians to police calls regarding people suffering from mental health issues.

The Bonita House, which is a private nonprofit mental health agency that offers services for adults diagnosed with co-occurring psychiatric disabilities and substance use disorders, was the only place that responded to the city’s requests for a partnership. The agreement states that the organization will provide two mental health clinicians to join

the Alternate Response to Mental Health program.

Councilmember Julie Testa said she is familiar with the Bonita House and has a lot of faith that they will best serve the Pleasanton community.

“I’m excited to have this program coming forward and finally going to be serving our residents in need and crisis,” Testa said.

The council previously appropriated \$800,000 to the Alternate Response to Mental Health program. The next steps will be recruiting the clinicians in August so they can begin work in September.

- Pleasanton will see an increase in costs for burying their loved ones following the council’s decision to approve the master fee schedule for the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery.

Purchase prices have been set for burial plots and service fees in the cemetery by the council after the city purchased the cemetery in 2006.

According to the report, the prices for casket burial plots will increase by \$125 and the cremation burial plots will increase by \$67. Single caskets or cremation will increase by \$50.

- The City Council approved the purchase of three new fire engines for the LFPD to replace the ones currently being used.

According to the city staff report, the three current engines are, “experiencing compromised reliability issues, which has led to costly maintenance requirements and excessive down-time.”

The city will be using money from its 2022-23 fire repair and replacement budget to cover the total cost of almost \$830,000. Staff are recommending a 10% contingency in case of unforeseen circumstances bringing the total to almost \$913,000. ■

Planning Commissioner Jeffrey Nibert running for City Council District 1

Says his project and engineering experience will help serve residents of Pleasanton

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton Planning Commissioner Jeffrey Nibert announced this week that he will be running for the City Council District 1 seat in the November general election.

Nibert, a 35-year resident of Pleasanton, has worked as an engineer for companies like General Electric, Intel and Avaya. He was also a

senior project manager at PG&E where he managed the “engineering and construction of large gas transmission pipelines, installation of hydroelectric turbines and hydro



Jeffrey Nibert

system improvements,” according to Nibert’s candidacy news release.

“The values of respect, listening, serving and being an engaged teammate will drive me in tackling the challenges that face Pleasanton, as well as celebrating all that is good with our town,” he said.

In his news release, Nibert promised voters he would refuse campaign donations from developers to remain “independent of special interests.”

“His focus will be on maintaining the unique character of Pleasanton that has drawn a diverse community to live here, while collaborating on solutions to the problems facing the city,” his news release read.

He also stated on the release that he will work to represent

all the residents of Pleasanton as well as the neighbors in District 1, which is where he currently lives with his wife and three kids. He has held a regular seat on the city’s Planning Commission since March 2021.

“My wife and I raised our three children in Pleasanton. This wonderful city and people have so much to offer and have provided so much for our family,” Nibert said. “In the spirit of volunteering, I would like to give back by serving as their trusted representative.”

The Nov. 8 election will be Pleasanton’s first time following a district-based format for City Council seats, with District 1 representing the northwest Pleasanton neighborhoods of Highland Oaks, Moller

Ranch, Val Vista and Hacienda.

Councilmember Kathy Narum’s seat, for which she was elected at-large in 2018, has been effectively assigned to District 1 after the conversion to district elections. Narum will be ineligible to run for council in November under the city’s term limit law, which prevents more than two consecutive full terms.

As of publication date, nobody else has thrown in their name for the District 1 race. The deadline to register is Aug. 12.

Mayor Karla Brown offered words of support for Nibert in his candidacy news release.

“Jeff Nibert’s experience as a Pleasanton planning commissioner, combined with his vast corporate

background make him the perfect City Council candidate for District 1,” Brown said. “In addition, his engineering skills and project experience will add new insights to the council.”

Nibert has volunteered youth activities in Pleasanton including Cub Scouts, YMCA Guides and Princesses and his church, where he taught children’s Sunday school for 15 years.

He earned a master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and a bachelor’s degree in nuclear engineering from Pennsylvania State University.

Nibert does not currently have a campaign website, but he said he plans to have one in two weeks. ■

Woerner lauds 'resilient' Livermore economy in State of the City

Finances, housing projects, progress downtown underscored in annual mayor's address

By CIERRA BAILEY

"The bottom line is our city is doing very well," said Mayor Bob Woerner at the start of his State of the City address, summarizing the city's overall standing.

The Wine Country Luncheon hosted by the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce on July 14 was attended by more than 200 people, including local business leaders, elected officials, nonprofit representatives, educators, city staff and residents for Woerner's first in-person State of the City presentation since his 2020 election to mayor.

In his report, Woerner said that the city boasts of healthy finances with roughly \$63 million in General Fund reserves as well as emergency preparedness, new housing on the horizon, progress on the downtown revitalization plan and an overall "resilient economy" that has bounced back "really well" from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Great Recession.

Among the ongoing housing projects, Woerner highlighted the Legacy at Livermore development currently in construction downtown at the corner of First Street and South L Street, the Vineyard

2.0 supportive housing and services development which broke ground in April of this year and the Avancé apartment complex for adults with developmental disabilities located at 4260 First St., which was formerly Sunflower Hill Livermore.

He also mentioned the future Lassen Road townhomes and trail set to begin construction next summer and the Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan, which would allow development of 4,095 new multi-family housing units and approximately 2.1 million square feet of net new office, business park, and commercial development, among other amenities. Woerner cited the project as the key to meeting 50% of the city's Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

The contentious affordable Eden Housing project was discussed later in the presentation. "I think most everyone is familiar with what's going on there or maybe not going on there," Woerner quipped while introducing the topic.

The 130-unit affordable housing project is currently in litigation following a lawsuit filed by citizen group Save Livermore Downtown, which is advocating for the



RON ESSEX PHOTOGRAPHY

Livermore Mayor Bob Woerner delivers State of the City.

project to be moved to another location and for a community park to be placed on the city-owned site located at the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and L Street. Though their initial lawsuit was denied in court earlier this year, the group has since filed an appeal.

In his comments about the project, Woerner briefly addressed the recent resident-submitted referendum on it. "Unfortunately, there's a lot of false information being circulated about this," he said.

He continued, "The key legislative policy decisions were made many years ago and are no longer

referendable. All the environmental clearances are being signed off by the relevant regulators and the frivolous lawsuits are needlessly delaying this essentially shovel-ready project."

Woerner shared the quote "No good deed goes un-litigated" from San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, which Woerner said he felt was applicable to the ongoing Eden Housing debate.

Despite the issues surrounding Eden Housing, a number of other downtown revitalization projects are making progress which Woerner also highlighted, including the newly-completed Livermore Plaza and the opening of Quest Plaza at Stockmen's Park — a 5,000-square-foot outdoor science exploration and community space which will serve as a hub for Quest-sponsored programs and science events until the Quest Science Center building is built.

He also mentioned the recent completion of the new I Street parking garage and highlighted projects soon to come, including the boutique-style wine country hotel set to begin construction in Spring of 2024, the SPARC TheaterLab — which will be an art and

culture community space — and the planned Blacksmith Square expansion proposed by Pleasanton-based Red Bear, Inc. which was founded by the two sons of the late NFL icon and businessman, John Madden.

The project includes a 2,800-square-foot addition to the existing building along with a 3,600-square-foot standalone building that will include an expansion of the existing Blacksmith Square courtyard. There will also be a 6,800-square-foot two story building with a roof deck on the vacant land next to Uncle Yu's restaurant.

"It's just another great addition by the Madden family who have committed a lot of time and money over the years and helped us develop just a great downtown," Woerner said, adding that he's personally excited to experience dining on the rooftop deck when it opens.

Among the many new and budding businesses in Livermore, Woerner named Locanda Wine Bar, Manor Market, Bath & Body Works, Sons of Liberty Alehouse, Charming Fig Catering and The Cheese Parlor.

The Cheese Parlor is also one of the members of the city's Small Business Scholarship Program in partnership with the chamber. The program aims to support the establishment of small businesses

See **ECONOMY** on Page 10

Wieskamp to retire from parks district

Ward 5 director won't seek re-election after 20+ years on board

By JEANITA LYMAN

Tri-Valley parks Director Ayn Wieskamp has announced her upcoming retirement from the East Bay Regional Park District after more than 20 years representing Ward 5, which includes Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol and southern Dublin.

The decision, along with the retirement of longtime Ward 6 Director Beverly Lane, means that both Tri-Valley seats in the district will be fully up for grabs in November's general election.

Wieskamp, who lives in Livermore, noted that she'd "been in the parks game a long time," having previously served on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and Livermore City Council.

"One of the good things about being on the City Council is the two agencies did a lot together," Wieskamp said.

Among these were collaborations on Fourth of July celebrations, Fitness Days and other family-oriented events in the city. "We did a lot of events like that, bringing the two agencies together, because they belong together in a lot of ways,"

Wieskamp said.

Wieskamp's interest in parks and recreation ultimately led to her longtime career as an elected director with EBRPD, starting in 1999. Her retirement at the end of the year will mark a more than 23-year tenure in the position.

While being subject to public scrutiny and criticism, as well as contentious debates with colleagues, are often part of the job for elected officials, Wieskamp said that her fellow directors, staff and constituents in the district all shared an overarching mission of wanting to see the parks district thrive, and recognizing the importance of local parks.

"Most of the time, most of the people appreciate and enjoy you when you're on the board of directors of the East Bay Regional Park District because they enjoy the parks," Wieskamp said.

This appreciation has been amplified in recent years leading up to Wieskamp's announcement that she will retire at the end of her term this year, and won't seek re-election in November. During the past two years, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wieskamp said that demand for the district's parks has been higher than ever, with residents suddenly eager to interact with nature,

and sometimes make their first-ever visits to parks in the district.

"It's amazing how many people had never been to our parks before,"

Wieskamp said.

While Wieskamp said she was proud of the projects and improvements she'd been able to spur in

Ward 5 parks, she had come to learn that these often took longer than anticipated. In addition, increasing drought and other environmental threats in the region and nation have been tangible in the local parks in her ward, she noted.

See **WIESKAMP** on Page 10



Ayn Wieskamp



REACH

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Chick-fil-A in talks with Dublin officials for two locations in city

Additions would give fast-food chain four restaurants in Tri-Valley

By NICOLE GONZALES

Fans of the fast-food restaurant Chick-fil-A could soon see a wider selection of locations without ever leaving the Tri-Valley.

The company is exploring opening two new locations in the Dublin area, while already having one established in Pleasanton and one due to open soon in Livermore. If all plans went through, that would mean four Chick-fil-A locations in the Tri-Valley area — three of which would be less than two miles from each other.

Initially, Chick-fil-A showed interest in a site development review permit at the Hacienda Crossings shopping center. Originally filed in July 2021, the permit proposes the new fast-food location be built in a parking lot in the complex.

According to the City of Dublin

Development Project database, the project would include the “demolition of an existing building and construction of a new 2,781-square-foot drive-thru restaurant building, trash enclosure, parking and site improvements.”

As for the status of the application, it is still currently under review due to discussions being had between the city and the food chain restaurant. The city of Dublin Planning Division, which handles proposed development projects, has been working with the chain restaurant and evaluating their inquiries.

“It’s all public information,” said Stephen Wright, a Dublin resident and planning commissioner. “When it’s completed, it is still public information and it’s made part of the public hearing that would happen

before the planning commission.”

For development projects in the city, each must go through five steps as outlined by the city planning department. Those steps are pre-application, planning application submitted, application review, public hearing, and a final action. All of these steps are necessary for businesses and operations to have their proposed projects seen to completion.

With the existing Chick-fil-A location in Pleasanton, the two restaurants would be 1.8 miles apart.

Chick-fil-A has also filed a second proposal for an operation located on San Ramon Road. However, it is still in the pre-application step, according to Dublin officials and the city’s development projects website.

“For the San Ramon Road location, the applicant has submitted a preliminary application,” said Shari

Jackman, communications manager for the city.

According to Jackman, the second proposal includes “demolition of an existing 8,437-square-foot restaurant building and construction of a new 5,000-square-foot drive-thru restaurant building with new parking and site improvements at 7400 San Ramon Road.”

Jackman said that Chick-fil-A has yet to submit a formal application for San Ramon Road, but is still in the process of coordinating with the city.

“Both inquiries by Chick-fil-A are in different stages,” Wright said. “The pre-application for the San Ramon site means the representatives for that development and city staff are still talking about what might be required.”

“It’s not unusual for developers

to talk with city staff before they launch a full application, which then sets into motion,” he added. “They talk out more requirements, and a more detailed plan.”

Speculation in the community led some residents to believe the opening of new locations could be to alleviate traffic congestion from the restaurants’ notorious drive-thru lines.

The city of Dublin has since required Chick-fil-A to conduct traffic studies on how its establishments would impact the area. However, these have not been completed or published yet, according to city officials.

City officials said they are unable to provide a specific timeline for either project proposals as these are based on the applicant’s formal application and discussion with city decision-makers.

As it stands, the applications are in different stages of development and still require additional discussion with city planning officials.

Chick-fil-A corporate representatives did not respond for comment. ■

CLASSROOMS

Continued from Page 5

were done to the classrooms.

In other business

• Board members voted to allow Superintendent David Haglund a one-time delegation of authority so he can approve a bid to pay for the second phase of updating the Foothill High School stadium.

On May 26, the board approved a two-phase plan to upgrade pathways to the sports fields at Foothill to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The first phase, which is already

underway, will create two new ADA-compliant parking spots near the baseball field, a walkway from those parking spots to the field and an ADA-compliant walkway from the nearest ADA-compliant parking near the tennis complex to the front entry of the stadium.

The bidding process for contractors to work on the second phase of the project is still underway, which is why Chwastyk and the facilities and construction team brought the item to the board so that when the bidding for the construction is done, Haglund can sign off on the agreement.

Haglund said that this action will speed up the process and get the

project done sooner, rather than having to wait until the next board meeting cycle. Chwastyk said that the bid for the second phase should be coming in before month’s end.

“We had to piece this project out into a few pieces to achieve the deadlines that are really, really tight,” Chwastyk said. “We are requesting the delegation of authority due to the tight time-frame and we really want to get the contractor started.”

Phase II of the construction will work inside the stadium to build a switch back ramp leading to the lower field, ADA seating and providing accessible walkways.

But during the meeting, Trustee

Kelly Mokashi said she was concerned about the procedure itself and how much money Haglund would be approving with the second phase project.

“I am uncomfortable with the amount that we’re asking ahead of time for approval for this particular project and I’m trying to understand the urgency,” Mokashi said.

Despite approving the item, she said she wanted to discuss how to have more of a structure in the future for similar cases.

“I would like a follow up to the delegation of authority as per our previous conversation and really like to see some action around that, to put some more structures in place for that, understanding the urgency of this case,” Mokashi said.

The rest of the board, however, supported the authorization for Haglund to approve the bid mainly due to the fact that the school year is about to begin and the football team would not be able to use the field in time.

“Football season is coming and we’re under a time crunch ... so that’s one of the reasons,” Board President Mark Miller said. “We have a lot of years of track record of exceptionally sound project management and fiscal management from this group and so I’m willing to trust these guys to do the right thing on this particular item in order to get these repairs done in time.”

Funding for this project will be coming from the district’s Fund 40 capital improvement fund and a donation from We Are Pleasanton, which has raised \$250,000 toward the project.

• The board officially ratified four new vice principals and two new changes to the administrative team.

In administration Nicole Hurtao, who was working as the vice

principal for Harvest Park Middle School for the past three years, will be the new coordinator of human resources. She told the board that she is excited to join the human resources team and hopes to grow in her new role.

Joshua Butterfield, who resigned from his position as Amador Valley High School principal last month, will be taking on the role of director of secondary education.

“I feel really fortunate for the opportunities that have been provided for me in my time here, both as a teacher and as an administrator,” he said. “Who I am, I can really say, is deeply influenced by the relationships that I built along the way.”

The board also appointed Danielle Tremain, former principal on special assignment for the Children’s Annex at the San Mateo-Foster City School District, as the new vice principal for Donlon Elementary School.

Tremain, a newcomer to the Pleasanton school district, is replacing former vice principal Carole Stothers who was appointed as the new Vintage Hills Elementary principal last month.

The two other vice principals who were officially welcomed into their new roles were Ashley Green, a science teacher at Harvest Park Elementary who will be joining Hart Middle School, and Kristina Brown who will be joining the district for the first time as vice principal of Walnut Grove Elementary School.

Brown, up until now, has been the vice principal for Mossdale Elementary School, which is located in Lathrop.

“Thank you for trusting me and having the confidence in me to continue to be a vice principal,” Brown said. “I look forward for what’s to come.” ■

Heart of the Tri-Valley

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HOUSING

Continued from Page 5

residential development. According to the city report, the plan is projected to be ready for adoption by early 2023.

Last week's meeting was meant to help facilitate public comment following recent community engagement meetings over the past month so that the council could provide feedback before submitting the plan to the state's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review.

The current site inventory list includes roughly two-dozen locations across the city such as Stoneridge Shopping Center, Hacienda Terrace, Metro 580, Tri-Valley Inn, the Kiewit property, St. Augustine Catholic Church, the Oracle property, the Sunol Boulevard corridor, and PUSD's Bernal Avenue and Vineyard Avenue sites.

Apart from taking away the historic feel to downtown, one of the main reasons residents spoke out against the rezoning of the district headquarters property on Bernal Avenue was traffic congestion.

"We already have really bad traffic problems on Second Street. We already have a lack of parking on Second Street," Pleasanton resident Joseph Hernan said. "We're going to add additional housing; it's going to exacerbate problems that already exist."

Hernan said that while affordable housing growth is important, it should be done on a case-by-case basis depending on the city.

Brian Bourg, who has lived in his home in between First and Second streets for 48 years, said that the rezoning is going to increase the number of cars in the area, which in turn would increase traffic in an

already crowded First Street.

He said the city needs to focus on ways to control and mitigate traffic in the area, not add to it.

"It's not necessary; it's not ecological," Bourg said. "We teach our students to reuse, reduce and recycle. If Pleasanton Unified develops it, it doesn't seem like they would be modeling that behavior."

Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services for the school district, also spoke during the meeting to defend the district's decision to use the property for housing. He said that in order to help serve the needs of students and their families, it is important to relocate the district office to the new location that the district is looking to purchase.

The school board recently approved plans to move forward with that purchase project and plans to work with the city to carry out the rezoning so it can sell the Bernal property to help pay off the new office building.

Despite the public's comments, the council decided to follow the city staff's recommendation to proceed with the Housing Element update and send it to the state for review.

But Vice Mayor Valerie Arkin attempted to assure the public that the housing site list is still a work in progress and the city can decide to remove locations. She added that once the city receives the environmental impact review, staff will have a better idea on which sites the city should keep in the list.

"The PUSD project will move forward, but we're going to continue to work with Pleasanton Unified to see if we can't make this either a scaled-down project," Mayor Karla Brown said. "Let's see if we can work together to make something

the neighborhood appreciates and can embrace, if we can't then we can look at other options like removing it off the list."

Arkin also asked city staff about what would happen if they decided to remove one of the sites before sending in for review — to which Ellen Clark, the community development director for the city, said it would put the city just above the required amount of above-moderate housing units.

She added that while there is a surplus in the amount of required units, that surplus was meant to take into account any variables that come out of the reviews and or any future changes to the housing element draft.

"If additional sites were to fall off the list for various reasons ... then we would certainly be at risk of having insufficient sites in the above-moderate without moving stuff around," Clark said. "The holistic review is the best way to do it, because then you understand what other moving parts and pieces might be in play to make a better decision about whether or not the site is necessary for the inventory."

City staff curated the list of potential housing sites using site selection criteria, and analyzed and assigned a rank and score for each site. After being approved by the housing and planning commissions, as well as community members, the housing inventory list was approved by the council in February.

As the meeting came to an end, Councilmember Julie Testa brought up a motion to discuss something that Hernan also touched on during his public comment — wanting to join a coalition of cities to fight back via the courts against the state's housing growth mandates.

Testa said she was already uncomfortable with sending the Housing Element for review to the state and noted that it has been challenging working with all the new mandates, especially before getting the environmental impact review.

When she called for the motion to agendize the discussion to join the potential lawsuit and audit, City Attorney Dan Sodergren offered to bring more information on the recent case law developments surrounding that topic. He said if the council wanted to agendize the item for potential litigation, it would have to make a closed-meeting request during the next meeting in August.

While Testa did not want to wait too long to address the potential lawsuit, Arkin asked if there was a time constraint and because there wasn't she and the rest of the council agreed with Sodergren to wait until they got more information.

Hernan also questioned the "heavy handedness" of all the recent housing laws enacted by the state such as Senate Bill 330 and why the city isn't legally fighting the state back.

"The fact that we're going to lose local control of our own community. It's just beyond my ability to comprehend that that's actually happening to us, but it is. "If we don't fight it now, then all of these properties are going to get all of this additional housing shoved in there, that's going to be our future."

In March, Acting California State Auditor Michael Tilden issued a critique of HCD and its RHNA process. He claimed to have found "problems in the HCD methodology that may have inflated RHNA requirements by hundreds of thousands of housing units."

Brown asked city staff to clarify that the city wouldn't just be fighting SB 330, it would be fighting roughly 90 different assembly and senate bills that take away local city control over housing growth.

Another recommendation that staff pushed the city to support was accelerating the process to adopt a master plan for development of the Stoneridge Mall properties.

The site, which is planned to include lower-income housing, has multiple owners that city staff said are showing interest in moving the project forward. Clark said the goal is to adopt a master plan for the mall and having somewhat of a framework before the Housing Element is adopted.

She added that staff are already working with a few consultants to draft up something to bring to the council for consideration in August. Staff are also recommending expanding the development of the large Kiewit properties with housing to explicitly reference the concept of cost-sharing for infrastructure in the East Pleasanton Specific Plan area.

The next steps for the housing plan will be waiting for HCD's review of the plan after staff submit the plan following last week's meeting.

Then, once city staff receive the department's review along with the environmental impact report that is currently being developed, they will hold more public meetings before re-submitting the plan to the housing and development department early next year.

Finally, the council and the Planning Commission will hold a last round of public hearings to consider adoption of the Housing Element around March or May next year. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Gone fishing: Haley, Vasily and Dylan Kolon took their Pleasanton Weekly along on their charter fishing trip in South Lake Tahoe on June 27. Their 6 a.m. Tahoe Sportfishing adventure was rewarded with seven Mackinaw Lake trout caught at a depth of over 200 feet.

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.

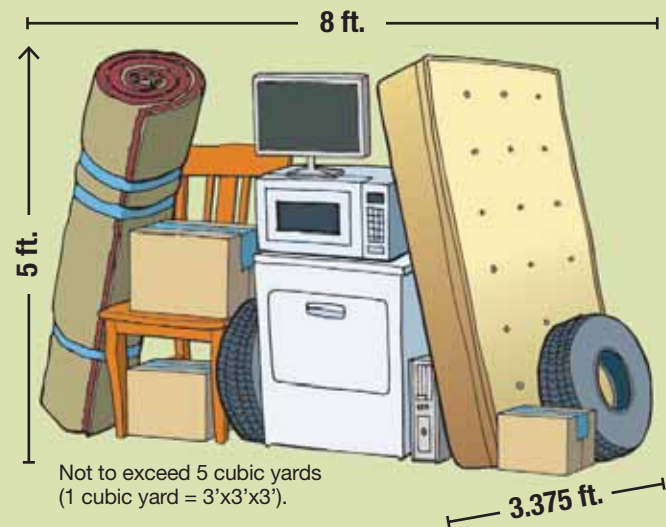
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Construction begins on Mount Diablo bike turnouts

ECONOMY

Continued from Page 7

Project set for early completion date by November

By JEANITA LYMAN

Following longtime advocacy for increased bike safety measures on Mount Diablo, workers began construction last week on a project that will provide 30 new bike turnouts on roads aimed at safely accommodating the flocks of cyclists who ride in the area.

“Bike turnouts allow a cyclist pedaling uphill to move slightly to right, thereby allowing a motorist to pass safely, that is, without crossing into the downhill lane, and possibly colliding with a descending cyclist,” said Alan Kalin, president of Mount Diablo Cyclists (MDC).

According to MDC, bicycles account for 60% of vehicles on the roads of Mount Diablo, with more

than 150,000 total rides last year. The group reports that bicyclists were struck by vehicles 36 times between 2010 and 2021, and that collisions are often narrowly avoided.

“As a result, bike turnouts were created to prevent collisions and save lives,” said Kalin, who also serves on Danville’s newly formed Bicycle Advisory Commission.

In particular, the turnouts are aimed at addressing bicyclists being caught next to drivers in blind curves, which is extremely common on the park’s roads, according to MDC.

The completion date for the turnout project was initially scheduled for July 2023, but bumped ahead at the urging of MDC and state

lawmakers Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Steve Glazer.

“The current proposed completion date of July 15, 2023 for MDSP Bike Turnout Project is too late and the delay will significantly increase the likelihood of serious injuries and/or fatalities to Park visitors,” MDC members wrote in a letter to Glazer in December.

“For example, on December 1, 2021, July 3, 2021 and May 30, 2021, Park visitors Rick, Ron and Gary were seriously injured in three separate bike vs vehicle collisions. All three men were hit by a vehicle on or near a blind curve at locations identified for a bike turnout in March 2019,” they added.

The 30 bike turnouts in the

current project make it the most ambitious yet for bicycle safety in Mount Diablo State Park. Three pilot bike turnouts debuted in the park in 2016, followed by 10 more in 2018 and an additional four in 2020.

The project that kicked off July 18 is funded by \$1.5 million of the state budget that was allocated for the project in 2021 at the push of Glazer and Bauer-Kahan. The project was previously approved by California State Parks officials in 2020, but failed to be granted funding that year.

Lawmakers responded to MDC’s December letter by complying with their request to speed up the completion of the project by several months, with all 30 turnouts set to be completed by October or November. ■

by connecting them with chamber resources. Through the scholarship, participants receive funding to cover their first year of chamber membership. The recipients so far also include AJ’s Bike Service, Stacked Paddys Sports and Purple Hayes CBD.

As for Livermore’s future, Woerner expressed confidence in the direction that the city is going to continue “setting the stage for success.” However, he will not be experiencing the changes ahead as an elected official. After 11 years total on the City Council and two as mayor, Woerner will be stepping away from city government at the end of his term, choosing not to seek re-election this year due to health concerns.

He said the city plans to continue moving forward with the vision for downtown, addressing homelessness, investing in its “award-winning” schools, prioritizing public safety, managing assets and infrastructure and supporting the arts.

Woerner noted during his talk that the city will also continue its support of expanding the Livermore wine country, including a proposed ballot initiative to extend sanitary sewer service beyond the urban growth boundary to serve wine country uses. At its last regular meeting, the City Council approved the finalized language for the initiative. ■

WIESKAMP

Continued from Page 7

One example is a pavilion and exhibits at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, in which drought conditions and low water levels have forced the closure of the once-popular swimming area in Pleasanton. While the park is still open for other activities, Wieskamp said that adding the pavilion and exhibits, as well as getting recycled water to maintain some landscaping in dry conditions, have been important

ways of softening the blow.

“I’m so glad, because I get so depressed every time I drive by,” Wieskamp said. “The water is so low and it’s just so sad when you’re used to seeing people really enjoy that park in the hot weather.”

However, Wieskamp noted that the scope of environmental troubles facing the Tri-Valley are beyond what the parks district can contend with via landscaping choices.

“The big issue I think for all of us is that a third of the nation is drowning and the rest of us are just totally

dry,” Wieskamp said. “That’s the big issue as a state and as individuals we’re all going to have to look at and figure out what we have to do.”

For individuals contending with drought conditions and high temperatures, Wieskamp emphasized the importance of hydration and taking measures to avoid heatstroke, particularly for dogs, who have been the subjects of increasingly high rates of heat-related illnesses and deaths.

While Wieskamp, along with Lane, will be replaced with new

directors following November’s election, Wieskamp said that she was confident they had laid a strong foundation for their successors. She also noted that she would be watching the outcomes of their work.

“I’ll stay interested, I guarantee you that,” Wieskamp said. “And the great thing about being formers is we are usually invited to go on the tours where they’re doing new parks and so on.”

“Once you’re a park person, I think you stay a park person,” she added. ■

PETITION

Continued from Page 5

featured as the top story attacking the Livermore city clerk for doing her job in today’s (July 21, 2022) issue,” Unify Livermore wrote in a message shared on Twitter ahead of the City Council meeting.

The message continued, “The opinion piece simply reprints the statements of a recently formed, shadowy opposition group to Eden Housing called ‘Move Eden Housing,’ reprinting the groups opinions and legal responses as fact, while ceding that the city clerk is acting on advice from the City of Livermore’s lawyers.”

During the council meeting, there were so many people lined up to speak that citizen’s forum was split into two parts with the first set of speakers sharing their comments in the 30-minute window allotted at the beginning of the meeting and the second group giving their remarks toward the end of the meeting prior to adjournment.

“I’ve never experienced a bigger case of bullying or seen a bigger case of bullying than what I am seeing now,” said Darcie Kent of Darcie Kent Vineyards. “Our city clerk Marie Weber is experiencing the greatest act of bullying, intimidation and threat that I’ve ever seen. It’s

unconscionable,” she added. “The tactics used by Move Eden Housing and The Independent paper are the most egregious I’ve ever seen.”

Kent also said before closing out her remarks that she fully supports the Eden Housing project and the decisions that have been made for the project to move forward over the course of several years.

While several speakers echoed similar comments as Kent, others shared opposing views.

Livermore resident and member of the Sierra Club Tri-Valley group Donna Cabanne was among those who spoke in favor of processing the referendum petition.

“Let the residents of Livermore vote,” Cabanne said. “8,000 residents signed petitions — 8,000 Livermore residents signed the referendum. The city voters want a voice on the location of Eden Housing. The city should respect the process and allow a vote. The residents never had a vote on the location of Eden Housing. The previous vote was on the location of the hotel and giving rights to the development there,” she added.

The topic was not an agenda item, therefore the council could not take any action in accordance with the Brown Act. However, the spirited citizen’s forum served as an indication that the discord surrounding the

affordable housing project remains prevalent.

Resident Richard Ryon initially filed paperwork to begin circulating a referendum petition in early June. After collecting more than the approximately 5,700 signatures needed, the petition was submitted to the city on July 8.

A few days later on July 13, Weber sent a letter to Ryon and his attorney, Barry Fadem, explaining that the city would not be taking any further action on the petition because the city’s approval of the DDLA was an administrative act by the City Council and not a legislative act and therefore, was not subject to referendum.

Weber’s letter also noted that the petition itself did not identify a specific act “that it challenges or purports to be legislative” and since the resolution approving the DDLA didn’t include any legislative acts, the petition “has no legal effect and is therefore not eligible for filing or processing as a referendum.”

In the letter, Weber wrote that the city’s response was based on the advice of city attorney Jason Alcala and special counsel. Included with the letter was a memorandum with the official legal opinion from Craig A. Steele of RWG Law signed by Alcala in concurrence with the analysis presented in the memo.

In the days following the city’s decision, a group called Move Eden Housing — which classifies itself as “a grassroots Livermore organization” — issued a statement demanding that Weber “perform her state-mandated duty and begin the verification of the referendum signatures, as required by law.”

Though the group is advocating for the referendum petition to be processed and is also being represented by Fadem, the initial filing was made by Ryon as an individual. Additionally, the group identifies itself as separate from the Save Livermore Downtown citizen group that has been a longstanding opponent of the affordable housing development and is currently fighting the project in court. However, both groups share members.

“The community group’s goal is to repeal the resolution, which could provide a future city council majority elected this November with the ability to move the Eden Housing development to an alternative location, and use the freed-up land in the center of town for an inviting park,” according to Move Eden Housing’s statement.

Save Livermore Downtown also advocates for the relocation of Eden Housing in favor of a community park being built on the current

project site instead.

Move Eden Housing argues that Weber is in violation of the law by not processing the referendum petition.

“The refusal of the City Clerk to process these signatures, which is required by state law, threatens to rob over 8,000 Livermore voters of their constitutional right to petition the city for a referendum,” said Maryann Brent, a leader of Move Eden Housing. “The Clerk has no authority or basis in law for this refusal, and Move Eden Housing will take whatever legal actions are required to force her to comply with her state-mandated duties.”

In a letter to Fadem, Alcala refuted the claim that Weber acted unlawfully.

“A City Clerk has a duty to process referendum petitions for actions that represent a lawful use of the referendum power. As the legal opinion stated, the petition was not a lawful use of the referendum power. Therefore, it would be illegal for the City Clerk to process it as a referendum,” Alcala wrote.

All of the documents and letters pertaining to the referendum, including the approved resolution authorizing the DDLA with Eden Housing, are available to the public on the city’s website. ■

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Take a 'Road Trip' at the Firehouse

Artists depict their travels in latest exhibit at Harrington Gallery

BY JENSEN GIESICK

The Harrington Gallery is presenting "Road Trip," an exhibit that features artwork by professional artists from Allied Artists West from Santa Clara.

In partnership with the South Bay-based group, 16 additional artists are showcasing their talents in a group setting located inside the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

"We have many different artists who specialize in different mediums. So you'll be able to see a lot of variety from photography, pastels, oil, paintings, acrylics, you name it," said Sydney Tang, curator of the gallery.

From international trips to Ireland to quick trips down the West Coast in California, the artists used their unique experiences to create art interpreting what a road trip means to them.

"Some of these artists chose to do landscape, whereas others did more abstract paintings, as well as portraits of people they encountered during their various travels," Tang said.

A local writers' group, known as the "Monday Night Poets," contributed to the overall exhibition by writing poems and interpreting the artwork.

"It was also fascinating to see how each poet interpreted the artwork, since the artwork came first, then each painting was paired with a poet and they basically did their interpretation of the image

that they got," Tang said.

Some of the highlighted artists include:

Artist: Vincent Liu
Artwork title: "Into the Mist"
Poet: Mimi Ahern

*winter morning
at the edge of the sea
she repeats the prayer*

According to his website, Liu is known for his contemporary expressive figurative oil paintings of figures or portraits.

Artist: Gary Coleman
Artwork title: "Road North"
Poet: Mary Dederer

*gray ahead
on the left tall stems
of yellow-orange blooms —
let's stop here!*

"Gary Coleman who took the Best of Show prizes in 2014 and 2016 for the Pacific Art League's 'All Abstract' competitions," according to gallery officials.

Artist: Annie Haines
Artwork title: "Casa Grande New Almaden"
Poet: Mimi Ahern

*warm gentle breeze
through the palm fronds ... we
sway
with the sound*



Artworks in the exhibit "Road Trip" include (from top to bottom) "Road North" by Gary Coleman, "Where the Wind Grows" by Kaaren Marquez and "Into the Mist" by Vincent Liu. The exhibit is at the Harrington Gallery in downtown Pleasanton until Aug. 13. (Photo by Sydney Tang)

According to her website, Haines strives to emotionally connect people to the natural environment through her work.

Artist: Kaaren Marquez
Artwork title: "Where the Wind Grows"
Poet: Patricia J. Machmiller

*snake's skin
left behind — the house
of my childhood*

The exhibition is a collection that showcases different techniques combined with another artistic process that resulted in a creative and unique way of expression and interpretation.

"It just ties well with the timing of summer, and a lot of kids are out of school, and we have many visitors coming from even out of state," Tang said. "So it's just a nice little summer road trips themed exhibition at the Firehouse Arts Center."

Gallery hours are Wednesdays to Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The exhibition will be on display through Aug. 13. To learn more, visit www.firehousearts.org/gallery. ■



Foothill student supports economically disadvantaged people

Patil's Gold Bear Foundation now has 80 members, nine chapters across three countries

By CAROL XU

Pleasanton teen Jiya Patil has been dedicated since 2020 to supporting homeless people and those with financial difficulties through her nonprofit organization Gold Bear Foundation.

Patil first became aware of economic disparity when she visited extended family in India as a child. Her friends in India went to schools that had no desks, relied on natural sunlight, and closed when it rained.

"I don't think I initially recognized that as poverty, but as I got older I wanted to contribute because I got opportunities that I was really lucky to have, and I would like to give back so that more people can have the same things I have," Patil told the Weekly.

Determined to help those with limited food supplies, Patil decided to build on her love for cooking and baking, making biweekly meal donations of pasta and bread to Building Futures, a homeless shelter in San Leandro.

Hoping to interact with more people, Patil started handing out sandwiches and brownies at Oakland encampments. One interaction from her first time sending donations at an encampment has continued to stick with her.

As a woman grabbed a sandwich on her way out of church, she commented "it's so hard out here." Pointing at the tents set up behind her, she said: "When they hurt me, the hospitals wouldn't even help me. And then they took my car and left me with nothing. God bless y'all."

After that conversation, Patil resolved to reach as many people as possible. She began selling handmade bath scrubs on Etsy and worked a part-time job at Stoneridge Shopping Center to support those living in shelters, on the streets, and those who were economically disadvantaged.

In less than six months, Patil had raised over \$1,000, with which she purchased and donated hygiene products and meals to nearby homeless shelters, from Tri-Valley Haven to Building Futures San Leandro.

As Patil's donations increased, her friends and fellow classmates also expressed interest in contributing to her cause. In 2020, she decided to turn her passion for volunteering into an organization, named Gold Bear Foundation.

"We had a group chat and talked about other stuff we could do to help out. We were like 'let's do a little bit more or let's try donating

items this time instead of meals,'" Patil said. "Bears very much remind me of strength, and gold is like a pure color, so we want to share that pure strength with other people."

In Patil's words, their efforts "snowballed" from there on out. Her original team of seven swelled to almost 100 in little under a year, with chapters in the United States, India and Switzerland. In the past year, Gold Bear Foundation donated over 5,000 items to more than 1,000 people in need.

"The Tri-Valley Haven staff and I would like to sincerely thank the Gold Bear Foundation for their generous donation of feminine hygiene supplies," Tri-Valley Haven Executive Director Ann King said. "Having the appropriate feminine hygiene supplies and toiletries is essential for our residents feeling safe and comfortable while they heal from the trauma they've experienced."

In one of Gold Bear's most recent events, Patil directed 20 volunteers in Muirwood Park to assemble and package 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to distribute at an orphanage and homeless shelter in Oakland. For Patil, witnessing the expressions of joy and surprise on people's faces when they accept the



COURTESY JIYA PATIL

Inspired by her trips to homeless shelters and encampments, Jiya Patil and Gold Bear Foundation stands by a simple mission: make sure that those in need never feel neglected.

donations makes her work all worth it.

"It makes my heart so happy to interact with them and feel like you're making at least a little bit of an impact in their life. Even if it's temporary, it's something to help them keep going," Patil said. "We are very item-based, so hopefully people we're donating something to will feel we put a lot of thought and effort into it, because we want (our donations) to be very personalized to every person's needs."

Patil wants to continue expanding Gold Bear Foundation both nationally and internationally, and hopes

to emphasize the fun and rewarding side of volunteering to support one's community.

"I know with community service sometimes it feels like a chore, but my biggest thing is I don't want it to be a chore. I want it to be something people want to do and enjoy, like a two-way street," Patil said. "I don't know if I can change someone's life entirely, but if I can support people in a lot of different areas through Gold Bear, that would be really awesome to see."

For more information about the foundation, visit its website at goldbearfoundation.org. ■

'Colors Inside' on PAL Wall

Firehouse showing features Vanessa Thomas

By NICOLE GONZALES

The Firehouse Arts Center is hosting local award-winning photographer, Vanessa Thomas, as its newest featured solo exhibition artist.

Visitors will be able to view the up-close intricacies of nature and floral scenes from the images. Thomas' work will be displayed on the Pleasanton Art League Wall for the center's visitors to see.

Thomas, originally from South Africa, now lives in and is based in Dublin. She has had public exhibitions shown in both the United States and the United Kingdom. She has also served as the co-founder of the Dublin Arts Collective, a nonprofit organization that encourages and advocates for young visual artists in the area.

"It's nice to have something that is more mindful and connects us to a space of calm for a bit, that is why I like to share," Thomas told the Weekly.

Thomas' photography was largely driven by her passion for nature and flowers. Upon creating an online blog of the same subject matter, she began incorporating images into her posts.

"The easiest medium for me to use was photography, and so I started taking photos of the flowers I was finding," Thomas said. "Photography was a lovely medium to show what I was seeing. It was a quick way for me to share that with people."

With photography, Thomas seeks out the beauty in nature, mainly with floral specimens: "It brings me peace and solace when I'm taking photographs because you can immerse yourself, and you can find



"Colors of Spring" by Dublin photographer Vanessa Thomas.

these little pieces of solace and calm. That's what I like about it."

Thomas hopes that her work reminds people to "keep supporting each other and keep connecting with things that add beauty to our lives."

Finding connections and building relationships through the visual arts community in the Tri-Valley area has been significant for Thomas, notably with the Dublin Arts Collective.

"It's my way of connecting with the world and finding a space of mindfulness when life gets a bit crazy," she said. "You can find a space to reflect and be appreciative in those moments."

The exhibition is presented by the Firehouse Arts Center and Harrington Gallery. Thomas' showing, which opened last week, will be on display through Sept. 3. ■



Vanessa Thomas

Try toys and games through the decades

Family Day at museum next weekend

By JEREMY WALSH

People of all ages can have the opportunity to take turns playing with toys and games from generations past at the Museum on Main's Family Day next weekend in downtown Pleasanton.

"Possibly the most fun" theme of the museum's midyear monthly series, according to education director Sarah Schaefer, the "Old Time Toys and Games Family Day" centers on free activities and crafts on the museum's front lawn to encourage "intergenerational learning, play creativity, and memory building."

"There are toys and games from people's great-grandparents era all the way down to the 1980s and 1990s," Schaefer said. "It is always fun to see children enjoying the program, but what I love most about this family day is watching the adults of all ages playing too, reveling in the nostalgia that toys and games evoke."

Activity stations will include older wooden toys, optical illusion toys, retro toys, puzzle craft, tabletop games, traditional Ohlone games and outdoor games, according to Schaefer.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. next Saturday (Aug. 6) at the downtown museum located at 603 Main St.

The final Family Day of 2022 will follow on Sept. 3, themed "Step Back in Time." Activities will include making corn husk dolls, weaving, dipping candles and stamping leather, among others, Schaefer said.

The program is being hosted this year in conjunction with the Pleasanton Downtown Association's First Weekends on Main event and associated closure of Main Street to vehicular traffic. To learn more about Family Days or the museum, visit www.museumonmain.org or call 925-462-2766. ■

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Tri-Valley native killed while cycling to work in D.C.

The family of Shawn O'Donnell, who was born and raised in Danville, is grieving her death last week on the other side of the country.

"She managed to come out of India during COVID, and she gets hit by a truck on her bike in a blind spot," her mother, Danville resident Mary O'Donnell, told the Weekly in an interview.

Shawn O'Donnell, 40, was identified as the bicyclist who was struck and killed by a truck in Washington, D.C. shortly after 8 a.m. July 20. The news was first reported by the Washington Post early the next day.

According to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), a preliminary investigation into the collision in the northwest part of the nation's capital confirmed that she had been traveling in the same direction as a Mack truck on its right side when she was struck as the truck made a right-hand turn.

"The bicyclist attempted to ride ahead of the Mack truck and was struck by the front passenger side of the truck, causing significant injuries," MPD officials said in a statement.

Detectives were still investigating the circumstances of Shawn O'Donnell's death as of press time.

Mary O'Donnell characterized her daughter as a "woman of service, always thinking of others." She said this was what had brought her daughter to work and live on the

other side of the country while working as a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State.

"Thirty minutes after the truck hit her, and she was dead — a girl who I carried under my heart for nine months, and I carried in my heart for 40 years, and now that part of my heart will never be fixed," Mary O'Donnell said. "It's just gone."

Although Shawn O'Donnell's academic and career trajectory took her around the world and saw her living thousands of miles away from her mother during her work with the state department, Mary O'Donnell noted that her roots were here in the San Ramon Valley.

"She was born in Kaiser Walnut Creek," Mary O'Donnell said. "Her whole life has been here. She didn't really leave this area until she went to Spain."

After studying abroad in Spain, Shawn O'Donnell returned to the Bay Area to attend U.C. Berkeley, where she studied history and Middle Eastern studies and was on the crew team. She went on to earn a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Minnesota before several immersion programs in Arabic.

"The country really lost someone who gave herself all the time," Mary O'Donnell said. "All her time was in service to others."

Shawn O'Donnell had worked as an account manager at Google for two years after graduating from UC Berkeley. Her mother said that while Shawn O'Donnell had enjoyed her job with the company, she had left and ultimately gone to Washington D.C. out of a desire to have more of an impact on the world.

She went on to work as a strategist

at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, then for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, before landing at the state department as a foreign service officer in 2019.

Given the timing and location of the collision, it appears that Shawn O'Donnell was commuting to work at the time of her death.

"It's more than I can bear," Mary O'Donnell said. "In the military, like I was ... you sign up to be in harm's way. We sign up to try to be green, by riding a bicycle, and now she will have no physical presence ever again. No one can ever fix that."

Mary O'Donnell, who served 41 years in the U.S. Coast Guard, said her daughter had followed in those footsteps in serving the country via her own route — and the two having always shared a close bond.

Despite being in the throes of shock and grief at the loss of her child last week, Mary O'Donnell said that she was taking the opportunity to speak to the media out of a desire for action from state and local officials that would promote safety for bicyclists and prevent future deaths.

"I'm talking to reporters because I don't want Shawn's death to be yesterday's news," Mary O'Donnell said. "I consider these murders, not accidents. But maybe if there's enough focus on this, they'll say trucks can't make a right turn on red."

Mary O'Donnell said that she hoped to see charges brought against the driver who'd struck her daughter, upon the completion of a full investigation by police. She added that she hoped enforcing penalties for pedestrian and bicyclist deaths could guide policy change that would address the dangers posed by vehicular

collisions, at the local and national level.

"She was just a light," Mary O'Donnell said. "She was a bit of laughter, and a bright light who had so much more to live for and so much more to give, and it was stolen because people with huge cars, huge trucks ... in this case they're no different from a drunk driver, but we treat the drunk drivers and people who have blind spots differently. They both took somebody's life because of their carelessness, because of their responsibility."

—Jeanita Lyman

In other news

• Prosecutors have charged Livermore resident Roger Garcia Aleman with murder and eight other felony counts, as well as a slew of special allegations, in connection with the deadly shooting at Granada Bowl earlier this month.

The documents filed by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office include a narrative by an initial police investigator who describes what she saw in video surveillance footage of the bowling alley's bar that night, revealing new details such as that Aleman allegedly tried to drag his injured friend out of the bar at first and kept shooting as he was fleeing the scene.

The criminal complaint submitted to the court last Friday also lists attempted murder and assault with a

semiautomatic firearm charges as it pertains to three surviving victims, whereas Livermore police initially cited two men who were shot and survived. The nature of injuries, if any, for the third living victim have not been specified.

Aleman — whom police originally identified as Roger Aleman Garcia — was arraigned on Friday and remains in custody at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. It is not immediately clear whether he is represented by an attorney yet.

Aleman, 27, was arrested in Lathrop early in the morning on July 20, more than three days after police allege he killed Antonio Vargas and injured others after an argument in the bar escalated into gunfire on the evening of July 16 at the bowling alley in Livermore. Vargas, 28, was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to video footage, Aleman arrived at the bowling alley with three people around 5 p.m. July 16 and played pool inside the bar, Livermore police Det. Jennifer Bloom wrote in a probable cause declaration filed with the Alameda County Superior Court.

About an hour later, Aleman appeared to make a comment directed toward Vargas' friend, which prompted the two to leave their group and approach the pool table, Bloom said. A fight then broke out between the two groups.

"Victim #1 (Vargas) approached Aleman. Aleman retrieved a black firearm from his waistband and pointed it at Victim #1," Bloom wrote. "Victim #1 continued to walk toward Aleman. Aleman shot Victim #1, causing him to fall to the ground. Aleman then began to shoot towards the pool table where Victim #2 and Victim #3 were physically punching each other."

Vargas, who sustained at least one gunshot wound to his torso, died at the scene, according to the detective.

The initial gunfire toward the pool table hit Aleman's friend in the torso. The detective alleged that Aleman attempted to drag his injured friend out of the bar with him, and as he was walking into the hallway, he continued to shoot and struck Vargas' friend in the leg, causing him to fall.

Aleman ran out of the bowling alley and fled the area, according to police. He remained at-large until police developed information about his whereabouts on July 19, ultimately arresting him just after 1 a.m. July 20 in Lathrop on suspicion of murder and other charges.

The DA's office filed formal charges against Aleman last Friday.

The nine felony counts include first-degree murder for Vargas' death, attempted murder and assault with a semiautomatic firearm related to each of three surviving victims, discharging a firearm with gross negligence and illegal possession of a



Roger Garcia Aleman

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

July 23

Theft

- 8:16 a.m., 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; theft from auto
- 10:22 a.m., 500 block of Main Street; auto theft

- 2:21 p.m. on the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

- 3:41 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

Shoplifting

- 4:04 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 4:06 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:46 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 11:19 a.m. on the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

Alcohol violation

- 1:18 p.m. on the 500 block of Main Street
- 4:53 p.m. on the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

July 22

Theft

- 9:05 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

- 2:37 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto
- 4:48 p.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; shoplifting

Trespassing/prowl

- 12:01 p.m. on the 4500 block of Lin Gate Street

Drug violation

- 8:13 p.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

Warrant arrest

- 9:31 p.m. at Owens Drive and Willow Road

July 21

Alcohol violation

- 12:35 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

Burglary

- 8:14 a.m. on the 3400 block Old Foothill Road

Theft

- 10:10 a.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 11:55 a.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting
- 12:16 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Drug violation

- 6:12 p.m. on the 4300 block of Black Avenue

July 20

Fraud

- 9:22 a.m. on the 6000 block of Allbrook Circle

Shoplifting

- 12:44 p.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

July 19

Theft from auto

- 5:17 a.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Court

Vandalism

- 9:53 a.m. on the 5300 block of Owens Court

Burglary

- 11:22 p.m. on the 000 block of West Angela Street

July 18

Warrant arrest

- 7:18 a.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Theft

- 9:56 a.m. at Homewood Court and Springdale Avenue; catalytic converter theft
- 10:02 a.m., 3400 block of Stanley Boulevard; auto theft
- 11:33 a.m., 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:39 p.m., 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

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Homicide: Jury classifies Tyrell Wilson's death in coroner's inquest

Ruling comes nearly 1-1/2 years after fatal shooting in Danville; DA's probe still pending

By TONY HICKS / BCN FOUNDATION

At a Contra Costa County coroner's inquest hearing last Friday looking at the death of 33-year-old Tyrell Wilson in Danville last year, a civilian jury found unanimously that Wilson's death came "at the hands of another person other than by accident" — akin to the legal definition of homicide.



Tyrell Wilson

Now-former Danville Police Officer Andrew Hall, a county sheriff's deputy assigned to the Danville Police Department beat, shot Wilson one time in the face during an encounter in March 2021. Wilson was holding a 4-inch pocket knife and walking toward Hall, who was backpedaling.

Hall — currently in state prison for six years for a separate on-duty killing in Danville — responded to midday reports of a man fitting Wilson's description throwing rocks off the Sycamore Valley Road overpass to southbound Interstate 680 below.

People in the courtroom Friday,

which included Wilson's father, civil rights attorney John Burris and Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton, were shown videos from three separate angles of Hall confronting Wilson at the intersection of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Ramon.

The reason for the inquest, which is convened after a fatality involving law enforcement in Contra Costa County, is to present facts from the case to a jury for their deliberation and finding on the manner of death.

At the coroner's inquests, a jury can only choose from one of four options for the death — that it was an accident, suicide, natural causes, or the fourth option that the jury chose Friday, at the hands of another person other than by accident.

The encounter occurred in the late morning of March 11, 2021, three days after Wilson's 33rd birthday.

Hall repeatedly told Wilson to



Andrew Hall

get out of the intersection, finally saying he wasn't going to play "this game."

Wilson, whose uncle told investigators Wilson was bipolar and suffered from schizophrenia, refused multiple times.

Wilson asked Hall multiple times who he was, even after Hall identified himself as a police officer. Video showed Wilson also asking "what country is this?"

Danville Police Officer Jay Melen, then a detective for the sheriff's office, testified Hall later told him during interviews that Hall "was in fear of Mr. Wilson's safety and wanted to get him to the other side of the intersection."

Melen said Hall told investigators Hall noticed Wilson had a knife when the man stopped and turned to face Hall, who shouted for him to drop the knife. Wilson refused. As Wilson took two steps toward Hall, Hall took two steps back and fired his gun.

In the video, Wilson clearly said "kill me" twice, either while, or just before, he stepped toward Hall.

Wilson died at the hospital on March 13, 2021, although the sheriff's office did not publicly confirm the death on March 17, 2021.

Melen said Hall told him he didn't use his pepper spray because of other people in the area and didn't use his Taser stun gun because it likely wouldn't work through Wilson's heavy clothing. He said Hall stated he didn't use other hand-to-hand measures because of Wilson's size.

"He said he drew a line in the sand with Mr. Wilson," Melen said, adding that Hall said he decided to use his gun once Wilson stepped toward him and began raising his arm holding the knife.

Investigators said a few weeks before the altercation, Wilson was thrown out of his uncle's house in Pittsburg after a physical confrontation with his uncle, who told police at the time Wilson was mentally ill.

Forensic pathologist Ikechi Ogan, who did Wilson's autopsy, said marijuana was the only drug he found in Wilson's system.

Wilson's father Marvin Wilson came from Texas for the hearing. The former Orange County corrections officer said after the hearing that his son was a star athlete in high school whose mental issues started after he suffered serious brain trauma in a car accident that

killed his girlfriend.

Tyrell was airlifted to the hospital, where he spent weeks recovering. He went back to football for his senior year, after already receiving scholarship offers from multiple Division I college programs. But he was never the same player, or person, again.

"Suddenly he was making (weak) tackles and would say 'Dad, I just didn't want to hurt him.' That fire was gone, like in 'Top Gun' when Tom Cruise lost his partner and was barely engaged."

The elder Wilson, now retired, said he'll be back — especially if Becton decides to charge Hall with any crime.

"He was my only son — my only child," Marvin Wilson said. "I've got to be his voice until the end."

Tyrell Wilson was the second person fatally shot by Hall, who was convicted of assault with a firearm and sentenced this March for the 2018 fatal shooting of Lauder Arboleda. The county has paid a total of \$9.4 million in settlement money to Wilson's and Arboleda's families, even though Wilson's killing is still being investigated. ■

Editor's note: Embarcadero Media editor Jeremy Walsh contributed to this article.

BULLETIN

Continued from Page 14

firearm by a convicted felon.

Aleman also faces a handful of special allegations and potential prison term enhancements related to the felonies, including gun use, great violence or bodily harm, serious violent conduct and — which are listed as felony assault with a firearm (2013 conviction) and illegal gun possession (2018 conviction).

—Jeremy Walsh

- Two Tri-Valley men were among those arrested Monday on insider trading charges for activities that allegedly saw them generate more than \$5 million in illegal profits alongside others involved in the scheme.

San Ramon resident Amit Bhardwaj was arrested Monday morning on seven counts of securities fraud and two counts of wire fraud, along with one count each of conspiracy to commit securities and wire fraud and conspiracy to obstruct justice, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Pleasanton resident Srinivasa Kakkera was also arrested Monday morning, on one count of securities fraud and one count of wire fraud, as well as the same conspiracy charges as Bhardwaj, federal prosecutors said.

According to charges filed by the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission, Bhardwaj allegedly used

material, nonpublic information he learned as chief information security officer at the San Jose-based company Lumentum Holdings Inc. to tip off friends, including Kakkera, about Lumentum's plans to acquire two other companies. Parallel criminal charges have been filed for each of the SEC's enforcement actions in a New York court.

Ahead of Lumentum's acquisition of Santa Clara-based Coherent Inc., which was announced in early 2021, and of San Jose-based NeoPhotonics, which was announced last November, Bhardwaj allegedly told insiders including Kakkera about the company's plans, leading them to purchase shares in both companies before the information was made public.

Authorities allege Bhardwaj learned of the Coherent acquisition in December 2020, and purchased stocks in the company himself as well as tipped off two friends and a close relative.

One friend, Dhirenkumar Patel, allegedly agreed to give Bhardwaj 50% of profits from trading based on the nonpublic information. Patel, Bhardwaj and his other two associates closed out on their shares in Coherent following the announcement of the acquisition, for a collective profit of nearly \$900,000, according to prosecutors.

Authorities allege Bhardwaj learned of confidential discussions at Lumentum to acquire NeoPhotonics in October, and tipped off

Kakkera along with two other friends — Abbas Saeedi of Fremont and Ramesh Chitor — leading all to trade in NeoPhotonics securities, with Chitor agreeing to split profits with Bhardwaj. When the company's stock price increased following the announcement of its acquisition by Lumentum in November, the four allegedly closed out for approximately \$4.3 million in profits.

While Patel and Chitor separately pleaded guilty to charges for their involvement in the scheme, prosecutors allege Bhardwaj, Kakkera and Saeedi allegedly "took steps to obstruct the federal investigation of their conduct" following an FBI interview in March.

On the day of the interviews, Bhardwaj allegedly met with Kakkera, Saeedi and Patel in person on several occasions for conversations about "potential false stories that would conceal their insider trading scheme, as well as creating false documents to buttress lies regarding payments that were, in reality, related to the insider trading scheme," as well as to wipe evidence from Bhardwaj's laptop, prosecutors said.

Bhardwaj, Kakkera, and Saeedi were among the nine defendants arrested in connection with three separate insider trading cases brought on by findings from the SEC's Enforcement Division's Market Abuse Unit's (MAU) Analysis and Detection Center, which monitors for suspicious trading patterns using data analysis. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

George Michael "Mike" Walsh, Jr.

March 4, 1947 – July 22, 2022

George Michael "Mike" Walsh, Jr., a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, sadly left this world on July 22, 2022 at age 75.

Mike was born to George Sr. and Caroline Walsh on March 4, 1947 in Brooklyn, New York, and he grew up in Glen Cove on Long Island, NY. After graduating from Glen Cove High School, he joined the Navy, where he served on the maiden voyage of the USS John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier. While stationed in Alameda, CA, Mike met the love of his life, Joann, and the two were later married on January 31, 1970.

While raising their family in Pleasanton, Mike worked for over 25 years in finance and banking, most recently as a Senior Vice President at Silicon Valley Bank. He enjoyed countless hobbies, especially boating and attending his grandkids' many sporting events.

Mike is survived by his wife Joann (Promes), son Kevin (Natalie) Walsh of Pleasanton, daughter Carolyn (Kevin) Comerford of Pleasanton, grandchildren Mitchell, Nicholas, and Mason Walsh, Emily, Brendan, and Landon Comerford, his brothers Pat (Theresa) Walsh of Parker, CO, Tom Walsh of Longmont, CO, Chris Walsh of Niles, CA, and sister MaryAnn Shortell of Pearl River, NY.

A funeral mass will be held on Wednesday, August 10th, 10am at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, 94566.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate in Mike's memory to Hospice of the East Bay.



PAID OBITUARY

LETTERS

Alameda County eviction moratorium

On July 19, the Board of Supervisors discussed whether to publicly agendize a discussion and possible review of its eviction moratorium. The moratorium had not been discussed in over a year and the request would have simply allowed the public an opportunity to be heard and to ask questions.

The board voted 3-2, declining a public discussion of this matter. While the decision was ultimately made by a majority of the board to not discuss this item, we feel it is important to explain why we supported doing so.

In 2020, the majority of the board approved a moratorium on evictions for renters beginning March 24, 2020 until 60 days after the expiration of the local health emergency. Many things have changed since early 2020. We are no longer under shelter-in-place, people are vaccinated and back to work. California and almost every other county has long since completely rescinded their eviction moratoriums.

Despite these facts, the county's local health emergency — and by default its ban on residential evictions — remains in place.

Everyone recognizes and acknowledges this and public testimony has more than confirmed this.

We've heard about individuals capable of paying rent who refuse to do so. Pandemic protections were enacted to support vulnerable and struggling individuals. Make no mistake, some industries will never recover, and some continue to struggle to find work. However, some tenants refuse to sign paperwork which would allow landlords to apply for rental assistance.

Tenants who can pay rent and are withholding it are taking advantage of — and putting — at risk these very protections.

Continuing the moratorium in its current form may ultimately at a

minimum be found to be an illegal taking of private property. If so, this would expose the county's taxpayers to huge financial damages, limiting resources from our most vulnerable populations. Making prudent changes at this time may limit this liability.

Nobody wants to see anyone evicted from their home because of COVID-19. But after over two years, it's time to consider changes to stop tenants who refuse to pay rent for reasons unrelated to COVID-19.

—District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley,
District 1 Supervisor David Haubert

Insurrectionists are running for office

During the Jan. 6 hearings, we've heard from former members of the Donald Trump administration and Republican state officials about how Trump and his MAGA allies engaged in a criminal conspiracy to try and overthrow our democracy because the 2020 presidential election didn't go their way.

This conspiracy is ongoing, with MAGA Republicans working to make sure future elections go their way, whether we vote for them or not.

Already, Trump allies in office have changed state laws to weaken our freedom to vote and threatened Republican election administrators who won't go along with them. Now, they're running candidates for key election administration offices, from secretary of state to county clerk. Should they win their elections this fall, these officials won't hesitate to overturn future elections if they or their MAGA allies lose.

This completely undermines the tenets of our democracy in which the voters choose who sits in office. The only way we're going to protect our elections is to fight back and make our voices heard.

We have to cast our ballots in the upcoming midterm elections. It's up to us to hold election deniers accountable at the polls and elect democracy defenders up and down the ballot on Nov. 8.

—Ward Kanowsky

We need volunteer drivers

White Pony Express (WPE) is expanding to meet the growing need for healthy food in our communities, including the Tri-Valley. Hunger is on the rise due to inflation and supply chain disruptions and fresh, nutritious food is out of reach for many of our neighbors. WPE needs volunteers willing to drive to help us meet this need.

This can happen in a personal vehicle or one of our fleet vehicles. If you have a little time to spare and a good driving record, we would love to welcome you to our team of food rescue heroes. Together, we can end hunger in our county and beyond.

Operating seven days a week, 364 days a year, our Food Rescue Program rescues an average of 12,000-plus pounds per day of high-quality, largely perishable, surplus fresh food from over 50 local grocers, retailers, farmers markets, restaurants and wholesalers. We then customize each delivery to match the specific requests and preferences of our 80 nonprofit partner recipients, including 12 high-need school sites.

All food is redistributed within 24 hours and all programs are free to our recipients. Since our inception, WPE has rescued and delivered more than 20 million pounds of nutritious food — equal to 17 million meals — and prevented more than 25,000 tons of CO2 emissions from entering the air we breathe.

Contact Mandy and Ana at volunteer@whiteponyexpress.org for more information on the volunteer driver program.

—Steve Spraitzar

Livermore referendum

The Move Eden Housing campaign claims the signatures they gathered gives them a mandate. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The people they paid to lurk outside supermarkets pitched the referendum as a way to "help house the homeless." People signed in support of affordable housing like Eden, not against it.

They wouldn't have been so quick to sign if they had been at all truthful, say if they had said, "Will you waste a few minutes of your time to delay local affordable housing another year, to satisfy the whims of plutocrats Joan Seppala and Jean King, who think they own the town and are furious they don't own the city council. Yet. Anyway, sign here."

—Alan Marling

Biden administration continues to fail U.S.

From the day Joe Biden was sworn into office in 2021 until today, he and his inept administration continue to fail America.

He crippled the U.S. oil and natural gas industry with his canceling of pipelines and unnecessary government regulations. He fueled the inflation with his \$2 trillion COVID-relief spending that was not needed. He ran away from Afghanistan which resulted in the death of 13 American service members, leaving behind billions of dollars' worth of military weapons and equipment.

He did nothing to deter Russia from invading Ukraine. His sanctions on Russia have been weak and ineffective. Had the US continued to produce oil and natural gas at the 2020 levels, the U.S. would be energy independent and we could be providing Europe and India with the fuel they need and Putin would be broke.

His administration has done nothing to secure our Southern border where thousands of illegal aliens, criminals, terrorists and drugs cross our border freely every day. He has done nothing to solve the fentanyl crisis. Biden cares more about the Ukraine border than he does the US border.

His administration fuels racial tension and civic unrest in America with their Marxist rhetoric, and they have done nothing to protect the Supreme Court justices from threats of violence.

In November, you can start the fix of America by voting the Dems out of office and voting in Republicans to Congress and then in 2024 you can restore order and prosperity in America with a Republican president.

—David Ott

Jan. 6 hearings prove Trump is still a threat

If we've learned anything from the Jan. 6 hearings so far, it's that Trump and his allies will go to any lengths to gain and stay in power. The hearings have proven that they planned, promoted, and paid for a months-long criminal conspiracy to overturn the election they knew they lost — and which ultimately ended in a violent attack on our country.

They must be held accountable in the courts — and we must hold them accountable at the ballot box.

Right now, more than 100 right-wing extremists have won Republican primaries across the country, pushing the "Big Lie" that the 2020 election was stolen. All Americans should be alarmed by these victories. Should these candidates win during the general election, they'll continue their criminal conspiracy to overturn our elections.

Casting doubt about our elections and working to overturn them when you don't win is how we start the quick slide into fascism. Stopping this threat is about protecting the freedom to vote, to have our votes decide elections, and to rely on elections to keep our leaders in check.

This year, it's up to us to do our civic duty and cast a ballot for democracy champions at all levels of government in the midterms on November 8th. It's never been more important to exercise our freedom to vote while we still have it.

—Irene Hilgers

Election letters

The Pleasanton Weekly will accept letters to the editor of up to 250 words on election-related issues until 5 p.m. Oct. 29. Letters are published based on order of receipt and space availability, among other factors. We will publish only one letter per person per election topic this summer/fall.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us, and anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. Send via email to letters@pleasantonweekly.com.

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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Human Services Commission Meeting

Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 7 p.m.

- Tri-Valley Haven Presentation - Christine Dillman, Associate Director

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



PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Recent Dublin grad reflects on his viral grab as Oakland A's ball boy

Thalblum draws cheers after diving catch of foul liner near visiting bullpen

Last Saturday night, July 23, was a pretty normal night for 18-year-old Jon Thalblum as he held down his spot as an Oakland A's ball boy on the first base (visitors) side of the field.

The A's took a 3-1 lead over the Texas Rangers into the top of the eighth inning and when the Rangers got a pitcher up in the bullpen. As part of his responsibilities, Thalblum got into position, standing behind the bullpen mound in foul territory to have the pitcher's back from any batted ball.

And that's when the night all changed. Power-hitting Adolis Garcia — a right-handed batter — drilled a foul ball right toward the Rangers' bullpen.

Without hesitation, Thalblum moved to his right, then went horizontal to snag the line drive.

"I just reacted," said Thalblum, who graduated from Dublin High in June. "It was a cool moment for sure."

It was such a hard hit ball, it took a second for people to react, but suddenly the Texas players in the bullpen, as well as the pitcher warming up, all started applauding.

Then the A's fans in the stands started cheering. The catch would go on to make the rounds on social media overnight as well.

"The whole stadium started cheering," Thalblum said. "The Rangers' bullpen coach told me nice job, and the bullpen catcher gave me some knuckles."

But the night wasn't done yet.

Leody Taveras was the next batter and he proceeded to rip a liner right back into Thalblum's area. This time he short-hopped the ball to his side, making another sharp play.

"At that point, the fans started chanting MVP, which was pretty cool," Thalblum said.

It wasn't a shock that Thalblum made the two plays as he has an athletic history for Dublin. He played four years of football, three

years of basketball and one year of baseball.

It was also just another night at the ballpark for the Thalblum family. Jon's dad Mike is the visiting clubhouse manager for the A's, having been with the team for 42 years, starting many years ago selling programs out front of the stadium.

Jon's brother Stewy has been with the A's for three years and is the ball boy on the home side of the stadium.

It was also a great way to top off his first season with the A's as he will be leaving for his freshman year at Arizona State University on Aug. 12.

In just his first season of doing the job for the A's, Thalblum has had a great time and he looks forward to next summer when he returns from his first year of college.

"It's been great talking to the players and just being around the pros and seeing what they do," explained Thalblum. "A lot of the



MIKE ZAGARIS / COURTESY THALBLUM FAMILY

Oakland Athletics ball boy Jon Thalblum of Dublin, seen at left during a game earlier in the season, was trending on social media after a play he made on a foul ball at the A's stadium last weekend.

players are so cool."

Thalblum lists Garrett Richards and Brad Miller — both on the Rangers — as some of the good guys.

Then there are others.

"You'll get one or two guys that will give us a hard time," Thalblum said. "But it's not our job to critique them — we just do our jobs."

While he will miss the rest of the season after heading south, Thalblum will get a jump on the next season, as he will be in Arizona in college when the A's head down for

spring training in 2023.

"It's going to be cool that I will get to see my dad during spring training," Thalblum said.

If you haven't seen the video of the first catch, check out the Oakland A's Twitter page, or go to YouTube and search for "Oakland A's Ball Boy catch." ■

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.

EBAL football teams' biggest adversary? Money.

Transportation, equipment, coach stipends, officials ... the cost adds up quickly

By DENNIS MILLER

The toughest opponent for East Bay Athletic League football teams this season will not be the team lining up on the other side of the field each Friday night.

In fact, the biggest obstacle to a successful season has nothing to do with what happens on the field, either during practice or games.

The biggest adversary our local public school teams face each year is the financial burden on the teams to make ends meet, with the brunt of the work falling on the head coach.

For many years, coaches coached. It was simple — they worked with the kids, helping them transform from impressionable teenagers to young adults, heading off to college, one step closer to the real world.

The kids always benefitted because the EBAL is loaded with a history of high-quality coaches who made their players better people as

well as better football players.

Now coaching almost seems like a small part of the job as funding their programs has taken over — and at times has replaced coaching — as to where a coach's time is spent.

"I'm losing sleep over it," Foothill High School head football coach Greg Haubner said regarding raising funds. "Right now, I have 60 helmets total for 100 players in my program. It costs \$400-\$500 per helmet, and it's hard to play without them."

The ones losing here are the athletes. It is common thread of conversation I have written about for years. Athletics is a vital part of the maturation of teenagers.

As technology keeps advancing and students are more and more into their phone or other devices, interpersonal communication continues to dissipate. Athletics helps keep interaction on the front burner.

It teaches the student-athletes

face-to-face interaction, and teaches responsibility to both themselves as well as their teammates. It also teaches that success on several levels can be achieved with hard work.

These valuable lessons seem to be getting lost a bit more every year. I have seen examples of it throughout the EBAL. Some school administrations embrace athletics and the life lessons taught, while others, not so much. In fact, I feel confident there are a couple of principals of EBAL schools that would be happy to see sports disappear.

"I think we have lost our compass as educators as to what our job is," said California High School head coach Danny Calcagno. "I think there is a lot of administrators that don't understand sports and what it brings."

Amador Valley High School head coach Danny Jones was a star quarterback for the Dons in his high school days and now is back



CAL HIGH FOOTBALL PROGRAM

California High School coach Danny Calcagno oversees a Grizzlies' practice.

leading the Amador program.

He sees the times have changed as well.

"We just want to make football cool again," Jones said. "Our parents do a pretty good job (of raising funds), but outside of that there doesn't appear to be a lot of support for athletics."

Now with funding becoming a bigger issue every year, the pressures become greater on the coaches to make ends meet for their programs.

"It's an unspoken part of what we do," San Ramon Valley High head coach Aaron Becker said of raising funds. "It is a bigger part of what we

do than any of the parents realize."

No coach enters the high school ranks unaware of fundraising responsibilities, but it takes its toll.

"I understand you have to fundraise," Calcagno said. "But because of it, the burnout is quicker. You don't see very many coaches last 30 years anymore."

One common denominator amongst all the football programs in the EBAL is paying the transportation costs to away games.

With the cost of gas having gone up substantially, as well as

See **MONEY** on Page 18

Swimming from Alcatraz to SF for a good cause

Wolves boys' water polo team raising funds, awareness for fight against hydrocephalus

By **JENSEN GIESICK**

The San Ramon Valley High School boys' water polo team is set to swim from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco to support research for a neurological condition known as hydrocephalus.

The 18th annual swim for the Team Hydro Foundation, which will take place on Aug. 13, will serve as the first official team event for the Wolves' 2022-23 squad.

Peter Finlayson and brother, Dr. Sam Finlayson, SRVHS alumni and co-founders of Team Hydro, will lead the group of 45 swimmers into the frigid water of the San Francisco Bay. "It's really exciting and special to see this sort of next generation take up the cause and use their talents that they've fought so hard at in the pool for good, to do something bigger and better than them and that's

humbling," Peter Finlayson said. "We're super excited to have the San Ramon water polo team, both my brother and I played water polo at San Ramon back in the day."

Finlayson and his brother created the nonprofit organization and have dedicated their efforts to raising awareness and finding a cure for hydrocephalus, which causes excess fluid buildup in the ventricles of the brain. They suffered the loss of their sister Kate to the condition. According to the Team Hydro website, hydrocephalus is a neurological condition affecting 1 million Americans. There is no cure and treatment requires invasive brain surgery.

"There's been no real significant advances in treatment since the 1950s," Finlayson said. "So much more research is desperately needed



COURTESY TEAM HYDRO

Participants in the 2021 Alcatraz-to-San Francisco swim pose after their journey. This year's fundraising Bay swim is set for Aug. 13.

to better characterize the condition and help us move towards a cure. And that's what we're trying to do."

"We're trying to help attract new researchers into the field, establish a better understanding of the basic science, and then enable them to sort of start building momentum and secure larger grants from government agencies and other sources to hopefully make it so that one day, you know, other people don't need to suffer and die. Like our sister did," Finlayson said.

In addition to the nonprofit and

the San Ramon Valley High School team, many other participants will swim in the event.

"We also have a wide range of abilities on our team, we have former Olympians, and NCAA water polo champions. We also have grandmothers and grandfathers and everything in between," Finlayson said.

Participation has grown throughout the years and Team Hydro is just getting started, according to Finlayson. "We've actually sold out our swim this year. We're capped at about 45 swimmers due to Coast

Guard permitting and just the size of our ferry vessel," he said.

A gathering at Aquatic park by Ghirardelli Square will be held after the swim. Friends and family will be able to recognize those who participated this year.

Though registration is closed, the nonprofit is still collecting donations for this year's fundraising, with around \$42,000 so far toward its \$75,000 goal for 2022. The SRVHS team has raised \$3,059 toward its goal of \$7,500. To learn more, visit donate.teamhydro.org. ■

MONEY

Continued from Page 17

with inflation going through the roof, transportation costs for the football programs have gone from \$10,000-\$12,000 each season to \$20,000-\$25,000.

"Our numbers are strong," Becker said regarding the number of players the Wolves get each season. "I need two buses for the freshman team, one for the junior varsity and two for the varsity. If the games are close, we can use a bus that can circle for the JV and varsity. If we have a game in the Central Valley, Marin County, or Sacramento area, we can have a trip of two hours in the heat. We can't have an old bus to deal with that weather."

As of now, every school in the league pays for their transportation through the football program.

Some schools try to help.

"I try to pay for a bus or two if I have some money left over," said Livermore High athletic director James Petersdorf, who also is the Livermore basketball coach.

As far as finances go, some schools are better off than others. The Danville schools of Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley are in a much better spot than the schools to the south.

First-year Monte Vista coach Johnny Millard came from Foothill where he had been a player, and then after playing college ball, a coach.

"I am very lucky to have come into Monte Vista with the system they have in place," Millard said. "They have done a really good job here of explaining accountability to

the parents. They have established what our fund raisers are all about. Really, I am so fortunate to have the staff I do."

Becker agreed about conditions at San Ramon Valley.

"I've never had a problem at San Ramon Valley since I have been here," Becker said. "We ask for voluntary donations and we have never had a problem with funding."

What goes into the funding besides transportation? There's equipment, which obviously is a large part as well.

Add in coaches' stipends, coaches' gear, officials, apparel (the team must front the money to buy items they sell for fundraising) and it adds up quickly. In the case of Foothill, the football budget is \$100,000 for each season.

So where does the money come from?

It depends on each school and, in turn, each school district. In Livermore, the two schools' district pays for the reconditioning of the equipment that is done each year and for the head coaches' stipends at each level. After that it falls to fundraising and the gate money.

The Pleasanton Unified School District covers the cost of the athletic trainer for Amador and Foothill, with the rest of the funding to come from the football program or the school.

In the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, the stipends for the head varsity and junior varsity coaches are covered.

Dublin Unified School District covers the coaches' stipends for football, as well as the recertification for the helmets since it is a

primary safety concern.

A big part of high school athletic funding that has become the norm is the "fair share," aspect of playing sports. Teams take their budget for the season and divide the total they need to cover and split the amount between the players. At Foothill, for example, the yearly fee is \$600 per player.

On the surface it is a hefty price tag, but with so little coming from the respective districts and schools, there is no other option.

All the schools are around a similar amount, with some splitting the donations with a payment over the summer and then a second payment in the fall.

But here is the kicker — it is a voluntary donation. Being a public school, you cannot keep an athlete from playing a sport if they don't come forward with the "voluntary" donation.

This coincides with the schools in more financially stable areas.

"We've been pretty good here," Becker said of SRV. "We've never had a problem with the donations, and it all goes into the football program."

But it still doesn't make it easy.

"When you are a high school football coach, it comes with the territory," Becker said of setting the voluntary donation. "There are some uncomfortable conversations (with the parents) at the beginning of every season."

Calcagno is one of the longest-tenured coaches in the EBAL, having spent years coaching at San Leandro before going to Cal.

"Last year we had 65% to 70% pay the donation, which was one

of the better years," Calcagno said. "But we are in more of a blue collar area, so you never know."

The growing issue at some schools is that people have stopped paying the fair share. There are families each year that legitimately need the help due to a financial crisis, or perhaps those that have multiple kids, playing multiple sports, which by the end of the school year force the family to pay \$2,000 to \$3,000 for their kids to play sports.

The issues blow up when families take the approach of "if they aren't paying, then neither are we," or the family of a senior saying, "we've paid for three years, we are taking this one off."

If a school can get 70% of the families to pay the fair-share, they will realistically be good for the season. But it's when the percentage drops below 50% where problems really arise.

If they can't cover expenses with fair-share, then it falls to their school and fundraisers which, while similar in some ways, also see a big difference in ways.

When 'fair-share' isn't fair

Every school has fundraising events, ranging from an e-mail fundraiser where each player sends out emails to friends, families and acquaintances, asking for donations, to other things like "lift-a-thons," barbecues, discount cards to local businesses, summer camps — anything to help defray the costs.

But even running the fundraisers differs from school to school. At Amador, Jones runs a summer camp to earn money for his program, but he must pay a rental fee

to use his own fields.

(Figure that one out. Raise money so you can rent your own fields, so you can raise money? Hmm. Okay. Local organizations renting the fields makes sense, but a school's own teams?)

Game day is also a great opportunity to raise money, but once again, it is horribly inconsistent from school to school.

Some schools have the football team staff and work the snack bar, with the football team reaping the profits; but others use the snack bar to help fund the other teams on campus.

The gate revenue from the games also fluctuate, with the schools usually taking the revenue, but there are also schools where the gate goes to the football program. Jones was able to negotiate the football team keeping one gate a season. It can't be the Foothill game or the Pigskin Roast, a big money-maker for the athletic department, but that one game a year can make a dent.

The snack bar and the gate could be difference makers for every football program in the EBAL.

The reality is everyone could step up a little more.

If each district covered the transportation for their football teams it would help on so many levels. Something like \$20,000 a year from the district into transportation costs would be a game changer. ■

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in Tri-Valley Preps Playbook online, a weekly email during the school year that gives you a front row seat to local high school sports. To sign up, visit www.pleasantonweekly.com/express.

Entertainment

LAS POSITAS PRESENTS - LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS A deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical, Little Shop of Horrors has devoured the hearts of theater-goers for more than 30 years. 8 p.m., July 29-31. Tickets \$10-\$20. LPC's Mertes Center for the Arts, outdoor amphitheater. Visit laspositascollege.edu.

626 NIGHT MARKET AT THE FAIRGROUNDS The iconic California festival features hundreds of food, merchandise, crafts, arts, games, music and entertainment that appeals to all ages. Tickets \$5. July 29-31. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

CITY CENTER UNPLUGGED Celebrate summer with City Center Unplugged, a Friday evening outdoor music series featuring an array of local bands. Grab an outside table, enjoy a leisurely dinner and catch some of the tunes that will be filling Alexander Square. 6-8 p.m. City Center Bishop Ranch.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK The Pleasanton Downtown Association's popular Concert in the Park series takes place every Friday night through Aug. 26, featuring an eclectic mix of music from classic rock, blues and big band to today's hits. The free concerts run from 7-8:30 p.m. at Lions Wayside Park. July 29, The 925 Band.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE VINEYARD Shakespeare in the Vineyard is back and bigger than ever with SPARC Theater. The Comedy of Errors, 7:30 p.m., July 29-30, Aug. 5-7. Visit sparctheater.org/shakespeareinthevineyard.

NEWSIES THE BROADWAY MUSICAL Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre Presents Newsies the Broadway Musical, based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899. This Disney musical tells the story of Jack Kelly, a rebellious newsboy who dreams of a life as an artist away from the big city. July 30-31. Tickets \$21-\$39. Visit livermorearts.org. Bankhead Theater.

VASCO ROAD JAM IN JULY Livermore's Vasco Row at the corner of Vasco and Research will be hosting a day of live music, food trucks and local vendors. 2-8 p.m., July 30.

MOVIES IN THE PARK Grab a picnic dinner, blanket and low beach chair to enjoy film favorites. Aug. 4, "Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings". All movies are free and begin at dusk. Amador Valley Community Park, 4455 Black Ave.

TUESDAY TUNES IN LIVERMORE Enjoy Tuesday tunes every night through Aug. 16. Shea Homes Stage, Livermore Plaza, 2400 First St. 6:45 p.m.

GRAN JARIPEO Y BAILE Calibre 50, Banda Carnaval, Jose Manuel Figueroa y Cuarto de Milla. Toros de Rancho el Aguaje. 12-8 p.m., Aug. 14. Tickets \$15-\$55. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Exhibits

MUSEUM ON MAIN EXPLORES HORSE RACING HISTORY Pleasanton's rich history of horse racing is the subject of its newest exhibit: The Home Stretch. Using rarely seen material from the Alameda County Fair Archives and interviews given by over three dozen veterans of Pleasanton racing, as well as items lent by trainers, shoers and other members of Pleasanton's racing community. Through July 30.

THE ARTISTS AMONG US: NATIVE PEOPLE TODAY A new, powerful exhibit by artists from the Bay Area and beyond, representing different tribes and all visually representing their life experiences as Native artists. This exhibit aims to bring art that represents Native culture in all of its contemporary forms. Through July 31 at Bankhead Theater.

Talks

CRITTERS IN YOUR BACKYARD Learn about what kind of critters you can find at home, from birds to insects and the most common animals that call a backyard home. 2 p.m., Aug. 7. Sycamore Grove Park. RSVP to dsousa@larpd.org or call 925-960-2400.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Glen Holstein, Ph.D., presents "The Geography of American Genealogy" at the next Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society meeting. 7-8:30 p.m., Aug. 8. Visit l-ags.org.

FAMILY CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES "Signs of Dementia Versus Normal Aging" is the webinar topic of the next Family Caregiver Education Series through Hope Hospice. Worried if memory challenges you or a loved one are experiencing are normal or something else? Dementia specialists will discuss these questions and other food for thought. 10-11:30 a.m., Aug. 11. Visit hopehospice.com.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS: WALKABOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Tom Courtney will share photographs and discuss some of the remarkable multi day hiking adventures featured in his guidebook, the second edition of Walkabout Northern California:

Hiking Inn to Inn. Registration is not required for this free event. 1:30 p.m., Aug. 11. Livermore Civic Center Library, Storytime Room.

WILDMIND SCIENCE LEARNING The Springtown Branch Library will host Wild Americas, a program that will feature a Kinkajou, a Spectacled Owl, a Falcon and a Tortoise. 10:30 a.m., Aug. 11. 998 Bluebell Ave. in Livermore.

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK Pleasanton's history is more than dates and historical time periods, it's about the everyday people that helped build this town. On this walking tour with Museum on Main, explore the many beautiful historic homes along St. Mary Street, Division Street and Rose Avenue. 10 a.m., Aug. 13. 603 Main St.

CONGREGATION BETH EMEK OPEN HOUSE Whether new to the area or just new to Beth Emek, drop by its open house to learn about worship opportunities, the community and educational programs for all ages. Take a tour of the building and visit the sanctuary and classrooms. 10 a.m., Aug. 14, 3400 Nevada Court. For more information, contact membership@bethemek.org.

LAWYER IN THE LIBRARY This virtual program through the Pleasanton Library is every third Tuesday of the month. Each registrant will have a 15 to 20 minute free consultation. Registration closes the Saturday prior to the Tuesday event. 6-8 p.m., Aug. 16. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

ALAN HU FOUNDATION Dr. Steven C. Hayes will present a mental health webinar sponsored by the Alan Hu Foundation titled "How Change Happens: Why Improvement in Our Mental Health Will Require Going Beyond Mental Illness". RSVP by Aug. 16. Visit <https://alanhufoundation.org>. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Aug. 17.

Family

STORYTIME IN THE PARK The Livermore Public Library is hosting Music & Movement storytimes at various neighborhood parks around Livermore every Saturday through Aug. 13. No

registration is required for this free event. 10 a.m., July 30, Ralph T. Wattenburger Park, 1515 Honeysuckle Road.

FIRST WEEKEND ON MAIN Every first weekend of the month enjoy street closures for roaming in historical downtown Pleasanton featuring events and outdoor dining. Aug. 5-7.

THE WAVE WATERPARK The Wave Waterpark, owned by the city of Dublin, will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Aug. 5. For more information on The Wave, visit thedublinwave.com.

FAMILY DAYS AT MUSEUM ON MAIN Enjoy an afternoon playing with all types of toys and games including old time wooden toys, optical illusion toys, carnival games and retro toys. Participants will be able to make some toys to take home. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Aug. 6. 603 Main St.

Farmers' Markets

PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year-round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. W. Angela St. Visit pcfma.org/pleasanton.

LIVERMORE THURSDAY NIGHT FARMERS' MARKET The popular Livermore Thursday night Farmers' Market is 4-8 p.m., Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St.

LIVERMORE SUNDAY FARMERS' MARKET Gather for music, food and fresh local and organic products directly from producers. Support small businesses and local sustainable agriculture. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays. Between J St and L St.

DUBLIN FARMERS' MARKET The Dublin Farmers' Market is every Thursday through September. 4-8

See CALENDAR on Page 20

Employment

Sr. Scientist

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. has an opening in Pleasanton, California for a Sr. Scientist. Work with product development scientists, software and web developers and develop the next generation of standalone and cloud-based software for assay design and analysis of droplet digital PCR (ddPCR) data. To apply, email your resume to susan_milam@bio-rad.com, with job ID indicated: **(Job Ref.116.894.N)**.



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Multiple Positions

Flexon Technologies, Inc.Sr. Business Analyst I; - Jobs loc in Pleasanton, CA & var unanticipt locs t/o U.S. Cnvrtr user reqs into bus reqs. Gath bus info & doc for prcss imprvmnt. Anlyz, dfine, & intrprt bus needs & issues by dcmtng & validng bus & tech reqs. Prvd data anlyss & rprts. ID test scnriss & crte test cases for scssful impl of prjcts. Interact dir w/ clnts. Trav/relo to var unanticipt locs t/o U.S. for l/t & s/t assigns at clnt sites. Reqs Master's or frgn equit in Comp Sci, Engng (any), Bus Admin, or rel. Job 21FT108; Operations Analyst; - Jobs loc in Pleasanton, CA. Monitor, create, & pub rprts & metrics across mult depts. Track & mnage screening of clients through operational rprts. Prep reg & ad hoc rprts. Rev rprts for accracy & compltness. Perf stat anlysis. ID trends in consumer lifestyle & tech. Conduct cstmor focus grps & anlyz/synth findings. Scan bus/ind trends & anlyz consumer data. Prov customers w/ spcialzed info from a var of srurses. Facilitate workout prblem-slving sessions w/ mult groups of people. Reqs Master's or frgn equit in Comp Sci, Engng (any), or rel & 1 yr exp in the job offered or as a Comp S/ware Prof'l. Job 21FT110; Mail res w/ cvr ltr to Flexon Technologies Inc., 7901 Stoneridge Dr, Suite 390, Pleasanton, CA 94588; EOE

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.

If you wish to learn more about the advertising options, please call 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawekly.com.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Orgnation
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 589683
The following person doing business as:
Orgnation, 6330 Stoneridge Mall Road,
E202, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Barbara Dominguez, 6330 Stoneridge Mall Road, E202, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Barbara Dominguez, an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Barbara Dominguez, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on June 10, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 8, 15, 22, 29 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.

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Hi, I'm George!

My name is handsome George and I'd love to be your friend. At just over 1 year old, I'm a very happy Shepherd boy who loves learning and loves playing with my people even more. I love going for walks, hiking, playing fetch or going for a run. I'm a professional on the leash and love to show off. I've enjoyed meeting other dogs while on walks with my amazing foster family and know the cues for how to "sit", "stay" and "come" on command. I can't wait to meet my forever family! Contact eastbayspca.org.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 19

p.m., Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Pkwy. For easier parking use the lots off of Gleason Dr. near the basketball courts and Central Parkway near the soccer field.

Hobbies

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS LEMONADE SOCIAL

Join the Lemonade Social and bring a bag lunch and a chair. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., July 29. Palomares Park, 7050 Villareal Drive in Castro Valley. Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Support

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP

Tri-Valley Haven will hold an in-person support group for survivors of domestic violence. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Aug. 1. Email olga@trivalleyhaven.org or call Sharon at 925-449-5847 ext. 2607. 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN'S BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION

Tri-Valley Haven is distributing backpacks pre-filled with school supplies to low-income students of all ages at two locations: Lynwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton and 3575 Pacific Ave., Livermore. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Aug. 2.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

NAMI Tri-Valley will co-sponsor with NAMI Alameda County and Axis Community Health a 1-day informative educational Suicide Prevention Workshop for Family Caregivers. This virtual workshop is at no cost, but registration is required. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 7. Visit nami-trivalley.org.

STUFF THE CRUISER

Livermore Police Department will be holding its annual "Stuff the Cruiser" where cruisers will be parked in front of Big Lots, CVS (First St.), Office Max and Walmart where officers and volunteers will collect community donated school supplies (backpacks, folders, pencils, pens, paper, etc.), in hopes of stuffing the cruiser to give out to students in need. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Aug. 13 and 14.

HOPE HOSPICE WORKS OF HOPE ART DRIVE

Help Hope Hospice bring joy to patients through the gift of art. Individuals are invited to create or donate existing artwork that will be distributed to patients living

in Tri-Valley care facilities. The art drive is open through Aug. 19. Visit HopeHospice.com/art.

FREE HOT MEALS Prepared by Open Heart Kitchen. Monday-Friday, 1-3 p.m. 4444 East Ave, Livermore. Dine-in or take-out. Visit openheartkitchen.org.

FREE SHOWER AND LAUNDRY SERVICES Monday-Wednesday, 12-4 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore.

GOODNESS VILLAGE NEEDS DRIVERS Goodness Village in Livermore, a Tiny Home Community that provides affordable and permanent housing options for people experiencing chronic homelessness, is looking for drivers to get residents to appointments. Visit gvlivermore.org.

Fundraiser

5K FOR A CAUSE This fun run created by Prodigy Fitness, Girls Soccer Worldwide and Fleet Feet supports a great cause, to empower girls in sports. Registration from this event will benefit local programs supported by Girls Soccer Worldwide. Aug. 7. Ken Mercer Sports Park.

TRI-VALLEY REACH FUNDRAISER

Join for an evening of giving while enjoying the sunset amidst the scenic vistas of Livermore's wine country. Tri-Valley REACH provides resources, education, activities, community participation and housing opportunities that enable adults with developmental disabilities. 6-8:30 p.m., Aug. 11. Visit trivalleyreach.org/events.

Seniors

PLEASANTON VIP TRAVEL Join the Pleasanton Senior Center to Red Hawk Casino in Placerville. 8:15 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Aug. 11. Cost \$48 member/\$51 non-member. Call 925-931-5370.

SONS IN RETIREMENT SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Tri-Valley Branch of the Sons in Retirement (SIRS), which provides social activities for men over 50, is seeking new members. The group is open to all men who are retired or semi retired and aims to improve the lives of its members through fun activities and events while making new friends for life. For more information call Bob Jacobsen at 925-846-5774, email: ayjake@sbcglobal.net.

Golden Skate closure postponed amid uptick in attendance

Rink to stay open as construction date for 47-unit housing development remains unknown

By JEANITA LYMAN

San Ramon's Golden Skate roller rink no longer has a firm closing date, following an uptick in attendance and community support for the facility, and delays with permitting and development for a townhouse project for the site.

The rink's staff had initially announced July 31 as the final day of operations, but confirmed that the closing date has been rescinded as of Tuesday, and that the rink would remain open.

The latest plot twist in the story of the rink's closure comes roughly nine months after an announcement last October that the rink would be ceasing operations, citing financial hardships caused by the pandemic and the inability to restore losses after reopening in the spring of 2021.

However, a preliminary application for the housing project to replace the rink had been submitted more than a year prior, in August 2020, and was already under review last summer, according to city records.

The 47-unit Windflower Fields Townhomes project was approved by the San Ramon Planning Commission last December. The construction date is still to be determined, according to an annual update presented by the Planning Commission to the City Council this month. In the commission's July 2021 presentation, Windflower Fields was listed as "under review."

The housing development on the property at 2701 Hooper Drive would require demolishing the rink, which the owner, Hassan Sharifi, first bought in 1995.

"It took me many years to revive the business. Unfortunately, the

enormous financial damages that we suffered due to COVID have made the continued operation of the Golden Skate infeasible and so it is with a great deal of sadness that I must announce that The Golden Skate will cease its operations," Sharifi said.

The initial news and the recent announcement of the since-revoked closing date, followed by broadcast news reports and social media circulation, garnered hundreds of reactions and comments online as people reminisced about birthday parties, first dates, and first jobs at the rink over the years, and made plans for their final visits.

Although some expressed surprise at the announcement, amid the unexpected resurgence of interest in roller skating in recent years, and popularity of '80s and '90s nostalgia, it appeared to be largely accepted as one more inevitable pandemic casualty, among a wave of others in recent years.

The Windflower Fields project came to the Planning Commission for a final hearing and vote approximately six weeks later, on Dec. 6. The meeting saw just one public comment regarding the closure of the Golden Skate, from Margie Gear.

"I think it's important ... (to know) that there are people who do object to it, and the reason why there's been a large outpouring of sadness," Gear said. "There aren't many roller rinks left. I know that this one has been around for almost 50 years, and I think it's important for someone to speak up and say this has been great for the kids; it's been great for generations."

Gear noted that the Golden Skate has been one of the few

remaining roller rinks in Northern California, which allow "kids ... and adults, old kids like myself, to have a forum to have a wholesome place to skate." In particular, she pointed to the sense of community at the San Ramon rink, which includes longtime professional skaters.

"There's so much sadness. I know people in their 70s and 80s who are competing professionally with ... the Roller Skaters Association, and it's really — there is a whole lot of grief right now," Gear said.

"It's like it was once said in a song from about the time this roller rink was built," Gear added. "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot. I think that's what's happening here"

Another unidentified speaker expressed support for the project in a public comment that night, despite noting that she was usually critical of projects coming before the commission. Dylan Casey also submitted a written comment to the commission ahead of the meeting, urging approval and development of the project on behalf of the California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund.

Bryan Wenter, the applicant's legal counsel, sought to highlight benefits of the project in a presentation to the commission.

"The project is in its own right a great project, which I think is also reflected in the fact that there is no public opposition to it," Wenter said. "And in addition it's a project that ... is basically not visible from San Ramon Valley Boulevard or other public vantage points, versus the higher density project that could be accomplished consistent with the existing city land-use



JEREMY WALSH

The Golden Skate roller rink in San Ramon remains open for now but is expected to close in the not-too-distant future to make way for a recently approved housing project..

regulations, which could be much more dense, much more visible, etcetera.”

“So we believe this is a great project in its own right, in addition to the fact that it’s supported and protected by state housing law,” Wenter added.

Despite ultimately voting in favor of the project that night, commissioners expressed a wide range of concerns and reservations during their discussion of the item.

“This is not a good project,” Commissioner Gary Alpert said. “I will vote yes because under state law I don’t think we have a choice. Yes, the project meets all state laws and is consistent with the outdated and now replaced Crow Canyon Specific Plan. Everyone that worked on that plan knew it was obsolete and needed to be revised. We attempted to remove housing, we isolated an industrial corner of the plan area and were unsuccessful due to state law.”

“As written in the staff report, it is not easy or even possible to deny this project without putting the city in great jeopardy,” Alpert added.

Despite state housing law — namely Senate Bill 330 — that imposes restrictions on local officials’ ability to deny applications for housing that don’t pose objective health, safety or environmental concerns, Commissioner Corie Edwards said that language in the Crow Canyon Specific Plan and resolution would classify the proposed ADUs (accessory dwelling units) as fourth bedrooms, rather than individual units.

Edwards, along with Alpert, noted that

their dislike of the project before them was not a matter of being anti-development.

“I would like very much to see this site developed,” Edwards said. “I invite the project sponsor to put forth a project that complies with San Ramon’s planning documents and California law, and I hope this project’s sponsor will do that irrespective of the outcome of tonight’s hearing.”

Commissioner Rick Marks said that while he would vote in favor of the project, he wanted the record to show his concerns with it, including at the planning level.

“People will not be living in a neighborhood; they’ll be living in a single isolated housing development,” Marks said.

Commission Chair Jean Kuznik also noted that applicants for other projects on properties of a similar size had been able to put forth projects that incorporated affordable housing in a substantial way, in contrast with this one.

“This was not a question of could it be done,” Kuznik said. “This was a question of they wouldn’t do it. And I find that very troubling, and again disappointing.”

Commissioners reluctantly passed the resolution at a vote of 4-0, with Edwards abstaining.

The vote came less than a year after the rink’s doors had been reopened last spring, which was just over a year after it was forced to cease operations in March 2020.

The Golden Skate is set to remain open indefinitely as the permitting and development process for Windflower Fields Townhomes continues. ■

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (May 31-June 3)

Total sales reported: 23
Lowest sale reported: \$550,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,850,000
Average sales reported: \$1,720,000

Livermore (May 31-June 3)

Total sales reported: 29
Lowest sale reported: \$415,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,850,000
Average sales reported: \$1,175,000

Dublin (May 31-June 3)

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$670,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,700,000
Average sales reported: \$1,275,000

San Ramon (June 20-24)

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$530,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,975,000
Average sales reported: \$1,592,500

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

PLEASANTON

2785 Turnstone Drive	\$1,595,000
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00	3BD/2.5BA
Compass	925-997-2411
3771 Muirwood Drive	\$1,699,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	4BD/2.5BA
Connect CA Homes	925-216-9083
7485 Sundrop Ct	\$1,848,000
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00	4BD/2.5BA
BHG- RELIANCE PARTNERS	925-963-1984

PORTOLA VALLEY

177 Bolivar Lane	\$7,988,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	7BD/6.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

SAN CARLOS

755 Dartmouth Avenue	\$1,988,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty	650-684-0887

WOODSIDE

764 West California Way	\$3,298,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	3BD/2.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000
3525 Partition Road	\$5,988,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	6BD/5.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

MENLO PARK

1120 May Brown Avenue	\$3,988,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	3BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

PALO ALTO

4125 Wilkie Court	\$3,188,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	4BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

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

HOME SALES

This week’s data represents homes sold during May 31-June 3 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

Pleasanton

- 7251 Beaumont Court** Sanchez Family Trust to T. & A. Joshi for \$3,850,000
- 1650 Calle Santa Anna** Y. & S. Wong to Overstreet Family Trust for \$1,054,000
- 2740 Chocolate Street** K. & M. Schmitt to B. & N. Padalkar for \$1,625,000
- 4065 Churchill Drive** Pemper Trust to S. & R. Muthupandian for \$1,500,000
- 682 Concord Place** P. & G. Shenoy to P. & J. Schmitt for \$787,500
- 5793 Corte Libre** Gumerson Family Trust to A. & K. Raman for \$2,645,000
- 4181 Cortina Court** Murugaiyan Trust to Opendoor Property Trust I for \$880,500
- 4427 Downing Court** N. & S. Bostrom to Opendoor Property Trust I for \$1,478,000
- 4961 Drywood Street** Wright Trust to E. & J. Bowser for \$1,500,000
- 3673 Dunsmuir Circle** Watts Living Trust to G. & K. Kandepalli for \$2,350,000
- 2250 Fairfield Road** P. & W. Smiley to A. & P. Manjrekar for \$2,100,000
- 5474 Greenfield Way** A. & S. Otvos to N. & N. Vaishnavi for \$1,720,000
- 1224 Harvest Road** Mederos Trust to C. & D. Stonecypher for \$2,018,500
- 7468 Muirwood Court** B. & C. Deaton to H. Zhang for \$1,798,000
- 5165 Oakview Court** National Residential to J. & N. Jethi for \$1,800,000
- 673 Palomino Drive #C** M. Boselly to J. Ramos for \$775,000
- 5538 Paseo Navarro** Y. Liu to T. & K. Lin for \$1,855,000
- 1084 Riesling Drive** C. & S. Kyle to B. & M. Chen for \$1,725,000
- 5737 San Antonio Street** Froberg Trust to D. Gates for \$1,000,000
- 2219 Segundo Court** R. & M. Jimeno to Y. & W. Chuang for \$550,000
- 4440 Seminole Way** Z. Liu to W. & J. Xia for \$990,000
- 3547 Wind Cave Court** K. & J. Haygood to R. & L. Gomez for \$1,780,000

3410 Zion Canyon Court G. & N. Jain to S. & P. Gupta for \$1,785,000

Livermore

- 323 Albatross Avenue** R. Jackson to L. & N. Loey for \$1,080,000
- 397 Ann Court** R. & J. Urdahl to J. & N. Nair for \$1,377,000
- 5628 Arlene Way** P. & K. McDonnell to T. Thompson for \$1,485,000
- 1532 Arlington Road** D. Pontziou to A. & C. Olsen for \$1,400,000
- 6497 Aspenwood Way** Moretti Living Trust to S. & K. Archibald for \$1,510,000
- 1220 Asti Court** A. Usedom to S. & P. Chaudhary for \$1,530,000
- 4163 Bristlecone Way** Wong Trust to Dias Trust for \$950,000
- 3041 Callaghan Street** M. Quiatchon to M. & M. Bachhu for \$1,310,000
- 38 Cascade Avenue** P. Johnsen to S. & S. Mishra for \$1,100,000
- 393 Elizabeth Court** B. Carney to Farnoodfar Living Trust for \$750,000
- 514 Escondido Circle** D. & L. Williams to Maggi Trust for \$1,499,000
- 857 South G Street** A. & Z. Bond to Kennard-Lau Living Trust for \$1,850,000
- 384 Garden Common** C. Forney to M. Christoff for \$680,000
- 3588 Germaine Way** Adams Family Trust to L. & J. Lacombe for \$1,095,500
- 444 Jackson Avenue** Andersen Living Trust to R. & J. Loza for \$1,150,000
- 571 Jackson Avenue** M. & B. Vanloon to S. & D. Jones for \$1,265,000
- 4841 Julie Street** Raichbart Trust to N. & S. Thomas for \$1,365,000
- 883 Keystone Way** Redfinnow Borrower LLC to L. & D. Hogan for \$1,175,000
- 2160 Leafcrest Common** Molau Trust to V. & Y. Shah for \$1,100,000

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.

Thinking of buying or selling in 2022? CALL CINDY!

JUST LISTED — OPEN SAT. & SUN. FROM 2-4 P.M.



7485 SUNDROP CT., PLEASANTON

Come view this exciting gorgeous updated executive 4 BR 2.5 BA home. Granite, hardwood flooring, plantation shutters, French doors and more!! Must see! Westside location with the most incredible VIEWS!! Close to schools shopping and commute!! Move in! Offered at \$1,848,000

PENDING



5230 ARMANI CT. PLEASANTON

Lovely updated quartz kitchen. 3 BR 2.5 BA home with spacious yard! Offered at \$1,238,000

SOLD - LAGUNA OAKS - RESORT STYLE LIVING.



3540 MILLEFORD CT., PLEASANTON
 Offered at \$3,400,000

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1546 RIDGEWOOD ROAD
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3263 VINEYARD AVENUE #51
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2785 TURNSTONE DRIVE
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BEAUTIFUL COLONY MODEL IN BIRDLAND
2,135 +/- SQ. FT.
LISTED AT \$1,595,000

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SCAN TO VIEW
PROPERTY



SOLD ► 3540 MILLEFORD COURT, PLEASANTON

4 BED | 3.5 BATH | 3,886 SQ. FT. +/-
SOLD FOR \$3,400,000 | REPRESENTED BUYER

SOLD ► 7307 ELMWOOD CIRCLE, PLEASANTON

4 BED | 3 BATH | 1,889 SQ. FT. +/-
SOLD FOR \$1,750,000 | REPRESENTED BUYER

SOLD ► 3113 JOANNE CIRCLE, PLEASANTON

4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,054 SQ. FT. +/-
SOLD FOR \$1,779,000 | REPRESENTED SELLER

SOLD ► 5092 HILLCREST AVENUE, PLEASANTON

4 BED | 2 BATH | 2,201 SQ. FT. +/-
SOLD FOR \$1,899,000 | REPRESENTED BUYER & SELLER



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Wishing You And Yours The Best Week Ever!



FOR SALE
Listed at \$3,395,000

3422 Torlano Place, Ruby Hill
5 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 4,450 Square Feet



FOR SALE
Listed at \$2,289,000

409 Neal Street, Pleasanton
3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,262 Square Feet



FOR SALE
Listed at \$1,389,000

125 Sylvia Circle, Pleasanton
3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1,412 Square Feet



FOR SALE
Listed at \$1,850,000

3665 Huff Court, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,437 Square Feet



FOR SALE
Listed at \$6,500,000

1012 Shotwell Court, Pleasanton
6 Bedrooms | 6.5 Bathrooms | 7,129 Square Feet



FOR SALE
Listed at \$2,295,000

1147 Mataro Court, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,401 Square Feet



FOR SALE
Listed at \$2,795,000

921 Trebbiano Court, Danville
5 Bedrooms | 4.5 Bathrooms | 3,668 Square Feet



COMING SOON
Listed at \$2,495,000

579 Trebbiano Place, Ruby Hill
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,806 Square Feet



COMING SOON
Listed at \$2,295,000

6981 Corte Antonio, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,336 Square Feet



PENDING
Representing Buyers

4282 Nottingham Drive, Danville
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 3,349 Square Feet



PENDING
Listed at \$1,799,000

4515 Gatetree Circle, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 2,172 Square Feet



JUST SOLD
Sold for \$1,620,000

3607 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,562 Square Feet



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Amanda Davlin
Director of Operations
(925) 922-1619



Alexis Venema
Realtor
(925) 963-5446



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



Michelle Kroger
Realtor
(925) 785-3134



Sabrina Tirado
Realtor
(925) 578-4303



Bhavna Manning
Realtor
(925) 998-2388



Brenda Meckenstock
Realtor
(925) 353-6484



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