

Pleasanton Weekly

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Living Well

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Nonprofit quietly eliminates key services, staff as questions mount about leadership and the future

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

'The Making of a City'

There's a new documentary just released by the city of Dublin chronicling the community's incorporation 40 years ago and evolution since.

Of course I was drawn to watch it, as a fan of local history and film.

I don't watch as many documentary features as I used to — although we will watch the occasional docuseries at home. I had almost forgotten, but I took a "history of documentary" course en route to my cinema studies minor at American University.

An engaging documentary can educate and elicit emotion while entertaining the audience, and I was pleased to experience that range while viewing "Dublin: The Making of a City" this week.

Produced by the city of Dublin and Ryan Moran, the 51-minute video now available on YouTube weaves photographs, documents, newspaper clippings and interviews together to tell the story of why Dublin incorporated in 1982, and how the city has changed in the four decades since.

"The short story is you got a bunch of people who live some place and are not happy about the services that they're getting from the county. And they're saying we want better roads, we want better lighting, we want better amenities, and their solution to that was to make a city," Steve Minniear, Dublin's city historian, said in the documentary.

Or, as late former councilmember Valerie Barnes put it: "It was to say it ourselves, not to have it said for us."

Voters converting Dublin from an unincorporated community into its own incorporated city was a major milestone, forever changing the direction of the southern Tri-Valley.

"That first group of elected officials, they did not have any other political ambitions that I could see when I was working. Their focus was on Dublin," said Richard Ambrose, Dublin's first city manager serving for 26 years. "The city needed a lot of work. It had been neglected by the county."

Ambrose and Barnes were just a few of the figures recounting those times pre- and post-incorporation, along with former councilmembers like Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold, George Zika and Claudia McCormick.

There were plenty of more recent Dublin leaders interviewed too, like current Mayor Melissa

Hernandez, Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert and U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell, plus former mayors Janet Lockhart, Guy Houston and Tim Sbranti.

What incredible perspectives they offer, making the documentary a true source material for local Dublin history.

"The unification of the school district (in 1986) really helped set the pace for Dublin's development and showing that, yeah, we did have the resources and the ability to govern ourselves and to grow ourselves as a school district and a city. And I'm just so proud of where they are now," Lockhart recalled.

"Dublin is a well-planned community, and the growth that you see was all planned in the 1990s and every square inch had a plan," according to Haubert.

"One of my favorite things about Dublin is the diversity of people," Swalwell added. "This place is so much more diverse than when I graduated Dublin High School in 1999. You go to Dublin High School today and you'll see the number of different ethnicities and religious backgrounds that the students bring, and it's exciting."

The film traces many key moments along the timeline after incorporation, including pushing for BART to Dublin, building the Civic Center, approving workforce and senior housing with associated community benefits from developers, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

It also doesn't shy away from the gut-wrenching losses the community has endured, with interviewees reflecting on their memories of the disappearance of Ilene Misheloff in 1989 and the on-duty deaths of deputy John Paul Monego (1998), firefighter Sekou Turner (2002) and deputy Aubrey Phillips (last February).

Other overall themes include public amenities, historic preservation, community togetherness, service organizations, and business and residential expansion.

There are so many great anecdotes, and even a few left me begging for more specificity. Of course the documentary was produced by the city government, so maybe we have to take some things with a grain of salt.

But the filmmakers did a fair job in the end. After all, it was their story to tell, the way they wanted to tell it. ■

About the Cover

Questions about the future of Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley after the Pleasanton-based nonprofit abruptly eliminated its popular Friendly Visiting Program amid ongoing leadership instability. Photo by Chuck Deckert. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Is there any particular concept that you really struggle to understand?



Pearl Penumaka
Psychotherapist

I struggle to wrap my head around the concept of technology and engineering. As a writer and psychotherapist, I love working with language and the mind, but flying on a plane and/or using a new piece of technology still feel like magic to me.



Theo Costen
College student/server

I have trouble with the concept of authority. I don't like to just take answers from someone in a position of authority if I don't know whether they are actually qualified to be giving orders. I like to do my due diligence first in order to make sure that whoever I have to listen to knows what they are talking about and is accurate in the instructions they're giving.



Nanci Watson
Administrator

I can never wrap my head around why some people insist on always being right, instead of being kind. For me, choosing kindness is a no-brainer, so I just can't understand why anyone would choose otherwise.



Lesley Romero
Student/server

I struggle with the concept of time dilation — that time is not absolute and fixed but instead, is relative, as gravity and motion both cause time to dilate. So 60 minutes in one place is not necessarily the same amount of time as 60 minutes somewhere else.



Karen Reid
Health care

I can't understand why so many people are so fascinated with the concept of living in space, and why they are so eager to explore space, instead of focusing on what we can do to protect our own planet Earth, where we live and which sustains us.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis



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DIGEST

Candidacy deadline

The initial deadline for candidates to qualify for Tri-Valley ballots for the Nov. 8 general election expires today — although the timeframe is extended to next Wednesday (Aug. 17) in any race where an eligible incumbent chooses not to file for re-election.

Positions up for grabs this fall include two city council seats and the mayoral chair each for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, as well as positions on the Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore Valley and Sunol-Glen school districts.

Other elected bodies on the ballot include the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, East Bay Regional Park District and Dublin San Ramon Services District.

The candidacy deadline passes at 5 p.m. today (Aug. 12). If an incumbent does not file, the nomination period is extended five calendar days — open only to non-incumbents. There is no extension period if the seat is currently vacant or opening up due to term limits.

To learn more, contact the specific public agency or visit www.acvote.org.

Pleasanton Reads

The Pleasanton Public Library's adult literacy program, Pleasanton Reads, is seeking volunteers to help adults improve their skills in reading, writing and conversing in English.

"Tutors work one-on-one with students, or lead small group conversation practice, citizenship test preparation or book clubs," city officials said. "The literacy program provides all books and materials as well as training and ongoing support."

The next tutor training session is set for 5-8:30 p.m. Aug. 24 at the library on Old Bernal Avenue. Volunteers should be 18 years old or up, fluent in American English and familiar with American culture, and able to devote one to two hours per week for at least six months. For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/3vqnPXs>.

ACTC bond sale

The Alameda County Transportation Commission last month completed the sale of \$124.03 million par value in Measure BB senior sales tax revenue bonds, resulting in \$140.63 million of proceeds to advance projects funded by the 2014 Measure BB Transportation Expenditure Plan and pay bond issuance costs, according to the agency.

The sale allows the agency to go forward "more quickly, including multimodal projects, interchange modernization and improvements, goods movement roadway improvements and express lane gap closure projects." ■

Board OKs raises for Haglund, cabinet; Diolazo elevated to deputy superintendent

Also: Pay bump, more benefits for CSEA; child nutrition chef to implement new menus

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton school board recently extended the contract terms, including salary increases, for Superintendent David Haglund and assistant superintendents Ed Diolazo, Julio Hernandez and Ahmad Sheikholeslami.

The trustees also approved the decision to name Diolazo as Pleasanton Unified School District's deputy superintendent, in part so that the district can start implementing a succession plan

for when Haglund does decide to leave — Haglund's new contract runs through the 2025-26 academic year.

Haglund pointed out that the title of deputy superintendent will be given to Diolazo but it is not a new job, more so it is a way to train Diolazo on how to take over in case something happens. He wanted it to be clear it is not a replacement for the previous deputy superintendent.

"Unexpected things happen and if I were to go down or if I

would need to go and take care of family business or whatever, there would be a need to have somebody to step into that gap and really that's what this position is designed to do," Haglund said.

In the new position description, Diolazo would serve as the chief officer of the district in the superintendent's absence.

According to the staff report, employee agreements are reviewed and updated as part of the annual evaluation cycle for the executive management team.

Haglund, who is entering his sixth year at the helm, saw the board on July 28 extend his contract for an additional year and create a new four-year agreement that will end on June 30, 2026. His base salary was increased to \$369,780.

Both amendments for Hernandez, the assistant superintendent of human resources, and Sheikholeslami, the assistant superintendent of business services,

See **SCHOOL BOARD** on Page 6



COURTESY ANASTACIA SNYDER

Pleasanton native Anastacia Snyder (center) is flanked by Tracy Weber, Catalyst Domestic Violence Services board member, and Assemblymember James Gallagher for a picture on July 7 with Snyder's 2022 Woman of the Year award.

Amador Valley alum named Woman of the Year

State award recognizes Anastacia Snyder for nonprofit work in Butte County

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton native and Amador Valley High School alumnae Anastacia Snyder was honored last month as this year's Assembly District 3 Woman of the Year in Butte County.

Assemblymember James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) presented the award to Snyder and five other women who work within his

Northern California district at an event in Chico last month.

"It really was an honor to be recognized by the assemblyman for the work that I've done and the contributions I have made," Snyder told the Weekly. "It was also an honor to stand next to those women and hear about all the wonderful contributions that they have contributed in their

own community."

According to his Facebook post, Gallagher solicited nominations throughout the district to honor outstanding women from each of the six counties he represents.

"All of the nominees recommended for this award deserve

See **AWARD** on Page 8

Livermore sued over unprocessed referendum

Move Eden Housing also wants judge disqualified from case

By CIERRA BAILEY

Newly formed community group Move Eden Housing filed a lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court last week, taking their efforts to force the city to process their referendum petition a step further.

The referendum petition seeks to overturn the City Council's May approval of an amended disposition, development and loan agreement (DDLA) for the 130-unit affordable housing development and public park planned for downtown at the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and L Street.

Move Eden Housing is advocating for the relocation of the Eden Housing complex in favor of a community park being built on the current project site instead, although the group is not publicly advocating for a specific alternative location.

"The lawsuit is our last chance to stop the City Council from allowing a project that would degrade Livermore's downtown for generations," said Maryann Brent, a leader of the Move Eden Housing group. "We strongly support the creation of new affordable housing in Livermore, but not in the center of our downtown which should be a focal point for the city's residents."

Resident Richard Ryon — who is

See **LAWSUIT** on Page 9

Zone 7 Director Olivia Sanwong running for East Bay Parks board

Tri-Valley resident would step down from water board if elected to EBRPD Ward 5 seat in November

By NICOLE GONZALES

Olivia Sanwong, a current director for the Zone 7 Water Agency, announced this week that she will be running for the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors in the Nov. 8 election.

Sanwong, who was just re-elected to a second term on Zone 7 in the June primary, said she would step down from the Tri-Valley water and flood control board if she wins her bid for EBRPD's Ward 5, which represents communities such as Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, Newark, Sunol and parts of Fremont.

"Should my campaign for the

East Bay Regional Park District Ward 5 seat be successful, I will resign from the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors," Sanwong told the Weekly.

A Pleasanton native, Sanwong has past experience with EBRPD as a member of the Park Advisory Committee starting in 2016. She won elected office for the first time in 2018 to the Zone 7 board.

In a press release launching her



Olivia Sanwong

EBRPD candidacy, Sanwong emphasized her campaign mission to "balance access to recreation activities with environmental stewardship and responsible financial management while also planning for extreme weather events." Another major goal is to support environmental education in the area.

"I feel incredibly passionate about our work to plan for extreme drought and flood events in the Tri-Valley," Sanwong said. "I also see my Zone 7 knowledge and experience as a unique asset I would bring to the EBRPD Board of Directors. One only needs to look at the water level at Shadow

Cliffs to know that EBRPD faces similar climate challenges as Zone 7."

In her campaign for Ward 5, Sanwong has been endorsed by the current EBRPD Ward 5 Director Ayn Wieskamp, who is retiring after her current term following more than 20 years on the regional parks board.

"Olivia is a community leader who cares about EBRPD and has valuable ideas and insights," Wieskamp said in a statement. "I am confident Olivia will use her knowledge and experience to best represent the constituents of Southern and Eastern Alameda

County. She is my choice to succeed me on the Board because she is up-to-date on EBRPD issues through her service on the Park Advisory Committee."

Sanwong, a longtime Tri-Valley resident and Amador Valley High School alumnae, has received several other endorsements from public officials, including Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez, Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown, Livermore Vice Mayor Gina Bonnano and Zone 7 Board President Sarah Palmer.

To learn more about Sanwong's candidacy, visit her campaign website at oliviasanwong.com. ■

SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from Page 5

include a base salary of \$254,053 and a one-year term extension that will create a new three-year agreement ending June 30, 2025.

Diolazo, who had been assistant superintendent of support services, had a contract amendment that looked a bit different from Hernandez and Sheikholeslami because of his additional new responsibilities as deputy superintendent, which will overlay his existing assistant superintendent's responsibilities.

Diolazo's new contract includes an additional year to his term, creating a three-year agreement ending on June 30, 2025 with a base salary of \$259,134. He would also get a "5% increase over base salary

and compensation for performing duties of deputy superintendent," according to a district staff report.

Trustee Joan Laursen said it is good to see a succession plan being created because of the tradition of the district to not promote from within the district, specifically in the superintendent role.

But she said that while that deputy would get the training and experience it would take to be superintendent, it could give them an unfair advantage of getting the job without giving outside hires and community members a choice.

Haglund pushed back on that saying that at the end of the day, the board and the community will still go through the same process of hiring a superintendent and

'Unexpected things happen and if I were to go down ... there would be a need to have somebody to step into that gap.'

David Haglund,
PUSD superintendent

every potential hire will be treated the same.

Trustee Kelly Mokashi shared the same sentiment as Laursen on the deputy position getting an unfair edge and voted no on the job description item, but had more to say on the superintendent's salary. She said that when she did the math, two stipends

which are added into the base salary were counted twice, which made his salary almost \$370,000 when it should have been closer to \$362,000.

After almost half an hour of back and forth with Board President Mark Miller and Sheikholeslami, who said he reviewed the numbers the payroll division sent him, Mokashi said she agreed to disagree and indicated she intended to vote no for the employee agreements item. But after a miscommunication about voting on the agreements separately or together, she ended up voting yes and failed to rescind her vote.

In other business

The board on July 28 approved a tentative agreement with the California School Employees Association bargaining unit to give classified employees a 3.75% salary increase and more benefits.

"I'm just really delighted that this is coming to pass and that this is going to be approved, and I really appreciate the efforts made to get this agreement done," Mokashi said.

CSEA is the largest classified school employees union in the United States, according to its website. Classified staff are school and district employees who do not require certification like paraprofessionals, office staff, custodians, bus drivers and business managers.

Other items in the agreement include increased contribution toward health and welfare benefits, and contributions toward dental and vision coverage.

"I want to say thank you to our classified, and I just want to be able to support anything that helps retain and appreciate our classified staff because I know that they work really hard," Trustee Mary Jo Carreon.

The estimated annual cost of the 3.75% to the salary schedule

will be \$1,021,790 and the estimated annual cost of the additional contribution to the medical is at \$610,000 in the 2022-23 district budget, which already accounted for the agreement, according to PUSD staff.

The board approved new child nutrition job descriptions and positions including a chef who will help implement new menus, streamline productivity and make cafeterias run smoother.

Hernandez said the district will be combining several positions in the Child Nutrition Department business division that will help the newly appointed chef move away from serving processed food.

"Moving into the direction of not just having processed but moving into the direction of actually preparing food and cooking food," Hernandez said. "The attempt is to try to streamline, create efficiencies and also add staff to be able to support the universal food program, which all of our students are able to participate in."

He said that the old job descriptions didn't allow the district to provide fresh food because it bottlenecked cooks with small tasks such as pouring condiments and sauce on food, making things run slower.

"Together, the right personnel, the right skill set, the right training, will increase quality and increase our ability to move the meals through the system," Hernandez said.

Student Trustee Annabelle Kim added that she especially appreciates the reorganization and hopes that it will help fix the understaffing problem she has seen at Foothill when only two out of the four lunch lines students use are open.

"I hope that this implementation will expedite that process a bit and just improve the quality of food overall, which I know at least for me is a very big concern," Kim said. ■

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LAVTA consolidating paratransit services with County Connection

Also: Try Transit to School is back; agency earns national recognition again

By NICOLE GONZALES

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority recently announced several new advancements in its services to Tri-Valley passengers.

The agency, which operates the Wheels bus system, spotlighted these developments that include the consolidation of its paratransit resources with County Connection, the return of Try Transit to School and the national recognition of LAVTA's financial operations.

"The intention behind consolidating the two paratransit services was to operate more efficiently by reducing duplication of certain functions of service delivery," said Tony McCaulay, LAVTA director of marketing and planning.

Founded in 1985, LAVTA serves the cities of Pleasanton, Dublin

and Livermore with a variety of buses, vans and public transit vehicles. The announcements aim to encourage passenger satisfaction and ridership. The Central Costa County Transit Authority, also known as County Connection, is a transportation agency that supplies fixed-route services in neighboring Contra Costa County.

The paratransit consolidation was previously approved by boards of both agencies.

According to McCaulay, the merger will upgrade such tasks as "reservation taking, scheduling, dispatch and operations — primarily to improve the passenger experience."

Transportation services once operated independently of each other by the separate organizations, they have now joined together in an

attempt to better meet the needs of the public, as well as encourage efficiency with funding and resources. The integration of the two organizations hopes to increase customer satisfaction and passenger comfortability, according to officials.

Previously, users of Wheels and County Connection were required to change services and vehicles when traveling through different counties.

"With the consolidation, the passenger can now book a 'one-seat ride' and no longer needs to transfer between systems," McCaulay said.

In addition to the transit service consolidation, Wheels announced a returning initiative to provide Tri-Valley school-aged children and youth with rides through the next



Wheels and County Connection are consolidating paratransit services.

LAVTA

several weeks.

The program, Try Transit to School, has existed in the community for almost 20 years. Its return will offer middle and high school students free rides system-wide from now until Sept. 5.

"The promotion encourages students to try our services as an option for transportation to school and other locations as well," McCaulay said. "We hope that students get comfortable with the

process of using public transit and continue that habit as they move into adulthood."

The free rides are not just limited to school transportation — rides can be used during freetime, weekends and for non-school related activities. To use the service, students simply board and ride, no pass is required.

In other news, LAVTA announced

See **PARATRANSIT** on Page 8

State staffer Dean Wallace announces candidacy for Pleasanton City Council

District 1 candidate says he's excited to put civic engagement experience to work in hometown

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The race for Pleasanton City Council District 1 is officially underway as longtime Tri-Valley resident Dean Wallace has become the second person to announce their candidacy for the Nov. 8 general election.

Wallace, a political staffer who currently works as a district director for Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Berkeley), said in a news release last week that he is excited to put his experience in civic engagement to work.

"Public service and responsive government is my life's great passion, and I'm incredibly excited about this opportunity to serve the people of Pleasanton," he said. "I'm running to bring a forward-looking perspective to the City Council."

Wallace is the second candidate to throw his name in the District 1 race, following Pleasanton Planning Commissioner Jeffrey Nibert, who announced late July that he will be running as well. The deadline to register is today.

If elected, it would be Wallace's first time serving in the Pleasanton city government, with no local commission or committee experience.

Originally born in Ireland, Wallace moved to the United States

with his parents when he was a child and obtained full citizenship in 2011. He has worked for several East Bay elected officials over the past decade, including serving as a field director for U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore).

"He was with me when it was just the two of us and a few volunteers knocking on doors to talk to voters — and by the end of that campaign we had hundreds of volunteers knocking on doors in every neighborhood in Pleasanton and my district," Swalwell said in Wallace's campaign news release. "I know Dean's ready to roll up his sleeves and work hard on behalf of the residents of Pleasanton, because I've already seen him do it."

Wallace said his local and regional relationships will help him achieve his priorities, which include promoting Pleasanton's hometown values, supporting working families and ensuring funding for community services.

He said his plans also include, "smart growth policies, long-term sustainability, and strong public safety for our residents and local businesses."

The November 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.

Current Councilmember Kathy Narum's seat on the council, 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.

As a District 1 resident, Wallace said the district-based election will provide a unique opportunity to represent an area that he says will

"play a central role in the writing of Pleasanton's next chapter."

"As someone who graduated from high school in the Tri-Valley, then returned after college to live close to family, I have experienced firsthand the challenges facing our young families and young professionals," he said. "That informs my deeply held belief that our community values must include

supporting our high school graduates of tomorrow — by envisioning a future where they can continue to thrive right here in Pleasanton."

Wallace graduated from Stanford University in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in political science. To learn more about Wallace and his campaign, go to his website at www.DeanWallace.com. ■



Dean Wallace

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Roof replacement work underway at Pleasanton Library

Facility to remain open until roofline windows are replaced

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Construction to replace the Pleasanton Public Library's roof began on Monday, according to a city news release. The project, which is meant to address water leaking, is predicted to finish in late fall.

The roof replacement was a priority project on the City Council capital improvement program's list, which identified projects in the city to allocate funding toward repairs.

According to a city work plan, the library's roof was described as "being past its useful life and in need of replacing due to its age and condition."

Once the city's Library Commission recommended the

improvements, the council approved the funding during its mid-term operating budget review.

The final construction bid to repair the roof approximately costs \$525,000 — much lower originally estimated at \$2.7 million. That difference of \$2.2 million allowed the council to transfer funds to fully repair the historic Century House, which is another priority project.

Apart from replacing the roof, the project will include 35,900 square feet of new concrete roof tiles and 2,000 square feet of membrane roofing to provide an extra layer of protection against water leaks, according to city officials.

New energy-efficient roofline windows, the replacement of

water-damaged wood sheathing, and the addition of new gutters and downspouts are among other improvements to the building. Roof anchors and walkable tiles will also be added to the roof to ensure safer and easier access for maintenance personnel, according to city staff.

Provided that there are no safety concerns, the library is scheduled to remain open during the initial phase of construction, except for when the roofline windows are replaced. According to the city, that date and the amount of time the library will be closed is unknown but online services will still be available for the public.

The parking lot will remain open



CITY OF PLEASANTON

The roof project to address water leaking at the Pleasanton Public Library started this week.

and untouched by construction crews as their equipment and materials will be located on the vacant city-owned lot across from the library. Starting Monday, the library building was surrounded by a safety fence to "form a perimeter for the active construction site and to form a barrier between the public

and any potential falling debris." There will also be a tunnel set up at the library front door to provide safe access for the public and staff entering the building.

Work will be performed Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

AWARD

Continued from Page 5

accolades for their selfless commitment to serving their community," Gallagher said in his post. "The North State is a special place. We lift each other up and have a reputation for the care and support we offer our neighbors. I am honored to recognize each of these

six women for all that they do as they represent the best of what the North State has to offer."

Snyder — who was raised in Pleasanton, where her mom Sandi still resides — now lives in Chico where she is the executive director at Catalyst Domestic Violence Services, the sole certified provider of crisis intervention services for victims of domestic violence and

their children in Butte County.

She has been with the nonprofit for 26 years and is responsible for the overall management of the agency's operations.

Snyder said Catalyst provides services like a full housing program, emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling programs and overall support services for Butte County. She added that Gallagher attended the organization's 45th anniversary fundraiser event and was impressed with the work being done.

She said that some other reasons she thinks she received the award is because of her Rotary Club work and overall community involvement.

Snyder has been an active Rotarian since 2008 and currently

serves as the Chico Noon Rotary Club president as well as a member of the Board of Directors for the Chico Chamber of Commerce, where she serves as the board chair.

She has also worked on smaller projects throughout her community such as park maintenance and fundraising campaigns to build a new cardiac care center at her local hospital.

Snyder said that community work is important to her and she wants more people to know that they can and should do more to address concerns in their community.

"It's important that people contribute to their community, in whatever way that they can; Rotary just happens to be an avenue for me," Snyder said.

Apart from community work, she sits on the California Office of Emergency Services Domestic Violence Advisory Council, where she is the current co-chair. Snyder is also a regional policy representative to the state domestic violence coalition's Public Policy and Research Committee.

Additionally, Snyder serves as chair of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Board, is part of the Children's Services Coordinating Council Executive Committee and is an elected member of the Butte County Continuum of Care Council.

She earned a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College in Moraga and completed a master's degree in English from California State University, Chico. ■

PARATRANSIT

Continued from Page 7

the organization's recent national recognition for its finance management and operation.

LAVTA was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government of Finance Officers Association (GFOA), their 26th consecutive year receiving the prize.

"LAVTA operates with a very small executive and administrative staff," McCaulay said. "To have won the GFOA award for 26 consecutive years recognizes the diligent efforts of the two-person LAVTA Finance and Accounting staff. As for the marketing awards, LAVTA's marketing staff currently consists of the director of planning and marketing and a marketing intern."

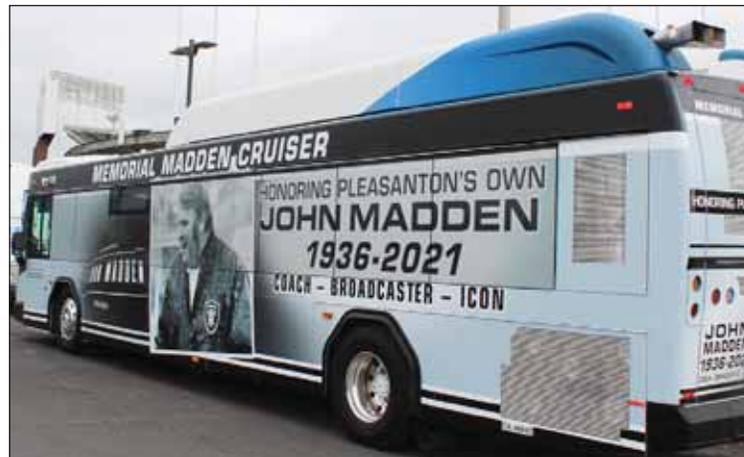
The transit organization was also the recipient of two first place AdWheel awards, a national competition aimed at highlighting

transit systems across the country. "Many of the agencies we compete against in the AdWheel competition have a much larger marketing staff," McCaulay said. "We were especially gratified to be recognized for the 'Memorial Madden Cruiser,' a project that went from an in-house concept to completion in less than six weeks and was done

without any expenditure of public funds."

LAVTA's Memorial Madden Cruiser is an advertising project that honors the late Raiders football coach, John Madden, on Wheels vehicles.

To find out more information about the transit agency, plan trips or receive route alerts, visit wheelsbus.com. ■



LAVTA

The Memorial Madden Cruiser ads on Wheels buses.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

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The City Council recruits and appoints residents of Pleasanton to a variety of boards and commissions, allowing them to contribute to and influence decisions affecting the city, providing advice and feedback on important community issues.

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1 Vacancy – Regular member
- HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**
3 Vacancies – 2 Regular members, 1 Youth member
- LIBRARY COMMISSION**
2 Vacancies – Regular members
- PLANNING COMMISSION**
2 Vacancies – Regular members
- YOUTH COMMISSION**
3 Vacancies – Middle School members

Apply by 5 PM, Monday, September 12, 2022, on the City of Pleasanton website at <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/clerk/boards/default.asp>

Applicants must reside within Pleasanton city limits.

For more information contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Livermore to open recycled water fill station for residents

Participants can receive up to 300 gallons per visit

The city of Livermore's Water Resources Division has announced the reopening of its residential recycled water fill station set for next Monday.

The fill station will allow Livermore residents to receive up to 300 gallons of recycled water per visit to use for irrigation and landscaping purposes for their properties.

The city's public works director, Scott Lanphier, said in a statement that the reopening of the fill station should help Livermore residents to keep their individual properties sufficiently watered amidst the current drought.

"Due to the drought, all Livermore properties can only irrigate on assigned watering days based on their address number. We are temporarily providing our residents with recycled water to supplement their allowed irrigation and keep landscaping alive during the hot summer months," Lanphier said.

The city's Water Resources Division is bringing the service back after previously operating a recycled water fill station during the



COURTESY CITY OF LIVERMORE

One of the fill stations at the Livermore Water Reclamation Plant.

summers of 2015 and 2016.

The fill station program is free-of-charge to use and is open to all Livermore residents. To be eligible for the program though, residents are required to complete a permit form, as well as attend a short one-on-one training session with city staff, officials said.

The fill station can be found at the Livermore Water Reclamation Plant located at 101 W. Jack

London Blvd. and will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays through Oct. 1.

Participants must bring their own containers to transport and store their recycled water.

Residents who are interested in applying for a residential recycled water permit can learn more by visiting www.livermoreca.gov/recycled-water-station. ■

—Livermore Vine staff

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 5

named as a petitioner in the lawsuit — initially filed paperwork to begin circulating a referendum petition in early June. After collecting more than approximately 8,000 signatures, the petition was submitted to the city on July 8.

Livermore city clerk Marie Weber deemed the council's action approving the DDLA as administrative, not legislative, and therefore not eligible for a challenge by referendum. Weber explained the decision in a letter to Ryon and his attorney Barry Fadem, noting that the city's response was based on the advice of city attorney Jason Alcalá and special counsel.

According to a statement from Move Eden Housing, the lawsuit is asking the court to compel Weber to process the referendum petition, place a hold on the sale of the city-owned project site to Eden Housing and to ultimately allow Livermore residents to vote on the referendum.

"We believe that the City Clerk has no authority or basis in the law for refusing to process the petition signatures," said Fadem, who also represents Move Eden Housing. "We are simply asking the court to allow Livermore voters the opportunity to have their voice heard on this matter, as this is one of the fundamental rights granted by the California constitution."

City officials told the Weekly that as of last Friday, they had not

yet been served with a copy of the lawsuit that was filed on Aug. 1.

"The City has not been served yet and since this is a matter involving litigation, we are not commenting on the lawsuit that was filed at this time," officials said in an email.

Move Eden Housing's goal is to repeal the resolution that approved the DDLA, "which could provide a future City Council majority elected this November with the ability to move the Eden Housing development to an alternative location," according to the group's statement.

After the lawsuit was filed last week, the case was assigned to Judge Frank Roesch who earlier this year denied Save Livermore Downtown's lawsuit which sought to overturn the city's initial approval of the Eden Housing project.

At the time, Roesch said the group's arguments that the project violated the California Environmental Quality Act were "almost utterly without merit." The group has since filed an appeal, which is still pending.

Although Move Eden Housing and Save Livermore Downtown identify as separate organizations, they share members and are advocating for similar actions related to the Eden Housing project.

On Aug. 3, attorney Winston P. Stromberg of Latham & Watkins LLP submitted a peremptory challenge to disqualify Roesch from presiding over Move Eden Housing's case.

"I believe Judge Roesch is prejudiced against the Petitioners or their interests, to such extent that Petitioners cannot receive a fair and impartial hearing before Judge Roesch," Stromberg wrote.

All of the city's 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.

Attorney general backs city in SLD appeal

California Attorney General Rob Bonta filed an amicus brief Tuesday in the case of Save Livermore Downtown v. City of Livermore, supporting the city's request for dismissal or expedited review of the pending appeal challenging its approval of the Eden Housing project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

"Timing is critical for affordable housing projects, which often rely on time-sensitive funding sources like tax credits to finance development," Bonta said in a statement. "The project at issue in this case would bring desperately needed affordable housing to the City of Livermore, and I commend the City for its efforts to address the housing needs of its community."

He added that CEQA is intended to protect the environment and public health, not to block new development. "Expedited review of this case will be key to allowing this development to proceed without further delay," Bonta said. ■

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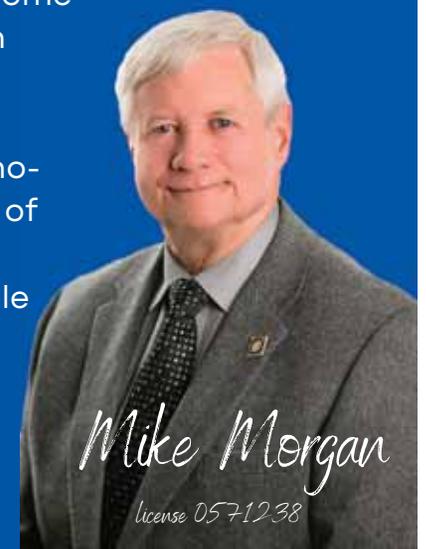
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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

No injuries after shots fired in Pleasanton hotel parking lot

The Pleasanton Police Department closed a stretch of Johnson Drive for nearly two hours as officers investigated gunfire in the area that resulted in no reported injuries on Monday afternoon.

Police said that a domestic dispute escalated into multiple shots being fired at an unoccupied vehicle in the parking lot at 7050 Johnson Drive — which is the address of the Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel Pleasanton at the Club.

The department first reported the road closure around 1:15 p.m. Monday amid the active investigation, and then announced the road's reopening just after 3:15 p.m. "There were no reports of injuries," police said. "There is no threat to the community."

No arrests had been announced as of press time Wednesday.

The shooting incident remains under investigation. Anyone with information about the case can call Pleasanton PD at 925-931-5100.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- A man was robbed at gunpoint with a shot fired and a witness attempting to intervene was pistol-whipped in broad daylight at a Danville shopping center last Saturday, according to police.

The three culprits drove away from the Livery Shopping Center after the

armed robbery and remained at-large as of press time.

The situation unfolded around 2:44 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot of the Livery in the 200 block of Sycamore Valley Road. A man was approached by three armed people as he exited a shop and walked toward his parked car, according to Danville police.

"As two of the suspects were taking a watch from the victim, a witness to the crime attempted to intervene. One of the suspects struck the witness with a pistol," police said. "At one point during the robbery, one of the suspects fired one round from their firearm."

Nobody was struck by any gunfire, according to police.

The three robbers fled the scene in a vehicle, according to police — who did not provide descriptions of the suspects nor their vehicle.

There was speculation on social media that individuals detained in Oakland after a police chase on Sunday were connected to the Danville armed robbery from the day before, but Police Chief Allan Shields told the Weekly, "We do not believe the pursuit into Oakland is related to the Danville case."

The investigation into the robbery remains ongoing, police said. Anyone with information can contact Danville police Sgt. Jacob Bell at 925-314-3703 or jbell@danville.ca.gov.

Saturday's incident marks the third armed robbery reported publicly in Danville in the past month and a half, following a Rolex watch theft in the Trader Joe's parking lot on July 1 and a robbery attempt with gunfire on Hartford Road on June 21.

—Jeremy Walsh

- In neighboring Contra Costa County, the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday decided against creating an independent board to oversee the sheriff's office, opting instead to approve a recommendation by its public protection committee to receive quarterly reports from the sheriff's office concerning its activities.

Assembly Bill 1185, which became law Jan. 1, 2021, authorizes counties to establish law enforcement oversight panels and/or an inspector general to assist in oversight duties. Doing either requires action on the board's part or a public vote.

The vote was unanimous, but there was still lively discussion over how much oversight is necessary. District 1 Supervisor John Gioia — who argued for an independent commission, saying it's "just good government" — said quarterly reports are better than nothing.

"I want to support doing this, but I want my comment to be really clear this does not go far enough and prefer civilian oversight and, hopefully, that stays at the forefront of discussion, but I don't want to oppose having these quarterly meetings as long as they're before the full Board of Supervisors," Gioia said.

One topic of discussion was the board's ability to issue subpoenas, a power state law gives independent oversight boards or inspector generals. County Counsel Mary Ann McNett Mason confirmed to the board it can appoint an inspector general rather quickly, who could then subpoena certain records.



PPD

National Night Out

The Pleasanton community, like others throughout the Tri-Valley and the country, took part in National Night Out last week. The annual program, which aims to bring police and first responders together with the neighborhoods they serve while also raising crime prevention awareness, saw approximately 40 block parties in Pleasanton visited by personnel from the Pleasanton Police Department, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and other agencies, as well as city officials.

District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen said her goal was to create more transparency, but that the sheriff is already overseen by state agencies, including the attorney general.

"I don't think we need to appoint a separate body for us to do our job," Andersen said. "I think it's very clear that we do have subpoena power through an inspector general."

The framework for the quarterly reporting was developed by the Sheriff's Office and the county administrator's office. The reports will update supervisors on Sheriff's Office activities and allow them to

ask questions about operational issues. The report will cover custody services, field operations, support services, and administration.

Custody services include total number of bookings, number of participants in custody alternatives, in-custody deaths, and medical data overseen by the county health department. The department would also report on coroner cases, internal affairs investigations, use of force events, assaults on staff, interactions with immigration officials, racial data, evictions, and other significant events. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation

Carol D. Gaskins

November 29, 1938 – July 31, 2022

Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, she always had an interest in the arts. She received her art training at the Art Center College of Design where she majored in commercial art, advertising, and illustration.



She met Bob, her husband of 60 years, while attending the Art Center. He was an industrial design major.

As her family got older, Carol worked for the Valley Times Newspaper in Pleasanton in the graphic design department for 8 years. Upon leaving, she joined 3 art groups, where she jumped into watercolor paintings, winning numerous awards over the years.

Carol and Bob have lived in and enjoyed Pleasanton for over 50 years.

Their daughter, Tracy, and her husband Russ, and their two daughters, their families, and three great grandchildren now live in Texas. Their son, Troy, lives close by in Tracy, CA.

Per Carol's request, there will be no services.

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POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Aug. 3

Domestic battery

■ 2:46 a.m. on Pimlico Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 10:16 a.m. on the 500 block of Main Street

Theft

■ 12:47 p.m., 6600 block of Owens Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 1:29 p.m., 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; auto theft

■ 9:00 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

■ 9:26 p.m., 2600 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

Fraud

■ 1:25 p.m. on the 5300 block of Starflower Way

■ 4:27 p.m. on the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive

Burglary

■ 10:02 p.m. on the 600 block of Crystal Court

Aug. 2

DUI

■ 2:28 a.m. at Hopyard Road and Inglewood Drive

Theft

■ 3:24 a.m., 2100 block of Foxwallow Road; catalytic converter theft

■ 10:58 a.m. on the 4300 block of Muirwood Drive

■ 11:03 a.m. on the 2000 block of Eilene Drive

■ 5:31 p.m. on the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

■ 6:51 p.m., 6700 block of Singletree Way; theft from auto

Fraud

■ 2:11 p.m. on the 7200 block of Valley View Court

Vandalism

■ 6:49 p.m. on the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Domestic battery

■ 8:41 p.m. on Rathbone Way

July 31

Domestic battery

■ 3:41 a.m. on Taboda Lane

Graffiti offense

■ 10:23 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Warrant arrest

■ 11:12 a.m. at Hummingbird Road and Sandpiper Way

Drug violation

■ 5:45 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Warrant arrest

■ 8:34 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Seniors Living Well

Inside:

- What an aviation experience Page 12
- Tips for senior homebuyers Page 14
- Spotting elder abuse Page 15

What's going on at Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley?

Nonprofit quietly eliminates key services, staff as questions mount about leadership and the future

By NICOLE GONZALES

Seniors in and around Pleasanton will no longer have access to select cornerstone services after the recent elimination of a key initiative at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley — the Friendly Visiting Program.

The discontinuation of the popular volunteer service came as a shock to many and raised more questions about the organization as a whole, its leaders and their motives, and funding at this point of the pandemic.

Community members, as well as former SSPTV staff, have expressed concern over the visitor program's closure and leadership decisions from both the acting and former executive directors, as the Pleasanton-based nonprofit has now initiated the termination of several programs and positions, despite records seemingly confirming adequate funding for payroll and other services.

"I was told that my position as Friendly Visiting Program coordinator was eliminated due to restructuring in the nonprofit and I was to be laid off," said Pam Silliman, a former employee as of three weeks ago. "I have over 100 seniors in this program and dozens of volunteers; what's going to happen to them?"

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is a registered nonprofit that aims to assist seniors in the community with various programs and resources, from counseling services to medication assistance to case management, according to its mission statement. The operation is run out of the Pleasanton Senior Center, but independent from the city government.

According to the organization's website, SSPTV is primarily funded through several Alameda County initiatives, including Area Agency on Aging, Public Health and Nutrition Services Department, and Behavioral Health Department. They also receive supportive

funding from the cities of Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore.

Silliman recalled her and several other employees being requested for separate phone reviews with SSPTV's current interim executive director, Mercel Amin, on July 22. It was during that call Silliman was informed her position, along with the Friendly Visiting Program and Caregiver Referral Program, were to be eliminated.

The Friendly Visiting Program connected volunteers with seniors who would spend time socializing or engaging in activities together. It was among the most-popular SSPTV programs, until it abruptly went away last month with little explanation to staff and volunteers involved and the public at-large.

Amin, as well as SSPTV board members contacted by the Weekly in recent weeks, did not answer questions about the Friendly Visiting Program's elimination nor the nonprofit overall. "SSPTV is undergoing a transition and I'd be happy to connect in the weeks to come as things become official," Amin said in a brief email response to inquiries.

Silliman served as the Friendly Visiting Program coordinator for three years, a service that existed for over 40 years since the organization was founded.

"The seniors that are in this program, a lot of them have been in it for years and years and years," Silliman said. "They have a friendly visitor that used to come to their home; some would take them out for coffee, some would go to a movie once a week. It's amazing what the volunteers in this community do for their seniors."

After the COVID-19 pandemic forced the nonprofit to operate largely remotely, volunteers of the program adapted their work to continue services for the seniors. They began



CHUCK DECKERT

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, a long-popular nonprofit in the area, operates out of the Pleasanton Senior Center.

phone visitations and sent handmade cards to the seniors every month.

"It was a huge lift for the seniors to know that the community hadn't forgotten about them," Silliman said. "Now they have totally abandoned all of the seniors that have been in this program and are dependent on it."

At the time of Silliman's interview last week, senior clients of the Friendly Visiting Program had not been made aware of its termination — almost 14 days after she was informed.

Volunteers of the program were also left confused amid word of its closure.

"After I retired from PUSD, I was looking for a way to volunteer," Pam Grove said.

In 2020, Grove reached out to Silliman who educated her on the Friendly Visiting Program and connected her with two seniors to visit with. Grove had been involved with the program ever since.

"This program has been so valuable to the isolated seniors in our community especially during the current pandemic," Grove said. "It's hard to believe that this program has abandoned vulnerable seniors who I'm sure looked forward to weekly interaction with their volunteers."

Grove also attested to the significance of the Friendly Visiting Program and its impact on seniors in the area.

"The program offered foot care, info about vaccines, made sure every senior in the program received holiday gifts and even coordinated with the Valley Quilters to provide every senior with a beautiful handmade quilt last December," she said.

Silliman questioned whether funding was the problem for the Friendly Visiting Program, saying she asked directly about that while on the phone call with Amin. "We've been told for

months that all our contracts have been accepted again for this fiscal year," Silliman said. "I was told, 'No, the funding didn't get pulled back.'"

The visitor program's surprise elimination is the latest example of recent dysfunction within the longtime nonprofit.

Previous executive director Robert Taylor resigned last November after four years at the helm, with little to no notice provided publicly by the nonprofit upon his departure. Taylor now works as the chief revenue officer for an information-technology services and consulting operation, according to his LinkedIn profile.

After Taylor's exit, the SSPTV board appointed previous administrator Amin as the interim executive director while they undertook recruitment for a new leader.

But multiple staff members told the Weekly that the nonprofit has made no attempt at permanently filling the executive director position, despite it being a requirement for the agency's status.

Public records obtained by the Weekly show during his time as executive director, Taylor applied for and received almost half a million dollars of Paycheck Protection Program loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The loans were received by the SSPTV from April 2020 to February 2021 — and amounted to \$221,200 each. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, Taylor cited the money would go toward payroll gaps. However, several sources confirmed the organization had already secured full funding for payroll by grants received from the county at



CHUCK DECKERT

Questions abound as Senior Support recently discontinued the Friendly Visiting Program, one of its most well-known services.

See **SENIOR SUPPORT** on Page 18

The aviation experience of a lifetime

Longtime friends cross AirVenture Oshkosh off bucket list

By JEREMY WALSH

It may have taken until retirement, but Pleasanton's T.J. McGrath finally knocked one long-standing item off his bucket list last month.

The Foothill Knolls resident, joined by his college dorm-mate Wayne Myers, himself a former Pleasanton man, attended the famed EAA AirVenture Oshkosh — fulfilling a promise they made to each other some 50 years earlier. And what a trip it was.

"When was the last time you had an expectation and the event exceeded them?" McGrath told the Weekly on Aug. 4. "We all go through life looking forward to doing things and hoping those events meet our expectations. Well, Oshkosh last week exceeded mine."

The duo, aviation aficionados who meet up annually for the Reno Air Races, spent four days exploring the expansive AirVenture grounds at Wittman Regional Airport in Wisconsin -- 12 hours and 15,000 to 18,000 steps per day, and still not enough to see everything there, McGrath recalled.

Highlights from their experience

at the event, organized by the Experimental Aircraft Association, included exploring a range of aircraft from across generations, the NASA area and even the kids' zone in outdoor hangers, watching air shows, learning inside the EAA museum and at historical talks and connecting with American military heroes including 100-year-old pilot and World War II triple ace Col. Bud Anderson.

That's just a snapshot of their AirVenture.

"To attend Oshkosh, you must be patriotic since the military top pilots perform, you must have good comfortable shoes since you are going to walk your tail off, you must be willing to dedicate a whole week to see everything, you must attend with someone who shares your passion and you must be ready for the sound and smell of aircraft," McGrath recalled.

Their friendship has deep roots in each man's love for aviation, McGrath a skydiver and Myers a pilot — even back to their days meeting as dorm neighbors at California State University, Chico, back in 1971. One year later, they vowed to travel someday together

to the Oshkosh air exposition.

"As luck would have it, Wayne and I settled in Pleasanton 37 years ago and raised our families here," McGrath said, noting that Myers recently moved out to Carson City, Nevada. "Now that we are both retired and the kids are gone, it was time to execute on the promise."

To mark the once-in-a-lifetime experience in Wisconsin, McGrath said he took hundreds of photographs. Among the collection were several "Take Us Along" pictures of the pair with the Pleasanton Weekly.

But it wasn't just any archive edition McGrath brought to Oshkosh: He and Myers posed with the June 2, 2006, paper that featured McGrath on the cover.

The article "Jumping for joy: Neighbors kiss at 14,000 feet" recounted McGrath, then a working sales executive, midair alongside his close friend Cis Puricelli (and her instructor) for her first skydiving jump in honor of her 65th birthday. They shared an aerial friendly peck over Byron, which appeared on the Weekly's front page. ■



T.J. MCGRATH
Foothill Knolls resident T.J. McGrath, holding the 2006 Pleasanton Weekly in which appeared on the cover, poses with longtime friend Wayne Myers for a "Take Us Along" at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh last month.



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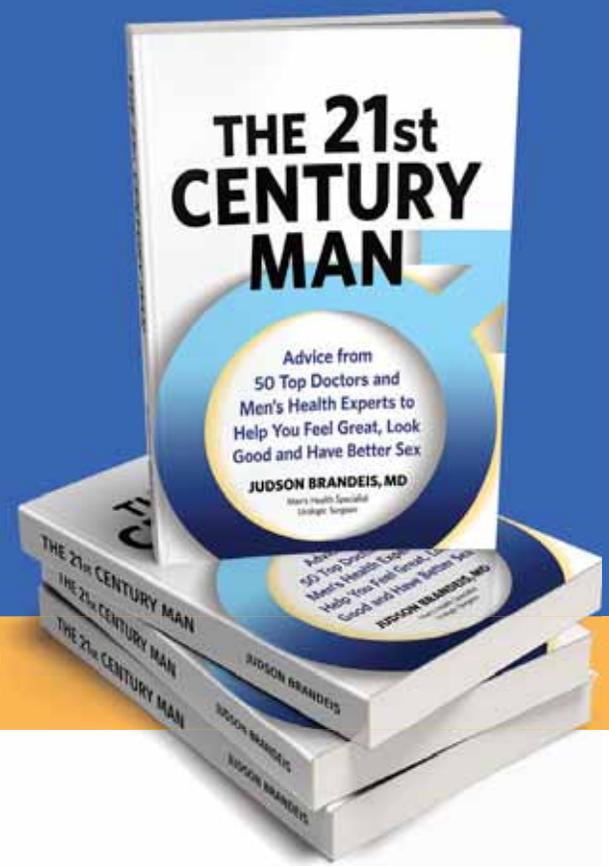


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Challenges and opportunities for senior homebuyers

Despite real estate market shift, this remains ‘a really good time to sell’

BY DAVID STARK

Shifting real estate markets in the Bay Area and in Pleasanton and recent state legislation are creating opportunities for seniors who want to buy or sell a home.

“It’s a good opportunity to sell. You may not have as many multiple offers as you would have last year, but it is a really good time to sell,” said Sheila Cunha, 2022 president of the Bay East Association of Realtors.

Compared with both 2020 and 2021, the number of homes on the market has increased significantly. There were 86 single-family detached homes for sale in Pleasanton during last month, compared with 40 during July 2021 and 51 during July 2020.

More choices for homebuyers, along with buyer concerns about rising interest rates, have led to homes staying on the market longer and sellers adjusting their expectations about how much buyers are willing to pay. However, while sales prices have dropped since March, they are still at record-setting levels. This has led some buyers to back off on purchasing a home.

Cunha said, “While it might take you a bit longer to sell your house today, you can still get a lot more for it than compared with a few years back.”

For seniors in Pleasanton who haven’t been in a real estate transaction recently, Cunha said selling a home now may be a different experience.

“The selling process is so different than 20 years ago,” Cunha said. “You definitely want to get a qualified agent that knows the area, get a pest inspection and a home inspection because that tells you about the condition of your house and lets you know if you need to address any issues while you’ve been in your home.”

Cunha said the more paperwork a seller needs to review also means there’s more protection against potential liability. “There’s a lot more to selling real estate than putting up a for-sale sign in front of your house. You have to make sure that you’re protected and dealing with an ethical Realtor.”

Because buyers now have a few more choices, selling a home as-is, especially if the seller is the original owner, may not be the best strategy.

“You need to do a little something to it if you can because people have choices, and if you’re going to sell your home as-is, you may not get top dollar,” Cunha said. “If you’re working with a Realtor who has access to contractors, there are ways to update your home economically. It does make a difference. Decluttering is a great place to start, painting the home and taking a look at the flooring.”

Seniors in the market to purchase a home may have an edge on other buyers. California voters approved Proposition 19 in 2020 to allow homeowners aged 55 and older to transfer their property tax rate to another home



BAY EAST

David Stark, the chief public affairs and communications officer for the Bay East Association of Realtors, shares some insights about the current housing market for seniors.

anywhere in California.

“The fact that you can move anywhere you like now and not take a property tax penalty is good,” said Jordan Levine, vice president and chief economist of the California Association of Realtors.

Levine said that senior homebuyers may have other advantages over buyers.

“They have probably accumulated more

wealth, have more home equity, and even though inventory has risen, and the market isn’t quite as competitive as it was — it’s still pretty competitive.” Levine said, adding that seniors may be able to make a larger, more competitive down payment. ■

Editor’s note: David Stark is chief public affairs and communications officer for the Bay East Association of Realtors, based in Pleasanton.

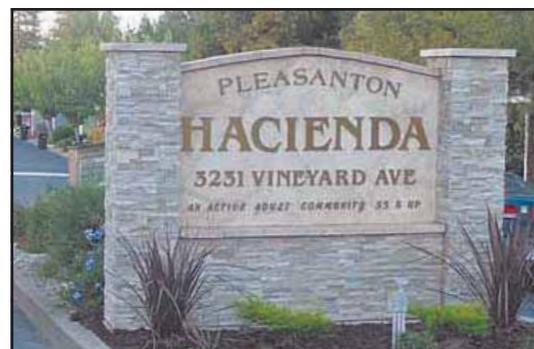


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Spotting elder abuse, and how to better protect seniors

County, nonprofit officials highlight strategies to address growing area of concern

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

In California, the elderly population is expected to grow more than three times as fast as the total population, according to the state's Department of Aging. Alameda County is projected to see an almost 200% population increase of people over the age of 60 by 2060.

The U.S. Administration on Aging also expects that by 2034, older Americans will outnumber children.

But as we see more and more seniors in our communities, one thing that seems to remain unchanged is older residents being targeted by elder abuse.

"In the last decade or so, elder abuse reports investigated by the adult protective services have increased by more than 150%," Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said in a Justice for All video.

The video came out in June during Elder Abuse Awareness Month, which was recognized by the Pleasanton City Council in light of the continued stress of the pandemic and higher cases of elder abuse.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines elder abuse as "an intentional act or failure to act by a caregiver or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult." According to figures by the U.S. Department of Justice, at least 10% of adults age 65 and older will be

a victim of elder abuse in a given year.

In the video, O'Malley spoke with Brigitte Lowe, head of the DA's Elder Adult Protection Unit, about what elder abuse is, ways to spot different forms of abuse and what families can do to protect their older relatives.

"There's a misconception that a lot of this type of abuse occurs in facilities like retirement homes and while it is true, 95% of abuse occurs in victims' homes by people who develop trusting relationships," Lowe said in the video. She said abusers can be anyone from the elder person's family, caregivers or scammers on the internet.

According to a monthly report from the Alameda County Social Services Agency, 1,446 individual cases were filed by the Adult Protective Services Agency in June. Pleasanton had the most cases with 59 followed by Livermore with 50 and Dublin with 29.

As of June 22, there are 80 pending felony and misdemeanor elder abuse cases with a future court date, according to the Alameda County DA's Office.

The office told the Weekly that reporting generally has gone down because of the pandemic because people have been stuck at home. But unlike domestic violence victims, elders typically don't leave the house, which means they're likely with their abusers at home and are less likely to report it.

"A lot of times it has a lot to do with the

familiarity that the elder has with the person ... that's why isolation is such an important part of abuse," Lowe said. "The more an elder either feels isolated already or the more a perpetrator can isolate an elder, the more vulnerable they become to being the victim of abuse."

She said that abuse isn't usually obvious to spot and can start with subtle things like a caregiver offering to take care of minute things such as going to the bank.

"I've had cases where the caregiver says to the family member, 'I will handle that, I will take them to the bank' and then they start becoming that person that the banking institution is used to seeing at the bank so they at some point no longer question that person," Lowe said.

So what can older residents and their families in Alameda County do to protect themselves?

Jennifer Pardini, a community education advocate at Legal Assistance for Seniors, told the Weekly that her organization is one of many in the county that provides support for these types of victims. The Oakland-based organization provides community education programs, legal support and representation to seniors and dependent adults across the county.

She said that the key is educating the older communities about the resources available.

"I wish we could come up at work one

day and be, like, 'Great, we solved elder abuse.' It's just not how it is and I don't see it stopping," Pardini said. "So we want to be here and let people know and be available to anyone that wants to ask those questions or get referrals or use our services."

But she also said that seeking help can sometimes be hard because of many reasons like feeling embarrassed that they fell for a scam, living with their abuser, or because their abuser is a family member that the elder doesn't want to be seen locked up in jail.

"Sadly, whether it's due to fear of retaliation, or worse, many of our elders don't talk about the abuse they've endured," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a June 15 news release addressing Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

"Elder abuse can take many insidious forms, including the neglect of a caregiver, financial exploitation and sexual, physical and mental abuse," Bonta added. "Too often, the perpetrators of these egregious actions are those we trust the most to take care of our loved ones. Our elders should never suffer, especially in silence."

Pardini said that while she understands why some elderly people wouldn't want to incarcerate their family members who might be abusing them, Legal Assistance

See **ELDER ABUSE** on Page 18

What Type of Home Matches Your Vision of Retirement?

I'm your Seniors Real Estate Specialist, I've been expecting you

- 1. FOCUS ON FAMILY**
If family plays an extensive role in your life, you'll probably need space to accommodate them. That might mean an extra bedroom or a play area for weekly grandchild visits. Or a multi-generational floor plan that carves out a living suite for an adult child's family—or yourself.
- 2. TRAVEL AND TAKING IT EASY**
Perhaps home is where relaxation is the name of the game, and it's easy to travel because the property "takes care of itself." In this case, look for a home that minimizes maintenance and landscaping chores, perhaps focusing on townhomes or condos with homeowners' associations.
- 3. SOCIAL BUTTERFLY**
If you thrive on social interactions, an age restricted community may be an excellent fit. Often, they offer a full schedule of activities and events where residents can easily make new acquaintances and build relationships.
- 4. STAYING PUT**
Moving is hard work! If you want to minimize moves, focus on finding a "forever" home that will continue serving your needs if your health and mobility falter. Many buyers age 50+ prioritize one-floor living and aging in-place amenities.
- 5. EATING AND ENTERTAINING**
Maybe you love cooking or hosting gatherings. In this case, prioritize a home with adequate entertaining space indoors and outside. And if you view retirement as a time to let your culinary skills shine, make sure your next home also includes the kitchen of your dreams.
- 6. STILL WORKING**
If you aren't ready to relax into full retirement or need to continue working for financial reasons, make sure your next home can accommodate remote work (a dedicated office, quiet location, etc.) or is near appealing, in person job opportunities.
- 7. HAPPY HOBBYIST**
Will retirement provide more time to devote to a favorite hobby—or to tackle new skills? Make sure your home includes space for your pursuits, such as a woodworking shop, a painting studio, or a crafts room. Outdoor enthusiasts may need room to store large equipment, like a fishing boat.

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New prostate treatment technology debuts in Tri-Valley

Aquablation therapy offers hospital additional precision in treating enlarged prostates

By JEANITA LYMAN

San Ramon Regional Medical Center is one of the first in the area to offer a robot-assisted treatment for an enlarged prostate condition that is most common in men over 50 years old.

Aquablation therapy is aimed at providing urologists a new tool that offers increased precision and other benefits in the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a non-cancerous condition in which the prostate enlarges and creates complications in the lower urinary tract.

“We are proud to offer a solution for men with BPH that can provide relief without compromise,” said Ann Lucena, CEO of San Ramon Regional. “Aquablation therapy is the next step in expanding our robotic surgical services and furthering our commitment to men’s health.”

According to SRRMC urologist Dr. Christopher Welty, the technology is new to the Bay Area, with only one or two other setups in hospitals throughout the East Bay. But while the technology is still newer than other treatment options, Welty noted that it has been

around long enough for five-year followup data to be available.

Compared with what is considered the “gold standard” — transurethral resection of the prostate, or TURP — Welty said that a recent study showed aquablation to offer equal or lower rates of retreatment, and that it was generally better at offering relief from symptoms.

“There’s a lot of treatments right now for BPH,” Welty said. “TURP was the gold standard, though a lot of us don’t use that very much any more because there’s a lot of options and having aquablation available gives us another tool.”

Welty said that in particular, aquablation therapy has the benefit of being able to treat all prostate sizes, while some other treatment options are less effective for larger prostates.

When left untreated, BPH can lead to increasingly severe complications in the urinary tract, with the enlarged prostate obstructing the flow of urine, leading to the inability to pass urine and kidney dysfunction in severe cases.

“Not all men, but a lot of men as they get older, their prostates get larger, and sometimes when

their prostates get larger it blocks the urethra,” Welty said. “So they can have a harder time emptying the bladder, and it also can lead to some bladder dysfunction because the bladder is working harder to get the urine out so they have to go more frequently or more urgently.”

Welty said that most of his patients come to SRRMC at the advice of their primary care doctors, or in some cases, when the condition has gone untreated to the point where they can’t urinate at all.

“For an enlarged prostate, the main goal here is quality of life, but a lot of men tend to postpone looking for treatment thinking either that medications are going to have lots of side effects, or treatments are going to have lots of side effects,” Welty said. “Sometimes men have heard about their friends getting treated for prostate cancer, and this is very different.”

While the risk of BPH is generally higher in men over the age of 50, Welty said that this can vary widely, with patients experiencing their first symptoms anywhere between the ages of 40 and 70. He noted that primary care doctors will generally start asking screening



SRRMC

San Ramon Regional Medical Center is one of the first in the area to acquire robot-assisted aquablation therapy equipment.

questions about prostate health as men enter their 40s.

“The main risk factor is age and just being a man,” Welty said.

While genetics can play a role in prostate health, Welty said that for BPH, diagnosis and treatment were based on symptoms reported by patients, with no blood or genetic screenings for the disease.

“Family history is definitely a risk factor,” Welty said. “It just tends to run in families. But just because someone’s dad had their

prostate operated on for an enlarged prostate, if they don’t have any symptoms, there’s no extra screening to do.”

Welty noted that while aquablation offers advantages, including increased precision from real-time imaging and the ability to treat a wide range of patients, it is one of many treatment options for BPH.

“You have to talk to a urologist to find out if it’s going to be the right thing, but even then there’s a lot of options,” Welty said. ■



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—Marty W.

*Data collection period: 10/2018 - 12/2019 and 7/2020 - 3/2021

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Tri-Valley Senior Calendar

Senior Center

PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER The Pleasanton Senior Center is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and continues to facilitate opportunities to discover new hobbies and skills and to connect with resources and friends.

SHOP FOR GIFTS AT THE SENIOR CENTER Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts crafted by local seniors at the Pleasanton Senior Center Peddler Shoppe. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

Talks

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 the 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.

WEBINAR: LIVING WITH DEMENTIA, DEMENTIA BASICS In this free webinar, Hope Hospice's dementia specialists will discuss the nature and progression of dementia and the various diseases and conditions that can produce its symptoms. Participants will gain a basic

understanding of the ways in which dementia can impact the brain and behavior. 10-11:30 a.m., Sept. 8. Visit hopehospice.com.

VA Outreach

VA PALO ALTO MOBILE MEDICAL OUTREACH Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to facilitate examinations, consultations and referrals for enrolled veterans. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Aug. 22. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Assistance

ESTATE PLANNING WITH SHIRLEY WHITE 20 minute in-person appointments at the Pleasanton Senior Center, the second Thursday of the month at no charge. A consultation or review only of estate planning, including advice on trusts, wills, power of attorney and health care directives. No on the spot document preparation. Call the Senior Center at 925-931-5365.

LAWYER IN THE LIBRARY This virtual program through the Pleasanton Library is every third Tuesday of the month and each registrant will have a 15 to 20 minute free consultation with a member of the Alameda County Bar

Association. Contact mcorpor@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

PLEASANTON RIDES FOR SENIORS Serving eligible Pleasanton seniors with transportation needs throughout Pleasanton and to select destinations in the Tri-Valley. Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door shared-ride transportation service. For reservations and information call 925-398-1045.

FREE REMOTE MEDICARE COUNSELING Health Insurance Counseling (HICAP) and Advocacy Program provides free remote Medicare counseling. To schedule a phone counseling appointment call 510-839-0393 or visit lashicap.org/programs/hicap.

FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM The City of Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department provides a Fee Assistance Program for residents who would like to participate in recreation programs but may not have the financial means. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cs/fees.asp.

DISCOUNT OF 20% ON WATER/WASTEWATER ACCOUNTS Pleasanton Residents age 65 or over are eligible for this discount. Contact the Utility Billing Office at 925-931-5425.

WEISNER SENIOR FUND Provides emergency, one time grants or

loans in nominal amounts to adults age 60 and above in extreme need of financial assistance. Contact Senior Support Program 925-931-5379.

LUNCHES AT THE SENIOR CENTER Senior Lunches (60+) are served in the Main Hall 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call Open Heart Kitchen at 925-500-8241 for more information.

MEAL ON WHEELS Providing home delivered meals (60+). Call 925-931-5385 for more information.

Exercise

MATURE ADULT FITNESS CLASSES The City of Pleasanton is offering a variety of virtual and in-person Adult Fitness Classes at the Pleasanton Senior Center including Chair Yoga, Fit for 50, Flow Yoga, Core, Stretch & Balance, Line Dancing and Tai Chi- Zumba. Visit pleasantonfun.com.

Social Groups

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 or email ayjake@sbcglobal.net.

Technology

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY USERS GROUP For all computer enthusiasts, this virtual program through the Pleasanton Senior Center includes discussions, lectures, demonstrations and a question/answer period. 10:00 a.m. the 4th Thursday of the month. To sign up, email pleaseniorgmail.com.

TECH TUTORING AT THE SENIOR CENTER One-on-one tutoring sessions are available at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Wednesdays. Bring your own device. \$2.50R/\$3NR. Call 925-931-5365.

Driving

AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE Sign up to refresh driving skills and learn new traffic laws and regulations, driving techniques and proven safety strategies. 12-4 p.m., Aug. 17 & Aug. 24. \$20 AARP Member/\$25 Non-Member. To register call 925-931-5365.



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SENIOR SUPPORT

Continued from Page 11

the time the PPP applications were submitted.

Bank statements for SSPTV obtained by the Weekly show that the PPP loan funds were kept in a separate investment account and did not commingle with general funds of the nonprofit. Records also reflect that all loans and interest acquired via PPP were eventually forgiven by the federal government.

Former SSPTV employee Mary McNamara filed two complaints — in fall 2021 and spring 2022 — via the Small Business Administration's online system over the PPP loans and allegedly misleading applications filed on behalf of the local nonprofit. These however have not been investigated or further addressed by the federal agency, according to McNamara.

McNamara, an employee of SSPTV for seven years, including five in case management, until she was let go in 2020, was critical of Taylor's tenure.

"He didn't have experience with older adults," she said. "He was missing half the time. He wasn't around."

There are additional reports that during his time as director Taylor exhibited ineffective style and disconnection with SSPTV's service demographic. He did not have experience working with seniors before taking the job in 2017, according to multiple former staff members.

Taylor did not respond to requests for comment in recent weeks regarding any allegations or questions about his leadership during his time as executive director with SSPTV.

Other former staff members support claims of Taylor's indifferent leadership.

"(Taylor) was very disinterested in the population that we were serving. And every

suggestion that we would have, as in a staff meeting, would be shut down as to going above and beyond what our seniors would need," Silliman said.

Silliman and other staffers showed interest in expanding their programs and creating more opportunities to connect with the seniors.

"It almost felt like we were going backwards instead of going forward with our mission statement, which is to provide seniors and in my program with socialization and be able to have them feel that they could stay independent and safe in their own home," Silliman said.

Curt Hawk, a retired fire captain of the Newark Fire Department, volunteered on several occasions with Senior Support. He had been familiar with the founding executive director, Marlene Petersen, until Taylor took over in January 2017. His wife, Lorie, began working for SSPTV in 1995.

"Over the years I was constantly impressed by the dedication of all of those who worked at Senior Support," Curt Hawk said. "The dedication of everyone was to do as much as possible, and then some, to provide a wide range of services, often personalized, to as many seniors as possible."

Hawk believes sentiment at the organization changed after new leadership.

"After director Petersen retired and the board hired Robert Taylor, my wife continued to work for Senior Support for about two years. During that time she and her fellow employees saw that the focus on providing the best for our senior citizens was lost," Hawk said.

In the wake of the closure of services provided by SSPTV, most recently the Friendly Visiting Program, concerns have grown around the organization's future plans. The nonprofit has not made any official statements on what the organization plans to do following the visiting program's elimination. ■

ELDER ABUSE

Continued from Page 15

for Seniors attorneys can still help with restraining orders and finding the best way to deal with their abuser, without getting the police immediately involved.

It is important to note that the nonprofit only deals with civil cases, not criminal cases, and they can only help elders who call in, not their family members.

One example of a civil case that isn't at the forefront of elder abuse discussions is financial abuse.

According to the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, an organization representing California's 33 area agencies on aging, elder abuse is already significantly underreported.

For every case known to programs and agencies, 24 are unknown — for financial abuse, only one in 44 cases is known. Financial elder abuse typically refers to instances like online and phone scams where people trick older people who might not be as privy with technology, to give personal information like bank account numbers and their social security.

"When they get on the phone with someone ... those are really difficult situations for the elders to recognize that it is a scam," O'Malley said.

The county, along with other organizations

that aid seniors, recognize that technology is in some way, the achilles heel for older communities, which is why being there for your elderly relatives is important.

"These scams against elders are going to continue to become prevalent as more and more things become computerized," the DA's office said.

"These older generations may have some proficiency in computers, but may not be experts ... This opens elders up to phishing scams and makes them more vulnerable," officials added. "We need to take care of our elders. Isolation contributes to elders getting scammed, so please remember to check in on the elders in your life often."

Checking in is something that O'Malley and Lowe stressed in their video, saying that it really comes down to family members communicating and educating their older relatives. Lowe said that it should be treated like checks and balances where the family checks in with the banks and makes sure that nothing is out of the ordinary.

She also said that for seniors, it's important to not only use the resources in the county but to also double check any website they visit and not fall for phone calls that aren't government bodies that never actually call you if they need something.

"When there is an elder in your life, please don't allow them to be isolated, please visit them, call them on a regular basis," Lowe said. ■



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Opinion

LETTERS

Pleasanton needs transparency

In the Tri-Valley, why do Dublin and Livermore have functioning on-line public records repositories, but in Pleasanton, it is an entirely different story?

In August 2022, the last posted Pleasanton City Council minutes are from over six months ago from the first week in February. What seems to be the problem with the City Council in Pleasanton seemingly being unable to approve and publish minutes of their own meetings on its Laserfiche public records website? Six months seems quite a long time to not be able to publish simple meeting minutes from government meetings.

Similarly, has the Planning Commission enacted any resolutions this entire year? Or if indeed they have actually voted on resolutions this calendar year in 2022, why are none of these posted on the city's website?

In Pleasanton, unfortunately even the search page at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov with a link in the middle of the page for minutes, agenda reports, ordinances and resolutions that opens Laserfiche doesn't seem to work, generating a "This Site Can't Be Reached" error.

Pleasanton residents deserve transparency and access to public records from their local government just like the residents of Dublin and Livermore. Sadly, perhaps transparency and public access to government records are no longer priorities for Pleasanton elected officials.

—Anne Fox

On bike awareness

I welcome the recent articles on bicycle awareness. They make excellent points and I whole heartily agree. I learned to drive in the Netherlands, where there are numerous bicyclists, and always treble-check my right-side blind spot before entering the turn and encourage all drivers to develop that habit.

However, I wish to make a point to the bikers — and parents. Every near-miss I have had with a bicyclist has been their fault; 75% of those are when I am making a left turn, on a green arrow, and a bicyclist from the opposite direction just rides through and ignores their red light.

Many bikers are rule-abiding, but many do ignore red lights and stop signs. They don't see a car is turning in front of them. The other 25% are young kids bicycling on sidewalks. They go through a crosswalk without looking. Often, especially downtown, they are hidden by the tents that restaurants have put up.

A driver, no matter how aware, has difficulty having a kid on a bike pop up in front of them after they have checked no one is anywhere near crossing.

Bikers: Please stop ignoring traffic signs; you may eventually get hurt. Parents: Please teach your kids that riding fast into a crosswalk can get them hurt. They should pause for a moment and check the crossing itself. Besides they shouldn't be riding their bicycles on the downtown sidewalks anyway — I've almost been hit by them a few times when walking.

—Mick Hanou

Newsom failed San Francisco and California

As mayor, Newsom ruined San Francisco with his progressive left policies and as governor he has done the same to our once great state of California.

He has led the destructive effort with his over-regulation on business and citizens, the closure of businesses and schools during COVID, which we knew then was the wrong thing to do — read the Great Barrington

Declaration and the Johns Hopkins study on the subject.

The excessively high taxes, welfare for illegal aliens, sanctuary state for abortions, failed K-12 schools, DAs un-willing to enforce the laws and cashless bail allows criminals to run free and wreak havoc in our cities, lack of a water strategy — California has not built a new dam in over 40 years — and electrical power shortages have caused the deterioration and destruction of our once beautiful state. Do I dare go on?!

Our once-wonderful state has been ruined by Newsom and his progressive left bombastic policies. Have you noticed that there is a mass exodus of Californians leaving the state? I too was planning to leave California, but have decided to stay, for now, and fight to save our great state from the destruction by Newsom and his progressive left band of cronies.

In November, please join me in voting Newsom and his administration out of office and vote in moderate commonsense Democrats and Republicans.

—David Ott

Housing mandates from Sacramento will hurt Pleasanton

There is no doubt that California needs more housing, especially affordable housing, and Pleasanton is trying to do our part.

Pleasanton should be allowed to take the lead in this process, but instead Sacramento has issued a mandate forcing us to build significantly more housing than I feel we can absorb. They have also begun taking away local control over new housing developments; one example is the five-story complex proposed across from our library.

Sacramento simply does not care about the negative impact their mandate will have on Pleasanton. They don't care that they are forcing us to build new higher-density housing developments within many of our existing neighborhoods, dramatically increasing traffic congestion, exacerbating our existing parking problems, further crowding our already overcrowded schools, straining our water resources, etc.

Our city leadership has made a tremendous effort to reason with Sacramento and allow Pleasanton to increase housing to a level that makes sense for our community, but Sacramento has refused to listen to reason.

Other cities in California face the same challenge as Pleasanton. A number of these cities are joining together to take legal action against Sacramento to halt their arbitrary housing mandate and restore local control overdevelopment to cities like ours.

The city of Pleasanton needs to band together with these other cities

in this fight and not just roll-over and comply, to the permanent detriment to our wonderful city.

—Joseph Hernan

Myopic view on gun laws

Your publisher's opinion piece last week, "Gun violence shatters sense of safety", was incredibly myopic.

What she misses is the fact that California's tough gun control laws do work, and that without those laws, more criminals would get guns. How do we know this? The 10 states with the most gun ownership per capita have, no surprise, the highest rates of gun violence.

And again, no surprise, the states with the lowest gun ownership per capita, have the lowest rates of gun violence. In other words, tough gun control laws that limit possession of deadly weapons for the most part lead to low incidences of gun violence.

If Mrs. Wilcox's premise is that more should be done to get guns out of the hands of criminals, I fully agree. Rather than offer a constructive approach, however, she takes aim at Rep. Swalwell and Gov. Newsom for not doing more.

I, for one, think, reducing the number of guns in circulation, legal and illegal, is a good first step. According

to the U.S. Justice Department Bureau of Justice Statistics, stolen or illegally obtained guns are used in over one-third of gun crimes. Gun buybacks and stricter penalties for firearm use in the commission of a crime would be a good start.

It's time to stop hand-wringing and start taking action. It would be great if the Pleasanton Weekly could take a leading role in our community to help reduce gun violence and allow our neighbors to feel safe wherever they go.

—Eric Drattell

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

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and has issued Executive Order N-29-20 and approved AB 361 suspending provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconferencing and members of the public to observe and offer comments telephonically or electronically. The meeting will be held at the City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave., via video/teleconferencing and will be broadcast live on Channel 29 and at <https://www.trivalleytv.org> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- Reconsideration of regional recycled water fill station agreement
- Review and discuss Century House Master Plan
- Consider approving scope of work for Stoneridge Mall Framework planning process, including key policy considerations for the planning effort

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 7:30 a.m.

- Update to the City's Economic Development Strategic Plan – Discussion
- Business Needs Survey Final Report – Information

Housing Commission

Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- Review of Housing & Human Services Grant (HHSG) Program Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2021/22 for Housing-Related Programs

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

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Q Paymentz; Registerurcompany; Q Banc FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 590610

The following person doing business as: Q Paymentz; Registerurcompany; Q Banc, 6701 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 250, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Q Data, LLC, 6701 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 250, Pleasanton, CA 94566, DELAWARE. This business is conducted by Q Data, LLC, a Limited Liability Company. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Rachel Blessie, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 22, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, August 12, 19, 26, September 2, 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.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 14 team ready for World Series in North Dakota

Also: Danville team wins Little League Intermediate WS in Livermore

When the Tri-Valley 14-year-old Babe Ruth team captured the Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament in Hanford on July 30 to qualify for the Babe Ruth 14 World Series, you might be able to excuse them if they started to feel some added pressure.

I mean as if winning both state and regionals didn't present enough pressure, getting to the World Series is a whole other type of pressure.

It doesn't come from just playing in the World Series that started yesterday and runs through Aug. 21 in Williston, N.D., but rather representing Tri-Valley in the ultimate tournament of the year.

Tri-Valley Babe Ruth as an organization has captured nine Babe Ruth World Series titles since 2004 between their 13, 14 and 15 teams.

But for 14s coach Andrew Crabill, who was on a Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 13 World Series title team in 2011, the history of success helps the players.

"Tri-Valley Babe Ruth has a strong history," Crabill said. "And it does add pressure, but it also gives the kids confidence that our teams have been there before and knows how to win. We have high expectations every year, and the kids know they have to go out and win games."

And win they have this post-season, going through both of their tournaments — state and regionals — without losing a game.

After winning the state title, Tri-Valley went to the regionals and beat Santa Maria 15-3, Torrance 7-3, Hawaii 10-0 and then Hawaii again in the finals 6-5 to advance to the World Series.

On the surface it would appear Tri-Valley is an offensive juggernaut. While Crabill acknowledges the team can score, it is something else that has been the key.

"Pitching and defense is what wins games," Crabill said. "We love to go out and score some runs early, but pitching keeps you in the games."

Case in point, in the Torrance game Tri-Valley was down 3-0 heading into the sixth inning, using some clutch pitching and some nice defensive plays to stay in the game.

After holding Torrance scoreless in the top half of the inning, the team put seven runs on the board, turning over the lead to the defense



BILL NALE

The Danville team celebrates its 5-2 victory over West Seoul (South Korea) to clinch the Little League Intermediate World Series in Livermore.

that came through again.

In the first match against Hawaii the game was 0-0 through four innings before Tri-Valley put 10 runs on the board in the top of the fifth.

In the rematch with Hawaii, more strong pitching saved the one-run lead late and sent the team off to the World Series.

It's a great group of players.

"I have been with this group for two years now and I knew they were special," Crabill said. "My goal with these kids has always been to get them to the World Series and win it. It's been my motivation to try and get them there and spread the experience that I had getting to one and being on the winning team."

To follow the team through the World Series, go to www.baberuth-worldseries.org and find the Baseball 14-year-old event.

Danville wins Little League Intermediate World Series

If a team is going to be successful at any level of Little League against a team from South Korea, you must cash in on any chance you get.

That's exactly what the team from Danville did Sunday night, beating West Seoul Little League in the championship game of the Little League Intermediate World Series 5-2.

Jacob Quinto spun a wonderful game from the mound and the opportunistic offense from Danville scored in five of their six innings in a game shown on ESPN2 from Max Baer Field in Livermore.

Quinto went 6.1 innings before

hitting his pitch count, scattering six hits and striking out eight. Preston Pera came on to get the final two outs.

When Danville got to bat, the locals did whatever they needed to score.

In the bottom of the first, Danville survived a batting-out-of-order infraction when Carter Tong hit one spot sooner than he should. The out was called on Anthony DeVito who was scheduled to be the hitter, and Tong was sent back to the plate for a second time in the inning.

Tong wasted no time, drilling a single to left that scored leadoff hitter Dario Boban to make it 1-0.

If that seemed bizarre, in the third, Danville struck out five times in the inning, but a pair of dropped third strikes allowed two batters to reach base. A hit-by-pitch and a pair of wild pitches allowed Danville to get their third run on the game.

Leading 4-0 in the top of the sixth, Quinto made his lone mistake when Han Minyong hit a two-run shot over the fence in left — his fourth in two games — and the lead was cut in half.

Danville got that run back in the bottom of the inning, and Quinto and Pera closed the door in the top of the seventh for the win.

Pera was a monster at the plate in the tournament, going 10-for-14 over the four-game stretch.

Quinto finished the tournament with a pair of wins in three appearances, pitching 11.1 innings, giving up just 10 hits and striking out 17 batters. ■

Employment

Sr. Network Engineer

Safeway Inc. hiring Sr. Network Engineer in Pleasanton, California. Must have legal right to work in U.S. EOE. Subj. to backg. check. Email resume to TA.Perm. Project@albertsons.com, Attn: A. Witte.



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Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Star Future Inc. Provide ongoing spt. for autistic children. Req. Master's deg. in Applied Behavior Analysis or rltd. & Cert. in behavior analysis. Worksite: Pleasanton, CA (Need to drive to client/patient's home near wk. loc. as needed). Send resume: CEO, 5980 Stoneridge Dr, Ste. 105, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Sr. Cloud Engineer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Sr. Cloud Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Support Workday Planning Cloud infrastructure, working with technologies like Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Azure and Terraform. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc., 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference Job# 20637.1109.5.

Software Engineer/Software Development Engineer

Workday Inc. is accepting resumes for the following positions at various levels in Pleasanton, CA (Telecommuting permitted): Software Engineer/Software Development Engineer (20637.1631): Analyzes, designs, programs, debugs, and modifies software enhancements and/or new products used in local, networked, or internet-related computer programs. Exp Inc: Object-oriented design and development; Algorithms and data structures; programming language such as Java, C# or C++; & Database and querying languages such as SQL. Telecommuting permitted. Submit resume by mail to: Workday Inc., Attn: Human Resources/Immigration, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job title and job code.

To place an ad or get a quote, contact Kevin Legarda at 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawebly.com. The advertising deadline is Friday at noon.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during June 13-17 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin.

Pleasanton

- 5327 Blackbird Drive** Grotegut Trust to H. & S. Naidu for \$1,750,000
- 789 Bonita Avenue** Bowman Family Trust to A. & L. Raja for \$1,780,000
- 450 Bonita Avenue** Williams Family Trust to B. & T. Sellmeyer for \$1,875,000
- 7580 Canyon Meadow Circle #E** S. Hoeven to H. Henneman for \$521,000
- 4621 Cochise Court** Ohare Living Trust to Redfinnow Borrower LLC for \$760,000
- 923 Concord Street** Hersom Family Trust to D. & I. Goyal for \$1,600,000
- 4649 Denker Drive** R. Venkatesan to Opendoor Property Trust I for \$1,474,500
- 2377 Foothill Road #1** J. & J. Slaton to Cole Trust for \$610,000
- 3170 Kirkcaldy Street** L. Montalvo to Shepherd Living Trust for \$1,540,000
- 4157 Lucca Court** Iyer Living Trust to R. & P. Dubey for \$965,000
- 3755 Thistle Way** Prabhu Living Trust to C. & V. Purohit for \$963,000
- 3713 Thistle Way** L. Cavil to B. & V. Singh for \$780,000
- 281 Trenton Circle** A. Ebel to F. & T. Hu for \$1,405,000
- 337 Trenton Circle** L. & G. Carrolan to Krishna Family Trust for \$1,615,000
- 4407 Yuma Court** G. Chan to J. & Z. Ingram for \$728,000

Livermore

- 1378 5th Street** Stebbins 2002 Family Trust to D. & M. Patrick for \$1,125,000
- 512 Anna Maria Street** A. Engelhardt to D. & S. Ghosh for \$1,100,000
- 5529 Autumn Way** Eddy Family Trust to J. & E. Christiansen for \$2,300,000
- 895 Camelia Drive** K. Schaeffer to D. & S. Ryan for \$1,036,000
- 1749 Corte Sueno** M. & P. Miller to S. & K. Gattrell for \$1,050,000
- 730 Delaware Way** K. Wenig to K. & G. Apodaca for \$1,060,000
- 273 Hillcrest Avenue** L. Hale to A. Jara for \$1,100,000
- 2659 Kelly Street** J. & F. Ramirez to S. & C. Allen for \$1,025,000
- 3776 Madeira Way** J. Edwards to M. & A. Valdez for \$1,039,000
- 1284 Marigold Road** J. Mottram to P. & A. Mahajan for \$925,000
- 1168 Marlys Common** D. & A. Pecoraro to S. & D. Smith for \$1,020,000
- 4571 Maureen Circle** Wagner Living Trust to D. & L. Murugesu for \$1,420,000
- 1085 Murrieta Boulevard #307** R. Safiullin to M. Lu for \$390,000

- 1709 Prima Drive** Donnelly Living Trust to J. & J. Kari for \$2,359,000
- 4848 Primrose Lane** B. Callahan to R. & S. Shivarkar for \$1,090,000
- 3147 Salisbury Court** S. & S. Hashimi to D. Singh for \$2,200,000
- 652 Selby Lane #1** T. & J. Haus to H. & C. Sur for \$1,090,000
- 271 Snider Court** S. & J. Fields to J. & B. Callahan for \$1,765,000
- 245 Stratus Common** K. Mahendran to M. & H. Kusachi for \$960,000
- 447 Tanager Road** K. & S. Bosson to Ortzow Family Trust for \$1,500,000
- 788 Tranquility Circle #3** D. & J. Dearing to Opendoor Property Trust I for \$997,500

Dublin

- 3369 Araldi Lane** S. & I. Hwang to R. & C. Meas for \$1,450,000
- 7443 Brigadoon Way #226** W. & R. Supetran to K. & K. Mon for \$815,000
- 7445 Brigadoon Way #227** H. & V. Kondapalli to F. & B. Elahi for \$1,045,000
- 3485 Capoterra Way** L. Blair to S. & P. Kashyap for \$925,000
- 4251 Clarinbridge Circle** K. Nho to S. & M. Chandrashekara for \$1,005,000
- 6614 Ebsenburg Lane** Greb Family Trust to M. & A. Naik for \$1,231,000
- 5526 El Dorado Lane** D. Elanchezhian to X. & Y. Lou for \$1,105,000
- 3439 Finnian Way** B. Salamat to D. & S. Venkatkumar for \$1,030,000
- 4323 Healdsburg Way** Bala Mithra Ganti LLC to B. & K. Rajendran for \$1,500,000
- 8124 Holanda Lane** Bajarias Living Trust to B. & H. Gujar for \$1,325,000
- 7314 Larkdale Avenue** Julian Strzepa 2006 Trust to S. & G. Joshi for \$1,300,000
- 3308 Longmeadow Place** J. Mcdaniel to J. & W. Fan for \$1,930,000
- 3360 Maguire Way #128** Lejano Living Trust to K. & V. Marceloa for \$799,000
- 5726 Penwood Lane** A. & S. Oconnor to Lyer Family Trust for \$2,850,000
- 2813 Randall Loop** Ng Family Trust to A. & A. Anand for \$1,875,000
- 7949 Shannon Court** Saluja Family Trust to M. & M. Santiago for \$2,275,000
- 1688 North Terracina Drive** L. Bhamidipati to R. & K. Valluru for \$2,700,000
- 7311 Thames Court** Brandwood Family Trust to S. & V. Iila for \$1,407,000

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.

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (June 13-17)

Total sales reported: 15
Lowest sale reported: \$521,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,875,000
Average sales reported: \$1,405,000

Livermore (June 13-17)

Total sales reported: 21
Lowest sale reported: \$390,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,359,000
Average sales reported: \$1,090,000

Dublin (June 13-17)

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$799,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,850,000
Average sales reported: \$1,190,000

San Ramon (July 5-8)

Total sales reported: 12
Lowest sale reported: \$615,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,100,000
Average sales reported: \$1,320,000

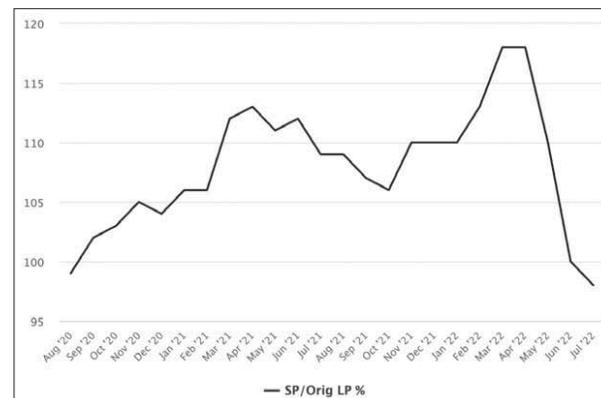
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Market Update for July 2022 – The Auction is Over

The Pleasanton real estate market continued to soften in July with a continued slow-down in activity. Closed sales were down 22% from last month, days on market were up 43%, median price per sq ft and median sold price were both lower, and pending sales were down 21%.



Interestingly, while the median \$/sq ft was down 8.2% from June, it is still 6.4% higher than last year (July of 2021), indicating that prices are still largely above what they were a year ago. And while inventory is 120% higher than last year in July, it is actually down by 2% from last month. So inventory is still low by historical standards, which is helping to keep some stability >> [To read the rest of this article go to www.680homes.com/blog](http://www.680homes.com/blog).



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PETS OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Meet the Marx Brothers

Get ready to be entertained by the Marx Brothers — Groucho, Harpo and Zeppo are zany with some silly antics, and are all cuddly and affectionate companions. These boys are curious, playful, love toys, and like to climb, jump, run and birdwatch. Learn more about the Marx brothers and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. #ShareTheCare

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**5716 DAKIN COURT,
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5 BEDS | 6.5 BATHS
4,298 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE
CALL FOR PRICING

COUNTRY FAIR I



**2594 CORTE FACIL,
PLEASANTON**

4 BEDS | 2 BATHS
2,500 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE
SOLD FOR \$2,570,000

SOUTH LIVERMORE NEIGHBORHOOD



**1141 RIESLING CIRCLE,
LIVERMORE**

3 BEDS | OFFICE SPACE | 2.5 BATHS
2,617 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE
LIST PRICE \$1,699,000

RUBY HILL



**1849 SPUMANTE PLACE,
PLEASANTON**

5 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS
5,623 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE
SOLD FOR \$4,195,000

BIRDLAND



**2550 SANDERLING DRIVE,
PLEASANTON**

3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS
1,920 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE
**SOLD FOR \$2,100,000
REPRESENTED BUYERS**

COUNTRY FAIR II



**6191 VIA DE LOS CERROS,
PLEASANTON**

5 BEDS | 3 BATHS
2,311 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE
**SOLD FOR \$2,250,000
REPRESENTED BUYERS**

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



VENEMA HOMES

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Scan the QR Code to Nominate a Teacher!

Calling all teachers in the Tri-Valley Area! WE HAVE \$1000 TO GIVE AWAY! We are giving away ten \$100 Target gift cards to help teachers buy books, supplies, or anything they need for the upcoming school year. Visit our Facebook Page or Instagram and tag yourself or a teacher that you know! 10 Teachers will be picked August 15th.

 Venema Homes Real Estate Team |  @venemahomes



579 Trebbiano Place, Ruby Hill



6900 Riddell Street, Pleasanton



6625 Amber Lane, Pleasanton



2631 Curry Street, Pleasanton



1012 Shotwell Court, Pleasanton



409 Neal Street, Pleasanton



125 Sylvia Circle, Pleasanton



6981 Corte Antonio, Pleasanton



1147 Mataro Court, Pleasanton



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Liz Venema
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AVAILABLE

6923 Corte Barcelona, Pleasanton

New onto the market! The seller has taken great care to update this 2 story contemporary style home with new kitchen cabinetry & granite counters, a wonderful primary bath along with luxury flooring. The home's rear yard offers a hot-tub, artificial grass and a garden. The home offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 1,958 SF of living space.

Presented at \$1,620,000

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PENDING

4226 Silver Street, Pleasanton

A Downtown charmer! We set a date to review offers, receiving 5 offers by the 4th day. My seller is pleased to move forward to the closing for this buyer. The home offered 3 bedroom and 2 baths and 1,189 SF of living space. Built in 1957, the home's original hardwood floors were refinished, the master bath was remodeled and the home received new interior and exterior paint.

Presented at \$1,200,000 — CLOSING SOON

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SOLD

2570 Chateau Way, Livermore

Located in one of Livermore's premier locations with its sought after downtown area & the Rodeo grounds. The 2,125 SF of living space offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, indoor laundry with a spacious lot of 11,767 SF. Updates throughout the home offers ease of enjoyment. A community pool is close by for that summer fun.

**Congratulations to my sellers!
We closed at \$1,525,000**

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SOLD

10405 Ager Road, Montague, CA

A rancher's dream! This 100 Acre ranch boasts a 2,600 SF hand hewn log home, a steel sided 40' X 60' Pole Barn with a workshop & an attached guest suite, fenced and cross fenced for livestock, 2 ponds, a well producing about 45 gal./min., enhanced with amazing panoramic views of Mt. Shasta & Black Mtn.

**Congratulation to my seller and my buyers!
We closed at \$880,000**

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A Note from my Sellers:

My dad recently selected Kris Moxley to sell his ranch property. Previously, he attempted to sell the property through another realtor without success. Kris came in and made a number of recommendations to make the property more attractive to buyers. The property sold very quickly and for top dollar. We truly appreciate Kris' professionalism and real estate knowledge. We would highly recommend her for anyone looking to buy or sell a home.

— Doug & Jim Bond, Ager Road

*Hi Jim and Doug,
When I received your call asking if I would list your 100 acre ranch, 5 hours away, I thought it would be great to help you and your family. I grew up on a ranch and have good knowledge of what ranch life is like. I enjoyed every minute of being at the ranch.*

— Kris Moxley



Kris Moxley



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