

# Pleasanton Weekly

'California Votes'  
exhibition

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# AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

## Blackhawk's 'first lady' leaves a lasting legacy

Patricia "Pat" Behring, considered the "First Lady of Blackhawk," leaves a legacy that stretches around the world and a void in the hearts of those who knew her.

She passed away peacefully June 24 at the age of 93, surrounded by the family she loved so much.

Pat was born in Chicago on Nov. 5, 1928, and grew up in Wisconsin. True to her Midwestern roots, she was self-assured, humble, eager to help and genuinely kind. She graciously opened her beautiful Blackhawk home to her many friends and for fundraisers, and was part of many social and community organizations in the Tri-Valley.

She loved her family more than anything, and she made her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren the center of her universe.

Pat met Kenneth Behring in Wisconsin and they married in 1949. The couple and their three sons moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 1956. While in Florida, the Behrings welcomed two more sons and Ken started his career as a developer and homebuilder. He created the retirement community of Tamarac, Fla. in the 1960s and developed the Blackhawk community here in the Tri-Valley beginning in 1977.

The family moved to Blackhawk in 1979, eventually into a home overlooking the Blackhawk Country Club and the 18th hole of the Lakeside Course.

Ken co-founded the Blackhawk Museum, a subsidiary of Behring Global Educational Foundation, in 1988.

Pat and Ken shared a love of philanthropy. Pat was a champion for education.

In Florida, Pat raised funds for the Museum of Art and began the Behring Teacher Awards at Pine Crest School. Years later she started a national awards program, the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Awards for National History Day.

Here in the Tri-Valley, Pat supported organizations including the Veterans Memorial Museum, the John Muir Cancer Center and the Discovery Counseling Center.

Pat also began the Blackhawk



Patricia "Pat" Behring with son Jeff at an awards ceremony in 2015.

Museum Guild, which raises funds for the Children's Education and Transportation Fund to defray field trip bus transportation costs for East Bay students to experience the museum, provide docent training for tours, sponsor select exhibitions and present weekend family hands-on programs.

Pat stood alongside and supported her husband whether he was building his business, buying a football team or doing philanthropic work.

After purchasing the Seattle Seahawks football team in 1988, Ken established the Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation, which benefited numerous children's charities, including substantial donations to the Western Washington Muscular Dystrophy Association over many years.

According to a story from 2013, when Ken received our Tri-Valley Hero Lifetime Achievement award, it wasn't until early 2000, after placing a young, disabled Vietnamese girl in her first wheelchair, that he discovered "a life of purpose," leading him to create the Wheelchair Foundation.

Pat loved to go on wheelchair distribution trips all over the world.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Bill, her oldest son Michael and her husband Ken in 2019.

She is survived by four sons: Tom (Malissa), David (May), Jeff (Jane) and Scott (Jeanna); 10 grandchildren: Renee (Nate), John (Melissa), Colin (Elizabeth), Jessica, Brandon (Tatyana), Patrick, Stephanie (Hayden), Chris, Kyle and Elizabeth (Dominic); and seven great-grandchildren: Luke, Esther, Ethan, Theodore, Dee, Duane and Charlotte. ■

### About the Cover

Amy Turner Bull, a science teacher at Amador Valley High School, asks her first period students why they chose to be in her zoology class in order to break the ice on the first day of school on Aug. 10. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Doug Young.

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## RECENT LISTINGS



Pending Sale

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### MARKET UPDATE

Inventories continue to rise as overall activity in the market remains sluggish, which is typical for this time of year with end of summer vacations and kids going back to school. I have several upcoming listings that are being prepped for the market and based on my call activity from sellers, I expect inventory levels to continue to increase.

*Click the QR Code for our full update!*



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## Are you more of a hoarder or a purger?



**Miles Reavis**  
*Chef/student*

I'd have to say I'm somewhere in between because I like to keep things I find valuable, or that are nostalgic to me, especially if I haven't seen them in a long time. But at the same time I really love to get rid of junk.



**Jackson Cash**  
*College student*

I'm neither. If I like something I keep it, but if I don't it's gone. If I had to choose being one or the other though, I'd say I'm closer to being a hoarder than a purger.



**Yoli Koops**  
*Patient services rep*

I'm a purger for sure. A big-time anti-hoarder. I hate clutter and adhere to the philosophy of "out with the old and in with the new" so that I don't accumulate too much stuff.



**Tracie Brown**  
*Marketing manager*

I'm definitely a purger. With four kids, I'm always having to purge in order to be able to live in a spotless and clutter-free home.



**Eric Hughes**  
*Business development*

I'm a purger. I hate to have unnecessary papers on my desk, and if I feel a need to save something, I'll take a photo of it. I find clutter very confusing and uncomfortable and like to avoid it as best as I can.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### Mayors' Summit

The five local mayors are set to provide updates on their communities and regional efforts during the 2022 Tri-Valley Mayors' Summit later this month in Dublin.

The luncheon and panel discussion, moderated by former Dublin mayor Tim Sbranti representing Innovation Tri-Valley, is scheduled to feature mayors Newell Armerich (Danville), Karla Brown (Pleasanton), Melissa Hernandez (Dublin), Dave Hudson (San Ramon) and Bob Woerner (Livermore).

Hosted by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, the Mayors' Summit runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Patelco (3 Park Place). For tickets and more information, visit the Dublin chamber's website.

### Sadek earns statewide board post

Melanie Sadek, the executive director of Pleasanton-based Valley Humane Society since 2011, has been named the president of the California Animal Welfare Association's Board of Directors for the next two years.

"I'm honored to represent the great organizations and people who make up CalAnimals' membership," said Sadek, who has sat on the CalAnimals board for the past six years. "Collectively, we work to improve the lives of both animals and people in our state."

Representing more than 230 sheltering operations in the state of California, CalAnimals' mission is to support the success of animal welfare and sheltering organizations in meeting the needs of animals and people in their communities, according to Valley Humane Society officials.

"The organization provides industry-leading advocacy, training, education and resources, and facilitates collaboration to address challenges and collectively improve the industry's ability to save the lives of companion animals in California," they added.

### Homebuyer workshop

ECHO Housing is offering a free virtual workshop for first-time homebuyers for residents and employees of Pleasanton and Livermore from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Saturday (Aug. 27).

The session satisfies the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's first-time homebuyer education requirements for federal, state and local housing assistance programs, according to Pleasanton city officials.

"Learn how to create a budget, repair credit and how to shop for a lender. Discover types of mortgages and know what to expect in the loan and escrow process," organizers said.

Registration is required and closes on Wednesday (Aug. 24). To sign up or learn more, contact ECHO Housing at 855-275-3246 or HBE@echofairhousing.org. ■

## Tri-Valley candidate lists take shape heading into general election

Competitive races for city councils, school boards; Pleasanton, Dublin mayors unchallenged

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO, CIERRA BAILEY, NICOLE GONZALES AND JEREMY WALSH**

Pleasanton will have contested races for both City Council seats and at least one school board spot, while Mayor Karla Brown is unopposed in the Nov. 8 general election.

The initial candidacy deadline passed last Friday afternoon, with the filing period then extended until 5 p.m. Wednesday for both

Pleasanton Unified School District positions on the ballot, as neither incumbent is seeking re-election — among several notable deadline continuations throughout the Tri-Valley. Final results were still pending as of the Weekly's press time at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

This will be Pleasanton's first election in district-based format for the City Council and PUSD Board of Trustees.

The two City Council seats in

the race are for District 1, which represents the northwest Pleasanton neighborhoods, and District 3, which represents the southwestern part of the city.

In the District 3, incumbent Councilmember Julie Testa will be defending her seat against two challengers — former PUSD trustee Jamie Yee and Joel Liu, chair of the city's Committee on Energy and the Environment.

Running for the wide-open

District 1 seat will be Jeffrey Nibert, a Pleasanton planning commissioner and retired engineer, along with Dean Wallace, a longtime Tri-Valley resident and political staffer who currently works as a district director for Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Berkeley).

Current Councilmember Kathy Narum's seat on the council, for which she was elected at-large in

See **ELECTION** on Page 9



An aerial view of Murray Elementary School on Davona Drive in Dublin. The Murray community celebrated Phase 1 of campus renovations completed ahead of the first day of school.

## Murray ES revitalization

Phase 1 of Dublin school project complete with new classrooms, offices open

By **NICOLE GONZALES**

Students of Murray Elementary School in Dublin started the 2022 academic year with updated campus facilities and classrooms — and this is only the first wave of renovations the school is expecting.

The Murray revitalization project seeks to improve administrative operations, campus facilities and educational environments with three phases of construction projects. Additions from the recent constructions, completed in August, include newly built classrooms, improved campus-wide ventilation and administrative offices.

The recent building updates are part of Phase 1 of the bond-funded project. Phase 2 is set for completion in May 2024 and will add to the campus a new office, multipurpose room and school kitchen. Phase 3 projections are still to be announced by the district.

Chip Dehnert, public information and community relations officer for Dublin Unified School District, has worked closely with the project.

"New school facilities were created on the fields at the current site, and in a future phase, the older buildings will be removed," Dehnert said. "Now

that Phase 1 is complete, the Murray community has world-class, modern elementary school classrooms on par with any new elementary school in the Tri-Valley."

All phases of the project are estimated to cost \$57.5 million. The additions are funded by Measure H, a \$283 million bond that DUSD voters passed in 2016 to help local school facilities address overcrowding or aged amenities. Other schools in the district will also benefit from the measure and see additional construction updates,

See **MURRAY** on Page 10

## SSPTV plans to merge with CityServe

Leaders comment on consolidation set to occur next month

By **NICOLE GONZALES**

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley on the weekend announced its plans for a merger with CityServe of the Tri-Valley, citing mutual benefits and additional programs for in-need populations in the region.

SSPTV Board President Christine Sevier confirmed in a written statement on Sunday that the upcoming merger of the two organizations is expected to occur next month. Representatives from both operations have expressed positive sentiment around the merger.

"Our board has anticipated the need for systematic change and has been working diligently with our attorney and consultant on a merger agreement with CityServe since late 2021," Sevier said. "We anticipate merging in September."

Sevier's statement on behalf of Senior Support detailed hopes that the merger will allow the organizations to provide added resources for seniors, while also noting how SSPTV has evolved and adapted through the years since its establishment in 1981.

"Our desire is to benefit more seniors and have better outcomes especially in difficult times," Sevier said. "We have been strategically planning to prepare for a better future and we are excited about what

See **MERGER** on Page 10

# Livermore school board sends \$450M bond measure to ballot

Priority projects include upgrading classrooms, tech and ventilation systems, district says

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Education recently approved a resolution calling for a \$450 million general obligation facility bond as well as proposed ballot language to be submitted to voters on the Nov. 8 general election ballot.

The bond measure headed to the ballot this fall would go toward funding various improvements including upgrading 50-year-old classrooms and labs to meet current safety and instructional standards, providing career training facilities and equipment to students, upgrading classroom computers and tech infrastructure, replacing outdated plumbing and electrical infrastructure, replacing aging heating ventilation systems, replacing outdated portables with permanent classrooms and improving campus security gates, fencing and systems to enhance student safety, according to the district.

“LVJUSD has carefully assessed the condition of school facilities and developed plans to bring all school facilities up to current safety and academic standards,” district officials said in an agenda report.

The resolution was passed unanimously by the board during its first meeting of the 2022-23 school year on Aug. 9.

If approved by voters, the measure would cost approximately \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation in property — or 6 cents per \$100, as the ballot question language cites — while bonds are outstanding, district officials said.

“It is of utmost importance to us that our community and our students take pride in our facilities and in many cases, that our facilities

are transformed from what was built in the ‘50s and ‘60s into what is appropriate in the 2020s,” new Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said during the meeting.

Van Schaack also explained the background behind why schools look to their communities to fund large-scale renovation projects.

“In the state of California school construction, school renovation is considered to be the responsibility of the community,” he said. “Not all states are like this, some states raise additional taxes for construction, some pay for it through other types of funding but in the state of California — dating back to the 1970s -- when the legislature decided that for communities in California, school construction and renovation rests with the community itself.”

He added that while the state sometimes offers matching funds, in order to access those funds the community must already “have money in the bucket.” There are some other resources for funding smaller projects that he said LVJUSD utilizes such as collecting developer fees and selling surplus property but these other sources do not provide adequate funding for major construction projects.

Bond consultant Charles Heath of TBWBH Props & Measures shared results from a survey conducted in July with a sample size of 667 voters to gauge the community’s willingness to support a bond measure at this time.

According to Heath, the survey found that 67% of voters surveyed believe there is a need to upgrade school facilities.

He also said that after providing a mock-up of the \$450 million bond measure to survey-takers, which



FILE PHOTO

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District headquarters.

included the tax rate that would be associated and a summary of the types of projects that would be funded by the bonds, the results indicated that 64% of voters said that they would vote yes on the proposal — nine percentage points over the 55% passage threshold for bond measures in California.

Heath later explained that, “what allows you to extrapolate the results from 667 people to the tens of thousands of people who would vote in the election is the fact that it’s carefully constructed to be representative — so, the same proportion of men versus women and Democrats versus Republicans and old voters versus young voters and voters on this side of town versus that side of town as we expect to see in the election. Then within those categories, voters are randomly selected to participate in the survey.”

Toward the end of the staff presentation, Van Schaack addressed that other Tri-Valley communities

are also making improvements to their school campuses and Livermore should follow suit.

“The bottom line for many of us is our students deserve equal opportunities. As we see our neighbors up (Interstate 680) in San Ramon and Danville — Pleasanton and Dublin upgrading their facilities, our students deserve no less,” Van Schaack said.

The approved ballot question reads as follows:

“To upgrade aging classrooms, labs and job training facilities to meet safety / instructional standards and support science, technology, engineering and math instruction; fix leaky roofs / deteriorating plumbing / electrical / heating / cooling systems; keep instructional technology up-to-date; and improve security / fire / earthquake safety shall Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District’s measure issuing \$450,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, approximately 6 cents per

\$100 assessed value while bonds are outstanding (\$30,000,000 annually) be adopted, with independent oversight, audits and no funds for administrator salaries?”

This measure marks LVJUSD’s second ballot initiative to go before voters this year.

In May, LVJUSD held a special mail-only election to renew a \$138 parcel tax for another seven years. District officials said at the time that the parcel tax funding is used for providing elementary science and TK-12 technology specialists, attracting and retaining qualified teachers, keeping classroom technology and curriculum up-to-date and maintaining small class sizes.

After an Alameda County Superior Court judge sided with the school district in a lawsuit filed by two local taxpayer groups, the Measure A parcel tax renewal election narrowly cleared the two-thirds supermajority threshold by less than one percentage point. ■

## Ex-PUSD trustee Jamie Yee bidding for City Council District 3

Says experience with school board and county’s health care services gives her upper hand

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Former Pleasanton school board trustee Jamie Yee has announced that she will be running for the City Council District 3 seat on the ballot this November.

Yee’s goals, if elected, would be to increase transparency in the council and to maintain the quality of life and character of Pleasanton, according to her campaign launch statement.

“Let’s pay attention and make certain we have a voice focused on protecting Pleasanton’s quality of life, supporting public safety efforts, meaningful collaboration with



Jamie Yee

the school district, supporting local small businesses, fiscal sustainability, and balancing modern city needs while safeguarding the character of Main Street,” Yee said in a news release.

The Nov. 8 election will be Pleasanton’s first in a district-based format for City Council seats where District 3 will represent the southwestern part of the city. Incumbent Councilmember Julie Testa and challenger Joel Liu, chair of the city’s Committee on Energy and the Environment, are the other two candidates who announced their intent to run for the seat.

A Bay Area native, Yee moved to Pleasanton from Berkeley while growing up and attended Alisal Elementary and the old Pleasanton Elementary before graduating from

Foothill High School.

She served on the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2020, including twice as board president and once as a clerk, before losing her re-election bid two years ago. Yee said that because she served on the school board during the Great Recession, she is used to making difficult decisions.

“I believe Pleasanton native Jamie Yee is the best person to represent District 3 thanks to her 12 years on the school board, commitment to impartial decision-making, and fervent desire to improve our city,” Derek Dressler, former student school board member and Foothill High School ASB President, said in Yee’s campaign news release.

Yee was also on the board’s audit,

facilities, policy committees and interview panels, which she said will help in her goal of instituting a process in the council to procure required legal and audit services for the sake of transparency.

Apart from her time at the board, she was a founding member of Pleasanton Parent Teacher Association and helped organize the first Health and Wellness PTA committee. She has also served eight years on the California State PTA’s Board of Managers and is a board member for the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program.

Yee is currently a program and communications manager at the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency office where she has been working since 2007. She said her work in public health has led her to

work with community-based organizations, neighborhoods, law enforcement, school districts county-wide and other social services to “listen, lead, plan and collaborate.”

She also currently serves as a member of the city’s Civic Arts Commission and is a co-chair of the Tri-Valley Chapter of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association.

“Pleasanton is a wonderful, vibrant and caring community. We deserve a council that works together to benefit the community it serves,” Yee said. “The current council is not truly representative of our community, and the dysfunction it represents is harmful to the future of our hometown.”

To learn more about Yee and her campaign, visit [www.JamieYee.com](http://www.JamieYee.com). ■

# \$14.35M in new state funding to PUSD for learning recovery, music, arts

Also: Updates on irrigation improvements, gym renovations, tripping hazard removals

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton Unified School District will be receiving \$14.35 million in new combined funding coming in from the recently enacted state budget, which district staff will not have to account for in its adopted budget.

During the Aug. 11 school board meeting, assistant superintendent of business services Ahmad Sheikholeslami explained how Gov. Gavin Newsom's \$300 billion budget for next year increased the base funding for the Local Control Funding Formula.

Funding for the formula, which is the mechanism through which most of the state's public schools are funded, will increase by \$9 billion, meaning Pleasanton will receive about \$4 million in ongoing funding.

"Even with the ongoing revenues, we were planning deficit spending ... and so now with the additional revenues coming in, our fiscal situation will improve and we can look at what those reductions were exactly going to be and modify our plans going forward," Sheikholeslami said. "But that additional revenue will really become important to us in the years to come."

The new state budget also increased the ongoing funding for the expanded learning opportunities program, which will translate to about \$2.1 million that will strictly be used on after-school programs.

In terms of the transitional kindergarten program, the governor and

state agreed on increasing funding for the program that includes a staffing increase of one teacher per 12 students. That program is supposed to fully take care of all kids who turn 4 years old by Sept. 1 by the 2025-26 school year.

Two one-time grants that the district did not account for in the original school budget but will now be included are the Learning Recovery Block Grant and the the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant.

The Learning Recovery Block Grant is intended to extend some of the pandemic relief spending for increased instructional minutes, closing the learning gap, providing additional support to student's credit deficiency and academic pupil services, Sheikholeslami said.

That grant accounts to about \$5.38 million that the district must spend by the 2027-28 school year.

The Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant's parameters are much wider because it can be used for anything under the umbrella of the arts and music.

"This will be a great opportunity to extend on some of our wishlist items," Trustee Kelly Mokashi said. "My passion would be to see how we can get more music down and arts into the elementary level ... I'm really excited to hear more about this particular grant and how it levels out."

That one-time grant of \$8.96 million includes art and music programs, instructional materials, books

and textbooks, and overall operational costs.

"There are going to be school districts that don't touch arts and music with these dollars and I do not want to be one of those districts," Trustee Joan Laursen said.

Sheikholeslami said the district's finance committee is already working with different departments on developing plans for how to best use the new one-time funds and the ongoing formula funds, and will report back to the board for the first interim budget update in December.

Another topic discussed at the meeting was staff cuts due to low enrollment.

During the meeting, deputy superintendent of student services Ed Diolazo shared the enrollment numbers for the first day of school — not counting infants and preschool students there were 13,940 enrolled students.

"In the 2019-20 school year we started with 15,000 students and so we definitely have decreased enrollment," Diolazo said.

Because of that enrollment decrease, district staff projected right-sizing in its adopted budget and Mokashi asked if there were any projections for how many cuts the district would make.

Sheikholeslami said that after the first interim budget update and final enrollment numbers are tallied in January, staff will have a more clear idea on projected staff cuts.

"We try to make those kinds of planning decisions so everyone knows that there's going to be

adjustments and staffing due to enrollment," he said.

Mokashi also asked if there was any consideration for setting some of that new funding money aside to increase the reserve levels. She said that even though she knows the district is at the minimum 3.3% reserve level, she was curious if beefing up the reserves was part of the conversation.

Sheikholeslami said that any type of prudent planning would look at providing more services but the district could also consider putting a certain percentage to increase the reserves.

"I think there's lots of evidence recently that the rainy day fund has positively impacted the school districts," Superintendent David Haglund said. "When the budget has fallen, that fund has been able to save us from really some devastating cuts ... it actually was a very effective strategy that we should pay attention to."

## In other business

Mehdi Rajabzadeh, executive director of operations, presented his annual Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Department report, which included several accomplishments, ongoing projects and future plans and challenges for the department.

One of the main improvements to all the schools that he noted in the report is in water conservation efforts.

Push faucets have been adjusted to stay on for five seconds, rather than 20-30 seconds and all the sites are now equipped with iCentral

Irrigation controllers, which are more accessible and can be adjusted using an iPad.

"Now we can manage irrigation at the tip of our fingers on an iPad instead of running to each campus several times a day," Rajabzadeh said.

He said he was also proud to announce that after 18 years, the gym floors at Foothill High school have been renovated — work on the gyms at Hart and Pleasanton Middle School are currently in progress and are projected to be completed in two weeks.

"Our schools have not, and we still have a lot to do, but never in my career have they looked like they look now," Board Vice President Steve Maher said.

The other main issue that was addressed at almost every school was tripping hazards. Apart from Amador Valley High School, which is currently being evaluated because of the significant repair work, every tripping hazard at the other schools have been removed and repaired.

Other maintenance work included in the report are: renovations to the baseball field at Foothill; addressing the sprinkler system to ensure water conservation; renovated ball walls at several sites; blacktop and parking lot resurfacing; and plumbing issues across the district, which still needs to be further addressed.

"So far I've been to 12 out of the 16 schools and I've been so impressed by how beautiful they are, especially in the paint jobs," Trustee Mary Jo Carreon said.

Some of the challenges Rajabzadeh said the department faces are in addressing older facilities that are in need of modernization, institutionalizing the culture of preventive maintenance and coordinating improvements with the \$270 million general obligation Measure 11 bond that voters passed in 2016. ■

## TAKE US ALONG



**Brooklyn bound:** Longtime Pleasanton residents Ron and Susan Wacek recently visited their daughter in Brooklyn. They loved walking across the Brooklyn Bridge and visiting the Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.

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

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# LVJUSD recognizes administrator transitions for new school year

Conover named principal of Granada High; Manke promoted to assistant superintendent

BY CIERRA BAILEY

The 2022-23 school year in Livermore is set to begin on Tuesday and many students will find different administrators leading their campus communities.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) celebrated promotions and transitions for a number of longtime staff members and welcomed some new employees at its Aug. 9 Board of Education meeting.

Clark Conover, who was formerly a vice principal at Granada High School, is stepping into the role of principal this school year.

While his title may be new, he is no stranger to the Granada campus. Conover's extensive history at the high school includes previously serving as head wrestling coach for 12 years and teaching math, health and physical education.



**Clark Conover**



**Kelly Manke**



**Tracie Christmas**



**Amy Robbins**

He was also Granada's athletic director for 11 years. Last spring, the school's newly built wrestling

gym was named the "Clark Conover Wrestling Facility" in his honor.

In his new role as principal, Conover succeeds Matthew Hart, who has been elevated to a district level position, joining the curriculum department as the director of assessment and accountability.

Two brand-new administrators are joining Granada's team of vice principals: Ai Vu, who served as vice principal at Kennedy High School in Fremont, and Jason Cain, who was vice principal at American High School, also located in Fremont.

Across town at Livermore High School, one of its teachers, Alyson Noble, will be joining the vice principal team along with Dan Musselman, who was previously vice principal at Del Valle Continuation High School.

Valerie Nebo is stepping away from her position as vice principal at

Livermore High to lead Arroyo Seco Elementary as its new principal.

In light of Musselman's departure from Del Valle, Steven Martin is taking on a vice principal position at the continuation high school. Before this role, Martin was program director for YouthBuild, an educational program launched by LVJUSD for Tri-Valley students who did not complete high school.

At the district level, former director of human resources Kelly Manke is transitioning into the role of assistant superintendent of administrative services, overseeing human resources and student services.

In June, when the district announced that Chris Van Schaack would be moving away from his role as deputy superintendent of schools, officials said that the deputy superintendent position would

be replaced with an assistant superintendent of administrative services.

The district's new executive director of human resources is Amy Robbins, who was previously the director of college and career readiness for the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program.

Tracie Christmas, who joined LVJUSD last year, is transitioning from her position as director of assessment and accountability to the director of student services. Christmas succeeds Darrel Avilla who retired on June 30 after 34 years with the district.

The district introduced a new wellness coordinator position within its student services department this year which will be held by Liisa Hanninen-Danner.

"I just want to be so grateful that we have raised student wellness to the ranks of needing a coordinator. We all know it's important, especially in these uncertain times, and I am delighted that we now have a coordinator of wellness," Trustee Anne White during last week's meeting where the new administrators were recognized. ■

## Tri-Valley water agencies launch new website, outreach program

Seek to educate residents, businesses about local supply challenges and solutions

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Tri-Valley water agencies have unveiled a new website that is focused on educating residents and businesses about the region's water supply reliability.

The region's water wholesaler, Zone 7 Water Agency, collaborated with local water providers California Water Service Company in Livermore, the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, and Dublin San Ramon Services District to put the website together.

The reason for creating the website ([trivalleywater.org](http://trivalleywater.org)) stemmed from a 2019 water supply evaluation and clarified the need to pursue new water supply options for long-term water reliability in the Tri-Valley,

according to a news release.

When visiting the website, users can learn about water supply chal-

**'There is considerable (public) confusion about where our water comes from and the system that provides it.'**

**Valerie Pryor,**  
Zone 7 general manager

lenges and potential drought solutions including Sites Reservoir, a \$5.2 billion off-stream reservoir

project to be built by the California Department of Water Resources in the Sacramento Valley and the Delta Conveyance Project.

The Delta Conveyance Project aims to improve the water delivery system of the State Water Project, with which Zone 7 is a contractor, through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

"Before beginning work on this program, we looked at past studies which demonstrated there is considerable confusion about where our water comes from and the system that provides it," Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said in the news release.

"Our goal with this education program is to give constituents a solid understanding of their water

supply, so they can be more informed about the potential solutions to our water challenges," she added.

Users can also learn about other potential local solutions such as the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion project, which is a surface storage project; potable water reuse, which uses treated wastewater for drinking water; and regional desalination, which is a process that takes away mineral components from saline water.

But according to the news release, none of those projects single-handedly meet the water reliability

needs identified in the 2019 water supply evaluation and are all currently under evaluation. A combination of projects will eventually be selected for investment and implementation.

Local elected officials agreed the water supply reliability options identified needed continued evaluation, and a community outreach program to educate Tri-Valley residents and businesses about the region's water supply challenges and potential solutions needed to be developed, which led to the development of the new website.

"Equipped with this information, we feel residents and businesses will be in a better position to participate in the process of informing us which of the potential solutions we are currently exploring will best meet the needs and values of the community," Pryor said. ■

## Crews stop 58-acre fire near Dublin neighborhood

Car ignites flames that spread to vegetation along I-580

BY JEREMY WALSH

Firefighters battled a brush fire that threatened a Dublin neighborhood on Monday afternoon, gaining control as it reached 58 acres after nearly three hours, according to authorities.

The flames broke out just before 4:30 p.m. when a car fire along Interstate 580 near Eden Canyon Road in Castro Valley

spread to adjacent vegetation, according to the Alameda County Fire Department.

The fire had a moderate rate of spread and approached the residences west of Schaefer Ranch Road in Dublin, prompting the city to quickly set up an evacuation center at the Shannon Community Center.

Multiple agencies responded

to battle the flames and protect the West Dublin neighborhood. By 7:15 p.m. Monday, Cal Fire reported that forward progress had been stopped at 58 acres. Road closures were lifted later in the night.

There were no injuries or structure damage reported because of the fire, according to ACFD. ■



CAL FIRE

The Eden Fire reached 58 acres on Monday evening, with crews successfully keeping it away from the neighborhood west of Schaefer Ranch Road in Dublin.

## ELECTION

Continued from Page 5

2018, has been assigned to District 1 after the conversion to district elections. Narum could not seek re-election to the council in November under the city's term limit law—there was no deadline extension for District 1 because Narum was not an incumbent eligible.

Mayor Brown had no challengers file against her in her bid for a second consecutive two-year term. Narum pulled nomination papers but did not submit them before Friday's deadline.

For PUSD, with incumbent trustees Joan Laursen and Mark Miller each declining to run, both the Area 5 and Area 2 seats had their filing deadlines extended until Wednesday.

Justin Brown, a planning commissioner with the city of Pleasanton, has been the only candidate to file thus far for the Area 5 seat, which includes Vintage Hills and Hearst elementary schools and Pleasanton Middle School.

The two candidates running so far for the Area 2 seat, which represents the areas surrounding Hart Middle School and Fairlands Elementary, are newcomers Christine Lutz (listed as a human resources recruiter) and Urvi Shah (a mother and businesswoman). Resident Laurie Walker, an office manager and parent, pulled papers this week but had not finished filing as of the Weekly's press deadline.

## Livermore

Following Friday evening's closure of the initial filing deadline, the contests for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Education, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, Livermore City Council and mayor are all shaping up to be competitive races.

As it stands, former mayor John Marchand is running against Realtor and former Livermore police officer Mony Nop for the mayoral chair. No other candidates had filed as of 3 p.m. Wednesday.

The filing period was extended since first-term Mayor Bob Wornner is not seeking re-election for health reasons.

The District 1 and District 2 City Council seats up for grabs this year did not qualify for an extension as there are no incumbents deemed eligible for re-election, according to city officials. The two council terms that are expiring this year are currently held by Councilmember Trish Munro and Vice Mayor Gina Bonanno, which were both at-large seats and are transitioning to district elections for the first time this year.

In District 1, which includes the northwest portion of the city, local high school teacher and Livermore Planning Commissioner Evan Branning and longtime Livermore resident and early childhood educator



Carol Wahrer are set to compete for a spot on the dais.

Retired educator and current Livermore Lions Club president Ben Barrientos is poised to face off against travel agent and community organizer Mel Chiong for the District 2 seat, which represents the northeast portion of the city including the Springtown neighborhood.

Both the LVJUSD and LARPD boards each have three open seats in what stand to be crowded races ahead — nine candidates for the school board and six competing for the parks board.

The three open at-large seats on the Board of Education are currently held by Board President Craig Bueno, Board Clerk Emily Prusso and Trustee Anne White. All three incumbents are seeking re-election and are set to be on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Their challengers are Steven Drouin, Hayden Sidun, Kristina Mazaika, John Kupski, Deena Kaplanis and Alexandria Izarraraz.

Prospective challenger Stephanie Sanchez also pulled nomination papers for the school board election but she did not complete filing by the deadline.

LARPD board incumbents Philip Pierpont, David Furst and Board Chair Maryalice Summers Faltings are also all seeking re-election this year. Their challengers include Corey Hahn, Ruby Moppin and Robert Sanchez.

Tara Stevulak was also shown to have pulled nomination papers for the LARPD board race but did not complete the filing.

## Dublin

The city of Dublin had its City Council filing deadline extended to Wednesday with three candidates signed up so far while the city is poised for no competitive election for mayor.

Incumbent Mayor Melissa Hernandez is running for re-election unchallenged, as she was the only candidate to file nomination papers. Dublin Human Services Commissioner Shawn Costello pulled papers for the position but ultimately did not turn them in.

Hernandez was elected into her current position in 2020, which made her the first Latina mayor in Dublin history. She previously served on the City Council.

The two at-large Dublin City Council seats are being sought after by up to four prospective candidates thus far, but the deadline was extended to Wednesday because incumbent Councilmember Shawn Kumagai did not file for re-election as he is a finalist in the runoff for State Assembly District 20.

The confirmed candidates are current Vice Mayor Jean Josey,

former planning commissioner Lynna Lan Tien Nguyen Do and planning commission alternate member Kashef Qaadri. Resident Monica Shangle, a senior program manager, pulled papers but had not filed as of press time.

Josey was first elected in 2018 and has held positions on several Dublin Unified School District committees. Do has recently worked in the private sector however has previous experience in government and public work, including as a former Dublin Planning Commission member. Qaadri serves on several public boards, such as Alameda County Public Health Commission and DUSD Citizen Bond Oversight Committee.

Three positions for the Dublin Unified School District Governing Board are up for election — Area 2, Area 3 (short-term) and Area 5.

Kristin Speck, 2017 DUSD Boundary Committee member, is the only candidate to have filed for Area 2 of the board. The deadline was extended to Wednesday with incumbent Trustee Megan Rouse not seeking re-election.

Incumbent Area 3 Trustee William Kuo will be running to maintain his position. He was appointed in May 2021 to fill the unexpired term of his late wife Catherine Kuo until the next regular DUSD election — thus the election in November for Area 3 is for a two-year term, to get it back on its regular four-year cycle.

William Kuo is challenged by John Wu, who was also one of the applicants to fill the vacancy created by Catherine Kuo's death.

Current Board President Dan Cherrier faces Sameer Hakim for Area 5. Cherrier has been on the board since 2016. His challenger,

Hakim, previously served on the DUSD Board of Trustees in an appointed capacity from 2015 to 2016.

For the Dublin San Ramon Services District Board of Directors, Area 5 appointed incumbent Arun Goel is running against Seema Badar, listed as a fundraiser, educator and mother.

Goel, a former Dublin City Council member, was picked by the other directors to fill the position for two years after Area 5 received no candidates for the ballot in the November 2020 election. This contest is for a two-year, short-term position to get Area 5 back on its regular election schedule.

DSRSD Director Ann Marie Johnson faces challenger Jim Brady for Area 2, which is in San Ramon. Director Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold is seeking re-election unopposed to her Dublin-based Area 4.

## Other local races

The filing deadline was extended for the Tri-Valley's Ward 5 position on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors in light of longtime incumbent Ayn Wieskamp not seeking re-election.

Two prospective candidates with elected service experience have pulled papers but neither had completed the process by Wednesday morning: current LARPD Director Jan Palajac and current Zone 7 Water Agency Director Olivia Sanwong.

All three positions on the Sunol Glen Unified School District Governing Board are on the ballot this November — and all three had their filing deadline extended.

There is a short-term position for two years on the ballot, for which information technology manager Chris Bobertz and teacher/nurse

Linda Hurley have filed.

Trustee Ryan Jergensen, who currently holds the short-term position in an appointed capacity after a vacancy, is instead running for one of the two regular full terms on the ballot. The other candidates for the full seats thus far are business owner James Lowder and corporate attorney Peter "Ted" Romo. Both incumbents Liz Monti-Hall and Mike Picard are not seeking re-election.

Stephen Lanza was the only candidate to file for the Tri-Valley's Area 7 position on the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees. This is a short-term election to complete the unexpired term left vacant by the death of Trustee Ed Maduli in June.

The Tri-Valley also has several positions set for runoff election on the Nov. 8 ballots following the primary election in June.

Civil rights attorney Pamela Price and chief deputy district attorney Terry Wiley are competing for Alameda County district attorney. Incumbent DA Nancy O'Malley did not seek re-election.

In Assembly District 20, which includes a portion of western Pleasanton and Dublin, Kumagai is running against Liz Ortega — both Democrats in the finale.

For District 16, which includes the rest of the Tri-Valley, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) is running against Joe Rubay (R-Alamo) — a rematch from the 2020 general election.

In the newly redrawn Congressional District 14, U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) faces Republican challenger Alison Hayden. This is also a rematch from 2020.

For coverage of the San Ramon Valley candidacy deadline, visit [DanvilleSanRamon.com](http://DanvilleSanRamon.com). ■

Heart of the Tri-Valley

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# AG Bonta backs city in call for expedited review of Eden Housing appeal

Says litigation is being dragged out in Livermore, jeopardizes funding for affordable project

BY CIERRA BAILEY

California Attorney General Rob Bonta began the process of filing an amicus brief last week 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 development under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The city and developer Eden Housing, Inc. filed a joint motion on July 29 asking the appellate court to expedite the briefing schedule and in the alternative to dismiss the appeal.

"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 on Aug. 9. "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.

Livermore city attorney Jason Alcalá said that the city appreciates Bonta's support of the 130-unit affordable housing project planned for downtown on land purchased by the city more than a decade ago with funds designated for

affordable housing.

"I concur with his assessment that Save Livermore Downtown's lawsuit was brought for the purpose of delaying the project and that the lawsuit is an abuse of the CEQA process," Alcalá told the Weekly.

"It is unfortunate that Save Livermore Downtown has now recast itself as Move Eden Housing and filed yet another lawsuit aimed at delaying the project. Upon review, I expect the Alameda County Superior Court will find the new lawsuit to be just as meritless," he added.

Alcalá's comments refer to a new, separate lawsuit filed one week earlier by another citizen group called Move Eden Housing, which identifies itself as being different from Save Livermore Downtown, although the two groups share members and are both advocating for the relocation of the housing in favor of a community park being built on the city-owned project site instead.

Move Eden Housing's lawsuit asks the court to compel the city to process a referendum petition that seeks to overturn the City Council's May approval of an amended disposition, development and loan agreement for the project.

Save Livermore Downtown's lawsuit challenging the city's initial approval of the project was denied in Alameda County Superior Court back in February but the group filed an appeal in April, which is the step in the litigation process that Bonta and the city are asking for expedited

review or dismissal of.

Livermore Mayor Bob Woerner also expressed gratitude for Bonta's support while also deeming the current lawsuits as "frivolous."

**'The City of Livermore carefully followed a planning process that comports with both the letter and spirit of state law.'**

**Attorney General Rob Bonta's office**

"Speaking for myself, I believe it is unconscionable for a wealthy elitist and her small group of close associates to use frivolous lawsuits to block much needed affordable workforce housing. I'm pleased that the Attorney General is supporting Livermore's and Eden Housing's efforts to expedite the appeals process. Many deserving families have been waiting far too long," Woerner said.

At the time their appeal was filed, Save Livermore Downtown spokesperson Jean King said that the group believes "Judge Frank Roesch of the Alameda Superior Court ruled incorrectly when he concluded that the City had complied with CEQA and when he deferred to the city's argument that Eden Housing's project conformed

with the Downtown Specific Plan."

The group shared similar sentiments last week in response to Bonta's brief.

"With all due respect, our community group, Save Livermore Downtown, believes the attorney general has got it wrong," the group told the Weekly in a statement.

"Our plan produces more affordable housing for more people, while also creating a beautiful park in the center of town for all to enjoy. Livermore can have both, and we will continue to fight for the plan that the majority of Livermore residents support," the statement continued.

Bonta's office argues the appeal is putting the project's funding at stake: "By dragging out the litigation, Save Livermore Downtown has jeopardized the project's financing and potentially put the entire viability of the project at risk."

Citing the California Department of Housing and Community Development, Bonta's statement said the state needs an estimated 2.5 million new homes by 2030 in order to meet housing demand. However, on average only 100,000 new homes are built in California each year.

The development of vacant or underutilized plots in existing urban areas — known as infill development — is critical for local governments to address the housing crisis and meet state housing goals, according to Bonta's office.

"The City of Livermore carefully followed a planning process that

comports with both the letter and spirit of state law. Attorney General Bonta urges the court to expedite judicial review of the appeal to the fullest extent possible, arguing that the mere filing of an appeal in a CEQA case must not be permitted to stall or block critical projects," the statement said.

While Save Livermore Downtown said it agrees with Bonta's broader arguments that CEQA shouldn't be used arbitrarily to block affordable housing projects and that infill development is preferred to "urban sprawl developments, which harm our open space," the group believes that Bonta "has not chosen the right case in order to make these arguments."

"In the Eden Housing project, the City of Livermore did not follow the design standards in its Downtown Specific Plan. In fact, it violated over 10 of them. As a result, the Eden Housing project is not exempt from CEQA, as the Attorney General believes," the group said.

"SLD has proposed publicly a location adjacent to the priority downtown location. It would increase the number of units by 100 and provide more parking. It could still keep the property within the Eden project site to meet Eden's required public open space requirement. Unfortunately, the City and Eden have not expressed any interest in looking at this alternative or any other of their choosing," the group said in its statement. ■

## MERGER

Continued from Page 5

this merger means for our senior community. When we collaborate, everyone wins."

CityServe operates as a local organization with the goal of mobilizing resources to marginalized communities in the area. This includes low-income seniors and citizens experiencing homelessness.

With the motto "Care, Coordinate, Connect," CityServe is funded through financial partnerships they refer to as 'influencers.' Funders listed on the organization's website include PG&E, Alameda County and the cities of Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton.

CityServe CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani also commented on the merger's community impact in the public statement.

"Our mission is to always assist residents by caring, coordinating and connecting those in need of resources and to mobilize volunteers in the community," Beitsch-Bahmani said. "We feel that this merger will allow us to continue doing what we've always done, but with a greater overall impact and an intentional reach into the older adult community."

Beitsch-Bahmani highlighted

how the two groups will be delivering services to housed and unhoused citizens, she said "together we are better positioned to serve the entire family."

The announcement of the planned merger, which appears to have been in the works for some time, was made public four days after a story by the Weekly spotlighting concerns about SSPTV, its leadership instability, and the

apparent loss of key services and staff raised by former employees and volunteers with the nonprofit.

SSPTV leadership have attempted to discredit the reports that the Friendly Visiting Program has been eliminated, according to third-party communications shared with the Weekly, but they have declined to comment or answer follow-up questions directly to the Weekly this week. ■

## MURRAY

Continued from Page 5

including Emerald High School and Frederiksen Elementary.

"As these sites are modernized, the impact is significant. Our staff, who worked for years in an aging facility feel the appreciation associated with being invested in," Dehnert said. "They are now teaching in modern classrooms designed for 21st Century education. A happier staff teaching in modern classrooms will deliver a higher quality of education to our students."

According to Dehnert, Murray Elementary began the new school year with over 47,000 square feet of new additions. These include 32 classrooms for K-5 students and staff, four offices (counselor, psychologist, English language development, speech therapy), five staff workrooms and several new bathrooms.

The classrooms constructed in Phase 1 feature updated lighting and window shades, high-efficiency all-electric heat pump HVAC units with energy management system ventilation controls, and

daylight harvesting windows.

Dehnert noted the many benefits that new school construction plans can have on an area that go beyond the specific campus.

"From a community perspective, the benefits of having a brand-new school include improved pride in one's community, confidence in the facilities local children will attend, and improved property values," he told the Weekly. "From a recruiting standpoint, in a challenging era to attract teachers, modern classrooms are also an advantage." ■



Murray Elementary welcomes back students and families to the newly renovated campus last week.

DUSD

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Driver dies in fiery crash at Bernal Avenue freeway offramp

A driver was killed after their car hit a large tree off an Interstate 680 offramp at Bernal Avenue and burst into flames on Sunday evening in Pleasanton, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The identity of the decedent remains unknown due to the extent of the burn injuries and lack of personal identification inside the vehicle, according to CHP-Dublin Officer Kevin Bjonerud.

The deadly crash unfolded just before 6:30 p.m. Sunday, although initial calls to 911 were reporting a brush fire along the southbound I-680 offramp at Bernal Avenue, Bjonerud said. Subsequent reports to the CHP soon said that a vehicle was involved in the fire.

The initial investigation indicated that a Mercedes sedan traveling southbound on the freeway attempted to take the Bernal exit but failed to negotiate the sharp right turn for unknown reasons, staying roughly straight, going down an embankment and striking a large tree head-on, according to Bjonerud.

The crash sparked flames that ignited the vehicle and surrounding vegetation. The driver, who was the sole occupant and was trapped inside the vehicle, succumbed to their injuries at the scene, according to Bjonerud.

The CHP continues to investigate why the Mercedes went off the roadway, with Bjonerud saying there was no physical evidence at the scene to show the cause and there were no eyewitnesses to the actual crash. DUI is not suspected at this point.

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department crews put out the fire along the offramp, according to the officer. The ramp was closed for about two hours on Sunday evening for the investigation and cleanup onsite.

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash can contact the CHP-Dublin office at 925-828-0466.

—Jeremy Walsh

### In other news

- The Pleasanton Police Department swore in its newest officer, Jared Dekkers, at a ceremony earlier this month.

Dekkers is a lateral transfer from the Stockton Police Department, where he was a member of the Strategic Community Officer Team, which focused on community engagement and assisting unhoused people, according to Pleasanton PD.



New Pleasanton Police Department Officer Jared Dekkers (left) looks on as Police Chief David Swing speaks during the swearing-in ceremony.

Before graduating from the Alameda County Sheriff's Academy, Dekkers worked as a corrections corporal at the South Dakota Department of Corrections. He also holds an associate degree in agricultural business.

—Jeremy Walsh

- Pleasanton PD has developed a new police cadet program that aims to offer young adults an opportunity to join the department and gain experience with police services.

Designed for people interested in a career in law enforcement, cadets will receive training in general police procedures, first aid, radio procedures and traffic control. Typical duties will include patrolling city streets, assisting in locating and handling animals, and collecting data, according to Lt. Erik Silacci.

"We're pleased to introduce this part-time employment opportunity," Silacci said, "which is ideal for young adults who are actively involved in the community and interested in law enforcement."

Applicants must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma, or GED or equivalent, with a minimum 2.0 GPA. They must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or university and taking a

minimum of 12 semester/18 quarter units and maintain a "C" or better GPA.

The paid position will offer \$15-\$20 per hour.

To learn more, contact the department at 925-931-5210 or visit [www.pleasantonjobs.org](http://www.pleasantonjobs.org).

—Jeremy Walsh

- The Cone with a Cop program is returning to Pleasanton's Meadowlark Dairy next week for the first time in three years after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pleasanton police officers will be on hand for ice cream and to meet with residents from 2-5 p.m. Wednesday (Aug. 24) at the iconic downtown store at 57 W. Neal St.

"We thank Meadowlark Dairy for their assistance in hosting this family-friendly event for everyone to enjoy," Chief David Swing said. "We look forward to strengthening our community relationships over a cone of ice cream."

Each attendee will receive one free cone; no token necessary. To avoid traffic, police encourage people to walk or bike. A portion of Railroad Avenue (between Division and Neal streets) will be closed to vehicles from 12-5:30 p.m. that day for Cone with a Cop. ■

—Jeremy Walsh



Pleasanton police are looking ahead to the return of Cone with a Cop at Meadowlark Dairy on Aug. 24.

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Aug. 9

#### Graffiti

- 6:41 a.m. at Lin Gate Street and Sutter Gate Avenue
- 6:52 a.m. at Stoneridge Drive and Trevor Parkway
- 6:58 a.m. at Valley Avenue and Hopyard Road

#### Theft

- 8:46 a.m., 1700 block of Paseo Del Cajon; theft from auto
- 11:18 a.m. on the 600 block of Main Street
- 2:26 p.m., 4400 block of Del Valle Parkway; catalytic converter theft
- 3:41 p.m., 5600 block of Sunol Boulevard; auto theft
- 5:21 p.m. on the 400 block of Blacow Street
- 10:55 p.m., 4200 block of Sheldon Circle; catalytic converter theft

#### Warrant arrest

- 7:40 p.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 9:44 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

### Aug. 8

#### Burglary

- 12:33 a.m. on the 1400 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Vandalism

- 10:15 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

#### Theft

- 12:36 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 2:30 p.m. on the 900 block of Main Street

#### Alcohol violation

- 3:23 p.m. on the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Domestic battery

- 5:06 p.m. on East Angela Street

#### Drug violation

- 11:31 p.m. at Santa Rita and Morganfield roads

### Aug. 7

#### Fire

- 12:18 a.m. on the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive

#### DUI

- 12:22 a.m. at Muirwood Drive and Kentwood Way

#### Theft

- 5:14 a.m., 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto
- 7:10 a.m., at Crestline Road and Black Avenue; catalytic converter theft
- 11:55 a.m., 5400 block of Ridgevale Road; theft from auto
- 3:17 p.m. on the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

#### Domestic battery

- 3:57 p.m. on Case Avenue

#### Burglary

- 9:31 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

#### Vandalism

- 1:11 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

#### Drug violation

- 1:36 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- 8:01 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Warrant arrest

- 9:03 p.m. on the 4100 block of Georgis Place

#### Stolen property

- 11:31 p.m. at Foothill Road and Deer Oaks Drive

### Aug. 6

#### Trespassing/prowl

- 12:48 a.m. on the 7300 block of Tulipwood Circle

#### Vandalism

- 7:40 a.m. on the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
- 2:31 p.m. on the 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

#### Drug violation

- 8:13 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

## Mark R. Hermanson

May 13, 1963 – August 10, 2022

Mark R. Hermanson passed away on Aug. 10 in his sleep in his Carmel home after a long battle with cancer. Mark was born in Oakland, CA, to his parents Sidney & Elsie Hermanson and raised in Pleasanton. Mark played Little League and Soccer. His lifelong love of camping, hiking and backpacking started in Boy Scouts. After graduating from Amador H.S. in 1981, he attended Chico State and started working as a bartender. People remember his quick wit and captivating stories. In his early 20's Mark and his friend Pat spent 3 months traveling in Europe, which of course included running with the bulls in Spain. Before moving to Carmel, he lived in South Lake Tahoe and skied often. Mark was a Raiders season ticket holder for over 25 years. He loved traveling, skiing, and most of all having adventures with his son Holden. Mark is survived by his son; his brothers Bob of Sparks, Nevada, Gary of Alameda and Chuck of Pleasanton, and many nephews & nieces.



PAID OBITUARY



# BACK to SCHOOL

*After busy summer for district, Pleasanton students and staff embark on new year*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The first day of school at Amador Valley High was just like any other.

Students rushing out of their parents' cars to beat the first period bell, freshmen asking for directions to their class — it was a normal start to the morning on Aug. 10 for many seniors who had a completely opposite experience two years ago.

Alameda County and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently loosened their mask requirements as vaccination rates are, for the most part, in the high numbers.

Because of that, Pleasanton schools will no longer require masks to be worn and remote learning — while available to those who want it — is in the rear-view.

Yet with many students thinking the most important difference this school year is the new California laws mandating high schools begin classes no earlier than 8:30 a.m., and middle schools start no earlier than 8 a.m., that is far from the only significant change for the Pleasanton Unified School District.

## Facility improvements

Over the summer, the Pleasanton school board approved, reviewed and finalized a myriad of facility improvements that were either

completed or are projected to be completed in the fall.

Some of the projects that students are now finally seeing for the first time include new science buildings at Amador and Foothill high schools, behind-the-scenes network and technology upgrades, and upgraded safety features to the clocks and bells.

These were all funded through

the \$270 million Measure 11 general obligation bond that voters passed in 2016.

Most of the safety improvements like the fencing and updated fire alarms are things that PUSD Superintendent David Haglund said the district has been worried amid school shootings across the country.

He said that Pleasanton schools were built in a time where residents

Students at Amador Valley High School meet up with friends on the first day of school as they await the first period bell.

preferred open schools due to the sense of neighborhood safety and because of that, there has been a lot of work recently to mitigate tracking on who comes in and out of schools and installing cameras to monitor the campuses at all times.

“The fact that Columbine and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School were in communities that were very much like Pleasanton, it just kind of shook parents up a little bit,” Haglund said. “That was about the time when the measure was passed, so that’s why you saw so much security in Measure 11.”

Another major project that is being completed after almost three years of construction is the Lydixen Elementary School rebuild.

Kids are coming back to new classroom buildings and a new library building — by the end of fall, that project will come to completion with the new administration building and modernization of one of their existing classrooms.

“Seeing students using the technology and the classroom spaces, having fences that are now securing the campus, those are really tangible benefits that I think the community is now finally seeing the fruits of, and so we’re really excited about that,” said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services.

The last main improvement that students will see throughout the district is in the \$20 million put into new roofing and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems

“A lot of kids are going to come back to, you know, roofs that aren’t gonna leak anymore and HVAC

that’s going to be working more consistently,” Sheikholeslami said.

But those overall safety and general building improvements are just a portion of the overall improvements that need to be addressed. The school board over the summer approved to place a new \$395 million general obligation bond in the Nov. 8 election to help continue funding for various other facility improvements that were outlined in the Facility Master Plan, which was also approved by the board over the summer.

Since Measure 11 passed six years ago, and another bond measure failed in 2020, PUSD staff have been working on the master plan update that would separate the fa-



Superintendent David Haglund visits a classroom at Harvest Park Middle School as part of his opening day tour that he does to reconnect with students and staff at various school sites.



New principal Jonathan Fey (center) welcomes students.

cility improvements of all 15 school sites into a two-tier system to address areas of high priority first.

Those priorities like rebuilding the Amador and Foothill theaters and gyms as well as building new classrooms at Vintage Hills Elementary would be funded through the November bond if it passes.

“The public investment in our schools is below the public investment that Sunol invests in their schools, and yet most people in Pleasanton wouldn’t consider themselves below Sunol in how they support their community,” Haglund said. “The reality is ... if you look at all of the districts in the Bay Area, we’re fourth from the bottom.”

## Administrative and staff changes

The district has made several administrative changes, settled on a new contract agreement with teachers to bump their salaries and offer health benefits, and is shifting to promoting a hire-from-within culture.

In his five-plus years as superintendent, Haglund said that among his various goals was implementing a systemic approach to address the high turnover of staff.

“Anybody who’s familiar with the history of the district knows that there was a time of turmoil prior to my coming in turnover of superintendents,” Haglund said. “There was a significant amount of turnover, not just at the superintendent level, but also amongst the executive team and principals. So we’ve worked hard to build stability there, to invest in our team so that we can hold people in the district.”

One of the things that Haglund said he was most proud of in his time with the district was helping finalize the new contract with the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, which includes a 3.25% salary increase and new health benefits.

“One of the key issues that was leading to people moving out of the district was the fact that the district



Amy Turner Bull, a science teacher at Amador, takes roll for her first-period zoology class on Aug. 10.

didn’t provide benefits, health care benefits, and people were leaving the district to find jobs in neighboring districts that did,” Haglund said. “So one of the things I’m most proud of, is that we’ve been able to get benefits back onto the salary schedules for all of the groups.”

Haglund said that implementing a clear succession plan so that people within the district can move up to positions most aligned with their career roadmap was also another goal he is finally starting to accomplish — especially with the new deputy superintendent role granted to Ed Diolazo, formerly the assistant superintendent of student services.

Haglund added that it was also important with other positions throughout the district to continue a culture of promoting from within after that one retirement causes a whole shift of staff.

“Every single year, you have individuals who decide this is their

year to retire,” he said. “Retirements create vacancies, those vacancies have to be filled and often we fill those vacancies with people that we’ve been mentoring and training internally.”

The staff changes include Nicole Hurtado, who was working as the vice principal for Harvest Park Middle School for the past three years, becoming the new coordinator of human resources.

Joshua Butterfield resigned as Amador principal to become PUSD’s director of secondary education. Butterfield replaced Nimarta Grewal who has accepted a new position within PUSD as director of human resources. Grewal is taking over for former director Kim Ortiz, who also recently announced her retirement.

Shay Galletti also stepped down as director of elementary education to pursue her doctorate while also serving as the coordinator of early literacy and numeracy. She was replaced by David Schrag, who came to Pleasanton after serving as director of curriculum and instruction at the Orinda Union School District.

Pam VandeKamp, PUSD’s director of assessment and accountability, retired at the end of the 2021-22 academic year as well. She was succeeded by Kevin Bradley, former administrative assistant superintendent at the New York City Department of Education, but the PUSD position itself is being rebranded as senior executive director of research and evaluation.

In perhaps the most visible new hire, Jonathan Fey, a Pleasanton resident who worked in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, is the new principal at Amador.

“I think for me expectations and sort of goals and vision really is to connect with the community,” Fey said as he walked around Amador for the first time two days before

the first day of school to familiarize himself with the campus. “I think, for me, coming from the Pleasanton community, I still have a job ahead of me too. To make sure not only that we are connected with our community, but that our community is connected with each other.”

Danielle Tremain, former principal on special assignment for the Children’s Annex at the San Mateo-Foster City School District, started the school year as the new vice principal for Donlon Elementary School. Tremain succeeds Carole Stothers, who was appointed as the new principal of Vintage Hills.

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

And in Haglund’s cabinet, William Nelson has been hired as the district’s next assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, succeeding Janelle Woodward who retired after serving in the role since the 2019-20 academic year.

“It looks like there’s a whole bunch of vacancies and the reality of what it was all because of one retirement,” Haglund said. “Although externally it might look like a lot of shake up, internally it doesn’t look like shake up because these were people that we know and we’ve seen rising to that next level.”

There will also be more support offered to teachers and staff, according to Julio Hernandez, assistant superintendent of human resources, speaking at an employee gathering on Aug. 8.

“Our management team and human resources will commence our day at the school sites. We will be there at 8 o’clock,” Hernandez

said. “We will be there to visit with you throughout the year so that if there’s any concerns that you may raise that we could discuss, so that we can develop those relationships so that we could all grow.”

## Upcoming projects and considerations

At the district office property on Bernal Avenue, apart from the plan to relocate the headquarters to an office complex in the Hacienda Business Park, Village High School improvements are also up for consideration.

Proposed as part of the Facility Master Plan, the district is looking to rebuild the alternative high school campus given that the district relocation goes smoothly. The plans to buy the new space for the relocation has already been approved by the board.

Haglund and Sheikholeslami said that the work to rebuild Village speaks to the equity work that the district is especially trying to emphasize moving toward the future.

“This facility here for Village High School was built back in the 1950s and it’s never been really updated,” Haglund said. “Some of the support beams holding up the overhangs outside of classroom doors, they don’t even touch the beams anymore. They’ve just rotted away and that’s been allowed to stay that way.”

“We have some of our most marginalized youths attending one of the schools that’s in the poorest condition and it’s not okay,” he added.

Other improvements the district will be aiming to address are the aging facilities like the Amador Theater and the lack of visual and performing arts spaces at the high schools.

Even though there has been discussion on the historic nature of preserving the Amador Theater, Haglund said that the plan is still seeking to rebuild it due to the foundation of the building sinking.

“We looked at modernizing it and ... there’s a point where you can spend so much money on an old building, that it doesn’t make any sense to do that,” Sheikholeslami said.

There is currently also a two-phase plan to upgrade pathways to the sports fields at Foothill to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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

Phase II of the construction, which received key funding via the We Are Pleasanton community group, will build a switchback ramp leading to the lower field, ADA seating and providing accessible walkways. ■



Jonathan Fey, the new principal at Amador, leads students on his first school day.

## 'California Votes: Exercise Your Right!'

Museum exhibition seeks to encourage voter turnout and political action **BY NICOLE GONZALES**

Visitors of downtown Pleasanton's Museum on Main will be able to view historic political artifacts and memorabilia with a traveling display arriving to the area.

The "California Votes: Exercise Your Right!" exhibition aims to encourage engagement through politics and explain government relations on local, state and national levels. Its nonpartisan content at the Pleasanton museum was selected to simplify concepts around voting in the United States and shine a light on local political action.

"Right now both the right to vote and the integrity of our elections are matters of intense concern at the national level, and California is only partially insulated from that controversy," said exhibit curator Ken MacLennan, who has been with the museum since 2008. "California Votes" provides clear, accurate information about the state's election process and illuminates the historical context of our voting rights and election systems."

The display will present visitors with maps, historic photographs and information on voting. The timing of the show may be fitting given the upcoming political voting season.

"With the midterm elections coming up in just a few months, it is a particularly apt time to present an exhibit that demystifies California elections," MacLennan said. "The touring show includes images and

ephemera from California elections dating back to the mid-19th century, illustrating various aspects of California's election process throughout the state's history."

Exhibit presenters hope to inspire voter turnout and excitement for a wide range of audiences. They have opted to administer "California Votes" in both English and Spanish, giving Spanish speakers the opportunity to enjoy the show as well.

"We welcome the bilingual text because it broadens the exhibit's potential audience," MacLennan said.

The traveling exhibit originated from the San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum as "San Joaquin Votes: Exercise Your Right!" The showing was then adapted to a touring exhibit by the nonprofit organization, Exhibit Envoy. The California-based nonprofit delivers traveling exhibits to museums and institutions with the goal of uplifting diverse audiences and communities, according to its website.

The exhibition also features artifacts from the Museum on Main's own collection relating to local elections, campaigns and other political topics.

"We've added campaign memorabilia and election-related items," MacLennan said. Those artifacts include a school-board election ballot box, various pins, flyers, yard signs and other items from past elections from the local to the national levels.

"California Votes" seeks to educate visitors on the history of voting



Above: Political campaign pins from the Museum on Main collection are on display as part of "California Votes: Exercise Your Right!" (Photo by Museum on Main). Bottom right: Campaign poster for Rally for California's Defense circa 1919. (Image courtesy California State Library).

in California and inform them on voting practices and policies.

"We hope that visitors will leave the show with a clearer understanding of California's election process and a strengthened motivation to participate in the political process," MacLennan said.

The Museum on Main features "California Votes: Exercise Your Right!" from this week through Oct. 8. Admission is free for this and

other museum displays. To find more information about the museum and its exhibits, visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).



OAKLAND TRIBUNE/NOV. 8, 1911

Clara Elizabeth Chan Lee, the first Chinese American woman to register to vote in the United States.



# Concert in Livermore to benefit musicians impacted by wildfire

Funk band Big Sticky Mess headlining this weekend at Almost Famous Wine Lounge

BY NICOLE GONZALES

In the wake of the destructive Rices Fire that scorched parts of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east of Yuba City from late June into early July, Almost Famous Wine Lounge in Livermore will be hosting a benefit concert to raise funds for musicians from the area who were affected by the blaze.

Funk band Big Sticky Mess will be headlining the show in an effort to raise equipment and rebuilding funds. Originally from Davis, Big Sticky Mess has performed at many wineries and events in the Livermore wine country, according to event organizers.

The band had recently started recording their third album when their recording studio, El Fuerte, was ruined in the fire.

The entire studio, along with recording gear, music equipment and other items belonging to musicians who used the space, were also destroyed.

“We love Big Sticky Mess and were excited for them to play material from their recent second album, as well as the third album they were in

the process of recording,” said Kailyn Kent, communications director for Almost Famous Wine Lounge.

After hearing about other regional music acts rallying for the cause, the wine company had a desire to contribute. “We wanted to help out by donating wine proceeds from the show,” Kent said.

A portion of the proceeds from Almost Famous’ “Firepit Wines” sold the night of the show will go to El Fuerte studio owner, Kevin Welch, for rebuilding his property. Another portion will be contributed to Patrick Langham, an independent musician who lost the majority of his recording equipment due to the fire. Langham’s gear was originally bought using his full invested savings, he called the loss “soul crushing.”

“We donate the proceeds from Firepit wines to the national and state parks,” Kent said in a statement. “Now, we can support our local musicians in a way that feels really personal to us.”

Located in Livermore’s wine and spirit district, the Almost Famous Wine Lounge aims to highlight local and upcoming performers. This

includes musicians and comedians showcasing original work, according to the venue’s website.

“Livermore loves live music. We have an incredible music scene, between our many wineries, festivals and restaurants,” Kent said. “Livermore wouldn’t be the same without live music and helping Kevin Welch, Patrick Langham and Sac-area bands like Big Sticky Mess helps us support something that makes this town special.”

Launched by the family-owned Darcie Kent Vineyards brand, Almost Famous Wine Lounge opened its doors in January with the goal of spotlighting underrepresented artists and giving them a bigger platform to share their content all while celebrating and discovering new wines.

“We love how people come together over music, such as at Love Livermore Live, which is hosted each year at Darcie Kent,” said Kent, who is also the daughter of fifth-generation winemaker and artist Darcie Kent. “By creating Almost Famous, we could provide a new home for world-class live music in Livermore,



COURTESY ALMOST FAMOUS WINE LOUNGE

Funk band Big Sticky Mess performs live for a benefit concert in Livermore this Saturday.

as well as a gathering place to come together over wine.”

Almost Famous Wine Lounge venue manager, Kiersten Smith, echoed Kent’s enthusiastic sentiments about the new space.

“We’re bringing in a mix of local bands, up-and-coming artists, and world-class session musicians who are legends in their field but have always flown a little under the radar,” Smith said. “This is a place to discover hidden gems, both in

music and wine, and we’re excited for the venue to be a testing ground for musical artists and new wine brands.”

The 21+ Big Sticky Mess performance is set for this Saturday (Aug. 20) at Almost Famous Wine Lounge located at 2271 S. Vasco Road, Suite D. The concert is free to attend. Individual donations can be made at the event. For tickets or more information about the venue, visit [almostfamouswine.com](http://almostfamouswine.com). ■

## ‘California Scenes’ on display

Firehouse lobby showcases Severin’s work

BY JEREMY WALSH

Local artist Charlotte Severin’s watercolor depictions of the state are the focal point of a new exhibit in the Firehouse Arts Center lobby in downtown Pleasanton.

“California Scenes”, which opened last week and runs through Sept. 24, highlights the en plein air style Severin has been known for during her career as an artist, which also includes teaching watercolor courses at the Firehouse and Pleasanton Senior Center and serving as the founding president of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council.

“This show features a collection of watercolor pieces ranging from Yosemite foliage to seaside scenes of the California coast,” Firehouse officials said.

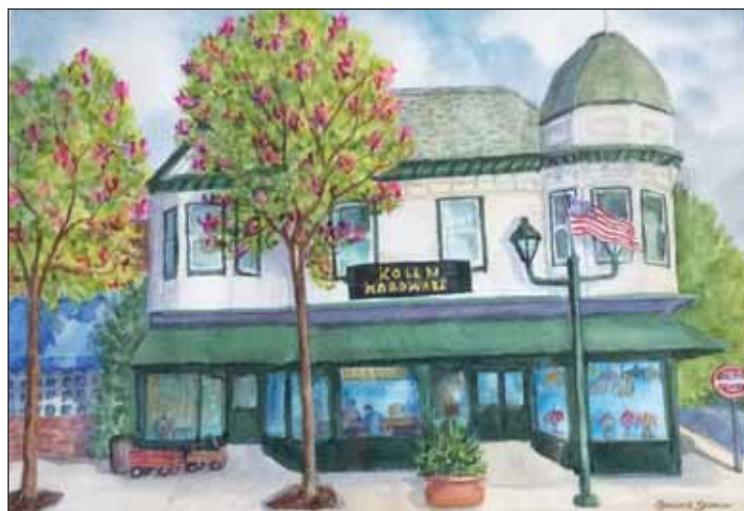
“Working primarily in the plein air — in the open air — format of painting outdoors to capture an immediate landscape, Severin uses emotive brushwork to add an element of spontaneity in her artwork,” they added. “She is precise in her ability to document landscapes in their most natural state, allowing seasonal shifts and ephemeral views to forever be immortalized in her work.”

The solo exhibition acts as a retrospective showcase of Severin’s career, featuring some 25 works in plein air watercolor and other water-based mediums.

To learn more, visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org). ■



“Coral Reef” (above) and “Kolln Hardware” (below) are two of Charlotte Severin’s artworks on display as part of the “California Scenes” exhibit.



## ‘Taste the World in Dublin’

New dining campaign part of city’s business recovery plan

BY JEREMY WALSH

Dublin officials are encouraging residents to sample the community’s array of cuisine options through its new “Taste the World in Dublin” online passport campaign — all part of the city’s “Business Recovery Playbook” to help local businesses survive and thrive into the future.

The program, which offers the chance at a gift card for participation, asks diners to sign up for a mobile passport to track their “geographical, culinary journey through Dublin” at a range of registered local eateries.

“The launch of ‘Taste the World in Dublin’ helps to promote those local food and beverage establishments as they try to recover from COVID-19,” city officials said.

“Local restaurants operate on tight margins on an everyday basis, let alone during recovery efforts from

a pandemic,” they added. “Supporting our local eateries during this time is important to the livelihood of our restaurant owners and their employees.”

The city has already had more than 200 people register in the several weeks the campaign has been open, according to spokesperson Shari Jackman. The program runs through Oct. 28.

Those with the free mobile passport can check in at a participating food or beverage establishment, with at least five different location visits needed to qualify for the promotional gift card of \$25 for a local restaurant, officials said. There will also be promotional offers at select businesses.

Register for the passport at [www.dublin.ca.gov/tastetheworldpassport](http://www.dublin.ca.gov/tastetheworldpassport). Businesses can also still inquire about participating by texting 925-493-8256. ■

# Taxpayer subsidy plan for Costco

On July 19, the Pleasanton City Council approved a taxpayer subsidy plan for Costco and the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone.

The council disregarded that the traffic mitigation infrastructure costs had ballooned from a 2018 estimate of \$21 million to the actual 2022 contractor bid of almost \$34 million. The city has agreed to pay \$24 million in taxpayer subsidies to Costco, a \$100 billion corporation, with this deal. While many will cheer, the public needs to understand the sordid details behind this.

This project came out of nowhere in 2014 when the city staff introduced the JDEDZ concept including a Costco on Johnson Drive.

They established a “streamlined” and unprecedented approval process designed to limit public participation and information about the project and undermine the ability of residents to challenge its approval. They secretly negotiated

millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies with Costco to fund infrastructure costs, which Costco routinely demands from cities where they build, while the city publicly denied it.

After a Public Records Act Request confirmed the subsidy negotiations, the city still denied it, and the local press ignored it. This was crucial as the Measure MM anti-big box initiative election campaign was underway when these facts came out. Measure MM failed, but if the city had publicly acknowledged the subsidies and had the press done their job, would the result have been different?

After the election, the city finally admitted to the subsidies. It produced an economic analysis justifying the “investment” with a seven-year payback. However, an



independent analysis indicated it would take 20 years for the subsidies to break even — based on the \$21 million infrastructure cost — and would result in significant harm to local, small, family-owned businesses. This study was presented to the council and they disregarded it.

Then the city and Costco prepared an environmental impact report that badly understated or ignored the project’s environmental and public health impacts. They voluntarily redid it when faced with a citizens group lawsuit.

The second EIR wasn’t much better, and the city was sued again. This time it made its way to the court of appeals. The court dismissed it because, in the interim, the legislature had gutted the California Environmental Quality Act eliminating key provisions and the lawsuit’s basis.

And now the project will move forward. But what about the truth?

What about a city that hides the existence of subsidies and the

negative environmental and public health impacts of the project for years, even during an election when the public has the right to know? What about approving a carbon bomb the same year the city adopts a Climate Action Plan that will do nothing to help the climate unless the subject of unlimited growth is addressed?

And what about a City Council that ignores these difficult issues and takes the easy way out by approving what they consider a popular project while dismissing the irregularities and unethical behavior by the city?

In an election year, these questions are worth pondering. ■

*Editor’s note: Matt Sullivan served on the Pleasanton City Council from 2004 to 2012 and is a former Pleasanton Planning Commission member. He has been active in civic issues locally for more than 20 years, including as a member of the resident group Pleasanton Citizens for Responsible Growth, which challenged the city’s Costco approvals in court.*

## LETTERS

### Reflecting on SSPTV

Thank you for the informative article last week. I worked at Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley running the Caregiver Program for four years, the last two under the leadership of Mr. Taylor. The staff morale declined very quickly in those two years leading to staff resignations as the environment became more and more toxic.

Let me say this: I loved my job and the SSPTV program which has served our Tri-Valley seniors for over 40 years. I would still be there if the work environment hadn’t changed so drastically. As mentioned in the article, the staff worked tirelessly for our seniors, always coming up with new ways to engage them with our services and getting them out in the community.

It was and still can be a valuable asset to our community. I would hate to see it dissolved. If blame, and yes there is blame to be placed, not just with Mr. Taylor’s leadership, but with the Board of Trustees who failed to follow through with their jobs to oversee, monitor and engage with the organization as a whole to understand the destructive dynamics that were occurring within the leadership of the program.

My best to all the dedicated

employees and the wonderful volunteers who gave their free time to care for the seniors in our community. They represent what is best about the community we live in.

—Barbara Will

### It’s not pickleball, but pick-it-all

I’ve discovered a rewarding pastime that involves fresh air, exercise and a sense of accomplishment in a world where problems can at times seem insurmountable. I’m not talking about pickleball, but what I’ve dubbed “pick-it-all”!

Since my dog’s passing, walks around my neighborhood had too often become trudges. After one walk, where my wife again forbade me from touching the empty beer can I’d spotted in the bushes each day that week, I decided to buy one of those gripper things. You know, the ones that older people like me use to reach high shelves without stretching and low floors without bending.

The next walk, coupled with a plastic trash bag, I strolled the neighborhood like a man with a mission. On my return route toting my bulging treasure trove of trash, I was greeted with smiles, thanks, well-wishes and waves from grateful passersby who appreciated my task.

I’ve since noticed others on similar walks, gripper and trash bag

in-hand. I wanted to extend an invitation to you, the reader, to join in! Join pick-it-all today. No reservations needed, no meetings, no dues, no schedules, just pick up some trash on your next walk — be safe, don’t touch gross stuff, don’t walk into traffic, etc. — take it home and include it in your regular pickup.

To me it seems like finding a solution to one problem gives me hope that together, we can find solutions to other problems and make the world a little better for the effort.

—Frank Napoleon, via Town Square

### Many thanks, Weekly

Our annual Fourth of July celebration was a big success, with over 400 people attending. A lot of that success can be attributed to the Weekly, with your generous full-page publicity complete with the photos.

Thank you! We gave you printed credit in the 400 programs we distributed and also verbal credit from our master of ceremonies.

—Jerri Long, handwritten note

### Latest TVNPA grants

On July 26, the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance welcomed 40 regional civic and nonprofit leaders at TVNPA’s CommonPoint Resource Center for a check presentation event honoring seven nonprofit recipients of the second round of the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund’s grant program.

Grants from the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund offer immediate, unrestricted funds to nonprofits that serve the Tri-Valley area, including Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville. At the event, representatives from each of the nonprofit beneficiaries shared with the crowd the work they do and how the funds help them fulfill their missions.

In this second round, a total of \$25,000 was awarded and as in the first round, the beneficiaries address a broad range of community needs and interests:

- Partners for Change Tri-Valley: Childcare Program (\$2,000).
- Cheza Nami Foundation: Taste of Africa Festival (\$2,500).
- Livermore Filipino American Organization: Filipino Barrio Fiesta Event (\$2,500).
- East Bay Holocaust Education Center: Violins of Hope East Bay Program (\$4,000).
- Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley: Mental Health Counseling Services (\$4,000).
- Set to Thrive: Thrive Bag Program (\$5,000).
- Tri-Valley Career Center: Jobs for the Future Project (\$5,000).

The Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF) and Marti and John Sutton are current matching funds sponsors and have chosen

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GUEST OPINION

By SPOJMIE NASIRI

# Afghan Adjustment Act offers hope in time of despair

As the one-year anniversary of the fall of Kabul is upon us, the 76,000 Afghans temporarily paroled into the United States continue to face endless challenges as they try to rebuild their lives in times of uncertainty, fading hope and immense distress.

They remain in legal limbo, lacking a clear pathway to lawful permanent residency.

On Aug. 9, the sun dawned upon these Afghan parolees with a slight ray of hope. As they continue to endure extreme hardships, the long-anticipated Afghan Adjustment Act was introduced in the U.S. Congress. This particular bipartisan bill will pave the way for Afghan parolees who left everything behind and are now restarting their lives in the United States.

If enacted, the Afghan Adjustment Act will allow these Afghans to adjust their status and apply for lawful permanent resident status

("green card") more expeditiously than asylum and special immigrant visa (SIV) process, both of which are extensive.

Since the fall of Kabul last year, Afghan parolees have been through extraordinary difficulties. At the Kabul Airport, tens of thousands fought their way through tear gas, extortion and even a suicide bombing in hopes of being evacuated.

The images of death and destruction shared with me via



WhatsApp during the 15 days of the chaotic evacuation are difficult to forget. Some told me if hell existed on earth, it was at the Kabul Airport in August 2021.

In the year that followed, I traveled to seven different U.S. military bases in the East Coast which temporarily housed Afghans, and each of my fellow Afghans felt a plethora of emotions. As an immigration attorney providing legal services on these military bases, I witnessed some heart-wrenching stories.

I felt tremendously overwhelmed and in awe as I saw so many of my fellow Afghans displaced in unfamiliar environments, uncertain of what their futures held for them. I listened earnestly to their stories of their harrowing journey to the United States as they sat on the bare

ground huddled around their loved ones, in fear of being separated.

Unfortunately, these hardships didn't come to an end, once they reached these military bases. On these bases, thousands continued to endure hardships as they remained separated from their loved ones. They experienced anxiety and depression as most were concerned about their future in the new refuge they found at the cost of leaving their loved ones behind.

Their gut-wrenching stories shared with me merely touch the surface of the thousands of unheard and undocumented anecdotes buried inside these military bases.

We owe justice to these Afghans and the Afghan Adjustment Act

is one of the best ways to pay back and put an end to their legal limbo. Indeed, it is one of the fastest ways to help Afghan parolees reunite with their families.

It is the United States' moral obligation to keep up with its promise of helping Afghans who have stood shoulder to shoulder with our government and their mission in Afghanistan through thick and thin.

The introduction of Afghan Adjustment Act is certainly the first step towards the road of peace and prosperity for Afghans but it should not be the last. We should remain steadfast in our endeavors to help our Afghans allies. ■

*Editor's note: Spojmie Nasiri is an immigration attorney and principal at the Law Office of Spojmie Nasiri, PC, in Pleasanton. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association Afghan Response Task Force.*

## LETTERS

Continued from Page 16

to match donations at 150%.

Grants are distributed quarterly, and the third round is presently open until the end of this month, Aug. 31. To apply, contribute and learn more, visit [www.tvnpa.org/tvnf/](http://www.tvnpa.org/tvnf/).

—Susan Hayes, TVNPA board member

### Thank you, AG Rob Bonta

Last week, California Attorney General Rob Bonta urged the courts to expedite the review of the appeal blocking Eden Housing.

"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. Our state is continuing to face a housing shortage and affordability crisis of epic proportions," Bonta wrote. "We won't stand by when CEQA is used to thwart new development, rather than to protect Californians and our environment."

CEQA refers to the lawsuit's case of ground toxicity, which Judge Frank Roesch said was "utterly without merit". It's difficult to track the claims made by the special-interest groups, such as Move Eden Housing. One week, it's that we absolutely must build a park on that land. The next, it's too toxic to build anything.

—Alan Marling

### More cop log

I've noticed that the Police Report is far less comprehensive than it has been in the past. This information is one of the most important from

the Weekly to me because it lets my family know where and what crimes are occurring in Pleasanton.

For instance, I know that Stoneridge Mall has crime nearly every day in the parking lots and where catalytic converters are stolen. I would greatly appreciate it if you could reinstate robust, detailed information about crime in Pleasanton. I have resided in Pleasanton since 1985.

—John Huk

### Bicyclist safety

Many drivers, including Mr. Hanou, as expressed in his recent Letter to the Editor, perceive bicyclists as being bad actors on the streets. He clearly doesn't ride a bicycle. I also see far too many bicyclists exhibiting bad behavior.

However, in Pleasanton 70% of collisions between drivers and bicyclists are found by police to be the driver's fault. It is 75% of drivers at fault for collisions with pedestrians. Obviously, drivers also are bad actors.

Every time I leave my house, I see drivers driving into crosswalks before stopping, starting a right turn while looking left and not right to see if someone is in a crosswalk, ignoring stop signs and running red lights — a yellow means stop if possible not speed up to avoid waiting at a red light for 60 seconds.

And what is up with all the drivers who seem to think it is OK to drive with wheels on the lane marker or in a bike lane which endangers drivers as well as bicyclists? By the way, it is illegal to park in a bike lane.

Bicyclists, please take the bicycling classes taught periodically in

Pleasanton to learn how to ride legally and safely.

And drivers, remember many bicyclists are children who don't always have the judgment and experience to know how to navigate our streets safely. Adult drivers should. Please slow down, keep 3 feet between your vehicle and a bicyclist, and be respectful of all users of our streets so everyone gets home safely.

—Sharon Piekarski

### Police and Community of Character to the rescue

During registration at the Pleasanton Unified School District, it was found that there were many students in need of a backpack and supplies. A last-minute call was made to the Community of Character.

Ninety backpacks were needed for Pleasanton schoolchildren with supplies like pens, paper, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks and even graphic calculators for high school kids. When did they need them? The answer "school starts in 10 days".

### 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](mailto:letters@pleasantonweekly.com).

An emergency email was sent to board members of the Community of Character, everyone approved using budget funds to help. The Pleasanton Police Officers Association also donated. Pricing of each item was checked at online and retail stores and everything was ordered the next day.

It took a week for everything to arrive, then a backpack assembly "party" was arranged, and members of the Community of Character board, Pleasanton Police, PUSD parent liaisons, some high school students, and JustServe leaders and

their kids from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gathered to assemble the backpacks in time for the first day of school.

Many thanks to the Community of Character and the Pleasanton Police Officers Association for providing funding to make this happen.

If you are interested in community service, check out [www.JustServe.org](http://www.JustServe.org). Amador Valley and Foothill high school students interested in community service can join the newly formed JustServe clubs at their high school.

—Ken Mano, via Town Square

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

**Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Committee**

Monday, August 22, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

- Traffic Engineering project timelines and grant status updates
- Provide input on how the remaining funds for the Meadowlark trial should be spent
- Review the Public Outreach results and provide input on the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks master plan update

**Planning Commission**

Wednesday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available after August 17, when the agenda is posted on the City's website at: [cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning\\_agenda.asp](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp)

- P22-0513, Rakesh Jain, 4343 W Ruby Hill Drive

Application for a Conditional Use Permit for the operation of a Jain community facility located at 1069 Serpentine Lane. The property is a zoned Planned Unit Development – Industrial (PUD-I) District.

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

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## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

# FTC Track Club athletes compete at National Junior Olympics

Also: Gearing up for high school fall sports

The Pleasanton-based FTC Track Club recently sent 21 athletes to the 2022 USATF National Junior Olympics Track and Field Championships that took place over six days in late July in Sacramento.

There were over 2,000 athletes from the ages of 8-18 from across the

United States that competed in the event, with the local team turning in some great efforts!

"It was incredible to have so many of our FTC athletes competing on a national stage and I'm immensely proud of all of them," FTC head coach Jorge Quero said.

The team's top performance came from 8-year-old Tori Daniel, who finished third in the 1,500-meter race. Daniel clocked a time of 5:56.51, finishing behind only Mackenzie York (Pacific Coast Shockwaves, 5:49.66) and Lanna Caprara (West Seattle Road Runners, 5:53.31).

Other local athletes who competed for FTC included — 10 girls: Erina Mitra (400M); 9-10 girls: Emma Lyon (1,500M), Emery Sutton (800M, 1,500M); 11-12 boys: Gavin Sutton (800M); 15-16 girls: Allison Oh (400 hurdles); 15-16 boys: Ian Sweeney (100M, 200M, 400M), Hassaan Chaudhary (110 hurdles, 400 hurdles); Ranveer Rajoura (200M, 400M, long jump); 15-16 boys: Zach Payne (400M), Aleksander Schade (800M, 1,500M); 17-18 girls: Aditi Kamble (400 hurdles), Lesley Townsend (high jump, long jump, triple jump); 17-18 boys: Tanish Kumar (1,500M), Patrick Lee (long jump, triple jump) and Landen Meonske (triple jump).

### Fall sports are here!

Now that all the local high school sports are in their second week of "official" practice, it is never too early to get set for turning in results that



ALLY SMITH

Right: Tori Daniel (age 8) earned the bronze medal placing third in the 1,500-meter event at the 2022 USATF National Junior Olympics Track and Field Championships.

recognize our hardworking athletes from our local schools.

Last year we had one of our best years in terms of collecting results each week, and I want to make this the best year ever! A call out to all parents of athletes — step up and be the publicity person for your son's or daughter's team, being responsible for collecting the results and turning them in each Sunday.

Let's go through each sport in the fall (other than football) and what I am looking for:

**Volleyball:** The final score and the opponent. Highlights can include the leading hitter, blocks, assists, digs and service points, to name a few. Also, if there was a streak of points run off by your team that was a key to winning.

**Water polo:** Final score, as well as all goal scorers, and any other pertinent stats like blocks, steals and goalie saves. It can also include names of people that played well and match details.

**Tennis:** Final score and who won their matches. Can include the details of an important match.

**Golf:** Opponent, course the match

was played at (with par) and scores from your team. If you have players from the opponent that shot great rounds, please include that as well.

**Cross-country:** Opponent, final score, where the race was run and the top times for the race, along with the distance.

Sending pictures is a bonus as we love to get in as many as possible, with the following: names of athletes in the picture, as well as who gets the credit for taking the picture. We cannot accept pictures that were taken by another media outlet.

One final thing that will help is a roster of your team, so I can get the correct spelling of each name.

Send all the information by noon on Sunday afternoon — you can send it earlier in the week as well — and send to [acesmag@aol.com](mailto:acesmag@aol.com).

Thank you, and looking forward to tracking our athletes in the 2022-23 season! ■

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

# Employment

### TECHNOLOGY

Philips Healthcare Informatics, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Fellow Architect HealthSuite Platforms in Pleasanton, CA (Ref. #NEVS). Create and articulate the detailed technical strategy for the HealthSuite Digital Platform (HSDP) business. Mail resume to Philips North America LLC, Legal Department, Barbara Bickford, 222 Jacobs Street, Third Floor, Cambridge, MA 02141. Resume must include Ref. #NEVS, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. Without sponsorship. EOE.



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### Sr. Technical Project Manager

Sr. Technical Project Manager: BS. Deg. in CS, Electr. Engg., w/ 5 yrs. of exp.; Impl. Mobile App using Java, JavaScript, JSON, Hadoop, Solaris, React Native for Mobile App, XCode, HTTPS W/TLS, Secure File Tran. using Conn. Direct & Tectia & Open SSH on WinSCP; Manage, impl. Rew. Sys. using Java, JavaScript, Weblogic, Oracle 9i, RTC, JIRA; Test Mob. App using JMeter Mobile App Testing Tool & mea. perf. & impl. xml query opt.; Dev. Unix shell scripts to auto. Java jobs to run from ZENA job sch. & impl. through RTC, JIRA, HPSM; Part. in code rev.w/ dev.; Manage Weblogic SSL, IIS, Oracle HTTPS SSL cert. ren.; Impl. Sterling Con. Dir. server for SFTP from int.net. to ext. network; Dev. windows scripts for SSH file tran. using WinSCP; Rewrite legacy HTMP pages to JSP pages by using Java Scripts & impl.using HPSM, HPQC; Supp. LMS using J2EE comp., Jrun 4 appl. server & SQL data.using waterfall meth.; Use .NET framework, IIS & SQL Server database. Must be willing to travel and/or relocate to work in unanticipated locations throughout the US. No Telecommuting. Send resume to Noetic Information Systems LLC, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite# 255, Pleasanton, CA-94588.

**The Pleasanton Weekly offers  
employment advertising.**

**If you wish to learn more about the advertising options,  
please call 650.223.6597 or email [digitalads@pawekly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawekly.com).**

# A's release Stephen Piscotty

Manager: 'Hopefully he gets another opportunity to play the game he loves'

By JEREMY WALSH

Pleasanton native Stephen Piscotty was released by the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday in a personnel move seen as the last-place A's clearing more roster space for prospects to gain major-league experience at the end of an otherwise lost season.

Piscotty had 55 home runs and 191 RBI in nearly five seasons with the A's, but much of the outfielder's time in Oakland after a strong 2018 season was marked by injuries, especially the past two years, contributing to his down 2022 campaign batting .190 with five homers and 14 RBI in just 42 games.

The Amador Valley High alum's acquisition by the A's from the St. Louis Cardinals in late 2017 made national headlines as the trade

came at Piscotty's request in the hopes of playing closer to Pleasanton where his mother was battling ALS. Gretchen Piscotty, a long-time local resident and secretary at Foothill High School, died on May 6, 2018 at age 55.

Her passing inspired Stephen Piscotty, his father and brothers to found the ALS Cure Project. On the ballfield, Piscotty hit a memorable home run during his first game back from bereavement leave following his mother's death.

"There's just a lot of adversity he's had to deal with, and hopefully he gets another opportunity to play



**Stephen  
Piscotty**

the game he loves," first-year A's manager Mark Kotsay said in reflection of Piscotty's tenure with the team, speaking with reporters before Tuesday's game — video of which was posted on social media by NBC Sports California.

Attempts to reach Piscotty for comment on Tuesday were unsuccessful. The 31-year-old is now a free agent.

Piscotty's release follows a post-trade-deadline pattern of the A's letting older players go, or significantly reducing their playing time, in favor of giving experience to younger players. Oakland has the worst record in the American League and second-worst in all of baseball at 42-75 after Tuesday's win in Texas against the Rangers that ended the A's nine-game losing skid. ■

## Entertainment

### CITY CENTER UNPLUGGED

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

### JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING

**TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** This is a bilingual production of the beloved classic family musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice with all performances in American Sign Language and Spoken English and a talented cast of Deaf, HOH (Hard of Hearing), ASL Fluent and hearing actors. Tickets \$48. Aug. 19-21; 26-28. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

### NEIL SIMON'S JAKE'S WOMEN

The story of a New York writer and his relationships with the women in his life, whether real, remembered, or imaginary. Aug. 19-21. Tickets \$20. Masks are required. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bothwell Arts Center.

### PLEASANTON CONCERTS IN THE

**PARK** The Pleasanton Downtown Association's popular Concert in the Park series takes place every Friday night through Aug 26, featuring an eclectic mix of music from classic rock, blues and big band to today's hits. 7-8:30 p.m., Aug. 19, Jeff Rickets and the Dirt Road Band at Lions Wayside Park

### RITA RUDNER AT THE BANKHEAD

A house-filling favorite in Las Vegas, as well as Livermore, Rudner delivers her stand-up with a wide-eyed sweetness that belies the acid observations this award-winning comedian is best known for. 8 p.m., Aug. 20. Tickets \$20-\$80. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

### IOLANTHE AT THE BANKHEAD

Gilbert & Sullivan's subversive political satire on how a government should be run features the tour de force Nightmare Song and a band of mischievous fairies doing battle with a dim-witted Parliament. 2 p.m., Aug. 21. Tickets \$31-\$78. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

### MUSIC IN THE ORCHARD

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and relax under the olive trees and enjoy talented musicians while supporting local students. Aug. 25. Visit [purpleorchid.com/music-in-the-orchard](http://purpleorchid.com/music-in-the-orchard).

### BROKEN SEEDS STILL GROW

Through bharatanatyam dance and mixed visual media, the performance examines the hyphenated-American, immigrant experience, linking it to the displacement of their ancestors during Partition. 3 p.m., Aug. 27. Tickets \$10-\$60. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

**OPERA IN THE VINEYARD** Retzlaff welcomes visitors to its outdoor venue to enjoy classic operas in

an informal setting featuring arias and ensembles from Opera and Broadway. 5-8 p.m., Aug. 28. Visit [livermorevalleyopera.com](http://livermorevalleyopera.com).

### GUITARS NOT GUNS CHILDREN'S

**MUSIC CHARITY EVENT** Join the Guitars Not Guns benefit fundraiser for an evening of comedy, live music, dancing and raffle prizes. All proceeds will benefit the Contra Costa County Chapter of Guitars Not Guns. Event features Emcee Bernie the Comedian, The Breedloves and the 925 Band. 7-10:30 p.m., Aug. 31. Tickets \$15-\$40. Visit [tommys.com](http://tommys.com).

## Exhibits

### CALIFORNIA VOTES EXHIBITION

**AT MUSEUM ON MAIN** Chock full of maps, historic photographs and voting information, the non-partisan exhibition California Votes: Exercise Your Right! is a timely exhibit designed to demystify the terminology and processes around propositions and voting. On display through Oct. 8.

### PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE

The Firehouse Arts Center and Harrington Gallery hosts local award winning photographer, Vanessa Thomas, as its newest featured solo exhibition artist. Visitors will be able to view the up-close intricacies of nature and floral scenes from the images. On display through Sept. 3.

### ART RECEPTION: FERMENT

The UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery's New Exhibition: Ferment celebrates the beauty of vines, hops and fermented drinks. Free and open to the public, Thursdays-Sundays, 1-5 p.m., through Oct. 2. Bankhead Theater Lobby.

## Farmers' Markets

### PLEASANTON FARMERS' MARKET

The Pleasanton Farmers' Market is Saturday year round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. W. Angela St. Visit [pcfma.org/pleasanton](http://pcfma.org/pleasanton).

### LIVERMORE THURSDAY NIGHT

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

### LIVERMORE SUNDAY FARMERS'

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

### DUBLIN FARMERS' MARKET

The Dublin Farmers' Market is every Thursday through September. 4-8 p.m., Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Pkwy.

## Support

### 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.

### NAMI TRI-VALLEY FAMILY

**SUPPORT GROUP** Encourage and support each other through the challenges of advocating and caring for adult loved ones who are diagnosed with a severe mental illness. Resources and information are provided as well. 7 p.m., Aug. 22. Contact Marsha McInnis, 925-980-5331.

### TRI-VALLEY HAVEN ACCEPTING

**DONATIONS** Tri-Valley Haven's Thrift Store sells items at great prices and all proceeds go to Tri-Valley Haven programs. Visit <https://trivalleyhaven.org>.

### FREE HOT MEALS

Prepared by Open Heart Kitchen. Monday-Friday, 1-3 p.m. 4444 East Ave, Livermore. Dine-in or take-out. Visit [openheartkitchen.org](http://openheartkitchen.org).

### FREE SHOWER & LAUNDRY

**SERVICES** Monday-Wednesday, 12-4 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore.

### GOODNESS VILLAGE NEEDS

**DRIVERS** Goodness Village in Livermore, a tiny home community that provides affordable and permanent housing options for people experiencing chronic homelessness, is looking for drivers to get residents to appointments. Visit [gvlivermore.org](http://gvlivermore.org).

## Festivals and Fairs

### SUPER TOY & COMIC BOOK

**SHOW** This event will have 150 tables of vintage to modern toys, comics and collectibles. There are artists, video game memorabilia and much more. Aug. 20. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### EXOTIC BIRD MART & EXPO

Shop hundreds of accessories, buy, sell, advertise and market. 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., Aug. 21. Tickets \$10. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

### GOODGUYS 35TH WEST COAST

**NATIONALS** Featuring over 300 vendor exhibits, swap meet, burnout contest, Goodguys autocross timed racing, vintage train exhibition, model car show and more. August 26-28. Tickets \$10-\$25. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

## Seniors

### 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. 24. \$20 AARP member/\$25 non-member. Call 925-931-5365. Pleasanton Senior Center.

### SENIOR LUNCHEAS AT THE SENIOR

**CENTER** Senior Lunches (60+) are served in the Main Hall

## PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

### Meet Nala

Hi, I'm Nala and I'm looking to adopt a forever human. I'm 9 years old but I look 6 because my routine keeps me young. I'm a Chihuahua looking for a human who likes walks, quality time outside and watching TV on the couch. I love networking and making new friends, so a person who has some would be great. I am a dog with limb differences, but I have been told it's "barely noticeable" that I only have three! To learn more about adopting me, visit [eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org).

11:45a.m.-12:45p.m., Monday-Friday. Call Open Heart Kitchen at 925- 500-8241 for more information.

### PLEASANTON RIDES

Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service serving eligible Pleasanton Seniors with transportation needs throughout Pleasanton and to select destinations in the Tri-Valley. For reservations and information call 925-398-1045.

## Fundraisers

### CRAYON INITIATIVE'S MELT

### WITH YOU SUMMER BBQ

Join The Crayon Initiative's Melt With You Summer BBQ and Concert festival. Tickets include SWAG, dinner, drinks and live entertainment. 5 p.m., Aug. 19. For more information visit [thecrayoninitiative.org/mwy22](http://thecrayoninitiative.org/mwy22).

### SUMMER CELEBRATION BBQ FOR

### JUANITA HAUGEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Community of Character is fundraising for the Juanita Haugen Scholarships with a Summer Celebration BBQ in the backyard of retired police captain, Craig Eicher. Purchase tickets or make a donation to the Scholarship Fund. 6 p.m., Aug. 20. Tickets \$75. Visit [pleasanton.org](http://pleasanton.org).

### PINOT'S PALETTE FUNDRAISER

Join this fun event and support Hope Hospice. \$10 per seat will be

donated. 2-4 p.m., Aug. 21. Visit [hopehospice.com](http://hopehospice.com).

### GOODNESS VILLAGE FUNDRAISER

Goodness Village exists to bring family to those in need of a home. The second annual Goodness Village spaghetti fundraiser is 5-8 p.m., Aug. 28. Tickets \$35. Visit [gvlivermore.org](http://gvlivermore.org). Sunshine Saloon.

## Business

### TRI-VALLEY MAYORS' SUMMIT

**LUNCHEON** Join to hear a panel discussion from the Mayors of all five Tri-Valley cities. "Collaborating to Improve the Tri-Valley". 10:30 a.m.-1p.m., Aug. 31. Tickets \$85. Visit [dublinchamberofcommerce.org](http://dublinchamberofcommerce.org).

## Government

### PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL

**DISTRICT** Regular Board meetings of the Pleasanton Unified School District are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. 6 p.m., Aug. 25. Visit [pleasantonusd.net](http://pleasantonusd.net).

### PLEASANTON PLANNING

**COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Aug. 24. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://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.**

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

## Report says housing 'out of reach' for Bay Area minimum wage workers

Up to residents to decide 'what do we want for our communities?' advocate says

A person who wants to live in a two-bedroom, market rate apartment in the San Francisco metropolitan area must make more than \$60 an hour to afford it, according to a report released last month by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

The San Francisco metro area, comprised of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties, has the most expensive housing of any other jurisdiction in the nation, according to the report. Residents of the area must earn \$61.50 per hour to afford an apartment of that size.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2022 Out of Reach report highlights the affordability crisis in the Bay Area and nationwide.

It says full-time minimum wage workers are unable to afford a modest two-bedroom rental home in any state, metropolitan area, or county. In 91% of U.S. counties, a one-bedroom rental home at fair market rent is also out of reach for a full-time minimum-wage worker.

"The task of solving America's affordable housing crisis might seem overwhelming,

especially to those closest to the problem, but the solution is simple: we must invest in housing America," said Rep. Maxine Waters, chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee in the preface to the report.

The Bay Area is home to three of the top ten most expensive metropolitan areas in the country.

The other two are Santa Cruz-Watsonville and San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara where it takes \$60.35 and \$55.15 to afford that two-bedroom rental home, the report says.

Catherine Bracy, CEO and co-founder of California-based TechEquity Collaborative, which mobilizes technology workers and companies to solve the affordability crisis, thinks the solution, especially in the Bay Area, boils down to a simple economic challenge.

She said we have more demand for housing than we have supply, so we must build more housing.

"Obviously, that's not going to happen overnight," Bracy said.

So, we must also prevent people from

losing their homes, she said. Lawmakers need to strengthen tenant laws while allowing property owners to make a fair living, Bracy added.

California requires jurisdictions to build certain amounts of market rate, moderate rate, low-income and very-low-income housing.

But "right now they are targets," Bracy said. "There are many cities that want to drag their feet."

Also, she thinks the state needs more housing than what is required by the targets.

"It's a daunting task," she said.

She called it a multi-jurisdictional problem. Each jurisdiction has a key to unlock solutions, she said, including the federal and state governments.

She would feel much better if the

federal government put as much attention on housing as it does gas prices.

Housing is "a critical human need," she said. "We don't treat it that way."

People are coping, Bracy said, by cutting costs on other goods, going into debt, living in unsafe conditions and long distances from work.

Bracy said the lack of housing is causing homelessness.

Alina Harway, spokesperson for the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California, which advocates for affordable housing in the Bay Area, thinks residents need to press lawmakers to create the changes needed.

It's up to residents to decide "what do we want for our communities?" Harway said. ■

—Keith Burbank, Bay City News

### HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during June 20-24 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

#### Pleasanton

**5391 Black Avenue #3** Black Family Trust to V. & M. Milton for \$950,000

**3078 Bolero Court** Chen Living Trust to D. Jung for \$927,500

**1893 Brooktree Way** Page Trust to S. & S. Ramachandra for \$1,550,000

**1038 Division Street** Donald Family Trust to Jmh Properties LLC for \$1,600,000

**2187 Goldcrest Circle** Huston Trust to K. Vallamsetla for \$1,234,000

**6272 Guyson Court** J. & R. Hilmer to V. & D. Desiraju for \$1,450,000

**1866 Halcyon Court** Scott Trust to A. & R. Raman for \$2,150,000

**981 Hopkins Way** Montgomery Trust to J. Lai for \$2,860,000

**4210 Katie Lane** C. Wang to N. & P. Joshi for \$1,550,000

**3618 West Las Positas Boulevard** K. & R. Hanson to Bhawars Family Trust for \$1,760,000

**814 Madeira Drive** Hoggatt Trust to K. & E. Canda for \$1,448,000

**4508 Mohr Avenue** C. & D. Moulton to K. Tuen for \$1,499,000

**6744 Paseo Catalina** Cuadros Family Trust to R. & N. Ghodke for \$1,728,000

**4435 Pleasanton Avenue** Gosselin Living Trust to Eilbert Living Trust for \$1,505,000

**730 Saint Michael Circle** A. & V. Babichev to A. & A. Walvekar for \$1,080,000

**4164 Suffolk Way** D. & J. Gordon to S. & S. Seshadri for \$1,550,000

**811 Sunny Brook Way** K. & M. Clevenger to J. & J. Li for \$3,460,000

**1469 Trimmingham Drive** O'Keefe Living Trust to Y. & S. Neyman for \$1,350,000

**5979 Via Del Cielo** Garwood Trust to Sumner Family Trust for \$2,800,000

#### Livermore

**489 Alameda Drive** D. Gast to V. & A. Faccini for \$1,075,000

**1024 Baltusrol Road** C. & S. Roman to S. & S. Potluri for \$1,003,500

**877 Barney Common** Padilla Trust to M. & U. Thota for \$1,575,000

**5641 Bridgeport Circle** G. & J. Bagri to S. Heupink for \$1,120,000

**112 Edythe Street** Fee Living Trust to N. Goel for \$1,080,000

**609 Eliot Drive** K. Lewis-Pervere to Opendoor Property Trust I for \$1,539,500

**1848 Genoa Court** R. & D. Christoffersen to J. Wu for \$1,650,000

**3682 Germaine Way** Egbert Family Trust to S. & D. Llamas for \$855,000

**958 Lucille Street** Pedrini Trust to M. & B. Arsenousadeh for \$1,200,000

**1001 Murrieta Boulevard #87** D. Pressley to V. & G. Ceja for \$465,000

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 20-24)

**Total sales reported:** 19  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$927,500  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,460,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,550,000

Livermore (June 20-24)

**Total sales reported:** 22  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$465,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,100,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,123,750

Dublin (June 20-24)

**Total sales reported:** 10  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$610,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,716,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,497,500

San Ramon (July 11-15)

**Total sales reported:** 13  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$725,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,200,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,325,000

Source: California REsource

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4 BED | 3 BATH | 1,914 SQFT



**LISTED AT \$999,000**  
7368 STONEDALE DRIVE, PLEASANTON  
4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,119 SQFT



**LISTED AT \$2,186,000**  
5174 MOUNT TAM CIRCLE, PLEASANTON  
5 BED | 3 BATH | 2,792 SQFT



**LISTED AT \$3,799,900**  
3401 DEER RIDGE DRIVE, DANVILLE  
REPRESENTED BUYERS



**\$3,100,000**  
2701 EAST CLIFF, SANTA CRUZ  
REPRESENTED BUYERS



**\$1,500,000**  
967 CLINTON PLACE, PLEASANTON  
REPRESENTED SELLERS



**\$1,390,000**  
981 S. ATWOOD LN, MOUNTAIN HOUSE  
REPRESENTED BUYERS



**\$1,200,000**  
985 RIESLING DRIVE, PLEASANTON  
REPRESENTED SELLERS & BUYERS



**\$1,600,000**  
1038 DIVISION STREET, PLEASANTON  
REPRESENTED SELLERS & BUYERS



**\$4,150,000**  
8003 ROCKFORD PLACE, PLEASANTON  
REPRESENTED SELLERS



**\$1,075,000**  
2379 NORWOOD RD LIVERMORE  
REPRESENTED BUYERS

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**5716 DAKIN COURT,  
PLEASANTON**

5 BEDS | 5.5 BATHS

4,583 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE

**LIST PRICE \$3,695,000**

**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.

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**OPEN HOUSE**  
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**6625 Amber Lane, Pleasanton**  
OPEN HOUSE 8/19 from 10-1pm,  
8/20 1-4pm, 8/21 1-4pm



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Listed at \$1,449,000

**2631 Curry Street, Pleasanton**  
OPEN HOUSE 8/19 from 10-1pm,  
8/20 1-4pm, 8/21 1-4pm



**FOR SALE**  
Listed at \$6,500,000

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



**FOR SALE**  
Listed at \$1,988,000

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



**FOR SALE**  
Listed at \$1,995,000

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



**FOR SALE**  
Listed at \$2,295,000

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



**PENDING**  
Listed at \$1,369,000

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



**PENDING**  
Listed at \$1,850,000

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



**PENDING**  
Listed at \$3,395,000

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



**PENDING**  
Listed at \$2,495,000

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



**COMING SOON**  
Listed at \$2,495,000

**579 Treb biano Place, Ruby Hill**  
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,806 Square Feet

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