

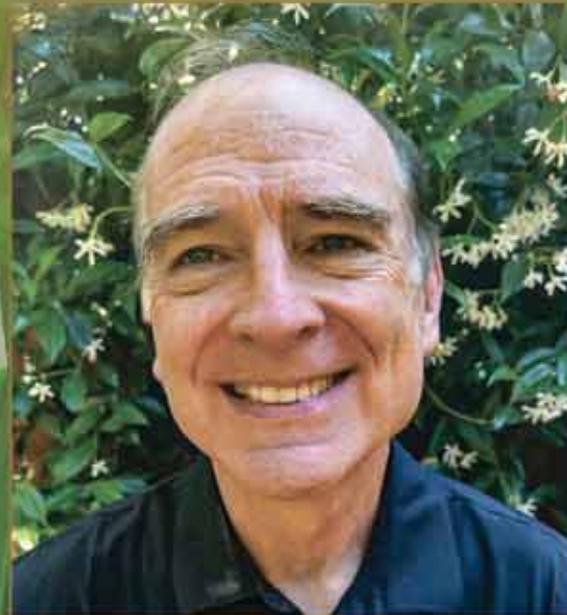
Pleasanton Weekly

Lab marks
70 years

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PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES DEBATE

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AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

Comfort, communication and the lack of both

Danielle Solito was justifiably upset when she spoke about her daughter's "extremely uncomfortable" experience at school.

Solito said her 15-year-old daughter and her friends felt ill at ease when they went to change in the locker room at San Ramon Valley High School and, according to her daughter, "there was a person who was definitely not a girl changing in the girls' locker room."

Solito continued that her daughter was told this person identifies as a girl, but "she was able to see they were, in fact, anatomically a boy."

The discomfort has nothing to do with how anyone chooses to identify, Solito assured, but has everything to do with being a teenage girl.

"My daughter is kind to everyone and doesn't have a discriminatory bone in her body. But she is a 15-year-old girl who is self-conscious," she explained. "Being a 15-year-old girl, you don't want to change in front of 15-year-old girls, let alone a 15-year-old boy."

To make matters even more awkward, Solito's daughter said the person in question was wearing sunglasses while changing in the locker room, which was odd.

Solito emailed SRVHS principal Whitney Cottrell and "asked her a slew of questions, like 'what are you going to be doing to protect my daughter?'" Solito said. "I wanted to know what the requirements are for a person who wants to change in a bathroom that is different from their gender. What does the school require from the parents or from a doctor?"

"They spent that \$1.8 million on equity (liaisons)," she continued. "I thought it was supposed to be equitable across the board. So what are they doing to make sure my daughter feels just as comfortable as this person?"

The response from Cottrell three days later was, according to Solito, "basically a copy-and-paste that said 'We are following the law of AB blah, blah, blah. Here's the answer to all your questions.'"

"She obviously didn't answer my questions," Solito said. "She didn't tell me how she's going to keep my child safe. She doesn't tell me about the sunglasses. She didn't tell me

what the school requires. She didn't answer any question that I had about what's actually happening, or how my daughter can feel comfortable."

The state law Cottrell and Solito referenced is AB 1266, the Sex Equity in Education Act, which went into effect in 2014. AB 1266 "requires that pupils be permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs, activities, and use facilities consistent with their gender identity, without respect to the gender listed in a pupil's records."

"Like all public schools, we must follow the laws," said Ilana Israel Samuels, director of communications and community relations at SRVUSD. "This means we cannot and will not marginalize students from the facilities' access and ignore students' legal rights."

While the district must follow the letter of the law, "If there's a student who says 'I'm not comfortable changing in whatever locker room for whatever reason,' then we're going to work with that student and their family," Samuels said, adding that students can change in a bathroom stall in the locker room or other arrangements can be made.

"At the end of the day, we have to allow access to a locker room," Samuels continued, "but we're not going to make a student have to change in a locker room they're not comfortable in."

Solito countered saying, "This current situation is not considering how uncomfortable it makes biological teenage girls in their own locker room. My child should not have to feel uncomfortable in her locker room."

This is a textbook "rock-and-a-hard-place" situation for everyone involved. However, solutions do exist — better solutions than dozens of girls changing in bathroom stalls.

Those solutions won't be found by giving a copy-and-paste answer to a parent's angst-filled plea for help. Nor will they be found by, basically, saying your hands are tied by the law.

Finding a solution will take honest, respectful communication, with those involved seeking to understand the concerns of the other parties and being open to ideas that might be, well, uncomfortable. ■

About the Cover

The Pleasanton Weekly held a forum on Monday for the Pleasanton City Council candidates featuring (top, from left) Dean Wallace and Jeff Nibert in District 1 and (bottom, from left) Julie Testa, Joel Liu and Jamie Yee in District 3. Photos courtesy of each candidate. Cover design by Doug Young.

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What have you been doing to beat the heat these days, especially the big heat wave last week?



Cassie Warner
Store manager

I've been going up and down Main Street on every break, looking for cold foods to eat, like ice cream and slush puppies. It has actually been a great opportunity to meet local businesspeople and to introduce myself to them and our store, which is where Rick's Picks had been located.



David Calico
Retired

I've just been staying at home most of the time, because it is air-conditioned. And then when it cools down in the evening, which it always does, I enjoy spending time outdoors on my deck, enjoying the sounds of the neighborhood and nature.



Jeff Wilson
Construction

I like going to McKay's to meet up with my best buddy Bobby Rios, for a beer (or two!).



Janessa Garcia and Jeff Ganz
Hairstylist; project manager

We've been doing a lot of hiking, in the shade wherever we can find it, and jumping into any body of water available, whether it is a creek, a river or the Pacific Ocean. Doing this has really helped us to keep our cool.



Mayah Cohen
Customer service

I've been staying inside as much as possible, where there is air conditioning. I've also been drinking plenty of water in order to stay well-hydrated.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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CREEKVIEW

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DIGEST

ACE service impacts

Major commuter railroad lines running through the Tri-Valley were on track to see service interruptions by the end of the week, as of press time Wednesday, due to the railroad worker labor negotiations making headlines nationwide.

A service alert issued from the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) on Tuesday afternoon updated users on the status of its routes. With national railroad work stoppage, many routes are to be suspended, impacting passengers from Stockton to San Jose on ACE including through the Tri-Valley.

"There has not yet been an agreement between the freight railroads and the employee unions," said David Lapari, marketing manager of ACE. "We are working closely with Union Pacific to address the impact of a strike on operations and will continue to keep our passengers informed as this situation develops."

For updated ACE service information, visit acerail.com.

State of the Tri-Valley

The San Francisco Business Times and Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group's 2022 State of the Tri-Valley is scheduled to be held later this month and feature a presentation with business leader, author and Tri-Valley resident James D. White about his recent book "Anti-Racist Leadership: How to Transform Corporate Culture in a Race-Conscious World".

"White is best known for taking the helm of what was a regional smoothie franchise and turning it into the global lifestyle brand, Jamba Inc.," organizer said while also acknowledging White's work as board chair for the Honest Company and as executive chair for Pleasanton startup Air Protein.

The State of the Tri-Valley will be held on Sept. 27 from 5:30-8 p.m. at Roundhouse Market and Conference Center, Bishop Ranch in San Ramon. The event will also feature panel discussions and a networking reception. Visit innovationtrivalley.org.

LARPD recruitment

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors is seeking applicants for a four-year volunteer position on the district's Personnel Commission.

The commission advises the elected board on district personnel policies as well as "provides guidance as to the personnel related trends in the employment marketplace, hears appeals of disciplinary actions, and makes recommendations to the board," officials said.

The deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 30. Call human resources office Michelle Kleman at 925-373-5705. ■

Pleasanton pauses PFAS treatment and wells rehabilitation project

Faced with rising costs, council directs staff to evaluate other options

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton City Council voted unanimously last week to pause the PFAS treatment and wells rehabilitation project, which was intended to address water quality and purification, because of rising costs and other factors.

City staff recommended halting

the final design of the project in order to evaluate other alternatives to address the contaminated water wells in Pleasanton such as locating a new well that isn't contaminated or sourcing out to a regional water supplier.

They said that while the treatment and rehabilitation project could still be the best possible choice,

its original pricetag of \$46 million including design, construction and supporting services merits further evaluation into other options.

"The PFAS and rehabilitation project is still a viable option. It behooves us to compare it to other cost comparisons, reliability, things like that, to see if there's any options that might make it more attractive

and less risky for the city," Daniel Repp, managing director of utilities and environmental services for the city, told the council on Sept. 6.

PFAS, technically known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, have been widely used and long-lasting chemicals, components of which

See **WATER** on Page 8

Council OKs new cricket field site

Project could take 9-16 months at Ken Mercer Sports Park

By Christian Trujano

Cricket players and fans in Pleasanton will soon be able to compete and practice on a new field set to be constructed at Ken Mercer Sports Park following the City Council's decision on the location last week.

The council on Sept. 6 unanimously approved city staff's recommendation to go with the second out of three options for the cricket field location and size logistics. It will be an oval cricket field with a radius of 195 feet parallel with the pitch and 180 feet perpendicular to the pitch.

According to city staff, the overall design for the now-approved Option 2 was based on input from local sports organizations, the community and talks with city planners from San Ramon and Dublin, which have their own cricket fields.

"I think we have come up with a very viable good option for our community," Vice Mayor Valerie Arkin said. "It's great that we have a diverse range of sports options for community members, and I'm very happy to be going forward with this."

The field will allow for both youth and adult play and will safely accommodate a cricket match while simultaneous use of soccer fields four and five to the west are being utilized. However, because the cricket field will overlay on soccer field six, that soccer field will not be accessible while cricket is using the field.

Michele Crose, assistant director of library and recreation for the city,

See **CRICKET** on Page 9



CHUCK DECKERT

Current LLNL director Kim Budil (front center) poses with six past directors from over the years dating back to 1952, including (front from left) Johnny Foster and John Nuckolls, and (back from left) Bill Goldstein, George Miller, Parney Albright and Bruce Tarter. Two other former directors joined the event remotely via video conference.

Lab marks 70th anniversary

Leaders past and present discuss accomplishments, challenges for LLNL

By Tim Hunt

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, like many longstanding research and development institutions, traditionally has been a place where employees spent most of their careers until they retired.

That made for a stable workforce and plenty of institutional knowledge.

That's changing big time for the lab's director Kim Budil. During the Lawrence Livermore Lab Foundation's celebration of the lab's 70th anniversary Sept. 8, she said that about 40% of the lab's workforce has been there five years or less. She's facing the challenge of maintaining the unique capabilities that Lawrence Livermore boasts while also keeping the culture intact with a new workforce that tends to be much more professionally mobile.

She spoke on a panel featuring nine former directors (two

appearing by video).

During his remarks earlier, George Miller stressed that keeping the lab's core values and guiding principles intact was the overriding reason he accepted the directorship during the transition from University of California management to a private sector company with the university plus three for-profit companies with deep experience in the United States' national defense. Miller said his father taught him that when you face a crisis, what's important are your principles and values.

"I saw the transition, in many respects, as a culture war that was a battle for the soul of the lab," he told the invited crowd of more than 200 people at Garré Winery's event center in Livermore.

Preserving the core values and principles that founders E.O. Lawrence and Edward Teller

established was of paramount importance. He cited three of the values that he felt must be protected:

1. The motivation for decisions were based on integrity and public service to the country not the profit.

2. The most important service the lab can offer the country is by continuing to focus on big ideas and big challenges.

3. Every lab employee "is part of the soul, spirit and the driving force that has allowed the laboratory to contribute so much."

Miller cited earlier remarks by Johnny Foster, the senior lab director there who turns 100 this Sunday, where Foster talked about how important Lawrence was in establishing the lab and its culture.

Parney Albright, the only non home-grown lab director, brings a

See **LAB** on Page 6

DA files murder charges against deputy for Dublin double homicide

Court docs describe more details from crime scene, reveal claim of romantic relationship between suspect and married victim

By JEREMY WALSH

A young Alameda County sheriff's deputy faces two counts of murder as well as several special allegations and the prospect of death-penalty consideration in connection with the brutal slayings of a couple in their Dublin house last week.

Documents filed with the court by prosecutors last Friday morning include new details about the scene and circumstances of the double homicide in the neighborhood in East Dublin, including descriptions of kill shots to the victims' heads and necks and the contention from the suspect's family that he had been involved in a romantic relationship with the married female victim.

"Our hearts and condolences go out to the family, friends and community of the two victims killed in this incident," Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said in a statement after her office submitted the criminal complaint.

Devin Williams Jr., 24, of Stockton was scheduled to appear in

Alameda County Superior Court in Dublin for entry of plea this week, with results pending as of press time. It was not immediately clear if he is yet represented by an attorney.

Williams, a sheriff's deputy of one year who is now in the process of being fired after his arrest, has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder for the Sept. 7 shooting deaths of 42-year-old Maria Tran and her husband Benison Tran, 57.

The defendant also faces special allegations related to gun use and great bodily injury inflicted on both victims, as well as special circumstances for multiple murders and murder to avoid arrest. Special circumstances murders are eligible for the death penalty, though a decision about whether to pursue a capital case are typically made after



Devin Williams Jr.

the preliminary hearing.

The double homicide has left the Dublin community and his department reeling with almost as many questions as answers.

"Just a horrific day today, and a really dark day in the sheriff's office," Alameda County Sheriff's Office Lt. Ray Kelly told the Weekly that day.

"I am heartbroken over the tragedy that occurred in Dublin early this morning," Mayor Melissa Hernandez said in a statement Sept. 7. "There is now a child without a mother and father. Dublin Police are working with the family to see how they can help throughout the grieving process."

The violent scene inside the Colebrook Lane house, just off Fallon Road, and the investigative aftermath were described in a probable cause declaration written by Officer Riley Walter of Dublin Police Services, filed with the court as justification for Williams' arrest.

Police received a call from people in the home at 12:45 a.m. Sept. 7 reporting someone inside and

then shots being fired, according to Walter.

"The reporting party called 911, and someone they did not know was inside their residence. One of the residents picked up the phone and advised the suspect was armed with a firearm, and the suspect shot his sister and his brother-in-law. The reporting party advised the suspect left the scene in a vehicle," Walter wrote.

Officers arrived to find a husband and wife — later identified as the Trans — with gunshot wounds to their heads and necks. Both were pronounced dead by paramedics shortly after, according to Walter.

Multiple family members were present during the shooting. "When deputies arrived, they heard an unknown family member say, 'Devin' and 'He is a cop,' according to Walter.

Kelly previously confirmed that the couple's 14-year-old child, as well as Maria Tran's mother and brother were in the house that night.

Dublin Police Services, which is

the lead investigative agency in the case, is staffed by deputies of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office under the city of Dublin's contract with the county to provide police services.

Williams worked for the sheriff's office and was assigned to the courthouse and jail operations, not a patrol beat. He worked a scheduled shift at the courthouse in Oakland from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 6, and then picked up extra hours at the jail in Dublin from 5-11 p.m., according to Kelly. Detectives were continuing to investigate what Williams was doing between 11 p.m. and the time of the shooting.

During their subsequent investigation, officers spoke with Williams' family and his father told detectives that Williams "had been in a dating relationship with the female victim (Maria Tran) and had been to their residence in Stockton," Walter said. The circumstances of that apparent relationship were not immediately clear.

In the wake of the discovery on Colebrook Lane, detectives reviewed license plate reader camera data from the neighborhood and observed a gray Volkswagen Jetta registered to Williams driving near the crime scene one minute after the shooting, according to Walter.

Additionally, detectives allegedly

See **HOMICIDE** on Page 7

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LAB

Continued from Page 5

range of defense-related experiences to his remarks and his directorship. As Budil said, nuclear weapons that had faded from consciousness in Washington D.C. now find open ears of policymakers. Albright pointed out that the lab's nuclear weapons mission, maintaining the viability of the weapons stockpile and modernizing them as necessary, was going to be wrapped up in the next 10-20 years.

And with it goes the steady source of federal funds coming from the National Nuclear Security Administration, a division of the Department of Energy. The lab has expertise and capabilities in many areas, but finding federal sponsors who will open checkbooks will be a major challenge.

"A key strategic question for the laboratory is what are the competencies you want to pursue?" he said. Deciding those and then building the relationships with key agencies in Washington D.C. such as the Department of Defense and the intelligence agencies to develop the funding.

Albright singled out what he described as Livermore's unique capabilities compared to other national labs and defense contractors.

"You have the unique capability to innovate and create something brand new ... making the impossible possible (to quote the theme of the day). You have that ability to take that innovation all the way through

the chain and deliver a capability to someone who can make it in volume or just to take a one-off to a user," Albright said.

He built some of his comments off Bruce Tarter's earlier talk. Tarter, who has written a history of the lab, described some of the major accomplishments and the changes they entailed. When Teller and Lawrence started pushing for a second lab to compete with Los Alamos, the original nuclear lab pushed back. Livermore prevailed in that debate, something that Foster celebrated in his comments declaring that competition is good. He's worked both in government and the private sector in the defense industry.

Teller, to his dismay, was referred to as the father of the hydrogen bomb, the device that established Livermore's place in the nuclear weapons complex.

Building off that, Tarter related, that by the mid-'80s every weapon in the stockpile, with the exception of one, was designed in Livermore. One of Livermore's major contributions was reducing the size of the device so the Polaris nuclear missile could be launched from submarines and greatly increased the deterrent to the Soviet Union.

The next big leap came when lab leaders embraced lasers and their potential for nuclear fusion, as opposed to the fission reactions in the weapons. That required different capabilities in the work force so it brought workers with specific skills to the lab.

The next big step, during the Reagan Administration, was the Strategic Defense Initiative championed by Lowell Wood and Teller. It also required new employees who knew about space for the "Brilliant Pebbles" program and other elements.

Another big leap, built around the test ban treaty, was the reinvigoration of the supercomputing industry that was moribund in the United States. The need to model complex nuclear reactions demanded new capabilities, particularly given the major new facilities that three labs were building as part of the stockpile stewardship program (the National Ignition Facility at Livermore). It was the lab's partnership with IBM that took the parallel computing capabilities to the next level and Livermore has remained at the cutting edge of super computing.

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the lab's small biology program grew as bio defense became a priority. Tarter, admitting he was well removed from the day-to-day operations, asked what's been happening since the early 2000s. He posed his question before Albright's discussion about deciding the strategic direction.

Whatever direction Budil and her leadership team, and the company board decide to move, they'll be doing it, as she said, with a much younger and less experienced work force. The lab already has nearly transitioned to a nuclear weapons design facility without any designers who actually tested a device. ■

Residents express concerns over nonprofit merger

Speakers turn out to Pleasanton council meeting over CityServe absorbing Senior Support

By NICOLE GONZALES

The recent announcement of a merger between two Pleasanton nonprofits has led some citizens to question how the move will impact their community, causing a turnout of disapproving public comments at the latest City Council meeting.

Through the public forum, residents shared their displeasure about Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley and its services being absorbed by CityServe of the Tri-Valley, citing main concerns such as transparency, service demographics, future impacts on the city-owned Senior Center and the organization's motivation.

News of the merger, which had been under consideration since late 2021, first came to light publicly last month several days after a story in the Weekly spotlighting concerns raised by former employees and volunteers about SSPTV, its leadership instability, and the apparent loss of key services and staff.

The Pleasanton City Council meeting on Sept. 6 featured 14 speakers during public comment on non-agenda items criticizing the merger between the private nonprofits.

Jan Morrison, who manages the Hacienda Mobile Home Park for seniors, told the council about how the merger has affected those who live in the complex and said she had been elected to speak on their behalf. Mostly, community members

who benefited from the resources felt blindsided by the sudden changes.

"I have 200 residents that have been asking me why their Senior Support has changed and gone to CityServe and how come they didn't have a say," Morrison said. "They don't think it's fair that they weren't consulted before they made any changes and there was no notice given. My people are very upset."

'They don't think it's fair that they weren't consulted before they made any changes.'

Jan Morrison,
Hacienda Mobile Home Park
manager

Barbara Will, a former SSPTV employee who worked as director of its Family Caregiver Program, described how the nonprofit was run several years ago in contrast with how the services are being handled now.

"We were a really committed group of people that really believed in what we were doing," Will said. "(They have now) taken a program that has run flawlessly for 40-plus years and are making a huge change."

One of the new criticisms as a result of the merger came from people

concerned about Senior Support funds and its leased space at the Pleasanton Senior Center going to a nonprofit that serves other demographics including unhoused residents and other disadvantaged groups of all ages.

Lilian Bullock, Pleasanton resident with over 20 years of experience as an emergency room nurse, spoke about this concern to the council and audience members.

"I find the proposition of merging the unhoused into the Senior Support structure to be a grave disservice to our seniors," Bullock said. "I cannot see this merger as a positive or practical situation."

She continued, expressing how the merge could cause an "array of potential unpleasant, unsafe and even dangerous" scenarios for seniors. In addition to Bullock, comments regarding the adoption of resources for the unhoused community were plenty from other speakers at the meeting.

Other speakers raised questions about CityServe's religious roots and whether taxpayer funds granted to SSPTV should be utilized by CityServe. According to its website, CityServe says it aims to connect "a diverse network of churches and faith groups, nonprofits, businesses, schools, government agencies, community members and participants."

CityServe is among the nonprofits that has received grant funding from

all three Tri-Valley cities on its own.

During the merger's transitional period, some residents questioned how SSPTV services would be adapted under the CityServe umbrella. A number of senior-related services that fell under SSPTV are now listed on the CityServe website.

However, in one case, the CityServe website as recently as last week advertised the Friendly Visiting Program as active and soliciting new clients and volunteers -- despite multiple sources telling the Weekly that SSPTV eliminated that program earlier this summer. The CityServe webpage listed Pam Silliman as the point of contact, which she said was a surprise to her considering she was laid off as the program's coordinator at SSPTV in July and has not been replaced.

The entire Friendly Visiting Program link was removed from the

CityServe website as of Monday.

CityServe leadership have not given a comment in response to the criticisms brought up by public speakers at the council meeting, nor did they answer inquiries from the Weekly this week. Council members were precluded from responding to the speakers during the Sept. 6 meeting, under the Brown Act, because the item was not listed on that night's agenda.

When the merger was revealed last month, CityServe CEO Christine Beitsch-Bahmani said, "Our mission is to always assist residents by caring, coordinating and connecting those in need of resources and to mobilize volunteers in the community. 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." ■

HOMICIDE

Continued from Page 6

found six shell casings with "Speer 9mm" inscribed on them — the same type of ammunition used by the sheriff's office. Kelly previously reported investigators believed Williams likely used his department-issued service weapon during the crime and discarded it in the Altamont Pass area outside of Livermore while fleeing.

According to Walter, detectives later created a photo lineup and two separate witnesses identified Deputy Williams as the shooter. The 24-year-old remained on the lam for nearly 12 hours Sept. 7.

For some period in the investigation, police were able to use cellphone tracking data and GPS to discover Williams was traveling toward Southern California, but the signal was lost, according to Kelly.

Then, as police and sheriff's officials prepared for an 11:30 a.m. press conference on Sept. 7, Dublin Police Services' front desk answered a phone call from Williams, according to Kelly. The lieutenant and Dublin Police Chief Garrett Holmes were on the phone with the at-large deputy for 46 minutes, and he ultimately agreed to pull over and surrender.

Holmes' conversation with Williams was "a game-changer ... good, solid police work at a critical moment," as officers were concerned the fleeing deputy might harm others or himself, according to Kelly. "Chief Holmes was able to connect with Mr. Williams in a way that was crucial to de-escalate and bring down the tempo of Mr. Williams."

Walter confirmed Williams was arrested near Coalinga, some 147 miles from the crime scene, after surrendering without further incident to the California Highway Patrol in the same Volkswagen seen by the license plate camera.

"Williams' issued duty weapon box, and some of his safety gear, including Speer ammunition, was inside his car. Red matter believed to be blood was also inside the vehicle," according to Walter.

The suspect did not speak with investigators after his arrest, invoking his constitutional right to remain silent, according to Walter.

He was booked on the evening of Sept. 7 into the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin — where he had worked an overtime shift that ended less than two hours before the shooting. Kelly said Williams was served with notice of his pending release from sheriff's office employment after his arrest.

The court documents filed Friday did not elaborate further on the reported "dating relationship" between Williams and Maria Tran.

Maria Tran was a registered nurse, according to online records. Benison Tran's employment has not yet been confirmed. The Trans' trust purchased the house on Colebrook Lane about a year and a half ago, according to Tri-Valley home sales data reported by the Pleasanton Weekly in spring 2021.

The slayings were the first homicide (non-vehicular) in Dublin since rapper Lil Yase was killed on Nov. 28, 2020 after an overnight shooting. That case remains active with no suspects charged in court to date.

The last time an Alameda County sheriff's deputy faced homicide charges appears to have been the infamous Eric Wright case, which made national headlines and became fodder for true crime shows and articles.

Wright, a lieutenant and rising star in the department, vanished in the early 1980s and lived under a false name for years afterward before he was ultimately arrested in Mexico in 2002 for the 1980 death of gold dealer Lester Marks. Wright would later plead guilty to manslaughter. ■



Pleasanton VFW Post 6298

Announces Middle School and High School Scholarships for This Fall

For high school students, the VFW Voice of Democracy provides an opportunity to express themselves regarding democratic and patriotic themed topics. Each year, more than 50,000 high school students compete for \$1.9 million in scholarship money. The competition starts at the local level and moves to region, state and finally national competition in Washington, DC. **This year the topic is: Is This the Country the Founder's Envisioned?**

★★★★★

For middle school students, the VFW Patriot Pen essay contest gives students the chance to compete for more than \$900,000 in prize money. Competition begins at the local level, moves to regional and state competition before moving to the final phase in Washington, DC. **This year the topic is: What is Patriotism to Me?**

★★★★★

Students can find more information and applications here: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>. Applications are due by midnight October 31, 2022. Mail them to: VFW Post 6298, PO Box 601, Pleasanton, CA 94566. For questions, call VFW member Greg Swartz at 925.596.1807

www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

Native American Day to kick off cultural series

Las Positas College joins with Livermore Valley Arts for program

By JEANITA LYMAN

Following a hefty donation, Las Positas College will be joining forces with Livermore Valley Arts for an upcoming series of events aimed at multicultural arts education.

Las Positas College donated \$20,000 to LVA as part of a partnership between the school and the arts organization, which will see Las Positas with a presence at the upcoming Community Cultural Celebration Series, hosted by LVA and kicking off next Friday (Sept. 23).

“Supporting the arts and cultural programming in Livermore builds us all up, together,” said Dyrell Foster, president of Las Positas College. “The arts serve so many crucial purposes in today’s society, and they should be accessible to all. We are proud to invest in our local community through the Community Cultural Events at LVA and make sure these events happen where we live.”

“Cultivating this partnership with Livermore Valley Arts ensures the current and future enrichment of our city and surrounding areas, which will give our next generations only further opportunities to learn and grow through the power of the arts,” he continued.

The first event of the series will be Native American Day later this month at the Bankhead Plaza, described by LVA organizers as “a celebration of story, song, and dance appreciating the long history of culture and traditions that Native Americans have preserved through the centuries.”

The free event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. next Friday (Sept 23) is set to feature a drum circle, flute and dance performances, and storytelling aimed at showcasing the indigenous history and culture of the Tri-Valley.

“Livermore Valley Arts acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ohlone,”

LVA officials said in the event description. “We affirm the sovereign rights of their community as First Peoples and are committed to supporting the traditional and contemporary evolution of the American Indian community and uplifting contemporary indigenous voices and culture.”

The series will continue with “A Taste of Africa” on Oct. 1, followed by a Filipino Barrio Fiesta on Oct. 2, and LVA’s 21st annual Art Walk on Oct. 8., then a Diwali celebration on Nov. 6.

A Chinese New Year event and Hispanic heritage celebration are scheduled for dates in 2023 that are still to be determined. The series will continue through May 2023, concluding with a celebration of AAPI Heritage Month.

“This partnership puts Livermore Valley Arts again closer to our goal of providing the best possible experience for the community,” LVA Executive Director Chris Carter said.



ROBERT SUGUITAN/LVA

Dance performance at a prior Native American Day in Livermore, part of the Cultural Celebration Series.

“As we get ready to kick off our 15th Anniversary Season at The Bankhead, we are extremely pleased to have our neighbors at Las Positas College supporting our free community events such as A Taste of Africa, Filipino Barrio Fiesta, ArtWalk, Diwali, and Hispanic

Heritage Celebration. Ensuring that the arts are accessible and available for all in the Tri-Valley will only be an asset to the area where we work and live,” he added.

More information on the Cultural Celebration Series and LVA is available at livermorearts.org. ■

WATER

Continued from Page 5

break down very slowly over time, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In recent years, city officials have discovered PFAS in the city’s groundwater supply facilities — specifically in the city-maintained wells — and have been working to address the problem.

Pleasanton owns and operates three well facilities that provide approximately 20% of the city’s annual water supply. The remaining annual water supply is purchased from the Zone 7 Water Agency.

“These well facilities pump the city’s yearly groundwater allotment of 3,500 acre-feet, which is about 20% of the city’s water supply, with the remaining purchased from Zone 7,” said Todd Yamello, utilities planning manager. “The three wells also helped meet peak summer demands.”

Apart from finding PFAS chemicals, the city also found that the well facilities, which Yamello said were built in the 1960s, are reaching the end of their useful lives and require rehabilitation or replacement.

In June 2021, the council authorized staff to proceed with final design for the PFAS treatment and wells rehabilitation project. The scope of work for the project was to treat and rehabilitate wells 5, 6 and 8 in Pleasanton and to create a new centralized treatment facility for PFAS treatment, disinfection and fluoridation.

“Basically all the water from the three groundwater wells would be pumped over to the treatment facility which would be located at the city’s operations service center,” Yamello said.

Yamello said since meeting last summer, staff have completed 50%

of the final design with 100% completion anticipated in June 2023 but due to several reasons, primarily financial uncertainty, staff asked the council to suspend the project.

One of the main reasons for the suspension is the construction cost for two wells of \$5.2 million and \$2.4 million, respectively, might go up by 30% due to the impact of recent inflation trends on the bidding market.

Another reason is that the city does not own or operate a water treatment plant and the PFAS treatment facility will require additional staff and have significant annual operational costs.

“Right now we are currently primarily a distributor of water,” Yamello said. “Although we do have wells and we do do treatment, it is mostly around typical distribution. The PFAS project will require higher levels of treatment, additional staffing, (and) additional staffing type of requirements.”

Continuing with the project would mean that Pleasanton could enter into the water treatment world, similar to Zone 7 — something that the council will have to consider later in the future.

That shift to water treatment is another reason why staff want to pause the project. They want to assess whether getting into the water treatment business, so to speak, is the best option with the drought and contamination issues the city is facing right now.

The main question at hand is — does Pleasanton want to get into the water treatment world and maintain local control of at least some of its water supply, or does it want to branch out and look at other options of bringing in local or regional water from elsewhere?

“The importance of water in our community and the importance of getting resolution and moving forward with a project is on our radar, it’s not lost on us,” City Manager Gerry Beaudin said. “We want to make sure that we’re being responsive to community needs and identifying an option that allows us to move forward with creating local water supply.

But one of the main issues with this pause, even though the council unanimously approved it on Sept. 6, was the timeline aspect and how staff were not able to give the council a specific deadline on the evaluation work.

“There are a couple of options that I think we would want to look at more carefully in terms of treatment. There are companies that do this for cities and so we would want to evaluate that kind of an option,” Beaudin said.

“We have a general direction about where we want to go with this study and it’s really just a matter of engaging with the folks who do this for a living. I can’t tell you today whether it will take three months, six months or 12 months but it will be something that we would, with council direction, get out and get a scope of work done and the work underway as quickly as possible,” he added.

Councilmember Kathy Narum, who serves on the water liaison committee alongside Mayor Karla Brown, said that while she supports the pause, she wants to emphasize that the issue should now be the top priority for staff.

“I’m not going to agree to pause unless all five of us say this is our No. 1 priority and everything else, unless it’s health or safety for our residents, takes a backseat. I don’t care what

is,” Narum said.

She said that she wants to see an outlined plan with deadlines on tasks for the evaluation so no time is wasted.

Additionally, Narum said she wants to see if there is any possibility to look at other locations outside of the contaminated area of water wells to construct a new well that doesn’t have contaminated water.

Staff have already drilled a test well near the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center and the Pleasanton Gingerbread Preschool to look at the viability of constructing a new one. While PFAS was found in that test well, Yamello said as the city dug further down there were less contaminants, which could be information the city could use in the future.

However, Brown said that the city should look further into Zone 7’s recent Aug. 31 board meeting, which showed PFAS trends underground moving west and said that there wouldn’t be a point in drilling a new well if it will inevitably be contaminated.

Another main point of discussion was having Zone 7 provide 100% of the city’s water in the future due to the treatment project being on hold.

Councilmember Julie Testa asked staff about a possible partnership with the water agency to supplement that 20% if the city is required, or needs, to shut down its existing wells.

“We have heard that they believe they have the ability to do that and we’re waiting for a formal response back from them,” Repp said.

Repp added that if the wells do shut down, Zone 7 is required to provide water to its retailers, including Pleasanton. Beaudin added that with new state advisory levels for

how much contaminants can be detected in the water coming in early next year, there is a strong possibility the city will have to seek other water suppliers.

“We will likely have an issue where we will not have our well situation, our treatment situation sorted in time ... we will need water from Zone 7 to meet our peak demands of 15% to 20% that we currently get from the groundwater. So we have to figure that part out, regardless of what we do with treatment in the near-term future.”

Repp said that if the city purchases the 20% of water it typically gets from its wells, it could cost roughly \$3.7 million per year, which would fall to the ratepayers.

“Ultimately, water is important and so the policy question and the reason that we’re posing it at this time is really because we’re at the cusp of being on a path to be in the water treatment business as an organization,” Beaudin said. “That’s the policy question that I really wanted to bring to you all this evening is, are we comfortable being in the treatment business with pumping local groundwater at this time or do we want to look at some of these other alternatives?”

For Pleasanton resident Jill Buck, losing local water control is something she is opposed to after remembering how rich Pleasanton’s water used to be.

“I think one of the things that makes me a little bit sad, and there’s not one thing we can do about it, but this town used to be water-wealthy,” Buck said during public comment. “There was a time, a couple of lifetimes ago, when we could water a whole field with artesian wells, poke a hole in the ground and the water bubbled up.” ■

Korean grocery store H Mart set to come to Dublin

Eyes largest space at Dublin Retail Center; opening date unclear

By JEANITA LYMAN

Dublin is set to see a new Asian grocery option that has proven popular across the country since its founding, and in the Bay Area since the debut of neighboring stores in recent years.

Korean grocery chain H Mart is now listed as a tenant on the website for Kimco Realty, who own the Dublin Retail Center, for a 37,180-square-foot storefront. However, officials from Kimco declined to confirm details of the deal at this

time. No opening date has yet been announced for the new store.

Dublin city spokesperson Shari Jackman told the Weekly that the project is currently in a pre-application phase. After filing a formal application, the project would be the subject of at least three public hearings at Planning Commission meetings ahead of a vote on approval, but she noted that it could move forward quickly after entering the formal application phase.

"They expect that the formal

process could be very quick, just because they will have dealt with any of the issues that arise," Jackman said.

The site being eyed for the grocery store's Dublin location is the largest at the shopping center, which currently hosts several retail stores including Marshalls and Ross Dress for Less, as well as Half Price Books.

Officials at the Dublin Chamber of Commerce first announced that H Mart was planning to come to Dublin in October 2021.

H Mart made its Bay Area debut in 2017 with two stores in San Jose, before branching out to San Francisco in 2021, with that store having recently expanded.

"We have always supported the development of new communities with each grand opening," H Mart founder Il Yeon Kwon said on the company's website. "In doing so, we continue to do our best to establish ourselves as a company that reaches out with a helping hand."

"As we expand, we like to think

that we are reinventing the way people eat through our robust and unique food culture that also promotes a rich and healthy lifestyle to all," he continued. "Our food is our pride, and through its quality we will do our absolute best to maintain our continuous movement towards providing our customers with the joy that comes from it."

H Mart has garnered a reputation as one of the earliest Asian grocery chains to become popular and expand throughout the United States. ■

CRICKET

Continued from Page 5

also told the council that the softball complex would need to be utilized to accommodate other sport groups that usually use the space where the cricket field will be constructed.

She added that the Parks and Recreation Commission stated that they wanted staff to find a way to continue to offer the adult softball program while also sharing the adult softball complex.

"Plans were developed to provide equal space for leagues while offering a limited softball adult softball program," Crose said. "So the softball complex can still be utilized by both adult softball and shared with youth sports organizations ... we just need to reconfigure how we're running our adult softball league."

Another challenge staff will have to work around with the approved location is the required complete removal of the hardball B field including the fencing, the backstop and the bleachers.

The location of the cricket pitch would also require grading and drainage modifications, and because the perimeter is close to a walking pass, staff will test play in this location and determine if any other safety features are needed like netting.

"I do understand that it's on the two walking paths, but there already are backstop fields for different sports out there for hardball," Councilmember Jack Balch said. "So I will trust that staff will work to address the challenges that would arise from any of those issues to make sure we can obviously have this field be available for all."

Matt Gruber, a landscape architect for the city, said the next steps to actually build the field will be working with landscape architect firms to develop a design for the field before beginning construction.

He said the design process could take anywhere from six to 12 months, and construction could be another three to four months.

The idea to bring a cricket field to Pleasanton started in 2014 when the Parks and Recreation Master Plan highlighted the need to cooperate with youth programs and identify

their needs for more programs.

Mayor Karla Brown also said when the council was looking at the city's priorities two years ago, lines of kids came forward saying that they want to learn how to play cricket and want a pitch to do that.

Then, on April 28, 2021, the City Council unanimously supported locating and constructing a cricket field in Pleasanton.

City staff then assessed various potential sites including other parks such as Muirwood Community Park, which was initially poised to be presented to the council but was then disregarded after the council asked staff to look at Ken Mercer Sports Park instead this April.

Other locations, such as the Bernal Community Park or Staples Ranch Neighborhood Park, were considered but were put on a backburner for future construction of a more permanent cricket field due to higher construction costs.

"We've talked about; it's raw land versus possibly just this reconfiguration," Balch said regarding going with the option at Ken Mercer rather than building a whole new field somewhere else. "So we're talking several million dollars more than any of this."

"I do look forward to a more permanent option sometime in the future when the funding allows either at Staples or Bernal, but in the meantime, I think this will really fulfill the need of a lot of cricket players in our community," Arkin said.

That sentiment was also expressed by various residents who submitted community responses to the city. Most of them were asking to not consider Ken Mercer and to look at Bernal because of several reasons, including the safety aspect of the cricket ball — which tends to be a harder ball similar to baseball.

"It's definitely something we would be working with a consultant on as we're developing plans," Crose said. "We've heard that there are definitely different types of balls that fly further and some that fly less, we would be talking with consultants about netting other safety factors that we may not know or realize."

Others were siding with the first

option to place the cricket field over the 9-versus-9 soccer fields four and five. While that option was the most popular among survey respondents, Crose explained that sports organizations did not agree with the location because it would impede on the only 9v9 soccer fields — which are used for youth games and are not available anywhere else in the city.

But a portion of the respondents had other issues with the cricket field entirely different from safety and other sport group displacement.

"I want to mention that it does concern me when I read the survey results, there was a comment in the survey that was a thread that said 'why do they need a cricket field?' That's all it said," Balch said. "We in Pleasanton need to be willing to adjust our community amenities to provide for all in our community. We in Pleasanton must stand for the values of diversity, equity and inclusion."

The comment was included in the April 12 council meeting staff report and summed up what other

council members and residents felt as a general opposition to different, diverse sports in Pleasanton.

"There has been resistance from local residents based on the survey feedback that you heard about earlier," said Sandeep Kolte, a resident who belongs to a group of about 50 young and old cricket players, during public comment.

"Cricket is played as an after school program at a couple of elementary schools. It has been part of PE at middle schools in the past but due to lack of facilities in the city, it has been challenging for our young kids to play, train and enjoy the game here at home. Sometimes they have to travel to other cities just to play or train," Kolte said.

Councilmember Kathy Narum also commented on the survey responses saying that she saw some that read "please move out of the city" and "no cricket field would be the best option."

"We want our kids away from computer screens and out playing and getting exercise and here we're

offering something to, you know, a portion of our population and I just, I'm disappointed," Narum said regarding the comments.

But Brown said she wanted to also focus on the positive responses the council received and emphasized that even though it has been hard to advocate for the cricket field over the years, she is proud to see the sport coming to Pleasanton.

The city had already set aside \$500,000 to go toward the construction of the cricket field in 2014, which will go toward any design and construction costs.

Narum asked if that would be enough to which city staff said they had previously spoken with a contractor who said it would be about \$400,000 to remove the existing infield, adjust the irrigation and remove the backstop. However, because of additional improvements included in the approved option and the market having changed since staff last spoke with the consultant, the project could be more expensive than originally planned. ■



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Tactical East Avenue Visioning Week

Interactive planning activities part of study to improve mobility and safety

By **CIERRA BAILEY**

The city of Livermore is kicking off Tactical East Avenue Visioning Week later this month as part of Phase II of the ongoing East Avenue Corridor Study.

The city and consultant Street Plans are preparing a series of interactive planning activities to create a future, aspirational vision for the street in hopes of improving mobility and safety along the stretch between South Livermore Avenue and South Vasco Road, according to city officials.

Tactical East Avenue is a six-month pilot project that will

explore elements of the design alternatives produced in Phase I of the East Avenue Corridor Study to arrive at a real-world tested solution for the corridor before permanent investments are made.

Visioning Week will take place in the Civic Center Library Community Rooms during which the project team will host two public workshops and a series of stakeholder meetings to brainstorm what the future of East Avenue holds. The vision of the street will help inform Tactical East Avenue, officials said.

The opening workshop is set for

next Monday (Sept. 19), from 6-8 p.m. At this event, the city and Street Plans will deliver a presentation about what to expect during Visioning Week. The community and the project team will then brainstorm a reimagined East Avenue, discussing the overall character of the street and possibilities for a future transformation.

Throughout the week, Street Plans will produce concept drawings and visualizations of the elements the community liked the most during the opening workshop. The community can drop-in to the project team's "studio" located

in the library Community Rooms Tuesday through Thursday for updates on the process.

At the final workshop set for next Thursday (Sept. 22) — also from 6-8 p.m. — the public will view the visualizations and provide input on which they like best. Drawings will be produced for both the long-term vision of East Avenue and the temporary pilot project to show differences in the materials.

City officials said that Visioning Week will be followed by a short-term demonstration on the corridor this fall and an extended pilot project anticipated for the spring

and summer of next year.

The full schedule of Visioning Week activities is as follows:

- Monday, Sept. 19, workshop: 6-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 20, drop-in: 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 21, drop-in: 1:30-6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 22, drop-in: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 22, workshop: 6-8 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP for the workshop, visit bit.ly/teavisioningweek or www.eastavecorridorstudy.com. ■

Foundation to host webinar on cognitive behavioral therapy

Speaker on benefits of technique for young patients

By **JEANITA LYMAN**

The Pleasanton-based Alan Hu Foundation is set to host a virtual discussion next week on the benefits of cognitive behavioral therapy for addressing youth depression, amidst the rise in mental health challenges lingering in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Robert Friedberg

Palo Alto University professor Robert Friedberg, Ph.D., is set to share his mental health expertise, as well as insight from research into the effects of the pandemic

on young people's mental health, in the upcoming free webinar next Wednesday (Sept. 21).

"The COVID-19 global pandemic ruptured the world community," Friedberg said in a press release from the Alan Hu Foundation. "The viral outbreak also accelerated rates of depression."

Friedberg went on to point to research that suggests one in four young people said they were experiencing symptoms of depression.

"While the rates of depression were high prior to the pandemic, rates are expected to surge in the peri- and post-pandemic era," Friedberg said. "Therefore, identifying children at-risk for depressive disorders and providing

proper care to them is imperative."

With fewer options for pharmaceutical treatments being recommended to young people than to adults, talk-based therapies offer a wider range of choices for younger patients, with less risk of side effects.

"Fortunately, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is an empirically supported psychosocial intervention for depression in youth," Friedberg said. "This webinar will discuss common signs of depression in youth, ways to identify these symptoms, and an overview of what parents and youth can expect from CBT-oriented treatment."

The Alan Hu Foundation is a nonprofit that was founded to

raise awareness and reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues, as well as supporting research into treatment options. It was created by Xiaofang Chen and Chih-Ching Hu in memory of their son Alan Hu, who died by suicide at 15 years old in 2018 after struggles with mental health.

"His pain was real and unbearable, yet it was invisible," Chen said on the foundation's website. "There was no thermometer to show a fever, no imaging to show a lump inside, and no blood test to show elevated white blood cell counts."

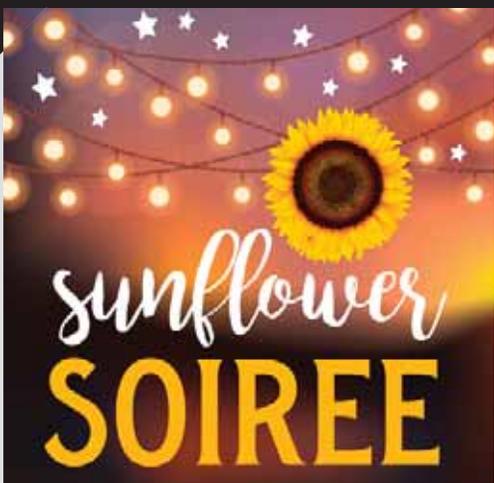
The foundation specifically seeks to address issues with existing mental health care practices that Chen believes led up to her

son's death.

"Mental disorders are far from rare, but talking about them is rare," Chen said. "They frighten people because there is too little understanding of them. People have overcome many other diseases because knowledgeable health care providers and appropriate treatments were available. The same thing will happen with respect to mental diseases when people start talking about them, paying attention to them and gaining a better understanding of them."

The free webinar featuring Friedberg is scheduled for Sept. 21 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. A meeting link is available by registering at alanhufoundation.org. ■

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TAKE US ALONG



At Ha Long Bay: Visiting Ha Long Bay in Vietnam was a major bucket list item for the Markel family. The UNESCO World Heritage Site is famous for its nearly 2,000 limestone islands and calm, emerald green water. Of course the Pleasanton Weekly had to come along! Pictured from left: Patrick Markel, Jenny Mack, Kanoa Markel and Ellen Markel (in front).

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.

Haubert highlights county priorities at Livermore chamber event

COVID-19, Vineyard 2.0, sewer line extension project among talking points

By CIERRA BAILEY

Residents, community leaders and local officials gathered last week at the Martinelli Event Center in Livermore to hear Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert deliver a talk about current county projects and priorities of relevance to the Tri-Valley.

Haubert — who is in his second year on the Board of Supervisors — represents District 1 which includes the cities of Dublin and Livermore, part of Pleasanton and Sunol, most of the city of Fremont and most of the unincorporated area of the Livermore-Amador Valley.



David Haubert

“The County’s Role in a Strong Economy” event on Sept. 8 was hosted by the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce as part of its wine country luncheon series.

The location was moved to the indoor Martinelli facility from the original outdoor venue at Purple Orchid Wine Country Resort and Spa due to extreme weather conditions resulting from last week’s heat wave.

Some of the topics Haubert addressed in his talk were public health and safety, homelessness and transportation.

Among his comments on public health, Haubert discussed the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“I know that we’ve all talked about the pandemic for the last couple of years,” Haubert said before thanking Alameda County Health Officer Nick Moss for being present at the event. “If you agree with some of the decisions that have been made, I want you to thank Nick Moss. If you have a problem with any of the decisions that have been made, I want you to talk to me. I want to hear from you but then I’m going to be the one to help represent you,” he added.

He also shared some vaccination statistics for the county and individual cities within the Tri-Valley.

“Let me tell you that 1,528,570 residents in Alameda County have had at least one vaccination shot. That’s almost the whole county, in fact it’s 92.7% of Alameda County.”

After a round of applause from the audience, he continued, “76,927 people in Livermore have at least one vaccination shot, that’s only 86.5% — my math tells me that 92.7 is bigger than 86.5 — Dublin, 96.2%; Pleasanton, 96.8% vaccinated. We’ve got some work to do. 86.5 is not bad, that’s a good number, but we have a lot of work to do to get everybody vaccinated that wants to be vaccinated.”

Haubert said the county is

working on implementing its Home Together 2026 program aimed at eradicating homelessness. “I know that’s a big, audacious, far-reaching, may never get there kind of goal but we’re going to get as close as we can to it,” he said.

“At our last point-in-time count, we went around everywhere — every street, every corner, every valley, every creek — and we counted 174 people in Livermore unsheltered, homeless,” Haubert said, adding, “Another 68, that we knew, counted in a hotel room somewhere, sheltered somewhere but don’t have a home. 242 people in Livermore don’t have a home.”

He mentioned the 24-unit Vineyard 2.0 supportive housing and services development in Livermore as one of the steps that the county is helping with to combat homelessness by providing some of the funding. With construction on the project already underway, completion is estimated for the summer of 2023.

Haubert also talked about the county’s support of One Nation Dream Makers, an organization founded by U.S. Army veteran and Livermore resident Ronnie Forbes that distributes donated food across the Bay Area. The county assisted Forbes in transforming an old fire station located in Livermore at 1617 College Ave. into a food bank.

Haubert briefly mentioned the proposal by his fellow county supervisors Richard Valle and Dave Brown to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 5.08 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code to prohibit certain activities and devices at rodeos, including the event of wild cow milking and the usage of bucking straps, spurs and non-release ropes.

The ordinance was initially set to be introduced at the Aug. 9 board meeting but was pulled from the agenda upon the request of Supervisor Nate Miley. “We’ve taken about three hours of testimony on this item,” Miley said in his comments during the meeting explaining why he asked for the issue to be pulled from the agenda. He added that the Rowell Ranch Rodeo, owned and operated by the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, is within the portion of the county that he represents and would be impacted by the ordinance.

Miley said the ordinance did not go through the proper process of receiving input from the county’s agricultural advisory committees, the public and other stakeholders before being placed on the agenda, which he felt was inappropriate and insulting to him and Haubert whose districts include venues where rodeos are held. Miley noted



RON ESSEX PHOTOGRAPHY

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert gave a talk in Livermore highlighting key priorities and projects underway.

the issue would return to the board agenda at its regular meeting set for Sept. 20 — unless Valle and Brown choose to withdraw the item before then.

Toward the end of last month, Haubert’s office had announced that he would be hosting a town hall event in Livermore to discuss the proposed ordinance on Sept. 6 but the event was canceled and it has not yet been rescheduled to a new date.

Other issues Haubert touched on were efforts to support the wine country including the South

Livermore sewer extension project, which will be on the Nov. 8 general election ballot as Measure P and the proposed amendments to the county’s Measure D — also headed to the ballot this fall — which aim to allow more flexibility for the size and location of buildings and expand the permitted wine country visitor-serving uses.

Haubert expressed his support for both of those initiatives.

He also highlighted efforts to improve transportation countywide and particularly in Livermore including enhancing safety on rural

roads within the city like Tesla Road and Patterson Pass Road and the Valley Link commuter light rail project which he noted is not a Board of Supervisors project; however, the Alameda County Transportation Commission is one of the agencies involved which all five county supervisors are members of. “As a commissioner I’m dedicated to supporting Valley Link,” he said.

Haubert closed out his speech by spotlighting his “open door policy,” encouraging community members to reach out to him and his staff with concerns, questions or issues. ■

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PLEASANTON C CANDIDAT

Housing, water supply, public safety among key issues at Weekly election forum

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES

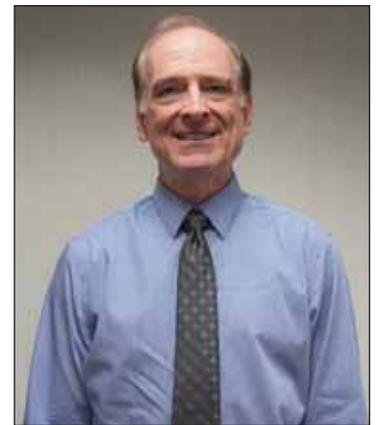
Finding places in Pleasanton to build affordable housing units in order to meet the state's mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation is going to be one of the top priorities for the upcoming City Council.

Nibert, a 35-year resident of Pleasanton and a current member of the city's Planning Commission, said he does support affordable housing in areas where it makes sense.

"We all agree that more affordable housing is needed, and I support the increased developments of affordable housing in places where it's appropriate and makes sense," Nibert said. "The city has already been successful with affordable housing, and we will do more."

But what he said he does not agree with is the state taking away the city's local control.

"Working as a planning commissioner, I see our hardworking staff



Jeff Nibert

in the planning department," Nibert said. "They are very capable of doing the work to implement standard processes and to make sure that permit conditions are complied with. The state has taken that local expertise away from Pleasanton."

He said taking away those standard processes of city and public review allows developers to "just check off the boxes and the city must give them a permit."

He said it allows projects such as the proposed Harrison Street development — a five-story, mixed-use building on the edge of downtown with no onsite parking — to get approved even though the majority of the community have issues with the height and lack of parking.

"That monstrosity in Harrison Street should never be built. Of course, it probably will," Nibert said. "This is more appropriate at another location. There are other places in Pleasanton where we could use that type of policy. This is not it."

On the other side of the argument, however, was Wallace who is running for the same District 1 seat.

Wallace, a 22-year resident of the Tri-Valley and a political staffer who currently works as a district director for Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Berkeley), said he wanted to run in this year's election mainly to shift the tone regarding affordable housing.

He cited a recent study done by the city of Pleasanton that he said showed that the No. 1 priority for Pleasanton residents was the lack of affordable housing and the cost of living in the city. He said in the same



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The five Pleasanton City Council candidates, seated on the council dais, participate in an election forum on Monday night moderated by the Pleasanton Weekly.

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

New housing developments, safe drinking water and public safety were just some of the topics that five Pleasanton City Council candidates running in the November election addressed during a public forum this week.

Participating in the live two-hour event in the council chambers at the Pleasanton Civic Center were newcomer candidates Jeff Nibert and Dean Wallace running for City Council District 1 and incumbent Councilmember Julie Testa and

challengers Joel Liu and Jamie Yee for District 3.

The Nov. 8 general election will be Pleasanton's first time following a district-based format for City Council seats, with District 1 representing the northwest Pleasanton neighborhoods and District 3 representing the southwestern part of the city.

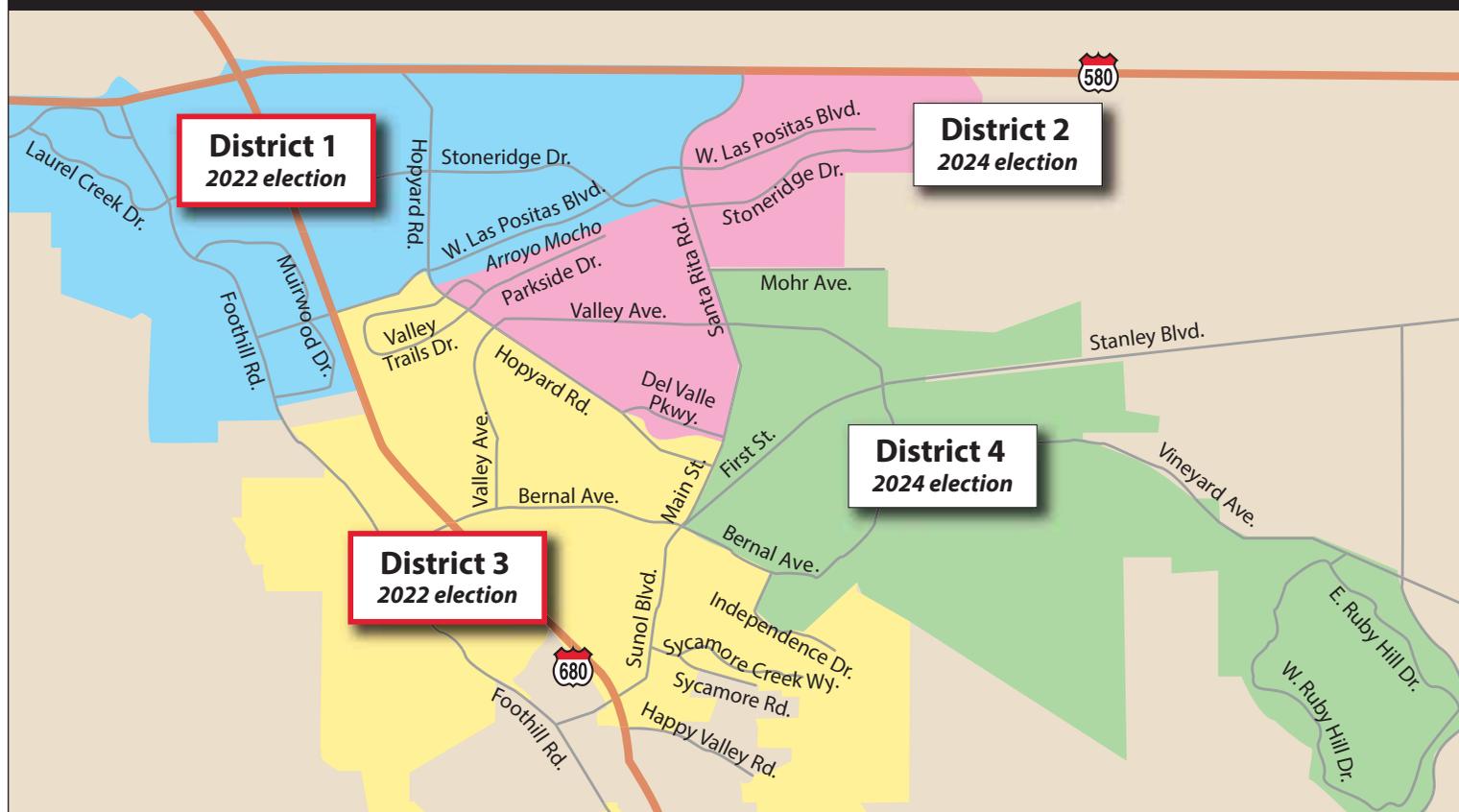
Both positions are four-year terms on the City Council. At least one seat is guaranteed to change over as current Councilmember Kathy Narum is termed out this year.

Presented by the Pleasanton Weekly on Monday evening, the

forum was hosted in-person along with a livestream option and moderated by Weekly publisher Gina Channell Wilcox and editor Jeremy Walsh.

All five candidates answered questions at the same time, regardless of district, during the debate. "While only voters in districts 1 and 3 will be able to cast a ballot for their preferred candidate, council members represent the entire city," Wilcox told the audience. "It's important that all residents get to know the candidates and hear about their views, values and vision for the city's future."

Pleasanton electoral district boundaries



KRISTIN BROWN

Map shows boundaries for Pleasanton City Council election districts. 2022 marks the first year for the city under district-based elections. District 1 in the northwest (shown in blue) and District 3 in the southwest (in yellow) are on the ballot this year.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS DEBATE

survey, 70% of respondents said the cost of housing in Pleasanton was a serious or very serious concern.

“When it comes to building affordable housing in the city, the city has failed,” Wallace said.

He said he supports a balanced and well-planned-out affordable housing plan in Pleasanton and that the only reason the city lost its local control to projects like the Harrison Street project is because the city did not do enough in the last five years to meet its state housing goals.

“(Senate Bill) 35, was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2017. That’s five years ago,” Wallace said. “The city is now at five years to take the steps needed so that a project like Harrison Street wouldn’t happen in the first place.”

He said in SB 35, there is a provision that says if the city meets its housing goals and needs, those types of projects would not be allowed to be streamlined.

“I think it’s a failure on the city’s part ... to take proactive measures to make sure a project like that doesn’t happen,” Wallace said. “The city could have been engaging with the developer a long time ago to make sure that whatever is built there is done in a way that makes sense for that community.”

Both Wallace and Nibert did agree on other topics discussed in the forum including the focus on getting clean, non-contaminated water to residents and maintaining the city’s public safety.

“I think this is one of the most important questions that we’re going to face this election cycle, when it comes to PFAS or the forever chemicals that are seeping into our water supply,” Wallace said.

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, have been widely used and long-lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time.

In recent years, city officials have discovered PFAS in the city’s groundwater supply facilities — specifically in the city-maintained wells — and have been working to address the problem. The council recently pressed pause on a PFAS treatment and wells rehabilitation project to weigh out other options like outsourcing the rest of its water needs to regional water providers such as the Zone 7 Water Agency.

“I think that given all the uncertainties that currently exist around what an acceptable level is, what the cost will be, what’s currently in the water, I think that pause was a good thing,”



Dean Wallace

Wallace said. “I support looking into all the possible solutions to this problem, which includes blending of water, greater treatment of water or looking for new supplies of water.”

Nibert said that being an engineer and a project manager would give him the experience to tackle such a large project.

He said that he also agrees with the decision to pause the treatment project because the city needs to consider things such as the cost of the project — which was last projected by the city to cost \$46 million — resources and the scope of the project.

“I support the decision of the council to take a pause right now and take a look at what the alternatives are and the regional water quality supply alternatives,” Nibert said. “In the meantime, the treatment option remains the plan. It’s still a viable option, and it’s one that I would support if it is indeed selected.”

Both District 1 candidates also concurred that the city’s police department is doing a good job in maintaining public safety and that there is no need for additional oversight apart from the City Council with input from the recently formed Police Chief’s Advisory Board.

“The effectiveness of the Police Chief’s Advisory Board is something that I have heard very good things about,” Nibert said. “In regard to community policing, I’m so proud of the efforts that our police departments and our police professionals have made in terms of getting out there among the public and establishing relations to improve not only the image, but to convey to people the good work that is being done.”

Wallace said that he will pledge to preserve funding for our public safety and school resource officers and said that even though he doesn’t think it’s necessary, if the need for more police oversight arises he will be the first to call for more reporting.

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

The competitors for City Council District 3 — Liu, Testa and Yee — all had different views on residential growth in Pleasanton and how the city should balance new affordable housing.

Yee, a former Pleasanton school board trustee for 12 years, said she supports affordable housing done right and that even though the city must retain its local control, it should look to build more workforce housing.

“Workforce housing is something that I’ve been a huge advocate for many, many years,” Yee said. “Being on the school board, it was painfully obvious to us that teachers did not live in our community.”

She also said she hears a lot from parents who are worried they won’t be able to live near their grandchildren because their children can’t move back to Pleasanton due to the high housing costs.

“I think the council really needs to balance what is required by the state and our desire to have more affordable housing,” Yee said. “I really believe that if we have a functional council that can work together, we can figure out ways to make that happen.”

Liu, chair of the city’s Committee on Energy and the Environment, also said that the city needs more workforce housing for the teachers and firefighters who can’t afford to live in Pleasanton but added that the city needs to retain its local control. He used the Harrison Street project, which he lives near, as an example of poor policy-making with SB 35.

“Housing is a very critical issue in our city,” Liu said. “We do need housing for teachers, firefighters, and many other working families, but the location of that policy is wrong.”

He said the city needs to work to regain its local control to maintain Pleasanton’s history of well-executed planning and to work with legislators to find solutions so similar future projects can be avoided.

Testa, who is in her fourth year serving on the City Council, agreed to every candidate’s point of maintaining local control, but she took it a step further in saying that the city needs to fight more against the state’s mandated housing laws.

“In our last RHNA cycle, we actually built 370 affordable housing units,” she said. “In fact, Pleasanton built a higher percentage of our affordable housing than any other city in Alameda County.”

But Testa said that was still not enough to meet the state’s housing demands.

“The state housing numbers are unrealistic,” she said. “The state has to help us with the funding because we’ve been set up to fail. They know



FILE PHOTO

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown, who is unopposed this fall, spoke with the Weekly about her priorities for the term ahead.

Mayor Brown talks about plans for second term

Uncontested incumbent says housing, safe water are among top priorities

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown told the Weekly she was relieved after finding out earlier this summer that she was unchallenged for the upcoming Nov. 8 election.

Brown said she saw it as “a positive affirmation that I’ve worked hard for the last 10 years in elected office to represent residents.”

“I won easily in the last election, in 2020, and then in 2016 as a council member I had more votes than anyone in the history of Pleasanton when I was elected. So I think that is affirmation that I am doing a good job for our voters, for our residents and our businesses,” Brown said.

Poised for a second two-year term as mayor, Brown previously served as a regular City Council member from 2012 to 2020. Since she won the mayoral seat in the November 2020 election, Brown has been a leading voice on the council in addressing several issues that are still ongoing.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Brown said tackling the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation law stating Pleasanton must create nearly 6,000 new housing units will be one of the council’s biggest challenges.

“That is a lot of housing units that we’re looking to zone land for, but we don’t know how to zone land as a city,” Brown said.

She said the council is working diligently to ensure that those units are in locations that don’t negatively impact existing residents and businesses, which will require careful planning from city staff.

“That’s the art of successful community planning, is putting these new houses in locations that have access to transit and what we call walkable communities,” Brown said.

But she said that because Pleasanton isn’t that big of a city, they are starting to run out of space to put these affordable housing sites.

She said developments like the proposed five story, mixed-use building with 46 affordable housing units on Harrison Street pose a challenge to commercial services that the city still needs. She said her main problem with the Harrison Street project, apart from the lack of parking, is the height — and she hopes the city can work with the developer to follow city guidelines for building height in the downtown area.

“It’s unrealistic that you could have 46 units and no parking in our community,” Brown said. “The ACE train does not provide enough transit options for trying to live without a vehicle; it’s not a good fit.”

But affordable housing options for the Stoneridge Shopping Center property is something that Brown said she was excited about and is looking forward to working with staff in revitalization efforts.

“How to make that development area updated, with an increase in the housing density, but making it feel like Pleasanton is going to be a big task in front of the City Council,” the mayor said. “I really want that area to feel like Pleasanton. I want it to have a historic vibe in the open

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 13

we do not have the \$1.5 billion in subsidy that would be required to build our RHNA affordable housing requirements.”

She said she has been working with a group coalition of elected officials from several California cities to fight back against the state's Department of Housing and Community Development so projects like Harrison Street won't happen again.

She argued that a state legislative audit shows the RHNA numbers are incorrect and that the city must do everything to push back against giving up its local control.

“Only 29 cities out of the entire state actually were able to meet their affordable housing goals. Only 29 across the state, and those were cities that were so small that they had tiny, tiny little numbers,” Testa said. “We have been set up to fail. All cities are being set up to fail with these mandates because they want the ministerial streamlining.”

But Yee, much like District 1 candidate Wallace, said that SB 35 only penalizes cities that didn't do their job, like Pleasanton.

“We had five years to come up with the numbers in the plan and that didn't happen, so the city actually gave up its control,” Yee said.

However, she did have a problem with the Harrison Street project in that the main reason the state chose that location is because of the close transportation option of the ACE train, which Yee said made no sense given that the train doesn't run outside of commute times.

She said weaving that fact into



Joel Liu



Julie Testa



Jamie Yee

some type of provision at the state level could help in pushing back the project.

Treating PFAS in the city's wells and overall water safety is a top priority for all three District 3 candidates.

Both Liu and Yee said it was a good idea for Testa and the rest of the current council to halt the treatment and well rehabilitation project in order to assess other options.

“I think the pause was a good idea only because my experience in making really tough decisions has to do with making sure that you have that data, and I feel we're at a place right now where there's just not enough known about it and all the different options aren't really brought forward yet,” Yee said.

She and Liu said the city needs to work more closely with Zone 7 to address the aging wells and find different solutions to get safe water for Pleasanton residents.

“There should be no PFAS in our water. It's a man-made chemical,” Testa added, saying that with the shutdown of one well means

the city will most likely shut down its other wells.

“We do have short-term options and that would be to purchase water, more water instead of just 80% from Zone 7,” Testa said. The city previously used its wells to distribute the other 20% to its residents.

The safety of the community was another top priority for the three candidates with Liu saying it would be his main focus if elected.

“Public safety is my number one priority in my platform,” Liu said.

He said he supports Assembly Bill 481, which allows the council to approve police use of military-like equipment, saying it's important for officers to be well-equipped for any situation but that they should also be educating the public on how the equipment is meant to keep them safe.

Testa also said she likes the idea of being responsible for that usage of equipment but, unlike every other candidate on the forum, said that there should be police oversight, just not by the City Council.

MAYOR

Continued from Page 13

air and be family-friendly.”

She said working with current land owners of the Stoneridge Mall and neighboring residents to come up with a comprehensive plan will be difficult, but not impossible.

JDEDZ AND COSTCO

Another big-ticket item that Brown said she is excited to see through is the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone, which is tied to the construction of a Costco Wholesale store with a gas station in Pleasanton.

The council recently approved revised traffic mitigation plans so Costco can construct the necessary road and transit infrastructure to redevelop approximately 40 acres of land fronting Johnson Drive, near Stoneridge Drive and Interstate 680.

Brown said now that the traffic mitigation litigation is complete, she got word that the Costco could open as early as next September.

She said she thinks because of the proximity from the freeways and the fact that residents have been asking for a Costco in Pleasanton will make the store very successful and will bring in a lot of sales tax for the city.

“I think it's going to be a very successful store,” Brown said. “A lot of residents in Pleasanton shop at the two regional Costcos in Danville and Livermore, so it'll be a good tax base for us. It will be a busy store.”

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Outside of housing developments, water safety and drought conservation is Brown's other top priority heading into her second term.

She said she is proud of residents for meeting, and exceeding, the 15% water reduction goal the governor asked for the city's cut back in irrigation and outdoor watering.

She said that apart from using recycled water for irrigation throughout the city, more still needs to be done in regards to finding other ways of increasing Pleasanton's water supply and treating the city-owned wells that are contaminated with PFAS.

PFAS, technically known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, have been widely used and long-lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. In recent years, city officials have discovered PFAS in the city's groundwater supply facilities — specifically in the city-maintained wells — and have been working to address the problem.

“I want to support clean drinking water, safe drinking water for all of our residents,” Brown said. “So we're looking at options like taking all of our water from Zone 7. We're looking at options of cleaning the water in our own three wells before it's distributed. We're looking at drilling new wells, and we are looking at rehabbing the wells we have.” ■



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The candidates for Pleasanton City Council are (from left) Joel Liu in District 3, Jeff Nibert in District 1, Julie Testa in District 3, Dean Wallace in District 1 and Jamie Yee in District 3.

'The Elixir of Love' to usher in new Livermore Valley Opera season

Group also performing Puccini classic 'Tosca' in March

BY NICOLE GONZALES



Alexander Boyer



Christopher Bozeka



Elena Galván



Erie Mills



Ann Toomey

Audiences of the Livermore Valley Opera will be able to experience classic, dramatized Italian vocal performances in the company's upcoming fall and spring productions.

LVO recently announced its 2022-23 series of performances to be hosted at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore. The professional opera group, the only one of its kind in the Tri-Valley, said the 31st season will include two fully staged operas starting next month.

"Opera has something for everyone: singing, acting, dance, sets, costumes, lighting and great storytelling," Erie Mills said. "We hopefully bring beauty and joy into people's lives."

Mills has acted as artistic director of the Livermore-based organization

for the past seven years, and dedicated an entire career to opera singing, teaching and coaching.

LVO — a nonprofit founded in 1992 — performs two feature operas per season. "We want to give our audiences something familiar and something they perhaps haven't seen," Mills said. "Both of these operas are considered standard repertoire however they show great contrast."

The first show of the season — Gaetano Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love". A charming comedy as Mills calls it, the opera was first performed by singers in 1832. The artistic director revealed it is one that has never before been performed at the Bankhead Theater.

Stage-directed by Robert Herriot, a returning member of the

Livermore Valley Opera, live shows will be from Oct. 1-9.

"We want people to know how stories can be told through music," Mills explained. "People have been expressing themselves through song for centuries, and we hope it will continue."

Following the season's first major production, the company is primed to perform Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca" from March 4-12.

"Tosca" is a dramatic tragedy (premiered in 1900) filled with love, jealousy, betrayal, torture and murder," Mills said. "Tosca" was performed 10 years ago in the Bankhead Theater, and we decided it was time for its return."

Both feature productions will be accompanied by full orchestral performances conducted by Alex

Katsman. Performances are sung in Italian and displayed with English subtitles for audience members.

Season 31 for the opera group is poised to host additional special features and events during its run. Members involve themselves with "The Italian Affair", the fundraiser of the season, and student outreach programs.

The opera group hosts youth and community outreach programs where performers talk with students about opera, enriching them with the arts.

"Students need to know about opera as an art form. We tell the stories through music," Mills said. "Everyone can sing, and everyone loves to sing."

Mills was recently honored as 2022 Distinguished Artist of the

American Prize. Reflecting on the milestones, Mills said it felt thrilling to receive a recognition that was awarded for a career of sustained artistic excellence.

"I feel very blessed that I can continue to work in this wonderful field, and I want the people in the Tri-Valley to love opera as much as I do," Mills said.

"Our audiences have come to expect beautiful singing and orchestral playing, thoughtful stage direction and good acting, with lovely sets and costumes. I think the 2022-23 season will be no exception," Mills said. "We strive to produce the best opera performances we can."

Tickets and more information can be found on the Bankhead Theater website, livermorearts.org. ■

Library celebrating Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month with event series

Movie night, Aztec dancing, crafting and more in Livermore through Oct. 15

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Latinx community and heritage will be the focus of a month-long series of activities set to be hosted by the Livermore Public Library this fall.

The library has announced a string of events in celebration of the upcoming Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from this week through Oct. 15 and honors culture, history and traditions of Latinx and Hispanic people in various ways. The library will be hosting these free events both in-person and online.

"Our mission is to connect all people with information, education, and inspiring experiences to foster community," said Jacquelyn Martinez, a librarian in Livermore. "The library is celebrating Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month to honor and celebrate the rich, diverse history of Latinx, Hispanic, and Latino-identified Americans ... by providing events and resources that recognized

and celebrated their achievements and contributions."

Martinez said the specific activities were brainstormed by library staff. Although she encourages attendance at all events, main activities will showcase Latinx and Hispanic literature and performance art.

The Authors and Arts Series is a discussion-based forum relating to art, history, and cultural resilience by Latinx/Hispanic presenters, according to Martinez.

The activities incorporate various cultures from Latino cultures around the world, like Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, Puerto Rico and others.

Aztec dancing will be performed by In Lak'Ech Danza Azteca, a traditional dance and drumming group. Martinez said the demonstration is poised to "educate the community on an indigenous culture that is still relevant in Mexico and America."

Other highlights to look out for

include craft projects and free movie night. Library staff hope these activities will encourage the community to respectfully interact with the hosted gatherings.

"We hope to empower the community to study and honor Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month," Martinez said. "The library is a safe, inclusive space for all. We encourage life-long learning."

To find more information, dates and times, visit library.livermoreca.gov.

In-person events

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15: Pick up a free Take & Make craft kit with a Taino rock carvings tool set at any Livermore Public Library branch.

Sept. 16: Free movie night hosted at Rincon Library will show a children's Disney movie, in partnership with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Guests are encouraged to bring picnic items or seating.

Sept. 19: The Rincon Library will host a game of the Mexican bingo game, Loteria. Participants are able to win prizes and other items.

Sept. 20: Learn about the history of Guatemalan Worry Dolls, and make one as well, at the Springtown Library. Supplies to be provided while lasting.

Sept. 23: Create a Mola Craft, paper Columbian craft, at the Rincon Library.

Sept. 24: In Lak'Ech Danza Azteca will perform at Civic Center Library traditional Aztec dance and drumming. Visitors will also learn about indigenous culture and history in this demonstration.

Oct. 3: In Lak'Ech Danza Azteca is to perform once more at Rincon Library, showing traditional Aztec dance and drumming.

Oct. 4: Mexican Tin Art is an event hosted for teens, grades 6-12. Supplies will be provided as available

at Springtown Library. Guests are to register beforehand.

Oct. 5: Mexican Tin Art for teens event will appear at Civic Center Library.

Oct. 7: Mexican Tin Art hosted at Rincon Library will be the final craft of this kind for the Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month.

Oct. 11: Civic Center Library will also host a game of Loteria, the Mexican bingo game.

Zoom events

Sept. 20: Authors and Arts presents "Flying Free" with Cecilia Aragon, an award-winning author.

Sept. 29: Authors and Arts features artist Rosie Mottsmith, who will be interviewed about her art and creative process.

Oct. 13: The final Authors and Arts event will highlight "From Walls to Bridges" with Marisa Villegas. ■

Charo among additions to Bankhead Presents slate

Music of Ronstadt Revue, The Fabulous Thunderbirds also coming to Livermore

By JEREMY WALSH

Livermore Valley Arts this week announced three performances added to its Bankhead Presents schedule in the new year, each a familiar music and entertainment act — or tribute to one — as part of the organization's 15th anniversary season.

Highlighting the new additions is Charo coming to Livermore on April 3, along with The Fabulous Thunderbirds on March 17 and the Linda Ronstadt tribute show, Ronstadt Revue featuring Gesenia and special guest John Beland on March 22.

Tickets went on sale yesterday afternoon for LVA members with first dibs, with general public access to follow next Saturday (Sept. 24).

First up is American blues rock band The Fabulous Thunderbirds, perhaps best known for their '80s hits "Tuff Enuff" and "Wrap It Up".

"For over 30 years, The Fabulous Thunderbirds have been the quintessential American band: the group's distinctive and powerful sound, influenced by a diversity of musical styles, manifested itself into a unique musical hybrid," LVA officials said.

The band will be on the Bankhead Theater stage in downtown Livermore at 8 p.m. March 17.

Then the next week, Tri-Valley residents can enjoy the eclectic music of 11-time Grammy winner Linda Ronstadt as performed by Ronstadt Revue with singer Gesenia and a special appearance by Ronstadt's former

band director Beland. Ronstadt, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member who has retired from performing herself, sold more than 100 million albums in her career across country, rock, Latin, Motown and Broadway.

"Fortunately, Ms. Ronstadt's musical legacy now lives on through the stunning talents of Gesenia and her Ronstadt Revue. Ronstadt Revue shows, performed in painstaking detail in both English and Spanish, span every musical genre of Ms. Ronstadt's 40-plus year career," LVA officials said.

Ronstadt Revue will be in Livermore at 7:30 p.m. March 22.

As the calendar turns to April, the one and only Charo will bring her singing, performing, classical guitar playing and storytelling talents to the Bankhead.

"This household name musician, singer, comedienne, and stage and screen performer has been an integral proponent of contemporary Latin music," LVA officials said. "Instantly recognizable for her witty humor, lovable accent, and her mastery of the flamenco guitar, it is Charo's trademark expression 'Cuchi-Cuchi,' which has endeared her to the world and made the name Charo synonymous with fun and excitement."

Charo will appear at the Bankhead at 7:30 p.m. April 3.

For tickets and more information about all Bankhead Presents shows, visit www.LivermoreArts.org. ■



Gesenia will perform as part of the Ronstadt Revue coming to the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on March 22.

Valley Concert Chorale set for 60th anniversary season

'Christmas Joy' in December

By JEREMY WALSH

The Valley Concert Chorale, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, has unveiled the performance schedule for its upcoming season, which begins in December.

Under the direction of John Emery Bush, chorale members

strive "to engage audiences in the transforming power of music by sharing their passion and joy in live performance. They are dedicated to excellence in singing choral music of all genres, nurturing the next generation of singers, and supporting musical endeavors in the Tri-Valley community."

The first VCC concert will be the annual "Sing-It-Yourself Messiah" on Dec. 2, followed by its "Christmas Joy" being performed Dec. 10 and 11.

"Joyous music for the holiday season featuring choruses from Bach's 'Magnificat in D', a choral arrangement of 'A Soalin' made famous by singing group Peter, Paul and Mary, plus carols and a fun arrangement of 'Jingle Bells'. As is tradition, the audience is invited to sing-along for a selection of carols," VCC officials said.

Then in the new year, VCC's concert on March 18 and 19 will be "Choral Currents: Beautiful



The Valley Concert Chorale is getting ready for its upcoming 60th anniversary season.

Melodies from American Composers" — including works from Norwegian-born American composer Ola Gjeilo, young American composer Jake Runestad and Grammy Award winner Eric Whitacre.

On May 13, the chorale will perform "By George It's Gershwin, The Beatles and more!"

"Light, lively and fun featuring Gershwin favorites 'Fascination Rhythm' and selections from 'Porgy and Bess', Beatles classics 'Hey Jude', 'Let It Be' and 'Yesterday', plus a tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber with selections from 'Cats', 'Sunset Boulevard' and 'Phantom of the Opera'," VCC officials said.

An additional show on the VCC schedule will be a benefit concert with pianist Daniel Glover in February — exact date to be determined.

Venues for all concerts will be announced at a future time, according to the chorale.

The organization is also hosting an audition opportunity by appointment next Monday (Sept. 19) at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore

"The chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music," VCC reps said. "The 15-minute appointment will include vocalizing (to determine range), reading from one page of a motet, and a clapping exercise. Singers must commit to the season with Monday evening rehearsals."

To learn more, visit www.valley-concertchorale.org or call 925-866-4003. ■

Funding available to help local artists survive pandemic

Applications open through Sept. 28

People working in the East Bay's arts and culture sector can apply for funding to help them survive the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the East Bay Relief Fund for Individuals in the Arts.

Grants of up to \$2,000 are available to artists, teaching artists, culture bearers, and others working in the arts and culture sector in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The application period opened last Tuesday and continues to Sept. 28.

More than \$400,000 is available this year in the third year of funding.

"Artists, culture bearers, teaching artists, and individuals working in the arts and culture sector have been hit hard by the pandemic and the resulting economic challenges," Ted Russell, director of arts strategy and ventures at the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, said in a statement. "Simultaneously, federal and state funding programs have not been readily available to this sector."

The Kenneth Rainin Foundation is leading the fund with support from the Hellman Foundation, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, Gerbode Foundation, and East Bay Community Foundation.

The Center for Cultural Innovation, a group concerned with the economic security of artists, will administer the fund.

"Artists and arts workers play a significant role in making our communities healthy and vibrant," Laura Poppiti, CCI program director, said in a statement. "We can't risk losing them."

CCI will distribute the grants and aims to reflect the East Bay's diversity in the grants by including artists from historically underserved groups and artists financially vulnerable due to COVID-19.

Individuals can go to <https://www.cciarts.org/EastBayReliefFund.html> for funding guidelines and to apply. ■

—Keith Burbank, Bay City News

POLICE BULLETIN

Domestic incident leads to shelter advisory at apartment complex

Residents at the Civic Square Apartments complex near downtown Pleasanton woke up Wednesday morning to a shelter-in-place following a domestic dispute that ultimately ended with one arrest.

Jacob Mauck, 34, was arrested and booked into the Santa Rita Jail on suspicion of criminal threats, brandishing a firearm, and being a felon in possession of a firearm, according to a police news release.

The standoff started at 7:36 a.m. when police said they got a call regarding a domestic dispute at the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue.

"When officers arrived, the victim exited the residence and confirmed that a man, Jacob Mauck, was still inside and armed with a handgun," according to the news release.

Police then issued an AC Alert calling for a shelter-in-place at the apartment complex and for nearby residents.

They also clarified that it was not a hostage situation, attempting to correct information included in an AC Alert from the city of Livermore on Wednesday morning that described it as a hostage situation for which PPD was calling for SWAT support.

At around 10:30, Mauck surrendered following negotiation efforts from PPD, the Crisis Negotiation Team, East County Tactical Team and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office UAV unit, police said. The shelter-in-place order was then lifted at 11:05 a.m.

—Christian Trujano

In other news

The Marin County District Attorney's Office announced last week it has opened an investigation into an altercation between two San Rafael police officers and a man after bodycam footage of his bloody arrest went viral and the officers involved have been placed on leave.

Neither the District Attorney's Office nor the San Rafael Police Department are going into detail about the July 27 altercation, but bodycam footage reveals what transpired and SRPD Police Chief David Spiller, formerly of Pleasanton PD, said he is "concerned" by the incident.

In the video, an unidentified man who is a day laborer can be seen on an industrial side street in the Canal District of San Rafael sitting on the curb with two of his friends. They are drinking beer.

Officer Daisy Mazariegos asked the men what they were doing and they responded, "nothing." Mazariegos points out that there are open containers of beer and asks to see

one man's identification. At that point, Officer Brandon Nail arrives. As the man stands up, seemingly to get his ID from his pants, Nail can be heard yelling, "Hey, sit the f--- down!"

Mazariegos again asks to see his ID and he says he can't get it unless he stands up. As he goes to do so, Mazariegos tells him to sit down and then Nail forces him to the ground, punches him in the nose and pushes his face into the asphalt.

As the man is taken to the squad car, his face bright red with blood, he can be heard saying "I didn't do anything."

On Sept. 2, Spiller released an open letter to the San Rafael community about the altercation, for which he took full responsibility, saying that his department is currently conducting an investigation into it.

"I am both personally and professionally concerned about this incident and how it impacts the trust our department has worked hard to build in this community," reads the letter. "I want to assure all members of the San Rafael community that not only is this incident being critically examined, but we will examine our behaviors, including that of our leadership, and for those department members that have fallen short, they will be held accountable." ■

—Katy St. Clair, BCN Foundation

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Sept. 8

Drug violation

- 8:51 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 3:05 p.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road
- 11:27 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Criminal threats

- 10:37 a.m. on the 4300 block of Foothill Road

Theft

- 11:12 a.m. on the 5900 block of Gibraltar Drive
- 3:52 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Sept. 7

Fraud

- 1:04 p.m. on the 1800 block of Valley Avenue

Vandalism

- 4:12 p.m. on the 3100 block of Paseo Robles
- 7:58 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Alcohol violation

- 9:24 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Sept. 6

Vandalism

- 6:37 a.m. on the 2000 block of Spring Creek Terrace
- 10:47 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Drug violation

- 7:19 a.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Domestic battery

- 8:21 a.m. on Kottinger Drive
- 1:00 p.m. on Case Avenue

Theft

- 9:17 a.m. on the 7200 block of Valley Trails Drive
- 1:18 p.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 5:52 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road
- 6:48 p.m., 3300 block of Sandstone Court; catalytic converter theft

Sept. 5

Graffiti offense

- 7:16 a.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

Drug violation

- 8:34 a.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Theft from auto

- 10:24 a.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

Sept. 4

Vandalism

- 8:09 a.m. on the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Drug violation

- 9:44 a.m. on Owens and Hacienda drives

Theft

- 11:20 a.m. on the 5800 block of San Juan Way
- 12:46 p.m., 000 block of Irby Ranch Drive; theft from auto

Domestic battery

- 6:21 p.m. on Springhouse Drive

Warrant arrest

- 9:47 p.m. on the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Sept. 3

Warrant arrest

- 12:59 a.m. on the 2400 block of Santa Rita Road
- 9:25 a.m. on the 2900 block of Hopyard Road

Burglary

- 8:02 a.m. on the 100 block of Spring Street

Drug violation

- 8:45 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 12:03 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft

- 12:34 p.m. on the 2100 block of Camino Brazos
- 1:02 p.m., 3100 block of Cochise Way; auto theft
- 4:39 p.m. on the 4000 block of Pimlico Road

Sept. 2

Theft

- 3:16 a.m., 7600 block of Hillsdale Court; catalytic converter theft
- 10:02 a.m. on the 7600 block of Highlands Oaks Drive
- 10:07 a.m. on the 5300 block of Springdale Avenue
- 10:32 a.m. on the 4600 block of Corday Court
- 10:57 a.m. on the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Warrant arrest

- 9:26 a.m. on the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard

Alcohol violation

- 11:20 a.m. on the 4200 block of First Street

Sept. 1

Theft

- 1:28 p.m. on Iron Horse Regional Trail; bicycle theft
- 4:01 p.m. on the 3400 block of Streamside Circle
- 4:23 p.m., 4700 block of Sutter Gate Avenue; catalytic converter theft
- 4:29 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

Joseph "Joe" Buonsante

July 1, 1931 – August 12, 2022

TALENTED, CARING...

Joe was born in Mola di Bari, Italy to Pasquale and Graziella. Family immigrated to San Francisco where he and siblings: Tina, Rose and Andy grew up.

In 1963, Joe and (sweetheart) Philomena Colonna were married. In Pleasanton 1966, son, Patrick was born. Patrick married Sarah Beville in 2007 and they blessed us with granddaughters... Francesca and Vitalia. Joe & Phyl also Fostered: Linda, Diane and Gene.



Joe, Korean Veteran, earned Teacher Degree, Master of Arts degree from San Francisco State College under GI Bill. In 1992, he retired as Program Specialist from Pleasanton Unified School District.

Loved: sports, music, singing, (Broadway Chorus, Smooth Sounds Band, "Kismet", "George M", opera), artist, traveling, golfing and most of all...Family, (in-laws) and Friends!

Joe had many roles in: California Teachers Association, Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Italian Catholic Federation.

Forever in our Hearts!

Celebration of Life! Saturday, October 1, 2022 @ 1PM. St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1315 Lomita Ave., Livermore, CA

PAID OBITUARY

Charles Edward Arnett

December 21, 1935 – August 30, 2022

Charles Edward Arnett, known to family and friends as Chuck, passed away peacefully on August 30th with family at his side after a long illness.



Chuck grew up on a farm in Kentucky with parents Charles Galen Arnett and Mary McClain Arnett and sister, Wanda. Always industrious, he worked on the farm and then graduated from Murray State University with a degree in Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

After graduation, he married his sweetheart, Marlene, and the couple moved to Illinois where he taught science to high school students.

He then worked in laboratories and as a chemical sales rep. He found his true home in Pleasanton, CA, where he resided from 1964 until his passing. An ambitious and creative man, he then formed his own company, developing and producing products for the chemical industry.

Marlene passed away, leaving him a single father to their two young children. He then met his second wife, Patricia. She and her three daughters joined the family and Chuck became a loving step-father. They were married for thirty joyful years.

When he sadly became a widower once more, Chuck met and married Michelle, a widow herself. They shared many interests, and once more Chuck opened his heart to her, her two children and two grandchildren.

Chuck's many interests included sailing, yoga, hiking, reading and attending performing arts programs. He created stained glass pieces and was a skilled woodworker. He and Michelle were avid gardeners, growing mostly edible plants, which he enjoyed cooking. The kitchen became his chemistry lab upon retirement. Art museums were a favorite, as was travel to Alaska, Costa Rica, Mexico and others. He developed a keen interest in Zen Buddhism.

Locally, Chuck was a dedicated volunteer at the Bankhead Theatre, the Firehouse Theatre, Amador Theatre, the Village Theatre and the Museum on Main.

Chuck was a caring, dedicated and loving family man and a real Southern gentleman. He will be truly missed.

He is survived by his wife Michelle; children Gregory and Renee; step-children ML, Kim, Jenn, Lisha, and Brent; eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

PAID OBITUARY

GUEST OPINION

Costco is coming soon ... finally

BY TOM MURPHY

The purpose of this writing is not to start a series of conversations once again debating the justification of a new Costco in Pleasanton. Most residents are aware of the long history and events leading up to the final resolution to finally bring Costco to Pleasanton and meet the wishes of the majority of the people.



However, since Matt Sullivan was granted a featured article in the Opinion section of the Pleasanton Weekly on Aug. 19, I felt it necessary to voice a counter-opinion relative to his thoughts.

In his article, Matt pointed out that the current estimated cost of

the traffic mitigation infrastructure had escalated to \$34 million from \$21 million. This reflects the cost of inflation since the original proposal date, something we are all currently challenged with.

Opposition to the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone project in 2016 resulted in Measure MM, which the citizens of Pleasanton solidly voted against in favor of developing Costco and the other proposed businesses. The additional lawsuits initiated by Matt Sullivan and the small group that he led, in an attempt to overrule the vote of the people on Measure MM, caused substantial delays and additional costs to the project.

In addition, the delays in opening Costco and the other proposed developments on the site have cost the city and Pleasanton residents

the benefits of substantial tax revenue that would have been generated by an earlier opening date. This revenue could have been used to fund any number of additional projects benefiting the people of our city. A rough estimate is that it could have been approximately \$2 million per year following the opening of the businesses.

Assuming that Costco and the other businesses could have opened in 2020, that means that the potential cost to the city in infrastructure and lost tax revenue has been approximately \$17 million. Matt Sullivan and his group of dissenters are responsible for this.

Matt Sullivan has contributed to the early development of Pleasanton having served on the Pleasanton City Council and the Pleasanton Planning Commission and for

that he is to be thanked. However, he has been on the wrong side of this issue from the start and he and his followers have cost the residents tax revenue and lost opportunities for consumers by not allowing this project to move forward as desired by the people of Pleasanton.

Thanks to the current Mayor and City Council members for staying the course in delivering the project to the people. ■

Editor's note: Tom Murphy and his wife have lived in Pleasanton for 37 years and have enjoyed the benefits of Pleasanton planned development. They, along with many other residents, say they have been waiting too long for the benefits from the addition of Costco to Pleasanton. He believes that Costco is an American business success story and that it will be a positive addition to the Pleasanton business community.

LETTERS

Liu for District 3

I am supporting Joel Liu's candidacy for Pleasanton City Council to represent District 3 on the City Council.

Joel advocates for city/school partnership, safety and sustainability. Joel said, "This is what makes an ideal community, our shared goal should be to build a better Pleasanton together." Joel will bring corporate leadership experience and years of community service to the council. Joel currently serves as chair on the Pleasanton Committee on Energy and the Environment.

It was not that long ago that Pleasanton engaged in litigation against the state mandatory housing laws. That litigation cost Pleasanton taxpayers \$4 million. Pleasanton lost in that litigation. We have a current City Council member, Julie Testa, attempting to get the Pleasanton City Council to approve again, to join in litigation with other Bay Area cities currently litigating against the state mandatory housing laws.

Julie Testa's residence before final districting would have been in District 4. Testa is one of the three-vote majority currently serving on the Pleasanton City Council. That majority — Testa, Arkin and Brown — gerrymandered the districts, and voted on the Tangerine map to place Testa in District 3 because Testa is not electable in District 4. Pleasanton majority voters wanted the Lime map which did not divide neighborhoods, which is what the Tangerine map did.

I endorse and strongly recommend District 3 voters elect Joel Liu to represent District 3 on the Pleasanton City Council.

—Michael Austin

Marchand has the experience

Livermore is a great place to live. We've had a truly great City Council and city staff for the last several years helping to keep our city on-track financially, and maintaining the infrastructure that makes it vibrant. And it has not been easy. John Marchand has been a part of that success.

Marchand has served on the council and as our mayor during good times and tough times. He has demonstrated his ability to collaborate, listen to and work with citizens to achieve our community goals, and knows that regional approaches to big problems are the ones likely to succeed. His opponent has no experience on the City Council, on the Planning Commission or with creating regional collaborations to solve city problems.

Being mayor isn't just politics, it's a real job that requires knowledge and skill. Anyone who has run even a small business knows how hard it is. A city is a big business, with all the personnel, legal and fiscal issues, and a budget of over \$125 million. We deserve someone with proven skills and experience to guide Livermore forward.

We've done a lot of good work since the early 2000s when I moved to the Tri-Valley. Let's keep up the good work and be smart about how we chose our leadership. I wouldn't hire an inexperienced person to lead my business.

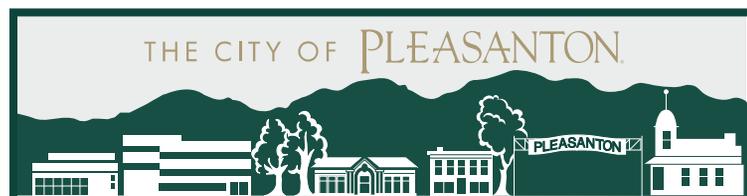
I'm voting for John Marchand and hope readers will respect the real job that being mayor is and consider the experience necessary to get the job done.

—Lisa Tromovitch

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.



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

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

- Bi-Annual update to the City Council regarding Police Department operations, services and activities
- Introduce and waive first reading of an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2238 approving the Pleasanton Police Department's Military Equipment Use Policy and approve the purchase of a command vehicle and crime scene investigation vehicle from IDV, Incorporated in the amount of \$1,326,711
- Introduce and waive first reading of an Ordinance creating Chapter 20.75 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code regarding Universal Design in new single-family, duplex and triplex residential development, and direct staff to amend accessibility conditions of approval for multi-family residential development

Youth Commission Special Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 7 p.m. – 157 Main Street, Room #3

- Selection of Commission Chair and Vice Chair for School Year 2022/23
- Review and Approve Commission Meeting Schedule for School Year 2022/23
- Review and Comment on the Youth Commission 2022/23 Work Plan
- Selection of Subcommittee Assignments for School Year 2022/23

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Strong start to season for Foothill girls' volleyball

Also: Amador Valley cross-country sweeps team titles at Ed Sias Invitational

The impressive early season for the Foothill girls' volleyball team continued, as the Falcons ran off three straight wins last week.

All three wins came in straight sets as the team moved to 10-1 on the season.

The week started with a 25-11, 25-21, 25-20 win over Dougherty Valley. Highlights came from Paige Bennett with 15 kills, 11 digs; Lulu Hoenninger with 10 kills, 2 blocks; Tehya Williams with 12 service points; Paige Nelson with 22 assists.

In the second game of the week, the Falcons took down Castro Valley 25-19, 25-14, 25-23. Foothill got great play from Bennett with 19 kills, and nine service points. Katie Salonga had 24 assists and 10

service points, with Mikayla Bulaon adding 11 service points and 7 digs.

The third match was the East Bay Athletic League opener and Foothill took down San Ramon Valley 25-20, 25-21, 25-21. Big play came from Salonga (35 assists, 13 service points, 12 digs), Bennett (19 kills, 16 digs), Kaycie Burdick (11 kills, 8 digs) and Hoenninger (6 kills, 4 aces, 2 blocks).

Amador Valley girls' water polo

The Dons took part in the always tough Acalanes Invitational and went 1-3 against a loaded field on Sept. 9-10.

The tournament started well with a 12-3 win over Rio Americano.

Evelyn McLaughlin led the way with 8 goals to pace the Amador attack.

Susan Swyers, Kate Harris and Regan Braga each had a goal, with Erin Brown scoring once as the Amador goalie. Brown also had 17 saves.

Game two that Friday saw the Dons fall 11-7 to Clovis, a traditional Central Section powerhouse.

Braga had 3 goals to pace the offense, with McLaughlin adding a pair of goals. Harris and Swyers each had 1 to round out the scoring.

Lily Keegan had 3 steals, 2 assists and a field block. Harris 3 blocks and 2 steals. Brown added 12 saves.

The first game last Saturday saw

Carondelet get a 12-5 win over the Dons.

Swyers, Keegan, McLaughlin, Braga and Brown each had a goal. Brown had 12 saves, with Katherine Nally adding 2 saves.

The final game of the tournament saw the Dons fall 11-8 to Archie Williams of San Anselmo.

McLaughlin once again led the scoring with 4 goals, with Harris adding a pair. Olivia Vollgraf and Braga had a goal each to round out the scoring.

Vollgraf added 3 steals and an assist. McLaughlin had 2 steals and an assist. Brown had a pair of assists, with Keegan and Braga getting an assist. Brown had 5 saves, and Nally made 2 saves.

Ed Sias Invitational

The Amador Valley cross-country program had a big day last Saturday at the Ed Sias Invitational, taking both the boys' and girls' team titles in the large school 2-mile race in Martinez.

The boys edged Clayton Valley by a point for the win, taking the 91-92 edge in points.

Ryken Mack led the Dons, finishing 12th with a time of 10:58.80.

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



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The rest of the top five runners for Amador were freshman Aiden Versteeg (15th, 11:04.0), sophomore Arran Gil-Gulati (16th, 11:05), junior Prithvi Rajesh (18th, 11:07) and junior Jacob Camacho (30th, 11:25).

Nathan Manesh of Dublin finished second, clocking a 10:26.90, just back of winner John Cooper of Wilcox, who ran a 10:23.80.

The Gaels were third in the team race with 103 points.

On the girls' side, the Dons had it a bit easier, finishing with 77 points, well clear of Los Gatos who was second with 99 points. Dublin was third here as well with 152 points.

There were individual runners in the race that did not count for team scores, so here are the Amador runners and their placing in the team competition: Tessa Jennings (7th, 13:20.40), Milla Zuniga (13th, 13:37.60), Dahlia Versteeg (15th, 13:40.10), Erika Petterson (19th, 13:49.90) and Kacie Wong (23rd, 14:06.05). ■

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.

Judge rejects lawsuits against A's stadium

Finds EIR 'sufficient and supported by substantial evidence'

An Alameda County Superior Court judge rejected legal challenges last week to the Oakland A's quest for a new stadium that had argued that the proposed ballpark at Howard Terminal would cause serious environmental harm to the surrounding port area.

The lawsuits, filed in April by the East Oakland Stadium Alliance, the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority and a handful of port industry and labor organizations, argued that officials with the city of Oakland did not properly vet the project's environmental repercussions when the Oakland City Council approved an environmental impact report for the proposal earlier this year.

Judge Brad Seligman ruled against the lawsuits on Sept. 8, writing in his decision that the city did not violate the California Environmental Quality Act and that analysis of the potential environmental and safety hazards was "sufficient and supported by substantial evidence."

Seligman also ruled that the city and the A's had sufficiently concluded that building a new stadium at the site of the Oakland Coliseum, where the A's currently play home games, would not be a viable alternative to the waterfront stadium as the plaintiff

organizations had argued in their lawsuits.

The Coliseum "is surrounded largely by industrial uses and does not have a waterfront or any natural features that would enhance the aesthetics and experience at the ballpark or allow for public access to such features," Seligman said in his decision.

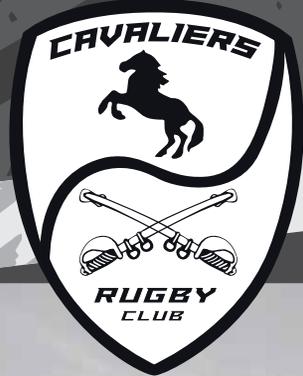
Mike Jacob — the vice president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuits — said in a statement on behalf of the East Oakland Stadium Alliance that the organizations were considering an appeal of the ruling to "correct the flawed" environmental impact report.

A's president Dave Kaval praised the ruling in a statement last week, saying it "validated" the environmental analysis conducted by the organization, the city and the Port of Oakland.

"We look forward to continuing our pursuit of building a ballpark at the Oakland waterfront," Kaval said.

A's and Major League Baseball officials have suggested the Howard Terminal proposal is the franchise's last attempt to remain in Oakland, and have floated Las Vegas as a potential alternative. ■

—Eli Walsh, BCN Foundation



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995 Fictitious Name Statement

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No.: 591684
 The following person doing business as: Soaring Falcon Mortgage; SF Mortgage Online; www.EZreversehomeloan.com; Giant Denali Capital, 7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 270, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Soaring Falcon Mortgage Corporation, 7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 270, Pleasanton, CA 94566, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Soaring Falcon Mortgage Corporation, a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein January 6, 2017. Signature of Registrant: Andrew Liu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 1, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022.)

Pacificwide Lending; Liu & Partners Properties; Liu Management Services; www.EZreversehomeloan.com; Springdale Homes; www.eloan168.com
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 File No.: 591686

The following person doing business as: Pacificwide Lending; Liu & Partners Properties; Liu Management Services; www.EZreversehomeloan.com; Springdale

Homes; www.eloan168.com, 7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 270, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Liu & Partners Enterprises Corporation, 7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 270, Pleasanton, CA 94566, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Liu & Partners Enterprises Corporation, a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein April 26, 2006. Signature of Registrant: Andrew Liu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on Sept. 1, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 9, 16, 23, 30 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.

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Entertainment

A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN This Eugene O'Neill production will be the centerpiece of the 2022 Eugene O'Neill Festival at the Tao House in Danville. Tickets \$60. Sept. 16-18; 23-25. Visit eugeneoneill.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS CAPITOL COMEDY Capitol Comedy uses a winning formula of musical comedy, multimedia animation and political satire to engage audiences in entertainment that is hilarious, insightful and non-partisan. 8 p.m., Sept. 16. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

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.

MEREDITH MCHENRY ON THE BANKHEAD PLAZA Enjoy a free concert in the setting sun on the Bankhead Plaza starring vocalist Meredith McHenry as she sings effortlessly through selections by artists from Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald to Tool and The Weeknd. This event is free and open to the public. 7 p.m., Sept. 16.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE Grammy winner, singer, songwriter, blues harpist and guitarist Charlie Musselwhite brings his style of Chicago Blues to the Bankhead Stage. 8 p.m., Sept. 17. Tickets \$50-\$80. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE GOLDEN FOLLIES The Golden Follies is a fast-paced, Las Vegas-style revue featuring talented and high energy senior performers ages 60-88. These talented seniors sparkle as they execute stylish choreography, are adorned in lavish costumes and strut their stuff to memorable tunes. The Sept. 18 show at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton is sold out.

PACIFIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Whether fighting a long battle or happily at peace, Ukraine and all of Eastern Europe have always been filled with melodies that stir emotions. Pacific Chamber Orchestra presents Courageous, opening its season with beloved music from these old world countries. 3 p.m., Sept. 18. Visit livermorearts.org. Bankhead Theater.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH BILLY SUNDAY Billy Sunday was a professional baseball player before becoming one of the most influential American evangelists. Chautauqua scholar Doug Mishler will portray the Evangelical preacher. 2 p.m and 7 p.m., Sept. 20. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit museumonmain.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS THE BRUBECK BROTHERS The Brubeck Brothers style is rooted in straight-ahead jazz, integrating the influences of funk, blues, and world music. 7:30 p.m., Sept. 21. Tickets \$30-\$60. Visit livermorearts.org.

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Remember me

Coco is the sweetest, little dog you'll ever meet! He's a bit shy at first but opens up very quickly. He enjoys naps with his teddy, but this perfect cuddle buddy prefers to snooze with his foster family. Going for walks, playing, and rolling around in the grass are favorite activities. Appearing to be part Corgi, Coco weighs 12 pounds and he's 2 years old. He is house-trained, neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue at tvar.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS SAN FRANCISCO COMEDY COMPETITION Now in its 46th year, the San Francisco Comedy Competition has helped launch a who's who of comic champions. 7:30 p.m., Sept. 22. Tickets \$25-\$45. Visit livermorearts.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS JEFFERSON STARSHIP Jefferson Starship is one of the most successful arena rock groups and frontman and remaining original member David Freiberg will light up the Bankhead stage. 8 p.m., Sept. 23. Tickets \$70-\$100. Visit livermorearts.org.

SEPTEMBER SIPS AT BISHOP RANCH Come to explore and taste Livermore Valley's finest wines at Bishop Ranch where wineries will pour amongst the restaurants and retailers. Tickets include wine tasting, a wine glass and small bites. Tickets: \$10 advance/\$15 day of event. 2-4 p.m., Sept. 25. Visit lwine.org/event/9050/september-sips.

Farmers' Markets

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

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

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

Talks

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS Kevin Fisher-Paulson, author and San Francisco Chronicle columnist, presents "The Fourth Column" at the next Tri-Valley Writers meeting where he will discuss the craft of writing from the perspective of purpose and structure. 2 p.m., Sept. 17. Register by 6 p.m., Sept. 16. Visit trivalleywriters.org.

SPOOKY CAMPFIRE Join and gather around the campfire at Sycamore Grove Park and share scary stories in celebration of the spookiest time of the year. S'mores will be provided. Ages 8 and older. RSVP to 925-960-2400. 7 p.m., Sept. 24.

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. The drop-in event will run from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 19. 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Employment

Project Manager

Project Manager sought by Bellecci & Associates, Inc. for Pleasanton, California office to lead and manage an array of private- and public-sector engineering and construction projects. Must have Master's degree in Civil Engineering or related. Must be Licensed Engineer in the State of California. Email resume to Randrews@bellecci.com. EOE.



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 hot picks

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 inbox daily

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PleasantonWeekly.com/express

Sr. Product Manager- eCommerce Transportation Technology

Safeway Inc. hiring Sr. Product Manager- eCommerce Transportation Technology in Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. EOE. Subj. to backg. check. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Gutierrez.

SCIENCE/RESEARCH

Clorox Services Company is accepting resumes for Sr. Scientist - Green/Sustainable Formulation in Pleasanton, CA. Participate in experimental research and development for new, innovative product formulas and perform assessment of existing external formulas. Mail resume to Clorox HQ, Attn: Harpreet Randhawa, 1221 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612-1888. Must reference Ref. MP-CA.

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.

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

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during July 18-22 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Aug. 8-12 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 3607 Bernal Avenue** Willis Family Trust to H. & R. Almeida for \$1,620,000
- 5517 Black Avenue** Gette Family Trust to K. & R. Kochar for \$1,705,000
- 3049 Boardwalk Street** Thomas Family Trust to S. & N. Darade for \$1,410,000
- 3801 Brockton Drive** C. & H. Reynoso to S. & T. Saha for \$747,500
- 5980 Corte Cerritos** Sadler Living Trust to S. & P. Nelakonda for \$1,335,000
- 3715 Crofters Court** Gomez Trust to N. & P. Dua for \$1,765,000
- 9632 Crosby Drive** P. & C. Koske to Witty Trust for \$3,000,000
- 4264 Dorman Road** Pagnini Family Trust to Little Hearts Montessori Presc for \$1,600,000
- 4092 Graham Street** H. & D. Rowse to W. & X. Ye for \$1,450,000
- 4140 Grant Court** Wong Family Trust to A. & A. Bandyopadhyay for \$3,500,000
- 3783 Reflections Drive** C. Faulkner to J. Murphy for \$1,150,000
- 1220 Royal Creek Court** Holt Family Trust to I. & P. Ravi for \$2,600,000
- 6278 Ruxton Court** H. & W. Sullivant to S. & H. Kalyanaramudu for \$1,265,000
- 2576 Willowren Way** Buck Family Trust to P. & G. Yanes for \$1,650,000

Livermore

- 126 Alden Lane** Y. & A. Cheung to Rice Living Trust for \$2,198,000

- 889 Barney Common** M. & R. Mullen to Redfinnow Borrower LLC for \$1,275,000
- 631 Bethal Place** R. Chan to International Hm Redev LLC for \$910,000
- 1555 De Soto Way** Smith Living Trust to B. & K. Hayes for \$1,350,000
- 733 Del Mar Avenue** Greedy Trust to F. & P. Soliman for \$995,000
- 2427 Detert Street** Janah Investments Inc to N. & M. Warraich for \$2,150,000
- 3981 Duke Way** Weamer Trust to Ferea Living Trust for \$905,000
- 5829 Elder Circle** Ochipinti Family Trust to J. & B. Gupta for \$1,970,000
- 1526 Elm Street** R. Miller to Golden Choice Homes LLC for \$635,000
- 678 Hayes Avenue** Molvik Living Trust to Lindell Family Trust for \$1,362,000
- 2601 Horseshoe Court** Swinford Family Trust to B. Friedland for \$1,120,000
- 808 South J Street** Freddie & Annie LLC to V. & J. Rabourn for \$810,000
- 294 Joyce Street** B. Ivanhoe to G. & R. Reinke for \$1,050,000
- 658 South K Street** Tarte Family Trust to Nigg Family Trust for \$1,170,000
- 5294 Lilac Avenue** Mmw 1999 Trust to S. & K. Cabrera for \$840,000
- 172 Lloyd Street** Lange Living Trust to M. & R. Shahmoradi for \$920,000
- 696 Loyola Way** Sylvester Family Trust to G. Pinto for \$975,000
- 2727 Lucca Court** J. & J. Swanson to M. & T. Bhandare for \$2,000,000
- 24 Meritage Common #202** M. Frohnen to F. & M. Ladoni for \$679,000
- 534 Ridgecrest Circle** P. & J. Crenshaw to G. & D. Dejesus for \$1,350,000

- 151 Ruby Court** G. Schooler to Opendoor Property Trust I for \$1,458,000
- 5092 Scenic Avenue** L. Meadows to G. & M. Gonzalez for \$825,000
- 2325 Sheffield Drive** Rosenkilde Living Trust to S. & J. Lourdeaux for \$1,900,000
- 801 Tranquility Circle #1** J. & J. Nagel to O. & M. Habash for \$890,000
- 3863 Yale Way** P. & H. Wilson to J. & A. Mangano for \$1,009,500

Dublin

- 5851 Annandale Way** A. Neburi to M. & A. Tuli for \$3,790,000
- 5513 Apex Drive** M. Chang to W. & K. Lam for \$1,100,000
- 6962 Calistoga Lane** A. & N. Felix to B. & V. Devadiya for \$1,300,000
- 2092 Central Parkway** S. Nama to Opendoor Property Trust I for \$1,299,500
- 4456 Chancery Lane** B. Herrera to S. & K. Chiem for \$899,000
- 3450 Cydonia Court** N. & M. Pala to Opendoor Property Trust I for \$1,850,500
- 6949 Doreen Court** Donzel Trust to K. & J. Salas for \$980,000

- 2626 Drytown Avenue** S. Basak to D. & A. Kim for \$1,500,000
- 5573 El Dorado Lane** S. Kitagawa to A. & K. Ramesh for \$1,210,000
- 7667 Gardella Drive** J. & M. Ferreira to P. & H. Cardenas for \$1,305,000
- 4467 Pine Mountain Way** T. Thompson to V. & T. Anupalli for \$2,360,000
- 7884 Shady Creek Road** S. Goldsand to L. & M. Jiang for \$1,670,000
- 7003 Stagecoach Road #G** M. Vanbeek to F. & M. Khan for \$670,000
- 7298 Stags Leap Lane** V. Leburu to P. & S. Tikole for \$1,940,000

San Ramon

- 3019 Ascot Drive** Reid Family Trust to A. & J. Liang for \$2,000,000.

Source: California REsource

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

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

PLEASANTON

- 4471 Linda Way** **\$1,899,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00
4BD/3BA
Armario Homes - Keller Williams Tri-Valley
925-694-0806

- 4854 Braxton Place** **\$2,680,000**
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00
5BD/3.5BA
Armario Homes - Keller Williams Tri-Valley
925-694-0806

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).

Agents: Submit open homes at PleasantonWeekly.com/real_estate



Linda Futral
(925) 980-3561
lindafutral.com
CA DRE #01257605



\$5,800,000

582 Happy Valley Rd., Pleasanton

7 Beds | 5 Full Baths | 2 Half Baths
2.49 Acres | 8,188 Sq. Ft.

NEW LISTINGS IN PLEASANTON MEADOWS COMING SOON

PENDING SALE IN
5 Days!

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3771 MUIRWOOD DR, PLEASANTON
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Just Listed!

COMPASS

6487 Half Dome Court, Livermore

4 bed | 2.5 | 1,986 SF | List \$ 1,225,000

If you are looking for a spacious home in the desirable Altamont Creek neighborhood, this is the one for you.

Testimonial: Peter & Mari of the McDowell Homes Group nailed it! Best selling experience and we recommend them to anyone selling their home.

They were patient, communicative, savvy, and professional. They are approachable and humorous which helped make this a nice experience. We always knew the status of our listing and they hit all of our milestones. Their "Concierge Real Estate™" business model is awesome. 100% recommend - S. Jones

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Peter McDowell & Mari Torres-McDowell
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How WE Sell Homes In This Adjusting Market



NEW PRICE
Listed at \$4,650,000

12400 Morgan Territory, Livermore
5 Bedrooms | 5.5 Bathrooms | 5,992 Sq. Ft.



Sabrina Tirado



NEW PRICE
Listed at \$1,850,000

409 Neal Street, Pleasanton
3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,262 Sq. Ft.



Liz Venema



NEW PRICE
Listed at \$1,895,000

6981 Corte Antonio, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,336 Sq. Ft.



Lisa Desmond



NEW PRICE
Listed at \$2,595,000

6900 Riddell Street, Pleasanton
5 Bedrooms | 4 Bathrooms | 3,246 Sq. Ft.



Alexis Venema

In this market, you have a better chance of selling your home by:

1. Pricing it right!
2. If something is dirty, clean it!
3. If something is broken, fix it!
4. If something needs updating, do it!

Said with love ❤️



NEW PRICE
Listed at \$1,399,000

2631 Curry Street, Pleasanton
3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 1,820 Sq. Ft.



Liz Venema



PENDING
Listed at \$2,495,000

579 Trebbiano Place, Ruby Hill
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,806 Sq. Ft.



Liz Venema

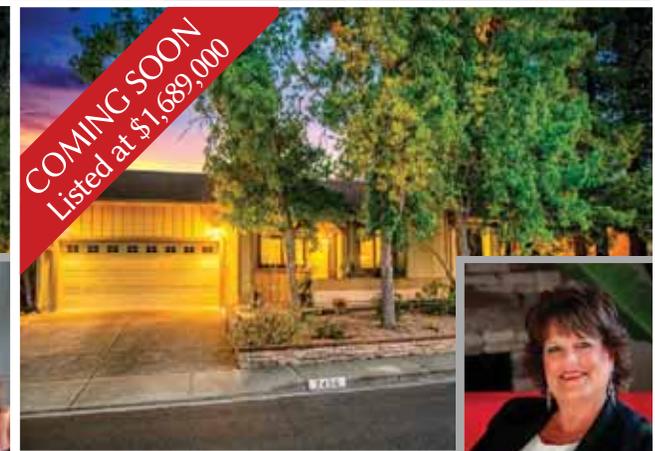


PENDING
Listed at \$2,589,000

6625 Amber Lane, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 3,440 Sq. Ft.



Michelle Kroger



COMING SOON
Listed at \$1,689,000

7456 Sundrop Court, Pleasanton
3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1,890 Sq. Ft.



Liz Venema



SOLD
Sold for \$1,770,000

3665 Huff Court, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,437 Sq. Ft.



SOLD
Sold for \$3,350,000

3422 Torlano Place, Ruby Hill
5 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 4,450 Sq. Ft.



SOLD
Sold for \$1,368,000

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



SOLD
Sold for \$2,380,000

921 Trebbiano Court, Danville
5 Bedrooms | 4.5 Bathrooms | 3,668 Sq. Ft.





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Beautiful Pleasanton Heights home minutes to downtown, completely remodeled in 2017. As you enter the private courtyard there is a serene setting with Bougainvillea and a hillside garden. The open floor plan is perfect for entertaining and the kitchen boasts an expansive island, new appliances and gorgeous stone countertops. The main level offers 3 bedrooms one of which is en suite. The primary bedroom suite is on the top level with a balcony and gorgeous views. Primary bathroom includes large soaking tub and shower, and a walk-in closet with built-in shelving. Open the sliding glass doors to enjoy the secluded Italian inspired backyard that includes a built-in grill, a covered patio with heating lamps, and an exquisite garden. Multiple types of fruit trees (lemons, Limes, oranges, figs, peach, apple, pomegranate) and flowers all on drip system for easy maintenance. Fully paid Solar, 15 panels.



Gorgeous home in the sought after Bonde Ranch Neighborhood. Great views of the Pleasanton Ridge with private backyard. No rear or front neighbors. This home boasts a grand entrance with an open floor plan. Downstairs includes 1 bedroom suite and a separate powder room. Gorgeous kitchen with new Quartz countertops includes an island and updated cabinets. Upstairs includes a luxurious primary suite with a walk-in closet and 3 additional rooms, one of which is a spacious bonus room with a balcony. Enjoy a quick walk to Mission Hills Park and just 1.5 miles to historic downtown Pleasanton. No HOA.



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