

Pleasanton Weekly

Staying
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FALL 2022

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Leading Livermore

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WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

Remembering Bob Philcox

The Pleasanton community is mourning the loss of former mayor, bank executive and community service leader Robert “Bob” Philcox, who died at home surrounded by family last Saturday. He was 88.



Bob Philcox

Philcox, who also served in public office with the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors, sat on the Pleasanton City Council for one term during 1974-78, including a turn as the city’s mayor in 1976-77 back when the mayor was selected from among the council instead of directly elected by the voters.

His service on both public agencies came at crucial junctures in the recent history of the Tri-Valley.

“His tenure on the City Council was typified by his thoughtful efforts to sensibly and sustainably grow the Pleasanton community, as the city began developing into the premier place it is today,” said current City Manager Gerry Beaudin, who ordered the flags at the Pleasanton Civic Center lowered to half-staff on Tuesday in honor of Philcox.

“Through his leadership, Bob helped prepare Pleasanton for a period of transformative growth that positioned the city for long-term success. Today we honor Bob’s memory in gratitude for his service to our community,” Beaudin added.

Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said of Philcox’s time, which came from 1978-82, “It was an exciting time for Zone 7’s groundwater basin since imported water from the State Water Project had ensured that the 1977 drought did not severely impact water supplies.”

“Water quality was on the minds of the Board at that time and in particular the development of guidelines and procedures that protected groundwater quality from the application of wastewater,” Pryor told me. “Mr. Philcox’s service on the Board brought about an era of greater focus on groundwater quality.”

Philcox’s impact on the Pleasanton community was wide-ranging.

A Brooklyn native, Philcox moved to Pleasanton as a young man with his family in 1954 after his father, a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, was transferred to Camp Parks in Dublin.

He started working that year as a teller at First National Bank of Pleasanton and rose through the ranks in his career to become president and CEO of the rebranded Community First National Bank in the Tri-Valley in 1990.

Philcox entered public office during a critical period in Pleasanton as the city prepared for the growth of the late-1970s and ‘80s. Among the materials Ken MacLennan, curator of the Museum of Main, sent me of Philcox in their archives is a photograph of him at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the civic center in 1974. I’ll post that picture online.

Around one term on the City Council and one term with Zone 7, Philcox remained active in community organizations including the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, Alameda County Fair Association Board of Directors, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council Board of Trustees.

He was involved with the Main Street Master Plan and Amador Theater Renovation committees too.

Philcox also attended many community events (the headshot with this article is from him attending the grand opening for Lexus of Pleasanton in June 2019), as well as kept a keen eye on city politics well after his elected service.

“I first met Bob Philcox while helping former Mayor Thorne campaign for City Council. It was clear to me then that he was still committed to ensuring Pleasanton continued to be a great place to live and do business,” current Councilmember Kathy Narum told me.

“Throughout numerous campaigns, Bob was there supporting candidates that were committed to making Pleasanton an even better community to raise a family,” Narum added.

As the news of Philcox’s death arrived to us on Monday morning, it’s hard not to think about the fact this is the third obituary article I’ve written for a former Pleasanton mayor in less than a year. Bob Butler died Oct. 5, 2021; Jerry Thorne passed on March 27, just 15 months after leaving office.

Each left unique and immense impacts on their community before, during and after their time in the mayor’s chair. Pleasanton would not be what it is today without them. ■

About the Cover

New City Manager Marianna Marysheva is taking Livermore by storm in her first few months on the job. Photo by Cierra Bailey. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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Streetwise

ASKED AT COLLEGE REUNION

What are your feelings about attending school reunions?



Gordon Davies CPA

Basically, I feel good about going to school reunions when I'm feeling good about myself and my station in life. On the other hand, when I'm feeling out of shape or down in the dumps for one reason or another, I avoid reunions like the plague. When I do attend, I always have a good time catching up with classmates I haven't seen in a long time.



Jim Kelly
Principal architect

Having grown up in New York, and then gone to college in New Hampshire, and then having settled in California, I feel that reunions are a great way to see and connect with friends and also to reconnect with those I've lost touch with over the years due to the great distances between us.



Sean Medel
Server

I get a little nervous beforehand but also am excited as well because I enjoy the nostalgic aspect of seeing old friends, reacquainting with them and reminiscing about the past. I think of reunions as growth experiences that I really look forward to. I try to never miss even one.



Maria Kelly Realtor

I think it depends on whether it's my own school reunion, or my husband's. I find it very liberating to go to my husband's reunions because nothing is expected of me. I'm basically just along for the ride. And if I should happen to connect with someone there through conversation and maybe even make a new friend, that's a really major, but totally incidental, benefit.



Margot Sappern
Fine artist

I don't really go to many reunions. Pretty much college reunions only. I always have a great time because I met my husband while in college and therefore have so many wonderful memories of those years. Especially since we're still together!

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Forum updates

The Pleasanton Weekly's forum for Pleasanton Unified School District candidates has been rescheduled to Oct. 4 for logistical reasons. The event will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. in the PUSD boardrooms at 4665 Bernal Ave., with livestreaming available and a videorecording available after the fact.

Scheduled to take part are candidates Urvi Shah and Laurie Walker for the contested PUSD Trustee Area 2 seat. Justin Brown, who was the only candidate to file for Area 5, will also participate in the forum. Christine Lutz, who qualified for the Area 2 ballot but subsequently bowed out of the campaign, will not attend.

Additionally, the forum for Dublin Unified School District candidates originally set for Oct. 6 has been canceled due to lack of candidate participation.

The next forum moderated by the Weekly will be for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (nine candidates for three at-large seats) on Monday from 6-8:30 p.m. in the district boardroom at 685C E. Jack London Blvd.

Eviction town hall

Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, whose district includes much of the Tri-Valley, is hosting an online town hall on the county's eviction moratorium on Monday (Sept. 26) from 5:30-7 p.m.

Haubert, who has been a proponent of amending or lifting the county's moratorium at this point in the COVID-19 pandemic, asks landlords before the meeting to send data about their rent losses to his office: "How much money have you lost as a result of the county eviction moratorium? Send us your loss."

To learn more, call 925-551-6995 or email tellDistrict1@acgov.org.

MTC exec retiring

Therese McMillan, executive director of regional planning agencies Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments, this week announced her retirement effective Jan. 31. The agencies plan to launch recruitment for her successor soon. ■

Correction

Last week's story "Mayor Brown talks about plans for second term" included incorrect verbiage in a quote from Karla Brown regarding residential zoning and RHNA, due to a transcription error. The quote should have read, "That is a lot of housing units that we're looking to zone land for, but the city doesn't build housing — we only zone land." The Weekly regrets the error.

Master gardeners set to break ground on early stages of community farm

City approves funds to begin soil-enriching process at Bernal Park

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Food and water are basic necessities that are seemingly becoming harder and harder to obtain these days.

Many food prices have skyrocketed amid inflation and a statewide drought is leaving cities in the Tri-Valley in emergency situations causing people to limit their outdoor water use.

However, one project slated to break ground in fall is aiming to help Pleasanton residents grow their own food in a sustainable, water-conserving manner — a community garden and farm at the Bernal Community Park.

"In Pleasanton, we're looking back at our heritage and our roots, but we're also looking forward to

teaching adults and children alike about farming," Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown said. "Having these community garden boxes so you can grow your own tomatoes and you can grow your own squashes. I'm pretty excited about it."

The Bernal Park Community Farm is a project that was first introduced in 2006.

Pleasanton voters ratified the Bernal Property Phase II Specific Plan through the approval of Measure P in 2006, which included a land use plan separating the property into multiple sub-areas.

That plan, which added projects such as the oak woodland trails, playgrounds and turf sports fields to the park, also included a plan for the farm.

The community farm would cover two of the 17 sub-areas designated in the specific plan. The first is about five acres of land located along Laguna Creek Lane on the east side of interstate 680 into a community farm and garden.

The other is set to be about 10 acres located on the west side of I-680 and will be used to plant orchard trees, vineyards and other native trees.

In the smaller, 5-acre site, the plan is to include garden plots that residents can rent, an educational center to train people on gardening skills, and the community garden that will offer educational opportunities through workshops.

Brown said that she's excited to see agrarian farming coming back to

Pleasanton given the long history of farming in the area.

"Much of this area used to be all farming, cattle and farming," Brown said. "It will be a bit of a look back into our history."

The community garden is a project led by the University of California Master Gardener Program of Alameda County, a group of volunteers that train individuals in the science and art of gardening.

The 1.32-acre site will have educational gardens so master gardeners can teach residents about different gardening techniques like composting and mulching, efficient irrigation practices and classes on growing plants from your balcony if you don't own a backyard.

See **FARM** on Page 7

Hart MS is Blue Ribbon School

Among 7 Tri-Valley schools to earn national distinction

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

A total of seven schools in the Tri-Valley were recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona last Friday.

In Pleasanton, Hart Middle School was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School for the first time since it first opened in 2000. According to a news release from the district, receiving this award speaks to "Hart's strong legacy of overall academic performance and closing achievement gaps."

"We are proud to share this National Blue Ribbon distinction with our entire Hart Middle School community," Hart principal Caroline Fields said in the news release. "This award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students and staff every day."

PUSD Superintendent David Haglund congratulated the school on receiving the national recognition.

"Our entire community should be proud of this award, which speaks to our school's strong legacy

See **BLUE RIBBON** on Page 8



CIERRA BAILEY

Engaging the community and maintaining fiscal sustainability are among new City Manager Marianna Marysheva's many goals for the city of Livermore.

Leading Livermore

New City Manager Marysheva has sights set on the future

BY CIERRA BAILEY

Livermore's new City Manager Marianna Marysheva has had her hands full since officially taking over the role in June — and while there seems to never be a dull moment, she told the Weekly she is excited for the work ahead.

Marysheva was the top contender in the city's nationwide search to succeed Marc Roberts, which began shortly after he announced

last December his pending retirement after serving for 10 years as city manager.

Marysheva had the opportunity to work alongside Roberts for a few weeks in a transition-of-power period. Now, she's approximately three months into the job of managing what she refers to as "a very busy city organization."

"Looking at a community that is smaller than 100,000 residents,

there is a lot happening for us," she said. "The focus has been on downtown and when I think about downtown itself, it's very busy. I go there often to dine and visit the farmers' markets — both of them — so not only do you have a very busy dining and entertaining scene but also we have additional development that's

See **MARYSHEVA** on Page 9

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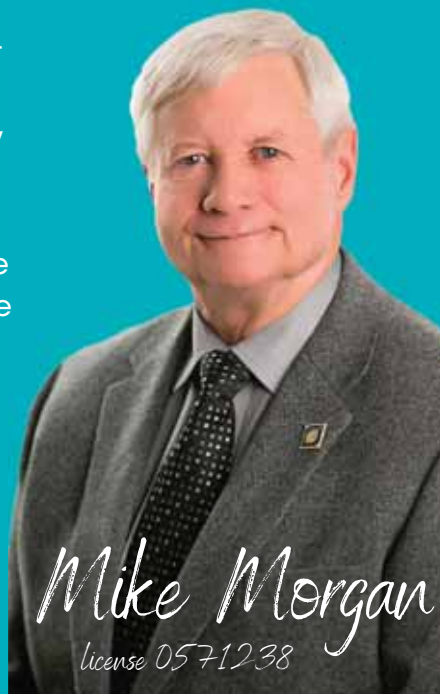
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**National labor deal averts strike
that would've impacted ACE**

Service disrupted one day over tense railroad negotiations

By JEREMY WALSH

Federal officials on Sept. 15 announced a tentative labor agreement between freight rail companies and their employee unions to avert a work stoppage that would have significantly impacted Altamont Corridor Express commute train routes through the Tri-Valley — in addition to potentially drastic economic effects nationwide.

ACE, which operates morning and afternoon commuter trains on Union Pacific Railroad tracks between Stockton and San Jose including stops in Livermore and Pleasanton, was bracing for service disruptions as the threat of a national work stoppage loomed. ACE announced last week it would be canceling half of its trains on Sept. 15 and could face a full shutdown starting Sept. 16 if no labor deal were reached.

With the tentative agreement in place, the only day with ACE service interruptions was Sept. 15 with the already scheduled suspensions of the ACE 05, 07, 08 and 10 routes due to the negotiation uncertainty headed into the day, according to the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, which operates ACE.

ACE returned to full service last Friday (Sept. 16), officials said.

“Our agency is extremely pleased to hear the news that



FILE PHOTO VIA ACE

Altamont Corridor Express train.

a tentative agreement has been reached between freight railroad carriers and all of their respective employee unions,” SJRRRC Executive Director Stacey Mortensen said in a statement Sept. 15.

“As we promised to restore service as quickly as possible, we will be restoring ACE to full-service tomorrow which will be welcome news to our loyal passengers,” Mortensen added. “We greatly appreciate the patience and flexibility of our passengers and partners. We stay committed to keeping you informed as the national collective bargaining process moves forward.”

The nationwide labor negotiations did not directly involve ACE personnel or contractors, but the

impasse was poised to impact the ACE system because it operates on Union Pacific rails.

U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh announced around 5 a.m. (Eastern) on Sept. 15 that a tentative deal had been reached between the rail companies and unions, which would avert a nationwide strike threatening rail lines across the country.

According to the Associated Press, the five-year deal — which is retroactive to 2020 — includes 24% raises and \$5,000 bonuses as well as allowing railroad workers to take unpaid days off for medical appointments without being penalized under the companies' strict attendance policies, among other provisions. ■

**Tri-Valley ready for
Rosh Hashanah celebrations**

Jewish New Year events set to kick off Sunday

By JEANITA LYMAN

Leaders of the Tri-Valley's Jewish communities are preparing for this year's Rosh Hashanah celebrations, with events planned throughout the region.

This Sunday marks not just the start of a new year in the Jewish tradition, but the start of a new seven-year cycle.

“In the Jewish community, this year is known as the year of Hakhel ... a year of gathering and year of unity,” said Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of Chabad of the Tri-Valley. “There's a seven-year cycle in Jewish years; this year that we're just finishing is the next seven years.”

In addition to the significance of this year's Rosh Hashanah as the beginning of a new cycle, Resnick noted that this year's celebration — with pandemic restrictions mostly lifted — is particularly momentous.

“That's really so special and so important, and it's a time to wish each other blessings, goodness and happiness, and it's a year of new opportunity and joy and we wish it for

ourselves, for our community, and for all of mankind,” Resnick said.

Rabbi Dr. Laurence Elis Milder of Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton also pointed to the challenges of the past two years for the Jewish community and world at large.

“The past two years have tested our mettle,” Milder said. “Between COVID restrictions and rising antisemitism, we have been challenged in ways that few of us could imagine.”

Milder also emphasized the importance of this year's Rosh Hashanah as a symbol of the value of community amidst difficult times.

“This year, our High Holy Days find us with a deeper commitment to community,” Milder said. “We recognize, more than ever, how the synagogue helps us strengthen one another through hard times.”

In addition to celebrations through Chabad of the Tri-Valley and Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host a secular humanistic celebration of the holiday in Livermore.

The Livermore event will kick off at 3:30 p.m. this Sunday with a walk ahead of a one-hour outdoor ceremony, with complimentary snacks consisting of challah, honey, and apples.

Resnick noted that the tradition of sweet foods for Rosh Hashanah is highly symbolic.

“Everything there is sweet,” Resnick said. “We don't have anything sharp or bitter or tangy. We want to start the year with sweetness and goodness.”

Chabad of the Tri-Valley's menu for Sunday also reflects this, with a dinner scheduled at 7:15 p.m., following a 6:45 p.m. Rosh Hashanah service.

Congregation Beth Emek will observe the day with both in-person and online services Sunday evening, as well as daytime service on Monday and Tuesday.

The three-day holiday continues on Monday and Tuesday this week, with Yom Kippur marking the end of the Jewish High Holiday season on the evening of Oct. 4. ■

Dublin to unveil new park with veterans' memorial sculpture

30-acre Don Biddle Community Park set for grand-opening ceremony this weekend

Dublin is getting ready to unveil a new community park that will feature a public art installation in the form of an American veterans' memorial monument.

The Don Biddle Community Park is a new 30-acre park located on a former portion of Camp Parks Army Base. On Saturday (Sept. 24), the city will hold a grand opening of the park that will be part of a community celebration that will also include the park's dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony.

The veterans' monument was a key element in the plans and development for the new park, which is named for Don Biddle, who once served as Dublin's vice mayor during his 40 years of dedication to the Dublin community. He died in 2018.

Sculptor Steven Whyte and his team were selected in 2018 to design, create, and install the new veterans' memorial. The monument's title and design reference Dublin's early history and its reputation as the crossroads of the Bay Area. As it has been for the last six decades, Dublin is located at the crossroads of interstates 580 and 680, two major



CITY OF DUBLIN, VIA BCN

An artist rendering of the new Don Biddle Community Park. It will be officially dedicated on Saturday.

freeways bisecting the burgeoning Tri-Valley region.

Dublin's significance as a crossroads dates back hundreds of years to when Native American trading trails criss-crossed the area. Whyte saw a correlation between this history and his military subject. He wanted to reflect on the crossroads prompted by military service, how Camp Parks had led many individuals to cross

paths in Dublin, shaping the community as they served the United States.

Whyte designed a memorial centered around the crossing of two roads. Constructed in concrete, the two roads are sculpted with a variety of textures to indicate everything from evolving Jeep tire treads to a large variety of footprints representing the many varieties of servicemen

and women who have left their mark on Camp Parks and Dublin. These elements allow for public participation and engagement, encouraging visitors to walk in the footsteps of these heroes.

The two roads are also designed to symbolize the journey of military service and the long path that begins with enlistment and travels through training, deployment and the eventual return to civilian life.

Standing at the four corners of the intersection are four 9-foot-tall figures of veterans standing at attention in front of flags erected at each junction. Each figure represents a military branch and period significant to Dublin's Camp Parks.

"As the son of a career military officer, I grew up on military bases," Whyte said. "I have always had the utmost respect for servicemen and women. Their sacrifice, bravery, and

commitment to duty represents the truest expression of patriotism and love of country."

"I am deeply impressed that the city of Dublin chose to include a veterans' tribute in the development of this new community park," Whyte added. "When Dublin residents play on this playground, engage in a tennis match, or have a picnic, they will do so alongside this permanent reminder of the men and women who sacrificed so that they could enjoy this park in safety and freedom."

Camp Parks is home to the U.S. Army's 91st Division and part of the U.S. Army Combat Support Training Center. The facility was built during World War II and was commissioned in January 1943 as Camp Parks.

Saturday's ceremonies will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The park is located at 6100 Horizon Pkwy., Dublin. ■

—Bay City News Service

FARM

Continued from Page 5

But the overall farm and community garden is still in the very early stages of development.

Recently, the group got the funding from the Pleasanton City Council to get started with a "Phase 0" stage of the community farm master plan. This initial stage of building the farm includes the master gardeners planting what's known as a cover crop.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these are crops such as corn or soybeans that are usually established and grown in the fall to increase the quality of the soil.

Lou Astbury, one of the volunteer master gardeners, told the Weekly that planting these cover crops will allow them to come back in spring to nutrient-rich soil that will let them start laying down the educational gardens.

"Normally, a cover crop is something you do like in California, during the rainy season, and it doesn't really need much irrigation," Astbury said. "So we'll have grasses that will shed roots down like, six, seven feet, to kind of open up and break the soil and improve water penetration."

He added that the cover crop will be "a mix of seeds and it's going to be a part of wildflowers, which will attract a lot of different kinds of pollinators."

Astbury said that he has been working with the master gardeners on this project since 2016 and is now mainly working on getting new City Manager Gerry Beaudin and other

new city staff members up to speed.

The timeline of completion for the garden and then overall community farm will take some time as there are several phases to the project.

Jennifer Miller, a management analyst with the city's Community Development Department, told the Weekly that since the specific plan was approved in 2006, the project has gone from being presented as a conceptual plan in 2014, to the Pleasanton Community Farm Master Plan being approved by the council in 2018.

Miller said that in the initial "Phase 0" stage of the process, the city agreed to allocate \$70,000 out of the already allocated \$350,000 for the project that will be coming out of the city's capital improvement funds, which were approved in this year's budget review.

The funds will support the master gardeners program in planting the cover crops and installing their portion of the farm which includes the educational gardens.

Miller added that any future costs or capital investment by the city toward the farm would be determined by the City Council in future council priorities planning and capital improvement program budgeting processes.

"While it is expected the city will have future ongoing operational expenditures associated with the various phases of the community farm, those costs would be determined as those phases are designed and constructed," Miller said.

According to the farm master plan documents, the next phases after

establishing the gardens, parking and general infrastructure will be building the garden plots for residents to reserve, building the areas for the orchards and other trees, and constructing an educational learning center that will be run by the city and the master gardeners.

Astbury said that the city and the master gardeners also want to collaborate with the Pleasanton Unified School District in offering students classes and educational programs at the center.

Astbury said that with cities having to follow new composting laws, it is crucial to have the educational space so people can know how to use that excess compost to their advantage.

But the main reason that Astbury said he is excited about the garden is that it will be a way for Pleasanton residents to learn about sustainable farming so that they can go home and help the environment by growing their own food.

He also said that adding the farm and garden to the park will satisfy a niche for families to have something to do together that will not just benefit their daily lives, but the overall well being of the environment.

"I think that when you can grow your own food you can do it in a way that doesn't really hurt the environment, it actually helps the environment in terms of taking carbon out of the atmosphere, taking better care of the soil," he said. "I just think there's a lot of benefits, it's healthy food and it's a healthy activity for a family together." ■



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: Why is the Veteran Important?**



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: My Pledge to Our Veterans.**



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

<https://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Board OKs unaudited financials, puts \$7.8M in reserves

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton school board signed off on last year's unaudited financial actuals and added a little over \$7.8 million to its reserves during its meeting earlier this month.

According to the Pleasanton Unified School District staff report, assigning more money to the reserve funds was necessary due to "economic uncertainties."

The unanimous vote on Sept. 8 brought the district's economic uncertainties fund to 3.78% -- the minimum required reserve level is 3% of total expenditures.

Unaudited actuals are an annual statement reporting the financial activities of school districts in which the data is not yet formally audited.

These financial activities include

the district's actual revenues, expenditures and fund balance activity for the 2021-22 fiscal year. It also includes any financial activity since last year's actuals were reported during this year's budget adoption at the June 23 board meeting.

Tom Gray, executive director of fiscal services for PUSD, told the board that the district had a fund balance of \$27.8 million and a deficit spending of up to \$2.5 million mainly driven by "expenses on the unrestricted side of the general fund."

He added that the district's total revenues were \$196 million and that the district's total reserve balance, which includes the economic uncertainties fund, stands at 6.94%.

"The 3.78% reserve for economic

uncertainties is part of the 6.94% ... and it's actually reserved, it's in a separate accounting code and all of that," Trustee Joan Laursen said. "The undesignated part is just our overall balances and reserves, which includes the reserve for economic uncertainty."

Gray said that to him it's still very low.

"In my opinion, it's kind of a low balance," Gray said. "It's only like three weeks worth of expenses; we're operating a \$200 million operation with a three-week reserve."

But Laursen said that it's still good practice to have extra money saved up in case of emergencies.

"It's better for us as an organization to have a bigger savings account, if you will," she said. "So

having a little bit higher reserve protects us, protects our employees, protects our students and protects the district."

Another big category, Gray said, was in the district's total expenses of \$199 million where salaries and benefits made up about \$165 million.

Gray said that looking at variances from estimated to unaudited actuals, the district projected revenues were up by \$1.4 million.

Looking at some of the comparisons from previous years, Gray highlighted that the total salaries and benefits compensation went up by 13.72%, the total reserves grew from 6.39% to the current 6.94% and contribution to special education increased by 20.92%.

"When we approve raises for our employees, those raises are also obviously applied to our special education staff and so whenever we have increases in our overall salary expense, we also increase our salary expense in special education," Laursen said. "Since that has never been fully funded by the state or the federal government ... the district has to make a contribution to that."

One of the main questions Trustee Kelly Mokashi had for Gray during the meeting was for clarity on a special reserve fund that shows \$400,000 left to support the professional development.

Gray said that the district no longer sets money aside for professional development and will be fully spending the money this fiscal year. ■

Safeway to pay \$8M in settlement over gas station violations

California Attorney General Rob Bonta and five county district attorneys last Friday announced an \$8 million settlement with Safeway regarding alleged violations of environmental laws at its 71 gas stations across the state, including in the Tri-Valley.

The settlement, which along with the attorney general included the district attorneys of Contra Costa, Solano, San Joaquin, Sacramento and Placer counties, came

after an investigation that found the grocery chain failed to install, implement and operate various spill prevention and other safety measures regarding underground fuel storage tanks dating back to 2015.

The violations included failing to install and maintain automatic line leak detectors, secondary containment systems, not monitoring and conducting required testing of the underground storage tanks, and

not properly notifying local agencies after the release of a hazardous substance.

The Safeway gas stations involved in the case included one each in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon.

As part of the settlement, Safeway will pay \$7.5 million in civil penalties, including \$600,000 to fund environmental projects, as well as \$500,000 in investigative costs.

"California has strong regulations in place to prevent oil and gas from seeping into the ground and contaminating our drinking water," Bonta said. "The reality is: Accidents happen. Without proper safety measures in place, an avoidable crisis can become an environmental catastrophe."

Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton said her office "is committed to the prevention of environmental hazards like fuel

spills and holding companies accountable to laws regulating such things as underground storage tanks. The collaborative effort between the AG's office and my fellow district attorneys — along with Safeway's cooperation — resulted in this comprehensive environmental compliance settlement."

Officials with Safeway were not immediately available for comment on the settlement. ■

—Bay City News Service

BLUE RIBBON

Continued from Page 5

of excellence and the world-class education that continues to make Pleasanton Unified a destination district for families," Haglund said in the news release.

According to the Department of Education's website, 297 schools received the recognition nationally based on their "overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups."

The department recognizes all

schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates.

"Exemplary High-Performing Schools" are schools that perform highly on state assessments or nationally normed tests while

"Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools" are ones that excel in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

All the schools in the Tri-Valley, including Hart, were recognized in the Exemplary High-Performing Schools category.

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District alone had four schools recognized — Coyote Creek Elementary School, Gale Ranch Middle School, Iron Horse Middle School and Windemere Ranch Middle School — which is more than any other district in the state.


"We are proud of our Blue Ribbon schools who go above and

beyond to support our students' success," SRVUSD Superintendent John Malloy said in a news release.

"These schools exemplify everything we stand for in San Ramon Valley Unified School District because their students are effective thinkers, creators, collaborators and communicators who will most definitely make a difference in our world," Malloy added. "We look forward to celebrating these accomplishments in the coming weeks with our schools and communities."

Fallon Middle School and Kolb Elementary School in Dublin were also on the National Blue Ribbon Schools list. ■

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TAKE US ALONG



European getaway: Retired Foothill teacher and current assistant football coach Ken Newbery and wife Carrie took the Weekly on their cruise along the Douro River in Porto, Portugal. On their way home, they traveled to visit friends and tour Ireland as well.

MARYSHEVA

Continued from Page 5

going to be coming,” she added.

While she said she thinks the end result will be worthwhile, Marysheva said she recognizes the heavy workload that comes with such a major revitalization project.

“Downtown itself I think is generating a lot of excitement and a lot of activity but with that comes a lot of work, overseeing the development, working with developers, working with businesses that are impacted,” she said.

Although Livermore’s downtown revitalization project has been a topic that has garnered a lot of community interest and various aspects of the plan have been met by challenges — including the city-approved 130-unit Eden Housing development that is currently at the center of a contentious community debate — Marysheva said many residents don’t realize how much is happening throughout the rest of the city.

“We are right now going through an update of the city’s General Plan, which is a major planning document for any community and it’s very intricate and it’s very important for us with everyone involved — City Council, Planning Commission, you also have the General Plan Advisory Committee of residents, property owners, businesses — to really carefully look at the mix of uses that we’re creating in the city or maybe updating through the General Plan.”

‘When I think about the community itself, three words come to mind: beautiful, kind and genuine.’

Marianna Marysheva,
Livermore city manager

The Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan is also a big priority for the city, according to Marysheva.

“It’s been on people’s minds and in the news and that’s where a lot of the new housing development is happening,” she said.

The Isabel plan would allow development of 4,095 new multi-family housing units and approximately 2.1 million square feet of net new office, business park and commercial development, among other amenities. During Mayor Bob Woerner’s State of the City address in July, he said the project is key to meeting 50% of the city’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

Marysheva said that the city’s community engagement strategy is an area that she wants to bolster. “When I think about engagement, I think about three groups: one is residents, two is businesses and three is employees. It’s very important to engage with all three groups on a regular basis,” she said.

She continued, “With regards to



CIERRA BAILEY

Marianna Marysheva, a former city administrator in Irvine with prior career ties in the Bay Area, has hit the ground running as Livermore’s new city manager.

businesses, for example, I think we can engage them a little more to completely understand what their needs are throughout the city and how we as a city through policies, through processes, through programs can assist them better to stay here, to grow here, and to contribute to the local economy.”

“I’m very thankful for the partnership that we have with the chamber as well as Livermore Downtown, Inc. because they are our liaisons to businesses but I think we can do more and we can hear from businesses more and by hearing from them more — either through the chamber, LDI or directly — we can serve them better,” she said.

Some of the services include streamlining processes for applying for permits, building improvements and expansions, among other things.

“We need to make sure that our processes are clear, simple and fast for businesses. We also want to be a welcoming community, so to the extent that someone wants to start a business — whatever approvals are needed from the city — we as a city make it easy, we make it simple and we make it fast,” she said.

While she expressed excitement for all the things to come downtown including more housing, the wine country hotel, the black box theater and the Quest Science Center, Marysheva said that in her capacity, she wants to make sure that the city pays adequate attention to the entire community.

“For example, in the Springtown neighborhood, the branch library there requires attention and so we actually began some minor but visible improvements,” she said. “We’re updating the sign, we’re updating the landscaping in front of the library and installing some drought tolerant landscaping that will also have some vibrant colors, we’ll make some upgrades to the back of the branch where we’re potentially looking at a community garden.

“So, making sure that areas outside of downtown are also receiving adequate attention is a goal of mine and that applies to all neighborhoods in the city,” she added.

In addition to the drought-tolerant landscaping being planted at the

Springtown Branch Library, Marysheva said the city is looking at city-owned landscaping throughout the community to see how it can do better from a drought standpoint and still have attractive grounds.

Along those same lines, Marysheva noted that the city is updating its Climate Action Plan.

“When you think about climate action, a lot of times people just can’t relate to the words because it sounds federal, it sounds removed, but it’s not. Planting drought-tolerant landscaping is fighting climate change. So, there are a lot of things the city can do directly and that we can educate residents and businesses to do,” she said.

Among those things is preparing for more electric vehicles and installing more charging stations throughout the city, according to Marysheva.

She added that the city is also working with the Lawrence Livermore and Sandia national laboratories on their efforts to contribute to climate adaptation.

Fiscal sustainability is another area of importance that Marysheva said tends to be a challenge for most city organizations.

“We want to provide the best services but there’s only so much money to pay for things,” she said, adding:

“When I look at city staff, we’re doing a lot with the staff that we have but in some departments we are chronically understaffed so, as we look at the next two year budget that we’ll start preparing early in 2023, we really need to carefully analyze each department’s realistic staffing needs and assess them and I think the needs will far exceed the resources that we have available. So, I definitely want to pay attention to staffing.”

She said the same type of assessment by staff and City Council applies to maintaining city assets such as sidewalks, roads, facility improvements and other financial responsibilities.

However, with a new mayor and two new City Council members set to join the council after the Nov. 8 general election, a more immediate goal will be bringing them up to speed on existing policies and educating them on the inner workings of the city.

“I’m looking forward to that. I think it’s exciting because my management philosophy is working in collaboration and as a team with different players and that includes my own executive team, that includes City Council, residents and businesses,” Marysheva said.

“We’re all contributing to the success of the city and so having three new members of the City Council come in and working with them as a team to continue moving the city forward is going to be very exciting,” she said.

Prior to joining the city of Livermore, Marysheva earned a bachelor’s degree in urban studies from San Francisco State University and a master’s in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

She worked two different stints in Oakland city administration (as budget director from 2001 to 2005, appointed by then-mayor Jerry Brown, and as assistant city administrator from 2008 to 2011) and most recently, she was employed by the city of Irvine as assistant city manager

and interim city manager from September 2020 until last December.

She also previously worked as assistant city manager of Riverside and town manager of Mammoth Lakes.

When she was initially hired, Marysheva still lived in Southern California but has since relocated to Livermore with her 13-year-old twins whom she said she feels lucky to raise in such a “special” community.

“It is impressive to me how much a relatively small community and a relatively small organization is able to do,” according to Marysheva.

“This is a community that is forward-thinking and that’s impressive. When I think about the community itself, three words come to mind: beautiful, kind and genuine,” she said, adding that the beauty applies to the way the city looks and the collective pride in keeping the city attractive. Kind and genuine, she said, both apply to the people she’s encountered within the city organization and outside of it in her daily life. ■

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POLICE BULLETIN

Teen arrested after crash injures pregnant driver, kills unborn child

A teenager from Livermore faces a potential murder charge after allegedly crashing into another car while trying to flee authorities after a sideshow in Sacramento County, seriously injuring a pregnant woman and killing her unborn baby last Friday night.

The 17-year-old boy, whose name was not released due to him being underage, was arrested on suspicion of murder, felony reckless evasion of police and felony evasion by driving in the opposite direction of traffic, according to the California Highway Patrol's North Sacramento office.

Additional details about the criminal case, including whether the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office had filed formal charges, were not readily available because it is a juvenile matter.

"By law, juvenile matters are confidential and our ethical obligation prevent us from making any statements acknowledging the existence of a juvenile proceeding," the DA's office told the Weekly.

The situation began unfolding at around 9:11 p.m. Friday with CHP units arriving to break up an apparent sideshow with more than 100 vehicles and pedestrians blocking the intersection of Elverta Road at Dutch Haven Boulevard in Rio Linda, a town just north of Sacramento.

While officers dispersed the crowd, one CHP unit reportedly initiated a traffic stop on a Honda Accord but the driver failed to yield. The sedan was driven by the 17-year-old Livermore boy with three passengers — a 17-year-old boy from Copperopolis,

a 21-year-old man from Union City and an 18-year-old man from Antioch, according to the CHP.

During the ensuing pursuit, the Accord allegedly blew through a red light at the intersection of Dry Creek Road and Elkhorn Boulevard and collided perpendicularly with a Honda Civic.

"The (28-year-old) driver of the Honda Civic was transported for major injuries and her fetus suffered fatal injuries," the CHP said. "The passenger suffered moderate complaint of pain injuries and was transported to a local hospital. The passengers in the Honda Accord were transported to local hospitals for complaint of pain injuries."

The Livermore teen was arrested, cleared by medical personnel for minor injuries and booked into Sacramento County Juvenile Hall related to the crash, according to the CHP.

Officers reported that drugs and alcohol do not appear to be factors.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- A longtime cheer coach and fitness instructor in San Ramon who recently began teaching middle school biology in Danville was charged last week with committing lewd acts against two teenagers.

Nicholas Moseby, who teaches at Diablo Vista Middle School, was taken into custody on Sept. 14 and booked into the Martinez Detention Facility in lieu of \$200,000 bail, according to records from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.

Moseby, 41, of Concord is facing two counts of performing lewd acts upon two minors and one count of showing pornography to a minor, according to Ted Asregadoo, a spokesperson for the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office. The victims

were 15 years old and 14 years old, with the offenses allegedly occurring Aug. 31 and Sept. 4, respectively.

"I think the investigators are reasonably certain there are other victims and they just want those folks to report it," Asregadoo said.

Moseby began teaching biology at Diablo Vista Middle School in 2021, according to LinkedIn. He had worked as a tumbling coach for the cheerleading squad NorCal Elite since 2013.

Moseby had a long career working in tumbling and cheerleading, according to LinkedIn, starting as a camp instructor for the Universal Cheerleaders Association in 2017. He reportedly served as program director for Valley Cheer and Dance in San Ramon from 2013 to 2018.

In 2021, Moseby was issued a certificate of clearance by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. He was issued a Single Subject Teaching Credential on Aug. 4.

Moseby was scheduled to be arraigned on Monday in Martinez, with results still pending as of press time.

"This is difficult and shocking news. I can confirm that we will offer law enforcement our support and hope that their investigative work concludes with justice being served," said Tammy Herley, coordinator of communications and community relations at San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

—Jeanita Lyman

- A Contra Costa County jury last week convicted a Tri-Valley man on a majority of counts after making threats of gun violence against State Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) earlier this year in response to a vaccination bill introduced by the legislator.

Erik Triana, 51, was found guilty on seven of eight felony charges,

including threatening the life of Wiener in a message submitted through the senator's website in January, according to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office.

"I'm deeply grateful to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, California Highway Patrol, and the court system for taking this death threat — and my personal safety — safely," Wiener said in a statement Sept. 15.

Triana sent a threat to Wiener through the "contact me" portal on the senator's website, which said, "Vax my kids without my permission and expect a visit from me and my rifle," prosecutors said in a press release.

They added that Triana, a San Ramon father of three, had listed his address as the Moscone Center in San Francisco and signed the message "Amendment, Second."

Wiener represents California's Senate District 11 in San Mateo and San Francisco counties. The Moscone Center is named after George Moscone, the former San Francisco mayor who was assassinated alongside Harvey Milk at San Francisco City Hall in 1978.

Prosecutors said that Wiener, who lives in San Francisco, made a note of this connection when he took the stand on Sept. 6, saying that the reference to Moscone and Milk in a gun violence threat made it stand out to other threats received by his office.

"While free speech is a cornerstone of our democracy and a constitutionally protected right, there is a clear line between political discourse and threats of violence," said

deputy district attorney Stephanie Kang, who prosecuted the case. "The jury's verdict in this case highlights the fact that threats to seriously harm or kill a public servant because of disagreement with their policies is not protected speech and will not be tolerated."

Public defender Ian McGrattan, who represented Triana, said that his client had not been seeking to make an actual threat with the message, and that Triana hadn't expected Wiener to ever lay eyes on the message.

"Mr. Triana is not a violent person," McGrattan said of his client, who had pleaded not guilty in the case. "He would never hurt anybody. He did not intend for this statement to be taken as a threat."

Eight felony charges were initially filed against Triana in April. He was found guilty on Sept. 14 on seven of those counts: one count of threatening Wiener's life, two counts of possession of assault weapons, two counts for "ghost gun" manufacturing and two counts of having a concealed firearm in a vehicle.

The jury acquitted Triana on a charge of criminal threat or great bodily injury to Wiener.

The DA's office reported that police were able to trace the Jan. 22 message back to a computer at Triana's workplace in Pleasanton.

Triana is set to be sentenced next Thursday (Sept. 29) at 8:30 a.m., facing a maximum of four years in custody, according to the DA's office. McGrattan said his client would be filing an appeal. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Sept. 12

Domestic battery

■ 5:58 a.m. on Owens Drive

Burglary

■ 6:15 a.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Theft

■ 8:25 a.m., 5700 block of Gibraltar Drive; auto theft

■ 10:52 a.m., 4300 block of Valley Avenue; theft from auto

■ 4:16 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Rape

■ 10:36 a.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Sept. 11

DUI

■ 3:16 a.m. on the 4000 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

■ 7:37 a.m. on the 700 block of Sylvaner Drive

■ 11:25 a.m. on the 800 block of Division Street

■ 1:25 p.m., 1600 block of Paseo Del Cajon; catalytic converter theft

■ 2:03 p.m. on the 5100 block of Monaco Drive

■ 4:16 p.m. on the 700 block of Bonita Avenue

■ 4:44 p.m., 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Vandalism

■ 10:28 a.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Assault/battery

■ 12:47 p.m. on the 2400 block of Santa Rita Road

Sept. 10

Theft

■ 3:08 a.m., 2000 block of Eilene Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 8:33 a.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; bicycle theft

■ 9:28 a.m., 3200 block of Piccadilly Court; catalytic converter theft

■ 11:02 a.m. on the 5800 block of Black Avenue

■ 11:49 a.m., 2400 block of Via Espada; catalytic converter theft

■ 2:56 p.m. on the 1500 block of East Gate Way

Vandalism

■ 3:50 a.m. on the 4000 block of Peregrine Way

Missing person

■ 11:39 a.m. on West Las Positas Boulevard

Sept. 9

Drug violation

■ 9:21 a.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

■ 1:18 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 9:48 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Theft

■ 2:17 p.m., 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; catalytic converter theft

■ 3:14 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

■ 4:23 p.m. on the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Embezzlement

■ 2:26 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mal Road

Warrant arrest

■ 6:43 p.m. at Johnson and Stoneridge drives

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.

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FALL 2022

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75 years of LARPD

In spite of challenges, Livermore parks district stands 'healthy' and 'efficient', GM says

By CIERRA BAILEY

For the past 75 years, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has provided the community with activities, programs, facilities and services to help all residents enjoy open space, remain active and give youth opportunities to learn and explore nature. “We take care of people from early childhood all the way through their senior years — we have something for every age group,” said LARPD General Manager Mat Fuzie, adding, “We have a couple of taglines here, ‘We’re your quality of life special district’ and ‘LARPD, making memories and changing lives’ which we use to explain to people what we do.”

LARPD is an independent special district. As such, it is a political subdivision of the state — a completely independent governmental agency, according to its website.

While he’s only been with LARPD since 2018, Fuzie said that he has researched LARPD history and from his perspective, “The biggest achievement for LARPD and the city of Livermore is that it’s been a good relationship that has sustained arts and recreation better

than most communities.”

He added that the reason for that success is because LARPD is a special district and their funding is separate.

The legacy of LARPD began with a special election on June 10, 1947, in which Livermore voters ratified a resolution of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to form the Livermore Area Park, Recreation and Parkway District.

The county passed a resolution that provided for a special election to be held in the Livermore Area Park, Recreation and Parkway District on Jan. 21, 1958 for the purpose of deciding whether or not the district should be governed by its own Board of Directors and providing for the first Board of Directors of the district.

On Dec. 8, 1959, the Board of Directors changed the name of the district to the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

The work that LARPD does is under the guidance of the district’s motto, “To provide the people of the Livermore Area with outstanding recreation programs and a system of parks, trails, recreation



COURTESY LARPD

Since 2005, the Robert Livermore Community Center has been the main hub for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District’s offices and program facilities.

areas, and facilities that promote enjoyment, lifelong learning, and healthy, active lifestyles.”

In addition to offering numerous fitness and recreation programs, LARPD also organizes and operates Extended Student Services, a licensed child development program serving children transitional kindergarten through fifth grade in Livermore. Fuzie said the ESS program has been a big part of LARPD’s community support initiatives.

With its meal service partnership with Open Heart Kitchen, LARPD also helps support the senior population and the unhoused community in Livermore.

In recent years, LARPD has become synonymous with the Robert Livermore Community Center, which serves as the hub for the district’s offices and many of its program facilities, including its popular year-round aquatics center.

However, the complex has only been open since 2005.

Prior to that, Fuzie said the district would hold their programs at various other properties throughout the city including Veterans Memorial Hall, which belongs to the county.

“We had two buildings on Trevarno (Road) that were our headquarters prior to RLCC. Bothwell was a teen center and was programmed,

but now it’s the Bothwell Arts Center,” Fuzie added as additional examples. He said that several of the agreements they’ve had with other entities to program at their facilities are still in place today.

Operating for 75 years, however, has not come without its fair share of challenges.

Fuzie said that the district faces funding obstacles.

“Almost 40% of our revenue goes to ERAF (educational revenue augmentation fund), so we don’t have the same percentage of funding that the taxpayers intended in 1947,” he said.

There are some steps the district has taken to account for this issue, including a structural reorganization to reduce management and overhead costs, which Fuzie said happened to also coincide with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said they have also changed their budgeting practices and are doing more service-based budgeting. “We’re pushing our funding sources out to services which does two things: it reduces your overhead and it increases your revenue and that has allowed us to get a very realistic look at what our future needs are going to be,” he said.

Although citizens have suggested that LARPD should make a push for a bond act or new parcel tax for

maintenance, Fuzie said they are not comfortable taking that step just yet until they’ve completely evaluated their efficiencies.

Projects that funding is needed for include replacing equipment at some of the city’s oldest parks, irrigation systems and other infrastructure improvements.

The COVID-19 pandemic also proved challenging for LARPD.

“It was a very complex time with very complex solutions,” Fuzie said.

In addition to laying off all of the temporary staff, the district also had to let go of more than 20% of its full-time staff. “We lost approximately \$6 million in revenue out of a \$21 million budget, so we were hit really hard,” Fuzie said.

The district also significantly reduced its services and pivoted others to outdoors, which put them up against weather and air quality challenges.

However, they were able to sustain their meal program for seniors and provide childcare services to essential workers.

The district officials used the time to reevaluate their offerings and assess ways they could better serve the community with the resources and staff that they had.



COURTESY LARPD

Flying an LARPD banner in the 1975 Livermore Rodeo parade.

See LARPD on Page 14

Moonshots for Unicorns seeks to treat ultra-rare conditions

Nonprofit founded by Danville physicians to find cure for daughter's disorder

By JEANITA LYMAN

Two Danville physicians have merged their professional and personal lives in the wake of their young daughter's diagnosis of an ultra-rare genetic disorder, seeking to address a void in modern medicine that they've become especially sensitive to in the past year.

Geri and Zachary Landman's youngest daughter Lucy — now 14 months old — was diagnosed with a disorder in her PGAP3 gene that has no treatment or cure on the market, making her one of approximately 50 patients worldwide.

While living with their daughter's disorder and launching the nonprofit Moonshots for Unicorns have come to be focal points of the Landmans' lives ever since, with numerous hurdles to clear in seeking to develop a treatment and cure, they said that getting a diagnosis in the first place was a challenge.

"Kind of one of the tenets of medicine is if something's not going to change what you do, then why waste the cost or time of testing for it," Zachary Landman said. "It's a chicken and the egg situation because we don't test for it because there's no treatment for it, and there's no treatment because there's no testing for it."

It was Geri Landman's expertise as a pediatrician, and the couple's professional connections in the medical world, that led to their persistence in finding a diagnosis for their daughter paying off.

"Geri was really concerned," Zachary Landman said. "She was like 'I'm not just a mother,

I'm not crazy, I'm a pediatrician' and sent multiple videos of her doing weirder and weirder stuff, like falling over and not being able to sit up on her own."

He added that in many cases, the disorder results in diagnoses of autism and epilepsy, with no further exploration into the root cause of symptoms.

"If Geri hadn't been a pediatrician, and if I hadn't been working at Stanford, and if our neurologist didn't happen to have a personal connection to Geri while we were in the hospital, and also happened to be a neurologist specializing in genetics, Lucy never would have gotten this diagnosis," Zachary Landman said.

But despite their luck in getting a diagnosis, the Landman family was devastated by the result, with no hope in sight at first.

"Initially we didn't believe it, but it's of course true, and the follow-up testing showed that it was true. So we took a week off work and we cried, and her older sisters cried a lot too," he said.

The Landmans would go on to learn that the sense of helplessness they felt was all too common for families of patients with ultra-rare disorders. But unlike most, both physicians were able to use their expertise to push for solutions.

"I turned to Geri and said we can lay in bed the rest of our lives and feel sorry for ourselves, feel sorry for Lucy, or we can do something about it," Zachary Landman said.



MOONSHOTS FOR UNICORNS

Geri and Zachary Landman, shown here with their three daughters, launched Moonshots for Unicorns with the goal of offering treatments and cures for ultra-rare genetic disorders, such as the one their youngest daughter Lucy was recently diagnosed with.

The couple, who had met while attending UCSF, quickly jumped back into action.

"We just basically read every single research paper there was about PGAP3, and we just emailed basically every author, every scientist in the world working on it in a two to three week period," Zachary Landman said. "We understood the science, we understood the pathophysiology of the condition about as well as anyone else at the time."

Their efforts resulted in a whirlwind of meetings with doctors, scientists, and pharmacy CEOs across the world, and an upcoming meeting with White House representatives.

The good news, the Landmans discovered, was that gene therapy offered great promise for treating PGAP3, as well as other ultra-rare genetic conditions. The bad news, however, was that the rareness of the disorder meant a lack of market demand.

"Ultimately, our healthcare system is designed around for-profit, market-size developments, so it's not the fault of the people or the scientists that work on developing medicines, but we've been told multiple times that ... PGAP3 would be perfect if you could find 1,000 kids in the world — even better in the United States because they can afford it then we can absolutely cover the cost of developing the medicine," Zachary Landman said.

With the goal of both developing treatment for their daughter, as well as addressing the lack of access to gene therapy for ultra-rare disorders, the Landmans launched the nonprofit Moonshots for Unicorns.

"Unfortunately, because there are simply not enough kids known to have Lucy's genetic disorder, no pharma company, government, or investor is interested in funding this research — it has to be us," Geri Landman said on a GoFundMe page for the endeavor.

Geri Landman also emphasized that she and her husband's positions as physicians puts their daughter in a unique position for developing and receiving treatment.

"No child in the world with her condition has had the opportunity to have an effective treatment so early in life, which means that the sky is the limit to what we can do for her," Geri Landman said.

Zachary Landman noted that while the couple is fortunate to be in a position to address the lack of treatment, the organization's mission is to make the same opportunity available to all.

"We're looking at Lucy and saying we want to get a treatment into her as soon as possible," Zachary Landman said. "(It's) about \$2.5 million to get a treatment developed. That's why we created Moonshots — to hopefully have it so that no parent ever has to go to sleep at night being told what we were told, which was being told there's no treatment and no cure, and nothing you can do for your child."

With Moonshots for Unicorns, the Landmans are also seeking to help other families of loved ones with ultra-rare genetic disorders to feel less alone, and to find power in numbers. Zachary Landman, who comes from a family of physicians, said that he was also seeking to spread a message his father had left him with.

"My father actually throughout his career was a pediatrician and he took care of ... probably kids just like Lucy his whole career," Zachary Landman said. "The piece of advice he gave me was he said 'Look, it really sucks and you can't see it now but over time what I found by working with families for years is that oftentimes your family will grow closer together and be much stronger because of this.'"

Zachary Landman said this had proven to be the case for his own family, and that the renewed connections between them were serving as further fuel for Moonshots for Unicorns.

"For anyone that is recently diagnosed or just having gone through this for the first time, we're only five months into this but we're really grateful for the way it's brought our family together and the way it's kind of aligned us," he said. "It gives you a kind of completely different perspective in life, and that's certainly true for Geri and me."

More information on Moonshots for Unicorns, and updates on the latest developments in the research at the organization's pop-up lab, is available at moonshotsforunicorns.org. ■



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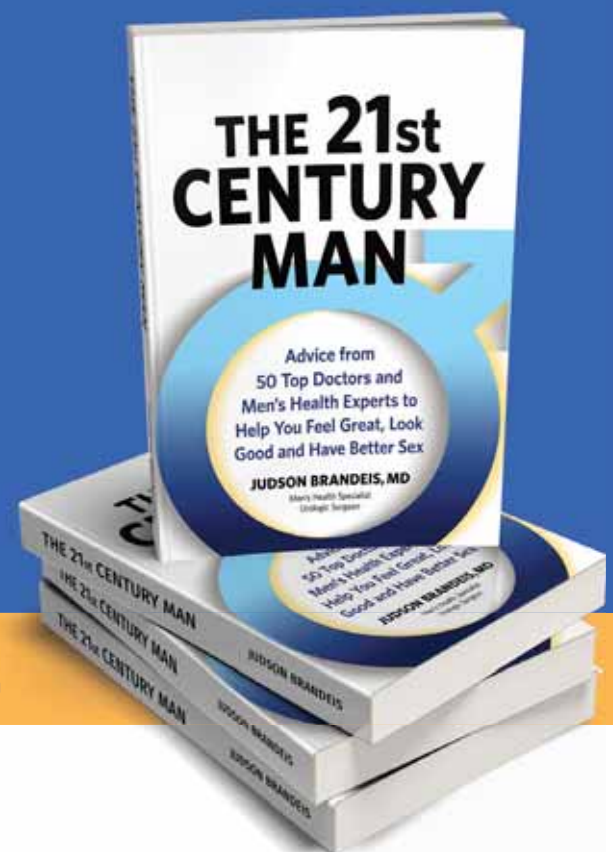


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Running to support survivors of domestic violence

Tri-Valley Haven celebrating 25th anniversary of Pace for Peace

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Participants of an upcoming run hosted in Livermore will be running, walking and jogging to provide proceeds to individuals impacted by domestic violence.

The annual Pace for Peace race will be hosted by Tri-Valley Haven, a Livermore-based nonprofit that aims to give resources to survivors of domestic violence and those fleeing from it. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the fundraising event.

Pace for Peace is a great way to begin October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, according to Tri-Valley Haven Executive Director Christine Dillman.

“The Haven’s Pace is a fun way to support an important, local cause,” Dillman said. “The Pace raises both awareness and vital funds that help Tri-Valley Haven’s domestic violence programs and the clients in need who we serve.”

Over the years, Pace for Peace has helped to fund many programs the organization offers. Proceeds from this year’s event will go toward funding resources such as counseling, shelter and case management for survivors and their children.

“The funds from the Pace for Peace event go towards funding Tri-Valley Haven’s domestic violence services and to local families fleeing abuse. Tri-Valley Haven runs the only confidential domestic violence shelter in the Tri-Valley

and the only shelter that takes boys older than 11 years of age as part of families,” Dillman said.

“We provide a myriad of other services including individual counseling, support groups, restraining order assistance and prevention education,” she added.

Nonprofit staff also aim to provide prevention workshops that can decrease the cycle of domestic abuse. They often teach anti-dating-violence and healthy relationship classes to high school and teenaged students in the area.

Tri-Valley Haven has been active in the community since 1977 and began its Pace for Peace event in 1997.

“Each year the event has grown due to the strong support from our supporters, volunteers, clients, local businesses and the Tri-Valley community,” Dillman said of the race’s longevity. “We cannot do this important work alone. Tri-Valley Haven is so very grateful to the Tri-Valley community.”

Businesses will have the opportunity to assist Tri-Valley Haven and the larger community by sponsoring or donating to the organization.

“The Pace for Peace is a chance to bring awareness and to make sure everyone knows that Tri-Valley Haven is here to help,” Dillman said. “Unfortunately, Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol are not immune to domestic violence.”



COURTESY TRI-VALLEY HAVEN

Walkers participate in a past Pace for Peace. The fundraising walk/run, which benefits Tri-Valley Haven, is set to return to Livermore on Oct. 1.

Dillman emphasized the importance of awareness for the cause, explaining that in California alone one in three women and one in five men will experience some form of physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Dillman shared that Tri-Valley Haven’s 24-hour crisis line receives approximately 4,000 calls for help from local survivors each year.

“The prevalence of domestic violence has dramatically increased since the COVID-19 pandemic began,” Dillman said.

As a nod to the 25th anniversary, the organization will have raffles, awards and a bounce house, as well as free T-shirts designed by local students from previous pace races.

Scheduled to start at 8 a.m. Oct. 1, Pace for Peace participants will be able to choose 5 or

10K distances that run through the Livermore Valley along the Arroyo bike trail.

“Tri-Valley Haven believes in empowering survivors,” Dillman said. “Over the past four decades, Tri-Valley Haven has assisted thousands of individuals and families fleeing abuse to become safe, empowered and self-sufficient.”

Organizers of the event seek to ensure that individuals of all activity levels will be able to enjoy themselves, whether they be competitive runners or beginners.

“The Pace for Peace has something for everyone. It is a great way to support this vital, local cause,” Dillman said.

More information about the race or programs can be found at the nonprofit’s website, trivalleyhaven.org. ■



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—Marty W.

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

LARPD

Continued from Page 11

“We built back smarter which incredibly, we have more cash than we’ve ever had. We’re operating at an incredibly efficient rate,” Fuzie said. “We’re providing more programs now than we were providing prior to the pandemic,” he added.

LARPD also played a major role in getting Livermore residents vaccinated by partnering with the city and the school district to roll out COVID-19 vaccines as early as possible and using some of their facilities for vaccination clinics.

“We were one of the biggest contributors of vaccination sites in the city. In fact, we were

(vaccinating) about 1,000 people at every clinic at one point when we were rolling the strongest,” Fuzie said.

With so much uncertainty still looming as 2022 approached, LARPD decided it would not plan to make a big splash for its 75th anniversary.

“Coming out of COVID this year, we weren’t sure how long it was going to linger or how successful we were going to be, so we figured it might be a bad idea to be spending money celebrating us rather than spending money providing for the public,” Fuzie said.

However, Fuzie noted that so far the district has come out “healthy in almost every aspect.” ■



COURTESY LARPD

The LARPD aquatics center offers “Toddler Time,” a recreational program for children 5 years old and younger to play at the zero-depth-entry activity pool.

Opinion

LETTERS

Chamber supports Stoneridge well PFAS treatment plant

Water quality management is fast becoming a critical issue for cities throughout our country. A lack of viable water supply options has forced each community to closely analyze its water resources already in place and determine how to best manage issues that affect its ability to use that water.

The Stoneridge well is one of 10 such facilities serving Pleasanton's water needs. According to past testing, this well contains PFAS that may exceed the levels determined by the State of California as "safe" when they release new criteria later this year.

Losing Stoneridge as a water source will significantly impact Zone 7's ability to meet the water needs of all its customers. This would devastate businesses that have already been overwhelmed with two-plus years of a pandemic.

At some point, a treatment plant will need to be constructed to deal

with our PFAS water contamination issues. The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is writing to express our support for building a PFAS Treatment plant for the Stoneridge well at the earliest opportunity.

We recognize this is a significant financial investment that, if made now, will reduce the reserves held by Zone 7. The trade-off is to fast-track construction of a plant that, once online, can be used to both distribute Stoneridge well water (which accounts for about 15% of all water managed by Zone 7) and blend it with other water sources. This will minimize (and possibly eliminate) the need for your agency to take more drastic action.

—James Cooper, president/CEO, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce

The West Las Positas adventure, revisited

It seems like just yesterday, actually two years ago, I wrote to you regarding the terrible driving conditions present on West Las Positas Boulevard between Santa Rita and Hopyard roads. After my letter was published in August 2020, I received a phone call from the Pleasanton City Manager's Office informing me that in fact a solution to address the road condition was in the city plan.

I thought, well that is wonderful news.

I didn't realize at the time the solution was to patch the asphalt in some areas of the road and post "Uneven Pavement" signs along the route. The result is the condition of the road is now worse, if possible, than it was before. The problem now extends into the Pleasanton Meadows neighborhood.

You can easily bottom out no matter the lane you are using along the route. If it starts to rain in the fall, we will have a serious problem navigating across town, but at least we have some signs telling us it's really bad!

We had an opportunity two years ago to address the situation when schools were closed due to the pandemic and traffic on the road was reduced with more residents working at home. That said, we still need the road to be completely repaved.

I again challenge any of our city officials to take a ride on this pleasure cruise and see if they don't agree that funding needs to be allocated to ensure a permanent effective solution is implemented now.

—Richard Lysaght

Thank you, Weekly

I really appreciate Ms. Jeanita Lyman's wonderful article "Alan Hu Foundation to host cognitive behavioral therapy webinar". Thank you for sharing this mental health resource with your readers.

A little bit of mental health knowledge can go a long way. Having such knowledge or not can lead to the result of a family becoming aware of

their teens' mental struggles at the earliest stage and taking appropriate actions or being completely oblivious to such difficulties and failing to respond until it is too late.

We appreciate your incredible support for us to disseminate cutting-edge mental health knowledge to the public.

Raising awareness of mental illness and preventing the next teen loss to suicide has a long way to go. Alan Hu Foundation is working hard toward this goal. Thank you again for your awesome support!

—Xiaofang Chen, co-founder/president, Alan Hu Foundation

Dems' endorsements

The Alameda County Democratic Party has endorsed a Yes position on all Alameda County local — county, municipal and unified school district — ballot measures and the following candidates for the Nov. 8, 2022 local elections:

Alameda County Supervisor: District 3, Rebecca Kaplan.

Dublin Mayor: Melissa Hernandez. Dublin Councilmember: Jean Josey, Kashaf Qaadri.

Livermore Mayor: John Marchand. Livermore Councilmember: District 1, Evan Branning; District 2, Mel Chiong.

Pleasanton Councilmember: District 1, Dean Wallace; District 3, Jamie Yee.

Livermore Valley Joint USD Trustee: Craig Bueno, Steven Drouin.

Sunol Glen USD Trustee: Peter Romo.

Dublin San Ramon Services District Director: Area 5 (short term), Seema Badar.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Director: Maryalice Summers Faltings, Ruby Moppin.

These are among the only official Democratic Party local endorsements in Alameda County for the Nov. 8 election.

—Igor Tregub

VFW scholarships

Pleasanton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 has announced two scholarship programs 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 25,000 high school students compete nationwide for more than \$2 million in scholarship money.

The competition starts at the local level here in Pleasanton and moves to regional, state and finally national competition and includes a trip to Washington, D.C. This year the topic is: "Why is the veteran important?" The winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship.

For middle school students, the VFW Patriot Pen essay contest gives students the chance to compete for

more than \$1.4 million in prize money. Competition begins at the local level, moves to regional and state competition before moving to the final phase in Washington, D.C. This year the topic is: "My pledge to our veterans."

Students can find more information and applications here: <https://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Applications are due by midnight Oct. 31, 2022. Mail them to: VFW Post 6298, PO Box 601, Pleasanton, CA 94566. For questions, text VFW member Roy Smith at 925.895.9880 or roy_smith711@comcast.net.

—Doug Miller

vanZee for SRVUSD Area 1

Jesse vanZee has answered the call from families and teachers to run for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board of Education, Area 1. He has built a reputation of being a bridge builder and community leader through his years of service at Montair Elementary School.

As president of the Montair Dad's Club, Jesse leads a large group of dads in support of the school. They engage in service projects, fund programs, infrastructure and offer support for teachers and families.

Jesse embodies the power of community partnership. He's a father of five children who will be part of SRVUSD until 2037. He has a long-term, vested interest in the excellence of schools in our district.

Jesse has declined any funds from special interest groups or PACs. He is committed to putting students before politics. This is truly a community-based, grassroots campaign — one which has been clear about prioritizing students and the importance

of giving all kids the opportunity to thrive in school.

As a former schoolteacher and mother of four young children, I am firmly committed to electing board members who engage the community and listen to teachers, parents, and students. This is how we build and maintain strong schools.

—Katie Hejna

Yes on Measure P

This November, Livermore voters will have an opportunity to approve an extension of the sewer system into south Livermore.

Measure P will help protect our local groundwater basin from pollution by allowing existing and future property owners in the area to connect to the sewer system. A healthy groundwater basin benefits all Livermore residents particularly as water supplies become scarcer and less reliable with climate change. Under Measure P, the cost of constructing the extension will be carried by the people that will hook up to the new extension, not by people in other parts of the city.

Measure P also helps to ensure that agriculture in the South Livermore Valley remains economically viable. The vineyards and other agriculture use that exist in the South Livermore Valley provide important open space benefits and help to preserve the unique character and history of the valley. Land-use protections put in place many years ago by the South Livermore Valley Area Plan and Measure D will remain unchanged under Measure P.

This fall, I encourage all Livermore residents to join me in supporting Measure P.

—Scott Akin

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

Virtual Joint Community and Planning Commission Special Meeting

Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

The community can join and participate in the meeting via Zoom. The meeting link is available at: <https://www.stoneridgemallframework.com/>

• The City of Pleasanton invites you to participate in a Community Meeting with the Planning Commission via Zoom on Monday, September 26, beginning at 6:00 pm. This community meeting will provide for an opportunity to learn about the Stoneridge Mall Framework and provide your input. The City wants to hear your perspective and would greatly appreciate your feedback. Please join us!



Committee on Energy and the Environment Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.

• Climate action plan 2.0 - Reach Codes

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

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
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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER



BRUCE BAESEMANN

2021 EBAL football action between Amador Valley and Foothill. The league could be undergoing a key membership reorganization in two years.

Should EBAL expand into a super-league?

NCS weighing two proposals for changes to Tri-Valley schools' league

The 2024-28 East Bay Athletic League will either pretty much remain the same, or have a different makeup by adding a pair of schools.

The North Coast Section last week forwarded on two different proposals to the December meeting — one from Acalanes and one from Dougherty Valley — that will shape the EBAL for the four-year span.

In the one proposed by Acalanes (Lafayette), the EBAL would remain the same, save for Clayton Valley no longer being a member of

the EBAL for football.

Clayton Valley would be part of the 13-school Diablo Athletic League (DAL), which it is a current member of for all sports but football.

The other league involved is the Bay Valley Athletic League that would be a six-team league.

That would leave the EBAL as an 11-team league with the league kept as is except for Clayton Valley no longer in EBAL football.

One of the listed rationales for the move in the proposal is travel costs as a team like Clayton Valley (Concord) would have excessive travel to half of the EBAL schools. Factor in travel through the I-680 corridor on Friday nights either to or from Clayton Valley and it would be a nightmare.

The Dougherty Valley plan adds Clayton Valley for all sports in the EBAL, and would add Campolindo (Moraga) to the league as well, making it a 13-team league.

There would be two leagues, much the same as now. Adding Clayton Valley for a full season of sports, along with Campolindo into the fold would create the top league in NCS and arguably the top league in the Bay Area.

Mike Hansen, the boys' basketball coach and acting athletic director at Dougherty Valley, as well as the architect of the proposal, explained the thought process for the EBAL.

"Let's make it a super-league," Hansen said. "We would have two divisions set up geographically and our playoffs would be better and deeper."

It is true, but there is validity to the travel issues, although Hansen points out it would not be as bad as some think. "With the two divisions set up geographically, it would not

be that much more travel," according to Hansen.

Figure one division would feature Livermore, Granada, Amador Valley, Foothill, Dublin and Dougherty Valley.

The other division would be California, Monte Vista, San Ramon Valley, Campolindo, De La Salle/Carondelet and Clayton Valley.

The way the last meeting went, it appears the Acalanes proposal will be the one NCS adopts.

In the recent meeting, all the 11 EBAL schools favored the Dougherty Valley proposal, with every other school involved in the proposals — 19 schools in all — going with the Acalanes plan.

"The Orinda area wants to keep all their schools together and the BVAL and the DAL like what they have as well," Hansen explained. "That would put us back to what we have in the EBAL and that would be fine as well."

The meeting in December is where the final decision is scheduled to be announced.

I will bring you the results of the outcome after the meeting.

Foothill volleyball

The Falcons kept the train rolling, winning a pair of EBAL games, as well as going 3-1 in the tough Oak Ridge Tournament.

The week started with a 27-25, 25-22, 25-15 win over Dublin.

The highlights came from Paige Bennett (19 kills, 13 digs), Kaycie Burdick (15 kills, 13 digs) and Katie Balonga (32 assists, 11 digs).

Second up was a match with Livermore, with Foothill posting a 25-8, 25-9, 25-18 win.

Some of the top players were Ema Okuhara (10 assists, 4 digs), Maddy Snodgrass (3 kills, 2 aces) and Helena Greene (2 kills, 2 blocks).

On Saturday, the Falcons made the trip to El Dorado Hills and took on some of the top teams in NorCal. They beat Tracy 2-0, Ponderosa 2-0 and Folsom 2-0 to advance to the quarterfinals where they fell 2-1 to Vacaville.

Amador-Foothill on TV

It's high school football season, and TV30 is back with all the local action.

TV30's award-winning coverage will include games showcasing Tri-Valley high schools Amador Valley, Dublin, Foothill, Granada and Livermore.

Live televised broadcasts of the high school football games will be shown on TV30 starting at 6:45 p.m. with Amador Valley at Foothill scheduled tonight. ■




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.



Government • Community • Nonprofit
LIFESAVING TOGETHER

Share the Care
 They're cute.
 They're ready.

They need your help to get home.

-  Adopt
-  Foster
-  Post on Social Media



#ShareTheCare with Valley
HUMANESOCIETY
 your means to a friend
valleyhumane.org

Entertainment

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

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

COURTYARD CONCERTS AT THE BANKHEAD Join jazz pianist Dan Marscha and bassist Cindy Browne Rosefiel for an intimate set of jazz standards & originals in various styles. 5:30 p.m., Sept. 30. Tickets \$20. Visit livermorearts.org.

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA Livermore Valley Opera Presents "The Elixir of Love", Gaetano Donizetti's beloved comic opera that charms with laughs and memorable music, featuring one of opera's greatest tenor arias. Oct. 1, 2, 8, 9. Visit livermorevalleyopera.com. Bankhead Theater.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS MARC MARON The star of four hit Netflix standup comedy specials, Marc Maron will bring his special brand of comedy to the Bankhead. 8 p.m., Oct. 6. Tickets \$93. Visit livermorearts.org.

SENSORY STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS A welcoming, interactive, sensory-friendly environment designed for children with special needs. Includes visuals, interactive preschool-level stories and multi-sensory activities. Class is held indoors. Call to register: 925-373-5505. 11 a.m., Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 11, Dec. 10. Civic Center Library, 1188 S Livermore Ave., Livermore.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH ALBERT EINSTEIN The 2022 season closes with actor Duffy Hudson in a highly anticipated return performance at the Firehouse Art Center, as Albert Einstein, the great scientific thinker who revolutionized physics. Einstein will discuss his life, Theory of Relativity, the dilation of time and his Twin Paradox. 2 and 7 p.m., Oct. 4. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit museumonmain.org.

BOBBY RUSH & JONTAVIOUS WILLIS Blues legend Bobby Rush and rising star Jontavious Willis bring together a show that encompasses the blues spanning a century. 8 p.m., Oct. 7. Tickets \$65. Visit livermorearts.org. Bankhead Theater.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS BANKHEAD PRESENTS SYNCOPATED LADIES A groundbreaking all-female tap show that propels beautiful, classy, and diverse women onto a re-invigorated stage, weaving their inspiring stories with intricate footwork, sexy feminine prowess and life-renewing energy. Tickets \$80. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 12. Visit livermorearts.org.

Exhibits

ART EXHIBIT: FERMENT The UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery exhibition,

Ferment, celebrates the beauty of vines, hops and fermented drinks. Free and open to the public, Thursdays to Sundays, 1-5 p.m., through Oct. 2. Bankhead Theater Lobby.

THE BEAUTY OF LIFE'S JOURNEY EXHIBIT This Firehouse Arts Center exhibit includes paintings from 20 California artists renowned nationwide that depict transitional elements working in oil, pastel, watercolor and other mediums. On display until Oct. 22.

CALIFORNIA VOTES EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM ON MAIN Chock full of maps, historic photographs and voting information, this timely exhibit is designed to demystify the terminology and processes around propositions and voting. On display through Oct. 8.

Religion

ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE - CHABAD OF THE TRI-VALLEY Join Chabad of the Tri-Valley for Rosh Hashanah, 6:45 p.m., Sept. 25. 3370 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Visit jewishtrivalley.com.

HIGH HOLY DAYS AT CONGREGATION BETH EMEK Jews will gather for evening prayers marking the new year on Sept. 25 and for morning prayers on Sept. 26 and 27. All services will be broadcast live. Information about attending in-person can be found at bethemek.org or by calling the synagogue at 925-931-1055.

HIGH HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES IN LIVERMORE Tri-Valley Cultural Jews (TVCJ) will conduct Secular Humanistic Rosh Hashanah observances in Livermore. Begins 3:30 p.m., Sept. 25. Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call 925-399-8029 for more information, location and reservations.

Festivities

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY ON THE BANKHEAD PLAZA A celebration of story, song and dance appreciating the long history of culture and traditions that Native Americans have preserved through the centuries. Free and open to the public. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Sept. 23. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.

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.

PIRATES OF EMERSON HAUNTED THEMED PARK The Bay Area's Halloween tradition Pirates of Emerson returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Get ready to scream at this walk through haunted attraction. Tickets are all sold online. Sept. 30-Oct. 31. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

WITCHES NIGHT OUT IN LIVERMORE Reserve a table for 2, 4, 6 or 8 and

for the dining experience choose the preferred restaurant. Tables \$20-\$80. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Oct. 5. Visit livermoredowntown.com/events.

ALAMEDA FALL HOME SHOW Visit the 36th Annual Alameda County Fall Home Show to get ideas at hundreds of exhibits featuring custom kitchens and baths, windows and doors, heating and air, sunrooms and floors, landscaping displays and more. Oct. 7-9. Tickets \$5. Children 12 and under and active military free. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

FILIPINO BARRIO FIESTA Livermore Valley Arts and Las Positas College present Filipino Barrio Fiesta, a free family-friendly community event featuring dance, music, food, art and history. 10 a.m.- 8 p.m., Oct. 2 on the Bankhead Plaza. Visit livermorearts.org.

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. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays. Between J Street and L Street.

Seniors

MONDAY MOVIES AT THE SENIOR CENTER Monday movie madness at the Pleasanton Senior Center is the

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Kooky Krypton

Krypton, the keen little cutie, will keep the key to your heart! If you're looking for a kindhearted, kooky new kin, look no further than this kissable kitten. Learn more about Krypton and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. #ShareTheCare

second and fourth Monday of the month. Free. 1:15 p.m., Sept. 26, "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel". Pleasanton Senior Center.

DAY TRIPPERS WITH THE SENIOR CENTER Visit Filoli Gardens in Woodside where this trip includes transportation and admission. Fee \$22. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 4. To register call 925-931-5357.

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

PLEASANTON RIDES Keeping seniors on the move, Pleasanton Rides serves eligible Pleasanton residents with transportation needs throughout Pleasanton and select Tri-valley destinations. Call 925-398-1045.

Support

FREE HOT MEALS Prepared by Open Heart Kitchen. Monday-Friday, 1-3 p.m. 4444 East Ave, Livermore.

Dine-in or take-out. Visit openheartkitchen.org.

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

GOODNESS VILLAGE NEEDS DRIVERS If available to drive on occasion to take residents to an appointment call 925-216-8858.

Government

PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Sept. 28. Visit cityofpleasantonca.gov.

LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL MEETING The Livermore City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Sept. 26. Visit cityoflivermore.net.

October 21, 2022
6:30 - 10:30 P.M.

sunflower
SOIREE

Join us for
our annual
fundraising gala
at McGrail
Vineyards and
Winery in
Livermore!

★ **Tickets** are \$150 per person and include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, beverages, dessert, and entertainment.

★ **Art show** featuring submissions by local adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

★ **Live auction**, raffles, games, engaging speakers, and more!

For tickets and sponsorships visit:
sunflowerhill.org/sunflower-soiree

Funds raised support affordable housing and programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during July 25-29 for Pleasanton, Livermore Dublin and Sunol, and Aug. 15-19 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 4182 Alba Court** L. & R. Masuda to Yeggy Trust for \$860,000
- 6373 Benner Court** K. & R. Matsumoto to M. & P. Das for \$1,560,000
- 6881 Calle Altamira** H. Wang to M. & K. Celik for \$1,970,000
- 880 Concord Street** S. Courts to R. & S. Nayak for \$1,789,000
- 7827 Foothill Knolls Drive** C. & J. Amos to S. & B. Acharya for \$2,655,000
- 4515 Gatetree Circle** Ayala Trust to B. & C. Kallingal for \$1,740,000
- 948 Happy Valley Road** Vepa Trust to Murugeswar Trust for \$2,000,000
- 3652 Huff Court** Hoggatt Trust to A. & P. Tovar for \$1,380,000
- 3113 Joanne Circle** L. Fulton to Naruo Family Trust for \$1,779,000
- 5934 Laurel Creek Drive** Farr Trust to H. & F. Nooruddin for \$3,100,000
- 4876 Merganser Court** Frost Family Trust to H. & A. Amstrup for \$1,925,000
- 4029 Moselle Court** Zarrillo Family Trust to E. & H. Yildiz for \$1,710,000
- 4092 Moselle Court** Survivors Trust to S. & V. Agarwal for \$1,455,000
- 5120 Mount Tam Circle** Thomas Family Trust to S. & A. Karan for \$2,350,000
- 3825 Muirwood Drive** Chiu Trust to A. & A. Udasi for \$1,720,000
- 1643 Paseo Del Cajon** C. Platts to Blocks Trust for \$2,065,000

- 1554 Ramblewood Way** S. Srinivasan to A. & K. Ivaturi for \$1,625,000
- 3673 Shenandoah Court** Overstreet Family Trust to Katreddi Family Trust for \$1,602,000
- 4755 Sutter Gate Avenue** Leyda Trust to G. & V. Theertha for \$1,425,000
- 1706 Valley Avenue** Z. & S. Puri to H. & J. Teague for \$1,750,000
- 1382 Via Di Salerno** S. & M. Betker to M. & L. Losey for \$4,800,000
- 410 Vineyard Place** M. & T. Freitas to C. & V. Dsouza for \$1,005,000

Livermore

- 352 Alice Way** Hickox Family Trust to N. & C. Rubio for \$955,000
- 4370 Amherst Way** R. & S. Lambert to T. & B. Stone for \$1,000,000
- 1419 Aster Lane** Damonte Trust to N. & S. Kuttab for \$925,000
- 5413 Betty Circle** C. & A. Cuppoletti to Olga Family Trust for \$1,150,000
- 5618 Bridgeport Circle** Redfinnow Borrower LLC to M. & A. Alam for \$1,080,000
- 3793 Carrigan Common** A. & C. Franzel to Y. Salome for \$650,000
- 1914 Chalon Glen Court** J. Vella to R. & D. Ghuman for \$2,210,000
- 2570 Chateau Way** Kratochvil Family Trust to S. & N. Malhotra for \$1,525,000
- 3836 East Avenue** Gruver Family Trust to Prusso Family Trust for \$675,000
- 562 Escondido Circle** Bozzini Trust to R. & N. Syed for \$1,480,000
- 937 Florence Road** Rawls Family Trust to H. & P. Badeti for \$1,229,000
- 4681 Golf Drive** Bannert Living Trust to J. & J. Martin for \$795,000

- 412 Hagemann Drive** M. Having to J. & B. Hardwick for \$1,279,000
- 5859 Heidi Way** Westphal Family Trust to Z. Sun for \$1,500,000
- 842 Jessica Drive** S. & R. Shurson to S. & S. Wilson for \$1,360,000
- 1264 Jessica Drive** G. Martinez to J. & M. Havig for \$1,632,000
- 669 Joyce Street** Koponen Family Trust to C. & M. Breneman for \$1,175,000
- 5924 Kim Court** C. Marion to N. & R. Assibey for \$1,559,000
- 4804 Marcella Court** A. & M. Hale to J. & Z. Jimenez for \$1,450,000
- 337 Marie Common** S. & S. Khedkar to Warga Trust for \$888,000
- 1770 Mira Loma Street** Fountaine Trust to J. & M. Hole for \$608,000
- 2924 Sage Common** S. & A. Shaik to Y. & J. Hsu for \$1,000,000
- 3929 Santa Clara Way** A. & J. Conway-James to S. & J. Barto for \$1,040,000
- 5307 Starflower Way** Fountaine Trust to S. Kral for \$660,500
- 946 Verona Avenue** Ancien Corp Inc to J. & C. Guimaraes for \$1,085,000
- 872 Wagoner Drive** Simsim Realty LLC to S. & C. Murthy for \$1,200,000

- 374 Eastridge Drive** J. & J. Alcocer to Mahoney Living Trust for \$515,000
- 9972 Foxboro Way** J. & R. Thomas to A. Balachandran for \$1,400,000
- 1868 Hollyview Drive** Burnside Living Trust to A. & S. Lankalapalli for \$1,950,000
- 530 Kingsbridge Court** K. Ding to N. & P. Chaurasia for \$3,550,000
- 3231 Montevideo Drive** J. Amin to H. & G. Gambhir for \$1,450,000
- 10152 Nantucket Drive** F. & C. Tierney to A. & P. Nash for \$2,250,000
- 5037 Rashelle Way** X. Niu to S. & M. Thummala for \$2,150,000
- 2612 Shadow Mountain Drive** D. Middlemiss to M. & P. Schmid for \$830,000
- 908 Springview Circle** S. & K. Iyer to E. & V. Kumar for \$1,100,000
- 63103 Via Vicenza** Faria Preserve LLC to H. & A. Kaushik for \$1,408,000
- 204 Victory Circle** G. Zhu to R. & D. Ly for \$1,641,000
- 902 Vista Pointe Drive** W. Cai to X. Qi for \$100,000
- 6186 Yardley Lane** C. Ho to N. & P. Liu for \$1,070,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (July 25-29)

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$860,000
Highest sale reported: \$4,800,000
Average sales reported: \$1,745,000

Livermore (July 25-29)

Total sales reported: 27
Lowest sale reported: \$608,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,210,000
Average sales reported: \$1,150,000

Dublin (July 25-29)

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$725,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,220,000
Average sales reported: \$1,392,000

Sunol (July 25-29)

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$1,100,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,100,000
Average sales reported: \$1,100,000

San Ramon (Aug. 15-19)

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$100,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,550,000
Average sales reported: \$1,450,000

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

MENLO PARK

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

1868 Valparaiso Avenue **\$5,988,000**
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/4.5BA
 DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

PLEASANTON

4759 McHenry Gate Way **\$1,878,000**
 Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00 4BD/3BA
 Iron Horse Real Estate 925-216-4063

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

4759 McHenry Gate, Pleasanton



This is it! This home in Pleasanton's desirable GATES Neighborhood, offers 4 bedrooms, 3 Full baths, (1 bed and 1 bath downstairs), formal living and dining room areas, recently updated kitchen, and baths, new carpet throughout, refinished hardwood floors, interior and exterior paint, family room has a fireplace and large slider to see into the backyard. The backyard has room for a pool, Bocce Ball Court or whatever visions you may have. Close to commute access, schools, neighborhood parks, Ken Mercer Sports Park, shopping and Downtown Pleasanton!

VISIT 4759MCHENRYGATE.COM FOR PHOTOS.

OFFERED AT \$1,878,000



Marti Gilbert
 Iron Horse Real Estate
 dre.01520061
 marti@homesbymarti.com
 925-216-4063



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PENDING IN 6 DAYS WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS!

INTEGRITY AT YOUR FRONT DOOR.

▲ 4328 ADDISON WAY, PLEASANTON

3 BED | 2 BATH | 1,614 +/- SQ. FT.
4328ADDISONWAY.COM | LISTED AT \$1,369,000

PENDING



▲ 1660 CASCINA COURT, LIVERMORE
5 BED | 4 BATH | 4,367 +/- SQ. FT.
MULTIPLE OFFERS | REPRESENTING SELLERS

JUST SOLD



▲ 2785 TURNSTONE DRIVE, PLEASANTON
3 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,135 +/- SQ. FT.
MULTIPLE OFFERS | SOLD AT \$1,560,000

CALL US ABOUT OUR COMING SOON PROPERTIES!
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This Week's Neighborhood Highlight: **Ruby Hill**

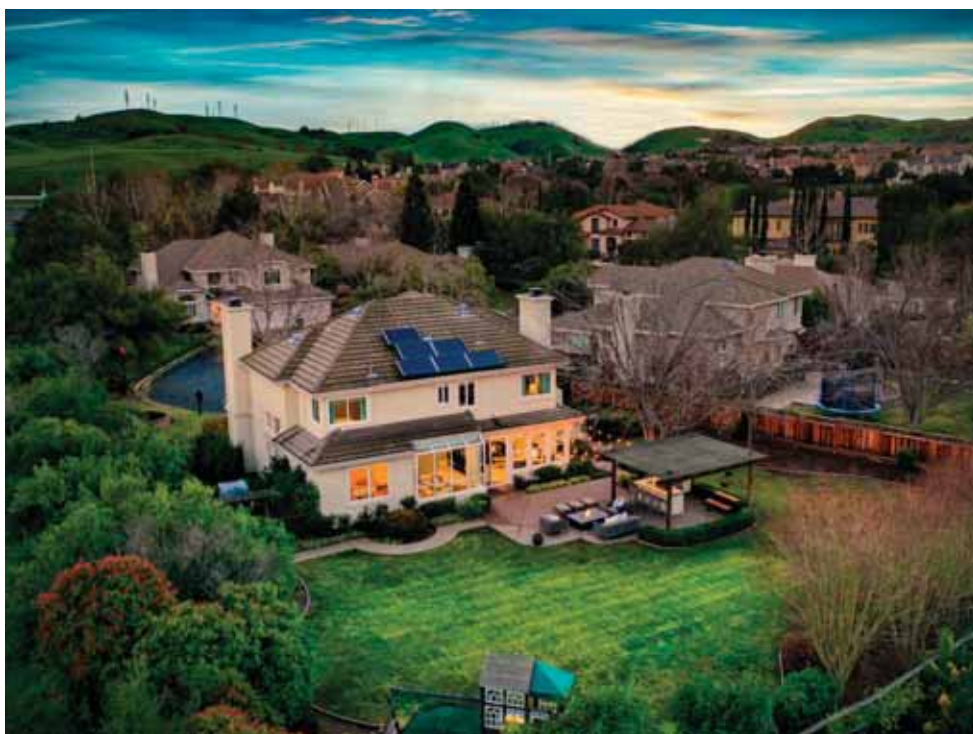


A Note From Liz Venema...

"What it takes to be an exceptional real estate agent is love and understanding of your community"

I'm lucky - my life and work have beautifully dovetailed into my very own Pleasanton story, a creation in the making for the last 40+ years and counting. As my involvement in the community has grown and I've come to know the people and faces that make Pleasanton its own kind of oasis in Northern California, I've become more dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of those who live here, as well as those who want to become part of its magic. I'm proud to call this charming town my own.

More than expertise in negotiation and marketing, what it takes to be an exceptional real estate agent is love and understanding for your community. It's just one reason you should choose me to stand by your side, and it's the foundation of everything I do.



482 Sangro Court, Ruby Hill Sold for \$2,625,000

💞 I'm so thankful for the team at Venema Homes. They made the process of selling our home so easy. Their team is process driven and detail oriented but they also cared about us as individuals and our circumstances. This was a highly personalized partnership and we would recommend them to any friends or family. 💞

-Brad and Eryka, Sangro Sellers



VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE  EXCELLENCE



\$206,396,664 Sold in Ruby Hill



FOR SALE

579 Trebbiano Place, Ruby Hill
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,806 Square Feet
Listed at \$2,495,000

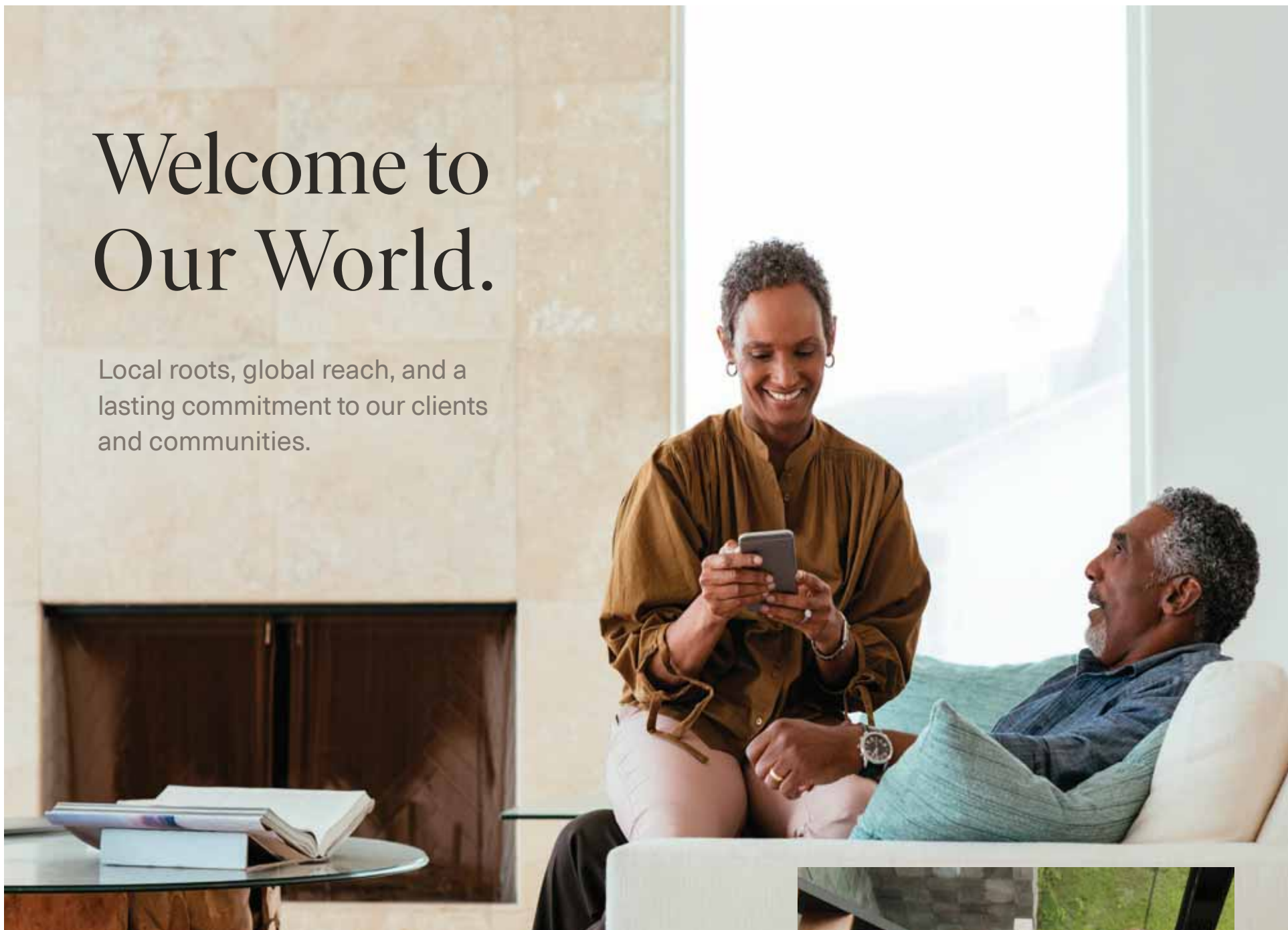


JUST SOLD

3422 Torlano Place, Ruby Hill
5 Bedrooms | 4 Bathrooms | 4,450 Square Feet
Sold for \$3,350,000

Welcome to Our World.

Local roots, global reach, and a lasting commitment to our clients and communities.



+ 17

Local offices and 580 agents throughout the Silicon Valley, the San Francisco Peninsula, Santa Cruz, the East Bay, Lake Tahoe, and the Sierra Foothills

+ 100

Affiliate firms in 50 countries throughout our global luxury network

+ \$5M

In charitable donations given to 300 local organizations

+ **Elevated benefits to our clients** – enhanced marketing programs and online exposure + unique access to services through Christie's, the leading luxury business

Follow our stride at sereno.com



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SERENO

sereno
1% For Good
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



\$88M
volume in 2021

67
Happy clients
in 2021

42+
Years of local
experience

The Slowdown is Slowing Down!

If you have outgrown your space, now is the time to move up!

- Some of the early indicators are showing that the market is leveling off
- Fewer homes coming on the market, fewer price reductions
- Mortgage rates have come down from their highs and are settling lower
- Learn the benefits of proposition 13 and 19 and how you can keep your current tax basis. Buy your next house and take your property tax basis if you 55+
- Benefit from our no interest, no fee loan Concierge program to spruce up your house and sell for a premium
- Learn more about our bridge loan program to help you purchase your next home prior to the sale of your current

Yes, in the current market, you can buy your next home contingent on sale of your current one. Give us a call or send us a text at 925-580-8011; connect with us today so we can curate a move up plan that works for you...no sales pitch, no pressure, just good information.

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



1845 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette

Two houses on one lot...Situated on almost one-acre lot, backing to a secluded hillside makes this property like a private sanctuary. Main house offers 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bath plus a guest house (studio and full bath). There is main floor primary suite, two 2-car detached garages and plenty room to roam. Listed at \$1,848,888
Call Farida at 925.784.2524 for details and to set up a private showing of this special home.



6810 Langmuir Lane, Dublin
4 BD/2 BA, 1,305sf

Solar owned, large yard, fruit trees.
Priced to sell at \$1,075,000 -
Call Farida at 925.784.2524 for details
or to request a showing.



4092 Moselle Court, Pleasanton
4BD, 3BA home in original condition.

Sold AS IS at \$1,455,000
Call Steve at 925.580.8011
To Sell Yours.

Integrity, Honesty and Keeping My Word is the Key to Success.

Shortcuts and fast talk mean nothing. Hard work gets the job done.



Rhonda Fee
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4733 Chabot Drive, Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588
RhondaFee.com
DRE 01414989

I learned this business philosophy from my father and grandfather who were licensed contractors here in Fremont, and my mission in real estate is to assist my clients in making their buying or selling experience as smooth as possible. After 10 years of running my independent brokerage in Pleasanton, I decided to join the Christie's International Real Estate Sereno family, where I feel inspired and supported in my goal to provide the best possible experience for my clients. Regardless of your buying or selling situation, I'm here to help every step of the way.

Let's make your next real estate transaction the best move you've ever made!

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
SERENO

Take a look at this gorgeous 2-story Pleasanton home I recently sold for \$2,150,000

1866 HALCYON CT, PLEASANTON

4 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,560 SF Living | 9,554 SF Lot





SOLD - 6923 CORTE BARCELONA, PLEASANTON

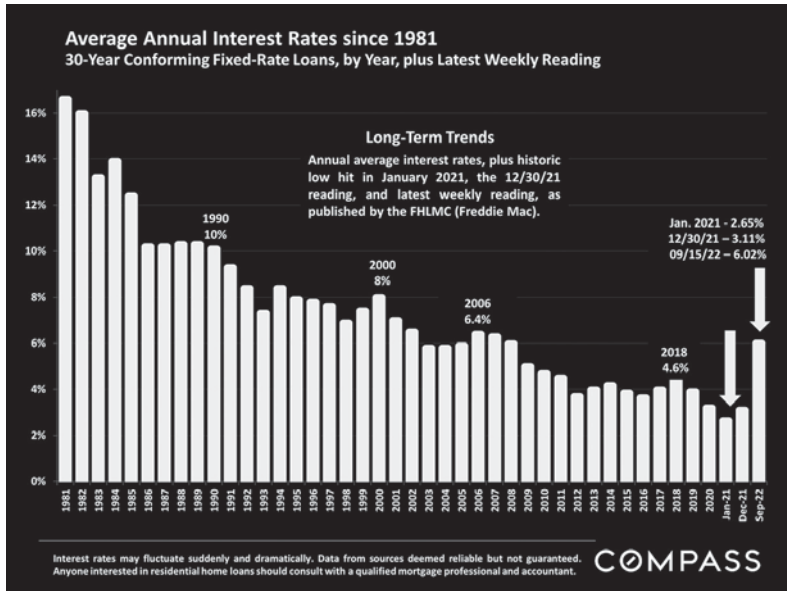
3 Bedrooms | 2.5 Baths | 1,958 Sqft | Updated throughout
Closing at \$1,525,000



A Message from Kris:

The market has shifted in the past few months and there is a lot of talk of rising interest rates. I have been successful in getting my sellers homes sold for the best price and receiving buyers offers with strong interest.

There is still time to sell your home in 2022, are you ready? I have offered top level service to my clients for over 40 years. Let me help you make your next move to your new adventures for your home.



CENTRAL LIVERMORE

SOLD



2570 Chateau Way, Livermore
Listed at \$1,540,000 | SOLD at \$1,525,000

JENSEN/AMADOR

SOLD



4226 Silver St., Pleasanton
Listed at \$1,200,000 | Sold at \$1,265,000
(5 offers)

HAPPY VALLEY

SOLD



500 Happy Valley Rd., Pleasanton
Listed at \$2,900,000 | Sold at \$3,050,000
(representing the sellers & buyers)

PLEASANTON VALLEY

SOLD



5165 Oakview Ct., Pleasanton
Listed at \$1,600,000 | Sold at \$1,600,000

Kris Moxley

925.519.9080

DRE 00790463

moxleyrealestate.com

kris@moxleyrealestate.com

900 Main Street,
Pleasanton, CA 94566



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