

# Pleasanton Weekly

**'Dream Big'  
in Livermore**

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## Right time for another school bond?

**Pleasanton voters to decide fate of  
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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## The year of Tri-Valley city manager hirings

It shouldn't have surprised me — but it did nonetheless — when we received the press release last week that San Ramon City Manager Joe Gorton would be retiring from the city in four months.

The news (courtesy of a classic "Friday afternoon news dump", as I joked to colleagues and city officials) just seemed out of the blue given Gorton's run of success as the head of city administration for 5-1/2 years after a long career in local law enforcement capped by three-plus years as San Ramon's police chief.

Of course, I'm not privy to what's going on behind the scenes, and Gorton is of the age and career arc that many government officials follow into retirement (from public employment, anyway). Chalk it up to an important realization many of us would be lucky to face: When it's time, it's time.

Gorton's departure will continue a streak of turnover at the top for three of the five Tri-Valley municipalities in the past year — and it becomes four of five if you go back to just before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pleasanton and Livermore had new city managers start on the job within days of each other this spring.

Gerry Beaudin began his tenure in Pleasanton in mid-May, succeeding Nelson Fialho who stepped down last November after an astounding 17 years at the helm for a brief sabbatical of sorts before entering the private sector.

Marianna Marysheva, a transplant from the city of Irvine who had prior career ties in the Bay Area, took the reins on her own in Livermore in early June after several weeks in a transition period alongside outgoing Marc Roberts, who retired after 10 years as city manager and 35 years overall with the city.

Two in rapid succession like that is unusual in the Tri-Valley. A third with San Ramon as early as next January makes a striking trend.

And I know sometimes pre-pandemic seems like a lifetime ago, but it was only in January 2020 that Linda Smith was promoted in house as Dublin's city manager to follow Chris Foss upon his retirement after 5-1/2 years.

Smith is only the fourth city manager for Dublin in its 41-year history as an incorporated city.

Talk about stability.

Well, then again there's Town Manager Joe Calabrigo in Danville, who is on pace to mark 30 years in the position in 2023. An astronomical outlier for the Bay Area in this era.

That's the challenge the San Ramon City Council faces in the months ahead — to try to find a successor for Gorton that provides the stability of strong leadership that the city demands. Actually, it will almost certainly be a new council that makes that permanent hire, as two San Ramon council seats are guaranteed to change hands in the November election, plus the mayor's race is contested.

Here's to hoping San Ramon takes its time in the search to identify the next city manager. It will probably be the most important decision those five elected officials will make together as a unit.

I believe Pleasanton hired the right person to lead their city. Really, I was pleasantly surprised this current City Council came to such a consensus in their hiring process, considering how contentious the five electeds were in several other high-profile decisions over the past year. Just think how politicized, how chippy, the council district mapping process got.

But they were unanimous in selecting Beaudin, who led the Pleasanton Community Development Department during 2015 to 2019 before departing for a promotion to assistant city manager in Alameda.

I got to watch Beaudin work for many council meetings, and even more Planning Commission meetings, for over two years before he departed Pleasanton. He knew the material in front of him inside and out, he was articulate in explaining to city officials and the public, and perhaps most importantly, he listened.

Time will tell whether Marysheva will have that kind of positive impact in Livermore, as she's totally new to the city.

I can't wait to find out who San Ramon selects as its next permanent city manager, and then watch as our editorial team digs into that person's credentials and background.

I wonder too if that selection will quell this spate of instability in city manager's offices across the Tri-Valley. You almost have to think the ball is in Calabrigo's court next, in that regard. But you never can tell... ■

### About the Cover

Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund walks through the small gym at Amador Valley High School while pointing out how run down the 100-year-old building is and how the district plans on demolishing it to rebuild a new gym if the Measure I bond passes in November. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## When you travel, where do you like to stay?



**Jared Greisman** *Lawyer*

Airbnb or renting someone's home is my favorite because that's what we do when we go on a weeklong vacation, like Block Island, where we rent a beach cottage that comes equipped with fishing rods, bicycles and surfboards. We stock up on food, cook and barbecue when we want, and eat out when we want. It's an ideal family beach vacation.



**Janet Petrillo**

*Head of business development/marketing*

I like to stay at small boutique hotels because they give me an intimate, home-like feeling, wherever in the world I happen to be. I also feel like the staff are often friendlier at these types of hotels than at the larger chains.



**Raelene Edwards**

*Client development systems administrator*

I just like to stay at whatever hotel is closest to the office where I'll be working because that is what is most efficient and convenient for me. I like to spend as little time as possible commuting from the hotel to the office because that time is most often very unproductive. And I hate that.



**Claire Kryslar**

*Server/college student*

I like to stay at any nice hotel where I can get a good rate. I really enjoy being able to just relax and have all of my needs taken care of for me.



**Aiden McFadden**

*Server/college student*

Airbnbs are usually my favorite because they provide a really nice, comfortable setting to spend time hanging out with family, and they make me feel as though I'm at home, rather than away.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### DUSD forum back on

The Pleasanton Weekly's election forum for Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustees is back on the schedule for next Thursday (Oct. 6) after late confirmations from multiple candidates.

Participating in the Zoom-based forum will be incumbent William Kuo and challenger John Wu for Trustee Area 3 and challenger Sameer Hakim for Area 5. Trustee Dan Cherrier of Area 5 declined his invitation. Area 2 newcomer Kristen Speck, who is unopposed, will also not attend.

Moderated by the Weekly and presented in partnership with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and GFWC Dublin San Ramon Women's Club, the DUSD forum will run from 6-7 p.m. as a live webinar and a videorecording available after the fact.

It is one of three forums on the Weekly's schedule for next week.

The three candidates for Dublin City Council (Jean Josey, Kashef Qaadri and Lynna Lan Tien Nguyen Do) will debate key issues from 6-7 p.m. Monday (Oct. 3). A brief Q&A for candidates in Dublin San Ramon Services District will follow that night.

On Tuesday (Oct. 4), candidates Urvi Shah and Laurie Walker for the contested Pleasanton Unified School District Trustee Area 2 seat, as well as Area 5 newcomer Justin Brown, the only candidate to file, will take part in a forum beginning at 6 p.m. It will be held in-person in the PUSD boardrooms at 4665 Bernal Ave. as well as livestreamed. For more information, visit [pleasantonweekly.com](http://pleasantonweekly.com).

### Pirates of Emerson

The Pirates of Emerson haunted theme park has returned to the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton for the weeks ahead for Halloween.

The walking tour includes attractions such as the "Dorm of Doom", "Mystery Mansion" and "Maze Haze". Pirates of Emerson is open on Thursday through Sunday evenings now through Halloween, with Wednesday (Oct. 26) and Monday (Oct. 31) added to the list during the holiday week. Tickets are available in advance and online only via [piratesofemerson.com](http://piratesofemerson.com).

### Dublin Harvest Fair

Dublin Heritage Park and Museums is set to host the city's annual Harvest Fair next Saturday (Oct. 8) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The family-friendly event includes a petting zoo, hay bale maze, wagon rides, face painting, pumpkin golf, apple crate toss, pumpkin ring toss, gold panning, washboard laundry and butter churning. ■

## Pleasanton police update City Council on school officers, stop data, low staffing

Also: City OKs purchase of two crime vehicles for large-scale operations support

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Members from the Pleasanton Police Department updated the City Council with its biannual report last week on topics including school police officers, "stop data" collection and the challenge of hiring new personnel.

Police Chief David Swing told the council that the fall report is designed to be programmatic in nature and that the one in the spring will focus more on crime data and statistics.

School resource officers (SROs) are

police that are assigned by the city and by the Pleasanton Unified School District to help in any school-related crime or emergencies.

Part of the update on the SRO program included information about recent arrests made at schools, the implementation of the Alternate Response to Mental Health Unit and outreach efforts aimed to develop a better relationship with the students.

Swing said that in keeping with the newer diversion practices of looking for alternatives when arresting students at schools, the department

referred two students to the diversion program, Horizons Family Services, out of the four arrests that were on campus this past year. He noted that all of the arrests were made in private and not in front of other students.

One of the main updates to the alternate response unit (ARU) since it was first implemented in January was that the unit has conducted 32 mental health evaluations for students who may have been in crisis — and of those calls, only two students were placed on a mental health hold.

"Students in crisis, this is an area

where we have had much conversation over the last probably two years," Swing said during the Sept. 20 council meeting. "To see the number there that two out of 32 students who were contacted for a mental health evaluation, only two were referred to an acute care facility for a 72-hour hold, is something that we should all be proud of because that is a significant win for our young people and for our students."

The unit will be hiring two

See **POLICE** on Page 8



BRITTNI KIICK

Livermore Pride is organizing a series of special events in recognition of LGBTQ+ History Month in October 2022, instead of a single-day festival as in past years (shown).

## Love is love in Tri-Valley

Livermore Pride celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month

By **NICOLE GONZALES**

Livermore Pride will be celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month this October with a series of diverse, community-based events with the goal of fostering queer connection and education.

The nonprofit group operates with the mission to celebrate queer culture and history in the region. In contrast to previous years where a singular event was hosted, the organization will be presenting a variety of different public activities to celebrate the 2022 LGBTQ+ History Month.

Organizers of the activities hope to encourage citizens to foster new friendships and form relations in the Tri-Valley queer

community with the new event series format.

"Although we will always love a good festival, and may go back to that one day, right now seems like the perfect time to move towards more intimate community-building," Jodi Mikel, board member and event coordinator for Livermore Pride, said in a statement. "The LGBTQ+ community is as diverse as any other. With the wide range of events, we have something for everyone to enjoy."

Organizers say the events are aimed to support local businesses while also helping to educate residents on LGBTQ+ identity.

"Small businesses are

community leaders who are vital to creating and maintaining a sense of welcome that allows us to all thrive," said Amy Lehman-Sexton, interim board secretary for Pride.

She emphasized the importance of having local shops as partners and being present at the festival, "when small businesses partner to host these events, that's an action telling all of us — especially our young people — that our community leaders are here to support them."

The fourth annual Livermore Pride Festival will take on a different look this year with its

## Deputies sidelined for failed psych exams

ACSO internal review forces 47 onto desk duty, for now

By **KEITH BURBANK / BCN**

Alameda County sheriff's officials believe 47 deputies who allegedly failed a psychological exam and now have desk jobs will pass the exam when they retake it and get their guns and peace officer powers back, a sheriff's spokesperson said Tuesday.

The action follows a sheriff's office audit that resulted in the deputies' loss of powers. That audit was prompted by the fatal shooting Sept. 7 of two people allegedly by then-Deputy Devin Williams Jr. of Stockton.

Williams, 24, has been charged with double murder for allegedly shooting a woman he was dating and her husband at the couple's home in Dublin.

"We believe the deputies will likely pass the retest," sheriff's spokesperson Lt. Ray Kelly said Tuesday.

The deputies reassigned represent less than 5% of the force. Thirty of the 47 deputies were assigned to Santa Rita Jail and 17 were assigned to other duties, including patrol, Kelly said.

Sheriff's officials told the Alameda County District Attorney's Office about the reassignments and are unaware of any conflicts with criminal cases. But Kelly said they will keep an eye on that possibility.

See **PRIDE** on Page 6

See **DEPUTIES** on Page 7

# Supes ban wild milking, keep essential rodeo equipment

Amendment clears spurs, bucking straps, non-release ropes for continued use in county

Alameda County supervisors voted last week to ban the rodeo practice of wild cow milking in unincorporated parts of the county following hours of public comment and discussion.

Supervisors Richard Valle and Dave Brown introduced the ordinance and it passed on Sept. 20.

Wild cow milking is just as the name suggests. A two-man team tries to get milk from a cow turned loose in an arena, as defined by the West of the Pecos Rodeo in Pecos, Texas.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, known as the world's oldest and largest sanctioning body for rodeos, does not include wild cow milking as a sanctioned event

at its rodeos.

"We are pleased with the way the (meeting) went," said Scott Dorenkamp, livestock program and government relations manager with the association, though the group wished the issue hadn't come up.

Dorenkamp was rather pleased with the amendment made by Valle, which maintained the use of spurs, bucking straps and non-release ropes at rodeos. Those items are equipment essential to a "quality rodeo product," Dorenkamp said.

He believes the people wanting to ban that equipment really want to outlaw rodeos.

Matt Johnson with the animal rights group Direct Action

Everywhere, which has opposed horse racing and staged a protest before the supervisors' meeting, wouldn't say yes or no on whether Dorenkamp's allegation was true.

Johnson said Ringling Brothers is bringing back the circus without animals. He suggested rodeos could change, too.

Valle said his intention was not to hurt rodeos, such as Rowell Ranch Rodeo in unincorporated Alameda County. He said during the meeting that he saw a middle ground that would protect rodeos and ban wild cow milking, which he did by introducing an amendment to the original ordinance.

"Animals, they don't step up to the podium," Valle said. "They

don't get a chance to speak. Who speaks for them?"

Four supervisors voted in favor of the amendment. Supervisor David Haubert voted against it.

He thought the county should rely on the state or federal government to regulate wild cow milking.

Haubert and Board of Supervisors Vice President Nate Miley preferred that county committees take a look at issues coming before the Board of Supervisors before the board looks at them.

"That's my big frustration," Miley said, because that did not happen.

But it's not required by county law or policy. Supervisors can introduce items without vetting them through committees.

Miley also said the consideration of Valle and Brown's proposal took away from the discussion and action on vital issues in the county such as homelessness and mental health.

Haubert had a similar opinion.

"People are literally dying in our streets," he said.

In 2019, supervisors voted to ban mutton busting, a practice where children ride a sheep like adults ride a steer during a rodeo.

Supervisors also considered banning wild cow milking in 2019.

No one from Rowell Ranch Rodeo responded last week to a request for comment on the board's action. ■

—Keith Burbank, BCN

## Stratford unveils elementary school in Dublin

Private campus welcomes students for new term

By NICOLE GONZALES

A new elementary school has opened its doors to the Dublin community, ushering in young students for the 2022-23 academic year.

On Sept. 21, school and community leaders participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony that

marked the grand-opening of the new Stratford Dublin elementary campus. Founded in 1999 with its first school in Danville, Stratford is a private education institution that aims to create new academic opportunities for students and families.

"We are excited to bring this

wonderful curriculum and well-known Stratford School experience to the Dublin community," said Najmus Huda, principal of Stratford Dublin campus.

In the years since its launch, Stratford has opened and operated several new campuses throughout the greater Bay Area and California, including in Pleasanton, Palo Alto and San Francisco.

The Dublin campus features multiple brand-new amenities for students, such as play areas, a school library and computer science lab. Classrooms are designed with "bright" and "open concept" plans that are intended to promote collaboration and hands-on learning, Huda told the Weekly.

Stratford Dublin is currently enrolling students from preschool through fifth grade for the regular academic year and also offering a summer camp program. Thanks to a rolling admissions program, parents are also able to enroll students throughout the school year on the basis that space is available.

"In addition to our talented preschool and grade level teachers, Stratford School provides specialty subject teachers for music, Spanish, computer science, and P.E.," Huda said. "Stratford School takes



STRATFORD

Campus and community leaders join preschool students and others at Stratford Dublin grand-opening on Sept. 21.

pride in becoming a part of the community where it serves its students and families. We are partnering with the city of Dublin to serve and support the new family home developments in the area."

Community members and Stratford School leaders had been eyeing a location in Dublin for some time now. Huda explained how when the opportunity arose to bring a school to 6665 Amador Plaza Road, it seemed like a win-win situation.

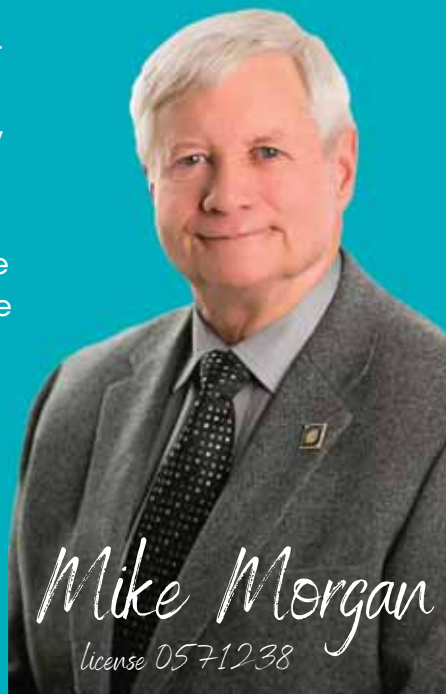
"Parents in Dublin continually

ask for a Stratford School that's close to home," Huda said. "When the perfect location became available, we knew it was the right opportunity to meet the community's growing demand."

The Stratford School has come a long way since its first campus opened 23 years ago. According to Huda, the inaugural school began with founder Sherry Adams who opened the school with "only four classrooms and a small, dedicated team of educators." ■

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### PRIDE

Continued from Page 5

series of events, including a farmers market takeover, bike ride, and movie night — just to name a few. All events are free to attend, while some do require registration.

"As an event organizer, I'm excited to attend things as a guest," said Livermore City Councilmember Brittni Kiick, a board member of Pride. "(Smaller events) allows us to try out some different things to see what we may want to replicate

on a monthly basis."

Kiick continued, "I am personally looking forward to events that we are partnering with other nonprofits for. SPARC Theater is a nonprofit that is hosting a reading of the LGBTQ+ Young Adult Novel 'Like it or not' by Amy G Dahlia, a local author."

Livermore Pride staff recognize the lack of resources in the Tri-Valley specially designed for queer people. "The closest spaces explicitly serving the LGBTQ+ community are an hour plus drive in any

direction," nonprofit leaders said to the Weekly.

Organizers have put an emphasis on the educational elements of each public activity.

"In terms of history, every single event has a tie-in," organizers said. "We will be educating about the history of the Pride Flag, as well as the history of using community art as education."

More information about the Livermore Pride organization and event series can be found at the official website, LivermorePride.org. ■

# Pleasanton council halts universal design ordinance for more research

City staff to review accessibility standards in new housing for future consideration

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council voted last week to send a proposed ordinance, which includes additional accessibility design standards for certain types of new residential developments, back to city staff for further review and discussion.

Some of the accessibility standards for qualifying single-family homes that were included in the ordinance would have been for roll-in showers and tubs for the bathrooms, specific widths for accessible entrances and routes throughout the house, and other so-called universal design plans.

However, the overall consensus from the council was that while model ordinance for duplex and triplex units had a well-detailed design checklist, the current conditions of approval for multifamily projects needs more work.

"This is a highly complex issue, as stated for balancing the cost, as well as the benefits of providing housing for members within our community that may struggle with the ability to have housing compatible to their special needs," Mayor Karla Brown said on Sept. 20 as she made the motion to continue the item to a future council date to be determined by city staff.

"I would like to have extra time

not only to talk to some of the builders who have expressed a desire to have a conversation, but also to have a better understanding of what it is we're approving. Especially for multifamily housing, that was the most complex to me," the mayor added.

The ordinance was first brought up during the City Council meeting in April when the council directed staff to bring forward a universal design ordinance for single-family duplex and triplex units and to also develop and implement a universal design checklist. That checklist would require project developers to provide a list of universal design features available for units.

Staff were also asked to update the current conditions of approval for multifamily projects, which are buildings with 15 housing units or more, to include additional accessibility features and enhancements.

Rob Queirolo, chief building official for the city, pointed out that the universal design ordinance, which is what offers accessibility features and mandates on installing these features, is only applicable to duplex or triplex units. He said it would not apply to multifamily or custom standalone homes.

In the ordinance, there would be

either "mandates to install", which are features installed by the developer, or "mandates to offer", which are features offered by the developer that can be installed at a purchaser's request.

Some of the updated conditions for approval for the multifamily projects, according to Queirolo, include amendments to add at least 4% of all required adaptable units to install audible and visual capability doorbells; to set a 36 inch minimum hallway width standard; and set standards to have roll-in showers or bathtubs and have grab bar backing in the walls so grab bars can be installed if needed.

But as the conversation continues around residential housing growth in Pleasanton with the upcoming 2023-31 Housing Element cycle, the rest of the council posed several questions around the need for certain features to be installed and, more specifically, how these features will affect affordable housing projects in the future.

"I think what we're suggesting is something that's a fairly modest set of additions, ones that are generally relatively cost effective and just for a small proportion of the units," said Ellen Clark, community development director.

"State housing law, in addition

to its affordability objectives, also has access to folks with disabilities as part of one of its key planning goals. So that's an equally important objective for (The California Department of Housing and Community Development). We're providing more accessible units for disabled residents," Clark added.

Councilmember Jack Balch took it further in focusing on the longevity of the ordinance and asking staff about the need for these types of features given that, according to the most recent U.S. census, only about 7.5% of residents in the city have some type of disability.

"As I remember from the prior staff presentation, as well, we don't know what the severity of the need is or the type so we don't know necessarily how to foresee what to have as a mandatory for offered because we're also talking about new construction as well," Balch said. "That's the other element at play here."

But Clark said that while they don't have more in-depth data about the need, there are still thousands of residents who could possibly need these types of features in their future homes.

"We don't have incredibly good data on this," Clark said. "What we have is the census, which reports all manner of disabilities, including

folks with, you know, various types of disability, some with multiple disabilities ... It's really about more access, more opportunity to those units that can accommodate those needs."

But Councilmember Kathy Narum reiterated that it is important to understand the specific language of universal design and pointed to a previous ordinance she and Brown passed almost eight years ago.

She said at that time, they didn't know too much about accessible building codes and it led to an apartment complex getting built in a way that they did not agree with.

"I can't tell you how many nights of sleep I lost, because we didn't understand something and we were encouraged just to move it forward," Brown added.

"I want to understand this before I vote on something but I want to make sure it's right this time. I don't understand the requirements that you have for multifamily," the mayor said. "I understand the requirements that you're recommending, for the universal of single families, the checklist, it's very clear, and I appreciate that tremendously. But for multifamily, I'm not having a clear understanding and it just can't support a decision that I don't thoroughly understand." ■

## DEPUTIES

Continued from Page 5

A spokesperson for the DA's office said the office is evaluating the potential impact.

Alameda County Public Defender Brendon Woods issued a statement Tuesday, saying, "If these deputies were not fit for duty, then how can we trust them to investigate our clients and testify against them in court? How can we trust them to treat people properly at the jail?"

Woods said the "revelation could compromise hundreds of cases — closed and pending."

But Woods said he needs "more information from the Sheriff and the District Attorney's Office."

He said, "it's infuriating we had to learn about it (the reassignments) from the press."

The audits were conducted on all background investigations performed between January 2016 and the present, Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern wrote in a Friday letter to the deputies.

Each of the deputies who were reassigned received a "D-Not Suited" score on the psychological exam.

Ahern said in his letter that the sheriff's office was under the impression that applicants could be hired if they received such a score.

That information was provided

"years ago" from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, which sets "minimum selection and training standards for California law enforcement," according to Ahern.

"Unfortunately, this is not the case," Ahern wrote about the impression his office had.

Sheriff's officials and the county counsel for Alameda County researched that impression and found that it was in error.

No one from the commission responded to an email inquiry or calls about the reassignment of the deputies.

Ahern told the deputies in the letter that they can get a second opinion regarding their initial exam results. If the deputies receive a "Suitable" score, Ahern "can choose to hire the candidate."

Sheriff's officials intend to schedule retake exams for the 47 deputies. All 47 will retain their pay and benefits and can continue to work for the sheriff's office.

The deputies cannot carry a gun, make any arrests, issue traffic citations "or perform any function for peace officers," Ahern wrote.

"Our intention is to resolve this issue as quickly as possible," Ahern said. "We also intend to have you return to full duty status once you obtain a 'Suitable' finding."

Ahern is in the final months as sheriff-coroner. Sheriff-Elect Yesenia Sanchez, a commander in the sheriff's office, defeated her boss and another candidate outright in the June primary election with 52.84% of the

vote. Sanchez is scheduled to take office in January.

The future of the criminal cases involving these deputies may also be impacted by voters this year. With current District Attorney Nancy

O'Malley retiring, two candidates — civil rights attorney Pamela Price and chief deputy DA Terry Wiley — are facing each other in a runoff election to win the DA seat in the Nov. 8 general election. ■



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# Livermore council candidates debate key issues for voters

Eden Housing, wine country revitalization among topics at Livermore Vine forum

By NICOLE GONZALES

Three candidates for Livermore City Council appeared in a public forum this month to debate pressing issues facing the community, and discuss how they would address them if elected.

In the upcoming Nov. 8 general election, two Livermore City Council seats are up for grabs, one each in District 1 and District 2.

District 1 candidates Evan Branning and Carol Wahrer, and District 2 candidate Mel Chiong, used the forum platform on Sept. 15 to share their values and visions for the city of Livermore. Ben Barrientos, who is also competing to represent District 2, was out of town and unable to participate in the event.

The forum, held at the Robert Livermore Community Center, was hosted by LivermoreVine.com and the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Wahrer is an early childhood educator and longtime resident of the area, having lived in Livermore for over 30 years.

Branning, who moved to



Candidates for Livermore City Council at the Sept. 15 forum were (from left) Mel Chiong of District 2 and Carol Wahrer and Evan Branning of District 1.

Livermore a number of years ago, is a high school culinary teacher and Livermore Planning Commission member who has also previously served on the Alameda County Public Health Committee, among

other community involvement.

Chiong is a travel agent and community organizer who has called Livermore home for the past 24 years. She currently serves on the Livermore General Plan Advisory

Committee, a selection of residents that deliver feedback to city staff and officials for revising their General Plan document.

With housing being one of the most important issues to voters this election, candidates were asked during the forum where they stand on the council-approved location of the Eden Housing project. The affordable housing complex would provide 130 units on the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and L Street in downtown Livermore.

The development has been at the center of an ongoing community debate in which opponents of the project are advocating for a public park to be built on the site and for the housing to be placed elsewhere in the city. However, the current location was initially purchased by the city with funds designated for affordable housing. The property has now been sold to the developer, Eden Housing, Inc.

"I am in favor of low-income and affordable housing," Wahrer said. "I just think that is the wrong spot to put more housing."

Wahrer explained that she felt voters did not want the affordable housing complex to be built in the specific area, but rather suggested the city seek out other options for housing developments.

"We need to look at spaces in all four districts for affordable housing and keep growing outward," she said.

Wahrer's opponent for District 1 expressed opposite views.

"This is the most valuable piece of property in our city, and I can think of nothing better to do with that piece of property than to honor the hardest working members of our societies," Branning said, expressing his support and enthusiasm for the project.

Chiong shared similar sentiments as Branning.

"I do support it," Chiong said. "We have come this far for this development to be in its current context. Moving it would take us back so many years."

District 2 newcomer Chiong explained that building the

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## POLICE

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clinicians from the Bonita House to be the main responders to these situations, rather than an SRO, and are expected to come on board in early November, Swing said. The Bonita House is a private nonprofit mental health agency that offers services for adults diagnosed with co-occurring psychiatric disabilities and substance use disorders.

"We know far more about the services available in the Tri-Valley than we did before we started the ARU program, and so when our clinicians are on board, what our hope is, instead of the officer to respond to the schools, it will be a clinician to essentially do the same job and work with PUSD staff," PPD Capt. Kurt Schlehuber said.

The department has also established a think tank, which consists of students, PUSD staff and parents to help build those relationships by addressing things like SRO uniforms and whether or not the department should "soften" the look.

"I really liked to hear about the SRO MOU think tank ... because we do need to bridge the divide between our youth and our officers," Councilmember Jack Balch said.

Swing said that the consensus was to keep the uniforms as they are but they will continue to look for opportunities when officers can wear less formal attire while still being fully equipped with their appropriate equipment.

• Apart from the SRO program update, the council reviewed the

police department's stop data collection.

Stop data allows the council and police to assess the existence of racial disparities and use the findings to acknowledge and respond appropriately to any disparities.

In 2016 then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 953 titled the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA), which requires peace officers in California to collect data on all instances where a person is stopped and has been phased in during the past five years based on the number of sworn officers.

Swing said there are 16 potential data fields to fill in that ask officers to evaluate the race or ethnicity of the person being, the subject's gender identity, their mental health status, if they're unhoused and much more.

He said that PPD has been collecting stop data for more than 20 years, but the new RIPA requirements for collecting data are much greater.

One main takeaway from the stop data that Swing pointed out is that compared against the "American Community Survey", which is one of the surveys that's used to evaluate demographics of a certain community, Pleasanton's stop data does not reflect the city's community demographics.

"When I saw that, that was not at all a surprise to me," Swing said. "The reason why is because Pleasanton is fortunate to be a draw, we're a draw for people from other other communities into Pleasanton."

He said that the arrest data also doesn't mirror the community demographics.

• Another main talking point of the night was the national trend of fewer people applying to become a police officer and how that is being felt in Pleasanton.

"Part of the challenges that we're facing is that we have more openings, more vacancies and we have fewer people who are choosing this profession," Swing said. "We had two individuals who had been in the area for a while, owned homes in the area and had families that were established in the area and they chose to leave the state and to leave the profession."

Swing quoted an email he received from the Police Executive Research Forum, which stated that in 2021 there were 40% more resignations nationally than there were in 2019. He said that in 2021, PPD had about a 200% increase in resignations than in 2019.

Aside from resignations, he said that the hiring rate and number of applicants have also been much lower than it used to be.

Currently, there are 83 sworn positions including three administrators, five managers, 13 supervisors and 62 officers, according to the staff report. Swing said that 13 of those positions are currently vacant either due to injury or because a new officer is training for that position.

He said that while it does take a long time to hire a new recruit — usually about three to four months — there are currently two officers who joined the police academy, although those new hires won't likely finish training until 10 months from now.

The shortage of officers did impact the department, according to Swing, in that the department had to enter into an overtime emergency schedule that is allowed in the department's memorandum of understanding with its police union.

That meant working a rotating three 12-1/2-hour workdays one week and four the next week schedule for three months during the summer.

"I would like to acknowledge and thank all the staff members for their efforts over the last year to maintain our response times and the level of safety that our community has come to expect," said Nick Albert, president of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association.

"However, these challenges do impact our line staff disproportionately during the emergency schedule," Albert added. "Each officer was working a 12-1/2-hour shift with a maximum of 15-1/2 hours according to the MOU, but with less than seven POA members residing in the city of Pleasanton these shifts are exaggerated by long commutes, which often exceed an hour. As you can imagine, this can easily turn a single shift interiorly into an 18-hour workday."

While the emergency schedule did allot some vacation time for the officers, Swing said that the overtime was not sustainable as it could lead to officers burning out.

City Manager Gerry Beaudin added to that sentiment saying that the goal is to have a full staff right now and to possibly over hire in the future to prepare for the housing growth in Pleasanton.

"We continue to be a growing community," Beaudin said. "We're not not the fastest growing community in California, but we will continue to see growth and that does obviously put new pressures on the resources that we have available over time. Certainly, our goal is to be fully staffed and then to look at the over hire in the near term."

Swing said that PPD is working on ways to expedite the hiring process and looking at the starting salaries for new recruits.

• The council approved Pleasanton PD to purchase two crime vehicles, which will be primarily used for large-scale operations.

PPD will be purchasing a command vehicle and a crime scene investigation vehicle for a total of \$1,326,711, which are predicted to be delivered sometime in the summer of 2024.

According to Capt. Cox and Lt. Brandon Stocking, Pleasanton is one out of three police departments in Alameda County that do not have similar vehicles.

The command vehicle would serve as a remote command post during a wide range of incidents, special events, operations and natural disasters. It would also serve as a backup dispatch center when the department's dispatch center is inoperable.

The crime scene investigation vehicle will be smaller than the command vehicle and will include storage dedicated for equipment needed during major crime scenes and traffic collision investigations, restrooms and a backup generator for the main command vehicle. ■

# Mayoral candidates talk campaign goals, development projects

Wine industry, affordable housing, homelessness among other key items at Livermore forum

By NICOLE GONZALES

Candidates vying to become Livermore's next mayor, Mony Nop and John Marchand, discussed key issues and shared campaign goals during a public forum earlier this month. Homelessness, downtown development and the wine industry were among major topics debated.

The two candidates appeared in person at the Robert Livermore Community Center to participate in the event, which was hosted by LivermoreVine.com and the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce and moderated by Livermore Vine publisher Gina Channell Wilcox and editor Cierra Bailey.

With current Mayor Bob Woerner not seeking reelection for health reasons, the mayor's seat is a wide-open contest.

The first question of the night on Sept. 15 asked whether the candidates supported the location at the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and L Street for the contentious Eden Housing project, to which the two candidates responded with opposing viewpoints.

Nop, a Realtor and former city police officer, said that he supports affordable housing but is not in favor of the location of the city-approved Eden Housing development that would bring 130 affordable units to the downtown area. Nop noted in his argument that the project does not account for adequate parking and said that he would like to consider alternative locations.

"You will be calling the city about how congested downtown traffic is," Nop said. "Affordable housing is a need, it's a must. It's great in theory, but you have to put it in practice. Parking is going to be an issue."

Marchand, who is the city's former mayor and was part of the project planning over a number of years, rebutted, "We looked at the plan, we worked with the community, we talked with thousands of people, we held public hearings."

When asked how he would go about getting the land back now that it has been sold to the developer Eden Housing, Inc., Nop said he didn't think the land had been sold as the city is still in litigation with community groups Move Eden Housing and Save Livermore Downtown.

However, Marchand confirmed in his rebuttal that the deal was complete.

"Escrow has closed; this is a done deal," he said. "Eminent domain is the only option to take the property back at this point."

With housing among top concerns, candidates were asked to



**John Marchand**



**Mony Nop**

address the estimated \$20 million to \$30 million shortfall for needed infrastructure in Livermore. Marchand drew attention to an asset management fund that has managed to reserve \$12 million for future and ongoing projects, he said. The fund is intended to keep up items such as buildings, traffic signals and roads.

"The revenue is increasing in the city, this is going into our reserve fund," Marchand said.

Nop stated that if elected as mayor he intends to create a local business committee composed of owners from small, medium and large shops.

"What I would like to do is ask members of the business community to come together and take a look at how we help the pockets of business owners," Nop said. "(They will) take a look at how we generate more revenue."

The candidates were then asked how they view the city's current plans and resources for the unhoused community, and how they would move forward.

"Homelessness is a huge issue," Nop said. His plan focuses on expanding city talks and adapting a more regional approach to serving the unhoused. Nop explained, "We can have a conversation with all (Tri-Valley) mayors to take a look at how we can make this become a shared responsibility versus just a Livermore issue."

Nop also clarified that his plan also includes affordable housing and wrap-around services.

In response to the same question, Marchand expressed approval of the city's current plans addressing homelessness.

"Our strategies are working here because we have taken the lead and worked with our unhoused," Marchand said. He noted that unhoused counts had gone up in the county yet continued to drop in Livermore.

Another main topic touched on during the candidate forum was the revitalization and maintenance of the city's wine region, as well as each candidate's stance on Measure P, which is the South Livermore sewer extension project and amendments to the county's Measure D, which would allow for expanded

wine country uses, among other changes.

"We are the oldest commercial wine region in California. Whether or not we remain a wine region is dependent on if we can maintain the infrastructure needed to ensure this is a viable wine region," Marchand said. Marchand shared he is in support of Measures P and D to ensure the viability of medium winery operations.

Nop shared that he is also in support of both measures. He said lightheartedly, "This is the only time I'll agree with my opponent." Nop continued emphasizing how branding and tourism will bring more buzz to local wineries.

"We have so much potential," Nop said. "I'd like to look at the PR marketing stance and how we can improve that. It's always about marketing."

In closing statements each forum participant presented final thoughts and arguments as to why voters should select them as the next mayor of Livermore.

Marchand, whose slogan is "elect success," shared goals of improving quality of life, housing security and downtown development for the city of Livermore.

In his final statement, Nop listed affordable housing, public safety and homelessness as his top campaign issues he would address as mayor.

A complete recording of the forum is available on Livermore Vine's YouTube channel. ■

# BART's current mask requirement to end this weekend

Would be reinstated based on public health officials' indoor rules

BART's current mask requirement is slated to end when the mandate expires this weekend, and the agency's Board of Directors approved a new resolution last week that would allow for the mandate to be reinstated when public health officials require indoor masking in their respective jurisdictions.

But, as BART directors acknowledged, since no such requirement exists, BART's current mask requirement will end Saturday (Oct. 1) as scheduled. The new resolution, approved on the night of Sept. 22, would take effect when triggered by any new mandate by public health officials to require indoor masking in each respective jurisdiction.

The resolution approved by the BART directors authorizes the agency's general manager to amend the Customer Code of Conduct to impose a mandate within the paid areas of the BART system that would require riders and employees to wear a face mask over their nose and mouth if any of the following conditions are met:

A local health officer reinstates indoor masking in any of the five counties served by BART (Alameda, Contra Costa,



San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara); California Department of Public Health reinstates an indoor masking requirement; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or Transportation Security Administration imposes a masking mandate; and, any U.S. metropolitan area outside the Bay Area experiences a COVID-19 surge as defined by the CDC.

A surge is defined as any spike in case reports that may overwhelm the local points of care.

BART's current mask requirement was approved by BART directors at its July 28 meeting. Once the mandate expires, BART will strongly encourage riders to wear masks in the system. Free masks will continue to be available at station agent booths and from BART Police Department personnel. ■

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# Nonprofit invites community to experience A Taste of Africa

Food, performances, arts/crafts among festival activities this weekend

By CIERRA BAILEY

A Taste of Africa festival is returning to downtown Livermore this weekend, featuring various forms of art, outdoor music, dance performances and more.

The event is organized by local nonprofit Cheza Nami Foundation, which has a mission to “promote cultural education and diversity awareness to learning institutions, corporations, and communities that focus on fostering a more congenial relationship among its members,” according to a statement from Livermore Valley Arts, which is a partner in hosting A Taste of Africa.

The family-friendly outdoor festival is set for Saturday (Oct. 1) on the Bankhead Plaza.

In addition to various food options derived from African and African diaspora cultures, festival-goers can visit vendor booths to purchase products sourced directly from Africa, according to Cheza Nami founder Ciiku Ndungu-Case.

There will also be a community

drum circle, a reading library, a “Kids Zone” equipped with hands-on learning experiences, musical instrument exploration, arts and crafts and face painting among the many activities.

“We want to bring these cultures to a space that’s public and be as loud and exciting as we love and challenge the community to be accepting of it,” Ndungu-Case told the Weekly about the initial vision behind A Taste of Africa, which has grown and expanded over the course of 10 years.

“When you think about the Lunar New Year or Diwali festival, everybody is excited about those things so we also want to contribute something to the richness of the vast array of diverse cultures that are represented in the community,” Ndungu-Case added.

She also said that with A Taste of Africa, Cheza Nami is upholding a responsibility to share cultural art forms with others.

“You don’t expect African traditional dancers to be upfront in

downtown in the middle of businesses dancing — that, for me, is amazing,” she said. “It’s living up to our responsibility that if you have something rich and wonderful to share, that we need to share it and enjoy it ourselves but also bring it to the community.”

The time of year that A Taste of Africa takes place was also very intentional, according to Ndungu-Case. When initially organizing the event a decade ago, the obvious choice for when to hold the event was Black History Month. However, the organization decided that all celebrations of the diaspora shouldn’t have to be crammed into one month.

“My assumption was, we don’t stop to celebrate a community simply because a date has been reached; it’s something that we should be doing throughout the year,” she said.

She added, “I thought the fall was a perfect time because folks are starting to get really comfortable about the holidays. It’s sort of when people really are celebrating but juxtaposed against the celebration of



CHEZA NAMI

A Taste of Africa festival returns to the Bankhead Plaza in Livermore this Saturday.

other communities and sort of the social celebrations that are formally set on the calendar, is a reminder that we don’t have to be limited when we want to connect with the community.”

Toward the end of the festival, Ndungu-Case said they are doing something a little different this year and transitioning into a night market that will serve as a kick-off to the Filipino Barrio Fiesta set for the next day (Oct. 2) on the Bankhead Plaza in honor of the start of Filipino

American History Month.

“When the festival closes at 6 p.m. we’re going to welcome our Filipino community,” Ndungu-Case said. “The whole idea is about holding hands and celebrating one another so, we sort of set the stage for their event the following day.”

A Taste of Africa is set for this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 2400 First St. in Livermore. More information about the festival and Cheza Nami is available at [www.chezanami.org](http://www.chezanami.org). ■

## San Ramon city manager retiring in January

Gorton has worked for city for 16 years, including time as police chief

By JEREMY WALSH

San Ramon City Manager Joe Gorton has announced that he plans to retire from the city government early in the new year to cap a public service career of 35 years that also included time as San Ramon’s police chief.

Gorton, a career law enforcement

official who made the transition to leading the city administration 5-1/2 years ago, has guided San Ramon through a period of continued residential growth and the completion of several notable capital projects as well as helping spearhead the city’s response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Words do not adequately express my love for this community and the team that has dedicated their lives to provide a quality of life that is unmatched to those who live, work and play in San Ramon,” Gorton said in a statement last Friday.

“The beacon that leads us all is our city council’s vision for San Ramon; both past and present. I am grateful to have worked for this community, and have been a firsthand witness as our councils have put the priorities of the community first,” Gorton added. “Our staff is amazing and is the very reason San Ramon is one of the most attractive communities in the country. With the leadership of our current department directors, I have full confidence in the success of San Ramon going forward.”

The San Ramon City Council is scheduled to meet in the coming weeks to discuss the recruitment process to identify Gorton’s successor. Hiring a new city manager will be one of the important early decisions for the new council after the upcoming general election, with two councilmember seats and the mayor post on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Gorton said he plans to step down in January, with a specific date yet to be determined.

A native of Gardnerville in western



Joe Gorton

Nevada who earned an associate degree in administration of justice in Butte County, Gorton started his government career in law enforcement with the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office in 1988 as a deputy-sheriff.

He spent a significant portion of his tenure working in San Ramon under the city’s prior contract with the county for police services. Gorton was a key member of the founding San Ramon Police Department when the city split from the county in favor of its own police agency in 2007.

After seven years as a police captain, Gorton ascended to become the city’s second-ever police chief in November 2013 — a position he held

for more than three years, including six months in double duty also as interim city manager in 2016. The San Ramon City Council appointed Gorton as the permanent city manager in January 2017.

Gorton’s tenure as city manager was marked midway through by the COVID-19 pandemic arriving in spring 2020. He was credited with leading the city’s response including shifting programs, facilities and services to meet changing needs and health requirements — such as meal delivery for seniors, assistance hotlines, remote public meetings and virtual events.

See **CITY MANAGER** on Page 11

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

HIGHLIGHTS

Civic Arts Commission Meeting

October 3, 2022 – 7pm

- Approve funding criteria for Fiscal Year 2023/24 Community Grant Program – Civic Arts Category
- Review and comment on the Civic Arts Project Update Report for October 2022
- Review and comment on the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

Human Services Commission Meeting

October 5, 2022 – 7pm

- Consider Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2023/24 Housing and Human Services Grant Program
- Review and Comment on the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

Library Commission Meeting

October 6, 2022 – 7pm

- Review and Comment on the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

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## TAKE US ALONG



**A little R&R:** Kay Fogarty and Allan Freebody enjoyed a much-needed trip to Maui in May to celebrate his recovery after four months in the hospital with COVID.

# Grapes & Gratitude

Gala set for cancer support nonprofit  
Culinary Angels

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Community members will be able to raise funds to support local residents experiencing cancer-related hardships at the upcoming benefit gala, Grapes & Gratitude.

Raising money and awareness Tri-Valley nonprofit Culinary Angels, the annual Grapes & Gratitude event this year will be hosted at the McGrail Winery in Livermore on Oct. 8 from 6-10 p.m. Guests can expect food, wine and live entertainment throughout the night.

Based in Livermore, Culinary Angels provides meal and food assistance to individuals diagnosed with cancer across the Tri-Valley region. Caregivers of cancer patients are also included in the group's service.

Culinary Angels was founded in 2016 by Lisa McNaney, a survivor of cancer herself, to address the lack of nutritional-focused treatment plans. According to the nonprofit's website, cooks are trained to utilize organic, nutrient-rich and seasonal ingredients in their meal designs.

"McNaney realized that medical teams primarily focused on calorie intake rather than actual nutrition. This observation inspired Culinary Angels as the basis for providing healthy, healing meals made with essential ingredients that promote wellness," the organization stated in a press release.

In addition, Culinary Angels delivers the meals free to its recipients in order to ease their respective healing journeys.

With the organization being largely volunteer- and donation-based,

the yearly gala benefit is vital to the program's success. McNaney spoke



COURTESY CULINARY ANGELS

Meredith McHenry is set to perform live at the Grapes & Gratitude.

on the importance of high quality nutrition and food ingredients for the organization. The gala's proceeds help contribute to those costs.

"Our annual gala is critical to the viability of our programs as it allows us to continue to use quality ingredients in the meals prepared for our recipients, and tackle the cost increases of the current economy," McNaney said. "We are very excited to host this year's event."

McNaney continued, highlighting the gala's activities, "(it is) brimming with exceptional live auction items, amazing musical talent, and an extraordinary Farm to Table dinner."

A ticket for the event includes dinner, wine and live music performed by Meredith McHenry and her supporting musicians.

Gala tickets and more information about Culinary Angels can be found at [culinaryangels.org](http://culinaryangels.org). ■

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 8

development in its proposed location would instill a legacy for the future generations of Livermore. She expanded on her views of the development of the downtown area separate from the Eden project.

"We can start looking into how we can improve connectivity in terms of providing transportation and access," she said.

Later in the forum, Branning also expressed support for making the downtown as accessible as possible. He emphasized the need for public transit and creating a more walkable, bikeable downtown. Wahrer echoed this viewpoint as well.

Forum participants were asked to discuss how they would tackle revitalization and sustainability of the wine industry.

Of these related topics, are the "South Livermore Sewer Extension Project", or Measure P, and the proposed amendments to the county's Measure D that would expand wine country operations to include hot air balloons, cannabis dispensaries and other services.

"The quality of life in Livermore is directly tied to the wineries," Branning said. "I strongly support them and I believe that when we go to the ballot we all need to

support them together."

Both contenders for District 1 showed support for Measure D.

"The wineries are an extremely important part of Livermore," Wahrer said. (However) the wineries and cities can continue to do more with partnerships."

Branning also said he is in support of Measure P while his opponent did not explicitly provide a stance on the matter.

In Chiong's response, she expressed encouragement and appreciation for the wine community.

"We owe a lot to the wine industry," Chiong said. "We need the industry as much as the industry needs us."

She added, "In Livermore, wine is important here because it has brought so much to citizens," referencing the wine tourism it brings to the city.

On the topics of homelessness, the candidates used this time to share their own goals and visions for the future of Livermore.

"While homelessness went up throughout the county, it went down in Livermore," Branning said. "The city is doing great things along those lines. But having these partners throughout the county will really see an opportunity for us to reduce homelessness dramatically."

While Branning thinks the city's current plan for homelessness is

satisfactory, he feels having regional partnerships would additionally contribute to the cause.

"County-funded temporary housing will be sufficient in allowing people to transition to more permanent housing," Branning said.

"Livermore is working in the right direction, and we need to do more," Wahrer said. "We need to work with all different types of social systems to help everybody."

However, Wahrer did not expand largely on specific steps that could be taken to serve the unhoused community.

Chiong stressed how the issue of homelessness can be made more of a county issue. Adding on to the wrap-around services already provided by Livermore would adequately help to serve the unhoused, she said.

"Let's us all take responsibility for it," Chiong said.

Chiong also emphasized how, if elected, her GPAC experience would lend itself to the intricate planning and housing topics that council members take on.

A complete recording of the forum is available on the Livermore Vine's YouTube channel. The single video combines both mayoral and council forums, which happened in succession that night. The council portion of the event begins at 1:17:14. ■

## CITY MANAGER

Continued from Page 10

In the wake of the social justice protests of 2020, San Ramon PD began partnering with San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District in 2021 on a public safety for mental health pilot program, under Gorton's direction.

The initiative "shifts the response for 911 calls related to non-violent mental health emergencies, dispatching paramedics and medically-trained firefighters first, with SRPD staff as backup," city officials said.

Gorton was also a key member of the countywide steering committee that helped establish the A3 Community Crisis Response initiative, which "seeks to transform the region's behavioral health care and emergency response system by providing timely and appropriate behavioral health crisis services to Anyone in Contra Costa County, Anywhere at Anytime," city officials said.

Another public safety achievement during Gorton's time as city manager included refurbishing the San Ramon police station alongside a new state-of-the-art joint dispatch

and emergency operations center with SRVFPD.

Among other capital projects for the city were the reconfiguration of San Ramon City Hall and renovations at the community centers, the senior center and San Ramon Olympic Pool.

"The city also completed a number of deferred maintenance projects as well as other critical infrastructure improvements, including widening Bollinger Canyon Road and Alcosta Boulevard, and fully funding the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Bollinger Canyon Road at the Iron Horse Trail Overcrossing," city officials added.

Advancement of the CityWalk Master Plan and associated housing development proposals in Bishop Ranch, as well as continued rollout of new homes in the Dougherty Valley and public review of other residential projects across the city have occurred under Gorton's watch as well.

The City Council discussed a performance evaluation for Gorton, as well as the process for selecting an interim city manager, during closed session at Tuesday's regular meeting but no action was taken. ■

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# Candidates' Forums

**Monday, October 3** via Zoom

## Dublin City Council

**6 - 7 P.M.**

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## Dublin San Ramon Services District

**7 - 8 P.M.**

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# RIGHT TIME FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL BOND?

## Pleasanton voters to decide fate of \$395 million Measure I this Nov

CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

PUSD Superintendent David Haglund explains how inaccessible the football stadium at Foothill High School is and how someone in a wheelchair could find it difficult having to navigate up and around the long dirt paths.

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Pleasanton residents will be voting on a school bond measure in November for the third time in the last seven years. But after the first passed in 2016 and the second failed in 2020, the question remains the same in 2022 — are the facility improvements worth the associated property tax increase in the eyes of the voters?

The \$395 million general obligation bond, on the ballot as Measure I this fall, is being proposed by the Pleasanton Unified School District in

order to help fund a portion of the nearly \$1 billion worth of facilities projects across the district.

“The way schools are funded there is no real money the state is providing for these capital improvements and massive investments. If you don’t have local bond dollars, you cannot do it,” said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, PUSD’s assistant superintendent of business services.

“You can go up and down the state. The schools that have bonds are the ones that are improved, the schools that don’t have bonds they’re the ones

that are in the 1950s,” he added.

PUSD has had mixed results with facility bond measures in recent history after a period of passing just one in 20 years.

In November 2016, residents voted to approve Measure I1, a \$270 million facilities bond, which covered about one third of the overall \$856 million identified facilities improvement needs estimated at that time.

Some of the projects paid for through Measure I1 were the rebuilding of Lydiksen Elementary School and new science classroom buildings

at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools and at Hart Middle School, all of which have either been completed or are slated for completion later in the fall.

Measure I1 also began to address roofing and HVAC repair and replacements as well as making safety upgrades and providing updated classroom technology and infrastructure.

The district attempted to pass another bond in March 2020, but the proposed \$323 million Measure M failed after it earned majority support from voters but failed to clear the 55% threshold required of school facility bond measures (52.40% Yes; 47.60% No).

Since Measure I1 passed and Measure M failed, PUSD staff have been working on a Facilities Master Plan update, which the Board of Trustees approved on June 23, that would separate the facility improvements of all 15 school sites into a two-tier system to address areas of high priority first.

The Measure I bond would help fund the first tier phase of the Facilities Master Plan, which will prioritize funding for the gym and theater constructions at both Amador Valley and Foothill as well as new classrooms at Vintage Hills Elementary School.

The second tier will focus on deferred maintenance, restructuring of the visual performing arts in high schools, cafeteria and air conditioning and heating equipment.

If more than 55% of Pleasanton

residents vote Yes on the ballot, Measure I would utilize a tax rate of \$49 per \$100,000 of assessed value for Pleasanton property owners to fund that first tier round of projects. The second tier would be funded through State Office of Public School Construction funds, the sale of the current district office property on Bernal Avenue, state or local funding, or saved money from other construction bids, according to district officials.

PUSD trustees recently approved the sale of a portion of the current offices on the edge of downtown Pleasanton, at 4645 and 4665 Bernal Ave., in order to purchase offices in the Hacienda Business Park to serve as the new district headquarters.

The two-building property, located on 5758 and 5794 West Las Positas Blvd., cost \$23,480,261 for PUSD to acquire from the current owner, ECI Four Arroyo LLC. However, the 7 acres up for sale at the Bernal property for future housing development will help in paying off the acquisition debt.

According to Sheikholeslami, the district plans on moving to the new office building in April.

The official Nov. 8 Measure I ballot statement will read:

“PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT QUALITY AND SAFE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES MEASURE To continue replacing/modernizing deteriorating plumbing, roofs, electrical/HVAC systems, classrooms, science labs, performing arts, physical education facilities/spaces, and alternative



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

This office complex was recently purchased by PUSD to serve as the new district headquarters. Staff said they’re planning on moving in next April.



November



COURTESY PUSD

An aerial drone shot shows how the Pleasanton Middle School field has been overtaken by gophers. All that damage has led to the district wanting to use bond dollars to replace all middle school fields with artificial turf.

district and we still have over a billion dollars in unmet facility needs, including: repairing aging roofing, plumbing, and electrical systems, ensuring safe drinking water, modernizing classrooms for career and technical training, and retaining high-quality teachers for our students,” according to the support campaign.

“Older schools need upgrades to meet the same academic and safety standards as newer schools to support academic achievement for all the district’s students,” they added.

Those keywords — “older schools” — are what Superintendent David Haglund and Sheikholeslami both said lie at the heart of most of the issues the district faces.

Part of those problems include Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues with schools such as Village High School, Haglund told the Weekly during a recent tour of several PUSD sites.

“When you think about a 1950s campus, you’re talking about 25 years before the Americans with Disabilities Act and things like this were OK,” Haglund said regarding the uphill walkways at the school with inch-long cracks running through them. “If the bond were to pass, this would be the first project that would be activated because it’s about student safety.”

Apart from the lack of accessibility and overall safety issues at Village, Haglund pointed out several decaying structural beams that seem like they could give out any day.

“Just beyond just all of the ADA and other physical things, the campus is disjointed in terms of creating an inclusive learning environment,” Sheikholeslami said.

Some of the other priorities Haglund and Sheikholeslami pointed out which will be first on the to-do list if the bond is passed is building new artificial turf fields for all the middle schools and improving their kitchen facilities.

However, one of the big-ticket items will be at Amador with the

**‘Go up and down the state. The schools that have bonds are the ones that are improved.’**

**Ahmad Sheikholeslami,**  
PUSD assistant superintendent

demolition and rebuilding of the gyms and theater.

Right now, Amador has a small and a main gym with the boys’ locker room being in the main and the girls’ locker room being in the small.

The plan, if the bond passes, would be to build one main gym with both locker rooms and to put a new performing arts center where the small gym currently stands. Beyond wanting to create consistency of having everything in the same building, Sheikholeslami and Haglund pointed out the lack of air-conditioning and overall poor quality of the gyms.

The reason the gyms and the Amador Theater, which is actually owned by the city, are not being considered for renovation, according to Sheikholeslami and Haglund, is because older buildings such as these would require so many compliance upgrades that it wouldn’t be financially viable.

Haglund said that in Measure M the district included dollars for the theater, but it was for addressing the issues related to the fire escape only. After speaking with architects and other consultants, they determined that more analysis was needed.

“The question is whether or not the engineers will give us a green light on retrofitting it or if it’s just cheaper to completely reconstruct it,” Haglund said. “Funding that would pay for the architects would come from the bond.”

Currently, the district is putting the rebuild of the theater at \$35 million, according to the master plan.

But it is these big-ticket items like the gyms and the theater that have

led to some residents opposing the proposed bond measure.

According to a website called “Vote No on Measure I”, the district needs to focus on finishing the projects from Measure II first, before asking residents to spend more on taxes.

“PUSD wants to borrow a staggering \$395,000,000 and for you to pay the mortgage totaling PUSD’s estimate of \$792,000,000,” according to the website. “This would total nearly \$1,000 per \$1,000,000 of assessed valuation per year when what we are currently paying for Measure II is included.”

Another factor the website says voters need to consider before voting for the new bond is the 10th elementary school that the district promised with passing Measure II.

The 2016 measure stated that one of the priorities would be building a new elementary school, which the board then decided against and instead chose to hold the \$35 million it allocated for the school in case the need for another school arises.

“We passed Measure II, primarily for the elementary school the district promised,” the opposition website stated. “We were guaranteed, with

full consensus of the board, that should the district not build the school they would not bond the \$35,000,000. While there is no elementary school in the district’s plans, they still have the funds waiting “in case a future school is needed.”

But, according to the Yes on I website, the district doesn’t need another school due to declining enrollment and unbalanced elementary schools.

“Based on declining enrollment and projections, there is no need for a 10th elementary school,” the website stated. “Since the peak of enrollment in 2018-19, the district’s overall enrollment has declined by 1,000 students.”

In the end, it will be up to voters to decide by Nov. 8 whether they trust the district with its Facilities Master Plan, to execute all of the proposed plans or if they think that these upgrades are not needed and can wait for a later time.

Haglund, for his part, said that waiting will only make the prices for these projects go up. He added that if Measure M would have passed, the district would have already started construction for most of the sites tapped in Measure I. ■



COURTESY PUSD

Rendering for the proposed Amador Theater complete rebuild offers a first peek at what it would look like compared to the current theater, which is planned to be completely torn down due to accessibility and foundational issues.



## 'DREAM BIG' in Livermore

Astronaut mural downtown aims to inspire youth

By CIERRA BAILEY

Livermore is starting to become known for its public art installations throughout the city, particularly the large murals dispersed throughout downtown on various building walls. One of the newest displays in town is not only intended to capture attention visually but also sends a message to the community to "Dream Big".

The concept of the mural — which features portraits of astronauts with local ties — was created by Alan Burnham, who is a Livermore resident, founder of Quest Science Center and current Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory contractor with M.H. Chew & Associates.

Burnham owns the building located downtown off Railroad Avenue and North K Street that is now home to the mural. He'd purchased it for potential use by Quest Science Center and other nonprofit organizations.

When he bought it, one of the building walls had "an ugly blotch" and some graffiti, according to Burnham, prompting his interest to spruce it up with some artwork.

"The inspiration was a combination of having worked a little with one of (the astronauts) at LLNL and my work on the Apollo 11 landing exhibition in the lobby of the Bankhead," Burnham told the Weekly

in an interview. "The mural design evolved over time, including while painting."

The final version of the mural depicts astronauts Jeff Wisoff, currently the principal associate director of LLNL's NIF & Photon Science Directorate; Tammy Jernigan, former senior advisor to the Laboratory Director's Office of Defense Coordination; José Hernández, the son of Mexican migrant farmworkers and a former LLNL engineer for 15 years; Leroy Chiao, a former LLNL research engineer; and Ellen Ochoa, a former researcher at Sandia National Laboratories and the former director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The five of them are depicted in the mural wearing either orange or blue space suits and are surrounded by a galaxy filled with constellations, planets, a space shuttle, the International Space Station, a rocket and the North Star. The words "Dream Big" in large blue writing are emblazoned above their heads.

The months-long process of transferring the mural from idea to reality was no small feat.

With help from Larry Lagin — a retired scientist and project manager who is also a celebrated visual artist — Burnham assembled a team of

local artists to bring his vision for the mural to fruition.

In addition to Lagin, the group of artists included Anne Giancola, Thomasin Dewhurst and Matt Finders, who is also a musician and the director of youth jazz band Element 116 but dabbles in the visual arts. "My expertise was mainly getting up on ladders and putting down base coats," Finders joked about his limited visual arts experience.

"I happen to be the world's largest collector of Larry's paintings and so, I asked him if he needed help on this," Finders said. "I was mostly up and down the ladders and up on the roof and doing the stuff that wasn't quite as refined but in the scheme of things, somebody had to do it."

Lagin added, however, that Finders' contributions were integral to the project.

"Thank God there were four of us," said Giancola, who oversees the Bothwell Arts Center and serves as the visual arts and education manager for Livermore Valley Arts.

While murals are generally within her wheelhouse as an artist, Giancola explained that this one being so large with so many different elements made it a job for more than one person.

"Most of my murals are more interior, residential and small commercial, so this one was a little bit big," she said with a laugh.

The completed mural is actually more than just a little bit big — it's 77 feet wide and 17 feet tall.

All of the artists, including Burnham, had known each other and connected with one another in different ways and for other projects over the years but Lagin said this was the first time that all of them came together and "molded our expertise together".

"I found it to be very collaborative and we would ask each other things like, 'Does that really look like a



Top: The final "Dream Big" mural in downtown Livermore. (Photo by Alan Burnham). Above: Early stages of the mural involved projecting the astronauts' portraits onto a wall at the Bothwell Arts Center. (Photo by Larry Lagin).

nose? Is the nostril too off to the right?" Lagin said of the experience working with the fellow artists.

Giancola noted that Dewhurst was very instrumental in helping bring the faces to life with accuracy as painting portraits is one of her areas of expertise. "She was really great to put all the finishing touches on the faces to really make them look real, believable and recognizable as those of the astronauts," Giancola said of Dewhurst.

The process of creating the mural began back in March at the Bothwell Arts Center where the artists projected the face and torso of each astronaut's image on mimeograph paper on the wall.

"I don't know how many weeks that took us. It was very laborious but it was a labor of love," Lagin said

of the tedious process. After completing the sketches of the portraits, they moved on to placing them on the wall followed by the painting process.

The artists agreed that in addition to the visual appeal of the mural, a significant aspect they wanted to come across was the meaning.

"We felt really strongly that we were giving a good message to the youth of Livermore," Giancola said. "We really wanted this to say 'Dream Big' — no matter what you want to do. These are five astronauts associated with Livermore but really you can do anything we just want the youth to dream big," she added.

The mural was completed mid-summer, but the ribbon cutting ceremony was held last weekend at 175 North K St. ■



LARRY LAGIN

A view of the wall during the sketch phase of the project.

# City in the spotlight for Paint Pleasanton 2022

Outdoor art competition rolls on amid mix of September weather

By JEREMY WALSH

Artists in this year's Paint Pleasanton event got the full en plein air experience that the Bay Area has to offer, but the weather couldn't put a damper on the outdoor competition earlier this month.

Painters put their passion into practice, rain or shine, on Sept. 17 and 18 for the Pleasanton Art League event that sees some of the Bay Area's best capture downtown and other parts of Pleasanton through their unique artistic eye.

"In spite of weather predictions very unfavorable for outdoor painters, the Pleasanton Art League had our best turnout ever for this event. The support and cooperation from the Museum on Main, who opened their doors to the public, was greeted enthusiastically by everyone. Many had not seen inside the museum before," event chair Lorraine Wells said.

"The true icing on the cake was that despite everything, artists, many of whom are new to Tri-Valley, from all over the Bay Area including San Francisco, young and old, came out in support of this event," added PAL president Meghana Mitragotri.

"Painting outdoors is not easy, especially with the light constantly moving throughout the day," she said. "Knowing that it would rain on Sunday, it was wonderful to see zestful artists taking advantage of the beautiful Saturday, painting

pretty scenes all day long and sharing progress and vlogs over social media. Some even traveled from one location to the other and completed up to three paintings in one day."

San Francisco artist Nathaniel Bice was one of the first-time participants in this year's Paint Pleasanton event.

"Though I enjoy painting in San Francisco, where I live, I have found a lot of inspiration in getting out of the city and finding new places to paint," Bice said. "Paint Pleasanton was my first plein air event, though I already know I paint well under pressure thanks to doing live painting at a wedding reception."

It was great to be part of such a large number of painters all doing our work in the same area at the same time, and an exciting challenge since I decided to push myself to complete three paintings in one day," Bice added.

Bice painted a landscape at Bernal Community Park as well as the historic Kolln Hardware building and the back of the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown.

Fellow painter Shrey Purohit, who took home an honorable mention prize, described the creative experience painting on the opening Saturday.

"I had a great time painting around Pleasanton and on Main Street. Practicing urban landscape scenes in San Francisco it was a



Artist Caroline Abdulla paints in downtown Pleasanton during the Pleasanton Art League outdoor event this month.

lovely switch to paint the rolling hills around Pleasanton," Purohit said. "The warm end of summer day from day break to night fall was a great magical day to be painting."

Other top finishers in the competition included Rolando Barrero winning Best of Show and People's Choice, Birgit Spaulding and Malavika Oak each earning a Merit

Award and Jenna Hobbs and Tuan Karsevar receiving the other honorable mentions.

The 2022 Paint Pleasanton artworks are now on display online via a gallery created by PAL webmaster Marion Huff. People can also purchase any available pieces from the show by contacting the artist directly. Visit [www.pal-art.com](http://www.pal-art.com) to learn more. ■

# 'An Afternoon or Evening with Albert Einstein'

Interactive portrayal onstage and online



MUSEUM ON MAIN

Actor Duffy Hudson portraying Albert Einstein.

By JEREMY WALSH

Hear from the scientific icon — as portrayed by historical character actor Duffy Hudson — in-person in Pleasanton and online next month as "An Afternoon or Evening with Albert Einstein" closes the 2022 Ed Kinney Speaker Series.

Organized by the Museum on Main, the live performances next Tuesday in the Firehouse Arts Center and on Oct. 11 via webinar platform BigMarker will see Hudson return to play Einstein in the Chautauquan style, telling the story of his life and revolutionary physics discoveries such as the Theory of Relativity, the dilation of time and his Twin Paradox.

"Chautauqua performances are a unique way for people, young and old alike, to engage with history and historical personalities. Actors bring historical characters out of the book or Wikipedia page and onto the stage, providing the audience with a monologue as a historical character and then answering the audiences' questions as the character," said Jim DeMersman, the museum's executive director.

Hudson will open the performance in character, including a Q&A as Einstein, and then step out of character at the end to answer any final questions about the great scientific thinker.

The in-person shows will be held at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. next Tuesday (Oct. 4) at the Firehouse in downtown Pleasanton, with the online version to follow on Oct. 11. General admission tickets are \$25 for the stage performance and \$20 for the virtual viewing, with discounts available for seniors, students and museum members.

The Ed Kinney Speaker Series, which ran monthly from January to October, is funded by the city of Pleasanton, Civic Arts Commission Grant Program, National Endowment for the Humanities, California Humanities, Alameda County Arts Commission and Best Western Pleasanton Plus Inn, in addition to ticket fees.

To learn more, visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org) or call the museum at 925-462-2766. ■



TLC

## The 360s in concert

The 360s will be playing classic hits from the '60s, '70s and '80s during a concert at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton this weekend. "This is an acoustic-electric band with a soothing, convincing sound you can immerse yourself in, for relaxing or singing along, or even jumping up and dancing. You won't want to miss spending a moment with this band, their cordial energy, fabulous blend and great tunes," organizers said. The concert is set for 4 p.m. this Sunday (Oct. 2) at the church at 1225 Hopyard Road. Visit [trinitypleasanton.org](http://trinitypleasanton.org) for more details.



FIREHOUSE ARTS

## MJ's Brass Boppers opening Firehouse season

The funky sounds of the Big Easy — via Oakland, that is — will be ushering in the 2022-23 season at the Firehouse Arts Center when the Bay Area's own MJ's Brass Boppers perform in downtown Pleasanton this weekend. "MJ's Brass Boppers Brass Band is an authentic New Orleans singing and swinging Second Line brass band fusing traditional NOLA standards, funk, jazz, modern pop and more with a second line twist," Firehouse officials said. The show is set to get underway at 8 p.m. Saturday (Oct. 1). Visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org) for tickets.

# POLICE BULLETIN

## Dublin man convicted of 2016 rape; jury deliberates for just two hours

An Alameda County jury recently found a man guilty of sexually assaulting a young woman in an apparent date-rape plot six years ago that included transferring the partially conscious victim between multiple cars from a San Francisco nightclub to his home in Dublin.

Ahmad Azizi, 38, was convicted of one felony count of forcible rape following a trial in mid-August that also featured testimony from another woman who said she was raped by him under similar circumstances nearly 20 years ago. The jury needed just two hours of deliberations to reach its verdict, according to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

"It takes a lot of bravery for a victim of sexual assault to come forward and tell 12 strangers what happened to them on the worst night of their life. It is entirely due to the bravery of both victims who testified in this case that the jury returned a verdict of guilty and justice was served," deputy district attorney Jason Quinn, who prosecuted the case, said in a statement to the Weekly.

Azizi, who pleaded not guilty, faces up to eight years in state prison and lifetime registration as a sex offender when he is sentenced next month. He has been remanded into county jail custody.

Defense counsel Thomas McKenna did not respond to a request for comment after the verdict.

The case dates back to 2016 when a woman — then 21 years old — reported to police that she was raped by Azizi, a man she bumped into and accepted alcohol shots from while in a nightclub in San Francisco with friends, prosecutors said.

"They spent time together and the victim became severely intoxicated to the point of no longer being able to recall certain moments of the evening. The defendant removed the victim from the club and away from her friends without notice," prosecutors said.

"He put her into a private car driven by a man the defendant had contracted with before. The defendant paid to have the victim driven to a second car who then transported the pair to the defendant's home in Dublin," prosecutors added. While in transit, the woman was reportedly in such an intoxicated state that she vomited and couldn't stand on her own, including needing to be carried at one point.

Azizi raped the woman in his home, and she was then taken to a restaurant in Antioch and dropped off to her friends, according to prosecutors. She immediately reported the crime to police.

Key testimony at the trial came from another woman who told the jury she was raped by Azizi under very similar circumstances in 2003 after she met him in a nightclub in Modesto and "became unusually intoxicated" from a drink given to her by Azizi, according to Alameda County prosecutors.

"The defendant led this woman to a nearby hotel where she vomited and was in and out of consciousness," prosecutors said of the woman's testimony. "She was sexually assaulted, blacked out and the next thing she remembered was being loaded into an ambulance."

The 2003 case in Stanislaus County was charged but ultimately not prosecuted there for unknown reasons, according to the Alameda County DA's Office. Azizi contended that interaction was consensual sex.

Opening statements in the trial in Alameda County Superior Court took place on Aug. 17.

The jury went into deliberations just after 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 23 and by 3:48 p.m. had informed the bailiff that they had reached a verdict on the lone count of forcible rape, according to the DA's office — which highlighted the conviction in a press release on Sept. 6.

Azizi is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 14 in Department 713 of the Alameda County Superior Court.

—Jeremy Walsh

### In other news

- The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau on Tuesday confirmed the identity of the motorcyclist who died in a collision with another vehicle at a prominent intersection in Livermore last week.

Rachel Gray, 49, of San Leandro died at the scene of the crash on Sept. 21, according to authorities.

Livermore police said on Tuesday that the fatal collision remains under investigation.

The incident occurred just before 5:30 a.m. Sept. 21 when Gray's motorcycle was struck by another vehicle at Isabel Avenue and Airway Boulevard in Livermore, according to police. The other driver, whose name has not been revealed publicly, remained at the scene and cooperated with officers, police said.

Additional details about the circumstances and cause of the crash have not been released to date.

The investigation into the crash, as well as the cleanup of debris, led to the intersection being closed for nearly six hours during and through the morning commute that day.

Investigators ask anyone who may have witnessed the crash or have other information relevant to the case to contact the Livermore Police Department's non-emergency line at 925-371-4987.

—Jeremy Walsh

- The coroner's bureau this week also released the identity of the driver killed in a solo-vehicle crash off an Interstate 680 offramp in Pleasanton

in mid-August.

Pleasanton resident Jong Park, 67, was pronounced dead at the scene of the fiery crash at the southbound Bernal Avenue offramp, according to authorities. His identity had not been initially confirmed due to the extent of the fire-related injuries as well as the lack of personal identification inside the sedan that night.

The crash occurred just before 6:30 p.m. Aug. 14 when a Mercedes sedan traveling southbound on I-680 attempted to take the Bernal Avenue exit but failed to negotiate the sharp right turn for unknown reasons, the California Highway Patrol reported at the time.

The car stayed roughly straight instead of taking the turn, went down an embankment and struck a large tree head-on. The impact ignited the Mercedes and surrounding vegetation with Park, the sole occupant, trapped inside the vehicle, according to the CHP. He succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

—Jeremy Walsh

- A Danville man now faces one count of misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter in connection with a traffic collision on Camino Tassajara in June that killed a local woman trying to cross the street.

Danville police allege driver Steven Allen Seltzer failed to yield properly to pedestrian Joyce Huang in the crosswalk at the intersection of Camino Tassajara and Wood Ranch



PPD

## Officer Orlino joins Pleasanton PD

The Pleasanton Police Department welcomed its newest police officer, Angeliko Orlino, following a swearing-in ceremony earlier this month. A Lathrop High School alum, Orlino recently graduated from San Joaquin Delta College Basic Police Academy and applied for PPD during the training program. "I've dreamed about becoming an officer since I was a teenager, and I look forward to starting my law enforcement career in Pleasanton and joining this supportive community," Orlino said. He is in the middle of a 12-week field training program before patrolling the streets.

Road around 8 p.m. June 2, according to investigative results confirmed publicly earlier this month.

Huang, 32, of Danville died from her injuries that evening at the scene in the largely residential area on the east side of the town.

The Danville Police Department's traffic unit investigated the crash for multiple months before forwarding its report to county prosecutors for review. Seltzer, 70, remained at the scene and cooperated with the investigation, according to police.

The Contra Costa County District

Attorney's Office on Sept. 7 filed a criminal complaint against Seltzer charging one misdemeanor count of vehicular manslaughter for Huang's death, according to police. The defendant remains out of custody.

Seltzer is scheduled to be arraigned on Tuesday (Oct. 4) at 8:30 a.m. in Contra Costa County Superior Court Department 20 in Martinez, according to the DA's office.

Huang's death represented the first traffic fatality in the Danville town limits since November 2020. ■

—Jeremy Walsh

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Sept. 23

#### Burglary

■ 12:30 a.m. on the 7800 block of Foothill Knolls Drive

#### Theft

■ 8:54 a.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

■ 11:01 a.m., 3000 block of Briggs Court; theft from auto

■ 11:40 a.m., 5800 block of San Juan Point; theft from auto

■ 12:03 p.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive

#### Warrant arrest

■ 9:06 a.m. at Hopyard and Owens drives

■ 1:01 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 10:48 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### DUI

■ 3:05 p.m. on the 4300 block of Black Avenue

### Sept. 22

#### Warrant arrest

■ 12:48 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

■ 12:02 p.m. at Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

#### Graffiti offense

■ 8:25 a.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

#### Drug violation

■ 9:31 a.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 11:43 a.m. on the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue

#### Vandalism

■ 9:33 a.m. on the 3400 block of Old Foothill Road

■ 7:13 p.m. on Oak Vista Way

#### Assault/battery

■ 7:32 p.m. at Main Street and Rose Avenue

### Sept. 21

#### Burglary

■ 4:56 a.m. on the 8500 block of Clubhouse Drive

■ 12:37 p.m. on the 000 block of Foothill Lane

#### Theft

■ 6:02 a.m., 700 block of East Angela Street; theft from auto

■ 8:43 a.m., 3400 block of Andrews Drive; theft from auto

■ 6:35 p.m., 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; bicycle theft

#### Vandalism

■ 6:43 a.m. on the 5300 block of Brookside Court

#### Graffiti offense

■ 8:01 a.m. on the 600 block of Main Street

#### Drug violation

■ 8:36 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

### Sept. 20

#### Graffiti offense

■ 10:36 a.m. on the 3200 block of West Lagoon Road

#### Warrant arrest

■ 11:07 a.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Burglary

■ 11:09 a.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

#### Theft

■ 1:03 p.m., 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; catalytic converter theft

■ 2:19 p.m., 3900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; catalytic converter theft

■ 4:51 p.m., 4500 block of Willow Road; theft from auto

■ 9:43 p.m., 11500 block of Dublin Canyon Road; auto theft

#### Fraud

■ 1:22 p.m. on the 000 block of Vintage Circle

#### Vandalism

■ 3:27 p.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Assault/battery

■ 3:42 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Rape

■ 6:00 p.m. on Camino Del Lago

### Sept. 19

#### Warrant arrest

■ 12:44 a.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Assault/battery

■ 2:38 a.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive

#### Theft

■ 8:28 a.m. on the 2900 block of Yorkshire Court

■ 5:39 p.m., 3100 block of Montpelier Court; catalytic converter theft

■ 6:50 p.m., 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 7:38 p.m., 3500 block of Rathbone Way; catalytic converter theft

#### Drug violation

■ 11:25 a.m. on the 2700 block of Hopyard Road

#### Vandalism

■ 12:37 p.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive

### Vote Wallace for Council D1, Yee for D3 in Pleasanton

Pleasanton is on the precipice of its first election under district-based voting for the City Council.

Voters in the northwest and southwest parts of the city are fortunate to have multiple passionate candidates from which to choose on Nov. 8 for this landmark election.

With the city now literally divided by district lines, and a current council that has been distinctly fractured in several key moments over the past two years, voters should look toward candidates who can build bridges among diverse perspectives while achieving important goals to enhance their districts and the city as a whole.

In our view, those candidates are Dean Wallace in District 1 and Jamie Yee in District 3.

#### District 1

The northwest district seat is wide

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open in this campaign, as incumbent Councilmember Kathy Narum is ineligible after hitting the city's temporary term limit.

With the slate clean, we see an opportunity with Dean Wallace to add the perspective of a young professional with deep Tri-Valley ties and political experience to the Pleasanton dais.

He presents well-reasoned ideas for addressing top priority goals such as sustainability and affordability, public safety, economic development, transparency, city services and the Stoneridge Shopping Center redevelopment planning process — the latter of which will probably be the most important project in District 1 over the upcoming four-year term.

Wallace, who works as a staffer for Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Berkeley), did a savvy job differentiating himself and his approach from that of his boss when called out at our candidate forum on Sept. 12. We're also impressed by his wide-ranging coalition of supporters this campaign, including elected officials at the local, state and federal levels, unions and trade associations and other stakeholder groups.

Also challenging for the District 1 seat is Planning Commissioner Jeff Nibert, a longtime resident whose platform focuses on quality of life, the environment, safe drinking water, "smart and measured growth" including affordable housing, and Pleasanton's small-town character.

Nibert has gained some key city experience on the Planning Commission, without question, but we do note that he has not yet truly separated himself as an authority among the commission dais. He brought

up smart talking points during our forum and in his public campaigning, but often just at that cursory level without the added depth of actionable solutions. In that way, his opponent stands apart.

#### District 3

In the three-person race for District 3, incorporating southwestern Pleasanton including part of downtown, the candidate with the most elected and public service stands above in our view.

Jamie Yee, running for City Council for the first time after three terms on the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees (2008-20), brings a level of experience with government finance, policy work, labor negotiations, broad stakeholder engagement and representative decision-making unmatched in this campaign.

But beyond that track record, Yee has stepped forward with an inspired council candidacy. When we chose not to endorse Yee's reelection to PUSD two years ago, part of our reasoning was that her mindset on the board seemed stagnant. She appears reinvigorated with this campaign to serve on the council for the city she grew up in.

You need look no further than her strong performance at our forum. Her positions on workforce housing, water reliability in the face of PFAS and calling attention to the stark turnover rate at the top of the city administration in the past two years were just a few of the moments that stood out to us. Her day job working for the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency would add key public health experience to the City Council as well.

Incumbent Julie Testa, running this time to represent District 3, has proven herself a tireless worker on the council to become well-informed on many issues during her four years in office to date. Testa is passionate about her priorities for Pleasanton, but at times that entrenched focus seems to cloud her perspective.

For example, she's a fierce advocate for maintaining local control, a laudable goal (imperative, really, in this day and age in California), but continually pushing her council colleagues to join a lawsuit challenging state housing mandates and the Regional Housing Needs Allocation is a mistake of tunnel vision. While the underlying arguments might have merit, Pleasanton cannot position itself — legally and financially — in a hard-to-win fight against the state over residential development after losing its notorious, costly housing cap lawsuit not all that long ago.

Councilmembers must be able to prioritize the city government's well-being over their individual objectives when the moment calls for it.

The other District 3 candidate, newcomer Joel Liu, is running for elected office for the first time amid service on the city's Committee on Energy and the Environment.

In his campaign, Liu cites top priorities on the minds of many Pleasanton residents: public safety, sustainability, fiscal stability and strengthening the city-school partnership. While all important, we had hoped to hear more specifics at our forum and in our research about how he would accomplish those broad goals, lifting them beyond simply talking points into actionable strategies.

We also commend Liu for pursuing initial experience in the city government on the energy committee, an increasingly relevant advisory group these days. We feel, though, his candidacy would be that much stronger with more tangible decision-making experience, and encourage him to pursue a spot on the Planning Commission.

#### Mayor

Let us also offer a word about Mayor Karla Brown, who is untested but still on the ballot Nov. 8. She has our support as well.

Brown took office while the city was still in the throes of the pandemic, and in many ways her tenure thus far has been defined by overcoming challenging situations. She has led the council during tough budget deliberations, the transition to a new city manager, the vital COVID-19 response of 2021, and the ongoing Housing Element update and water safety and supply debates.

We're particularly struck by the fact Brown had no challengers this fall. We can't see that as anything other than a ringing endorsement from the community and stakeholder groups alike about the job Brown has done in her first term as mayor. This public backing alone is enough to bolster our support for Brown's reelection; her performance from the council's center chair and throughout the city often these past two years only serves to strengthen our stance.

Vote Dean Wallace for Pleasanton City Council District 1, Jamie Yee for City Council District 3 and Karla Brown for mayor. ■

*Editor's note: The Pleasanton Weekly editorial board reached its decisions based on the candidates' performances at the Weekly's forum, email interviews on endorsements, and our review of past reporting and research.*

## LETTERS

### Vote No on Measure I

This Nov. 8 there will be a vote on Measure I, Pleasanton Unified's \$395 million bond measure.

First and foremost, language in the resolution states: "Inclusion of a project on the bond project list is not a guarantee that the project will be completed (regardless of whether bond funds are available)." This means, like the missing 10th elementary school, the district doesn't have to do what they are telling us they will do. This language protects the district, not the community or its children.

Second, the district is planning to build seven TK classrooms at Donlon and six at Fairlands. These are the

district's two most impacted schools. Donlon has over 800 students and Fairlands nearly 800 students.

Even if the district realigns elementary school boundaries, these schools will be over 800 students. This is because the city has started work on a housing plan for Stoneridge Mall, anticipated to complete their work by April 2023.

Third, there is a plan to tear down and rebuild Amador Valley's theater for \$35 million, rather than refurbish this iconic structure for about \$5 million.

There are other questions about this bond: Village's two-story replacement, the amount we will pay (nearly \$1,000 per \$1 million of assessed value per year in PUSD bonds), and where are the 1,000 students the district has said are gone (other public schools, private schools?). For more

information, visit MeasureI.org

Let's convince PUSD this bond is the wrong approach to their needs. Please vote No on Measure I.

—Kathleen Rueggesser

### Vote for Julie Testa

Pleasanton is lucky to have a dedicated councilmember like Julie Testa. For years she has monitored City Council and school board decisions making sure residents' concerns came before those of special interests.

She takes on big issues asking the school board to spend bond money on what was promised and asking the City Council to join other cities in California to push back on state requirements allowing developers to build on any parcel of land they choose with no control on zoning

or size by local planners.

Since being elected, Julie has dedicated herself to protecting the needs of the underrepresented and offering ideas to strengthen our city programs and services. For example, she worked to create an alternative response program to deal with citizens in mental health crisis rather than relying on police officers as the only option.

Julie is a staunch supporter of protecting our historic downtown and maintaining its small-town feel. Maintaining our clean water and conserving our resources are high priorities for her.

Vote for Julie Testa, a proven leader and a strong champion for our residents.

—Christine Bourg

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# Vote Marchand for mayor, Branning for District 1, Chiong for District 2 in Livermore

Livermore voters will be selecting two new City Council members and a new mayor come Nov. 8. Our recommendations for the next mayor is John Marchand and for the two open council seats, Evan Branning and Mel Chiong.

The new council members will tackle a number of crucial projects and challenges over the course of their terms, including moving the downtown revitalization plans forward, meeting the city's new regional housing need allotment, strengthening the wine industry, combatting homelessness, maintaining fiscal sustainability and so many more.

With so many critical plans in store for the city of Livermore, our endorsement decisions came down to two major factors: knowledge and experience.

## Mayor

We believe former mayor John Marchand has the in-depth knowledge and background to take the reins once again and lead the city of Livermore.

Previously serving for eight years as the city's mayor and several years on the council before that, Marchand has a proven track record of effective leadership and successfully bringing projects to fruition. His professional background as a water chemist and his previous experience serving on

the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors will also lend itself well to the current need to ensure water supply efficiency and sustainability in Livermore, particularly with more housing on the horizon.

While we believe that the city of Livermore could benefit from fresh ideas and perspectives at the helm of the City Council, Marchand's opponent — Realtor and former city police officer Mony Nop — has not proven himself prepared to take on the role as his grasp of key city issues is not quite as strong.

Nop also has not specified feasible plans or solutions for several of the most pressing issues facing the city, including the Eden Housing development planned for downtown. He is advocating the project be moved to another location but has not identified specific other locations to place the 130-unit affordable housing complex and public park.

This is Nop's second run for mayor, as he competed against current Mayor Bob Woerner in the 2020 election. At that time, we encouraged Nop to get direct city governance experience by serving on a city committee or commission, but it does not seem that he took the advice. His community involvement and leadership background in the real estate industry and nonprofit world are notable, but he has not

shown the knowledge of public governance that we would like to see.

## District 1

District 1 City Council candidate Evan Branning would bring a renewed vitality to the dais. He's demonstrated a strong understanding of city governance and the issues currently facing Livermore. He's also shown a level of passion and vigor for moving the city forward that is refreshing to see.

As a city planning commissioner, Branning has the background in understanding the city's decision-making process for considering new development, which will be key for the ongoing revitalization of downtown as well as forthcoming projects such as the Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan.

Carol Wahrer's love for Livermore as a community is evident; however, she has not shown a strong understanding of city governance. Like Nop, she has also advocated to move the Eden Housing project to a different location without identifying specifically where to move it.

However, she has expressed that regardless of its location, her main concern is making sure the project benefits the community and that Livermore residents are prioritized for the low-income housing, which is a notable stance that indicates

her willingness to be a team player and consider the overall bigger picture regarding issues that she may not agree with.

We would like to see Wahrer join a city commission or committee and return as a council candidate in the future.

## District 2

Mel Chiong has earned our endorsement to represent District 2 on the City Council. As a member of the General Plan Advisory Committee, she's already gaining firsthand knowledge and providing input on the city's goals and priorities over the next 10 to 20 years related to housing, transportation, land use, jobs, open space preservation and more.

Additionally, as a small business owner, Chiong can help the city identify and execute effective ways to further engage local businesses, which City Manager Marianna Marysheva identified as a current goal of the city in a recent interview. As a community organizer, Chiong also has the experience uniting a group of people to achieve a common goal. Chiong's community involvement also demonstrates her ability to work with others as a team with different ideas and opinions.

Lions Club president Ben Barrientos, who is facing off against Chiong for the District 2 seat, has missed

several opportunities to hone in on his campaign priorities and provide specific strategies for how to achieve them. Not only did he not participate in our candidate forum, he was also unresponsive to our requests for statements to be read on his behalf at the forum and for consideration in our endorsement process.

On his campaign website, he makes reference to improvements he wants to make in various areas without indicating why he thinks they are needed. For example, he expresses a desire to "fix our poor functioning administration," but does not specify in what areas the city organization is lacking.

Additionally, like Nop and Wahrer, Barrientos' campaign website expresses a desire to relocate the Eden Housing development in favor of a public park being built on the project site instead but he also does not indicate where or how the project could be moved.

While there are many citywide issues to consider beyond downtown and Eden Housing in this upcoming election, it is important to recognize that three of the candidates vying for seats on the council are promoting an unrealistic goal in their campaigns with no feasible strategies to accomplish it, which is not a promising sign for how they would handle other contentious matters that arise during their terms should they be elected.

Vote John Marchand for mayor of Livermore, Evan Branning for City Council District 1 and Mel Chiong for City Council District 2. ■

## LETTERS

Continued from Page 17

### Vote for Measure P to protect our groundwater

Voter approval of the city of Livermore's Measure P would allow sewer services to be extended into unincorporated areas of the South Livermore Valley currently served by septic tanks.

These septic tanks are a source of nitrates that degrade groundwater that is the source of drinking water to nearby homes. The new sewer line would provide centralized treatment and safe disposal of wastewater. Reducing septic tank use would reduce groundwater degradation from nitrates as well as the associated health risk.

I have a longstanding interest in maintaining and improving our local groundwater quality as a member of the Zone 7 Board of Directors. Zone 7 is the groundwater manager responsible for ensuring sustainable use of our groundwater basin. For more detailed information on Measure P impacts on groundwater, please visit the Zone 7 website. While I am a member of the Zone 7 Board of Directors, my letter is not offered on their behalf.

—Dennis Gambis

### Marchand is the right choice

I hope you will join me in voting for John Marchand to be our next mayor. There is a reason John is endorsed by numerous individuals and organizations that I admire. He loves our city and has dedicated much of his life to public service on our behalf.

The mayor's job is a difficult and demanding one. John has demonstrated his ability to work collaboratively on regional boards and commissions to the benefit of Livermore residents. We need his vision and passion now more than ever to keep public safety a top priority, effectively address housing issues across all levels of need, and work successfully with other regional leaders on pressing issues such as climate change and transportation.

Livermore is a wonderful place to live and that doesn't happen by chance or without the diligence of thoughtful and skilled governance. It requires years of direct experience to become proficient at leading a city the size of Livermore. I'd like to see our beautiful town continue to thrive and sustain our generous and welcoming culture.

John has the know-how and

enthusiasm required to be Livermore's mayor. Vote for John Marchand.

—Lori Souza

### Support Measure P

The Livermore Valley wineries and agricultural operations are wonderful community resources that add so much to the beauty and quality of life in Livermore and the Tri-Valley. Thus, it is important to improve the region's infrastructure to help the wine industry survive and thrive.

Extending the sewer line from Livermore to the South Livermore Valley will improve the economics of wine operations by allowing wine makers to utilize Livermore's excess wastewater treatment capacity.

Measure P also protects precious groundwater by replacing the need for environmentally harmful septic systems.

This extension will not require any out-of-pocket costs for Livermore citizens as it will be paid primarily with an Alameda County grant plus other state and local funding. Furthermore, it will not contribute to urban sprawl as it does not change existing zoning. Please support Measure P.

—Lou Astbury

### Vote to save America

Our economy is the worst it's been in 40 years, inflation is raging, there's an epidemic of confused teenagers who don't know what gender they are, suicides have increased, fentanyl is killing thousands of people in this country, cashless bail is letting repeat offenders back on the streets to rob and kill innocent people, our southern border is nonexistent and illegals pour through every day.

Chicago, New York City and Los Angeles have soaring murder rates. All of these cities are run by progressive left Democrats and the issues above all brought on by their terrible progressive left policies. All American citizens should be outraged by what is happening to our country.

Come the November elections, Americans can fix all of these issues when they vote for the Republican candidates who have sound policies and a track record that is successful for all Americans.

—David Ott

### Please vote, and vote for Marchand

There is a clear choice for mayor offered to us citizens of Livermore in the election in November. John

Marchand is my choice.

John has demonstrated his passion about protecting and enhancing our quality of life in Livermore for decades. As an example, he has never wavered in his support for public safety. That is priority No. 1 in our community. He keeps it front and center.

He has developed essential alliances with decision makers all over the Tri-Valley and beyond so that he remains influential in protecting Livermore's interest on regional and statewide issues. I believe this task is becoming vastly more important as the area continues to grow.

John understands every facet of the operation of our city. There is virtually no component of city governance that he is not competent to administer.

John has a proven track record. He not only identifies important issues that will affect our well-being he consistently does something about them. He is a very deliberate leader. He is respectful of all points of view and consistently makes decisions with a community-wide perspective in mind.

Please vote in November and vote for John Marchand for mayor of Livermore.

—Lisa Lagorio



By DENNIS MILLER

## Dons edge Falcons in tight overtime thriller

Also: Amador girls' water polo storms back in 4th to defeat Northgate

Simply, this is why they play the game.

Heading into the big rivalry game last Friday, with Amador Valley traveling to Foothill for their annual meeting in football, things looked to stack up favorably for Amador.

The Falcons were a team lacking depth, had some key injuries and coming off two straight losses. But when the Dons and the Falcons meet, regardless of records, anything can — and usually does — happen.

The Dons did indeed win the game, but the 14-7 overtime win was hardly easy. In fact, the Falcons could have won the game late in regulation, but the Dons came through by blocking a short field goal attempt in the final seconds.

It was their second blocked kick in the game.

"We came into the game feeling like we were hitting our stride," Amador Valley coach Danny Jones said, after his team dumped a talented Granada side convincingly in their previous game. "But as you have said, that crosstown rivalry game is always tough. We got their best shot."

Tied in the fourth quarter, the Fal-

cons started an efficient march down the field, burning up yards and the game clock.

It honestly appeared not if, but when, the Falcons would win the game. But it was the Amador defense making the play of the night. Jones felt that the play reenergized his team as they were staring at another upset loss to Foothill.

"We felt like if we could keep them from getting a touchdown, we had a chance at blocking the field goal," said Jones. "Once we did, we pulled the kids together and told them we have another chance — let's make the most of it."

Looking at the demeanor of both teams, you felt the game had swung to the Dons once the kick was blocked.

"Of course, you could see the shift," Jones said. "When that happens, it is tough mentally for a team to get back up."

Three plays into overtime, Amador had the touchdown lead and when Foothill couldn't match the Dons on their possession, the game was over.

The win also sheds some positive

direction for the Dons. Last year they fell to Foothill, which started a downward spiral and they never won another game.

This year getting the rivalry win should kickstart the rest of the season for Amador even though the team is stuck in the overly strong East Bay Athletic League Mountain Division — which means league games with Clayton Valley, California, Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley, not to mention a non-league game with De La Salle.

"Absolutely," Jones said, the win leading a positive kick start to the back half of the season. "Last year took its toll. This year we look at the remaining schedule and feel like we will be in the league games."

### Amador girls' water polo

The Dons used a furious fourth-quarter rally to prevail over Northgate by a 12-11 final. Trailing 9-6 entering the final frame, the Dons outscored the Broncos 6-2 to pick up the thrilling win, getting the deciding goal in the last two minutes.

Evelyn McLaughlin had 5 goals to pace the Amador offense. Kate

Harris scored twice, while Regan Braga. Olivia Vollgraf and Susan Swyers had a goal each.

Erin Brown had an outstanding game in the goal, facing 39 shots, allowing only 11 shots past her.

Brown also added a pair of assists, as did McLaughlin. Kate Hopkins, Vollgraf, Harris and Braga finished with 1 assist each. ■

## Employment

### Technical Architect

AppsIntegration has opening in Pleasanton, CA & various unanticipated lctns in US: Technical Architect-Dsgn & dvlp sltns to synch syst data. Req. Bach/frgn equiv + 5 yr exp + skills. May req travel/reloc to unanticipated lctns in US. (Job ID AITA) Apply: Mail: 6200 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Ste. 300, Pleasanton, CA 94588 ATTN: Madhu Vattikuti w/ Job ID. Email: madhu@appsintegration.com

### Software Engineer IV (E-commerce Engineering)

Safeway Inc. hiring Software Engineer IV (E-commerce Engineering) in Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. EOE. Subj. to backg. check. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com. Attn: R. Oliver.



Sign up today at [PleasantonWeekly.com/express](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/express)

### TECHNOLOGY

BlackLine Systems, Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of Senior Software Engineer, Test in Pleasanton, CA (Ref. #KRAN). Drive improvements and provide recommendations by using or creating tools and contributing to the automation framework. Telecommuting permitted. Mail resume to BlackLine Systems, Inc., HR Department, Tamara Saltzman, 21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Resume must include Ref. #KRAN, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

### DEVOPS ENGINEER

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To place an ad or get a quote, contact Kevin Legarda at 650.223.6597 or email [digitalads@pawebly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawebly.com).

## Pickleball group hosting first Harvest Crush Tournament

Club hopes inaugural event will be just the beginning for Tri-Valley

By JEREMY WALSH

As their sport continues its rise in popularity locally, members of the recently formed Tri-Valley Pickleball Club are bringing an inaugural tournament to Livermore next month that they hope will represent the start of something special for the region for years to come.

The first-ever Harvest Crush Tournament is set to come to May Nissen Park from Oct. 8-9, open to doubles' players from beginner to advanced skill levels -- and spectators are encouraged to attend.

"Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, and our region of California is working to provide enough courts to accommodate the growing number of players," said Kirby Wong, president of the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club.

"Nationally, other cities are recognizing the tourism value of the sport when tournaments draw players who spend money for hotels, dining, and shopping. We hope that our region will grow the same inter-



JOANNE HALL

A game of pickleball being played at May Nissen Park in Livermore.

est and this tournament is a start in that direction," Wong added.

The club, which was established as a 501(c)(7) nonprofit in February and already boasts a membership over 250 people, strives to grow the sport, support player development and recreational events, and advocate for more pickleball courts across Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville.

The inaugural Harvest Crush Tournament is the club's first step toward building such a presence in

Livermore and the Tri-Valley.

The event will open with men's and women's doubles on Oct. 8, and mixed doubles following on Oct. 9. Players will be assigned based upon skill level and age in the event (which is non-sanctioned competition) that spans levels from 2.5 to 4.0, and age groups of 18-49, 50-59 and 60-plus.

The club can accommodate up to 160 players total, with 80 players each day. To learn more or to register, visit [trivalleypickleballclub.com](http://trivalleypickleballclub.com). ■

## Entertainment

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

**COURTYARD CONCERTS AT THE BANKHEAD** Join jazz pianist Dan Marschak and bassist Cindy Browne Rosefield for an intimate set of jazz standards and originals in various styles. 5:30 p.m., Sept. 30. Tickets \$20. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://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. For more information, visit [livermorevalleyopera.com](http://livermorevalleyopera.com). Bankhead Theater.

**MJ'S BRASS BOPPERS AT THE FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER** Since 2008 this tight knit group of musicians have written, practiced, and performed together at a host of festivals, community events, nightclubs and street corners around the Bay Area and beyond. 8 p.m., Oct. 1. Tickets \$20-\$30. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**A TASTE OF AFRICA** This free family-friendly event at the Bankhead Plaza promotes and celebrates African and African diaspora cultures from a community drum circle, to a reading library. The event features various forms of art, outdoor music and dance performances. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct. 1. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**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](http://livermorearts.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](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

**EVE MARIE SHAHOIAN** Eve Marie Shahoian makes her west coast debut of "Take Me To The World" after a successful premier in New York's Theater District. 8 p.m., Oct. 7. Tickets \$20. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**GIRLS NIGHT OUT** Girls Night Out and Guys Too! is an evening of music and comedy. 8 p.m., Oct. 8. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**TRI-VALLEY SYMPHONICS IN CONCERT** Symphonics is a high school musical storytelling group who visits libraries and schools throughout the Bay Area, performing and narrating fairy tales and fables for young children. 3-4 p.m., Oct. 8. Dublin Library.

## Exhibits

**PICTURE THIS - A PUBLIC ART EXHIBIT** Picture This is a temporary public art exhibit that will be featured in parks and picturesque areas throughout the Tri-Valley this summer. The Town of Danville, City of Dublin, City of Livermore, City of Pleasanton and the City of San Ramon have partnered together to bring this new exhibit to life. The frames will be on display through Sept. 30. Visit [danville.ca.gov/1002/Picture-This](http://danville.ca.gov/1002/Picture-This).

**FERMENT** Ferment celebrates the beauty of vines hops and fermented drinks. Free and open to the public, Thursdays-Sundays, 1-5 p.m., Aug. 4-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. For more information, visit [firehousearts.org/gallery](http://firehousearts.org/gallery).

**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](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

**CALIFORNIA VOTES EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM ON MAIN** Chock full of maps, historic photographs and voting information, the non-partisan exhibition California Votes: Exercise Your Right!, will be on display at Pleasanton's Museum on Main from through Oct. 8.

## Talks

**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. 2 and 7 p.m., Oct. 4. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).

**SPIDERS AT SYCAMORE GROVE PARK** Join Ranger Vickie to learn about local spiders, explore some of the spiders in the park and view live spiders. 2 p.m., Oct. 8. RSVP to 925-960-2400. 5035 Arroyo Road.

**MOVIE MONSTERS** Wonder where writers and directors come up with amazing movie monsters? Many of their ideas are inspired by nature. Look at several terrifying movie monsters and see exactly where in nature these ideas come from. Ages 10 and up. 2 p.m., Oct. 9. RSVP to 925-960-2400. Sycamore Grove Park.

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** "Discovering your German Roots The Great Migration: 1815-1914", is the zoom presentation by Robert Jackson, PhD. 7-8:30 p.m., Oct. 10. Visit [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org).

**FREE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP AT LIVERMORE LIBRARY** The Livermore Public Library and the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society presents a free genealogy workshop at the Civic Center Library. Registration is not required and attendees may drop in at any time. 1-4 p.m., Oct. 12.

**END-OF-LIFE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES WEBINAR** Join this free Hope Hospice webinar where an elder law attorney will share information about establishing powers of attorney, trusts and wills, paying for long-term care and accessing government assistance programs. 10-11:30 a.m., Oct. 13. Visit [hopehospice.com](http://hopehospice.com).

## PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

### Meet Harley

No one told Harley she's a big dog! This brindle beauty is a sensitive soul, looking for an emotional support human to help expand her world. A nearly 2-year-old Shepherd/Labrador mix, Harley is cautious with new people, but once you get to know her, a sweet and playful personality emerges. Harley loves hikes and field trip outings. She'd prefer a home without small children. For information on how to adopt Harley or others, visit [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org)

## Fundraisers

**TRI-VALLEY HAVEN'S PACE FOR PEACE** Join Tri-Valley Haven for a scenic 5K/10K run/walk through the Livermore Valley. This event guarantees a good time for the entire family and all proceeds will go to Tri-Valley Haven programs to help local individuals and families fleeing domestic abuse. Visit [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org). 8 a.m., Oct. 1.

**GRAPES & GRATITUDE** Join for a fabulous evening under the stars and enjoy a live auction, Culinary Angels-inspired menu, McGrail Vineyard wine, vocal talent Meredith McHenry and much more. Tickets \$150. 6-10 p.m., Oct. 8. Visit [culinaryangels.org](http://culinaryangels.org).

**DENIM & DIAMONDS GALA EVENT** Join the Shepherd's Gate community for this exciting evening to benefit vital programs that help women and children overcome homelessness, addiction, trafficking, poverty and domestic violence. 5-8:30 p.m., Oct. 8., Garre Vineyards. Tickets \$70. Visit [shepherdsgate.org/denim](http://shepherdsgate.org/denim).

## Halloween

**PIRATES OF EMERSON HAUNTED THEMED PARK** Get ready to scream at Northern California's Premier walk thru haunted attraction. Tickets are all sold online. Sept. 30-Oct. 31. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

**MUSEUM ON MAIN'S ANNUAL GHOST WALK** Tickets for this family-friendly tour are now on sale. Tours begin at the museum and leave every thirty minutes. 6-8 p.m., Oct. 14,-15; 21-22. Visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).

**WITCHES NIGHT OUT IN LIVERMORE** Reserve a table for 2, 4, 6 or 8 at and choose the preferred restaurant. Tables \$20-\$80. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Oct. 5. Visit [livermoredowntown.com/events](http://livermoredowntown.com/events).

**PUMPKIN CARVING CAMPFIRE** Join an LAPRD Ranger and spend the evening carving this squash into works of art or horror. Bring a pumpkin and carving tools. The BBQ will be hot and ready for anyone that would like to cook their dinner. 4:30 p.m., Oct. 15. Sign up early as space is limited at 925-960-2400. Sycamore Grove Park.

## Fairs & Festivals

**DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER INFO FAIR** The Dublin Senior Center, in cooperation with senior service professionals, is hosting this free comprehensive information fair to bring awareness to seniors, caregivers and their families about local resources and services that are available to them. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 1.

**DUBLIN HARVEST FAIR** Guests at the annual Harvest Fair will enjoy an afternoon of old-fashioned fall fun featuring games and activities, wagon rides, food and live music. The 1910 Kolb House will be open for guests to see how a true farm family lived in the early 20th Century. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Oct. 8. Dublin Heritage Park & Museums.

**HELLO MERLOT! AT THE BANKHEAD** This is a one-of-a-kind tasting experience of Merlots produced by Livermore Valley winemakers. Taste ten Livermore Valley Merlots all at the Bankhead Theater and learn how each winemaker adds their own touch to this fantastic varietal. Tickets \$25. 12:30 p.m., Oct. 15. Visit [livermorearts.org/events/hello-merlot](http://livermorearts.org/events/hello-merlot).

## Support

**NAMI TRI-VALLEY CONNECTION RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP** This is a free, peer-led, support group on Zoom, for any adult (18 and older) who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition. Gain insight from hearing the challenges and successes of others. 7 p.m., Oct. 5. Contact: Cyndi Hackett, [tchrcyd@mac.com](mailto:tchrcyd@mac.com).

OPEN HOMES		
PLEASANTON		
<b>3711 Mohr Avenue</b>	<b>\$3,688,000</b>	
Sat 1:30-4:00	5BD/4.5BA	
BETTER HOMES AND GARDEN		
		925-963-1984
<b>4854 Braxton Place</b>	<b>\$2,585,000</b>	
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	5BD/3.5BA	
Armario Homes - Keller Williams Tri-Valley		
		925-694-0806
<b>4328 Addison Way</b>	<b>\$1,369,000</b>	
Sat and Sun 2:00-4:00	3BD/2BA	
Compass		
		925-997-2411
<b>4349 Second Street</b>	<b>\$1,899,000</b>	
Sat 11:00-4:00/Sun 1:00-4:00	3BD/3BA	
Compass		
		925-997-2411

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

Soaring Falcon Mortgage; SF Mortgage Online; [www.EZreversehomeloan.com](http://www.EZreversehomeloan.com); Giant Denali Capital  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 591684

The following person doing business as: Soaring Falcon Mortgage; SF Mortgage Online; [www.EZreversehomeloan.com](http://www.EZreversehomeloan.com); Giant Denali Capital, 7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 270, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Soaring Falcon Mortgage Corporation, 7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 270, Pleasanton, CA 94566, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Soaring Falcon Mortgage Corporation, a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein January 6, 2017. Signature of Registrant: Andrew Liu, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 1, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022.)

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

The following person doing business as: Pacificwide Lending; Liu & Partners Properties; Liu Management Services; [www.EZreversehomeloan.com](http://www.EZreversehomeloan.com); Springdale

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

Dahlia Center for Healing and Transformation  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 591675

The following person doing business as: Dahlia Center for Healing and Transformation, 608 Main Street, Unit E, Pleasanton, CA 94566, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: April Waldman, 3673 Touriga Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by April Waldman, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein July 28, 2022. Signature of Registrant: April Waldman, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 1, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 2022.)

**Call (925) 600-0840 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.**



# ARMARIO HOMES

TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY



## AWARD WINNING PLEASANTON REALTOR



### Why Work With DeAnna Armario:

In 2022, DeAnna has assisted 25 Sellers as well as 33 Buyers throughout the Tri-Valley Area. DeAnna ranks in the TOP 1% of KW Northern California Region agents and has been named among the BEST Real Estate Agents in Pleasanton (expertise.com 2021 & 2022). Her success demonstrates her dedication to clients and the Armario Homes Team. She leads a top-performing team in the Bay Area and, above all, produces unparalleled results for her clients. She has been building connections in the area for over 35 years and goes above and beyond to provide her clients with a seamless real estate experience.

If you are considering buying or selling, call DeAnna Armario today for all of your real estate needs.

### What DeAnna's Clients Are Saying:



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-Ruby Hill Seller

"We called DeAnna about selling our home after seeing she had sold a house near ours, very fast with multiple offers over listing...She was always available by phone call or text with any questions we had. Our **home sold very fast with multiple offers.** DeAnna sold our house for **\$200,000 over** the listing price. **This was only possible because of her knowledge, experience, hard work and her great team.** We would highly recommend DeAnna Armario"  
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**DeAnna Armario**  
Senior Partner | Realtor  
(925) 694-0806  
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**NOW LISTED AT \$1,899,000**  
4471 LINDA WAY, PLEASANTON  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,180 SQFT



**NOW LISTED AT \$2,585,000**  
4854 BRAXTON PLACE, PLEASANTON  
5 BED | 3.5 BATH | 3,609 SQFT



**LISTED AT \$1,990,000**  
41555 PASEO PADRE PKWY, FREMONT  
5 BED | 3 BATH | 2,200 SQFT



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



**LISTED AT \$950,000**  
1474 GOLDEN MEADOW SQ, SAN JOSE  
2 BED | 2 BATH | 1,056 SQFT



**LISTED AT \$1,875,000**  
39955 SAN SIMEON CT. FREMONT  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 1,914 SQFT



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



**\$2,150,000**  
5174 MOUNT TAM CIRCLE, PLEASANTON  
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**\$3,700,000**  
3401 DEER RIDGE DRIVE, DANVILLE  
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2701 EAST CLIFF, SANTA CRUZ  
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3711 MOHR AVE. PLEASANTON  
This Luxury, Executive, Custom Home is a rare find!! The entrance boasts gorgeous fountains, balconies!! Lush gardens & the backyard includes a sparkling pool, spacious cabana, fireplace, sitting area, island, swim up bar, 5 bed 4 bath 2 1/2 bath, amazing great room!! Granite. Design this home to make it your dream!! MUST SEE! Close to Historic Downtown Pleasanton, schools, bart, commute, shopping.  
**\$3,450,000**

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11 DALE DR. ALUM ROCK-SAN JOSE  
Adorable starter home, 3 bed 1 bath + 1 bed/bath in the converted studio garage total 4 bed 2 bath. Very desirable area. Design this home to make it your own!!! Must See, close to shopping, schools, commute, Silicon Valley!!

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## Talking Real Estate with Doug Buenz | Compass

### Contingent Offers – Are they Worth It?

One of the questions I get on a regular basis from sellers is “Should I consider a contingent offer?” We are talking about an offer contingent on the buyer selling their current property. In the ridiculously overheated market we are coming out of, this was generally not an option, as sellers had several offers to choose from in most cases. In a seller's market, contingent offers generally have a low probability of success.



But now that the market has shifted, we are starting to see more contingent offers.

The question is, should a seller consider it? In general, there are 3 reasons a seller might consider a contingent offer:

1. They are not getting any interest outside of the contingent buyer. If it is slow going, and a contingent buyer is really motivated to buy your home, it might make sense.

2. You may find a contingent buyer is willing to pay a higher price than a non-contingent buyer

3. The buyer's home is easier to sell than the seller's property. If your \$2 Million dollar home is contingent on the sale of a townhouse in the same market, it might be worth the gamble in the sense that the buyer's home should be easier to sell. If the buyer owns 10 acres in Alaska, it might be questionable.

>> **To read the rest of this article go to [www.680homes.com/blog](http://www.680homes.com/blog).**



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WE ARE SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATING GREAT DEALS FOR OUR BUYERS

**CONNECT TO A Cause**

Connect California Homes is so excited to announce we will be GOING PINK for the month of October in support of Breast Cancer Awareness & in part of our campaign Connect to a Cause! Learn more about Connect to a Cause and our upcoming events on our website: [www.connectcahomes.com](http://www.connectcahomes.com)

INTEGRITY AT YOUR  
FRONT DOOR.

NEW IN DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON!



▲ 4349 SECOND STREET  
PLEASANTON

3 Bed 3 Bath 1,938 sq ft +/-  
[www.4349SecondStreet.com](http://www.4349SecondStreet.com)

This one of a kind historic charmer is located on the desirable 2nd Street in beautiful downtown Pleasanton. Built in 1938 and lovingly restored, this 3 bedroom 3 bath single family home features 1,938 sq.ft. of old world class with every modern day amenity throughout. Step outside into the private lush backyard and enjoy a glass of wine while cooking on the outdoor pizza oven listening to the local concerts in the park play just a short one block over. This ideal location is within an easy walk to Main Street, the farmer's market and all of the shopping, dining and entertainment options that downtown offers. **Call Julia for more details!**

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## HELLO FALL!



**7456 Sundrop Court, Pleasanton**  
3 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1,890 Square Feet



**12400 Morgan Territory, Livermore**  
5 Bedrooms | 5.5 Bathrooms | 5,992 Square Feet



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



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



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



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

The Fall selling season is here! Most homeowners assume the 4th quarter is not the “best” time to sell their home, but you’d be surprised to know it’s one of OUR team’s busiest times of the year! See what sets us apart from the rest, and why we’ve been voted #1 two years in a row.



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